

Somerset Insight

01823 333818



**Somerset
Sight** Working with people
who lack sight, not vision

Registered Charity No: 1154472

Issue 81
January 2025



Enter Prize Draw by Completing Questionnaire Inside



**Somerset
Council**



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Meeting Rooms and Desks for Hire

Somerset Sight has three conference rooms, ideal for Team Meetings for 20-30 people

Plus a smaller room suitable for 8 - 12 people

Also desks available for hot desking.

Centrally located and parking nearby.

Available: days, evenings and weekends.

For more information, please contact Kate on 01823 333818 or email admin@somersetsight.org.uk

CEO Report



Photo of Jackie and Dogs

Somerset Sight is fortunate to have tireless staff and volunteers who generously support the visually impaired community within our rural county. I am most grateful for all they do to improve the lives of so many, and also for all the generous people and organisations who financially support the charity. So much is achieved with tight budgets and a relatively small amount of funding. We should all be pleased with the achievements in 2024 and know that 2025 will bring its own sizeable challenges to navigate.

During 2024:

1700 people have been welcomed onto the Mobile Advisory Service to obtain information, advice, gadgets gizmos and technology support.

A similar number visited Northfield House and the Resource Room.

Many hundreds of people are loaned magnifiers through the Low Vision Service.

1560 individual referrals for our core services including 130 for emotional support.

290 individual appointments for technology support concluded.

284 people across the county enjoying their regular volunteer visitor.

22 talks given to local organisations, to raise awareness of what Somerset Sight offers.

9 monthly socials across the county attended by more than 100 people each month enabling people to socialise and enjoy themselves

Regular cookery, rifle shooting, singing, craft, guitar, trips out, all bringing increased fun, laughter enjoyment and skills.

Somerset Sight relies on your support. Please consider a regular financial gift or donation, of whatever size, or a gift in your Will. Please use the form or contact us direct on 01823 333818.

CEO Report Continued

These moving quotes below give a flavour of the impact made.

"I am just so grateful for the help Somerset Sight has offered since Liam's welcome call. It feels like I am coming up from underwater, out of the murky depths, and seeing again. It's absolutely wonderful and I am so grateful."

"You've changed my life. I've struggled for so long, and now I've found you and you've changed my world. Thank you so so so much." Upon trying on the yellow over shades, she looked at her husband and said "Oh my goodness I can see you, you've got teeth! I can actually see your

teeth and your eyes. And your hair has got a lot thinner!"

"If only I'd had this help when I was at school, University and work, it would have been so much easier for me."

"You've been a top bloke and have really understood where I'm coming from."

"I love my volunteer coming to see me, she takes me out & otherwise I cannot go out. We go for a walk or a coffee or even to the pub, I really look forwards to her visits."

"My volunteer has become a very good friend. We sit together and talk for hours, it's lovely."



Photo of Bridgwater - March VSM

Thank You All

Sherborne Classic and Supercars Club £3000

Sunday July 21st, Somerset Sight went to the Sherborne Classic and Supercars show with a display of leaflets and magazines. Many were handed out and it was a busy and sunny day. Tuesday 1st October, our Office Manager, Joanne Thorogood, collected a cheque for £3000 at a presentation held at Sherborne Castle. Thank you very much for supporting Somerset Sight again.



Photo of Classic cars cheque presentation

Several Masons Lodges have been generous to Somerset Sight this year, and two more we wish to say thank you to:

Lodge of St George 3158 based in Taunton donated £1000

Frome Royal Somerset Lodge 973 donated £1786 at a presentation on 6th December attended by Zdenek Gregor and Liam Harkness on behalf of Somerset Sight.



Photo of Liam and Zdenek with cheque at Royal Somerset 973 Lodge

Fundraising

There are different ways to fundraise and during the year people have done this by asking for donations instead of birthday presents, selling flowers, plants, cakes, craft items, running and swimming. We very much appreciate all this.

