

Somerset Sight



01823 333818

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

Registered Charity No: 1154472

Issue 83
September 2025

NEW Somerton Social Group
17th September
See Page 20 for details



**Please donate today to help Somerset
Sight. Please consider leaving a gift
in your will as a lasting legacy**



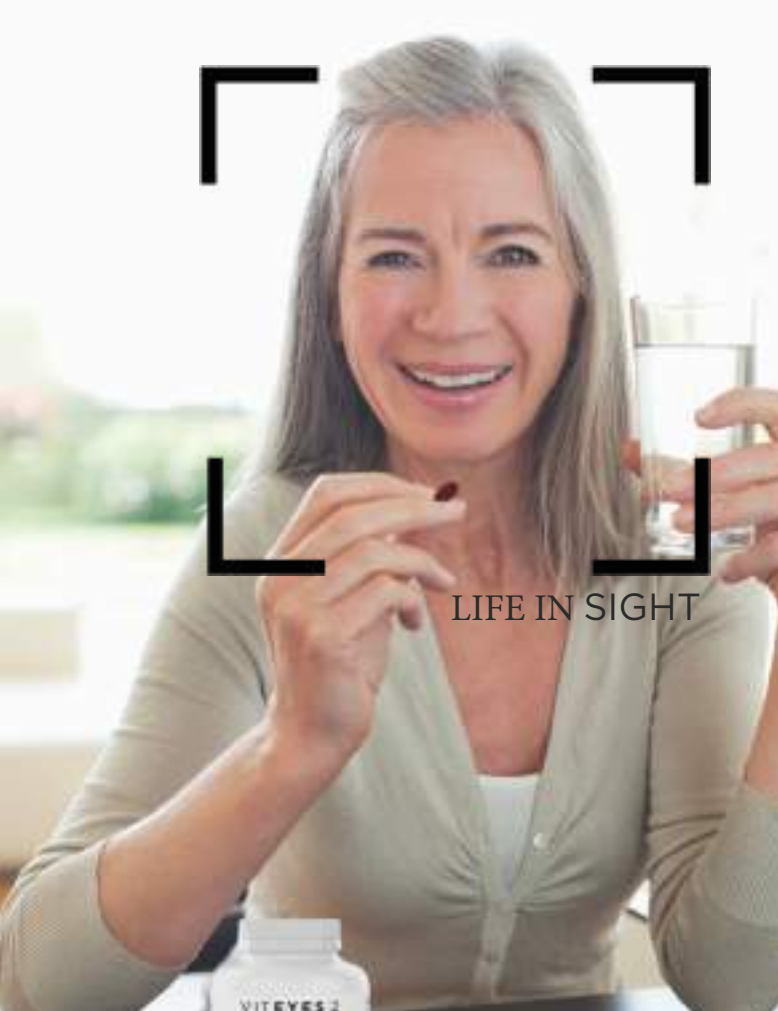
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Meeting Rooms and Hot Desks for Hire

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

Plus a smaller room suitable for 8 - 10 people
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

Thank You

Taunton Deane Chapter No 5221

Somerset Sight was chosen as the Lodge’s charity and at Taunton Masonic Hall, Harry Price of the Alfred Chapter of Rose Croix No. 13 presented a very kind and generous cheque of £200 to Christine Briggs, Vice-chair of Trustees for Somerset Sight.

Watson Smith Opticians, Taunton

Kindly collected donations in branch using a Somerset Sight collection box - £129.55 raised. And a new Eddie in place.



Photo of Eddie the Elephant

The Parish Church of Saint Roch, Pendomer

At an Open Air Service held in July, the Parochial Church Council of Saint Roch raised £145. The parish is located about 4.5 miles south-west of Yeovil and this kind donation will go towards helping our service users.

Wells Floral Art Club

At a recent Summer tea, Wells Floral Art Club raised £400 and kindly donated this generous amount to Somerset Sight. The Club meets regularly on the second Tuesday of the month at St Thomas’s Church Hall, Wells and create some amazing and beautiful arrangements.



