

Local news, events and updates

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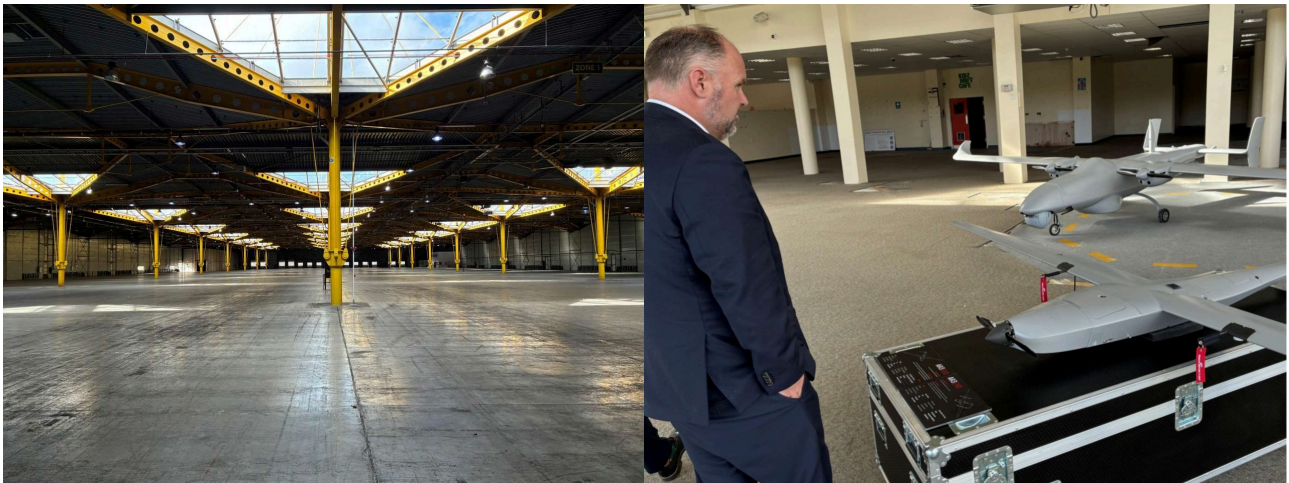
New lease of life for iconic Swindon building, new pedestrian crossing at Drove Road and much more...

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NEWS

Major defence manufacturing jobs boost for Swindon



You may have seen the announcement earlier this week that one of Swindon's most iconic buildings, made famous in the James Bond film 'A View to a Kill', will be home to world-leading drone manufacturing.

TEKEVER will create hundreds of jobs at the Spectrum building (fondly known as the 'old Renault building') in West Swindon and will work with the town's schools and colleges to nurture local talent.

UK Defence Secretary John Healey, Swindon North MP, Will Stone, and Leader of the Council, Councillor Jim Robbins, attended the unveiling on Monday (15 Sep) which forms [part of a £400m investment in British drone production](#) by TEKEVER.

New Changing Places toilet at Fleming Way gets big thumbs up



Local campaign group, Mum's on a Mission, held a special ceremony with councillors to mark the opening of the latest Changing Places toilet in the town.

The facility has been installed as part of the improvements to Fleming Way and is a larger accessible toilet for children, young people and adults who cannot use standard accessible toilets, and features equipment such as hoists, privacy screens, adult-sized changing benches, and space for carers.

They're free of charge and accessible only with a RADAR Key, which those who need to use the toilets will have.

Mum's on a Mission, has campaigned for Changing Places facilities across the town including at Lydiard, Coate and Swindon Designer Outlet.

The new toilet block is open daily at Fleming Way from 6am to 8pm.

Safer crossing installed at Drove Road



The old pelican crossing at Drove Road, next to the Magic Roundabout, has been removed and replaced with a toucan crossing, featuring:

- new energy-efficient LED traffic lights
- a safer route for cyclists
- a new traffic island
- upgraded kerbs

Designed to accommodate both pedestrians and cyclists, the new crossing is part of a broader initiative by the Council to improve safety for pedestrians.

We'd like to thank residents, businesses, the fire service and motorists for their patience while the work took place. [Find out what other roadworks are taking place across Swindon.](#)

Council to continue relentless drive to improve Children's Services



Improvements are continuing to be made to the services and support the Council provides to children and families in Swindon.

And the councillor in charge of Children's Services, Councillor Paul Dixon, has vowed to maintain a relentless focus on driving up standards after the Council's Cabinet last week noted the 'positive progress' observed by Ofsted following its most recent monitoring visit.

There are two more monitoring visits before a full Ofsted inspection of the department next summer.

You can read more about how the Council is already [implementing the improvements recommended by inspectors](#) on the Council's website.

Praise for new scheme supporting independent living



Residents at Salzgitter Court in Toothill have been sharing how the new council-run accommodation is helping them on their journey to independent living.

Previously used for sheltered housing, the building was recently refurbished to bring 25 previously empty accommodation units back into use, delivering on a key ambition outlined in the Council's Swindon Plan. Since opening in July, residents have begun settling into their new homes, and last week (11 Sep) they shared their positive experiences with Swindon Borough Council's Cabinet Member for Housing, Councillor Janine Howarth.

Read more about Salzgitter Court, [and the difference it is making to residents at risk of homelessness](#).

School admissions process for 2026 now open



The deadline for secondary school applications is 11.59pm on Friday, 31 October. If your child is due to start secondary school in 2025, make sure to submit their application.

