**Monthly What’s On E-Newsletter for February 2024**

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# Monthly What’s On Guide

Welcome to your monthly update of local accessible services and events across Wiltshire and Swindon.

In this update we have primarily included dates for February, there are some events that are later in the year to give you time if you need to plan ahead. Next month’s guide will be sent out at the end of February 2024.

# Contact Us

For more information on any of the services or events organised by Wiltshire Sight, please call 01380 723682 or email: [info@wiltshiresight.org](mailto:info@wiltshiresight.org)

Also follow us on [facebook@wiltssight](https://www.facebook.com/wiltssight) to keep up to date with what we are up to.

# Wiltshire Sight Events and Notices

## Seeking Trustees

Wiltshire Sight is currently looking for interested people to join our Board of Trustees. The Board meet four times a year, either in person or on Zoom, to review progress and finances and ensure the organization is moving in the right direction. We would welcome any members of the sight loss community who are interested in being part of the team – if you would like a brief chat about what is involved, please do give us a call and ask for Mike, or email and we can send you a role description.

## Blindingly Funny Comedy Night

Our partner charity, Sight Support West of England, proudly present **Blindingly Funny** – an evening of comedy, confessions and compassion.

It will be held at the wonderful Tobacco Factory in Bristol, on the evening of Tuesday 6th of February from 7.30pm.

There is a fabulous line up of 5 acts – the best comedians you may have never heard of, poetry perfection and proof that you don’t need to be blind to be funny though it helps! The acts are:

* Louise Leigh, Bristol based comedian who will be the magnificent MC.
* Si Deaves, who is a writer and podcaster as well as being described as one of the country’s most original undiscovered performers.
* David C Johnson – he has been described as Bristol’s answer to John Hegley.
* Lizzy Lenco – We don’t often think of blindness as funny – but that doesn’t stop the lovely Lizzy! Think disability, heavy metal and cream cakes – that will give you the idea!
* Jake Donaldson, who is headlining on the Blindingly Funny night, describes himself as visually impaired and perpetually anxious. However, this does not stop him being a sex-magnet and supremely funny.

Tickets cost just £15 and are available from the Tobacco Factory Theatres website on the link below or you can call them on 0117 902 0344. [Buy tickets to Blindingly Funny on The Tobacco Factory Theatres website](https://tobaccofactorytheatres.com/shows/blindingly-funny/)

Buying a ticket for Blindingly Funny is one of the many ways you can support the important work of Sight Support West of England. Tickets to this event would also make a fantastic Christmas present!

### There’s ****even more!****

You also have the chance to win a pair of tickets to see superstar Sarah Millican at the Bristol Beacon on Friday the 5th of July 2024 – see our dedicated page by clicking the button below or buy your tickets on the night!

[Sarah Millican raffle – win 2 tickets!](https://www.sightsupportwest.org.uk/get-involved/raffle-sarah-millican/)

**We hope to see you on the night and please help us by spreading the word!**

# Wiltshire Sight Community Hubs & Socials

Here is a listing of our community hubs and social groups coming up this month. Find all up to date information on our website at [Events - Sight Support West of England](https://www.sightsupportwest.org.uk/events/eye-can-bath/) (please note our website is shared with our partner charity Sight Support).

**Hubs** – At our Sight Loss Advice hubs you will find information, guidance, and advice. Our Sight Loss Advisors can demonstrate a variety of assistive equipment and technology. They have lighting, magnifiers, talking watches, liquid level indicators and much more, so please think about coming along. For some hubs you will need to book an appointment but others you can just pop along, check each hub listing for more information.

**Social Groups** - Some of our Hubs have a volunteer led social group running alongside them, and some social groups take place independently of a hub. Our social groups are a place where people with sight loss can come together, share experiences, swap tips and tricks for living with sight loss and most importantly chat, relax, and enjoy each other’s company. Our groups are run by lovely volunteers who will make you feel welcome. Sight loss doesn’t have to mean being isolated, so why not come along to one of our friendly social groups.

## Amesbury Sight Loss Advice Hub – Appointment Only

Evergreen Court Community Café, Archers Way, SP4 7YT

2nd Wednesday of month, 10am to 12pm: 14th February.

Appointment only, contact us to book.

## Bradford on Avon – Appointment Only

Wallington Hall, Church Street, BA15 1LN

1st Wednesday of the month, 10am to 12pm: 7th February Appointment only, contact us to book.

## Calne Sight Loss Advice Hub & Social Group

Calne Leisure Centre, White Horse Way, Calne, SN11 0SP

4th Thursday of the month: 22nd February.

* Drop in to see your advisor between 10.30am & 11.30am.
* Appointments available – contact us to book.
* Social group at this hub between 10.30am & 12.30pm.

