

News and Notes

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

February 2026

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See pages 14 – 19 inclusive

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Table of Contents

Editorial.....	2
Anyone for a podcast for the villages?	3
Chalke Benefice Lent Project.....	3
Ebblefest 2026 is coming on Saturday 4 July.....	3
Pantomime Raises £4,425 for the Radnor Hall!	3
More Good Radnor Hall News	3
Salisbury Ring Road Blues	3
Plant of the Month.....	4
January Photo Competition Winner!.....	5
Odstock, Nunton and Bodenham W.I.	6
Spotlight on Rebecca.....	7
Focus on Food – letter from West Wales	8
Blister Pack Collection Dates	9
The Whitsbury Wanderer	10
Message from the County Council	10
Longford Estate News.....	11
News from the Pews	12
Services in Chalke Valley Benefice: February 2026	13
Vacancy: Parish Clerk and Financial Officer	18
Bishopstone Village Hall	20
Stars Appeal Christmas Raffle Raises Over £20,000	22
Join the Stars Appeal's Walk for Wards.....	22
Panto Stars Bring Festive Joy to Patients at Salisbury Hospital	23
The Chalke Valley Link Scheme.....	26
Salisbury City Council Updates	26
Salisbury Crematorium Cremators Get Eco Upgrade.....	26
799 Year Anniversary!	27

Comedy Nights Return to the Guildhall in 2026	27
Salisbury A36 Improvement/Road Closures in 2026	28
Police and Crime Commissioner Recognises Outstanding Contributions to Community Safety at Wiltshire Police Force Awards Ceremony	29

Editorial

Welcome to the first edition of News and Notes 2026, our second year as co-editors and one we began with a wonderful gathering at the pub for no fewer than 23 members of the News and Notes team, past and present.



Reminiscing with 9 previous editors and a great many members of the delivery teams from all the villages, it was wonderful to see how strong a tradition of community support lies behind what we do. After 586 issues there still remains great enthusiasm for it to continue. Not only was it a chance for all of us finally to meet all these fellow news-and-noters, to put names to faces and understand more of each other's roles in the task of getting N&N out to our readers, but also talk about how we might try to develop the magazine in future, to keep it fresh and relevant to the maximum number of local people. We discussed plenty of good ideas, not least for us all to meet again in the pub soon for more hearty chinwagging and celebrations of all things local!

On this theme of developing and nurturing News and Notes, we are delighted to announce the first winner of our monthly Photo Competition, so brilliantly suggested by Sheri Start. Many congratulations to David Saul for his wonderful picture of a misty sunrise at Clearbury Ring (see page 4). Special mention to runner-up Thomas Baker-Onyancha too for his lovely wildlife photo (see online edition) and thank you to everyone who entered. Please send more photos, so we can keep this going! Sadly we can only print in black & white but they are in glorious technicolour online:

www.newsandnotes.net

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Co-editors: Nicolette Beardsmore, Adam Beardsmore, Jeremy Metcalfe

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Deadline for March edition: 14 February 2026

Contact editor@newsandnotes.co.uk

Anyone for a podcast for the villages?

Our website genius and mastermind Clare Penny has offered to provide all tech support (which she says is in place and ready to go). As Clare says, what better way could there be than a podcast to reach and involve more local folk, especially the less old who for some very strange reason may not always read every word (or even any words at all) in this august organ??

If you'd like to get involved or have any ideas as to how you might be able to contribute, don't be shy, please let us know, it could be the start of something huge.

Chalke Benefice Lent Project

Soup and ploughman's Lent Lunch in support of Longford School will be held on **Saturday 28 February 12 midday – 2pm** in the Radnor Hall

Price £12; children under 12 free. Please come - contact Debby 01722 329769

Ebblefest 2026 is coming on Saturday 4 July

Get it in your diary! Fête, live music, tea tent, bar - BE THERE! and why not join the gang to help - funds raised will help our villages. info@ebblefest.com

Pantomime Raises £4,425 for the Radnor Hall!

The Radnor Hall trustees would like to pass on their huge thanks to the Radnor Hall Players for an excellent pantomime, and also to the Radnor Arms for their huge help with catering and sponsorship of the meal. After costs, a surplus of £4425 was raised from the raffle, bar and tickets which will be used to maintain the Hall. We are so grateful for the generosity of the cast and audiences. Thank you to you all for this marvellous support of our village hall.

The Hall is available to hire for a variety of different uses, please contact the Hall Manager for further details 01722 329 760.

Jeremy Metcalfe, Chair of the Radnor Hall Committee

More Good Radnor Hall News

(that's excellent for all of us . . .) There is a new Pilates class for lady youngsters over 60 on Thursday lunch times, and a new dancing class for all ages on Thursday evenings. Get active, have a lorra lorra fun, dream of your place on 'Strictly' and support the hall at the same time. More details in the advert section! Cha cha cha!

Salisbury Ring Road Blues

Be prepared for daytime lane reductions along with lane or full overnight closures on the A36 round Salisbury in January - March at **Castle Street Roundabout** and **St Mark's Roundabout** as improvement works are planned for replacing the aged traffic lights and to improve traffic flow. For more details see page 28.

Odstock Parish Council News



For some time, Jubilee Gardens has been suffering from erosion of the banks, particularly alongside the main seating area and the need for restoration had become pressing.

As a result, the Parish Council commissioned work on your behalf to make good that area and as you may have seen, the work has now taken place. The chosen solution was to terrace part of the riverbank, secured by chestnut paling with varied plantings to bind the soil that will be carried out in the spring.

All the work was under licence from the Environment Agency and will secure this Parish facility for years to come.

Nigel Start

R I P – Diane Wait

We regret to inform you that Diane Wait, late of Nunton Drove, sadly passed away on 17 December. Her daughter, Lisa, was keen for people in the village to know.

The funeral was held on Friday 23 January at 2.45pm at the Surrey & Sussex Crematorium, Balcombe Road, Crawley, RH10 3NG. As this was ahead of N&N going to press, it was posted on our website in the hope it might be seen and shared.

