



Information and Events Update February 2020

Welcome to Vision West of England's monthly round up of what's on in your area. Thank you everyone who has contributed information, we hope you will find it useful.

Monthly Sight Loss Drop-In Clinics

Community Sight Loss Advisors hold several drop-In clinics in accessible locations across Bristol, Bath and South Gloucestershire. The aim of the drop-In is to provide information, advice and guidance for living with Sight Loss. There will also be a display of demonstration equipment including technology and daily living aids for you to try out. You are free to drop in but if you'd like to discuss anything specific please do call us so we can book you a 1-1 appointment.

New locations at Bradley Stoke, Thornbury and Keynsham

Bradley Stoke Library

20th February 10am-1pm, runs the 3rd Thursday each month
Bradley Stoke Active Centre, Fiddlers Wood Lane, BS32 9B

Thornbury, Age UK South Gloucestershire

26th February 10am-1pm, will run the 4th Wednesday of the month
Age UK, 56 Hight Street, Thornbury, BS35 2AW

Keynsham Library

19th February 10am-1pm, runs the 3rd Wednesday each month
Civic Centre, Market Street, Keynsham, BS31 1FS

Bath Manvers Street Baptist Church

5th February 10am-1pm, runs the 1st Wednesday of the month
Manvers Street, Bath, BA1 1JW

Yate Library

11th February 2020, runs the 2nd Tuesday of the month, 10am - 1pm
Unit 44 Yate Shopping Centre, West Walk, Yate BS37 4AX

Bedminster Library

14th and 28th February 10am -1pm. This drop-in runs fortnightly on a Friday

Bedminster Library, 4 Bedminster Parade, Bedminster, Bristol BS3 4AQ

Coming soon!

Midsomer Norton Town Hall

Commencing in March 2020. This drop-in clinic will run the 4th Thursday of the month from 26th March between 11am and 1pm

Southmead Greenway Café

Commencing in March 2020. This drop-in clinic will run on the 1st Thursday of the month from 5th March between 11am and 1pm

If you would like any more information regarding the Vision West of England drop-ins or events, please don't hesitate to call one of our Community Sight Loss Advisors on 0117 3224885.

Resource Centre- Vassall Centre Fishponds

If you are unable to attend a drop-in clinic, please call our team on 0117 322 4885 to arrange a visit to our resource centre. Vision West of England resource centre is equipped with a private meeting room and well stocked with daily living aids and technology for demonstration purposes. We are now able to take your order for any RNIB products you wish to purchase and support you in setting these up should you wish.

Living with Sight Loss Course (Run by Vision West of England) 17th & 24th February 2020 10am - 3.30pm

Armadillo Centre, Station Road, Yate, Bristol, BS37 4FW

Being diagnosed with a sight condition can have a big impact on you. Our free, informal, community-based Living with Sight Loss courses are an ideal way to help you adjust to your sight condition, increase your independence and grow your confidence.

During the two-day course, you'll find out about practical solutions and support that can help you adjust to life with sight loss. You'll also have the

chance to learn from each other's personal experiences and share your top tips.

For more information or to book onto the course, please contact us on 0117 322 4885 or email support@visionwofe.org.uk

Sight Loss Technology Day

Monday 16th March 11am-3pm.

Chapter House Building, Bristol Dental School, Lower Maudlin Street, Bristol, BS1 2LY

Vision West of England are running an exhibition in association with the Bristol Eye Hospital, Enhanced Vision and Dolphin Computing. We will be joined by many others including the Torch Trust, Macular Society, representatives from the Bristol Sight Loss Council, Blind Veterans, VI and Blind sports organisers and more. There will be plenty of information, advice and guidance to hand so do come along if you can.

Monthly Socials

Bristol Midweek Pub Social

Wednesday 8th January 7.30pm – 9.30pm

The Rope Walk, 5 Nelson Street BS3 4JA

Bristol Pub Social

Date to be confirmed, please call the office

The Sportsman's Bar, 40 Colston Street, Bristol BS1 5AE

Coffee & Convo

Come along to one of Vision West of England's Volunteer led sessions for coffee and a chat, an opportunity to meet new people in a relaxed setting. Friends and family are welcome to join you.

Yate Coffee & Convo

Saturday 1st February 11am-1pm

Tesco Extra Café, 12 East Walk, Yate BS37 4AS

Bristol Coffee & Convo

Saturday 8th February 11am – 1pm

Boswells Café, The Galleries, Broadmead, Bristol BS1 3HY

VI Social & Info Sharing Group

Every Wednesday 12pm – 1.30pm

Bedminster Library, 4 Bedminster Parade, Bristol BS3 4AQ

If you would like to come to any of these events but are not sure how to find us, just call our office beforehand and we will arrange for someone to meet you outside the venue.

