

VISUALLY IMPAIRED IN CAMDEN

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Newsletter – October 2018

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1. October Members' event

Tuesday 16 October

Councillor Lorraine Revah, Vice Chair of Camden's Disability Oversight Panel, will be attending to talk about how the Council is addressing issues of concern to visually impaired people, and to hear directly from VIC members about how they think the Council is doing!

Also attending will be Stirlee Legrand, Assessment & Service Improvement Manager, Camden Accessible Travel Solutions (CATS), to hear Members' views on the Taxicard scheme.

Time: 2pm - 4pm
Venue: Swiss Cottage Community Centre
19 Winchester Road, NW3 3NR

2. Sight Village South East 2018

Sight Village are the UK's leading exhibitions of technology, equipment, support and services for people who are blind or visually impaired.

Organised by Queen Alexandra College (QAC), admission to **the event is free.**

Date: Tuesday 6 and Wednesday 7 November
Time: 10.00am – 5.30pm (3.30pm on Wednesday)
Venue: Kensington Town Hall
Hornton Street, W8 7NX

3. Could our immune system be causing AMD?

Professor Jessica L. Teeling, Professor of Experimental Neuroimmunology at Southampton University writes:

“Imagine not being able to read the newspaper, or enjoy the autumn flowers in the garden? Imagine seeing fuzzy images and blurred lines? This is what people living with macular degeneration, or AMD, deal with every day. In the UK, around 600,000 people are living with AMD and around 70,000 new cases are diagnosed every year: that's nearly 200 every day!

We know that age and our family history influence the risk of developing AMD, but a number of other things could play a role. Smoking increases a person's chances of developing AMD by 2-5 fold, and certain lifestyle choices, such as our diet or the amount of 'stress' we experience, can 'speed' up the symptoms. These may appear unrelated but if we look at the biology, an emerging trend is revealed: they are linked to inflammation.

Inflammation helps us fight infections by recognising and removing bacteria and viruses. Take for example the complement proteins, which can 'stick' to the surface of bacteria to mark them for removal. Another mechanism is the release of highly reactive oxygen radicals, which kill

bacteria by pierce holes in their surface. Control mechanisms are in place to protect our own cells and tissues, but when these fail, chronic inflammation and oxidative stress occurs: a major cause of age-related disease.

What has this got to do with AMD?

People with AMD have yellow deposits, or ‘drusen’ at the back of their eye. These drusen contain waste products of the rods and cones which are covered in complement proteins. This attracts and activates immune cells leading to low grade but chronic inflammation. Many AMD patients have faulty genes that result in over activation of the immune system. Certain diets and stress further fuel the flames of inflammation and this can lead to even earlier onset of symptoms.

In our laboratory at the University of Southampton, we measure the levels of inflammation in blood and eyes of AMD patients and compare levels to healthy individuals. We hope to find a protein that can predict future vision loss, or inform us about novel ways to treat this debilitating disease. We may be able to delay the symptoms of AMD if we can control the immune system.”

4. NHS bosses win landmark legal battle against drug firms

Drug ruling set to save NHS ‘hundreds of millions’

21 September: The NHS has won a landmark High Court battle with two multinational drug companies which could save the health service hundreds of millions of pounds a year.

Bayer and Novartis – who have combined revenues of £70bn – had taken legal action to try to stop doctors at 12 Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) in the North of England from providing Avastin, a cheaper alternative to the drugs made by the two firms, to treat patients with wet age-related macular degeneration (AMD).

Mrs Justice Whipple said that the CCGs were offering Avastin to certain patients with AMD “as the preferred treatment option” because of the “significant difference” in price between the drug and medicines sold by the companies.

Lucentis, sold by Novartis, costs £561 and Eylea, sold by Bayer, costs £800. By contrast, Avastin costs about £28 per injection.

Health bosses said the ruling may reduce the power of companies to set prices.

Drug company Novartis said they were “deeply disappointed” because patients were being asked to accept an unlicensed treatment to save the NHS money.

Cathy Yelf, chief executive of the Macular Society, said: “It is undoubtedly helpful to the NHS to have the drug available for wet age-related macular degeneration. The savings must be reinvested in AMD clinics, many of which are failing to treat patients in line with guidelines. This leads to unnecessary and tragic sight loss.