## Chippenham Sight Loss Advice Hub & Social Group.

Community Hub, Borough Parade, SN15 3WL

2nd Wednesday of the month: 14th February.

* Drop in to see your advisor between 10am & 11am.
* Appointments available – contact us to book.
* Social group at this hub between 10am & 12pm.

## Corsham Sight Loss Advice Hub & Social Group

The Pound Arts Centre, Pound Hill, SN13 9HX

2nd Tuesday of the month: 13th February.

* Drop in to see your advisor between 10am & 11am.
* Appointments available – contact us to book.
* Social group at this hub is between 10am & 12pm.

## Cricklade Sight Loss Advice Hub – Appointment Only

Cricklade Library, High Street, Cricklade, SN6 6AE

3rd Tuesday of the month 10.30am to 12.30pm: 20th February. Appointment only, contact us to book.

## Devizes Resource Centre – Appointment Only

Devizes Resource Centre, St Lucy’s Sight Centre, Browfort, Bath Road, Devizes, SN10 2AT.

Our resource centre is available every Wednesday for appointments, contact us to book yours.

## Devizes Social Group

Devizes Resource Centre, St Lucy’s Sight Centre, Browfort, Bath Road, Devizes, SN10 2AT.

1st Tuesday of each month, 10.30am to 12.30pm: 6th February.

## Highworth Sight Loss Advice Hub – Appointment Only

Highworth Community Centre, The Dormers, Highworth, Swindon SN6 7PQ. Use Rear Entrance for level access, large car park at rear of building.

2nd Wednesday of the month 10.30am to 12.30pm: 14th February. Appointment only, please contact us to book.

## Malmesbury Sight Loss Advice Hub & Social Group

Malmesbury Town Hall, Cross Hayes, SN16 9BZ

2nd Thursday of the month: 8th February.

* Drop in to see your advisor between 10am & 11am.
* Appointments available – contact us to book.
* Social group at this hub between 10am & 12pm.

## Marlborough Sight Loss Advice Hub & Social Group

The Jubilee Centre, 28 High Street, Marlborough SN8 1LW.

2nd Tuesday of each month: 13th February.

* Drop in to see your advisor between 10am & 11am.
* Appointments available – contact us to book.
* Social group at this hub between 10am & 12pm.

## Melksham Sight Loss Advice Hub & Melksham Community Tea – New Venue

Melksham Library, Community Campus, Market Place,

Melksham, SN12 6ES

1st Thursday of the month: 1st February.

* Drop in to see your advisor between 1pm & 2pm.
* Appointments available – contact us to book.
* Social group at this hub between 1pm & 3pm.

## Pewsey Sight Loss Advice Hub – closed for December.

Bouverie Village Hall, North Street, SN9 5EQ

4th Tues of the month, 10.00 to 12.00am: 27th February.

* Drop in to see your advisor between 10am & 11am.
* Appointments available – contact us to book.
* Social group at this hub between 10am & 12pm.

## Royal Wootton Bassett Sight Loss Advice Hub – Appointment Only

Royal Wootton Bassett Library, 11 Borough Fields, Royal Wootton Bassett, Swindon SN4 7AX.

3rd Monday of the month,10.30am to 12.30pm: 19th February.Appointment only, please contact us to book.

## Salisbury Sight Loss Resource Centre

Wiltshire Sight Hub, 23 Catherine Street, SP1 2DQ.

Our Resource Centre in Salisbury is available for appointments, 10am to 4pm on every Monday for appointments, contact us to book yours.

## Salisbury Coffee & Convo – New Venue & Time

First floor of Salisbury Library, Market Walk, Salisbury, SP1 1BL.

3rd Wednesday of each month from 10.30 am to 12.30 am: 21st February.

## Swindon Central Sight Loss Advice Hub – Appointment Only

Swindon Central Library, Regent Circus, Swindon, SN1 1QG

1st Tuesday of the month, 10.15am – 1.15pm: 6th February. Appointment only, please contact us to book.

## Swindon Audiobook Reading Group – Cancelled

Swindon Central Library, Ground floor, Regent Circus, Swindon, SN1 1QG.

Usually held on the 1st Monday of each month, 10 to 11.30 am: There is no reading group in February. Back to normal on Monday 4th March 10 – 11.30am.

## Tisbury Sight Loss Advice Hub – Appointment Only, Closed for December.

Nadder Leisure Centre, Weaveland Rd, Tisbury SP3 6HJ

4th Thursday of the month, 11am to 1pm: 22nd Febuary Appointment only, please contact us to book.

## Trowbridge Sight Loss Advice Hub, Appointment Only – New Venue

Wiltshire Sight Charity Shop, 27B Fore Street, Trowbridge, BA14 8EW.