Macular Society Support Groups

Keynsham Macular Society Support Group

Meets 2nd Tuesday of the month, 10am to 12 noon

The Garden Lounge, The Chocolate Quarter, Trejectus Way, Keynsham.
BS31 2GL

Contact Judy 07947 373 244

Chipping Sodbury Macular Society Support Group

3rd Monday of the month 1.30pm-3.30pm (not Bank Holidays)

Watkins Room, Old Grammar School, High Street,
Chipping Sodbury, BS37 6AH

Contact Linda 01454 851 507

Thornbury Macular Society Support Group

1st Tuesday of every month (not August) 10.30am- 12.30pm at the
Methodist Church Hall, Castle Court, Thornbury BS35 2AQ

Contact John 01454 885 301

Bristol Macular Society Support Group

3rd Friday of the month 10 am to 12 noon. Broadmead Baptist Church,
Broadmead. Bristol.

Contact Judy 07947 373 244

Westbury –On-Trym Macular Society Support Group

4th Monday of the month 10 am to 12 noon. Westbury Fields, Somerville,
Cricket lane, Westbury-On-Trym.

Contact Domenica 0117 377 3840

Cote Lane Macular Society Support Group

4th Monday of the month 2.30 to 4pm. The Garden House,
Lower Atrium, St Monica trust, Cote lane, Westbury-On-Trym

Contact Judy 07947 373 244

Bath Macular Society Support Group

2nd Tuesday of the month 2pm to 3.30pm. The Bubble, St John's Hospital.
Chapel Court, Bath.
Contact Valerie 01225 428 175

Sports and Fitness

Visually Impaired Swim

Every Thursday 11.30am-12.30pm
Bradley Stoke Active Centre, Fiddlers Wood Lane, Bradley Stoke, BS32
9BS.

VI Tennis

The dates for this term's tennis dates at Coombe Dingle Sports Complex
BS9 2BJ (Court 4) are;

30th Jan

6th, 13th, 20th, 27th Feb,

5th, 12th, 19th, 26th March

2nd April

10 sessions - cost £5 per person per session
5.30-6.30pm

Contact Helen Abbot on 07872 945 664 for more details.

VI Football

Sunday 9th February 2pm – 3.30pm

Windmill Hill City Farm, Phillip Street, Bristol BS3 4EA

The sessions are for players of all ages, abilities and sight levels.

For more info, call Marc on 0117 322 4885.

Visually Impaired Bowls Club Bristol

Currently playing indoors on Saturdays from 12 to 2pm at the Bristol
indoor Centre, South Liberty Lane, Ashton Vale.
Contact Sheila on 01275791845.

VIP Basketry Group

The basketry group meets on a Tuesday afternoon from 2 pm to 4pm.
Windmill Hill city farm, Philip Street, Bedminster, BS3 4EA

Session cost is £5 plus the cost of any basketry bases you use. This cost includes cane and refreshments.

Call: 07710754200 or email ilandjhealy@blueyonder.co.uk or just come along, ask for us in reception and someone will show you the way.

Avon Sports & Leisure Club for the Visually Impaired

Registered charity no. 278199

We organise short holidays, trips and days out, going to restaurants and the theatre etc. We support a number of our members in various sports, including Skittles, Tenpin Bowling, Flat Green Bowls Boccia and New Age Kurling

The club meets on the third Wednesday of each month at Bristol County Sports Club in Colston Street Bristol BS1 5AE. This is our registered charity address.

We meet at 7.30 pm when we have quizzes, domino bingo or guest speakers from time to time. We have a raffle to help to raise funds for the club.

Membership is £10 per year (£5 associate) normally payable before the AGM in April.

Contact John Vickery, Treasurer.

Email. vickeryjohn@sky.com

Mobile. 07717009655

Arts Events

Relaxed Opening at Arnolfini

Saturday, 29th February 2020, 10:00 to 12:00- Free

Join us for an exhibition tour of our current exhibitions Zanjir and ASSEMBLY, designed for the Visually Impaired community.

In partnership with Vision West of England, we'll be opening our galleries early exclusively for the Visually Impaired community. Join us for a tour of our current shows where you will have access to equipment and guidance to help you explore the artwork. Our staff have had sighted guide training and will be on hand to answer your questions and give you descriptions.

