



# Local Focus

## Bournemouth Society for the Visually Impaired (BSVI)

### Facts about the Befriending Service provided by Bournemouth Society for the Visually Impaired (BSVI)

The BSVI provide services and activities for blind and partially sighted people living in Bournemouth and the surrounding areas.

One of the services they offer is a Befriending Service for people who can not get to the BSVI Centre in Ensbury Park. Volunteer befrienders visit Members in their own homes providing company and assistance with general every-day living.

Befrienders can help in many ways such as:

- Chatting and providing companionship
- Reading mail, magazines, newspapers or other documents
- Writing letters and making phone calls
- Accompanying them on a walk
- Taking them on occasional shopping trips, if appropriate

Currently BSVI do not charge for the service and by its very nature it is open ended. Usually a befriending partnership stops because the befriender becomes too ill to continue, or moves away from the area.

A telephone befriending service is also available for anyone in the area with sight loss who feels isolated.

The BSVI have been running the befriending scheme for 20 years. They are always willing to consider befriending anyone who is blind or partially sighted and lives in Bournemouth or the surrounding area. They are also in need of more volunteer befrienders. Geraldine Bradley is the contact on 01202 522184 or by email at [geraldine.bradley@bsvi.org.uk](mailto:geraldine.bradley@bsvi.org.uk)



For more information about BSVI and the other services they provide, call 01202 546644 or visit [www.bsvi.org.uk](http://www.bsvi.org.uk)

### In this issue we spoke to Dennis who uses the BSVI Befriending Service

Dennis is a 90 year old man who lives independently. Dennis was registered as partially sighted about 8 years ago, it was at this time that he first heard about the BSVI through Social Services.



Dennis and Philip

For the last 2 and a half years Philip Burt has been a volunteer befriender for Dennis. Philip goes to see Dennis at his home once a fortnight for a couple of hours. During his visit they do things like go out for meals or prepare lunch together. They have become very good friends over the years and share a love of football. In between the fortnightly visits they speak on the phone regularly.

Dennis really appreciates having a male companion, having someone to talk to and to talk things over with. Having a befriender has made a significant difference to his quality of life. Dennis is unable to walk very far now so the service that the BSVI offer is invaluable to him.

***“Philip does a great job. He goes out of his way to visit me even though he does not have a car. He does so much for me and will fetch me anything I need”***

Seeing the great camaraderie between Philip and Dennis just goes to show what an invaluable service the befrienders from BSVI provide.