

TechView

Newsletter
Summer 2026



Pictured: John Slator having a tech session with Bex Wood.

MySight York

live well with sight loss

Registered Charity No. 1159188

RNIB
Visibly Better
Employer



YorView is the newsletter of MySight York

MySight, Ground Floor,
84-86 Walmgate, York YO1 9TL

What3words:
///formed.record.type

01904 636269

hello@mysightyork.org

www.mysightyork.org

 **facebook.com/mysightyork**

 **@mysightyork**

 **linkedin.com/company/
mysightyork**

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Editor: Barbara Fairs
Chief Executive: Scott Jobson

From the editor...



We are delighted to announce that MySight York has been awarded funding from The National Lottery Community Fund to deliver: Digital Vision, Bridging the Digital Divide After Sight Loss.

This funding represents an important step forward in ensuring that no one is left behind in an increasingly digital world.

The funding enables us to continue providing 1:1 sessions in our equipment and information centre. As well as finding new ways to support and bridge the digital divide.

This will kick off with our digital cafes returning on the 2nd July. This will be a consultation event held at our MySight York offices. We welcome members to come and share what they would like to learn about regarding assistive digital technology.

If this is something you would like to be part of,, please let us know if you would like to attend.

Find out more about this on page 8.

Technology

Did you know there are lots of different apps and pieces of technology that can make life more accessible. The following are a couple of interesting examples:

Digital Magnification

Did you know you can use your smartphone or tablet as a portable digital magnifier.

This can be achieved in many ways, and can help you at home or in shops and restaurants.

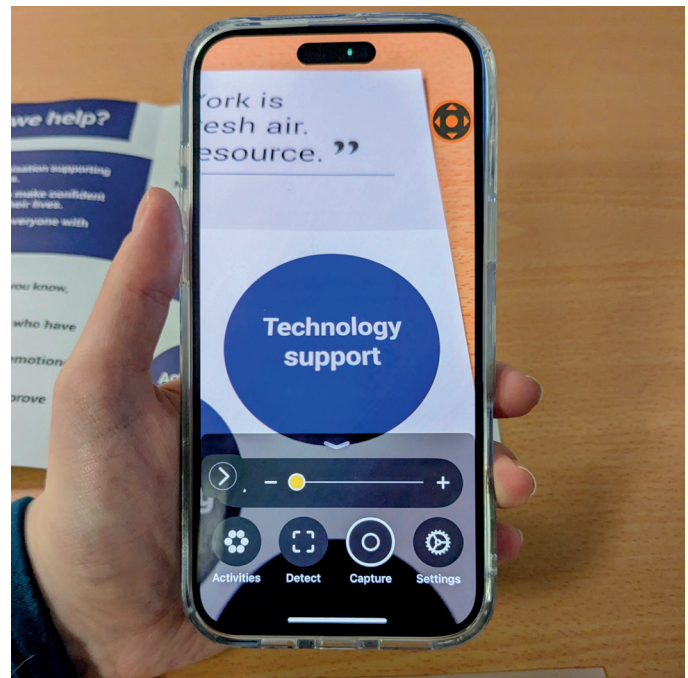
There are some accessible magnifier apps available or most smartphones have a feature to activate a magnifier.

Bluetooth Keyboard

Bluetooth Keyboards come in a variety of high contrast colour options. They have no wires and work using a bluetooth connection.

These keyboards can be paired with a laptop, tablet, phone or desktop computer

Pictured right: keyboards from top down, yellow on black, black on yellow, black on white, white on black.



If you would like to explore any of this equipment you can have a 1:1 appointment. To book an appointment please call 01904 636 269.

Quick Wins - Android

There are a number of settings that can be changed to make your mobile device more accessible. There are a number of different types of android devices. The following are settings and how to change them on Samsung and Google devices.

Light/Dark theme.

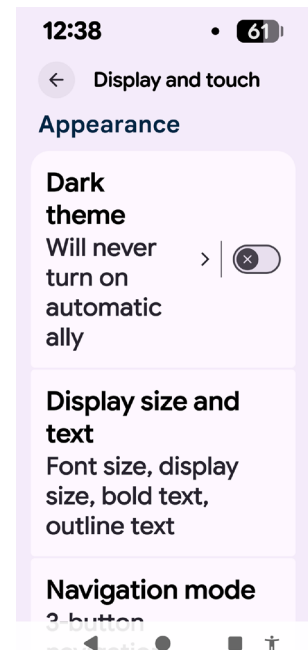
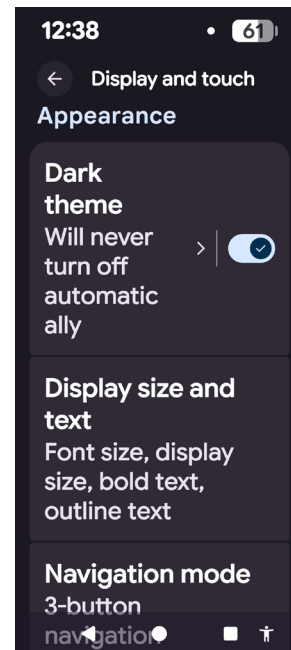
Changing the theme to dark can help if you struggle with the brightness of the white system background.

