

Sheffield Royal Society for the Blind Rotherham Sight & Sound Cairn Home

INSIGHT SUMMER 2024

Providing opportunity, support, friendship and services to people with sight and/or hearing loss in the Sheffield & Rotherham area, helping them to achieve whatever they wish to do and whatever they aspire to be.

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Introduction

Well, roll on Summer because we haven't had much Spring have we?

As promised we have another update about Rotherham Sight & Sound (**RSS**) and it's the one we've all been waiting for! We're

delighted to let you know that our Centre in Rotherham began client groups and meetings from Monday 29th April. Our **RSS** Craft Group that has been taking place at **SRSB** during the refurb has resumed at **RSS** on Mondays, as has the Bingo group on Wednesdays. The café didn't open from that date as we were still recruiting for the Café Manager, but by the time you receive this newsletter we will have someone in post for that role. We'll be building up other groups and holding other meetings, drop in sessions and training in our lovely newly refurbished Centre. We continue with the hearing aid repair service as usual. Opening hours are 8:30am to 4:30pm. Please call if you have any queries 01709 722 420 or email enquiries@rotherss.org.uk and please bear with us as we settle back in after this huge project. We're grateful for your patience during the refurb in order for us to offer you an improved Centre and we're incredibly thankful to everyone who has donated to support this. We look forward to welcoming you.

Joanne Ardern
CEO of SRSB, RSS and Cairn

SRSB & RSS News

How to Access What's On at SRSB and RSS:

We have so much happening it can be hard to keep up! However, there are lots of ways to find out:

- Online via our website Client Events page (events are listed in date order): www.srsb.org.uk/client-events.aspx

- Our Service Leaflets explain the specific details of services offered by **SRSB**, **RSS** and **Cairn** and are available in printed or digital format
- Monthly large print activities list or email version (events listed by activity or group)
- Mailing lists for specific interest eg Culture Club, Children & Young People etc
- Large print notice board in Cafes at **SRSB** & **RSS** with 'What's On this Week' that also have a QR code to link you to the list online
- Contact us by phone **0114 272 2757** or **01709 722 420**
- Email us at **info@srsb.org.uk** or **enquiries@rotherss.org.uk**

Most of our Client groups, activities and events are available to our clients with both sight and/or hearing loss unless specified. **SRSB/RSS** and **Cairn** clients are welcome to access services in both Sheffield and Rotherham.

New Staff: We welcomed Alison Smith as part time Finance Assistant in March. Alison is working with David our Finance Manager and Graham who is also part time Finance Assistant.

Meet the Team

Charley: "Hi, I'm Charley, receptionist at **SRSB** in Sheffield. I've been working at **SRSB/RSS** since Sept 2021 and what a pleasure it is. My role is working on reception, answering calls and referring people to relevant staff and/or information. I also take bookings for our day trips and activities that we hold internally and externally, I support other staff with various projects such as

mailouts and admin as well as taking referrals from new clients as appropriate.

“I love working at **SRSB**, seeing our clients old and new, and we’re one big family. There’s never a dull moment, always something going off with activities and groups.

“In my spare time I enjoy walking and going to the caravan with my family and seeing new places.”

Helen: “Hi, I’m Helen one of the Assistant Managers at **Cairn Home**.

I have lived in Sheffield all my life. I have two children and four grandchildren who stay with me every weekend.

I have worked in care for quite a number of years now, I came to **Cairn Home** in 2010 initially as a Carer but then moved up to be a Team Leader, a position which I held for about nine years. After this I joined the Management Team in 2022 when I got the Assistant Manager post.

One of my main responsibilities is to ensure that each resident has the correct prescribed medication available at all times, which includes ordering medication, MAR Charts (Medication Administration Record) and any returns.

I love working at **Cairn Home** as no day is ever the same. I feel very privileged to work with 29 lovely residents, half of whom I am keyworker to, which means I get to work with them very closely.

In Memory: We were very sorry to hear the sad news that Julie Smith, who some of you will remember, as she was one of our minibus drivers, has passed away. Our condolences to Julie’s family and friends.

