



**Kent
Association
for the
Blind**



KentAssociationForTheBlind

KAB Connect

Spring 2025

This issue is sponsored
by VisionAid
Freephone 0800 002 5555

VisionAid
Restoring Independence Since 1996



Steve Mitchell, Assisive
Technology Worker KAB

AceSight VR
headset

I could finally see my colleagues!

Here at KAB, as part of my job role, I often attend demonstration days from the companies that kindly lend us equipment for our centres and for Iris Mobile Sight Centre.

Last year, VisionAid came in to demonstrate lots of good tech for our clients, however nothing that would change

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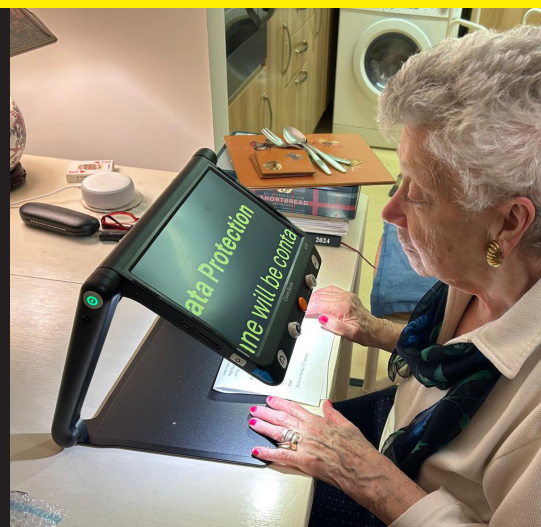
This is an advert and not a KAB recommendation. KAB is not able to advise on the suitability of a product, without discussing your individual needs with you. If you would like independent advice before making a purchase, please contact your local Rehab Team.

VisionAid

Restoring Independence Since 1996

We are proud to be the largest independent low vision and blindness solution provider in the UK.

We are passionate about assisting every person to find the best possible solution for their unique needs.



Accessible Mobile Phones

- Simple to use
- Clear, tactile, well-spaced buttons
- Loud speaker and high contrast display
- Reads everything out loud
- Easy voice control / dictation
- Smartphone features if required



Blind
Shell
Classic
3

Please call us for our free catalogue or with any questions about our solutions.

Try our solutions with free, no obligation, in-home and remote demonstrations.

Freephone
0800 002 5555
visionaid.co.uk

things for me personally. I have been trying out various magnifiers since primary school, but nothing has really helped my particular sight loss. VisionAid then started to demonstrate the **AceSight VR**. This is a headband with a built-in camera magnifier.

I decided to have a go myself, as they told me that it could help with things like reading, seeing faces and watching TV. It is similar to a gaming headset but without the sound!

After a few seconds, I could see a mass of red in front of me. These strange red things were my work colleagues. I then realised that they were waving to me. These are people I see every day, but have never really seen.

The moment was amazing. I don't often think how much I miss out on by not seeing what people look like, as I am so used to it. But I felt so much closer to everyone now I could see what they look like.

I looked outside and saw cars in detail, normally just a blurry mist. I then read a small business card. Usually I am unable to read very much, just very large letters. However, I could read the smaller text. Reading was still slow, as I have not read text that small for a very long time...if ever.

For me, this is a great device, which I would love to get one day! It is not suitable for everyone; you do require at least a small amount of vision to benefit from it. It doesn't enable you to suddenly see again! However, the small camera built into the unit may enable you to get the best from your surroundings. I would recommend requesting a demonstration from VisionAid before considering this.

Make new friends at a **KAB Social Group**



Social groups are a great way to make friends, share experiences, avoid isolation and improve wellbeing.

There is a range of different types of groups to take part in, including art and craft groups, book clubs, coffee mornings or groups that take part in activities such as bowling and archery.

We're always looking for new people to join, as well as volunteer. To find out more, get in touch!

Pam Anderson (Bexley and Bromley groups)

● 0208 464 8406 | pam.anderson@kab.org.uk

Jo Wilkinson (West Kent and Medway groups)

● 01622 691357 | jo.wilkinson@kab.org.uk

Madeleine Gray (East Kent groups)

● 01227 763366 | madeleine.gray@kab.org.uk

Join our next **Service User Forum**



Come to a Service User Forum in your area to discuss local support together. We'll also provide you with an update about KAB and how we can help. We'll also be joined by speakers from other organisations. Refreshments will be provided. **RSVP by phone or email.**

- **Tuesday 11th March - 10.30am - 12.30pm**
KAB, 72 College Road, Maidstone, ME15 6SJ
E: rehab.maidstone@kab.org.uk **T:** 01622 358995
- **Tuesday 1st April - 1.30pm - 3.30pm**
St Dunstan's Church hall, 80 London Rd, Canterbury CT2 8LS
E: rehab.canterbury@kab.org.uk **T:** 01227 763366
- **Wednesday 7th May - 10.30am - 12.30pm**
Bromley Town Church, Ethelbert Road, Bromley BR1 1JA
E: rehab.bromley@kab.org.uk **T:** 0208 464 8406
- We're also organising a Forum in Medway later in the year.

