# [The Tactile Times Newspaper](https://tactiletimes.org/)

## Christmas Update 2020

[Skip to Contents list](#_Contents:)

The Tactile Times editors are very excited about Christmas. This is a short update to wish you a merry Christmas, and to bring you the latest news. Although our weekly events updates have come to an end we thought that this would be a good time to update our readers on the latest news and events. We wish you all a relaxing Christmas, and we look forward to getting ready for Issue 4 in 2021!

In this update we let you know about the result of the RNIB See Differently awards (thankyou to so many of you for voting for the Tactile Times). You can also find out about learning Braille with the Braillists Foundation, join an accessibility webinar with AbilityNet, learn about the Envision Smart Glasses, how to host unlimited Zoom meetings this Christmas, and the plans for virtual Sight Village. All of these events are in January!

N.B. This update includes hyperlinks which will not appear clickable on the Touch or Touch+. If you see some random text saying something like Back to Contents, it is a link made for people using computers or phones to bring you back (in this case) to the contents list.

## Contents:

[1. RNIB See Differently awards](#_RNIB_See_Differently)

[2. The Look Festive open mic – 20th December](#_Look_Festive_open)

[3. Webinar Recordings](#_Webinar_recordings) and other resources

[4. Upcoming events](#_==_Upcoming_events)

[5. Host unlimited Zoom meetings over Christmas](#_==_5._Zoom)

[6. Contact details](#_Contact_details)

## == 1. RNIB See Differently Awards

Thank you to those of you (over 800 people) who voted for us in the RNIB Coronavirus heroes Awards. It meant a huge amount to us and it was lovely to see our community being recognised.

Sadly we were not winners this time, but it was close and we were 2nd in our category (Best community response). We have been so encouraged by all the support we have received from the community on this.

[Back to Contents](#_Contents:)

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## == 2. Look Festive open mic

Look ran a festive open mic on the 20th of December from 4pm to 6pm. They have also done an open mic in July.

This event was a great chance to show your talents and watch the performance.

You can find more details here: <https://www.look-uk.org/festive-open-mic/>

Keep checking the Look website as recordings may be released.

Two of the editors performed, including pieces such as concerto in A minor by Vivaldi, and Walking in the Air from the Snowman. It was a great opportunity and we hope that Look-UK will release recordings of it.

[Back to Contents](#_Contents:)

## == 3. Webinar recordings and other resources

Although there are very few live webinars over the Christmas holidays, there are still loads of recorded webinars available to watch on demand. These include all Sight and Sound's events, some of the master classes run by the Braillists Foundation, all the HumanWare live webinars, lots of APH access academy (formerly #AtHomeWithAPH Webinars) and many more. There are also resources such as newsletters and webpages which have helpful information. Have a look at the links below to get you started:

Sight and Sound podcast (with lots of archived webinars):

<https://audioboom.com/channels/4972917>

Sight and Sound YouTube channel (with lots of archived webinars and videos):

<https://www.youtube.com/user/SightAndSoundTech/about?disable_polymer=1>

HumanWare live page:

<https://tactiletimes.page.link/HLWS>

Hadley technology (with lots of videos and archived discussion groups, you will need to login/register):

<https://hadley.edu/learn?topic_id=14>

Braillists media page (which contains recordings and notes from Braillists events):

<https://www.braillists.org/media/>

Look website (with resources, news, recordings of webinars and many more pages):

<https://www.look-uk.org/>

ICEB General assembly:

<https://live.braillecast.com/podcast.php>

BrailleCast – A podcast run by members of the Braillists:

<https://www.braillecast.com/>

Top tech Tidbits for Thursday newsletter archive (a newsletter all about accessible tech):

<https://www.toptechtidbits.com/archive.html>

VocalEyes newsletter archives (they have been sending out weekly newsletters ever since the first lockdown started):

<https://us7.campaign-archive.com/home/?u=909237df20438895b80cc2b0d&id=1c2762eb08>

Look-UK Newsletter archives (they have been sending out weekly newsletters since the start of the first lockdown):

<https://us13.campaign-archive.com/home/?u=831403dd02fd4412372ae9267&id=8de2671ac8>

British Blind Sport newsletter archive (they have been sending out monthly newsletters):

<https://us6.campaign-archive.com/home/?u=a9d59ab4c8&id=27857b700e>

And don't forget our own [past issues](https://tactiletimes.org/issues.html) page and [events email archive](https://us8.campaign-archive.com/home/?u=8e3cdaaf06f9717212f8c7e95&id=2acbb15db7) (the events email archive is no longer updated but might still be a useful resource). Why not also check out our [useful links](https://tactiletimes.org/links.html) page at <https://tactiletimes.org/links.html> and discover something new?

