



Issue 280 - December 2025

Over £42,000 raised for
local children

...

New Youth Club on the horizon

...

New councillor vacancy

**Pull out and keep
village calendar**

CHRISTMAS **COMEDY** **NIGHT**

Zoe Lyons
Paul Sinha
Darran Griffiths
Mark Row

Tickets



SATURDAY 13TH DECEMBER 2025

TICKETS: WWW.BLACKPITBREWERY.CO.UK

BLACKPIT BREWERY, MK185LJ

BLACKPIT

Musings from the Ed

Winter is here...well almost.

Mr & Mrs Pigeon have left the ramshackle effort of a home in the shrub outside my window, leaving random items suspended in the branches like true fly tippers. It also looks like the hedgies have taken to their winter hostleries as their food has not really been touched for a few weeks now. I wonder how many of the detached condos in my garden are occupied...

The team at News & Views have been working hard on plans for next year. Starting in the April edition, we will be featuring trades and services available to residents by providing a contact listing of them by category. If you are a plumber, carpenter, electrician, decorator, plasterer, beauty or wellbeing therapist, life coach, gardener, tree surgeon or any service provider, keep your eyes peeled as we will be calling for you to send in your details throughout the year as

we focus on each category of tradesperson and service provider available to villagers. Entries on listings will be free and of course, you are welcome to take out an advert in that edition to boost your presence! We will let you know what we are focussing on for April both in the February edition and on the village Facebook page.

As we close this year, we remember those well loved villagers that are no longer with us, those that have touched our lives in one way or another whether through a cheery wave, a chat or their work in the community. We have also welcomed new life, families joined through marriage and new friendships formed.

From the whole team at Silverstone News & Views, we thank you for your incredible support this year and wish you a very Happy Christmas and a healthy and prosperous 2026.



Like to read?

Like to chat?

Like to chat about what you read?

Join us on the 1st Wednesday of the month, 7pm at the SRA.

Christmas & New Year at the White Horse Gilverstone

Festive event nights

FRIDAY 5TH 8PM TAKE THAT TRIBUTE

FRIDAY 12TH 8PM CHER TRIBUTE

FRIDAY 19TH 8PM ABBA TRIBUTE



Breakfast with santa

SATURDAY 6TH DECEMBER 9AM - 11AM

£12 PER CHILD INCLUDES VISIT WITH SANTA,

BUFFET BREAKFAST & GIFT

£12 FOR ADULT BUFFET BREAKFAST



Christmas fayre

2 COURSE £22.95PP

3 COURSE £28.95 PP

AVAILABLE THROUGHOUT DECEMBER

Christmas Day

CHRISTMAS DAY MENU

ADULT £90PP

CHILD £45PP



New Year's Eve

DRAG BINGO FOLLOWED BY

DRAGAOKE 8PM ONWARDS



Book now 01327 855896



News from the SRA

It's been wonderful to see so many people visiting us recently! With the football season well underway, we must be the busiest place in the village at the weekends. It's great to see everyone making the most of everything the SRA has to offer - from matches on the pitches and exercise classes in the hall to a meal at Café 74 and a drink at the Pavilion Bar.

We're also pleased to share, for those who haven't seen them yet, that new solar panels have been installed on the roof — a fantastic step forward as we continue to work towards becoming net zero.

Thank you to everyone who came along and supported our recent Halloween Party – it was fantastic to have you all with us!

And remember, there's always space on our brick wall! If you'd like to have your name added and show your support for the SRA, pop onto the website and get yours ordered – it's a great way to be a lasting part of our community's story.

As always, there's a warm welcome waiting at Café 74 and the Pavilion Bar – perfect for catching up with friends or relaxing after a busy week. We look forward to seeing you all soon!

We're Looking for a Handy Hero!

The Silverstone Recreational Association is on the lookout for a practical, hands-on helper to keep our much-loved community site in top shape!

Do you enjoy fixing things, tackling small projects, and being part of something that really matters? This flexible, paid role could be just what you're looking for. You'll work alongside one of our friendly Trustees to take care of minor repairs and maintenance around the site on Church Street. If you've got basic DIY skills and a little time to spare, we'd love to hear from you!

