

Parish Newsletter – w/b 21 May 2018

## Canvassing gets underway

We are currently taking democracy to the doorstep in a county-wide campaign to sign up voters.

Staff are visiting the homes of around 11,000 people who are eligible to vote but aren't registered, and inviting them to get their names on the electoral roll.



Carlton Brand, Wiltshire Council corporate director and the county's returning officer, said: "Voting in elections is the lifeblood of our free society.

"We want every citizen in the county to have the best possible chance to have their say and to cast a vote

"It takes less than five minutes to sign up, but it means so much. Voting is a priceless right which everyone should cherish."

The Canvassing is now underway until 4 June when council staff all bearing official ID - will call at the homes of residents who are eligible but unregistered to vote.

The canvassers will have tablet devices with them so people can register right there on the doorstep. All they need is their national insurance number.

Residents can also register online at [www.gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote) or by phone on 0300 456 0112.

Wiltshire's returning officer, Carlton Brand, explains in a short video what people can expect and why we're doing this now. Watch it here: <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/news/articles/canvass-campaign>

## My Wiltshire – customer portal update

We have launched a new version of the web portal for the My Wiltshire app with a new look and feel providing a better and more intuitive user experience for our customers. The mobile app version remains unaffected.



For more information and how to use the new version, please visit: <http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/news/articles/new-look-for-my-wiltshire>

## Wanted: Trusted befrienders for children in care

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We are looking for reliable, caring adults who can offer long-term friendships to young people in care.

We seek Independent Visitors volunteers who can spend time with young people in care who would benefit from the guidance and kindness of a fun, friendly adult.

Their role is to 'visit, advise and befriend' the young person with whom they are matched.



Young people in care often experience disruption in their lives. An Independent Visitor is a trusted adult from outside the system who can offer consistent, long-term help throughout the time a young person is in care and on leaving care.

Once an IV is appointed, they visit and spend time with the young person about once every three or four weeks.

Shannon, who is now 21, met her Independent Visitor, Jacqui, when she was a 13-year-old in foster care. She said: "It was one of the best things I did".

"She has been amazing through some really difficult times in my life and I appreciate her so much.

"I feel that we have built a great friendship we will keep forever. I know that we will stay in touch and continue to see each other because this was more than just a scheme to us in the end.

"My IV is an amazing woman and I'd recommend this scheme to other young people for sure. She really is the only person I have to confide in and is so supportive."

Jacqui said: "This is truly one of the best things that I have ever done and I have formed a relationship for life.

"It was an incredibly rewarding adventure, which went from visiting a child to developing a close friendship with an amazing and strong young woman.

"Now that she is an adult of 21 and has left the scheme our friendship will grow and develop.

"I have learned so much from my young person and as she has got older we have become more like the best of friends.

"For anyone considering becoming an Independent Visitor and who has the time to commit to it for the next five-plus years I would say 'definitely do it!'"

Laura Mayes, Wiltshire Council's cabinet member for children, said: "The friendships that grow between the adult visitors and the young people are utterly priceless.

"Young people in care can feel lonely and isolated, and that they sometimes have no-one who they feel is whole-heartedly on their side. An Independent Visitor can fill that space as a faithful friend who is ready to listen and lend a hand at an often troubling and confusing stage in their life.

"Wiltshire Council is eager to help this project and we would love to hear from any adults who think they have something to offer in this role."

No formal qualifications are required to become an IV, although potential volunteers must meet the specification and role description requirements for the role. All volunteers are required to obtain clearance from the Disclosure and Barring Service.

For more information about IVs, whether you are a potential volunteer or know a youngster in care who might benefit from an IV, call the scheme manager Sheila Lupton on 01225 713934 or 07733 303124 or email [sheila.lupton@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:sheila.lupton@wiltshire.gov.uk)

## Cycle path closure: North Wilts Rivers Route Cycle

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The North Wilts Route Cycle Path will be closed on 27 June 2018 from approximately 8am – 8pm as telecom works are carried out on the pylon adjacent.