Services

For any of the services featured below or any of our other services, you can call us on the numbers at the beginning of the newsletter.

Client Questionnaires:

We're including two questionnaires in this newsletter. These are about the next two high scoring priorities from the original questionnaire that asked broader sight loss topics.

These now focus on 'Confidence and Independence' and 'The Emotional Impact of Sight Loss.' Please take a few minutes to help us help you by providing your feedback about these topics. Your input is vital to help shape our service development and keep it relevant to our clients today and into the future.

The questionnaires are anonymous and will only take a few minutes to fill in. Thank you.

Welfare Rights Updates:

In each newsletter, we would like to highlight benefit issues that may be of significance for our clients:

- If you are a couple and in receipt of income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) and one of you is approaching state pension age, please get in touch. As a mixed-age couple it will be necessary to claim Universal Credit (UC), and it may be vital that the UC claim is made before the ESA claim finishes.
- If you have a child who is approaching 16 and who is in receipt of Disability Living Allowance (DLA), it may be possible for them to claim UC. Again, please get in touch if

you would like to discuss this further as the rules are quite complex.

- Second adult rebate. If you have reached state pension age and are the only person liable to pay Council Tax in the household, and you have other adults living with you who are on a low income, you may qualify for a 25% reduction on your bill.
- If you are in receipt of Tax Credits or ESA, you will be receiving information about UC. Please DO NOT make a claim to UC until you receive the Migration Notice as this will have a 'claim by' date. To claim sooner is likely to leave you worse off.
- If you do receive a Migration Notice, claim on the day that your ESA or Tax Credits goes into your bank account, as those benefits stop as soon as the UC claim is made.

For any benefits advice or for a benefit check, please contact **RSS** or **SRSB**. We can offer a benefit calculation, advice over the phone or by appointment or at our Welfare Rights drop-in sessions in both Rotherham and Sheffield.

RSS Music Group Perform Dalston (Hackney) London:

You may remember a project that some of our **RSS** clients were involved in around the creation of digital music. They did a gig in Sheffield a while ago and recently were invited to perform in London! Read about the experience in a story from Anne, one of the three clients who worked with Rian Treanor (local musical artist) and Bloc Projects in Sheffield: "Mick, Kate and I were driven in a minibus to our accommodation and we were made most welcome by everyone.

“CAFÉ OTO was the venue which is a daytime cafe, holding night-time performances, with live avant-garde music from free jazz to psych rock.

“At night it is noted for being the top place in Western Europe for alternative music. The **RSS** group performed digital music. We had a standing ovation from an audience of 300! All 3 of us said ‘we can’t believe we are doing this’ it was surreal.

“We set off 18 months ago doing digital music and it was good to play for a couple of hours, but now we have venues to attend (ha ha ha!). We’re ready now for our other bookings; one a festival in Oxford in August.

“Rian who introduced us to digital music, is hoping to set other groups up at **RSS** and **SRSB**.”

Here is a link to a video from the event: <https://shorturl.at/knqGZ>

This collaboration has been an incredible experience for everyone and we want to thank Rian and Bloc Projects for their support.

NEW Seeing Changes Support Group: We’ve been working on a new group providing information to family members, carers and loved ones of our clients, to help them support and understand what their loved one is going through, and also how they can access support themselves as they navigate their sight loss journey alongside each other. If your loved ones would like to find out more, please contact Charlotte or Jack.

Children & Young People:

Our children and young people services continue to offer a range of support and activities.

Since the start of this year our **Youth Group** has held a craft session, a seed planting session and a trip to a local art gallery for

an audio described tour. In May they visit a pizza restaurant and in June a visit to the park. Just get in touch if you're interested in the Youth Group.

Little Sparklers Pre-School Playgroup continues each Wednesday (during term times).

We also offer **Benefits Advice** that family or children may be eligible for.

At the end of May we're holding a **Research Group** with our young clients to give feedback to a University study to estimate the value of creative audio description.

And finally, we've been asked to share this video from Look UK:

Money Talks: Managing your own money as a VI young adult.

Here's a link to the video: <https://www.look-uk.org/managing-your-own-money/> It features our Children & Family Support Officer Chloe who is a volunteer mentor for Look UK.

