**Sheffield Royal Society for the Blind**

**Rotherham Sight & Sound**

**Cairn Home**

**INSIGHT SUMMER 2025**

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

As we head into Summer we’re still working hard on many different projects and developing our services to meet the requirements of our clients in the environment of today.

On that subject, we are enclosing the next Client Questionnaire, this time focussing on two more topics:

* Guidance and signposting when needed (at the early stages of your diagnosis or at times of change to sight loss)
* Leisure/social activities (eg day trips, craft groups, coffee mornings, etc)

Please help us to support you by giving us your feedback.

Since the last newsletter we’ve had the Government announcements concerning potential changes to welfare benefits, particularly Personal Independence Payments and we have an update inside this newsletter which we hope will offer some reassurance about the situation.

In other news, we’re looking forward to the launch of our new website which is currently under construction and testing. We’ve worked with our suppliers to ensure that accessibility features are of utmost importance. It’s coming together and we’re excited to share it with everyone as soon as possible.

If you’ve visited **SRSB** recently you may be aware of the upgrades we’ve been doing there. Dennis has been busy decorating everywhere and it’s looking much fresher. We’re just completing the refurbishment of the Training/Staff Kitchen.

We hope you enjoy reading this newsletter, there are lots of stories featuring our clients, our services and our work in the community, as well as our fundraising initiatives.

We recently launched a CAO (Community Advice Officers) Fundraising Appeal. The appeal aims to recoup losses we have incurred to support one of our crucial services, the Community Advice Service. If you are able to help us, we would really appreciate it, you can find more information in the Fundraising section of the newsletter below.

Joanne Ardern

**CEO of SRSB, RSS and Cairn**

**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 interests eg Culture Club, Children & Young People, etc
* Large print notice boards in the Cafes at **SRSB** 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

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

**Staff Updates:** We said goodbye to two members of staff recently. Charlotte, our Emotional Support Officer, has moved on to another role and Chloe, our Children & Family Support Officer, has also begun a new role for another charity. We want to wish them both all the very best with their new jobs.

We’ve been interviewing for these two roles and will be updating you about the new members of the team soon.

As we write this newsletter, we have just welcomed Gill to the team, she will be in the new role of **SRSB** and **Cairn Home** Business Support Administrator.

**Meet the Team: Emelda:** “Hi, I’m Emelda and I am the cleaner at **RSS** in Rotherham. I’ve been here for a year, and I’ve really enjoyed being part of the team. The people are really nice and I’ve also enjoyed meeting all the clients too – as well as their lovely guide dogs!

“I’ve got involved with some of the activities, such as Tai Chi and I’ve learnt how to make some English dishes when there have been events.

“My daughter has visited **RSS** with me too and she keeps asking when she can visit again!

“I also have another job as a support worker, and in my spare time I love to walk, read and watch movies.”

**Meet the Team: Rachael:** “Hello everyone! For those who might not know me yet, I’m Rachael, and I’ve had the absolute pleasure of being a Deafblind Coordinator here at **SRSB** for a wonderful 25 years!

Yes, a whole quarter of a century dedicated to supporting our amazing deafblind community right here in Sheffield – time really does fly when you’re surrounded by such incredible people!

“Over these past 25 years, I have been deeply humbled and privileged to be a part of this incredible social gathering and to have been welcomed into the lives and stories of the wonderful members who have attended the deafblind group. Knowing that many members who may experience isolation find a warm and welcoming space here, to connect and forge great friendships, has been a truly profound and inspiring part of my time here. Hearing about their individual journeys, their experiences, and the people who are important to them has enriched my life immeasurably. Through our fun events, creative crafts, engaging cooking skills sessions, informative activities, and all sorts of different get-togethers, I’ve had the joy of witnessing these vital connections blossom. Their experiences have been truly inspiring. It has also been incredibly rewarding to have the dedicated support of our volunteers throughout these 25 years, and I’m also so grateful for the wonderful staff I’ve had the pleasure of working alongside. My role at **SRSB** has been all about understanding those individual needs and working to ensure everyone has the right support, resources, and opportunities to thrive within our Sheffield community. From facilitating access to **SRSB**’s vital services to simply sharing moments of connection and understanding, it’s been a deeply rewarding experience, and my passion for this work and for everyone we support here at **SRSB** only continues to grow. Here’s to another chapter of connection and support together at **SRSB**!”

