

National Apprenticeship Week 2019

Spotlight on Chippenham



National Apprenticeship Week

National Apprenticeship Week (NAW) is in its 12th year, and is a celebration of all things apprenticeships, bringing the apprenticeship community together to celebrate the impact of apprenticeships on individuals, employers and the economy.

We have used this week as an opportunity to shine a spotlight on each area of the county and share with you our amazing apprentices, highlight current vacancies and dispel any myths you may have about apprenticeships.

Be Involved



[Be Involved](#) is a Wiltshire initiative that enables employers to support the employability of young

people and the future workforce. In creating a directory of organisations who pledge to work together around key areas across the county: supporting local schools, those with significant barriers to work, apprenticeships, traineeships and supported internships.

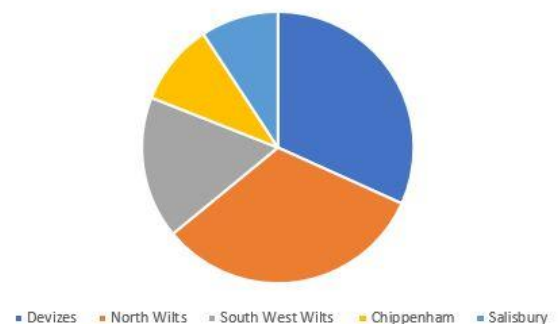
Be Involved enables business to support the residents of Wiltshire as well as assisting local projects such as the [Enterprise Adviser Network](#) and [Building Bridges](#).

Apprenticeships across Wiltshire

Wiltshire saw 5720 apprenticeships started between August 2017 and July 2018.

The parliamentary constituency of Chippenham which includes the towns and villages of Corsham, Bradford-on-Avon and Melksham accounted for 560 of these starts across all sectors and levels.

Starts by Parliamentary Constituency



Starts for the first quarter of this year (August to October) show a promising start with a total of 1710 starts recorded; 250 of which were across this parliamentary constituency.

Meet a Local Apprentice

We regularly feature [Apprentice Stories](#) on our website and NAW is an opportunity to bring new stories to you; meet Luke a Signalling Design Apprentice at Chippenham based Siemens [here](#).



“you can’t go wrong with earning and learning, if you went to university you would be paying to learn. Personally, I prefer to be hands on rather than sat listening to someone. An apprenticeship is a good route for anyone”

Apprenticeship Myths

Apprenticeships can’t be offered to existing employees

Apprenticeships are a great way to support existing staff in developing new skills whilst boosting motivation and retention.

Local Labour Market Information

Do you know what businesses there are in this area or what industry sectors are key to the local economy?

Wiltshire Council has produced several [labour market information](#) guides which explain what key industry sectors there are and what qualifications are preferable to work in that industry.

They also provide information on relevant apprenticeships, how employers recruit, example positions and salaries, future growth of the sector, employers and where you can study.

The aim of these documents is to give you an understanding of the priority and growth sectors within the county, to help you make the best decision about your future career.

Apprenticeship Reforms

The [Swindon and Wiltshire Local Enterprise Partnership](#) has set each local authority an apprenticeship target that supports Government’s wider commitment of 3 million apprenticeship starts; as documented in [English Apprenticeships: Our 2020 Vision](#).

These reforms have opened apprenticeships up to a wider audience, supporting businesses to develop their own employee talent pool and provide career alternatives for those looking to retrain. In the last academic year 41% of Wiltshire apprentices were aged 25 or older.

Apprenticeships have seen considerable change through the introduction of these reforms and the apprenticeship levy, a charge payable by employers with a wage bill greater than £3m; this money is then reinvested into apprenticeship training for businesses of all sizes.

Fire It Up

In January of this year the Government launched a new apprenticeship campaign “Fire it up” replacing the previous “Get in Go Far” campaign. In a [press release](#) the Department for Education stated



“Anyone considering an apprenticeship can be reassured that it offers high-quality training and a range of exciting career options.”

The new campaign includes national TV and social media adverts and a [new website](#) that provides helpful advice and information.

Apprenticeship Awards

If you think that your time as an apprentice won't get the recognition it deserves then think again. Apprenticeship awards are growing in popularity and can take place at a local provider or regional level all the way up to international recognition through the World Skills competition.



Pictured is Emma Benson of MJ Church, winner of Apprentice of the Year at Chippenham Business Awards 2019

Apprenticeship Myths

Apprenticeships are a drain on business resources

Apprenticeships boost productivity to businesses by an average £214 per week. They help businesses grow their own talent by developing a motivated, skilled and qualified workforce which in turn leads to increased profits, lower process and better products and services.

An Alternative to University?

Higher, Degree and Masters level apprenticeships are an area of rapid growth and offer a real alternative to university for applicants and not just for those that live in large cities such as London, Bristol and Birmingham.

There are some great opportunities on the doorstep across Swindon and Wiltshire from businesses such as Atkins, Dyson, Siemens and Nationwide.

Applications for these programmes often open well in advance of the job starting, usually between October and March to start the following September. It is therefore important to sign up to the [Find an Apprenticeship](#) service website where you can opt in to receive alerts as vacancies are announced based on your criteria.

The National Apprenticeship Service offer support through their [vacancy snapshot](#) publication which highlights national opportunities

Current vacancies in this area

Apprenticeship vacancies are advertised throughout the year by local employers such as nettl, SMARTech Energy, Whitehall Garden Centre, Hartham Park and Siemens. You can search for vacancies [here](#).

Below is a sample of live vacancies for this area

[Knorr-Bremse Rail Systems - Engineering Technician](#)

[Busy Bees Nursery - Childcare](#)

[Chippenham Accident Repair Centre - Volkswagen Group vehicle Body Repair Technician](#)

Apprenticeship Ambassador Network

Employers across England are encouraged to get involved in championing their apprenticeship programmes through the Apprenticeship Ambassador Network and the [South West](#) is no different. Join employers such as Wiltshire Council, Aster Group, Atkins Global, Dyson and many others in celebrating and promoting apprenticeships through a series of meetings and events.

Current and former apprentices can get involved in the network, with a Young Apprenticeship Ambassador Network (YAAN) developed specially for them. Young people are crucial in supporting the take up of apprenticeships by sharing their experiences with future apprentices at local school engagement events, assemblies and career talks.

To find out more about the YAAN or register to become an ambassador visit the [Amazing Apprenticeships](#) website.

Meet a Local Apprentice

We regularly feature [Apprentice Stories](#) on our website and NAW is an opportunity to bring new stories to you; meet Alex a Hospitality and Facilities Apprentice at Melksham Town Council [here](#).

“Do what feels right for you! Take advice and listen to what people have to say but don’t follow the crowd or what your parents want you to do; you may regret your decisions later.”



Our Offer to Employers

The Employment and Skills service with our colleagues at [Higher Futures](#) can support business of all sizes to develop an apprenticeship programme, help with recruitment and upskill existing employees through a series of training programmes and apprenticeship options, many funded through our extensive partnership network.

Our [Work Wiltshire](#) website is a one stop shop for education, employment and skills information and support

Work Wiltshire

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