

NOVEMBER 2025

What's inside:

South Swindon In Bloom
Christmas in South Swindon
GWR Park Junior Parkrun



SOUTH SWINDON PARISH SPOTLIGHT

REPRESENTING THE COMMUNITIES OF
SOUTH SWINDON

FOLLOW US



www.southswindon-pc.gov.uk



Kings Court
Care Centre

Community Memory Cafe

First Tuesday of every month.

10am-12pm

CHAIR'S REPORT

Dear Parishioner,

I hope this newsletter finds you in good health.

This year, we have decided to take a break from the Enchanted Gardens Light Trail in 2025 to focus our efforts on developing new, community-led plans for South Swindon in 2026. We still, however, remain committed to bringing festive joy to our communities and we're pleased to announce that, this year, there will be a series of free activities in the Town Gardens open to all.

Join us on the two weekends before Christmas, 13th-14th and 20th-21st December,

between 12pm and 4pm, at the Town Gardens Bandstand for a celebration of South Swindon's wonderful diversity.

The Parish Council's Christmas Trees are returning for the 2025 festive season. The trees will be placed at Badbury Park Community Hub, Broadgreen Community Centre and Cavendish Square. The Switch-on events will be taking place from 5pm on the following dates:

- Tuesday 18th November – Broadgreen Community Centre
- Wednesday 19th November – Cavendish Square



- Thursday 20th November – Badbury Park Community Hub

If you live in these communities please join us for some Christmas cheer.

Finally, I'd like to wish all parishioners a happy Christmas.

Kind regards,
Neil Hopkins
Chair

SWINDON PLACE PARTNERSHIP

Do you want to start a local Physical Activity Project?

APPLY NOW FOR FUNDING





PARKS & OPEN SPACES UPDATE



Parish Councillors were honoured to attend the Mesothelioma Awareness Day event in Queen's Park on 26th September.

We heard speeches from Parish Councillor John Firmin, Mayor Fay Howard, and Stan Pajak, who opened the previous memorial garden back in 2003 during his time as Swindon's Mayor. Following a poignant poem, 12 doves were released as a symbol of remembrance for all those who have lost their lives to Mesothelioma and their families. Thank you to everyone who attended.



Cllrs Janine Howarth, Patrick Herring, John Firmin and Sam James with Ex-Mayor Stan Pajak

The Parish Council is currently obtaining quotes to remove the Hothouse pillars in Queen's Park. The Hothouse has been in a state of disrepair since the 1980s following a storm. Since taking on the management of the park in 2019 the Parish Council has explored numerous options for the area and we have decided the safest and best course of action is to remove the structure and develop a cafe and seating area in its place. This decision has been made in consultation with heritage experts, Historic England and Swindon Borough Council.



Aerial view of the Queen's Park Hothouse

GWR Park Green Flag 2026

Following the success of the Town Gardens Green Flag entry, the Parish Council is looking to submit GWR Park for the Green Flag award in 2026. The Green Flag Award scheme sets the benchmark standard for the management of parks and outdoor spaces around the world.

GWR Park has been transformed since the Parish Council took responsibility for the park. In 2023, working with the National Trust and Historic England, a new Blossom Circle was created along with improvements to the horticulture, furniture and amenities in the park.

We look forward to submitting the park for the Green Flag Award next year, with a view of submitting Queen's Park for the award in 2027.





Junior Parkrun volunteers and organisers

It was fantastic to see the new Junior Parkrun launch in GWR Park at the start of October. Well done to the 45 runners who took part in the first edition. Junior Parkrun will now take place every Sunday at 9am.

Junior Parkrun is a free, fun and friendly 2k event for 4 to 14-year-olds.

Thank you to the Parkrun team and volunteers, Wiltshire & Swindon Sport (WASP) and Swindon Borough Council for helping to launch this great amenity.

Come along and join in whatever your pace!



Light Switch Ons

Join us for an evening of festive cheer and community celebration at our Christmas Light Switch-Ons!

Bring your friends and family for live entertainment, festive treats, and a joyful atmosphere – and don't miss the highlight of the night: the lights switch-on at 6:15 PM!