Plant of the Month

Hooray, the snowdrops are poking through, a sure sign that spring will soon be on the horizon! But I can't choose between snowdrops and the delightful bright yellow "choirboy" aconites as both are so pretty and uplifting. They are woodland plants



so put them in shady areas under trees or shrubs to naturalise, they will come back year after year and multiply if undisturbed. Plant snowdrop bulbs just after flowering, known as "in the green" for best success.



Fun facts- there are more than 2,500 named varieties of snowdrops and people who collect them are called Galanthologists or Galanthophiles.

January Photo Competition Winner!



After careful consideration, David Saul's photo was chosen as the best by our judge Sheri Start who described it as very atmospheric and showing Clearbury in a beautiful, ethereal light.

Congratulations David!

Thank you to everyone who entered.

Please send in your photos for February's competition by 14 February 2026, camera roll up, roll up (geddit??)

Email: editor@newsandnotes.co.uk



Congratulations also for Thomas Baker-Onyancha who gets a commendation for his entry of a robin in the hedge

Odstock, Nunton and Bodenham W.I.

A busy Odstock, Nunton and Bodenham WI January meeting started with our Business meeting. We learned that 44kg of donated food had been collected and delivered to Salisbury Food Bank before Christmas, along with a car-boot load of presents for Alabare's Charity for the Homeless. 'Accessible Public Toilets' was chosen for the National WI resolution. Arrangements for the January meal were finalised and members had the opportunity to sign up to county events and volunteering duties for ONB WI.

Next up was Rosemary LeGrande's third visit to us, this time speaking about her Japan journey, and it exceeded all expectations. With her incredible knowledge of trees, plants and mosses and excellent photographs, the audience was spellbound. Her tour included the wettest island, Yakushima, famous for its moss and cedar trees, and the holy island of Miyajima with its well-known Torii Gate at the entrance to an ancient Shinto Shrine, through which commoners had to enter at high tide by boat.

The sombre remains of bombed buildings and monuments for peace in Hiroshima were featured before moving on to other highlights: the Koraku-en garden in Okayama famous for its evergreen azaleas, the charming Kurashiki with its art galleries, and the Moss Garden and Bamboo forests of Kyoto & its garden with original species of viburnum and chrysanthemum sacred to the Emperor, and its Zen garden just of gravel and rocks.

Next month's talk will be on 'Climate Change' by Simon Boxall - time to think about gardens for the future.

Spotlight on Rebecca

RHP's Jack in 'Jack & the Beanstalk'

If you have been to any of the Radnor Hall Players' pantos in recent years you will have been lucky enough to see Rebecca Witt of Bodenham on the stage, often playing the leading lady. And the show in 2025 was perhaps her biggest challenge ever, starring in a two-hour long production as the eponymous hero of Jack and the Beanstalk, Alys Hunter's brilliant new panto. It was a monumental achievement, not least because it meant learning more lines for a show than ever before.

Ed: Rebecca, your obvious talent for the stage and love of acting shines through when you perform, which you always do with such great panache! But how did you get into acting in the first place?

R: I have been involved in am-dram since the age of 12. We had just moved to Jonzac in SW France for Dad's work. There was a thriving ex-pat community and they loved putting on Gilbert and Sullivan productions in the Mairie, would you believe? The building had a wonderful little theatre seating 150. I joined and had a lot of fun, not least thanks to Allan Mottram the musical director, a renowned Cambridge choral musician who had retired to SW France. We also performed panto and plays, on top of which monthly theatre trips were part of the well-funded drama lessons at school. I think drama in all its forms was always there for me as a hobby. My great grandparents used to put on One Act plays with the WI and the Shirley Players back in the day so it's in my blood.

Ed: Did you ever consider a career on the stage?

R: Yes, briefly, but I decided instead to study for a degree in Film and Moving Image at Leeds, specialising in production design and screen writing. My sister and I had both decided that we wanted to come back to England to university, and so that was when the family moved to Salisbury. After my degree my first job was as assistant costumier in the movie business, working on a film called 'Into the Woods' with Meryl Streep. But trying to forge a career in the industry looked uncertain, and then I was lucky enough to be able to start work with my father in the swimming pool business. Funnily enough swimming has always been a passion ever since taking weekly swimming lessons throughout my school years and I have loved it ever since.

Ed: How did you come to be in the Radnor Hall Players?

R: When we arrived in Salisbury, I needed to meet some new people and drama seemed as good a way as any, so I joined Studio Theatre. I started out doing the costumes for Macbeth. It was serious stuff: twice or three times weekly rehearsing, and I was soon acting in numerous productions, from Jane Eyre to Shakespeare to comedy sketch shows, music hall and Panto. Hermia in A Midsummer Night's Dream was one of my favourite roles. But it became too much of a commitment, especially with a full-time job which can involve a lot of travel, so when I moved to the cottage in Bodenham five years ago the Radnor Hall Players were the perfect 'next step'.

Ed: What does Village Life mean for you?

R: Community! I love being part of a community. The Radnor Hall crowd aren't too bad, you know! Then there's the other Radnor not a million miles away, undoubtedly one of the great benefits of living in Bodenham. And it's fantastic being so close to the countryside and the open spaces for Jack-jack, my black lab. My work is Salisbury-based so it's perfect.

Ed: Your Maman, Catherine, another 'natural' on stage, appeared with you in the panto this year too. It sounds like something of an acting dynasty in the making! And it seems a real strength that the Radnor Hall Players is very multigenerational.

R: Yes. Mum lives not too far away and being in the same show together is a wonderful thing. I suppose it must be in the genes so we have no choice really!

Ed: So I gather your panto alter ego this year Jack McDonald's heroic first ascent of the green flashing beanstalk was not your first experience of climbing?

