



LONDON VISION

London Scene

December 2019

London Scene is a regular newsletter to inform people with sight loss about accessible activities and events happening around London, including local society events.

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Welcome to the first edition of the London Scene newsletter – formerly known as Let's Go Out! You'll find that this edition is bigger than ever – and will continue to be so – containing even more events happening across the capital. In addition to our regular listings, we have expanded to include local society activities across London.

London Scene highlights cultural events and activities – some are designed particularly to enable access for people with sight loss – while all of them will be accessible with a volunteer guide.

This is just a selection of what is available in and around London.

Please note that London Scene is for information only and the activities listed below are not led by London Vision (unless explicitly stated). We recommend contacting the venue directly for further information including accessibility, health and safety and ticket sales.

www.londonvision.org

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Charity number: 1183741

Exhibitions, tours and activities

Purple Light Up Day

Tuesday 3 December 2019

Time: 11:30

Ticket price: free but some activities require booking.

A day of disability-led performances, workshops and tours to coincide with International Day for Disabled Persons.

Featuring Internationally renowned sitar player Baluji Shrivastav OBE, workshops with Action Space artist Thompson Hall and poetry by creative writer Kuli Kohli

The programme is as follows:

10.00-11.00 Touch Tour. Egyptian Sculpture Galleries, designed for blind and visually-impaired visitors – Requires booking 6 spaces + access companions

11.30-12.00 Music performance by City Lit and Royal Academy of Music Percussion Orchestra – Drop-in

11.30-13.30 'City of Heroes' Workshop with ActionSpace artist Thompson Hall – Drop-in

11.30-16.30 Contemplation space designed by ActionSpace artist Mark Lawrence – Drop-in

13.00-15.00 Performance piece by ActionSpace artist Mark Lawrence – Drop-in

13.30-13.45 'Captain's Duties' dance performance by Stopgap senior dance artist Chris Pavia – Drop-in. Book to reserve seats

14.00-15.00 Deaf-led, British Sign Language Eye-opener Tour. The Enlightenment Galleries led by Chisato Minamimura (no voice over) – Requires booking. 10 spaces + access companions

15.00-15.30 Poetry by creative writer Kuli Kohli – Drop-in. Book to reserve seats

15.30-16.15 Music and storytelling performance by North Indian classical musician Baluji Shiravstav OBE – Drop-in. Book to reserve seats

Booking contact number: 0207 323 8971 Booking contact

email: access@britishmuseum.org

Venue: British Museum, Great Russell Street, WC1B 3DG

Closest tube: Russell Square

Picture Description Talk: Hobbema's Wooded Landscape with a Water-mill

Thursday 5 December 2019

Time: 11:30

Ticket price: free

Delivered by trained guides and learning team, each talk focuses on one painting from the Collection with an audio description, followed by a group discussion on the themes of the painting.

This talk focuses on Meindert Hobbema's "Wooded Landscape with a Water-mill". All participants will receive free entry to the Gallery and exhibition following the talk.

Booking contact number: 020 8693 5254

Booking contact email: learning@dulwichpicturegallery.org.uk

Venue: Dulwich Picture Gallery, Gallery Road, SE21 7AD

Closest tube: Brixton

Cars: Accelerating the Modern World — (descriptive talk/tour for VI)

Saturday 7 December

Time: 2pm – 3pm

Join Cars curator for a tour of this exhibition, which will bring together a range of different cars, each telling a specific story about their impact on the world.

Evening Talks Please visit www.vam.ac.uk/whatson for the full evening talks programme.

To arrange for specific support, please contact the V&A Contact Centre.
disability@vam.ac.uk

All tours start from the Meeting Point, Grand Entrance, Cromwell Road.

All talks are free but advance booking is essential. To book, please contact the V&A Contact Centre. All V&A events are accessible to blind or partially sighted visitors, and an accompanying friend or carer may claim free entry.

