# Monthly What’s on Guide for March 2024

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# Monthly What’s On Guide

Welcome to your monthly update of local accessible services and events across Bristol, Bath & NE Somerset, and South Gloucestershire.

In this update we have primarily included dates for March 2024, there are some events that are taking place 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 March.

# Sight Support Events and Notices

## Smart Phone and Tablets for Beginners

Would you like to use the internet on a smart phone or tablet but are daunted and not sure where to start? We can help. Accessing the virtual world is much more straightforward than you might imagine. With our support you will soon be online, keeping in touch with friends and family and navigating the internet with ease.

Join our FREE four-week Beginners Smart Phone and Tablet Training Course for people with low vision. Learn how to use a touch screen and gain key skills such as using email or searching for information. Also discover useful apps and accessibility features that can help people with low vision get the most out of the digital world.

Courses will take place:

* Mondays 1.30 to 3.30pm 4th – 25th March

Trinity-Henleaze United Reformed Church, Waterford Road, Henleaze, Bristol, BS9 4BT.

* Wednesdays 10am to 12pm – 6th – 27th March

Broadmead Baptist Church, Union Street, Bristol, BS1 3HY.

* Thursdays 10am to 12pm – 7th – 28th March

The Park Centre Kingwood, High Street, BS15 4AR.

Contact Sam Edwards for more information, to book your place on the course or for more information about receiving tech support at one of our hubs:

0117 3224885 [sam.edwards@sightsupportwest.org.uk](mailto:sam.edwards@sightsupportwest.org.uk)

## Tech Training & Support

We will be offering one-to-one support to help you become confident using everyday technology. The sessions will take place at either our Fishponds or Thornbury Resource Centre.

We are also offering one-to-one support with your phone / tablet from our tech volunteers in our Bristol, Bath and South Glos community hubs. Call us to book an appointment.

## Keep us updated

Please remember to update us if any of your contact details change so we can keep our records up to date.

## Blindingly Funny

Our Blindingly Funny comedy night was a great success, we had Points West filming before the event and the BBC wrote an article about the evening. See our website article [Blindingly Funny article](https://www.sightsupportwest.org.uk/news/blindingly-funny-comedy-night-leaves-attendees-in-stitches-and-raises-awareness-of-our-charity/) for all the details.

# Sight Support Hubs and Social Groups

Here is a listing of our community hubs and social groups coming up this month. You can also find up to date information on our website at [Events - Sight Support West of England](https://www.sightsupportwest.org.uk/events/eye-can-bath/)

**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. We also offer tech support and training from a trained advisor or trained volunteers at many of our hubs. 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.

## Ashton Coffee & Convo – Social Group Only

Bristol Indoor Bowls Club, South Liberty Lane, Ashton, Bristol

Every second Wednesday, 11am to 1pm: 6th & 20th March.

## Bath - Sight Loss Advice Hub and Social Group

**New location and day / time - Good Living, St John's Hospital, Chapel Court, BATH, BA1 1SQ**

1st Wednesday of the month – 6th March

* Drop in to see your advisor Between 2pm and 3pm
* Appointments available – contact us to book
* Social Group at this hub between 2 and 4pm

## Bedminster - Sight Loss Advice Hub & Social Group

Guide Dogs Southwest Regional Centre, 10 Stillhouse Lane, Bristol, BS3 4EB. Enter using the pedestrian gated entrance to the left of the car park entrance as you look at it. You will then need to ring the doorbell on the left of the front door, and someone will let you in.

1st Friday of every month: 1st March.

* Drop in to see your advisor between 10am & 11am.
* Appointments available – contact us to book.
* Social group at this hub between 10am & 1pm.
* Tech support available with volunteers during drop-in session

## Bradley Stoke Sight Loss Advice Hub – Appointment Only

Bradley Stoke Library, 1 Fiddlers Wood Lane, BS32 9BS.

3rd Thursday of the month 10am to 1pm: 21st March - appointment only, contact us to book.

## Bristol Coffee & Convo – Social Group Only

Boswells, The Galleries, Bristol

2nd Saturday of each month – 11am to 1pm: 9th March.

