

Volunteers' Week 2022

During Volunteers' Week we want to celebrate the fantastic contribution our volunteers make to our charity and to say thank you.

"Our volunteers inspire me every day; what you do is right at the heart of our charity. Thank you for every minute you give us." Anne Eyre, Services Manager, Sight Concern Worcestershire.



Worcester Volunteer Expo

We will be attending this volunteer fair on 17th June 2022 at the Guildhall in Worcester and hope to attract the interest of some new volunteers. Please spread the word and if you know anyone who may be thinking of volunteering, send them along! We will be there from 10 am – 2 pm so if you are in town on that day, do pop in to see us.



New volunteering opportunities

Finding Your Feet project

We are looking for volunteers who could offer short term support to people who are getting to know an area when they first move there or are adapting to new sight loss. This could be ideally suited to anyone with a visual impairment or not.

Transport volunteers

Occasionally our clients need help with travel to and from meetings, appointments and events and do not have access to any form of transport. We would like to recruit volunteers who are willing to drive a client on these occasions.

These would not be regular volunteering activities but on an 'as and when' basis- a busy life need not prevent you from volunteering! For further information please contact Jackie on 07570 323913 or j.murrall@sightconcern.co.uk.

Focus on Volunteers

John Hill: client, trustee, telephone befriender and visiting befriender!

John began losing his sight in 2015 and was registered as having severely impaired vision 2 years later. As a result of this, he moved to Worcestershire to be closer to family. He first became involved with Sight Concern Worcestershire as a client in 2017 and was invited to become a trustee in 2019.



At the outset of the pandemic, John felt he could offer support to our clients as a telephone befriender to ease their sense of isolation. He was matched with three clients, all of whom he continues to contact regularly. He has also recently started visiting them from time to time. John has been able to advocate for these clients when they needed specific support from us or to access other services during the challenge of lockdown and restrictions. Ken, who recently celebrated his 100th birthday, is one of John's telephone befriendees. He said "I don't have many visitors to talk to and I look forward to John's calls every Thursday. We chat about our lives and I feel like we've got to know each other over the 2 years that he has been calling me. "

John attends our volunteer meetings, both virtual and face to face, and has contributed to our sight loss awareness training by giving his personal experience and perspective as a person with sight loss. He sits on the Patient, Public Forum (PPF) within the Worcester Acute Hospital Trust and has been invited to join the Herefordshire and Worcestershire CCG team looking into improving ophthalmology services in Worcestershire. In addition, John also contributed to the recent Covid Impact Study facilitated by Sight Concern. Our thanks to John for his amazing commitment and contributions to improving the lives of people affected by sight loss.

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We hope you enjoy reading this edition of the Volunteering Newsletter. You can also listen to an audio version on our website. If you need a copy in larger print or a screen reader version, please call us on 01905 723 245.



Sight Concern Worcestershire

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