

# The LYDEN



Issue 612 December 2025



News / Features / What's On / Community Information



For the Villages of  
**LIDDINGTON and WANBOROUGH**

In the Parish of Wellspring Villages





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**WE**   
**WANBOROUGH**



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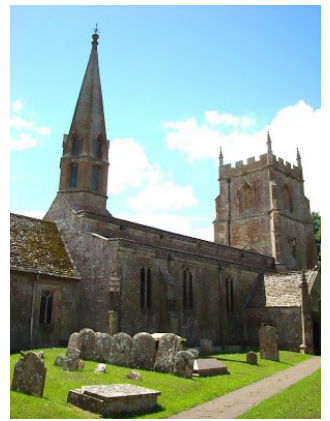


## A letter from the Vicar – December 2025

*Dear Friends*

And so, another year draws to a close and the mid-winter festival of light looms large on our horizons. For those who believe and trust in Jesus Christ, that festival is focused on the coming of the One true light, as John describes Jesus in his Gospel Ch1 vs 9 **The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.**

It's been another dark year. Maybe you, like me, have been rationing your intake of news on a day-to-day basis. Everyone seems to be at war with everyone! Strident voices, vested influences and personal agendas proliferate and without an agreed sense of where the foundations of morality are to be found we flounder in a sea of untethered opinions and unscrupulous individuals. Where can we find true light indeed? Truth to live by, values to aspire to and hope to embody and share? Well, happily, gloriously and maybe improbably, in the babe of Bethlehem still. As John says in verse 5 ***"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."*** The good news to be celebrated this Christmas season, as each Christmas season, is that there is a source of true light to steer and navigate our course by in this life; the person, saving work and teaching of Jesus Christ. John 1 vs 14 ***"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us..... full of grace and truth."*** He doesn't impose himself on us but invites us to believe and follow him. But we must decide. Is he the truth as he claims to be? I am reminded of the Poem One Solitary Life:



*He was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant. He grew up in another village, where he worked in a carpenter shop until he was 30. Then, for three years, he was an itinerant preacher. He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never had a family or owned a home. He didn't go to college. He never lived in a big city. He never travelled 200 miles from the place where he was born. He did none of the things that usually accompany greatness. He had no credentials but himself. Twenty centuries have come and gone, and today he is the central figure of the human race. I am well within the mark when I say that all the armies that ever marched, all the navies that ever sailed, all the parliaments that ever sat, all the kings that ever reigned--put together--have not affected the life of man on this earth as much as that one, solitary life.*



Please join us at our Christmas Services outlined below, to welcome and celebrate ***"The true light that gives light to everyone"*** that has come into our world. It will be great to see you.

*Kind regards*  
**Revd, Steve Paynter**  
**Stevdpaynter@gmail.com**  
**01793 296870**

**Prayer:**

Dear God, as we celebrate Your Son's birth, we pray for His light and peace to dwell in our hearts, in our families and in our communities. Heal conflicts, bring comfort to the hurting, and let Your love fill every heart with mercy and grace. Help us be Your hands and feet to those in need.

**Amen.**

### *Church Services December 2025*

*For the villages of Liddington and Wanborough in The Parish of Wellspring Villages*

Date	Time	Church	Service
Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> December	10.30am	All Saints' Liddington	Holy Communion – Crib Service
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	10.30am	St Mary's Church, Bishopstone	Holy Communion
Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	5pm	St Andrew's Church, Wanborough	Christingle Service
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> December	4pm	St Andrew's Church, Wanborough	Carol Service
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> December	5pm	St Mary's Church, Bishopstone	Christingle Service
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> December	11.30pm	St Andrew's Church, Wanborough	Midnight – Holy Communion
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> December	10.30am	All Saints' Liddington	Christmas Day – Holy Communion
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> December	10.30am	St Swithun's, Hinton Parva	Christmas Day – Carols & Readings
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> December	10.30am	St Swithun's, Hinton Parva	Holy Communion

*There are Books of Remembrance in All Saints', Liddington and St. Andrew's, Wanborough. If anyone wishes to have a name recorded there, please contact a Churchwarden.*

## Dates for your Diary - December 2025

Date	Event	Time	Location
Mon 1 <sup>st</sup> December	Liddington Coffee Morning	10am	Liddington Village Hall
Wed 3 <sup>rd</sup> December	Liddington Parish Council Meeting	7pm	Liddington Village Hall
Sat 6 <sup>th</sup> December	All Saints' Church, Xmas Fayre	11am	Liddington Village Hall
Thurs 11 <sup>th</sup> December	WI Christmas Celebration		Evening event
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	A Christmas Celebration	7pm	Liddington Village Hall
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	Deadline for Lyden articles		
Wed 17 <sup>th</sup> December	Carols around the Christmas Tree	6pm	Wanborough Village Hall
Sat 20 <sup>th</sup> December	Farmer's Market & Community Café	9am	Wanborough Village Hall
Mon 22 <sup>nd</sup> December	Wanborough Parish Council Meeting	7pm	Wanborough Village Hall
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> January 26	Charity Tractor Run		The Harrow Pub

### In addition to the above dates

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

Wanborough Toddler Group every Tuesday at 9.30am at Wanborough 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

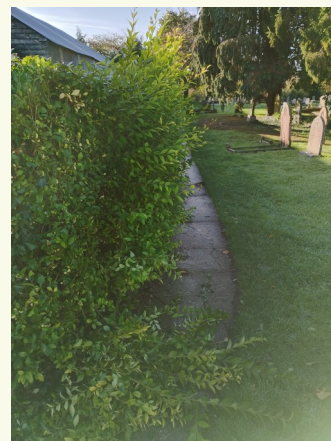
### Save the Date - Future events in the Benefice

Date	Event	Time	Location
Sat 25 <sup>th</sup> April to Sun 10 <sup>th</sup> May 2026	Wanborough Scarecrow Trail		Wanborough Village
Sat 16 <sup>th</sup> May 2026	Wanborough Spring Show		Foxhill
Sat 22 <sup>nd</sup> August 2026	Wanborough Show		Church Meadow

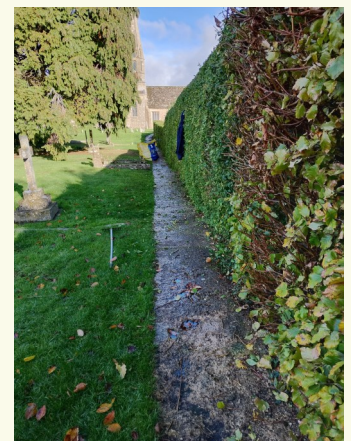
*If you have a village event that you would like to advertise so that we can all save the date e-mail details to [lydenmagazine@gmail.com](mailto:lydenmagazine@gmail.com).*

## St Andrew's Church - Churchyard Clean Up

On Saturday 25th October, a glorious sunny day, a group of volunteers tackled a number of maintenance jobs at St Andrew's Churchyard. Organised by David Birley, a group of volunteers came together and it was amazing to see what can be achieved in a couple of hours. Jobs included cutting back the hedge along the footpath to make it more accessible, clearing the overgrown grass from the footpaths, strimming and clearing very large brambles from graves,



Before - Hedge overgrown



After - Footpath wider and more accessible



trimming back overhanging tree branches, clearing ivy from the

historic boundary wall and removing invasive elder.

A big thank you to everyone who came to help. The next churchyard clean up will be held in Spring 2026, please look out for further details.

