THE WILTSHIRE BOBBY VAN TRUST
NEWSLETTER
SPRING 2025

Backing for doorbell project

Elderly and vulnerable victims of crime and people at risk of domestic abuse will be given doorbell cameras by the Bobby Van to help keep them safe in their homes.

The charity has received funding for the project from parish councils in Corsham, Calne Without, Box, Malmesbury Without, Durnford, Devizes, Lyneham and Bradenstoke.

Neighbourhood Policing teams in those areas will identify burglary victims and those at risk of domestic abuse to have cameras supplied and fitted free of charge.

The project has also received £5,000 from the Wiltshire Police and Crime Commissioner's Action Fund, £5,000 from Wiltshire Community Foundation's Older Peoples' Fund and £6,500 from NFU Mutual's Agency Giving Fund through its South Cotswolds branch. Director Jennie Shaw said: "We are deeply grateful to all of the councils, the PCC, Wiltshire Community Foundation and NFU Mutual for their invaluable support in this vital project, we could not do it without their backing and belief in what we are aiming to achieve."



Bobby Van Director Jennie Shaw with new Bobby Van operative Vincent Logue, who will fit the doorbells

New chair sweeps in

Business leader Philip Coward said a day out with the Bobby Van seeing at first-hand how operatives care for victims of crime and domestic abuse convinced him to become chair of the charity.

Mr Coward, who is chairman of brush maker Hillbrush in Mere, succeeds Robert Hiscox, who has stepped down after 25 years to become Honorary Lifetime President.

Bobby Van Director Jennie Shaw invited him for a day out on the van with operative Mick Leighfield.

He was left moved by the plight of burglary and domestic abuse victims they met, as well as the care and attention given them by Mr Leighfield.

He said: "I came away convinced that I wanted to be chairman so I said I'd do it. I think Jennie knew that she could persuade me by sending me out on the van."

Read more about his plans for the trust here.



Philip Coward on the factory floor at Hillbrush

Cyber experts sign-up to lead anti-fraud talks

Cyber crime experts will reveal the latest online threat to businesses at four lfree ectures aimed at equipping them to guard against fraud.

The four one-hour talks, organised by the Bobby Van's Stay Safe Online team, will be given by Paul Maskall, Principal, Strategic Fraud Prevention & Behavioural Lead, UK Finance, and Catriona Still, Head of Fraud Prevention at UK Finance's Dedicated Card and Payment Crime Unit.

The lectures, being held at The Business Cyber Centre in Chippenham, are on February 20, March 20, April 24 and May 22 and look at latest trends, reveal fraudsters' strategies and their psychological tactics and highlight real life case studies.

Entry to each lecture is free but we would appreciate donations towards our work.

Each lecture starts at 10am with the chance to network for an hour afterwards.

Book your place here.

Middlewick tickets sale

Tickets are on sale and already selling quickly for the Middlewick House Open Garden on June 7 and 8.

The hugely popular fundraiser is hosted by Nick and Annette Mason and features hundreds of classic supercars, including Nick's own priceless collection of classic Ferraris.

There is also food, music, stalls and children's entertainment.

Get Early Bird tickets for £12 here.

Stay up to date with news, events and more
Online at wiltshirebobbyvan.org.uk
Follow us on Facebook at Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust

Vincent's van chuffed



Former police sergeant Vincent Logue is relishing a new role as a Bobby Van operative.

He joined us after 30 years as a police officer, 22 of them in Wiltshire as a PC then a sergeant at Salisbury, Warminster, Marlborough, Pewsey, Devizes, Chippenham and Corsham.

He replaces Will Todd, who retired last year.

"I'm absolutely delighted to be a part of the team and I'm already loving the job," he said.

"It's the ideal job for me because I love DIY, being out and about doing useful things and meeting nice people. The people we deal with are all pleased to see us."

Read more about Vincent and his life in the police force here.





Warminster Lions with Mick Leighfield donating £500, left, and Highworth Llons vice president Melanie Davenport with Doug Batchelor handing over £500

Lions impressed with service during visits

Members of two Wiltshire Lions groups were left moved and impressed after spending a day out on the Bobby Van.

Lions President Ros Harrison was invited out with operator Mick Leighfield after the group donated £500 Good Causes Committee.

"I think it's just such a wonderful thing the charity does and Mick was very good," said Ros.

"I was amazed by the skill the operatives have to be able to put all those security measures in for people."

Highworth Lions vice-president Melanie Davenport is a former user of the service after she was a victim of domestic abuse 12 years ago.

It was the memory of the help she received that prompted her to recommend her group donated £500 from its fundraising and charity shop takings.

She said after her day with Doug Batchelor: "It was brilliant to be with him and he came across as so knowledgeable and was really patient."

Director Jennie Shaw thanked the Lions for their contribution. "We are deeply grateful to both of the Lions for these donations, every pound really does make a huge difference.

