
May 7th 2026

Updated Accessing Food in Swindon Leaflet

Don't forget you can download the latest Accessing Food in Swindon leaflet at

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

Citizens Advice Swindon



Got questions? Need Advice? *Speak with our Advisers confidentially*

Where possible, we can help you:

- Increase your income through unclaimed benefits or grants
- Reduce your outgoings via budgeting, social tariffs, and savvy shopping
- Reduce your energy usage
- Access debt advice
- Get emergency food or fuel vouchers

Community Outreach in May

Monday 11 th	Central Library, SN1 1QG	10am-12pm
Tuesday 12 th	John Moulton Hall, SN2 5DU	1pm-2.30pm
Wednesday 13 th	Park Library, SN3 2LZ	10am-2pm
Thursday 14 th	Highworth Library, Brewery Street, SN6 7AJ	10am-11.30am
Monday 18 th	North Swindon Library, SN25 4AN	2pm-4pm
Wednesday 20 th	Park Library, SN3 2LZ	10am-2pm
Friday 22 nd	Wroughton Library, SN4 9LW	9.30am-11.30am
Monday 20 th	Community Fridge, Gorse Hill, SN2 1AA	11am-1.30pm
Wednesday 27 th	Park Library, SN3 2LZ	10am-2pm
Wednesday 27 th	West Swindon Library, SN5 7DL	2pm-4pm
Friday 29 th	Meadowcroft Community Centre, SN2 7JX	10am-12pm

Warm Welcome UK and Swindon Welcome Space Celebration and Networking Event



Thursday 21st May 2026

9.30am – 12 noon

Civic Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Euclid Street, Swindon

We would love to invite you to a networking event for local Welcome Spaces (and those who might be interested in becoming a Welcome Space), hosted by Swindon Borough Council and the Warm Welcome UK Campaign.

This is a great opportunity to share and celebrate what you are doing across Swindon and connect with other local spaces and share experiences about what you are doing. It also offers the chance to hear from Helena Russell from Warm Welcome UK, to hear about their work and explore what support would make the biggest difference for your community.

The session will be informal and practical. We will hear from a couple of local spaces, sharing their experiences, tips, and best practice to inspire shared learning.

But most importantly, we want to hear from you, what's working well in your space, what challenges you are facing, and what support would help you reach more people, more effectively.

The session is very much about understanding your perspectives and learning together as a network.

We really hope you can join us, your voice is at the heart of making local spaces thrive.

If you are hosting a Welcome Space, you should have already received an invitation via email; if you have not, but would like to come along, please do send me an email at mtidey@swindon.gov.uk

Financial First Aid with Crosslight

Crosslight will be offering two **Financial First Aid** workshops in May and June - these are aimed at anyone who supports others in their work, and would like to feel more confident having conversations about money, as well as knowing what help is available and where to signpost when money worries are raised.

These workshops are fully funded, thanks to the National Lottery, and are open to all professionals and volunteers who would find this training useful. The dates below will be specifically tailored to those supporting service users in the Swindon area.

The workshops will take place online (via Teams), and there are two date options:

Monday 18th May 2026 (12 - 2.30pm) or Wednesday 3rd June (10am - 12.30pm).

Their [webpage](#) has more information on the contents of the workshop, as well as the booking links to the two dates.

A Million Acts of Hope... in Swindon

Organisations and charities, community groups, and faith organisations across Swindon and nationally have come together to launch *A Million Acts of Hope* — a campaign to bring hope out into the open.

A Million Acts of Hope is a national invitation to celebrate the everyday acts of kindness, care, and connection taking place across the UK. At a time when division can feel particularly loud, this campaign shines a light on the people and communities creating hope through simple, meaningful actions.

