

The LYDEN



Issue 614 February 2026



News / Features / What's On / Community Information

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LIDDINGTON and WANBOROUGH

In the Parish of Wellspring Villages



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Recent properties **sold** and **let** in **Wanborough** by **Primary Homes and Lettings**



Dates for your Diary - February 2026

Date	Event	Time	Page	Location
Mon 2 nd February	Liddington Coffee Morning	10am		Liddington Village Hall
Wed 11 th February	Gardening Club	7pm	Page 14	Bishopstone Village Hall
Thurs 12 th February	WI			
Thurs 12 th February	Pétanque Club AGM	7pm	Page 11	Hooper's Field Sports Pavilion
Fri 13 th February	Wellspring Churches – Quiz night	7pm	Page 5	Wanborough Village Hall
Sat 14 th February	Deadline for Lyden articles			
Sat 21 st February	Farmer's Market & Community Café	9am	Page 5	Wanborough Village Hall
Sat 21 st February	The Beanland Pond Tidy Up	10am	Page 9	The Beanlands
Mon 23 rd February	Wanborough Parish Council Meeting	7pm		Wanborough Village Hall

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 Villages

Date	Event	Time	Location
Wed 11 th March	Gardening Club	7pm	Bishopstone Village Hall
Fri 13 th March	Wanborough Tennis Club – Quiz Night	7pm	Wanborough Village Hall
Sat 25 th April to Sun 10 th May 2026	Wanborough Scarecrow Trail		Wanborough Village
Sat 16 th May 2026	Wanborough Spring Show		Foxhill
Fri 5 th & Sat 6 th June 2026	Old Boilers – Beer Festival		Calley Arms
Sat 22 nd 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.

Church Services February 2026

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

Date	Time	Church	Service
Sunday 1 st February	10.30am	All Saints' Liddington	Holy Communion
Sunday 8 th February	10.30am	St Mary's Church, Bishopstone	Holy Communion
Sunday 15 ^h February	10.30am	St Andrew's Church, Wanborough	Holy Communion
Wed 18 th February	7pm	All Saints' Liddington	Ashing with Holy Communion
Sunday 22 nd February	8.30am	St Mary's Church, Bishopstone	Book of Common Prayer (1662)
Sunday 22 nd February	10.30am	St Swithun's, Hinton Parva	Morning Worship
Sunday 1 st March	10.30am	All Saints' Liddington	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.



A letter from the Vicar – February 2026

Dear Friends

Recently I found myself, once again, walking the beautiful Coastal path along the North Cornish coast. It is and has been a favourite stomping ground of mine and of our family for many years now. On a good day it is quite simply, stunning, in its beauty and peace. Along the path you pass through many kissing gates. Ingenious devices which allow walkers to pass though, one at a time, from either direction, but which prevent cattle and sheep from doing the same.

This year the kissing gates got me thinking about a deeply important aspect of the Christian faith; namely forgiveness. Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, will be on Feb. 18th this year and Lent, the forty days of preparation leading up to Easter, is a time when we take a steady look into our hearts to observe and ensure we are walking along the pathway of God’s love and truth, in all our relationships and living. Forgiveness is a crucial and central aspect of this. Receiving the wonderful all-encompassing forgiveness of God that Christ won for us on the cross and the giving of forgiveness to others, who may have offended, hurt or harmed us in the past, or in our daily living now.

It is a common experience in our human relationship with others that people let us down, or deliberately hurt us, in many different ways, as we sometimes let others down too. We have certainly let God down in our relationship with him through our lives and at various points, but the good news of Easter is that because of the ‘once for all’ victory of the cross, where Christ paid the price of our failure to love him and others as he loves us, so we can receive God’s full and free forgiveness within our hearts, for all time. This is at the heart of our Christian faith and flowing from this is our calling, in His love, to offer forgiveness to those who have wronged us. In the Lord’s prayer we ask God to forgive us our sins as, in the same breath, we acknowledge our commitment and willingness to forgive those who have done wrong to us.

Now that is admittedly very challenging! ***Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.*** This needs to be more than words we say but actions we implement. This phrase from the Lord’s Prayer reflects Jesus’ consistent teaching that receiving the forgiveness of God goes hand in hand with actually offering it to those in our lives who have wronged us. If people have very deeply hurt and harmed us forgiveness is, humanly speaking, often beyond our own resources to achieve. However, we can turn in that direction and ask God to help us and do the forgiving within us, where we cannot, and this can be a process which takes time and space to navigate. In the more everyday nature of relationships, in our families and communities, and of course in our church communities also, things like animosity, grievances and broken relationships all need to be dealt with promptly, in the grace of God, leading to reconciliation and forgiveness. We are all fallen sinners needing God’s forgiveness and He offers us this in Christ, but He also calls us to forgive others, out of His love of us. Where He leads, we must follow. In other words, forgiveness in our Christian lives is very much like a Kissing gate. When the part of us that receives God’s forgiveness is unlocked to allow God’s love though to us, it is by definition open to let our love back out to others around us also. But if we lock the gate of forgiveness to others we are in danger of not being able to receive the forgiveness of God ourselves. Unforgiveness can be a very heavy weight to carry around. Forgiveness is both liberating and freeing. It is foundational for health and joy in our hearts and in all our relationships. Animosity or nursing a grudge is not the way of Christ. Let’s make sure this Lent the kissing gate in our own heart is open for forgiveness to pass through, both ways, God’s and ours. Travel well this Lent.




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

Prayer:


Dear God, by whose power we are created and by whose love we are redeemed: guide and strengthen us by your Spirit, that we may give ourselves to your service, and live each day in love to one another and to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen

Front Cover

This month’s front cover is a picture of the Liden Brook, at the boundary between Wanborough and Liddington Parish. Please send photos that you would like to see on the front cover to - Lydenmagazine@gmail.com


WELLSPRING Villages

QUIZ NIGHT



Put your brain power to the test

FOOD & DRINKS GREAT PRIZES GOOD COMPANY

WANBOROUGH VILLAGE HALL
FRIDAY, 13 FEBRUARY 2026 7-10PM
 Proceeds support St Andrews Church


£10 PER PERSON | £60 FOR A TABLE OF 8

To book tickets, contact Gaynor Halls at
gaynormhalls@btinternet.com

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

Wanborough Farmers Market & Community Café

We will be supporting the charity "Hearing Dogs for Deaf People" at our cafe on Saturday 21st February. Our cafe will offer home made cakes and hot drinks for a donation to our charity.