You can apply for up to three schools, with the option to put the most preferred school as your first choice. It's highly recommended that you fill out all three preferences for the best outcome. [Apply now.](#)

Council raising awareness of support during Falls Prevention Week



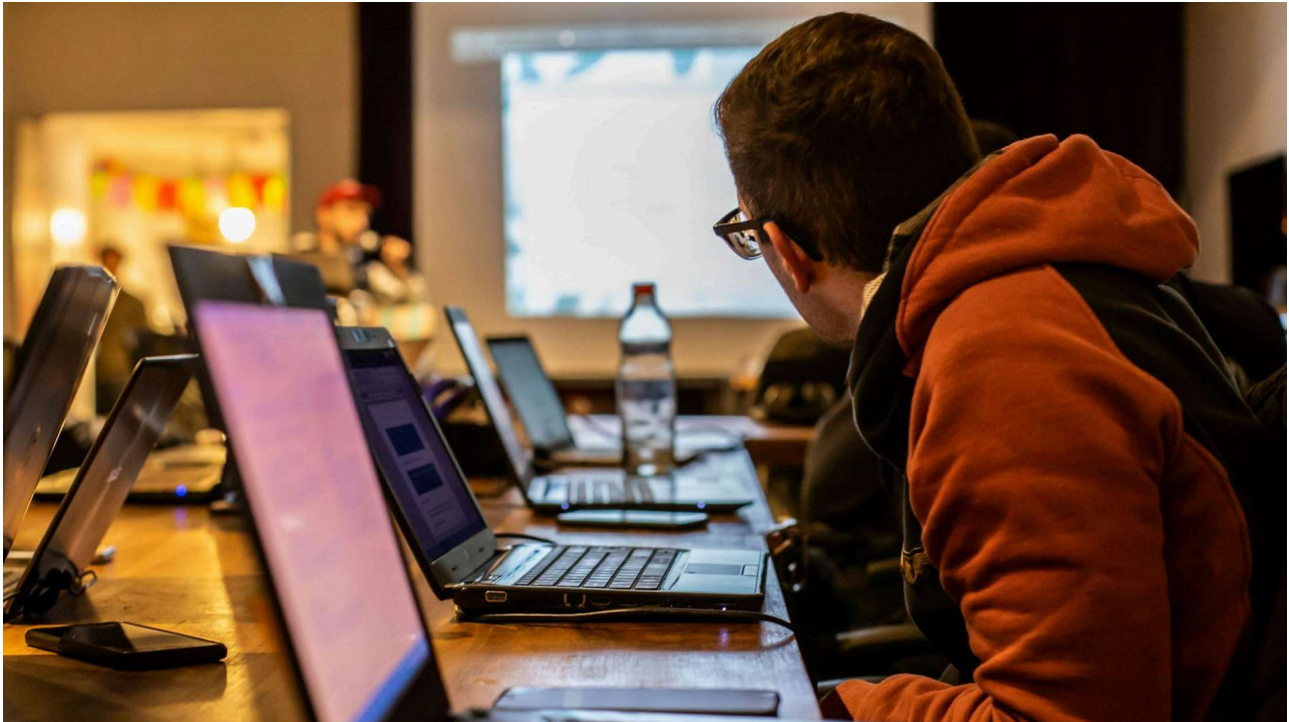
This Falls Prevention Week, we're celebrating the Senior Games Project, a 12-week programme helping Swindon care home residents stay active and reduce their risk of falls.

Led by the Council and partners, the sessions include fun, tailored activities like dancing and tin-can bowling.

With more than 400 fall-related A&E visits monthly in 2025, the project supports better strength, mobility and confidence.

Not involved? Try the free '[Steady on Your Feet](#)' online self-assessment to stay steady and safe.

Free Skills Bootcamps to support adults in Wiltshire and Swindon



The new academic year is often a time to think about fresh opportunities, whether that means changing career, developing new skills or progressing in your current role. To support this, free Skills Bootcamps are available for adults living or working in Wiltshire and Swindon.

These flexible courses are designed to help people gain in-demand skills and connect directly with employers, with an interview for a real job at the end. Training is available across a range of sectors, including digital and AI, construction and green skills, logistics and transport, and education.

[Skills Bootcamps](#) are open to learners aged 19 and over who have lived in the UK for at least three years. They are free for individuals, with discounted places available for employers who want to upskill their staff.

What makes you feel safe at night?



The 2024 Swindon Resident Survey made it clear that feeling safe after dark is a top priority for Swindon residents.

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner has launched a [public survey](#) to better understand what helps people feel safe when out at night and what more can be done by partners to improve their sense of safety.

The survey takes just a few minutes to complete and will be used to inform future campaigns, funding opportunities and policing strategies.

Have your say on men's mental health in Swindon

Our Public Health team is inviting men and boys across Swindon to take part in a [men's mental health survey](#).

We want to better understand how local people view their own wellbeing, what support is available and where gaps may exist. Your feedback will play a vital role in shaping and strengthening current and future services for men and boys in our community.

EVENTS



Ghost Tales at Lydiard

Friday, 31 October and Friday, 12 December



Heritage Open Days

Tomorrow (20 Sep) and Sunday (21 Sep)

Listen to spooky stories from the haunted past of Lydiard House with two creepy events taking place this [Halloween](#) and [Christmas](#).



Swindon Card Show

Saturday, 5 October

The [Swindon Card Show](#) returns to STEAM this October. Join other trading card collectors to buy, sell, trade and grade your cards.

Heritage Open Days concludes this weekend with events held at the Carriage Works, Pattern Church, Swindon Canal, and the Railway Village. Find out more on the [Heritage Open Days website](#) and search 'Swindon'.



Sofa Screenings

Every Thursday and Saturday in September

Discover inspiring cinema right here in Swindon with [Sofa Screenings](#) on Thursdays and Saturdays at Create Studios.

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