

# Newsletter

Parish newsletter

October 2011

This month, amongst other things, we're talking about plastic bottles and cardboard recycling, winter damage to roads in Wiltshire and sports and leisure events.

## Local MP – Shopmobility volunteer day

On Monday 22 September John Glen, Local MP for Salisbury, spent quality time as a volunteer with Wiltshire Council's Shopmobility in Salisbury. He met and chatted with a number of customers and regular volunteers, learning how much they appreciate the service which is core funded by Wiltshire Council and supported by the Friends of Salisbury Shopmobility charity. He was trained on the scooters, powerchairs and wheelchairs and proved to be an enthusiastic and reliable volunteer!



John Glen MP said "I really enjoyed the opportunity to meet many of the users and dedicated staff at Shopmobility. Wiltshire Council's Shopmobility is a vital service for the elderly and the disabled and I applaud the effort Cindy and her team put in to make it possible for people to maintain their independence and get around Salisbury safely."

Wiltshire Council's Shopmobility is looking for walking volunteers to help out for a morning or afternoon on a regular basis. If you think you can help please contact Cindy Demain-Griffith on 0300 4560100.

## Seed gathering in Devizes

Join the countryside team and Wiltshire's tree wardens to find acorns, conkers and beech nuts to plant and take home. Bring your children to learn about seeds and growing trees. Plant pots and soil will be provided for this free event.

- Wednesday 26 October, 10.30am – 1.30pm
- Meet at the tool store, Drews Pond Wood, Devizes

Wiltshire Council countryside team, County Hall, Trowbridge, BA14 8JD  
Telephone: 01225 718647 Email: [countryside@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:countryside@wiltshire.gov.uk)

Why not [download](#) a poster?



## Winter damage to roads in Wiltshire

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The winter of 2010/11 was another prolonged period of severe winter weather which had a serious effect on the highway network. The mixture of wet and freezing weather caused severe damage to roads in many locations in Wiltshire. Where there was a minor fault in the surface this freeze and thaw action resulted in the defect becoming very much worse. This is often a seasonal problem but has been particularly noticeable with the recent severe winters.

In recognition of the difficulties faced by highway authorities nationally, the Department for Transport provided additional funding and Wiltshire received £3,741,300 for the financial year 2011/12. The funding was for repairs to the authority's highway network resulting from the winter weather. Each authority has been requested to provide a brief public statement on how it spent the money, and this document describes how Wiltshire Council used this funding.

Wiltshire already had a significant programme of highway works planned for this year comprising £10,931,000 of the Local Transport Plan (LTP) major maintenance funding and £1,279,000 of the council's own capital funding. The winter damage funding has complemented and not displaced the originally proposed highway maintenance funding. It has significantly increased the expenditure on highways maintenance in Wiltshire this year.

The majority of the funding (over £2,500,000) has been used carry out carriageway repairs across the network. This has made permanent repairs to the most damaged areas of carriageway with 112,773m<sup>2</sup> of resurfacing and carriageway strengthening carried out. The remainder of the funding is being used to carry out in-situ recycling to reconstruct 7,274m<sup>2</sup> of failed carriageway on a rural minor road, to repair the road surfaces around manhole covers and gully gratings at a number of sites and to repair damaged road edges and verges.



The winter damage repair money has been targeted at those sites in worst condition and the durability of the repairs has been an important consideration, as has targeting the appropriate sites. This repair work has been carried out across the network and is in addition to the extensive programme of resurfacing being carried out this year. The council's consultants, Mouchel, managed the programme and the term maintenance contractor, Ringway, provided additional resources to make the repairs. The council has been fortunate in being able to call on the expertise of its supply chain partners to deliver these projects.

The best means of preventing damage to the highway network remains a regular and sustained programme of carriageway surfacing that prevents water entering the surface. The council has an ongoing programme of road maintenance and surfacing work and there is a corporate target to reduce the maintenance backlog by 10% over four years. Wiltshire Council remains committed to improving its highway network, and has made good use of the additional funding.

## Local events held on the highway

Please be aware that any planned local events which are held on the highway or have an effect on the highway (i.e. large number of vehicles attending) need to be notified to the street works team as early as possible to ensure that the road space is booked on the central register and that other road works can be co-ordinated accordingly. Whilst in most cases, given sufficient notice, we can ensure that both our own works and those of utilities are appropriately co-ordinated; however it should be noted that we have no power to refuse emergency or immediate works required by utilities.

