



The LYDDEN



Issue 600 December 2024



News / Features / What's On / Community Information



For the Parish of
LYDDINGTON and WANBOROUGH



In the United Benefice of Lyddington, Wanborough, Bishopstone and Hinton Parva



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Your Local Estate Agent



Having lived in Wanborough most of my life and sold many properties in the area, I offer a truly independent and personal service.

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With excellent schools and an abundance of pubs and restaurants, it is a joy to live and work in the area.

For all your property needs, please give me a call.

DEAN ARMSTRONG- WILDE



The Lyden Magazine – December 2024

Dear Friends

And so, we arrive at that great turning point of the year, Christmas, a season I have always enjoyed and welcomed with delight, as do so many of us. We celebrate the returning of natural light in the depths of a northern winter. Imperceptibly at first, but then more rapidly, the days begin to lengthen and the sun's light strengthen. But

alongside this returning natural light, in the midst of the darkest weeks of the year, we celebrate the coming of the one true 'human divine' light into our all too broken and dark human world, where good news of great joy is in rather short supply. What a relief, after a truly appalling year of news events from across the world, to be contemplating and celebrating the message of the nativity, recorded for us by Matthew and Luke: 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord.' The shepherds were told that the evidence, or sign, to look out for, that would tell them they had found the right baby, was that it would be wrapped in cloth and lying in an animal feeding trough! Even in first century Palestine this would not have been the first choice of a cot for a mother to lay her new born baby in. Who would have thought, or predicted, that God would choose such humble circumstances in which to make his personal appearance on earth in human form? So, God's anointed, Saviour King, the Word made flesh, is born among us in humility, in poverty, temporarily homeless, and in weakness, dependent on Mary and Joseph for every need, amidst the usual political tension, unrest and violence of those who rule by fear and force.

Yet God's wisdom is always vindicated by His actions and by events. He comes to us, not to impose the solutions we need upon us, for then we would not be truly free or truly human anymore. But to show us the way and open the way, for our transformation from within, the making new of our own hearts, thorough faith and trust in Him, who loves us still, despite the mess we make of things. The solution is there for us all to choose and embrace. Will we follow where the evidence leads – however strange? Will we, like the shepherds and later, the Magi from the East, seek the one true human divine light that offers us a new start, a new heart and a new vision of what it means to be human? Indeed, a relationship with the God, who created our universe and all life within it, and who came among us as one of us, full of grace and truth, and says to us "come follow me"?

Do join us for one, or more, of our Christmas Services, to welcome and celebrate "the good news of great joy which is for all people": the birth of the Saviour. We would love to see you.

Kind regards

Revd, Steve Paynter

Stevedpaynter@gmail.com

01793 296870



Prayer:

Lord Jesus Christ
your birth at Bethlehem
draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth:
accept our heartfelt praise as we worship you,
our Saviour and our God. Amen

Church Services December 2024

For the Benefice of Wanborough, Lyddington, Bishopstone and Hinton Parva

Date	Time	Church	Service
Sunday 1 st December 24	8.30am	St Mary's, Bishopstone	Book of Common Prayer (1662) Followed by
Sunday 1 st December 24	10.30am	All Saints Liddington	Morning Worship
Saturday 7 th December 24	2pm	All Saints Liddington	Crib Service / Party
Sunday 8 th December 24	10.30am	St Mary's Bishopstone	Holy Communion
Saturday 14 th December 24	3pm	Wanborough Village Hall	Messy Church for Parents & Children - Christingle
Sunday 15 th December 24	10.30am	St Andrew's Wanborough	Holly Communion
Sunday 15 th December 24	4pm	St Andrew's Wanborough	Christingle
Sunday 22 nd December 24	10.30am	St Swithun's Hinton Parva	Holy Communion
Sunday 22 nd December 24	6pm	St Andrew's Wanborough	Carol Service
Tuesday 24 th December 24	5pm	St Mary's Bishopstone	Christingle
Tuesday 24 th December 24	11.30pm	All Saints Liddington	Midnight Holy Communion
Wednesday 25 th December 24	10.30am	St Andrew's Wanborough	Christmas Day
Sunday 29 th December 24	10.30am	St Swithun's Hinton Parva	Holy Communion

Dates for your Diary - December 2024

Date	Event	Time	Location
Wed 4 th December 24	Liddington Parish Council meeting	7pm	Liddington Village Hall
Wed 11 th December 24	Wanborough Tennis Club – Christmas meal	7.30pm	The Harrow pub
Fri 13 th December 24	Christmas music & poetry evening	7pm	Liddington Village Hall
Sat 14 th December 24	Messy Church	3pm	Wanborough Village Hall
Mon 16 th December 24	Wanborough Parish Council meeting	7pm	Wanborough Village Hall
Wed 18 th December 24	Carols around the Christmas Tree	6pm	Wanborough Village Hall
Sat 21 st December 24	Farmer's Market & Community Café	9am	Wanborough Village Hall

In addition to the above dates

Wanborough Coffee morning every Thursday at 10.30am at The Brewer's Arms

Bridge Club every Friday evening at 7pm at Hinton Parva Village Hall

Liddington Art Club every Friday 2-4pm at Liddington Village Hall

Freedom Church 1st & 3rd Sunday of each month at 10.30am at Wanborough Village Hall

Save the Date - Future events in the Benefice

Date	Event	Time	Location
Sat 25 th April to Sun 11 th May 2025	Wanborough Scarecrow Trail		Around Wanborough Village
Sat 17 th May 2025	Wanborough Spring Show		Foxhill Stables
Sat 21 st June 2025	Liddington Fete		Liddington Playing Field
Sat 16 th August 2025	Wanborough Show		Church Meadow

If you have a village event that you would like to advertise so that we can all save the date e-mail details to lydenmagazine@gmail.com.

IS YOUR WARDROBE WINTER-READY?

Everyone has a right to well-fitting clothing, and as autumn turns to winter, it's important to stay warm and comfortable. If you struggle with zips and buttons or find that off-the-peg clothing doesn't cater for your body, that can be a challenge.

Contact us at DRESSABILITY! We offer bespoke clothing adaptations and alterations for the over 65s, children and adults with disabilities, those with dexterity issues and other specific needs. Allowing you to maintain your independence and keep warm in the winter months.

As a charity, our funding allows us to alter and adapt clothing at a subsidised and affordable cost.

Contact one of our dressmakers today.

Call: 01793 512878

Email: mail@dressability.org.uk

Web: dressability.org.uk

Visit us: Bradbury House, Westmead Drive, Swindon, SN5 7ER Reg. Charity 1102083

Dressability
Tailored to fit your needs

WANBOROUGH FARMERS MARKET WANBOROUGH VILLAGE HALL COMMUNITY CAFE

9AM-12

THIRD SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH
FIND US ON FACEBOOK

Wanborough Farmer's Market

It was great to see so many people at the Farmer's Market in November, we had a lovely variety of stalls, craft items and gifts available.