## Wellspring Villages Remembrance Service Sunday, 9 November 2025 at All Saints, Liddington



Around 120 residents gathered on Sunday for our annual Remembrance Service — a moving and meaningful occasion where the communities of Liddington and Wanborough came together to honour those who gave their lives in the service of our country, in wars and conflicts, past and present.

The service began with a welcome from Steve our Vicar, who reflected on the importance of remembering not only the historic loss of life, but also the ongoing sacrifices made by members of the Armed Forces and their families today. It was a real community occasion with the members of the 1<sup>st</sup> Wanborough Scouts, Cubs, Beavers and Rainbows present and each division bringing up their flag and receiving them back again at the end. The young people carried out their duties with dignity and maturity.

After two Bible readings Steve used a large stone to reflect upon the heavy sacrifice made by so many. He reminded us all that those sacrifices were given for a purpose, to become a costly won foundation stone, upon which our role as those who follow on, is to build a society of peace, justice and security for all citizens. So, bricks were added on top of the large stone to represent our responsibility to build on the foundation stone of those past sacrifices, a society today, full of justice, peace and security for all.

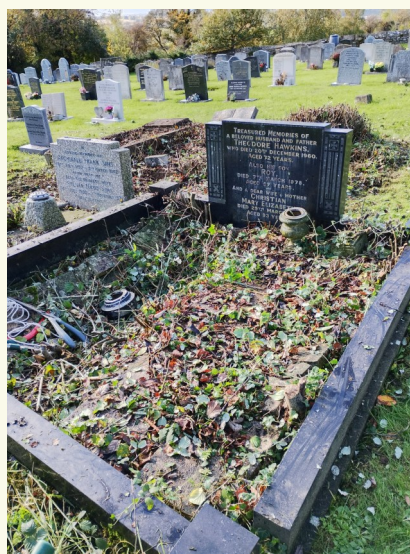
The church was filled with a sense of unity and quiet gratitude, especially during the reading of the names on the Rolls of Honour for Liddington and Wanborough. Syd Bishop read the names for Liddington, and Lt General Stuart Skeates CB CBE read those for Wanborough, ensuring that each individual was remembered with respect and gratitude. As always, the playing of The Last Post provided a moment of powerful poignancy before, in step with the country as a whole, we kept the 2 minutes of silence from 11am.

The service concluded with Holy Communion and a blessing, followed by the singing of the National Anthem. Many remained afterwards for coffee and conversation.

Thank you to everyone who attended and participated



Before - graves covered in brambles



After - Lovely to be able to see the graves



### Front Cover

This month's front cover picture of Liddington Hill from the Church Field was taken by Katie Gurr  
Please send photos that you would like to see on the front cover to - [Lydenmagazine@gmail.com](mailto:Lydenmagazine@gmail.com)



## Wanborough Parish Council Update

### Wanborough Parish Council – October 2025 Meeting Summary

Wanborough Parish Council met on Monday 27th October 2025 at Wanborough Village Hall. The meeting was attended by all councillors, along with the Parish Clerk, Assistant Clerk, and one member of the public.

#### Parish and Community Updates

The meeting began with confirmation of the previous minutes and no apologies received. Councillors noted a number of updates from Swindon Borough Council's Ward Councillor, including:

- **Highways and Safety:** Rural verge cuts have been completed, though residents at The Gallops raised concerns about pedestrian safety. The area will be reviewed.
- **Southern Connector Road:** The bridge over Lyden Brook is in poorer condition than expected and may need to be rebuilt.
- **Thames Water:** Delays continue at the pumping station, now 18 months behind schedule, affecting the Foxbridge project.
- **Noise Complaints:** Ongoing concerns remain regarding the Greyhound Rescue Centre.
- **Road Conditions:** Persistent mud on Wanborough Road and issues at Lotmead are being monitored, with reminders sent to contractors about their responsibilities.
- **Weed Control and Fly Tipping:** Weed treatment will take place in November, and several instances of fly tipping have been reported and cleared.

#### Committee Reports

The Footpaths, Village Maintenance and Allotments (FVM&A) Committee met on 6th October. Councillors requested that the recent tree report be circulated.

#### Hooper's Field Committee and Defibrillator Training Update

In other news, a more affordable defibrillator training course has been identified, planned for January 2026. Full details, including how to sign up, will be published in the next edition of The Lyden.

#### Village Matters

**Beanlands Pond:** Cllr. Dave Hayward met with the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust, who advised that the pond could benefit from deeper sections to improve water retention. Volunteer work may take place during winter to manage vegetation.

**Budget 2026/27:** The draft budget remains under review, with councillors highlighting the importance of maintaining the village's character and supporting Redlands with appropriate investment.

#### Other Business

**Swindon Local Plan 2043:** A response to the consultation will be submitted despite the deadline having passed.

**Hooper's Field Cleaner:** The Council agreed to advertise for a cleaning service as a matter of urgency. Currently, there is no cleaner for the Hoopers Field facility.

**New Handyperson Role:** A combined maintenance and lengthsmen role will be advertised for 28 hours per week to support village upkeep, Hooper's Field, and the allotments.

#### Allotments

A site meeting was held with the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust and allotment holders to discuss proposed hedging. It was agreed that hedging inside the fence would reduce available plot space, so the Council will now explore alternative fencing options. Several plots were found to be in poor condition, and informal follow-up meetings with plot holders are underway to identify solutions and ensure fair management of the site.

The next Parish Council meeting will take place Monday, 24 November 2025, where the draft budget and allotment report will be further discussed.

For more information or to view full minutes, please visit the Wanborough Parish Council website.

#### Please Keep Hedges and Trees Trimmed Along Footpaths

As we move into late autumn, the Parish Council would like to remind all residents to check and maintain any hedges, trees, or shrubs that border public footpaths, lanes, or highways.

Overhanging branches and encroaching vegetation can make it difficult for pedestrians, parents with pushchairs, and wheelchair users to pass safely — particularly in darker or wetter months when visibility is reduced.

If your property borders a public path, please take a few moments to ensure your hedge or tree is neatly trimmed back to the boundary line. Keeping these areas clear helps everyone move safely around the village and also maintains the tidy, well-cared-for look we all enjoy in Wanborough.

If you're unsure whether a hedge is your responsibility or need advice on how best to manage larger trees, the Parish Clerk can offer guidance or direct you to the appropriate council department.

Thank you to everyone for helping keep our village accessible and welcoming for all.

### **Hoopers Field Cricket Net Project Update**

The cricket nets at Hoopers Field are now under construction, bringing a fantastic new facility to our village. Construction is expected to take 2-3 weeks. Once completed, the nets will provide a safe, high-quality space for practice, training, and community enjoyment, enhancing sporting opportunities for residents of all ages.

During construction, there will be some temporary disruption to the ground beside the bowling green, as well as the car park. The contractor, Slaters, has assured the Council that these areas will be fully reinstated once work is complete.

We sincerely thank residents for their patience during this project. Full details on how to use the cricket nets and how to book sessions will be shared soon, so everyone can enjoy this wonderful addition to Hoopers Field.

### **New Telegraph Pole at Hoopers Field**

Residents may have noticed a new telegraph pole near the tennis courts at Hoopers Field. This has been installed to improve internet connectivity across the facility, enhancing the experience for everyone using the sports and community areas.