**In Memory of Ralph**

We were saddened to hear about one of our previous employees passing away at the end of last year. Ralph who some of our staff, clients and volunteers will remember, retired in 2013 after he started with our charity as a volunteer driver, before joining us as a driver in November 2004, then transferring to our Activities Centre. Ralph was with us when we rebuilt the Centre on Mappin Street and when we moved out to temporary premises in Darnall, before we returned to Mappin St.

Our condolences to his family and friends for their loss.

# 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.

# Welfare Rights Updates: Each newsletter, we’d like to highlight welfare rights issues that may be of significance to our clients. Here is an update from Carolyn around the concerns related to welfare benefits:

# “Understandably, many people are worried following recent Government announcements concerning potential changes to welfare benefits, particularly Personal Independence Payment (PIP).

# “We would like to reassure you that any changes will not happen for some time, and any changes could prove to be beneficial for some people!

# “Misinformation can be detrimental, and it is not yet possible for anyone to confirm what PIP may look like after any proposed changes in legislation. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you would like a chat, and we provide the Welfare Rights Drop-in service for anyone wanting to have a benefit check.”

# BSL Updates: We continue with the BSL Advice Sessions each week on Tuesdays from 10am to 1pm at RSS in Rotherham. We also have the BSL Social Activity Group on Tuesdays from 10am to 1pm.

# Sarah S and Amy, our Deaf/Blind Co-ordinators are both proficient in BSL, and will be on hand to assist with the groups.

# There will be a BSL interpreter at the Mikron Theatre performance at RSS in July.

# Our Culture Club theatre visits are always booked for the Audio Described and Signed performances. There will be a BSL interpreter at the Mikron Theatre performance at RSS in July.

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# Equipment & Technology: We’ll be welcoming Optelec to both our Centres in September. Optelec offer solutions for low vision such as magnifiers and readers, text to speech and optics and lighting:

# Thursday 11th Sept at RSS in Rotherham.

# Tuesday 30th Sept at SRSB in Sheffield.

# Tech Drop-In Days: We continue hosting monthly tech drop-ins at both SRSB and RSS between 10am and 1:30pm on Mondays. Each month you’ll be able to come along to discuss different equipment and technology designed for people with sight loss. Please check the website or Activity Guides for dates of these drop-ins or you can call our offices to check when the next one is.

# There are so many tech and equipment solutions to assist people with sight and/or hearing loss, so being able to share information about them with the Tech and Equipment team or other clients (or visiting external organisations) often really helps.

# Children & Young People: We’re currently recruiting for a new Children & Family Support Officer after we said a fond farewell to Chloe in April. By the time you get this newsletter we will have someone in post and we’ll be introducing them to everyone soon.

# If you would like to find out about any of our Children & Young People’s services please contact us at cyp@srsb.org.uk

# Summer Day Trip 2025: We’re looking forward to the Summer Day Trip which is booked for Wed 9th July and we’re off to Bridlington this year! £10 per person. Please get in touch if you want to put your name down.

**Creative Writing Group:** Each week our Creative Writing Group meet at **SRSB** in Sheffield and share poetry, prose and short stories that they have been working on. Members of the group have varied tastes and writing styles and new members are always welcome. Just get in touch to find out more, or arrange a visit to see if you would like to take part.

Here is a poem from one of our clients (thank you Carol) who attends the group. She’s writing about a question that we get asked a lot: do you see in your dreams?

**In My Dreams**

In my dreams,

I do not see - just like in life.

No pictures, no colours,

just the world shaped by sound and feeling.

The birds sing,

clear and sharp like tiny bells in the morning.

Footsteps tap out stories,

and voices carry across the quiet.

But sometimes,

someone speaks and I think,

“Is that who I know? Or just a voice

wearing their name?”

Familiar, yet unfamiliar -

like the wind shifting just slightly.

I’ve heard that some people

who once could see

still dream in pictures.

Their minds remember light,

shapes, colours, even faces.

But me? I’ve never had those things.

I can’t imagine what “seeing” feels like.

It’s like trying to guess the flavour of a colour you’ve never tasted.

When I was small,

I wanted to know what “sight” meant.

I used to wish I could see -

just once.

But now -

this world of mine, this way I dream -

feels whole.

I don’t miss what I never had.

I live in the music of life,

awake and asleep.

And that is enough.

*Carol Adams 2025*

**Mikron Theatre Visits 2025**: These Mikron performances are always popular and enjoyed by everyone. They are very funny, but always very informative.

Operation Beach Hut was great in April and now we’re looking forward to **Hush Hush** in Rotherham:

Shhhhhh, you’d better keep it under your hat, because as far as the rest of the world is concerned, Bletchley Park doesn’t exist!

