Up to 50% of people with macular disease experience visual hallucinations, known as Charles Bonnet Syndrome.
These hallucinations can be very frightening, ranging from geometric shapes and patterns to animals and disembodied heads.
Many people worry unnecessarily that they are losing their mind.
The Macular Society launched its campaign to raise vital awareness of Charles Bonnet Syndrome, and reassure people that it is a natural experience relating to sight loss, not a sign of mental illness...
We asked people to share their experiences with us.

We were inundated with stories...
... which we brought to life with the use of illustration.

We shared these images to let people know that they are not alone.
Our short information film helped people understand what Charles Bonnet Syndrome is and how it affects everyday life.
We received a great response from people all over the UK. The results of the campaign were overwhelmingly positive.
39,000 people visited our website
54,000 people watched our video
355 people downloaded our helpbook
over 100 people shared their stories
My mum has suffered with AMD for 20 years. She had never heard about this before so was relieved she wasn’t ‘going mad’! Thank you for spreading the word.

After all these years I’m not weird! I haven’t mentioned it to anyone in case they thought I was mad. I’m so relieved to know there is an explanation for it.
But too many people are still too frightened to talk about their hallucinations, due to lack of awareness. Many become isolated, as they fear their friends or family will think they are suffering from dementia.

Our counselling service provides vital support for people struggling to talk to those closest to them.
Just £3 per month could help fund a counselling session for someone struggling to come to terms with the emotional trauma caused by macular disease and visual hallucinations.

Donate now