

News and Notes

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

November 2026

Welcome to our November issue of N&N. In this varied edition we shine the spotlight on Nathan Vyas from Nunton and his fascinating work in Africa. And we publish an article from a local who writes about their experience in supporting young people with mental health problems by describing a brilliant way to improve self-esteem. We have news of forthcoming local events, some fun, some serious, and some seasonal as Christmas approaches. There's the opportunity to see the People's Emergency Briefing film at the Radnor Hall in Bodenham on 1st December at 6.30 pm and to participate in the post-film discussion about the crucial importance of getting ourselves prepared as a community for changes which may come sooner than we think. But get some laughter in for a nice balance as well, it really is the best medicine! Don't miss the chance to see Dick Whittington and his Cat, written by Nunton's very own Alys Hunter and starring Alys herself with Charlton's Caroline Winternitz in the title roles, full of amazing surprises from your neighbours and friends as they all tread the boards at the Radnor Hall on 26th-28th November. It's genuinely your very own Panto! See inside for ticket info for these and other seasonal events.

News and Notes from News and Notes!

Five Villages, One Magazine. Will you join our editorial team?

Your editorial team is looking to expand, and we would like volunteers to join us! As editors we love doing what we do for N&N and feel brilliantly supported by some of our readers and contributors and the fantastic team who help with adverts, formatting, finance and delivering. But we are looking to the future, hoping to develop a more sustainable model of working, possibly one in which we would develop a group of editors working on a rotating basis. And of course, helping to spread the workload! We think this will increase resilience, add more variety, limitless *je ne sais quoi*, and help to make N&N even better. "Is that even possible?" I hear you clamour.

Please get in touch if you think you may be able to help in any way. We believe News and Notes is worth preserving, and if you agree and feel you might be happy to contribute, it would be very good indeed to hear from you.

Editors: Nick and Liz Stanger

Co-editors: Nicolette Beardsmore, Adam Beardsmore

Website and consultant editor: Clare Penny - www.newsandnotes.net

Deadline for combined Dec/Jan edition: 14 November 2026

Contact editor@newsandnotes.net

Community Events

BONFIRE BASH

**Saturday 7 November
at 6pm**

Charlton All Saints Barn

**Tickets from Chris Clark
01725 510891**

**or online
newsandnotes.net**



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Kids 5-14 £5	Kids 5-14 £6

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Tuesday 8 Dec 7.30pm

Downton Band Concert

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Report for 12 October 2026

There was a buzz around the room. As members arrived, they were greeted by a lovely autumnal flower arrangement by Gaye Baughan. Three new members and two visitors were warmly welcomed by Hatty Hillier. Business was swift as the morning promised to be busy. We were reminded of Book Clubs on 19th, Lunch Group on 21st, Walking Group on 26th and the Craft initiatives for Ukraine and the Christmas Tree Festival. Our annual charity, Salisbury Women's Refuge, had requested clothes and members were thanked for their generous response. They were also asked if they had any stories they could contribute to the Queen Elizabeth Digital Memorial set up by National WI. Wiltshire events loomed large with 12 members attending the AGM on the 14th when Monica Vaughan, Mark Dawson, Zoe Lyons and Jeryl Stone would be the guest speakers/entertainers; and three members were going to the Speakers Day on 3 Nov.



After the coffee break Judith Hible gave a talk entitled 'Gardening for Wildlife'. She led us through the year suggesting different insect-loving plants that would flower each month in our gardens and which plants to avoid! Her slides were colourful and her knowledge of plants and insects extensive.



The morning finished with a lovely lunch masterminded by Sue Amey and Julie Ann Hatchman. Thank you, ladies, it was a delicious way to end the meeting.

Our next meeting is on Nov 9th when we will welcome Ian Tiffin from New Forest Teas talking about teas around the world. Visitors are welcome.

Sarah Pink



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Spotlight on Nathan Vyas, Nunton Geologist and Mining Engineer (and linguist)

An open cast copper and cobalt mine in the Democratic Republic of Congo must rank as one of the more interesting workplaces ever chosen by any son of Nunton. I was fascinated to hear more about it when I met recently with Nathan. Probably like many of our readers my knowledge of the DRC was very limited, and as to the working life of a mining engineer in Africa I had no idea.

