



Wiltshire's Fun Facts

- Did you know another series of Poldark is being filmed this year at Great Chalfield Manor? Other filming includes The White Princess in Lacock and Bradford on Avon and Transformers at Stonehenge. Look out for Wiltshire on your TV/Cinema in 2017!
- Did you know that Wiltshire has a Grade II Listed Sticke tennis court at Hartham Park, Corsham?
- Did you know that the Wiltshire Cycleway, Regional Route 20, is 160 miles and takes in some of the county's most spectacular scenery? It's best to do in an anti-clockwise direction. There are also two National Cycle Routes passing through South Wiltshire, Numbers 24 and 45.
- In Cricklade, just off the high street, there is a sign that says "In 1832 on this spot nothing happened!"
- Wiltshire has some strange named places; Lover (pronounced Lowver), which is famous for its visits by romantics near Valentine's Day; New Zealand which can be found just off the A3102 south of Lyneham; and Tiddleywink, which is situated just outside Castle Combe.
- The Kennet & Avon Canal is a total of 87 miles and links London with the Bristol Channel. The Caen Hill Locks are a flight of 29 locks between Rowde and Devizes with a rise of 1 in 44 gradient or 237 feet in 2 miles.
- Did you know that Salisbury (in 2012) and Chippenham (in 2016) have been awarded purple flag status, meaning that they offer a 'gold standard' night life with lower crime and anti-social behaviour?
- Did you know that Stonehenge attracts over 1.3m people of year? The massive sarsen stones came from Marlborough, 20 miles away, the smaller bluestones from the Preseli Mountains of South Wales, a distance of almost 200 miles. They offer a limited number of stone circle access visits outside normal opening hours.
- Salisbury Cathedral is unusual in that it was built within a single century, has the tallest spire (123m/404ft), largest cloisters and largest cathedral close (80 acres) in Britain.
- Did you know that Mayfield House Hotel was a 16th century Veterinary Apothecaries
- Wiltshire is very lucky to have one of only two southern England Magna Carta Baron towns (and the only one in the Southwest) in Trowbridge, it's County Town. Baron Henry was one 25 enforcer Barones elected to ensure King John stuck to the terms of this iconic document.
- Did you know you can park in Dorset and hop over the county boundary to the beautiful Larmer Tree gardens in Wiltshire.
- Did you know that at Sir Harold Hillier Gardens the staff have counted more than 200 different plants that flower in between Christmas Day and New Year?
- The Salisbury Museum houses 5 watercolours by Turner and the Wessex Gallery has 2,140 objects on display.

- Did you know that Wadworth Brewery is the only Brewery that has a full time in-house Sign Writing team, who hand-paint all the pub signs in the traditional way!
- Did you know that Wadworth Brewery still use traditional Shire Horses to deliver all of the beer locally within a 2.5 mile radius?
- Did you know that The Pound Arts Centre is situated on an old Primary School building in Corsham and many visitors mention that it used to be their first school?
- Did you know Marlborough suffered a disastrous fire in 1653? Cromwell ordered a collection in England and Wales for the sufferers and Thomas Bayly of the Merchant's House claimed £2,339, the second largest claim in the town.
- Did you know that the Royal Naval Air Service had an air station at Stonehenge during WWI? The air station was called RNAS Stonehenge.
- Salisbury Cathedral's spire is the tallest in Britain (40ft / 123m). It was added to the Cathedral in the mid-1300s and weighs around 6,600 tons
 - Today's spire is around three inches taller than the original as a result of restoration work done in the 1950s. It is believed that architects at the time might have forgotten to include the mortar in their calculations!
 - Britain's largest cloisters with landscaped garth.
 - The world's oldest working mechanical clock, which dates back to 1386. The turret clock, which has no face, has ticks more than 4.4 billion times since it was built.
 - The finest of only four surviving 1215 Magna Carta in an interactive exhibition.
- At Stourhead the Temple of Apollo was used in 2005 adaptation of Pride and Prejudice starring Kiera Knightly.
- Did you know that Poldark was filmed in Corsham? The Land-locked market town became Truro for the hit BBC series.
- Did you know that Harold Peto placed the statue of Britannia on the bridge at Iford Manor around 1907? He wrote to the council to let them know and asked them to look after her.
- Nearly 300 archaeological treasures used or buried at Stonehenge are on display.
- For a short time at the start of the war, Lucknam Park was home to hundreds of evacuee's before being transformed into a bustling informal headquarters for airmen from the neighbouring aerodrome. They used Lucknam Park's Beech and Lime tree driveway to park the Spitfire and Hurricane planes – the huge trees being a perfect camouflage.
- Lucknam Park's drive from the entrance gates is one mile long to the hotel.
- The Victoria Art Gallery contains a bust of William Harbutt, the inventor of Plasticine. The collection also includes one of the oldest wine bottles. The green benches in the upper gallery were claimed by Anthony Green RA to be perfect for courting couples
- 1,170,000 litres (240,000 gallons) of water rises from the Sacred Spring at all Roman Baths every day.
- The Lady Margaret Hungerford Almshouses is unusual in having a schoolroom attached "for the education of ten poor boys". Thomas Gibbs (aged 13) confirmed this when he carved his name on the paneling in 1777.

- Lady Margaret's husband, Sir Edward Hungerford was Cromwell's commander in the south west and took part in the battle of Lansdowne. He is buried with his wife in a magnificent tomb in Farleigh Hungerford Castle.
- The mound in Marlborough College grounds used to be known as Merlin's barrow and was supposedly where the wizard was buried. We now know that it dates from the same period as Silbury Hill between 4,500 and 4,000 years ago. The old outdoor swimming pool at the college was fed by an underground spring and once formed part of the Norman Castle's moat – it was freezing at any time of year!

For further information or to arrange a press visit please contact Florence Wallace, Travel Trade & PR Manager, flowallace@visitwiltshire.co.uk Tel: 01722 341309 or 07436 588860