Equipment & Technology:

We'll be welcoming **Vision Aid** to **SRSB** on Thursday 11th July from 9:30am to 3pm for a drop in session and **Optelec** on 11th Sept 2024 from 9:30am to 3pm (please contact us to book a place for the Optelec event). Come along and explore the latest products and technologies for blind and partially sighted people.

Hearing Aid Repair Service:

A reminder that we offer this service in Rotherham at **RSS**

We can help with:

- Replacement tubing
- New domes
- Batteries

- Help and advice

QAC Sight Village: These exhibitions showcase the latest technology, products and support services available and we're running a trip to the Central event at Eastside Rooms, Birmingham on Mon 8th July 2024 10am to 4pm. Please get in touch with Liz if you'd like to join, we've a few places left.

Touring Theatre Performances at SRSB and RSS:

'Jennie Lee' was performed at **SRSB** in April and was a resounding success, with a full room of clients enjoying the accessible performance.

The next performance at **RSS** on Wed 3rd July 12noon. 'Common Ground' will include a BSL interpreter. Don't delay in booking your place, as the room at **RSS** has smaller capacity than **SRSB**.

These are 'Pay as You Feel' events, with donations at the end to the theatre company. Please get in touch with Ben or Jenny to book.

Museum Trips: Our Culture Club has recently visited Barnsley Museum and Hull Street Life Museum as well as the regular trips to accessible performances at the theatres. If you'd like to be added to the mailing list for this group please get in touch with Liz.

Sport Update: We have been asked to pass on this information about VI Golf by 'England & Wales Blind Golf'

"Have you played golf in the past or are interested in trying it for the first time? **SRSB/RSS** & England and Wales Blind Golf are hoping to run some have a go day throughout the year at local driving ranges with tuition included for all ages. Golf is a great

way for families to share quality time together, both outdoors and indoors, whilst making new friends. Driving range technology now makes golf far more accessible, with feedback for people with limited sight. If you have played golf in the past and gave up through sight loss, or are interested in trying a new sport, please visit the charity website www.ewblindgolf.co.uk or follow the social media channels England & Wales Blind Golf. More information can also be found on the charity YouTube channel, or by contacting enquiries@ewblindgolf.co.uk ”

Summer Coffee Morning Sale: After the success of the Easter sale at **SRSB** we'll be holding another one in July. A huge thanks to everyone involved in the sale; our volunteers and staff who planned it and put it all together, to everyone who donated items and to everyone who donated the items on sale helping to raise a HUGE amount of over £400. Your support is very much appreciated (with a special mention for Fiona).

We'll be holding a raffle, tombola, stalls to buy various items such as arts and crafts, clothes, books, 'Bric-a-Brac' including board games etc.

There will be games and a lucky dip.

This indoor Summer Fete to raise money for **SRSB/RSS** is open to our clients and their guests to drop in. Donations of good condition items would be greatly appreciated.

Feedback

Our Stories: Jean and the Look Ahead Workshops.

Jean experienced sight loss incredibly suddenly in the space of a bus ride from Sheffield city centre to her home. She was unaware

that anything had happened until she got back and realised she could not see properly. A blood vessel had burst in her right eye. It was, she recalls, very traumatic.

She was able to have surgery two days later which seemed to be successful at first but then her sight deteriorated so that now she sees everything in miniature. Jean also has macular degeneration in one eye which affects her sight too.

That bus journey home changed everything for Jean. She went from being a person who was always out and busy to someone who did not want to go out at all. When she started coming to **SRSB/RSS** she joined the Look Ahead Information Workshops and says the sessions which run over two and a half days really helped to change her outlook. "It made a big difference to me. I am never in now," she said.

The workshops bring together people who are adjusting to sight loss or are experiencing changes in their sight loss. They aim to offer practical information on daily living skills, technology and mobility as well as the emotional impact of visual impairment.

"I made my mind up that I could either adapt or sit in a chair and think 'woe is me'. Coming on the sessions made me see what there is out there. You need to get yourself in the right frame of mind to do it."