[Back to Contents](#_Contents:)

## == 4. Upcoming events

### 4th of January – Celebrate World braille day with the Braillists Foundation

On January 4th people across the world will celebrate World Braille Day. The day marks the birth date of Louis Braille, and is an important day for blind people and those connected to the blind community. The Braillists could not let this day pass without recognising it.

The Braillists will be hosting a panel discussion, inviting panellists who use braille to speak to us about their lives with braille. More importantly perhaps, they will be sharing their thoughts on how braille may adapt to the changing needs of the blind community in future. The Braillists will also be sharing perspectives on Braille Usage from around the world, hearing voices from the UK all the way to New Zealand.

This event is free to attend and they hope to see many of you there. Their final line up of panellists will be announced in the next week. To register for the World Braille day event go to: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYlceihrD8uGdwxFXg75iQhhdTwaphqjlzc>

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| **The Assistive Technology Social Hub**Thursday, Jan 7th 10 AM - 11:30 AM |

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| Eye spy with envision AI poster for next social hub |

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| Sight and Sound will be kicking off 2021 with a brand new device, exclusive to Sight and Sound Technology. Based in the Netherlands, Envision are a team of creators, thinkers and doers who are deeply passionate about technology and how it can empower people when applied meaningfully. They are also the winner of the Google Play Award 2019 and the AppleVis Hall of Fame Award 2020. **When: Jan 7, 2021 10:00 AM** **Topic: The Assistive Technology Social Hub - Kick start 2021 with Envision AI!** **Register in advance for this webinar:**[https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\_HybobgmGTrGFNXymRRXYuA](https://sightandsound.us17.list-manage.com/track/click?u=ce4cc2711137ac8c3675e910a&id=3555c660eb&e=2544608e73)Sam and the 2 Stuart's will be exploring two of Envision's creations, the Envision AI smartphone app and the Envision Smartglasses.The Envision app empowers blind and low vision users to be independent by turning the visual world into an audio experience. It uses artificial intelligence to read all kinds of text from any surface, recognise faces, describe scenes, find objects, scan barcodes, detect colours and so much more. It is the best all in-one tool in the pocket of a blind or low vision user for all of their visual recognition tasks.The Envision Smartglasses use a combination of the Google Glass 2 and Envision's award-winning AI-technology. Just like the smartphone app, the Smartglasses use artificial intelligence to recognize the visual information it sees which it then converts to audio. The Smartglasses also includes a video calling feature which allows the user to call for sighted assistance from a friend or relative.Sight and Sound are keen for you to join as they dive into the world of wearable assistive technology as they put the Envision Glasses to the test against its closest competitor, the OrCam Pro.Sight and Sound would like you to come armed with any questions, queries or quibbles that you would like to share with the other Social Hub members. This session is also suitable for teachers, parents and assistive technology beginners.  |

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| [**Register for the Envision AT Social Hub here**](https://sightandsound.us17.list-manage.com/track/click?u=ce4cc2711137ac8c3675e910a&id=9754bb9c67&e=2544608e73)  |

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### 20th of January – AbilityNet accessibility webinar

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| **Accessibility Insights with Alejandro Moledo: January 2021**Each month AbilityNet host an online chat with individuals who are championing digital accessibility and inclusion. They are delighted to welcome Alejandro Moledo, Policy Coordinator at the European Disability Forum, as the next guest in this series.  |

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| Profile photos of Robin and Alejandro |

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| Alejandro will be interviewed by Robin Christopherson, AbilityNet's Head of Digital Inclusion, who hosts this monthly online chat. They hope you'll be able to join them on 19 January for this 30 minute webinar on all things accessibility, starting at 1pm GMT. |

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| [**Register for their Accessibility Insights January 2021 bitesize webinar**](https://abilitynetnews.org.uk/3SCI-184NV-6KMJ1P-S0VK0-1/c.aspx) |

### Braille For Beginners by the Braillists Foundation Registration now Open

Last week the Braillists shared the news that they are relaunching their popular Braille for Beginners course in January. This will give those of you who missed out on participating in their first course to join and learn braille. The course will take place over 12 weeks, starting on Monday the 11th of January at 7 PM. The course is free to attend for all participants, however the Braillists do require you to register.

Registration gives the Braillists a clear indication of numbers, enabling them to produce participant resources. It is also used to add you to the course discussion group, so that you can communicate and share resources with other participants and your instructor outside of class time.

If you’re unable to register and need further assistance, please email help@braillists.org and one of their team will assist you.

[Register for Braille for Beginners at: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAsfu-ppjwvGteUgYHNMNSvhxseX3y8DOjh](https://braillists.us8.list-manage.com/track/click?u=f8b3c5f851151c8180717ff70&id=1cabc972d4&e=61d99d728a)

### Tuesday 19th and Wednesday 20th of January - Sight Village virtual

SAVE THE DATE

Sight Village's Online Information Event

Tuesday 19th and Wednesday 20th January 2021

They are kicking the Sight Village season off early in 2021 with their Online Information Event that will be taking place via YouTube Live Stream.