Nathan told me that people tend to have preconceived ideas about DRC and will usually mention two things: the civil war between the government and Rwandan backed M23 rebels, and the recent deadly Ebola outbreak. But these aspects of life in DRC don't reflect the reality for most of the population. The conflict and the Ebola outbreak are both in the far north of the country, over 2000km away from where Nathan works. It's a massive country; in European terms it would reach from London to Rome. The rural areas are largely forested hills, and it has a wonderful climate which is typical for rain forest. Daily temperatures reach a maximum of 30C and from October – March there will be 'flash rains' once a day, then it'll be dry. The land is incredibly fertile – avocados grow to reach the size of melons, plant even a broom stick and it will grow!

The mine is on a plateau at 1400-1500m above sea level, on the edge of a national park and 40km from Kolwezi. Although trees are absent from urban areas the countryside is unspoilt and very beautiful. There is abundant wildlife, including monkeys and also numerous snakes such as pythons and the deadly black mamba and boomslang. The Congolese have a massive aversion to snakes (how sensible), but it is illegal to kill a snake and so the mine employs snake handlers who remove them to a safe distance.

Life as a mining engineer is "quite funny; every day's a Monday", says Nathan, and work presents a daily challenge with 12-hour days and a 2:1 roster which generally means 6 weeks on, 3 weeks off. WFH is not an option when it comes to managing a vast complex mine, so Nathan flies out at the beginning of every 6 week 'shift' and for that whole period lives within the concession, a 270 sq km area including the mine itself. This is granted by the government to Glencore, the Anglo-Swiss mine owners and Nathan's employer. Work is complex and Nathan manages five disciplines: geologists, geotech engineers, mine planning, surveying and hydrogeology. No wonder the days are long and difficult. For all the challenges it is enjoyable, rewarding work. Copper and cobalt are vital ingredients of engineering and technology for our daily lives especially in battery manufacture, helping with the move away from fossil fuel dependency.

Ethical considerations are paramount for the company, an exemplary employer of local people paying way above the average Congolese salary, and Nathan is proud that the mine has been awarded the Copper Mark. Green aspects are hugely important. The mine operates under DRC regulations and to Glencore's own high environmental

standards concerning landscape, emissions, water discharge and disposal and reuse of waste. Topsoil is kept, stored and finally replaced and seeded, ensuring that everything blends back into the landscape. Through royalties and a 5% state ownership of the land there is mutual benefit for Glencore and for DRC. And there is always a standby fund for use to cover costs if ever there were a need to close the mine at short notice.

Life on site is comfortable for Nathan who has his own bungalow, and there are good leisure facilities. Families no longer tend to live on site though, with fewer expats in the workforce as more local employees are taken on, and Nathan's young family (who are currently living in Nunton) have yet to visit. The food is a mainly western diet, with local freshwater fish such as tilapia, and lots of leafy greens. He has learnt to speak Swahili which along with French are the two languages spoken with the local workforce of 2,500. Often the languages are blended together, meaning Nathan is now fluent in 'Frahili', you might say!

As for the local people Nathan has got to know, he says they are delightful, friendly people who enjoy a good quality of life and he very much enjoys working with them.

Thank you to Nathan for sharing so many interesting details about his work. And if you own a hybrid car or EV, I wonder how much of the cobalt and copper used in its manufacture might have come from Nathan's mine? There's a very good chance that all of it did!

Nick Stanger



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7.30pm Tuesday 8 December 2026

All Saints' Church, Charlton All Saints

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A retiring collection will be divided between the Band and All Saints' Church

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

The Happiness Advantage:

How We Feel About Ourselves Matters

In a world where so much of our attention is focused on what we should be doing, haven't achieved, and how we compare to others, perhaps it's time to consider a different approach to our mental health and self-esteem. In his book *The Happiness Advantage*, psychologist Shawn Achor challenges the idea that happiness is something we achieve once we have reached a particular goal. We often tell ourselves that we'll be happy when we lose weight, get the job with more money or finally feel that we're good enough. Yet, as Achor explains, research suggests that happiness can actually support our ability to succeed, rather than simply being the reward at the end. This is a particularly important message when we consider self-esteem.

So many of us have developed the belief that our worth is conditional. We are only good enough if we look a certain way, perform well, or keep everyone around us happy. We become so focused on what needs fixing that we lose sight of the person already here. And the impact on our mental health can be profound.

When our self-esteem is dependent on external achievements, we can find ourselves caught in a relentless cycle of striving, disappointment & self-criticism. We move the goalposts, rarely allowing the satisfaction of where we are now. We tell ourselves that we will be kinder to ourselves when we are better, thinner, more successful or more in control. But what if we started from a different place?

Achor's work encourages us to see that our brains are more capable of learning, adapting and finding solutions when we experience positive emotions. This isn't about pretending that life is wonderful when it isn't, or putting a positive spin on genuine difficulties. Mental health requires us to acknowledge our struggles, not dismiss them. Rather, it is about recognising that we can actively nurture the conditions that support our wellbeing.