Jean was amazed at the range of activities on offer at **SRSB** and **RSS**. She was a very active bowls player for more than 35 years and a member of 8 different leagues. She had given up playing before her sight loss due to an ankle injury, but one of the activities she is now going to try is bowling for partially sighted people which takes place at Hillsborough Park.

At the Look Ahead sessions, Jean was able to meet people who use other services and staff members who facilitate them. She

thought about the ones she might like but ruled out swimming which she never enjoyed and decided the crafts were not for her. But she has joined the curling group which was a sport she had not attempted before. “I had to get used to the change in technique from bowling but I am now enjoying it. They’re such a happy crowd, everybody is cheering each other on. Some people are fully blind and able to do it.”

Jean also enjoys coming to **SRSB** before the curling for lunch. “It’s really good, we have soup and a roll. I am just beginning to get to know different people,” she said.

“I can’t take part in too many activities, I need to leave time for other things. But at least I am not sitting in the house moping. I make my mind up at night what I am going to do the next day. I try to be independent and do as much as I can. Look Ahead helped with that too, covering all the things to assist you with daily living.” Jean says the items she has found really useful or would like to buy are a daylight light, talking books, a PenFriend which can read labels and helps you find food or other items, and a beeper device for filling a cup. She also finds that special shaded glasses help her sight outdoors.

And for the practicalities of life, Community Advice Officers (CAOs) at **SRSB/RSS** have also helped with tasks which would be difficult for her such as completing the 45 page form for attendance allowance. It means she is able to have help in the house and garden.

“My only fear is losing my sight completely but there is no point in worrying about that. I am not sitting at home feeling miserable. Think positive.”

Deaf Services. Dennis and our Deaf/Blind Coordinator:

“I’m a new client to **RSS** in Rotherham and recently had a visit from Amy their Deaf/Blind Coordinator. She was a lovely young lady who helped me by recommending equipment that would help with my day to day tasks. I have both a hearing impairment and sight impairment and was finding that things were getting harder and harder. Amy brought me an amplified telephone, as I was struggling to know my phone was ringing unless I happened to be sat right next to it when it rang. It has big buttons too that make it easier to dial. She also brought a kettle, which measures out one cup of water to make a hot drink, really useful when you can’t see very well and pouring hot water. And the other piece of equipment that has really helped too is the doorbell with a flashing light which makes it easier to know if someone is at the door. I’ve been more than pleased with this support and never expected getting anything like this - I just didn’t know these things existed”

Cairn Home

Staff Updates: In January we welcomed Peter to our team as Handyman and Driver, and Angela started work as a Carer. Both have settled in really well and are great additions to the team.

Summer Events: We’re looking forward to some fabulous events over the summer beginning with a Garden Party on 29th June. As well as residents, their families and visitors, this event will be open to members of the public for an open garden. We’ll have a fundraising stall selling plants and seeds from our lovely garden along with Bric-a-Brac. You’ll be able to grab some bargains and refreshments, then sit and admire the garden.

We're excited for the 'Round the World' residents party in July, where the staff dress up in different national costumes from around the world and enjoy food from different countries. Then in August we're planning another BBQ for residents and their families, with a Hawaiian theme!

Easter Chicks: At Easter time we took delivery of some eggs in an incubator which have now hatched! We're temporary carers of the chicks until we hand them back to the farm. It's been a lovely experience for residents and staff alike.

Visit to SRSB Coffee Morning:

A group of our residents visited **SRSB** for a Coffee Morning in March. It was lovely to welcome them all to the Centre that day as we had the Spring Sale in reception too.

Other News: Our ongoing refurbishments continue and we'll be beginning work on the 5th ensuite bathroom refurbishment in June. We've been busy replacing curtains for new blinds in 6 of the rooms, with the rest to be done over the coming months. We've also upgraded some of the wardrobes in 2 of the rooms. So lots to keep us busy this year!

If you'd like to find out more about Cairn, please get in touch:

0114 266 1536

cairn@srsb.org.uk

Awareness

If you're interested in finding out about research, consultations and feedback groups please let us know at

marketing@srsb.org.uk You could help make a difference to

changes in public spaces, organisations and venues by sharing your lived experience, ultimately helping to improve everyone's experience. We arrange lots of meetings about a variety of topics around accessibility and here are just a few recent examples:

Mercia School Visit: School students brought samples of 3D printed artworks to improve the accessibility of paintings.

