

Somerset Sight



01823 333818

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

Registered Charity No: 1154472

Issue 84
December 2025

The map shows Somerset Sight activities in your area.
Social groups ★, Low vision clinics ★, Mobile advisory service ★
Volunteer Visiting Service, Emotional and Technology Support
cover the whole county.



Details of social groups and mobile advisory
service dates inside.
Shepton Mallet and Wincanton socials coming in 2026.





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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

Could you help Somerset Sight by arranging a fundraiser?

Millicans and Mansfield Opticians, Wells

Thank you so much to Millicans and Mansfield Opticians in Wells who organised a coffee and cake morning for Somerset Sight on Wednesday 29th October, and raised £230.

Happy 40th Anniversary

Belated congratulations to Liz and Steve Coles who kindly collected donations at their 40th Anniversary earlier this year and raised a great total of £325.75. Many thanks.

Trustee Support

Sarah Tufton, one of the Somerset Sight Trustees, collected donations at her 60th Birthday party and raised £120.00.

Photo of Sarah Tufton



Photo of Millicans & Mansfield Opticians

Lodge of Unanimity and Sincerity L261, Taunton

Having generously donated over the year to Somerset Sight, the Lodge of Unanimity and Sincerity recently presented us with another cheque for £250.

Crafty fingers

Kathrine Bryans of Cheddar, donated £320 from selling handmade cards and quilting materials. Kathrine is a regular donor and supporter of Somerset Sight. Thank you so much for your Kathrine.

United Parish of Crook Peak

Many local parishes have donated and raised funds through various ways for us. The United Parish of Crook Peak chose us as their charity of the year for 2025 and raised £686. Thank you so much.



DONATION FORM

Somerset Sight supports 3500 people in Somerset with sight loss. Enhancing lives for the better, the Charity relies on your donations and gifts in wills. Please give generously. You can do this easily by calling 01823 333818, using the form below or online at www.somersetsight.org.uk and select Donate.

Full Name		Tel	
Address			
Postcode		Email	

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

Regular donations:
Standing Order Mandate: Please complete this as instruction for your Bank to set up on your behalf. We will send this signed form to your bank for you.

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 £10, £20 or other £..... with the first payment on the (Date) of (Month), 20..... (Year)

Account Name								
Account Number								
Sort Code								

Signature		Date	
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Please turn over to Gift Aid if you are a taxpayer and where to send the form.

Charity Registration Number 1154472

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 are 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.

Signature **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.

**When completed please 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.

Signature.....

Date.....

Charity Registration Number 1154472



CEO Report

Less than one cup of specialty coffee and the 3 ingredients for a happier life delivered to your door

The front cover shows the footprint of your charity, Somerset Sight, across the county. Low Vision, socials, the Volunteer Visiting, technology support, the Mobile Advisory Service. 1500 people each month socialise, learn new skills and build confidence - the 3 ingredients for a longer and happier life.

To those of you who already kindly support us, thank you. Your donation and support makes a huge difference and enables us to plan and feel confident for the future.

Do you currently benefit from Somerset Sight services or know someone who does. What would you do if Somerset Sight did not exist? Could you please spare a few pounds each month to support your charity?



Photo of Jackie and Dogs

If you are not already regularly supporting your Somerset Sight and feel you would like to do so, please fill in the donation form to set up regular giving. This will ensure that when you or your loved ones need additional help in the future Somerset Sight will be there.

If you prefer, please give a donation today, either using the form or by calling Somerset Sight. You could also leave a gift in your will knowing you will leave a lasting legacy, and your support will enhance lives.

£5 each month is less than one cup of specialty coffee.....

2025 Fundraising

Yarlington Country House Car Boot and Traditional Fair 2025

This year's Yarlington Country House and Dog Show on Sunday 14th September was a successful event and raised over £4000 for Somerset Sight.

Thank you very much to the Count and Countess De Salis who allow the use of their beautiful grounds for this fundraising day.

A big thank you to everyone who attended, booked a stall, brought a car, a dog, purchased raffle tickets.

Thank you to our sponsors and donors who kindly contributed



Photo of Yarlington Country House

towards the event:

Beswetherwick Opticians; Wessex Water; Skinners Field & Trial Dog Treats; Countess De Salis; The Newt in Somerset; Wykes Farm; The Merlin Theatre, Frome; Bar Brunel, Bridgwater; Stags Head, Yarlington; Haynes Motor Museum.

Wine Tasting event at Somerset Sight

Vine Wine generously supported a fundraising Wine Tasting evening on 20th November. With a selection of 20 wines, fizz and Madeira, paired with delicate nibbles to refresh the palate and

a prize draw also donated by Vine Wine, plus sponsorship from HR Dept, Somerset Sight raised just over £2000. A very enjoyable evening indeed.