Julia Francis from Yeovil asked people to donate for her birthday celebrations and collected £300. Thank you so much Julia. Very kind of you.

Georgiana Vasile from Taunton, also asked for donations at her birthday celebration and raised £560. Thank you so very much.

Thank You All Continued

By selling homegrown flowers and plants Sebastian Fransham, son of one of our Volunteer Visitors, raised over £200.

Local churches and chapels, such as Holy Trinity Church, Long Sutton and Bishopwood Chapel, near Chard held coffee mornings and cake sales.

Fundraising by groups such as Wells Quilters, St Francis Social Club, Bridgwater, Chard Blind Group.

A hair raiser, or not, of a fundraiser by Don Barber, a Taunton barbershop, collected £600 by giving haircuts one Sunday morning, including one of Somerset Sight's own, Graham Glover.

A big Thank You to Langford Lakes who kindly donate a fresh 7-foot Christmas Tree so everyone who visits the Taunton offices can enjoy it.

And to Mynster Probus who kindly chose Somerset Sight as their charity for donations at the Annual Ilminster Christmas Tree Festival. Raising £138.04 from their display.

Somerset Sight is lucky to have these and more kind generous people supporting us. If you have any fundraising ideas or would like to arrange an event to support us, please do let us know.

And thank you to everyone who has donated and continues to do so to enable Somerset Sight to continue with the valuable services we offer.



Photo of Langford Lakes Christmas Tree



Photo of Mynster Probus Tree



Somerset Sight Working with people who lack sight, not vision

Donation Form - Please make a donation to Somerset Sight, over the phone by calling 01823 333818, donate online at somersetsight.org.uk, or use the form below.

Full Name		Tel	
Address			
Postcode		Email	

Single donation:

I enclose a donation cheque of £..... for Somerset Sight

Multiple donations:

Standing Order Mandate:

Bank (e.g. Lloyds)	
Bank address and Postcode	

Please pay Somerset Sight Ltd: Account Number: 57387068 Sort Code: 77-50-01

I would like to make a standing order of £..... with the first payment on the (Date) of (Month) 20..... (Year)

Account Name							
Account Number							
Sort Code							

Signature		Date	
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If you are not already one of our members, we would like to add your name and contact details to our database so we can occasionally send you an update about our charity and how the funds are used to help the lives of our sight impaired members.

In accordance with the UK Data Protection Act 2018, by signing below you are consenting to Somerset Sight securely storing your data.

Signed.....
Date.....

Please turn over

Charity Registration Number 1154472



We do not pass on any of your information to any other organisation without your permission.
If you wish to withdraw your consent at any time, please contact us and we will remove your records.

Thank-you!

Gift Aid - Boost your donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate.

Gift Aid can be reclaimed by Somerset Sight from the tax you pay for the current year. Your address and postcode is needed to identify you as a current taxpayer. **You must tick the box below.**

I want to Gift Aid my donation to Somerset Sight and any donations I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years.

I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Date

- Please notify us if you want to cancel this donation, change your name or address or no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains.
- If you pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your gift aid donations on your Self-Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code.

Send this form to:

Fundraising Office, Somerset Sight, Northfield House,
51 Staplegrove Road, Taunton, TA1 1DG

If you are not already one of our members, we would like to add your name and contact details to our database so we can occasionally send you an update about our charity and how the funds are used to help the lives of our sight impaired members to become less isolated, more confident and more active within their communities.

In accordance with the UK Data Protection Act 2018, by signing below you are consenting to Somerset Sight securely storing your data. We do not pass on any of your information to any other organisation without your permission. If you wish to withdraw your consent at any time, please contact us and we will remove your records.

Signed:.....

Date:.....

Charity Registration Number 1154472



We Would Appreciate Your Feedback

This magazine is expensive to produce and distribute. As a small charity we are always reviewing services to ensure we are providing what is best for our service users.

Please offer your valuable feedback by answering the following questions. When completed, please put your name and email address (if have one), tear off and return to Somerset Sight. All returns received by 24th January will be entered into a prize draw.