Come and join us - support your local community and help keep Silverstone's fantastic facilities running smoothly.

Call or text: 07974 448000
Email: charrison@the-sra.org

Morris Dancing is good for you

The NHS points out that one of the best things we can do for our mental health and wellbeing is to be active – it's a natural mood booster. Our bodies release feel-good hormones when we're active that can reduce anxiety and stress, help us sleep better, live a longer healthier life.



There are many free ways to get moving and I would include Morris Dancing in this with the added benefit of finding many new friends. Morris dancing is sometimes made fun of, even amongst ourselves, particularly for the use

of handkerchiefs. In the 1700s dancers used handkerchiefs as a prop when performing without the long sleeved coats worn in the Renaissance period. Not having access to these coats to add movement and colour to the dance, they pinned fabric pieces to their clothing with these eventually becoming the large handkerchiefs as used by dancers today.

Sticks, on the other hand result in much more vigorous style of dancing. These may represent weapons commemorating battles, or often symbolising dibbers used for planting seeds, as in the 'Bean Setters' dance. Getting up to dance in public for the first time is a transformative experience. Your friends are beside you and will cover for any mistakes with no criticism; even the long established dancers still make mistakes. You are anonymous in your kit, no-one in the audience recognises you; you will not want to stop. If you enjoy watching something like Bavarian 'Schuhplattler' or Greek 'Sirtaki' dances while on holiday, for example, and you think that English traditions and heritage like need preserving as well, then be bold and join your local side.

We at Brackley Morris Dancers (formerly 'The Brackley Morris Men') welcome both men and women. You are welcome to join us at any time. We practice every Thursday 20.00-22.00 in Brackley Town hall, but check with us first. Come and try, we can show you basic steps leading up to joining in a simple dance.

We will be dancing in Brackley surrounding villages on Boxing Day between 11.00 and 13.30, generally ending with a music session – after lunch. Venues and details are yet to be finalised so please check our Facebook page (The Brackley Morris Dancers) for details in early December.

Contact details: *Ian (Bagman)* 07715697556 | *Martin (Treasurer)* 07963841240
Website thebrackleymorrisdancers.co.uk

Silverstone Search

Answers on page 46

XBNPODQLNGSHVUNJD RKYDW
LXTTURKEYBQM DPTFYDRWYN
EEBN SJCBTKWECALPERIFCMA
QM QDNIPGOEQ UQTOWPW MYHIP
JGXCSJJHXDNJVRUOA IARNP
WWYUIOTWAZIEHKMF IHWQICI
WBGDTAGRPYANDHRHNULISEN
QXEAADACEEUAG EWOSCFOTPG
CYYPROBIN EYHZDBLEEFYMI
KV KYOERHFJGXQIALTPRCAEA
YIRZCUOREVGTZVAYTSEFSSP
ALM XETSELBUABELCICIWRFE
HPUA DUXAYS VHUSNH AZXMMYR
EFPRESENTSSSEOTATOPTS AOR
SNOWMANBZEBMLESNITXBG GK
RVKLN ICNCEOTELT SIMJPEKE

Find the following words in the puzzle.
Words are hidden , , , , and .

- BAUBLES
BOXING DAY
CHRISTMAS
DECORATIONS
FIREPLACE
HOLLY
ICICLE

IVY
MINCE PIES
MISTLETOE
POINSETTIA
PRESENTS
ROAST POTATOES
ROBIN

SNOWMAN
TINSEL
TREE
TURKEY
WRAPPING PAPER

News from Silverstone Women's Institute

We have been making good use of our DACT (Daventry Area Community Transport) membership to get out and about. September saw us at Southwell to see 'The Longest Yarn 2'. This crocheted scene of Bletchley Park



is just one of the 80 amazingly detailed panels on display.

In October, another group enjoyed a successful trip to the Swindon



Designer Outlet, returning with bags full, feet tired, and hardly a single shop left unexplored!

On Remembrance Sunday, for the first time, we laid a wreath at the war memorial, paying especial tribute to the women who served and sacrificed



through both World Wars and beyond. We were delighted that longstanding WI member Margaret Bignell

was able to lay the wreath on our behalf.

