

Newsletter

Parish newsletter

November 2011

This month, amongst other things, we're talking about the 'What matters to you' survey, changes to sewer ownership and Cricklade – RHS Britain in Bloom Champion of Champions 2011.

2012 A year of celebration in Wiltshire



Wiltshire has so much to be proud of and next year, 2012, will be a year of celebration with events celebrating the London Olympics, the Olympic Torch Relay and the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

These events provide a real opportunity to bring together our local communities to reinvigorate our local economy, showcase what we have and what we do so well, and to ignite our strong and vibrant community spirit.

Olympics - Wiltshire's Moment to Shine!



On 7 November, the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) released details of the communities to be visited by the Olympic flame next year. The Torch will be coming to Wiltshire next year in the lead up to the London Olympic Games. This will be a huge event for sixteen of our towns and villages and Wiltshire will also be hosting a lunchtime stop at Clarendon School in Trowbridge and an evening event at Hudson's Field in Salisbury.

Wiltshire residents, who have been nominated for making a difference in their communities, will be the torch bearers carrying the flame.

This is a major, once in a lifetime opportunity to showcase what makes Wiltshire so special and unique to the worldwide media who will be covering this once in a lifetime event.

Where will the Torch be going?

Tuesday 22 May 2012 – afternoon

Southwick
Trowbridge – including lunch time stop
Bradford on Avon

Wednesday 23 May 2012 - morning

Chippenham
Calne
Marlborough
Royal Wootton Bassett

Wednesday 11 July 2012 – afternoon and evening

Ludgershall
Tidworth
Amesbury
The Winterbournes
Salisbury – including evening event at Hudson's Field

Thursday 12 July 2012 - morning

Salisbury – early morning start from the Cathedral
Wilton
Barford St Martin
Fovant
Ludwell

Diamond Jubilee

In addition to the Olympic Torch route, HM The Queen celebrates her Diamond Jubilee in 2012 and a series of events to mark the occasion are being planned in Wiltshire.

More details of '2012 A year of celebration in Wiltshire' will be shared over the coming months via the Community Area Boards.

Wiltshire Council is also pleased to offer support and guidance for community groups or organisations, including a helpful 'Toolkit' booklet on holding street parties and community events. To request a copy of the toolkit or for further information please email communications@wiltshire.gov.uk

Plastic bottle and cardboard recycling collections

Thank you to residents in north Wiltshire who recycled 130 tonnes of plastic bottles and cardboard in their blue lidded bins during the first two weeks of the new kerbside collection service.

Fortnightly kerbside collections of plastic bottles and cardboard have also started in west Wiltshire on Monday 7 November. Residents in the west are also reminded to check their collection calendars for their revised service collection dates, as all residents have experienced a change to their normal collection schedule.

Residents in east Wiltshire will receive their bins this month in preparation for collections to start from Monday 28 November.

NB. This service is already in place in the south.

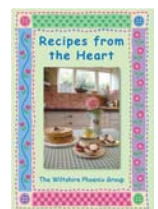
[Check collection dates](#) and [find out more information](#) online

Domestic Abuse awareness week 21- 25 November



Between April 2010 and March 2011 there were 4,532 domestic abuse incidences reported to Wiltshire Police. Cllr Keith Humphries, Wiltshire Council cabinet member with responsibility for community safety, said: "Reducing the number of domestic abuse incidents and supporting victims and their families is a priority for Wiltshire Council. We have already made huge progress working together with partners who are all committed to tackling domestic abuse and to raising awareness of this crime amongst the public. We encourage people to come forward to seek the appropriate support and advice, not to be a silent witness, but to speak out."

This year, Wiltshire Council is pleased to be supporting 'Recipes from the Heart', a local cookbook created by the Wiltshire Phoenix Group, a survivor's forum for domestic abuse victims. All proceeds from the book will go towards supporting the group. For more information on how to purchase the cookbook and on events during the week, please [follow the link](#).



