

FF

Autumn
2026

LIFE

WELCOME TO OUR LATEST NEWS & UPDATES

INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

SEE YOUR IMPACT

Discover where your donations helped save lives in the first half of 2026

THERE WHEN IT MATTERED MOST

Read Ansko's story and how our crew provided critical care

SHARE IN THE FESTIVE SPIRIT

Cards, events and plenty of seasonal cheer



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Registered Charity 1144097

Welcome from Barbara Gray, our chief executive

It's been a busy few months for everyone at Wiltshire and Bath Air Ambulance Charity, and I'm delighted to share some highlights with you.

This summer, thousands of people joined us for a record-breaking Middlewick House Open Garden, raising more than £245,000 for Wiltshire and Bath Air Ambulance Charity and the Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust. It was a fantastic weekend and a reminder of the generosity of our local community.

We hope you've enjoyed summer with family and friends. Our crew have remained ready to respond whenever needed.

During the first six months of the year, they attended 595 missions by helicopter and critical care car, providing expert care to people across Wiltshire and Bath. Every one of those missions has been possible because of your support.

Whether you've donated, volunteered your time, attended an event, played in one of our raffles, left us a gift in your will or simply shared our story, thank you.

Every act of kindness helps ensure we're here when people need us most, today and for generations to come.

Barbara

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Find us online
wiltshirebathairambulance.org.uk
Follow us     

Mission Report

1 JAN — 30 JUNE 2026

595
TOTAL
MISSIONS

330
HELICOPTER



265
CRITICAL
CARE CARS



34 incidents were attended by multiple resources (e.g. both the helicopter and critical care car or both critical care cars attended). For illustrative purposes this counts as one mission in that location.

Our mission breakdown

50

Uses of LUCAS Machine
to deliver CPR to patients

37

Advanced airway management
performed to create an open airway

12

Procedural Sedations
to reduce pain and suffering
following trauma

153 **Medical Conditions**

147 **Cardiac Emergencies**

80 **Road Traffic Collisions**

76 **Falls**



206

Night Missions



387

Missions with Doctors



79

Paediatric Missions



**Top hospitals we
airlifted or assisted
patients to...**

34

Royal United • Bath

28

Great Western • Swindon

26

Southmead • Bristol

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**View our online
interactive map**

Celebrating community support

What began as a village fundraiser for roof repairs has grown into one of Wiltshire's most popular community events, raising an incredible £57,480.29 for Wiltshire and Bath Air Ambulance Charity along the way.

Urchfont Scarecrow Trail is an annual scarecrow festival that **first took place in 1997**, when villagers came together to raise money for repairs needed within the village. After several successful years, the organising committee began looking beyond the immediate community and considered how the festival could support a wider cause.

Wiltshire and Bath Air Ambulance had already attended incidents in and around the village, so the committee had seen the importance of its lifesaving work first-hand. The decision was made to support the air ambulance and recognise the vital care its team provides across Wiltshire and Bath.

Today, representatives from the Charity are warmly welcomed throughout the festival weekend and have become a much-loved part of the event.



“It is a pleasure to host Wiltshire and Bath Air Ambulance Charity over our festival weekend, and it is a noted highlight for our visitors. If the helicopter is out and about, we sometimes get a flypast!”

Steve Osborne • Festival Chair

Now in its 27th year, the scarecrow festival is an established and popular regional event. Although its organisers were originally inspired by a festival in Yorkshire, it became the **first scarecrow festival of its kind in Wiltshire and remains the county's biggest.**

The stars of the show are, of course, the scarecrows. Most are created by villagers, with local organisations and charities also joining in. Wiltshire and Bath Air Ambulance Charity regularly creates its own entry for visitors to discover.

Each year brings its own theme. Previous festivals have celebrated everything from the 1980s and films to advertising, colours and the West Country. The theme for 2026 was musicians, inspiring another wonderfully creative collection of characters.

While the finished creations might take centre stage, months of work go into making the festival possible.