Wed 2nd July 12pm to 2pm **RSS** (with integrated audio description and BSL interpreter). Please call or email to book your seat as places are limited.

# Health & Beauty Room at SRSB: A reminder that our Health & Beauty Room at SRSB in Sheffield has several visiting providers who you can book with directly:

# Mondays (Weekly) 10am to 4pm: Beauty Treatments with Steph.

# Tel: 07939 553901

# Tuesdays (Weekly) 9:30am to 4pm: Aromatherapy, Reflexology and Massage with Chris. Tel: 07852 589258

# Wednesdays (Monthly) 9:45am to 2:15pm: Foot Health Practitioner, Amy: 07581 308588

# Thursdays (Weekly) 9:30am to 4pm: Hairdressing by Anne.

# Tel: 07939 201622

# Fridays (Weekly) 9:30am to 4pm: Sports Massage Therapy with Jordan. Tel: 07807 400952

# Social Media UPDATE: We’ve taken the decision to merge our RSS Facebook page with our SRSB Facebook page.

# Our new website will be launching this year and will jointly host SRSB in Sheffield, RSS in Rotherham and Cairn Home in Sheffield. In line with this our Facebook pages will also merge. Please make sure you LIKE and FOLLOW us at: [www.facebook.com/SheffieldRoyalSocietyfortheBlind](http://www.facebook.com/SheffieldRoyalSocietyfortheBlind) before Monday 30th June 2025 to keep up with all the latest about our charity locally in Sheffield and Rotherham.

# We also have active Instagram, Linked In, TikTok and X pages (which are all joint SRSB/RSS/Cairn). Thank you for your support.

# NEW Website Coming Soon! We’re working on building and testing the new website for SRSB, RSS and Cairn at the moment and are excited to launch it this year!

**Look Ahead Workshop Speakers:** We’d like to say a big thank you to our clients who have supported our Look Ahead Workshop sessions by talking about their lived experience.

The Look Ahead Workshops are aimed at newly registered clients or clients who are experiencing changes in their sight.

On these two and a half day workshops we cover daily living skills, technology, mobility and the emotional impact of sight loss.

To have people there who have lived experience has a huge impact on new clients. We really appreciate your support.

If you’re reading this and think you might be interested in speaking at one of the sessions, please get in touch via training@srsb.org.uk

Our clients who have taken part previously have said that it has made them feel valued and that they often learn something too by sharing experiences. Many clients tell us that they would like to give something back and that they want to help others get through some of the experiences that they have had.

# Feedback

Our Stories: Millie and Jerri talk about the Sheffield Strikers Showdown: We asked Millie and Jerri to give us an update on the popular ‘Showdown’ sessions.

“Every Thursday afternoon, from 2:30 to 4:30pm, a group of enthusiastic players gather at SRSB to take part in Showdown, a thrilling sport designed specifically for people who are blind or visually impaired.

“Showdown is often described as a mix between air hockey and table tennis, but with a unique twist. Played on a specially designed table with raised sides, two players face off using paddles to bat a ball containing ball bearings back and forth, aiming to score by getting it into the opponent’s goal. All players wear blindfolds to ensure fairness, relying solely on sound and touch, which makes for a fast-paced and exciting game that sharpens concentration and reflexes.

“Recently, members of our group had the fantastic opportunity to take part in a tournament in Birmingham. The event was fun-filled and competitive, with participants from all over the country showcasing their skills and love for the sport. It was a brilliant chance to meet new people, exchange tips, and enjoy the lively, supportive atmosphere that makes the Showdown community so special.

“Whether you’re a seasoned player or just curious to try something new, we welcome newcomers to join us at SRSB. Come along and experience the excitement, camaraderie, and challenge.”

Brian and Sandra tell us about the Culture Club: Brian and Sandra attend both SRSB and RSS and have been active clients for around 6 years.

They have accessed our Community Advice Officers support, they go to different activities such as Coffee Mornings, trips, groups and sports and leisure activities and other services such as our visiting Health & Beauty Room providers (Foot Health Practitioner and Beauty Therapist) to name a few.

Brian has hearing loss and wears hearing aids, but also lip reads, and Sandra has sight loss (Nystagmus).

As a couple, they usually attend everything together, with the exception of the snooker sessions that Brian takes part in.

They are both regulars on the Culture Club trips that Liz organises and that is what we are discussing for this newsletter. They tell us about the numerous performances they’ve been to and how much they’re looking forward to ‘And Juliet’ and ‘Calamity Jane’ soon.