Photo of Wells Floral Club display

Residents of Pegasus Court Retirement Development

Thank you to the lovely residents of Pegasus Court, Taunton, who held a cream tea event with raffle and raised £140 which they generously donated to Somerset Sight. Sounds like a yummy event.



**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:

Direct Debit 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	
-----------	--	------	--

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



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:.....

CEO Report

Somerset Sight is a thriving community. There are many opportunities for you to join in and contribute. You can improve your bounce and your general health and wellbeing and live a longer and more fulfilled and active life by becoming more involved. There is so much available for you.....

In the 4 months since the last magazine Somerset Sight has provided:

- 5000 face to face front line staff hours
- 5000 one to one volunteer visitor hours
- 450 hours for you to step onto the MAS for information and advice
- 40 different destinations to access the MAS for your convenience
- 680 hours for you to visit the Resource Room or telephone for help.
- 5 days holiday to Torquay for 22 people
- 2 overnight stays for children on Exmoor



Photo of Jackie and Dogs

- Volunteer awards party for 100
- Murder Mystery raising £1400
- 18 weekly craft, music, acoustic rifle events
- 240 hours of social opportunities in 12 different locations across Somerset

What would happen if all the above and more were not available for people who are blind or visually impaired?

Please set up a monthly direct debit to Somerset Sight today to ensure that these services continue in the future. Any amount you can spare will help to ensure the future of the charity and make you feel great too, knowing you are doing your best to help.

Summer Party

Summer Garden Party 2025

The Annual Summer Garden Party for Volunteers and Service Users was held in the lovely garden of Northfield House, on Thursday 3rd July 2025, and attended by over 90 people.

The entertainment this year was a mix of our regular pianist, Chris Ball, and after the lunch an impromptu performance of rock music by young Tobias Budd, just 10 years old. Something a little different.

Long Service Awards and Certificates of Recognition were presented by the High Sheriff of Somerset, Mrs Janet Montgomery, to the many volunteers who support Somerset Sight by visiting, helping with different groups and assisting our social media.



Photo of Tobias playing guitar



Photo of Sarah Cooke and Janet Montgomery

Somerset Sight Kitchen Upgrade Completed!

At the Summer Party, the kitchen upgrade at Northfield House was declared as open by the High Sheriff, Janet Montgomery. Somerset Sight wishes to say Thank You to everyone who has kindly donated and helped with this project. The kitchen will be used for training and hired out for parties, wakes, etc as it has direct access to the lovely surrounding garden.



Photo Kitchen with door to garden

Support your charity Somerset Sight

Bring your family and friends

Sunday 14th September – 8.30am to 3pm, Somerset Sight Fundraiser at Yarlington Country House Car Boot and Traditional Fair Games - £5 entry per person over 16. Nr Wincanton BA9 8DY

This year there will be traditional games, classic cars, a dog show, food and drink, and stalls with unique bargains. Still time to book a single or double pitch, classic car or entrance ticket, call 01823 333818 or book online www.somersetsight.org.uk/payments-page and select Pay for activity, event or service. Pitches filling fast.



Photo of happy smiling group of people

Wednesday 3rd December - 12 pm to 2pm, Dave's Diner Christmas Lunch at Northfield House, Taunton TA1 1DG

Christmas Lunch festivities at Dave's Diner. Further details to come. Or please call the office nearer the time for price.

Thursday 11th December – 1.30pm to 3.30pm Christmas Party with Mulled wine and mince pies at Northfield House, Taunton TA1 1DG

A singalong of seasonal songs to say thank you and look forward to 2026. You will be able to meet Trustees and members of Somerset Sight. Free to attend for volunteers and service users. RSVP by Friday 5th December.

Torquay Holiday - Monday 15th June to Friday 19th June 2026

Call or email to register your interest. Full details will be revealed in January 2026.

