

**REPORT FROM VISION FOR WROUGHTON FOR WROUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL
MEETING 28th APRIL 2025**

The year started off with the annual Duck Race on 6th May. As usual this event was very popular and we raised over £2200 For distribution to local children's groups. A new event was introduced in 2024 – the Brian Tildesley Memorial Race. People could buy a small yellow duck (kindly donated by the Rotary Club who put on the Swindon Duck Race) for £2 and then decorate it, race it and keep it afterwards. The standard of the entries for the best-dressed business duck was high as usual and we were pleased to welcome Louise Hunt-Skelly, a local Paralympian, to judge them.

August saw the Art and Poetry Trail being organised for the second time. It is great to see so much artistic talent in the village. This, and the Advent Trail and New Year's Day walk raise much needed funds to keep V4W going. The Advent Trail runs for two weeks in December with people decorating a window with a seasonal image. As the name suggests, the New Year's Day walk is on the 1st January. It starts and ends at Trefoil House on the Weir Field. People walk the route and answer seasonal questions on the way. We were grateful once again to Wroughton Girlguiding for providing refreshments, including fantastic cakes.

V4W is represented on the footpath working group. A walking day was held in July when volunteers walked all the known paths in the parish and reported back on their condition. It is planned that this will be an annual event so that the footpaths can remain open and in good, passable condition.

The Willow-Brook Gardens working party continued its much valued work in keeping the gardens in good condition. We are grateful to Ian and Jane Woodford for keeping the aeroplane benches well-oiled each year and for contacting The BBC's Repair Shop about refurbishing our old Barracuda bench. This was successfully restored and replaced in the gardens at the end of the year.

Working parties have been held in Ashen Copse to ensure that the path is kept passable and to cut back hedges and undertake other light maintenance work.

The AGM was held on 24th March and the committee re-elected. We welcomed a new member on the committee who is going to lead on taking over the Scarecrow Trail this year.

Bev Margerison

Chair V4W