It is free to send in the post. Please turn over for instructions.

Do you look forward to receiving your magazine? Yes / No

Do you have the sight capacity to read the information without help? Yes / No

Would you prefer a memory stick? Yes / No

Do you need help for the technology to use a memory stick? Yes / No

Do you find the magazine informative? Yes / No

Do you know about the Somerset Sight services available to you? Yes / No

Do you prefer to speak to someone at Somerset Sight to discuss and sign up for events and activities? Yes / No

Does the magazine prompt you to decide to seek additional support or attend activities and events? Yes / No

Do you visit the Mobile Advisory Service when it is in your area? Yes / No

When you read the magazine, how does it make you feel?

Please circle anything appropriate

better informed: inspired. admiration for other sight impaired people.
depressed. Lonely: invigorated; determined;

Have you ever made a donation to Somerset Sight? Yes / No

Would you like to be emailed the magazine (please provide email address for this, which will also help us save costs) Yes / No



Tear the page out of the magazine, put your name and email address (if have one) to enter the prize draw.

NAME: _____

EMAIL: _____

Fold the form and put in an envelope.

Address the envelope as follows:

ARTICLES FOR THE BLIND

Somerset Sight

Northfield House

51 Staplegrove Road

Taunton

Somerset

TA1 1DG

We will enter all received questionnaires with a name into a prize draw.

The winner of the draw will be contacted after 24th January.

Thank you for your assistance with this and we appreciate your feedback and support.

Be My AI

Be My Eyes, an app designed to support visually impaired people, has a relatively new feature called Be My AI. You take a photograph, and, after a few seconds, the app will give you a precise breakdown of everything that is in the picture.

You can go deeper by asking the app questions if there is anything in particular you want to know more about, e.g. “Where are the keys?” “What colour is the chair?”.

As a visually impaired person myself, I’ve found this really effective to find things I’ve lost, including the TV remote control, house keys, and coffee cup. In addition, Be My AI can be of great use if you simply want a better visual description of a room and/or person, reading a document and many other things.

If you are interested in learning more about Be My Eyes, or would like help setting this up on your device, then please contact Somerset Sight on 01823 333818 for further information.

Graham Glover, Emotional Support Worker



Photo of Hand taking a photo

Upcoming Children's Activities

Wednesday 19th February - 11am

Gamesmaster Café, 39 Silver Street, Ilminster, TA19 0DW

Fun Gaming Session for all the family £5 includes drink and snack. Taking place in a themed room, enjoy a fun morning of gaming. Take your pick from a wide selection of board games which you can play in the "dungeon" of the café. There is also table football and an arcade machine with over 100 games.



Photo of Family Gaming

Tuesday 15th April - Rural Life Museum, Chilwell Street, Glastonbury Somerset BA6 8DB - 10am - Free to families of Somerset Sight

South West Heritage Trust are holding animal themed days as part of their 'Easter on the Farm'. There will be rabbits and other animals visiting from a local petting farm.



Photo of Rural Life Museum Easter Farm

There will also be an additional Easter-themed making activity in the learning room. This will be an accessible activity, which will involve making something that can then be taken home and is suitable for all ages.

For the families visiting with Somerset Sight entry to the museum will be free of charge as will the activities and can stay all day.

Monday 28th - Wednesday 30th July - Pinkery Centre for Outdoor Learning, Exmoor. Book by 15th January 2025. Somerset Sight is inviting families of visually impaired children to an exciting two-night stay with a range of exciting activities, all fully regulated and supervised by staff at the centre. These include the famous pond walk, archery, grass sledging, orienteering, bushcraft and team building. £25 per child for visually impaired children and their siblings secures your place, payable on booking. Every family will have one adult free and any additional adult will be requested to pay accommodation and catering costs up to a maximum of £50.00.