Help to Live at Home

Wiltshire Council and the NHS have been talking to people, to find out what help and support they may need to help them stay living in their own homes. The two things people value above anything else is their independence and many people are concerned about what would happen should they have a problem at home, with no one around. In response, Wiltshire Council are currently implementing the Help to Live at Home project - offering the extra support and help needed, allowing people to stay safe, well and happy in their own homes. Another priority for Help to Live at Home is to protect the workforce and ensure committed and able staff continue to provide the service and feel valued. The Help to Live at Home service ensures staff will be employed on a contracted rather than hourly basis, offering employment security and ongoing training. Help to Live at Home will offer a number of services, available to everyone in Wiltshire:



Care and support service for people at home

Four care organisations have been appointed to offer care, support, advice and services such as help with bathing, personal care, getting dressed, getting out and about, and support with managing household finances.

Practical help and equipment for people at home

Sometimes, the right piece of equipment can make a person's life so much easier – the council and NHS are appointing an organisation to ensure people get the right equipment they need to make their homes more accessible. The equipment available will include aids such as grab rails, specialist seating and pendants (lifelines). This organisation will offer a retail outlet displaying equipment and will be available to offer advice, and help customers to improve their home, making it more comfortable and practical. The equipment service will be available from spring 2012.

Are you worried about being alone at night, or having a fall?

Should someone have a minor accident and would like some help, but does not require a doctor or ambulance, Help to Live at Home will be offering a new 24 hours a day, 7 days a week service, accessible from an in-home alarm system (pendant, lifeline). This 'telecare' system will be available for people to purchase in spring 2012.

What if you don't want to stay at home?

For some people, staying at home is not the right option. The council is working with companies to develop new sorts of housing that will be available for people to buy or rent. Extra care housing is one such option where there is on-site support 24 hours a day; an example of this is Florence Court which recently opened in Trowbridge. An alternative to extra care is sheltered housing which provides independence combined with support and companionship. Further information on [housing options](#) or contact 'Homes 4 Wiltshire' on 01380 734734.

Why are these services right for you?

The council has designed these new services with people in mind. We have listened to your concerns, read your responses, and have created solutions for you, by us. The organisations providing these new services will be monitored closely by the council, working with the people who use them to ensure we have a realistic view of the services.

How can you access these services?

If you are currently receiving a social care service from Wiltshire Council, or are supported by the NHS we suggest that you talk to your key worker. If you are currently a self funder for care and would like to make your own arrangements to receive these services, please contact the care providers directly. Full details and profiles of the successful organisations will be published in the January parish newsletter. If you would like further information on Help to Live at Home, please telephone 01225 712553.

Disabled Children and Adults (DCA) Review

Improving services for children, young people and adults with disabilities

The Wiltshire Council '[Disabled Children and Adults Review](#)' has now begun. This review will give the council the opportunity to work with children, young people, their families and adults with disabilities. We plan to work together to make sure that when we change any services we know that they will support people better.

The main objective of the review is simple: it is to change the way we work. It will ensure that in Wiltshire disabled children, adults and their families can lead 'normal' and fulfilling lives. This will be achieved by offering timely high quality services that are planned around the child and family.



The review has three main aims:

- make things better for the people who use the services and give more choice in deciding what type of support they want
- create a new way of delivering support that will enable people to live the life they want and that the council can continue to maintain in the future
- ensure the council works efficiently.

A considerable amount of work has already been done to identify areas for improvement. The Disabled Children and Adults review will build on this work. It is essential that the council listens to the people who use the services, and those who work within them. We have already met with customers to ask what they need the council to do, and also to understand what is important to them. Young people have told us they would like more choice around future options, such as at college or work. Some, with the correct support, would like to live in their own home.

One of the areas that carers have indicated they would like to see an improvement in is the way the council works with other organisations. Meetings with staff are helping us to understand the issues that prevent the organisations from working as efficiently as possible. As the review moves into its second stage, Wiltshire Council will continue to work with children, young people, carers and staff to make the changes together. This work will be led by what customers have told us they need.

A leaflet is now available on the Wiltshire Council website with information about this process and the ultimate aim of the Disabled Children and Adults review project. If you would like any further information about the Disabled Children and Adults review please contact communications@wiltshire.gov.uk or write to DCS Programme Office, County Hall, Trowbridge, Wiltshire, BA14 8JN.