Small, everyday practices can make a meaningful difference. Taking time to notice what has gone well, connecting with someone who makes us feel understood, spending time outdoors, or simply speaking to ourselves with the compassion we would offer a friend. These may seem insignificant, but they can help shift our attention away from everything we believe is wrong with us and towards a more balanced view of ourselves.

As a professional, I am particularly interested in the relationship between how we feel about ourselves and the environments in which we live. We are not developing our self-esteem in isolation. Our experiences, relationships and the messages we receive from others all contribute to the beliefs we form about our own worth.

We cannot always change our circumstances, but we can begin to question whether the beliefs we have carried for years are still serving us.

Perhaps the most important starting point is to stop treating happiness, confidence and self-acceptance as things we must earn.

We don't have to wait until we have everything sorted to begin feeling better about ourselves. We can start by recognising that we are human & will make mistakes, and that our worth is not determined by our productivity, appearance or ability to please others.

The happiness advantage, then, is not about being happy all the time. It is about creating the emotional foundations from which we can meet life's challenges with greater resilience, compassion and confidence.

And perhaps that is where genuine self-esteem begins: not in becoming someone different, but in learning to value the person we already are. *Anon*

Focus on Food – a Letter from West Wales

There's something reassuring about seasonality and the way it impacts on your life in different parts of the country. The harvest in the Chalke Valley was always inescapable, whilst here in the harbour of Lower Town there's the hugely impactful ritual of the emptying of yachts from the water, into the 'dinghy park' at the inner edge of the bay. The boats gather on the beach around the marine car park, waiting to be craned out of the sea and onto dry land until next April. They wait, clustered like gun dogs around the harbour master's calves waiting for a sign, command or prompt which will have the straps shifted under their bellies before they are lifted sky high onto the concrete of their winter home. The last of the holiday makers have now gone, and we have our cottages back to enjoy until the spring.

What better opportunity to take time to savour the Fishguard annual food festival, a celebration of local producers gathered in the local secondary school, on the hill overlooking Goodwick sands. A troop of boy scouts dressed in full uniform, beret and hi-vis, directing unsuspecting visitors to the plethora of car parking places surrounding the school yard, and slightly resembling a paramilitary organisation, but with smiles in place of rifles.

Having swerved a couple of dozen chutney, jam and conserve stands, the staple of food fairs, I alighted at the home of The Golden Road Gin distillers, up on the Preselis just a few miles away. Jennifer gave me the full sales pitch and I parted with £40.

Then I discovered the Cwm Farm artisan charcuterie, an exciting range of laverbread and fennel salami alongside Welsh chorizo, if you're allowed to use that term, again lovely people who had travelled down from Swansea for the day. Caws Teifi a few stalls further along were offering organic cultured butter and cheese, produced up in the hills, East of Cardigan.

The farm shop is an absolute dream, and they offer butter making courses, sold out until next spring but I'm determined to get onto one, as having tasted their butter at one of the Fforest pop ups, I'm keen to replicate it and produce my own. I figure hand patted butter would be a welcome calling card when visiting friends next year.

Martin Simcock – The Constant Cook

Foil Blister Pack Collection Date

Tuesday 3 November 2026

Britford Noticeboard Lower Road (not the Church) 09:30-09:45

Bodenham Old Post Office 09:50-10:00

Charlton All Saints Church collection box 10:15

Odstock Church Car Park 10:30-11:15

You are all invited – December Events

Mondays 30 Nov – 21 Dec, 3.30–5pm

Advent Bible Study

Barker Room, Nunton

A little calm in the busyness

Fri 4 – Tue 8 Dec

Christmas Tree Festival

All Saints', Charlton

Fri 7pm: Opening Night Fundraiser

Sat & Sun 2-5pm, Saintly Café

Sun 6 Dec, 9.30am

Advent Holy Communion

St Peter's, Britford, with Maggie

Sun 6 Dec, 6pm

Carols at Stratford Tony

St Mary & St Lawrence's, with Maggie

Tue 8 Dec, 7.30pm

Downton Band Christmas Concert

All Saints', Charlton

Sat 12 Dec, 10–11.30am

Preparing St Peter's for Christmas

St Peter's, Britford

With seasonal refreshments – cleaning inside and outside, and tree decorating. All very welcome as 'many hands make light work'!