Planning begins in September, and by the new year the scarecrow makers know which character or creation they have been tasked with bringing to life. The event takes place over the three days of the first May bank holiday, **2-4 May 2027.**

It is a genuine village-wide effort. Over the festival weekend, local people contribute more than 1,000 hours to the volunteer rota. They flip burgers, marshal car parks, pull pints and pour cups of tea, making sure visitors receive a warm welcome from the moment they arrive.

The committee is fiercely proud of offering an enjoyable and affordable day out, with something for every generation to discover.

Most importantly, the event continues to make a remarkable difference. The 2026 festival raised £6,381.55 for Wiltshire and Bath Air Ambulance Charity, bringing **the total donated over the years to £57,480.29.**

Every scarecrow created, cake baked, pint poured and programme purchased has helped support the Charity's lifesaving work. **It is a wonderful example of what can happen when a community comes together with creativity, dedication and plenty of village spirit.**



Teaching lifesaving skills to children

Aware+ is our education programme, helping children and young people develop the knowledge and confidence to act in a medical emergency before an ambulance arrives.

First Aid is a statutory part of the PSHE curriculum, and our sessions support schools, home education groups and community organisations, including Scouts and Brownies, with its delivery.

Running since 2019, Aware+ is delivered by our two qualified teachers who are also trained in advanced first aid. Every session is tailored to the age of the children taking part.

By learning practical, potentially lifesaving skills, children are given the confidence to help family members, friends and others who may become unwell or injured in an emergency.

In the first six months of 2026, our Aware+ programme has reached 5,747 pupils across 43 schools, helping even more young people to feel prepared to respond with confidence when it matters most.

"It was a fantastic session and very worthwhile. Alex, our trainer, was professional, engaging and kept the children's attention throughout."

Eldene Primary School • Swindon

What you said about our training

St Sampson's Primary School • Cricklade

"Great personalised sessions that the children really enjoyed."

Salisbury City Home Educators

"Another fab session with Andrew. We all loved it and learnt a lot."

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Corporate support

Are you looking for a way to give back to your community?

We love developing long-lasting relationships with businesses across our local community. By choosing to support our lifesaving work, businesses are not only giving back, they are also helping the communities they are part of by:

- Improving their reputation
- Boosting staff morale
- Bringing the team together

How to get involved

Make a donation and make a huge impact.

Join The Business Club. Grow your network while supporting lifesaving critical care across Wiltshire and Bath.

Book your place today

Night with a Pilot • 13 November

Join us at Ridgeway Barns for an unforgettable evening. Enjoy a drinks reception and canapés, followed by a two-course dinner and a question and answer session with our chief pilot, Matt Wilcock. Don't miss our auction, packed with brilliant prizes.

Spend an evening out whilst giving back at the same time!



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Get in touch with our corporate team to discover how your business can get involved



corporate@
wbairambulance.org.uk

Ansko's Story



Ansko, an internationally recognised stuntwoman for film and television, was riding a motorbike on Salisbury Plain in July 2024 when she was hit by another vehicle.

Within 11 minutes of take off, pilot Simon, doctor Rosie, and specialist critical care paramedic Matt were at Ansko's side. On scene, they were able to deliver critical care to stabilise her condition, administer medication and support her leg to prevent further damage. The crew then transferred Ansko by air to Southmead Hospital in just 15 minutes, handing over care to the emergency team. Three minutes later, she was in a full body scan to examine the extent of her injuries.

Ansko's memories from hospital were blurry from medication and her head injury, but she explained:

"I remember a very vivid male voice who said that you will survive... after that, even as I was in and out of surgeries, I knew that I didn't need to worry, that it'll all

be okay. That was really, really important for me."

Ansko required many weeks of treatment with lots of physio and rehab to regain her mobility and independence. With her memory challenged, Ansko reached out to the Wiltshire and Bath Air Ambulance Aftercare Service where she was put in touch with specialist critical care paramedic and aftercare manager Louise Cox. Louise was able to reunite Ansko with the doctor who provided the urgent treatment she needed on Salisbury Plain, doctor Rosie. She's also since been back to meet pilot Simon and specialist critical care paramedic, Matt.