“We understand the concerns of the industry and would not support any weakening of the drug regulatory process. It is very important that the licensed drugs remain available because some patients respond better to one drug than others. We would welcome moves by the industry to further reduce the cost of licensed drugs so that the use of an unlicensed alternative is less attractive.”

David Hambleton, chief executive officer of South Tyneside CCG, one of the NHS groups involved in the case, welcomed the judgement, saying it was good day for patients and the NHS.

“We’ve always said we think that it’s important that patients should have the choice of a very effective treatment for wet AMD, and it’s actually a fraction of the cost of other alternatives.

“So I think what we do now is offer patients that choice. We believe that they will support very strongly having a cost-effective, safe treatment and saving the NHS a lot of money. It is a victory for common sense over commercial interests.”

The NHS groups were offering patients a choice between Lucentis and Eylea – drugs licensed for eye treatment – and the far cheaper drug Avastin, which is recommended by the World Health Organisation (WHO) for treating eyes, but only licensed for cancer treatment in the UK.

Avastin is widely used around the world, particularly in the US, but is not currently licensed in the UK.

In January, the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) concluded that Avastin was as safe and effective as the two licensed drugs Lucentis and Eylea.

Mike Burden, president of the Royal College of Ophthalmologists, said: “Licensing laws are designed to protect patients from poorly regulated unproven drugs, but it is the drug companies’ responsibility to apply for a license.

“We are treating 40,000 new diagnoses of wet AMD annually – the saving could amount to £500 million a year. This amounts to one district hospital being built annually.”

But Dr Sheuli Porkess, an advisor to the Association of the British Pharmaceutical Industry, said: “This extraordinary judgement potentially undermines the regulation of all medicines.”

It is understood that Novartis and Bayer are considering an appeal.

5. New health map highlights areas of the UK at greatest risk of sight loss

A new map produced by Eye Health UK, the charity responsible for running National Eye Health Week (which this year was 24 - 30 September), highlights areas of the UK – including Camden and 17 other London boroughs – where poor lifestyle habits and inadequate health screening are putting residents at serious risk of sight loss.

There are a million people in the UK currently living with **avoidable** sight loss – leaving them unable to do things such as drive. Forecasters predict this figure could rise by a third by 2030, if action isn’t taken now.

Prevention and early diagnosis of common eye conditions are key to reducing the number of people suffering sight loss unnecessarily, but in towns and cities like Bristol, Liverpool, Luton and Manchester, and in parts of London, a worrying number of people are failing to take up their entitlement to free NHS sight tests and displaying high levels of smoking and obesity – two lifestyle factors linked to sight loss.

Lifestyle habits impact your eye health regardless of your genetic disposition. Being physically active has been shown to reduce your risk of visual impairment by 58 per cent versus someone with a sedentary lifestyle; whilst a Body Mass Index (BMI) of 30+ has been linked to the four most common causes of sight loss – macular disease, glaucoma, cataract and diabetic retinopathy.

Research published in the British Medical Journal reveals as many as one in five cases of Age-related Macular Degeneration (AMD), the UK's leading cause of blindness, are caused by tobacco consumption; making smoking directly responsible for around 120,000 cases of AMD in Britain today.

Poor uptake of regular eye tests is another big risk to the nation's eye health. Almost 14 million (13.8 per cent) of us fail to have our eyes checked once every two years, as recommended, and one in ten of us have never had our eyes checked.

Cathy Yelf, CEO of the Macular Society, said: "Age-related Macular Degeneration is the biggest cause of blindness in the UK, affecting 600,000 people. By 2050 this number is expected to double. It is an urgent public health issue. Regular eye tests can detect Age-related Macular Degeneration (AMD) early, which is crucial in preserving vision and the quality of life of patients.

"If you are told you have early AMD, there are some things you can do to reduce the likelihood of the disease progressing. If you smoke, stop. Smoking kills the cells of the retina, reduces the delivery of oxygen and nutrients to the eye and damages blood vessels. Smoking causes AMD to progress faster and makes treatment less effective.

"Take moderate exercise to maintain a healthy weight and normal blood pressure and eat a healthy diet with plenty of fruit and vegetables, especially green, leafy vegetables. These contain nutrients that are thought to be important to eye health."

