

News and Notes

For Bodenham, Britford, Charlton All Saints, Nunton and Odstock

November 2025

Sacrifice & Remembrance, The Joy of Panto, The Radnor Hall in Need, Nelly the Elephant.

The falling leaves of autumn are linked in my mind to that special autumnal event, Remembrance Sunday, when communities remember the fallen. As a student in London in the 1978 I watched my grandfather, a career soldier in the British Army, march past the Cenotaph in London, his head held high but his heart heavy with loss as he remembered not only comrades lost in two world wars but also his young and only son, Capt. John Roe, killed in the NE Africa campaign whilst serving in the Royal Tank Regiment aged 21. Such sacrifice needs to be remembered, for without it we would not be free. It is the least we can do. Everyone is welcome and indeed warmly invited to attend the Remembrance Day Service at Odstock on Sunday 9 Nov at 10.50am. To hear The Last Post played and the roll call of villagers lost is always a moving, powerful experience.

We bring news of not just one but two Dames from Pantoland who will be strutting their stuff along with the Radnor Hall Players in all their bright, glittering glory at the Radnor Hall at the end of the month. See inside for details about buying tickets for the world premiere of Alys Hunter's ***Jack and the Beanstalk*** on Nov 27, 28 and 29. Don't miss it! There will be a licensed bar, and for evening performances a hot meal will be served at half time. If you would like to help and haven't yet been in touch, PLEASE come and join in the fun! Just contact editor@newsandnotes.co.uk and you will be welcomed with open arms. As everybody knows, Panto is the most fun it is possible to have without doing anything illegal, immoral or expensive....

Talking of the Radnor Hall, we are delighted by the magnificent response to our Washing Willie Appeal to raise funds for a new commercial dishwasher. Huge thanks to everyone who has so generously donated! A new machine should now be installed in time for the Pantomime. This is a fantastic start to a fundraising effort which is needed to keep our hall facilities ship shape and Bristol Fashion.

In his article inside we hear from the chairman of the hall committee who describes the Radnor Hall as the Jewel in the Crown of our community assets. Hear hear! So, unlike some crown jewels we could mention in Paris, we must keep it safe. And guess what - the committee is looking for help. YOUR HALL NEEDS YOU! Could you possibly volunteer? It is important for our community and it is interesting and rewarding. Please. Have a think . . .

Editors: Nick and Liz Stanger, Co-editors: Nicolette Beardsmore, Adam Beardsmore

Deadline for December/January edition: 14 November 2025 - Contact: editor@newsandnotes.co.uk

N&N e-version is online at www.newsandnotes.net (with more articles and our archive)

Contact us to sign up for e-version delivery

Announcements

News & Notes has a new website: www.newsandnotes.net

Our old website at www.newsandnotes.co.uk has done years of sterling service but is now ready to be retired.

The new website at www.newsandnotes.net is built on the latest architecture, which enables a wider variety of functions, including event ticketing and location booking. It has a security certificate, for re-assurance. It is designed to be useable on a desktop, a tablet and a mobile phone.

The event ticketing will get its first use for the Panto. Tickets go on sale on 3 November. You can complete your purchase on the website and receive your tickets by email. See the Panto advert in this edition for the QR code or visit www.newsandnotes.net/events-list. For those who prefer, tickets can be purchased by emailing info@newsandnotes.net and payment can be taken later in person.

The archive of past editions is being transferred to the new website, with years 2025 – 2022 already in place. You can download any edition in PDF format by clicking on the image of the appropriate front page of the newsletter on the Archive page www.newsandnotes.net/archive.

There is a sign-up box at the foot of every page – if you would like to receive the longer, colour edition of News & Notes every month as an email attachment, this is the place for you to make that happen. We are now using a double opt-in, to ensure that you do really want to sign up, and to validate your email address.

We hope that this new website will act as a valuable resource to publicise all the wonderful events and businesses that we have in our five villages. It is easy to make additions and alterations – please send us your ideas.

The email for sending copy remains editor@newsandnotes.co.uk. We look forward to your feedback.

BONFIRE BASH

Saturday 8 November
at 6 pm

Charlton All Saints Barn

Tickets from **Chris Clark**
01725 510891

Or online
<https://bit.ly/4n3FSvn>



Early Bird	Standard
By 6 Nov	7-8 Nov
Adults £8	Adults £10
Kids 5-14 £4	Kids 5-14 £5

Bar with Beer & Mulled Wine
Fireworks *Hot dogs* Raffle

Thanks from the Parish Council on behalf of all of us to the Gospel Hall community, who have very generously paid for improvements to the playground in Nunton.

As a result of this, rocking Nellie the Elephant has been renewed as her spring coil and base plate were getting dodgy. This play area is very popular with local children, and the donation is much appreciated.
Welcome back Nellie!

Pantomime Tickets

for the Radnor Hall Players' production
of

Jack and the Beanstalk

27 - 29 November

at the Radnor Hall

Available from 3 November online at
our new website:

newsandnotes.net

(under the events tab)

Thanks to Orla Baird for her helpful response to last month's article on house moth infestations. She highlighted a friend's success getting rid of moths using special tiny predator wasps:

Trichogramma evanescens.

They are harmless to humans and animals & lay their own eggs inside house moth eggs, preventing the moth larvae from hatching. The wasp larvae then consume the moth egg from within. We understand the wasps are available from Rentokil or other suppliers.



CreativiTea
relax & be
enriched by
a
time of
inventive crafting &
varied conversations
in the Barker Room, Nunton
third Thursday of the month
eat cake & drink tea
all very welcome.

DROP IN! Third Thursday of the month 2pm - 4pm
THE BARKER ROOM - ST ANDREWS CHURCH - NUNTON - WILTS



Festive Fair
Saturday 6th December
10am - 2pm
BARKER ROOM
ST ANDREW'S CHURCH,
NUNTON

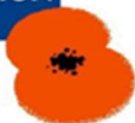
Products to buy from our
CreativiTea Group
and local crafters

Perfect for your gifts, stocking fillers
and tree decorations

Admission free
Donations welcome to support our churches
Refreshments available

Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal 2025

The Legion created the Poppy Appeal to help those returning from the First World War. Over a century on from the start of that conflict they are still helping today's Armed Forces families in much the same way, whether coping with bereavement, living with disability, or finding employment.



The poppy is a powerful symbol - it is worn to commemorate the sacrifices of our Armed Forces and to show support to those still serving today as well as their loved ones.

Money raised through the Poppy Appeal goes directly to their welfare work, providing through-life care to anyone who currently serves in the British Armed Forces, or who has previously served, and their families.

Please support our Service men and women in this year's appeal. Local volunteers will have been or will be collecting in all our villages during the period 25 October to the 11 November. Thank you for your support.

The Radnor Hall Players

present their seasonal pantomime for 2025

Jack and The Beanstalk

by Alys Hunter

Long, long ago when science lessons hadn't been invented and most of the world's big decisions were based on such magic and silliness as would be unheard of in modern times, there was a severe slump in the dairy industry and small farms were forced to sell off their cow. Investing in crypto was also still some way off, but the small investor would often be tempted by something almost as barmy such as magic beans, for example. And thereby, my friends, hangs a tale of such bewitching charm and wonder, of such anguish and terror and saucery and jiggery pokery as you never did see or hear, to say nothing of some confusing costumery, a little dancing and the triumph of love and pantomime over the cold dank horribleness of a wet and windy miserable November night in Bodenham. So come along and be cheered, on....