She added: "I was very nervous coming to the airbase. But it was very important, it felt like it was a big puzzle piece that was missing.

"Obviously, I remember when I was riding the bike and then the next moment, I'm in hospital and there was a big gap. To be able to come to the airbase and first of all, to personally say thank you for the

people who attended on the day, that was very special.

"But then to hear what had happened and how only three people can do so much so quickly, it was very important for me in many ways. I remember when I left, it was such a surreal feeling in terms of how grateful I am to be here. And I understand not everybody is that lucky.

"To be airlifted by people who don't even know who I am, don't know where I'm from, don't know my name, don't know what nationality I have, and from the goodness of their heart to come and rescue me and take the best care and airlift me to the hospital, it's still unreal for me."



"For me, it's all just magic. It literally feels like they're angels from the sky. Whenever the crew receive the phone call, they know exactly who's going to get on and exactly what's coming with you. Everything is so well planned, so the crew can get to the person who needs them most in the quickest possible time and be able to give them the best possible response."

Aftercare Support

We're here for you when you need us most – at the scene of an incident and beyond.

Our Aftercare Service provides a structured approach to supporting those involved in incidents attended by Wiltshire and Bath Air Ambulance.

wiltshirebathairambulance.org.uk/aftercare

How?

We are **here to listen**, to try to answer any questions, helping to fill in any 'gaps' and understand what happened. We will take the time to listen to your concerns, suggestions or queries.

Wherever **patients** are on their recovery journey, there are many organisations that can provide specific support. We can help **identify and share details of other relevant support agencies and charities**, both locally and nationally.

If you were treated by Wiltshire and Bath Air Ambulance Charity, supported a loved one, or were present when we attended an incident and have questions about what happened, please contact our Aftercare Service.



aftercare@wbairambulance.org.uk

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Leave a lifesaving legacy.

On average, one mission a day is funded by gifts in wills.

We are extremely lucky here at Wiltshire and Bath Air Ambulance Charity to have incredible people who not only support us during their lives but also choose to remember us in their wills. These gifts ensure we can be there for others even after they are no longer with us.

Recently we had the pleasure of meeting Marilyn White's children.

Marilyn lived in Chippenham and sadly lost her husband back in 2008 following a heart attack after which our aircrew took him to RUH in Bath. Following Marilyn's passing in January 2026, she left a gift of **£50,000** to our Charity to help ensure we can help others when they need us most.

It's an incredible gift, one that honestly means so much to us. It was a privilege to show Marilyn's children how her gift will support our community.

We are recognising the incredible legacy gifts left to us on our dedicated thank you wall in the family room at our airbase.

Write, update or change your will using our free wills service now.

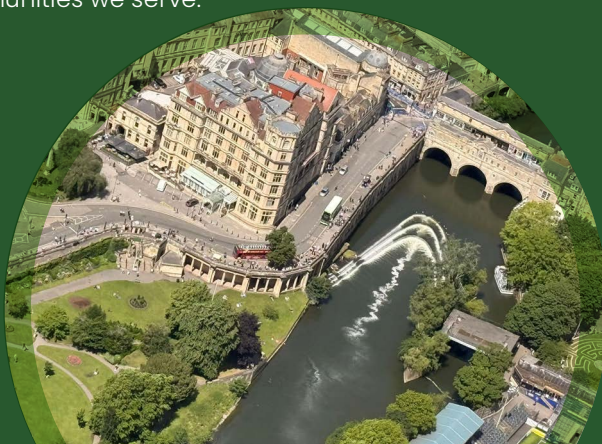
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Views from the crew

Our crew see Wiltshire and Bath from a **unique perspective**. While responding to incidents across our communities, they often capture striking views from the air, moments on the ground and scenes from the hospitals they visit.

These photographs **offer a glimpse into the places our team travel to every day**, from familiar local landmarks to the landscapes that connect communities we serve.