Sun 13 Dec, 3.30pm

Christingle

All Saints', Charlton, with Maggie

Followed by tea and cake

Sun 20 Dec, 3pm

Carol Service

St Andrew's, Nunton, with Ruth

Sun 20 Dec, 6pm

Carols by Candlelight

St Peter's, Britford, with Maggie

Followed by mince pies and mulled wine

Thu 24 Dec, 4pm

Scratch Nativity

All Saints', Charlton, with Maggie

Christmas Day, 9.30am

Holy Communion

All Saints', Charlton, with Ruth

Christmas Day, 11am

Christmas Day Service

St Mary's, Odstock, with Maggie

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The People's Emergency Briefing



**People's
Emergency
Briefing**

On the climate and nature crisis

The Radnor Hall



Come along to watch the film
and join the discussion

The Radnor Hall, Bodenham, SP5 4EQ
1 December 6.30pm for 7pm start
newsandnotes.net/event-list

Chris Packham's film, "The People's Emergency Briefing", provides a non-alarmist introduction to climate and ecological issues. After the film there's a facilitated discussion about what we should be doing together as a community to build our joint resilience, eg storing a few extra food tins, and what adaptations are already being made locally by our farmers.

A whole-of-society approach is strongest, building on community interconnectedness, and for this reason the film is only being shown to community groups together, rather than on TVs at home. Screenings have already taken place all over the country, including in dozens of other Wiltshire towns and villages. You can see on-line where these are. Tickets £2 for adults and £1 for students (over 16s only).

Details: newsandnotes.net/event-details/peoples-emergency-briefing

News from the Pews

Odstock, Nunton and Bodenham

Here we are, into autumn, all the Harvest festivals behind us. People were so generous, thank you. We are having great fun in Creativitea, working out our contribution for the Charlton Christmas tree festival, while chatting and enjoying cake and tea. Looking forward to November, this year's Remembrance service will be at St Andrew's, Nunton, starting at 10.45. Come early for a seat, it is usually a well-attended service. Let us be aware of our neighbours as winter approaches.

S. Elcock, M. Boyd-Camp, Churchwardens

Charlton All Saints

Thank you to everyone who joined us at All Saints' for the Harvest Supper and Harvest Festival. The Church looked beautiful with harvest decorations and what delicious food appeared! We visited Downton Baptist Church's Larder project to deliver our Harvest Supper Tower of Tins. Pastor Katy Ulliyatt gave us a very warm welcome and was delighted with the 47 tins. Look out for our new, ongoing collection point in church, where you can drop off tins and other long-life food for The Larder at any time.

Scout Post is returning to All Saints' this Christmas! Last year we were delighted to host a Scout Post box and sell stamps on behalf of the local Scouts — a community scheme that delivers your local Christmas cards for around half the price of a Royal Mail stamp. It proved so popular that we sold out of stamps completely, so we're doing it again, with more stamps this time. We're hoping to have stamps on sale at Saintly Café on Friday 30 October and Friday 27 November (10am-12noon), so do pop along for coffee, cake, and get yours early — watch this space for full details nearer the time. You can also learn more about all the Christmas events we have planned, and our Christmas Tree Festival (4-8 Dec) ending with the famous Downton Band Concert on Tuesday 8 December at 7.30pm.

Then next on the calendar is Charlton's Bonfire Bash – Saturday 7 November at 6pm at Charlton Barn by kind invitation of Howard and Megan Taylor. Early Bird tickets bought up to and including 5 November cost £10 for adults, £5 for children 5-14, under 5s free. Standard tickets purchased on 6 & 7 November cost £12 and £6 respectively. Hot dogs are included and there's a bar with beer and mulled wine. Tickets from newsandnotes.net/event-list, or from Chris Clark on 01725 510891. See you there!

Clare Penny, Churchwarden

Britford

Huge thanks to everyone who contributed and donated to the harvest festivals in our villages. Gratitude for our wonderful creation and all who work on land or water to provide us with food was matched with generosity as the Salisbury Food Bank, Downton Pantry and Morning Star were the recipients of tins, packets and jars as well as fresh produce. Mike Badger from Morning Star in Salisbury was overwhelmed with

the amount of food given to them by the kind folk of Britford, as well as the money raised at their harvest lunch. The McCoy's Barn was the venue for a joyous community lunch where we enjoyed home cooked cottage pies and crumbles. Many thanks to all the cooks and those who did so much to make the day a Happy Harvest. We have so much to be grateful for, it was good to be able to share our blessings with others.

Keep a look out for services and village events as December approaches. Everyone is welcome at any of them.