Call 020 7942 2000

Venue: Victoria & Albert Museum, Cromwell Road, Knightsbridge, London, SW7 2RL

Troy: myth and reality

Thursday 12 December 2019

Time: 2:00

Ticket price: £7.50 (concessions and free companion ticket available)

Join a VocalEyes audio describer and an exhibition curator for a live audio described tour of the exhibition Troy: Myth and Reality.

The legend of Troy has endured for more than 3,000 years. The story of a great city, plunged into a 10-year war over the abduction of the most beautiful woman in the world, is irresistibly dramatic and tragic. This allure has sent adventurers and archaeologists in quest of the lost city, which is now widely believed to have existed.

This event includes a handling session, providing a unique opportunity to get up close to some fascinating objects in the collection, followed by an audio-described tour of the exhibition.

[A second tour will take place on Saturday 11 January 2020.](#)

Booking contact number: 020 7323 8971

Booking contact email: access@britishmuseum.org

Venue: British Museum, Great Russell Street, WC1B 3DG

Closest tube: Russell Square

Kara Walker Fons Americanus

Monday 16 December

Time: 10.15am – 12pm

Join guides Ruby and Andy from 10.15am for tea, coffee and croissants before exploring the Turbine Hall commission this year by artist Kara Walker. Ruby and Andy will describe a huge fountain, 12 metres high, spurting water and revealing tales of hidden histories of the terrible 18th century slave trade and of more recent civil rights atrocities. We will be able to touch and sit on the rim of the fountain, though the sculptures themselves are out of reach, located within and on the other side of a wide basin of water.

Meeting point: The Communities Hub, level 0, next to the Cloakroom

One tour at 11.00am with guides Ruby Maddox and Andy Mashigo

No booking required.

Venue: Tate Modern, Bankside, London, SE1 9TG

Creative Workshop: making and painting greetings cards at the Tate

Monday 16 December

Time: 2pm – 3.30pm

15 places are available for people to join artist Michele Fuirer on a workshop in which you will be assisted to paint raised image greetings cards. As you use your fingertips to identify the printed raised line drawings of iconic works from the Tate collection, Michele will discuss some ideas of colour theory to help you to colour in the spaces between the lines.

Please RSVP Marcus to reserve a place on:

marcus.dickeyhorley@tate.org.uk; telephone: 07733110244

Refreshments provided

Venue: Tate Modern, Bankside, London, SE1 9TG

Theatre

Cinderella (Pantomime)

Saturday 14 December 2019

Time: 6:00

Ticket price: £15

Touch tour: 4:30

Polish your glass slippers, dust off your carriage and join us as the clock strikes midnight for the Fairy Godmother of pantomimes, Cinderella.

Expect the usual Lyric twist on Wicked Stepmothers, Ugly Stepsisters, pumpkins, mice and more.

You shall go to the ball with this festive fairy tale treat. Word has it that if you leave it too late to book, you might turn into a pumpkin...

Booking contact number: 020 8741 6850

Booking contact email: tickets@lyric.co.uk

Venue: Lyric Hammersmith, Lyric Square, King Street, W6 0QL

Closest tube: Hammersmith

The Snail and the Whale

Sunday 15 December 2019

Time: 4:00

Ticket price: From £15 (50% off for access tickets)

Touch Tour: 3.15

Join an adventurous young girl and her seafaring father as they reimagine the story of a tiny snail's incredible trip around the world, inspired by Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler's much-loved picture book.

A heart-warming adventure for everyone aged four and up, from the company that brought you 'The Gruffalo' and 'Room on the Broom' live on stage.

Booking contact number: 0330 333 4815

Booking contact email: access@nimaxtheatres.com

Venue: Apollo Shaftesbury Avenue, 31 Shaftesbury Avenue, W1D 7ES

Closest tube: Piccadilly Circus

Christmas at The Snow Globe

Saturday 21 December 2019

Time: 2:00

Ticket price: Standing tickets £5. Seats tickets from £15

Touch Tour: 12:00

Join the Globe this Christmas to help us deck the halls and tell the story of what we can achieve when we believe in magic, trust in each other... and sprinkle a little fairy dust.