Thursday 27, Friday 28 and Saturday 29 Nov at 7.30pm

Ticket & Hot Supper £20, with main course by The Radnor Arms and dessert by our Fabulous Villages Pudding Catering Corps

Book individually or take a table of eight

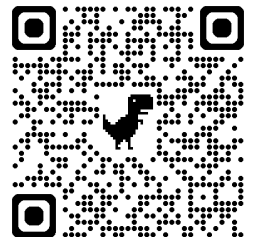
And . . . on Saturday 29 November, a Matinée at 2.30pm

Ticket & Tea £10, Children under 16 just £5

Tickets available online from Monday 3 November

www.newsandnotes.net/event-list - pay online

info@newsandnotes.net - pay cash/card at door



Evenings only – Licensed Bar & Raffle

Local fun for all the family & friends

Tickets sell very quickly, so book now!

Proceeds in aid of The Radnor Hall

The Chalke Valley Link Scheme

exists to provide transport and other good neighbour support in a local, personal and friendly way to members of the Chalke Valley community who need it.

If you live between Bishopstone and Bodenham, and need help getting to your medical appointment, local shopping or visiting family members in hospital, **please phone the Joint Co-ordinators on**

07795 620812

PLEASE NOTE THIS NEW PHONE NUMBER

**(Roger Brown, Jenny Monds or Debby Underhill:
all volunteers who will be on duty in rotation.)**

Please give us as much notice as possible. There is no charge, but you are invited to make a donation towards our administrative costs.

We are always looking for more Volunteer Drivers to enable us to continue to provide a useful service for the community. If you feel you can help – you won't be committed to any particular date or time, only when you are free – please contact the Joint Co-ordinators above for further information.

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The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service

The Achieve Programme

Empowering Wiltshire's NEET Young People

Wiltshire Council's Family and Community Learning team proudly delivers The Achieve Programme a vibrant, supportive, and empowering 16week course designed for young people aged 16–25 who are
Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET).
For more details see our e-version: www.newsandnotes.net

**Salisbury Scouts
Christmas Post 2025
Last posting date 3
December**

**For more details, see
www.newsandnotes.net**



Next Blister Pack Collection

Monday 11 December

Britford, Noticeboard by Church - 09.30h

Bodenham, Old Post Office - 10.00h

Charlton All Saints- (ongoing collection box in Church) - Box emptied at 11.00h

Odstock, Church Car Park - 10.30 - 11.30h

Donations kindly requested £1 per 50 strips.

Thank you for helping the environment!

Longford Estates

A glorious summer if you weren't trying to grow crops or rear pasture-based livestock and to date a kind autumn both of which have been advantageous to much of our work across the Estate.

The beef herd started calving in April and with the warm dry weather it was a relatively easy calving period, calves didn't get cold and/or wet so were soon on their feet suckling and thriving. The challenge came in July and August when the grass wasn't growing and we had to start feeding winter feed to ensure the cows had enough nutrition to maintain their condition and to keep suckling hungry calves.

The crops benefitted from a much-reduced disease pressure as a result of the hot dry weather but the lack of rain meant that the ears on the cereal crops and the pods on the peas and oilseed rape didn't fill as we would have liked. Harvest was a mixed bag, some of the early drilled wheats performed really well but those that we had struggled to get in late last autumn didn't perform. The autumn has been kind and the winter drilling is all complete, which puts us at a distinct advantage in comparison to last year. A reduced sheep flock is grazing the pastures and downland, the reduced numbers as a result of reduced grass availability. The impact the flock has had over the past few years is evident in terms of grass and weed populations later in the season.

The old adage of 'up horn, down corn' couldn't be more evident this year. The grain market is at its lowest point in years whilst the beef and sheep trade is as strong as it has been, the importance of having a mixed farming enterprise to spread the risk is clearly evident.

The lack of rain has put real pressure on the river water levels but this has given us opportunity to do various works along the riverbanks to the benefit of the river, the banks and for our fishing syndicates. The trout fishing has been tremendous this year with some fantastic wild fish being caught along with stocked fish as well.

The forestry team had a busy summer weeding and brashing through our woodlands as well as clear felling one site and a major thinning operation on another principally due to Ash Dieback. Much of the wood will be used to supply Longford Logs over the next few seasons, log deliveries are well underway now and our new work site has proved to be a great success for the team. Logs are available to order through our website.

A good number of cricket bat willow trees have been harvested this year going to several bat makers, we are fortunate that we are able to produce some quality willow which the bat makers are keen to work with.

The maintenance team spent many months focused on refurbishing The Green Dragon pub in Alderbury and we were delighted to re-open the pub in early August and to welcome customers new and old to the new look pub. The Estate teams along with a raft of contractors have done an incredible job in rejuvenating the pub and its gardens. A number of regular themed nights are planned including a quiz night, 'steak & a pint night'. If you haven't been to see The Green Dragon for a while it is certainly worth booking a table for a meal out.

David Canty, Estate Manager

Focus on Food - letter from West Wales

The Retreat - food to soothe a troubled mind

I've just spent two weeks cooking at a writing retreat in an Old Rectory on the coast of Pembrokeshire, above Newport sands. Supper on Sunday evening when guests arrived, then Breakfast, lunch, afternoon tea and supper, Monday through Thursday, with a final breakfast on the Friday morning and a fond farewell to follow.

The kitchen looked out across the bay and out over the Irish sea, with a view that swooped back on to the wide, welcoming sands, over the dunes and up the estuary of the river Nevern. It was blasted by storms for the first week with prancing, galloping white horses racing each other in a lather across the tops of waves, the wind howling and chasing them onto the beach, the finish line.

The sky growled and showed its colours, violet and orange with silver shafts of sunlight lancing through them like earth rods, piercing the ground below. A double rainbow, biblical rain, a show of true nature, by nature, performed, so it seemed for my benefit only. A spectator at the theatre, in the gods, on the side of Carningli, the 'Mountain of Angels', high above the coast and sea below.

The second week, which saw a second group of writers descend, was calm blue, cerulean, with blinding sunshine basking over all the land. A contemplative haze, a still photograph or a still from a movie made long ago, 'How Green Was My Valley' perhaps, or 'The Railway Children', something nostalgic, calming, surreal.

Talking of calming and surreal, the guests were there for writing, meditation, yoga and cold-water swimming. There was silence between the hours of 9pm and noon the next day. So breakfast was a challenge, finding out who wanted porridge, or toast, or eggs, poached, boiled or scrambled.

Some people had come from Seattle, Boston, New York, some from London, Bristol, Sheffield. All brought their ideas and inspiration, packed inside their heads, with the contents spilling out in notes, sentences and unformed paragraphs onto the pages of their notebooks. Each brought their back stories, their nerves, gentle traumas and a spark with which to ignite them and share with others. Their quiet passion, brimming to overflowing as the opportunity to read to and listen to their fellow writer's stories emerged, their truths or imaginings which all come from the truths deep within us, the mines where the canaries sing, or don't if the air is too toxic.