We always book the accessible performances that are audio described and signed and we also arrange to visit Touch Tours. Sandra and Brian recall going to one for ‘Miss Saigon’ at Sheffield Theatres. Touch Tours are where people with sight loss are given the opportunity to have an introduction to the performance and the sets, can feel costumes and props that are used during the show, all helping with orientation prior to the performance.

When we visit other venues we always make the experience as interactive as possible and ensure that the venues know we are visually or hearing impaired so that everyone can get the most out of the visits. Brian and Sandra mentioned one visit recently that they had enjoyed: the Coronation Street Experience.

If you’re interested in finding out more about the Culture Club activities, Brian and Sandra say they wouldn’t hesitate to recommend the group to other clients, Sandra says “Come along and enjoy the fun and games and parties! You’ll really enjoy it and you’d be very welcome.” They add “We’re very grateful for all the trips that are organised and love everything that Liz arranges.”

Brian and Sandra have made many friends since getting involved at SRSB/RSS, and in fact, have just returned from a holiday with friends they’ve met though our charity where 8 of them went independently to the Isle of Wight and had a fantastic time. And, they’ll also soon be celebrating their Golden Wedding Anniversary with their family and friends, including their friends from SRSB/RSS!

# Cairn Home

**Staff Updates:** We’re working hard on general improvements at **Cairn Home** with the continued upgrades of the en-suite bathrooms and upgrades to computer systems too.

We’ve welcomed a new member to the team, in a new role of **SRSB** and **Cairn Home** Business Support Administrator working between **Cairn** and **SRSB**.

We’re looking forward to spending more time in the fabulous garden at Cairn and caring for the tomato plants in the greenhouse.

If gardening has been a previous interest for our residents, or if they want to start gardening, we have accessible options for them to take part in.

There is a Summer House and a patio area, with benches at regular intervals around the garden, so that our residents can have a leisurely stroll around the grounds.

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.

**Hackcessible University Project:** We work with lots of students when they are studying in Sheffield (at both Universities) and love to get involved with a wide range of projects, as we know that when students pursue their chosen careers they’ll remember what they learnt from our clients and our charity, therefore helping to raise awareness of vision impairment and wider issues around accessibility.

Hackcessible is a multi-disciplinary project at the University of Sheffield bringing students from different courses together to work in teams, and then asking people from our region’s disabled community to challenge students to find solutions to problems they encounter.

We put them in touch with a few clients and Frank was one of them, and it was his project, their collaboration and their solution that won the competition!

Frank loves to cook and he and his wife Nicky like to entertain. But Frank has always felt he wanted to present the food in a visual way. There are plates that have separate sections already, but Frank wanted their guests to all have the same experience. So the student team designed and 3D-printed a removable plate organiser with tactile features and Braille, enabling Frank to plate his dishes safely and elegantly.

Frank says “I was really impressed with the solutions the team came up with and it was great to have a product at the end of it that I can actually use.”

It’s been great to hear about the ideas generated for the Hackcessible project by their teams, who listened to input from our clients about their lived experiences and the challenges they face, then working together to find lots of amazing solutions. We were delighted to hear Frank’s project had won!

**Training in Our Community:** Training is another important aspect of our work locally and we’ve had a busy period of delivering Visual Impairment Awareness (VIA) Training to raise awareness of issues for people with sight and/or hearing loss. We’ve had positive results from this community engagement, enabling us to grow links with other professionals, all with the ultimate aim of improving our client’s experiences in the community. This could be at hospitals, in local public spaces, on transport and in organisations, shops and venues.

We’ve recently worked with student doctors, hospitals, schools, and both Sheffield and Rotherham Councils.

If you know of anywhere that would benefit from our Visual Impairment Awareness Training, please ask them to get in touch with us.

We’re working on incorporating Deaf Awareness Training into our offer.

**Sensory Strategy:** Our **SRSB** Centre was the meeting place for a Sensory Strategy meeting that brought together many different organisations to develop a strategy for all disabilities in Sheffield.

We’ll update you as this develops as we’ll be involved in the project going forward.

**Graves Park Garden:** Just a reminder if you haven’t visited our sensory garden at Graves Park in Sheffield, now could be the time to go as it will be at its best in the summer. It’s situated in front of the Rose Garden Cafe near the animal farm. There is an information board and some sculptures in amongst the flowers and bug hotels!