Sandi Toksvig invites you to don your best (and warmest!) festive garb and raise a cup of mulled wine with the Globe family this December.

Bring along your loved ones and get ready to sing along with your favourite festive songs as we raise our voices to the Southwark sky, to celebrate a bright and very merry Christmas.

This event is in the outdoor, open-air Globe Theatre, so make sure you wrap up warm!

Booking contact number: 020 7401 9919

Booking contact email: tickets@shakespearesglobe.com

Venue: Shakespeare's Globe Theatre, 21 New Globe Walk, Bankside, SE1 9DT

Closest tube: Southwark

The Snow Queen

Friday 27 December 2019

Time: 3.00

Ticket price: From £16.50

Touch tor: 2:00

For everyone who loves Frozen, come see how it all began as the original Snow Queen casts her magical spell over Park Theatre this Christmas! Join Gerda on her epic journey through the seasons to save her best friend Cei before she loses him to endless Winter. With the help of bickering flowers, nasty teachers, snowball fights, confused Princes and Princesses and Bae the talking Reindeer, they might both be ready to grow up after all. The sparkling Snow Queen is beckoning young and old to this glittering spectacle, brought to you by the team behind last year's Christmas hit Peter Pan.

Booking contact number: 020 7870 6876

Booking contact email: boxoffice@parktheatre.co.uk

Venue: Park Theatre, Clifton Terrace, Finsbury Park, N4 3JP

Closest tube: Finsbury Park

Sports

Martial Arts – Super Tuesday!

Tuesday 3 December 2019

Various sessions

Start at 1 pm - End: 6.30pm

Please call 0333 0030 520 or email info@mmarap.co.uk to confirm cost.

Venue: Ringcross Community Centre, 60 Lough Road, Islington, N7, 8RH

Free Dance Workshop

Tuesday 3 December 2019

Time: 11:00 – 3:00

Cost: Free

Step Change Studios are working with Westminster Council on an initiative called '**Dance Westminster**' which aims to encourage disabled people to be active through dance. This is a free initiative which consists of 3 components:

Dance workshop:

People are invited to join one of **3 free dance workshops** lasting 2 hours (during the day). Our inclusive dance workshops are pan-disability, and carers are welcome to join in also.

The size of the workshop will be no more than 30 participants each and will be led by an inclusive dance teacher and supported by other dance team members.

During the workshop, we will also teach a dance routine, which again will be adapted to suit different needs. Each dance workshop has a different dance theme – no dance experience is needed!

The dates of the 3 workshops are:

- 3rd December at Moberly Centre, starts 11am (Latin dance theme)
- 7th December at Tresham Centre, starts 11 am (musical theatre theme)
- 11th December at City of Westminster College, starts 9.30am (Bollywood-hip hop theme).

Dance Audition:

After each dance workshop there is a 45-60 min break then participants are invited to audition for the Dance Westminster finals. Participants can audition on their own, with a carer or in groups (we will ask preferences on the day). They are encouraged to dress up but this is optional. They will perform the routine we taught (and can also incorporate their own moves if they like).

A friendly panel will then select 3 people from each audition to go through to the finals. Every participant will receive a certificate and Westminster will also provide details of other inclusive sports available to try in the borough to encourage people to stay active.

Dance Westminster Finals:

Finalists from each audition will be paired with a professional dance partner who will teach them a performance routine.

The finalists will have four sessions of 2-hour lessons between 11th and 22nd January in the Westminster Borough. Dates and locations will be agreed with each finalist.

The finals event will take place in the beautiful ballroom of Porchester Hall on 23rd January during the day.

We hope every finalist will have their organisation, friends and family behind them cheering them on!

To participate everyone must pre-register.

For details and to register, please visit the Dance Westminster web page: www.westminster.gov.uk/dance-westminster

The spirit of Dance Westminster is very much about having fun, being active and being part of our community.

Things you need to know before you register (terms and conditions)

Dance Westminster is open to people with a registered disability over the age of 11 who live, study or work in the City of Westminster.