Mobile Advisory Service Dates January 2024 - April 2025

Mendip

Area	Date	Location	Time
Glastonbury	Thurs 6 th Feb	Morrisons	10.30am - 3.30pm
	Mon 10 th Mar	Morrisons	10.30am - 3.30pm
Frome	Mon 17 th Feb	ASDA	10.30am - 3.30pm
	Tue 22 nd Apr	ASDA	10.30am - 3.30pm
Shepton Mallet	Tue 25 th Mar	Tesco	10.30am - 3.30pm
Wells	Mon 27 th Jan	Tesco	10.30am - 3.30pm
	Mon 24 th Feb	Tesco	10.30am - 3.30pm
	Mon 17 th Mar	Tesco	10.30am - 3.30pm
	Tue 15 th Apr	Tesco	10.30am - 3.30pm

Sedgemoor

Area	Date	Location	Time
Cheddar	Thurs 9 th Jan	Sainsbury's	10.30am - 3.30pm
	Thurs 20 th Feb	Sainsbury's	10.30am - 3.30pm
	Thurs 27 th Mar	Sainsbury's	10.30am - 3.30pm
	Thurs 24 th Apr	Sainsbury's	10.30am - 3.30pm

**PULL
OUT AND
KEEP!**

Dates may be subject to change if you are making a special journey, please call our office prior to your visit on 01823 333818.

Mobile Shop and Advisory Service Dates

January 2024 - April 2025

Sedgemoor			
Area	Date	Location	Time
Bridgwater	Fri 17 th Jan	Hospital	10.30am - 1.30pm
	Fri 7 th Feb	Hospital	10.30am - 1.30pm
	Wed 19 th Feb	Morrisons	10.30am - 3.30pm
	Fri 21 st Feb	Hospital	10.30am - 1.30pm
	Fri 7 th Mar	Hospital	10.30am - 1.30pm
	Fri 21 st Mar	Hospital	10.30am - 1.30pm
	Mon 24 th Mar	Morrisons	10.30am - 3.30pm
	Wed 2 nd Apr	Morrisons	10.30am - 3.30pm
	Fri 4 th Apr	Hospital	10.30am - 1.30pm
Fri 25 th Apr	Hospital	10.30am - 1.30pm	
Burnham-on-Sea	Mon 13 th Jan	B & M	1.30pm - 3.30pm
	Tue 11 th Feb	B & M	10.30am - 3.30pm
	Tue 11 th Mar	B & M	10.30am - 3.30pm
	Wed 23 rd Apr	B & M	10.30am - 3.30pm
Cannington	Thurs 6 th Mar	By the brook	10.30am - 12.30pm
Highbridge	Mon 3 rd Mar	ASDA	10.30am - 3.30pm
Nether Stowey	Thurs 6 th Mar	St Mary's Church Centre	1.30pm - 3.30pm
N. Petherton	Thurs 30 th Jan	Car Park	10.30am - 3.30pm

South Somerset			
Area	Date	Location	Time
Chard	Fri 10 th Jan	Hospital	10.30am - 1.30pm
	Fri 14 th Feb	Hospital	10.30am - 1.30pm
	Fri 14 th Mar	Hospital	10.30am - 1.30pm
	Fri 11 th Apr	Hospital	10.30am - 1.30pm