If you have any questions or queries about whether your event requires notification, please contact the street works team on 01225 713497 or email us at [streetworks@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:streetworks@wiltshire.gov.uk)

## Wiltshire Council markets achieve satisfaction

Following a recent customer satisfaction survey of Wiltshire Council markets, excellent results were achieved with an overall 96% satisfied or very satisfied rate regarding local markets in Wiltshire. The surveys were undertaken at a number of the Wiltshire Council markets across the county with respondents providing very positive feedback.

Questions posed on aspects of the market included: product price, quality and the variety of goods on offer. Interestingly the questionnaire sought to find out how far people had travelled to the market, how often they visited and whether they would have come in to the town centre on the day if there had not been a market on.

When asking the respondents whether they intended to visit the town centre alongside their visit to the market on the day, 80% answered yes and furthermore 49% confirmed that they would not have come into the town if the market had not been held.

This indicated that the market brings people into the town centre who would not have ordinarily visited. This demonstrates the positive impact markets can have bringing more people into the area and improving footfall. In turn this helps to regenerate local shopping areas and offer more choice and quality to the consumer. Similarly in Wilton, one of the respondents commented "It is vital part of the Wilton community and valued by all."

Cllr DickTonge commented: "This recent survey shows that residents of Wiltshire really value and use their local markets, the markets are great assets to their communities. It is also proof that markets encourage people to visit the town's they are held in."

Following the successful feedback received, markets team leader Steve Richardson would like to thank the traders and customers who support the market for providing an important service to the local area and welcomes any comments or input regarding their future success.

### Support your local market

Why not visit and support your local market for anything from fresh fruit and vegetable, cheese, fish or even some new shoes. You can also support your local market by printing this [Wiltshire markets poster](#) and displaying in your notice boards.



## Plastic bottle and cardboard recycling collections start

Fortnightly, kerbside collections of plastic bottles and cardboard started in north Wiltshire on Monday 10 October and will start in west Wiltshire on 7 November and in east Wiltshire on 28 November. The service is already in place in the south.

The new service is in addition to the existing fortnightly black box collection for recycling paper, cans, glass, foil, clothes and shoes. All households in north, west and east Wiltshire have been sent a calendar through the post informing them of their collection dates, together with a leaflet giving more information about what can be recycled in the new bin.



[Check collection dates](#) and find out [more about the new recycling services](#)

The introduction of the new plastic bottle and cardboard collection is the first step in delivering the council's key objective of providing a harmonised waste service to residents across Wiltshire and encouraging a significant improvement in recycling rates. Both the government and the council have targets to increase household recycling rates to 50% by 2020. Wiltshire's current performance is 41%.

## Bats – the real stars of the night

More than 50 children and adults proved they were not scared of the dark when they took part in an evening bat walk at Barton Farm Country Park in Bradford on Avon over the weekend.

The event was organised by Wiltshire Council countryside team's Vicky Roscoe and Alison Rasey with Laura Plenty and Jim Mullholland from Avon Bat Group. Participants learned about bats from the bat experts and were privileged to meet Smartie – a real live serotine bat.

Once the sun had set participants headed out into the country park, complete with bat detectors and torches, to see which species were swooping around and to listen to them 'chattering' as they hunted for food.



There are 18 species of bat in the UK and bat detectors are used to convert their high frequency calls, which they use to navigate and hunt for food, to a pitch that people can hear.

Three species of bats were seen and heard, common and soprano pipistrelles; with Daubentons bats feeding and flying low over the River Avon.

For many people taking part, this was a new experience. The event also highlighted the importance of this area for these rare, mysterious and magical animals.

For further information on events organised by the countryside team please keep an eye on the [what's on](#) area of the Wiltshire Council website. Contact the team by telephone on 01225 718647 or email: [countryside@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:countryside@wiltshire.gov.uk)

## Celebrating sporting heroes

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Athletes, sports clubs, volunteers and coaches across Wiltshire and Swindon were recognised for their exceptional achievements at the second Wiltshire and Swindon Sports Awards, which took place on 22 September at the City Hall, Salisbury.

The 2011 awards were jointly sponsored by Wiltshire Council, Wiltshire Health Improvement Partnership/NHS Wiltshire, Wiltshire and Swindon Activity and Sports Partnership, Swindon Borough Council and Liquid Media Group.



Hosted by former England rugby captain Phil de Glanville, the event saw performances from Commonwealth bronze medallist rhythmic gymnast Francesca Fox and judo champion and last year's Young Sports Personality of the Year, Jemima Duxberry, before the winners were announced in the 14 categories.