### **Play Area Safety Works at Lower Recreation Ground**

The play surfaces at Lower Recreation Ground have recently been flagged as a safety concern. Following careful review by the committee and consultation with a contractor, a solution has been agreed to resurface the play areas and improve safety for all users.

Works will be carried out over the coming weeks. During this time, residents and children are asked to exercise caution and follow any signage or temporary barriers around the site to ensure everyone's safety.

These improvements will help ensure a safe and enjoyable environment for all children and families visiting Lower Recreation Ground.

### **Safety Notice: Timber Bridge Repair**

Residents are advised that the timber bridge between **Greenway and Rodway** has been identified as a safety concern. Several of the slats are rotten and not securely fixed, creating a potential hazard for pedestrians.

The Parish Council is taking prompt action to address this issue. A repair has been proposed and agreed which will ensure the bridge is safe for all users. Work is expected to be carried out in due course.

Please take care when using the bridge until the repairs are completed.

### **Season's Greetings from Wanborough Parish Council**

As the year draws to a close, Wanborough Parish Council would like to extend warm wishes to all residents for a joyful festive season and a peaceful New Year. Thank you for your continued support and involvement in our village community throughout 2025. We look forward to working together in 2026 to keep Wanborough a vibrant and welcoming place for all.

### **Message from Your Chair, Cllr. Kathy Glanville**

*Hello!*

*Autumn is certainly in full swing now and this time of year is just beautiful, with the changing colours of the trees showing how glorious nature can be.*

*Our grounds people are being kept very busy, going round the village repairing and replacing as they go. They are about to set work on the little wooden bridge between Greenaway and Rodway, which has been there for about 30 years and has rotted through in places. If you use it before they have fixed it, please do take care!*

*They are also repairing the sponge flooring under the swing set at the Lower Rec. This will involve cutting away the raised edges and bonding a new blue edge in its place, which should last us another 5 years. The main surface itself is still in good condition; it was just the raised edges that needed replacing. We will likely need to shut the Lower Rec for a day or two whilst work is being carried out.*

*If you see anything that you feel needs the attention of our grounds people, please contact Laura on [clerk@wanborough.info](mailto:clerk@wanborough.info) or Anne on [assistantclerk@wanborough.info](mailto:assistantclerk@wanborough.info)*

*Laura and I, together with Cllr Hayward, visited the allotments where we met with Neil Pullen of the Woodland Trust to talk about hedging for the allotments. It was decided that hedging wouldn't be the best option in this instance, therefore we are looking at fencing as a way to keep the allotments more secure.*

*Laura and I were also given a tour by Freddie and Nathan and were very impressed by some of the plots on site. The plot holders certainly work hard to maintain their growing space and I came away from our meeting very excited and buzzing with ideas on how we can help the allotment holders generally continue to make that area the calm space it is.*

*Looking forward to seeing you out and about in the village.*

*All the best,*

*Kathy*



## Liddington Parish Council

The November Parish Council meeting was on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> November. Several residents attended to discuss various issues. Here are the highlights. Full details can be found in the minutes available on the Parish Council website.

### Planning Application for 37 The Street

As expected, a revised planning application has been submitted. It is an improvement on the previous one but is still not in keeping with the local area. The Parish Council has asked for a number of factors to be considered when the application is reviewed for approval.

### Village Clean-Up

Thanks to everyone who helped with Village Clean-Up on 18<sup>th</sup> October. We had a fantastic turn-out and collected a decent amount of rubbish and trimmed hedges. The good news was that the village was relatively rubbish free. Most of the volume came from the Ridgeway Road.



### Road Safety

We were delighted that Amy and Adrian joined the meeting to discuss road safety in the village – particularly the B4192. They produced an excellent paper which we discussed and were happy to accept their proposal to set-up a team to focus on this. More to follow.

### Footpaths and Planting

Following a couple of Saturday morning sessions, the verge on the way down to Commonhead near the village entrance has been planted with daffodils, bluebell and snowdrops. Again, thanks to everyone involved and we look forward to seeing the results in the spring.

### In other news....

- From January 2026 the Parish Council will be making a contribution to The Lyden such that all residents can receive it free of charge each month. This means that we will discontinue the quarterly newsletter as everyone will be able to receive these monthly updates. There will be opt-out and digital options for everyone.
- If you park your car on The Street, please can you leave enough space on the pavement for people to walk past with a pushchair. This will avoid people having to go into the road to pass cars. Also, can everyone keep an eye on overgrowing hedges and take appropriate action if it's yours!
- Concerns have been made about the amount of dog poo in the churchyard and on various footpaths. Please pick up after your dogs and remind others to do the same.

### And finally

Christmas is coming..... This year we will have a 10ft Christmas Tree on Jubilee Gardens. We will decorate it on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December in parallel with the Christmas Bazaar and the events in the Village Inn. All welcome and we wish everyone a very Happy Christmas.

### In Closing....

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 3 December 2025 at 7.00pm in the Village Hall. Residents are welcome to attend. Please note that the section where the public can speak is to be held at 7.15pm. Alternatively if you would like to raise an issue or ask a question, please contact the Clerk via [parishclerk@liddingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:parishclerk@liddingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk)

Laura Evans, Clerk to Liddington Parish Council

Liddington Village Hall




# A CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December, 7:00pm at the Village Hall

## Bristol University Madrigal Singers




### Seasonal poetry

### Bar, raffle, nibbles and finale carol singing

Adults:£12 Children under 14 free

Tickets must be purchased in advance from: John Mathieson S. 791396,  
Alison Babington S. 296409,  
Matthew Bowman 07943 279638

## Lyden Magazine - Liddington residents

As from January 2026 Liddington Parish Council will be supporting the magazine so all households in Liddington will receive a FREE monthly copy of the Lyden Magazine.

To help with the increased distribution we are looking for volunteers to deliver to the following areas

- Manor View - 10 properties
- Spinney Close - 12 properties
- The Street (Nos 2- 14A) - 10 properties
- Bell Lane - 8 properties.
- Liddington Warren - 5 properties

If you feel able to volunteer please message [lydensubs@gmail.com](mailto:lydensubs@gmail.com) with your home address and a mobile contact number, stating which area you would be happy to deliver to.

The Lyden Team would like to take this opportunity to say a very BIG thank you to Marge Bishop (and family) for the support she has given the magazine. Marge has been the main distributor for The Lyden in Liddington for many years and it has been a pleasure to work with her. Marge would always greet you with a smile when dropping off the magazines, nothing was ever too much trouble and she was extremely efficient in distributing the magazine. Marge along with family members will continue to support The Lyden by being one of the many volunteers distributing the magazine in Liddington.

The team would like to thank all the volunteers from Liddington who have, and will continue, to distribute the magazine in the village. We really appreciate the time and hard work you all put in and without your help the magazine would not be able to operate.

We would like to welcome Eddie Halls to our team as the main distributor in Liddington for the magazine as from January 2026.

If you have an article that you would like included in January's magazine then please e-mail the editor:-  
[Lydenmagazine@gmail.com](mailto:Lydenmagazine@gmail.com) by Friday 12th December 2025 for the January 2026 magazine.

**Many thanks The Lyden Team.**



## Liddington Christmas Bazaar – Saturday 6th December

Get ready for a day of festive cheer as the village comes alive with our Christmas Bazaar!