R: Well, no, that goes back a long way too. Another part of school life in France was about taking both a team and an individual sport. I played handball and chose swimming as my individual sport. Climbing wasn't usually offered, but then I noticed a climbing wall in the gym which was not being used and asked if I could do some climbing as an 'extra', and before long I was hooked! At that time I developed my love of swimming, especially wild swimming, and climbing. Later I joined the climbing club at university and learnt traditional outdoor climbing. It's a great hobby, very sociable and good exercise so it suits me well, and I make sure to avoid heroics and stay safe.

Ed: No heroics, you say, but you mentioned a frightening crack in the rock appearing and the rock actually moving under you as you summited a peak in Vratsa, Bulgaria last summer on a mountain known as 'The Tooth'. It sounds utterly terrifying.

R: Yes that was a bit of a moment, one can occasionally freeze for a bit! but somehow you learn to keep calm and carry on. Thanks to wonderful climbing friends, after a move or two to get out of trouble everything suddenly resolved! No, I am very risk averse and always stay attached and stay in control. Honestly, it's not as dangerous as it sounds, and in any case it's much more scary going on stage in panto at the Radnor Hall when your friends and family are watching!

Ed: Thanks Rebecca, take care on those rocks and mountains, and congratulations on your recent wonderful and hilarious portrayal of Jack!

Focus on Food – letter from West Wales

Fishermen's tales are a thing of legend, always difficult to verify from our landlocked position inside the protective harbour walls. I was chatting to a guy yesterday, Berwyn from Albatross Fisheries, trying to track down a reliable source of locally caught fish to offer up to my growing list of private dining clients. He didn't draw breath for forty minutes, telling me how the Welsh government have devastated the fishing industry over the years and that there are only 5 trawlers left in Welsh waters, none of which come as far south as Milford Haven.

The sea bass and bream I've been happily buying in the local market he assures me, are probably farmed in the mediterranean and most of the cod, hake and halibut on display is landed by Spanish and French vessels docking at Milford.

He supplies salmon, farmed in 300 feet of water in the Norwegian fjords, whereas 'others' bring it in farmed in sixty feet of Scottish waters and consequently ridden with lice and all sorts of other diseases. The poo builds up on the seabed he lamented, not enough water or tide to dispel it, carry it away. He wasn't backing off, but he was candid with where his products came from, whereas most are ambivalent. I'd clocked Atlantic fisheries when searching for Pembrokeshire oysters, which he supplies. They are farmed just off Skomer Island in south Pembrokeshire, amongst sea grass beds

within a Marine Protected Area, an absolute premium product, and very proud of them he was too.

He does supply local, line-caught sea bass, but only in the summer, whereas his samphire is farmed and comes from Israel, although he did tip me off to a locally foraged crop in the estuary behind Newport beach, which he can't sell because he can't get a license, so Israel it has to be. He supplies Scottish scallops he said, almost puffing with pride. From memory, scallops are bottom feeders, so I hope they don't hang out anywhere near the poo infested salmon farms up in the Hebrides.

For anyone already composing a letter of outrage at my ignorance and misrepresentation of the fishing industry, I'm just reporting what I've been told. Today's tale, tomorrow's parable. I haven't watched the Seaspiracy documentary, so I'm still eating fish with relish, although I now favour trout to salmon, so miss my visit to the Mere Trout Farm counter on Salisbury market every Saturday.

And I've recently taken to Scottish kippers, oops, there's that Scottish connection again, but with enough smoke in the curing process, that the lice just drop off I imagine. I was a massive fan of the Craster kipper back in the 70's, and occasionally had a box shipped down to London where I was studying at Camberwell School of Art. Of course, that was in the days of full grants when you were practically paid to study for 3 years in tertiary education.

So currently, breakfast every Friday is a grilled kipper, wilted spinach in butter and nutmeg, poached duck egg and a slice of artisanal, toasted sourdough from Nourish bakery at the top of the town. Other mornings, breakfast varies, smashed avocado, lemon and coriander, topped with sliced tomatoes, olive oil and chardonnay vinegar, and that topped with a poached egg. Or sauteed red peppers and tomatoes with harissa and a couple of whisked eggs folded through it, on a piece of toast. A bit like a deconstructed shakshuka if you will.

Life can get pretty stormy down by the sea and sometimes it pays to keep your days simple. So a hearty breakfast is a welcome thing, uplifting and encouraging, before donning a waterproof and battling down the end of the quay to pay your respects to the day ahead, to then turn and be blown back down the harbour's edge and back into the cottage to contemplate and plan the day's itinerary.

Martin Simcock, The Constant Cook

Blister Pack Collection Dates

Thursday 26 February and Thursday 16 April

Britford Noticeboard (Church) 09.30 - 09.45	Charlton Church- collection box emptied
Bodenham Old Post Office 09.50 - 10.00	Odstock Church car park 10.30 - 11.15

100,000 packs were saved from landfill in 2025 thanks to YOUR support.

We have negotiated a better price because of our increasingly large volume so we now only need £1 per 100 packs as donations to pay for the next box. The blister packs are ecologically recycled to create recovered aluminium and plastic building boards. We will be visiting the factory in Hull in February and will post a full report on our website: www.spurt.uk

Apologies for the collection date error in last issue - Ed

The Whitsbury Wanderer

We all love a mini break in our own beautiful country! A few days in Devon, Pembrokeshire, or Sussex? Those Instagram and Facebook moments in the old village pub or its garden armed with a pint or a glass of wine and a plate of something freshly cooked and delicious. And with dusk falling, ready and primed for a great sunset selfie! Or a browse and explore around an old historic church with seeming echoes of Jane Austen and the Great War offering a time of calmness and solitude away from our daily lives. Or a visit to a farm shop to buy organic milk that our grandmother would have recognised from her childhood along with free range eggs, honey and cheese. Or to quietly sit awhile on the edge of a clear and gentle stream taking in the dragonflies, butterflies and meadow flowers. Such memories linger long in the background of our busy lives that are spent variously huddled over computer screens or waiting in traffic.

