

Meeting	Community Development Committee
Date	7 th July 2026
Report Title	Haydon Wick Haven
Agenda Reference	8b
Author	Jo Newman, Memory Café & Community Co Ordinator

Officer's recommendation:

1. To note the report.

Introduction

This report provides an overview of activities delivered at the Haydon Wick Haven during March – July.

Haven attendees have often asked about other activities, like entertainment and events that happen within the other Community Cafes. There is only a £10.00 per session from Community Choices to cover refreshments. It may be a consideration in future to charge a small Membership Fee to account for entertainment or to provide an enhanced budget – the Haven concept has always been simple – a space to connect, have refreshments and share an activity such as a puzzle, a word search, partnership talks, etc.

The Co Ordinator will work with the Deputy Clerk, HR & Services Manager to review the service and consider future models and options.

Haven

March at Haven was filled with colour, creativity, and plenty of laughter as everyone got stuck into Easter bonnet making. The morning buzzing with healthy competition, the session ended on a high with a few light-hearted prizes for the standout creations, leaving everyone smiling and proudly showing off their handiwork.

April brought the welcome return of Gary from Historic England, and he had the whole room captivated. His talk introduced us to a remarkable female photographer with a deep fascination for Swindon, offering a fascinating look at the town through her lens. Comparing her images with life today sparked curiosity and conversation, giving everyone a fresh appreciation for Swindon's history and how it has changed.

May took us in a new direction with a wonderfully relaxed morning of bell-ringing entertainment. The group enjoyed a musical journey “around the world” as the bellringers played songs linked to different countries, keeping everyone on their toes guessing the composer and destination. It was a gentle, chilled session that brought a lovely sense of calm and curiosity to the month.

June this week Haven welcomed Nikki from LiveWell, a Swindon Borough Council initiative dedicated to supporting the health and wellbeing of the local community. Nikki brought real warmth and enthusiasm to the session, speaking with clarity and genuine passion about everything LiveWell has to offer, from practical support for healthier living to the wider resources available to residents across the borough,

Everyone left with something new: whether a useful piece of information, a service they hadn't known about, or simply a little extra motivation to take better care of themselves. It was a timely and valuable visit, and exactly the kind of session that reminds us how much is available right on our doorstep.

This afternoon's quiz at The Haven brought a lively, sociable energy to the room, with plenty of talking and laughter throughout. The overall atmosphere remained relaxed and easy going, contributing to a positive and engaging session.

Haven Memories

