



WeySight Club

WeySight is a free, local community group which hosts two weekly meet-ups for blind and partially sighted people.

Thriving as its own registered charity, WeySight helps people gain independence by learning vital communication skills such as Braille, Moon and basic IT skills. Kate Philpot, Club Organiser and Rehab Worker at Sight for Surrey talks about the club's beginnings.

"The club was already established as a Sight for Surrey communications class when we took over the reins - I was passionate about the club's continuation" explains Kate. "When I became involved, the first task was to find

funding streams. This meant applying to local grants, raising local awareness and recruiting an amazing team of can-do volunteers," says Kate.

Crucially, WeySight offers free door-to-door transport for all its attendees. "This particular part of Surrey is very rural so having our volunteer drivers means people get a chance to get outside and socialise."

The first hour of the two-hour sessions is dedicated to learning. "For each person, the subject and pace varies" explains Kate. "Our volunteers play an important role in guiding people through their development. Thereafter people can socialise over a game of scrabble, a catch-up with their friends or enjoy a group discussion about future trips."

"For two hours a week, I'm not in a minority." explains Mike, a regular at the club and proud Chairman of the charity.

"I'm amongst people just like me, with the same challenges and the same talking points."

Amongst some of the friendships at WeySight, a rather remarkable one is that of Ethel and Jean's. Ethel, who has no vision, has taken up knitting again; a pastime she has enjoyed since the age of five. When her vision deteriorated, the long-loved hobby came to an end.



It was at the WeySight club that Ethel's friends encouraged her to take it back up, despite having no vision and working all from sequences.

"I work in numbers every day,

numbers and patterns. I count steps to my garden gate, my bedroom to my bathroom. Knitting is the same and when I have completed a patch, my friends finish off any necessary sewing" Ethel explains. The knitting duo use their time to share ideas and support each other to make knitting products

which are donated to charity. These include 'twiddle muffs'- woollen sleeves designed to soothe with the added embellishments such as bells to 'fiddle with' and Hospital Teddies, hand-crafted teddy bears which are shipped to disaster zones to children in crisis.

Club Organiser, Kate has no doubt had a big hand in the success of the club today. "None of this would be possible without Kate's determination and passion and

we are all incredibly grateful for that” says Mike with a beaming smile.

The club warmly welcomes new members and volunteers

Guildford Club

**runs Mondays
9.45 to 11.45am**
at New Hope Building,
Larch Avenue,
Bellfields, Guildford

Godalming Club

**runs Fridays
9.30 to 11.30am**
at Godalming United
Church, Bridge St,
Godalming



Find out more at
www.weysight.org.uk or
call Kate on **07790 434 952**.

Stay in touch!

We're keen to stay in touch with you; keeping you up-to-date with our services, news and upcoming events as well as our fundraising progress.

As part of a new change in the law, we've been asking everyone to tell us how they'd like us to keep in touch. The new General Data Protection Regulation means that we need your permission to contact you and secure your details before **25 May 2018**. If we don't hear from you by then, we won't be able to send you our magazine or any other information.

So, for example, if you've ever wished we would email you rather than sending things through the post - now is the time to let us know.

Please see our contact details on page 3