Rev Maggie Metcalfe

		Church Services For Britford, Charlton All Saints, Odstock with Nunton and Bodenham November 2026			
Sunday 1 November – All Saints’ Day					
9.30 am	Parish Communion (CW)	Britford	Jenny Taylor		
11.00 am	Family Service	Odstock	Adrian Taylor		
Monday 2 November – All Souls’ Day					
6.00 pm	All Souls’ Service	Charlton All Saints	Ruth Howlett-Shipley		
Sunday 8 November – Remembrance Sunday					
10.45 am	Remembrance Service	Nunton	Maggie Metcalfe		
Sunday 15 November – 2nd Sunday before Advent					
9.30 am	Parish Communion (CW)	Odstock	Ruth Howlett-Shipley		
Sunday 22 November – Christ the King					
9.30 am	Parish Communion (CW)	Charlton All Saints	Ruth Howlett-Shipley		
11.00 am	Family Service	Nunton	Adrian Taylor		
Sunday 29 November – 1st Sunday of Advent					
10.00 am	Benefice Communion (CW)	Odstock	Alison Waterhouse		

BCP = Book of Common Prayer (traditional language) CW = Common Worship (contemporary language)

Ministry Team	Team Rector	The Revd Dr Ruth Howlett-Shipley: 01722 697022
	Team Vicar	The Revd Alison Waterhouse: 01722 697404 and 07904 034221
	Associate Priests	The Revd Kate Woolven: 07754 582395 The Revd Maggie Metcalfe: 01722 325825
	Team Administrator	Mrs Emily Broomhead: 07890 262376 TheChalkeValleyChurches@gmail.com
	Safeguarding Officer	Jane Guy: 01722 781077

Men DO Matter! Salisbury's Men Matters Showcase a Great Success

Salisbury's City Hall was buzzing with activity, laughter and lively conversation on Saturday 10 October as Safer and Supportive Salisbury (SaSS) hosted its second Men Matters Showcase, returning by popular demand following the success of last year's event.

More than 100 men, alongside partners and family members, came through the doors to explore more than 40 stalls showcasing an incredible range of local activities, sports, interest groups and support services across two floors of the building.



The Mayor of Salisbury, Cllr Jenny Bolwell, officially opened the Showcase, saying:

"I am so pleased that this event is back here in the City Hall, and so glad to see so many groups and organisations helping to show men just how much is going on here in Salisbury. We know men can be very good at hiding their emotions and struggling silently with mental health issues, never asking for support or help. Here, you can open up, get involved and perhaps discover a new activity, too!"

Visitors were welcomed by a display of classic motorbikes outside, alongside Broken Bridges Nature Reserve, which shared information about enjoying one of the city's valuable green spaces.

Inside, there was something to appeal to almost everyone. Visitors could discover opportunities ranging from walking football and walking rugby to Impact MMA, fitness, cycling, rambling and U3A activities. A variety of wildlife groups also showcased ways to connect with nature and get involved locally.

Downstairs, the focus turned to wellbeing and support, with organisations including Talking Therapies, The Listening Place, Armed Forces support services, The Disability Interest Group, Samaritans, Andy's Man Club and Brothers of Bemerton. The wide range of organisations offered opportunities for men to find support, explore new interests and make connections in their community.

Free refreshments were available on both floors, generously provided by Dohatech Healthcare and Milford House Care Home, helping visitors relax and enjoy conversations throughout the morning.

Safer and Supportive Salisbury would like to thank Salisbury City Hall for providing the venue and the Salisbury Area Board of Wiltshire Council for its funding support. Thanks also go to all the organisations, stallholders and volunteers whose enthusiasm and generosity helped make the event such a success.

The Men Matters Showcase is about more than bringing people together. It is about making connections, encouraging men to try something new and helping them feel more comfortable seeking support when they need it.

Trek the Sahara Desert in support of Salisbury Hospital's Stars Appeal



The Stars Appeal, Salisbury Hospital's Charity, is looking for adventurous supporters to take on a 100km Sahara Desert trek challenge in Morocco.

The Sahara Desert Trek is the charity's seventh fundraising trek and takes place in February 2028. Participants will hike for six long, hot days across sand dunes, rocky desert terrain and salt flats.

Every trekker is asked to raise at least £2,000 for the Stars Appeal, as well as paying their own trekking costs to the challenge organisers Discover Adventure.

Money raised will help towards the £2million the Stars Appeal aims to raise every year to fund projects across Salisbury Hospital. These include new equipment, enhancements to buildings, and ongoing projects across the hospital, including support for people with cancer, a dedicated play assistant on the Children's Unit, and Stars Appeal Wi-Fi.