Our new Resource Centre will be available every Friday for appointments, contact us to book yours.

Starting 15th March a social will run along side the hub on the 3rd Friday of the month, 11am – 1pm.

## Warminster Sight Loss Advice Hub – Appointment Only, Closed for December.

MS Therapy Centre, Bradbury House, The Avenue, Warminster BA12 9AB.

4th Thursday of the month, 2.30pm – 4.30pm: 22nd Febuary. Appointment only, please contact us to book.

## Wroughton Sight Loss Advice Hub & Social Group

St Joseph’s Church Hall, Devizes Road, Wroughton SN4 0RZ. 1st Wednesday of the month: 7th February.

* Drop in to see your advisor between 10am & 11am.
* Appointments available – contact us to book.
* Social group at this hub between 10am & 12pm.

# Events From Other Organisations

These events and notices are from other organisations. Please check with the contact given that the event is going ahead as planned. Sometimes changes need to be made to dates and times at short notice, so it is best to check with the organisation before the event takes place.

## Swindon Dial-a-Ride

A door-to-door transport service for people of all ages with limited mobility.  Call 01793 616050 or email [transport@dialarideswindon.org.uk](mailto:transport@dialarideswindon.org.uk) to register with them.

## Retina UK Bristol, Bath & Wilts Peer Support Group Meeting

Welcoming zoom meetings for people to meet and share experiences, tips and information. Call [0300 111 4000](tel:0300%20111%204000).

## Wiltshire Museum - Community Advisory Group

The Museum are now recruiting for a community advisory group.

They are looking for 10 people from Devizes and the surrounding areas to help shape the Assizes for Devizes project which will transform the old Devizes Assizes Court into the future home of Wiltshire Museum as well as a community hub for all of Devizes and the surrounding areas. You can find our more about this project at <https://devizesassizecourt.org.uk/plans-for-the-future>. This community advisory group will meet 4 times a year to discuss and debate our plans, focusing on things like accessibility, exhibition design, activities at the museum and in the community, building design and how to make the museum more engaging for visitors. They hope there may also be opportunities to co-produce some group projects, looking at things like what the Story of Devizes means to visually impaired people, exploring their collections or possibly designing activity trails or sensory kits. Participants will receive a £25 gift voucher for each session they attend as a thank you for giving their time and will have any transport costs and access needs covered by the museum as well as lunch.

An expression of interest form is available by following this link [Expression of interest form](https://forms.gle/QPheoLLhNuH2VU7t9)

The Museum have also set up an online comments board for anyone who would like to have their say without a bigger commitment which you can find at [Devizes Assizes Court comments board](https://padlet.com/DevizesAssizeCourt/assizes-for-devizes-unlocking-wiltshire-s-stories-8oort2cyxtr518kx)

Community Advisory Group meeting dates 2024:

* Monday 26th Feb 6.00-7.30pm
* Saturday 27th April 10am-1.00pm (including lunch)
* Mon 3rd June 6.00-7.30pm
* Monday 16th September 6.00-7.30pm

For more information contact [claire.slack@wiltshiremuseum.org.uk](mailto:claire.slack@wiltshiremuseum.org.uk)

## RNIB Living Well with Sight Loss courses

Covering a broad range of subjects relating to sight loss including confident tips for everyday living, eye health, magnification, lighting and technology, wellbeing and much more.

Upcoming course dates:

Session 1: Monday 5th February

Session 2: Monday 12th February

Session 3: Monday 19th February

Session 4: Monday 26th February

Times: 11am

## RNIB Focus on Money Matters course

Session 1: Thursday 1st February

Session 2: Thursday 8th February

Session 3: Thursday 15th February

Session 4: Thursday 22nd February

Times: 11am

Contact: [Bernice.Cocking@rnib.org.uk](mailto:Bernice.Cocking@rnib.org.uk) or 07761 328571.or [George.Hinton@rnib.org.uk](mailto:George.Hinton@rnib.org.uk) [Tricia.sail@rnib.org.uk](mailto:Tricia.sail@rnib.org.uk)

## RNIB Online Group Discussion about social relationships

Join an online group discussion to talk about how sight loss has impacted your social relationships. Discussing your experiences with family and friends, romantic relationships, peers, and your local community. If your social relationships have been impacted, then this is the discussion for you!

You’ll be invited to attend 2 groups over a 2-week period. Each group will last approximately 2 hours 15 mins (15 min break included). The groups will be held online, via Teams. Don’t worry, RNIB can dial you into the call if needed.