# Volunteering

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

# www.srsb.org.uk/Jobs-and-Volunteering/Volunteer-Opportunities/ or call Andrea on: 0114 272 2757 or email: volunteers@srsb.org.uk

# We give full Visual Impairment Awareness training and induction.

# On behalf of all our clients and staff we’d like to say a big thank you to all our volunteers for their help and support in all areas of SRSB/RSS.

# Volunteer Summer Party: The Summer celebration for our amazing team of volunteers will take place at SRSB on Thursday 26th June, 2025 from 11am to 2pm to say thank you to them all for the incredible job they do in supporting our clients and our work in Sheffield and Rotherham. If you are a volunteer, you should receive your invite with this newsletter.

# Fundraising

Our Fundraising Events are open to anyone to join. You can book online at **www.srsb.org.uk/fundraising-events.aspx** call Steve 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 services now and into the future in Sheffield and Rotherham.

CAO Appeal Launch: Our charity needs to raise an extra £200,000 over the coming year to help fund our vital sight loss services.

SRSB is one of Sheffield’s oldest charities. For nearly 165 years it has been providing sight loss services in Sheffield and currently provides support to over 7,500 clients locally.

This coming year we’re facing a potential budget deficit of £200,000 due to changes to National Insurance contributions in the recent budget statement and the ongoing Cost of Living crisis. The appeal aims to recoup these losses for one of their crucial services, the Community Advice Service (CAOs).

Our Chief Executive Joanne explains “Our ten CAO’s visit newly registered clients at home or in our Centres to assess their needs and provide access to specialist equipment, technology support, benefits advice, emotional and peer support, whilst also offering support to existing clients who require assistance with a variety of issues.”

Our Fundraising Manager Steve adds, “The Cost of Living crisis and 2024 budget statement have had a huge impact for our charity. In 2025 we’re facing a £200,000 gap in our services budget and we need the help of our community.

“We’re a local independent charity that relies on donations and pledges to fund our work. But recent financial pressures and increased demand on our service means that we are facing a shortfall this year.

“This appeal is to help bridge this gap and to provide much needed funding for our Community Advice work, which is at the core of everything we do.”

Sarah K, our Community Services Manager says “Community Advice Officers support people at a critical point in their sight loss journey. “Imagine being told that you have sight loss and have to stop driving, may have to leave your job (depending on what work you do) or make changes to enable you to continue working or find new work, all the worry around how you will adapt, how you will travel and get around, your finances, as well as how your independence and relationships may be affected. We help people through this difficult time, make sure support is in place, and refer them to other relevant services appropriately, enabling our clients to regain confidence and independence.”

During the Covid pandemic, Dave found out that he had had a stroke which had affected his sight. Registered blind, he was told he should contact SRSB. He recalls being reluctant to visit initially. ‘One day we took the step to visit and came in to see Community Advice Officer Sarah, who went through the practicalities, such as benefits we were entitled to. She even ordered an audio version of a book I was halfway through so I could finish it.’

Another CAO visited client Dave’s house to explain specialist equipment. Dave also did an online workshop with other new clients to cover the support available. When he finally visited the Centre he met the group in person and says he hit it off with everyone and friendships were made.

Since then, he’s become a very active client who takes part in Coffee Mornings, VI Shooting, Curling and fundraising. He also attends the Stroke Support Group each month.

When asked what difference our charity has made to him, Dave said “If I’d have known what SRSB did for people I would have been here 30 years ago to support it as a volunteer!”

If you’re reading this and would like to help, you can visit our Just Giving Appeal page: www.justgiving.com/campaign/srsbrsscaoappeal2025-26 call Steve at 0114 272 2757 or email fundraising@srsb.org.uk

*QR Code to the Just Giving page:*

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AI-generated content may be incorrect.*

Summer Raffle: It’s that time of year again and we’ve got lots of lovely prizes to be won! The first prize is £250 and we’ll also be giving away a further 20 prizes including vouchers, food hampers, cosmetic hampers and many more.

Tickets are enclosed if you have requested some. PLEASE NOTE: They’re £5 per book (or £1 per ticket). *If we don’t receive the full amount for tickets sent in we will enter the correct number for the amount paid*.

If you’re able to sell them, please put the money and the ticket counterfoils in the FREEPOST envelope and send back to SRSB/RSS no later than Fri 12th July 2025 (to be drawn on Wed 16th July 2025). Cheques should be made payable to “SRSB”.

*Raffle tickets received after the deadline will be treated as donations.*

If you’d like extra tickets let us know.