Photo of Wine Tasting event at Somerset Sight

Changes at Somerset Sight

Welcome to the New Treasurer and Trustee - Richard Bott

We are delighted to announce that Richard Bott has joined Somerset Sight as a Trustee and Treasurer.

Richard, who lives near Taunton, retired as Senior Partner of Forvis Mazars' Bristol Office in January 2025. His clients have ranged from listed financial institutions, multi £billion fund managers and the government of a British Overseas Territory to government agencies, NDPB's, international conglomerates and privately owned businesses.

His recent focus was on Social Sector organisations which included charities, educational institutions (universities, colleges and schools) and housing associations. He has worked with well over 50 charities over a 30-year period providing external auditing, internal auditing, consulting services and due diligence investigations.

We welcome his expertise and look forward to his input and assistance at Somerset Sight.



Photo of Richard

Thank you and goodbye as Trustee - Nick Ham

Nick Ham has been a valued member of the Board of Trustees of Somerset Sight since 2019. He decided to step down this Summer and will be missed.

Nick will be continuing his guitar sessions at Northfield House on alternate Tuesdays. If you wish to learn some popular tunes and play along and learn a new talent, please contact the office and we can put you in touch.



Photo of Nick



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Mobile Advisory Service Dates January 2026 - April 2026

Mendip			
Area	Date	Location	Time
Glastonbury	Wed 28 th Jan	Morrisons	10.30am - 3.30pm
	Thurs 26 th Feb	Morrisons	10.30am - 3.30pm
	Mon 16 th Mar	Morrisons	10.30am - 3.30pm
Frome	Mon 9 th Feb	ASDA	10.30am - 3.30pm
	Mon 30 th Mar	ASDA	10.30am - 3.30pm
Shepton Mallet	Mon 2 nd Mar	Tesco	10.30am - 3.30pm
Wells	Mon 26 th Jan	Tesco	10.30am - 3.30pm
	Thurs 12 th Feb	Tesco	10.30am - 3.30pm
	Tue 10 th Mar	Tesco	10.30am - 3.30pm

Sedgemoor			
Area	Date	Location	Time
Cheddar	Mon 12 th Jan	Sainsbury's	10.30am - 3.30pm
	Mon 16 th Feb	Sainsbury's	10.30am - 3.30pm
	Thurs 19 th Mar	Sainsbury's	10.30am - 3.30pm



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 9 th Jan	Hospital	10.30am - 1.30pm
	Fri 6 th Feb	Hospital	10.30am - 1.00pm
	Thurs 19 th Feb	Morrisons	10.30am - 3.30pm
	Fri 20 th Feb	Hospital	10.30am - 1.30pm
	Fri 6 th Mar	Hospital	10.30am - 1.30pm
	Fri 20 th Mar	Hospital	10.30am - 1.30pm
	Fri 10 th Apr	Hospital	10.30am - 1.30pm
Burnham-on-Sea	Mon 5 th Jan	B & M	10.30am - 3.30pm
	Mon 2 nd Feb	B & M	10.30am - 3.30pm
	Mon 9 th Mar	B & M	10.30am - 3.30pm
Cannington	Wed 4 th Feb	By the brook	10.30am - 12.30pm
	Wed 1 st Apr	By the brook	10.30am - 12.30pm
Highbridge	Tue 24 th Feb	ASDA	10.30am - 3.30pm
Nether Stowey	Wed 4 th Feb	St Mary's Church Centre	1.30pm - 3.30pm
	Wed 1 st Apr	St Mary's Church Centre	1.30pm - 3.30pm
N. Petherton	Thurs 2 nd Apr	Car Park	10.30am - 3.30pm

South Somerset			
Area	Date	Location	Time
Chard	Fri 16 th Jan	Hospital	10.30am - 1.30pm
	Fri 13 th Feb	Hospital	10.30am - 1.30pm
	Fri 13 th Mar	Hospital	10.30am - 1.30pm

January 2026 - April 2026

South Somerset			
Area	Date	Location	Time
Crewkerne	Fri 30 th Jan	Henhayes Centre	10.30am - 1.30pm
	Fri 27 th Mar	Henhayes Centre	10.30am - 1.30pm
Ilminster	Thurs 12 th Mar	Tesco	10.30am - 3.30pm
Martock	Fri 27 th Feb	Car Park	10.30am - 1.30pm
Langport	Tue 5 th Feb	Tesco	10.30am - 3.30pm
	Tue 31 st Mar	Tesco	10.30am - 3.30pm
Somerton	Wed 14 th Jan	Cox's Yard	10.30am - 3.30pm
	Wed 11 th Feb	Cox's Yard	10.30am - 3.30pm
	Wed 18 th Mar	Cox's Yard	10.30am - 3.30pm
Stoke sub Hamdon	Thurs 5 th Mar	Car Park	10.30am - 3.30pm
Wincanton	Wed 7 th Jan	Morrisons	10.30am - 3.30pm
	Mon 23 rd Feb	Morrisons	10.30am - 3.30pm
	Mon 23 rd Mar	Morrisons	10.30am - 3.30pm
Yeovil	Tue 13 th Jan	Hospital	10.30am - 3.30pm
	Tue 10 th Feb	Hospital	10.30am - 3.30pm
	Tue 17 th Mar	Hospital	10.30am - 3.30pm
Castle Cary	Wed 18 th Feb	Car Park	10.30am - 3.30pm
	Wed 8 th Apr	Car Park	10.30am - 3.30pm

