Monthly What’s on Guide for February 2025

Welcome to your monthly update of accessible services and events in Gloucestershire covering February 2025.

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# Insight Gloucestershire Events and Notices

## Last Chance to Apply: Community Sight Loss Advisor (Cotswold)

We are recruiting for a Community Sight Loss Advisor (Cotswold), but there’s just enough time to apply!

**Key details:**

* **Salary:** £25,000 pro rata
* **Hours:** 21 hours per week (0.6 FTE)
* **Location:** Cheltenham office-based with work across the Cotswold region
* **Contract:** Permanent (following probation)

In this role, you’ll lead on providing information, advice, and guidance for people with sight loss in the Cotswold district. You’ll help individuals access support, equipment, and training, while also organising community hubs in key locations.

Comprehensive training is provided, so no prior experience working with sight loss is required.

**Closing date:** Monday 27th January at 5pm.

For more details and how to apply, please refer to the [Job Description and Person Specification linked on our website](https://www.sightsupportwest.org.uk/get-involved/work-for-us/)

## Connect Online with Virtual Hubs

Our Virtual Hubs provide a welcoming space for those living with sight loss to connect, share experiences and have a chat. Open to anyone affected by sight loss, these online groups are hosted on Microsoft Teams with training available for newcomers.

**Groups Available:**

* **Parent Support Group**: Fortnightly on Thursdays at 7:30 pm.
* **University Students Group**: Fortnightly on Wednesdays at 7 pm.
* **Working Age Group (25–65)**: Third Thursday of each month at 7 pm.
* **Young Adults Group (18–30)**: Start date to be confirmed.

Contact us to sign up – 0117 322 4885 / info@sightsupportwest.org.uk.

## Seeking Trustees

Insight Gloucestershire is currently looking for interested people to join our Board of Trustees. The Board meet four times a year, either in person or on Zoom, to review progress and finances and ensure the organisation is moving in the right direction. We would welcome any members of the sight loss community who are interested in being part of the team – if you would like a brief chat about what is involved, please do give us a call and ask for Mike Silvey, or email us and we can send you a role description.

# Insight Gloucestershire Hubs and Socials

Our sight loss advice hubs provide a space for consultations with your local advisor, offering information, guidance, and advice on all things sight loss related. You can explore a selection of helpful aids at the hub and your advisor can suggest what equipment and technology might be useful to help you meet the challenges sight loss can pose. Additionally, some 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 01242 221170. See our [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

* Cheltenham Coffee morning has changed, it will now ruin on the 4th Friday of each month. Date this change is effective from: March 2025 (First new date will be Friday 28th March)
* Dursley Hub - has changed time and monthly date - it will now run on the 1st Friday of the month. Drop-in time is 11am to 12pm and we have a social group running from 11am to 1pm. appointments are also available. Date this change is effective from: Friday 7th March.
* Gloucester Hub – has changed venue, time and monthly date. The new venue is St Mary de Crypt Church, Southgate Street, Gloucester. GL1 1TP. This will be running om the 2nd Wednesday of the month. We have a drop-in time from 1pm to 2:30pm, the social group will be running at same time. Appointments will be available. Date this change is effective from: Wednesday 12th March.

# Events From Other Organisations

## Guide Dogs’ Policy and Campaigns Advisory Board

Guide Dogs is seeking passionate individuals with lived experience of sight loss to join their new England Policy and Campaigns Advisory Board. Members will provide invaluable insights, sharing perspectives on vision impairment and contributing to campaigns that champion accessibility, safety, and equality for people with sight loss.

The role involves quarterly meetings (approximately three hours each) and no prior experience with Guide Dogs services or campaigning is required. Applicants must be 18 or over, live in England, and be enthusiastic about advocating for the rights of vision-impaired individuals.

For more details, contact livedexperience@guidedogs.org.uk

# Local Leisure and Sporting Activities / Events

## Track Day Opportunities at Llandow Circuit

Llandow Circuit in the Vale of Glamorgan offers accessible driving experiences for individuals of all abilities, including those with sight loss. Speed of Sight provides the opportunity to drive custom-built, dual-controlled cars on this well-known track.

Places are still available for the 3rd and 4th of June.

For more details or to book, visit [Speed of Sight’s website](https://speedofsight.org/book-now) or contact them at info@speedofsight.org.