Find out more at: <https://millionactsofhope.org>



Local events in Swindon

In Swindon, a range of activities and events are taking place, offering opportunities for people to come together and be side by side. For the full timetable, please visit:

<https://tinyurl.com/Actsofhope>

For further information, please contact Terry Johnson at Voluntary Action Swindon Terry@vas-swindon.org or 01793 538398 or 07912 487608

Next Week!!! Mental Health Awareness Week

As part of Mental Health Awareness Week 2026, which is we've teamed up with various groups across Swindon and the surrounding areas to promote a range of activities designed to support men's wellbeing. These activities aim to encourage connection, spark new interests, and help men find hobbies or communities that can make a real difference. Examples of sessions include lawn bowls, cookery and carpentry. You can find out more and see what is on [here](#)

By helping us spread the word, you're contributing to a wider effort to reach men who may be struggling or feeling isolated. If you would like more information about the roadshow or the activities taking place, feel free to get in touch at

LJordan@swindon.gov.uk

Every Cloud Open Spring Open Day

As an independent, local, mental health charity, in our 10th year based in Stanton Country Park, Every Cloud is pleased to invite you to their Spring Open Day on Wednesday 13th May.

They do hope this is of interest to you and would be delighted if you are able to pop in to see them!

Next Week!!! Stop Loan Sharks Week **Game Over for Loan Sharks**

Please see below a message, and information about her 1 Hour Awareness Sessions, from Wendy Loades at the Illegal Money Lending Team. You can contact Wendy at Wendy.Loades@birmingham.gov.uk

Please see below the link for Stop Loan Sharks Week which is taking place week commencing 11th May 2026

The theme of this year's Stop Loan Sharks Week is Game Over for Loan Sharks.

Loan sharks play games with people's lives – adapting and changing tactics, just like in a computer game. By working together, we can make it game over for loan sharks.

Toolkit for socials for SLS week is now on our website - [Social Media Toolkit - Stop Loan Sharks](#)

Or you can access it via Google drive -

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/13L1nCz4jRN23ESUUHMaRKT42iM8tpvmL?usp=drive_link

This toolkit supports the “Game Over For Loan Sharks” Campaign for Stop Loan Sharks Week. It includes campaign imagery and ready-to-use social media captions to help raise awareness of illegal lending and highlight where people can get free, confidential support.

We'd really appreciate your help in sharing these assets across your channels. Please tag Stop Loan Sharks and use #GameOverForLoanSharks so we can engage with and amplify your posts. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to get in touch.

If you would like a training session / presentation for your organisation to find out more about the work that we don't again please just get in touch. I have attached some information about my training sessions.

Stop Loan Sharks 24-Hour Helpline: 0300 555 2222

www.stoploansharks.co.uk (Live Chat available 9am-5pm, Mon-Fri)

Feeding Britain Network Training Opportunity

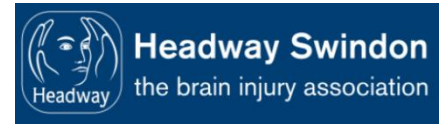
Please see below information about a Feeding Britain Network webinar/training offer which could be very useful.



11th May, 10am – 12.30pm – Adverse Childhood Experiences, Trauma & Food Insecurity. This 2.5-hour interactive training for food project volunteers and staff explores how a trauma-informed lens can be practically applied to support people accessing affordable food clubs.

You can sign up to attend [here](#). As the session will involve breakout groups, only part of the training will be recorded. If you would like to receive a recording of the taught session, you can also sign up to do so at the above link.

Headway Swindon



Headway Swindon has been recommissioned by Swindon Borough Council to continue supporting local people living with Acquired Brain Injuries — from 1st April.

We're here to help with:

- Hospital Liaison
- Cognitive rehab and recovery
- Therapeutic activities
- Support for families and carers
- Community confidence building
- Personalised support plans

Please find attached a referral guide for Headway.

You can find more information and stories about their work at

<https://headwayswindon.org.uk/>

Money Guiders- Where There's a Will, There's a Way

The Money Guider England Network recently hosted a very useful webinar, in partnership with Age UK Norfolk offering awareness and information about Wills, exploring what a Will is and why it's essential to have one.

During this session they explored:

- What a Will is and why it's important
- What happens if you don't have a Will
- How to ensure that your Will is valid
- The difference between a Will and a Lasting Power of Attorney
- An overview of Wills month – what it is and how to get involved

You can watch the recording back at

<https://vimeo.com/1187266507/6382b01a27?share=copy&fl=sv&fe=ci>

I have attached the slides from the webinar, together with notes that my AI tool created.

Don't forget, you can find out lots more information on the Money Helper website

<https://moneyhelper.apsmos.com/Home.html>

Next Week- Free, Practical AI Training for Swindon Charities at Currys

Please see a message from the digital inclusion team at Currys about a free training session which may be of interest to you.

