

November 20<sup>th</sup> 2024

**NEXT WEEK!! Money Advice Event- Financial Wellbeing Roadshow**

**Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November**  
**Central Library**  
**10.30am-3pm**

This will offer the chance for residents to come along and find information, support and guidance.



Thanks to all of those who have offered their support for the day, it is much appreciated. If you have not signed up already, it is still not too late for you to share the services and information that you have to offer.

Residents will be able to get information from and about

- Citizens Advice Swindon
- Warm and Safe Wiltshire
- Thames Water
- SBC Tenant Academy
- Information and support with Council Tax, Pension Credit, Free School Meals and Healthy Start amongst other things

If you get chance, please do signpost residents to this event- it offers a useful opportunity to speak to a variety of different people and organisations about some of the support available.

**Updated Accessing Food in Swindon Leaflet**

Please find attached the latest version of the Accessing Food in Swindon leaflet. You can also download in [here](#)

Please be aware that it differs very slightly from the one shared last week.

This version has the correct web address for Warm and Safe Wiltshire

<http://www.cse.org.uk/wsw>

### Training

Citizens Advice Swindon's upcoming Advice & Financial First Aid (AFFA) training sessions are starting again. Spaces are limited, so you will need to book early to guarantee your participation.

- **Energy and Fuel Poverty: Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 9.30am-11am**
- **Bereavement Benefits: Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November 9.30am-11.30am**
- **Attendance Allowance: Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December 9.30am-11.30am**

To book a space or ask a question email [affa@caswindon.org.uk](mailto:affa@caswindon.org.uk)

### In the Community

The AFFA Team from Citizens Advice Swindon are out and about; you will find advisors for residents to chat to and share questions at-

<b>Monday 25<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>North Swindon Library, SN25 4AN</b>	<b>3pm-5pm</b>
<b>Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Freshbrook Church, SN5 8NU</b>	<b>1.30pm-3pm</b>
<b>Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Money Advice Event, Central Library</b>	<b>10.30am-3pm</b>
<b>Thursday 28<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Toothill Church, SN5 8SX</b>	<b>12pm-2.30pm</b>
<b>Friday 29<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Pinetrees Community Centre, SN2 1RF</b>	<b>9:30am-11:30am</b>

### Swindon Christmas Toy Appeal

#### Gifts for Families Across Swindon

The Swindon Christmas Toy Appeal, run by churches across Swindon, is returning for the eighth year in a row and will be running between 11<sup>th</sup> November and 1<sup>st</sup> December. The aim is to bring a little hope and happiness to families who would find giving presents to their children very difficult without resorting to loans.



Many schools, churches, businesses, and organisations got involved last year. 322 families were able to choose from thousands of new toys, stocking fillers, books and soft toys for over 620 children.

This year, churches, businesses, schools, and organisations will again be gathering donations of brand-new toys for children aged 0-17.

Please see the attached information (one for agencies, one for schools) about how it works or how you can get involved.

## Upcoming Online Awareness Sessions

Please do join us for our one-hour online awareness sessions highlighting work going on across the town to support residents and how we can all get involved. Please do sign up. Thanks to Sonja, Jo and Emma for offering your time and expertise.

### **NEXT WEEK!!! Literacy Champions in Swindon**

**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November**

**10.30am-11.30am**



Come along to this awareness session to hear from Sonja from the National Literacy Trust in Swindon about their work and how you can get involved in their exciting work to support children, young people and adults in the town.

You can register for the event [here](#)

### **Warm and Safe Wiltshire**

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December**

**2pm-3pm**



Jo Hillier from Warm and Safe Wiltshire is on hand at this webinar so you can find out about the support and advice Warm and Safe Wiltshire can offer residents of Swindon.

They provide free and impartial advice and support that helps people keep your home warm and reduce your bills. They can help with:

- Financial assistance.
- Energy saving advice.
- Signing up to the Priority Services Register.
- And more.

Their services range from light-touch – simple advice, for example on using their heating controls effectively – to in-depth support, home visits and casework for people with more complex needs.

You can register for the event [here](#)

### **Healthy Start in Swindon**

**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December**

**10.30am-11.30am**



Emma Sperring from Public Health is offering an awareness session all about the Healthy Start scheme which could benefit many across the town, including explaining the Vitamin Distribution. Register for the event [here](#)

## Feeding Britain Network Updates



Please find below the latest updates from Feeding Britain.

### **November's Webinar:**

**28<sup>th</sup> November 3.30pm-4.30pm – An Introduction to [The Alliance for Dignified Food Support](#) and their Dignity Toolkit** - You can sign up to attend or receive a copy of the recording [here](#).

**List of Food Suppliers:** Please find attached the latest **Feeding Britain guide to food suppliers used by partners across our network**. This includes local businesses, discounted suppliers, supermarkets, wholesalers, surplus and food donations, as well as suppliers for other essential items. If you have any questions, would like more information or have feedback on this document please contact Rose on [rose.bray@feedingbritain.org](mailto:rose.bray@feedingbritain.org)

**Feeding Britain Podcast Mini-Series:** The third and fourth episodes of our podcast mini-series have been released. Episode 3 features Charlotte Winterbottom in Derbyshire who discusses **tackling food insecurity in rural areas**. She discusses the importance of tackling rural food deserts, the need for food services to be more bespoke in rural areas, and the necessity of providing a pathway from crisis food to affordable food. Episode 4 features Jo Benham-Brown in South Shields who talks about the ways in which the Key Community Bus has enabled **year-round affordable food provision and wraparound support**, as well as touching on the importance of helping people have autonomy over their lives and building aspirations. **You can listen to the episodes on all major podcast platforms including on [Spotify](#), [Apple](#), and [Amazon](#).**

**Money Save Expert Charity Funding:** The Money Save Expert (MSE) charity will open its funding application window from **13<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025**. Grants of up to £10,000 are awarded to charities, CICs, credit unions, not-for-profit companies limited by guarantee, and social enterprise companies whose **activities make a lasting impact on the way people think, behave and manage their money** and are related to increasing personal financial capability. Organisations must have an annual income of less than £750,000 and have been established for at least 18 months. To apply and for more information, see the following link: [www.msecharity.com/home](http://www.msecharity.com/home)

## **Webinar Recordings:**

If you missed our most recent webinars, you can watch the recordings below. Please feel free to share these with anyone you think might find them useful.