"We love being able to show donors what we do and we'd be very happy to do the same for any Lions groups, or anyone else for that matter."

Read more about the visits here and here.

Free dementia bands can bring peace of mind

If you, or someone you know, is worried about a friend or relative who has been diagnosed with dementia, our Dementia Wristbands could bring some pece of mind.

The bands contain a microchip with the wearer's details, whch can be scanned by a smart phone if they become lost or confused to allow them to be reunited with family or carers.

They are being distributed free of charge by Alzheimer's Support, and Carer Support Wiltshire. They do not contain any GPS or tracking technology or an alarm and are not a replacement for dialling 999.

More information and a referral form are available here.

Fundraising events fuel our activity

Last year was another busy one for fundraising events, which are the lifeblood of the Bobby Van's activities.

Thanks to the generosity of venue owners and donors, plus the hard work of volunteers, staff and trustees we have been able to generate the funds needed to continue keeping people safe in their homes.

The event totals are:

Middlewick Tea Party, £1,400

Final Bowood Captaincy Event, £7,000

Alsops Open Garden, £120

Casablanca Film Night, £9,000

Oare County Fair £3,000

Middlewick Open Garden £63,000

Wiltshire Masters Golf event £4,200

Mere Clothes Sale, £9,000

Serpentine Swim, £1,600

Devizes Autumn Fair, £5,000

Denny Andrews Sale, £1,200

Bowood fair is a success

The year ended with sales success at the Bowood Festive Food and Gift Fair when more than £9,000 was raised.

Director Jennie Shaw thanked Lord and Lady Lansdowne for hosting the sale as well as staff and volunteers for their hard work and traders for their support.

Cyber warnings

Over the last year our Stay Safe Online team have warned about a whole host of scams based on reports from police and other experts on the Scam Alert page on our website. See our latest alerts here.

Every little helps with Tesco tokens

The Bobby Van has been chosen by supermarket Tesco as a candidate for Stronger Starts funding at two of its stores.

Stronger Starts offers funding of £1,500, £1,000 or £500, with one of three charities or groups to receive the most being chosen by shoppers' votes. Each time someone makes a purchase they are given a blue Stronger Starts token, which they put into the box of the charity they want to support.

The group with the highest number of tokens wins the largest amount of money.

The voting period runs between mid-January until March 31. The two featured stores are the Tesco Superstore in Tidworth and the Tesco Express in Ludgershall.

Bobby Van Director Jennie Shaw said the money will help support the work of the charity. She said: "We're very grateful to Tesco for choosing us again. Hopefully people who shop in the area, or has friends of family close by, will think of us and the good this extra money will do when they are shopping. Just a few extra tokens could make all the difference."

In the run-up to Christmas the Bobby Van featured in the Stronger Starts funding at Tesco Extra in Amesbury and the Tesco Express in Durrington.



Our new summer event will raise the woof for dog-lovers

We are organising a brand new fundraiser on June 21 – a fantastic day out for dog lovers and all things canine.

The Paws for a Cause event will be held at our Honorary Life President Robert Hiscox's home at Rainscombe Park, Oare, on Saturday June 21, from 10am to 5pm.

The inaugural event will feature stalls, entertainment and food and will be a memorable way to mark the longest day of the year.

It will feature dog displays and demonstrations, as well as the chance for owners to get their pooches involved in our dog show with 14 classes.

Director Jennie Shaw said: "The event is inspired by the county's love for dogs and Rainscombe Park will be a magnificent setting for a day that will have everything for the dog lover and families."

Get tickets and apply for stalls **here**.



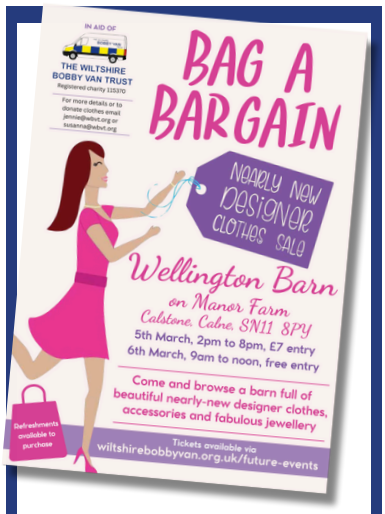
Bobby Van Operative Doug Batchelor with a pair of pooches

Online safety are experts available for talks

If you run a group, or are a member of a group, who you think could benefit from online safety advice, we can help.

Our police-trained Stay Safe Online volunteers are always available for talks, where they can share the dangers we all face from cyber criminals, give examples of how people have been duped and answer questions.

There's no judgement because our volunteers recognise that the crooks are so sophisticated they can catch anyone out. Volunteers carry out free home visits to anyone over 60, or over 18 if they have a registered disability. Apply for a talk at BobbyVanOnlineSafety@wbvt.org or call 01225 256867.



Donations needed for our first sale

The Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust is getting ready for its first sustainable fashion event of the year, where shoppers can find a huge range of nearly new designer clothes, jewellery and accessories at bargain prices.