## Bristol Resource Centre – Appointment Only

Sight Support West of England, The Vassall Centre, Gill Avenue, Bristol, BS16 2QQ.

Tech support and training available - by appointment.

You can visit our resource centre every Thursday by appointment only.

## Chew Valley Sight Loss Advice Hub – Appointment Only

Stanton Drew Village Hall, Sandy Lane, Stanton Drew   
BS39 4EL

2nd Wednesday of the month – 10.30am to 12.15pm: 13th March – appointment only, contact us to book.

## Henleaze Sight Loss Advice Hub & Social Group

Meeting at the Coffee Bar, entrance off the Waterford Road Entrance. Trinity Church Henleaze, Waterford Road, Henleaze, Bristol, BS9 4BT.

1st Monday of the month: 10am to 1pm: 4th March.

* Drop in to see your advisor between 11am & 12pm.
* Appointments available – contact us to book.
* Social group at this hub between 11am & 1pm.
* Tech support available with volunteers during drop-in session

Due to Henleaze hub in April and may landing on Bank holidays we have changed the dates to So instead of 1st April, it would be 8th of April, And instead of 6th of May, it would be 13th of May

## Keynsham Sight Loss Advice Hub & Social Group

Libourne Lounge, Keynsham Library, Keynsham Civic Centre, Market Walk, Keynsham, BS31 1FS

3rd Friday of the month – 2pm to 4pm: 15th March **– (please note from April this hub will be moving to the morning 11am to 1pm, same venue).**

* Drop in to see your advisor between 2pm & 3pm.
* Appointments available – contact us to book.
* Social group at this hub between 2pm & 4pm.
* Tech support available with volunteers during drop-in session.

## Kingswood Sight Loss Advice Hub & Social Group

The Park Centre Kingswood, High Street, Kingswood Bristol BS15 4AR

1st Thursday of the month: 7th March

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

## Midsomer Norton Sight Loss Advice Hub & Social Group

Midsomer Norton Methodist Church, High St, Midsomer Norton, Radstock, BA3 2DR

2nd Friday of the month – 10am to 12pm: 8th March.

* Appointments available – contact us to book.
* Social group at this hub between 10am & 12pm.
* Drop in Tech support available with volunteers

The hub will be in a room just off the main hall. People on reception or in the hall can direct visitors to the hub.  
From February, Midsomer Norton will have an additional social group meet up each month. The extra social group will meet on the fourth Friday 10am-12pm: 23rd February at the new venue, new attendees very welcome. \*no sight loss advice will be available at this secondary social group.

## Thornbury Resource Centre – Appointment Only

Sight Support Charity Shop, 18 High Street, Thornbury, BS35 2AH

Appointments are available every Monday – please contact us to book your appointment.

Tech support and training available - by appointment.

Please note: the consultation room is on the first floor, we have a stair lift in place but if you feel you would have difficulty using it, we can make your appointment at Thornbury Library instead.

## Whitchurch Sight Loss Advice Hub & Social Group

The ABC Centre, Chessington Avenue, Whitchurch, Bristol, BS14 9EW

2nd Monday of the month: 11th March.

* Drop in to see your advisor between 2pm & 3pm.
* Appointments available – contact us to book.
* Social group at this hub between 2pm & 4pm.
* Tech support available by appointment.

## Yate Sight Loss Advice Hub - Appointment Only

Yate Library, Unit 44 Yate Shopping Centre, West Walk, Yate, BS37 4AX.

2nd Thursday of the month – 10am to 1pm: 14th March Appointment only, contact us to book.

## Yate Sight Loss Friendship Group – Social Group Only

Soho Coffee Co, Yate Leisure Centre - first floor, Kennedy Way, BS37 4DQ

1st Wednesday of each month, 11am to 1pm: 6th March.

# Events & Notices 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.

## The Bathexit Team are recruiting.

HOST needed to guide Invisible Experience

“Our company, BathExit is about to start a new, educational activity in Bath, called the Invisible Experience. We are looking to recruit a blind or visually impaired person as a special guide to be the host of our new experience.