6. Fight for Sight urges public to get eye tests after research reveals the reasons why people neglect them

Eye research charity Fight for Sight has found that nearly three in ten British adults don't follow the NHS recommendation to have an eye test

every two years, and that the majority of this group (74 per cent) say that it's either because they can't afford it or because they 'can see fine'.

The YouGov research surveyed over 2000 people across Britain and found that 28 per cent of adults get their eyes tested less than once every two years, with nearly one in ten (9 per cent) never getting their eyes tested at all.

Of the 28 per cent who admitted to getting their eyes tested less than once every two years the main reasons given were that they can't afford it (27 per cent) or that they 'can see fine' (52 per cent). Three per cent said that they are scared of what they might find out.

The charity says these figures give cause for concern, in particular because eye tests can pick up on the early stages of eye conditions like glaucoma as well as on many other conditions not related to sight, including diabetes, high blood pressure, inflammatory disease and even brain tumours.

Dr Neil Ebenezer, Director of Research, Policy and Innovation at Fight for Sight, said: "These figures make sobering reading and it's worrying that three in ten people are not getting their eyes tested regularly. Even if you can see fine now it's still really important to get your eyes tested as it can pick up on early stages of numerous eye diseases and on many other conditions not related to sight."

"It's particularly sad that many people say they can't afford it, and that they don't have the money available to be able to prioritise their eye health. We'd urge people to check whether they are entitled to free eye tests as we know that not everyone makes use of these opportunities. Check with your optician or you can find this information on the NHS website."

Those entitled to free eye tests include all children under 16; 16 to 18 year olds in full time education; people over 60; anyone registered as partially sighted, anyone diagnosed with diabetes or glaucoma, and people over 40 whose family members already have glaucoma.

7. The Shuttle: Blackburn leads the way on road safety technology

Blackburn is the first place in England to install new technology to help people who struggle to press the button at pedestrian crossings.

The crossing on Longshaw Street, Ewood, can be activated with the free Button mobile phone app.

This makes it easier for people with mobility or visual impairments who may struggle to reach or see the button at a crossing.

The Bluetooth technology developed by Edinburgh company Neatebox has already been installed at several crossings in Scotland but this is the first time it has been used in England.

8. Disabled train users to get new ‘life-changing’ app

A “Life-changing” app that can track disabled rail users in real-time will be rolled out nationwide.

The app will update station staff where a passenger is at any point, useful in the event of a delay, change of platform or missed train.

Four rail companies are using an early version, with the full one to be available across Britain next autumn.

Currently when passengers with mobility problems book assistance, a print-out is given to station staff in the morning. But when a change occurs there is no way to update the paper list, which can lead to staff being in the wrong place and causing some passengers requiring help to go without assistance at all.

The app, developed by Transreport for the railway industry, will allow users to create a profile, amend and cancel bookings and give staff live information to accommodate short-notice changes.

Alan Benson, chair of Transport for All, said he was “pleased” the rail industry was improving the service it offered to disabled passengers.

He added: “Our team still hears regularly from disabled people sharing stories of rail passenger assistance going wrong.

“This app, as part of a wider overall passenger assist, can really improve the journey experience of disabled and older passengers.”

West Midlands Railway, London Northwestern Railway, Greater Anglia and South Western Railway are currently trialling different parts of the app before the full roll-out across England, Wales and Scotland.

9. Guide Dogs: helping children, young people and their families

Guide Dogs has best been known as the provider of the iconic guide dog service; however, the work of the charity now encompasses much more.

Guide Dogs children & young people's services offers parents, guardians and carers information, advice and guidance from the moment their child receives a diagnosis of vision impairment, all the way through adulthood.

Family members can speak with a specialist member of staff, who can offer advice and work with them to recommend a range of tailored services, based on their child's individual needs.

To find out more about Guide Dogs children & young people's services, visit www.guidedogs.org.uk/cyp, contact the Advice Line on 0800 781 1444 or email cypservices@guidedogs.org.uk.

10. Blind Veterans UK: Victory Over Blindness

This year marks 100 years since the end of the First World War. It was a conflict that caused more than 3,000 veterans to lose their sight.

Blind Veterans UK was founded to support them and continues its important work today.

This month sees the unveiling of an iconic statue at the entrance to Manchester Piccadilly to commemorate the centenary of the end of the First World War. Its name, Victory Over Blindness, is a phrase used by the charity's founder Sir Arthur Pearson.