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Mobile Advisory Service Dates September 2025 - December 2025

Mendip

Area	Date	Location	Time
Glastonbury	Mon 22 nd Sep	Morrisons	10.30am - 3.30pm
	Thurs 27 th Nov	Morrisons	10.30am - 3.30pm
Frome	Tue 28 th Oct	ASDA	10.30am - 3.30pm
	Wed 26 th Nov	ASDA	10.30am - 3.30pm
Shepton Mallet	Wed 10 th Sep	Tesco	10.30am - 3.30pm
	Mon 24 th Nov	Tesco	10.30am - 3.30pm
Wells	Thurs 11 th Sep	Tesco	10.30am - 3.30pm
	Thurs 16 th Oct	Tesco	10.30am - 3.30pm
	Wed 12 th Nov	Tesco	10.30am - 3.30pm
	Wed 17 th Dec	Tesco	10.30am - 3.30pm

Sedgemoor

Area	Date	Location	Time
Cheddar	Mon 13 th Oct	Sainsbury's	10.30am - 3.30pm
	Tue 11 th Nov	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 Advisory Service Dates

Sedgemoor			
Area	Date	Location	Time
Bridgwater	Fri 5 th Sep	Hospital	10.30am - 1.30pm
	Tue 23 rd Sep	Morrisons	10.30am - 3.30pm
	Fri 17 th Oct	Hospital	10.30am - 1.30pm
	Mon 27 th Oct	Morrisons	10.30am - 3.30pm
	Fri 7 th Nov	Hospital	10.30am - 1.30pm
	Fri 21 st Nov	Hospital	10.30am - 1.30pm
	Tue 25 th Nov	Morrisons	10.30am - 3.30pm
	Mon 1 st Dec	Morrisons	10.30am - 3.30pm
	Fri 5 th Dec	Hospital	10.30am - 1.30pm
Burnham-on-Sea	Tue 21 st Oct	B & M	10.30am - 3.30pm
	Thurs 6 th Nov	B & M	10.30am - 3.30pm
	Mon 15 th Dec	B & M	10.30am - 3.30pm
Cannington	Wed 29 th Oct	By the brook	10.30am - 12.30pm
Highbridge	Mon 8 th Sep	ASDA	10.30am - 3.30pm
	Thurs 4 th Dec	ASDA	10.30am - 3.30pm
Nether Stowey	Wed 29 th Oct	St Mary's Church Centre	1.30pm - 3.30pm
N. Petherton	Thurs 18 th Dec	Car Park	10.30am - 3.30pm

South Somerset			
Area	Date	Location	Time
Chard	Fri 12 th Sep	Hospital	10.30am - 1.30pm
	Fri 10 th Oct	Hospital	10.30am - 1.30pm
	Fri 14 th Nov	Hospital	10.30am - 1.30pm
	Fri 12 th Dec	Hospital	10.30am - 1.30pm

September 2025 - December 2025

South Somerset			
Area	Date	Location	Time
Crewkerne	Fri 19 th Sep	Henhayes Centre	10.30am - 1.30pm
Ilminster	Thurs 18 th Sep	Tesco	10.30am - 3.30pm
	Thurs 13 th Nov	Tesco	10.30am - 3.30pm
Martock	Fri 31 st Oct	Car Park	10.30am - 1.30pm
	Fri 28 th Nov	Car Park	10.30am - 1.30pm
Langport	Tue 9 th Sep	Tesco	10.30am - 3.30pm
	Wed 8 th Oct	Tesco	10.30am - 3.30pm
Somerton	Wed 3 rd Sep	Cox's Yard	10.30am - 3.30pm
	Wed 22 nd Oct	Cox's Yard	10.30am - 3.30pm
	Wed 5 th Nov	Cox's Yard	10.30am - 3.30pm
	Wed 3 rd Dec	Cox's Yard	10.30am - 3.30pm
Stoke sub Hamdon	Thurs 4 th Sep	Car Park	10.30am - 3.30pm
	Tue 16 th Dec	Car Park	10.30am - 3.30pm
Wincanton	Thurs 23 rd Oct	Morrisons	10.30am - 3.30pm
	Wed 10 th Dec	Morrisons	10.30am - 3.30pm
Yeovil	Wed 17 th Sep	Hospital	10.30am - 3.30pm
	Wed 15 th Oct	Hospital	10.30am - 3.30pm
	Wed 19 th Nov	Hospital	10.30am - 3.30pm
Castle Cary	Tue 16 th Sep	Car Park	10.30am - 3.30pm
	Mon 3 rd Nov	Car Park	10.30am - 3.30pm