Yet that is exactly what we all have right here on our doorstep. How lucky are we that we don't need a mini break to enjoy all this and more! But if we don't use it, we will lose it like so many other villages. And the loss is not just around services but an expression of who we are both as individuals and as a community. So collectively, let one of our ambitions this year be to simply walk out of our front gates and just be local! PS And you might even meet a neighbour or make a new friend!

Thanks to the Whitsbury Wanderer for this contribution

Creativitea

Relax and be
enriched by
a
time of
inventive crafting and
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

EBBLEFEST 2026

Saturday 4th July



Village Fete

Family fun, stalls, games, Grand Prize draw, bouncy castle, tractor rides, fire engines...



Live Music

Following on from the success of Salisbury Live Rising in 2025, the line up will see more up & coming young artists and bands.



Drink up & Fill up...

Hang out at The Big Bar or while away an hour at the Tea Tent. Dine out at Giggling Gourmet, and other delicious delights.

And it wouldn't be the same without our usual call out for volunteers, don't be shy now, you know you want to!



ebblefest

info@ebblefest.com

Message from the County Council

For most of us, managing council tax online is easier and more convenient. Switching to e-billing will save 90p postage per household for the council, which is better spent on other local services. And it is better for the environment with less paper waste.

Make the switch at <https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/council-tax-online>

Longford Estate News



Mother nature has an amazing way of rectifying the balance, having had a long hot spring and summer in 2025 the rain has finally come but generally not as a deluge, allowing the ground to soak it up rather than it just running off. The rivers have certainly swelled from the summer levels but are not at capacity as yet and with talk of another hot summer we will need the aquifers and waterways to be filled. Some trees and other plants have been duped by the warm winter and are already budding, daffodils have been seen blooming in places. The cold snap over new year was certainly very welcome.

The farm team have been busy hedge trimming and fencing ahead of cattle and sheep grazing cover crops. Grain has been moving from the store in the next stage of its journey be that for animal or human consumption.

Having been fortunate to secure a grant as part of a larger farmer cluster application, various teams have come together to plant nearly 18,000 hedge plants on the farm creating 2,910 metres of new hedgerow. This will provide new environmental corridors for flora and fauna to flourish and link up with existing more established corridors. Each hedge plant is individually staked and wrapped to protect it from deer; the new hedge line is also enclosed by a fence to provide further protection.

The calves have been weaned from the cows earlier this year to give the cows some additional time to recover from the dry summer where they worked hard to ensure their calves were fed properly. Three new bulls joined the herd in October, two more will arrive in February, it will be spring 2027 before we see what their calves look like though!

The sheep flock have done another great job on the meadows, they were put to the rams in November, fingers crossed for a good conception rate. They will leave the farm in February/March to have their lambs back in Essex and Suffolk.

A lot of work has been put into the river by various members of the team and contractors this year to enhance our beautiful and precious stretches of both the Hampshire Avon and the Ebbles. Some new and old areas have been opened up providing additional places for our syndicate members to enjoy in 2026 and beyond.

Longford Logs having moved indoors last year has enabled the team to work in much more comfortable conditions and to build up a stock of quality processed logs that can continue to season ahead of delivery. Our logs are available to order through our website for delivery until 19 March. <https://www.longfordstates.co.uk/the-estate/longford-logs/>

The maintenance team along with various contractors are working hard on getting three properties ready for Easter when they will be launched as Air BnB properties. This is on top of responding to emergencies, general maintenance and normal repairs that they carry out.

David Canty, Estate Manager

News from the Pews

ODSTOCK and NUNTON

Greetings from your ONB church wardens. We hope you had a wonderful Christmas and New Year. It's been a busy time in the churches. Our Festive Fair in early December raised nearly £250 for church funds. The carol singing around the villages raised over £300 in total which will be donated to the Children's Society. Both the carols by candlelight at St Mary's, Odstock and the Christmas Day Eucharist at St Andrew's, Nunton were very well supported and it was truly joyful to see so many families come together. The churches were beautifully decorated by our flower teams and we are most grateful for the donation of Christmas trees for both churches by the Longford estate. On 11th January (Plough Sunday) Simon Martin loaned us a lovely old hand plough to be blessed and Rhoddy Voremberg told us about the work of the Agricultural chaplaincy to which he has recently been licensed as a lay chaplain. As we move into the spring, we will be starting our lent course on Monday afternoons in the Barker Room to which all are very welcome. Creativitea continues to be enjoyed every third Thursday in the Barker room between 2 and 4pm and all are welcome to craft or just to chat over a cup of tea and cake.

Do feel free to contact either of us if you have any church related questions.

Stephanie Elcock, Mary Boydcamps, Churchwardens

CHARLTON ALL SAINTS

Charlton celebrated Christmas in style. We aimed to have something for everyone, with the Christingle Service, Scratch Nativity, Downton Band Concert and Christmas Day Communion. We saw a big rise in attendance for the Christingle and Nativity, which was heart-warming.

We were sad to lose Mrs Jackie Somers in December, one of our long-term residents. We send our condolences to her family and friends.

All Saints' Church celebrates its 175th anniversary in April. Bishop Andrew will be coming to take a special communion service for us on Sunday 26 April at 10am. There will be cake! We have some celebratory events planned throughout 2026, so watch this space, and the N&N website, www.newsandnotes.net, for further information.

Clare Penny, Churchwarden

BRITFORD

We had a very special carol service at St Peter's on the Friday before Christmas. The church looked glorious in candlelight, the singing was wonderful and the atmosphere suitably seasonal. The excellent mulled wine and canapes afterwards added to the friendliness of the evening and it was very good to meet so many people there coming to celebrate the birth of the baby Jesus, God in a vulnerable human, who came to show us the way to life in all its fulness. Special thanks must go to Shelagh Lamb who played the organ and whose ingenious design allowed countless candles to light the church, and to the Whaleys who contributed such delicious refreshments. Rosie and George decorated the Christmas tree so beautifully.