Our regular supporter, Cakes by Trish, has decided to step down from supplying her delicious cakes on her cake stall every month. We thank her for her constant support and are really glad that she will still be making cakes to order and supplying cakes for the regular Thursday coffee morning. We will have cakes though. The Rural Bean are going to be at our market with their lovely cakes from January, they will also still be on their van at the Brewers, but you can also come along and purchase from the Farmers Market.

Terrific Truffles, a local village business, will be at the market and Braeside Bees supplier of local honey will offering their amazing products

So much to see, come along and say hello and support this community event

We are pleased with our new posters advertising Wanborough Farmers market, shown above and you will see them around the village. We are grateful to The Old Boilers for funding this purchase, we are really happy to have some new really smart signs to entice all of you to come to this community event. Thank you Old Boilers for this generous support.

Thank you also to Carl Johanson who moved to the village about a year ago and has designed, made and organised our new posters.

Thanks also as usual to David Birley, who not only started the market, with his wife Sue, but helps every month, putting up the posters as he has with the new ones, but also helping preparing the market and clearing it up.

So lucky to have all these great helpful people in our village.

Lorna 07903 210 505

FARMERS MARKET

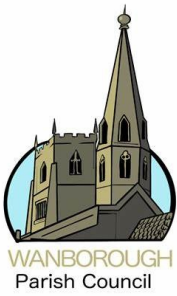
& COMMUNITY CAFE

WANBOROUGH VILLAGE HALL

9AM-NOON

THIRD SATURDAY OF EVERY MONTH





Wanborough Parish Council

As your Parish Council Clerking Team, it's always a pleasure to share updates on the work we've been doing to keep our community thriving. December's meeting was full of progress, engagement, and forward-thinking decisions, and I'm delighted to highlight some of the key successes.

Listening to Residents

One of our priorities is ensuring the voices of our residents are heard. During the meeting, several local residents attended to discuss the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) request for Inlands Farm. The council carefully considered their feedback, along with planning and ecological advice, and agreed on the next steps to submit a response that represents the community's views. It's always encouraging to see residents take an active interest in shaping the future of our parish.

Allotments – Growing More Than Just Plants

Our allotments continue to flourish under careful management. Invoices have been issued, payments are being received, and feedback on our allotment strategy plan has been overwhelmingly positive. Plot holders have embraced the cultivation rules, and the team has issued reminders and support letters where necessary. It's wonderful to see local gardeners contributing ideas and enjoying their plots – it really strengthens our community spirit.

Supporting Local Clubs

We're proud to support our local sports clubs. Planning permission costs for the Wanborough Bowls Club's electric supply were approved, helping them continue to provide recreational opportunities for residents. The Cricket Club is making progress with their facilities, and the new storage container for the Football and Cricket Clubs has been delivered and it a temporary measure until permanent storage facilities are built – all thanks to collaborative planning and careful oversight by the Council.

Maintaining Our Parish Environment

From cutting grass to clearing bins, keeping our public spaces safe and welcoming is always a priority. The Grounds Maintenance contract will continue for another year, ensuring that our green spaces, allotments, and communal areas are cared for by trusted local contractors.

Financial Responsibility and Transparency

We continue to manage the parish budget carefully, approving orders of payment and reviewing spend versus budget reports. By keeping a close eye on finances, we try to ensure that every decision benefits residents while maintaining transparency and accountability. In January, we set the precept for 2026–27, which will help fund the services and projects that make our parish such a great place to live.

Looking Ahead

We've made excellent progress this month, and there's more to come. Future meetings will discuss website updates, allotment fencing, and ongoing planning matters, ensuring that your Parish Council remains proactive and responsive.

We want to thank all Councillors, staff, and residents for their continued support. Together, we're keeping Wanborough and Redlands vibrant, welcoming, and well-managed.

Life-Saving Skills at Hoopers Field

On Saturday, 10 January, Hoopers Field hosted a valuable defibrillator and CPR training session delivered by the Bath and Wiltshire Air Ambulance. The event was well attended, with 22 residents of Wanborough taking part.

The session was friendly, practical and reassuring, showing just how straightforward it can be to recognise a cardiac emergency, carry out CPR and use a public access defibrillator. With plenty of hands-on practice and expert guidance, participants left feeling far more confident about what to do if the worst should happen.

It was a great example of the community coming together to look after one another. Many thanks to Alex from Bath and Wiltshire Air Ambulance team for giving her time and expertise, and to everyone who joined in.



Your Ridgeway Borough Councillor update from Gary Sumner

There is no Ridgeway Ward Surgery in February.

Mount Pleasant Solar Farm: Both the Parish Council and I were heartened to see a very robust objection submitted on the 22nd December by SBC's Highways department, stating that they felt that Horpit was unsuitable for access and that it would be unsafe.

Inlands Farm: Some positive news is that SBC have said that an Environmental Impact Assessment will be required for the proposal for 'up to 300 homes'. A key statement within the rejection of the developer's request is copied here:

'The Local Planning Authority's Landscape Officer commented that 'whilst this particular development might be different from the previous application (the Science Park) and whilst the wider context might now also be somewhat different, any development on this greenfield site is likely to have a range of significant adverse effects on the landscape owing to its scale, nature and location'. Therefore, given the location of the development site mainly within the non-coalescence area, with the site forming part of a 'valued landscape' and within the setting of the NWDNL, the proposed development is likely to result in significant environmental effects.'

Redlands Grove: On the shop the Planning Officers have told the developers that there should be two years of marketing once the shop has been provided.

It was also fantastic that the Parish Council provided a Christmas tree for the residents of Redlands Grove and just before Christmas we had carols around the tree with around 40 residents joining in.

Liddington: We had a further response to the 'call for trees' and other landowners in Liddington have offered sites for planting. There is still time if there are any further farmers/landowners. The hedge & tree planting in Purley Road for which we secured thousands of free hedging plants and trees is likely to take place in February and we now have all consents in place for this to proceed, working alongside Wiltshire Wildlife.

