



MyVision Oxfordshire

Supporting Visually Impaired People

Winter 2024



From our 2024 Farmoor walk

Christmas Concert, Green Walks, Upcoming Events, Tech Update, and much more!

MyVision Oxfordshire

Bradbury Lodge, Gordon Woodward Way, Oxford, OX1 4XL

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MyVision Oxfordshire,
Bradbury Lodge,
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Upcoming Events

Oxford Touch Tours

- **History of Science Museum:** 12th December
- **The North Wall Theatre:** 14th December
- **Neverland at Blenheim Palace:** 17th December

ActivEyes Events

- **ActivEyes Pub Social:** 21st November, 19th December, 16th January.
- **Visually Impaired Tennis:** 28th November, 19th December, 23rd January.

In the Community

- **Banbury Get Connected:** 10th December
- **Banbury SocialEyes Christmas lunch:** 11th December, 2pm at Pintos.
- **ASDA Bucket Collection:** 14th December.
- **Oxfordshire County Council Chair's Carol Service:** 16th December.
- **MyVision Christmas:** 17th December.
- **Oxfordshire County Council Chair's Charity Gala Dinner:** 10th January.

Children and Young People

- **Audio Described performance of Jack and the Beanstalk:** 30th November
- **Audio Described Film Night:** 18th December.

A message from Mark, our CEO

During Winter it seems an odd time to be talking about getting outdoors, but I've been blown away by the incredible impact of our Green Walks Project across the county. In fact, others have been too, so much so that we won the 'Innovate and Inspire' Award at this year's Visionary Conference. A huge congratulations for everyone's hard work to make this possible, it's great to have national recognition for the work we're doing!

If you haven't connected with a Green Walks Group yet then please do, we currently have walks in Didcot, Abingdon, East Oxford, Witney, and Banbury and we hope to expand to more areas in 2025. You can find out more about the walks on page 4.

In other news, I'm thrilled to introduce George King, our new Communications Officer. George is with us as part of an apprenticeship scheme supporting visually impaired people into work – Welcome George!

If you've been impressed with our work this year and felt it was valuable in your own life, please do consider supporting our Winter Appeal. Daniel's life story is incredibly inspiring and knowing that our work goes a long way in empowering people like Daniel to live their best lives is humbling! This year we're aiming to raise £10,000! I hope you can help us make this happen.

And lastly, I want to thank you all for making this year so special, together we make all this happen, whether volunteering, donating, sharing your story or encouraging others – thank you and I'll take this moment to wish you a very Merry Christmas and prosperous 2025! .

Mark



Green Walks Project

The project was designed to help visually impaired people in Oxfordshire experience the joys of nature in a supportive environment. The walks aim to build confidence, improve both mental and physical well-being, and foster social connections. By offering accessible walking routes and a welcoming community, we encourage participants to explore the outdoors and connect with others, helping to combat isolation and promote a healthy, active lifestyle.

“Moving here from another area, I lost confidence in public transport. Since joining the walking group and taking the bus to new areas I have gained more confidence”



MyVision Oxfordshire is proud to announce that we have won the “Innovate and Inspire” Award at the Visionary Conference 2024 for our Green Walks project. This award recognises our commitment and efforts to create this project.

If you would like to join in or want to find out more contact us by email at: info@MyVision.org.uk, or call us at: **01865 725 595**.



A group of walkers at our first Banbury Green Walk on the 8th October. Despite the rain, they persevered.

Green Walks Groups.

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Didcot - Meeting at **Cornerstone Art Centre** at 11am.
13th December, 10th January, 30th January, 14th February,
27th February.

Abingdon - Meeting at **Coffee Aroma** at 11am.
9th December, 13th January, 27th January, 10th February, 24th
February.

Banbury - Meeting at **Mill Arts Centre** at 10am
18th December, 8th January, 22nd January, 5th February, 19th
February.

Witney - Meeting at **Market Square bus stop** at 10:30am.
10th December, 2nd January, 16th January, 30th January, 13th
February, 27th February.

East Oxford - Meeting at **Flo's Café in the Park** at 1:30pm.
30th January, 27th February. Meeting at: **Christchurch
Meadow entrance** 10th December. **Oxford Riverside walk** 14th
January. **South Park walk**, 11th February.

George King



Introducing George

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I'm excited to introduce myself as the new Communications Officer here. I'm currently completing an apprenticeship in Content Creation, and I've already

started working on bringing fresh ideas and creativity to the team. A bit about me. I'm also visually impaired, which brings a unique perspective to my work in ensuring our communications are accessible and inclusive.

In my role, I'll be managing our social media, writing newsletters, and keeping everyone updated with engaging and informative content. My goal is to make sure you're always connected.

iOS 18: A Big Step Forward for Accessibility

Apple's new iOS 18 is here, packed with exciting features to enhance accessibility for people with visual impairments. With innovative tools designed to simplify daily tasks for the blind or partially sighted, let's dive into how iOS 18 can benefit you!