CBS: We visited a Charles Bonnet Syndrome event in Manchester, and also worked with a University student on research and also discussed an awareness film project.

Site Gallery: We're visiting an exhibition to give feedback on accessibility.

Hospital Research: We've been working on several sessions around patient accessibility at hospitals.

Packaging Research: We've worked with the Hallam University around accessibility for packaging.

Heritage Video: As part of the heritage project funded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund we had a video made about the long history of **SRSB** in Sheffield You can view the video here: <https://lnkd.in/etxsBBnJ> Our thanks to the National Lottery Heritage Fund and to the National Lottery players and to everyone who played a part in putting this video together, helping us to raise awareness of our charity's work over 160 years.

Heritage and Sensory Garden:

We've been putting some finishing touches to the Heritage Garden at Graves Park with the help of some of our clients and staff. The bug hotels are looking like 5 star stays for visiting insects! (with thanks to all of those that helped collect and/or donated materials) and the bench is in place for human visitors

who want to sit and admire the garden with its sensory details. There are embossed and debossed engravings on the bench, with Braille and tactile features on the 2 sculptures. There are lots of plants chosen for their sensory properties such as herbs and other scented plants. We're looking forward to everything growing now, ready for the official opening on the 5th July!

Volunteering

If you're interested in volunteering please view our roles online:

[www.srsb.org.uk/Jobs-and-Volunteering/Volunteer-](http://www.srsb.org.uk/Jobs-and-Volunteering/Volunteer-Opportunities/)

Opportunities/ or call Andrea on:

0114 272 2757 or email:

volunteers@srsb.org.uk

We give full Visual Impairment Awareness training and induction.

Thank you! On behalf of our clients and staff, we want to say a big thank you to volunteer Gary who recently left us. He was an extremely dedicated Tele-Befriender and called many of our clients on a regular basis. Gary always managed to cheer our clients up and nothing was ever too much trouble for him.

Volunteer Appreciation Summer Party: If you're one of our team of amazing volunteers, you should have received your invitation to our Volunteer Appreciation event in June to mark Volunteers Week. We hope to see you there for a lovely afternoon to meet other volunteers, our staff and share some tasty nibbles! It's our chance to say a big thank you for what you do to support us and our clients, we couldn't do it without you.

Befriending Coffee Mornings: Our Befrienders Coffee Mornings continue, last time we were joined by Sarah who talked about the

Look Ahead sessions and the Life Ahead Project. If you're interested in joining our team of Tele-Befriending volunteers please get in touch.

We're currently looking to expand our team in Rotherham now that we are back in the **RSS** Centre and need volunteers for various roles.

We also really need store collection volunteers to add to our team of existing collectors, so if you can spare a couple of hours of your time please let us know. There are many other roles available at **SRSB/RSS** and you can view them on our website or have a chat with Andrea.

Great News! One of our volunteers, Anne, has been shortlisted for a BBC Make A Difference Award. More news soon.

Fundraising

Our Fundraising Events are open to anyone to join. You can book online at www.srsb.org.uk/fundraising-events.aspx call Steve or Steph on: **0114 272 2757** or email: fundraising@srsb.org.uk
The events we hold are a critical source of income for our local independent charity and help us to provide our local services in Sheffield and Rotherham.

Summer Raffle: Thanks so much to everyone who takes part in our raffles (including supporters who donate prizes). 1st prize is £250 and we'll also be giving away a further 20 fantastic prizes, including a £50 Wizard Guitars voucher, a £30 voucher for Mamas & Leonies Restaurant, a Peaches Hair Salon hair cut & finish voucher, a 30min sport therapy massage from Jordan and a pedicure from Steph.

Tickets are enclosed if you've requested some. They are £2.50 per book. If you can sell them, please put the payment and the ticket counterfoils in the FREEPOST envelope and send back to **SRSB/RSS** no later than Fri 12th Jul '24 (drawn on Wed 17th July 2024).

