

DID YOU KNOW?

Eye Can Swindon April 2026

On Thursday 23 April, Eye Can returns to Swindon with a free exhibition for Blind and Partially Sighted people, their families, and anyone supporting someone with sight loss. The event will take place at STEAM – Museum of the Great Western Railway, Fire Fly Avenue, Swindon, SN2 2EY.

Eye Can brings together a range of exhibitors all in one place, showcasing equipment, technology and services that can support everyday life with sight loss. It's a friendly, relaxed event where you can explore what's available, ask questions, and find out what support is available locally. There will also be short talks running during the day, with more details to be shared soon.

It's a good opportunity whether you're newly adjusting to sight loss, have been blind or partially sighted for some time, or are supporting a family member or friend.

Swindon Bats will be hosting our very own stall at the event.



Welcome!

A Message from the Swindon Bats Committee:

"Welcome to the very first edition of our refreshed Swindon Bats newsletter!

As the flowers start to bloom across Swindon, we are entering one of our most exciting seasons yet. 2026 has already brought us so much to celebrate, with our "Pride of Swindon" win kicking off our 20th Anniversary year with a bang!

This newsletter is designed to keep you "in the loop" with everything happening in our community. Whether you are looking to keep upto date with our latest news or our upcoming sports and social activities, there is a place for you here.

Our club is built on the idea that sight loss shouldn't mean missing out, and looking at the calendar ahead, we certainly aren't slowing down!

We hope you enjoy this first issue. Looking forward to seeing you at the bowling alley or on the next trip!"

Swindon Bats Website

[Click Here](#)





The Pride of Swindon! Swindon Bats Crowned 2026 Award Winners

"We are officially 'The Pride of Swindon!' Following our BBC 'Make a Difference' win in 2023, the club has been honored again for our commitment to inclusion. This award belongs to every member who shows up, stays active, and proves that sight loss is no barrier to a brilliant social life. A huge thank you to the judges and our amazing community!"



Photo Description:
Bats members Ian, Andrea, Becky, Ali,
Cheryl with ZCT Team Laurie Holmes and Mark Flay.

NEWS

Swindon Bats at 20: Anniversary Gala.

Come and celebrate 20 years of the Swindon Bats in style!

When: Saturday, 20th June 2026
7:00 PM – 11:00 PM

Where: The Village Hotel, West Swindon
Dress Code: Black Tie & Evening Wear

The Evening:

Red Carpet Arrival: Complimentary Fizz or Beer.

Dining: A celebratory 3-course set menu.

Awards: Honoring 20 years of our community.

Entertainment: Grand Raffle and Disco.

RSVP by 4th May

Book online at: TicketTailor

<https://buytickets.at/swindonbatssportssocialcharityforthevisuallyimpaired/2110279>

Or contact: Becky Harrison

Email: rebecca.harrison@swindonbats.org

Please include any dietary requirements with your booking via email.

Bats Bowlers off to the Blind Bowling Nationals!

Congratulations to Bats Blind Ambition and Bats Strikers who will be playing in the national British Blind Sport Tenpin Bowling Finals on 15th of May 2026 in Sheffield!

There is another competition which will be running at the same time and place as the finals and I am pleased to announce that Bat-Tastic have been invited to play in this competition.

Commiserations to our other two Bats Teams Bats Out of Hell and Bats Night Owls who didn't make it this time. But there's always next year! Well done all that took part in this League and Congratulations to our finalists.

BATS SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

🧡 Centre Stage: Theatre & Music:



Fleetwood Mac Tribute

When: Saturday 21st March @ 7pm

Where: Wyvern Theatre

Cost: £15 Members | £32 Non Members |

Carers FREE

Abba Forever

When: Saturday 25th April @ 7:30 PM

Where: Wyvern Theatre

Cost: £15 Members | £32 Non-Members |

Carers FREE

Barnum The Musical

When: Thursday 7th May 7:30pm

Where: Wyvern Theatre

Cost: £17-£26 Members | £32-£54 Non-Members | Carers FREE

🎳 **Skittles Nights:**

When: TBC

**Where: Swindon Con Club,
Bath Road, Old Town
Swindon**

At: 7pm-10pm

Limited Parking available

Cost: Free

🚌 **Out & About: Barnes Coach Trips:**

Pick up from various locations.

Please confirm your local stop when booking.

Black Country Museum

When: Tuesday 31st March

Cost: £28 Members | £54 Non-Members | Carers FREE

Brecon Mountain Railway

When: Sunday 19th April

Cost: £28 Members | £36 Non-Members

BATS SPORTS ACTIVITIES



All Aboard! Accessible Sailing 2026
Join us at South Cerney Lakes,
Gloucestershire, for a morning on the water
with the Sailability team.

When: 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM

Dates for your Diary:

Thursday, April 9th

Thursday, May 28th

Thursday, July 23rd

Thursday, August 13th

Thursday, September 3rd

Cost: £5 Members | £12 Non-Members

Carers FREE

Let's Ride!

Accessible Cycling at Moredon Sports Hub.

Experience the freedom of the track at the
Moredon Sports Hub. We use tandems and
adapted trikes to ensure everyone can cycle!

**When: Drop in anytime between 11:30 AM –
1:30 PM**

Dates for your Diary:

Friday, April 10th

Friday, May 8th

Friday, June 12th

Friday, July 10th

Friday, August 14th

Friday, September 11th

Cost: Only £2 per person Members

£5.50 Non Members | Carers FREE

🏆 Regular Sports

**Tenpin Bowling: Every
Wednesday (12:15 PM-
Term Time Only) & Every
Monday (6:45 PM) @
Tenpin Shaw Ridge.**

Cost: £5 for Members

**Showdown: Every other
Thursday @ Craven
House. (Next: April 2nd,
16th April)**

6pm-8:30pm

Cost: Free

Coming Soon:

Lawn Bowls

Accoustic Rifle Shooting



Important Reminder:
Look out for our
WhatsApp/Email closer to
the time to confirm your
attendance at all Sports.



Useful Contacts

Local Support in Swindon & Wiltshire:

Swindon Bats (Sue Mead- Secretary): 07788 150487

For club bookings and info

Wiltshire Sight: 01380 723682

Local support, equipment advice, and sight hubs

Swindon Borough Council (Visual Impairment Team): 01793 464646

Great Western Hospital Eye Clinic: 01793 604020

National Support & Helplines:

RNIB Helpline: 0303 123 9999

Advice on benefits, tech, and emotional support

Macular Society: 0300 3030 111

Specialist info on macular conditions

Guide Dogs Information Line: 0800 781 1444

Retina UK: 0300 111 4000

Support for inherited progressive sight loss

Esme's Umbrella: 020 7391 3299

For those experiencing Charles Bonnet Syndrome/visual hallucinations

Top VIP Tip!

Free Parking including Train Stations:

Did you know you can register your Blue Badge to get free parking at hundreds of car parks including train stations nationwide?

Many train station car parks (including Swindon, Chippenham, and Didcot) use APCOA/Saba technology. To ensure you don't get a ticket, you can register your vehicle and Blue Badge on their Blue Badge Portal.

How it works:

Once registered, their cameras (ANPR) recognise your plate, so you don't need to worry about finding a machine or checking in every time.

Where it works:

Valid at most UK railway station car parks and many town center carparks too!

How to register:

Visit <https://www.apcoa.co.uk/ev-charging-services/blue-badge-parking/blue-badge-parking> or call their customer service team for assistance with the online form.

Note: You must re-register if you change your car or when your Blue Badge expires!