Rev. Maggie Metcalfe

Services in Chalke Valley Benefice: February 2026



Services in Chalke Valley Benefice – February 2026

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



1 February CANDLEMAS	9.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Berwick St John	Alison Waterhouse
	9.30am	Family Communion (CW)	Broad Chalke	Kate Woolven
	9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	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
8 February 2nd Sunday before Lent	9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	Bowerchalke	Kate Woolven
	9.30am	Family Communion (CW)	Nunton	Alison Waterhouse
	10.30am	Worship Together	Broad Chalke Hub	Janet Roe
	11.00am	Parish Communion (CW)	Homington	Ruth H-S
	11.00am	All Age Service	Alvediston	Biddy Trahair
	3.00pm	Evening Prayer (BCP)	Fifield Bavant	Biddy Trahair
	4.30pm	Evensong (BCP)	Charlton All Saints	Ruth H-S
15 February Sunday next before Lent	9.30am	Holy Communion	Bowerchalke	Alison Waterhouse
	9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	Bishopstone	Maggie Metcalfe
	9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	Odstock	Jenny Taylor
	11.00am	Family Communion (CW)	Ebbesbourne Wake	Maggie Metcalfe
	11.00am	Parish Communion (CW)	Berwick St John	Alison Waterhouse
	4.00pm	Sunday Praise	Coombe Bissett	Lay Led
18 February ASH WEDNESDAY	6.00pm	Communion with Ashing	Bowerchalke	Alison Waterhouse
	6.00pm	Communion with Ashing	Coombe Bissett	Ruth H-S
22 February 1st Sunday of Lent	9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	Charlton All Saints	Maggie Metcalfe
	9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	Broad Chalke	Alison Waterhouse
	11.00am	Family Service	Nunton	Adrian Taylor
	11.00am	Parish Communion (CW)	Bishopstone	Alison Waterhouse
	11.00am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Alvediston	Ruth H-S
	11.00am	Morning Prayer (BCP)	Berwick St John	Lay Led
	6.00pm	Evening Prayer	Homington	Ruth H-S
1 March 2nd Sunday of Lent	9.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)	Berwick St John	Ruth H-S
	9.30am	Family Communion (CW)	Broad Chalke	Kate Woolven
	9.30am	Parish Communion (CW)	Britford	Maggie Metcalfe
	11.00am	Morning Prayer (BCP)	Ebbesbourne Wake	Biddy Trahair
	11.00am	Parish Communion (CW)	Coombe Bissett	Alison Waterhouse
	11.00am	Family Service	Odstock	Adrian Taylor
	11.00am	Morning Service	Bishopstone	Sally Leaver

Ministry Team: **Team Rector:** The Revd Dr Ruth Howlett-Shipley: 01722 697022

Team Vicar: The Revd Alison Waterhouse: 07904 034221 / 01722 697404

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 Canons: Anthony Hawley 01794 390607,
Tony Monds 07808 614597, Jenny Taylor: 01722 503081

Lay Worship Leaders: Angela Bridges: 01747 828383, Yvonne & Kevin Follett: 01747 828785,
Caroline Lamb: 01722 780789, 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

JN Upholstery Bodenham

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

T: 07704 767 813

E: info@salisbury-upholstery.co.uk

W: salisbury-upholstery.co.uk

Please get in touch for more details



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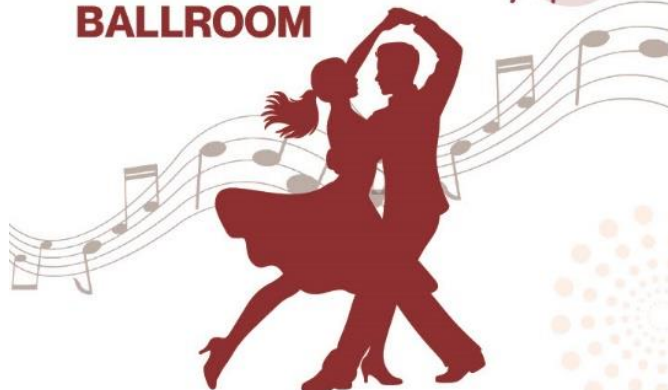
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Vacancy: Parish Clerk and Financial Officer

Odstock Parish Council is looking for an enthusiastic, efficient, and self-motivated person to fill the role of Clerk to the Council. This is a part-time opportunity to work with the local Parish Council with the flexibility to work mainly from home. The total hours are 16 hours a month with an evening meeting every other month. There is training and a modest salary.

See the website www.odstock-pc.org.uk for details of the role and responsibilities and how to apply or email the clerk for more information at clerk@odstock-pc.org.uk

Holiday Cottage To Let: Fishguard Harbour, Pembrokeshire



Having lived in Pembrokeshire now for ten months, I can honestly say that any time of the year is great to visit. Rain or shine, it's a spectacular spot.

Here's a link to the website where you can read all about it

<https://quaystreetcottages.com/cottages/no-37-quay-street>

or give Bee a call on 07974 199469 if you would like further details.

A number of people from the five villages have already visited,
we would love to see you down here.



Sands United FC Salisbury

Join our team



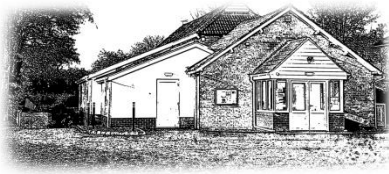
#SandsUnited

We are a Salisbury based charity football team for men who have experienced the loss of a baby.

Sands United provides a unique way for bereaved men to come together through a shared love of sport, find a support network and feel at ease talking about their grief. Through football, we offer a safe space with peer to peer support in an informal setting. While we are a football team, we welcome anyone no matter their sporting ability.

If you feel ready to join Sands United FC Salisbury, use this QR code to find our website and get in touch

Sands United are part of **Sands**



Bishopstone Village Hall

February 2026

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 **12th** and **26th February** and the **12th** and **26th March**. Opening hours are from **10:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon**. Refreshments are currently offered free of charge.