Our final Market in 2024 will be held on Saturday 21st December 2024, an ideal time to come and gain some last-minute Christmas presents that you need and to stock up on some fresh vegetables, bread, meat and cakes from all our stalls. Perfect way to shop to avoid all the Christmas crowds at the supermarkets.

We look forward to seeing you all on **Saturday 21st December from 9am at Wanborough Village Hall.**



Christmas **CARE**
SWINDON



Christmas can be the loneliest of lonely times, and for huge numbers, couldn't be further from the 'idyllic' scenes on TV. Christmas Care is a Swindon charity that provides hospitality for homeless and vulnerable local people every Christmas. They provide a drop-in day centre for homeless and isolated people in the Swindon area over the Christmas period.

This wonderful charity offers a full English breakfast, a hot home-cooked lunch and an early evening snack to guests with hot drinks, chats, companionship and festive cheer in between.

It is run entirely by volunteers and a small committee, and is funded purely from donations, so please donate generously on **Saturday 21st December** as we have our last Coffee Morning of the year.

Tea, coffee and home made cakes as usual from 9am to midday.

****(And if you would like to be part of the Coffee morning team, please, please get in touch with either Lorna or myself – we could do with an extra hand from time to time!)*****



Thanks, Jo Pearce (07780718880)

From everyone on the Lyden Magazine Committee we would like to wish everyone a very



*Happy Christmas
And Prosperous New Year*



A Huge thank you to everyone who helps deliver this magazine to you all once a month

We will be holding a thank you afternoon tea at the Village Hall on Saturday 18th January 2025, further details in next months Lyden.

Jean, Gemma, Angela, Lorna & Suzi

St Andrew's Church - Churchyard Clean up - Sat 19th October 2024

On a glorious autumn morning a small group of volunteers carried out some essential maintenance at St Andrew's Churchyard.



Clearing brambles from around the trees

The cost to maintain the churchyard is very expensive and costs have increased dramatically over the last few years, so any additional help with the maintenance is appreciated in order to keep the costs down.

Dave Birley organises the clean ups twice a year, usually in early spring and early autumn.

During this clean up, volunteers carried out many jobs including cutting back and clearing the grass from the footpath, removing ivy from the historic boundary wall, clearing and cutting back brambles and ground elder from around the trees and cutting back a hedge that had grown over the width of the footpath, making the path much wider and easier to use.

A big thank you to all volunteers including, Nicki & Tony Pullen, Sarah Troughton, Jon & Angela Raymond and Dave Birley. Please keep a look out in the Lyden for the next clean up which will be held in early Spring 2025. Everyone welcome to attend.



Cutting the grass back along the paths



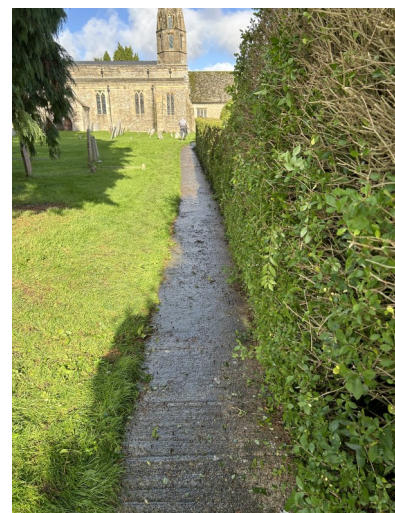
Clearing the ivy off the wall



Hedge before



Work in progress



Completed

SWINDON FILM SOCIETY screens the best new film releases from around the world as part of a programme of films shown between September and April each year. Our films are screened on Wednesdays at 7.45pm at the Arts Centre in Devizes Road, Old Town, Swindon. The guest price is £10 per film, discounts are available for members.



Hit the Road - Wednesday 11 December 2024



A chaotic, tender family is on a road-trip to the Turkish border and getting on each other's nerves. Mum fusses over her two children and the sick dog, while Dad has a broken leg. However it becomes evident that there is a more urgent and dangerous reason for the trip, to smuggle their adult son out of the country.

Full details of all this season's films can be found on the SFS website: swindonfilm.org.uk



December 2024

On behalf of all Parish Council members, we are saddened to announce that Tracy, our Clerk, has resigned and will be leaving on November 30th.

During her eight months with us, despite being new to the role, Tracy quickly mastered her responsibilities and managed our council meetings with professionalism, ensuring that minutes were published within days.

Tracy oversaw the resurfacing of Hoopers Field Drive, implemented the village maintenance contract, and collaborated closely with the handyman to maintain gates, stiles, and footpaths. Tracy also upgraded our accounting software, providing better financial forecasting and visibility.

Tracy has been a tremendous asset to our village, always courteous and quick to respond to enquiries.

While the Council did discuss her reasons for leaving to understand how we might ensure greater longevity for future clerks, we recognize that several factors influenced her decision. Unfortunately, one of those factors remains outside the Council's control. A small but vocal group of residents regularly contacted Tracy to point out perceived shortcomings. Such interactions can be discouraging and hurtful. We urge everyone to remember that it takes time for a new clerk to settle in and hope residents understand that constructive support and patience can make a significant difference.

We wish Tracy all the best in her new role in the care sector.

Our handyman, Graham, has been hard at work. The hedge along Rotten Row to Magdalen Road has been trimmed back, making it safer for parents walking children to school. Moss and leaves were removed from Mayfield to help elderly residents during wet conditions. At Hooper's Field, Graham has repaired and repainted the dugouts, and worn patches of grass were infilled to prevent muddy puddles.

There is now a WhatsApp group for allotment holders to improve communication, and we'll continue working on enhancements over the coming months. A pile of old fencing is being cleared, with new hedging to be planted soon.

Hooper's Field will soon have a new pétanque terrain, and we invite anyone interested in joining the newly formed Wanborough Pétanque Club to contact the Clerk.

The village litter pick and sign cleaning, postponed due to bad weather, will be rescheduled, and Cllr. Sumner will communicate the new date soon.

Swindon Borough Council has published its latest Swindon Plan, which is open for public consultation. A copy is available on our village website, Wanborough.info, and listening events are scheduled at various local locations.

As we approach 2025, the Parish Council is finalising next year's plans and budgets. We aim to continue supporting local sports clubs while allocating funds for the betterment of other areas in the Parish. We welcome suggestions from residents, particularly those who recently settled in Redlands. Ideas on road, path, pavement, hedgerows or planting are appreciated, as are any proposals to foster better community engagement, where the Council could provide initial support or resources.

The recruitment process for a new Clerk is underway, and the job description and application details are available on our website. Applications are open until the second week of January. In the interim, we've appointed Sally as our Locum Clerk. Sally is highly experienced, and we hope everyone will extend her a warm welcome.

We also have vacancies for Parish Councillors; if you're interested, please come along or please contact the Clerk.

Sally, our Interim Clerk, is available by phone at 07588 769829 or by email at clerk@wanborough.info.

Upcoming December meeting: Full Council meeting on December 16th.