The statue, of seven blinded soldiers leading one another with their hands on their comrades' shoulders, is a testament to the thousands of blind veterans Blind Veterans UK has supported in rebuilding their lives after sight loss.

11. Man Booker Prize 2018

Once again the RNIB has announced that all the shortlisted novels for this year's £50,000 Man Booker Prize will be produced in a range of formats, including audio and large print, in time for the winners announcement on 16 October.

Accessible versions of the shortlisted books will be available through the RNIB library at www.rnib.org.uk/books.

The 2018 shortlist

- Milkman by Anna Burns
- Washington Black by Esi Edugyan
- Everything Under by Daisy Johnson
- The Mars Room by Rachel Kushner
- The Overstory by Richard Powers
- The Long Take by Robin Robertson

12. Public sector websites new accessibility requirements

New regulations have just come into force which means that from next year, every new public sector website and app will need to meet certain accessibility standards and publish a statement saying they have been met. Existing websites will have until 2020 to comply.

The aim of the regulations is to ensure public sector websites and mobile apps are accessible to all users, especially those with disabilities.

The new regulations are called 'The Public Sector Bodies (Websites and Mobile Applications) (No.2) Accessibility Regulations 2018'. They are now law in the UK and implement the 'EU Directive on the accessibility of public sector websites and mobile applications'.

13. UK Government urged to drop obstacles on EU disability equality rights

The British government is blocking key European legislation that would improve the lives of millions of disabled people.

UK disability organisations are urging the government to drop its opposition to key parts of the European Access Act (EAA) and commit to passing the legislation by 3 December – the European Day of Disabled Persons.

Letters between ministers and the Commons European Scrutiny Committee reveal the UK has led efforts to water down the legislation. The Act would require minimum standards of accessibility in certain products and services.

The letters between Lord Henley, parliamentary under-secretary of state at the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy, and Sir Bill Cash, chair of the European Scrutiny Committee, expose the UK's role in limiting the scope of the proposed legislation.

Measures opposed by the UK government include:

- Making accessibility a key requirement of public procurement
- Requiring micro-businesses – which account for more than 90 per cent of goods and services in the EU – to be accessible
- Extending accessibility rules to the built environment – community infrastructure such as buildings, pavements and transport hubs.

Kamran Mallick, chief executive of Disability Rights UK, said: “It is three years since the European Commission published proposals for a European Accessibility Act. Since then the proposals have ping-ponged between the EU institutions while disabled people are excluded from employment, leisure activities and access to public transport.

“Now it appears the UK government has played a leading role in that procrastination. What's worse, they've also led the charge to water down the proposals – supposedly in the name of protecting businesses.

“Ensuring that everyone has access to employment, goods and services is not just good for disabled people – it helps businesses by ensuring they recruit the best and brightest and that their products and services can be bought by Europe's 80 million disabled people.”

Mr Mallick also questioned claims in the ministers' letters that they have consulted with disabled people in the UK.

He concluded: “Ministers repeatedly tell the world that the UK is a leader in disability rights and equality. Now we learn that they've instead been leading resistance to measures that would give disabled people the comprehensive accessibility to everyday life that everyone else takes for granted.”

14. October's quick quiz

Q.1. What is acrophobia a fear of?

Q.2. Bananas contain a moderate amount of manganese and a high amount of which other trace metal?

Q.3. Which British novelist wrote 'Our Man in Havana'?

Q.4. Which European country restored its monarchy in 1975?

Q.5. What is meant by the musical term *grazioso*?

Q.6. What name is given to the speed of an object in a specified direction?

Q.7. 'Coleoptera' is the scientific name for which order of insects?

Q.8. In 330 AD which Roman emperor re-named the ancient city of Byzantium after himself?

Q.9. Which book of the Old Testament is the shortest?

Q.10. What is the more common name for the disease varicella?

And the tie-breaker!

Q.11. Who was the Roman goddess of the hearth, attended by six virgin priestesses?

The answers are given after '...and finally'

...and finally

Ex Royal Marine Steve Sparkes becomes first blind person to row across Pacific Ocean

A former Royal Marine has become the first blind person to row across the Pacific, arriving in Hawaii 82 days after setting off from California.