The Bag A Bargain event, at Wellington Barn, near Calne, is open from 2pm to 8pm on March 5, where tickets are just £7, and from 9am to noon on March 6, where entry is free.

We are still appealing for good quality clothes for the sale. Anyone wanting to donate items can contact them via email at jennie@wbvt.or or susanna@wbvt.org.

Bobby Van Director Jennie Shaw said: "Spring is just around the corner and our sale is a wonderful opportunity to refresh your wardrobe, with rail after rail of exquisite nearly new designer clothes and jewellery.

"It's a perfect excuse to clear out those wardrobes and make room for a brand new you. We have some fabulous clothes and some wonderful bargains, come and find the perfect outfit for the races, a wedding or something that just makes you feel good."

Book tickets here.

Bobby+Van+update

Third van will increase visits

Bobby Van visits for the September to December quarter of 2024 stand at 316 compared to 389 for the same period in 2023 – a 22 per cent decrease.

This is because for most of the year we had two vans instead of three after Will Todd's retirement.

Now Vincent Logue is on board the figure will rise.

Stay Safe Online talks fell due to a focus on groups hat fit more closely with our demographic. They fell from 30 to 17 compared to the same 2023 period.

In terms of areas covered, most appear to have been impacted in terms of a decrease in numbers of visits, with Swindon being the most impacted, but with a slight increase in the West Wiltshire area.

Vulnerable and domestic abuse incidents continue to be the top two causal factors for visits.

This demonstrates our commitment to preventative work in the community and to supporting people who have been in domestic abuse situations.

Last year there were 1,218 visits, compared to 1,572 in 2023.

Total Home Security Visits

Sept 15 to Dec 5 2024	Sept 15 to Dec 5 2023
316	**389**

Stay Safe Online talks

2024	2023
40	**86**

Stay Safe Online referrals

2022: 45 referrals

2023: 82 referrals (up 45%)

2024:114 referrals (up 28%)

Incident type	2024	2023
Vulnerable	690	898
Domestic Abuse	356	398
ASB	42	58
Suspicious Incident	40	56
Burglary	167	162

Home security incidents 2024 v 2023

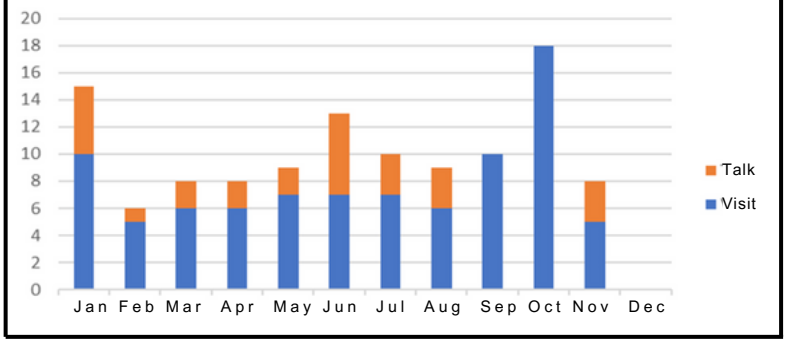
District	2024	2023
Swindon & surrounds	267	308
Salisbury and South	272	272
North Wiltshire	204	206
West Wiltshire	415	571
Kennet	137	215

Visits by police district 2024 v 2023

Stay Safe Online overview 2024

	No	People	Remarks
Talks	27	405	Average of 15/talk
Visits	81	81	
Tel Advice	4	4	
Event	16	320	Average of 20/event
	128	**810**	

Stay Safe referrals by type



Contact us

wiltshirebobbyvan.org.uk

Wiltshire Police Headquarters, London Road, Devizes SN10 2DN

01225 256867

BobbyVan@wbvt.org

Future events

Cyber Crime Series
Business Cyber Centre, Chippenham
10am February 20, March 20, April 24, May 22

Bag A Bargain
Wellington Barn, Calne
March 5, 2pm to 8pm
March 6, 9am to noon
To donate clothes email jennie@wbvt.org or susanna@wbvt.org.

Middlewick Open Garden
Middlewick House, Corsham
June 7 and 8, 10am to 5pm
Early Bird tickets £12

Paws for a Cause
Rainscombe Park, Oare,
June 21, 10am to 5pm

Get more details and buy tickets to our events here

Volunteering opportunities

If you are looking for some fulfilment and you have a little spare time, why not volunteer with us?

If you love baking we are always looking for cake makers for our sales and events. And talking of events, we always need volunteers to help there.

Our Stay Safe Online team also needs volunteers to help keep older and vulnerable people safe.

To find out more, email susanna@wbvt.org or if you are interested in Stay Safe Online, you can contact toni@wbvt.org.

Fundraisers

Lottery:
Play the Swindon or Salisbury weekly lotteries and win up to £25,000.
More details here

Easy Fundraising:
Raise money for us when you shop online. It's so easy to set up.
More details here