As the festive season approaches, we wish you and your families joy and happiness over Christmas and into the New Year.

John Warr

Chair of Wanborough Parish Council



Liddington Parish Council

Annual Walkaround

As a Parish Council we try to improve the parish's environment, so each year the Parish Council carries out an annual walkaround with the Contractor to identify additional work that will improve the area. This year's walkaround has identified that a third weed spray is required this year and will include moss killer. The Parish Council have also approved for the Contractor to spray both the kerb lines and paths on Purley Road. A road sweeper will also be sweeping The Street and Purley Road as SBC have not carried this out for a while. All of these works identified and approved will be carried out in the near future, weather dependent.

The Parish Council continues to try and do what they can to improve the community within budget and this is with thanks to our Grounds Maintenance Contractor – Adams & Watt Ltd who do a tremendous job.

Season Greetings

Liddington Parish Council wish all residents a good and healthy festive season, whatever your plans maybe!

Next Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on 4th December at 7:00pm in the Village Hall. Residents are welcome to attend. Please note the section where the public can speak is to be held at 7.30pm in the Main Hall.

Alternatively, if you would like to raise an issue or ask a question, please contact the Clerk, via parishclerk@liddingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Laura Evans, Clerk to Liddington Parish Council



Liddington Hall Christmas music and poetry evening, (Poster to the right)

which will include the Madrigal singers from Bristol University, will be on **Friday 13th December** starting at 7pm. Tickets are available from the following:

John Mathieson - 791396

Alison Babington - 296409

Kay Archer - 790738

Matthew Bowman - 791401

Liddington 100 Club

The winner for September is Mr Vic Pound - congratulations.

A big thank you to everyone who has renewed their memberships or become new members . It's still not too late to become a member .
Caroline



Liddington Village Hall

A CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

Friday 13TH December, 7:00pm at the Village Hall

Bristol University Madrigal Singers



Seasonal poetry

Bar, raffle, nibbles and finale carol singing

Adults:£10 Children under 14 free

Tickets must be purchased in advance from: John Mathieson S. 791396,
Alison Babington S. 296409,
Kay Archer S.790738, Matthew Bowman S.791401

Your Ridgeway Borough Councillor update from Gary Sumner

There is no Ward Surgery in December, but do contact me by phone or email if I can help with anything.

Wanborough Road: I was contacted by residents about the missing section of pavement on the Wanborough Road and I chased this up with SCC and Conlon.

As a result, this is a recent update on works from Conlon, which should take us to mid-December. I've removed the section on works due to be completed before this copy goes out, but streetlights are now working and bollards on the build-outs will have been replaced and the build-outs will have been surfaced.

We have now received the bollards for the buildouts. I have had to submit a 171 licence to Swindon 'Streetworks' to put traffic lights onto the network.

Programme is as follows: Monday 18th November start works to the footpath including filter drain & headwall north of the SCR traffic lights approximately 4 weeks, under 2-way traffic lights.

This will then leave the Horpit junction for the New Year as this is yet to be agreed with clients.

HGV traffic: I have received numerous reports of construction traffic using The Marsh and Pack Hill. The developers have been reminded that until the SCR opens their delivery route is via Covingham. The 'No HGV' sign on the roundabout at Pack Hill is being removed by persons unknown and will be reinstated.

Redlands Grove: I've been contacted by residents (in particular on Redlands Way) about speeding and I've approached the developers (as the road will not be adopted for some years) about implementing an advisory 20mph zone and installing some temporary build-outs.

Litter pick: I was disappointed to have to cancel our recent planned litter pick due to a storm which did bring high winds and heavy rain. I will get something booked in for January/February and publish a date in the January edition of The Lyden.

Winter problems: If you spot blocked drains or fallen branches this can be reported online (links are on my website) but if there is something urgent do please contact me directly by phone or email.

Can I wish all fellow residents a very happy & peaceful Christmas and New Year.

Please call me on 01793 790814 or email: gary@ridgewayvillages.co.uk

Ridgeway Villages website: www.ridgewayvillages.co.uk

Let's Talk Swindon

Creating more opportunities to listen, to engage and involve residents is one of Swindon Borough Council's commitments in the Swindon Plan finalised in the summer.

Across January and into February 2024 the Council ran a borough-wide engagement exercise called 'Let's talk Swindon' to get residents' feedback on our plans to make a positive difference to Swindon. The Council received over 4,400 replies.

To hear more about the work we are doing, you can also attend one of our drop-in sessions that will be taking place across the Borough in December.

By visiting the events, you'll be able to talk with our teams about where you live while also hearing how we are working to implement the feedback you shared in our recent Resident's Survey.

Find your nearest drop in session:

- Monday, 2 December at Broadgreen Community Centre, Salisbury Street, Swindon. SN1 2AN from 2.00pm until 4.00pm
- Tuesday, 3 December at Park Library, Cavendish Square, Swindon. SN3 2LZ from 10.00am until 12.00noon
- Wednesday, 4 December at West Swindon Library, Link Centre, Swindon. SN5 7DL from 1.00pm until 3.00pm
- Thursday, 5 December at John Moulton Hall, 32 Penhill Drive, Swindon. SN2 5DU from 10.30am until 12.30pm
- Friday 6, December at Highworth Library, Brewery Street, Highworth. SN6 7AJ from 12.15pm until 2.15pm
- Monday, 9 December at Wroughton Library, Ellendune Community Centre, Barrett Way, Wroughton. SN4 9LW from 11.00am until 1.00pm Friday, 13 December at Pinetrees Community Centre, Pinehurst, Swindon. SN2 1QR from 12.30pm until 2.30pm

Further details about "Let's Talk Swindon" can be found on our website www.swindon.gov.uk



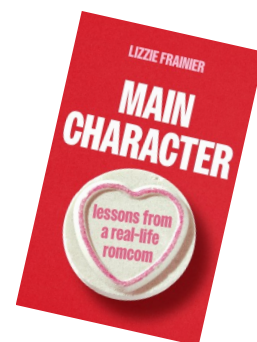
10 things I've learned about going home for Christmas as an adult

Every family has their own festive traditions, but there are some things about spending Christmas in your hometown that are universal says Lizzie Frainier

1. If you're single, people you went to school with will have a certain kind of allure in the local pub, especially if it's Christmas eve. And especially if there are jagerbombs involved. Be warned.
2. Not to mention that nosy neighbours will all want to know the exact details of your love life. And will try to set you up with their 'charming' son or daughter. They will think they are being sneaky and coy, but it will be totally obvious what they're doing. Just add a turkey curry buffet and you'll feel like you're in Bridget Jones.
3. No matter what high-powered job you now have, you will instantly revert to the behaviours of a young child. You could be the prime minister of the whole country and suddenly all you'll want to do is watch Home Alone on repeat with a hot chocolate spilling over with whipped cream and multiple teddy bears for company.
4. Sibling hijinx will be out in full force. Do not lose eye contact with your last Yorkshire pudding for even a split second or it will be gone forever. The sibling in question will claim they have no idea where it went. Liar.
5. The most exciting moment as a kid used to be looking under the tree. As an adult, it's opening the fridge to see what's in store. A jug of bread sauce! Homemade sausage rolls! Seven different kinds of cheese! This is going to be a good one.
6. You'll get at least one present that really shows your age. A cordless mini vacuum cleaner, this is what I've always wanted! Uh-oh.
7. Playing Cards Against Humanity with your parents can be dangerous. And not because they'll be shocked and horrified at whatever inappropriate thing you come up with, but because you might be shocked and horrified with what they come up with in return.
8. You'll open a dating app just to see who's out there. Immediately see your former biology teacher, shudder and close the app.
9. A game of Monopoly may start the biggest family argument ever. Since last Christmas at least. Queue the board going flying, someone storming out of the room and finding the tiny plastic houses for days after. Normally when you're barefoot.
10. The childhood bedroom you thought would stay exactly as it was? It's now a storage cupboard. And you're sleeping on the tiny twin bed in among the boxes. But still, it feels like home.



