

Meeting	Community Development Committee
Date	7 th October 2025
Report Title	Haydon Wick Haven
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August

August brought some wonderful activities to the Haven, starting with a trial session at the library located at the Orbital on August 4th. We welcomed Nicola from the Live Well Hub at Swindon Borough Council, who came along to share her extensive knowledge of the community and what the Borough Council can provide with our residents. While the session saw fewer residents in attendance than usual, it proved to be highly informative and engaging, with participants benefiting from a wealth of valuable information shared throughout the morning. Nicola's interactive approach created a dynamic learning environment that resonated well with everyone who attended.

As August ended, we concluded the month with a memorable artistic session expertly led by Karon and Terri, featuring the innovative technique of ink blowing on ceramic tiles. This hands-on creative workshop provided residents with an exciting opportunity to experiment with an unconventional art form while encouraging artistic exploration. The session created a relaxed and playful atmosphere where residents were delighted to discover their "inner Monet."

September

To kick off September, we tried something a little different with a seated exercise session led by Lin. While a few residents were initially dubious about the concept, most were willing to give it a go and thoroughly enjoyed the workout. It was amazing to see how effective an exercise session can be when performed entirely from a chair.

To bring the session to a close, we welcomed Sharon, who shared stories about growing up as a teenager in Swindon during the 1960s. Her tales provoked wonderful memories and plenty of laughter among the residents, creating a perfect way to wind down after the physical activity.

The combination of gentle exercise followed by nostalgic storytelling proved to be an engaging and successful format that residents clearly appreciated.

The Haven recently hosted an excellent first aid training session delivered by the British Red Cross, which proved to be both highly engaging and educational for all participants. The session provided residents with valuable refresher training on essential safety skills, covering how to respond effectively to minor injuries and incidents while also emphasising personal safety within the community setting. Residents found the practical, hands-on approach particularly beneficial, gaining renewed confidence in their ability to support one another during everyday mishaps and emergencies. The training not only enhanced individual safety knowledge but also strengthened the community's overall preparedness and collective sense of responsibility for wellbeing. This partnership with the British Red Cross has proven to be an invaluable resource, equipping residents with practical life skills that will serve them well both within The Haven and in their broader community interactions.

Haven Pics