Stalls to explore include:

- Pat the Woodturner's beautiful creations
- Lynda's sparkling jewellery
- Catherine's fabulous fabrics
- Marge, Julie & Anne's irresistible goody stall
- Jacob's stylish clothing
- Wanborough Scouts' Christmas stamps
- Steph's homemade produce
- Christine's crafts
- Neal's Yard & Kitchnwyth "smellies"
- Candles, Gonks, and Therma Spa treats

Upstairs, unwind with Totally Zen reflexology & massage – the perfect way to relax amid the festive bustle.

### Liddington 100 Club



A big thank you to all of those members who have rejoined and our new members - not at 100 hundred but it's not too late to join.

The winner for September is Julie Bishop - congratulations . Caroline



## Wanborough Farmers Market & Community Café

Saturday 20th December 2025 - 9am to 12 noon

At December's Farmers Market we will be supporting Christmas Care Swindon, a local charity who help homeless and vulnerable people during Christmas.

Our cafe will be offering delicious, festive homemade cakes and hot drinks for your donations.



We will have many traders selling their interesting wares ready for those Christmas gifts and supplies you have not had time to find! Most of our traders are local and all are very skilled.

To help your Christmas go well we have freshly baked artisan bread, organic vegetables, Hedgerow Cheese for your cheese board, and all the olives, hummus, nuts and turkish delight that any table could need! Wonderful flavours. Fresh local meats, homemade cakes (orders can be taken in advance for both), wonderful chocolate truffles and local honey.

We look forward to seeing you on 20th December 9am to noon at Wanborough village hall.

I would like to express special thanks to all of our wonderful volunteers, who all work very hard and give up their time to help the smooth running of the Farmers Market and Community Cafe.

Gill, Diane, Judi, Alison, Judith and Michelle (who has recently joined our team) who run the community cafe, serving the coffee and cake and keeping on top of all the washing up!

Trish provides the delicious cakes, along with Donna who always helps wherever we need it.

A big thanks to Jo, who has recently left the village, and who ran the cafe and organised the charities for many years, along with David and Janet, and Will who also played the piano for us- we look forward to carols at Decembers market! We also thank Mike (who was never without the rubber gloves!) and Jean.

Lesley and Nicky, without whom we wouldn't be able to stock the fresh artisan bread which is so popular with you all!

Peter, John and Phil can always be relied upon to set up the hall, as well as Mark who has also made some brilliant videos for us to help spread the word!

David puts out our signs around the village every month rain or shine, helps our traders set up, and founded the market along with Sue and ran it successfully for many years.

Thank you all!

As you can see, it really takes a village to keep the market running for our community. We are very pleased that the market is still going strong after two decades! It really is a lovely atmosphere. If anyone else would like to help we are always in need of an extra pair of hands. Its a great way to meet new people and support your village! Please get in touch.

**Lorna Naseem**

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## Wanborough Pétanque Club - Sports Quiz - Friday 7th November 2025

A great fun evening of quizzing amongst friends and local residents was held at Hooper's Field, the quiz included rounds on both sport and also general knowledge. The aim was to raise funds for both the Pétanque Club and also Brainstrust Charity (1114634) which supports children with brain cancer. The total raised was £1,098 which is absolutely fantastic.

A big thank you to the Old Boilers who supplied the beer, to the quiz master Mark Lever, to the bar team and all those who helped behind the scenes to help run the quiz and especially a big thanks to everyone who attended and made it such a great success .



Winning Team - Well Done!!



The organising team, plus Mark Lever

## BISHOPSTONE AND HINTON PARVA WI

Our October meeting was held at Hinton Parva village hall, and our guest speaker was Jeremy Holt. He gave a fascinating talk about 'Life as a Lancaster Pilot in WW2'. Jeremy has researched the topic in some depth because his wife's uncle was a pilot and was tragically killed over Berlin in 1943. They still have his logbook which is one of their most treasured possessions. Jeremy shared extracts from this logbook to provide an insight into what these brave volunteer pilots and aircrew endured during their battle to protect our country.

As the talk was of wider interest we invited partners to the meeting, and the hall was filled to capacity. The audience members were all really engaged with the talk, which led to plenty of stimulating discussion following the presentation.

Our November meeting saw a return of the always popular Margaret Hiscock from Scrapstore. This is a charitable organization that is an environmental and community charity which collects resources that would otherwise go to landfill, and redistributes them for creative activities and projects of all sorts. Anyone can visit their stores and all they ask is for people to make a donation each time they collect resources from the store. Margaret works for them as a volunteer and

provides demonstrations of craftwork ideas using the Scrapstore material she brings with her.

Margaret was delighted to be able to share with us the news that the Wiltshire Scrapstore had just been awarded the King's Award for Volunteering.....there are 70 volunteers. Well done everybody!

On this occasion we were all shown how to make decorative paper flowers. There were so many wonderful creations by the end of the evening that Margaret had difficulty choosing an overall winner! The evening was thoroughly enjoyed by us all.

New members are always welcome. If you are interested in joining our WI, please e-mail

Jan Chapple. [janatwan@icloud.com](mailto:janatwan@icloud.com)



## Your Ridgeway Borough Councillor update from Gary Sumner

### There is no Ridgeway Ward Surgery in December.

**Success:** This month I had some good news which was the refusal of a planning application to build 124 homes North of Redlands Grove – partly in the 'Area of Non-Coalescence' which is designed to protect out villages from development in the countryside around the New Eastern Villages.

The newspaper article which announced the decision referenced my comments against the application, including the 'Area of Non-Coalescence' and the proposal to build on what is designated as 'green infrastructure'. The capacity of Wanborough Road was also a concern.

We can only hope that the proposed 150-acre solar farm – also located in the same protected area – is refused. Their planning agents have just submitted documents answering criticisms of their application. At the moment there are objections from the Planning Policy officer, Highways and Landscape.

**Redlands Grove:** Following a meeting with the MD of Bellway Homes I have been chasing for some answers, and we have delivered an update directly to residents at Redlands Grove.

One of the more surprising and disappointing answers was on the shop proposed for the village. He said when we met him in September that it was advertised by a local commercial agent. I followed up to ask why it wasn't on their website and he said it was taken down after 12 months and they would contact SBC to see if they could suggest a community use (who would have to pay full market value). I am talking to officers in the planning team to see if we can save the shop.

**Liddington:** At the last Parish meeting a number of residents attended to discuss speeding and what can be done. I will work with them and the Parish Council to see if some simple solutions could make speeds slower and crossing the road safer. Following the litter pick I was pleased that Matt Hinton, myself and a young volunteer from the village managed to fill 10 bin bags full of litter plus we cleaned graffiti from signs near the crossroads at the top of the hill.

**Pack Hill:** SBC will be carrying out some repairs and works following a road safety audit – this includes some 'signage amendments'. Works should be completed before Christmas.

Please call me on 07855957133 or email: [gary@ridgewayvillages.co.uk](mailto:gary@ridgewayvillages.co.uk)

Ridgeway Villages website: [www.ridgewayvillages.co.uk](http://www.ridgewayvillages.co.uk)

We wish you a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

# SWINDON SCOUT POST

## 2025 SWINDON CHRISTMAS CARD DELIVERY SERVICE

Only post cards in the special **GREEN** Scout Post Boxes

ONLY 45p per stamp

Swindon Scout Post

The law says we can only deliver Christmas Cards. NO MONEY OR CHEQUES should be sent through this service.