We work locally with community organisations to help people and organisations feel more confident using everyday technology. We're currently offering a **free, practical AI training session specifically for local charities and community organisations in Swindon**, and I wanted to invite you directly.

The session has been developed with Neighbourly and Microsoft, and is designed for charities that want a *clear, jargon-free introduction* to AI — without pressure to adopt tools or become “techy”.

The session is designed to help charities feel:

- **more confident** (not overwhelmed) when hearing about AI
- clearer about where it could realistically **save staff time**
- reassured about **safe and ethical use**, especially with sensitive data

It's not technical training and there's no sales element. Everything is explained in plain English, with charity-specific examples focused on everyday tasks like communications, fundraising, and internal admin. We'll also share some genuinely helpful free-to-use tools designed for charities.

Swindon Currys store

Monday 11th May

3:00 – 4:30pm

Free – booking required

Contact charitymailbox@currys.co.uk

Upcoming BT Digital Voice Session

Wednesday 13th May

10am-2pm

Wyvern Theatre, Wyvern Square, SN1 1QN

The UK Telecoms Industry has begun the process to migrate landline users to a digital service. BT Group has partnered with AbilityNet to provide with information that they need to prepare for the switch.

To safely migrate all 7 millions of its customers to Digital Voice, the BT engagement team are raising awareness regionally with newspaper and radio campaigns and by running a series of events through each region of the UK.

The roadshows are a platform where customers come along to find out more about digital voice and what it means for them and to answer any questions they may have and an opportunity to quash any myths out there.

<https://abilitynet.org.uk/news-blogs/everything-you-need-know-about-bts-digital-voice>

Exciting New Roles at South Swindon Parish Council



As a progressive council, South Swindon Parish Council is expanding its work in our communities, recruiting **4 exciting new roles** to help grow participation, improve wellbeing, and strengthen communities through physical activity.

These new job roles have been created as part of Sports England's [Place Partnership Programme in Swindon](#), a scheme developed through their national "[Uniting the Movement](#)" campaign. The aims of the partnership programme are to integrate physical activity into all sectors, strengthening community and individual capacities and tackling structural inequalities.

The postholders will primarily be focussed on working in the partnership's priority areas that are located within South Swindon- Central Swindon (Broadgreen and Railway Village), Walcot East, Park North and Park South.

If you're passionate about making a difference to these communities and transforming lives through more movement and physical activity, we'd love to hear from you.

The Roles Available are Activity Facilitators (x2), Community Development Officer and Marketing & Engagement Officer

Martha's Law- Healthwatch Questionnaire

Please see information attached and a message below from Josephine at Healthwatch asking to hear people's views and experiences to help improve services.

According to the NHS, Martha's Rule has been put in place to make sure that any concerns of patients and their families are listened to and acted upon. It aims to spot worrying health symptoms earlier and stop them getting worse.

The rule is being implemented across all adult and children's inpatient settings in England and includes three core components:

1. Patients are asked daily how they feel and whether they are getting better or worse.
2. Any staff member can request a review from a different team if they believe a patient is deteriorating and are not being taken seriously.
3. Patients, families, and carers can directly request a rapid review, with this escalation route clearly advertised in hospitals.

This survey is designed to capture your awareness of Martha's rule and establish the best way it can be communicated to patients and families in Swindon.

For more information email info@healthwatchswindon.org.uk

Dementia Awareness Training

Voluntary Action Swindon is partnering with Alzheimer's Society to offer free dementia awareness training for individuals working in community settings who may come into contact with people affected by dementia.

11th June 2026

**John Street Conference Room
Voluntary Action Swindon
1 John Street
Swindon
SN1 1RT**

Session Times:

- **Session 1:** 10:00am – 11:30am
- **Session 2:** 2:00pm – 3:30pm

To book a place, please email Terry@vas-swindon.org or call 01793 538398. When booking, kindly specify your preferred session and the number of attendees.

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>

#BitebackSwindon- <https://feedingswindon.wordpress.com/bitebackswindon/>

Updated Accessing Food in Swindon Leaflet-

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

Feeding Swindon Presentations and Webinars-

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