The Invisible Experience will be an interactive exhibition that would help visitors understand sight conditions. Our goal is to bridge the gap between people with blindness or visual impairment and people who have never had any problems with their vision. Our goal is to really broaden the perspective for people who have never had to overcome such challenges, which is why the presence of a person living with a sight condition would be really helpful.

As the position requires constant communication with the visitors and will include hosting educational games, communication skills and a lively presence is appreciated. No previous experience needed.

**Contact**: +447930602019 **E-mail**: [business@bathescape.co.uk](mailto:business@bathescape.co.uk)

**Type**: Part-time position **Starting date of employment**: 20.03.2024 **Salary**: Hourly wage

## **Round Table for Bristol Victims and Professionals**

Join Brandon Trust in shaping the future response to Hate Crime & Discrimination in Bristol. Date: Thursday, April 25th Time: 9:30 am – 3:30 pm Location: Future Inn, Cabot Circus Bond St, Bristol BS1 3EN

Have you experienced hate crime or discrimination in the past 2 years? Share your insights at their Roundtable with senior officials from Avon & Somerset Constabulary, Bristol City Council, CPS, NHS Trusts, and more. They are seeking 20 individuals to contribute their experiences and ideas. Contact temba@saricharity.org.uk or call 0117 9420060 to learn more.

## Documentary on Charles Bonnet Syndrome

Josef Stringfellow, a filmmaking student from UWE Bristol, is conducting research for a graduate documentary film on Charles Bonnet Syndrome (CBS). His aim is to feature a diverse range of individuals living with CBS, exploring their personal experiences and the methods they use to manage symptoms. Josef is seeking participants willing to share their stories. If you or someone you know is affected by CBS and interested in participating, please reach out via email [joseffstringfellow@gmail.com](mailto:joseffstringfellow@gmail.com) or phone 07758118969.

## Sensing Climate Research Project - Bristol

This research project aims to incorporate the perspectives of disabled individuals in addressing the climate crisis for more inclusive communities. They seek input from Bristol residents who identify as disabled, d/Deaf, neurodivergent, or have long-term health conditions. They are particularly interested in understanding:

* Disabled people's experiences and responses to the climate crisis.
* Barriers and opportunities influencing the inclusion of disabled people in climate adaptation efforts.

Participants can engage through:

* A one-day event in April discussing priorities for disability and climate action.
* Creative writing workshops on disability and the climate crisis from May to September.
* 1:1 interviews to delve deeper into climate experiences.
* Contributing to a community mural, including audio descriptions, on disability and the climate crisis.

Interested individuals can learn more or discuss the project by contacting the organisers. Additional project information is available at [www.sensing-climate.com](http://www.sensing-climate.com). Or email Bell, Sarah [Sarah.Bell@exeter.ac.uk](mailto:Sarah.Bell@exeter.ac.uk)

## Sensing Nature guide

Volunteer guides play a vital role in enabling visitors to explore Westonbirt National Arboretum, sharing their passion, knowledge, and experience to connect people with the significance of the tree collection. Sensing Nature walks offer multi-sensory experiences designed to challenge traditional landscape appreciation. The walks run Fridays from April to September,

Westonbirt is seeking individuals with varied sensory perceptions, particularly welcoming those with visual impairments. They are offering training for guides interested in leading walks. Volunteers are asked for a minimum of 2 shifts per month, involving about 3 hours each. Training includes onsite visits, mandatory training sessions, and mentorship. No prior expertise in trees is necessary; enthusiasm for nature and people is key. Guides should be confident in engaging with visitors, effective communicators, patient, and detail-oriented. The role involves walking in all weather conditions and terrains. The organisation provides extensive support, including sighted assistants if needed, access to resources, volunteer benefits, and ongoing training opportunities. Interested individuals can contact the volunteer office for further information and to initiate the application process. Email [volunteer.westonbirt@forestryengland.uk](mailto:volunteer.westonbirt@forestryengland.uk) or call 0300 067 4847.

