# 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 April 2025.

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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

**Virtual Hubs**

Are you looking to connect with others who understand life with sight loss? We understand that living with sight loss can feel isolating, but finding others who understand can make all the difference. That’s why we’re launching our new virtual hubs to help you connect with people who share similar experiences in a welcoming and supportive environment.

As a partnership of three sight loss charities – Sight Support West of England, Wiltshire Sight, and Insight Gloucestershire – our new hubs are open to people affected by sight loss across all the areas we cover. Each group will meet regularly on Microsoft Teams and be facilitated by volunteers with lived experience of sight loss. Training is available if you’re new to Microsoft Teams.

**Upcoming Groups:**

* **Parent Support**: For parents of visually impaired children up to age 25, First Thursday of each month at 7:30 pm.
* **University Students:** For over-18s (studying at Level 4 or above), meeting fortnightly on Wednesdays at 7pm.
* **Working Age**: Third Thursday of each month at 7pm.
* **Young Adults** (18–30): Starting date to be confirmed.

To join, simply let us know which group interests you. Once you’re signed up, there’s no need to book for each session, and attendance is flexible - you’re welcome to attend whenever you wish. It’s an opportunity to meet new people, share, learn, and build connections without pressure or obligation – all from the comfort of your home.

## 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.

## News from Ignite Bristol

**Inclusive Multi-Sport Taster Afternoon**

Join an exciting free taster event for d/Deaf, disabled, and neurodivergent people and their families on Wednesday 28 May, 1pm to 4pm at Oasis Academy Brislington. Try out a range of accessible sports and meet inclusive local clubs. To express interest, email James.Snook@AccessSport.org.uk

**Sailing at Chew Lake with CLADS**

CLADS offers inclusive sailing sessions at Chew Valley Lake, welcoming people with a disability, with or without sailing experience. Enjoy fresh air, meet others, and build confidence on the water. Two free taster sessions available. Email info@clads.co.uk to find out more.

**Inclusive Padel Taster Afternoon**

Try the fast-growing sport of padel! Free taster sessions for disabled, d/Deaf and neurodivergent young people on Saturday 19 April, 2pm to 4pm at Padel4all Lockleaze. Sessions for ages 6–11 and 12+. Contact info@ignitebristol.co.uk for details.

**Tennis Camp for disabled and deaf players – Bath**

Children and adults aged 5+ are invited to Lansdown Club, Bath on Tuesday 8 April for inclusive tennis led by Deaflympics medalist Dan Tunstall. Sessions run from 2pm to 4pm and cost £5 each. Details at [blueskytennis.foundation](https://accesssport.us4.list-manage.com/track/click?u=01c05c95704dd40a6e36e4770&id=0286d98eab&e=47e16734b2)

**Inclusive tennis at Winterbourne**

Weekly tennis sessions for young people aged 8 to 18 who are disabled, d/Deaf or neurodivergent. Thursdays 5–5.45pm and Fridays 11.15am–12pm at Winterbourne Tennis Club. First session is free. Sign up via: [**bit.ly/winterbourneAcez**](https://accesssport.us4.list-manage.com/track/click?u=01c05c95704dd40a6e36e4770&id=dcad623e83&e=47e16734b2)

**Inclusive Table Tennis – Share Your Views**

Ignite Bristol is exploring a new inclusive table tennis programme and would love your input. If you’re interested in taking part or helping shape the sessions, fill in this short form: <https://forms.gle/iLEMMsS9GV17vmyEA>

**Free Travel Support from TravelWest**

TravelWest offers free travel support to help people travel more confidently. Includes bike loans, guided cycle rides, free bus and train taster tickets, and basic cycle training. Available to residents in the West of England. Details: <https://travelwest.info/for-communities/individual-support/>

## The Royal National College for The Blind

Family sports day at Royal National College for the Blind (RNC), Hereford – Thursday 17 April: <https://www.rnc.ac.uk/event-item.aspx?id=161>

## VICTA

Partially Sighted Football Taster Session – RNC Hereford. Free PSFL Junior Taster session: <https://www.victa.org.uk/victa-calendar/partially-sighted-football-taster-session-rnc-hereford/>

## Hook and Loop Collective

**The Lost Flock**

Join Hook & Loop Collective this Easter for a performance event made by YOU!

They’re looking for budding performers and creatives who are visually impaired (or have a visually impaired parent) to join an action-packed day of making, creating and sharing with family and friends.

Sunday 13th April, 10am-5pm

Blackfriars Priory, Gloucester

Recommended age for children is 5-14 years. VI participants can bring a friend or have their sibling involved if they wish.