Our November meeting saw members turning their hands to festive floristry, creating some lovely Christmas table centres under the guidance of Bridgette Whiles, and helped along by mulled wine and mince pies to get us into the festive spirit.



Looking ahead, we will shortly be joining with Towcester Rotary and Silverstone Primary School to plant over 2000 crocus bulbs in the grass verge near the school. And after a successful party at the SRA last Christmas, we saw no reason to do anything different this year.

Whether you're new to the area or simply curious, Silverstone WI is a welcoming space for women of all ages. If you'd like to know more, please get in touch, either with me, or our secretary Helen (hdrothery@hotmail.com)

Alison Burnley
President, Silverstone WI
ajburnley58@gmail.com

 Silverstone

LAP OF LIGHTS

12 DECEMBER 2025 - 3 JANUARY 2026

THE UK'S LONGEST LIGHT TRAIL

Drive your car on the world-famous Silverstone circuit, lit up with lights, lasers and festive magic for all the family.

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Step onto the ice as Silverstone's legendary F1 garages are transformed into a skating experience like no other.

BOOK FROM £10 PER SESSION

ICE
TRAIL

MEET SANTA AT SILVERSTONE

Visit Santa's Garage in partnership with the LEGO® Group for storytime, LEGO challenges and gifts. Adults and under 2s go free!

BOOK FROM £18 PER CHILD

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HURRY - SLOTS ARE SELLING FAST

www.silverstone.co.uk



News from Silverstone Parish Council

clerk@silverstone-pc.gov.uk | Telephone: 07956 449 205

Shacks Barn

The WNC Strategic Planning Committee met on October 21st and the application for development of the Shacks Barn site was on the agenda.

Silverstone Parish Council appointed Cllr. Michael Toner to speak on their behalf and he produced a robust rebuttal of the application. Cllr. Toner spoke with clarity and impact to raise the traffic concerns, visual impact and the lack of sustainable access. Silverstone PC Cllr. Karen Lockton spoke on behalf of the Silverstone & Whittlebury Residents' Association, who had also obtained the services of Sebastian Charles of Aardvark Planning Law, who spoke in detail on the failings of the application. Further speeches were given by representatives from Whittlebury PC, Cllr. Adrian Little, Cllr. Alison Eastwood and Cllr. Ian McCord, who was rousing in his condemnation of both the application and the manner in which it had been processed.

Committee members asked questions ranging from traffic impact, to access, to allocated land and the size of the buildings proposed. The responses from WNC officers and the planning consultants representing the developers were lack lustre. In the end they failed to convince the members that this application would bring benefit to the area, or was

sustainable and as such, the members voted to refuse it with 10 members against and 1 abstention from the Chair.

This will probably result in an appeal by the developer which will mean that the application will then go to the Planning Inspectorate who will then recommend a course of action to the Secretary of State.

Parish Council Support for SRA

At the August Parish Council Meeting, your council resolved to make a grant of £11,500 to the SRA. A similar funding has been made by the village for many years through the annual Parish Meeting.

The purpose of this grant is to assist the SRA to continue to offer the facilities and services the village has enjoyed for many years now. Whether it is for sports teams, dog walkers, children's play equipment or a place to enjoy time with family and friends, the SRA continues to be a place the village can be very proud of.

Whilst the Parish Council are proud to continue this support, without the volunteers who ensure that sports teams, leisure facilities and the SRA as a whole continue to thrive it would not happen. The Parish Council would like to thank all the people who enable this fantastic village asset.

Neighbourhood Plan Development

The Regulation 14 stage of the Silverstone Neighbourhood Development Plan has now finished, and the Parish Council would like to thank all those who contributed their input.

All the comments will now be collated by our contracted planning consultant before the plan is reviewed again by the Council and sent to WNC for approval and examination by the Planning Inspectorate. After which a referendum will be held in the village to decide whether to approve the final document.

Traffic Calming

The Parish Council would like to thank those members of the public who have volunteered to help work towards traffic calming in our village. As residents, we are all very conscious of the disruption, delays and hazards being experienced by villagers. We will be liaising with and supporting the group's work towards a safer and pleasanter environment for us all.

