

Southend Borough Libraries Fact sheet January 2013

Library Services to Visually Impaired People

If you enjoy reading, but find print difficult, Southend Libraries can help.

A wide range of services are on offer to visually impaired children and adults. Many are free and these include:

- Large Print books and Big Print newspaper
- Access library card
- Audio books on CD, Playaway and free e-audio titles
- Audio Described DVD's
- Magnifying Aids
- Local and National Talking Newspapers
- Internet and computers
- On-line library enquiry services
- Reading Groups

Large Print books

All libraries stock a wide range of large print titles to suit every taste and interest. Titles are listed on the library catalogue, which is also available online at www.southend.gov.uk/libraries

Big Print is a weekly large print newspaper with a TV and radio listing. For a sample copy, please contact RNIB Big Print, on 0303 123 9999 or visit the website www.rnib.org.uk/bigprint

Access Library Ticket

Anyone with a visual impairment can borrow and request audio books, music CD's, videos, DVD's or language courses free of charge. It's easy to set up this type of ticket at any library. You simply need to provide confirmation of your sight problem along with your name and address details. To apply for a card, please ask library staff.

Audio books on CD are available at libraries Titles can be requested free of charge through any library, by telephone or from the website at www.southend.gov.uk/libraries

Playaway is a pre-recorded digital audio book and player rolled into one. It's small, about the size of a pack of cards, so you can take a whole audio book with you, wherever you go. Playaway features easy to use controls and superb sound quality. For a free demonstration, contact Southend Library or Southend Blind Welfare Organisation (details given at the end of this fact sheet).

E-audio books are now available via Southend Libraries website. Using the free Clipper DL service anyone can download up to 10 fiction and non-fiction titles for 3 weeks onto their computer, laptop, MP3 player or mobile device. You need a current library ticket to sign up and the first time you login you will be asked to create an account. After 3 weeks the item automatically expires unless it has been renewed. Each item can be renewed once. Adult, teen and children's titles are available.

The Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB) provides a digital CD Talking Book Service, which offers 18,000 titles, which are delivered through the post direct to your home.

An easy to use digital player is also provided as part of the service and the machine will also play library music and audio book CD's. For more details or a free demonstration of the CD player, please contact the Library Community and Diversity Team.

Local Talking Newspapers offer free audio versions of the news in your area. These are Talking Newspapers for Southend -Tel 01702 554536 / 01702 585788 and Rayleigh, Rochford and Castle Point - Tel 01702 541410 / 01702 205169.

Audio book reviews selected by Southend Library reading groups also regularly feature on local talking newspapers.

The National Talking Newspaper Service provides over 200 national newspapers and magazines on cassette and CD and an electronic service, using e-mail and the Internet. Visit www.tnauk.org.uk or telephone 01435 866102.

The Calibre Audio Library provides a free postal cassette digital MP3 service, offering thousands of titles delivered direct to a customer's home. A wide range of children's titles are also available. For details telephone Calibre on 01296 432339 or visit www.calibre.org.uk

Quick Reads can be enjoyed by anyone and it doesn't matter if you find reading print difficult because Quick Read titles are free and available in large print or as boxed sets containing spoken word cassettes and CD's alongside the clear print book. For more details ask at your library or visit www.quickreads.org.uk

Audio Described DVDs contain extra commentary describing body language, scenery and action to help visually impaired people enjoy films.

Southend Central Library has a selection of DVD's which can be hired free of charge for one week. The RNIB also produce a catalogue of audio described titles in large print, cassette and disk or by e-mail.

Magnifying Aids

Every library has small hand-held magnifiers for customers to use.

Internet and Computers

As part of a national initiative called "The People's Network" all Southend Libraries are now able to offer free access to computers and the Internet.

All libraries have a range of assistive technology such as trackballs and adaptive keyboards which are available to help anyone use the computers. To find out more about these services or arrange a free taster session with library staff, please get in touch.

Southend Library services on-line

Our website www.southend.gov.uk/libraries gives further details of all our services, and instant access to the library catalogue. You can also search, request or renew items via the website any time of the day.

Reading Groups

If you enjoy reading or listening to spoken word, why not share your ideas with others and join a reading group. Titles on CD and large print are provided along with refreshments. For more details call your nearest library or visit www.readinggroups.org

Other sources of help

Southend Blind Welfare Organisation (SBWO) is an independent charity which provides practical help to visually impaired people. Their website address is www.southendblindwelfare.org.uk

SBWO has an Equipment and Information Centre in Westcliff-on-Sea and also an information service in the Eye Unit at Southend Hospital.

To find out more about these and their other services please call their Head Office on 01702 342131 or e mail: sbwo@tesco.net

Reading Sight is a website that enables readers to find books in accessible formats, join libraries and participate in reading groups and activities. For more details visit <http://readingsight.org.uk/>

Getting in Touch

For more details, contact a Library Development Officer based at Southend Central Library, Victoria Avenue, Southend-on-Sea, Essex, SS2 6EX.

Telephone **01702 534123**

TypeTalk **18001 01702 534100 (for hearing impaired customers)**

E-mail **librarydevelopment@southend.gov.uk**

Website **www.southend.gov.uk/libraries**

A copy of this fact sheet can be translated into alternative languages, and can be provided in other formats on request.

END 01/13