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

Table of Contents

[Monthly What’s On E-Newsletter for April ‘24 1](#_Toc161925484)

[Monthly What’s On Guide 2](#_Toc161925485)

[Contact Us 2](#_Toc161925486)

[Wiltshire Sight Events and Notices 2](#_Toc161925487)

[Wiltshire Sight Community Hubs & Socials 4](#_Toc161925488)

[Events & Notices From Other Organisations 12](#_Toc161925489)

[Leisure and Sporting Activities 20](#_Toc161925490)

[Local Audio Described Arts Events 26](#_Toc161925491)

[End of document 26](#_Toc161925492)

# 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 April 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 April 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

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

## Devizes Town Band

We are delighted to announce that Devizes Town Band are kindly holding a spring concert called Showtime Sensations in aid of Wiltshire Sight. It looks to be a fantastic afternoon. It will take place at the Corn Exchange in Devizes on Sunday 21st April at 2:30pm.

Tickets are £10, or for under 16’s £5, and are available at [www.devizestownband.com](http://www.devizestownband.com) or Devizes Books.

We would love to see you there!

## 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/)

## 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: 11th April.

* 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

Bradford on Avon Library, Bridge Street, Bradford on Avon, BA15 1BY

1st Wednesday of the month, 10am to 12pm: 3rd April 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: 25th April.

* 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: 10th April.

* 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: 9th April.

* 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: 16th April 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: 2nd April.

## Highworth Sight Loss Advice Hub – Appointment Only

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

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

## Malmesbury Sight Loss Advice Hub & Social Group

Malmesbury Town Hall, Cross Hayes, SN16 9BZ

2nd Thursday of the month: 11th April.

* 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: 9th April.

* 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: 4th April.

* 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: 23rd April.

* 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: 15th April. 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 12.30am: 17th April.

## Swindon Sight Loss Advice Hub – Appointment Only

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

1st Tuesday of the month, 10.15am – 1.15pm: 2nd April 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: 1st April.

## Tisbury Sight Loss Advice Hub – New Social

Nadder Leisure Centre, Weaveland Rd, Tisbury SP3 6HJ

4th Thursday of month, 11am to 1pm: 25th April

•        Drop in to see your advisor between 11am-12pm

•        Appointments available – contact us to book

•        New social group at this hub between 10.30am-12.30pm

## 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, 10.30am to 12.30pm: 10th April. 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: 3rd April.

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

# 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.

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

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 or contact 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 for more information.

## 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

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.

## 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.

### Living Well with Sight Loss Phone Group.

Session 1: Tuesday 2nd April

Session 2: Thursday 4th April

Session 3: Tuesday 9th April

Session 4: Thursday 11th April

Times: 11am

### Confident Living Outdoors

Session 1: Wednesday April 10th

Session 2: Friday April 12th

Session 3: Wednesday April 17th

Times: 11am

### Living with Sight Loss Phone Course.

Session 1: Tuesday 16th April

Session 2: Friday 18th April

Session 3: Tuesday 23rd April

Session 4: Friday 26th April

Times: 11am

### RNIB Southwest Community Connection Coordinators:

Email: George.Hinton@rnib.org.uk

Telephone: 07711 188292

Email: Bernice.Cocking@rnib.org.uk

Telephone: 07761 328571

Email: Tricia.Sail@rnib.org.uk

Telephone: 078439 79975.

## 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/)

## 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 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 to register with them.

## 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

## 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.

## Swindon Blind Craft Club

Swindon Blind Craft Club meets every Tuesday between 10 am and 1 pm and is run by Lou Curtis at Swindon Blind Association, Craven House, 145 Victoria Road, Swindon, SN1 3BU. Parking available and bus stop opposite. Bring your own lunch. Carers welcome.

You can enjoy a wide variety of activities, including creating baskets, painting, and tile decoration! Get in touch with Lou if you want to come along and find out more: 07703 306 403.

## **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 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)

### ****Review Date - 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

## 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

## 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

## 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 or 07761 328571.

George.Hinton@rnib.org.uk 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

Our production of Alan Ayckbourn’s A Chorus of Disapproval opens on April 25th and runs until May 19th.

<https://www.wiltshirecreative.co.uk/events/a-chorus-of-disapproval>

There are two touch tours and audio described performances on Thursday May 16th at 2.15pm and 7.30pm. Please specify when booking if you would like a place on the Touch Tour.

Sales: Telephone 01722 320333

Email 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