NO RESPONSIBILITY WILL BE ACCEPTED FOR VALUABLES, INCORRECTLY ADDRESSED CARDS OR ANY ADDRESSED TO AREAS OUTSIDE THOSE STATED OPPOSITE.



### LAST TIME FOR POSTING

Please **DO NOT USE** Scout post stamps on cards posted through Royal Mail post boxes. THEY ARE NOT VALID, AND THE RECEIVER OF THE CARD WILL HAVE TO PAY A SURCHARGE.

www.swindonscouts.org.uk/post • email post@swindonscouts.org.uk

## The Scout Christmas Post Boxes Are Out!

We're excited to announce that the Scout Christmas Post Boxes will be out from the 21<sup>st</sup> November ready to collect your festive cards!

Sending Christmas wishes to family and friends in Swindon? Our Scout stamps are just 45p each, that's less than half the price of a second-class stamp, making it an affordable and meaningful way to spread Christmas cheer. The money raised supports the 1st Wanborough Scout Group, helping our young people enjoy new adventures and experiences.

You can buy your stamps and post your cards at the following local locations:

- ◇ Poplars Daycare
- ◇ The Cross Keys
- ◇ The Brewers Arms
- ◇ The Harrow
- ◇ The Plough
- ◇ The New Calley Arms
- ◇ The Village Inn
- ◇ Helen Browning's Farm Shop (Bishopstone Stores)

Please post your cards by the 16<sup>th</sup> December.

Reminder: Christmas cards only, please, and make sure addresses are clearly written.

Thank you for your continued support - together, we're spreading joy and helping our Scouts thrive this festive season!

From all at the 1st Wanborough Scout Group



# WANBOROUGH TODDLERS

**0-5 STAY AND PLAY TUESDAYS 9.30-11.30AM AT THE VILLAGE HALL**

**BABIES TO PRESCHOOLERS**

**Just £2.50 per child, includes snack!**  
Parents, grandparents and carers welcome  
Hot drinks & cake/biscuits for grown ups!

**WANBOROUGHTODDLERS@GMAIL.COM**  
**FACEBOOK/INSTA: WANBOROUGH TODDLERS**

## Coffee, cake and chat!

£5

Come along to meet old friends and new!

## All welcome!

For a lift or to find out more call Lorna on 07903210505

**10:30 till noon every Thursday at the Brewers Arms Wanborough**

## Bishopstone and District Garden Club

For our October meeting we welcomed a crowd of not only club members but many other avid quiz enthusiasts for our Annual Quiz and Supper Night which, once again, proved very popular with a full house of 13 tables. A lot of bustle and chatter as everyone found their tables, handed in their team names and settled down with their glass in hand to do battle with the questions ahead. Raffle tickets purchased it was time to get serious.

Cheryl took to the stage as our quizmaster and managed to quieten the contestants for the first round. The general knowledge was a challenge but six of the teams seemed to know a lot more than the others and quickly took pole positions, how many of us could possibly know what Pogonophobia is? Some obviously did and I did notice a number of beards in the room, maybe that was a clue!

The first round completed and the table quiz distributed, it was time to enjoy the usual spread of Chilli, Baked Potatoes and Salad followed by an array of delicious Puddings as we pondered over the puzzle sheets in front of us. Who were all those faces on the page and what was the 'common theme'? That turned out to be the first name, Chris. However it still didn't mean we knew them all!

Supper over it was back to the quiz, The noise level increased with the banter and friendly rivalry, but Cheryl kept control as we moved on through the remaining rounds, with very mixed results on the score chart!

In the end there was a clear winner and the prizes for first (and last!) were presented, to some happy smiling faces. The raffle was drawn and everyone went home having had a very entertaining, enjoyable and sociable evening.



Winning Team

Thanks must go to Cheryl, to Chris and Debbie who worked away in the kitchen to ensure the supper was ready at the appointed time and the washing up done, and to all those who cooked and baked to make sure there was plenty for all. Altogether a very successful evening and raising much needed funds to ensure another year of excellent speakers in 2026

## Diary Dates

The programme for next year is currently being finalised and will be published in full as soon as the last few elements are in place. Rest assured we have some excellent speakers lined up.

The meetings are always on the second Wednesday of the month, except January and August, and as always everyone is welcome. There is a single payment for the evening for non-members or £10 for a years membership.

The first meetings of 2026 season will be on:

**Wednesday February 11th - Rebecca Brain** : : Bishopstone Village Hall. 7.00pm  
**'No-Dig Vegetable Gardening'**

Rebecca lives in Bishopstone and has a background in Organic vegetable growing. She has her own Plant Nursery selling locally grown organic plants.

**Wednesday March 11th - Paul Green** : Bishopstone Village Hall. 7.00pm  
**'The Best Thing Since Sliced Bread'**

Paul is from Green Leaves specialist plant nursery in Newent. He will be comparing old vs new varieties and the thinking in new plant development.

He will be bringing along a selection plants for sale from his Gloucestershire nursery.

**Marion Peck 01793791001**

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## The Old Boilers Update



The Old Boilers were please to donate a barrel of beer for Lee Herring's fund raising Question on Sport Quiz at Hooper's Field. A fund raising event for BrainsTrust, (Brain Cancer), and the Petanque Club, at Hooper's Field.

Don't forget to look out in the pubs this Christmas for **Old Boilers Pale Ale**.

Wishing you all a very merry Christmas, Barry, Bill, Mike, John, and Marek, The Old Boilers



## Bright News from Wanborough Tennis Club

We're thrilled to share that new rechargeable lights will soon be installed along the fences of courts 3 and 4 at Wanborough Tennis Club. These lights will transform evening play, ensuring that all courts can be enjoyed after dark.

What does this mean for our members?

- 🌙 Extended hours – no need to stop when the sun goes down.
- 🗨 More matches and social play – perfect for friendly competition or a relaxed hit.
- 👤👥 Expanded coaching sessions – our popular coaching programme can now welcome even more players.

This investment is a big step forward in growing our club, making tennis more accessible, flexible, and fun for everyone. Whether you're a seasoned player or just starting out, the future of tennis in Wanborough is looking brighter than ever!

We will continue to work towards the installation of permanent lighting for courts 3 and 4 and the Club is looking for donations from grants and local community projects. If anyone has any helpful contacts or fundraising ideas please get in touch via the contact form on the Club website.

### Player profile

Celebrating recent successes. Ira Gillingham joined the Club this Summer and first picked up a tennis racket in May this year. She's been taking part in once a week coaching with Becky and this September was the female winner of our Club tournament winning the most games overall. Last week Ira played in her first league match for the Club against Swindon and with partners Josh and Angela won 2 out of her 4 sets. This is a fantastic achievement for anyone let alone someone so new to the game. Well done Ira!

Looking ahead, we are looking forward to welcoming all players to our early Christmas celebration meal at The Plough in Wanborough on Tuesday 25th November at 7.30pm. To book a place please contact Wendy at wanboroughmembers@gmail.com

### March 2026

Next year we will be holding a Quiz in Wanborough village hall on Friday March 13th. This will be one of our initiatives to raise money for the upkeep of the Club. It will be a fun event open to everyone so do start thinking about your teams ! Keep an eye out for further information over the next few months.

If you have played tennis or would like to take up this fantastic sport and meet some new friends please make contact and come and join us. All the information is here : <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/WanboroughTennisClub/Membership/Join>. We are looking forward to seeing past, present and new members on court.