For any enquiries, please contact Ruby Luxton on 01822 610610 + 119.

## Ideal homes near completion

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A new £5m housing development in Trowbridge has taken a step closer to completion.

We are funding 28 new homes at Southview close to the town centre. The homes, which will be ready by the winter, will be managed by us and are part of a wider commitment to build 158 council-homes across the county.

The Southview project features a mix of two- and three-bed houses as well as six one-bed flats, and are available as shared ownership or affordable rent. They will be available for those on the Homes4Wiltshire allocation system.

## Successful town and parish council training day

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63 representatives of town and parish councils attended an awareness session in the Council Chamber at County Hall dedicated to working towards the General Data Protection Regulation which is implemented fully from 25 May this year. Thank you to all of you who were able to make it.

Key messages were that:

The Information Commissioner regards this as “the start line not the finish tape.” She has

previously published a series of blogs and made it clear, this is not big bang, it is the start line.

<https://iconewsblog.org.uk/2017/12/22/gdpr-is-not-y2k/>

- Councils act as data controllers and are required to notify individuals when using their data. Elected members should also consider whether they need to inform residents when using their personal information or issues they have brought to them.
- Good practice would suggest that personal email accounts should not be used for council business, several councils had already created separation by creating individual email addresses for official business.
- New rights for data subjects have been introduced and need to be met, including a greater level of information provision telling people what you will do with their information. Privacy notices need reviewing and updating. Councils need to be able to demonstrate their compliance with what is now a regulated activity (any work with people's personal information).

## New integrated substance misuse service opens across Wiltshire and Swindon

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IMPACT - Swindon & Wiltshire Active Recovery Service has been launched by social enterprise, Turning Point.

The new substance misuse service is operating from three central hubs in Swindon, Salisbury and Trowbridge, as well as groups and sessions taking place in a range of community venues.

Turning Point already has a strong track record on helping people with drug and alcohol issues in Wiltshire. Last year they treated and supported more people and the number finishing treatment successfully also increased.

The service promises to be more personalised, responding to changing drug and alcohol trends and improving recovery rates across both Wiltshire and Swindon.

IMPACT - Improving Prevention, Accessibility, Collaboration & Treatment

IMPACT will be introducing a number of new ways of working, making services more accessible including:

- Better use of digital technology through on-line support and information and telemedicine.
- Delivering services from a range of discreet and convenient community locations.
- Working jointly with other local organisations to reach out to groups that can often be under-represented in treatment services, such as women.

More information about the service can be found here: <http://wellbeing.turning-point.co.uk/swindon-and-wiltshire/> or to contact the service direct please call: 0345 603 6993



## What's on

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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](http://www.wiltshiremusic.org.uk) and City Hall in Salisbury: [www.cityhallsalisbury.co.uk](http://www.cityhallsalisbury.co.uk)

## Quick links

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Area Board information - [www.wiltshire.gov.uk/communityandliving/areaboards.htm](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/communityandliving/areaboards.htm)

All the latest news releases - [www.wiltshire.gov.uk/latestnews.htm](http://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](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/ourcommunitymattersblogsites.htm)

Recycle for Wiltshire - [www.recycleforwiltshire.com](http://www.recycleforwiltshire.com)

Roadworks - [www.wiltshire.gov.uk/roadshighwayspavements/roadworks.htm](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/roadshighwayspavements/roadworks.htm)

Tree wardens for Wiltshire - [www.wiltshiretreewardens.co.uk](http://www.wiltshiretreewardens.co.uk)

What's on in Wiltshire - [www.wiltshire.gov.uk/leisureandrecreation/whatson.htm](http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/leisureandrecreation/whatson.htm)

What's on at City Hall in Salisbury - [www.cityhallsalisbury.co.uk](http://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 newlisting](#) pages of the website