We realise selling tickets isn’t for everyone, so don’t worry, but please DO NOT return the tickets to us as we do have to pay postage for the FREEPOST envelope if you use it. If you’d prefer not to receive raffle tickets in future then let us know.

If you prefer to pay for the raffle tickets by debit /credit please call us and we can take your payment and enter tickets into the draw for you.

It’s simple and ALL proceeds will go to SRSB/RSS.

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 will be charged otherwise.

Please ensure that anyone buying a raffle tickets is aged 16 or over.

Events: Here are some dates for your diaries, more coming soon..:

The events we hold are a critical source of income for our local charity and help us to provide our local services in Sheffield and Rotherham.

We’ve organised lots of events this year and there are more to come, so keep checking on our website.

Acoustic Angels Beighton Recreation Welfare: Fri 6th June 2025. 7pm. £12 per person

Pub Quiz: Thurs 12th June 7:30pm 2025. The Old Queen’s Head Sheffield. £5 per person

Free Will Week: 23rd to 27th June 2025.

Infinity Bridge: 19th July 2025 Details TBC. Lake District.

Pub Quiz: Thurs 18th Sept. 7:30pm 2025. The Old Queen’s Head Sheffield. £5 per person

Charity Golf Day: Fri 26th Sept 9am 2025. Hillsborough Golf Club, Sheffield.

Sheffield 10K: Sun 28th Sept 2025. Sheffield Centre.

Blind Drive: We’re planning this for 9th Oct 2025. 9am to 5pm

DJ & Quiz Evening SYVITC/SRSB: Friday 7th November 2025.

Pub Quiz: Thurs 4th December 7:30pm 2025. The Old Queen’s Head Sheffield. £5 per person

Blind Drive: Some great news! Our Blind Drive event is back thanks to the support of Sheffield Arena and Young Driver. The event is provisionally booked for Thursday 9th October (9am and 5pm).

Participants will get the chance to drive in a dual control car whilst receiving instructions from a qualified driving instructor. You can also take part in a penalty points-based driving competition for those who want to take part.

The event is open to all whether you are blind, visually impaired or sighted, from 11 years of age (blind and visually impaired drivers are not required to wear a blindfold or simulation spectacles). Please contact us to register your interest.

Infinity Bridge: We’re planning a weekend trip to the Infinity Bridge at the Honister Pass in the Lake District (19th July). Aptly named because you can’t see one end from the other, the bridge is the longest high-wire bridge in Europe, boasts stunning views and will take you 1000 ft above sea level. It’s £25 per person, plus travel and 2 night’s accommodation. Places are limited.

Trusts Update: We’ve had several new grant awards recently including Sport England who have funded a new bouldering climbing partnership with The Climbing Hangar in Sheffield. Charles & Elsie Sykes Charitable Trust donated towards our Look+ Ahead Workshops, and The H.M Burdall Charitable Trust and Sheffield District Association for the Disabled provided funding for new tables and chairs following our meeting rooms refurbishment. We will soon have a new Showdown table and equipment thanks to The Primary Club’s support, and The Earl Fitzwilliam Charitable Trust donated towards BSL interpretation. A big thank you to all our funders for making these projects possible.

Legacies: Making a will is one of the most important things you will ever do. When you’ve made sure your loved ones are looked after and your wishes are met, maybe you would consider including a gift to SRSB/RSS?

This year we’ve again teamed up with our panel of local solicitors - Norrie, Waite & Slater, Best Solicitors and Graysons – who are available to help in several ways.

Our client Free Will Week will run from Mon 23rd June to Fri 27th June, when you can have a basic single or double completed for free. SRSB/RSS will cover the costs but if you’re able to make a donation and/or pledge that would be a huge help to us, although there is no obligation to do so. Let us know if you’d like us to arrange an appointment for you.

Our solicitors are also offering all year-round discounted service and support and we will be running our Will Month during October when our three solicitors waive their fees on single and basic wills for a suggested minimum donation to SRSB/RSS both of which are open to all. If you or anyone you know would like to take advantage of this great offer which is a significant reduction on their normal fees, please get in touch.

Finally, our new legacy leaflet and legacy guide are completed. If you’d like a copy please let us know.

Diamond Wedding: We’re always so grateful when people choose to support our charity in lieu of their personal celebrations. Recently Janice and David celebrated their Diamond Wedding and were kind enough to ask for donations to our charity at their party, raising a fantastic amount of £50. Thank you Janice and David and our Congratulations on your Diamond Wedding!

**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!

**Sheffield Royal Society for the Blind (SRSB)**

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