Passionate about the stories they wanted to write, they seemed oblivious to the stories they themselves had already become. Poetic, whimsical, dark, adventurous, philosophical. They arrived as a work in progress, with a work in progress in their heads, constantly overlapping, ebbing and flowing between fantasy and reality, fiction and fact. In a way they are more escapees than retreatants. Escaping their regular lives, into this small brief community, a brief encounter with like-minded people and into the safety their companionship offers. Escaping the torment, who know, even torture of friends and family who often ridicule creatives and their early fumbling creative efforts.

And I, a fly on the wall, invisible in the kitchen, sensing the mood each different day brought as the writers got to know each other, relaxed into themselves, found commonality and even discovered mutual friends in those far away cities, even on first meeting, quite bizarre.

I thought I was invisible, detached in my kitchen, with my recipes and spreadsheets and charts. Chopping and slicing local leeks, sauteing them in liberal quantities of butter and thyme until they change texture and become velvet in the pan. Adding the risotto rice, stirring and adding the wine, then the stock, constantly stirring to encourage the rice to slowly cook, slowly soften. Then served with chestnuts, pan fried in butter and thyme, salt and pepper, scattered across the top of the risotto, with flecks of micro red basil to lift the dish visually. I thought I was unseen doing all this, different dishes throughout the day, different every day, nourishing, sustaining. Until, handing this dish to one of the writers and informing him what it was, he took it from me quietly, but with a look in his eye. It was a dish his great friend used to cook for him often, when they shared a flat together many years ago, before he left to go and live in Southern Europe, a friend he hadn't seen now for a long time. I handed him the recipe to make sure it was the same one, at which point he crumpled and wept. Who knows what that story was all about, but it was a powerful moment, and I have to say, captured, that the food for them wasn't just sustenance, or a break from the creative intensity. It was an embrace, a warming, comforting hug, an expression of love, sharing, giving, bequeathing. A soft hand on their shoulder, a whisper in their ear, a supporting arm. I was no longer invisible, I was a part of their journey, helping in the only way I could.

Their stories now are waiting to be written, and the outpourings will be like the river entering the sea, turbulent and full of tears. But in the meantime, their week has been one of bliss, encouragement, friendships forged and more words on the page. Confusion partly clarified, doubts mended and a return to whatever does lie in store with a happy heart and a book closer to publication.

Martin Simcock

WI News

After opening our October meeting with safety reminders and our WI prayer, the president Hatty Hillier announced details of meeting dates of WI clubs like book club and rambling etc, and workshops and other events. The Wiltshire WI photograph competition is for a picture of any doorway in Wiltshire. The Royal Rifles, in Salisbury, are offering a tour or talk. A bag of bulbs will be planted around our tree in the Nunton playing field. Our usual collection of Christmas wrapped gifts for Alabare will take place at the December meeting when we will also take Christmas food items for the Trussell Trust. Debby gave a short report of the AGM attended by 4 of our members. Gillian asked for support for a petition to make a piece of road in the village safer and finally, we were told of plans to place a defibrillator at the Radnor Hall.

During coffee there was a sale of bric a brac and winter clothes.

After coffee we had a talk from Carol Ashton, about Reiki and the benefits gained, with some demonstrations and questions. The speaker was thanked, and then Hatty closed the meeting by inviting us all to stay for a delicious Autumn lunch of ploughman's food, followed by apple crumble and cream.

Many thanks to Sue Amey and her team of caterers.

The Radnor Hall

This article updates you on details of this year's pantomime, the wonderful role the hall plays in the community, and current challenges.

Current Activities and This Year's Show

The Radnor Hall is a jewel in the crown of our local community. It hosts so many events from parties for all ages, choir practices, weddings and wakes, the WI, and Salisbury Poultry Club monthly meetings, as well as a variety of fitness classes.

Our biggest event is the pantomime in late November for which you are all invited to buy tickets, available from 3 November. This show is our main fundraising event of the year, and we are so grateful to the Radnor Hall Players and all who support it on either side of the curtain. Do come to support the cast, have some fun and help raise funds for the Hall. Details of ticketing can be found in this edition,

Management of The Hall

We are seeking new members to join our committee and perhaps to take over as Chair. If you feel you would like to do this, please contact the Editor.

We are indebted to Anna Wilson, our manager, who lives in the Hall cottage. She does sterling work to take bookings and keep on top of the cleanliness and maintenance. Brian Clarke who has been our Treasurer for longer than I can remember, is keen to hand on that role. Longford Estate, who own the Hall, have recently replaced windows, the boiler, and electrics to keep the Hall compliant with current regulations. Thank you to them for all their hard work.

Finances – Can You Help?

As you heard last month our dishwasher has met its 'Waterloo' and will be replaced as soon as possible. I am incredibly grateful the donations we have received towards the £3200 (inc VAT) that we need. We have not quite hit our target, so if you felt that you would like to contribute, we would be delighted.

Over the last few years our finances have severely reduced. While we have seen a modest increase in income - thanks to more hall hires - our operating costs continue to exceed what we bring in. Without new sources of income, we risk limiting future improvements.

Call to Action to help

Please get involved in a fund-raising project, support our Car Boot sales next year, buy a Panto ticket, encourage your friends & work colleagues to use the Hall for meetings or parties! Could you get involved in the Committee? Perhaps you can donate towards our funds? Every contribution, large or small helps to keep the Hall running.

Let's keep the Radnor Hall thriving - not just as a building, but in the heart of our villages, to ensure it continues to serve generations to come.

Thank you for your support, Jeremy Metcalfe - Chair of The Radnor Hall Committee

JN Upholstery Bodenham

Josh Nicols has an upholstery workshop
in the Black Barn in Bodenham.

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E: info@salisbury-upholstery.co.uk

W: salisbury-upholstery.co.uk

Please get in touch for more details



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News from the Pews

Odstock, Nunton and Bodenham

We had two themes at our Harvest service this year– the first was ‘I am the Bread of Life’ and to this end it seemed right to try and make some bread in our ‘Arty Harvest’ session just before the service on 5 October. It turned out that the church boiler was the perfect place to prove the bread rolls that the children made and with a quick bake in my oven back home, they were ready to be eaten at our Harvest bring and share tea! The children also had a great time making collages and artwork related to our beautiful productive countryside. Our second theme was picked up by our guest speaker – Mike Badger from Morning Star who spoke on ‘giving’ and how it does not just mean money, but also our time and skills and goods. We were so pleased to be able to raise over £160 to give to his charity, as well as 28kg of food to the food bank and additional fresh fruit and vegetables to the Pantry. We would also like to thank all those who decorated the church so beautifully.

This month we will be holding the Remembrance Service at St Mary’s, Odstock at 10.50 and all are very welcome to attend this thoughtful and moving service. We are endeavouring to be more environmentally friendly by producing hand crafted wreaths (from our Creativitea group) and, as ever, we will be supporting the Royal British Legion with our collections.

Creativitea continues on 20 November in the Barker Room and all are welcome to share tea, cake and chat with or without their handicrafts.

And a little advanced notice – we plan to hold a Festive Fair on 6 December to sell some of our Creativitea products in the Barker Room. Do come and see what we have been up to

Stephanie Elcock and Mary Boydcamps, Churchwardens

Charlton-All-Saints

The Mevagissey Male Choir Concert was a great success. It was a delight to have the Church full of people and wonderful choral music, along with Pimms and cake, of course. We are delighted to announce that we raised over £1,000 to go towards the upkeep of the Church building.