## Bristol Temple Meads Audio Guide

Due to the refurbishment of Bristol Temple Meads over the next few years, many scaffolding towers will be in place. An audio guide has been produced, with input from the Bristol Sight Loss Council to help keep the station as accessible as possible. This is the link to the Audio Guide - [Bristol Temple Meads audio guide map - Network Rail](https://www.networkrail.co.uk/running-the-railway/our-routes/western/bristol-rail-regeneration/bristol-temple-meads-audio-guide-map/)

# Local Leisure and Sporting Activities / Events

## Ignite Bristol Activity Afternoon

Activity Afternoon for d/Deaf, disabled, and neurodivergent female and non-binary children, and young adults.

When: Sunday 24 March 2024, 1.30 – 4pm  
Where: Brunel Academy, 41 Duncombe Lane, Kingswood, BS15 1NU

Age: Children (8+ years) and young adults

Gender: For anyone who identifies as female or non-binary   
Cost: Free

There will be 3 sports available for participants to try; kinball, wheelchair basketball and yoga. Each individual will be put into a group where they will have the opportunity to try each activity for 30 minutes.

Register and book via the Ignite Bristol website: [Ignite Bristol event web page](https://www.ignitebristol.co.uk/whats-on)

## Purnell Bowls Club

The Sports Ground, Old Bristol Road, Paulton, BS39 7NX

Free 8-week activity-based programme at Purnell Bowls Club. If you’d like to learn a new skill, get physically active in a friendly and relaxed environment while meeting people from your local community, then this is the perfect opportunity for you!

The Bowl for Health programme takes place each Thursday between 4.15-6.15pm. For more information and to book your place on any session, please contact: Karin Webb on

07719679360 or e-mail [karin.webb13@gmail.com](mailto:karin.webb13@gmail.com)

## Blind and VI Golf

Have you played golf in the past or are interested in trying it for the first time? England and Wales Blind Golf are planning to run some have a go day throughout the year at local driving ranges with tuition included for all ages. Golf is a great way for families to share quality time together, both outdoors and indoors, whilst making new friends. Driving ranges technology now make golf far more accessible, with feedback for people with limited sight. If you have played golf in the past and gave up through sight loss, or are interested in trying a new a sport,  please visit the charity website [www.ewblindgolf.co.uk](http://www.ewblindgolf.co.uk) or follow the social media channels England & Wales Blind Golf. More information can also be found on the charity YouTube channel, or by contacting [enquiries@ewblindgolf.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@ewblindgolf.co.uk)

## VIP Reading Group – Bristol Central Library, College Green

The reading group, for visually impaired people takes place on the last Thursday of every month from 10.30 till 12. New members are welcome.

Audio books are chosen by members from RNIB’s talking book service or Calibre – so it’s helpful if you have already signed up to those services. The next books are:

* 28 March - The Tortoise and the Hare – by Elizabeth Jenkins. A subtle modern classic. Set during the 1950s in a world of tweeds and twin-sets and pearls.
* 25 April - Bournville by Jonathan Coe - no prizes for guessing where that might be set. In it Coe explores post-war history - almost to the present day - through the eyes of a Birmingham clan. Expect bitter satire.

For further information please email [vibookgroup.bristol@gmail.com](mailto:vibookgroup.bristol@gmail.com) or ring Katharine Seymour at the Central Library on 07880 069877

## National Trust VI Walks at Tyntesfield Estate

Learn about the history of this fascinating place and use your senses to engage with nature on this intimate and interactive tour.

The free tours will take place on the second and fourth Friday of each month from 11am – see website for dates. They will accompany 6 visually-impaired individuals (and an accompanying individual) on a 3/4 mile accessible trail. [National Trust Website - Walks at Tyntesfield](https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/bath-bristol/tyntesfield/events/e072f0cd-02d8-4ad4-b6c6-a6afc350c4e5) Call 01275461900

## Visually Impaired Tennis

Chipping Sodbury Tennis Club, Tuesday evenings 6 to 7pm, contact Ben Hardwick [tennisaceben@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:tennisaceben@hotmail.co.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)

## Visual Impairment Friendly Rowing

Learn to row in a fun and friendly environment. Sighted rowers will provide support if required. Contact [volunteering@allaboardwatersports.co.uk](mailto:volunteering@allaboardwatersports.co.uk)

## 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/

## Street Dance Sessions from Steetenvy Dance Academy

Supported by Access Sport. Classes are for all ages contact: [streetenvydanceacademy@hotmail.com](mailto:streetenvydanceacademy@hotmail.com) or Access Sport - Email: [jonny.fenner@accesssport.co.uk](mailto:jonny.fenner@accesssport.co.uk) / 07878 814396

## Robins Foundation VI Football Sessions

Adult & youth VI football sessions from the Robins Foundation. Email [edward.studley@bcfc.co.uk](mailto:edward.studley@bcfc.co.uk) or call 07899 991983.

