



PRESS RELEASE

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Driving the dream for Norfolk blind people

A Norwich woman who has been blind since birth fulfilled her dream by driving an off-road 4x4 vehicle around a forest course.

Kate Pentney, 49, was one of six visually impaired people who took part in the session organised by the Norfolk and Norwich Association for the Blind at a specialist off-road venue near Newmarket.

Kate described her adventure as "the thrill of a lifetime."

It was the first time the NNAB had organised off-road driving, and more sessions are now planned to run alongside a range of other sporting and leisure activities offered to blind people by the charity.

NNAB sports co-ordinator Rebecca Shubrook said: "We are always looking for activities that will challenge blind people and allow them to enjoy the sort of things that sighted people take for granted."

The six who took part were all driving manual vehicles with instructors from Suffolk-based Explore 4x4 in the passenger seat acting as their eyes to tell them when to turn and what obstacles were ahead. For three of them it was the first time they had ever driven, while the other three used to drive before losing their sight.

Kate, who lives at the NNAB's sheltered support flats in Hammond Court, Norwich added: "It was the first time I had ever been behind the wheel of a vehicle and it was brilliant."

ENDS

Notes to editors – contact Rebecca Shubrook on 01603 629558 to arrange a picture