Smarter VoiceOver with Apple Intelligence

VoiceOver is getting smarter in iOS 18 with Apple's new AI, offering more detailed image descriptions and improved navigation. Whether browsing photos or websites, it now better identifies objects, scenes, text, and structures like headings and tables, making it easier to use.

New Ways to Control Your iPhone

iOS 18 introduces new ways to control your iPhone. Eye Tracking allows you to control your device just by looking at the screen (on supported devices), and Vocal Shortcuts let you perform actions with custom voice commands, no "Hey Siri" needed.

These features make using your iPhone faster and more accessible.

Enhanced Magnifier with Scene Descriptions

The Magnifier app in iOS 18 now offers "Scene Descriptions" to describe your surroundings and "Detection Mode," which uses the LiDAR scanner to alert you to nearby objects, making navigation easier for those with partial sight.



Our tech specialist Jamie helping people get online and using smartphones.

Personalise Your Experience

iOS 18 offers more customisation options, allowing you to combine Accessibility Shortcuts into one command and adjust font size and style system-wide, making your iPhone easier to use and read.

Are You Ready for iOS 18?

iOS 18 is a significant step forward in making iPhones more accessible and user-friendly for people with visual impairments. With smarter VoiceOver, new control options, and better tools to understand your surroundings, there's plenty to look forward to. When the update is available, and if you need help setting up or learning how to use these new features, our team at MyVision Oxfordshire is here to support you. We'll be sharing more updates, tips, and guides to help you get the most out of iOS 18.



An iPhone screen

What You Can Do Now

Prepare for iOS 18 by updating your device to ensure compatibility. Once available, explore how the new features can enhance your daily life. If you need help setting up or have questions about accessibility features, contact us at MyVision Oxfordshire, we're here to assist you!

By Jamie Sargent

Jamie teaching people about technology



If you are interested in finding out more about setting up iOS 18, contact info@MyVision.org.uk or call **01865 725595**

Fundraising Update

Glasswalk

On Sunday 15th September two brave participants, Sally and Claire, took on a glasswalk, raising an incredible £884 for MyVision Oxfordshire. Thank you so much to our amazing glasswalkers and donors, and to Maggies Oxford for organising this wonderful opportunity.



Sally and Claire holding their certificates

Farmoor Walk

Our 3rd annual walk at Farmoor Reservoir on 28th September was a huge success.

"I enjoy the Farmoor walk as it gives me an opportunity to socialise with like-minded people outside of my usual group. My parents come every year too as it gives them a chance to meet my incredible support network, and they are welcomed as part of the MyVision family."



A group photo of our Farmoor walkers

Michelle's 96 Mile Walk

Michelle has raised £420 by walking the entirety of the Kennet & Avon Canal. She completed the walk from Reading to Bristol in stages, clocking up a whopping 96 miles! Well done, Michelle.



Michelle and her friend.

If you would like to take on a challenge and raise funds for us, please contact us on fundraising@MyVision.org.uk or **01865 725 595**.

Upcoming Children and Young People's Events

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Audio Described performance of Jack and the Beanstalk

Join us at **Chipping Norton Theatre** on Saturday, **30th November 2024**, at 10 AM. This family-friendly event welcomes all ages and tickets are priced at £28

AD Film Night at Bradbury Lodge

Join us at **Bradbury Lodge** on Friday, **18th December 2024**, from 4 PM to 6 PM. This family-friendly event is suitable for all ages and features a PG film at no cost



One of Our Bright Beginners painting

Children and Young People Social Groups

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EyeConics Gaming and Coding Group

Join our Gaming and Coding Group for 7 to 25-year-olds at **Bradbury Lodge**, happening **every two weeks on Fridays** from 4:30 PM to 6 PM. Mark your calendars for the upcoming sessions on **8th November** and **6th December**.

Bright Beginnings .

Join us at **Bradbury Lodge**, designed for children aged 0-5 years. The sessions run from 10:30 AM to 12 PM **on Fridays**, with upcoming dates on **1st November, 15th November, 29th November, 13th December**, and **10th January**.

You can contact Faye at: faye.ohara@MyVision.org.uk



EYECONICS VI GAMING GROUP

**EVERY OTHER FRIDAY
4PM TILL 6PM
AGES 7+
@BRADBURY LODGE**

REGISTER NOW

TEL: 01865 725595
EMAIL: [INFO@MYVISION.ORG.UK](mailto:info@myvision.org.uk)
WEBSITE: [MYVISION.ORG.UK](http://myvision.org.uk)



BRIGHT BEGINNINGS



PLAY GROUP FOR VI
UNDER 5'S

10.30AM -
12PM



EVERY OTHER FRIDAY
BRADBURY LODGE, MYVISION, OXFORDSHIRE



A PLACE FOR PARENTS TO CHAT, RECEIVE THE LATEST
VI NEWS & INFORMATION AND LEARN ABOUT
ACCESSING LOCAL EVENTS AND SUPPORT.