Special Events

Friday 13th February. (Changed from an original date of Saturday 14th)

We are pleased to present a show by Rob Barratt, "a Dudley-born, brain-tickling, word-mangling comic poet and singer from North Cornwall". He combines clever word play and song with satire, parody and audience participation. He regularly appears at folk clubs, and folk, arts and literature festivals in UK and abroad. See more about him at <https://robbarratt.wixsite.com/robbarratt>.

Tickets are **£10.00** each and an optional light supper will be available at **£7.50**.

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 whether you require supper, and of any dietary requirements.

Moviola at Bishopstone - Friday 27th February

The film for February will be '**The Roses**'. *The Roses* is a 2025 satirical black comedy directed by Jay Roach, offers a fresh and modern take on a classic story. The film stars Benedict Cumberbatch and Olivia Colman as a successful couple whose seemingly picture-perfect marriage is tested in unexpected and darkly humorous ways.

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.

The film on **Friday 27th of March** will be 'The Choral'.

Bishopstone Community Lunches

A home-cooked lunch is served monthly from October until April.

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 **February** lunch will be on **Wednesday 7th**, when the speaker will be Alan Crossley, who will be talking about "Mason Bees."

The time will be as usual: **12.00 noon** for a **12.30 pm** start.

The **March** lunch will be on **Wednesday 4th**, with Bernard Purrier speaking about Whales and Dolphins and in April, Tara Slater, Manager of the Alzheimer's Dementia Advisory Service, will talk about the support they provide for people living with dementia, as well as their families and carers.

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.

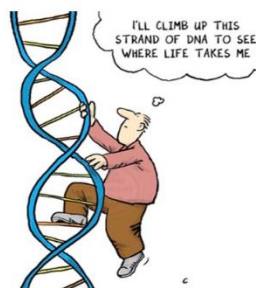
Art Group

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.com. Website www.russellbignoldartist.com.

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WHO ARE WE AND WHERE DO WE COME FROM?

Come on a journey with Francis Taylor to discover our origins starting with the emergence of Homo Sapiens in Africa. Track our migration across the globe using the analysis of ancient DNA.



On Friday 6th March at 7.00 for 7.30pm
in Bishopstone Village Hall

Tickets £12.50 – with canapes and a cash bar
(18 years old and under : £5)

CONTACT FOR TICKETS

Sarah Seal – theseal1@outlook.com
Anne Stutchbury – annewheelwright@gmail.com



Stars Appeal Christmas Raffle Raises Over £20,000

The Stars Appeal's Christmas Raffle raised over £20,000 to support projects helping patients, their families and staff at Salisbury Hospital.

For winner Terry Smith, from Dinton, who scooped the top prize of £2,500, it was a brilliant start to the new year. He said: "I'm very overwhelmed and speechless. I'm very pleased to have won."

The Stars Appeal, Salisbury Hospital's Charity, aims to raise £2million each year to fund projects which offer direct, practical support to patients, their families, and the hospital's staff. The money raised in raffle ticket sales and donations will help to fund the charity's work across the hospital providing the latest diagnostic and treatment equipment, enhancements to buildings, and ongoing projects including free wi-fi, support for people with cancer, a dedicated play assistant and specialist therapy equipment for children, hospital chaplains, and emergency patient clothing.

Helena Sinclair, of the Stars Appeal, said: "A massive thank you to everyone who supported our Christmas Raffle, and congratulations to our lucky winners. The amazing funds raised will help support projects across Salisbury Hospital, benefiting patients, their families, and the dedicated staff who care for them. We are also incredibly grateful to our prize sponsors Wilsons Solicitors and FJ Chalke for their continued support."

The £2,500 first prize was kindly sponsored by Wilsons Solicitors and the second prize of £500 was sponsored by FJ Chalke. A third prize of £250 was also up for grabs along with other cash prizes.

To find out more about the Stars Appeal visit www.starsappeal.org

Join the Stars Appeal's Walk for Wards

The Stars Appeal, Salisbury Hospital's Charity, is inviting the community to lace up their walking boots and take part in this year's Walk for Wards.

The free annual sponsored walk around the Wilton Estate, which attracts thousands of participants every year, takes place on Sunday, July 5. Walkers can take part to say thank you to a ward or department at Salisbury District Hospital that has cared for them or their family, or in memory of a loved one.

Entry is free and includes lunch as well as admission to the Wilton House gardens and the adventure playground. Walkers must register in advance at www.starsappeal.org

Paediatric Emergency Medicine Consultant and Stars Appeal Ambassador Dr Gail Ng said: "Every day, I see the difference Stars Appeal funding makes to patients at Salisbury Hospital from state-of-the-art equipment such as the MRI scanner to the dedicated children's facilities, which help make a child's time in hospital far less frightening. Thoughtful touches like mobile phone charging stations and Stars Appeal Wi-Fi help families stay connected during incredibly difficult moments, while emergency clothing and toiletry packs provide much-needed comfort especially for

those who arrive in hospital unexpectedly. By taking part in Walk for Wards you will be helping the Stars Appeal to continue making a real difference to the care we are able to provide at our hospital.”

There are four routes to choose from including the family friendly 3k or 5k walk or the more challenging 10k or the 15k, which is back by popular demand.

Money raised at Walk for Wards helps the Stars Appeal towards its goal of raising £2million this year to fund projects helping thousands of patients, their families, and staff across Salisbury Hospital.

The President of the Stars Appeal, The Earl of Pembroke, added: “Walk for Wards is a fantastic day out for all ages and a wonderful way to show your support for our hospital while raising vital funds for the Stars Appeal. I encourage as many people as possible to join us for our flagship sponsored walk and experience the extraordinary atmosphere of the day, alongside the beautiful setting of Wilton House. Bring your family and friends along too. I look forward to seeing you all on Sunday 5th July for an event not to be missed.”

Walk for Wards is held by kind permission of Lord Pembroke and Lady Pembroke, sponsored by Salisbury Reds, with support from Wilton and Salisbury Rotary Clubs who marshal the event, and many other local people and organisations.