Mobile Advisory Service Dates

Somerset West and Taunton			
Area	Date	Location	Time
Wellington	Mon 1 st Sep	ASDA	10.30am - 3.30pm
	Tue 9 th Dec	ASDA	10.30am - 3.30pm
Wiveliscombe	Tue 14 th Oct	Car Park	1.30pm - 3.30pm
Minehead	Mon 15 th Sep	Morrisons	10.30am - 3.30pm
	Mon 20 th Oct	Morrisons	10.30am - 3.30pm
	Mon 17 th Nov	Morrisons	10.30am - 3.30pm
	Mon 8 th Dec	Morrisons	10.30am - 3.30pm
Dulverton	Tue 14 th Oct	Car Park	10.30am - 12.30pm
Porlock	Thurs 20 th Nov	Car Park (nr the One Stop Shop)	10.30am - 12.30pm
Williton	Thurs 20 th Nov	Car Park	1.30pm - 3.30pm
Watchet	Thurs 9 th Oct	Coach Park	10.30am - 3.30pm
	Tue 18 th Nov	Coach Park	10.30am - 3.30pm

Devon			
Area	Date	Location	Time
Cullompton	Tue 2 nd Dec	Tesco	10.30am - 3.30pm
Tiverton	Tue 2 nd Sep	Tesco	10.30am - 3.30pm
	Tue 4 th Nov	Tesco	10.30am - 3.30pm
Honiton	Tues 7 th Oct	Lace Walk Car Park	10.30am - 3.30pm
Axminster	Mon 6 th Oct	Tesco	10.30am - 3.30pm
	Mon 10 th Nov	Tesco	10.30am - 3.30pm



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Stuart Ling is your local HumanWare Representative who will be happy to visit you at home or Somerset Sight to demonstrate our range of solutions to help you enjoy reading again. Contact Stuart on **07971 411 660** or Somerset Sight on **01823 333818**.



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Explore 8



Explore 12



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or visit www.humanware.com

Torquay Holiday 2025

On Monday 2nd June our group of 18 happy holidaymakers set off for an exciting trip to Torquay. We stayed in the Carlton Hotel for four nights. Many activities took place including exploring Torquay, a day trip on the boat to Brixham, the Torquay Eye and the many entertainment opportunities in the hotel such as bowling, bingo, quizzes and late-night discos. Lots of food eaten and fresh sea air.



Photo of Ice cream by the sea



Photo of Nicholas De Lange

One of the people who attended has written this poem about Torquay:
 Oh, how I love to be in Torquay
 A beautiful place by the sparkling sea
 Perfect place to bring your friends along
 For fun and laughter and sing a long
 An ice cream here won't do any harm
 In the lovely place where the sea is always calm
 One of the things that I love to do is go on a boat and shout out "Woo Hoo"
 Torquay is my favourite place in Devon,
 You might think it's almost heaven
 If you fancy to a ride on a boat
 Don't forget to bring a waterproof coat
 Beware of a scavenger seagull named Burt
 He will steal your food and cover it with dirt
 Fish and chips down by the bay
 Scones and cup tea to end the day
 Off with friends on the Ferris wheel ride, you feel it spinning side by side
 Then a trip to the Alley for some bowling
 soon you can hear the ten pin rolling
 Then it's time to head back home
 But we'll return - again we'll roam,
 By Nicholas De Lange.