The Church was beautifully decorated for our Harvest Festival and many people brought harvest gifts, which we have given to the Salisbury Women’s Refuge.

Our next event in Charlton is the annual Bonfire Bash which will be held on Saturday 8 November at 6pm at Charlton Barn, Warrens Lane, by kind permission of Howard & Megan Taylor. Tickets are available from Chris Clark on 01725 510891 or online at bit.ly/4n3FSvn. Early Bird tickets purchased by 6 November include a hot-dog, and cost £8 for adults and £4 for children 5-14. Under 5s are free. Tickets purchased on 7 and 8 November cost £10 and £5, and will include a hot-dog subject to availability – so it makes sense to buy ahead!

Now that Autumn is with us, we are pleased to offer our well-rotted Saintry Compost free to all. Bring a spade and wheelbarrow and help yourself. The compost heap is at the far end of the Churchyard. Thanks to the generosity of a local resident, we now have a pod coffee machine in the Church, which is available to all visitors. Come into the Church after you’ve collected your compost and have a coffee on us. *Clare Penny*

Britford

We had a joyful Harvest Supper in Britford on Saturday evening which celebrated our community and the abundant gifts with which we are blessed. Thanks to all involved especially Shelagh and Sarah, and all the cooks.

We had a lovely service the next day - the church looked splendid and the generous offerings were taken to the Food Bank in Salisbury and received with huge thanks.

More on Harvest Festival from Rev Maggie Metcalfe:

At St Andrews we had fun making bread (Jesus said 'I am the bread of life. The bread that lasts. Anyone who comes to me will never be hungry') and creating Harvest scenes. The children helped in the Harvest festival service afterwards at which we welcomed Mike and Kerry Badger who updated us about the charity Morning Star in Salisbury.

A wonderful shared tea followed which was enjoyed by many as we celebrated God's abundant generosity.



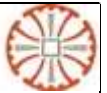
***Photos from the Harvest festival:
creating harvest scenes (above)
offerings for the Harvest Festival Service
(below) and making bread (right)***





Services in Chalke Valley

Benefice November 2025



C BCP = Book of Common Prayer (Traditional Language), CW = Common Worship (Contemporary Language)

2 November ALL SAINTS' DAY	9.30am	Patronal Festival Communion	Broad Chalke	Alison Waterhouse
	9.30am	All Souls Service	Berwick St John	Lay Led
	9.30am	Parish Communion	Britford	Maggie Metcalfe
	11.00am	Morning Prayer (BCP)	Ebbesbourne Wake	Pen Milburn
	11.00am	Parish Communion (CW)	Coombe Bissett	Alison Waterhouse
	11.00am	Family Service	Odstock	Adrian Taylor
	6.00pm	All Souls Service	Bishopstone	Sally Leaver
9 November REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 	10.45am	Remembrance Service	Berwick St John	Barney Hopkinson
	10.45am	Remembrance Service	Bowerchalke	Kate Woolven
	10.50am	Remembrance Service followed by Communion in church	Broad Chalke	Alison Waterhouse
	10.50am	Remembrance Service	Bishopstone	Tony Monds
	10.50am	Remembrance Service	Coombe Bissett	Ruth H-S
	10.50am	Remembrance Service	Odstock	Maggie Metcalfe
	11.20am	Remembrance Service	Ebbesbourne Wake	Jenny Taylor
16 November 2nd Sunday before Advent	9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	Bishopstone	Ruth H-S
	9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	Odstock	Maggie Metcalfe
	9.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Bowerchalke	Alison Waterhouse
	11.00am	Family Communion (CW)	Ebbesbourne Wake	Kate Woolven
	11.00am	Family Communion (CW)	Coombe Bissett	Ruth H-S
	11.00am	Parish Communion (CW)	Berwick St John	Alison Waterhouse
23 November CHRIST THE KING	9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	Charlton All Saints	Ruth H-S
	9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	Broad Chalke	Alison Waterhouse
	11.00am	Family Service	Nunton	Adrian Taylor
	11.00am	Parish Communion (CW)	Bishopstone	Ruth H-S
	11.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Alvediston	Alison Waterhouse
	11.00am	Morning Prayer	Berwick St John	Lay Led
	6.00pm	Evening Prayer	Homington	Ruth H-S
30 November 1st Sunday of Advent	10.00am	Benefice Communion (CW)	Bowerchalke	Alison Waterhouse
	11.00am	Benefice Communion (CW)	Nunton	Ruth H-S
7 December 2nd Sunday of Advent	9.30am	Family Communion (CW)	Broad Chalke	Kate Woolven
	9.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Berwick St John	Alison Waterhouse
	9.30am	Parish Communion	Britford	Ruth H-S
	11.00am	Morning Prayer (BCP)	Ebbesbourne Wake	Biddy Trahair
	11.00am	Parish Communion (CW)	Coombe Bissett	Ruth H-S
	11.00am	Family Service	Odstock	Adrian Taylor
	6.00pm	Carol Service	Stratford Tony	Ruth H-S

Ministry Team: Team Rector ~ The Revd Dr Ruth Howlett-Shipley: 01722 697022
Team Vicar ~ The Revd Alison Waterhouse: 07904 034221
Associate Priests ~ The Revd Maggie Metcalfe: 01722 325825, The Revd Kate Woolven: 07754 582395
Team Administrator ~ Mrs Emily Broomhead: 07890 262376

Assisting Clergy: The Revd Canon Anthony Hawley: 01794 390607, The Revd Canon Tony Monds: 07808 614597

Lay Worship Leaders: Angela Bridges: 01747 828383, Yvonne & Kevin Follett: 01747 828785, Caroline Lamb: 01722 78078
Sally Leaver: 01722 780447, Don Morgan: 01722 718557, Adrian Taylor: 01722 325862,
Janet Roe: 01725 519242, Biddy Trahair: 01722 780666, Rhoddy Voremberg: 07785 304142,
James Wardroper: 01722 718152

Scouts – Christmas Post Service

CHRISTMAS POST

Last Day of Posting *Wednesday 3rd December 2025*

40p
a stamp

**6p of which will
go towards**



40p a card using the
**Scout Christmas
Stamps.**

Delivered only
in the **locations**
listed below.

Post in the **special
boxes** located
throughout
the area.

**Do not put
in the Royal Mail**

***Locations where cards can be delivered:**

Alderbury, Allington, Amesbury, Barford St Martin, Berwick St James, Bodenham, Boscombe, Boscombe Down, Bishopstone, Bowerchalke, Broadchalke, Britford, Bulford, Burcombe, Charlton All Saints, Chilmark, Cholderton, Clarendon, Codford, Coombe Bissett, Dinton, Downton, Durnfords, Durrington, East Grimstead, Ebbesbourne Wake, Farley, Figheledean, Firsdown, Ford, Fordingbridge, Fovant, Gomeldon, Great Wishford, Hale, Hamptworth, Harnham, Homington, Hurdcott, Idmiston, Landford, Langfords, Larkhill, Laverstock, Longhedge, Lopcombe, Lover, Morgans Vale, Netheravon, Nomansland, Netherhampton, Newton Tony, Nunton, Odstock, Old Sarum, Orcheston, Pitton, Porton, Quidhampton, Redlynch, Salisbury, Shrewton, South Newton, Stapleford, Stoford, Stratford Tony, Tilshead, West Dean, West Grimstead, Whaddon, Whiteparish, Wilsford, Wilton, Winterbournes, Winterslow, Woodfalls, Woodfords, Wylfe.