Maurizia Quarta, who chairs the Wiltshire Parent Carer Council says: "We are delighted that so many parents and carers are embracing this fantastic opportunity to bring about change; change that will make a real difference to our children and families now, in the longer term and for this who will follow in our footsteps."

If you are a parent carer and would like to contribute your views, please contact the [Wiltshire Parent Carer Council](#) on 01672 569300 or email admin@wiltspcc.co.uk.

"There have been a number of workshops where young people have been able to give their views about their lives now and how they would like them to look like in the future. Through working together, there is real scope here to be creative and make changes that will benefit everyone." Angie Carmichael – Independent Chair of Transformation – DCA review.

Carers' Rights Day

Come along to this event for carers, drop in for a little while or stay all morning. Find out more information on benefits, attendance allowance, direct payments and carers assessments.

Meet other carers, browse the information stands and enjoy some light refreshments with us.

- Friday 2 December 2011
- 10am to 1.30pm
- Devizes Town Hall



Please help promote the event by printing and displaying this [Carers' Rights Day poster](#)

'What matters to you' survey

During week commencing 7 November 2011, a random selection of 25,000 Wiltshire residents will receive the 'What matters to you' survey with a covering letter from the leader of the council, Cllr Jane Scott.

Residents will be asked to complete the survey by answering questions on a range of topics that affect life where they live including:

- How and what we spend money on in your area?
- What can we do to improve life where you live?
- How we can improve safety in your area?
- Your views on other public services?
- The natural environment where you live?

The responses will be analysed and a full report will be produced in January 2012 and published on the council website. This will then be used by the council and our partners including NHS Wiltshire, Wiltshire Fire and Rescue and Wiltshire Police to help develop policies which affect local communities.

It is important that we encourage as many residents as possible to complete the survey which is not just limited to those who receive it by post. All Wiltshire residents over 16 years of age can complete the survey by accessing it in the following ways:

- Online on the Wiltshire Council website, Wiltshire Police website, NHS Wiltshire, Wiltshire Wildlife Trust website and some town and parish councils have agreed to host the survey on their websites
- By requesting a copy of the survey from customer services by telephone 0300 456 0100 or email customerserviceswest@wiltshire.gov.uk
- Copies of the survey will be held in libraries and leisure centres

We will also be locating 'ballot boxes' in council buildings to encourage residents to return their completed surveys here, as well as the freepost reply service.

Please note that all information given in the survey will be treated in the strictest confidence and any personal information will not be passed on to any third parties.

For more information please contact Phil Morgan, Research Manager on 01225 713186 or philip.morgan@wiltshire.gov.uk

New homes at Chatham Close, Salisbury

Wiltshire Council is pleased to announce the completion of a new housing development at Chatham Close in Salisbury which has been built in partnership with Spectrum Housing Group.

The Chatham Close development has been a long-running project and has not only provided 27 new affordable homes, but also a brand new community centre for the local residents, used predominantly by the local social club and a scouts group. This was to replace a number of run down outbuildings which were previously being used by these groups, and which were no longer fit for purpose. The committee members of the Stratford Social Club played a key part in the development of the new social club, running their own fundraising projects to provide equipment for the new facility.



The building of the social club was the first phase of the project, and the new club opened in July 2010, ahead of the affordable homes. The development was on council owned land, and the project was partly funded by the Homes and Communities Agency, together with some capital funding from the council.



The 27 affordable homes were handed over on 25 July 2011, and provide a mix of rented and shared ownership accommodation. All rented properties have now been let and all shared ownership properties have been reserved.

The scheme was officially opened by Cllr John Thomson, Deputy Leader of Wiltshire Council and Christine Turner from [Spectrum Housing Group](#) on 9 September 2011.

Anti-Social Behaviour Audit

Sofie Nottingham, a National Management Trainee working for the research team at Wiltshire Council and Laura Colley for the Community Safety Partnership are currently conducting an anti-social behaviour audit. At present, the majority of anti-social behaviour data used by the Community Safety Partnership comes from Wiltshire Police; the main aim of this audit is to supplement this with data from other organisations that have contact with anti-social behaviour. In addition to providing more accurate and full data, the audit will look at how different organisations manage anti-social behaviour. A large part of the audit will focus on examining the processes used to classify, record, report and manage anti-social behaviour, and hopefully identifying good practice across the county.