Free Schools: It will be confirmed by the end of January, but it looks likely that the primary school at Redlands Grove will now be the only one to proceed at this time under the Free Schools Programme. I have expressed concern at what will happen to the children from Lotmead and the lack of secondary provision.

Finally we did a litter pick on the Ridgeway crossroads above Liddington – shocking amounts of litter! I would like to thank Connor Buckenham who did a litter pick with his family just after Christmas on the Wanborough Road – a huge haul of litter. We provided the necessary kit, so please reach out if you'd like to volunteer.

Please call me on 07855957133 or email: gary@ridgewayvillages.co.uk

Ridgeway Villages website: www.ridgewayvillages.co.uk



Police and Crime Plan 2025 – 2029

Making Wiltshire Safer

Wiltshire and Swindon's Police and Crime Plan 2025 – 2029

My priority is to ensure Wiltshire remains a safe place to live, work, and visit, and I'm delighted to share with you the launch of our refreshed Making Wiltshire Safer: Police and Crime Plan for 2025-29.

This strategic blueprint has been shaped through detailed consultation with you, our residents, local stakeholders, and policing professionals with both local, regional and national input.

Together, we have created a plan that addresses the key challenges our communities face while continuing to improve policing services across Wiltshire.

The Police and Crime Plan 2025-29 focuses on four key priorities:

Priority 1: A Police Service that Meets Community Needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Enhancing visibility and responsiveness in your neighbourhoods.Building trust and confidence in Wiltshire Police.
Priority 2: Reducing Violence and Serious Harm
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Tackling domestic abuse, sexual violence, and organised crime head-on.Proactively addressing issues that cause the greatest harm.
Priority 3: Tackling Crimes that Matter Most to Communities
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Reducing anti-social behaviour, rural crime, and improving road safety.
Priority 4: Improving the Experience of Victims and Delivering Justice
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Supporting victims throughout their journey.Ensuring justice is served efficiently and compassionately.

Building on Progress

This plan builds upon the successes of my previous, which laid the foundation for many of the improvements you've seen. Both I, and my office, have been working closely with Chief Constable Catherine Roper, to ensure Wiltshire Police has made significant strides, particularly in frontline visibility and better and improved outcomes for victims.

However, there's still more work to be done. Transforming investigations, supporting victims, and providing a better public experience remain top priorities.

Listening to You

Your feedback has been invaluable in shaping this plan. Through focus groups, stakeholder engagement, and public consultations, we have aligned our goals with your concerns. The plan also reflects advice from operational policing experts and considers national policing priorities to ensure we are addressing current and emerging threats effectively.

Our Commitment

This is more than just a plan—it's a commitment to you, our communities. By working together—residents, community groups, and the police—we can create stronger, safer neighbourhoods where everyone feels protected and valued.

I encourage you to read the full Police and Crime Plan 2025-29 and join me in this mission. Let's make Wiltshire safer, together.

Next month, I will be launching the Use Your Voice: Police Precept survey and the police budget will be discussed in detail at Wiltshire and Swindon's Police and Crime Panel.

Thank you for your continued support.

Philip Wilkinson OBE

Police and Crime Commissioner for Wiltshire and Swindon



Liddington Parish Council

The January Parish Council meeting was on Wednesday 7th January. Full details of the meeting can be found in the minutes available on the Parish Council website. Here are the key things to be aware of.

Purley Road down towards Commonhead

Verge clearing continues ahead of tree and hedge planting in February and March. Many thanks to all the volunteers who are continuing to help and to Maurice Spillane for leading on this.

Speeding

The Road Safety team continue to progress their plan. They have been in communication with the police and are completing the prerequisites ahead of being able to re-establish Speed Watch. The police have also confirmed that they continue to do speed checks lower down Purley Road and have caught about 15 people speeding on their recent checks, one of whom is being taken to court.

Allotments

The water collection facility has been extended and can now capture 4,000 litres of rainwater for use in drier periods. The Parish Council would like to thank Paul Harman for doing all the work to double the capacity.

For those of you considering growing your own vegetables, we will have a couple of plots available this year. If you are interested in an allotment plot then please contact our Parish Clerk.

In other news....

- **Salt Grit Bins** – There are 5 bins around the village. They have recently all been checked and refilled where necessary. Please do use them when necessary and please take care on icy paths
- **Finger Sign Post opposite the Village Inn** – We now have a plan for replacing this. The work should be complete during March
- **Road Sweeping** – Roads around the village should have been swept by the time you are reading this.

In Closing....

There will be no Parish Council meeting in February. The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Wednesday 4 March 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 7.30pm. 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



Do you know about Liddington Chat?

It's the Liddington WHATSAPP group.

The Liddington Chat group is a friendly group set up to bring the community together.

We share anything of interest to the community, neighbourhood news and any village events.

Would you like to join us?

Members must live in Liddington,

be aged 18 or over and be on WhatsApp.

Send a message to one of the Admin team:

- Lynda 07794 566998
- Karen 07968 562081

We'll need your name, where you live and your mobile no and then we can add you to the Chat group.

If you change your mind, it's easy to leave.

The Liddington Chat group also meet once a month at the Village Inn. If you are new to the village, come and join us for a drink, meet your neighbours, have a chat and find out what's happening in Liddington.

Liddington 100 Club

The winner for December is Mrs Trish Newman - congratulations Trish - Caroline Tams



How I Lost Half a Million on a Boardgame



My grandchildren inveigled me into playing board games at Christmas. I was reluctant at first and, under pressure from eager little faces, I relented. One of my daughters asked later why I always avoided board games, and I told the family this story for the first time.

After separation, Christmas in 1993 was miserable. I'd done the family festivities the previous weekend in Dublin, flew to England and hiked for miles to distract Christmas Day.

The following year an investor in my company who knew about the previous year asked what I was doing for Christmas Day. I said I'd a new partner and we'd celebrate together. "Two alone? Not allowed," he mumbled as investors do. 'My house. I'm a bloody fine cook. We'll crack open several bottles of a decent Latour, and my two teenage daughters will be there.'

He'd invested already in my company and the next tranche of £500k was due. I explained to my partner that we needed the investment and what's a few hours anyway. My partner was fine about it, and was keen to meet this character, as a character he was, the quintessential English upper class bumbling type, and very, very clever.