## Free Accessible Cricket Sessions

Fully accessible free cricket sessions. No experience necessary. Contact jeanette.tate@gloucestershirecricketfoundation.org

## Accessible Cricket - Indoor Net Sessions

There is an indoor net session being held on Sunday 31st March.   The session will be held at Gloucestershire’s indoor school at their stadium at Nevil Road, Horfield, Bristol.  It will commence at 1:30pm until 4:00pm.  . Contact Phil Gingel for more info [bristolbluephil@googlemail.com](mailto:bristolbluephil@googlemail.com) 07973 480372.

If people enjoy the session, they will be given the opportunity to join Gloucestershire V. I. C.C.C for the 2024 season.  V.I. cricket is great fun, and they are a friendly crowd.  Transport is provided to away games; home games being played at Cheltenham.

## Fitness Class for Blind and Visually Impaired People

Specialised low impact exercise class for blind and visually impaired people at Kingswood. Contact Hayley or Marcella for more info: 07525 790951[rechargeft@gmail.com](mailto:rechargeft@gmail.com)

## VI Runners Bristol

If you would like to find out more about this group visit their ‘VI Runners Bristol’ Facebook page and send them a message.

## Roll and Stroll

Free walking and rolling group for disabled people. Contact Dan [Mch.bristoldef@gmail.com](mailto:Mch.bristoldef@gmail.com) or call 07552 580678.

## Two’s Company

A tandem cycling project for adults and young people in Bristol who are blind or visually impaired. Call 0117 353 4580 or email [twos-company@lifecycle.org.uk](mailto:twos-company@lifecycle.org.uk) or visit [www.lifecycleuk.org.uk](http://www.lifecycleuk.org.uk)

## Soul Trail Wellbeing Walks

Soul Trail Wellbeing have received training in how to offer sighted guiding. Email: [soultrailwellbeing@gmail.com](mailto:soultrailwellbeing@gmail.com)

# Support Groups and Courses

## Sensory Support Service

Drop-in sessions on Thursdays from 11 am – 1 pm. Support you with reading letters / bills, making calls etc. Bedminster Library, 0117 914 1440, SMS: 07775 695 434.

## RNIB Tech Training Session Yate

RNIB run tech training sessions at Yate Library. Contact Chris Turner on 0303 123 9999 or [tfl@rnib.org.uk](mailto:tfl@rnib.org.uk)

## Assistive technology training - Yate

Assistive technology training hub based in Yate library - Wednesday afternoon during school term times. Trained volunteers are on hand to get visually impaired people up and running with their mobile devices. They will be offered 6 sessions. This can usually be extended if required.

If anyone is interested in attending, they should contact the tech for life team.[tfl@rnib.org.uk](mailto:tfl@rnib.org.uk)

## Macular Support Groups

* Broadmead - meets third Wednesday of every month:   
  10 am – 12pm. Broadmead Baptist Church, Union Street, Broadmead, Bristol BS1 3HY.
* Cote Lane - meets last Thursday of the month   
  2:30pm – 4pm. Saint Monica Trust, Cote Lane, Bristol, BS9
* Bath Macular Support Group - meets at The Bubble, St Johns Foundation, Bath, behind the Cross Bath on 20th March at 2.0pm at. The speaker will be Rev Jacky Wise, the Chaplain at St Johns. She will talk about her varied work at the centre.
* Keynsham Macular Support Group - meeting on the last Wednesday of the month at 2pm at Saint Monica Trust, The Chocolate Quarter Retirement Village, Trajectus Way, Keynsham, BS31 2GJ.

