

Newsletter

Parish Newsletter – w/c 7 January 2019

Third anniversary of first refugee families settling in Wiltshire

Refugee families are finding jobs and gaining independence as they settle into local communities in Wiltshire.

Wiltshire has welcomed more than 100 individuals and families since the first group of Syrian refugees arrived in December 2015 and 11 babies have now been born in the county.

They were part of the government's Vulnerable Person's Relocation Scheme to help people leave the war-torn country. Wiltshire Council was one of the first local authorities to welcome the families after the scheme was announced.

The council has worked with partners including Wiltshire Police, health colleagues and the Department for Work and Pensions to ensure the refugees have all they need to settle quickly into their new homes.

Charities, faith groups, community groups and volunteers have been key to the project as they have also provided support to help the refugees adapt.

Many of the refugees are now working in Wiltshire. Some examples include two who are now working for a tailor, another works in a baker and another has qualified as a forklift driver. Another two have started their own food delivery business. Some of them work as volunteers helping in charity shops, local community groups and build a bike schemes to name a few.



Free parking after 3pm in Salisbury and Amesbury to continue until Easter

Shoppers and visitors can enjoy the unique shops and attractions that Salisbury and Amesbury have to offer throughout early 2019, as free parking after 3pm and free park and ride have been extended until Easter 2019.

Wiltshire Council-operated car parks in Salisbury city centre and Amesbury town centre will be free after 3pm Monday to Saturday until Tuesday 23 April 2019, while parking is free in all Wiltshire Council car parks throughout the county on Sundays until further notice.

The five park and ride sites that serve Salisbury Wilton, Beehive, London Road, Petersfinger and Britford remain free from Monday to Saturday until Tuesday 23 April 2019.

Clear signage is displayed in all the council-run car parks informing users of the changes, and there are also signs on main roads into Salisbury that inform people of the free parking times and encourage people to make use of the free park and ride sites.

More than £1.5m has been invested in free parking in South Wiltshire since March 2018; of which more than £1.1m has been invested by Wiltshire Council, while around £570,000 has been met by central government in support of the recovery of both Salisbury and Amesbury.

More affordable homes planned for Wiltshire following successful bid

Wiltshire Council has successfully bid for funds to build more affordable homes.

Homes England announced Wiltshire has secured £1.3m funding to help create 44 affordable high quality properties around the county.

The major investment programme has been split into two phases:

- Phase 1 - 180 affordable homes to be complete by 2020, with a total investment of £34.4m. Phase 1 homes have already been built in Devizes, Amesbury, Trowbridge, Rowde, East Knoyle, Durrington, Corsley, Mere and Coombe Bissett. Wiltshire Council has just received Homes England grant funding of £770k to complete this programme for the construction of the final 22 homes in Trowbridge.
- Phase 2 - a further 49 affordable homes in 16 locations across Wiltshire with a total investment of £9.5m with 22 homes receiving grant funding by Homes England to the value of £610k.

Volunteers wanted to spend quality time with children in care

A Wiltshire Council-run scheme is looking for fun, caring volunteers to spend quality time with young people who are living in care.

The Independent Visitor scheme is one of many across the country, which aims to provide young people in care with independent support from a friendly trusted adult. It is very popular with young people, all of whom choose to be referred to the service.

The council would like to grow the scheme further over the next two years, so that even more young people in care can benefit.

Since the scheme started, it has provided more than 200 young people with long term support. Wiltshire now has one of the largest schemes in the country and is on target to make its 50th active match early in 2019.

If anyone would like to know more about the scheme and how they volunteer to support a young person living in care, they should contact:

Anthony Andrews, Independent Visitor Scheme Support Worker, on 01225 713961 or 07423 680983 or email: anthony.andrews@wiltshire.gov.uk.

More information can also be found on <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/children-young-people-independent-visitor-scheme>.

What's on



If you would like to promote an event in your area to staff and the wider public why not use the [events calendar](#) on our website. You can find the link to the calendar on the home page under 'What's on'.

Check what else is on at Wiltshire Music Centre in Bradford on Avon:

www.wiltshiremusic.org.uk and City Hall in Salisbury: www.cityhallsalisbury.co.uk

Quick links

Area Board information - www.wiltshire.gov.uk/communityandliving/areaboards.htm

All the latest news releases - www.wiltshire.gov.uk/latestnews.htm

A blog for the heritage community of Wiltshire - <https://heritageinwiltshire.wordpress.com>

Community virtual notice boards - www.wiltshire.gov.uk/ourcommunitymattersblogsites.htm

Recycle for Wiltshire - www.recycleforwiltshire.com

Roadworks - www.wiltshire.gov.uk/roadshighwayspavements/roadworks.htm

Tree wardens for Wiltshire - www.wiltshiretreewardens.co.uk

What's on in Wiltshire - www.wiltshire.gov.uk/leisureandrecreation/whatson.htm

What's on at City Hall in Salisbury - www.cityhallsalisbury.co.uk

A blog for Wiltshire's arts community - <http://theartsinwiltshire.wordpress.com>

The latest news from the council is available on the [full newslisting](#) pages of the website