If you or your family can sell extra tickets please let us know. We realise selling tickets is not for everyone, so don't worry, but please **DO NOT** return the tickets to us as we have to pay postage for the freepost envelope if you use it. If you'd prefer not to receive raffle tickets then please let us know.

Cheques should be made payable to "**SRSB**". If you prefer to pay for the raffle tickets by debit/credit card please call fundraising and we can take your payment and enter tickets into the draw for you. It's simple and proceeds will go to **SRSB/RSS**. Any tickets received after 16th July will be treated as donations.

Thank you if you can help us to save costs by putting a postage stamp on the envelope but please ensure that you cross out the first line of the address on the envelope which starts "Freepost Plus" and the barcode immediately above it. We'll be charged otherwise.

Please could you also ensure that any person buying raffle tickets is aged 16 or over.

Upcoming Events:

Abseil: 160ft down the Owen Building in Sheffield on Sun 16th June. Entry fee is just £50, and you then fundraise what you want.

Pub Quiz: Thurs 13th June 7:30pm The Old Queen's Head Sheffield.

Tandem Skydive: Sun 23rd June at Hilbaldstow. Have you always wanted to Skydive from a plane?... Then make it happen in 2024! A chance to Skydive 15,000ft!

Beighton Gala: Sat 13th July at Beighton Welfare Recreation Ground, find out about our services and take part in fundraising activities.

Go Ape High Ropes: 17th July at Sherwood Pines treetop challenge.

Pub Quiz: Thurs 19th Sept 7:30pm The Old Queen's Head Sheffield.

Abba Tribute: Sat 21st Sept at Beighton Miners Welfare.

Charity Golf Day: Fri 27th Sept at Abbeydale Golf Club.

Sheffield 10K: Sun 29th Sept.

Blind Drive: Thurs 10th Oct (TBC)

Charity Quiz and DJ Evening: 1st Nov at **SRSB** in Sheffield, a joint fundraiser for South Yorkshire VI Tennis Club and **SRSB/RSS**

Half Marathon Runners: A huge thank you to 2 supporters who recently took on two different half marathons to raise funds and awareness for our charity. Sheffield LA Foster Carer Laura took part in the London Landmarks Half Marathon and raised an incredible amount of over £1,400!

Laura says, "The London Landmarks Half Marathon was fantastic although I'm not sure I appreciated all the fabulous landmarks we ran past as I was so focused on keeping my feet moving!! The last few miles were tough but thinking about everyone who was supporting me, and the little one who **SRSB** helped so much kept me going."

And Sophie ran in the Sheffield Half Marathon. She's a friend of one of our clients and she smashed her target raising £1,293.

Sophie says of her friend, "The transformation in Parv since she began receiving support from **SRSB** has been amazing.

Witnessing her

progress has been truly inspiring and I'm so proud of her.

SRSB not only provided practical assistance but also facilitated connections with others who share similar experiences. Parv found hope and a supportive community that understood her journey. I saw what she went through during this grieving process for her eyesight, and I found myself wanting to provide comfort and support, yet often feeling powerless in the face of an unimaginable challenge. Life seemed exceptionally unfair to someone as vibrant and full of love as Parv. While some days remain challenging, Parv is now thriving. Engaging in visually impaired tennis, mastering the use of a long cane and positively shifting her mindset. **SRSB** played a pivotal role in this transformation, and I am immensely proud to have witnessed the positive impact it has had on Parv's life. She's come so far with the help and support of **SRSB** and I feel like we've got our fun-loving Parv back but this time she's stronger and a better tennis player!"

Laura and Sophie, we really appreciate all your hard work in both your training, on the day and in your fundraising, what an achievement!

Home Collection Boxes: An easy way to help us raise funds is to have a Home Collection Box. We raise a significant contribution each year through the cumulative donations from supporters who have a box in their home to save loose change.

They're cardboard and arrive in the post flat packed. When they're full you can drop them off with us or call us to arrange a pick up if you are in the local area.