South Somerset			
Area	Date	Location	Time
Crewkerne	Fri 31 st Jan	Henhayes Centre	10.30am - 1.30pm
	Fri 28 th Mar		10.30am - 1.30pm
Ilminster	Thurs 16 th Jan	Tesco	10.30am - 3.30pm
	Thurs 13 th Feb	Tesco	10.30am - 3.30pm
	Wed 19 th Mar	Tesco	10.30am - 3.30pm
Martock	Fri 28 th Feb	Car Park	10.30am - 1.30pm
Langport	Tue 14 th Jan	Tesco	10.30am - 3.30pm
	Wed 12 th Mar	Tesco	10.30am - 3.30pm
Somerton	Weds 8 th Jan	Cox's Yard	10.30am - 3.30pm
	Weds 12 th Feb	Cox's Yard	10.30am - 3.30pm
	Weds 9 th Apr	Cox's Yard	10.30am - 3.30pm
Stoke sub Hamdon	Mon 31 st Mar	Car Park	10.30pm - 3.30pm
Wincanton	Mon 10 th Feb	Morrisons	10.30am - 3.30pm
	Mon 14 th Apr		10.30am - 3.30pm
Yeovil	Wed 29 th Jan	Hospital	10.30am - 3.30pm
	Wed 26 th Feb	Hospital	10.30am - 3.30pm
	Wed 26 th Mar	Hospital	10.30am - 3.30pm
	Wed 16 th Apr	Hospital	10.30am - 3.30pm
Castle Cary	Mon 3 rd Feb	Car Park	10.30am - 3.30pm
	Tue 1 st Apr	Car Park	10.30am - 3.30pm

Mobile Shop and Advisory Service Dates

Somerset West and Taunton

Area	Date	Location	Time
Wellington	Thurs 27 th Feb	ASDA	10.30am - 3.30pm
	Thurs 17 th Apr	ASDA	10.30am - 3.30pm
Wiveliscombe	Thurs 10 th Apr	Car Park	1.30pm - 3.30pm
Minehead	Tue 28 th Jan	Morrisons	10.30am - 3.30pm
	Tue 25 th Feb	Morrisons	10.30am - 3.30pm
	Thurs 20 th Mar	Morrisons	10.30am - 3.30pm
	Mon 7 th Apr	Morrisons	10.30am - 3.30pm
Dulverton	Thurs 10 th Apr	Car Park	10.30am - 12.30pm
Porlock	Thurs 13 th Mar	Car Park (nr the One Stop Shop)	10.30am - 12.30pm
Williton	Thurs 13 th Mar	Car Park	1.30pm - 3.30pm
Watchet	Wed 15 th Jan	Coach Park	10.30am - 3.30pm
	Tue 18 th Mar	Coach Park	10.30am - 3.30pm

Devon

Area	Date	Location	Time
Cullompton	Tue 4 th Feb	Tesco	10.30am - 3.30pm
	Tue 8 th Apr	Tesco	10.30am - 3.30pm
Tiverton	Tue 7 th Jan	Tesco	10.30am - 3.30pm
	Tue 4 th Mar	Tesco	10.30am - 3.30pm
Honiton	Tues 18 th Feb	Lace Walk	10.30am - 3.30pm
	Thurs 3 rd Apr	Car Park	10.30am - 3.30pm
Axminster	Mon 6 th Jan	Tesco	10.30am - 3.30pm
	Weds 5 th Mar	Tesco	10.30am - 3.30pm

Upcoming Activities

2025 EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

JANUARY

Wednesday 8th January - 12pm - 2pm. Dave's Diner at Northfield House. Age UK presenting a benefits talk. Just £5 for yummy 2 course cooked lunch

Wednesday 15th January - Ten Pin Bowling at Hollywood Bowl, Yeovil - 12pm - £7.50 for 2 games.



Photo of Ten Pin Bowling

FEBRUARY

Wednesday 12th February - Ten Pin Bowling at Hollywood Bowl, Taunton - 12pm - £7.50 for 2 games.

MARCH AND APRIL

A Burns the Bread pasties, cakes or bread making experience in Glastonbury.

MAY

Tuesday 27th May 1.45pm HPC Tour of Visitor Centre and site by private coach. £5 per person. Age 8 upwards welcome.

Further activities in 2025 - dates and prices to be confirmed:

Driving experience at Henstridge Airfield

Exmouth boat trip and afternoon tea

More Cook and Shares - where you are shown by a person with lived experience what you can do yourself in the kitchen. These will be taking place in different areas in the County.

All information will be put on our Facebook page and sent to everyone with an email address. If you do not have access to these, please call the office and we can tell you what is coming up and when.