Website link for full details and booking form: Hook and Loop Website <https://hookandloop.org.uk/THELOSTFLOCK/>

Get in touch with any questions: hello@HookAndLoop.org.uk

## Bristol Rovers Community Trust

We have partnered up with the FA to deliver an FA Para Football Talent Hub. This is part of the England Talent pathway and hopes to find the Para England stars of the future. The sessions are aimed at both male and females aged from 8 – 16 years old who have/are one of the following:

Cerebral Palsy, Visual Impairment, Deaf/Hard of Hearing.

For more information or to book a place, please visit [Para Talent Hub | brct](https://www.bristolroverscommunity.org.uk/paratalenthub)

## 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

## 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/>

## 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)

## VICTA

Are you learning Spanish? Why not join our online sessions with ONCE and practice with Spanish students!

• When: Saturday 10 May 2025

• Who: 12-17 year olds

• Location: Online

• Cost: Free

ONCE (Spanish National Organisation of the Blind) and VICTA are giving students in Spain and the UK the opportunity to practice their language skills virtually.

This is perfect for those learning Spanish at school or those looking to practice their spoken language skills in a supportive environment. In return, you will help Spanish students with their English language development and it’s a great opportunity to connect with and find out about another culture.

For more information, please click [here](https://www.victa.org.uk/victa-calendar/once-spanish-sessions/)

## Royal Society For The Blind (RSBC)

RSBC offer a wide range of activities for blind and partially sighted children and young people on a regular basis throughout the year, click [here](https://www.rsbc.org.uk/whats-on/) to find out more.

## RNIB’s survey relating to motherhood

**Report**

Here is a link to a page on RNIB’s website where you can find the report and key findings:

[Read Navigating Motherhood with Sight Loss I Voice of the Customer report 2025 | RNIB](https://www.rnib.org.uk/professionals/health-social-care-education-professionals/knowledge-and-research-hub/reports-and-insight/navigating-motherhood-with-sight-loss-voice-of-the-customer-report-2025/)

**Podcast**

You can also listen to a Connect radio podcast at this link:

[RNIB Connect / RNIB Research Explores Being A Mother With Sight Loss](https://audioboom.com/posts/8693760-rnib-research-explores-being-a-mother-with-sight-loss)

# Local Audio Described Arts Events

## Bristol Hippodrome

* 12 June – War Horse (Age 10+)
* 16 July – Moulin Rouge (Age 12+)
* 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

* 31 May – The Beautiful Future is Coming (Age 12+)
* 5 July – How to Win against History (Age 12+) – A Comedy Musical telling the riches to rags story of the 5th Marquis of Anglesey – one of the world’s wealthiest men – until he lost it all by being too damn fabulous.

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

## Bath - Theatre Royal

21 May - The Midnight Bell (Age 14+) –Performed by Matthew Bourne’s dance company. It’s set in the pubs and fog-bound streets of Soho and Fitzrovia during the 1930s**.**

5 July – How to Win against History ( Age 12+) – A Comedy Musical telling the riches to rags story of the 5th Marquis of Anglesey – one of the world’s wealthiest men – until he lost it all by being too damn fabulous.

Tickets and information on 01225 448844. Make sure you are subscribed to the Theatre’s Access List.

Note: Bookers for AD performances will receive a link emailed, beforehand, with audible pre-show notes. Hearing devices can be collected from all bars when the house opens - half an hour before the show. Demonstration models available to practice with.

## Salisbury Playhouse

Catch The Da Vinci Code ( Age 16+) on Thursday 1 May at 2:15pm and 7:30pm with audio description and a free touch tour (starting 60 minutes before each show). Follow Professor Langdon and cryptologist Sophie Neveu on a thrilling race across Europe to solve hidden clues in da Vinci’s artwork and uncover a powerful secret. This fast-paced adaptation of Dan Brown’s bestseller is packed with mystery and intrigue.

Book tickets and touch tours via the Wiltshire Creative Accessible Performances webpage, call 01722 320333 or visit the Playhouse box office (Malthouse Ln, Salisbury, SP2 7RA).

# Online Support Groups and Course

## Royal Society For Blind Children (RSBC)

RSBC runs [connecting families online group](https://www.rsbc.org.uk/how-can-we-help/for-families/connect-with-other-families/connecting-families-group/#:~:text=We%20have%20two%20online%2C%20monthly,child%20aged%200%2D4%20years) 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)

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Tel 0117 322 4885, Email info@sightsupportwest.org.uk

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