Tuesday 18th November



5:00 – 7:00 PM



**Broadgreen Community
Centre**



Wednesday 19th November



5:00 – 7:00 PM



Cavendish Square



Thursday 20th November

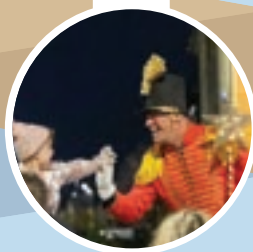


5:00 – 7:00 PM



**Badbury Park
Community Hub**

And there's more...



Christmas in Town Gardens



This year, South Swindon Parish Council is also launching an exciting new free-to-access series of festive activities in Town Gardens, celebrating the vibrant diversity of Swindon.

In the run-up to Christmas, the Town Gardens will come alive with festive fun! Enjoy delicious food and drinks, live bandstand performances, walkabout artists, craft workshops and much more... All taking place from 12-4 PM!

Free entry for all!

Come along and help us make this Christmas season in South Swindon one to remember!



Keep an eye on our website for more updates coming soon!



DECEMBER

13TH

14TH

20TH

21ST



BUCKHURST PLAYZONE

We're thrilled to announce that the Buckhurst PlayZone officially launched in October with special guests from Swindon Town FC - Aaron Drinan and Danny Butterworth - plus the brilliant junior players from Robins FC!



What's new?

- Bigger pitch with brand new surface.
- Floodlights for evening play.
- Secure keypad access.

The PlayZone was funded by the Football Foundation and the Oakfield Community Fund - which was administered by Swindon Borough Council. This project is the final piece of the £850,000 transformation of Buckhurst Field. Plans for further improvements at Buckhurst Field are already underway, with proposals focusing on landscaping enhancements, improved signage and biodiversity improvements.

If you're interested in booking the PlayZone, please email:

playzone@southswindon-pc.gov.uk



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Email: swindon@deacons-jewellers.com

Website: www.deacons-jewellers.com

  @deaconsjewellers

Item featured subject to stock availability



**Volunteers Required
for our youth clubs at
The Base – Park North
Tuesdays 6.30–8.30pm
Badbury Park (coming soon)
Tuesdays 5.30 –7pm**

The youth department at South Swindon Parish Council is looking for enthusiastic individuals to join our vibrant team of youth club volunteers to deliver art based projects.

If you're passionate about supporting young people and creating fun, engaging environments where they can thrive, we want to hear from you!

**For details of how to get involved please contact Loreli at youthwork2@southswindon-pc.gov.uk
01793 312006**



SOUTH SWINDON YOUTH SERVICE

Since March 2020, South Swindon Parish Council has operated a dedicated youth service focused on supporting young people's personal and social development. Led by a dedicated youth worker, the service provides safe spaces and engaging opportunities for young people across the parish.

The Parish Council currently operate two youth clubs in South Swindon. The Parks Youth Club meets every Tuesday evening during term time at The Base in Park North. Additionally, the Eastcott Youth Club runs every Thursday at Eastcott Community Centre. Both youth clubs offer games, arts and crafts, sports, food activities, and trips for young people aged 11-16.

South Swindon Parish Council is also looking to open a new youth club at Badbury Park Community Hub. This program will provide young people in Badbury Park with a safe space to participate in activities, build friendships, and develop essential life skills. We are seeking dedicated volunteers to help create a positive environment and support our efforts. If you're interested, please contact youthwork2@southswindon-pc.gov.uk.

COUNCILLOR DROP-IN SURGERIES

Do you have any questions or concerns you would like to speak to your Borough or Parish Councillors about? Pop along to one of our regular surgeries, you'll be very welcome and we will do our best to address your issue.

On the first Saturday of every month

9:00 - 10:00AM - Lawn Community Centre

10:15 - 11:15AM - Badbury Park Community Centre

Your Borough and Parish Councillors
would love to see you there



South Swindon Parish Spotlight Advertising Rates

The South Swindon Parish Spotlight is produced by South Swindon Parish Council and is distributed four times a year to 20,000 households covering the parish.

The publication covers the Parish Council's activities, services and past and future events.



