

## Christmas Opening Hours



The Community First office will close for the festive period at 4pm on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December 2024 and will reopen at 9am on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2025.

On behalf of our team, wishing you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

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## Have your say on homecare services in Wiltshire

Wiltshire Council is conducting a comprehensive review of its care at home/domiciliary care frameworks, with the aim of shaping the future of homecare services across the county. This review will contribute to the development of an options proposal for future commissioning in 2026.

The council is eager to hear from those who receive care at home, whether their care is council-funded or self-funded, as well as from carers, families, and care providers.

The feedback collected will help inform how care services can best support people in their homes, how to improve the experience of finding care, and how to assist people in staying at home longer. The consultation is for adults (18+), children and young people, and adults with mental health needs, learning disabilities, or autism.

### Key areas of feedback:

- What do people need and want from care at home?
- How does care work best for individuals?
- How can the council assist people to remain at home for longer?
- What are people's experiences of finding care and working with the council when care is funded?
- How does community support help people stay at home?
- What is the experience of unpaid carers in working with care providers?
- Looking ahead, how do people see the future needs of homecare changing?

### How to get involved:

Voice It, Hear It is leading the consultation and engagement on behalf of Wiltshire Council. To ensure your voice is heard, we would like to invite homecare users, carers, and care providers to participate in this important consultation. Your voice matters!

**Take our online survey:** <https://survey.zohopublic.eu/zs/YgBPRq>

**Book a 1-to-1 telephone consultation:** ([voice@communityfirst.org.uk](mailto:voice@communityfirst.org.uk))

For more information or to get involved, please contact:

[voice@communityfirst.org.uk](mailto:voice@communityfirst.org.uk)

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## Reminder - Community Transport Directory

If you work with individuals who need help with transport, please let them know about the Community Transport Directory. People who need help from their local Link Scheme or Community Minibus Group should contact the organisation directly.

Our directory has a list of contact details and can be found here:

<https://www.communityfirst.org.uk/transport/directory/>

## Carers Together Wiltshire

Carers Together Parent Carer Lead Jo is hosting two sessions for parent carers in December. Please see below for the details and share with parent carers so they are aware of the support on offer as well as our monthly parent carer newsletter.

- **Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2024** - Face to face support group (10.30am-12pm) at the Cosy Club in Salisbury. No need to book, just drop in.
- **Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2024** - Virtual evening group (7-8pm) Christmas quiz. Please email Jo for the link ([jhculley@communityfirst.org.uk](mailto:jhculley@communityfirst.org.uk))

All parent carers are welcome to attend.

Our parent carer newsletter contains information, events and resources for parent carers in Wiltshire. If you know another parent carer who could benefit from the newsletter, please send them the link so they can subscribe: <https://mailchi.mp/93192f1024d4/parent-carers-newsletter>

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## Oxenwood 2025 School Holiday Clubs

Join us at Oxenwood Outdoor Education Centre for an action-packed, school holiday adventure with our new holiday clubs launching in February 2025.

### Activities include:

**Paddle sports** - From April onwards and will include an introduction to Stand up Paddleboard and canoeing. The equipment to be used, the dangers that could be encountered (and how to not get in that situation in the first place!) paddle strokes and self-rescue. Ensuring you get the skills necessary to enjoy and safe and fun day on the water

**Mountain biking** - Learn the skills necessary to conduct repairs and identify faults with your bike, skill-based sessions designed to make better riders of all abilities, journeys out from the centre teaching the skills for moving across country safely and added basic navigation.

**Bushcraft** - Could you fend for yourself without any home comforts? How would you get on if you were lost or stranded in unknown territory? This day will teach you to get to grips with a few vital survival skills that could keep you alive and get you home in one piece. Learn how to prepare yourself for the unexpected, find water and make it safe, prepare and cook game, build a shelter, make fires for warmth and cooking and live in harmony with nature. You will also learn how to make distress signals for rescue or to navigate your way home.

**Targets and trajectories** - This day will involve various shooting techniques, utilising archery, olympic style air rifle, snap barrel air rifle and BB guns. The day will cover how to safely use all systems, how to zero your rifles, utilise alternate point of aim, how to fire from different positions and learn how to achieve the maximum points on offer every time!

**History / theme days** - The British Isles boasts a long and proud history and what better way to explore this history as becoming part of it! During our history day you will find out what its like to be drilled into shape as a Roman Legionnaire or discover how the Vikings became a feared invader of our islands, this immersive experience will ensure you leave here ready to invade and pillage!

**Multiple activity day** - This will incorporate all activities available during the week, condensed to give the attendees a taste of each. This will incorporate, bushcraft, mountain biking, riles shooting, Archery and climbing. A fun multi activity day for a range of ages.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	09:00 - 16:15	09:00 - 16:15	09:00 - 16:15	09:00 - 16:15	09:00 - 16:15
8 - 11 years	Mountain Bike	Bushcraft	Targets and trajectories	History / Theme Day	Multi activity day
12 - 16 years	Bushcraft	Mountain bike	History / Theme Day	Multi activity day	Targets and trajectories

**Price:** £30 per person, per day

**Ages:** 8 - 11 years old  
12 - 16 years old

**Lunch:** Attendees should bring a packed lunch.

For more information or to reserve your place email: [info@oxenwood.org.uk](mailto:info@oxenwood.org.uk)

**Briefing prepared by:**

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