Samsung

Go to Settings → Display → then simply select Light or Dark mode

Google

Go to Settings → Display and touch → scroll down to appearance → Dark theme → select to turn on



Contrasting Background

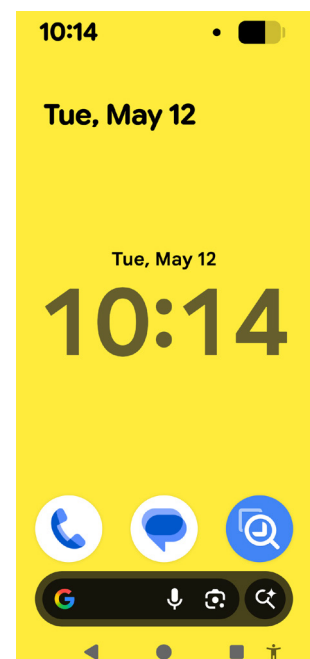
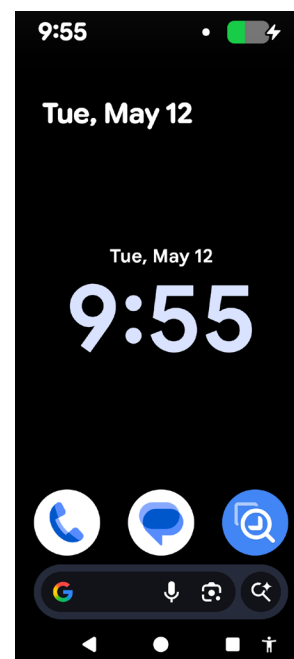
A simple block colour background to create contrast. This makes it easier to see the time and notifications.

Samsung

Go to Settings → Wallpapers and Style → Change Wallpapers → Gallery (to access camera photos) or Colour's (for block colours)

Google

Go to settings → Wallpapers and style → More wallpapers → Solid colour → Select colour → you will see a preview, at top right of screen select Next → Apply



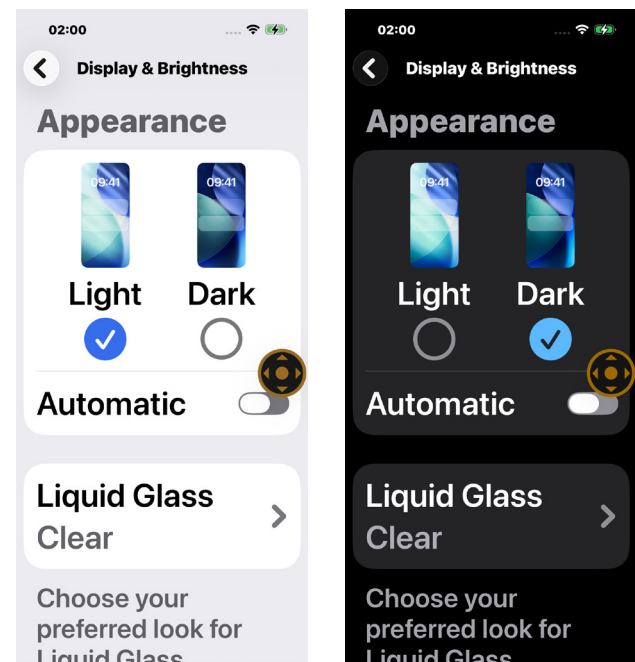
Quick Wins - Apple

There are a number of settings that can be changed to make your Apple device more accessible for you. It is good to know what settings can be changed and how to change them as part of your ToolKit.

Light/ Dark theme

Changing the theme to dark can help if you struggle with the brightness of the white system background.

Go to Settings → Display and Brightness → select Dark or Light mode to switch On



Contrasting Background

A simple block colour background to create contrast. This makes it easier to see the time and notifications.

Go to Settings → Wallpaper → Add new wallpaper → Colour → select the desired colour → click Set in the top right corner.



App Spotlight



The Be My Eyes app is a global service that runs 24/7. Contact a volunteer anytime to ask questions about your surroundings. If you would prefer, you can contact a dedicated company for help from the list within the app. Or use the latest AI image describer to explain what is in a photo.

The new AI feature can take an image and explain in detail what the image is, it can also answer questions about the image.

What can Be My Eyes help you with?

- Using home appliances
 - Reading product labels
 - Matching outfits and identifying clothes
 - Helping to read product expiration dates and cooking instructions
- This app requires a WiFi or mobile data connection to use.

UPDATE:

Did you know that Be My Eyes has a service directory. The service directory enables you to contact organisations for support.