Lizzie Frainier grew up in Wanborough and is Associate Travel Editor at *The Times* and *The Sunday Times*. Her first book, *Main Character: Lessons from a real-life romcom*, is out February 6, 2025. A memoir that explores dating through the lens of our favourite romcoms. You can preorder at linktr.ee/maincharacterbook or in-store at Bert's Books.



Music for Christmas with The Aldbourne Band

Holy Cross Church, Chiseldon
Friday, 6th December at 7.45pm

Tickets: £12.00 Tel. (01793)790756

Mulled Wine

Refreshments

🎄 Spread the Cheer with the 2024 Scout Christmas Post! 🎄

With Christmas fast approaching, the Swindon Scout Christmas Post is back and ready to help you send your festive wishes far and wide across town, all while supporting our local Scouts! At just 35p per stamp, Scout Christmas Post is less than half the cost of a second-class stamp, making it an affordable and meaningful way to reach out to loved ones near and far.

Our dedicated Scouts, Cubs, Beavers, and Squirrels will handle each delivery with care, ensuring your Christmas cards reach friends and family all over Swindon.

How It Works:

1. **Purchase Your Scout Stamps:** Stamps are available at these local spots (cash only):

- Poplars Daycare, Nursery & Preschool
- The Brewers Arms
- The Harrow
- The Plough
- The New Calley Arms
- The Village Inn
- Helen Browning's Farm Shop

Drop Off Your Cards: Look for our bright green Scout post boxes at each location. Once your card is stamped and addressed clearly, simply drop it in by **4 pm on 10th December**, and we'll take care of the rest!

Important Reminder: We're able to deliver Christmas cards only, so please ensure that each envelope has a clearly written address for smooth delivery.

By choosing Scout Christmas Post, you're helping to fund adventures, skill-building, and community service for our local Scouts. Let's spread some cheer this season—thank you for your support, and Happy Christmas from the 1st Wanborough Scout Group! 🎄📬🌟

Remembrance Service - Sunday 10th November at St Mary's Church, Bishopstone

1st Wanborough Scout Group were well represented, as always, at this year's Remembrance Service and, for the first time were able to include even younger children as we have recently added a Squirrel Drey to our group for 4-6 year olds.

The children behaved extremely well during the service and were complimented by members of the congregation as they formed a guard of honour outside of the church.

The candlelit remembrance jars made by the Beavers and the handmade poppy wreaths in a range of materials made by other sections decorated the altar beautifully.

Our young people across Scouts, Cubs, Beavers and Squirrels will all receive a commemorative badge to recognise their contribution to this important annual event which is always prominent in our Autumn programme.



TENNIS CLUB UPDATE

WTC wishes everyone a very happy and peaceful Christmas with your families. It is always good to get out and play a bit of tennis after the rest and celebrations. In addition to members being able to book courts, there is a great Pay-and-Play option for non-members where courts can be booked for their family and friends at a price of £15/hour. Please reach out to us using the Contact Us form on our website:



<https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/WanboroughTennisClub> or call one of the contacts listed on the Bookings/PayAndPlay page.

WALKING TENNIS - FREE TASTER SESSION

Exciting news for anyone recovering from injury or wanting to get into playing some low impact tennis! Our walking tennis is now active, and we are looking forward to building up this group. Do let us know if you are interested in coming along to a free taster session.

DATE CHANGE - CHRISTMAS GET TOGETHER!!!

Due to unforeseen circumstances, we have had to move the Club's Christmas Get Together. New date is **Wednesday 11th, 7:30pm at the Harrow Pub.** Members can still contact us for information on last-minute spaces/availability. Call Susan on 07720413716 or email svglass@hotmail.com to join our fun night of chatter, merriment and buffet food.



Whose Turn is it this Christmas?



When my first wife and I separated over thirty years ago, we agreed all the necessary details about our home, our children, our income going forward and so on, and we did it without rancour.

We still smile about those two kids who married young, she at twenty and I at twenty-two. We were far too young, but it was common in those days to marry and get away from big families. The downside, as in our case, is that we grew up and we grew apart.

The separation was sad, yet formal and beyond reproach and we remain good friends to this day.

When it came to Christmas, I had no expectation that our four daughters would come to me on that day. Instead, we agreed that all six of us would celebrate in the week before Christmas and my ex-wife could plan Christmas Day to suit herself. We still do it now, four daughters and nine grandchildren later, and it even has a name: *Granddad's Christmas*.

I'll admit that heading back to England afterwards has always been difficult, especially on Christmas Eve in the early days when often I was the only passenger on the plane.

As the years went by, my daughters married and introduced in-laws through their husbands, and on reflection that decision about *Granddad's Christmas* was inspired. Everyone looks forward to it and the grandchildren see it as normal, the new normal I suppose.

There has only been one upset, many years ago. I bought a gift for one of my grandchildren without knowing she had requested the same gift, in writing, from Father Christmas. That required some white-knuckle explaining while I told porky-pies about being Father Christmas's messenger. The parents, not happy with me, had a mad scramble to change their gift on Christmas Eve.

Separation was a big issue in Ireland in my day. Our story even got into the newspapers before the divorce referendum with a headline: *"Hello Divorce, Goodbye Daddy."*

Nowadays many couples have one or both partners with a previous marriage. My wife and I have history there. It's not uncommon. Extrapolate it though and it gets complicated. We have friends with children from current and previous relationships, who in turn have grandparents from separate relationships.

And then, along comes Christmas. Imagine the cocktail of multiple families trying to agree who visits whom, on what day, or who has their turn at hosting. It's a phenomenon of our generation, all those interrelated relationships that society struggles to explain.

Even the language is inadequate. We need a new lexicon to catch up on modern relationships. I've tried it as a poet over the years but writing about my own separation has eluded me, which probably says something.