	Rate
1/4 Page	£47
1/2 Page	£90
Full Page	£138
Inside Cover	£157
Back Cover	£181



*All prices shown are exclusive of VAT, which is applicable

If you're interested in advertising in the South Swindon Parish Spotlight, please contact:
communications@southswindon-pc.gov.uk

South Swindon Parish Council Spotlight -

For ease of editing, all advertisements should be made in a PNG or PDF format.

This magazine is unable to publish political advertisements and contributors cannot refer to political parties, or include party logos, party addresses, emails or websites.

All enquiries about advertising in the South Swindon Spotlight should be directed to communications@southswindon-pc.gov.uk

SOUTH SWINDON IN BLOOM



South Swindon has achieved a remarkable hat-trick, securing Gold for the third year running at the RHS South West in Bloom Awards Ceremony. The South Swindon in Bloom entry received a Gold Award and was awarded the Tesco Cup for being the best in class in the large town category. South Swindon in Bloom was also awarded the urban communities trophy, recognising the hard work that all the different community groups do to bring people together and galvanise their community.

Thank you to all the volunteers, gardeners, street service teams and staff. Thank you also to all community groups and businesses who give their time and energy year-round to make South Swindon greener, brighter and more welcoming.

We are encouraging new helpers, supporters, and business partners to come on board as the group continues to tackle ongoing urban challenges such as graffiti, fly-tipping, and litter to build momentum towards representing South Swindon at a national level. Please get in touch via communities@southswindon-pc.gov.uk.

South West in Bloom Awards 2025.

Left to right: Alan Holland - TWIGS, Holly Barrand - Swindon Growers, Dan Fishlock - SSPC, Josie Slade - Swindon Growers, Carol Clark - SSPC, Cllr Linda Kasmaty - SSPC



SOUTH SWINDON'S COMMUNITY GARDENERS

Central Community Gardeners

This is a project managed by the Mechanics' Institution Trust and supported by Swindon Borough Council. The group aims to provide inclusive gardening activities that bring people together.

The gardeners recently transformed a neglected and unnoticed plot of land near the Central Community Centre into a welcoming public seating area for everyone to enjoy.



Central Community Centre Gardeners



Corporate Volunteering

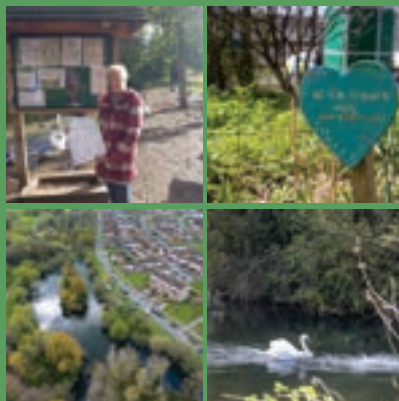
The Council has supported several corporate and group volunteer sessions this year, working to improve our streets, parks and open spaces for all to enjoy. We are grateful to Nationwide, who recently visited the Manor Road Community Garden, transforming the boundary of the space and getting the site ready for gardening activities next year.



Nationwide Corporate Volunteers - September 2025

Friends of Shaftesbury Lake

The Friends of Shaftesbury Lake is a group of residents who are passionate about the lake and surrounding areas located in Park South. The group have worked with the Council to put on Wildlife Discovery Days, sowed wildflowers and litter picked the area. Shaftesbury Lake is an important area of biodiversity for Park South residents and features on the South Swindon Green Trail.



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS IN SOUTH SWINDON

Volunteers play a crucial role in supporting the work of the Parish Council as well as the wider community. There are many positive examples of volunteering across South Swindon, and we are committed to supporting the groups and volunteers who help our communities to thrive.

There is a flurry of activity taking place across South Swindon, with volunteers very much being at the heart of it all. From Community Action Days, to gardening and social events, we appreciate everyone who has offered their support as a volunteer.

KINGS COURT MEMORY CAFE

In October, the Council supported a new community memory café at Kings Court Care Home in Old Town. This was a great chance for residents to interact with the wider community over home baked cakes and a hot cup of tea, forming new connections and getting involved in activities. A huge thank you to Patricia, who volunteered to help establish this new memory Café and to all those who came by. This activity takes place on the first Tuesday of each month from 10am-12pm.