Participants of all abilities are welcome, and we will provide different versions of dance moves, including for seated and standing participants. No previous dance experience is required. Carers are welcome to participate in the workshop and audition with people they support.

Participants should select one workshop they will attend. Participants may not

attend more than one workshop. There is a set number of participants we can accommodate in each workshop. If you register please ensure you can attend – or please inform us if you can no longer attend so that someone else can benefit from your place.

All workshop spaces are wheelchair accessible and have accessible bathrooms. If you have additional needs, please let us know in the registration form.

Participants should wear comfortable clothing and footwear for the dance workshop. Refreshments will be provided.

There will be a one-hour break between the workshop and audition.

Participants are encouraged to dress up for the audition.

Friends and family are welcome to the workshop auditions.

Ten finalists will be chosen across the three workshops. We will arrange 1:1 lessons with each finalist between 11th-22nd January to learn a dance routine to perform at the finals.

Finalists will be expected to attend all rehearsals or they may forfeit their place in the grand finals (excluding extenuating circumstance).

The grand final will be at Porchester Hall on 23rd January 2020. Before you participate in the workshop audition, please ensure you are available for the finals.

Participants/guardians will be asked to sign a mandatory health declaration form confirming that no medical professional had advised that they should not participate in physical activity.

Participants will be asked to sign an optional consent form for photography and filming at the workshops and finals.

Dance Westminster is an inclusive dance initiative and we ask all participants and their supporters to be respectful and supportive of each other and the spirit of the event. It is the discretion of Westminster City Council Dance Westminster organisers to withdraw participation at any stage if any

participant is found to be in breach of the terms and conditions.

The judges' decision is final.

Any queries concerning participation should be sent to ibannister@westminster.gov.uk

Rashmi Becker – Founding Director – Step Change Studios

Tel: 07976 363861; Website: www.stepchangestudios.com

Venue: Various - 3 Dec - Moberly Sports Centre, 25 Chamberlayne Road, NW10 3NB

VI Rugby

Saturday 7 December 2019

Time: 9:30 – 12:00

Cost: Free

Do you want to try Vision Impaired Rugby? Well, now is your chance!

Beginners are very welcome

Venue: Teddington Sportsground, Udney Park Road, Teddington, TW11 9BB

Transport: Teddington Station is about 10-minute walk from the sportsground

Age range: 16+

Meet and greet: From Teddington Station, Email Daniel Lineker to confirm you are coming

Contact: daniellineker@thechangefoundation.org.uk

Activities across the capital

East London

Monday 9th December

Waltham Forest Vision Christmas meal - come and join us for some good food and festive cheer! Members make their own way to the venue and pay for their own meal (cost for Christmas Meal is £17.95).

If you would like to attend, please book in advance to avoid disappointment.

Email walthamforestvision@gmail.com by 4th December 2019.

Time: 12:00 - 15:00

Location: The Old Hall Tavern, 200 Hall Lane, Chingford, E4 8EY

Thursday 19th December

Beyond Sight Loss Christmas Meal.

Three course Christmas dinner with all the trimmings, or a vegetarian option (cooked by hand). This will be £20 per member and £25 per guest you bring (limited to 1 guest per person). There will be entertainment and a comedian. There is a limit of 50 people for this event, so please book in advance to avoid disappointment. Email ashrafia1@btinternet.com by Friday 6th December 2019.

Time: 17:00 – 21:30

Location: Southern Grove Community Centre, Southern Grove, Bow, London E3 4FX.

Friday 17th January 2020

VIPON would like to welcome you to a lunch time get together in the New Year. If you're interested in coming along, please get in touch with us as soon as possible. Cost £5.00 per person. If you are interested and want to attend, please email VIPNewham@gmail.com

Time: 12:30-15:00

Location: Enabled Living Health Care, 200 Chargeable Lane, Plaistow, London E13 8DW.

