



Wiltshire Sight January Technology Newsletter

**Assistive technology information
and updates!**



For further information call us on [01380 723682](tel:01380723682)

**St Lucy's Sight Centre,
The Beeches, Browfort, Bath Road, Devizes
Wiltshire SN10 2AT**

Introduction

Welcome to Wiltshire Sight's first Technology Newsletter! We will be releasing four of these throughout the year in January, April, July and October.

Through this newsletter, we aim to keep people living with sight loss and professionals up to date with all the latest assistive technology available. We will also be including articles from our team and clients to give an insiders perspective on technology that supports those with sight loss.

The Technology Newsletter ensures people have the information to access lifelong learning opportunities as well as employment or volunteering through assistive technology. Wiltshire Sight make full use of the advances in technology and research to enhance the lives of people living with sight loss and explore new options as they develop.

Our Resource Centre

Everyone is welcome at our resource centre that is located at our head office in Devizes.

We have a range of equipment available to try out including talking clocks and video magnifiers. As well as demonstration equipment, we also stock products available for purchase that support visually impaired people to be independent, such as Bumpons, liquid level indicators, eye shields, playing cards, pens and address/signature guides.



PenFriend

The penfriend allows the user to record their message onto an adhesive label and attach to your everyday items around the home.

When you want to know what the item is, scan the label with the PenFriend and it will play your description recording to you.

There are three different types of label available to use with the PenFriend.



The first of which is the standard sticky label, which you can use on food with cooking instructions and use by dates, DVDs, CDs or even medicine with instructions.

The second label option is a magnetic tag that is perfect to use on tinned products in the kitchen.

Finally there is a washable clothing label to make picking an outfit easier and ensuring they are washed correctly by adding appropriate cleaning instructions.

Lighting

It is extremely important to ensure you have the right amount of lighting in your home for reading and performing everyday tasks.

Lumens measure the light given out so the higher the lumens, the greater the output. For example 100 watt bulb produces approximately 1,300 lumens. A standard size room in your home requires 60 watts or 600-700 lumens to be lit sufficiently.

Do you have the correct lighting in your home? Contact Wiltshire Sight on 01380 723682 for more information.

iPad Pro Review

As a visually impaired computer/tablet user I have been a big fan of the iPad for about 4 years now. Firstly, with the iPad 2, iPad Air and now the iPad Pro.

What Apple provide above others (In my opinion) are their excellent accessibility tools with the option to use the Zoom facility with up to 15x magnification and/or the voiceover facility which will speak the on screen text. The boldness of text and the screen contrast and brightness can also be increased or decreased to suit individual needs. For many, including myself it can be a preferred way of watching T.V. held close and using my reading glasses I get a lot more than watching a normal screen (However, this can prove to be a little anti-social at times, as I can become locked away in my own little world!)

The one drawback I always felt with the original iPad was the screen size. At 9.7 inches I felt it could have been bigger. The new iPad Pro has a huge 12.9 inch screen, it dwarfs the original and I feel enhances the user experience, especially for people with low vision. Text, T.V. and photos are enlarged on the bigger



screen so there is not so much need to zoom and drag as there was before. I find using the "Pages" word processing app a far easier experience and "Office 365" is now far more accessible for me.

There are of course some draw backs, not least the cost at £679, it doesn't come cheap. Also as it is bigger it is that much heavier and may prove to be too big and cumbersome for some people. I would strongly advise having a play with the iPad Pro at an Apple Store, if possible, before purchasing. Or, by appointment I would be willing to demonstrate my own at St Lucy's to individuals.

Sean Ford – Project Worker, Swindon

Wiltshire Sight supporting you to get started with Dolphin Guide.



If you are living with sight loss, Dolphin Guide will make using your computer easy and simple.

Guide gets rid of the complicated clutter on your computer and presents a simplified menu in high contrast colours of your preference, while a friendly voice reads your options to you step-by-step.

At our sight centre, we offer a free taster session of Dolphin Guide with one of our trained sight advisors who will assist you in your virtual tour.

Dolphin guide will enable you to send and receive emails with your family and friends as well as easily accessing the internet.

To book your appointment or to find out more, please contact mhemmings@wiltshiresight.org

NVDA Screen Reader



NVDA (Non Visual Desktop Access) is a screen reader made by NV Access. The software is free and enables those who are visually impaired or living with a sight condition to use computers.

The individual is able to select what is being read to them with the mouse or with the arrows on a keyboard. It is also possible to have words or characters that are typed read out.



There are over 30 different voices you can choose from as well as 43 languages to read out your selected text. This system can also be used to convert text into braille if a Braille Display is available to be used with it.

For many visually impaired people, this software is crucial to their education or securing employment. Social networking and many other online activities are also made possible with NVDA.

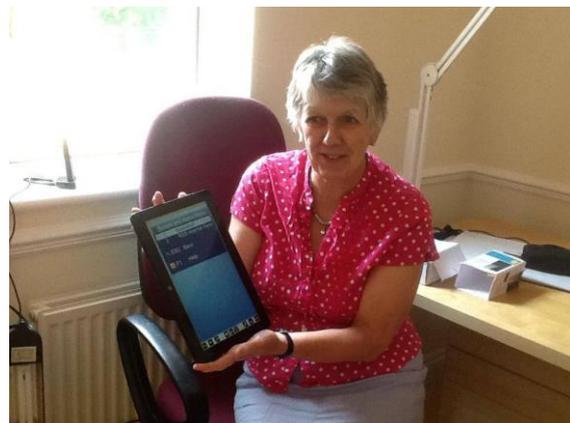
While many screen readers are very expensive, NVDA is free to download on the NV Access website.

Dates for your diary 2016

Event	Day	Time	Venue
Focus Event TBC	Wednesday 30 th March		Wiltshire Sight Centre
Swindon Technology & Information event	Tuesday 5 th April	10.00am till 2.00	Gorse Hill Swindon
Swindon Eye Can	Weds 6 th April Weds 13 th April Weds 20 th April Weds 27 th April	10.00am 12.00	Tesco Community Centre
Action on Hearing Loss & Wiltshire Sight	Weds 18 th May	10.00am till 12.00	Wiltshire Sight Centre Devizes
Macular Event	Thursday 30 th June	10.00am till 12.00	Wiltshire Sight Centre
Devizes Technology & Information event	Tuesday 6 th September	10.00am till 2.00	Devizes Corn Exchange
Swindon Eye Can	Weds 14 th Sept Weds 21 st Sept Weds 28 th Sept Weds 5 th Oct	10.00am till 12.00	Tesco Community Centre
Nystagmus awareness	Weds 2 nd November	10.00am 12	Wiltshire Sight Centre Devizes

A technology drop in will be held at our sight centre on the second Thursday of each month.

Technology taster sessions will also be held at our centre on the third Tuesday of every month.



Who we are and what we do



We believe we can make a real difference to the lives of those living with sight loss. Providing the opportunity to use tools, giving access to information and support and enabling you with lifelong learning skills that will support you to continue living independently.

Wiltshire sight receives no government funding and do not charge for our services. If you've found this newsletter useful please consider making a donation to support our work.

You can do this on our website at <http://www.wiltshiresight.org/> or you can call us on 01380 723682.

If you have any information or would like to share your experience with assistive technology, you can send it to us at mhemmings@wiltshiresight.org and it may be included in our next newsletter.

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