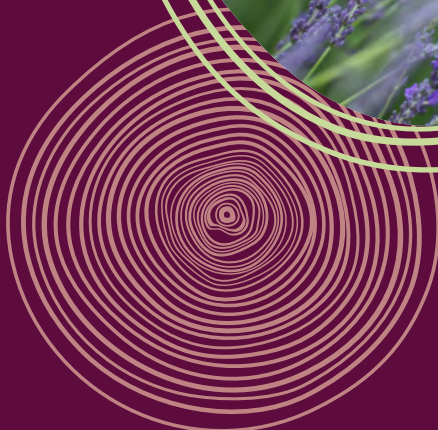


A new neighbourhood with community at its roots

Welcome to our first new look newsletter

In this issue we'll be giving you an update on what's been happening on site, including some new faces. You'll find some great stories about the community too. And if you fancy helping us to learn more about East Swindon's history, here's your chance!



What's been happening on site?



Oakfield's construction partner, Mi-space, has broken up old foundations and skimmed the site to make an even surface to build on. The tarmac and concrete that was left behind from the former schools and university campus are being recycled too. They've been crushed up and will be re-used in the development's new roads.



Mi-space has employed a friendly new gatekeeper – Alex, who you may know as he lives locally. Alex has been responsible for helping maintain Mi-space's Covid safety routine and scooped their monthly Health & Safety award in August.

If you need to get in touch with someone on site, you can put a note through Mi-space's letter box on Marlowe Avenue or call their site director **Rob Bennett** on **07866 916444**

The Oakfield Community Response Fund

In July, we launched the Oakfield Community Response Fund. Funded by Nationwide Building Society, £100,000 is available through a joint partnership with the Wiltshire Community Foundation. Swindon based groups and charities with a focus on housing can apply for grants to help them provide the support that's needed most during the pandemic.



The Harbour Project – received £2,100

The Harbour Project is a not-for-profit that gives friendship, advice and hope to refugees and asylum seekers across the Swindon area.



STEP – received £3,320

STEP provides a safe and supportive environment for children and young people who are experiencing isolation and exclusion due to either their lack of social skills, personal circumstances or poverty.



The Mechanics Institution Trust – received £4,999

While its roots lie in restoring Swindon's Mechanics' Institute building, the Trust also focuses on bringing communities together, just as the Victorian Institute did.

Find out more about these great causes and how to apply for a grant by taking a look at 'Supporting Swindon's community heroes' in the New section of our website [oakfieldswindon.co.uk](https://www.oakfieldswindon.co.uk)

Keeping it local with Conlon



Mi-space has taken on local company Conlon Ltd to complete groundworks on site. Over the coming months, they'll be building roads, sewers and preparing the ground for foundations to be laid.

Based in Cricklade and started as a family-run company back in 1980, they now employ more than 240 staff and are dedicated to recruiting locally. 25 of their 29 team members on site at Oakfield live within a 20-mile radius and as well as experienced trades people, they'll be taking on apprentices for the project too. Teaching them to all there is to know about groundworks, they'll be providing these apprentices with the skills they need to kickstart their careers in the construction industry.

If you're interested in becoming an apprentice with Conlon, you can contact Shaunagh Conlon at enquiries@conlon.co.uk or by calling 01793 759328.

Keith's corner

You won't have seen me out knocking doors for a while and my office at St John's is still shut, but my desire to support community-led action remains. I'm here to listen to your hopes and needs for the community. You can get me on the phone or email and I can set up individual or group video calls too. If you've got 5 minutes to answer some questions about the impact of recent weeks on you and your neighbours please follow this link surveymonkey.co.uk/r/VBJN9YS



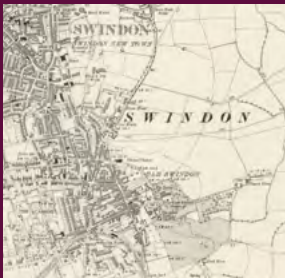
Feed the birds



As a fun activity for the school holidays, we've been giving out ready-to-decorate bird feeders, bags of bird seed and craft materials in the local community. Some went to the local Chalet School for summer school projects, others to The Shop in Cavendish Square to

share with local children. If you got your hands on one we'd love to see photographs of them decorated. Bonus points if you can snap a bird visiting it! Send your photos to hello@oakfieldswindon.co.uk or tag us on Instagram [@oakfield_swindon](https://www.instagram.com/oakfield_swindon) 

Stepping back in time



We're keen to learn more about east Swindon's past. Did you grow up locally and have an interesting story about the area? Or do you have old photographs of east Swindon, perhaps of Walcot farm that was on the Oakfield site until after the Second

World War? Maybe you're a budding historian and have information about what the area was used for in Roman times? We'd love to see your pictures and hear your stories. Send them to hello@oakfieldswindon.co.uk

Map of Swindon published 1901, reproduced with the permission of the National Library of Scotland

Interested in living at Oakfield? Just visit oakfieldswindon.co.uk and sign up to our mailing list to be the first to hear the latest news.

Want to know how the project is developing and how the local community are involved in Oakfield's exciting journey? Follow [@oakfield_swindon](https://www.instagram.com/oakfield_swindon) on Instagram.

For community activity and support with local projects, get in touch with Keith Brown, Community Organiser at Nationwide on **07825 832843** or keith.brown@nationwide.co.uk