Guest speaker, Danny Crates, 2004 Paralympic gold medallist in the 800 metres, gave an inspirational, amusing and thought-provoking speech to the audience.

Stuart Wheeler, Wiltshire Council cabinet member with responsibility for leisure and sport, said: "It was lovely to meet so many people who are involved in sport. It showcases the exceptional talent and hard work of athletes and the dedication of sports clubs, volunteers and coaches. Sport plays a major part in our health and wellbeing and is going to be even more in the spotlight in the run up to the 2012 Olympics."

Danny Crates added: "Being an athlete takes so much commitment and hard work but you also need a strong network of coaches and clubs to help you reach your goals. This evening was a great way to recognise the hard work of so many people involved in sport in Wiltshire."

A full list of winners is available on the Wiltshire Council website: [www.wiltshire.gov.uk/sportsawards](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/sportsawards)

## Funding future Olympians

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Future Olympians across Wiltshire are being offered the chance to apply for funding to help them achieve their goal. Wiltshire Council has allocated £5,000 to give five successful applicants £1,000 each towards achieving future Olympic success. The funding is available to support the continued development of talented young sports people across the county who are looking to compete for honours at future Olympic Games. The funding can be used to help individuals access training and competitive opportunities, purchase equipment and cover transport costs for attending regional and national events.

Applicants must be 21 or under on 31 December 2012 and live in the Wiltshire Council area.

Applications are invited by individuals who are competing at a national league level or above in their team sport, competing at nationally recognised events as an individual, or is a member of a national training squad. This can be in either a summer or winter Olympic sport.

Applications can be downloaded at : [www.wiltshire.gov.uk/fundingfutureolympiansgrant](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/fundingfutureolympiansgrant)  
Deadline is **5pm on Friday 16 December 2011**

## Leisure events

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### Mountain biking

The sports development team are working closely with Tidworth Leisure Centre to deliver a mountain biking course during October half term for 14 – 16 year olds. Funded by Sport England's Sportivate programme, this course will give young people an exhilarating experience of off road and rough terrain biking in safe environment.

For more information: [wiltshire.gov.uk/lsctidworthjuniorcourses](http://wiltshire.gov.uk/lsctidworthjuniorcourses)

### Back to netball

A new back to netball programme is starting in Marlborough in October. Jointly provided by Wiltshire Council, England Netball and the Wiltshire Netball Association, this programme covers the basics of the game and is a great opportunity for women aged 16 + to rediscover sporting abilities, get active again or just meet a group of like minded ladies.

For more information: [www.wiltshire.gov.uk/returntosport](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/returntosport)

### Salisbury Xtreme

Salisbury Xtreme alternative sports club runs weekly throughout the year, on Tuesday evenings at 6.30-8.30pm at various locations in Salisbury.

The club is aimed at young people aged 11-16 years old and includes a wide variety of alternative and extreme sports, such as power kiting, mountain boarding, dodge ball, archery, parkour, climbing and skiing to name but a few, with different activities running in the holidays periods.

Membership to the club is £5, which includes a free Salisbury Xtreme hoodie, and £2 per session.



For more information or to book a place please contact Karlene Jammeh, Sports Development officer on 01722 434437.

### Camp Activate

'Camp Activate' is our holiday activity programme for children aged 8–14 yrs. We provide the perfect opportunity for your children to try out a range of activities and make new friends. This is the schedule for half-term:

- **Monday 24 – Friday 28 October**
- Morning session 8.30am – 12.30pm
- Afternoon session 1pm - 5pm
- All day £25.00, Concession £18.75
- Half day £12.50, Concession £9.40

### We accept 'Free time' vouchers

For booking information phone Amesbury Sports and Community Centre on: 01980 622173



**Activities include:** trampolining, archery, football, racket sports, team building games, bouncy castle, arts and craft, cooking and much more!

## Councillor development programme

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Wiltshire Council runs a number of courses specifically aimed at councillors as part of its councillor development programme. Some examples of the topics covered are chairmanship skills, dealing with challenging behaviour at meetings and active listening. More details on future events can be found on the [councillor development event](#) page on the Wiltshire Council website.

If any town or parish councillors or clerks are interested in attending events they can book a place by emailing [councillordevelopment@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:councillordevelopment@wiltshire.gov.uk) or calling Rita Sanders on 01225 718 375. Please note that priority for places will be given to unitary councillors and that a fee may be charged to cover the cost of the trainer and training materials (details for each event can be found on the [councillor development event](#) page).