Councillor Vacancy

Silverstone Parish Council is a busy and proactive council that is looking to achieve a range of objectives for the village. We are now looking for a volunteer who has time to spare to join our team and contribute to the village. There are monthly Parish Council meetings and several working groups that meet regularly as well as resident and council queries to be addressed.

Training and support in various subjects from local government finance to using AI is offered to assist councillors with their duties. An interest in the countryside, community development, IT and any financial or administrative background would all be very welcomed. Applications to: clerk@Silverstone-pc.gov.uk

The Parish Council would like to thank the outgoing councillor for their service and wishes them well.

Village Youth Club

At the November Parish Council meeting the South Northants Youth Engagement Charity put forward a grant application to the Council to enable them to start a Youth Club in the village.

The Parish Council are delighted to confirm that this grant was passed at the council meeting. We will be working with the SNYE to get the club launched early in the New Year. Please follow the PC website and social media channels for more information.

War Memorial

Our village war memorial has at last had a long overdue renovation. Specialist stone masons have carefully cleaned the stonework and re-enamelled the lettering. The names of those who gave their all to keep us safe are once again clear to see.

We will remember them.



Battlefield Tours

Walk • Cycle • Drive

Have you ever wanted to walk in the footsteps of First Lieutenant 'Dick Winters', and his Band of Brothers as they took Brécourt Manor on D Day, 6th June 1944, or perhaps you want to trace the steps of a relative who stood in the trenches waiting for the 7.30 whistle on 1st July 1916 that signalled the start of the Battle of the Somme.

These are just two of the personalised guided tours of the WW1 and WW2 battlefields offered to individuals or small groups who want to get behind the scenes and the headlines, away from the generic tours and to experience the battlefields in their own way.

A personalised, guided tour will take your needs and interests into account and create an itinerary which gives both the background, and more specialist and tailor-made information. Tours can be walking, cycling, driving, or a combination. Tour lengths vary according to client needs, and costs include referenced research and an agreed-on itinerary.

info@untoldWW1.com

 **UntoldWW1**



'Dick' Winters, near Utah Beach

The Yorkshire Trench and Dugout - Ypres



Juliet, our guide was highly informed, flexible to our needs and enthusiastic. Would highly recommend for those seeking a more in-depth personalised tour of the Western Front. Fiona and Tim

Informative, educational and entertaining! We spent three days ...investigating the smaller monuments and memorials as well as the bigger ones. I especially liked the statue of my hero, Dick Winters. Juliet is very well informed.. It is my second trip with her, and I'll be booking again! Maria

Juliet gave a great tour of all the beaches and other important sites. Lots of walking gave me an important sense of the scale and terrain and what these heroes had to deal with – amazing! Neil

Silson Tommy traces Pte Fred Wootton steps from Silverstone to Bazra, Iraq.

Our WW1 teddy bear, "Silson Tommy" has, over the years, been visiting the memorials and gravestones of Silverstone fallen soldiers in Flanders. Thanks for doing this goes to Juliet Hanson, the Odell family and the Bambridge family. It is a little while since Tommy has travelled and he now, once more, has itchy paws and would love to hitch a ride with any Silverstone family on their personal travels to Northern France.



Of the twenty-seven WW1 **soldiers**, all bar one, Pte. Fred Wootton died and are remembered in Flanders. Fred lived in Gravel Walk,

Silverstone, (the footpath opposite Croft's Store leading to The Pyghtle). He joined up in the "Ox & Bucks" Light Infantry and served in the Persian Gulf where his name is recorded on a Memorial. To get Silson Tommy to be reunited with Fred was going to be rather more problematic, requiring a Plan B.

The answer came as a response to writing a letter to The British Army Museum in London. **They replied**

saying his memorial was in a remote no-go area outside Bazra **where** civilians were not permitted. The reply also detailed a company from Buckley Barracks, Chippenham, **was** due to be deployed there and would be both pleased and honoured to take Silson Tommy with them.



I duly posted Tommy to Major Lorch of the 94 Supply Squadron who escorted Tommy and a cross of Remembrance,

under UN protection to the Memorial, took the photographs and brought him back home to Silverstone. Job done.



Silson Tommy would love to travel with you to Flanders to seek out some more of the Silverstone fallen.

