Monthly What’s on Guide for June 2025

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

# Table of Contents

[Table of Contents 1](#_Toc199247016)

[Insight Gloucestershire Events and Notices 2](#_Toc199247017)

[Insight Gloucestershire Hubs and Socials 2](#_Toc199247018)

[Events & Notices From Other Organisations 3](#_Toc199247019)

[Leisure and Sporting Activities / Events 6](#_Toc199247020)

[Support Groups and Courses 8](#_Toc199247021)

[Children and Young People 10](#_Toc199247022)

[Local Audio Described Arts Events 14](#_Toc199247023)

[Online Events / Notices / Groups / Socials 14](#_Toc199247024)

[End of document 17](#_Toc199247025)

# Insight Gloucestershire Events and Notices

## Connect Online with Virtual Hubs

Our Virtual Hubs are open to anyone affected by sight loss. Hosted on Microsoft Teams, training is available for newcomers.

**Join one of our hubs:**

**Parent Support Group:** Third Thursday of month at 7:30 pm.

**University Students Group:** Fortnightly, Wednesdays at 7 pm.

**Working Age Group:** Third Thursday of the month at 7pm.

**Young Adults Group (18–30):** Fortnightly, Wednesdays at 7 pm.

Would you like to join? **Contact us –** 01242 221170 / [info@insight-glos.org.uk](mailto:info@insight-glos.org.uk)

# 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.

* **Cirencester Community Hub –** will have a new location 3rd Monday of every Month Cirencester Baptist Church, Chesterton Lane, Cirencester, GL7 1YE. It will run 10-1pm

# Events & Notices From Other Organisations

## New Technology for Audio Described Shows at Everyman Theatre

* The Everyman Theatre in Cheltenham has become one of the first UK venues to introduce Auracast™ – a new hearing assistance system part-funded by a £10,000 grant from the Barnwood Trust. This innovative technology makes it easier for people who are blind or partially sighted to access audio description, by allowing them to connect directly to the theatre’s audio stream using Bluetooth-enabled devices. With six to seven audio-described performances each year, this upgrade enhances accessibility and inclusion, ensuring more people can enjoy live theatre in a way that works for them.

## RNIB survey on volunteering experiences

RNIB is running a survey from 12 May to 30 June 2025 to better understand the experiences of blind and partially sighted people when it comes to volunteering. Whether you volunteer or not, they want to understand your motivations to volunteer, what stops you from volunteering, and what might encourage you to get involved with a volunteer role in the future.

The results will shape how volunteering opportunities are developed within RNIB and other organisations.

The survey can be completed here:  
[Link to Survey](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RWX5Y9P)

For help completing the survey or to register for future surveys, email [nicola.stanley-dickinson@rnib.org.uk](mailto:nicola.stanley-dickinson@rnib.org.uk)  or call 07736 462071.

## Guide Dogs’ disability benefits survey distribution – suggested content for partner organisations

* The Government has announced major reforms to disability benefits and employment support which could have a significant impact on people with sight loss.
* Working with other sight loss organisations, Guide Dogs has launched a survey to find out more about how these reforms could impact people with sight loss and how they could be improved. The survey closes on Sunday 15th June at 11.59pm. Your response to this survey will help Guide Dogs and other sight loss organisations respond to the Government’s consultation and campaign for improvements to the Government’s proposals.
* [Website Link to Survey](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=tc87y8kW0k-FGoIod0nFZKq_Jjrm6xxEnlZ70o2CFqhUNENZS0JRWllTQVhVNlhSSkg4SjM3TjZCSS4u)

## Stroud District Council Survey

* Closing Date 30th May
* The council has launched a tool on www.stroud.gov.uk which improves accessibility, the Council is running a survey to find out what people think of it and what needs to be better. This short survey aim to help the council understand what works well and what can be improved on the website.
* Please take a few minutes to complete the survey here:
* [Survey Website Link](https://www.stroud.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/about-the-council/have-your-say/consultations/website-survey-2025/)

## Could you or someone you know benefit from the Cotswold Vale Talking Newspaper?

The Cotswold Vale Talking Newspaper (CVTN) is a free audio service for anyone who has difficulty reading printed materials – including those living with sight loss. Each week, CVTN volunteers bring the news to life, reading aloud articles from local newspapers and magazines to help people stay connected with their community.