Contact Jo Fishwick on 07947 373 244 or [Jo.Fishwick@macularsociety.org](mailto:Jo.Fishwick@macularsociety.org) to find out more information or find other groups.

## Thornbury Macular Support Group

Meets the first Tuesday of each month, 10.30 to 12.30 in the Methodist Church Hall in Castle Court, Thornbury, just off the High Street. Speakers and entertainment are arranged for each week. Tea / coffee and biscuits are provided. Contact [marye.king@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:marye.king@blueyonder.co.uk) to find out more information.

## Chipping Sodbury Vision Support Group

Meets at Chipping Sodbury, Grammar School Rooms on the third Tuesday of every month at 2pm.  They have speakers and a social group.

Tel: 01454 851507 E-mail: [csvision1924@outlook.com](mailto:csvision1924@outlook.com)

## Torch fellowship groups

Torch Trust offer Christian based fellowship where blind and sighted people meet on equal terms.

South Fellowship Group - Usually meet the last Saturday of the month at 3pm, Location: Counterslip Baptist Church Hall, 648 Wells Road, Whitchurch, Bristol, BS14 9HT. Contact: Stewart Simmons Tel: 0117 9624220 e-mail [s@stewartsimmons.plus.com](mailto:s@stewartsimmons.plus.com)

## 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) or contact [Mark.Baxter@retinauk.org.uk](mailto:Mark.Baxter@retinauk.org.uk) for more information.

## Retina UK ‘Talking’ Travel peer support group meeting

This group will give you the opportunity to share your travelling experience, tips, hints & advice from general mobility, including white cane and guide dog training, to public transport and V.I Activity Holidays to Travelling abroad. Please come along to meet other like-minded travellers & day trippers across the UK via this online meeting and share your pros & cons of getting out and about or fears & frustrations of travelling with sight loss. Contact [Mark.Baxter@retinauk.org.uk](mailto:Mark.Baxter@retinauk.org.uk) for more information.

## 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:

### Living Well with Sight Loss Phone Group.

**Session 1:** Monday 4th March

**Session 2:** Wednesday 6th March

**Session 3:** Monday 11th March

**Session 4:** Wednesday 13th March

Times: 11am

### Focus on Technology Phone Group.

**Session 1:** Thursday 14th March

**Session 2:** Friday 15th March

Times: 11am

### Living Well with Sight Loss Phone Course.

**Session 1**: Monday 18th March

**Session 2:** Tuesday 19th March

**Session 3:** Wednesday 20th March

**Session 4:** Thursday 21st March

**Times**: 11am

**Contact**: [George.Hinton@rnib.org.uk](mailto:George.Hinton@rnib.org.uk) 07711 188292

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

[Tricia.Sail@rnib.org.uk](mailto:Tricia.Sail@rnib.org.uk) 078439 79975.

## RNIB Online Group Discussion about social relationships

Join an online group discussion on the impact of sight loss on social relationships. Share experiences you have had with your family, friends, romantic partners, peers, and community. Groups run for two weeks, meeting via Teams with sessions lasting approximately 2 hours 15 mins (including a 15 min break). RNIB offers dial-in support if needed. Sessions on **Wednesday, March 13th & 27th at 2pm – 4:15pm.** To participate, fill out the online form [Voice of The Customer focus groups sign up form](https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=fDNFXZLR_EOqWAVVfJFxvF6tlj4vhcBFjjZ_mXY6K5ZUMlQ0WjZJQVNHS0RZUFBIRERYWk5LWDBaSCQlQCN0PWcu) or call RNIB Helpline on 0303 123 9999. For enquiries, contact [customervoice@rnib.org.uk](mailto:customervoice@rnib.org.uk).

## Sighted Guide Training from Guide Dogs

Guide Dogs offers a range of free sighted guide training. [www.guidedogs.org.uk/sightedguiding](http://www.guidedogs.org.uk/sightedguiding) 0800 781 1444.

# Local Audio Described Arts Events

## Galleries and Museums

### Arnolfini Gallery

16 Narrow Quay, Bristol BS1 4QA

* Saturday 20 April 10am to 11am
* Saturday 27 April 10am to 11am

There will be 2 described tours of Acts of Creation: On Art and Motherhood An exhibition that will plunge into the joys and heartaches, mess, myths and mishaps of motherhood through over 100 artworks, from the feminist avant-garde to the present day.