**Tuesday 13 & 27 February at 5:30pm – 7:45pm**

**Wednesday 13 & 27 March at 2pm – 4:15pm**

If you’re interested in taking part, please complete this online form: [Voice of The Customer focus groups sign up form](https://forms.office.com/r/Ksmt6GFgr1)

Or you can call the RNIB Helpline on 0303 123 9999 and ask to sign up to the Voice of the Customer Focus Groups. If you have any questions or would like further information, please contact [customervoice@rnib.org.uk](mailto:customervoice@rnib.org.uk).

# Leisure and Sporting Activities

## Bowls Club in Chippenham

The Bowls Club in Chippenham are running a weekly indoor bowls club for people with sight loss and other disabilities.  Taking place at North Wilts Bowls Club in Chippenham (near Sainsburys) each Friday 4-5pm, September - Easter.  Coaching is given.  The contact for this club is Maureen on 01249 657228.

## Free Pilates Classes

Based in Woodbrough, SN9. Emma is looking to offer free Pilates classes to people who are blind / partially sighted. Contact Emma 07971 880695. Limited spaces available.

## RNIB Social Groups in Swindon

RNIB have two social groups held in Swindon, run by an RNIB member of staff and a volunteer. At these social groups you can relax, chat, and have a tea or coffee.

* 3rd Thursday of each month 11 am to 1 pm.

Craven House, 145 Victoria Road, Swindon, SN1 3BU

* 4th Tuesday of each month, 5.30 to 6.30 pm

Pausa Coffee Shop, Dunelm, St Margarets Retail Park,

Oxford Road, Swindon, SN3 4ES

For more information contact Bernice Cocking on 07761328571 or via email [Bernice.Cocking@rnib.org.uk](mailto:Bernice.Cocking@rnib.org.uk)

## RNIB Telephone Groups

* Gardening Group Talk everything gardening. Every two weeks on Tuesdays from 11am to 12 noon.
* Book Group. Different book each month. Third Tuesday of the month

[Bernice.Cocking@rnib.org.uk](mailto:Bernice.Cocking@rnib.org.uk) or 07761 328571.

[George.Hinton@rnib.org.uk](mailto:George.Hinton@rnib.org.uk) [Tricia.sail@rnib.org.uk](mailto:Tricia.sail@rnib.org.uk)

## Disability Bowls Wiltshire

“We are a group of people with various impairments including visual and other physical/mental limitations. The group meet each Saturday in Swindon all through the year to play the sport of Lawn Bowls from social roll ups up to international competition. Our aim is to turn disability into ability by enabling all to play the most accessible sport that exists. We have 4 fully qualified coaches to teach and support anyone every step of the way on their chosen path.”

For more information, please contact Richard Carey using the below details:

[rlrc1995@icloud.com](mailto:rlrc1995@icloud.com) 07999003000

## **Swindon Bats Sports & Social Club for the Visually Impaired**

Swindon BATS meet for bowling:

1. every Wednesday afternoon 12.15 pm
2. every Thursday 6.45 pm

They meet at the Ten Pin Bowling Centre, Shaw Ridge, Swindon the cost is £5 for 2 games.

Anyone interested in playing should contact Sue Mead by email or phone beforehand to book a place: [SueMead@outlook.com](mailto:SueMead@outlook.com) or 07788 150487.

They also have a social group which meets at Craven House in Swindon from 2 to 4 pm every other Monday afternoon.  On these occasions they play skittles, indoor kurling and sometimes speakers are organised.  This gives visually impaired people the chance to talk amongst themselves about anything and everything from what’s in the news to how they cope with visually impaired life.

## Find a Sensory Walk Near You

Sense have partnered with [Ordnance Survey](https://updates-sense.org.uk/6RW-8AFYT-A1ZIP7-559AJL-1/c.aspx) to help you find and follow an accessible waling route. Call Sense: 0300 330 9256 or visit www.sense.org.uk/our-services/

# Local Audio Described Arts Events

## Salisbury Playhouse

There is a new comedy coming to the Salisbury Playhouse, opening in February. It’s called **One Last Push** and is written by Chris Chibnall who is best known for writing Broadchurch, Worst Wedding Ever (2014 and 2017 Salisbury Playhouse) and Doctor Who (2018-2022).

<https://www.wiltshirecreative.co.uk/events/one-last-push#dates-and-times>

There are two touch tours and audio description performances on Thursday 7th March, 2.15pm and 7.30pm. Please specify when booking that you want a place on the Touch Tour.

Ticket Sales: Telephone 01722 320333

Email [ticketsales@wiltshirecreative.co.uk](mailto:ticketsales@wiltshirecreative.co.uk)

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Tel 01380 723682, Email info@wiltshiresight.org

Wiltshire Sight is a registered charity no 1119462. Registered Office: St Lucy’s Sight Centre, Browfort, Bath Road, Devizes, Wiltshire, SN10 2AT