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

Welcome to your monthly update of accessible services and events in Wiltshire, Bristol, Bath & NE Somerset, and South Gloucestershire. This update mainly covers November 2024.

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# 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

# Sight Support Events and Notices

**Christmas Craft Fayre**

We are thrilled to be hosting a Christmas Craft Fayer in Swindon in November. We would love for you to join us for a festive afternoon with craft stalls, Christmas cards, sweets & treats, tombola, and children's games! A Community Sight Loss Advisor will be available to offer information about our services.

**Saturday 23rd November1-4pm. Free entry.**

Swindon Central Community Centre, Emlyn Square, Swindon, SN1 5BP.

## 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

## 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.

## Inclusive Social Play Research Project

The inclusivexplay project team at the University of Bristol is seeking participants for several studies. The aim of the project is to create inclusive play technologies for blind and visually impaired (BVI) children, as well as their sighted peers.

The team is looking for families with BVI children aged 2-4 years. They would like to observe BVI and sighted children during playtime, using video recordings. Additionally, they wish to speak with parents to gather their experiences and ideas about inclusive play. A small financial contribution will be provided to support involvement, along with coverage of travel and sustenance costs.

There are also future opportunities for families to contribute to the design and development of new, inclusive toys for social play.

To sign up or find out more, contact Amy at:

amy.hicks@bristol.ac.uk

## Ignite Bristol Multi - sport festival

* Sunday 24th November 2024 1.30pm – 4pm
* Trinity Academy, Romney Avenue, Bristol, BS7 9BY

Whether you take part in regular sport sessions or looking to try something new, there’s something for everyone. From rugby and hockey to yoga and more, we’ve got a variety of sports and activities lined up to keep you moving and having a blast!

Bring your friends, family, and all the energy you can muster for a day you won’t forget!

Stay tuned for more details, including the full schedule of activities and how you can get involved. Get ready to ignite your winter with us and make some unforgettable memories!

Sign up here to secure your place <https://bit.ly/IgniteBristolNov24>

## Strawberry Line Cycles

The Strawberry Line Cycle Project have started up group rides for people with additional needs.

Sessions are free of charge and riders can use our bikes or trikes. Find out more or book on by emailing Strawberrylineprojects@gmail.com

[INCLUSIVE CYCLING | Strawberry Cycles](https://accesssport.us4.list-manage.com/track/click?u=01c05c95704dd40a6e36e4770&id=f7543681af&e=47e16734b2)

## Free cricket sessions

We are super excited to let you know about Golden Hill Cricket club's inclusivity sessions

* When - Sundays 10am -11am
* Who - Aimed at and inclusive to disabled and/or neurodivergent children and young people
* Where -Shine Sports Hall, Henleaze, BS9 4DT

The Golden Hill coaches are experienced at supporting disabled and neurodivergent children and young people so will adapt the session to ensure everyone is supported and is having fun!

For more information please contact Russ russ.fry@goldenhillsports.com

## VICTA – Christmas decoration competition

Here at VICTA we are preparing for our annual Christmas Decoration Competition for those aged between 0 and 17 where the theme this year is ‘Reindeer’. There are prizes up for grabs for individual entries as well as group prizes for school entries. All decorations submitted by the closing date will be displayed in the centre:MK’s Christmas exhibition in Middleton Hall.

Decorations must be with VICTA by Friday 22 November to be displayed in the centre:MK.

To find out more and enter, please visit: <https://www.victa.org.uk/victa-calendar/tree-for-treats-2024/>

## VICTA – The Crystal Maze

VICTA has a weekend of fun lined up in London for 14 to 17s. Will you roll the dice at Monopoly Lifesized or solve the mysteries of the Crystal Maze?

You can choose your favourite challenge or apply to join us at both (depending on availability)

**The Crystal Maze Experience**

When: Saturday 23rd November

Location: The Crystal Maze LIVE Experience, 22-32 Shaftsbury Avenue, West End, London, W1D 7EU

Cost: £10

[**Find out more & apply >**](https://victa.us18.list-manage.com/track/click?u=b3f7c25f918ce44ae8cbc3d1d&id=fc014c8611&e=5426ac0019)

## VICTA – Monopoly

**Monopoly Livesized**

When: Sunday 24 November 2024

Location: Monopoly Lifesized, Tottenham Court Road, London

Cost: £10 per person

[**Find out more & apply >**](https://victa.us18.list-manage.com/track/click?u=b3f7c25f918ce44ae8cbc3d1d&id=cc79ab6b54&e=5426ac0019)

## New Tennis Sessions - David Lloyd Long Ashton

For d/Deaf, disabled and neurodivergent children and young people

* Ages 5-16 years
* Weekly Thursdays (term time)
* 4:15-5pm (ages 5-8 years) / 5:15-6pm (ages 9-16 years)
* David Lloyd, Long Ashton, Ashton Road, Bristol BS3 2HB

Sign-up to the sessions here:[http://bit.ly/DavidLloydterm1](https://accesssport.us4.list-manage.com/track/click?u=01c05c95704dd40a6e36e4770&id=2b161030ab&e=47e16734b2)

## Super 1s - Free Inclusive Cricket Session

All disabilities welcome age 12-25

**Bath**

WHEN: Wednesdays, 5.30pm - 6.30pm (September – May)

WHERE: Hayesfield School, Broughman Hayes Campus, Bath BA2 3QX.