Mobile Advisory Service Dates

Somerset West and Taunton			
Area	Date	Location	Time
Wellington	Thurs 29 th Jan	ASDA	10.30am - 3.30pm
	Wed 25 th Mar	ASDA	10.30am - 3.30pm
Wiveliscombe	Thurs 26 th Mar	Car Park	1.30pm - 3.30pm
Minehead	Thurs 15 th Jan	Morrisons	10.30am - 3.30pm
	Wed 25 th Feb	Morrisons	10.30am - 3.30pm
	Wed 11 th Mar	Morrisons	10.30am - 3.30pm
Dulverton	Thurs 26 th Mar	Car Park	10.30am - 12.30pm
Porlock	Wed 4 th Mar	Car Park (nr the One Stop Shop)	10.30am - 12.30pm
Williton	Wed 4 th Mar	Car Park	1.30pm - 3.30pm
Watchet	Thurs 8 th Jan	Coach Park	10.30am - 3.30pm
	Thurs 9 th Apr	Coach Park	10.30am - 3.30pm

Devon			
Area	Date	Location	Time
Cullompton	Tue 17 th Feb	Tesco	10.30am - 3.30pm
	Tue 7 th Apr	Tesco	10.30am - 3.30pm
Tiverton	Tue 27 th Jan	Tesco	10.30am - 3.30pm
	Tue 24 th Mar	Tesco	10.30am - 3.30pm
Honiton	Tues 6 th Jan	Lace Walk	10.30am - 3.30pm
	Tue 3 rd Mar	Car Park	10.30am - 3.30pm
Axminster	Tue 3 rd Feb	Tesco	10.30am - 3.30pm

Somerset Sight Services and Communication

Somerset Sight has been supporting and helping blind and partially sighted people since the end of the First World War, over 100 years.

Only 25% of people registered with us have email addresses. Please give us your email address if you have one or a friend/family member willing to let us contact them. We can then keep you updated more efficiently.

The Mobile Advisory Service (MAS) is a great source of information and support, visiting many different towns around the county. The dates and locations are in the centre of this magazine to pull out and keep.

The MAS contains many different resources, such as talking watches, large print calendars & diaries, magnifiers, lighting and other items, which can help you with daily living. Donna is very knowledgeable and supportive in many areas to advise you and can order something for you if not stocked on the MAS.

There are so many services we offer which can help at different times of your sight loss journey: Resource Centre, Mobile Advisory Service, Low Vision Clinic, Emotional Support, Volunteer Visiting Service, Technology Support, regular Social Groups, an annual holiday and various activities.

Help us to help you.

Please contact the office if you want more information on any of these services.



Photo of the Mas

Socialising Leads to a Happy and Long Life

Somerset Sight has over 17 social and activity groups which meet monthly in different locations across the county. See pages 23 and 24 for the full list. Each month over 200 people attend these groups and enjoy chatting, arranging their own activities and trips out.

One such group is the Chard and Ilminster Social Group who recently took on the craft of potato painting.

Other groups have been on days out to the seaside – Weymouth and Swanage, Fairfield animal centre, Shearwater Lake, visit museums, or have speakers.

During 2025, new groups have been started in Minehead, Somerton and Cheddar and in 2026 we are starting up in Crewkerne, Wincanton and Shepton Mallet.

At Somerset Sight in Taunton, we hold regular weekly sessions such as the music and singing groups on alternate Mondays and Craft Group on Fridays.

This is really popular, with a different weekly project or bring your own. Just £4 including cuppa & cake.



Photo of Chard and Ilminster Social Group



Photo of social group



Photo of craft group

All welcome – service users ask your volunteer to take you. If you would like to attend or start a group, please call 01823 333818 or email admin@somersetsight.org.uk.

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Children's Activities 2026

Tuesday 17th February – Pottery painting at Serendipity Creative Café, 42 South Street, Taunton 12pm to 2pm. Followed by lunch at Somerset Sight. Price £5 per person

Enjoy a fun session painting a piece of your choice followed by lunch for the hungry artists.

All items painted will be glazed and fired in the onsite kiln and will be ready to collect 7-14 days after the event.

Materials and paints included. Just bring your imagination.