The meal was excellent, the wine superb and the chatter was lovely until I said we must go. He wouldn't hear of it. "Family tradition. New board game every year, and by gum, I found a business game." Okay, I conceded, one round.

The teenagers and my partner were out early. They were bored and drifted away. He was ahead when I landed on a spot which required I take a card with options. If I played nice, the game would've gone on. If I was decisive, I'd win and we could go home. And so, I won.

On Boxing Day my Financial Director phoned. "He's not investing the £500k and wants lawyers involved." I phoned the investor and he bumbled on, quite agitated, said his company had high standards of conduct and mine were disreputable, a cheap shot to win a game, ruthless under pressure, couldn't be trusted to take a bullet for another chap, clearly not a man of character, and so on.

Lawyers got involved. He did pay some compensation, and I bought his shares for £1.

As King Lear says: *Come not between the dragon and his wrath.*

And that's why I don't like board games.

=====

If you fancy musical events in Swindon from Thursday 29 January to Sunday 1 February, go to www.swinterfest.org.uk/copy-of-about.

I'll be kicking off the festival with poems and pints on 29 January from 7:15pm at The Pulpit Pub in Old Town.

www.mauricespillane.co.uk

Beanlands Pond

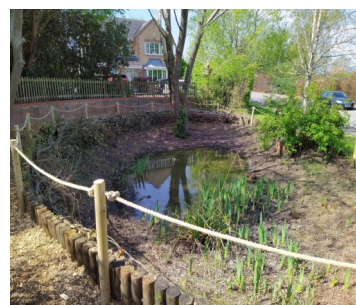
There are two ponds in the village that are maintained to benefit wildlife. One in the corner of Hooper's Field was identified as a viable breeding pond for Great Crested Newts and accepted by Wiltshire Wildlife Trust for grant funding. WWT did some initial major maintenance to reduce the overhanging trees, clear the margins and deepened the pond. They also put a management plan in place and returned last year for maintenance work.

The other pond, at The Beanlands opposite the school, did not meet the criteria for the grant funding but WWT advised a plan to maintain the pond and a good tidy up and clearance was done by a group of volunteers in April 2022 and a new rope fence was also installed. The local WWT Conservation Lead checked the pond last year and commented: *"Clear up to 1/3rd of the vegetation within and on the edge of the pond. Rotating that clearance around the pond so that each section is cut once every three years. There are two large willows that shade the pond. It may be worth speaking with a reputable tree surgeon about options to "pollard these trees in rotation. Whilst this would look dramatic and a loss in the first instance, regrowth would be vigorous (great for wildlife) and would also prolong the life of the trees."*

If you are interested in spending a couple of hours at **10am on Saturday 21st February 2026** to help tidy-up the pond please let me know. There is a tangle of brambles at the front of the pond so as well as suitable clothing and wellies please come armed with secateurs/loppers and thorn-proof gloves.

Dave Hayward (e-mail - cllrhayward@wanborough.info or lydenmagazine@gmail.com)

Photos of how the pond looks today.



Pond after clearance work in April 22

New Year's Day Charity Tractor Run from The Harrow.

The third New Year's Day charity tractor run brought together classic and modern machines. 28 in attendance booked in, and the weather was quite acceptable. Charlotte and Richard and their staff at the Harrow provided a wonderful English breakfast much enjoyed by all, and we are very grateful to them for hosting the event immediately after New Year's Eve celebrations at their pub.

A voluntary donation asked from each tractor owner to enter, and collection from onlookers culminated in the grand total of £305.00 for our chosen local charity, Pennyhooks Farm Trust at Shrivenham where Lydia & Richard Otter carry out amazing work with adults with Autism, who are on a daily basis able to carry out meaningful work on their farm.

Please have a look at the website and consider visiting one of their open days where you can purchase items made by the students and see firsthand the good work carried out there. Ways to donate are shown on the website, as an independent charity Pennyhooks will welcome your donations.

I can report that Lydia & Richard are very grateful to the owners and drivers of these machines for their support, and that of the public.

The tractors left The Harrow at 11.30am to proceed in two groups, the classics in one and the modern machines the other, taking different routes to the Crown at Aldbourne where hot drinks as well as cold were appreciated by all. We had one tractor which developed a mechanical fault and was ably recovered by Phillip Cook.

This charity event is now firmly fixed in the calendar for our village, in addition, the tractor run which will again be on Easter Monday 6th April, where the route will be into the Vale of the White Horse.

With grateful thanks to all involved.

Colin & Dena Hatch.



Wanborough Scouts would like to say a great big thank you to both the local community and our lovely sponsors (The House Group, Primary Homes and Lettings and The Old Boilers) for all their support with our festive fundraising efforts.

From buying Scout stamps, buying raffle tickets, attending our carols round the tree event or sponsoring our carols event - every little bit has helped us to raise a lovely amount of money to helping us to continue to offer the Youth of Wanborough a varied and adventurous programme, helping them to gain valuable skills for life.

If you think that you'd like to join our volunteering effort in 2026 and join us with the many fun adventures that we have planned, please do get in touch: contact@1stWanborough.org.uk

Thank you The Old Boilers

Thank you so much for treating us all to coffee and cake on 11th December, at our regular coffee morning, at The Brewers.

This is a very gracious gesture.

We are all grateful that you came to join us and gave us all such a thoughtful gift.

Thank you

Wanborough Coffee, cake and chat



WANBOROUGH TENNIS CLUB

It's been a busy start to the year with twenty members entering the first doubles tournament of 2026 organised by our coach, Becky. It's great to see so many people on the courts even in the January weather. By the time of reading this our new LED lights for courts 3 and 4 will be installed. This is a great step forward and will make a huge difference to available time for social play and coaching in the winter months. We are excited about seeing all four courts in use.



PLAYER OF THE MONTH

Samridhi Deepak

Samridhi has had some fantastic results over the last few months. She has been runner up in the last two tournaments she's played which is the age group up from her own at u10. She's still only 8. She came 3rd in her last national competition losing in the semi final in a tie break. All this means her national ranking is 6th in the UK. Becky first started coaching Samridhi when she was four – very impressive to see what can be achieved in just under five years. Amazing effort, really well done Samridhi.