VI Chess sessions run by experienced teacher Voldi Gailans

The Braille Chess Association takes place every Monday from 2pm to 4pm at the Bromley by Bow Centre at St Leonard's Street, E3 3BT.

For anyone wishing to be shown to the venue, we can arrange for you to be met at 1:45pm at the nearby Bromley-by-Bow Station, but you will need to let us know in advance. The sessions will continue weekly and are completely free. Please let us know at least one week in advance if you would like to come, so that we can ensure we have enough equipment. If you are interested in coming along, please contact Voldi Gailans on 0748 4236531 or email vgailans@uwclub.net

Bike Works inclusive cycling

Bike Works offer inclusive cycling in Lloyd Park, Walthamstow on every third Thursday of the month. Session time is 10:00-12:00pm and meeting place is outside the William Morris Gallery, Forest Road, Walthamstow, E17 4PP. For more information, please contact Bike Works on 020 8980 7998.

Bike Works also offer inclusive cycling every Wednesday and every other Saturday at Victoria Park in Bow, E3 5TB from 1:00pm-3:00pm. Due to its popularity, new attendees are recommended to turn up an hour ahead of starting time. For more information, please contact Bike Works on 020 8980 7998.

Bike Works offer inclusive cycling at the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park every Tuesday, 11:00am-1:00pm. Due to its popularity, new attendees are recommended to turn up an hour ahead of starting time. For more information, please contact Bike Works on 020 8980 7998.

Ability Bow gym sessions

Ability Bow gym offer accessible gym sessions every Wednesday from 10:00am -11:00am at St. Paul's Church, St. Stephen's Road, Bow, E3 5JL. For more information, please contact Ability Bow on 020 8980 7778.

South East London

A New Coffee and Conversation Group for People with Vision Impairment

When: The first and third Tuesday of every month from 9.45am to 10.45am

Where: John Lewis Department Store, Oxford Street, Benugo Coffee Shop on 2nd Floor

Facilitated by: John Osborne

For further information please contact London Vision on 0203 761 3651 or email info@londonvision.org

The Capital AUDIOBOOK CLUB

For all keen readers of audiobooks!

Come along to this friendly group of blind and partially sighted readers to talk about audiobooks. A new book is chosen amongst the group each month which will be available from RNIB Talking Books service or your choice of audiobook download.

Meeting on the 4th Thursday each month from 6pm to 7 pm in Forest Hill.

Venue: The Capital, JD Wetherspoons, 11-21 London Road, London SE23 3TW

Ask at the bar and staff in the pub will help you find the group.

For more information, contact Ian Rattray on 07725 738817 or email ian@Rattray.me.uk

Peer Support Group Meetings

VI Friends Lewisham

Monday 16 December

11am – 1pm

Lewisham Library, 199-201 Lewisham High Street, SE13 6LG.

Join a friendly group of blind and partially sighted people in Lewisham, hear from guest speakers about local Borough and London-wide issues and share your experiences.

Refreshments provided.

Lambeth and Southwark group meeting

Thursday 19th December.

1.30pm – 3.30pm.

Stockwell Community Centre, 1 Studley Road, London SW4 6RA.

Christmas entertainment and refreshments for Lambeth and Southwark members.

North and Central West London

Young people's pub social

Sunday 8 December

1pm – 3pm, The Metropolitan Bar, 7 Station Approach, Marylebone Road, London, NW1 5LA

Come along to RNIB Connect's pub social, they have a nice quiet area booked in the Metropolitan Wetherspoons next to Baker St Station.

Volunteers from RNIB Connect will be happy to meet you at Baker St station on the Marylebone Road exit at 1.45 and head into the pub together at 2pm or can meet you in the pub (the pub entrance is literally between the two tube exits on the Marylebone road). Let them know what works best for you. You can get in touch by emailing: connect@rnib.org.uk

Acknowledgements: We are grateful to service users, the VocalEyes website vocaleyeyes.co.uk and Metroblindsport.org for their postings and related text which enabled this newsletter.

Please visit www.londonvision.org for additional event listings.