Town and parish councils play an important part in dealing with anti-social behaviour in the county. A significant number of complaints from the public are initially directed to local councils. Moreover, local councils have responsibilities for things like bus shelters, a major site of anti-social behaviour. The audit team are particularly interested in finding out if and how local councils record anti-social behaviour data, and how they work with other organisations to deal with it. Anti-social behaviour can encompass a wide range of incidents including, but not limited to, threatening behaviour, fly tipping, dog fouling and noise nuisance. Please [click here](#) to read a now outdated, but useful, working definition, of anti-social behaviour typology.

Sofie would like to meet with as many town and parish council representatives as possible before Christmas. It is hoped that those who participate will gain a lot by learning about methods of working and sharing information. For more details, please email sofie.nottingham@wiltshire.gov.uk or phone 01225 718530.

Invitation to civic carol service



The Leader of the Council, Cllr Jane Scott OBE, would like to extend an invitation for two members from each parish council to join her at the Wiltshire Council civic carol service being held on Tuesday, 13 December at 7pm in the parish church of St. Mary & St. Melor, Church Street, Amesbury, SP4 7EX. The service will be conducted by the Archdeacon of Wiltshire, The Venerable John Wraw. Following the service, seasonal refreshments will be served in Wyndham Hall.

Please e-mail Mrs Jean Potter, Chief Executive's Office, jean.potter@wiltshire.gov.uk to confirm who will attend to represent your parish council. Thank you.

No barriers week 3 – 10 December 2011

Please can you help promote [no barriers week 3 - 10 December 2011](#) to coincide with the International Day of Disabled People on 3 December. Are there any groups in your area who might organise an event?



Voluntary and Community Sector awards 2011



The [Wiltshire Voluntary and Community Sector \(VCS\)](#) awards ceremony was on 4 October 2011 in the Corn Exchange in Devizes. Volunteers and community groups once again took centre stage at the ceremony which recognised their achievements and hard work.

At the end of the evening Cllr John Thomson presented the Special Recognition award to Bryn and Emma Parry OBE for their work in founding and maintaining [Help for Heroes](#).

The Voluntary and Community Sector awards scheme is designed to recognise good practice and good performance, encourage sharing of success stories and to celebrate the many excellent and innovative things happening in the county.

Improvements to flood risk/warnings service



The Environment Agency is holding a display of [information about flood risk and flood warnings](#) in Trowbridge Lending Library (Cradle Bridge, Mortimer Street, Trowbridge, BA14 8BA) from 10.30am on 14 November until 1pm on 16 November 2011. Environment Agency staff will be available from 10.30am to 2pm on 14 November to answer your questions. The improved service launched on 2 November 2011.

Find out if your [property is at risk of flooding](#) and register to receive flood warnings or call Floodline on 0845 988 1188.

Dates and venues of next Operational Flood Working Group meetings:

North: 16 November 2011
Stoate Room
Shurnhold
Melksham
9.30am – 1pm

South: 14 December 2011
Churchfields Depot
Churchfields
Salisbury
10am – 1pm

Town and parish councils wishing to attend the meeting to advise the secretary of the group renate.malton@wiltshire.gov.uk of their attendance and issues they would like discussed.

The latest bulletin from the [National Flood Forum](#) is now available and includes useful information about insurance.

Important changes to sewer ownership

Major changes to the [ownership of sewers on private property](#) have recently taken place. With effect from 1 October 2011 the only wastewater pipes most people will remain responsible for will be those within their property boundary serving only their property. All other drains and sewers are now the responsibility of Wessex Water, although it won't be taking responsibility for septic tanks, private treatment works or other drainage systems which did not connect to the public sewer.

Wiltshire World Changers Network

As a parish council have you ever thought about the effect that rising fuel costs and fuel security concerns will have on your community?