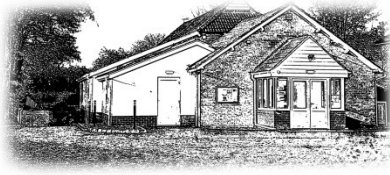
We cannot deliver cards outside of advertised area.

Any such cards can be collected by arrangement. Tel 01985 850325

Cards can be posted at **Salisbury District Scout HQ, Kingsland Road, Salisbury** and various other locations throughout the area.



Bishopstone Village Hall



November 2025

BISHOPSTONE COMMUNITY CAFÉ

The Village Hall Café opens every other Thursday and is a great place to relax and catch up with others in the community. Upcoming dates are the **6th & 20th November and the 4th & 18th December**. Opening hours are from **10:30 am to 12:00 noon**. Everyone is warmly invited to stop by for a coffee and a chat. Refreshments are currently offered free of charge.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Saturday 15th November. We are delighted to welcome back the jazz group, *The Sunset Café Stompers*. Join us for an unforgettable evening of great music and good company. Tickets are **£17.50** per person, with an optional supper available for an additional **£7.50** each.

Doors and bar open at 7pm for a 7.30pm start. Please book in advance with Caroline Ash on (01722) 781044, or Sue Taylor on 01722 780316, stating any dietary requirements if taking the supper.

MOVIOLA at Bishopstone

Friday 28th November.

Join us for **'Four Letters of Love'**, Starring an outstanding cast including **Pierce Brosnan, Helena Bonham Carter, and Gabriel Byrne**. This moving story explores destiny, love, and the mysterious forces that shape our lives.

Doors open from **7.00pm** with the film beginning at **7.30pm**. Entry to the film is **£7.00**. A cash bar with ices and snacks will be available. If possible, please book in advance with Caroline Ash on (01722) 781044 or Sue Taylor on 01722 780316.

A trailer for the film can be seen in the Events section of the village website at www.bishopstone-salisbury.co.uk.

BISHOPSTONE COMMUNITY LUNCHES

The **November** lunch will be on **Wednesday, the 5th**. The speaker will be Mike Ash, with a talk entitled "Stop Press - Bishopstone in print". Times as usual: **12.00 noon for 12.30 pm**. Advance booking is essential. Please telephone Caroline Ash on (01722) 781044 and advise her of any dietary requirements. The cost is **£8.50** for a two-course lunch and a drink.

The special **Christmas lunch** will be on **Wednesday, December 3rd**

THE CHRISTMAS FAYRE

The Christmas Fayre will be held on **Friday, 5th December**, from **6.00pm until 7.00pm**. There will be a variety of stalls, including Tombola, Cakes and Produce, Local Crafts, Books, and other attractions to enjoy.

Donations for the Book, Tombola, and Cake stalls will be most gratefully received. The Hall will be open between **2.30pm and 3.30pm** to receive contributions. We warmly invite you to join us and share in the spirit of the season.

BOOKINGS FOR SOCIAL EVENTS AND WORKSHOPS

Both halls are available for hire. To enquire or make a booking, please contact the bookings secretary, Margaret Barter (01722) 780471

BISHOPSTONE PLAYGROUP

The playgroup meets on Friday mornings during term time from 9.30 – 11.00 am.

Breastfeeding support is available from qualified breastfeeding counsellor Cally Edwards and trained peer supporters. Find further information on our Facebook page, *Bishopstone Playgroup* or contact Cally callyedwards@me.com or 07968 797 168

VILLAGE CRAFT GROUP

The Village Craft Group meets on the first Tuesday of the month from 7 – 9pm. Any crafters are welcome. For further details, please contact Sue Porter on 01722 780459 or Jacqueline James on 01722 335866.

ART GROUP

An Art Group led by Russell Bignold meets every Thursday morning between 9.45am and 11.45am. Drawing, painting and sculpture (clay) are taught, covering all genres. Cost £20 per session, tea and biscuits provided.

Contact Russell at russellbignold@btinternet. Website www.russellbignoldartist.com.



The Achieve Programme

The Achieve Programme Empowering Wiltshire's NEET Young People



Wiltshire Council's **Family and Community Learning** team proudly delivers **The Achieve Programme**—a vibrant, supportive, and empowering 16-week course designed for young people aged **16–25** who are **Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)**.

Delivered in small, friendly groups, the programme helps learners build confidence, develop essential life and employability skills, and take meaningful steps toward further education, training, or employment.

What's Included?

Upon completion, learners receive **two accredited certificates** covering a wide range of practical and personal development units:

Developing Resilience (Level 1)

- Personal Resilience
- Positive Wellbeing
- Aspirations

Personal Development and Employability Skills (*Entry Level 3 / Level 1 / Level 2*)

- Personal Development
- Digital Skills
- Managing Money
- Presentation Skills
- Preparing for the World of Work
- Career Planning

These units are brought to life through engaging activities such as:

- Group presentations
- E-safety awareness
- Budgeting exercises
- CV and application writing
- Interview simulations

Throughout the course, learners are supported every step of the way by experienced tutors who combine **realistic expectations** with **ambitious encouragement**, offering both academic guidance and pastoral care.

Introducing The Achieve Programme

Supporting Wiltshire's NEET Young People

The Achieve Programme is a 16-week initiative delivered by Wiltshire Council's Family and Community Learning team, designed to empower young people aged 16–25 who are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) or at risk of becoming NEET. Through small-group learning and tailored support, the programme helps participants build confidence, develop essential life and employability skills, and work towards positive next steps in education, training or employment. Young people aged 16-25 will be able to gain two accredited certificates in Developing Resilience and Personal Development & Employability Skills, with practical units including digital skills, budgeting, CV writing, and interview preparation. Tutors provide both academic and pastoral support, creating a safe and encouraging environment for learners to grow and succeed. Referrals are being welcomed now for the next two cohorts which start in mid-November in Salisbury on Tuesdays and Trowbridge on Thursdays. Please contact achieveprogram@wiltshire.gov.uk for more information or to make a referral. Course flyers and information are attached.

Resilience and Readiness

Family and Community Learning are offering this brand-new course to support Wiltshire residents to develop their confidence and interpersonal skills to feel ready to thrive in the workplace. This friendly four-week course will support adults to develop practical strategies to respond positively to life's challenges, and to gain and maintain motivation. This course is aimed at adults aged 19+ who live in Wiltshire, and are either on a low income, in receipt of benefits, have a learning difficulty or disability, military families, refugees, care leavers, or are not in work and would like to be in the future (see the attached course poster for more information). The first course will be running in Salisbury in November, starting with a welcome meeting on 4 November. This course is also being planned for delivery in Trowbridge, Melksham and Chippenham. Contact familyandcommunitylearning@wiltshire.gov.uk or call 01225 770478 for more information, or to book your place. Bookings for the Salisbury course must be received by 3 November.

What Our Learners Say

"This shows that I've proved I'm capable of doing things."

"The lessons were easy to understand. If I was stuck, he gave me ideas or explained it differently, so I got it."

