

REPORT FROM VISION FOR WROUGHTON FOR WROUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING
27th APRIL 2026

The year started off with the annual Duck Race on 5th May. As usual this event was very popular and we raised over £2400 for distribution to local children's groups. The new event that was introduced in 2024 – the Brian Tildesley Memorial Race was again a success. People 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 once again to welcome Louise Hunt-Skelly, a local Paralympian, to judge them.

September saw the culmination of 18 months of hard work by a small sub-committee of V4W with two events to mark the 1200th anniversary of the Battle of Ellendune. The speaker evening on 6th September with three eminent scholars, was a sellout. The main event on the Weir Field on 13th September was a really great event and was much praised. It was fantastic to see so much interest in the history of our area from not only the attendees but from the whole community, which supported us in many ways. We intend to use the spare money that we raised on legacy projects in conjunction with Wroughton History, such as a history trail, timeline and possibly a mural.

The Scarecrow Trail, for the first time, was organised by V4W. The main driving force, Jean Templeman, did a sterling job of cajoling people into entering. The standard of entries was fantastic considering the difficult theme of Anglo-Saxon village life, which was to tie in with the Ellendune 1200 event.

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. This and other events raise money to help keep V4W going.

V4W is represented on the footpath working group. Another walking day was held in September when volunteers walked many paths in the parish and reported back on their condition. This is now an annual event ensuring 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 Joan Orman who organises the volunteers and to Ian and Jane Woodford for keeping the aeroplane benches well-oiled each year. I was sad, however, to learn that some plants have been stolen from the gardens.

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 23rd March and the committee was re-elected.

Bev Margerison

Chair V4W