# Monthly What’s on Guide for April 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 April 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 April.

# Sight Support Events and Notices

## Knowledge Hub

Don’t forget we have lots of resources on our website in our Knowledge Hub. We have articles on a wide range of topics related to living with sight loss, from how to avoid scams to coping with the emotional impact of sight loss and much more. We have various articles offering tips and tricks on different areas too. Find out more by following this link [Our Knowledge Hub](https://www.sightsupportwest.org.uk/resources/)

## Tech Training & Support

We offer one-to-one support to help you become confident using everyday technology. The sessions 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.

# 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: 3rd & 17th April.

## 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 – 3rd April

* Drop in to see your advisor between 2pm and 3pm
* Appointments available – contact us to book
* Social Group at this hub between 2pm 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: 5th April.

* 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 10am to 1pm

## 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: 18th April - appointment only, contact us to book.

## Bristol Coffee & Convo – Social Group Only

Boswells, The Galleries, Bristol

2nd Saturday of each month – 11am to 1pm: 13th April .

## 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: 10th April – 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: 8th April

* 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 11am to 1pm

Due to Henleaze hub in April and May landing on Bank holidays we have changed the dates: instead of 1st April, it will be 8th April, and instead of 6th May, it will be 13th 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 – 10am to 1pm: 19th April –

* Drop in to see your advisor between 11am to 12pm.
* Appointments available – contact us to book.
* Social group at this hub between 11am to 1pm.
* Tech support available with volunteers from 10am to 1pm.

## Kingswood Sight Loss Advice Hub & Social Group

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

1st Thursday of the month: 4th April

* 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: 12th April

* Appointments available – contact us to book.
* Social group at this hub between 10am - 12pm.
* 2nd social group takes place 4th Friday of the month 10am – 12pm at this venue. No sight loss advice will be available at this secondary social group.
* 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.

## 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: 8th April.

* 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: 11th April 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: 3rd April.

# 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.

## **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 two 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.
* one:one 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/)

## 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 **Salary**: Hourly wage

# Local Leisure and Sporting Activities / Events

## Support Jo Bannon's Upcoming Film: 'Passing'

From 27 March

PASSING is an audio described short film created by Visually Impaired artist Jo Bannon. The film follows two performers; a sleight of hand magician and a visually impaired dancer, as they share the skills, labour and feats of misdirection they both use in their performance of magic and navigating the world with senses other than sight.

Available online from 27 March on MAYK’s You Tube channel. Search 'MAYK You Tube Passing' online to watch.

## 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:

* 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.
* 30 May – Under the Hornbeams: a true story of life in the open by Emma Tarlo. It chronicles the author’s friendship with two men living in Regent’s Park.
* 27 June – Kazuo Ishiguro – An Artist of the Floating World. Set in Japan after WW2. An ageing painter looks back at his life and contemplates how his once great reputation faltered after the War.

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](mailto:jeanette.tate@gloucestershirecricketfoundation.org)

## Knowle Cricket Club

Open net session at Knowle Cricket Club on 30th April.  The session will begin at 5:30pm and finish around 7:30pm.  All interested in V.I. cricket can attend and the Gloucestershire coach, Gabbi Reeves, will be in attendance.  The ground is situated at the junction of Wells Road (A37) and Broadwalk and is very accessible. Further information can be obtained by calling Phil on 07973 480372.

## 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)

## Nature Themed Young Achievers Family Day

Saturday 11 May 2024 - Victa are holding a ‘Nature’ themed Family Day at The Ernest Cook Trust Estate in Fairford, Gloucestershire. This day is centred around the Nature section of their Young Achievers Award and emphasises VI children aged under 10 to come along with their families and earn their Nature badge in a day – all they have to do is take part in 3 of the activities throughout the day. Those aged over 10 are also welcome to attend, they just won’t be getting a badge but will still have plenty of fun with the activities and meeting other families.

“VICTA is collaborating with The Ernest Cook Trust for a Family Day full of fun and unique nature-based activities. Based at their beautiful Cotswold Estate in Fairford, we’ll spruce up their allotment by weaving willow hurdles before potting beans for the children to take home and grow! We’ll enjoy a sensory scavenger hunt and celebrate World Collage Day by creating natural collage headbands and suncatchers. After a lunch break, we will take a relaxed stroll down to the river and make tactile sound maps. Our outdoor adventure will finish just as it should, roasting marshmallows around the campfire with new friends we’ve made throughout the day.”

Follow link below to their activity page where families can apply and find out more about the day:

[Young Achievers Family Day - Nature! - VICTA](https://www.victa.org.uk/victa-calendar/young-achievers-family-day-nature/)

# 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 17th April 2pm. The speaker will be Sarah Talbot, the Community Connections Manager from Age UK. All Welcome.
* 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

This Peer Support Group provides a welcoming, safe and friendly opportunity for people to meet up to share experiences, tips and information.

**Next meeting: Wednesday 27 March, 7.00pm - 8.00pm**

“We are pleased to invite you to join group facilitator Katrina Tavoulari and the Bristol, Bath & Wilts group for their first online social meet up of 2024.

Please come and join us to chat about ideas and thoughts of where and what you would like to do with the group when we launch our in-person meet ups. Whether it’s enjoying an event at the Bristol Hippodrome, taking in a show at the Theatre Royal in Bath or experiencing an interactive touch tour exhibition at one of Wiltshire’s many museums and art galleries from local history to the Great Western Railway.

We will also be discussing our first in-person peer group meet up where we are planning a hands on rock climbing wall experience for the visually impaired in Chippenham.

We welcome and encourage you to have your say in how we can best support our V.I community in the area and to get involved with this peer support group. So please come along and share any ideas you may have for venues and events for the coming year.

Whether you are a returning member or new to the group, everyone is welcome!”

This meeting will be held online via Zoom.

Register now on this link [Retina UK Peer Support Group](https://retinauk.org.uk/event/bristol-bath-wilts-local-peer-support-group/)

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.

## 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.

## Audio Description Association (ADA)

The Audio Description Association (ADA) offers support for describers, venues and AD users. They encourage development in AD by sharing best practice through workshops and training, guidance to venues, and monitoring of AD provision. They produce regular information for members and the [ADA website](https://www.audiodescription.co.uk/) is a fantastic resource for the whole of the AD community.

ADA Chair, Edward Copisarow says; “We need to increase the number of VI members participating in the delivery of training and evaluation, and to be part of panels to influence our policies and procedures. We are working towards modules of training based on standards and have working groups on Screen and Live performance, but these groups need VI input. We need individual VI people to take part in the assessment of these standards so that there is user feedback and not just peer review.”

Please contact ADA Vice Chair, Tim Calvert if you’d like to be involved:Tim’s email is: [info@audiodescription.co.uk](mailto:info@audiodescription.co.uk)

Membership is £10 for blind or partially blind (VI) people, £20 for sighted individuals, and £50 for venues / organisations (corporate). You can join online: <https://www.audiodescription.co.uk/join-ada>

ADA is run by an elected executive committee who work on a voluntary basis.

# 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

* 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

* 24 April – The Welsh National Opera performs Cosi Fan Tutti by Mozart
* 15 May - The hit musical Hamilton
* 31 July – Disney’s Aladdin

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

* 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.
* 29 June – A Child of Science – Th story of the first babies to be born via IVF and the controversy surrounding the research. Starring Tom Felton

For more details ring the Box office – 0117 987 7877

### Bath - Theatre Royal

* 16 August - Sister Act

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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