Somerset Sight Volunteers - A Huge Thank You

Volunteers are a very important part of what Somerset Sight offers and without them/you, we would not be able to continue to offer the beneficial and special services to over 3000 partially sighted and blind people registered with us.

From volunteer visitors, to social groups, in-house/office, drivers and activities, everyone who gives up their time to help our charity to provide support and ease loneliness and feelings of isolation, are appreciated and valued.

During the year, Somerset Sight likes to show this by holding Volunteer Support Meetings, Summer and Christmas parties, Long Service Awards and Certificates of Recognition.

Some of our Volunteers have been with Somerset Sight for over 20 years, over 100 over 5 years and others just a few months.

Comments from some of our current volunteers:

“I think I've said to you before that we as volunteer visitors get so much out of what we do, believe me volunteering means



Photo of Coxley VSM



Photo of Summer Party 2024

so much to me and thank you too for my long service award, much appreciated.”

“When I first met my SU in March 2023, he was sat in the dark at his home and barely said a word. Now when I visit, we go out to a nearby cafe and he chats away happily to the staff and the locals. He is like a different person.”

Helpful Daily Hints and Tips for Visually Impaired

Traffic lights have a cone underneath to let you know when it is safe to cross the road.

Aerosol cans can be difficult to see where the hole is so instead of trying to see, use your finger to tell where the hole is and you can avoid a painful squirt in the eyes.

Finding cups and glasses on a work top can be difficult. Always put your hand flat on a table and find the bottom of the cup/glass rather than trying to find the top of the glass as it will be much more likely to tip over.

When putting a glass down put your other hand down to make sure that the space is clear of cutlery or put your hand on the coaster so that you can guide the glass down and get it in the middle of the coaster or avoiding anything on the table.



Photo of Aerosol, Glass and Traffic light.

Join Our Team

Somerset Sight is recruiting volunteers for all areas of the charity. If you or someone you know is interested in helping blind and partially sighted people, we would love to hear from you.

Volunteers are required for social groups, drivers, technology support, activities and befrienders.

All volunteers receive visual impairment awareness training and all reasonable expenses are paid.

If you are already a volunteer but feel you can spare some more time, please do contact us.

With your help we can continue to provide our valuable services.

**Please call the office on 01823 333818
or email admin@somersetsight.org.uk.**

Welcome to Susie

Somerset Sight is pleased to welcome a new member of staff.

Susie Winter is our Community Support and Communications Officer.

In her own words: "I applied for this role as I like to think I could help make a difference to people's lives. I am also visually impaired, and still getting my head around my impairment and the adjustment it has on my life, as only diagnosed a year ago.



Photo of Susie

My role is to help raise the profile of Somerset Sight, by visiting social groups and speaking with people and getting authentic stories on how Somerset Sight has helped them. Then using these stories to publicise the positive effects of being part of a regular group.

Also, to help organise new social groups in different areas of the county and increase awareness of what Somerset Sight does, what we are doing and how we can help partially sighted people."

In less than three months, Susie has managed to have articles published in the local papers, online and on their social media. The feedback has been really good and in raising the profile of Somerset Sight. This will help us to continue to support the blind and partially sighted people of Somerset. Well done and keep up the good work.

If you have any stories which you think would be of interest or any events coming up that you would like to share with Somerset Sight, please contact Susie on 01823 333818 or email: susie@somersetsight.org.uk

The Red Flags Of Fraud And How To Keep Yourself Safe

At Dave's Diner monthly lunch club on Wednesday 6th November, a member of the Avon and Somerset Police Fraud Protection Team, gave a talk about the many different ways people will try to scam and steal from you. All a bit scary.

Over 30 people attended. Some shared their own experiences, and everyone took new information away with them.

Useful tips

Be wary of people asking for your private information. This applies to telephone, mail and on your doorstep and can be used in identity fraud.

Be safe when online by using three random words for your password.