**Weston-Super-Mare**

WHEN: Thursdays 6pm - 7pm (September - May)

WHERE: Health & Active Living Skills Centre, Loxton Road,

Weston-Super-Mare, BS23 4PD

CONTACT: Steve Gass steve.gass@somersetcricketfoundation.org

<https://www.lordstaverners.org/how-we-help/>

## 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)

## Redcatch Park Tennis

For d/Deaf, disabled and neurodivergent children, young people and adults.

* All Ages
* Weekly Saturdays
* 12.30pm -1.30pm
* Redcatch Park Tennis Courts, Bristol, BS4 2RF

Sign-up to the sessions here: [https://tinyurl.com/redcatch](https://accesssport.us4.list-manage.com/track/click?u=01c05c95704dd40a6e36e4770&id=4fd3009920&e=47e16734b2)

## RNIB letter to Santa

Let the joy in this Christmas with a letter from Santa

RNIB is helping to deliver the magic of Christmas by making sure all children with a vision impairment can receive a very special festive letter.

Our team of jolly elves work closely with Santa to help him send letters in accessible reading formats – like braille, audio and large print – bringing the joy of Christmas to those who may otherwise miss out.

If you know a child who would like to receive an accessible letter, then please get in touch by completing the form linked below. To make sure your child receives their letter from Santa before Christmas please send your requests by Sunday, 1 December 2024. We won’t be able to fulfil any requests after this date unfortunately.

**Please remember, this service is for blind and partially sighted children only.**

For more information please visit: <https://www.rnib.org.uk/get-involved/christmas-at-rnib/letter-from-santa/>

# Local Audio Described Arts Events

## Bristol Hippodrome

* 21 November – Mary Poppins
* 2 January – Goldilocks and the 3 Bears
* 24 January - & Juliet. A musical show featuring songs by pop divas like Britney Spears and Ariana Grande
* 6 February – Only Fools and Horses (Age 8+)

Book touch tours separately. Contact Access for All service - email bristoladmin@theambassadors.com or call the access booking line 0333 009 5399 for tickets

## Bristol Old Vic

* 16 November – Never let me Go (age 12+) - based on the novel by Kazuo Ishiguro
* 21 December – The Little Mermaid

For more details and to book - ring the Box office – 0117 987 7877

# Online Support Groups and Course

## VICTA

VICTA is running an online workshop on 19th November where parents of a vision impaired child aged 0 to 4 years you out [find out about sensory play](https://wcb-ccd.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=25c133fb85be32275b8e9d18d&id=f47c997a7e&e=f52967d25d) from the Guide Dogs ‘My Time to Play’ team.

## New College Worcester (NCW)

New College Worcester (NCW) is running an online club for young people aged 9 to 15 with vision impairment - [Vika's FUN-tastic Friday](https://wcb-ccd.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=25c133fb85be32275b8e9d18d&id=a7a258022b&e=f52967d25d). The club will meet weekly until the end of November.

## LOOK

[LOOK’s Parent Support Group](https://wcb-ccd.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=25c133fb85be32275b8e9d18d&id=a5c7bb7d47&e=f52967d25d) is now meeting monthly, and the next meeting will be a chat session on 7th November where LOOK will share tips on prioritising your well-being and reducing stress.

## RNIB Parent Patheways Course

The next presentation of RNIB’s [online ‘Parent Pathways’ course](https://wcb-ccd.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=25c133fb85be32275b8e9d18d&id=ce9f73d2aa&e=f52967d25d) for parents and carers who have recently received, or are going through the process of receiving, a diagnosis of vision impairment for their child, starts on 21st November.

## RNIB Shape and Share

RNIB has arranged a further ‘[Shape and Share’ virtual event](https://wcb-ccd.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=25c133fb85be32275b8e9d18d&id=738e492a95&e=f52967d25d) for vi children and their families, ‘Christmas Cracker’, on Saturday 7th December. Book by 15th November.

## Royal Society For Blind Children (RSBC)

RSBC also runs [Connecting Families groups](https://wcb-ccd.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=25c133fb85be32275b8e9d18d&id=2d9b959ea9&e=f52967d25d) for parents and carers of children with a vision impairment.

## Nystagmus Network

Nystagmus Network runs a [virtual support group for parents/carers](https://wcb-ccd.us11.list-manage.com/track/click?u=25c133fb85be32275b8e9d18d&id=dda60750c1&e=f52967d25d) and their next meeting will be on Thursday 28th November.

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Sight Support is a registered charity no 1178384. Registered Office: St Lucy’s Sight Centre, Browfort, Bath Road, Devizes, Wiltshire, SN10 2AT