57-year-old Steve Sparkes has spent more than half his life without most of his sight after a diving accident starved his brain of oxygen at the age of 24.

It means that Mr Sparkes can only see the sea and the sky and is unable to make out the waves which constantly battered him and his partner Mick Dawson in their 6ft by 21.5ft carbon fibre boat, Bojangles.

The veterans will split the money raised between Blind Veterans UK and the Royal Marine Charity, but the adventure was about more than just money for Mr Sparkes who hopes to inspire more visually impaired people.

“When you’re partially sighted, you can drop down in your morale,” he explained.

“You’re confidence lacks... but if I can do this, what can’t I do?”

“It’s opened doors now for other visually impaired and blind people to come out and have a go at it, because it is possible, it is achievable and it can be done.”

The answers to October’s quick quiz

A.1. Heights

A.2. Potassium

A.3. Graham Greene

A.4. Spain

A.5. Graceful (smooth or elegant)

A.6. Velocity

A.7. Beetles

A.8. Constantine

A.9. Book of Obidiah

A.10. Chickenpox

And the answer to the tie-breaker!

A.11. Vesta

Thank you for reading the newsletter.

VIC Newsletter supplement: Getting out and about

Coram's Fields Fireworks Night

Friday 2 November – 5.15pm

Free

(Note: Although this is a free event there are a limited number of Premium Viewing Zone Tickets available. Contact marco@coramsfields.org.uk for further information.)

Kimbolton Fireworks, the fireworks operator at the London 2012 Olympic Games, will be delivering this show.

Coram's Fields, 93 Guilford Street, WC1N 1DN

British Museum

I am Ashurbanipal king of the world, king of Assyria

Saturday 15 December – 4pm

And

Saturday 2 February 2019 – 4pm

A live audio-described tour and handling session of this exhibition about King Ashurbanipal of Assyria. He described himself in inscriptions as 'king of the world', and his reign from the city of Ninevah (now in northern Iraq) marked the high point of the Assyrian empire, which stretched from the shores of the Mediterranean to the mountains of western Iran.

Further details and booking access@britishmuseum.org

British Museum, Great Russell Street, WC1B 3DG

The National Gallery

Art Through Words

Sessions for Blind and Partially Sighted Visitors

These sessions are held on the last Saturday of the month from 11.30am to 12.45pm.

Each session begins with a description of the painting and ends with a visit to the galleries.

Please meet outside Conference Room 1 (level 1 of the Sainsbury Wing).

All sessions are free. Please call 020 7747 2864 or email education@ng-london.org.uk to guarantee a place.

The next sessions are on:

Saturday 27 October

Goya: The Duke of Wellington (1812-1814)

Saturday 24 November

Masaccio: The Virgin and Child (1426)

Please note that there is no Art Through Words session in December.

The National Gallery, Trafalgar Square, WC2N 5DN

National Portrait Gallery

Visualising Portraits

The National Portrait Gallery offers free Visualising Portraits picture descriptions for blind and partially sighted visitors on the last Thursday of each month from 2pm to 3.30pm.

For more information and to book a place phone 020 7306 0055 or email: outreach@npg.org.uk. Meet in the Main Hall.

The next sessions are on:

Thursday 25 October: Black is the New Black

Be inspired by contemporary Britons who have achieved greatness and explore stunning new photographs by Simon Frederick.

Thursday 29 November: Activists

Explore portraits of Political activists in the UK today.

National Portrait Gallery, St Martin's Place, WC2H 0HE

InTouch at the RA

Artist and gallery educators describe the exhibition in front of selected artworks, followed by a handling or art-making session.

Monday 29 October, 9am – 11am

Oceania

Marking 250 years since Cook's first voyage to the Pacific, we celebrate the dazzling and diverse art of the region of Oceania, from the historic to the contemporary.

Following the tour, a handling session will focus on experiencing specific materials and learning about some of the artistic techniques behind the creation of several key works in the exhibition.

Monday 16 November, 9am – 11am

Renzo Piano: The Art of Making Buildings

From the Shard in London to the Pompidou Centre in Paris, the buildings of Renzo Piano have enriched cities across the globe. Focusing on 16 key pieces of architecture, this exhibition explores the innovative ways the Renzo Piano Building Workshop designs buildings.