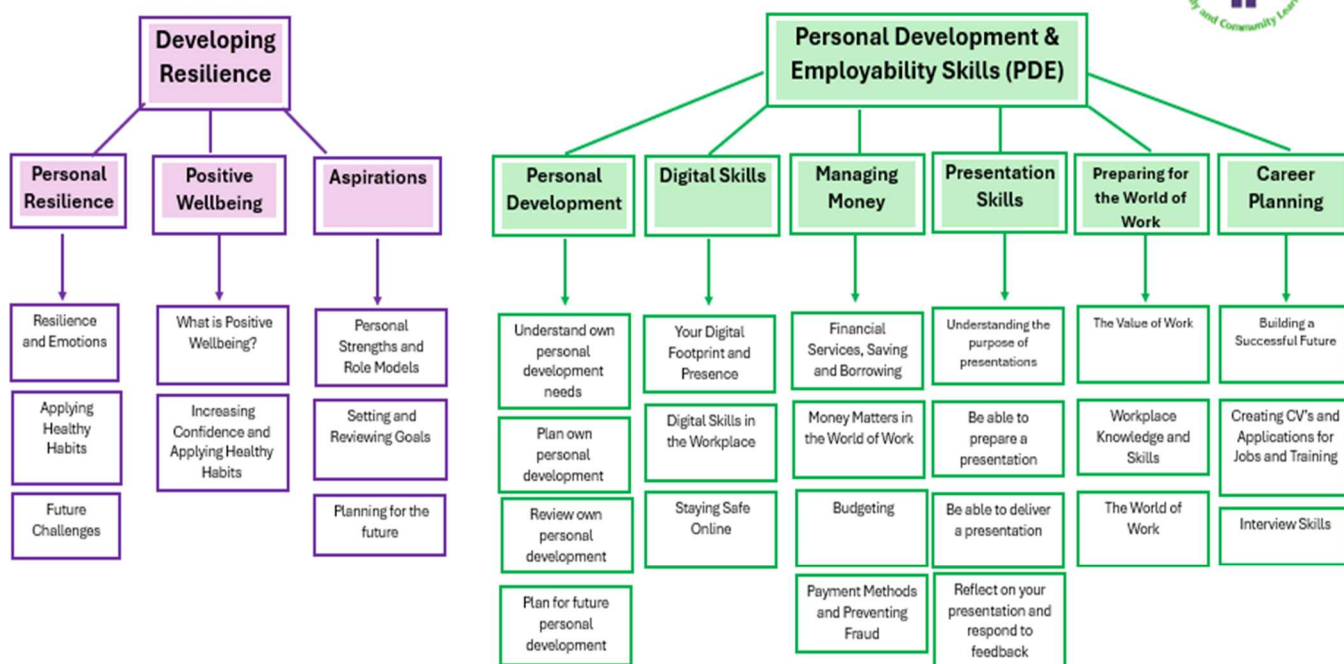
"I found the course useful and interesting. It gave me lots of information and helped me think about the job I want to do."

"The tutor explained things clearly and let me share my thoughts. He helped me in a really understanding way."

Whether self-referred or supported by a parent, carer, or key worker, participants are welcomed into a friendly space where they can meet new people and explore future opportunities. For more information or to register, contact achieveprogram@wiltshire.gov.uk



The Achieve Programme



Wiltshire Council

Alabaré

With the night's drawing in and ALABARÉ preparing for what we expect to be another busy winter season, we remain determined to support those facing the crisis of homelessness towards a brighter and independent future.

Can you and the local community help?

We have just launched our Winter Appeal for 2025, focussing on the issue of veterans' homelessness. Sue served her country before working in bars and restaurants. When the COVID pandemic struck and she was furloughed, Sue found it hard to make ends meet, lost her home and possessions, and was separated from her children. She was sleeping in her car, feeling hopeless, forgotten, and ashamed, when she came to ALABARÉ.

We provided her with safe, secure accommodation, vital mental health support and the means to start turning her life around. Through coaching, wellbeing programmes, and employability training, Sue began to believe in herself again. Today, she's bidding for a place of her own to call home, *"I feel like I can breathe again. ALABARÉ gave me my life back, and I've never felt better."*

ALABARÉ has been supporting vulnerable and marginalised people for more than three decades, and last year we helped more than 3,200 people like Sue across Wiltshire, the South West and Wales to rebuild their lives.

Demand is rising, and so any support you can give us, individually or by raising funds in the community, would make a huge difference to our staff and clients.

You can find out more by searching 'ALABARÉ Winter Appeal'. Your donation could make a real difference to someone who's facing homelessness. Thank you for your support.

For more information contact Faye Tryhorn f.tryhorn@alabare.co.uk

Registered Charity No 1006504

An evening with Mark Dawson at Salisbury Guildhall

Join Mark Dawson at Salisbury Guildhall on Thursday 4 December as he shares his journey and discusses *The Inheritance*, the latest book in the Atticus Priest series.

The evening will begin with Dawson sharing insights into his background and reflections on *The Inheritance*. Guests will then have the opportunity to take part in an interactive Q&A session, followed by a book signing.

Each ticket includes a copy of *The Inheritance* and a welcome drink.

Dawson said, "I'm really looking forward to the event at Salisbury Guildhall. The city has been a huge inspiration for the Atticus Priest novels, so it's always special to meet readers here and share some of the stories behind the books."

Doors open at 6.15pm, giving you plenty of time to enjoy a drink from the bar and settle in before the talk starts at 7pm. The event will run for approximately two hours, including a short interval.

Tickets on sale now at <https://bit.ly/mark-dawson>.

An evening with Simon Yates at Salisbury Guildhall

Come and enjoy an evening with Simon Yates, one of the most accomplished exploratory mountaineers of all time, at Salisbury Guildhall on Thursday 20th November.

Yates is best known for his role in the harrowing expedition to the Andes documented in Joe Simpson's bestseller *Touching the Void*. Following that experience in Peru, he has been increasingly drawn to places where few others have trod.

This talk features spectacular images and film from some of the most remote and rarely visited mountain ranges of the world. From the Arctic to the Antarctic and Alaska to Central Asia, there is hardly a significant range that Yates has not visited.

Doors open at 6.45pm – arrive early and enjoy a drink from the bar before the talk begins at 7.30pm. The evening will run for approximately two hours, including a short interval.

Tickets on sale now at <https://bit.ly/simon-yates>.

Wilton Rotary Club

60 guests gathered at the Mercure White Hart Hotel in Salisbury for the Rotary Club of Wilton's monthly Guest Night on Monday. The evening was a thank you for helpers at the club's Mammoth Car Boot Sale and a celebration of a summer of extraordinary generosity by the public and volunteers.