Access equipment includes PENfriend guides, audio-descriptions of key works in each exhibition, large print guides and magnifying glasses which can be used to view some of the works. We can send you large print texts and audio about the exhibition in advance, upon request.

From 10:00 – 11:00 you are welcome to explore our galleries with a guided tour and time to explore.

From 11:00 – 12:00 we invite you to join us in our Light Studio for tea, coffee and biscuits and to gather your feedback and discuss the work. All feedback will be used to improve future events and services.

To book a place, please email info@arnolfini.org.uk or call 0117 917 2300. You will also be able to book by visiting the Information Desk in Arnolfini's foyer.

Theatres and Galleries

Bookings are being taken for the following described events.

Bristol Old Vic

Main Theatre

25 February – Candoco Dance Company present: Face In and Hot Mess.
2 performances with integrated audio description

21 March - Faustus: That Damned Woman

11 April – Pride and Prejudice (sort of). An irreverent all-female adaptation of Jane Austen's classic

Weston Studio

12-15 February and 4-8 March. Diverse City perform Mid Life. A performance with integrated Audio Description, based on the experience of 50 Bristol women in mid-life.

Box office for the main theatre and the studio is: 0117 987 7877

Bristol Hippodrome

15 April – Les Misérables. The Legendary musical.

13 March – Welsh National Opera perform Carmen

The number for access bookings is 0800 912 6971 which is a nationwide number. Touch tours need to be booked separately. To make sure you qualify for a companion tickets and touch tours ask to be added to the Access List

Bath - Victoria Art Gallery

The next Art on Mondays talks for visually impaired visitors are:

24 February - Paul Klee with Katharine Wall

23 March - Toulouse-Lautrec with Jon Benington

20 April - Ceramics from the collection with Michael Rowe

All talks take place from 10am -11.30am. Further information on 01225 477232

Royal West of England Academy, Queens Rd, Bristol BS8 1PX

The next described tours are:

On 21 February - Exploring the work in 2 exhibitions. Africa State of Mind, with contemporary photography from across the continent. And Renewal: Migration and British Art – dealing with the impact of artist refugees in Britain over the last century.

On 27 March – 2 linked exhibitions. Wilhelmina Barns-Graham: Inspirational Journeys; and paintings of the Artists of St Ives.

Please note that all sessions start at 3.00 pm. Tours will be led by Sarah Kelly - who's an experienced facilitator. They are free and refreshments are provided. You can bring a companion, and there will be volunteer guides to assist you. Spaces are limited so booking is essential. You can do this by contacting Helen Jacobs, Learning & Participation Manager. Email: helen.jacobs@rwa.org.uk or phone: 0117 906 7606

Films with Audio Description

Most mainstream films now include Audio Description and are shown in the majority of local cinemas.

Two cinemas that have a particularly good reputation among VI film lovers are: The Everyman Cinema on Whiteladies Road 0872 436 9060

and the Watershed on the Harbourside 0117 927 5100. The Watershed also issues a monthly bulletin of upcoming films with AD. To be added to their circulation list email info@watershed.co.uk

We have been advised that the Vue cinema at Cribbs Causeway is also very good for audio described films. All the screens now offer it if it's available on the film which it usually is on new releases.

Sight Loss Council

If you are a person who is blind or partially-sighted, over 18, who lives in Bristol, then the Bristol Sight Loss Council wants to hear from you. The Sight Loss Council is a group of people who are blind or partially sighted, who have come together as volunteers to work with decision-takers, policy-makers and service providers in the city, to bring about positive change for people with sight loss. The priorities we focus on are education, employment, health and social care, sport and leisure, technology, and transport.

The Bristol Sight Loss council would like you to complete a short survey.

If you ring our dedicated phonenumber, on 020 8996 1937, you can leave a message, and someone will call you back to complete the survey over the telephone with you. You can also request a large-print, Braille or audio copy by ringing the dedicated number.

For those with internet access, the survey can be accessed on a computer or mobile phone at: <https://forms.gle/JN9cFRShG7urmw6f9>

Please read the full article which I have attached to find out full details about the survey, a free prize draw and a public meeting on Wednesday 4th March from 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm

Guide Dogs

Guide Dogs are holding a Friends & Family training day in Paintworks on the 28th of February from 10am to 12pm. This is a great training opportunity for people who would like to learn sighted guided techniques. Please do pass this onto anyone who you think would be interested. Contact Maeve on maeve.kearney@guidedogs.org.uk to RSVP your place or ask any questions.

END

If you no longer wish to receive these updates, please email news@visionwofe.org.uk and we will remove your details from our list.