Here are a few lines from one poem which you could play with over Christmas:

*You and your ex, and me and mine,
and your ex's ex and all the grandkids,
and my ex's son marries your ex's daughter
and we all live happily ever after . . .*

Merry Christmas, Dear Readers.

www.mauricespillane.co.uk

If you enjoy poetry workshops there is a monthly meeting in Swindon. The next one is on 4th December. Details are on:

www.poetryswindon.com

Bishopstone and District Gardening Club

Annual Quiz Night

This was held on 18th October in Bishopstone village hall and what an evening, filled with fun, banter, lots of chatter and friendly rivalry, this proved once again to be a very popular event. There were eleven teams made up of not only garden club members but also a lot of both familiar and new faces.

Our quiz master was Mark Stafford from Hinton Parva who kept control of the evening and delivered the questions loud and clear. The 6 rounds covered a wide range of topics to tax our brains, from General Knowledge to recognising Bird Song, a Picture Quiz and Dingbats. Animal Magic involved some maths, ... do you know how many hearts an octopus has? or the number of legs a lobster has? and then multiply the two for the final answer!

The Dingbats involved a lot of lateral thinking as always and a lot of groans when the answers were read out! So obvious when you know the answer!

The teams were very well matched which resulted in a tie break between three. It went to a third tie break question :- 'What is the Spirit in a Moscow Mule'? before the winner was declared. The answer - Vodka of course.

The Chilli supper in the interval was as always, delicious as were the amazing array of home made puddings.

The main prize for the raffle was a splendid box of local vegetables raising £140 and the whole event raised in the region of £700 for the club. A splendid result and much needed funds for the ever increasing cost of our monthly speakers.

A very big THANK YOU to Chris Thomas and her team who organised the event, to Mark our Quiz Master, to Chris and Debbie who slaved away in the kitchen, and all those who contributed, cooked and baked to provide such a tasty chilli and wonderful spread of puddings, and of course all those who came along and participated with such good humour. A real team effort.



Diary Dates

The Programme of meetings and speakers for 2025 has now been arranged. All meetings start at 7.00pm in Bishopstone Village Hall unless otherwise stated.

Diary Date 2025	Speaker and Events
Wed 8 th January	Rebecca Brain – “No-Dig Vegetable Gardening
Wed 12 th February	Jane Faulkes – “Gardening and Bone Health”
Wed 12 th March	Helen Browning – “Soil, Climate Change and Agroforestry
Wed 9 th April	Roger Umpelby – “Pest and Disease Control without Chemicals”
Sat 11 th May	Annual Plant Sale
Wed 14 th May	Richard Reckitt – “A Buzz for the Garden... Gardening for Bees”

Diary Date 2025	Speaker and Events
Wed 11 th June	Timothy Walker – “A Blaze of Glory : Marking your Garden Colourful in Autumn”
Wed 9 th July	David Cramp – “Swifts, Swallows and Martins”
Wed 10 th Sept	Claire Mitchell – “Climate Change : What it all Means”
Wed 9 th Oct	TBC Rebecca Brain – “Roses”
Friday 17 th Oct	Quiz Night & Chilli Supper
Wed 12 th Nov	AGM & Supper

I am sure you agree this is an exciting and varied programme so time to put all these dates in your diaries and look forward to an informative year ahead.

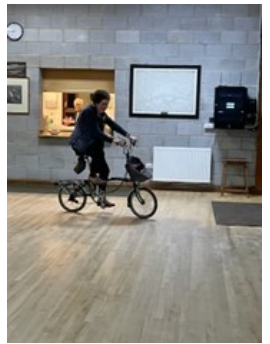
Marion Peck
01793791001



Sue Birley - A resident from The Marsh

An article by me, about the 30+ years David and I have cycled in France on Bromptons, appeared in the Lyden last March. Since then we have enjoyed another 'tour de France', but I have also been whizzing round Wiltshire (in a car, I'm afraid), talking about our adventures to W.I. groups, and Probus and U3A.

A couple of years ago a friend asked me to speak about my travels and the book recording them at a Chiseldon Women's Institute meeting and soon after I became an approved speaker for the Wiltshire Federation. I have now given about 25 talks in the county with more to come, and have enjoyed meeting the members and visiting parts of Wiltshire I barely knew existed. It has been great fun and not without its excitement. My talk is illustrated and on two occasions I have been unable to show the slides – once on a sunny August day where there were no blinds for the windows and once when I forgot to take my computer. On such occasions the Brompton becomes the star so that rather than showing it off as a footnote after the pictures, the talk centres on how it folds and unfolds and how comfortable to ride it is, if slow. At Kington Langley (where I did show the slides) the W.I. President decided to see for herself and rode my Brompton round and round their very large hall and I must say there was quite a queue to have a go!



On the way up!



On the way down

The last trip featuring in my book is our climb up Mont Ventoux (1933 metres, about 6,300 feet), which I heartily recommend if only for the coming down again. The next year we returned to Provence to visit the Verdon gorges and since then have revisited Alsace and explored the Basque country. We have had two trips to the Auvergne, on one occasion visiting Vichy, a spa town and seat of the Pétain government in World War 2. We have toiled up hills in upper Provence (upper in more than one sense) and, this year,

roamed around Champagne, Bourgogne and Franche-Comté. The area is less mountainous than the regions we usually visit and we exchanged hills for waterways, cycling down the Marne-Saône canal and joining the Voie Bleue for a couple of days, a cycle route which follows the Moselle and the Saône rivers from Luxembourg to Lyon. We went to the hilltop town of Langres which dominates the view from miles around. We were commenting on the wonderful sight as we approached, then

remembered we had to get up there somehow. Well, there was only one way and we arrived eventually and stayed there three nights as the weather forecast was a bit mucky. It was ideal, however, for tramping round the streets and particularly the one and a half kilometres of ramparts. The French philosopher Diderot was born there so nearly everything is named after him: Place Diderot, Rue Diderot, Maison Diderot, Boulangerie Diderot (not very good croissants, I'm afraid but the Place and the Rue furnished plenty of refreshment places so all was well). The museums were excellent – we don't normally visit many as we spend the days cycling but we enjoyed being cultured for a change.



Dole at Dusk

The Saône trail took us to Dole in the Jura, one of my favourite towns. It is very elegant and there are good cycle ways along the main road to the centre. It is the birthplace of the brilliant Louis Pasteur and I was thrilled to be able to photograph his microscope in the excellent museum located in the house in which he was born.

Pasteur was an amazing chap. You might be familiar with the pasteurisation of milk but do you realise that our wine wouldn't be quite the same without it? (Pasteurisation, not milk.) OK, he tackled anthrax too, but when it comes to the order of things ...

I am often asked during my talks how far we go each day. I usually reply 'it depends' or 'not as far as we used to' or 'it depends if we find any lunch'. (As we rarely found lunch on our last holiday, the bars and cafés in the country disappearing as fast as our country pubs, we managed respectable distances. We did once find an open 'Café de la Gare' but there was no longer any station.) I am also asked about electrification. I reply that it's good to know that it's there for when we get *really* old and crumbly, but it's doubtful that we'd add batteries to our vintage Bromptons, which are heavy enough to lift onto trains as it is. But the titanium electric model is only £4,500 and I for one think I'm worth it!