Join us for this audio tour of rarely seen drawings, models, photography and signature full-scale maquettes, followed by a handling session.

Monday 3 December, 9am – 11am

Klimt / Schiele: Drawings from the Albertina Museum, Vienna

This exhibition brings together rare and fragile drawings that offer an intimate insight into the work and lives of two artists and friends: Gustav Klimt and Egon Schiele.

Join us for an audio-described tour, and a handling session which will explore objects that show the two artists' creative methods and materials.

Tickets for these events are free but booking is required.

How to book

Tickets can be booked online or by contacting the Ticketing Team by emailing tickets@royalacademy.org.uk or by calling 020 7300 8090.

Tate Modern

Performer and Participant

Monday 15 October – 11am

The theme of this month's tour is Performer and Participant, a set of rooms in the new Tate Modern

Blavatnik Building which displays works in which artists performed their artworks. The displays include rooms, videos, objects and scenery from their earlier live performances.

There is no need to book a space on this tour, just turn up.

The meeting point is the Community Room which is on ground level of the Blavatnik Building where refreshments will be available from 10.30am.

For more information contact Marcus Dickey Horley on 07733 110 244 or email Marcus.DickeyHorley@tate.org.uk.

Tate Modern, Bankside, SE1 9TG

Wellcome Collection

Living with Buildings

Thursday 15 November – 6pm

A live audio-described tour of Living with Buildings, a major exhibition about health and architecture that examines the positive and negative influence buildings have on our physical and mental health. The exhibition includes a new commission by artist Giles Round exploring the role colour can play in making us feel better.

Further details and booking

020 7611 2222

access@wellcomecollection.org

Wellcome Collection, 183 Euston Road, NW1 2BE

Theatre highlights: audio-described performances

Mamma Mia!

Saturday 3 November – 3pm (Touch Tour time: TBC)

Novello Theatre

Aldwych, WC2B 4LD

Ticket price: £25

Bookings: 0844 482 5765

Set on a Greek Island paradise, Mamma Mia! is a story of love, friendship and identity told through the timeless songs of ABBA.

Tosca

Saturday 3 November – 7.30pm (Touch Tour: 6.15pm)

Royal Opera House

Bow Street, WC2E 9DD

Ticket price: £15 - £45

Bookings: 01482 300 306

Tosca, Rome's star opera singer, is deeply in love with charismatic artist Cavaradossi. When he is arrested and tortured by Scarpia, the corrupt Chief of Police, Tosca becomes the victim of a cruel blackmail: she plots her revenge, but the consequences are more terrible than she can imagine.

Puccini's melodrama of love and lust, cruelty and self-sacrifice, portrays people at their best and very worst.

Wise Children

Saturday 10 November – 2.30pm (Touch Tour: 1pm)

Old Vic Theatre

The Cut

Waterloo, SE1 8NB

Ticket price: £21

Bookings: 020 7375 1043

'Let's have all the skeletons out of the closet, today, of all days!'

It's 23 April Shakespeare's birthday.

In Brixton, Nora and Dora Chance – twin chorus girls born and bred south of the river - are celebrating their 70th birthday. Over the river in Chelsea, their father and greatest actor of his generation, Melchior Hazard turns 100 on the same day. As does his twin brother Peregrine. If, in fact, he's still alive. And if, in truth, Melchior is their real father after all...

A big bawdy tangle of theatrical joy and heartbreak, Wise Children is a celebration of show business, family, forgiveness and hope. Expect show girls and Shakespeare, sex and scandal, music, mischief and mistaken identity – and butterflies by the thousand.

Les Misérables

Saturday 17 November – 2.30pm (Touch Tour: 1pm)

Queen's Theatre

51 Shaftesbury Avenue, W1D 6BA

Ticket price: Check with Box Office

Bookings: 0344 482 5137

Cameron Mackintosh's legendary production of Boublil and Schonberg's musical is still going strong after more than 30 years and has touched

countless hearts with its tale of justice, injustice, love, redemption and revolution.