If so the [Wiltshire World Changers Network](#) is hosting a free of charge event that you may find useful. The event is aimed at new and existing groups with a 'green' focus and will be split into three themes:

- getting an environmental community group started
- project planning
- an overview of community owned renewable energy projects.

19 November 10am – 3.30pm with lunch, Enford Village Hall, Enford, nr Pewsey.

Call Sarah Cosentino on 01225 756195 or email sarah.cosentino@wiltshire.gov.uk for more information and a booking form.

New classes at Marlborough Leisure Centre

[Marlborough Leisure Centre](#) has availability on a range of courses for all ages and the following new classes which started on 31 October 2011:

Tuesday	7.15am – 8am	Studio Cycling	Darren G
Wednesday	9.15am – 10am	Pure Step and Tone	Helen
Thursday	9.15am – 10am	Legs Tums and Bums	Julie
Thursday	10.05am – 11am	Active Plus	Julie
Thursday	6pm – 6.45pm	Pure Step and Tone	Helen
Friday	7.15pm – 8pm	Studio Cycling	Darren G



Tisbury and District Sports Centre



The [Tisbury and District Sports Centre](#) programme for 2012 of weekly fitness classes and children's activities has something for everyone, so why not join in and – whatever your fitness level is now – we aim to improve it.

For the younger generation we coach football following the FA Approved Skills, as well as gymnastics and trampolining, where the children work towards their British Gymnastics Badge Award Scheme.

For class and session times, further details and to book any of the above, please contact us on 01747 871141 or email us at tisburyssc@wiltshire.gov.uk

Wiltshire residents prepare for a safe winter

Wiltshire Council trading standards in partnership with Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service have tested over 120 electric blankets from homes across the county at stations in Trowbridge and Salisbury. This free service has been offered ahead of the winter season when many elderly people rely on electric blankets for extra warmth but are often unaware of the dangers posed by old or damaged blankets.



Although there has been a marked improvement in failure rates over the last few years, almost 10% of the blankets tested this year were found to be unsafe. Most blankets failed the safety tests because of incorrect wiring, general wear and tear or because the vital anti overheating mechanism now incorporated in newer blankets was not fitted.

Trading standards manager, Yvonne Bennett, said 'Unsafe electric blankets pose a real risk of fire or electrocution. It is reassuring that most blankets tested were found to be safe for use this winter and the few that were dangerous have either been destroyed or repaired.'

If anyone has concerns about electric blanket safety, useful advice about choosing, using and storing electric blankets is offered by the [Electrical Safety Council](#) on their website.

Cricklade, RHS Champion of Champions 2011



Cricklade residents had cause for celebration after being named this year's Champion of Champions at the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) national [Britain in Bloom Awards for 2011](#).

The RHS judges said Cricklade heritage was to the fore, both built and natural, and the community was present in all that they did and saw on the day.

David Tetlow, chairman of Cricklade Town Council said Cricklade had shown what could be achieved by a small town with a big community at its heart. "This is a tremendous achievement for everyone in Cricklade as well as for Wiltshire and the South of England. Plaudits should go to Cricklade Bloomers, the voluntary group tirelessly working to improve the town, the town council grounds staff and others who turn out in all weathers to make sure everything looks the best it can. It has all paid off – now we really are the best of the best."

"Working with partners towards this competition has been key to our success. Cricklade is very grateful for all the extra help given to the town by Wiltshire Council especially local highways, street scene staff and the Parish Steward who really spent time making sure that everything was the best it could be – this competition sets the very highest standards and Wiltshire Council certainly helped us to meet them."

Anita Barratt, chair of Cricklade Bloomers, said: "To have this recognised and win the title of Champion of Champions 2011 is a real tribute to the efforts put in by local people all with a real passion for making the town a wonderful place to live in and to visit."

Corsham wins gold in South West in Bloom

Wiltshire Council is pleased to have once again worked in partnership with Corsham Town Council for the annual South West in Bloom competition. All the hard work paid off as Corsham won gold in the Sargent Cup category, with presentation of the award taking place in Newquay on 15 September 2011.