Andrew Sherrington, Salisbury Reds general manager, said: “Stars Appeal is our official charity partner - and we’re keen to help raise as much awareness as possible for this very worthy cause. Many of our team members have close links to the charity and this is a great chance for us to support its work.

“The Walk for Wards event is a fantastic family occasion - giving local people the opportunity to enjoy the beautiful surroundings of the Wilton Estate, and to raise funds in the process. I can’t think of a better way to enjoy a Sunday this summer, than to spend it in support of Stars Appeal - and I’m looking forward to joining everyone there this July.”

Walkers are asked to sign up in advance and commit to raising at least £20/£50 sponsorship per person (route dependent) for their chosen ward or department.

To register for free or for more information go to www.starsappeal.org/event/walk-for-wards/ or call 01722 429005.

Panto Stars Bring Festive Joy to Patients at Salisbury Hospital

The Stars Appeal, Salisbury District Hospital’s Charity, and cultural charity Wiltshire Creative, teamed up to bring some festive joy to patients with a special visit from the colourful characters of this year’s Salisbury Playhouse pantomime.

Fairy Fabulous (Nic James) and Dolly the Cow (Eloise Runnette) along with fellow cast member Brandon Thompson, who are currently appearing in *Jack and the Beanstalk* at Salisbury Playhouse, delighted patients on the Children’s Ward and Imber Elderly Care Ward at Salisbury District Hospital.

The visit on Wednesday, December 17, was organised in collaboration with Wiltshire Creative as part of the Hospital Charity’s Stars Appeal Live programme. Stars Appeal Live is one of a range of wellbeing projects that the charity offers at the hospital,

which are funded entirely by donations and fundraising. The programme brings live music and other creative activities to patients and visitors across the hospital.

Charlotte, aged 16, from Salisbury, who was being cared for on the Children's Ward, said: "It was fun meeting the panto stars. It made me feel good and brightened up my day. Being in hospital isn't the most enjoyable of experiences so when you have fun people coming in it makes it more interesting. It was really nice to see them."

Stars Appeal Live Co-ordinator Rebecca Seymour added: "It was wonderful to see the excitement and joy this magical visit brought to patients and staff. We are so grateful to the cast members and Wiltshire Creative for being part of our Stars Appeal Live programme this Christmas. Thank you to all the donors who support the Stars Appeal and make programmes like Stars Appeal Live possible."

Wiltshire Creative Executive Director Rosa Corbishley said: "As a charity, we are delighted that our Jack and the Beanstalk cast members could bring some pantomime magic to the patients at Salisbury District Hospital this Christmas. Pantomime brings joy, laughter and happiness to the city every year. We love collaborating with the Stars Appeal to lift patients' spirits and ensure that those that can't visit the Playhouse this year don't feel left out."

www.starsappeal.org

Reg charity number 1052284



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Salisbury Area Board

You are warmly invited along to the next Salisbury Area Board public meeting

Thursday 26 February 2026

Meeting starts at 6:00pm with a networking session from 5.30pm

Tidworth Room - City Hall, Malthouse Lane, Salisbury, SP2 7TU

Please join us to receive important updates on a range of environmental projects. Hear from the Environment Agency, as the River Park project nears completion; from the Salisbury Conservation Advisory Panel; and from Wiltshire Council's Climate Manager.

For more information please contact:
Email: Karen.Linaker@wiltshire.gov.uk
Tel: 01722 434697

Wiltshire Council




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LAST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH • 2-4 PM

This is a gentle, welcoming space for anyone who has experienced the loss of a loved one to come together, share memories if they wish, or simply spend time in the company of others who understand.

There is no pressure to talk, just an opportunity for connection, support, and quiet comfort in a relaxed and friendly setting.

All welcome. Complimentary tea, coffee and homemade cake.

29th January, 26th February, 26th March, 30th April, 28th May, 25th June

For further details contact 07990 105697

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For example we can provide: Transport to a medical appointment, visiting family members in hospital, collecting prescriptions or changing library books.

If you live between Bishopstone & Britford / Bodenham and use this service, please note the change of number from a landline to this mobile number: 07795 620812

The co-ordinator answering your call (Geoff Stephens, Jenny Monds or Debby Underhill on rotation) will take your details and contact a volunteer who can help you. If your call is answered by a recorded message, please leave your contact details & a co-ordinator will respond as soon as possible. There is no set charge, but you are invited to make a donation towards our running costs.

All our co-ordinators and drivers are volunteers so please give us much notice as possible to find an available driver.

If you would like to become a volunteer driver to enable us to continue this service to our community, please contact the above number.

Registered as a Charity no. 1076335

Salisbury City Council Updates

Salisbury Crematorium Cremators Get Eco Upgrade

Salisbury City Council is pleased to announce an eco-upgrade to the cremators at Salisbury Crematorium, marking a significant step forward in its efforts to reduce its carbon footprint.

This £15,000 upgrade introduces an Eco Mode software enhancement that significantly reduces fossil fuel consumption, directly supporting the City Council's Environmental Policy which outlines its commitment to reducing environmental impact.

Although sustainability is the primary driver of this initiative, the increased efficiency will also help to reduce operating costs, creating opportunities to reinvest funds into other core council services. Cllr Jenny Bolwell, Chair of the Environment Committee, said, "This upgrade supports our goal of reducing the council's carbon footprint and we will continue to identify opportunities to advance the sustainability of our services."

799 Year Anniversary!

Celebrate Salisbury this February at Charter Sunday

Join Salisbury City Council at Salisbury's Charter Sunday, taking place on Sunday 8 February 2026. At 10.10am, the Mayor of Salisbury, City Councillors and guests of the City will process from Salisbury Guildhall to St Thomas' Church for the Annual Charter Service at 10.20am. The service will mark 799 years since the Royal Charter was signed and celebrate the links between Council, Church and the wider community.