Please excuse me for mentioning that I'm told my book makes a nice present and I believe present time is approaching. Anyone who gets it directly from me can have it for £10 (RRP 10.99).

Sue Birley, 07341 846 733

sbirley@gn.apc.org



Fifty Years of The Lyden Magazine

From the Archives

Ron Kent, who lived in the village for many years with his wife Joan on the High Street, wrote a regular monthly article for The Lyden Magazine from the first edition in 1974 and continued for many years afterwards.

Ron was well known for his extensive knowledge on growing fruit and vegetables, he was a long standing allotment holder, winning many "Best Kept" allotment competitions and helped out at the Flower Show at the Annual Wanborough Show.

A copy of Ron's first "In the Garden" article in November 1974's Lyden as shown below.

In Your Garden.

By now the tops of the Dahlias will have been blackened by the frost, and no further time should be lost in getting the tubers up. They should be dug up carefully with a fork, and as much soil as possible shaken off, and then any remaining, carefully prised away with a blunt stick. The stems should be cut down to about six inches. After all this has been done the tubers should be stood upside down to drain the moisture out for at least a couple of weeks. They need somewhere where the sun and drying winds can get at them, but on no account leave them exposed to frost. When well dry, store in deep boxes with the tubers just covered with dry peat or soil, but leave the crowns above or they may rot. Damp and frost are the biggest enemies through the severe weather. The latest idea of storing tubers through the winter is to put them, well packed with dry straw, inside a black polythene bag such as a refuse bag. Tie the top with strong string or wire to make it airtight and keep in a dry frost proof place, but not in a centrally heated room. Have a look at them every month to see they are not developing mildews or dry rot. Gladioli corms should be dug up, cut off about two inches above the corm and put in boxes to dry. After a week or two, the old corm can be pulled away from the base and the new ones stored away. If you have the time, the little white cormlets around the base can be saved, and sown in rows next spring to grow on to flowering size which takes 2-3 years. Outdoor Chrysants can be dug up now, and after shortening the stems to about six inches, packed into boxes until the spring. Frost will not hurt these so they can be left in a cold frame for the winter. Give plenty of air whenever possible, but keep the rain off at all cost. It's not the cold that kills Chrysants but rather the wet conditions prevailing during the winter months. Keep the boxes on the dry side until the sun begins to gain power during the Spring.

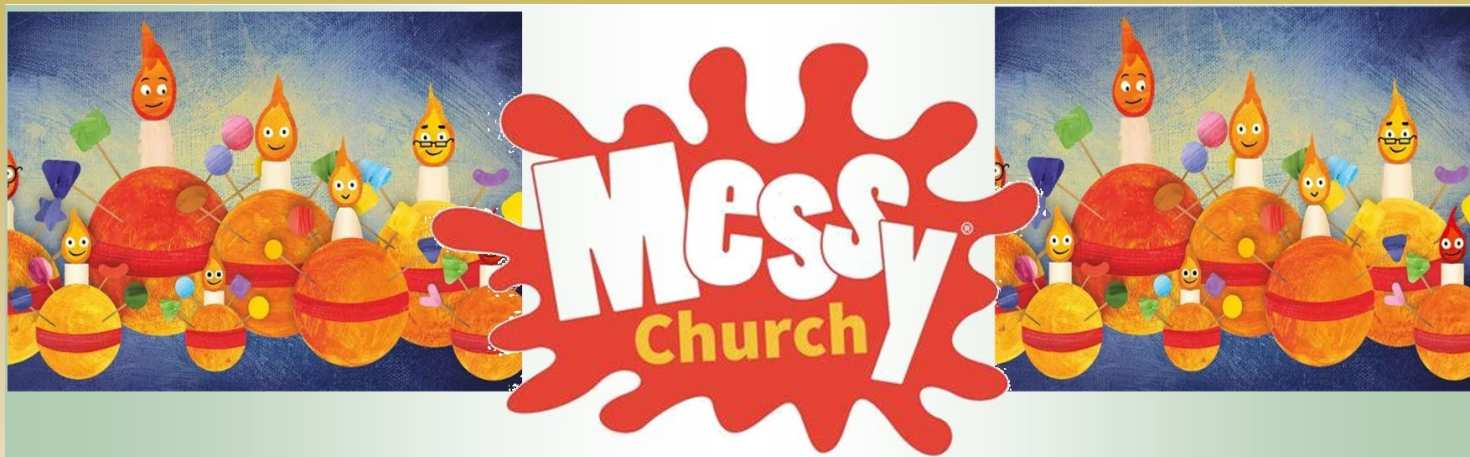
If you want some scented flowers during early Spring, and possess a bed of Lily of the Valley, dig a few roots now, and select some of the fattest shoots. Put about five of these in a five inch pot of good compost with the tips just showing after potting. Water well and place in a cold frame or a very sheltered corner by a wall. Then a week or two later take them into the greenhouse or sunny window and within weeks the flowers should be beginning to appear. All the more enjoyable through the dull days of winter with their lovely scent.

H.R. Kent.

More from the archives next month.

We would also welcome details of any memories residents have from The Lyden over the years, please e-mail:-

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15 December 2024, 4pm - Christingle at St Andrew's, Wanborough

22 December 2024, 6pm - Carol Service at St Andrew's, Wanborough

24 December 2024, 5pm - Christingle at St Mary's, Bishopstone

24 December 2024, 11.30pm - Midnight Communion at All Saints, Liddington

25 December 2024, 10.30am - Christmas Day Holy Communion at St Andrew's, Wanborough

29 December 2024, 10.30am - Christmas Holy Communion at St Swithun's, Hinton Parva

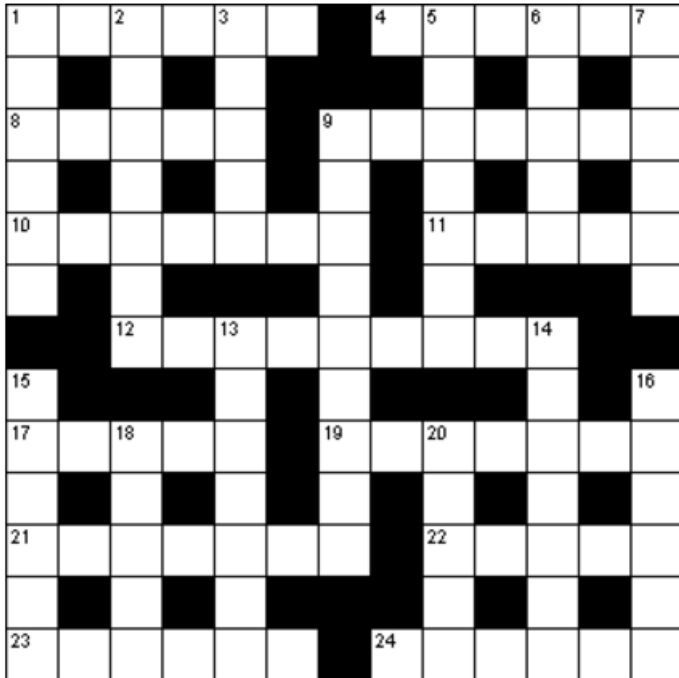
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Puzzle of the Month - December 2024