To find out more or to get in touch, visit [www.cvtn.org.uk](http://www.cvtn.org.uk)

# Leisure and Sporting Activities / Events

## Nature in Art near Gloucester launches project to make art accessible

Nature in Art museum (located near Gloucester) has recently been awarded a Small Open Grant from Museum Development South West, with thanks to support from Arts Council England. This is to support our project ‘Art for Every Sense’, which aims to remove barriers for blind and visually impaired people to engage with art. We are planning to use audio commentary and tactile prints of our paintings to do this.

If you are interested in supporting this project through feedback, testing or other means, please ring 01452 733 942 or email Hattie Revans at [keeper@natureinart.org.uk](mailto:keeper@natureinart.org.uk)

## Westonbirt the National Arboretum at Tetbury - Sensing Nature and Wellbeing Walks

Click here: [Sensing Nature Walks](https://www.forestryengland.uk/westonbirt/activity/sensing-nature-walk)

Let our visually impaired guides lead you through an immersive and interactive sensory experience that aims to shift your perception, enjoy the arboretum at a slower pace and explore the trees of Westonbirt through your nonvisual senses.

Walks occur at 11:30am every Friday of the month from April - September.

Please note that dogs are not permitted on these walks (except assistance dogs). Some of our visually impaired guides will be assisted by a guide dog. Please do not disturb the assistance dogs while they are working.

How long? Approx. 1.5 hours

How much? Free after admission.

Where to meet? Meet at the Welcome Building, where you will be guided to the starting point for the walk.

Do I need to book? No.

What to wear? Please wear suitable clothing and footwear for outdoor walking as you will be going off path and over grass.

Accessibility? Dependent on weather, these sensory walks may not be suitable for wheelchair users due to the off path experience.

Get in touch [customerrelations@forestryengland.uk](mailto:customerrelations@forestryengland.uk) /

Call 0300 067 4890

## British Blind Sport launches new membership tiers

Click here: [www.britishblindsport.org.uk/membership](http://www.britishblindsport.org.uk/membership)

To celebrate 50 years, British Blind Sport has launched new membership tiers to support blind and partially sighted people to get active. The free Active Membership offers access to events, resources, a community Facebook group, a discount on BBS shop items, and more. New Professional and Friends of BBS memberships are also available for coaches, volunteers, and supporters. To find out more and join, visit their website (linked above) or email [info@britishblindsport.org.uk](mailto:info@britishblindsport.org.uk)

# Support Groups and Courses

## 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](mailto: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.

# Children and Young People

## All Aboard Watersports

All Aboard Watersports are running a paddle taster days for 8 - 18 year olds on Sunday 13th July 10am - 12.30am for visually impaired children.

They will have various activities on offer - kayaking, canoeing, paddleboarding or katakanu.

To register your interest and find out more get in touch with Jemma on [centremanager@allaboardwatersports.co.uk](mailto:centremanager@allaboardwatersports.co.uk) or call 01173 018 158

## New College Worcester’s Summer Activity Break

Places are still available on [New College Worcester’s Summer Activity Break](https://www.ncw.co.uk/events/summer-activity-break-for-young-people-that-are-blind-or-vision-impaired/) for vision impaired young people aged 11 to 16 years on 22nd to 24th July (apply by 27th June). Residential and daytime only options are available.

## The Egg, Theatre Royal Bath, Accessible show – You Know My Mum

“You Know My Mum” is a funny, emotional show which is accessible to blind and partially sighted people, and also has an empowering message about bereavement and being neurodivergent.

The show has top-class production values and has been developed with access in mind - there is audio description and touch tour provided as standard at every show.