COMING UP

QUIZ IN WANBOROUGH VILLAGE HALL

On Friday 13th MARCH, we're holding a Quiz in Wanborough Village Hall at 7.30pm with doors open from 7pm. Everyone is welcome with teams a maximum of six. Nibbles will be provided. Cost is £10 per head with the proceeds going towards the upkeep of the Club. Time to get your quizzing hats on and join us for a fun evening. Email details of your team to wanboroughmembers@gmail.com.

EASTER CAMP DATES

Camps are back for Easter. The dates are 30th, 31st March and 1st April and then the 7th, 8th and 9th April. 10-3pm with drop off from 9.30am optional. Cost is £25 pp per day for members and £27 pp for non members.

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.

Wanborough Bowls Club



Welcomes new members - Come and have a go!

Bowling is not just for the 'older' generation, it is Open to All, any age and any ability.

We are a very friendly club, based in a beautiful village location.

We have regular events during our non-bowling season, so please come and have a look for yourself...

Our Bowling Season is between April and September

Practice sessions (Roll-Ups) are held on.... Wednesday afternoons between 2.00pm - 4.00pm

Friday evenings between 5.00pm - 7.00pm

For more info, please call Martin – 07753 743996

Wanborough Bowls Club, Hooper's Field, Rotten Row, Wanborough, Swindon SN4 0AN

Wanborough Pétanque Club - AGM

Thursday 12th February 2026 at Hoopers Field Sports Pavilion starting at 7pm

If you are interested in playing Pétanque or getting involved in Wanborough Pétanque Club then please come along to the AGM to hear all the great things we have planned over the coming year.

Look forward to seeing you there.



Warm Welcome at Wanborough Toddlers!

Welcome to the new families who have joined us recently, and well done everyone who has made it out in the wintry weather! The village hall is nice and warm, with lots of space for the little ones to let off steam, especially with our trikes, stepping stones, climbing triangle, and slide into the ball pit!

There has been a little baby boom in Wanborough, as we have quite a few newborns joining the group! And we have a good spread of ages right up to those turning 4 years old, making friends while preparing to start school. It's great seeing all the little ones getting out and socialising - and getting their parents / grandparents / carers out socialising too!

Our library is a nice quiet area, and you are welcome to borrow a book to enjoy at home. Thank you to the parish council for supporting our library, and to the many local families who have donated fantastic books!

Play dough, puzzles, trains, cars, dolls, vets, cafe play, baby sensory toys, sand, messy play trays, painting and crafts, have all been popular at our sessions too.

Join us each week

We run every Tuesday, 9.30-11.30am at the village hall - no need to book, and you can pop in any time, around naps or other commitments. We charge just £2.50 per child, which includes snacks, and a hot drink and sweet treat for the grown ups. We keep running in the school holidays, when older siblings are welcome to join us.

Bring all your warm layers just in case we can get outside, especially if we ever have enough snow to make a snowman in the village hall garden!

Remember you can park at the far end of the Harrow Inn pub, opposite the hall, if the hall parking is full - thank you to the Harrow for kindly permitting this.

Donations

We are very lucky that our cupboard is pretty full! But if you have any items you would like to donate, please get in touch. We would especially like leftover craft resources, and dressing up costumes age approx 2-4, especially animals or emergency services outfits. Thank you!

Helpers

Wanborough Toddlers is run by volunteers: Victoria has kindly run the sessions recently, and Freya in the school holidays, as Maria has her hands full with her newborn! And we are very grateful to grandparents Steve, Cathy, Kate and Bryan, and Avril, for all their help. Thank you also to all the families and toddlers who help wash up and tidy up during the sessions - the children often love to help, and then enjoy some parachute games and songs while we pack up the cupboard! It's a real team effort!

Looking ahead, there are some weeks where we would love some help with setting up, from around 8.45am to 9.30am - especially with lifting tables and heavier boxes of toys, or a bit later for making teas and coffees. If you're interested in helping from time to time, please let us know!

Wanborough Toddlers wanbroughtoddlers@gmail.com





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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 Bublé.

Tickets are available from the band's website 41degrees.uk.

Wanborough Scarecrow Trail - 25th April to 10th May 2026

We are in the early stages of planning the Wanborough Scarecrow Trail, this year's theme will be "The World of Theatre & Musicals".

We are currently looking for sponsors for the event, if you are a local company who would be interested in sponsoring and supporting the event please e-mail - wanboroughscarecrow@yahoo.com





The Ridgeway Gardening Club

WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

At the Ridgeway Gardening Club, we aim to do things a bit differently.

If you've ever looked at a plant and thought, "I wonder why you're dying," then congratulations — you're already halfway qualified to join our Gardening Club. The other half? Turning up. Preferably with enthusiasm, but we'll also accept mild curiosity and a willingness to ask questions.

You don't need experience to join us. You don't need a sprawling garden or a Latin dictionary of plant names. All you need is a spark of interest and a willingness to get your hands a little muddy. Because gardening isn't about perfection, it's about discovery. It's about learning what thrives, what struggles, and how to create a successful environment working with what you have available.

Our club is a place where beginners, experts, and people who once kept a cactus alive for three whole weeks can come together to learn, laugh, and socialise. We share tips, swap seeds and cuttings, and celebrate our successes whether that be keeping the lawn alive or winning the slug battle.

The Ridgeway Gardeners are committed to creating an inclusive and supportive atmosphere in which every member feels valued. Beginners are guided with patience and encouragement, while more experienced gardeners are invited to share their expertise. Our activities for the coming year include guest speakers, practical demonstrations, plant-sharing events, a visit to an iconic arts and craft garden and a newly launched Garden Buddy Scheme.

Maybe you are new to the area, or moved into a new build or simply want to improve your outdoor space then come and join us and be inspired. A year's membership costs just £12.50 which includes free entry to our monthly events, access to our Garden Buddy Scheme and members discounts of 20% at Suttons Seeds and Plants, a great way to top up your plant stock for the Spring and Summer ahead.

So, if you are wondering if this is one for you why not send us an email to info@ridgewaygardeners.co.uk to register your interest in membership or come along to one of our planned events and pay a per event fee of £5 which includes refreshments on the night.

Our first event of 2026 promises to be very popular; we will be hearing from Rebecca Brain on how to create a perfect growing environment using a low maintenance no-dig method of gardening. This is a perfect way to get maximum results for low cost and minimal effort. This talk will appeal to novice and experienced gardeners.