There will be sighted guides available and complimentary tea and coffee will be served in the [café bar](https://arnolfini.org.uk/cafe-bar/) so people can have a chat about the work afterwards. Tours are held before the galleries open so that the tours can be conducted without being disturbed.

Free event. But please email [community@arnolfini.org.uk](mailto:community@arnolfini.org.uk) to book a space.

### Royal West of England Academy

Queens Rd, Bristol BS8 1PX

6th April - These Mad Hybrids: John Hoyland and Contemporary Sculpture. Find out more by following this link [RWA Website exhibition information](https://www.rwa.org.uk/collections/events/products/these-mad-hybrids-john-hoyland-and-contemporary-sculpture)

The featured artists work with materials ranging from cement or synthetic fur to glitter, combining human and animal bodies, furniture, everyday objects and architecture into playful, bold, new sculptural hybrids. A number of the exhibiting artists have given special permission for us to handle their work.

The tour concludes with discussion and refreshments in the Youngwood Room, on the lower ground floor.

If you'd like to join the tour please email Ellen Pye, Learning & Participation Assistant [ellen.pye@rwa.org.uk](mailto:ellen.pye@rwa.org.uk)  Please let her know if you are bringing a sighted companion with you so she can book in the correct number of volunteers to support the session.

### Bristol City Museum and Art Gallery

Queen’s Road, BS8 1RL

27 March from 6–7.30 pm after the museum closes to the public. Tour for VI patrons of the Wildlife Photographer of the Year Exhibition. It showcases Earth’s diversity and highlights the fragility of wildlife on our planet. The museum’s natural sciences curator will be there to talk about the exhibition and answer your questions.

To book contact reception on 0117 922 3571 or email [steven.bradley@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:steven.bradley@bristol.gov.uk)

### Bath, Victoria Art Gallery

Victoria Art Gallery, Bridge Street, Bath, BA2 4AT

* 11 March – Artist, Catherine Ducker: Good Intentions
* 6 May - Katharine Wall, Senior Curator: The Life and Career of Toulouse Lautrec
* 10 June - Katharine Wall, Senior Curator: Art, Artists and Posters in 19th Century France

Sessions run from 10–11.30 am. But as the gallery is closed to the general public on those days ring 01225 477232 for access information or email Kersti Haabjoern - [Kersti\_Haabjoern@bathnes.gov.uk](mailto:Kersti_Haabjoern@bathnes.gov.uk)

## Theatres

### Bristol Hippodrome

* 9 March – Matthew Bourne’s ballet Edward Scissorhands
* 14 March - Jesus Christ Superstar
* 24 April – The Welsh National Opera performs Cosi Fan Tutti by Mozart
* 15 May - The hit musical Hamilton

Where shows have a touch tour they should be booked separately. To find out more about the Access for All service - email [bristoladmin@theambassadors.com](mailto:bristoladmin@theambassadors.com" \t "_blank) or call the access booking line 0333 009 5399 for tickets

### Bristol Old Vic

* 23 March – Starter for Ten – A bright new musical based on the book and film. A coming of age comedy about love, belonging and a dream to be on University Challenge.
* 25–30 March – AD is included in all performances of: It’s a Motherf\*\*king Pleasure. Hot off the back of their smash-hit run at Edinburgh Fringe Festival, it is presented by multi-award-winning, disability-led theatre company FlawBored. They pose the question - what if they were out to make as much money as possible from the guilt of non-disabled, anxious people. A scathing satire’ on the monetisation of identity politics that spares no-one.

For more details ring the Box office – 0117 987 7877

### Bath - Theatre Royal

* 23 March – The Kite Runner – Direct from Broadway. Based on the novel by Khaled Hosseini it tells a tale of friendship that stretches from Afghanistan to America.

For tickets and information phone the box office on 01225 448844 and ask to subscribe to the Theatre’s Access List.

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Tel 0117 322 4885, Email [info@sightsupportwest.org.uk](mailto:info@sightsupportwest.org.uk)

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