

Anniversary Edition 2017



• your henshaws



Welcome to the special edition of your henshaws to celebrate our 180th anniversary; giving you a glimpse of the amazing long-term stories that your support has made happen throughout our 180 years. *The Henshaws Team.*

Fred's story



Fred Hernandez has been involved with Henshaws for almost 50 years since he started at our school back in 1958, when he was just 12 years old (you can see him playing chess on the front cover). Fred was born with a visual impairment, and a combination of measles and bent optic nerves meant that he completely lost his sight aged seven. Fred's journey with Henshaws began when he studied at our college, before securing jobs at successive engineering companies through Henshaws, the second of which, Presbar Diecuttings, he worked at for almost 40 years until his retirement.

When Fred retired in 2012, his involvement with Henshaws only increased. He is now a part of five specialist groups including Yoga, Tech Talk, Henshaws Hikers and The Art Gallery & Museums group and believes that, as long as you have pride and confidence in yourself, doors will open for you. He describes the impact Henshaws has had on his life:

"Henshaws was quite different to other schools I'd been to because they encouraged you to do things for yourself rather than always being helped. They helped you live independently and allowed you to do things like making your bed and eat without aid. I stayed there for four

years until 1962 when the rehabilitation office found me a job at a local engineering firm. I loved the camaraderie of working, being able to talk and have a laugh together, as well as the odd night out in clubs in Manchester!

"Once I retired in 2012 I got straight in touch with Henshaws. I can honestly say that if Henshaws didn't exist I would be lost. I would never have gone out to galleries or museums without them, it has sparked a lot of interests for me! Not only has it got me meeting new people and making new friends, it has given me the confidence to get out there and do things. We all learn from each other's experiences and pick up new tips every day.

"One group I enjoy now is Tech Talk. Advancements in technology make life easier for visually impaired people and Tech Talk helps me learn things I never would on my own. I now use my smartphone and have access to emails. Technology has opened a number of doors for me."

Fred is just one of many who Henshaws has supported throughout their life. These services couldn't run without support from the generous donations given by people like you.



Jennie's story

Jennie Hayes was born with glaucoma, causing her vision to be very cloudy before cataract surgery improved her vision and prevented her from losing her sight altogether. She has been involved with Henshaws since she started at Henshaws College back in 1994, and was a founding member of the Arts & Crafts Centre in Knaresborough in 1998. Jennie explains that, before the centre opened, there were few options for graduates from the college to move onto but now the centre offers a safe, friendly and fun environment that helps people like Jennie learn new skills, build independence and make new friends. She describes the effect Henshaws has had on her life:

“The support Henshaws provides has massively helped in preparing me for life in the community. The staff and volunteers are always really good and helpful, and have allowed both my independence and confidence to grow. Through learning new skills and building new friendships, it has given me a lot more confidence and made me feel much better in myself.”

Jennie also lives in one of Henshaws' supported living houses in Harrogate, with five other people who she has known throughout school and college. She leads an incredibly active life as a part of the Henshaws triathlon team as well as regularly running and swimming in her spare time.

Through your continuous support, people like Jennie can access Henshaw's wide-ranging support enabling her to live life to the full!

Alfie's story



With the variety of technology ever expanding, such as touchscreens, communication aids and voice controlled technology; people such as Alfie Fox are being given the opportunity to find their voice.

Alfie is in his first year at Henshaws College in Harrogate, where his use of technology is hugely benefitting his communication skills. Alfie finds it difficult to communicate through speech due to verbal dyspraxia, a condition that makes it difficult for him to make and co-ordinate the movements his mouth needs to do to create speech. However, through using his iPad and specialist software called Grid, he can type what he wants to say and Grid will read it out. He uses this to communicate with both his fellow students and staff.

Alfie is an avid user of technology, with one of his favourite lessons at college being ICT where he is able to develop his love of film making. He is somewhat of an expert on Apple's Movie Maker and loves to make films about a wide range of subjects. He is even setting up his own film club at college on a Monday. He has plenty of film ideas including a documentary about the enterprise class's t-shirt production, a film about the challenges and benefits of using communication aids around college, and even a comedy in the style of Mr Bean!

With help from our generous donors and staff like Alan (pictured), Alfie's communication has vastly improved in the short time he has been with Henshaws. Alfie shared with us that it “makes him feel good” to be able to communicate more with his friends and teachers. Keep an eye out for Alfie's videos on our website and YouTube channel soon!

Miss Heywood's story

Over the year of our 180th anniversary, we'll be sharing stories of those who have been most influential in supporting people with sight loss and other disabilities throughout our organisation.

One of the inspiring stories we'll be sharing is Miss Isabel Heywood's; founder of the Manchester and Salford Blind Aid Society (now part of Henshaws).

Miss Heywood first started to read the daily paper to blind workers at Henshaws and then, largely due to her personality and unflagging determination, went on to establish a thriving society which helped visually impaired people in a number of ways including home visiting, finding employment and creating social groups. Her influence and insight helped to ensure the rights of visually impaired people were enshrined in law for the first time in the early 1900s, and she was a real pioneer in the generous support of people with visual impairments. The work of Henshaws now to ensure that those with a disability can go beyond expectations and achieve their ambitions is a result of people like Miss Heywood who helped change the world.



MISS I. M. HEYWOOD, O.B.E.,
FOUNDER OF THE MANCHESTER AND SALFORD BLIND AID SOCIETY.
DIED 23RD FEBRUARY, 1940.

180th exhibition

This September, set a date in your diaries to come along to the Central Library in Manchester to visit our 180th anniversary exhibition stand. You will be able to learn more about Henshaws' history, hear a number of stories from people that our services and your kind donations have supported over the years, and find out where Henshaws is heading in the future.

We will also be sharing a story a day throughout September on our Facebook and Twitter pages, so make sure you follow us to see them all! If you have any stories about your connection to Henshaws throughout the years, send them to stewart.graham@henshaws.org.uk or call Stewart on **0161 786 3640**.

Get in touch

Our fundraising team are always happy to help with any queries or if you'd like any more information. Give us a call on **0161 786 3656** or email us at fundraising@henshaws.org.uk

To find out more about the fantastic work that your support has helped to achieve and to sign-up for our regular emails, visit our website at henshaws.org.uk

Take on our 180 challenge!

This is a really exciting milestone for Henshaws and we'd love you to join us in our 180 challenge! To tie in with our celebrations, the theme is 180 so whether it's aiming to sell 180 cakes, taking on a blind darts competition or simply aiming to raise £180, every challenge makes a difference. The sky is the limit when it comes to ideas so feel free to get creative and think outside the box. We even have a mystery prize for the most creative 180th challenge which will be decided by a judging panel in December.

We can support you every step of the way with your fundraising efforts, so if you are interested in taking on the 180 challenge, get in touch with fundraising@henshaws.org.uk or call fundraising on **0161 786 3656** to sign up now.

henshaws

beyond expectations