**Marlborough Concert Orchestra**

**Saturday 6th December - 7:30pm**  
St. Mary's Church, Marlborough

**Sibelius**  
Karelia Suite

**Christian Morris**  
Where the bones of Merlin lie...  
A Marlborough Fantasy  
(World Premiere)

**Tchaikovsky**  
Nutcracker Suite

**Sibelius**  
Tapiola

**Conductor: Philip Singleton**  
**Leader: Karen Sancto**

**Tickets: £15 adults / £5 students / Under 18s free**

Purchase at Sound Knowledge, Hughenden Yard,  
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## Marlborough Concert Orchestra's Winter Concert, Saturday 6th December 7:30 pm, St Mary's Church, Marlborough

Conducted by Philip Singleton, the programme includes Sibelius Karelia Suite, Christian Morris Where the bones of Merlin lie – A Marlborough Fantasy (world premiere), Tchaikovsky Nutcracker Suite, Sibelius Tapiola.

Tickets Adults £15, Students £5, Under 18s free from Sound Knowledge, Hughenden Yard, or on the door (cash or card), or online via [www.mco.org.uk](http://www.mco.org.uk)

## Strange Bedfellows – ChatGPT, AI and Poetry

A dear friend composed a poem about me, a total send-up. Great fun, and a decent first poem. Then she said she'd used ChatGPT, and it had taken minutes. Now that surprised me.

She showed me how she did it, and we'd fun with silly options. I cheekily requested the poem in the style of the poet, Maurice Spillane. ChatGPT took a while, but it got there. I could see the pattern, the type of layout I sometimes use. AI let loose, but as a poet I'm not losing any sleep.

I'm not agnostic about it though. It's clever software that can generate business and personal documents from the vast store of information gleaned from the Internet.

But the leap from there to AI in everything leaves me cold. I've seen AI on labels for vacuum cleaners and drills, electric toothbrushes and a pair of sunglasses. The implication is that it's a magical solution to produce high quality output without workers.

I got a patent in 1990 for a system where a business analyst could design complex applications and generate millions of lines of code in a minute without programming. Today, that'd be hyped as AI. But it wasn't AI, it was a design created by clever technicians with faultless quality, less than one fault in a million. ChatGPT generating the poem is no different. It's impressive, but it's software. And where's the intelligence, artificial or not?

Altman and Musk say the next generation will be "smarter than the smartest human" when at best ChatGPT has made accessible the accumulated knowledge of human culture already on computers somewhere.



For this column, I asked ChatGPT for a Christmas poem about Wellspring villages in my style of writing poetry.

It morphed a response from several reviews, which was clever:

*Here's a poem about **Christmas in Wellspring Villages**, written in the **gentle, lyrical style of Maurice Spillane** — warm, human-centred, musical in rhythm, and touched with spiritual light.*

I can hear villagers, led by John Dale, guffawing from here! Quickly to the poem:

### Christmas at Wellspring Villages

*in the style of Maurice Spillane*

*Snow, or something like it, drifts in the heart  
not from the sky, but from memory.*

*Old carols hum through the hallways,  
faint as the scent of pine and cinnamon.*

*Someone hums Silent Night in a tremor of joy,  
someone laughs at a crooked star  
tilted atop a tinsel tree.*

*Even the quiet ones smile today.*

It's not bad, but two stanzas are enough! Happy Christmas, Dear Readers.

Events on [www.liddington.org](http://www.liddington.org):

"Carols & Poems" on 12 December.

Presentation on "Trekking to Everest" on 10 January

## Prospect Hospice to Collect Christmas Trees Across Local Community This January

This January, Prospect Hospice will once again be offering a Christmas tree collection service across the local community – giving residents a simple and meaningful way to support hospice care at the start of the new year.

For a suggested minimum donation of £20, households can have their real Christmas tree collected and responsibly recycled. Every tree collected – and every donation made – helps Prospect Hospice provide vital care, comfort and support to local patients and families living with a life-limiting illness.

Tree collections will take place across the following postcode areas: SN1, SN2, SN3, SN4, SN5, SN6, SN25 and SN26.

Residents are encouraged to register their interest now and will be notified as soon as booking opens.

For more information and to register, please visit [www.prospect-hospice.net/treecollection](http://www.prospect-hospice.net/treecollection)

**Prospect Hospice**  
together making every day count



**The Lyden magazine team**

Would like to wish all our readers a very

***Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year***

Please note the deadline for the January 2026 magazine is slightly earlier than normal

Friday 12th December 2026 - e-mail [Lydenmagazine@gmail.com](mailto:Lydenmagazine@gmail.com)





**Scouts**

Wanborough

**COMMUNITY  
CAROLS AROUND  
THE CHRISTMAS TREE  
OUT THE FRONT OF  
WANBOROUGH VILLAGE HALL  
(INSIDE IF WET)**

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**WELLSPRING**  
Villages



# CHRISTMAS SERVICES

**7 December 2025, 10.30am**

**Holy Communion with Crib Service at  
All Saints, Liddington**

**Christmas Eve, 5pm**

**Christingle at St Mary's, Bishopstone**

**14 December 2025, 10.30am**

**Holy Communion at St Mary's,  
Bishopstone**

**Christmas Eve, 11.30pm**

**Midnight Holy Communion at St  
Andrew's, Wanborough**

**20 December 2025, 5pm**

**Christingle at St Andrew's,  
Wanborough**

**Christmas Day, 10.30am**

**Holy Communion at All Saints,  
Liddington**

**21 December 2025, 4pm**

**Carol Service at St Andrew's,  
Wanborough**

**Christmas Day, 10.30am**

**Carols and Readings at St Swithun's,  
Hinton Parva**

**28 December 2025, 10.30am**

**Holy Communion at St Swithun's,  
Hinton Parva**

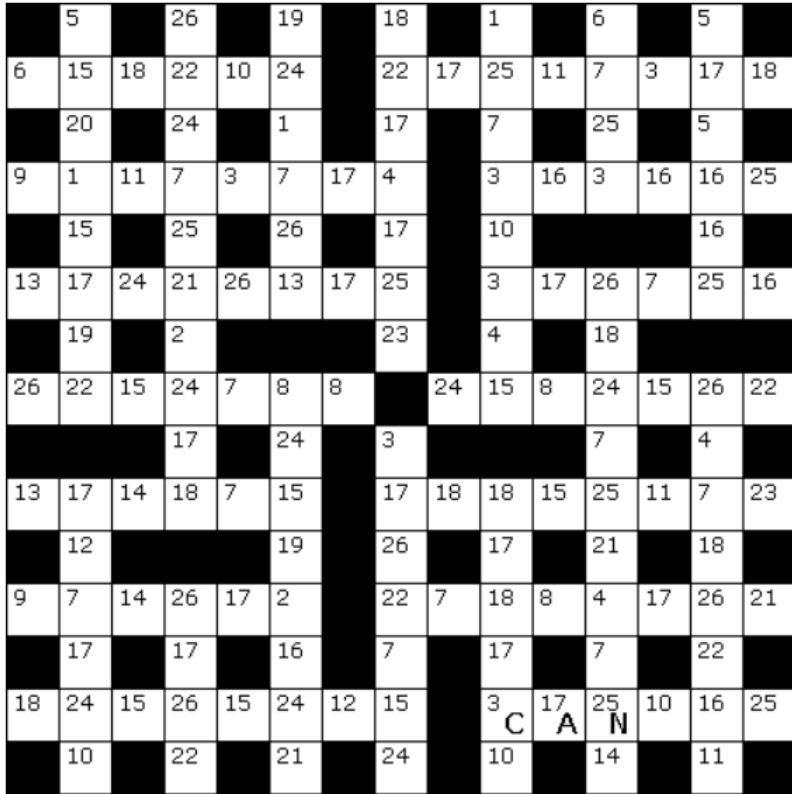
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[stevedpaynter@gmail.com](mailto:stevedpaynter@gmail.com) or on **01793 296870**

# Puzzle of the Month - December 2025

We are pleased to confirm that **The Brewer's Arms** Pub have agreed to sponsor the "Puzzle of the month" for 2025 and are offering a £25 Amazon voucher to the winning person each month. Please complete the puzzle below, take a picture of your answers and send them to [Lydenmagazine@gmail.com](mailto:Lydenmagazine@gmail.com) by **12th December 2025**. In the event of more than 1 correct answer received, the winner will be drawn out of a hat - good luck!