Kings Court Memory Cafe - First Tuesday of every month

There are many other regular community activities taking place across South Swindon including the Wyvern Memory Cafe, which takes place on the 1st Monday of every month at the Wyvern Theatre, and the Community Coffee Mornings at the Bakers Cafe in the Railway Village. Scan the QR Code to see the Swindon WOW Guide, a directory of groups and activities for older people in Swindon.



VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES

We had a brilliant time in September walking through Town Gardens at dusk learning about bats from Wiltshire Bat Group.

Thank you to Old Town Scouts who joined the walk, and helped us conduct bat surveys.

We used broadband bat detectors to identify different species of bat. In total, there were 4 species of bat spotted: Common pipistrelle, Soprano pipistrelle, Natterer's bat and Noctule bat. It is lovely to see wildlife thriving in Town Gardens.



*Old Town Scouts Bat Surveys
- September 2025*

Community Action Days

A massive thank you to anyone who has joined a Community Action Day over the past few months. A Community Action Day is where members of the community come together to achieve a shared goal, such as tidying the area through litter picking and gardening. If you would like to organise a Community Action Day, please get in touch.

In September, the Nepalese Association of Wiltshire (NAW) collected 9 bags of rubbish and litter at Cavendish Square. The Parish Council can provide litter picking equipment for community groups and individuals looking to help keep South Swindon tidy.



*NAW Volunteers at
Cavendish Square -
September 2025*



A huge thanks goes out to all who have volunteered with us over recent months, and to the community groups and organisations who help our communities to thrive.

To subscribe to our online newsletter, and receive regular updates about flexible volunteering opportunities in South Swindon, please sign up on our website.



INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING?

GET IN TOUCH

COMMUNITIES@SOUTHSWINDON-PC.GOV.UK

WWW.SOUTHSWINDON-PC.GOV.UK

MEMORIAL BENCHES & PLAQUES

South Swindon Parish Council offers the opportunity to install memorial plaques and benches at our three heritage parks. With the addition of new benches at GWR Park over the past year, there is now new space for memorial plaques in the park.

These memorials provide a meaningful way to celebrate the lives of those close to you while enhancing our community's public spaces.

To learn more about the application process, plaque, bench options and fees, please visit www.southswindon-pc.gov.uk/memorial-plaques-benches



OLD TOWN & BADBURY PARK LIBRARIES



The Parish Council operates two community libraries in the South Swindon area: Old Town Library, which we took over responsibility of in 2017, and Badbury Park Library, which opened in 2023.

Contact Details & Opening Times:

Old Town Library:

Email: oldtownlibrary@southswindon-pc.gov.uk

Phone: 07786 027185

Monday – Friday: 11am – 4:30pm

Saturday: 10am – 1pm

Badbury Park Library:

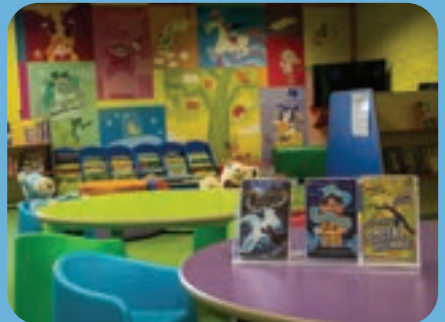
Email: badburyparklibrary@southswindon-pc.gov.uk

Phone: 07827 333664

Wednesday-Thursday: 10:30am-4:30pm

Friday: 11:30am-4:30pm

Saturday: 9:30am-1:30pm





YOUR VIEWS

Your views will help us
form new plans and
shape the future of your
parks and amenities

We would like to understand your feedback and ideas to help us improve our services, events and activities for the benefit of the community. We want to ensure you have a voice in South Swindon, and we are here to listen.

Follow the link to find our different surveys:
www.southswindon-pc.gov.uk/your-views



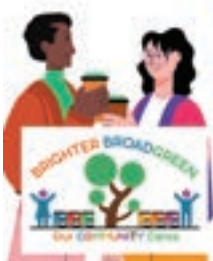
BROADGREEN COMMUNITY CATCH UP

'COFFEE AND CONNECTIONS'

MONDAY 24th NOVEMBER 12PM - 1:30PM

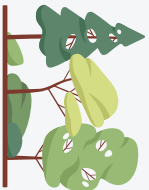
BROADGREEN COMMUNITY CENTRE, MAIN HALL, Broadgreen

Free Hot and Cold drinks, cake and other refreshments will be available. All welcome!
Come and say Hello! 🍷



What do you get for your COUNCIL PRECEPT?

