

Dr Fred and Mrs Henrietta Reid - biography

Dr and Mrs Reid have been married for over 50 years and have local and national contributions to benefit the lives of the visually impaired.

Fred and Etta were both blinded in childhood. They met at the blind school in Edinburgh when teenagers. Both went on to have successful careers, Etta as a physiotherapist and Fred as a lecturer at the University of Warwick.

They raised three sighted children and in Kenilworth they have set up a local charity to support blind adults with administration, Kenilworth Readers for the Blind. Etta is currently on the committee that runs this charity and Fred helps organise the rota for visits to individuals.

Between 1966 and 1997 Dr Reid lectured in history at the University of Warwick, England. During that time he published a biography of Keir Hardie, essays on Scottish coal miners in the nineteenth century and critical essays on Thomas Hardy. After retirement came a book about his grandfather, *In Search of Willie Patterson: a Scottish Soldier in the Age of Imperialism*, and *The Panopticon*.

At a very early stage they both resolved to speak up for the rights of blind people. Fred served as President of the national Federation of the Blind and Partially Sighted from 1972 to 1975 and as a trustee of The Royal National Institute OF the Blind (RNIB) from 1974 to 1987 (and again from 1999 to 2006).