GET IN TOUCH WITH MYVISION TO BOOK IN
TO OUR SESSIONS AND RECEIVE REGULAR
UPDATES AND INFORMATION

TEL: 01865 725595

EMAIL: [INFO@MYVISION.ORG.UK](mailto:info@myvision.org.uk)

WEBSITE: [MYVISION.ORG.UK](http://myvision.org.uk)

Social Groups

Oxford

Headington - Courtside Café in Bury Knowle Park from 10-11.30.
19th December, 16th January, 20th February.

North Oxford - Common Ground café, Little Clarendon Street,
10-11.30. 2nd December, 5th January, 6th February.

West Oxfordshire and Cherwell

Bicester – Monty’s Burger Bar just by Sainsbury’s at 11 a.m.
9th December, 13th January, 10th February.

Carterton – ASDA Café at 12 noon. 20th December, 23rd
January, 27th February.

Banbury SocialEyes - The Mill from 10:30 to 12:30. 7th November,
5th December, 9th January.

Witney - The Witney Friends of the Visually Impaired are still in
regular contact, a big thank you to Mary Sitch for supporting
and gathering people when they can.

Chipping Norton - The Theatre, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. 28th
January, 25th February

South Oxfordshire.

Didcot - Cornerstone Art Centre from 10.30 to 12.30. 11th
December, 8th January, 12th February.

Didcot Wellbeing course - Cornerstone Art Centre from 10.30 to
13.00. 3rd December.

Didcot audio book club - Didcot Library from 10.30 to 11.30. 4th
December, 5th February.

Wallingford - Wallingford Library from 10.30 to 12.30. 16th
December, 20th January, 17th February.

Devante Playing Bowls at the
Thame social group.



For more information on our Social Groups,
visit our website, or contact us at:
info@MyVision.org.uk

Our Faringdon Group
enjoying a visit from
Themes Valley Police.



Our Wallingford group
enjoying lunch
together.

Henley - Henley Library from 10.30 to 13.30. 10th December,
28th January, 25th February.

Wheatley - The Merrybell from 11am to 12pm. 5th December,
2nd January, 6th February.

Thame - Thame Bowls Club from 10.30 to 13.00. 28th November,
12th December, 19th December.

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Vale of the White Horse

Abingdon - Abingdon Library from 10.30 to 12.30. 9th
December, 27th January. 24th February.

Wantage - Wantage Library from 14.00 to 15.30. 18th December,
15th January, 19th February.

Faringdon - Faringdon Library from 14.00 until 15.30. 4th
December, 22nd January, 5th February.

Our Henley group
having a pub lunch
after a social event



Oxfordshire County Council Chair's Carol Service

Join us for an evening of holiday cheer on Monday, 16th December 2024, 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM, at St Michael and All Angels Church, 26 Park Road, Abingdon, OX14 1DS. Enjoy traditional carols and seasonal refreshments! For more information on tickets, contact Hannah Newell at Hannah.newell@oxfordshire.gov.uk.

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Oxfordshire County Council Chair's Charity Gala Dinner

Celebrate with us at the Chair's Charity Gala Dinner on Friday, 10th January 2025, from 7 PM to 11 PM at the Mercure Oxford Hawkwell House Hotel, Church Way, Iffley, OX4 4DZ. Enjoy a three-course meal, wine, and pre-dinner drinks. For more information, on tickets, contact Hannah.newell@oxfordshire.gov.uk.

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Winter Appeal

This winter, we're sharing Daniel's story; a 14-year-old who's gained confidence and connection through our support over the past five years. Like Daniel, many in our community face daily challenges, and every donation you make will be matched up to £5,000, doubling its impact. Your generosity helps provide resources, skills, and a sense of belonging for visually impaired people in Oxfordshire. To read more about Daniel's story, check out our appeal insert or

visit our website. Together, we can make a difference this winter. A big thanks to our Match Fund Donors: Optelec, Humanware, Morgan Optometry, Churches Fire and Executive Alarms



Daniel, with his white cane, smiling at the camera

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is Proud to Support
MyVision Oxfordshire,
and all of the Incredible
Work They do.**



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and quote code **CA00265**



For more information, contact us
at: Fundraising@MyVision.org.uk
or call us on: **01865 725595**

Come & Join Us!

Christmas Concert

Live Music

Food & Drinks

Raffle

In support of



Supporting Visually Impaired People

Tuesday, December 17th

7:00PM - 9:30PM

Didcot Civic Hall

Price: £12:00

Scan the QR code or type
in this web address in to
view tickets

<https://shorturl.at/NMGHB>



For more information, tickets and more, scan the QR
code.