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

# Monthly What’s On E-Newsletter for June 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 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 start of July.

## 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](mailto:info@sightsupportwest.org.uk)

# Sight Support Events and Notices

## Eye Can Exhibitions

This year there will be two fantastic Eye Can exhibitions taking place:

* 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.

This exhibition is held by our partner charity Insight Gloucestershire.

* 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 first upcoming event on this link t [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)

## 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 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, so please do pop by. No appointment is necessary for many of the hubs.

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

## 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/)

## Keep us updated

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

# 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.

## Para Football Open Trials Day (13th July)

Para Football Open Trials Day at St George’s Park on Sat 13th July, 10.30am to1pm. The event is open to players over the age of 16 who would qualify for one of the following:

* **Female Deaf players16+**
* **Male Partially Sighted players 16+**
* **Female Blind or Partially Sighted players 16+**

Please note: The Blind Women’s game is open to players who are blind or partially sighted. However, the pathway and format of the game played is B1 football (IE: under blindfold)

The players registration link is: <https://forms.office.com/e/6nn7HfT0aJ>

Any further questions can be directed to Liam Drake | Talent Inclusion Lead 07816 354045 or [Liam.Drake@TheFA.com](mailto:Liam.Drake@TheFA.com)

## Blind and VI Golf

England and Wales Blind Golf are planning to run have a go days throughout the year at local driving ranges with tuition included for all ages. 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 by emailing [enquiries@ewblindgolf.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@ewblindgolf.co.uk)

## Swim England Swimming Para-swimming

Para-swimming is the competitive swimming pathway for people with a visual impairment. In Bristol and Wiltshire we are looking for more young people with a visual impairment to learn to swim, join a club and become a para-swimmer. Who knows where the journey may take you, one day you could be on the podium! In Bristol and Swindon we have 3 clubs who have weekly sessions that you might be suitable for you. You can find all the details about the sessions. If you have any questions about this please feel free to email [paratalent@swimming.org](mailto:paratalent@swimming.org)

### Wiltshire

Swindon ASC are an inclusive swimming club who provide a friendly environment for people with a range of disabilities to learn how to swim and become competitive swimmers. Swindon ASC have worked with visually impaired swimmers and understand what support is required. They offer weekly sessions at various pools across the city. To find out more information click on this website link or email: [paularutherford1976@gmail.com](mailto:paularutherford1976@gmail.com)

<http://swindonasc.co.uk/index.php/swimming-sessions/>

### Bristol

City of Bristol and Bristol Penguins both have session set up to get more disabled people into swimming.

Bristol Penguins have 2 weekly sessions one for swimmers still learning to swim and those who want to progress into club training. Both sessions are at Easton Swimming pool. Website: <https://uk.gomotionapp.com/team/bposc/page/join/para-penguins> or email: [polly.mullen@bristolpenguins.com](mailto:polly.mullen@bristolpenguins.com)

City of Bristol deliver a session on Sundays at Hengrove swimming pool. Website<https://uk.gomotionapp.com/team/reczzcba/page/para-swimming/how-to-join>  and email [cobscpara@gmail.com](mailto:cobscpara@gmail.com)

## Inclusive Stand Up Paddleboarding with SUP Bristol

• Sessions for young people aged 12-16 years

• Every Wednesday from 4.30-6pm, starting on May 8th

For more information, or to book a space, please visit: <http://bit.ly/supbristol>

or email: [info@supbristol.com](mailto:info@supbristol.com)

## Get your summer holiday off to a flying start with a day at Alton Towers with VICTA!

• When: Saturday 13 July 2024

• Who: 14 to 17 years

• Location: Farley Ln, Alton, Stoke-on-Trent ST10 4DB

• Cost: £20

• Closing date: Monday 3 June 2024

With over 40 rides and attractions to choose from you’ll be spoiled for choice for rides sure to get your adrenaline pumping!

Come for a day of thrills and fun at the UK's largest theme park - from family favourites to water rides to the newly reimagined high-octane loops of 'Nemesis Reborn', there's something for everyone at Alton Towers.

It will be the perfect fun day out for sharing experiences with other vision impaired young people your own age, supported around the park by VICTA staff and volunteers.

If you are successful in gaining a place, we will be meeting at the drop-off point at Alton Towers. More information will be provided closer to the time.

Find out more and apply for this activity by clicking [Alton Towers Theme Park Day for 14 to 17s - VICTA](https://www.victa.org.uk/victa-calendar/alton-towers-14-17/)

## Street Dance Sessions from Streetenvy 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.

## 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)

## 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 our 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.

For more information, please contact Young Bristol on 0117 9292513 or email [info@youngbristol.com](mailto:info@youngbristol.com)

## 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.

## RSBC (Royal Society for Blind Children)

**Calendar of activities**

You can join a range of different activities and there are even some your whole families can get involved in too! We have something for everyone to get involved in! Click on the link to find out more [rsbc.org.uk](https://www.rsbc.org.uk/calendar-of-activities/?_gl=1*1cy8lkh*_up*MQ..&gclid=EAIaIQobChMIzJjn2_y3hgMVCphQBh3iKAPmEAAYAiAAEgLPwvD_BwE)

# Local Audio Described Events

## Bristol Hippodrome

* 31 July – Disney’s Aladdin
* 21 August - Come from Away (age 10+) – the musical that tells the true story of the 7000 air passengers from all over the world who were grounded in Canada during the wake of 9/11

Touch tours 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

* 29 June – The 39 Steps – new comic version!
* 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.

## Salisbury Playhouse

**Agatha Christie's The Mousetrap 70th Anniversary Tour**

Runing fromMon 1st July  to Sat 6th July

* Thursday 4th July 7:30pm - Audio Described

Agatha Christie's The Mousetrap is the world’s longest-running play. This thrilling West End production is the genre-defining murder mystery from the best-selling novelist of all time… case closed!

**Other Audio Described Shows at Salisbury Playhouse:**

12 September (age 14+) – Birdsong

17 October (age 14+) – Sones in His Pockets

31 October (age 12+) – Play On!

17 and 19 December – Sleeping Beauty

# 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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Tel 0117 322 4885, Email [info@sightsupportwest.org.uk](mailto:info@sightsupportwest.org.uk)

Sight Support is a registered charity no 1178384. Registered Office: St Lucy’s Sight Centre, Browfort, Bath Road, Devizes, Wiltshire