Corsham Town Council and the community worked closely with council officers to ensure the streets and floral displays were beautiful. Taking on extra duties such as weeding and litter picking did not daunt this community, with Wiltshire Council's town centre cleansing staff, Robin and Trevor, assisting by delivering their usual excellent standard of cleanliness to the streets.



The South West in Bloom judges visited on 18 July from 10am and as they walked through Corsham their feedback was extremely positive. Corsham residents went that extra mile to make their gardens as colourful and eye catching as possible and the judges were particularly impressed with the partnership working between residents, local businesses and the local authority.

Ruth Hopkinson (chairman Corsham in Bloom) of Corsham Town Council said: "I think this year's display was beautiful and I think everyone in the town did too. We had so many people coming into the town hall and praising how good Corsham looked."

Wiltshire Council is always interested to hear from anyone who is planning a community event and requires advice from the council on street cleansing or grounds maintenance activities.

Rights of way maintenance update

East

The parish maintenance programme has been completed at Charlton St Peter, Rushall and North Newton. The parish inspection survey is underway at Manningford. Road planings have been delivered so that Marston Common, Rowde Common, Byway 27 West Overton, Byway 26 East Grafton can be repaired. The rights of way wardens have been trained to use the tractor and hedge cutter, which have been used for clearance and will be put to good use over the winter months for cutting back undergrowth.

Paths which tend to become very overgrown have been cleared right back for winter, including:

- Five Lanes network, Potterne
- Footpath 9 and Bridleway 15, Great Cheverell
- Bridleway 6, Mill Lane, Winterbourne Monkton
- Bridleway 13, Seend (Bowerhill to Canal)
- Bridleway 45, Seend
- Bridleway 4, Juggs Lane, Little Bedwyn
- Bridleway 1, Froxfield
- Bridleway 22, Milton Lilbourne

A joint project with Urchfont volunteers to lay more stone on Footpath 40 is ongoing and several loads of stone have been delivered. The North East Ramblers volunteer working group is currently working on clearing byway 12, Marlborough.

A major project to repair byway no 1, Berwick Bassett, has begun. Work commenced with clearance of undergrowth and overhanging branches along the whole route and is continuing with repairs to the surface using hardcore. The project will finish with road planings to be provided from works to Junction 16 of the M4. There will not, however, be enough material to complete the project, as many more tons of material will be required. It is hoped that some more material, either hardcore or chalk, will be available next spring or summer. The path is currently closed as it is considered to be unsafe for use by the public in its current state.



North

The parish maintenance programme has been completed in Luckington, Nettleton and Grittleton. Planings from the road maintenance works at junction 17 of the M4 have been used to repair Malmesbury Common and The Fosseway running from Easton Grey to Shipton Moyne. The area rights of way warden, Steve Leonard, has focused on major clearance projects across the north to reinstate long obstructed integral linking routes. Sutton Benger parish council has sponsored pedestrian gates to improve access to their rights of way network which were installed by the team.

South

Works have started on the parish maintenance programme at Stapleford following the full parish network survey. The maintenance contractor in the area now has a small tractor with a finger bar hedge flail facility. This has enabled a number of overgrown bridleways to be cleared to a reasonable height, which is essential for equestrian use. Hopefully the difference will already have been noticed by riders. Extensive hedge flailing of Coombe Bissett byway no 1 has been completed which ensures safe access and potentially enables works to take place to the surface, if the opportunity arises. We have been involved in negotiations with the Environment Agency to embark upon works to tracks to the west of Wilton, in Burcombe and Barford St Martin. These are predominantly drainage and surfacing works on public rights of way, to prevent silt from higher cultivated land entering the river Nadder and smothering the gravel river bed where fish spawn. Redlynch restricted byway no 37 has been severely damaged in the past by public vehicular use to the extent where it has been closed for public safety. Work has begun to provide a safe

surface and once completed, this route will enhance the rights of way network in this beautiful part of the New Forest National Park, to be enjoyed by residents and visitors alike.