Murder Mystery Evening

Friday 27th June a murder mystery evening took place at Northfield House.

Lots of laughs, suspicion and wrong guessing took place as the AT 2K local theatre company, performed Murder at the Big Top in the lovely gardens of Somerset Sight.

Suggested by our Vice-Chair of Trustees, Christine Briggs , the audience enjoyed a two-course meal, with many of them being interrogated by Inspector Imbecile.

But who did it? The first correct guess selected, won a bottle of bubbly.

There was a successful raffle with some great prizes which had been donated by generous people and much appreciated. Overall

Somerset Sight raised £1407. What a great and successful night.

Everyone enjoyed it so much they want to do it again.



Photo of Murder mystery evening



Photo of Murder mystery evening



Photo of Murder mystery evening

Upcoming Children's Activities

October half term: Pizza Making at Pizza Express, Taunton.

Thurs 30th Oct, 11:00am (meet at Northfield House at 10:30am) £10 per child. Unleash your culinary skills and customise your own pizza which you can take home. Afterwards, it's back to Northfield House for a spooky Halloween magic show!

Feedback from previous Pizza Making activity:

"I loved that we had so many toppings to choose from for our pizzas" "It felt so cool eating something that I'd made myself."



Photo of Children Making Pizza

"The man teaching us was so patient and friendly"

Christmas Panto: Beauty & the Beast, Saturday 13th December, 2pm, Westlands Entertainment Venue, Yeovil, £15 per child, one free Essential Companion per VI child, £28.50 for any additional adults.

Panto season is approaching yet again and this year it's the tale as old as time. Come and enjoy one of the most popular and beloved fables ever told filled with music, laughter and fun.

Feedback from last year's Pantomime:

"Dame Trot was so funny!" "I couldn't stop laughing!" "It was so much fun"

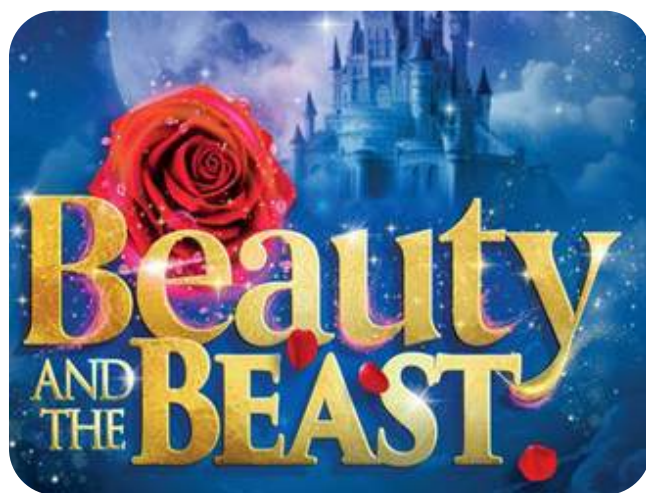


Photo of Beauty and the Beast


Watch this space for next year's activities.

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- ✓ a password if we need to visit you
- ✓ nominated contact
- ✓ Additional meter readings



To register today, scan the QRcode,  visit **wessexwater.co.uk/priority-services** or call **0345 600 3 600**

Register once with Wessex Water and we will arrange your registration with National Grid.

nationalgrid

Wessex Water
YTL GROUP



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Call **0345 600 3 600** (Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm, Saturday, 9am to 1pm) or visit **wessexwater.co.uk/help-to-pay**

Wessex Water
YTL GROUP



3631

Focus on Social Groups

Social Groups are a great way for people to meet others in a similar situation and to share tips and experiences over a cuppa and cake.

Somerset Sight now has 14 monthly social groups across the county, and a selection of weekly activity groups.

