# Monthly What’s On E-Newsletter for May 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 May 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 May 2024.

# Wiltshire Sight Events and Notices

## Eye Can Exhibitions

We are delighted to announce dates for the 2024 Eye Can Exhibitions from our partner charities Insight Gloucestershire and Sight Support West of England. Both events are held outside of Wiltshire so if they are too far to travel to, we will be holding an exhibition in Salisbury in the spring of 2025.

* Eye Can Gloucestershire will take place on 3rd June 2024, from 10am at Dowty Sport and Social Club, Down Hatherley Lane, Down Hatherley, Gloucester, GL2 9QH.
* Eye Can Bristol will be held on 9th October from 10am at BAWA, 589 Southmead Rd, Bristol, BS34 7RG.

Both events are free to attend and are a one stop shop for all things sight loss related. There will be a wide range of suppliers demonstrating equipment and assistive technology designed to make life easier for anyone living with sight loss. It’s a great chance to try them out and find what works best for you. You will also find local and national organisations offering helpful services. In addition each event has a range of interesting talks held throughout the day.

Find out more about the upcoming event at [Eye Can Gloucestershire webpage](https://www.sightsupportwest.org.uk/events/eye-can-gloucestershire/)

You can book your ticket for Eye Can Gloucestershire by visiting the [Eventbrite booking page for Eye Can Gloucestershire](https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fbuff.ly%2F4cXNo66%3Ffbclid%3DIwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTAAAR24tSxvxqY7FPCiGG6TJp1EFTNjew8G9ZNdj7Q_5ZaLUTaFr8o6Np3sb1Q_aem_Afd4RarYF-L6Y6hFCf5iIHDSMHovufEQfhQ1nGbK_S3tkr8rXyxFt0L_GfR0pW-TJdlly9vFTE6UzKrCnSnRs64x&h=AT3w1HiAMDzJKRBDFfcAnGnSaUujx8Z70OS7alRNZ5HbYikpx-8I5iam18yS_0HFOS-ArCEl1_aHINFWHTB7Lw_scfCWo8-Q-Riqe_QJW8R_w__EAHpba7Te4K5pJ-VgWQ&__tn__=-UK-R&c%5b0%5d=AT1p_TcYsSwfnTaDSlax-opSynVx5AjiHrebUJoZ0WVY0WD-VF51hT21L0C7HI1XXRgfWO1sg-3KoqB64vDsd8oOl40KYs2hx-omxYuypC3h0MtW8NPZyqY9JlxT5nOPxBxnMYBoSeg_ByRG_ECvtowqyjfHxiPw52yVGeE6ZpGywmRkWeV8K8gseyOzGJyMWaqpTwW3_kDMDCT1RhlfQRIiLAt9ARaFnX80) or call Insight Gloucestershire directly on 01242 221170.

These events are sponsored by:

Optelec - [lowvisionshop.co.uk/](https://lowvisionshop.co.uk/) and

Humanware - [humanware.com/en-united\_kingdom/home](https://www.humanware.com/en-united_kingdom/home)

# 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

Amesbury Library, Smithfield Street, Amesbury, SP4 7AL

2nd Thursday of month, 10am to 12pm: 9th May

* 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: 1st May 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: 23rd May.

* 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: 8th May

* 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: 14th May

* 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: 21st May 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: 7th May

## 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: 13th May - Appointment only, please contact us to book.

## Malmesbury Sight Loss Advice Hub & Social Group – Appointment Only

Malmesbury Town Hall, Cross Hayes, SN16 9BZ

2nd Thursday of the month: 9th May - Appointment only, please contact us to book.

## Marlborough Sight Loss Advice Hub & Social Group

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

2nd Tuesday of each month: 14th May

* 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: 2nd May

* 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: 28th May

* 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: 20th May 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: 15th May

## Swindon Sight Loss Advice Hub – Appointment Only

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

1st Tuesday of the month, 10.15am – 1.15pm: 7th May 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: 6th May

## Tisbury Sight Loss Advice Hub – New Social

Nadder Leisure Centre, Weaveland Rd, Tisbury SP3 6HJ

4th Thursday of month, 11am to 1pm: 23rd May

•        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.

A social group 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: 8th May 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: 1st May.

* 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.

## Devizes Phab Club

Phab (**PH**ysically disabled and **AB**le bodied) is an organisation which brings people with and without disabilities together.

Nursteed Centre at 7.30 pm on Thursdays.

* May 2nd trip Blue Bells : Melksham Weatherspoons
* May 9th AGM : Fish and Chips (pre-order)
* May 16th Devizes Singers \* may be swopped
* May 23rd Beetle \* may be swopped
* May 30th Paul Dyer talk

Bowling Afternoons at the Bowls Club. May to August Fridays afternoons at 2pm once or twice a month : dates to be announced at meetings.

Contact Vicki Gaiger on 01380 722146 t if you would like o attend or for more information. [www.devizesphab.co.uk/](http://www.devizesphab.co.uk/)

## 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.

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.

## Audio Description Association (ADA)

The Audio Description Association (ADA) supports describers, venues, and users with workshops, training, and guidance. ADA Chair, Edward Copisarow, emphasises the need for VI members' involvement in training and policy influence.. To get involved, contact ADA Vice Chair, Tim Calvert at [info@audiodescription.co.uk](mailto:info@audiodescription.co.uk) Join online at <https://www.audiodescription.co.uk/join-ada>.

## 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 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.

## 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 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](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)

## 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

**Alan Ayckbourn’s A Chorus of Disapproval** runs until May 19th.

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](mailto:ticketsales@wiltshirecreative.co.uk)

**Salisbury International Arts Festival** commences on May 26th with Patch’s Parade and City Encounters, free events in and around the Market Square on May 26th and 27th, this is then followed by 10 days of events from comedy to music and spoken word. More information can be found on their website: [wiltshirecreative.co.uk/salisbury-international-arts-festival](https://www.wiltshirecreative.co.uk/salisbury-international-arts-festival)

# End of document

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