Photo of Pottery Painting

Thursday 16th April – Ark at Egwood – A day of fun activities from 10am to 2pm. Egwood House, Merriott, Somerset, TA16 5QN Price £15 per child.

To book your place please call the office on 01823 333818, or pay online at: <https://www.somersetsight.org.uk/payments-page> and select Pay for Activity, event or service.

Come along to an Ark Experience Day comprising of outdoor activities including, meeting and feeding the animals, accessible games &/ or crafts, making/cooking lunch (for example pizza) or baking, and social time toasting marshmallows around a campfire. A tasty lunch and refreshments throughout the day are also provided.

Thank you to Sherborne Castle Country Fair for their support which helped to pay for the Pinkery children's trip.



Photo of ARK at Egwood

Volunteering prolongs active life

Over 300 people of all ages currently volunteer for Somerset Sight and the benefits are two-fold as both they and the people they meet get so much from visits and trips they do together.

Jean's Birthday trip to Lacock

Service user Jean from Frome had a lovely trip out with her volunteer visitor Karen earlier this year to celebrate Jean's birthday. They spent the morning visiting Lacock and then had afternoon tea at the Bishopstrow Hotel. This was a really special day out and a lovely time enjoyed by both.

Jean and her volunteer visitor, Karen have been together since January 2025 and enjoy trips out as well as chatting over a cuppa.



Jean enjoying afternoon tea on her trip to Lacock

Scrabble Matches

Sadly, Joan recently passed away and will be missed by all those who knew her within Somerset Sight.

Joan and Jane, her volunteer visitor had been matched since 2017 and became firm friends. Joan used to love Jane's regular visits especially as Joan had no local family. They used to chat, read, play a lively game of Scrabble and been out on trips together.



Photo of Joan and Jane

Quotes about the Volunteer Visitor service

"We just have so much in common. We both love the opera so I take him to shows. We have a very strong friendship and we keep each other going!"

"It's so nice as I look forward to seeing my VV. She is like a ray of sunshine."

Volunteering Prolongs Active Life

Country Houses

Joan and her Volunteer Visitor, Ruth, have been together since July 2024. Earlier this year they visited Montacute House, near Yeovil.

Matches are carefully made and consideration given to people having similar interests which ensures conversation abounds.

Volunteer visitors and drivers are needed to help people to attend the variety of activities and social groups that are held regularly across Somerset. Socialising leads to a long and happy life and we have people waiting for someone to help ease their loneliness and feeling of isolation.

We also hold an annual Summer Party for our valuable volunteers who help us both at the office and in providing the Volunteer Visiting Service.

Quotes from Volunteers

“Thank you so much for my long service certificate and 10year plaque, I am so pleased with them and love my volunteering with Somerset Sight.

I am so grateful for all the support you have given me over the years as a volunteer, it touches my heart and means so much to me.”

Volunteers and Service Users Christmas Party - Thursday 11th December 1.30pm - 3.30pm

Come and enjoy mulled wine and mince pies and seasonal songs at Northfield House.

Meet staff and Trustees.



Photo of Joan visiting Montacute House



Photo of Christmas Party

Somerset Sight Presents

Somerset Sight works with opticians, the stroke association, diabetic screening, macular society, hospitals, care homes and other organisations, such as the WI, the Masons, Trefoil Group and retirement associations. We visit these groups to share informative talks about Somerset Sight's services and the training we offer.

One of the most recent presentations was to the Local Optical Committee which was well attended by over 40 people from opticians across the county. We also spoke to Wessex Advanced Motorists and did training at Wells Cathedral.

All these talks help to raise the profile and awareness of the charity, and you can do this too – have a coffee morning with friends, a quiz, a craft stall, ask for donations to Somerset Sight in place of gifts. Anything you can think of so more people know about us.

Other events Somerset Sight has held to encourage people to find out more are:

A dog show earlier this year with a tombola stall and children's games.

On June 26th 2026 at The Old Bridge, South Petherton we are holding a fun Ceilidh with hog roast, live band and raffle.

See the back cover for details.

Support us so we can keep on supporting you.



Photo of training class



Photo of dog show

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
Cheddar Social Group	Second Tuesday of each month	2pm - 3.30pm	The Riverside Inn, Cliff Street, Cheddar BS27 3PX
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 Monday 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

Please contact Somerset Sight prior to attending 01823 333818

Name	Day	Time	Where
Street Social 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
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

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

2026 FUNDRAISING CEILIDH AND HOG ROAST

Save the Date – Friday 26th June 2026

6pm to 11pm £45 per person

Venue: The Old Bridge, South Petherton



A Ceilidh is a great deal of fun and wonderful way to socialise. Come and support Somerset Sight and enjoy the Jigs and Reels. Dancing to music from the Fresh Aire band, a hog roast and raffle.

Book your tickets now by calling the office or on the online form.