Inheritance Part One

Thursday 22 November – 7.15pm (Touch Tour time: TBC)

And

Inheritance Part Two

Friday 23 November – 7.15pm (Touch Tour time: TBC)

Noel Coward Theatre

St Martin's Lane, WC2N 4AU

Ticket price: From £40 (purchase Part One and Two together and save up to £30)

Bookings: 0844 482 5120

Following a sold-out, critically-acclaimed run at the Young Vic, *The Inheritance* lands in the West End for a strictly limited season. Directed by Stephen Daldry, this production shows how much we owe to those who lived and loved before us.

A generation after the peak of the AIDS crisis, what is it like to be a young gay man in New York?

How many words are there now for pain and for love?

Stephen Daldry's production explores profound themes through the turbulent and often hilarious experiences of a group of young, ambitious New Yorkers. What is the legacy left to them by previous generations? What do they owe the future and each other?

Spanning generations and interlinking lives, *The Inheritance* transposes E.M. Forster's novel 'Howard's End' to 21st century New York.

A Pupil

Friday 23 November – 7.45pm (Touch Tour: 6pm)

Park Theatre

Clifton Terrace

Finsbury Park, N4 3JP

Ticket price: £18 (Concessions £16.50)

Bookings: 020 7870 6876

In a dilapidated North London bedsit, Ye, a disgraced violinist is preparing to kill herself. The surprise arrival of Simona, an aspiring musician and wealthy heiress, throws her plans into disarray. Together

the pair embark on a series of lessons that will test the limits of friendship, music and success.

Wild Duck

Saturday 24 November – 2.30pm (Touch Tour: 12.45pm)

Almeida Theatre

Almeida Street, N1 1TA

Ticket price: Check with Box Office

Bookings: 020 7288 4999

Almeida Associate Director Robert Icke stages a new version of The Wild Duck, Ibsen's masterpiece about the nature of truth.

Company

Wednesday 28 November – 7.30pm (Touch Tour time: TBC)

Gielgud Theatre

Shaftesbury Avenue, W1D 6AR

Ticket price: £25

Bookings: 020 7766 2113

George Furth's legendary Broadway musical comedy about life, love and marriage as you've never seen it before.

At Bobbie's 35th birthday party all her friends are wondering why she isn't married. Why can't she find the right man and why can't she settle down and have a family? Featuring Stephen Sondheim's award-winning songs Company, You Could Drive a Person Crazy, The Ladies Who Lunch, Side by Side and the iconic Being Alive.

Pinter at the Pinter – Landscape / A Kind of Alaska / Monologue

Saturday 1 December – 2.30pm (Touch Tour time: TBC)

Harold Pinter Theatre

Panton Street, SW1Y 4DN

Ticket price: Check with Box Office

Bookings: 020 7492 0810

Landscape and A Kind of Alaska are spellbinding evocations of loneliness, isolation and the strange mists of time.

Landscape is a minimalist marvel: a woman is locked in a beautiful memory and her husband demands to be heard. In A Kind of Alaska, Deborah awakes from a 29-year sleep and is suspended between the conscious and unconscious worlds.

Lee Evans will perform the poignant Monologue and a selection of Pinter's most hilarious comedy sketches, including the sketch Apart From That, with Meera Syal.

Pinter at the Pinter – Moonlight / Night School

Saturday 1 December – 7.30pm (Touch Tour time: TBC)

Harold Pinter Theatre

Panton Street, SW1Y 4DN

Ticket price: Check with Box Office

Bookings: 020 7492 0810

The brutality of family life and the subjectivity of memory are explored in the emotionally raw and richly funny Moonlight, in which the past haunts the dark, lonely recesses of a dying father's bedroom.

An East End criminal returns home from prison to find his room has been occupied by a mysterious woman with a secret. Set in the sweaty nightclubs and claustrophobic boarding houses of 1960s London, this is a rare opportunity to see the brilliantly witty and vivid Night School.

White Teeth

Tuesday 11 December – 7.30pm (Touch Tour time: TBC)

Kiln Theatre

269 Kilburn High Road, NW6 7JR

Ticket price: £10.50 - £30.50 (with one personal assistant comp.)

Bookings: 020 7328 1000

Adapted from the novel by Zadie Smith. You're in Kilburn. Melting pot where nothing's actually melted. It's all just kinda stuck together at the bottom in a gooey mess.

How to book

To make a booking, call the number given against the individual show. Please ensure that you tell the operator you are booking for an audio-described performance, so that you qualify for any ticket discounts and are allocated an appropriate seat.