A sense of pride and purpose



When Ian Watson retired early, he wanted to use his time in a way that would make a real difference. Having supported Wiltshire and Bath Air Ambulance Charity for many years, volunteering felt like a natural next step.

"I looked for something useful to do within the Charity sector," Ian explains. "I have always supported Wiltshire and Bath Air Ambulance Charity, so getting involved as a volunteer felt like the right choice."

For Ian, the connection is a personal one. **"To see the helicopter fly over, taking specialist care to someone who is having a very bad day, gives me a huge sense of pride."**

Ian now supports the Charity in several ways, including fundraising, welcoming visitors on base tours and helping with gardening at the airbase. "I do a varied number of roles," he says. "That variety is one of the things I enjoy, because there is always something different to get involved with."

Volunteers play an important part in events at the airbase, including Summer at the Base, Brew with the Crew and guided base tours. They also represent the Charity at community events across Wiltshire and Bath, from the Bath Half Marathon and Armed Forces Days to open garden weekends, dog shows, cycle events and scarecrow trails.

Others help at fundraising stalls, deliver talks about the Charity's work, support the Charity shop in Devizes or bring our cuddly mascots, Wilber and Marsha, to life at events. Ian is also keen to encourage more people to join the gardening team and help keep the airbase looking its best.

"There are so many different opportunities for volunteers," Ian, pictured second right, volunteering in 2026, says. "Whether you enjoy meeting people, helping at events, speaking to groups, gardening or supporting the shop, there is likely to be a role that suits you."

For Ian, volunteering is about much more than giving his time. It is a chance to meet people, support local communities and contribute to a cause he cares deeply about.



“We certainly value our volunteers, and there is no minimum time commitment. Full support is given by the Charity, and we hope to welcome you to our team soon.”

**Sam Conway •
Community Team Lead**



Become a volunteer with us

Are you ready to help our lifesaving cause?

Getting started is simple. Complete an application through our website and a member of our dedicated community team in the Charity will be in touch to learn more about you, your interests and how you would like to get involved.

Once you join, you will be supported with the information, guidance and training needed for your role. Our community team will help you feel confident from the start and keep you updated on opportunities, events and ways to stay connected with the Charity.

 wiltshirebathairambulance.org.uk/volunteer

 community@wbairambulance.org.uk

 01225 300536





From drop-off to shop floor

A clothing donation is much more than an unwanted item being donated to our Charity Shop. It becomes part of a wider journey that raises vital funds, supports sustainable shopping and brings people together within the local community.

When a supporter donates good-quality, pre-loved clothing, our staff and volunteers carefully assess, sort, steam and price each suitable item. The clothing is then displayed attractively on

our shop floor, ready for a new owner to discover and enjoy at an affordable price.

Every purchase helps support our lifesaving cause, while also giving clothing a new lease of life rather than allowing it to go to waste.

Donors can see the **real value** of their pre-loved items, shoppers know **their purchase makes a difference**, and volunteers can take pride in the important role they play at every stage of the journey.

“Every donated item has a journey. One bag of donations can become affordable stock for local shoppers, income for the Charity, less waste going to landfill, and meaningful work for our volunteers.”

**Jackie Ball •
Charity Shop Manager**



Visit our Charity Shop in Devizes

Opening Hours:

Monday–Saturday 9.30am–4.30pm

Address:

2 Maryport Street • Devizes • SN10 1AH

A record-breaking weekend at Middlewick 2026

What an incredible weekend! Middlewick House Open Garden welcomed **more than 9,000 visitors** from 6-7 June 2026, **raising a record-breaking total of over £245,000** for Wiltshire and Bath Air Ambulance Charity and The Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust.

Kindly hosted by long-standing Charity ambassadors Nick and Annette Mason, the popular Corsham event gave visitors the opportunity to explore the beautiful gardens, browse stalls and enjoy a variety of attractions.

Some guests even travelled from across the world to attend.