Our Local Communities: We're always amazed by the kindness of our community and its many groups and organisations. For example a donation of £1,000 from Sheffield 1,000 will help to fund our 'Souper Socials and Afternoon Teas' Thank you so much!

Our Local Supporters: We're extremely grateful to the amazing supporters we have in Sheffield and Rotherham and for their incredible dedication and continued support for our charity. Steve, Jane and Katie Knight are three such supporters who have held some events in aid of **SRSB/RSS**. Steve and Jane very sadly lost their daughter Emma, and Katie her sister. Emma was one of our young clients.

They hold many charity events in Emma's memory and in March they organised an event at Beighton Miners Welfare; An American Diva night featuring Cher, Madonna and Tina Turner tribute acts. This raised a fantastic amount of £3,375 - proceeds after costs, including a raffle and donations.

SRSB/RSS will also benefit from an ABBA tribute night at Beighton on Sat 21st Sept. Emma would have been 30 in Sept, so it will be poignant for them and we really appreciate that they would like to share this anniversary with our charity. This event is open to everyone to come along and help us raise funds.

Grants & Trusts: We've received grants to enable various areas of our work, including two that will help us deliver the

‘Souper Socials’ and ‘Afternoon Teas’. Our thanks to SDAD and the other trusts who have funded these activities.

Legacies: Our first Free Will Week of ‘24 will take place from 24th to 28th June. A panel of local solicitors will offer discounted single or double wills to our clients, staff and volunteers. You can choose an appointment at **SRSB** or **RSS** or you can arrange to visit the solicitors’ office or potentially arrange a home visit.

Appointments must be booked in advance.

Solicitors will offer advice about making a will, and if you decide to make one, **SRSB/RSS** will pay the cost of a straightforward, basic will. You’ll need to cover any additional costs for more complex wills. We would hope that you will consider making a donation or a pledge in your will to **SRSB/RSS**, although there’s no obligation to do so.

If you can’t attend either of our Free Will Weeks (next one is Oct 21st to 25th) then we can arrange an appointment for a discounted will at other times of the year. For further information please call our Legacy Officer, Steve.

Regular Giving: We want to thank all our supporters who make regular donations to our charity’s work, you are helping us to provide support to people with sight and/or hearing loss locally. A monthly donation is very much appreciated as it means we can rely on receiving funds on a regular basis. If you’d like to support us in this way, let us know and we’ll send you a standing order form.

Other News

Community Work:

High on our list of priorities is contributing to work in our local communities to improve our clients' experience when accessing public places, workplaces, venues, shops and cafe's, restaurants etc

With this in mind we continue to offer visual impairment awareness (VIA) training to individuals and teams to improve awareness of the often simple adjustments you can make and the ways to support someone with sight loss.

We're hoping to expand this area of work, as we have seen an increase in demand for it (which is of course very encouraging) and we've submitted a bid for a grant.

We also visit a range of community events to let people know about our services and also about eye health.

We delivered one of our regular VIA Training sessions to Medical Students at The University of Sheffield in January. These sessions give an overview for students who will of course meet visually impaired patients in their careers. We discuss different types of sight loss, statistics and also do exercises with simulation specs and then finish with a section on guiding.

We deliver VIA Training to other organisations in our communities in Sheffield and Rotherham and if you're interested in finding out more about this please contact Matt: **0114 272 2757** or **training@srsb.org.uk**

RUFC visit

We visited Rotherham United Football Club in March after we were invited to a community event to offer individuals and organisations the opportunity to look around their disabled facilities and to hear about and get involved with the Rotherham

United Disabled Supporters Association. Representing **RSS** were 2 staff members and 2 Rotherham clients who were given a tour and shown the facilities for disabled access at matches and the new changing places toilet. We're looking forward to strengthening our relationship with RUFC and the community team more in the future.

In Memory: We recently heard that our client Kathryn who used to facilitate the VI Swimming Group has sadly passed away. Our condolences to Kathryn's family and friends.

And Finally... Help us save costs! Can you help by opting to receive this newsletter by email or memory stick? If so, please email **marketing@srsb.org.uk** from the email address you'd like us to send it to and add your name so that we know who you are. We'll save your email and add it to the mailing list. Thank you!

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