News of the trek information evening on October 20th came in to News and Notes too late for our October edition but budding trekkers can find out more about trekking, training and fundraising at www.starsappeal.org/events or call 01722 429005.

Harnham Housing Steering Group (HHSG) Update

As it has been several months since Wyatt Homes' public exhibition at Harnham Social Club on 10 June, we thought you would appreciate an update on developments. Since then, your feedback, survey responses and continued support have helped shape our engagement with Wyatt Homes and strengthen our preparations for the forthcoming planning application.

Thank you to everyone who completed our two surveys focusing on the Community Pathway leading to Odstock Road and the paths and greenspaces around the fields.

We received more than 520 responses, providing a substantial body of evidence about how these routes and greenspaces are used, including valuable information from residents with long-term knowledge of the area. This evidence will form an important



part of our response to the planning application and help ensure that the features valued by local people are properly considered.

Positive Progress on the Northern Edge - Community Pathway

The original Masterplan proposed removing the Community Pathway behind the houses on Thompson Close and Andrews Way and replacing it with new homes backing directly onto existing properties.

Residents raised significant concerns about this at the June exhibition and subsequently. HHSG also wrote directly to Wyatt Homes, supported by evidence from our surveys and further feedback from the residents most directly affected.

The good news is that Wyatt Homes is working on a revised Masterplan that retains and enhances the Community Pathway. This should also reduce the visual impact of the development on neighbouring residents.

We will need to review the final planning application before knowing exactly what the revised Masterplan will entail, but this represents a significant improvement on the original proposal and demonstrates the value of constructive community engagement.

However, whilst our engagement with Wyatt Homes has been professional and productive, we have been clear throughout that HHSG remains firmly opposed to the principle of development on Sites 8 & 9.



The Wider Issues Remain

Changes to the Masterplan are welcome, but our fundamental concerns about development on Sites 8 & 9 remain unchanged.

We have continued to challenge the Council's assumptions about development in Harnham and strengthen our evidence base, focusing on:

- Housing Need – whether the development is required given Salisbury's wider housing land supply and brownfield opportunities.
- Traffic and Transport – the impact on Salisbury's already heavily congested road network and key junctions.

- Infrastructure and Services – whether local facilities, including GP surgeries, dentists and schools, have sufficient capacity for the additional population.
- Landscape and Heritage – the impact of extending development into the countryside and on Salisbury’s distinctive southern setting.
- Ecology and Greenspace – impacts on wildlife, biodiversity and existing greenspace, including Lime Kiln Down; whether the proposed new recreational greenspace provides genuinely additional space for public use; and whether local habitats and biodiversity networks are adequately protected.

Sites 8 & 9 – What Happens Next?

Wyatt Homes is currently expected to submit its formal planning application in the coming weeks.

Once submitted, HHSG will:

- Review the application in detail
- Publish a Consultation Guide explaining the key issues and how residents can respond
- Hold two community events in Harnham to explain the proposals and answer questions
- Keep residents informed through email, Facebook and Instagram

The formal consultation period is technically 21 days, although the Site 6 application has shown that consultation deadlines can move when new documents – particularly from the developer – are uploaded.

We will let you know as soon as the application is submitted and explain exactly what residents need to do.

Please Help Us Reach More Residents

Please encourage neighbours, friends and family who are not yet receiving updates to join our mailing list or follow our social media channels.

When the application is submitted, community participation will be more important than ever.

Other News – Site 6, Land North of Downton Road

We have also been monitoring Persimmon Homes’ planning application for 220 homes at Site 6 in Britford. View the application on [Wiltshire Council’s Planning Portal](#)

Recent responses highlight issues relevant to the wider southern approach to Salisbury:

- Historic England – concerns over heritage setting, Cathedral views, the Woodbury Ancient Villages Scheduled Monument and potentially significant Palaeolithic archaeology; further investigation is recommended.
- Britford Parish Council – objects on flood-risk grounds and is calling for updated flood-risk and drainage assessments.

- Salisbury City Council – says concerns remain over flooding, transport, air quality, biodiversity, heritage and archaeology, and is seeking updated transport modelling, further scrutiny of the SANG and protection of important Cathedral views.
- New Wiltshire Local Plan – Wiltshire Council has started work on a new Wiltshire Local Plan, after the previous Plan was withdrawn following significant concerns raised by the Planning Inspectors about its soundness, following nine years of work and several million pounds of public expenditure.

The Council has now launched a Call for Sites for potential brownfield and greenfield land and completed its initial Scoping Consultation, to which HHSG submitted a response.

