# Monthly What’s On E-Newsletter

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

## Table of Contents

[Monthly What’s On E-Newsletter 1](#_Toc178088163)

[Wiltshire Sight Events and Notices 2](#_Toc178088164)

[Wiltshire Sight Community Hubs & Socials 5](#_Toc178088165)

[Events & Notices From Other Organisations 7](#_Toc178088166)

[Leisure and Sporting Activities 10](#_Toc178088167)

[Support Groups and Courses 13](#_Toc178088168)

[Audio Described Arts Events 14](#_Toc178088169)

[End of document 15](#_Toc178088170)

# 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 2 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)

## Join Us for an Accessible Performance of *Twelfth Night* - *Play On!*

On the 31st of October at 2:15 PM, there will be an audio-described performance of the new musical adaptation of Twelfth Night – Play On! at Salisbury Playhouse. Before the show, there will also be a touch tour available which can really enhance the experience for those living with sight loss.

Wiltshire Sight's Salisbury social group will be attending the touch tour and gathering for a quick drink before the performance. If you'd like to join us, please give us a call on 01380 723682.

To book your seat for the musical, contact the Salisbury Playhouse box office directly on 01722 320333. If you have a CVI, carers can attend free of charge.

## 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@wiltshiresight.org](mailto:info@wiltshiresight.org) to sign up.

## Summer Raffle

Our Summer Raffle ends very soon, the closing date is 4th October so you still have time to get your tickets.

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](mailto:volunteering@sightsupportwest.org.uk)

# 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

* Stuart from Humanware will be attending the Salisbury social on Wednesday 16th October 2024 - 10:30am - 12:30pm. First floor of Salisbury Library, Market Walk, Salisbury, SP1 1BL
* The Salisbury Resource Centre will be closed on Tuesday 8th October.
* The Malmesbury Hub is cancelled on the Wednesday 16th October.
* The Devizes Resource centre is closed on Wednesday 16th October
* The Calne Hub will take place on Thursday the 31st of October instead of the 24th.

# 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.

## Silver Salisbury Festival

From 21 Sept-12 Oct.  Full program details can be found at [www.silversalisbury.co.uk](http://www.silversalisbury.co.uk) or pick up a festival program from our Wiltshire Sight Resource Centre in Salisbury.  This festival is being supported by Home Instead who will provide FREE transport and assistance to get to events.  Transport bookings can be made my calling 01722 443559.

## Carers event in Cricklade

Saturday 26 October 10am – 2pm, Cricklade Town Hall

Carers event (Free entry)

Wiltshire Council is running an event aimed at supporting Carers in the North Wiltshire Area. There will be over 15 support organisations and community groups offering face-to-face advice and support for carers and families. Please come and join us for a chat, a cup of tea or coffee and cake free of charge.  Come and say Hello to Claire, the Wiltshire Sight, Community Sight Loss Advisor (CSLA) who will be representing Wiltshire Sight at the event.

## RNIB - Within the last two years, have you been waiting a long time to receive eye care treatment?

Has your sight gone worse while waiting for delayed treatment? Or have you turned to private services due to delays?

If this is your experience, or you know someone who has experienced delays to their eye care treatment, the Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB) want to hear from you!

Please get in touch at [involvement@rnib.org.uk](mailto:involvement@rnib.org.uk) by 30 September 2024.

Your experiences will help us provide evidence to the Government and NHS outlining the shortfalls within eye care services that are resulting in delays to treatment. This will help them identify what can be done to improve eye care services and how to prevent delays to treatment in the future.

## Blind and partially sighted women – tell us about your experiences

RNIB’s Voice of the Customer team is looking for blind and partially sighted people, who identify as women, across the UK to share experiences of what it’s like to be a woman with sight loss. We are researching into the challenges people face, through online focus groups, to help us contribute to creating a more inclusive society and will discuss topics important to you including relationships, motherhood and parenting, personal safety and getting around, and employment and career progression.

We would love to hear from you!

To find out more information and to sign up, please complete this online form: [Sign up to Focus Group](https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=fDNFXZLR_EOqWAVVfJFxvF6tlj4vhcBFjjZ_mXY6K5ZUMlQ0WjZJQVNHS0RZUFBIRERYWk5LWDBaSCQlQCN0PWcu&utm_campaign=1628818_Gene1_General_News_G18_+DI3766_16_September_2024&utm_medium=email&utm_source=RNIB&dm_i=4UA0%2cYWSY%2cS20FE%2c4I34N%2c1&route=shorturl)

Silver Salisbury Festival

Silver Salisbury Festival is running from 21 Sept-12 Oct. Full program details can be found at [www.silversalisbury.co.uk](http://www.silversalisbury.co.uk) or pick up a festival program from the Salisbury Resource Centre. This festival is being supported by Home Instead who will provide FREE transport and assistance to get to events. Transport bookings can be made my calling 01722 443559.

## 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

## 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:

Contact them at: [info@swindonbats.org](mailto:info@swindonbats.org) or call their Secretary Sue Mead on: 07788150487

### Monday Club

Takes place at Craven House, Swindon on the 2nd Monday of the month from 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

When: Thursday 17th of October

At: 10:30am

Where: Lydiard Park (meet outside the Church.)

All welcome.

### Bats Breakfast meet up:

When: Saturday 26th of October

Where: Premier Inn Central Swindon (Opposite the Savoy Pub, close to the Central Library)

All welcome.

Cost: £10:99 full breakfast all you can eat pp or £8 for continental all you can eat pp (prices include drinks)

### Lawn Bowls (inside) Have a go Day:

When: Tuesday 8th of October

At: 12pm - 2pm

Where: Westlecott Bowls Club, Old Town Swindon

Cost: Free

### Swindon Bats Weekly Tenpin Bowling

at Tenpin West Swindon:

Wednesdays-12:15pm-2:30pm

Mondays- 18:45pm-21:00pm

### Axe Throwing and Electronic Darts:

When: Friday 25th of October.

Time: 7:00pm (7:30pm start)

Where: Boom Battle Bar Central Swindon.

Cost: £6pp

(This is the Subsidised price for members

£16 for non-members each)

## 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)

## Disability Bowls Wiltshire

Join Disability Bowls Wiltshire for inclusive lawn bowls in Swindon! Open to all abilities, they provide adaptive equipment, supportive coaching, and a welcoming community. Enjoy fun, fitness, and friendship every Saturday from 10 am to 12 pm at Swindon Manor Indoor Bowls Club. Equipment is provided; just bring flat-soled shoes. Contact Richard Ball at 07703893166 or email [richardb290@gmail.com](mailto:richardb290@gmail.com) for details. Experience why players of all abilities love this accessible sport!

# Support Groups and Courses

## Swindon Chat group

Last Tuesday of the month 5.15pm

Contact: [Bernice.Cocking@rnib.org.uk](mailto:Bernice.Cocking@rnib.org.uk) 07761 328571

# Audio Described Arts Events

## Salisbury Playhouse

* 17 October – Stones in His Pockets (AD & Touch Tour)
* 31 October 2.15pm – Play On! a new musical version of Twelfth Night (AD & Touch Tour)

There will be a Wiltshire Sight social group meeting at the touch tour of the musical, call us if you would like to join us. To book your seat at the musical call the Salisbury Playhouse box office on 01722 320333, carers free.

* 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](tel:01722320333) or email [ticketsales@wiltshirecreative.co.uk](mailto:ticketsales@wiltshirecreative.co.uk)

# 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