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

**This month's puzzle is a codeword**



A B C D E F G H I J K L M  
N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

Codeword crossword - each letter has a number, three letters are given for you:-

3 = C, 17 = A and 25 = N, you just need to work out all the others. Enjoy!



## 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!



**The Brewer's Arms**

Chef Joe is cooking up some great offers at The Brewer's Arms for you all to enjoy this winter. Come and join us Wed-Fri 12-2.15 Wed -Fri 5.30-7pm

**THE GREAT PIE DEBATE ...** When is a pie not a pie??

Choose from our new selected 'Pies with a twist' topped with Mashed potato or Puff pastry, fillings changed regularly all £10.95.

Traditional Brewers Basket Meals original Brewers recipe 1/4 roasted crispy Chicken and chips

Locally sourced pork Sausage and Chips

Homemade Southern fried crispy chicken and chips

Hand battered Fish and Chips £10.95

Plus a selection of our handmade Pizzas at an amazing £9

Main menu also available.

OFFERS AVAILABLE UNTIL END NOVEMBER THEN AGAIN FROM JANUARY.

Beth and the team look forward to welcoming you!

To book at table:-

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## Tuning in to the Land

### The Birdsong of Great Chalfield

In 2024, a major initiative began at the Great Chalfield Estate, marking a new chapter for 140 hectares of Wiltshire farmland. Wiltshire Wildlife Trust secured a 49-year lease in partnership with the National Trust and Great Western Community Forest, committing to manage the land for farming and nature. This project will hopefully become a learning hub for other farmers looking to implement nature-friendly land management. This working farm will demonstrate different land management methods and funding options alongside making space for nature to recover and thrive.

The changes have been swift, only a few months after the lease was signed, over 11,000 trees were planted across the landscape. These rapid habitat changes are being tracked in tandem with essential baseline surveys, where bioacoustics is playing a key part.

We anticipate seeing a shift in bird populations as our habitat restoration efforts take hold, such as the presence of more hedgerow-dependent species like warblers or seasonal turn of waders in wet features (when fields flood in winter) and through our acoustic monitoring we are able to track the changes in species.

### Listening to the Landscape

We started acoustic monitoring for birds at Great Chalfield earlier this year, using eight acoustic monitors, strategically placed to reflect different habitat types across the estate.

With the rise of bird song recognition software like the Merlin app, the devices generate a vast amount of data. Dr. Aurora Gonzalo spoke to us about the initial findings coming out of Great Chalfield.

"The data is fascinating," explains Dr. Gonzalo. "We can see clear seasonal changes in bird behaviour, especially around breeding season and when the young are present."



### Key insights from the charts include:

- **Carrion Crow:** These birds are more vocal in the morning during the March and April breeding season, peaking heavily around 4-7 AM. They become quieter in June, but toward the end of the breeding period their calls increase again, particularly in the afternoons peak around 6 PM, as fledglings become active and family groups communicate more frequently.
- **Eurasian Blackbird:** Their calls can get more vocal twice a year, reflecting their tendency to have two broods. Song activity peaks in early March as males establish territories and attract mates for the first brood, then rises again in June when they may begin a second breeding attempt.
- **European Robin:** Both males and females are vocal, with a peak in activity recorded in May. They are also expected to be highly vocal in winter as they protect their territory—the reason they feature so prominently on Christmas cards.
- **Eurasian Skylark:** Skylarks are present in most landscape areas but are notably absent from Ladies Coppice. This is expected, as the coppice is woodland, which is not a suitable habitat for Skylarks.

### Future Acoustics

Our current devices use a single microphone, which allows us to measure richness—whether a type of bird is present in the landscape. Higher-range models feature more than one microphone, to enable triangulation when using more than one device to account for abundance, one of the greatest limitations of bioacoustics. Triangulation will make it possible to identify individual birds rather than just their calls, allowing us to measure not only presence but also the number of individuals detected.

### Verification

While the bioacoustics data is crucial, it's important to acknowledge its limitations and the need for verification.

"The algorithm is good, but it's not perfect, and we have noticed some anomalies," Dr. Gonzalo notes. For instance, the recorders struggle to distinguish between different types of large gulls. They are also prone to misinterpreting contact calls, grouping them all together as the calls of the Lesser Whitethroat. The system has even picked up calls of species we would never see in Wiltshire, such as Puffins.

To counter this, Dr Gonzalo sets the algorithm's (BirdNET) confidence threshold to 80%, ensuring that only species identifications with at least 80% certainty are included. We also feed the algorithm the week of the year the recordings were collected to help it to account for seasonal variation in bird vocalisation. This, along with data from external databases such as Macaulay and Xeno-canto, BirdNet classifies the vocalisations into species. Monitoring device failures can also create gaps. "We can see lots of Tawny Owl vocalisations all the way up to mid-April, and then they abruptly stop altogether at every single

site," says Dr. Gonzalo. "We have to assume the monitors stopped recognising them, and we will check the next data set to make tweaks to ensure they are picked up again."

It's still early days, but the data already shows which bird species are most prominent in different parts of the landscape. We are looking forward to a full year of data to compare against the new changes as the trees and other agroforestry elements become established.

This winter, we will be using our baseline data to help to give us a clear starting point for measuring progress over time at Great Chalfield, setting realistic targets, and planning how we manage the site, all whilst ensuring these all align with our wider Wiltshire Wildlife Trust goals of securing nature's recovery.

**You Can Help!** The bioacoustics data is cross-checked by humans performing 'point counts,' where an observer counts the species they see or hear from a fixed location. You can contribute by recording bird calls and uploading them to xeno-canto, which helps to verify the recordings from our acoustic monitors. To do this is pretty straightforward - first, record the bird calls using a smartphone, being sure to note the species (you can identify the species using the Merlin app), make a note of the location, date, and file type, then upload the audio file to the xeno-canto website to share your data with a global community including our partner's WSBRC.

*The acoustic monitoring devices were purchased thanks to an award from the North Wessex Downs National Landscape Partnership (<https://www.northwessexdowns.org.uk>).*

*The analysis and work of the team is funded thanks to an award from the National Lottery Heritage Fund .*



## ALDBOURNE BAND CONCERT - CHISELDON

Having been crowned West of England Champions 2025 and achieving a creditable third place in the British Open Championships, the Aldbourne Band were also well placed in the National Brass Band Championships held in the Royal Albert Hall in October.