Online shopping - why is this item so cheap? Stay on the site, do not click off it, if it seems too good to be true, it probably is.

A popular scam is someone pretending to be your child but have lost their phone and using a "friends" phone and needs money



Photo of the Fraud Protection talk

urgently for a problem like fixing a car, hospital or other bills.

Information from "The Little Book of Big Scams". Also available as an audio book and electronic version. Link available from Somerset Sight.

TAKE 5 AND TELL 2

In any scenario where you are unsure about the communication you have received, take 5 minutes away from it to think about what is being asked of you, and then tell 2 people about it. It's a simple technique, but it could save you a fortune.

Warm spaces at Northfield House

During the winter months, at Northfield House TA1 1DG - we offer warm spaces as a drop-in or have specific activities with hot beverages/ cake available.

Mondays PM - singing and/or music followed by hot beverage and cake/biscuits - library available for talking books.

Tuesdays - individual guitar lessons. In addition, we offer our warm headquarters for socialising and playing games such as scrabble, cards, Jenga all of which are available in large size/ bright colours to assist those with sight loss.

Library and warm space available.

Wednesdays - first Wednesday monthly, community 2 course hot lunch - Dave's Diner. We will introduce one additional lunch per month in response to demand. Some of these also have interesting speakers.

Library and warm space available

Thursday - Monthly Tai Chi and library and warm space available every week.

Friday PM - craft group with tea and cake: library and warm space.

If you would like to attend any of the activities please call the office on 01823 333818 or just pop in if you would like a warm space to sit.



Photo Warm space lunch

Socials and warm spaces across Somerset

Somerset Sight has regular groups where people can join in and learn a new skill/craft/song. These groups are also places where people share tips learned from living with sight loss and help people who are newly diagnosed to realise they are not alone and support is available.

Along with some of the social groups who organise their own trips and activities, Somerset Sight also arranges different activities throughout the year for our service users and volunteers, including an annual short holiday in the UK.

So, if you wish to learn something new, meet similar people and go on trips, please do not hesitate to contact us on 01823 333818.

Come on holiday to Torquay with Somerset Sight in 2025

June 2nd - 6th 2025 - 4 nights at the TLH Carlton Hotel, Torquay.

Price (TBC) to include twin sharing room, breakfast, evening meal and great daytime and evening entertainment.

Access to Aztec Leisure Spa (extra costs may apply) and Torquay just down the road with a regular bus service.

Staff will be there to support and encourage on this relaxing trip.

If you are interested, please ring Somerset Sight to put your name forward on 01823 333818.



Photo of Tenby Holiday



OrCam Read 3



A Game-Changer for People with Low Vision or Reading Difficulties

Call 07545 951797 to arrange your home demonstration

Try the full OrCam range in the comforts of your home

- Assistive Technology for the Visually Impaired
- The Award-winning full-page text to Speech Reader
- Ultra-small and lightweight hand-held device
- Suitable for those with moderate to low vision
- Helps Read Post, Menu's, Newspapers and Books along with small Details on Prescriptions and Food Packaging
- Point and Press with NEW "Hey OrCam" voice commands
- Save £100 off all OrCam Products at Touchpoint Vision
- My Eye Pro - £3600
- My Eye Smart - £2600
- OrCam Read 3 - £1900
- Comes with Free Reading Stand
- Telephone Mike Page on 07545 951797 or
- Touchpointvision.co.uk or Touchpoint vision@gmail.com

2025 at Northfield House

New members welcome.

Craft Club restarts on Friday **3rd January** 1pm to 3pm. £3 including materials.

Dave's Diner monthly lunch club - **Wednesday 8th January**, 12pm to 2pm. £5 for 2 course cooked lunch.

Monthly Tai Chi commences back on **Thursday 9th January** at 11am. £5 a session

Acoustic Rifle Shooting in Taunton starts back on **Thursday 9th January**.