Sight Matters Exhibition **Bromley**

This free exhibition will showcase services, new technologies and equipment from over 20 exhibitors. KAB staff will also be on hand to provide support, advice and guidance.



Wednesday 25th June, 10am to 3pm



United Reform Church, 20 Widmore Road,
Bromley BR1 1RY

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Sight Loss Products Clinic in conjunction with Kent Association for the Blind Solutions for low vision



Would you like to find out more about assistive technology, gain hands on experience with magnifiers, reading machines, and much more?

We are bringing clinics to multiple locations around Kent, providing information on products to assist your sight loss no matter what your condition. Appointments last 30 minutes and you will be able to talk with our consultants and ask any questions you might have. We look forward to meeting you.

To Book your slot please call 0800 145 6115 or email sarahk@optelec.co.uk

Times available between 10 am and 2.30 pm

Wednesday 9th April

KAB Maidstone, 72 College Road, Maidstone, ME15 6SJ

Wednesday 14th May

KAB Bromley, Community House, South Street, Bromley, BR1 1RH

Wednesday 25th June

Ann Robertson Centre, Clinical Room, 55 London Road, Canterbury, CT2 8HQ

Wednesday 20th August

St Radigunds Community Centre, Poulton Close, Dover, CT17 0HL

Thursday 18th September

St Marks Church, 8 Pysons Road, Ramsgate, CT12 6TR

0800 145 6115

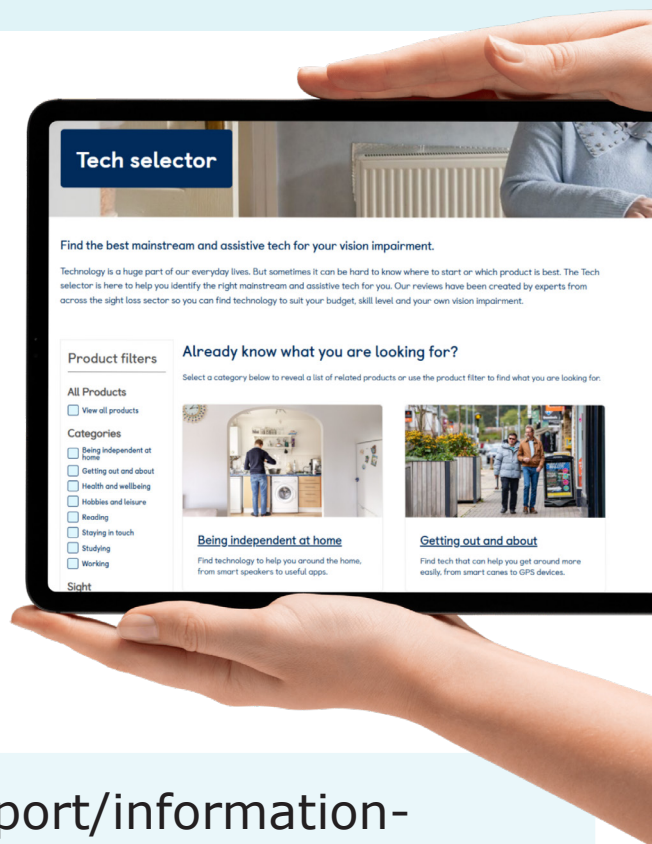
www.lowvisionshop.co.uk

Helping you select **technology that suits you**



To help you identify the right technology for your needs, the charity Guide Dogs has created a webpage called the Tech selector.

You can filter your search based on categories such as reading, hobbies, getting out and about, price and type of technology.



www.guidedogs.org.uk/getting-support/information-and-advice/how-can-technology-help-me/tech-selector/

British Wireless for the Blind's new audio devices

The charity gives radios for free and for life to people living with sight loss in the greatest financial need. Their range of devices for children and young people has been expanded, with the introduction of the Voxblock starter pack and the Echo Dot Kids.

