

BRITISH WIRELESS FOR THE BLIND FUND

KEEPING BLIND PEOPLE IN
TOUCH WITH THE WORLD



For other formats scan QR code or
visit www.blind.org.uk/spring26

Our future. Built together.

A new way of supporting
people with sight loss,
shaped by you.



Registered with
**FUNDRAISING
REGULATOR**

Registered Charity Number: 1078287 | Scottish Charity
Number: SC041582 | Company No: 03870182

Because of you, we're building a better future

We wouldn't be where we are today without you.

You're part of a story that stretches back nearly 100 years. Your support means we can stand alongside people affected by sight loss – helping them stay connected, informed, and independent. From radios and audio players to smart speakers and digital devices, you've helped thousands of people access technology that makes everyday life easier.

Annabel
"Now, she can enjoy her stories independently"



What we've learned by listening

69%
of those surveyed agreed that more support would help them to more effectively use audio technology.

Last year we commissioned independent researchers to give us a deeper insight into the audio and tech needs of people living with sight loss. More than 400 adults affected by sight loss took part. The researchers asked what really helps – and what's missing.

The message was clear: **access to technology isn't always enough.** For many in our community, it takes time, patience, and personalised support to truly benefit.

This is what people told us:

"I think isolation is the biggest issue."

"It's frustrating when things don't work."

"A lot of training out there is too generic."

"People need someone to sit down with them."

How we're evolving for tomorrow

We will always provide, accessible devices, including smart speakers, radios, USB players and music players – free of charge to those who need them.

In the future, we'll be expanding to **include new tech defined by demand among our community**, such as AI glasses. But most importantly, we'll also be giving people **the right support with tech:**

- One-to-one help via phone and video call
- Personalised training, group sessions, and peer support
- Clear training manuals and online guides
- Local support hubs and a nationwide network of trained volunteers offering tailored help

We are on an exciting journey towards becoming what people have told us they need us to be. A charity that brings **confidence, not just devices.**

At the same time as we expand what we offer, we'll also be changing our name to better reflect the life-changing work we do today.

By the end of 2027, we expect to be running a nationwide network of support, alongside our richest range of audio devices yet.

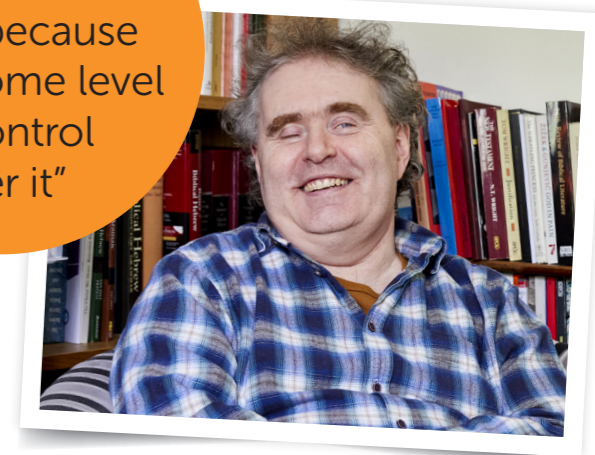
But we need your help to get us there.

Could you help us reach our target of £30,000 to make our new services a reality?



Paul
"Losing your sight isn't just about vision – it's about confidence, identity and how you see yourself"

Dyfrig
"The radio is great, because I have some level of control over it"



Where we came from

Our journey - from one makeshift radio, to a world of tech and support.



1900

Sir Ernest Towse loses his sight in the Boer War

1928

BWBF was born, inspired by a makeshift radio created by Towse's friends

1929

BWBF delivers its first 100 braille-dial radios

1929

Our first Christmas appeal is voiced by Sir Winston Churchill

1932

King George V's first message to the empire celebrates importance of radio for sight loss



1950s onwards

Bush Radio and Roberts Radio partnerships make radio accessible

1977

Vera Lynn lends her voice to our Christmas appeal

2008

Sonata internet radio launches

2024

We provide Alexa and other powerful voice-activated tech

2026

New services on the horizon, with your support

Your gift today could help us write the story for our next 100 years.