New for 2026, there will be an additional market on Sunday 8 February from 10am to 4pm on Salisbury Market Place, as well as a Kids' World Funfair on both Saturday 7 February from 11am to 6pm and Sunday 8 February from 11am to 5pm, on the Guildhall Square.

In 1227, King Henry III granted a Charter that elevated New Sarum to city status, confirming the relocation of the cathedral from Sarisberie and establishing the Charter Market and the annual Charter Fair – both of which continue to play a prominent role today. Cllr John Wells, Mayor of Salisbury, said, "We are delighted to invite the community to join us at Charter Sunday. This celebration offers a wonderful opportunity to come together and honour our city's rich history."

Next year's Charter Sunday Service, on 31 January 2027, will mark 800 years since the signing of the Royal Charter, officially launching the City Council's Salisbury 800 celebrations.

Comedy Nights Return to the Guildhall in 2026

Comedy is back at The Guildhall in 2026, with three shows lined up for 30 January, 24 April, and 11 September.

Each evening will see the venue's historic Banqueting Hall host three brilliant comedians, bringing familiar faces from TV screens to the stage, delivering a mix of razor-sharp wit, quick-fire punchlines, and plenty of laughs.

Doors open at 7.15pm, giving guests time to enjoy a drink from the bar before the show kicks off at 8pm. Performances will run until approximately 9.40pm.

Grab your £15 early bird ticket while they last! General admission is £17.50 in advance or £20 on the door, subject to availability. Secure your seat for an evening of entertainment – [book now via The Guildhall website](#).

Please note the events are 18+ only.

January lineup:

Alistair Barrie
Julian Deane
Dave Fulton

April lineup:

Josh Howie
Iszi Lawrence
Cerys Nelmes

September lineup:

Keith Farnan
Tom Houghton
Nathan Caton

Whether you're a long-time comedy fan or simply in the mood for an entertaining night out, mark the dates, round up your friends, and get ready for three unmissable nights of stand-up in one of the city's most spectacular settings.

Salisbury A36 Improvement/Road Closures in 2026

Upcoming essential work on the A36 in Salisbury.

Everyday thousands of vehicles move around Salisbury - around 33,500 vehicles a day travel between College and St Mark's roundabouts. We're upgrading traffic signals at three key roundabouts on the A36 – St Paul's, Castle, and St Mark's – to improve traffic flow and reduce congestion. To minimise disruption, we've coordinated with SGN gas mains renewal to follow their works; we could not work at the same time due to the impact on road users. To work safely, we'll use lane and full closures during the day and overnight. Signed diversions will be in place. Access for frontages and emergency services will be maintained.

What's Happening?

- New digital traffic lights at all three roundabouts
- Improved road markings
- Resurfacing at St Paul's, Castle roundabouts and part of Wilton Road

The current lights have reached the end of their life and are being replaced with modern, adaptive systems. These new lights will adapt in real-time to the number of vehicles waiting, rather than following a fixed timer, helping to improve traffic flow and reduce queuing for drivers, particularly during busy times of the day. The upgraded traffic signals are more energy efficient, lower power and designed for longer-term reliability.

When Will Work Take Place?

- 19 January – 31 March 2026: Castle and St Mark's roundabouts
- 1 June – 31 July 2026: St Paul's roundabout and resurfacing

Closures - Castle roundabout

- 19 - 29 January 2026

Full closures & lane closures overnight 8pm–6am

- 2 – 23 February 2026

Lane closures during the day.

- 14 - 27 July 2026

Full closures & lane closures overnight 8pm–6am

Closures - St Mark's Roundabout

- 2 – 19 February 2026

Full closures & lane closures overnight 8pm–6am

- 2 – 23 March 2026

Lane closures during the day.

Closures - St Paul's Roundabout

- 1 – 22 June 2026

Full closures & lane closures overnight 8pm–6am

- 29 June – 20 July 2026

Lane closures during the day.

- 21 - 31 July 2026

Full closures & lane closures overnight 8pm–6am

Police and Crime Commissioner Recognises Outstanding Contributions to Community Safety at Wiltshire Police Force Awards Ceremony



PCC Philip Wilkinson presented three awards at the Wiltshire Police Force Awards.

This year's ceremony marked a special milestone with the introduction of the PCC's new Excellence in Service Award, created to recognise exceptional, long-term contributions to policing and public safety. The PCC praised all recipients for their honourable commitment, humanity and professionalism, highlighting the strength they bring to Wiltshire's communities.

The first ever Excellence in Service Award was presented to Paul Sunners for his transformative leadership of Neighbourhood Watch. Over nearly a decade, Paul has helped grow the network to 734 approved schemes, strengthened partnership working with Wiltshire Police & championed crime prevention at a local level. His efforts to improve community engagement, support residents and tackle anti-social behaviour have left a lasting legacy of safer, more connected neighbourhoods.

Wiltshire Search and Rescue (WILSAR) received the Volunteer of the Year Award in recognition of 25 years of exceptional, entirely volunteer-led service. Its 114 members contributed over 26,000 hours in 2024, providing critical support in locating missing and vulnerable people through specialist capabilities such as search dogs, drones and water and rope rescue teams. WILSAR's professionalism, compassion and partnership with Wiltshire Police have made the organisation indispensable to public safety.

Special Constable Nick Tremblin was awarded Special Constable of the Year for his extraordinary dedication since joining in 2022. Volunteering for up to 90% of shifts with Swindon Team 2 Response, he has strengthened community trust through his five-language fluency and shown courage in demanding situations, including arresting a dangerous offender and helping save the life of a diabetic patient. Speaking after the ceremony, Mr Wilkinson said: "What we have recognised today reflects the strength and commitment that exists across Wiltshire. "Paul, the WILSAR team and Nick each demonstrate the value of partnership, professionalism and public service. Their contributions make a real and practical difference to the safety and confidence of our communities, and it is important that we acknowledge the impact of that work. I am grateful for everything they do to support policing and the people of Wiltshire."