We look forward to welcoming you on Wednesday 11th February at 7pm at Bishopstone Village Hall.

Diary Dates

The meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month, except January and August, and as always everyone is welcome. There is a one-off payment for an evening for non-members, or a single payment of £12.50 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 also be bringing along a selection of plants for sale from his Gloucestershire nursery.

Marion Peck
01793791001



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 February for March's magazine).

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

Happy Gardens by Jane Pearson

Musings: The winter garden

In this frosty time of year, many herbaceous garden plants have died back, revealing the structure and skeleton of our gardens.

Some herbaceous plants gently retreat to their crowns to wait out the chilly weather, whilst others refuse to die back gracefully and are best managed by cutting back. Others shine, they stand proud and their seed heads provide welcome interest and food for small birds.

New Year is the perfect time to take a deep look at your outdoor space. I find it helpful to take photos and make notes about what is, and is not working. Ask yourself if your garden needs more evergreens or trees with beautiful bark to give height, or shrubs with brightly coloured stems? Have all your summer blooms disappeared or are their winter skeletons still interesting? Where would you like to see spring bulbs emerging? If you need some experienced and friendly help with this, please contact me to arrange a consultation.

Plant Spotlight

Here are four of my favourite Herbaceous perennials that stand up well to our climate's winter and look beautiful covered in frost.



**Hylothelephium
telephium 'Autumn
Joy'**
Sedum 'Autumn Joy'



**Phlomis
russeliana**
Turkish sage



**Echinacea
purpurea
'Rubinstern'**
Coneflower
'Rubinstern'



**Stachys byzantina
'Silver Carpet'**
Woolly betony 'Silver
Carpet'

- **Hylothelephium**, previously called Sedum is a favourite for autumn colour and is a nectar source for butterflies
- **Phlomis**: its pom-pom like seed heads always makes me smile
- **Echinacea** has a strong upright winter skeleton and interesting seed heads.
- **Betonica**: previously known as Stachys, loves a sunny spot to flower and attracts honeybees.

The Potting Shed: Things to do in February

- Enjoy the snow drops!
- Plant orchard and decorative trees, bare root hedging and roses.
- Keep an eye on the weather and weeds, they still grow in mild winters, so save yourself a ton of work in the spring by removing them now.
- Order seed and bulb catalogues and enjoy browsing.
- Be inspired! Visit local gardens and plant centres: Notice scented winter shrubs and trees with interesting bark and add to your wish list.



Happy new Year and Happy Gardening!

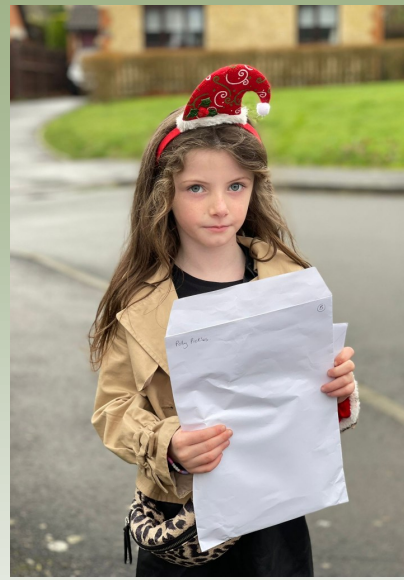
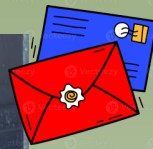


Welford Park - Snowdrops

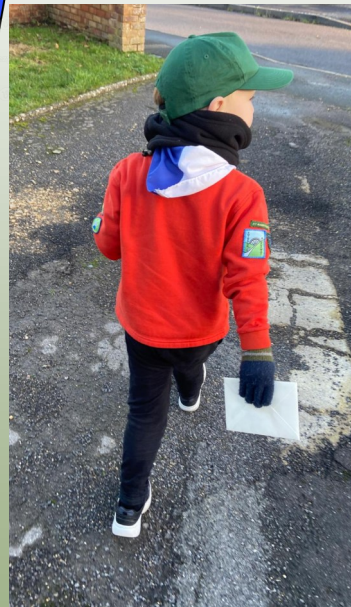
If you like snowdrops then I highly recommend going to see the snowdrops at Welford Park from 28th Jan to 1st March, tickets can be purchased online from their website - www.welfordpark.co.uk

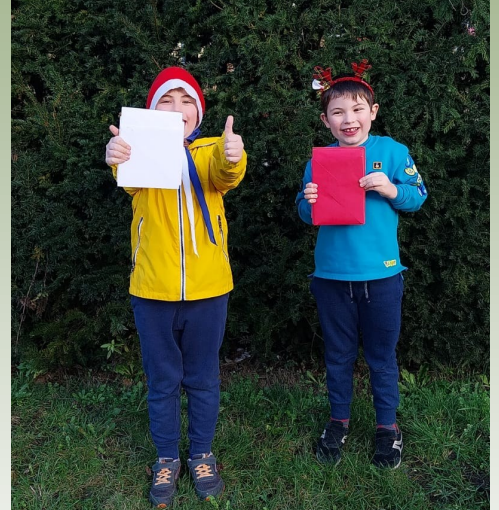
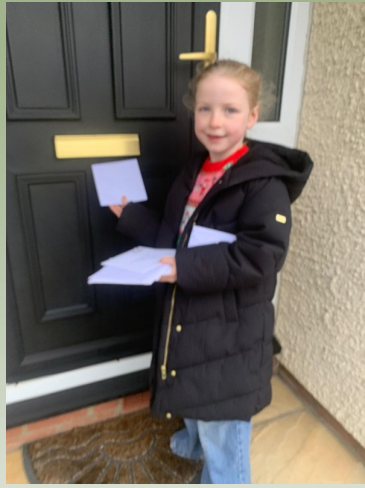
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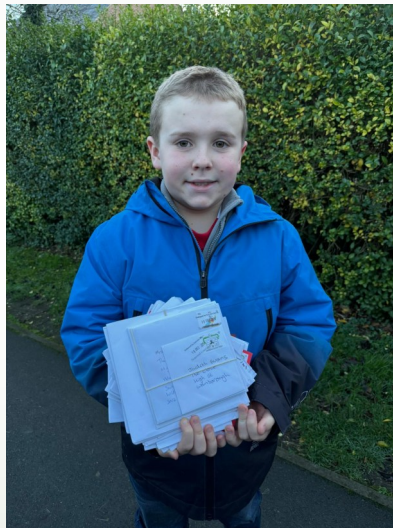


