

# Listen in

**BRITISH WIRELESS  
FOR THE BLIND FUND**

KEEPING BLIND PEOPLE IN  
TOUCH WITH THE WORLD

THE BWBF NEWSLETTER SPRING 2024

## A new era for our charity

British Wireless for the Blind Fund (BWBF) is embarking on a new chapter with the appointment of Sophie Jones as our new Chief Executive Officer. We bid a fond farewell to Margaret Grainger, our esteemed outgoing CEO, who led BWBF with dedication for almost 40 years. Margaret has left an indelible mark on the landscape of sight loss support throughout the UK and we're sure you will join us in wishing her well in her much-deserved retirement.

Our new CEO Sophie has been an integral part of the BWBF family for 15 years and has been instrumental in shaping and executing our strategic vision in her role as Head of Regional Development.



## Looking forward

"It is a tremendous privilege to have been chosen for this role. I've worked closely with Margaret for a while, and I am truly excited about driving BWBF's strategy forward. I also look forward to collaborating with the remarkable individuals and organisations who share our vision and dedication to providing essential comfort, connection, and companionship to those living with sight loss.

"We remain steadfast in our commitment to providing innovative, inclusive, and trustworthy audio solutions, information services and support.

"As I continue the 96-year legacy of this organisation I want to start by expressing my heartfelt thanks for all the kindness you have shown over the years. I look forward to continuing our work together to make a positive impact on the lives of people with sight loss."



**Sophie Jones**  
Chief Executive Officer



**If you know someone who would benefit from one of our radios, please let them know about our work so we can start supporting them straight away.**

# Volunteers: our past and our future

BWBF was formed in 1928 after a hospital visit to blinded Boer War hero, Sir Ernest Beachcroft Beckwith Towse (pictured). His friends realised how isolated and detached he felt from the world around him since losing his sight, so they rigged up a makeshift 'wireless' to keep him company. It transformed the captain's life.

From this moment the idea for the charity grew and that small group of friends committed to ensuring everyone living with sight loss had access to the companionship of a radio. Led by Sir Ernest the charity expanded as he persuaded many A-listers of his time to volunteer their support to the cause. BWBF has been powered by an army of volunteers ever since.

At BWBF, we believe this human touch sets our charity apart as truly special. After the restrictions that the Covid pandemic placed on our face-to-face support, this year we're determined build a new volunteer-led personal service for everyone who needs us.

Our new Home Visitor Volunteer project will fund volunteer visits to people living with sight loss in their homes, many of whom live alone,

are elderly and have other health concerns putting them at greater risk of social isolation.

Our volunteers will give beneficiaries one-to-one support to set up their radio and advice on using the features – all at the beneficiary's pace and in the comfort of their own surroundings. With this new army of volunteers we will help more people find connection, entertainment, mental stimulation and companionship.

By invoking that same volunteering spirit that gave rise to our small charity all those years ago, we know that we can achieve great things for our beneficiaries in the years ahead.

With your help we can ensure everyone we support gets a truly personal service and no one with sight loss is left behind.



## Our promise to you

If you do not wish to be contacted or you would like to change how we communicate with you, please let us know at any time using the following details –

Email – [mydata@blind.org.uk](mailto:mydata@blind.org.uk)

Call us on - **01622 754757**

Write to us at – **10 Albion Place, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 5DZ**

Visit our website – [www.blind.org.uk](http://www.blind.org.uk)

Remember – giving us permission to use your email address is better for the environment and helps us to reduce costs. **Thank you.**

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