The new Local Plan will ultimately influence where future housing development is directed across Wiltshire. HHSG will continue to engage with the process and represent community concerns where relevant.

The Council's current target is for the new Local Plan to be considered for adoption by April 2029.

Thank You

Thank you to everyone who has supported HHSG, completed a survey, provided information or helped with our work.

Your response has been invaluable and has already helped secure improvements to the emerging proposals.

The planning application for Sites 8 & 9 is likely to be the most important stage of the process so far. When it is submitted, we will provide clear guidance to help residents understand the proposals and make their views known.

Thank you for your continued support.

HHSG

BONFIRE BASH

**Saturday 7 November
at 6pm**

Charlton All Saints Barn

Tickets from

Chris Clark

01725 510891

or online

newsandnotes.net



**Early Bird
by 5 Nov**

**Standard
6-7 Nov**

Adults £10

Adults £12

Kids 5-14 £5

Kids 5-14 £6

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

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

★ ALL SAINTS' CHURCH ★ CHARLTON ALL SAINTS 4-8 December

Friday 4 Dec 7pm

Opening Night

Drinks Reception Fundraiser



Countdown
Carols
Santa
Bar

Saturday 5 Dec 2–5pm

Saintly Cafe

Sunday 6 Dec 2–5pm

Saintly Cafe

Tickets £15

newsandnotes.net

Chris Clark 01725 510891

Tuesday 8 Dec 7.30pm

Downton Band Concert

★ The Gift of Christmas ★

DOWNTON BAND
CHRISTMAS CONCERT

8 December at 7.30pm

ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

Charlton All Saints

Admission free

Seasonal refreshments and raffle

Christmas gifts for the Women's Refuge are
welcome, unwrapped please

A retiring collection will be divided between
the Band and All Saints' Church

We look forward to seeing you

Friends of Bishopstone Church
IN AID OF BISHOPSTONE CHURCH DEVELOPMENT

Parables of Palestine

Join us for this fascinating talk given by
The Very Reverend Nicholas Papadopoulos,
Dean of Salisbury

'Nick lived in East Jerusalem for three months in early 2024, and worked as a human rights monitor for an international church programme. In his talk he will tell stories of what he saw - observations of everyday life in an occupied city during Israel's war on Gaza – and he will reflect on what the experience is still teaching him'.

Tuesday 10 November at 7.30pm

Bishopstone Village Hall, SP5 4AA

Tickets **£12.50** to include canapés. Cash & Card Bar



CONTACTS FOR TICKETS

Sarah Seal – theseal1@outlook.com

Tony Clarke – tonyclarke103@gmail.com



Bishopstone Village Hall – November 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 5th and 19th of November and the 3rd and 17th of December. Opening hours are 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon. The café closes for the Christmas break on 31st December & reopens Thursday 7th January 2027. Refreshments are currently offered free of charge, with donations welcome. The bookshelves offer a wide range of titles for a modest donation.

The Sunset Café Stompers

We're delighted to announce that, by popular demand, the Sunset Café Stompers are returning to Bishopstone on Saturday 21st November.

You can always count on the Stompers for an entertaining evening filled with lively music, good humour and plenty of toe-tapping rhythms. We look forward to seeing you there! Tickets £18 each, with an optional supper an additional £8 per person.

Doors and bar open at 7pm for a 7.30pm start.

Early booking is strongly advised as numbers are limited. To make a booking, please contact Caroline Ash on (01722) 781044 or Sue Taylor on (01722) 780316 and advise of any dietary requirements if taking the supper.

Moviola at Bishopstone – Friday 27th November

The film for November will be 'The Christophers'. The children of a once-celebrated artist enlist a forger to access his unfinished canvases in a deceptive bid to secure an inheritance. Starring Ian McKellen and Michaela Coel.

Cash bar with ices and snacks. Doors open at 7.00pm with the film beginning at 7.30pm. Admission £7.00. If possible, please book in advance with Caroline Ash on (01722) 781044 or Sue Taylor on 01722 780316. A film trailer can be seen in the Events section of the village website at www.bishopstone-salisbury.co.uk.

Bishopstone Community Lunches

The next lunch is on Wednesday 4th November, & the guest speaker is Caroline Lamb with a talk entitled "Collecting my MBE". 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 2nd December.

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 at callyedwards@me.com or 07968 797 168.

Police Commissioner's Parish Column

One issue I hear raised regularly by businesses, residents and local communities is the impact that crime and anti-social behaviour can have on our town and city centres.