## Gloucestershire Growlers

The group aim to give visually impaired people in and around the county the opportunity to take part in sport and create an environment where they can socialise with people who truly understand the daily impact of having a visual impairment. Although the group aim play to win, team spirit is more important than results and the group pride themselves on their unique “Growler camaraderie!

Although finished for the season, they are organising two indoor sessions at Gloucestershire’s Nevil Road ground in January and March of next year.  If you would like any more information contact Phil Gingell at bristolbluephil@googlemail.com

# Support Groups and Courses

## Living Well with Sight Loss Phone Group

Living Well With Sight Loss - February

Session 1: Monday 3rd February

Session 2: Wednesday 5th February

Session 3: Monday 10th February

Session 4: Wednesday 12th February

**Times** 11am

**Money Matters Focus Group**

Session 1: Tuesday 4th February

Session 2: Thursday 6th February

Session 3: Tuesday 11th February

Session 4: Thursday 13th February.

**Times**: 11am

Email: communityconnectionsouthwest@rnib.org.uk

Call Trish Sail 07843 979975 / George Hinton 07711 188292 / Bernice Cocking 07761 328571

## Deafblind UK Talk Tech webinar

Deafblind UK has scheduled some more free 'Talk Tech' webinars, intended to provide practical tech advice to people with sight and hearing loss. Details are:

Thursday 20th February - Find out about RealSAM voice-controlled smartphones for people who are blind, visually impaired, or who would simply find it easier to operate technology by voice.

Thursday 17th April - A demonstration of VisionAid’s most interesting products.

You can find out more and book a place [DeafBlind UK Website](https://deafblind.org.uk/calendar/)

## Macular Groups

See list below, but please contact before attending, as groups may have an alternate venue, or an outing planned.

Call **0300 30 30 111**

### Gloucester Macular Group

Meet on the first Wednesday of each month, 10am to 12pm at Gloucester Deaf Association, Colin Road, Barnwood, GL4 3JL

### Cheltenham Macular Group

Meet on the third Wednesday of each month 2pm to 4pm at Christ Church, Malvern Road, Cheltenham, GL50 2JH

### Stroud Macular Group

Meet quarterly, 10am to 12pm in March, June, September and December

At Stroud Hospital, Trinity Road, Stroud, GL5 2HY

## See Differently Support Group

An 18+ support group for the blind and visually impaired, along with their family members and / or carers. Come along to chat, socialise and maybe play a few games or two.

Takes place every other Tuesday, 1-2.30pm

Location: The Redwell Centre, Matson, GL4 6JG

Email Harvey on: seedifferently@hotmail.com

## Stroud Visually Impaired Club

Meets on the first Thursday morning of the month in Sherborne House, Stonehouse.  Members come from the Stroud area and Cam and Dursley. Transport maybe available.

Please contact Celia on:

07770 146536 / 01452 864645 or email: celiakelly1961 for more information.

# Local Audio Described Arts Events

## The Everyman Theatre in Cheltenham

The Everyman Theatre, Cheltenham, is delighted to be offering audio described performances for:

* **The Girl on the Train** on Thursday 27th March at 2.00pm

[The Girl on the Train webpage](https://www.everymantheatre.org.uk/shows/the-girl-on-the-train/)

* **Dear Evan Hansen** on Saturday 10th May at 2.00pm

[Dear Evan Hansen webpage](https://www.everymantheatre.org.uk/shows/dear-evan-hansen/)

* **The Midnight Bell** on Friday 16th May at 7.30pm (touch tour at 6.00pm TBC)

[The Midnight Bell webpage](https://www.everymantheatre.org.uk/shows/the-midnight-bell/)

Touch Tours on stage at 11.30am (unless otherwise stated)

Please contact Sally-ann if you would like further details or to book the touch tour or tickets:
Sally-ann 01242 695574

sally-ann.rhodes@everymantheatre.org.uk

Please let Sally-ann know if you would like her to regularly post you a large print season brochure or if you would like to be removed from this mailing list.

# Online Notices / Support Groups / Webinars

We have some information about online support groups / webinars / social groups / resources and events that might be of use or interest for anyone living with sight loss.

[Online Resources From Other Organisations - Insight Gloucestershire](https://www.sightsupportwest.org.uk/resources/online-resources/)

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