

**DeafPLUS Somerset Mobile
Advisory Service**

- Hearing aid maintenance clinics
- Equipment demonstrations
- Advice and information through our advice surgeries on the following dates and locations through July

Advice sessions are on an appointment only basis. To make an appointment contact Stewart on 07762 848226, email stewart.weston@deafplus.org or follow us on Facebook Deafplus Somerset

3rd August 9.45am-10.45am Curry Rivel Parsonage Place TA10 OEW

3rd August 11am-12pm Fivehead St Martin's Close, TA3 6PW

3rd August 1pm-3pm Martock Moorland's Car Park TA12 6DH

16th August 10.00am-12.00pm Wellington St Johns Church Wellington

16th August 1pm-2.30pm Somerton Cox's Yard Car Park, TA11 7PR

17th August 10.30am-12.30pm Burnham-on-Sea Elizabeth Court, TA8 1GA

17th August 1pm-2.00pm Burnham-on-Sea Pier St Car Park TA6 1AB

22nd August 10.30am-12.00pm Ilminster Muchelney House Abbots Close Ilminster TA19 0EF

22nd August 1pm-3pm Shepton Mallet Dobbies Garden Centre BA4 4PE

24th August 10.30am-12pm Wiveliscombe Talking Café, Silver Street Centre Silver Street TA4 2PA

24th August 1.30pm-3pm Bridgwater Taylor Court, Capes Close TA6 5QS

Lip-Reading classes. Time to book your space for the new teaching year. We hold weekly lip-reading classes across Somerset at Glastonbury, Frome Castle Cary, Ilminster Langport, Burnham-on-Sea, Bridgwater, and Yeovil. These classes will resume in September 2022. Classes are popular, and spaces limited led by our trio of tutors Linda, Gill, and Janet.

We will be holding FREE taster lip reading sessions in Crewkerne, Shepton Mallet, Taunton and Wellington Please book either direct with your tutor or Stewart on 07762 848226, email stewart.weston@deafplus.org



**Somerset Mobile
Advice Service
(MAS) Coordinator
and Advice Officer**

An exciting opportunity has arisen to support Somerset residents living with hearing loss.

As our MAS Coordinator, you will be travelling to and parking across Somerset, providing a face-to-face service to residents living with hearing loss which will include information and demonstration of equipment, managing enquiries relating to social welfare advice (e.g., welfare benefits) and signposting on to other relevant organisations. This position is for 22 hours a week, Mon-Friday.

Full job description and details of how to apply Interested please contact stewart.weston@deafplus.org or 07762 848226





Auracast™ – new Bluetooth technology for people with hearing loss

Technology and assistive devices

Brand new audio sharing technology, Auracast™, could transform the way hearing aid and cochlear implant users listen to audio.

deafPLUS is really excited about the announcement of Auracast™, a brand new assistive listening system.

Auracast™ has been designed specifically for people with hearing loss, to stream audio to devices such as hearing aids and cochlear implants. This will make audio in public places and on personal devices, like smartphones, much more accessible. For instance, you will be able to use your smartphone to listen to public announcements in busy stations or airports, or to share music with friends.

Since Bluetooth's announcement of this new technology in early 2020, deafPLUS has been excited about the new audio sharing technology and the benefits it might bring to our community. We expect new Auracast™ products, including hearing aids and cochlear implants, to start coming into the market in early 2023.

deafPLUS will continue to work with Bluetooth SIG and with our supporters to encourage venues and product developers to adopt Auracast and make the transition from existing systems, as it has the potential to make a significant difference to the lives of people with hearing loss.

About Auracast™ How assistive listening systems work

Assistive listening systems can be used to help people who struggle to hear audio in difficult environments. This can include hearing speech in noisy places, music, dialogue on television and the telephone.

There are different technologies that can help do this such as loop systems. Auracast is the newest one.

Existing Bluetooth streaming

For hearing aid and cochlear implant users, streaming audio using Bluetooth from personal devices like smartphones has been available for some time. However, currently, it only allows you to connect to a single device at a time and sometimes only works with specific devices. Read more about assistive listening systems.

How Auracast is different

1. Access to audio for everyone

Anyone with Auracast™ enabled Bluetooth earbuds or hearing aids will be able to access high quality audio, through the privacy of their own device. This might be public announcements like when you are at an airport or train station or a private conversation, such as talking to someone at your bank.

2. Share the experience with others

The new Auracast™ will be the first truly universal Bluetooth connection. You will be able to stream audio from any Auracast™ capable device to your Auracast™ enabled Bluetooth earbuds or hearing aids. This means you can all listen to the same music from one phone together.

When Auracast™ will be released

The Bluetooth SIG are currently finalising the specifications that product developers and venues will have to meet to use Auracast™. This is expected to be released in the next few months with new Auracast™ products including hearing aids and cochlear implants to then start coming into the market in early 2023.

It will take a long time to move from existing systems to new technology. It is therefore important that existing technology like loop systems continue to be used to provide vital communication support for those who need it.