Wanborough Scouts





deliver Xmas cheer



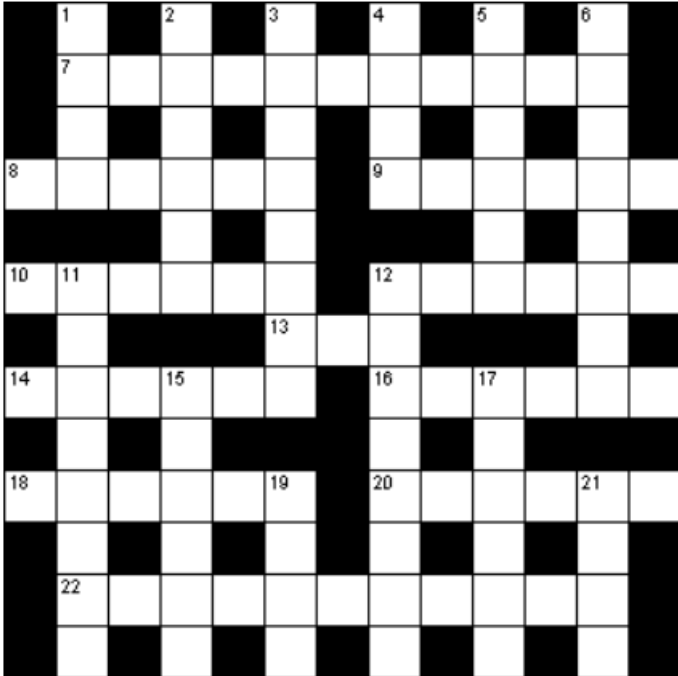
Puzzle of the Month - February 2026

We are pleased to confirm that **The Brewer's Arms** Pub have agreed to sponsor the "Puzzle of the month" for 2026 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 by **14th February 2026**. 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 Cryptic Crossword Across



- 7 Motion in favour of standing (11)
- 8 Steady place for horses (6)
- 9 Clergyman going round in circle (6)
- 10 Tool found by architect in front of church (6)
- 12 Space traveller from remote parts (6)
- 13 Card for the expert (3)
- 14 The effect of one member on legislation (6)
- 16 Nicholas and Edward get arrested (6)
- 18 Crazy bird (6)
- 20 Sharp bar put off (6)
- 22 A sort of terminal cut (11)

Down

- 1 Notice a mark (4)
- 2 Sweet that is twice as good in France? (6)
- 3 A bit of a change for show team (8)
- 4 Metal used by Heinz in cans (4)
- 5 Straightforward letters of credit (6)
- 6 A new diet not a remedy (8)
- 11 Odd sort of horse that is made to drink (3,5)
- 12 People correspond - by telepathy? (8)
- 15 In Pakistan Karachi is an Asian capital (6)
- 17 Found fault with new red cap (6)
- 19 Gem obtained for a pound after work (4)
- 21 Post Office trainees emptied containers (4)



Solutions for January's puzzle

7	3	2	9	4	6	5	8	1
8	1	4	2	7	5	6	9	3
9	6	5	3	1	8	4	2	7
1	8	3	6	9	4	7	5	2
2	7	9	8	5	3	1	6	4
4	5	6	1	2	7	8	3	9
6	4	8	7	3	9	2	1	5
5	9	1	4	8	2	3	7	6
3	2	7	5	6	1	9	4	8

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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Wanborough's History - Wanborough Village Map

The map of the village made of textiles took five years to make, 150 volunteers from the village were involved in this big project. The project was initiated by Barbara Parnell, the then Chairperson of Wanborough Parish Council and the aim was to bring the whole community together to mark the centenary of the Parish Council, which held its first meeting in 1895.

The tapestry was completed in 1995 to mark the centenary of the Parish Council and it was then framed in an heavy English Oak Frame and displayed at St Andrew's Church. It is still there today and can be viewed when you visit the Church.

Janine Brown was responsible for the design of the 12 feet by 4 feet tapestry. She worked with the volunteers from the village to make the map. Most of the textiles were donated or provided by local companies; people used all sorts of the materials including old bridesmaid dress. Hundreds of different colours were used as villagers made their pieces from threads they had at home. The map shows the centre of the village with six main roads, High Street, Church Road, Kite Hill, Rotten Row, Burycroft and The Marsh. The design incorporates the four seasons in each corner and every volunteer's name is embroidered around the edge as a lasting tribute to the huge community effort. The map weighs five kilos, comprises seven different layers with wadding in between stitched on a quilted base. The total cost of the tapestry was in the region of £300 but the frame cost a bit more in region of £2,000.

In addition to the tapestry, kneelers were made for each section of the map and formed a jigsaw of 42 kneelers. There have been many occasions when children from Wanborough School have gone up to view the map and piece together the jigsaw of kneelers to make the map, always great fun.

The kneelers were an extension of the project once again initiated by Barbara Parnell but also gave an opportunity to hold exhibitions and raise money for the Church tower appeal.



Photo - Barbara Parnell stood next to the framed map in St Andrew's Church - (Swindon Advertiser 2002)

28 Map Cards Faculty copy: reading

Memorandum: Wanborough Village Map & St Andrew's Church

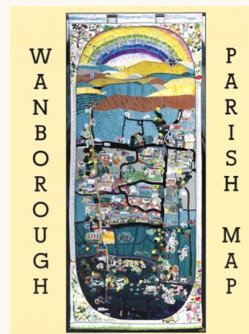
The Wanborough Village Map was made by the parishioners between 1990-1995. It represents the villagers' 'view' of their community and marked the centenary of the Parish Council. Finance for the project came from Rural Action, the village and its voluntary organisations.

As a venture celebrating the village and community co-operation, it was agreed to hang the map in the church - which in both its history and pastoral care represents the values of the Map. A faculty was obtained and Revd Robert Sunday dedicated the Map during the service on Sunday 15 January 1995.