Somerton Social Group - Wednesday 17th September

Somerton will be the newest group, meeting at The Unicorn Hotel, West Street, Somerton TA11 7PR on the third Wednesday of the month, 11.30am to 1pm starting on Wednesday 17th September.

Come and meet new people and share tips and experiences or generally chat over a cuppa/drink and maybe stay for lunch.

Minehead Social Group/Brunch Group

Minehead Social Group started on Thursday 26th June at The Duke of Wellington, Wellington Square, Minehead, TA24 5NH, from 10am to 12pm. The group is well attended and new people are always welcome. The next group will be Thursday 25th September.



Photo of Minehead Social Group

Martock and Merriott Social Groups

Martock and Merriott both have social groups and would love new people to come along.

Martock is on the third Thursday of the month and now meeting at Yandles Café, Hurst Works, Martock from 2pm to 3.30pm and Merriott is the first Thursday of the month at The Feed Station, Sandy Hole, Merriott. Both groups are very welcoming.

Focus on Social Groups Continued

Burnham-on-Sea

Burnham on Sea Social Group started in April 2024 and now meets regularly at The Waffle Hub, 35A College Street, Burnham-on-Sea TA8 1AS.

The Waffle Hub is a community café located in the Methodist Church and around a dozen people meet on the third Tuesday of the month from 10.30am to 12pm to chat over a cuppa, waffle and maybe stay for lunch.

All our Social Groups are listed over the page. Please call for more information on the one closest to you. If there is not one in your area, why not start a group with our support.



Photo of Burnham-on-Sea Social Group

Keep on Running

Marly Brudenhall raises funds for Somerset Sight by running miles. On August 17th, he ran the Frome 10km with his daughter, Yaira, guiding him. Still time to donate through our fundraising page on the Somerset Sight website.

Liam Harkness and Zdenek Gregor have together raised over £3500 since April 2025 running in marathons and half marathons. Over the years they have been supporting Somerset Sight, sometimes together with Zdenek guiding Liam or Zdenek on his own. Thank you all so much for helping Somerset Sight to keep on running.



Photo of Marly and Yaira.

Social Groups

Name	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	Currently The Malt Shovel, Wembdon Road, Bridgwater TA6 7DN
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 - £2 cost	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
Martock Social	Third Thursday of each month	2pm - 3.30pm	Yandles Café, Hurst Works, Martock, Somerset TA12 6JU
Merriott Social	First Thursday of the month	2pm - 3.30pm	The Feed Station, Sandy Hole, Merriott TA16 5QR
Minehead Social Group	Last Thursday of the month	10.00am - 12.00pm	The Duke of Wellington, Wellington Square, Minehead TA24 5NH
Somerton Social Group	Third Wednesday of the month	11.30am - 1.00pm	The Unicorn Hotel, West Street, Somerton TA11 7PR
Street Social Group	First Monday of each month	11.00am - 1.00pm	The Lantokay, Wetherspoons, 111 - 113 High Street, Street BA16 0EY

Please contact Somerset Sight prior to attending 01823 333818

Name	Day	Time	Where
Taunton Singing Group	Every other Monday	2.00pm - 3.30pm	Somerset Sight TA1 1DG
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 Qigong	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 Group full - Waiting list	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 - £2 cost	10.30am - 12.30pm	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.



Somerset Sight

Working with people
who lack sight, not vision

**Please bring your family and friends to
support your charity, Somerset Sight.**

**Yarlington Country House Car Boot and
Traditional Fair, BA9 8DY**

Sunday 14th September 2025 - 8.30am -3pm

In aid of Somerset Sight. Charity Number 1154472



**NEW: This year there will be family fun featuring
traditional games and entertainment, classic cars, a
dog show, food and stalls with unique bargains.**



£5 entry including gardens

Under 16s free

**To book a stall pitch, classic car or
entrance ticket, scan the QR code
or call 01823 333818**

Sponsored by Wessex Water.