Hear the audio trailer: <https://youtu.be/G2OXoHGDm90>

The Egg, Theatre Royal Bath, Thursday 17th July (1pm & 6pm), All ages 7+

Find out more: <https://www.theatreroyal.org.uk/events/you-know-my-mum/>

## VICTA – Free tickets

VICTA is offering to cover or contribute towards the cost of your vision impaired child’s ticket (up to the value of £20) to [visit a public garden or green space](https://www.victa.org.uk/victa-calendar/facilitated-ticket-offer-for-national-childrens-gardening-week-2025/) in the local area during National Children’s Gardening Week (apply by 2nd June).

## The Outlook Trust

Click here: [About The Outlook Trust Charity. Adventure Activities For Blind Children.](https://www.outlooktrust.org/about-us/)

The Outlook Trust is the only charity for blind and visually impaired children that organises and provides activity and residential breaks for blind, partially sighted children and young people with other disabilities.

## VI Junior Introductory Sailing Taster Day

•        When: Saturday 28 June 2025

•        Who: 8 to 17 years

•        Location: All Aboard Watersports, Bristol

•        Cost: £5

•        Closing date: 6 June

Sailing Vision Week, an annual sailing event for adults with a vision impairment, begins on 28 June with crews sailing out of Cornwall. We are looking for junior VI sailors-to-be to take part in our exclusive introductory taster event in Bristol on the same day.

You will be greeted at the centre by the VICTA Sport team and introduced to your Royal Yachting Association (RYA) dinghy instructor and assistant. They will accompany you through the whole session, make sure you are fully kitted out and introduce you to the basics of sailing. You will then be offered control of the boat with full assistance as you make your way out onto the water.

No previous experience required, and all kit will be provided – just bring your sense of adventure!

[VI Junior Introductory Sailing Taster Day - VICTA](https://www.victa.org.uk/victa-calendar/vi-junior-sailing-taster/)

## 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://wiltsblind.sharepoint.com/sites/SightSupport/Shared%20Documents/0.%20Shared/Communications%20&%20Marketing/Newsletter%20What's%20On%20and%20Visible/Monthly%20Update%20What's%20On/Sight%20Support%20What's%20On/bit.ly/winterbourneAcez)

## For Parents of VI children - Online Groups / Events / Socials

* LOOK is partnering with Retina UK, to present an online event on Monday, 30th June: ‘[How to Talk to Your Child About Inherited Progressive Sight Loss](https://www.tfaforms.com/5178191)’.
* The Royal Society for Blind Children is running some [online support sessions for parents](https://www.rsbc.org.uk/whats-on/). They are also holding a  'Moving on up Group’ for young people who will be moving to secondary school in September, meets monthly to prepare for the transition. The next session is on 3rd June.
* [LOOK’s Parent Support Group](https://www.look-uk.org/parents-carers/parent-support-group/) meets monthly. The next meeting is on 5th June and will be a chat session.
* The Albinism Fellowship is running an online [New Parents Evening](https://www.albinism.org.uk/event-details/zoom-new-parents-evening-2025-06-28-09-00) on 28th June.
* Retina UK runs an online [Peer Support Group for the parents and carers](https://retinauk.org.uk/event/parents-carers-group/) of children with an inherited retinal dystrophy.

# Local Audio Described Arts Events

## The Everyman Theatre in Cheltenham

The Everyman Theatre, Cheltenham, is delighted to be offering audio described performances for the following shows. **Inspector Morse** on Thursday 6th November at 2:00pm

[Inspector Morse Website](https://www.everymantheatre.org.uk/shows/inspector-morse-house-of-ghosts/)

* **Robin Hood and his Merry Men** on Friday 12th December at 2:00pm

[Robin Hood and his Merry Men Website](https://www.everymantheatre.org.uk/shows/robin-hood-and-his-merry-men/)

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

Contact Sally-ann if you would like further details, to book the touch tour or tickets, or to receive the season’s brochure: on 01242 695574 [sally-ann.rhodes@everymantheatre.org.uk](mailto:sally-ann.rhodes@everymantheatre.org.uk)

**(Please note: these events are not organised by Insight Gloucestershire, please call us if you would like to be added to our mailing list for our theatre trips on 01242 221170.)**

# Online Events / Notices / Groups / Socials

* Retina UK peer support groups, Online & Focused Interest Groups. [Retina Uk Website Link](https://retinauk.org.uk/information-and-support/services/local-peer-support-groups/) Mark Baxter, Information and Support Coordinator. You can email him at [services@RetinaUK.org.uk](mailto:services@RetinaUK.org.uk) or call him on 07889 595783.

