Sight Support West of England Children and Young People What’s On E-Newsletter February 2024

Welcome to your monthly update of local accessible services and events across Bristol, Bath & North East Somerset, South Gloucestershire, Wiltshire and Swindon for children and young people.

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 start of March.

# Contact Us

For more information on any of the services or events organised by Sight Support, please call 0117 322 4885 / 01380 723682 or email: info@sightsupportwest.org.uk

# Sight Loss Advice Hubs

For a listing of our community sight loss advice hubs coming up this month, please visit our website, a link is provided below. You can drop in or book an appointment for information, guidance, and advice. We can demonstrate a variety of assistive equipment and technology. We have lighting, magnifiers, talking watches, liquid level indicators, and much more.

Click this link [Community Sight Loss Hubs](https://www.sightsupportwest.org.uk/events/?tags=6)

# 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.

## Victa VI Para Football

An introduction to VI Para Football from the FA

Join this online Parent Workshop as they talk about how to get your child involved.

• When: Tuesday 20 February, 7 to 7.30pm

• Who: Parents of a VI child

• Location: Online/Zoom

• Cost: Free

• Closing date: Friday 16 February

Liam Drake, the FA’s Talent Inclusion Lead for Para Football, will introduce the pathways into football for young budding footballers with a vision impairment.

As well as touching on the routes into both recreational and performance pathways, there will be details shared of upcoming FA England Talent Days, including 4 April at St George’s Park.

There will be a Q&A section, with the whole session useful for parents looking for information on how to get their VI child into football.

If you would like to join this online workshop, please apply for your place before the closing date on Friday 16 February via this link: [Form to complete for Victa zoom session](https://www.victa.org.uk/victa-calendar/fa-vi-para-football/)

## Visually Impaired Super 1s Ages 12-25

Venue St Bede’s Catholic College, 135 Lawrence Weston Road, Bristol BS11 0SU.

For further information or to book your place please contact Jeanette Tate 07432728926 or

jeanette.tate@gloucestershirecricketfoundation.org

No experience necessary, come along, make friends, and try cricket.

## Young Bristol

Young Bristol recently teamed up with The Royal Society of Blind Children to provide VI Children and Young People with a range of social, sporting, wellbeing, practical life skills (financial management, cooking, independent travel, employment) opportunities. This is done through 3 of their Open Access Clubs based in South Bristol.

Locations:

* **Ashton Vale Club**, Silbury Road, Ashton Vale, Bristol, BS3 2QE. Every Monday and Tuesday 6:30pm – 8:30pm age 8 to 19 years old.
* **BS14 Youth Club**, Stockwood Lane, Stockwood, BS16 8SJ. Every Monday age 8 to 19 years 6:30pm – 8:30pm Every Thursday age 12 to 19 years 6:30pm – 8:30pm
* **The Grove @ Bedminster Down**, 27A Cheddar Grove, Bristol, BS13 7EN.

Every Monday 6:30pm – 8:30pm age 8 to 9 years.

Every Tuesday age 8 to 10 years.

Every Wednesday age 9 to 11 years.

Every Thursday age 11+ years.

## Street Dance Sessions from Steet envy Dance Academy

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

## Robins Foundation VI Football Sessions

Adult and youth VI football sessions organised by the Robins Foundation. Both sessions are free and will run from Imperial Sports Ground, BS14 9EA, on pitch 6.

The youth session is on Tuesdays from 5 pm – 6 pm and will run term time only.

The adult session takes place on Tuesdays from 6 pm – 7 pm.

For more information email edward.studley@bcfc.co.uk or call 07899 991983.

## Free accessible cricket sessions

VI Super1s cricket hub at St Bede’s Catholic College 135 Lawrence Weston Road, Bristol BS11 0SU   Sessions are monthly and on February 25th, March 24th and April 21st. All sessions are 1pm – 3pm Sessions for 12 – 25 year olds. No experience necessary. All sessions are free

Fully accessible cricket sessions at Frenchay hub has moved indoors for the winter. Venue: Downend School Sports Centre,  25 Westerleigh Road, Bristol BS16 6XA.   5pm – 6pm.  Sessions are Free and for 12 – 25 year olds.

For more information contact Jeanette Tate: jeanette.tate@gloucestershirecricketfoundation.org

## 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 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

## VICTA

Join VICTA at New College Worcester for an Independent Living Skills Fun Day!

• When: Wednesday 29 May 2024

• Who: 10 to 13 years

• Location: New College Worcester, Whittington Road, Worcester WR5 2JX

• Cost: TBC

• Opening date: Monday 12 February

• Closing date: Tuesday 30 April

Discover your inner chef with a Ready Steady Cook style challenge, show us your swimming skills and meet others with the same interests for an activity day at New College Worcester.

If you would like to be notified when this activity opens, please follow the link below to register your interest [Independent Living Skills Fun Day for 10 to 13s - VICTA](https://www.victa.org.uk/victa-calendar/ils-fun-day-for-10-to-13s/)

Swindon Bats Sports & Social Club for the Visually Impaired

Swindon BATS meet for bowling:

every Wednesday afternoon 12.15 pm

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 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.

# Local Audio Described Arts Events

## Bristol Hippodrome

1 February - Wicked – a musical and devilish spin on the Wizard of Oz

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 or call the access booking line 0333 009 5399 for tickets.

## Bath - Theatre Royal

10 February - Emma Rice’s Wise Children company bring their own sense of theatrical wit and wonder to Blue Beard.

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

## 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. Ages 14+

Ticket Sales: Telephone 01722 320333

Email ticketsales@wiltshirecreative.co.uk

# Online Support Groups and Courses

## 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.

## LOOK Parent Support Group

[LOOK](http://wcb-ccd.org.uk/perspectif/provider/207) runs an online Parent Support Group for the families and carers of children and young people with sight loss.

The group meets fortnightly, on Tuesday evenings. Parents are welcome to suggest topics for discussion at future sessions.

For more information visit Looks website <https://www.look-uk.org/parentsupportgroup/>

## Nystagmus Online Support Groups

Nystagmus Network runs virtual monthly support groups for parents of children with nystagmus, and for adults living with acquired or congenital nystagmus. They are an opportunity to meet like-minded people, share experiences, make new friends and support each other. Find out more at <https://nystagmusnetwork.org/support/monthly-online-get-togethers/> or email info@nystagmusnet.org to receive the Zoom invitation.

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Sight Support West of England is a registered charity:1178384.

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