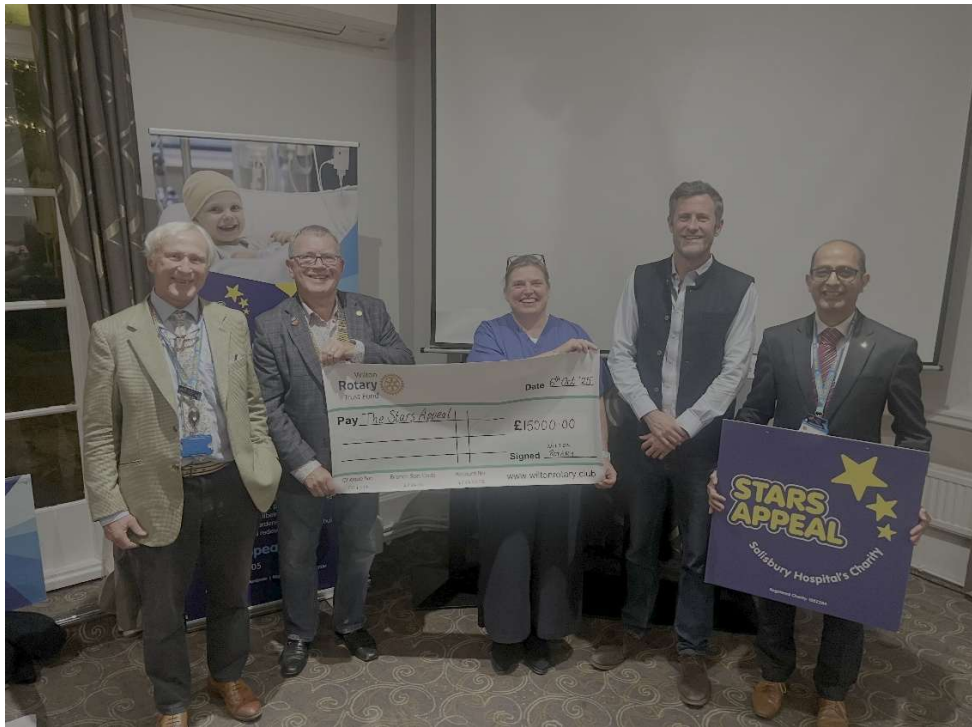
Following a delightful two-course dinner, the Stars Appeal's Head of Fundraising, Dave Cates and three Stars Appeal Ambassadors (Mr Roger Humphry, Mr Sridhar Sampalli and Dr Rowena Staples) shared inspiring stories of how the club's incredible fundraising over the years has changed lives — providing life-saving equipment, care for premature babies and vital programs for seriously ill children. In a moving moment Dave shared the thank you received by Gill Wade, who had used a new "by your side chair" funded by last year's donation to keep her promise and stay with her husband throughout his last days. Her husband was a former Wilton Rotarian, Colin Wade.

Responding to the presentation, club President Peter Edge told the audience that last year's summer events which included the Wilton Wake Ups enabled the club to donate £11,200 to the Stars Appeal; but added that this year, the club had broken all records! and unveiled a cheque for a staggering £15,000. In addition to this and from the summer events the Club have also paid for a defibrillator for the Veteran Centre on Wilton Hill and will be providing the Wilton Community Nurses with a new Doppler machine.

Lord Pembroke, responded on behalf of the Stars Appeal, of which he is president, with heartfelt thanks, praising the Rotary Club's tireless dedication to volunteering and supporting the community.

Paediatric Consultant and Stars Appeal Ambassador Dr Rowena Staples said: "It is a privilege to receive this wonderful donation on behalf of our hospital charity the Stars Appeal. I thank everyone at Wilton Rotary Club and their many friends and supporters for their committed ongoing support. I also record my thanks to our president Lord Pembroke whose support has been instrumental in making this donation possible. This marvellous gift will enable us to continue to make a difference to local children and adults being treated at Salisbury Hospital."

In summing up club secretary Andy Rhind-Tutt explained that when the Wilton Rotary Club was founded, it's very first fundraiser was for an incubator for premature babies at the hospital and tonight 47 years later we are still providing help and demonstrating a legacy of care and compassion.



Carers Rights Day Information Fair – Friday 21st November 2025

Are you an unpaid Carer in Wiltshire? Come along to our **Carers Rights Day Information Fair** and discover the support available to help make caring a little easier. ❤️

- 📅 **Date:** Friday 21st November 2025
- 🕒 **Time:** 10am – 2pm
- 📍 **Venue:** St John's Parish Centre, 2 Wingfield Road, Trowbridge, BA14 9EA

Join us to:

- ☑️ Meet local organisations and learn about your rights as a carer
- ☑️ Get information and advice to help you feel empowered and confident
- ☑️ Chat with the **Carers Together Wiltshire** team
- ☑️ Enjoy **free refreshments** and connect with others who understand what you do

This event is part of **Carers Rights Day**, a national campaign helping unpaid carers **know their rights and use their rights**.

💎 Don't miss this chance to find out what support is available for you. Everyone is welcome!

#CarersRightsDay #CarersTogetherWiltshire #KnowYourRights #UnpaidCarers
#WiltshireEvents #CommunitySupport

Salisbury City Council joins county-wide community air quality project

Salisbury City Council is pleased to announce the installation of two new air quality sensors, at its Tollgate Road Depot and Bemerton Heath Centre sites, as part of a Wiltshire Council-led initiative.

Wiltshire Council's Wiltshire Community Air Network (WCAN) has launched a one-year community air quality monitoring project to understand more about air pollution in Wiltshire by using low-cost PurpleAir Zen PM2.5 Air Quality sensors to measure local fine particulate matter (PM2.5) air pollution.

PM2.5 is a type of air pollution made up of tiny pieces of solids or liquids, each no larger than 2.5 micrometres. These particles can originate from both human activities, such as vehicle emissions, and natural sources, such as dust. Exposure to PM2.5 can increase the risk of health problems and have harmful effects on the environment.

There is currently limited local data about PM2.5 in Wiltshire. By hosting two sensors, Salisbury City Council is contributing to a county-wide effort to identify local PM2.5 pollution trends and hotspots and inform future strategy for air quality monitoring and pollution reduction. This work is directly in line with its own Environment Policy, which commits the City Council to working with partners to monitor and help improve air quality.

The air quality sensors provide real-time data on PM2.5 pollution levels, which members of the public will be able to access online at map.purpleair.com. Individuals and communities can use this data to learn more about their local air quality.

Cllr Paul Sample, said, "This project will help us understand more about PM2.5 air pollution in Salisbury and Wiltshire as a whole.

"Wiltshire Council have obtained 100 low-cost air quality sensors available to measure local PM2.5 air pollution. The data from the sensors will be analysed by scientists to help us understand local PM2.5 pollution trends and hotspots, as well as helping inform our future strategy for air quality monitoring.

"I'd like to thank Salisbury City Council for supporting this project. If you would like to take part, please get in touch. There are still some areas of the City where we have no data."

[Click here to find out more about the WCAN on the Wiltshire Council website.](#)

Royal Charter Celebrations - Salisbury



Press Release

7 October 2025

Be involved in Salisbury 800: Celebrate, Create, Contribute

In 2027, our city will mark a significant milestone: 800 years since receiving its Royal Charter. To honour this historic occasion, a cross-sector group, made up of local organisations, businesses and community leaders, is coming together to plan six months of celebrations, involving the whole community, to celebrate our shared heritage and future.

Planning is already underway, but the heart of these celebrations will be the people who live, work and are connected to the city. The organising group is inviting individuals, community groups and businesses to get involved – whether through ideas, volunteering, partnerships or sponsorship.

The programme will showcase our community – its history, culture, creativity and innovation – while also looking forward to the opportunities that the next century brings. Events will range from heritage exhibitions and performances to festivals, learning programmes, and community-led initiatives.

A short overview and an Expression of Interest form are now available for anyone who would like to find out more and register their interest in contributing.