Whilst individual incidents may seem minor in isolation, their effect can be far-reaching. Retail crime, anti-social behaviour and public disorder can undermine confidence, affect trade, discourage visitors and change how people experience the places where they live and work. The reality is that strong local economies and thriving town centres depend upon people feeling safe.

Too often, offences such as shoplifting are dismissed as low-level crimes. I do not accept that view. Behind every offence is a business owner dealing with lost income, a shop worker facing abuse or intimidation, or a resident questioning whether their town centre remains a place they want to visit. These crimes have real consequences and they deserve to be taken seriously.

That is why tackling retail crime and anti-social behaviour remains a priority for Wiltshire Police, my office and our partners across Wiltshire and Swindon.

November's Safer Business Action Week is an opportunity to highlight the action being taken to support businesses and improve safety in our town centres. It is also an opportunity to recognise what can be achieved when organisations work together with a shared purpose.

Over the past year, partnership approaches such as the Business Crime Reduction Partnership in Salisbury have demonstrated the value of improved intelligence sharing, stronger communication and coordinated action against those causing the greatest harm. Whilst no single initiative will eliminate these issues entirely, experience shows that businesses, police, local authorities and community organisations are far more effective when they work together than when they work alone.

Wiltshire remains the safest force area in the South West, but maintaining that position requires constant effort and a willingness to tackle problems before they become entrenched.

My expectation is clear. Residents, visitors and businesses should be able to enjoy our town and city centres without feeling intimidated, unsafe or ignored. By continuing to invest in partnership working, supporting effective policing and holding organisations to account for delivering results, we can ensure our high streets remain places where communities can prosper and confidence can grow.

Public survey reveals strong support for retaining local policing in Wiltshire and Swindon

Residents across Wiltshire and Swindon have voiced strong support for retaining local policing, according to the results of a public survey conducted by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) on the Government's proposed police reform plans.

A total of 1,100 people took part in the survey, which launched in August 2026, to gather views on proposals that could see England and Wales' current 43 police forces replaced by a smaller number of larger regional organisations. The results show that nearly two thirds of respondents (66%) believe Wiltshire Police should remain a standalone force. Respondents consistently highlighted concerns about preserving local policing, with three quarters (75%) believing a regional force would have worse knowledge of local communities and issues, while 71% felt it would be less responsive to local priorities.

The importance of neighbourhood policing was a recurring theme throughout the survey, as four in five respondents (80%) said it's "very important" that neighbourhood policing remains shaped by local communities and priorities, even if wider reform takes place, while 94% said this was important overall. There were also concerns about the impact reform could have on visibility and public confidence. More than two thirds of respondents (69%) believed community engagement and trust would worsen under a regional model, while 68% felt policing visibility would decrease.

The survey also highlighted a number of potential benefits associated with a larger regional force. Six in ten respondents (60%) believed reform could strengthen specialist policing capabilities, such as cybercrime investigation and firearms policing, while 51% felt larger forces could deliver more efficient support services, including finance, human resources and administration.

Police and Crime Commissioner Philip Wilkinson said: "These findings provide an important insight into how residents across Wiltshire and Swindon view the Government's proposed reforms. "While there is recognition that larger forces may bring benefits in areas such as specialist policing capabilities and organisational efficiency, respondents were clear that protecting local policing remains their priority."Throughout the survey, residents consistently highlighted the importance of local knowledge, visible neighbourhood policing, strong community relationships and accountability to local people."As discussions around police reform continue nationally, it is essential that the views of Wiltshire and Swindon residents are represented and taken into account. These results will help inform my ongoing engagement with Government and policing partners as proposals develop further."

In addition to the survey responses, residents also shared their views through social media engagement activity, with many reiterating concerns around maintaining local knowledge, protecting resources for rural communities, preserving visible neighbourhood policing and ensuring local accountability remains at the heart of policing.

These findings will help inform the Commissioner's ongoing engagement with Government and national policing bodies as discussions on police reform continue.

Read and download the [full report](#).



Trustees Needed



THE RED CORD CAMPAIGN
This emergency pull cord was tied up. It has been untied so that a disabled person can reach it from the floor in an emergency.
Please keep it untied reaching the floor.
It could save a life.

DIG
Disability Interest Group
DROP IN
The Bowman Centre
1st Monday of the Month
1pm-3pm

Barriers to people with disability are...

Need advice, need help to get the support you need or just need a listening ear?

We are looking for someone with experience within a charity setting, who is focused, can be relied on, trustworthy and a passion to help disabled people to join us as we make our way through to CIO status

- ✓ Drop ins
- ✓ Educational Campaigns
- ✓ Working with others to become inclusive

✉ info@Disabilityinterestgroup.com