

A man with dark hair and a beard, wearing a maroon sweater and a dark apron, is focused on working with pottery. He is using a tool to shape a piece of light-colored clay on a pottery wheel. The background is slightly blurred, showing what appears to be a workshop or studio setting.

**SEE
ABILITY**

SeeAbility Stories
Spring 2020

**‘SeeAbility
makes me happy
and listens to
what I want.’**

#WeSeeAbility

Ed's story



'It's like having the old Ed back, The SeeAbility Team have given him a new lease of life.'

Sharon, Ed's Mum

Being able to participate and contribute to society is something many of us take for granted. At SeeAbility, we believe that everyone with learning disabilities and autism should have the opportunity to feel part of their community.

Before Ed, who has autism, received support from SeeAbility, he was a recluse for nearly three years - shutting himself away in a log cabin at the bottom of his parents' garden. On the rare occasions Ed did leave the cabin, he always wore ear defenders to block out any noise.

His parents thought that building a log cabin would give him independence and provide a safe

space to help him over a sense of loss after his older sisters had both left home. One day, he took his parents by surprise by asking them 'Why am I still here when Stacey and Leanne have left?'

The family started to look for supported accommodation. It wasn't easy to find a place that suited Ed, but when he was offered a place in Bicester, with SeeAbility support, he was delighted.

Sharon, Ed's mum, vividly remembers the first time she visited her son in his new home. "He had this huge smile and straightaway he said 'Hello Mum, do you want a tea?' It was lovely, as in the log cabin he never wanted to do anything."

SeeAbility has helped Ed organise his week around the things he loves doing; they've even encouraged him to develop his passion for woodwork by finding him a weekly furniture restoration class.

With the support from SeeAbility's specialist teams, Ed has been given the chance to shine. "I like the SeeAbility Team, they make me happy and listen to what I want" says Ed.

Knowing Ed is getting the right support, Sharon now has peace of mind, "It's like having the old Ed back, the SeeAbility Team have given him a new lease of life."

Thanks to our specialist support, people like Ed can have the opportunity to live more independently and become more actively involved in their communities.

Emily, Gabby and Greg make their voices heard



Emily, Gabby and Greg are part of SeeAbility's newest team, **the Associates**. Each have lived experience of different disabilities and are passionate about making society more inclusive. The team have recently campaigned to make voting in elections more accessible and inclusive for all.

The Associates team are being mentored by manager Scott Watkin BEM - our Head of Engagement, who also has lived experience. Over the coming months Emily, Gabby and Greg will develop their own campaigning voice and work to influence positive change within and outside SeeAbility.

The Associates will be campaigning for MPs and local government to help make inclusion in the community a reality for people with learning disabilities, autism and sight loss.

Emily, who is visually impaired, recently spoke to her local newspaper who have run a story about the

state of the pavements near her home, with great local response.

The team want to improve life for others and will be urging the Government to make inclusion a reality for people.

To find out more, please visit: www.seeability.org/voice

Your impact is life changing

Our new **Impact Report** shows how life changing your support is.

The report celebrates the successes we've achieved, the progress we're making on changing society's attitudes towards learning disabilities and our work to achieve eye care equality for all.

You can view the report at: www.seeability.org/impact2019

Thank you for sharing our goals and helping to make such a difference to the lives of so many people with learning disabilities, autism and sight loss.

Please do let us know your views, ideas and thoughts about our new Impact Report by emailing: impact@seeability.org



NEW

RIDE LONDON 100

DATE: SUNDAY 16 AUGUST 2020
DISTANCE: 100 MILES
LOW MINIMUM PLEDGE: £199

REGISTRATION
ONLY
£10
+VAT
FEE

Join 25,000 cyclists for this 100 mile challenge, cycling by London's most iconic landmarks, stunning Surrey countryside and taking on the infamous Box Hill.



Interested? Find out more...

 www.seeability.org/ridelondon

 events@seeability.org

 01372 755 041

Children in Focus

SeeAbility's award winning eye care team

We are thrilled our **Children in Focus** project has won the Nasen 2019 Provision of the Year Award, which recognises the dedication in ensuring children in special schools receive the right eye care.

The project is the biggest global study of the eye care needs of

children with learning disabilities. As a result, NHS England have now committed to a special schools eye care programme from 2020 onwards.

This preventative public healthcare will change the lives of children for generations to come.



1911

pairs of glasses dispensed



3943

sight tests
for



1562

children



Our Optometry Practice Manager, **Noopur Patel** (2nd left) receiving the award, with some colleagues involved with the project.

Thank you for your support of this incredibly important project since 2013.

Our congratulations also to **Lisa Donaldson**, our Head of Eye Health, who has won the **Giles Van Colle Memorial award** for clinical case work relating to paediatric optometry. SeeAbility are very proud of how much our eye care team has accomplished within the last year and are looking forward to a successful 2020.

Create a brighter future



Gifts in Wills play an incredibly important role in helping SeeAbility to improve the lives of thousands of people with learning disabilities, autism and sight loss. Every gift helps us provide extraordinary tailored support and specialist services to those who need us now, and in the future.

If you see **ability** and, like us, want to champion it, please consider giving a **gift in your Will**.

Visit www.seeability.org/future
or contact us in confidence on **01372 755 042**
or email supportercare@seeability.org for more information.

Any questions?

To find out more about how we're changing lives by focusing on ability or, if you have any questions:

Call:

01372 755042

Email:

supportercare@seeability.org

SeeAbility, Newplan House,
41 East Street, Epsom, KT17 1BL.

 www.seeability.org

 [Facebook.com/RSB.seeability](https://www.facebook.com/RSB.seeability)

 [@seeability](https://twitter.com/seeability)

 [youtube.com/SeeAbilityFilms](https://www.youtube.com/SeeAbilityFilms)

Registered Charity No. 255913