Following agreement with Natural England and the MoD, surfacing works have begun on the initial section of Tilshead byway no 12 where it leaves the A360 up to White Barrow. This well used route forms part of the Imber Range perimeter path. In three months (one day's work per month) Tread Lightly (a motorised vehicles user volunteer group), Wiltshire Council, the MOD and the Landmarc team has inserted, repaired and rectified over 100 signs on the Salisbury Plain training area. It may take another 18 months to complete the signage with the invaluable assistance of the Tread Lightly volunteers.

Young people from Mere and Tisbury Youth Development Centre, together with supervisors Jaki Farrell, Simon Roberts and Mark Holden, have regularly been out clearing footpaths this year. In September and October, volunteers aged between 13 and 19 made a number of improvements to a public right of way in West Tisbury. Several stiles were replaced with kissing gates, a flight of steps was completely revamped and an overgrown section of path on the Wessex Ridgeway was cleared. This project was carried out as a part of the National Citizen Service and the Leisure Credits scheme which aims to teach young people new skills and gets them involved and interested in their local communities.



West



The parish maintenance programme has been completed in Semington. North Bradley has been surveyed and maintenance works will be completed soon. West Ashton is in the process of being surveyed and Trowbridge is scheduled to be visited before the end of the year. Road planings have been laid on some rights of way in Southwick making the multiuse paths safer for all users. The ditches are to be dug out and cleared shortly to complete the works. Planings have also been used to repair a byway at Hilperton which had a number of potholes. Signage works on the South Wraxall to Bradford on Avon cycleway have been completed.

The West Wiltshire Ramblers volunteer working group have had a busy couple of months installing kissing gates in Atworth as part of a flat circular walk. They also installed a kissing gate at Southwick Country Park where the right of way leads from the park on to privately owned land. The Ramblers group also undertook a three week project on Southwick 40, a public bridleway. For several years, much of the route has been unavailable due to an accumulation of vegetation which has resulted in walkers diverting around Langham Farm.

The first session was spent completing major clearance work, week two saw the installation of a new field gate and posts and in the final week a hunting gate was installed. Walkers in the area can now use the old sunken way which runs to the north west of Langham Farm; this route is just visible on the Tithe map for Southwick. Additionally, the Youth Offending Team has been clearing paths in Warminster and Bradford on Avon.

Wiltshire's Best Kept villages celebrate!

The national Best Kept Village competition for 2011, organised by the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) was concluded for Wiltshire with the awards being presented on Sunday 9 October.

Wiltshire's winning villages were as follows:

- Large Village – Ramsbury
- Medium Village – Lea
- Small Village – West Dean



West Dean, winner of the small village category
(Image © Salisbury Journal)

2011 was the 53rd year of the Best Kept Village competition and Wiltshire branch chairman Mr George McDonic led the presentation ceremonies. The standard of the villages in Wiltshire this year was very high, and was the result of a real community effort and input by all residents.

The competition in Wiltshire was sponsored by Wiltshire Life and Ecotricity. Wiltshire Council also provided support and the much coveted plaques that were presented by Cllr Christine Crisp to the winning villages for them to keep. Mr John Bush OBE KStJ, HM Lord Lieutenant for Wiltshire, unveiled a commemorative shield at each of the three celebrations.

Congratulations to all three villages!

An introduction to neighbourhood planning

The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) has produced an easy to read leaflet [An introduction to neighbourhood planning](#). This is a new way for communities to decide the future of the places where they live and work and the leaflet explains what neighbourhood planning is; why it matters and how it will work. It also provides information about the sources of advice and support for communities interested in doing neighbourhood planning.

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.

Councillor development programme

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 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
- Lynda Williams: 01225 713 179, Lynda.williams@wiltshire.gov.uk

Parish newsletter feedback

If you have any comments or suggestions about this newsletter, please email communications@wiltshire.gov.uk. We welcome all feedback from the town and parish councils.

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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

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 or tim@fredericksfoundation.net.

Quick links

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

Salisbury Amateur Operatic Society will be performing The Sound of Music between 29 November and 3 December, plus if you are looking for a special Christmas show That'll Be The Day Christmas returns on Thursday 22 December, great for all of the family. Find out more on our website.

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

The submission deadline for the December parish newsletter is **25 November 2011**.

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