

Through Our Eyes - Transcript

[Kelly - Voice Over]

This is Through Our Eyes. We hope you'll take a moment to see the world through ours. Most people assume photography is all about sight, but what happens when blind and partially sighted people set out to capture the world through their own eyes?

[Kelly - Voice Over]

That's exactly what we explored Through Our Eyes, a photography project that took us along the rail line between Liverpool and Southport. Using the smartphones and assistive technology we rely on every day we photograph the places, moments and details that caught our attention. Along the way we discovered that photography isn't about perfect sight, it's about perspective.

[Naomi]

Hi everybody my name is Naomi Ditchfield and I'm a member of the Merseyside Sight Loss Council. I have got a condition called bilateral hemianopia and basically, it's to do with having a stroke at various stages when I was developing so I can only see half in each eye but it's the same half nearest my nose and I've also got nystagmus. So, we were asked to go around various places in Liverpool to take photos of things that we liked. I'm always doing it anyway because I love Liverpool and it's got so many historic buildings and different places to see. Just because you're visually impaired doesn't mean you can't take pictures. I've always liked taking photographs basically because I'm nosy and I like to see what I've been looking at even if I can't see it properly. So, it's just a good insight into how we see things, and I think that can only be a good thing for the general public.

[Mick]

I'm Mick and I'm from the Merseyside Sight Loss Council. My eye condition restricts me from seeing things right in front of I've got no front vision. I've got a little bit of

peripheral vision which sometimes is okay and sometimes it's all according on the lights. So, it's hit and miss and what the lights like and what the day's like. Kip is my godsend. He's a good dog when he wants to be. It's knowing that between Liverpool and Southport there's loads of different places you can actually go on that train line and you can have a day out and enjoy taking photos because at the end of the day just because we've got no vision doesn't mean we can't take a photo. I hope the public actually go and have a look at it and you know it's not there and people just walk past and go oh yes, you know, people do go see. But I hope they get out of it, the same we got out of here. The enjoyment of the living around here to start with.

[Jackie]

Hi, I'm Jackie. I'm a member of Merseyside Sight Loss Council. I was registered to visual sight impaired / blind in 2018 after suffering a cardiac arrest and being in a coma. So, when I've been looking at photos and taking photos and for me, I can see the image, but I will struggle with the detail of the image. I'm hoping that people will just become more educated in terms of the big spectrum of sight loss and how it can affect people even with the same condition differently. You know it's been a real learning curve for me. I used to think that people who were blind couldn't see anything and so I hope by doing this project we'll just be able to educate people a little bit more and they'll be interested in understanding what it's like to live with sight loss.

[Mike]

My name is Mike Wright and I'm a member of Merseyside Sight Loss Council. I was born totally blind. Basically, no mental image of what colours look like. I picture things in my mind as what they feel like. Well, I know a lot of the landmarks on the local railway line so now for example if I'm using a camera on a smartphone, I'll be getting voice guidance so you might be getting information fed to you. Face centre of screen. Tilt right, tilt left and this this is something even ten years ago you couldn't even dreamt about.

[Kelly - Voice Over]

The project was about much more than photography. It was about confidence, creativity, travelling independently and seeing familiar places in a new way. The result is Through Our Eyes, an exhibition showcasing the many different ways blind and partially sighted people experience the world.

[Kelly - Voice Over]

Now on display at Southport Railway Station, we hope it encourages people to pause, look a little closer and perhaps rethink what sight loss really means.