The Map, therefore is held by St Andrew's Church Wanborough in trust for the village in the church; and it is intended that it should remain there in perpetuity. The map, together with its oak frame, should not be removed, altered or disposed of without the full consent of the whole village.

Signatures: W H Gray JB SH BP
Vicar
(P.C.C.)
Parish Council (Chairman)

Dated: 21st Nov 1995
Revd Robert Sunday
(Parish Meeting)



Postcards were made to purchase to raise money for the Church Tower Appeal



Photo of the map in St Andrew's Church

Colourful history

Embroidery work of art depicts life in village

By Barry Leighton
b.leighton@bepp.co.uk

THE people of Normandy have the Bayeux tapestry but a rural Wiltshire community is just as proud of its very own memorial embroidery.

More than 150 villagers in Wanborough, near Swindon, spent five years contributing to a remarkable embroidery which depicts the village on the eve of the millennium.

The Wanborough Parish Map is an intricate and painstakingly crafted 8ft by 4ft textile wall-hanging showing many aspects of village life.

After being completed in the mid-1990s, it was hung in the gloomy confines of 14th century St Andrews church, partly to keep the fragile work away from the damaging light.

But yesterday, it was moved to the village school where it will be the centrepiece of a Wanborough History Exhibition on Friday and Saturday.

As history group members Chris Parnell and Brian Clarke cautiously lifted the multi-coloured fabric out of the Grade I-listed building, the tapestry's full majesty became apparent in the bright light of day.

'It is like a giant jigsaw'

In glowing colours, the embroidery elaborately illustrates the centre of the village with key roads such as Rotten Row, Burycroft and Kite Hill nestling between the rolling Marlborough Downs and urban Swindon.

The earliest building depicted is the water mill, which existed when Wanborough was included in the Domesday Book.

Pubs, schools, community buildings, shops, houses, bakery, trees, hedges, people, flowers and animals were all chosen and sewn on to individual pieces of fabric by villagers aged from five to 86.

Like a giant jigsaw, the assorted segments of needlework were meticulously pieced together by talented villager Janine Brown, a professional artist in textile and paint.

The old World War II Army Camp is featured, as is the house of Doris Carter, who continued a family tradition by selling groceries from her vil-



Piece of history: History group members Brian Clarke and Chris Parnell outside the church with the tapestry. Picture: Paul Stallard

lage home until she was in her 80s. Miss Carter sewed a view of her own house on to a scrap of fabric for the tapestry but died before the project was finished.

Other parts of the tapestry show fields which have already disappeared under new housing. The sides of the map have been machine embroidered

with the names of the 154 villagers who helped create it.

Former Wanborough parish council chairman Barbara Parnell came up with the tapestry idea.

She said: "The map is so fragile, we rarely move it."

She explained: "The village was growing at such a rate that we decided

to depict it in tapestry and needlework. It was also a way of bringing people together. It was a very successful community project."

The history exhibition is open at the school from 6.30-9pm on Friday and 1.30-5pm on Saturday.

Admission is £1 for adults and 50p for children.



Photo above - article from the Western Daily Press - September 2002, picture of Chris Parnell and Brian Clarke, both involved in the project.

Photo to the left - Barbara Parnell holding two of the kneelers in Swindon Advertiser 2002



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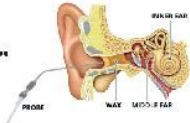
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CHISELDON LOCAL HISTORY GROUP



Our next meeting is on Wednesday 18th February in the Church Hall, Butts Rd, SN4 0NN at 7.30 p.m. The subject is "Wiltshire Follies", presented by Jonathan Holt. Find out the stories behind the extraordinary buildings around us as Jonathan answers the question: 'Who on Earth built that?!' The county is full of these curious buildings which can take many forms – towers, summer houses, grottoes, shell houses, eyecatchers, mock ruins, temples, hermitages, obelisks, pagodas, rustic seats...the list goes on. The stories behind them are many and various – built out of passion, megalomania, artistry, showing off one's wealth or to keep up with or block out one's neighbours. Jonathan will give the talk a local focus, featuring mainly places within 25 miles of us so that members can easily find the follies for themselves.

Many follies are tucked away in private grounds and rarely seen by the public. Jonathan has gained exclusive access to these follies and taken some stunning photographs to accompany the talk.

Jonathan has been talking and writing on the subject of architectural follies for 30 years, including as Editor of *Follies*, the organ of the Folly Fellowship, a charity dedicated to their preservation and appreciation.

CLHG 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 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.

Chiseldon Museum

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

Elaine Jones (01793 740784) Keith Parsons (01793 741346)

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We also have an archive of previous copies on the website www.wanborough.info.

LYDEN MAGAZINE CONTACTS

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The views of individual writers expressed in the magazine do not necessarily reflect those of the editorial committee or the Church. If you have any feedback or questions please contact the editor (contact details shown above). We apologise for any typos that have unintentionally crept in. Details on how to submit articles to be included in the magazine are shown above.

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Churchwardens:-

- Anne Bradley, anne.e.bradley@gmail.com
- Catherine Kosidowski
- Sarah Sumner, sarahjsumner@gmail.com
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Parish Safeguarding Officers: John & Mandy Mathieson.
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WANBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Kathy Glanville
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Parish Clerk Tel: 07588 769829
E-mail: Clerk@wanborough.info

LIDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

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Governance Professional Mrs Helen Oliver
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E-mail: wanboroughsecretary@gmail.com
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E-mail wanboroughmembers@gmail.com

Wanborough Bowls Club

Secretary: Mags Sanders Tel: 01793 614861
info@wanboroughbowlsclub.org.uk

Wanborough Junior Football Club

Secretary: Tom Foxtan Tel: 07500 881969
E-mail: secretary@wanboroughwasps.com
Website for further info - www.wanboroughwasps.com

LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

Wanborough Toddlers (0-5s Stay-and-Play,
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Email: Wanboroughtoddlers@gmail.com

Wanborough Theatre Club

Secretary: Mrs D Rawlings Tel: 01793 979170

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LOCAL POLICE OFFICER

PC Andrew Caldwell
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LOCAL WEBSITES

For further information and news from our four
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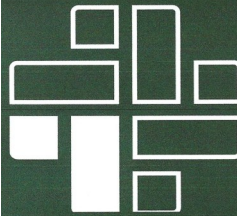
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