As usual, The Band will be performing their annual Christmas concert in Holy Cross Church, Chiseldon on **Friday, 5th December at 7.45pm**. Tickets will be on sale shortly, priced once again at £12.00.

To book your tickets, please ring (01793) 790756 or 741146. *Colin Wilkins*

## ALDBOURNE BAND

at Christmas!

<b>Kentwood Christmas Cracker</b> <b>SATURDAY</b> 29 <sup>th</sup> November   7pm	<b>Aldbourne Carol Concert</b> <b>SUNDAY</b> 7 <sup>th</sup> December   4pm
<b>Chiseldon Christmas Concert</b> <b>FRIDAY</b> 5 <sup>th</sup> December   7.45pm	<b>'The Snowman' in concert @ STEAM</b> <b>SATURDAY</b> 13 <sup>th</sup> December   11am & 3pm

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## 41 Degree Big Band - Saturday 7th March 2026

After the success of last year's event, 41 Degrees Big Band will once again be playing in Wanborough Village Hall. Come and enjoy a fabulous live music cabaret style event with local musicians (including some Wanborough stars), 41° Big Band.

An opportunity to listen to some great live music and even have a dance.

We will be partnering with local charity Big Breakfast Plus (charity number 1197825) to raise money for this worthy cause.

There will be a bar and a charitable raffle.

About the band;

41 Degrees are an exciting 18-piece Big Band, based in the Swindon area who cover everything from the classic Big Band era with Sinatra, Bobby Darin and Ella Fitzgerald, all the way through to the more contemporary Caro Emerald and Michael Bubl .



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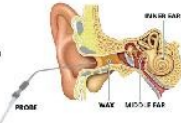
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### Months musings

It's been a busy Autumn, my working days filled with bulb planting and perennial dividing, hedge trimming and topiary shaping. There is something very satisfying about preparing a garden for the winter and it's a joy to see crisp geometric evergreen shapes that seem to pop in the low light of the year. I actually look forward to the first frosts that expose the beautiful skeleton of a cared for garden!

### For the love of gardening

It's the perfect time to plant bareroot plants. But please don't let their forlorn looks put you off! They're more robust than you may think and planting in the dormant season gives the plants roots a good chance to establish and thrive.

In my day-to-day work, we're busy planting hedging. The young bare root hedging plants are known as whips and all bare root plants need soaking in buckets of water for at least a couple of hours. Give them time to rehydrate before being planted and they will reward you. Hedging isn't the only bare root option. Roses are a great buy this time of year as well as fruit trees, Strawberries and peonies.

### The Potting Shed

It's beginning to feel distinctly wintery, with wet windy weather being much more common and the frosts are starting to bite, but it's not too late to plant some spring bulbs where gaps appear. Other tasks for November & December include:

- Prepare your garden for winter; insulate outdoor taps by wrapping them in bubble wrap held in place with an elastic band. Wind-up hose pipes and store them in the shed or garage and (if you're lucky enough to have them!) remove irrigation system timers and batteries.
- Plants for free! November is a good time to take cuttings from evergreens such as privet, ceanothus, pittosporum, escallonia and hebe.
- Tidy up! Continue to weed. Rake fallen leaves from lawns and borders and store in black bags or chickenwire pens to make leafmould, it's a great free mulch for the following winter! Remove hellebore leaves. Old leaves can carry leaf spot disease and may affect new growth, so snip the old leaves off, right at the base of the stem and show off the flowers when they arrive.
- Sow sweet pea seeds now in old loo roll middles and let them over winter in a cool spot with plenty of light such as a cold frame or unheated greenhouse. Tip; mice love germinating sweet pea seeds, so prior to sowing, try soaking the seeds in liquid seaweed fertilizer or garlic water, it's said to disguise the smell and deter the mice, I'm going to try it myself this winter!

Happy Gardening!



---

## CHISELDON LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

We do not have a meeting in December. Our next meeting is on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> January in the Church Hall, Butts Rd, SN4 0NN at 7.30 p.m. The subject is "The Wool Trade", presented by Martin Collisson. The history of England's wool trade is a centuries-long story of economic dominance, from its early roots to its medieval "golden age" and eventual shift to finished cloth exports. Initially a source of domestic use and simple cloth exports, wool became the backbone of the English economy by the 12th century, bringing immense wealth to landowners and merchants. This era was defined by large monastic flocks and exports of raw wool to Europe, especially Flanders. Over time, England began to export more finished wool cloth instead of raw wool, a trend that was greatly accelerated by the 14th-century wool industry developments and the influx of skilled Flemish weavers, followed later by Huguenots.

Many towns in the area were centres for the wool trade including Cirencester, Chipping Camden, Salisbury and Bradford-upon-Avon amongst others. Join us to hear Martin take us through this story.

Membership subscriptions are currently £20 per year, with the subscription year starting in October. Visitor fees for non-members are £5 per meeting. The schedule is published on the website (see below).

Our website [www.chiseldonlhg.org.uk](http://www.chiseldonlhg.org.uk) contains news of forthcoming meetings as well as general information on the History Group and local historical links and information. Other events will be published here when available.

The 2026 Chiseldon Local History Group Calendar "Then and Now" is available in local outlets – Spar, Cameo and The Three Trees Farm Shop – get your copy now while stocks last!

### Chiseldon Museum

The museum is now closed. It will re-open in Spring 2026. Watch this space for news on next year's displays.

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E-mail: [gaynormhalls@btinternet.com](mailto:gaynormhalls@btinternet.com)

**Parish Safeguarding Officers:** John & Mandy Mathieson.

Email: [benefice.psos@btinternet.com](mailto:benefice.psos@btinternet.com); Tel: 01793 791 396

#### Captain of Wanborough & Liddington Bellringers

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#### St Andrew's Flower Club

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Jacqueline Midwinter tel: 01793 950852

#### Liddington 100 Club

Caroline Tams Tel: 07876 714950

E-mail: [ctams1@icloud.com](mailto:ctams1@icloud.com)

### WANBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Kathy Glanville

E-mail: [cllrglanville@wanborough.info](mailto:cllrglanville@wanborough.info)

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### LIDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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Clerk: Laura Evans

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### BOROUGH COUNCILLOR

Gary Sumner Tel: 01793 790814

E-Mail: [gary@ridgewayvillages.co.uk](mailto:gary@ridgewayvillages.co.uk)

### WANBOROUGH PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Governance Professional Mrs Helen Oliver

[clerk@wanborough.bluekitetrust.org](mailto:clerk@wanborough.bluekitetrust.org)

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### WANBOROUGH VILLAGE HALL

Lettings Secretary: Karen Hawkins Tel: 07823 490153

E-mail: [wvhlettings@gmail.com](mailto:wvhlettings@gmail.com)

Calendar to view availability of hall on [wanborough.info](http://wanborough.info)

Chairperson: Dion Dean 07841 866773

Secretary: Sarah Ingram 07530 451549

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#### Wanborough Tennis Club

Secretary: Mel Brough Tel: 01793 741277

E-mail: [wanboroughsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:wanboroughsecretary@gmail.com)

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E-mail [wanboroughmembers@gmail.com](mailto:wanboroughmembers@gmail.com)

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#### Wanborough Theatre Club

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### LOCAL WEBSITES

For further information and news from our four villages visit:-

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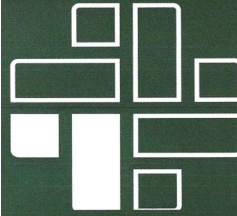
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