Our Bell 429 helicopter and crew were based at Middlewick throughout the weekend, giving visitors a closer look at the aircraft and the chance to learn more about our lifesaving work. The crew remained fully operational and responded to emergency missions in Bath, Salisbury, Melksham and Pewsey during the event.

This remarkable result was only possible thanks to an **enormous community effort**.

We are incredibly grateful to Nick and Annette Mason, everyone who attended, our dedicated staff and volunteers, main sponsors Grist Environmental, Ten Tenths, exhibitors, local businesses and residents, and the people of Corsham.

Thank you for making the event the most successful in its history. Your generosity will help both charities continue supporting people across our local communities when they need us most.



What's coming up...



5 SEPTEMBER Motorbike Ride-In

Calling all motorbike enthusiasts! Fire up your engines and join us for a fantastic ride-in at our airbase.

Brew with the Crew Air Ambulance Week

Come and join us at our popular Brew with the Crew at our airbase and celebrate Air Ambulance Week with us. Keep an eye out for other events across the week.

Can't attend? Why not host your own Brew for the Crew.

9 SEPTEMBER



13 SEPTEMBER

Paws Charity Dog Show

A fantastic day out for families and four-legged friends in aid of Wiltshire and Bath Air Ambulance and the Wiltshire Bobby Van Trust.

Held amid the splendid grounds of Rainscombe Park at Oare near Marlborough, our Charity Dog Show will have something for everyone to enjoy and take part in!



CycleFest @ Castle Combe

Take part at CycleFest as we offer two exciting ways to get involved.

Whether you are looking for a relaxed day out with the family or ready to take on a personal cycling challenge, there is something for everyone.

4 OCTOBER

26 SEPTEMBER Paddle for Purpose

Join our ambassador, **Paul Martin**, in our brand-new challenge.

Choose your craft as you set off from Bathampton and complete a 10km out and back route along the Kennet and Avon Canal.

7 OCTOBER

Annual General Meeting

We will be holding our annual general meeting at our airbase, for anyone who would like to attend, as we reflect on the past year and look ahead to the future of the Charity.

30 OCTOBER

Firewalk

Feel the buzz, face your fears, and experience the ultimate adrenaline rush as you walk barefoot across hot embers beneath the autumn night sky at our airbase.

Night with a Pilot

Join our **chief pilot** for an exclusive dinner in Swindon, hosted jointly with Ridgeway Barns and Wild Fork West Catering.

Step behind the scenes of our lifesaving service, whilst enjoying drinks, canapés and a two-course meal.

13 NOVEMBER



21-22 NOVEMBER

Christmas Market

Join us at our airbase for a magical weekend filled with local traders offering a fantastic selection of gifts, treats, and festive goodies – perfect for finding something special for family, friends, or even just a little treat for yourself.

Bath Abbey Carol Service

Celebrate the season as our ever-popular Bath Abbey Carol Service returns for another joyful evening of uplifting music, Christmas spirit and timeless tradition in the magnificent surroundings of Bath Abbey.

7 DECEMBER

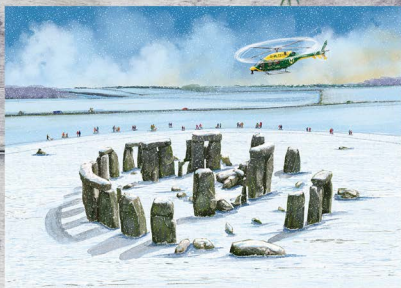
18 DECEMBER Carols at Marlborough Chapel

Step into the spirit of the season and join us at Marlborough Chapel for a magical evening of carols, seasonal readings and plenty of Christmas cheer.

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We'd love for you to join us!



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Make Christmas mean more

Share the joy of the season while supporting our lifesaving cause. Our beautifully designed Christmas cards, eco-friendly wrapping paper and festive money wallets add a thoughtful touch to every message and gift.

Every purchase helps make a real difference. With limited stock available, shop the collection online and make your Christmas giving even more meaningful.



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– Chambers & Partners 2026

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