Singing Group resumes **Monday 13th January** - 2pm

Guitar sessions are restarting on **Tuesday 14th January** and will take place every fortnight. If you would like to learn to play guitar or ukelele, please call the office. Slots available.

If interested in any of these, please call the office on 01823 333818.

Somerset Sight Services

Tablet, Alexa, Apps and Phone Support

Are you disappointed that your method of using your tablet or phone is not quite as good as you would like? Are there Apps you have heard about but cannot use? Do you get frustrated that you cannot do what others seem to do so easily?

Help is at hand - Jenny Forbes, our Technology Officer, is ready to help you perfect your skills. Please contact 01823 333818 to arrange an appointment.

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2025

A Very Happy New Year from All at Somerset Sight

Social Groups

Type	Day	Time	Where
Bridgwater Lunch Club Fish and Chips	Second Friday of each month.	1.00pm - 3.00pm	Admiral Blake Fish Bar, 4-6 St Mary Street, Bridgwater TA6 3LT
Bridgwater Evening Meal	Last Friday of each month - Drinks/meal	6pm onwards	Contact Somerset Sight for details. Venue changes
Burnham-on-sea Social	Third Tuesday of each month	10:30am - 12:00pm	The Waffle Hub, The Methodist Church, College Street, Burnham on Sea, TA8 1AS
Frome Social	Last Thursday of each month	10.00am - 12.00pm	The Blue House, 4 The Bridge, Frome BA11 1BH
Chard & Ilminster Social	First Wednesday of each month - Check with office	10.30am - 12pm	Cafe No 57, East St, Ilminster TA19 0AW
Cheddar Coffee Morning	Last Wednesday of the month	10.30am - 12pm	The Bath Arms Hotel, Bath Street, Town Centre, Cheddar BS27 3AA
Martock Social	Third Thursday of each month	2pm - 3.30pm	The George Coffee Shop, North Street, Martock, TA12 6ZD
Merriott Social	First Thursday of the month	2pm - 3.30pm	The Feed Station, Sandy Hole, Merriott TA16 5QR
Street Activity Group	First Monday of each month	11.00am - 1.00pm	The Lantokay, Wetherspoons, 111 - 113 High Street, Street BA16 0EY
Taunton Singing Group	Every other Monday	2.00pm - 3.30pm	Somerset Sight TA1 1DG

Please contact Somerset Sight prior to attending 01823 333818

Type	Day	Time	Where
Taunton Music Appreciation	Every other Monday	2.00pm - 3.30pm	Somerset Sight TA1 1DG
Taunton Social Dave's Diner	First Wednesday of each month	12pm - 2.00pm	Somerset Sight TA1 1DG
Taunton Tai Chi	First Thursday of the month	11am - 12pm	Somerset Sight TA1 1DG
Taunton VI Bowls Club	Every Thursday	11.00am - 1.00pm	Blackbrook Pavilion. TA1 2RW
Taunton Acoustic Rifle Club	Every Thursday	11.00am - 2pm	Contact Somerset Sight for details
Taunton Craft Group	Every Friday	1.00pm - 3.00pm	Somerset Sight TA1 1DG
Wells Social	Second Friday of each month	10.15am - 12.00pm	The Well's Cathedral Café, The Loft, Wells, BA5 2UE
Yeovil Social Group	First Monday of each month	10.30am - 12.00pm	Westlands Entertainment Centre, Westbourne Close, Yeovil BA20 2DD
Yeovil Social Lunch Group	Third Monday of each month	12.30pm	The Bell Inn Pub, 207 Preston Road, Yeovil BA20 2EW
Yeovil VI Bowls Group	Every Tuesday	10.30am - 1.00pm	Yeovil Bowls Club, 35A Higher Kingston, Yeovil BA21 4AS
Zoom Quiz	Every Thursday	3:30pm	Ask office to send Zoom link

Somerset Sight's address:

Northfield House, 51 Staplegrove Road, Taunton TA1 1DG

Please call the office if you want to check that a group is taking place on 01823 333818.



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