To apply, call 01622 754757 or visit www.blind.org.uk



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VisionAid

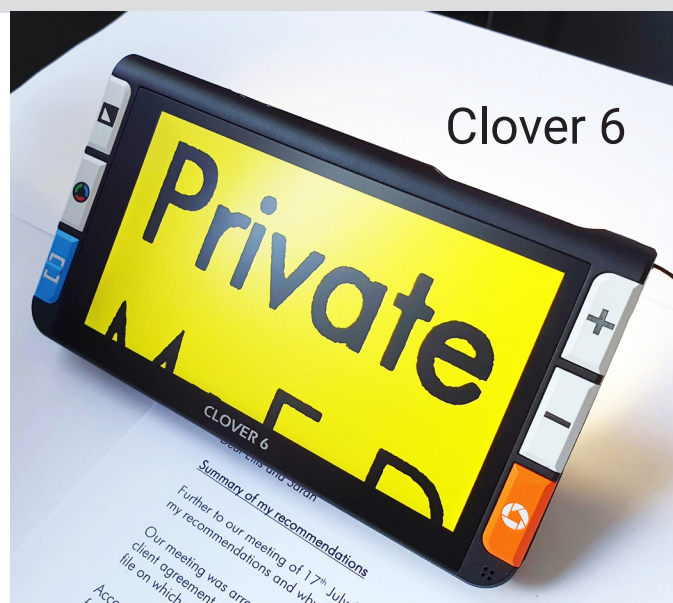
Independent Family Business Est.1996

 **Freephone**
0800 002 5555



Video Magnifiers - from £149

- Handheld, portable & desktop
- Replace your magnifying glasses
- Read faster & more comfortably
- Read post, medication, newspapers, menus, enjoy hobbies, sewing, crosswords etc.
- Variable magnification 2x - 150x
- Colour & contrast enhancement
- Near, self & distance viewing



Accessible TV - Go-box+ - £695

- Magnifies subtitles up to 4x
- High contrast text
- Natural sounding voices read subtitles aloud
- Listen at higher volume independently of other viewers



Call VisionAid for your free
0800 002 5555 or



Text-to-Speech - from £1,595

- Voxivision is an all in one **text-to-speech** & **6 inch electronic magnifier**
- **Push a button or give a voice command** to have post, magazines, books, newspapers etc. read to you
- Accurately **reads handwriting**
- **Ask VoxiVision anything about a document** i.e. TV Guide - "What time and channel is Gardeners' World on?"
- **Shop with confidence** with its **instant barcode reader** to easily **identify your household products & shopping**
- **Translates multiple languages**



VoxiVision



Wearable Solutions - from £895

- **Hands free magnification** allows users to **watch TV, cinema, see loved ones' faces, cook, play cards** etc.
- Ideal solution for practical tasks & hobbies, such as playing musical instruments, cards etc.



AceSight VR



Secondhand and Ex-Demonstration

- **Huge savings** on our fully tested **ex-demo & pre-owned equipment**
- For peace of mind, **all systems are warrantied**



Free catalogue: Freephone
visit visionaid.co.uk

Regaining independence with a **Guide Communicator**



When I was just 12 years old, I was diagnosed with Glaucoma and Myopia. Over the years, my vision has gradually deteriorated, leaving me with no sight in my left eye and extreme tunnel vision in my right. Tasks like reading my post became increasingly difficult, and I didn't want to turn to my Mum or sister all the time.

I knew I needed help, so when I discovered KAB's Guide Communicator service, I signed up. It's been one of the best decisions I've ever made.

Every two weeks, I meet with my Guide Communicator, Andi, for two hours. The support he provides is invaluable. Today, for example, he's helping me read my mail. Later, we'll prepare meals for the week ahead, which allows me to stay independent. Sometimes we go shopping together, which is a real help finding everything I need and identifying expiry dates.

The difference Andi's support makes in my life is huge. It keeps me more independent and helps me stay on top of everyday tasks without needing to rely on others. The service isn't just practical - it's a source of joy too. We laugh together, share stories, and make sure my life continues moving forward, no matter the challenges my sight loss may present.

Get in touch to find out more about the service and the support we provide.

This is a paid for service but you may be eligible for financial assistance from your local authority. Get in touch: 01622 691357 (option 2) deafblind@kab.org.uk



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 **synapptic**

From
£299

**Easy-to-use mobile phones and tablets
for people with sight loss**

Perfect for any level of sight loss!



Intuitive, step-by-step menus guide you through all tasks, with in-built speech feedback, magnification and voice recognition included as standard!



FREE training and
FREE UK lifetime support

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PROFESSIONAL
Vision
SERVICES LTD



Low Vision Drop in Days

Professional Vision Services Exhibitions

Tuesday 11th March

The Russet Meeting Room
Town Hall, Civic Way
Tunbridge Wells, TN1 1XR
10am - 2pm

Wednesday 19th March

The Garden Room
Best Western Abbots Barton Hotel
6 New Dover Road, Canterbury
CT1 3DU 11am - 2pm

Come along to one of our low vision drop-in days, where we will be demonstrating all the latest technology and equipment for the visually impaired. No need to book, just come along.