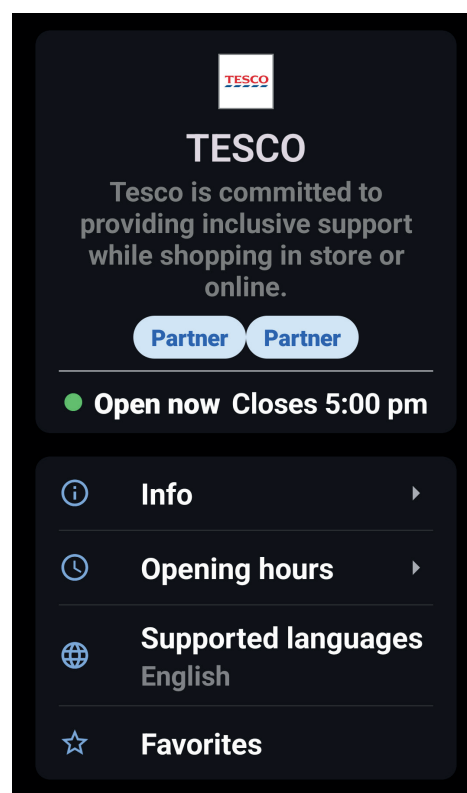
Recently Tesco have been added to the directory.

Tesco

6 moth trial – started October

In store or online shopping

Support with – identify products on shelf, identify sizes, variations, expiry dates, identify clubcard offers, promotions and loyalty card rewards, receive support with self service checkouts and request immediate support from customer service teams in real time.



How to guide

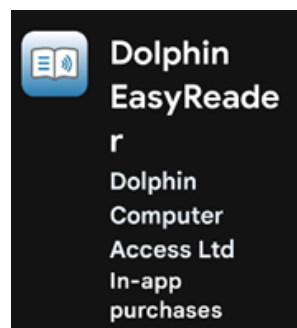
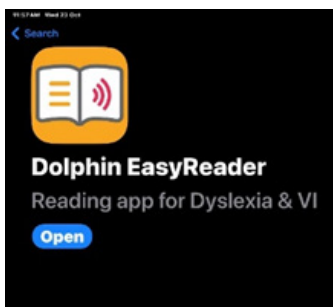
RNIB talking books on your mobile device.

RNIB talking books is a free service which has over 34,000 audio books which you can access in accessible formats. One of which is on a mobile device. The following are instructions on how to use.

1. The first step is to register with RNIB Reading Services. Once you have a login email and password you are able to access the service using the following app.

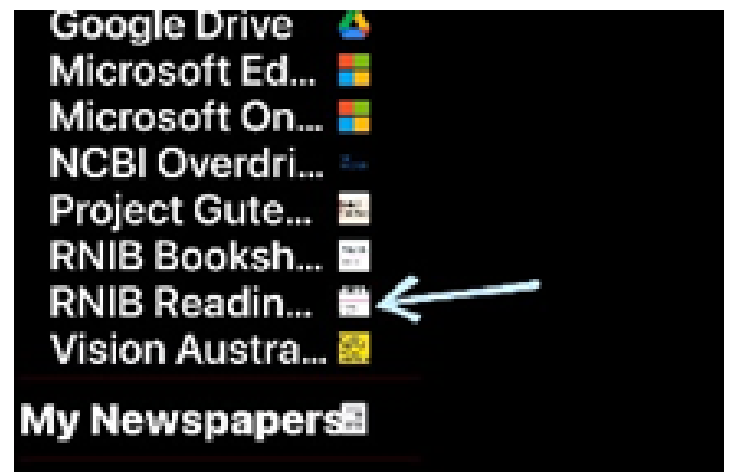


2. Download the Dolphin easy reader app. This is free on Apple and Android.



3. Once the app is installed and open, you will see a menu on the left side with a list of services.

4. On this menu select the “RNIB Reading Services” option.



5. This will ask you if you want to proceed to share information between the app and the RNIB service. Select “Yes”.

6. This will then bring up a window asking you to insert your email and password for the RNIB Reading Services. Complete the boxes. Also tick the “Remember Me” box to make logging in faster in the future.

7. Once this is complete you will be able to access the RNIB audiobook library.

You can search the library using authors, book titles or genres. You can also see a list of the most recently added audiobooks to the library.

If you need support to complete this process you can call on 01904 636 269 to book an appointment in our Equipment and Information Centre.

Upcoming Digital Cafe's

We are delighted to announce that MySight York has been awarded funding from The National Lottery Community Fund to deliver: Digital Vision – Bridging the Digital Divide After Sight Loss. This funding represents an important step forward in ensuring that no one is left behind in an increasingly digital world.



Upcoming digital cafes

2nd July 1pm - 2.30pm - Consultation

To start our digital cafes, we would like to invite members to come to the MySight York offices and consult with us about what you would like to experience from the digital cafes going forward. This will be a drop in session, where you can voice your thoughts on what aspects of the digital world you would be keen to learn more about.

The feedback from this session will shape how the digital cafes will be structured moving forward.

If you cannot attend, please feel free to call on 01904 636 269 to let us know what your thoughts are and to help shape the digital cafes going forward, or email Bex at bex.wood@mysightyork.org.

6th August 1pm - 2.30pm - Exploring Meta frame styles

We have an open session for members to explore some of the new styles of frames available in the Meta glasses. Staff from Vision Express York are bringing samples into the office to explore.

3rd September 1pm - 2.30pm - What are Meta Glasses?

Learn more about the Meta glasses and what they can be used for.

1st October 1pm - 2.30pm - What is the NHS app?

Looking at the NHS app, information and benefits on the app.