Sight Village exhibitors and sponsors will be showcasing the latest in technology, with a series of 30-minute product demonstrations followed by Q&A.

You do not need a YouTube account to access this event.  Please also note they will be streaming the event LIVE and the sessions will not be available to view after the event has taken place.

Like all Sight Village events, this event is FREE to attend however they ask that you please register your interest by visiting the [**Online Information Event Programme**](https://www.qac.ac.uk/seminarsevents/sight-village-online-information-event/574.htm#.X9ibrdj7RPZ)**,**ticking the box next to the sessions that interest you and filling in your details towards the end of the page. This will enable them to email you with further details about how to access the live stream in the lead up to the event.

At the end of each demonstration there will be time for Q&A therefore if you have any questions you would like exhibitors to answer during the event regarding their products or services, please let the organisers know in advance by emailing **sv@qac.ac.uk**

In the meantime, if you have any questions or require further support and assistance with booking, you should not hesitate to contact the organisers by emailing **sv@qac.ac.uk**. QAC closes at 2.30pm today however they will respond to you upon their return on Monday 4th January.

You can also email sv@qac.ac.uk if you would like to subscribe to the Sight Village newsletter.

### Royal Albert Hall on-demand video

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| What's on banner image |

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| Chilly Gonzales |

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| Classic Album Sundays Stream: Chilly Gonzales**Streaming until 4 January**

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| If you're staying at home this Christmas you may as well do it in style, and the Royal Albert Hall have got a very special online event that might just help.You can tune in for an exclusive interview between **Colleen ‘Cosmo’ Murphy** and the Grammy-winning Canadian pianist and entertainer, **Chilly Gonzales**, who also performs songs from his album *A Very Chilly Christmas* during this festive edition of Classic Album Sundays, filmed in the Hall's Elgar Room.To get a taste of the treats on offer you can listen to *Silent Night*, the first single from the album [**here**](https://e.wordfly.com/click?sid=OTNfNTgwNjJfMTg3NzIwNF83MDIx&l=e64188a3-5844-eb11-a82b-0050569dd3d9&utm_source=wordfly&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=solus&utm_term=btms-chilly-gonzales-rahome-bookers&utm_content=version_A&emailsource=&utm_source=wordfly&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=classic-album-sundays&utm_term=cas-chilly-gonzales-email-to-rahome-bookers-dec-2020&utm_content=version_A&emailsource=58776).This stream is available to watch online right now, so settle in and enjoy. |

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| [**BUY VIDEO ON DEMAND**](https://e.wordfly.com/click?sid=OTNfNTgwNjRfMjAxNzQ5NV82OTY0&l=e54188a3-5844-eb11-a82b-0050569dd3d9&utm_source=wordfly&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=classic-album-sundays&utm_term=cas-chilly-gonzales-email-to-rahome-bookers-dec-2020&utm_content=version_A&emailsource=58776) |

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[Back to Contents](#_Contents:)

## == 5. Zoom unlimited meetings over the Christmas holidays

The popular videoconferencing service Zoom have decided to give all their free users unlimited meeting time to meet up with people around Christmas and new year. This means that your calls will not be cut off after 40 minutes until the start of 2021!

With the new variant of Covid-19 and Tier 4 restrictions racing across the country this is a great way to connect with people who you cannot see physically over the festive period this year.

To take advantage of this, simply register with Zoom at: <https://zoom.us/freesignup> Any email will work (although it says work email only).

For login (for those who have already registered) go to: <https://zoom.us/signin> You can start a meeting by either clicking 'New meeting' for an instant meeting, or click 'Schedule' to schedule a meeting for later and add invitees to it whenever you like. Don't forget that meetings you join from other people's free Zoom accounts will also now be unlimited!

You can then enjoy unlimited time in your meeting and have a great time!

N.B. You can also complete the above steps using a [Zoom app or desktop client](https://zoom.us/download). See our special Zoom guide in [Issue 2](https://tactiletimes.page.link/I2) for more information.

If you'd rather not use Zoom for privacy reasons, [Google Meet](https://meet.google.com) are also offering free Gmail users unlimited meeting time until the end of March 2021, and [WhatsApp](https://whatsapp.com/download) calls have no time limits at all.

[Back to contents](#_Contents:)

## == 6. Contact details

This update was published in December 2020 by the Tactile Times Newspaper.

Email: info@tactiletimes.org

Or just click [here](https://tactiletimes.org/contact.html) to contact us.

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[Back to Top](#_top)