Professional Vision Services 90 Walsworth Road, Hitchin SG4 9SX (01462) 420751

KAB Golf Day Bearsted on 18th September

We're back at Bearsted Golf Club for our golf day, sponsored by Turkey Mill, which raises much-needed funds for the charity. If you know of some eager golfers who would love to attend, or know of a company who could sponsor this event, visit our website: www.kab.org.uk/events/kab-golf-day-bearsted

Sponsored by:



Meet KAB at an event near you



Chat to our team aboard our mobile vehicle about support you need or get advice about equipment or technology.

10am - 3pm unless otherwise stated. No need to book.

-  Tues 4 March - Age UK Gillingham
-  Thurs 6 March - Hawkinge Community Centre
-  Fri 14 March - Longacres Bybrook Barn Garden Centre
-  Mon 17 March - Bat and Ball Community Centre
-  Tues 25 March - Broadstairs Town Shed (11am-3pm)
-  Tues 8 April - Darent Valley Hospital
-  Fri 11 April - Cliffe Memorial Hall, Rochester
-  Tues 13 May - Orpington Hospital (with VisionAid)
-  Tues 23 September - Orpington Hospital (with VisionAid)

GambleAware

Advice | Tools | Support

GAMBLING CAN BE ADDICTIVE

KAB LOTTERY

run by **unity**

£25,000
Jackpot
Match 6
numbers

£1,000
Match 5
numbers

£25
Match 4
numbers

18+

www.kab.org.uk/get-involved/support-us/lottery



Leave a lasting legacy of independence



Leaving a legacy gift in your will to KAB is a powerful and lasting way to ensure we can continue supporting people with sight impairments, helping them to live independent lives, for years to come.

A legacy gift is a donation made to a charity in your will. Typically they are either a specific amount or a percentage of your remaining estate. However large or small, every gift in every will makes a meaningful difference.

Your legacy would fund vital services, from our Eye Clinic Liaison Officers and family activities to social groups and counselling; giving people the tools and support they need to navigate daily life safely with confidence.

To find out more about leaving a gift in your will, contact our team at fundraising@kab.org.uk or call us on 01622 691357 (option 3).

Thanks to our amazing supporters



Golf Day success

Our sincere thanks to all the sponsors and players who joined us at our Golf Day at Bearsted Golf Club in September last year. We raised over £9,500.



Swanley Station's food stall

Another successful event that raised £315.95. Our thanks to the staff at SouthEastern and to Chindra for organising the event and cooking the delicious Indian food. Our thanks also to Elly for volunteering on the day.



Cake sale

As a thank you for supporting her grandchild Lennon, who is sight impaired, Lisa has been hosting events at her work; baking delicious cakes and biscuits for her colleagues. This is her third event - the best one yet - raising £661.23!



Team KAB runners

Good luck to all our London Marathon runners this year. Ray will be running his 25th London Marathon for KAB and Rhian, who is our Rehab Worker in East Kent, is running her first marathon!



How KAB supports people with **sight or dual sensory loss**

Kent Association for the Blind offers support services to people in Kent, Medway and Bromley; enabling them to live life independently. Our services include:



Rehabilitation - initial assessment and providing advice, training and guidance



1-2-1 Guide Communicator support



Eye Clinic Liaison Officers in hospitals



Children and young people services



Mobility training



Family activities



Assistive technology guidance and advice



Counselling



Social groups



Befriending



Advice and guidance at Iris, our mobile sight centre



**Kent
Association
for the
Blind**

Charity number:
1062354



Registered with
**FUNDRAISING
REGULATOR**



01622 691357



www.kab.org.uk



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[KentBlind](https://www.instagram.com/KentBlind)



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Donation form



Kent
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for the
Blind

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Fund: Unrestricted

DB: ☐ PACK:

GA: ☐ Scan:

ID:

Increase your donation by 25% with Gift Aid

☐ **Yes**, I am a UK tax payer and I would like KAB to claim Gift Aid on this donation, all donations I have made in the last four years and any future donations I make, until I notify you otherwise. I understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year, it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

☐ **No**, I'm not a UK taxpayer.

Sign here: Date:

To receive an acknowledgement letter, tick this box: ☐

Or we can email you. Your email:

Send me information about KAB's Lottery: ☐ Legacies: ☐

I would like to pay by:

- ☐ Cheque (to: Kent Association for the Blind)
☐ Credit/Debit card (or call Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm on 01622 691357 - select 3 for Fundraising)

Card number:

Expiry date: Security Code:

Donate online:



FREEPOST RTUR-RGZX-GRYT, Kent Association for the Blind,
72 College Road, Maidstone ME15 6SJ.