Did you know South Swindon Parish is the sixth largest Parish Council in the country? The budget for 2025-26 has been set and will see residents of an average band D property pay **£3.49** per week for all of the services we provide.



The Parks: £0.47

The Parish Council is proud to run three major parks within Swindon: Town Gardens, Queen's Park and GWR Park, supported by a dedicated Gardening team. The Parish Council has invested significant sums into all three sites and there are exciting plans for the future.

Libraries: £0.14



We have operated an incredibly successful community library in Old Town since 2017. Since then our borrowing has increased by 350%. Building on that success we have since opened the first new community library in Swindon for 20 years in Badbury Park. Both libraries host various events and activities for residents throughout the week. We also fund 20 hours worth of staffing at Parks Library.



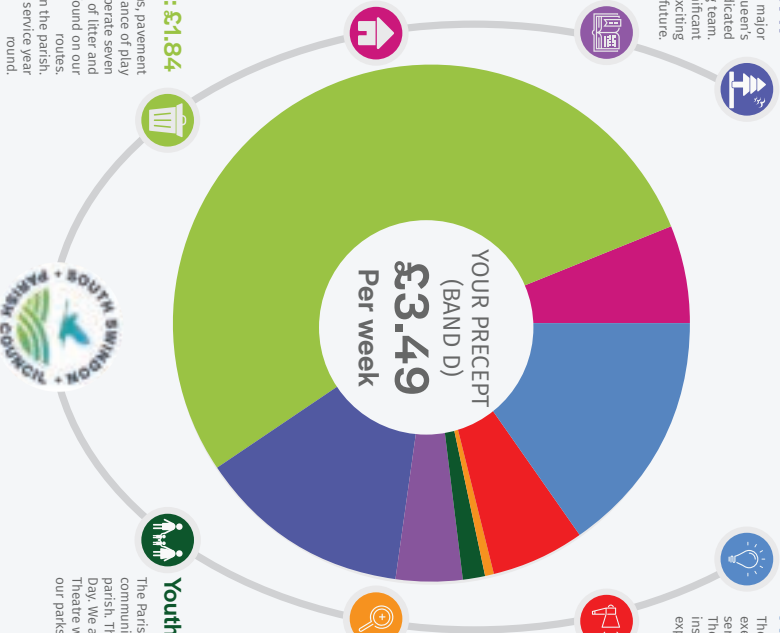
Other (Buildings, Allotments, etc): £0.19

We are responsible for 14 allotment sites, 2 community centres, a depot and a mark office. Our community centres are available for hire year round for community gatherings, meetings, classes and more.

Grounds and Services: £1.84



Including the emptying of street bins, pavement sweeping, litter picking and the maintenance of play areas. We have two street sweepers that operate seven days a week cleaning the pavements of litter and leaves. We also collect any fly-tipping found on our routes. We are also responsible for 22 play areas in the parish. We employ over 30 staff to deliver this service year round.



Admin: £0.52

The administration team includes all office staff and executive officers, who work hard to ensure all council services run smoothly and efficiently. The cost of running this service includes salaries, insurance, staff training, the website and election expenses.



Events: £0.20

The parish council organises a full calendar of summer events, bandstand concerts and the Enchanted Gardens Light Trail in December at the Town Gardens. We also run and host many community events at Queen's Park and GWR Park.

We also support other events in South Swindon such as the My Dad's Bigger Than Your Dad Festival and the many events on Wood Street, which we insure and sponsor.



Grants and In Bloom: £0.02

Parish Council grants are available to support community groups and charities inside our parish. We also offer hands-on support for lots of voluntary groups, offering equipment and services where they are needed. South Swindon in Bloom is a volunteer-led programme which aims to brighten up and take pride in the town through horticulture. The bee symbol (right) can be found on fingerposts throughout the parish and signify areas designated for re-wilding.