If any town or parish have any particular training needs that they would like to discuss please contact:

- Marie Todd: 01225 718 036, [marie.todd@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:marie.todd@wiltshire.gov.uk)
- Lynda Williams: 01225 713 179, [Lynda.williams@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:Lynda.williams@wiltshire.gov.uk)

## Do you have the factor?

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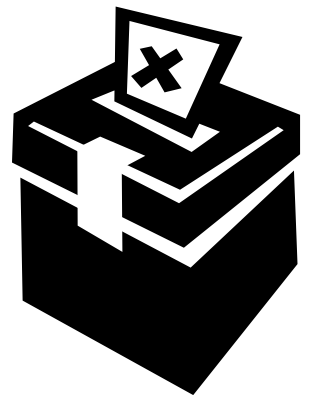
Has your town or parish struggled in the past to find councillors? When did you last have an election?

Today, more than ever, we need good quality councillors at all levels, who are ready and willing to engage with the community and make tough decisions.

To celebrate 'Local Democracy Week', the councillor development group at Wiltshire Council has produced a DVD aimed at encouraging people to become more involved with democracy in their local area. This could be by standing as a unitary, town or parish councillor, campaigning on local issues, volunteering or attending meetings.

We will send out a copy of the DVD to all town and parish councils in October and we hope that you will be able to use it to encourage people to take a more active part in local democracy in your area.

If you have any questions about the DVD or would like advice on how it can be used in your area then please contact Lynda Williams on 01225 713179 or Marie Todd on 01225 718036.



## Parish newsletter feedback

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If you have any comments or suggestions about this newsletter, please email [communications@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:communications@wiltshire.gov.uk)

We welcome all feedback from the town and parish councils.

## Annual forum – North Wessex Downs AONB

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The North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty is holding its annual forum on 13 October at the Barn, Purley on Thames, from 9.30am - 4.30pm. The forum is free and refreshments are provided.

Open to all, the forum is the principal public opportunity during the year for anyone interested in the work of the AONB Partnership to hear about what's been happening and what's planned, to comment and ask questions, and to meet others from across the area. All parish and town councils within the AONB are particularly encouraged to send a representative.

This year we are focussing on tourism in the morning, with the afternoon fieldtrips taking in walks and visits relating to countryside issues and planning pressures on the Urban Fringe, and a Woodland Heritage Project workshop. There will be opportunities for questions and discussion.

For more information or to book a place, please contact Liz Duquenoy, office manager, at the North Wessex Downs AONB office: 01488 685440 or email: [lizduquenoy@northwessexdowns.org.uk](mailto:lizduquenoy@northwessexdowns.org.uk).

## Wiltshire Council website – useful features

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### Subscribe to committee meeting updates

You can now subscribe, via the Wiltshire Council website, to receive email alerts telling you when meeting papers for committees you are interested in are published on the council's website.

To use the subscription service, simply go to the [agendas, minutes and reports](#) page and '[subscribe to updates](#)' to register.

### Town and parish council information area

The town and parish council area of our website has been expanded to provide more information for the public on local councils and to provide a number of useful links for town and parish councils. These include guidance and forms from Wiltshire Council, and links to the National and Wiltshire Association of Local Councils websites, and a link to the [parish newsletter](#).

You can find the [town and parish information](#) area via the [council and democracy](#) section of the website.

## Fredericks Wiltshire: Business loan fund

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Fredericks  
foundation



Wiltshire Council is working with the Fredericks Foundation and GWE Business West Ltd to deliver loans to viable small or micro businesses denied access to credit through the banking system.

### For more information contact:

Terri Stevenson or Tim King on 01793 698023 or email [terri@fredericksfoundation.net](mailto:terri@fredericksfoundation.net) or [tim@fredericksfoundation.net](mailto:tim@fredericksfoundation.net).

## Quick links

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- [Area Board information](#)
- [All the latest news releases](#)
- [Recycle for Wiltshire](#)
- [Roadworks](#)
- [What's on in Wiltshire](#)
- [What's on at City Hall, Salisbury](#)

Last remaining tickets available at City Hall – Fascinating Aida Wednesday 19 October, Bill Wyman 16 November, Fisherman's Friends 23 November and Beverley Knight 24 November. Book now as tickets have almost sold out.

This newsletter is produced by the corporate communications team at Wiltshire Council. For more information, please email [communications@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:communications@wiltshire.gov.uk) or telephone 01225 713663.

The submission deadline for the November parish newsletter is **28 October 2011**

**Newsletter back issues:** <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/parishnewsletterhome>