Groups include: \*NEW\* Women’s Peer Support Group, \*NEW\* Parent’s & Carer’s Peer Support Group, \*NEW\* Young Adults Peer Support Group, Men’s Peer Support Group, National Peer Support Group, \*NEW\* ‘Talking’ Home & Garden, \*NEW\* ‘Talking’ Creative Arts, ‘Talking’ Travel, ‘Talking’ Tech

* The Royal Collection, which looks after the Royal Family's art collection, runs [free monthly online lectures](https://www.rct.uk/event/descriptive-zooms) for blind and partially-sighted people on the first Tuesday of the month.
* Socialise, Vision Support’s [virtual social club for young and working age people](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/socialise-virtual-social-group-tickets-1118799121289) meets monthly. The next session is on 10th June. Their dial-in social group, ‘[Time to Chat](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/time-to-chat-virtual-social-group-tickets-1004515010437)’ will have its next session on 3rd June.
* [UK Keratoconus Self-Help and Support](https://www.keratoconus-group.org.uk/index.php/2025/01/22/kc-coffee-morning-on-zoom/) Organisation runs quarterly Zoom meetings. The next one is on 3rd June.
* Deafblind are providing [on-the-spot tech support](https://deafblind.org.uk/series/tech-support-surgery/) for people with dual sensory loss. The next one is on 30th May.  Deafblind UK also runs a fortnightly [online Job Club for people with sight and hearing loss](https://deafblind.org.uk/events/). The next meeting is on 30th May.
* BBS UK runs [virtual monthly chats for adults with Bardet-Biedl Syndrome](https://bbsuk.org.uk/)
* Glaucoma UK’s next [Digital Support Group](https://glaucoma.uk/get-involved/glaucoma-uk-events/) meeting is on 4th June, and the topic is ‘Glaucoma and eye drops: the basics’.
* The Macular Society runs monthly support groups and webinars. Find out more on the [Macular Society support groups webpage](https://www.macularsociety.org/support/support-group/about-groups/) They also runs ‘[My Macular and Me’ webinars](https://www.macularsociety.org/support/events/webinars/) each month. As well as [on-line, condition specific groups](https://www.macularsociety.org/support/support-group/condition-specific-groups/) for people affected by diabetic macular oedema, myopic macular degeneration, Best disease, Sorsby’s fundus dystrophy and Punctate Inner Choroidopathy.
* Torch Trust, the Christian sight loss charity, runs [online coffee mornings](https://www.torchtrust.org/news/zoom-coffee-morning/) on the 4th Thursday of each month.
* [Behcet's UK runs regular online Support Group Meetings](https://behcetsuk.org/support/) for people affected by the condition. They also offer a helpline and peer support.
* [Nystagmus Network runs virtual support groups](https://nystagmusnetwork.org/support/monthly-online-get-togethers/) for people living with or affected by acquired or with congenital nystagmus.
* The next session of Blind Ambition’s monthly [Working Age Forum](https://www.blindambition.co.uk/training-support/waf-working-age-forum/) sessions, which discuss issues related to employment, is on 10th June.
* The next session of Thomas Pocklington Trust’s ['Let's Talk Jobs' workshops](https://www.pocklington.org.uk/employment/works-for-me-employment-programme/tech-workshops/) is on Monday 9th June.
* Sight loss and other disability organisations are urging people who are concerned about the UK Government’s changes to benefits to [contact their MP](https://change.rnib.org.uk/page/168340/action/1?ea.tracking.id=IC). You can do this using a form on the RNIB website.

# End of document

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