

NEWS

Mayor digs in to challenge

A GERMAN tradition has put down roots in Wiltshire.

Bradford on Avon Mayor Jack Vittles has planted a silver birch at Culver Close as part of the Baum Challenge, after being nominated by Mayor of Trowbridge Stephen Cooper. He was joined by the chief executive and town clerk, officers,

residents and members of the German Twinning Association to mark the occasion.

In turn he nominated Salisbury City Council Mayor John Wells, and Melksham Mayor Saffi Rabey to take up the challenge. The German tradition came to Wiltshire via its twin town of Norden.



Bradford on Avon Mayor Jack Vittles plants a silver birch as part of the Baum Challenge.

Grounds team gets extension

MARLBOROUGH has more gardens and open spaces than most towns of a similar size in Wiltshire and they all need looking after. That is now much easier thanks to an investment in a new workshop and storage facilities.

The grounds team had outgrown a workshop at Salisbury Road Recreation Ground and councillors agreed to extend the facility in 2022 and in September this year Mayor Emily Trow cut the ribbon to open the updated facility.

There is improved access and parking, as well as a new storage barn. An extension adds expanded storage space and increased workshop space, as well as a new greenhouse, office space and amenity space and facilities for staff.

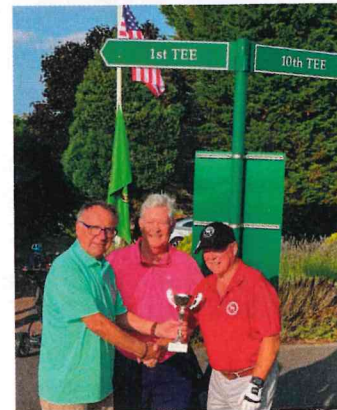
More Ryder Cup success for Europe

AMERICAN visitors were welcomed to a Wiltshire town for a much friendlier version of the Ryder Cup than that played out across the Atlantic this summer.

As part of celebrations to mark their twinning, representatives from Warminster, Pennsylvania, visited **Warminster**.

A packed programme of events included the golf competition at West Wilts Golf Club, a dinner at The Old Fire Station, a celebration party at the Prestbury Sports Bar and a trip to Imber as part of Imberbus 2025.

West Wilts Golf Club captain Colin Fourmy secured a hard-fought victory for Warminster,



Transatlantic golfing friends.

UK in the first-ever Warminster Ryder in an exciting contest that went down to the wire.

American team captain Leo Quinn III, the former chair of the Warminster Board of Supervisors (the USA equivalent of Mayor), put up a strong fight.

Banking donation

NEW MILTON Town Council's civic harvest service at St Mary Magdalene Church supported the New Forest Basics Bank with an array of food and toiletries as well as a donation of more than £200. David da Cunha highlighted the work of the charity in the southern part of Hampshire's New Forest. It is managed by nearly 300 unpaid volunteers.

He acknowledged the support of local agencies, New Forest Primary Care, Citizens Advice New Forest, Ashley Baptist Church, Step Up Safe Space, Christians against Poverty, and NFDC Housing support team.

The bank sends out about 80 parcels per week, and between September 2024 and August 2025, provided 4,459 parcels, feeding 10,016 people.

Blue plaques share stories

THATCHAM Town Council is inviting residents to help shape the future of the Berkshire town's blue plaques by putting forward suggestions for 2026 and beyond.

Whether it is a remarkable local figure, a historic building, or an event that left its mark, the town council wants the community to have a say.

Blue plaques are a way of sharing stories that might otherwise remain hidden – from pioneering inventors and wartime heroes to cultural milestones and iconic landmarks.

Heritage working party chair



The latest plaque marks Moorside's Second World War role in Thatcham.

Nathan Gregory said: "Blue plaques are a wonderful way to connect our community with its history. By sharing your ideas, you can help ensure that Thatcham's stories – big and small – are remembered and

celebrated."

This year's blue plaque, commemorating Moorside's role as a Second World War storage depot and supply base was unveiled in October as part of Thatcham Festival.



The games bench is already popular.

Council plays the game

A BENCH, designed to encourage community engagement and outdoor activity has been installed by **Aylesbury** Town Council.

It was officially opened by the Buckinghamshire town's Mayor Nidha Mehta at the Canal Basin.

It features a built-in chess and

draughts board and is free to use by anyone at any time.

Constructed from recycled plastic, the bench reflects the council's commitment to sustainability and innovation in public spaces.

One section is shaped to accommodate wheelchair users.

Telling town tale



New Milton has its first blue plaque.

TOWN Mayor Alvin Reid attended the unveiling of **New Milton's** first blue plaque. It highlights the story of Emma Newhook and her part in naming the Hampshire town in 1896.

The plaque is on the Tesco Express building wall opposite the railway station, the site of the original New Milton Post Office.

Milton Heritage Society has recorded that in 1894 Ms Newhook named her post office New Milton to differentiate it from one in nearby Milton. In 1896 the London and South-Western Railway used it to name their new station, heralding the arrival of the town of New Milton.