[Please click here to fill out the Expression of Interest form.](#)

Salisbury 800 – Expressions of support

Cllr Sam Charleston, Leader of Salisbury City Council, said:

"Salisbury 800 will be an incredible showcase of our wonderful city, shining a spotlight on its rich history, vibrant culture, and welcoming community spirit. This

Salisbury City Council The Guildhall Market Place Salisbury Wiltshire SP1 1JH
Tel: 01722 342860 email: info@salisburycitycouncil.gov.uk www.salisburycitycouncil.gov.uk

Friends of Bishopstone Church

IN AID OF BISHOPSTONE CHURCH ROOF APPEAL

It's Not Rocket Science (Well, it is actually . . .)

**Come and join me, Toby Mills,
a real Rocket Scientist and learn about**

- **The history of rockets**
- **How rockets work**
- **Getting into orbit**
- **Travelling the cosmos**
- **The future of rocketry and much more**



No mathematical knowledge required!

**Never again will you wonder how a rocket works
Amaze your friends with your new found knowledge**

**on Friday 7th November 2025 at 7.00pm for 7:30pm
in the Bishopstone Village Hall**

**Tickets £12.50 – includes first drink and snacks
(18 years old and under: £5)**

CONTACTS FOR TICKETS

Sarah Seal – theseal1@outlook.com

Anne Stutchbury – annewheelwright@gmail.com

Knife crime and theft offences drop across Wiltshire and Swindon



Communities across Swindon and Wiltshire are seeing the results of sustained efforts to tackle crime, with new figures revealing a reduction in knife crime and theft offences over the past year.

Figures published by the Office of National Statistics show that Wiltshire has recorded a 4.5% reduction in weapon offences in the year ending June 2025 compared to the previous year—a reduction from 420 crimes to 401.

It comes following a partnership focus on delivering the Serious Violence Duty (SVD) which places a legal obligation on specified authorities to reduce violent crime. This includes police, local authorities, probation, NHS, youth justice services and fire.

Further work is now underway to build on this momentum and progress made so far, including a new initiative to replace standard kitchen knives with safer, curved-edge alternatives in homes identified as potentially being at higher risk of violence.

Schools across the county are also engaging with the Blunt Truth programme, which educates young people about the dangers of knife crime. These efforts are supported

Knife crime and theft offences drop across Wiltshire and Swindon - continued

by focused deterrence and early intervention strategies aimed at diverting young people away from violence before it escalates.

Police and Crime Commissioner Philip Wilkinson said: “Tackling serious violence remains one of my top priorities, and these figures show that our collective efforts are beginning to make a difference. The reduction in weapon offences is encouraging, but we know there is still much more to do.

“Through the Serious Violence Duty, we’re working closely with partners to intervene earlier, support communities, and prevent harm before it happens. Initiatives like the Blunt Truth programme in schools, the replacement of kitchen knives in high-risk homes, and our support for grassroots organisations in our local communities are all part of a wider strategy to reduce violence and protect lives. It is about prevention, not just enforcement.”

Theft offences have also declined, with a 6.5% drop recorded, from 11,648 crimes to 10,896. This contrasts with the regional average, which saw a 1.9% increase over the same period. Work is ongoing to drive down retail and business crime in the county including increased patrols in retail areas, improved CCTV coverage, and collaborative work with local businesses to deter opportunistic theft and repeat offending.

Recognising that theft offences—particularly shop theft - may often go unreported, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner is preparing to launch the Business Crime Reduction Partnership (BCRP) alongside Salisbury BID, a new partnership initiative which aims to encourage more consistent reporting, improve intelligence sharing, and strengthen preventative measures across the county’s retail and commercial sectors.

Mr Wilkinson added: “These latest figures are a clear sign that our approach is working. The drop in thefts—especially when compared to rising rates across the region—shows that our investment in visible policing, smarter prevention, and partnership working is delivering real results. But we know theft is often underreported, which is why our work with the BCRP and local businesses is so important in building trust and encouraging consistent reporting.

“While recent headlines have focused on overall crime rates, it’s important to look deeper. The progress we’re making in key areas—especially those that directly affect public safety and wellbeing—is encouraging and worth recognising. We will continue to build on this momentum and ensure Wiltshire remains a place where people feel safe and supported.”

Mr Wilkinson also reiterated his call for fairer police funding, warning that continued progress could be at risk if Wiltshire does not receive its fair share of national resources.

Knife crime and theft offences drop across Wiltshire and Swindon - continued

He added: "Wiltshire continues to be one of the lowest-funded police forces in the country. If we are to maintain and build on these successes, we urgently need a fairer funding formula that reflects the true demands on our officers and communities otherwise the improvements our residents see will not be sustainable. I will continue to press government for change—because our residents deserve better."

Deputy Chief Constable Mark Cooper said: "These encouraging figures are of course welcome. We are determined to drive down violent offences and it is clear that working in partnership with other agencies is vital in terms of addressing the social and economic factors which contribute to such offending.

"In doing so, we are protecting our communities and helping to keep Wiltshire safe.

"With the support of the Police and Crime Commissioner and the clear direction set by our Chief Constable, we will continue to relentlessly bring offenders to justice as well as supporting educational and preventative initiatives.

"The trust and confidence of our communities is vital to our mission as we continue to build on this positive momentum."

You can read the full ONS report [here](#).

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PCC Parish column

Wiltshire shortchanged by national police funding formula



As your Police and Crime Commissioner, I remain deeply concerned that the existing national police funding formula, established by Tony Blair's government is seriously disadvantaging Wiltshire Police and limiting the service that we can provide our communities. The government's central grant allocates us approximately £115 per head of population while the national average is £164.

The current police formula does not recognise the reality of policing a largely rural county, across a wide area, with diverse challenges: rural crime, county lines, cyber crime, serious violence, mental health, victim support, and more. Without stable, fair and long-term commitments to funding, we are pushed into short-term fixes that slow innovation and jeopardise technology investment.

I have written to the previous and current police ministers and home secretaries asking them to address the disparities in police funding. Both the previous government and this one may appear annually to allocate the police more money, but in fact they do not cover inflationary pressures and increasingly expect PCCs to increase local taxes to compensate for this reduction in central funding - placing the burden on residents.

Over the last year Wiltshire Police has squeezed out just about every possible cost efficiency through their Financial Review Programme — cutting estate and fleet costs, departmental staffing reviews and tightening procurement. But there is only so much that can be trimmed before it begins harming the core service.

We also face a workforce challenge: bringing in new officers is important, but retaining experience, investing in training, and giving officers the tools they need is critical.

I applaud the progress Wiltshire Police has made under Chief Constable Catherine Roper — being removed from 'special measures' and achieving service improvements locally. Residents are telling me that they feel safer, yet none of that is guaranteed unless our funding is fair and sustainable.

This is not about balance sheets — it is about service. An outdated and unfair funding formula means slower responses, fewer officers visible in our communities, overworked teams, and delayed investigations. Wiltshire residents deserve policing that delivers and keeps them safe and that is what I am fighting for.

I will continue to campaign for multi-year settlements and reform of the funding formula to reflect the true demands of modern policing. I'm committed to ensuring that Wiltshire has the resources it needs to be safe and well served.

Philip Wilkinson

Police and Crime Commissioner for Wiltshire and Swindon

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