Youth and Community Development: £0.05

The Parish Council supports various youth and community development schemes in the parish. This includes the Buckhurst Family Fun Day. We also support groups such as Prime Theatre who run free summer workshops in our parks.



YOUR COUNCILLORS



Neil Hopkins
Chair of the Council
Old Town & East Wichel
nhopkins@southswindon-pc.gov.uk



Saleh Ahmed
Walcot & Park North
sahmed@southswindon-pc.gov.uk



Steve Allsopp
Walcot & Park North
sallsopp@southswindon-pc.gov.uk



Mike Davies
Park South
mdavies@southswindon-pc.gov.uk



John Firmin
Eastcott
jfirmin@southswindon-pc.gov.uk



Md Abdul Hamid
Central
mhamid@southswindon-pc.gov.uk



Janine Howarth
Central
jhowarth@southswindon-pc.gov.uk



Samuel James
Eastcott
sjames@southswindon-pc.gov.uk



Jamal Miah
Walcot & Park North
jmiah@southswindon-pc.gov.uk



Graham Philpot
Lawns & Badbury Park
gphilpot@southswindon-pc.gov.uk



Tomas Silberberg
Eastcott
tsilberberg@southswindon-pc.gov.uk



Nadine Watts
Old Town & East Wichel
nwatts@southswindon-pc.gov.uk



Rebecca Banwell-Moore
Vice-Chair of the Council
Lawns & Badbury Park
rbanwell-moore@southswindon-pc.gov.uk



Junab Ali
Central
jali@southswindon-pc.gov.uk



Meural Cardoso
Central
mcardoso@southswindon-pc.gov.uk



Domingos Dias
Central
ddias@southswindon-pc.gov.uk



David Griffiths
Old Town & East Wichel
dgriffiths@southswindon-pc.gov.uk



Patrick Herring
Eastcott
pherring@southswindon-pc.gov.uk



Marianne Le Coyte Grinney
Lawns & Badbury Park
mlecoyte-grinney@southswindon-pc.gov.uk



Linda Kasmaty
Old Town & East Wichel
lkasmaty@southswindon-pc.gov.uk



Joseph Pereira
Central
jpereira@southswindon-pc.gov.uk



Trish Philpot
Walcot & Park North
tphilpot@southswindon-pc.gov.uk



Danial Vales
Park South
dvales@southswindon-pc.gov.uk

For more details and contact information, visit our website:

www.southswindon-pc.gov.uk/council/councillors

WHO DOES WHAT

South Swindon Parish Council Responsibilities



Grass cutting



Dead Animal Collection
(public land only - report to SBC)



Shrub/Hedge Maintenance



Hypodermic Needle Collection
(public land only)



Tree Maintenance
(from ground using hand tools only)



Graffiti Removal
(small tags only)



Emptying Bins
(Dog & Litter)



Fly Tip Removal
(car boot size loads only)



Litter Picking



Allotments



Street Cleaning/Sweeping
(pavements only)



Play Area Maintenance

South Swindon Parish Council Office

Phone: 01793 312006

Email: enquiries@southswindon-pc.gov.uk

Swindon Borough Council Responsibilities

- | | |
|---|---|
|  Adoption |  Environmental Health |
|  Adult Safeguarding |  Highways |
|  Benefits |  Housing |
|  Births, Deaths & Marriages |  Libraries |
|  Blue Badge Parking |  Neighbourhood Wardens |
|  Burials |  Noise Nuisance |
|  Child Safeguarding |  Parking Enforcement |
|  Council Tax |  Planning Applications |
|  Cremation |  Recycling & Refuse Collection |
|  Drainage, Flooding & Gully Clearance |  School/Education |
|  Elections & Voting |  Tree Maintenance (Any work over 12ft) |

www.swindon.gov.uk

Phone: 01793 445500

GET IN **TOUCH**

CONTACT

Please find our contact details below

ADDRESS

South Swindon Parish Offices,
Gladstone Street,
SN1 2AU

PHONE

01793 312006

EMAIL

enquiries@southswindon-pc.gov.uk

WEB

www.southswindon-pc.gov.uk

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Council news and updates





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