We are pleased to confirm that for October, November & December 2024

The Cross Keys Pub have agreed to sponsor the "Puzzle of the month" and are offering a meal for two for the winning person. Please complete the puzzle below, take a picture of your answers and send them to Lydenmagazine@gmail.com by **14th December 2024**. In the event of more than 1 correct answer received, the winner will be drawn out of the hat - good luck



Across

- 1 Detective (6)
- 4 Stinging plant (6)
- 8 Evade (5)
- 9 Infantile (7)
- 10 Madman (7)
- 11 Souvenir (5)
- 12 Percussion instrument with wooden bars (9)
- 17 Foolish person (5)
- 19 Mislead (7)
- 21 Fruity biscuit (3,4)
- 22 Watchful (5)
- 23 Part of the eye (6)
- 24 Court entertainer (6)

Down

- 1 Decorous (6)
- 2 When the sun crosses the equator (7)
- 3 Larceny (5)
- 5 Trading ban (7)
- 6 Spin round (5)
- 7 Code of behaviour (6)
- 9 Retract or modify a previous opinion (4-5)
- 13 Disappointed (3,4)
- 14 Obvious (7)
- 15 Disagree (6)
- 16 The drink of the gods (6)
- 18 Bullion bar (5)
- 20 Fad (5)

**Winner and answers
will be provided in
next month's
Lyden**

November's Winner

Karen Boulton

Well Done



**THE CROSS KEYS
WANBOROUGH**

Solutions for November's puzzle



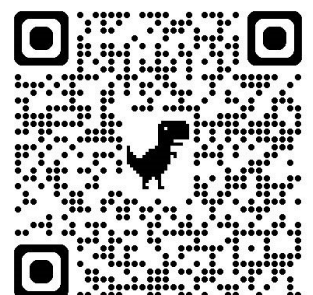
Well done to everyone who submitted correct answers. Winner was drawn out of a hat. If you didn't win this month please try again!

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Ready to book? Scan the QR code or call us at 01793 296776. And for ****Christmas Day bookings****, shoot us an email at TheManager@crosskeys.pub. See you soon at ****The Cross Keys****, where great food meets a great time!



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Wanborough “War Book or Defence Scheme”

Following bombing during WW1 and growing tension in Europe and Asia the Government became increasingly concerned about the possibility of aerial incendiary and gas attacks on towns and cities resulting in a huge number of casualties. In 1924 a committee was formed and known as Air Raid Precautions (ARP) to prepare the country for air raids in the future.

Air Raid Wardens Service.

In April 1937 the Air Raid Wardens' Service was formed and The Air Raids Precautions (ARP) Act 1937 came into force on 1st January 1938, compelling all local authorities to create their own ARP services with responsibility for organising wardens, messengers, ambulance drivers, rescue parties, and for liaison with police and fire brigades. The aim was to seek 800,000 volunteers and by mid-1938 200,000 had joined. By the outbreak of war numbers had risen to more than 1.5 million. Wardens were responsible for ARP advice to the public, for reporting bombs and other incidents, and were joined by the Women's Voluntary Service in May 1938. In towns and cities air raid

shelters were distributed from 1938, and the Wardens enforced the blackout, using air raid sirens when required and issuing gas masks. Most Wardens were part-time volunteers who carried out their ARP duties as well as full-time jobs and although initially they wore their own clothes with a steel helmet, in May 1941 full-time and regular part-time Wardens were issued with blue serge uniforms and armbands.

WARDENS. Mr A.E.Ford-Deacon, Parsonage Farm, Wanborough.
Mr S.J.Averies, Kite Hill, Wanborough.
Mr C.Dear, Inlands Cottages, Wanborough.
Mr T.Hawkins, Somerset Farm, Wanborough.
Mr R.Thomas, Lane Farm, Wanborough.
Mr F.Sadler, High Street, Wanborough.
Mr W.H.Webb, Upper Wanborough.
Mr E.Miller, Prater House, Kite Hill, Wanborough.

The wardens were based at

home and the importance of their role is shown by each being marked on the War Book map, included in August's Lyden article.

The Wardens were Operational Members of the Invasion Committee and led by **Alexander Ford-Deacon** who was born and lived all his life at Parsonage Farm in Wanborough. When his parents Joseph and Emily died in 1932 both his brothers had moved away and Alex lived at Parsonage Farm until he died in 1975. He was often seen walking round the village with his dog.

Fireguards.

Originally formed as part of the ARP the Fireguards were volunteers organised by local authorities to report and deal with small fires caused by incendiary bombs, working alongside the Wardens and National Fire Service. These volunteers were formed into small teams of 3 to 5 covering their home area and trained to tackle small fires using stirrup pumps and sand.

The plans were extended as the war progressed and in May 1942 (just as the War Book was being written) an Order was issued which made it compulsory for women to enrol for Fireguard duties. It was also compulsory for every person not engaged in any other form of part time civil defence duties to register. By the end of December 1943 it was estimated that there were some six million people enrolled in the Fireguards.

The list of volunteers in Wanborough includes names not appearing elsewhere in the War Book, perhaps due to the Order making it compulsory for people not engaged in roles elsewhere. The list also includes the first women in an operational role mentioned in the book, Mrs McConnell at The Gables and Miss Hollis in Rotten Row.

The Senior Fireguard was **Edgar Frederick Frank Jefferies**, who was a Constituent Member of the Invasion



Committee.

Frank Jefferies was born in 1887 at Stratton St Margaret and married Beatrice Clare Kent from Wanborough at St Andrew's Church in 1909. In 1911 he was recorded as a Plasterer living with his parents-in-law Leonard and Elizabeth Kent at The Orchard, Rotten Row.

During WW1 Frank enlisted in Royal Flying Corps in 1917, and after transfer to the RAF and promotion to Corporal Mechanic he transferred to the Reserve in 1919 before discharge in April 1920.

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By 1921 Frank was a Builder and Contractor and also Postmaster and Shopkeeper living at The Post Office, Lower Wanborough between The Plough and The Harrow with wife Beatrice, daughter Marjorie, nephew Freddie Pullen from Swindon working in the Post Office and Beatrice Goddard a Domestic Servant

from London.

By the middle of 1930s Frank had moved to The Gables and later extended his workshop at The Close into a family home, and was living there when the War Book was written. In addition to Frank being Senior Fireguard, The Close was also a First Aid Point with the ambulance plus 2 stretchers stationed in the yard behind in addition to the fire pump.

During this time Frank was no stranger to the courts. In addition to disputes involving work related issues Frank made national news when a motoring offence involving a "HALT" sign progressed to the Court of Appeal where the judges sent the case back to the magistrates with instructions to reverse their decision to guilty!

