# Monthly What’s On E-Newsletter for March ‘24

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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.

## Keep us updated

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

# 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 & Social Group

**New Location** - Amesbury Library, Smithfield Street, Amesbury, SP4 7AL

2nd Thursday of month, 10am to 12pm: 14th March.

* 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

## Bradford on Avon – Appointment Only

Wallington Hall, Church Street, BA15 1LN

1st Wednesday of the month, 10am to 12pm: 6th March 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: 28th March.

* 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: 13th March.

* 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: 12th March

* 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: 19th March Appointment only, contact us to book.

## Devizes Resource Centre

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: 5th March.

## Highworth Sight Loss Advice Hub – Appointment Only

Highworth Library (Lift available) Brewery Street, SN6 7AJ

2nd Wednesday of the month 10.30am to 12.30pm: 13th March. Appointment only, please contact us to book. The community hub for 8th Aprill will be cancelled.

## Malmesbury Sight Loss Advice Hub & Social Group

Malmesbury Town Hall, Cross Hayes, SN16 9BZ

2nd 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.

## Marlborough Sight Loss Advice Hub & Social Group

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

2nd Tuesday of each month: 12th March.

* 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 & Social Group

Melksham Library, Community Campus, Market Place,

Melksham, SN12 6ES

1st Thursday of the month: 7th March.

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

## Pewsey Sight Loss Advice Hub & Social Group

Bouverie Village Hall, North Street, SN9 5EQ

4th Tues of the month, 10.00 to 12.00am: 26th March

* 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 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: 18th March. 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

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

3rd Wednesday of each month from 10.30 am to 12.30 am: 20th March.

## Swindon Sight Loss Advice Hub – Appointment Only

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

1st Tuesday of the month, 10.15am – 1.15pm: 5th March Appointment only, please contact us to book.

## Swindon Audiobook Reading Group

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

Held on the 1st Monday of each month, 10 to 11.30 am: Monday 4th March.

## Tisbury Sight Loss Advice Hub – Appointment Only,

Nadder Leisure Centre, Weaveland Rd, Tisbury SP3 6HJ

4th Thursday of the month, 11am to 1pm: 28th March Appointment only, please contact us to book.

## Trowbridge Resource Centre

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

Our Resource Centre is available every Friday for appointments, contact us to book yours.

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

## Warminster Sight Loss Advice Hub – Appointment Only –

Warminster Library, Three Horseshoes Walk, Warminster, BA12 9BT

2nd Wednesday of the month, 10.30an to 12.30pm: 13th March. 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: 6th March.

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

On the 6th of March Lou Curtis from Swindon Blind Association is going to present Crafting for VI. She will demonstrate what activities they do in the Tuesday Craft club at Craven House, and we will make a simple craft item with her.  Carers and partners welcome. Refreshments available.

# 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, so it is best to check with the organisation before the event takes place.

## Swindon VI Support meeting

Thursday 27th March 10am – 12pm at Swindon Blind Association, Craven House, Victoria Road, Swindon.

VI Monthly Support group, run by the Macular Society, Great Western Hospital Eye Clinic Liaison Officer, RNIB, & Swindon Borough Council Hearing and Vision team. Information, advice and social group for all those affected by sight loss.

For more information contact Tyler Phillips Macular Society 07920 643710 or Chris Gough, ECLO, 01793 604858,(Mon – Weds).

## 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.

## 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

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:

### RNIB 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

### RNIB Focus on Technology Phone Group.

**Session 1:** Thursday 14th March

**Session 2:** Friday 15th March

Times: 11am

### RNIB 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

**Email**: [George.Hinton@rnib.org.uk](mailto:George.Hinton@rnib.org.uk)

**Telephone**: 07711 188292

**Email**: [Bernice.Cocking@rnib.org.uk](mailto:Bernice.Cocking@rnib.org.uk)

**Telephone**: 07761 328571

**Email**: [Tricia.Sail@rnib.org.uk](mailto:Tricia.Sail@rnib.org.uk)

**Telephone**: 078439 79975.

## RNIB Online Group Discussion - 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.

# Leisure and Sporting Activities

## **Swindon Bats Sports & Social Club**

Swindon Bats have a variety of groups:

### Swindon Bats 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.

### Swindon Bats Social Group

Their social group 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 about anything and everything from what’s in the news to how they cope with visually impaired life.

### ****Swindon Bats Walking Group****

2nd Thursday of every month (Weather permitting) starting in March at Coate Water Country Park, Swindon (Meeting outside the cafe).

10:30am - 12pm (stroll around the lake followed by a drink in the nearby pub or cafe for those who would like to stay to chat)

### ****Swindon Bats Breakast****

Saturday 2nd of March, 10am - 12pm at The Blues Cafe, Havelock Street, Swindon (upstairs, no lift unfortunately)

Bats Breakfast will be monthly and usually held on a Saturday. Dates will vary.

For more information about any Swindon Bats group email [info@swindonbats.org](mailto:info@swindonbats.org)

## 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.

## 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)

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

* 4th Thursday of each month 10 am to 12 pm.

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

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)

## 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/](http://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