# Monthly What’s On E-Newsletter

Welcome to your monthly update of accessible services and events in Wiltshire and Swindon. This update mainly covers September 2024.

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# Wiltshire Sight Events and Notices

## Eye Can Exhibitions

Our partner charity Sight Support West of England are busy organising and planning the next Eye Can exhibition which is only 6 weeks away!

* Eye Can Bristol will be held on 9th October from 10am at BAWA, 589 Southmead Rd, Bristol, BS34 7RG.

If this is too far for you to travel, we will be holding Eye Can exhibitions in Salisbury and Bath in 2025.

The event is free to attend and is 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, there will be a range of interesting talks held throughout the day. You can pre-register your place by calling us or using our [Eye Can Bristol Eventbrite sign up page](https://eyecanbristol2024.eventbrite.co.uk/).

This event is sponsored by: [Optelec](https://lowvisionshop.co.uk/) and [Humanware](https://www.humanware.com/en-united_kingdom/home)

## Summer Raffle

We're holding a Summer Raffle, and tickets are now available! You may have received some with the latest issue of Visible magazine. Our goal is to raise over £3,000 for our community sight loss service.

To buy tickets, you can:

* Call our office
* Visit our [Summer Raffle webpage](https://www.sightsupportwest.org.uk/get-involved/raffle/)
* Use the return envelope included with Visible to mail us your ticket stubs and payment. Put your name and postcode or phone number on the first ticket; we'll handle the rest. If it's tricky, just send them back with the letter, and we'll fill them in.

We partner with Wiltshire Sight and Insight Gloucestershire for this raffle. If you live in Bristol, BaNES, or South Gloucestershire, you can choose to support our local efforts.

Want to sell more tickets? Contact our office, and we'll send you some.

Good luck!

## Could you represent us?

We are receiving more requests for charity representation at events like awareness talks, cheque presentations, and charity engagements. We're also looking to run fundraising stalls at community events like fairs and information days.

We'd love to hear from you if you're interested in helping, whether it's suggesting events, manning a stall, representing us at ceremonies, or becoming a Volunteer Speaker delivering talks to community groups about your personal story as well as increasing audience understanding of visual impairment and the work and impact of Sight Support (training and support are provided).

To learn more, contact Becs at 07849 833 047 or email volunteering@sightsupportwest.org.uk

## Swindon Have a Go Bowls - Taster Session for VI

Tuesday 8 October 12 – 2pm. Free “Have a Go Bowls Taster session” for people with Visual Impairments at Westlecot Bowls Club, Bowling Green Lane, Swindon SN1 4EU. Free parking. Nearest Swindon Bus No. 22 or Stagecoach No.9 or 49.

Come along and try out indoor bowls at Westlecot club in a friendly and supportive atmosphere! Great way to get some gentle exercise. Partners and carers welcome, to play or spectate. Just bring some clean, flat-soled shoes along to change into! Refreshments provided. Call 01380 723682 or email info@sightsupportwest.org.uk to sign up.

# Wiltshire Sight Community Hubs & Socials

Our sight loss advice hubs provide a local space for consultations with your advisor, offering information, guidance, and advice on equipment and technology. You can explore a selection of helpful aids and discover how technology can help you. Additionally, most hubs host social groups where you can meet others, share tips and tricks, and enjoy a chat.

For full details of our sight loss advice hubs and social groups, see our website which has the latest information, or you can call our office on 01380 723682. [Click here for our website hub and social group listings.](https://www.sightsupportwest.org.uk/events/) You can put your postcode in the search bar to find your nearest hub.

## Changes To Note for Upcoming Hubs

* Our Chippenham hub will be changing location as of August. The new location is Chippenham Community Hub,1 Gladstone Parade, Chippenham, Wiltshire, SN15 3BS.
* Our Salisbury Resource Centre will be closed on Tuesday the 3rd of September.
* The Marlborough sight loss advice hub on Tuesday 10th September has been cancelled. Macular Degeneration Information Morning will be running instead at the Jubilee Centre on Tuesday 10th September from 10:30am – 12:00pm Pop in to find out more about the condition and how the Macular Society can help you. Contact Tyler Phillips 079 206 437 10. Our sight loss advice hub will be running in October as usual.
* Swindon Audiobook reading group title for discussion on Monday 2 Sept 10.15 – 11.30am at Swindon Central Library: The Lie Maker by Linwood Barclay

# 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.

## Free Alexa Device from British Wireless for the Blind Fund

People living with sight loss can apply for a free Echo Show or Echo Dot device from the British Wireless for the Blind Fund. To qualify, they need to receive certain disability or income-related benefits and have an internet connection at home. Apply for a free Alexa device here: [Referrals - British Wireless for the Blind Fund](https://blind.org.uk/referrals/)

# Leisure and Sporting Activities

## Are you interested in joining an audio book group at Marlborough or Pewsey Library?

Register your interest in this new audiobook group, which will meet at Marlborough Library and potentially at Pewsey Library, and will use library audiobooks, by contacting Jenny Spencer at 01380 723682 or jenny.spencer@wiltshiresight.org

## 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 members will be attending two planned trips in September including Longleat Safari Park and a Comedy Night out in Swindon. Both trips will be subsidised by the Club to make them more affordable to members if you’re interested in joining Swindon Bats to join in more activities like this then do contact them at: info@swindonbats.org or call their Secretary Sue Mead on: 07788150487

Or you can come along to any of their drop in events in September such as:

### Monday Club

Takes place at Craven House, Swindon on Monday September the 9th at 1pm-3pm a chance for you to meet and socialise with other VIPs. This month they will be learning about and having a go at VIP Chess!

### Bats Walk and Talk at Lydiard Park:

Lydiard Park (meet outside the Church)

10:30am-12pm Friday 29th of September

### Bats Breakfast meet up:

Premier Inn, Swindon town centre (Opposite the Savoy Pub) 10:30am-12pm Saturday 28th of September.

### 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.

## 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.

## Devizes PHAB Group

(Physically disabled and Able bodied) an organisation which brings people with and without disabilities together. See their program of events at [Devizes PHAB meetings and events](https://www.devizesphab.co.uk/uploads/1/2/3/4/123478387/phabprogramme16apr2023.pdf)

# Support Groups and Courses

## Swindon Chat group

Last Tuesday of the month 5.15pm

Contact: Bernice.Cocking@rnib.org.uk 07761 328571

## Retina UK Groups

**‘Talking’ Tech Peer Support Group**

Thursday 29th August 7pm - 8pm They will discuss assistive technology used in the kitchen to celebrate National Cooking Day. Share your experiences, tips, and tech know-how on talking kitchenware, appliances, and cooking apps that boost confidence and skills. Whether you're a kitchen pro or a beginner, everyone is welcome!

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.

# Described Arts Events

## Salisbury Playhouse

Audio Described Shows at Salisbury Playhouse:

* 12 September – Birdsong (AD)
* 17 October – Stones in His Pockets (AD & Touch Tour)
* 31 October – Play On! (AD & Touch Tour)
* 17 and 19 December – Sleeping Beauty (AD & Touch Tour)

[Wiltshire Creative Accessible Performances webpage](https://www.wiltshirecreative.co.uk/whats-on/access)

To buy tickets call 01722 320333 or 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