Frank's wife Beatrice died in 1943 and the following year he married Phyllis Ruby Rudge, whose father was a jeweller living at 21 Regent Street, Swindon. Frank died in 1949 while living at Trees, Quarry Road, Swindon.

If you knew any of the people mentioned in the list of Fireguards or you have any family memories about Alex Ford-Deacon and Frank Jefferies please get in touch so we can add personal details to the story of Wanborough during WW2. Dave Hayward. Email c/o:
lydenmagazine@gmail.com

FIREGUARDS.

Senior Fireguard. Mr E.F.F. Jefferies, The Close

High Street.

H. Langley,	Yew Tree House.
C. Titcombe,	Newhaven.
E. Cutting,	The Harrow.
D. Stevens,	The Harrow.
H. Freeman,	Practors House.
E. Tucker,	Chapel Lane.
A. Campbell	High Street.
F. Roberts	do.
C. Kembrey	do.
H. Pooles	Callis Farm.
E. Masters	Black Horse.
Mrs McConnell	The Gables.
J. Butt	The Chestnuts.
B. Hopper	Veredene

Rotten Row.

Mr H.C. Palmer	College Farm.	LEADER.
Miss Hollis	Rottwn Row.	
Mr Hollis	do.	
F. Arman	Slate Farm.	
R. Payne	The Orchard.	
F.R. Payne	Pebbles Villa.	
E. Quickenden	Sunningdale.	
H. Stratford	Kite Hill.	
A.G. Gleed	Kite Hill.	
A.M. Gleed	Kite Hill.	
R. Mills	Kite Hill.	
A. Payne	do.	

FIREGUARDS (Continued)

Upper Wanborough.

Rev. E.M. Swift	The Vicarage	LEADER.
Mr G. Wood	Disnet Cottage	
S. Morse		
S. Tancock		
K. Tancock		
E. Miller		
R. Miller		
C. Titcombe		
W. Titcombe		
G. Turner		
P. Messam		
D. Morse		

Lower Wanborough - Burvercroft.

M. Ayres	South View	LEADER.
A. Vincent		
M. Gathercole		

Lyden Magazine

If you would like to submit an article to be included in next month's Lyden, then please e-mail your contribution to the Lyden by the 14th of the month prior to the publication month (by 14th December for January's magazine).

Lydenmagazine@gmail.com We are always keen to hear from you.



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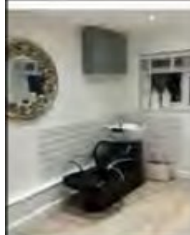
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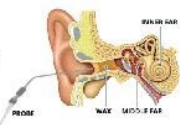
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Confessions of an Antiques Dealer

No. 14

My sudden exit from my shop in Redland, Bristol and my subsequent retreat into my hideaway flat next door to the shop following my court appearance and resulting suspended prison sentence didn't mean that I could stop buying and selling. However, before I could concentrate fully on earning a living, I had a very pressing loose end to sort out. I had bought a very valuable and large piece of Art Nouveau silver from Dave and Andy, the likeable rogues and suppliers of antiques with dubious origins. It might be that this piece was acquired honestly, but I couldn't count on it, and they didn't offer a receipt for it. I needed to dispose of it as soon as possible.

I had heard of an open-air antiques market that operated every Friday morning in Bermondsey East London, so I decided to take the large piece of silver there. If there weren't any takers, then I could take it to Sotheby's in New Bond Street. It was a rare piece. I had done some research, but I hadn't seen any similar items in my sale catalogues. However, I still estimated that this exhibition piece could be worth somewhere in the region of £1800. It had only cost me £150, so I should be able to turn a decent profit.

I decided to ask £1200 and to accept any offer around £1000. My partner in my Redland shop, Jean, had a friend called Lou who was interested in learning the business. She was from a village in Gloucestershire, but she spent more and more time in Bristol, and we had become quite close.

She wondered if I would like some company on the London trip, so she joined me for the journey. I had disposed of my van by now and had bought a Ford estate car, so with the tea chest containing the silver in the boot we set off for London down the A4 early one Friday morning in November 1971. Just the other side of Marlborough we were pulled over by the police. My worst fear was being realised.

The police explanation for stopping us was that there was a similar car to mine that had been seen following a burglary in the neighbourhood. "Can you open the boot, please, sir". So, I opened the boot and the only thing in there was the tea chest containing the silver. I decided that my confidence and enthusiasm rather than any attempts at evasion may be the best policy. "We are on our way to a market in London to sell a fabulous piece of silver". With that, I removed the lid of the tea chest and lifted out the silver. "What do you think, officers? Isn't it impressive?" Then I went on at length to describe the styles and decoration of the Art Nouveau period with reference to the silver piece. "Very nice, sir, do you have a receipt for it". "Not on me, but I can supply one when we return to Bristol". By now they were keen to get on their way. "That won't be necessary, sir. Best of luck in London" With that they drove away, and I breathed a sigh of relief.

Onward to Bermondsey London where the market was well under way. I parked the car, intending to sound out any silver or Art Nouveau dealers who were selling there. We found a couple of dealers who seemed quite interested, so we went back to the car to unload the silver. Disaster! The car was gone. Stolen? We went to a shop nearby to ask the owner if he'd noticed anything suspicious. "Ah. That'll be the police. They were towing cars away this morning. It's probably in the pound at Southwark" Semi relieved, but still apprehensive, we made our way to Southwark. A massive car park with the police cabin up in the air in the middle. Upon entry we were asked for the car registration number and my name.

A few minutes later I was approached. "You are not required to say anything ... etc. Don't worry, sir, we always caution drivers. Standard procedure. Here's your paperwork. You'll have to pay £20 before we can release your car" Very relieved, I coughed up quickly and we returned to the car. I told Lou "I'm not going to Sotheby's. Today's events have totally spooked me, let's get back to Bristol".

Once back in Bristol, I decided that the silver piece was bad news and I wanted to be rid of it as soon as humanely possible. I had a friend called George who had been with me on one of my trips to the continent a few years before. His parents were caretakers of a Psychiatric hospital not far from Bristol. It was a large mansion set in acres of grounds. I said to George "Would you mind taking this silver piece with the tea chest that it fits in and burying it in the grounds of the hospital? I'll buy you a drink or two!" George agreed. I never went back to look for it, so I presume that it's still there. Unless... Two weeks later I heard that George had bought a plane ticket to Australia. Did he fail to bury it but instead sold it to finance his future life abroad?

I'll never know for I never saw him again. It was time for me to move on and rebuild my business and somewhat shattered reputation.

Stay tuned!

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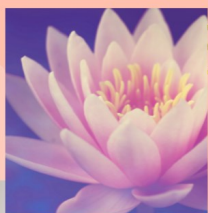
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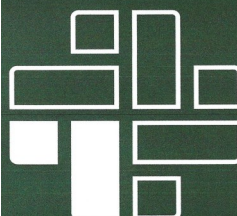
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