**Working towards financial sustainability for affordable food clubs (26<sup>th</sup> Sept).** You can view a recording of the session [here](#).

**Programmes of Support for Older People who are at Risk of Poverty or Malnutrition (3<sup>rd</sup> Oct).** You can view a recording of the session [here](#).

**The Children's Kitchen Online Sessions: Child Led Food Exploration (17<sup>th</sup> Oct).** You can view a recording of the session [here](#).

**The Impact of Affordable Food Clubs – Feeding Hope Report Findings (22<sup>nd</sup> Oct).** You can view a recording of the session [here](#).

**An Introduction to In Kind Direct (24<sup>th</sup> Oct).** Unfortunately, this session did not record properly but you can view the recording of last year's session [here](#).

## **Early 2025 Webinar Schedule:**

**14<sup>th</sup> January- 3.30pm-5pm – Purchasing Discounted Food Supplies Through Ankose CIC.** – We will hear from representatives of Ankose who will talk through how the service can be used for accessing discounted food supplies. You can sign up to attend or receive a copy of the recording [here](#).

**23<sup>rd</sup> January- 3.30pm-5pm – What Next For Our Food Bank? Reducing Dependency on Emergency Food Provision and Developing Affordable Food Models.** - You can sign up to attend or receive a copy of the recording [here](#).

**27<sup>th</sup> February 3.30pm-5pm – Pathways From Poverty – Offering Expert Advice Services Within Community Food Projects** - You can sign up to attend or receive a copy of the recording [here](#).

## Let's Talk Swindon



Across January and into February 2024 we ran a borough-wide engagement exercise called 'Let's talk Swindon' to get residents' feedback on our plans to make a positive difference to Swindon.

The next events

- Monday 25<sup>th</sup> November at Central Library, Swindon. SN1 1QG  
6.30pm until 8.30pm (arrival from 6.00pm)
- Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November at North Swindon Library, Swindon. SN25 4AN  
2.30pm until 4.30pm (arrival from 2.00pm)

You can find out more and book to attend one of these events at <https://www.swindon.gov.uk/letstalkswindon>

Residents can also attend one of the drop-in sessions that will be taking place across the Borough next month. It offers the chance to talk about their community.

Residents can also pop into one of these sessions on

- Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December at Broadgreen Community Centre, Salisbury Street  
from 2pm until 4pm
- Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December at Park Library, Cavendish Square  
from 10am until 12noon
- Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December at West Swindon Library, Link Centre  
from 1.00pm until 3.00pm
- Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December at John Moulton Hall, Penhill Drive  
from 10.30am until 12.30pm
- Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December at Highworth Library, Brewery Street  
from 12.15pm until 2.15pm
- Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December at Wroughton Library, Ellendune Community Centre  
from 11.00am until 1.00pm
- Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December at Pinetrees Community Centre, Pinehurst  
from 12.30pm until 2.30pm

## **Vaccination Clinic at Gorse Hill Baptist Church and Staying Well This Winter**

Please find attached a poster for and details of an upcoming Flu/COVID Vaccination Walk In Clinic being hosted at Gorse Hill Baptist Church on Cricklade Road on **Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December** between **11am-2pm**

Residents are able to walk in (there is no need to book) and get their free jab if they are:

- 65+ years (by 31.03.2025)
- In a clinical risk group
- A carer
- Pregnant
- Frontline health or social care worker, or work in an older adult care home

You can find out more about staying healthy during the winter, including links to book a flu and/or COVID jab at

<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/seasonal-health/keep-warm-keep-well/>

Please also find a couple of different versions of the NHS leaflet, 'We're Here to Help You Stay Well This Winter'. These, together with an Easy Read version of the leaflet (too large to attach), are also available to download on the website.

## **Adult Community Learning Courses in January**

Please find attached a schedule for Adult Community Learning's upcoming courses in early 2025. If you click on the course title in the leaflet it will take you to a link on their website-

<https://swindon.gov.uk/adultlearning> which offers further details.

Also included are separate flyers for their various ESOL courses and returning Functional Skills Maths.

Please kindly refer to their [eligibility criteria](#) and contact Jacob at [ACL@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:ACL@swindon.gov.uk) if you have any questions or queries or would like to make a referral.



\*

## **Don't forget the range of online resources available**

### **Information and Advice**

<https://www.swindon.gov.uk/costofliving> <https://padlet.com/SBCFood/food>

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/> <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/>

<https://www.worryingaboutmoney.co.uk/swindon>

<https://www.moneyhelper.org.uk/en>

### **Updated Accessing Food in Swindon Leaflet**

<https://feedingswindon.wordpress.com/feeding-swindon-partnership-food-distribution-leaflet/>

### **Swindon Cooks and Eats**

<https://feedingswindon.wordpress.com/swindon-cooks-and-eats/>

### **Feeding Swindon Presentations and Webinars**

<https://www.youtube.com/@FeedingSwindonPartnership>

### **Welcome Spaces**

<https://www.swindon.gov.uk/welcomespaces>