Gerald Lovell



SILVERSTONE SCHOOL
PARKING CIC

Volunteers Needed

**We're looking for people for
race weekend and year-round
support roles for 2026 F1 GP
Parking**



Could you help with:

- Race weekend car park co-ordination
- Social media and communications
- Finance and admin support
- Team coordination and logistics



**Scan the QR code
to find out more**

Experience isn't essential but a smile, a bit of time, and a desire to make a difference is!



Scan the QR code to get in touch or
email hello@silverstoneschoolparking.co.uk

Record-Breaking 2025 F1 GP Parking results for Silverstone School Parking CIC.

We're celebrating our biggest fundraising success yet and we need YOUR help to make 2026 even better!

This July we parked a record-breaking **2,270** vehicles across our four village sites—helping motorsport fans enjoy an unforgettable F1 experience.

Thank you to everyone who played a part in this achievement - our team of 110 amazing volunteers, our local landlords and the wider community who lend their support year after year. Your generosity helped us raise **over £42,000** for **Silverstone CE Primary School** and other local charities supporting the children of our village.

Why Silverstone School Parking CIC Matters

Since our incorporation in 2023, Silverstone School Parking CIC has raised over **£110,000** to support the education and wellbeing of village children. Every parking ticket sold, and every hour volunteered helps fund vital resources and opportunities for local families.

But the real story isn't just the numbers — it's the people. Our volunteers bring energy, humour, and a true sense of community. They've told us it's fun, rewarding, and a great way to meet new people

while supporting a cause that directly benefits our children.

Join Us for 2026!

After an incredible 2025, we're already gearing up for what's next with planning underway for next year's British F1 GP on **3rd–5th July 2026**.

We're actively recruiting volunteers for both **race weekend roles** and **year-round support roles** — and we'd love for you to be part of it! Whether you're a parent, a local resident, or someone who simply wants to give back, there's a role for you. Experience isn't essential — just a smile, a bit of time, and a desire to make a difference. Check out our advert to discover how you can help make 2026 our biggest year yet!

— *Kirstie, Tom, Jonathan and James*
Core Parking Team

Get in touch by email to hello@silverstoneschoolparking.co.uk



To learn more about Silverstone School Parking CIC scan the QR code or visit

www.silverstoneschoolparking.co.uk/about-us

News From St. Michael's Church



As I write this, we're enjoying a beautiful autumn!

Our Soup Lunches have just ended. A separate report follows.

T@4 continues each month on the second Sunday at 4pm, a short informal service held in the church rooms with tea and cake!

We have held our Harvest Festival and our All Souls Service. All produce from the Harvest Festival was taken to Towcester Food Bank.

Our Open the Book Team meet regularly and have visited our schools.

Now, the countdown to Christmas....

An outline of our services/events follows, but MAY change slightly if needed.

Firstly, a big THANK YOU to Matt at Crofts Stores for providing our Church Christmas Tree!

Christmas Services

14th December

- 4pm T@4 Silverstone Church Room
- 5pm Paulerspury Christingle & Carols

21st December

- 4pm St Michael's Silverstone Christingle and Carols
- 4pm Whittlebury Carol Service
- 6pm Slapton Carol Service

24th December

- 4pm Abthorpe Christingle & Carols
- 10.00pm Paulerspury Eucharist
- PLEASE NOTE NO MIDNIGHT SERVICE IN SILVERSTONE

25th December

- 10.30am St Michael's Silverstone Christmas Family Worship
- 9am Whittlebury Family Worship
- 9.15am Abthorpe Christmas Eucharist
- 11am Slapton Christmas Eucharist

28th December

- 10am Paulerspury Holy Eucharist

Wishing Everyone a Happy and Healthy Christmas!

Melanie Dennison

Halloween Projection



Thank you to everyone who came to see the Dragons and Demons themed projection on the High Street this Halloween.

Isla raised £85 for Friends of Silverstone School (FOSS).

www.isgprojections.com

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The Methodist Tiggers

Parents and tots group

Term time

DATE: Fridays TIME: 9.15 ~ 11am

CHILDREN AGES: 0-5yrs

*An opportunity for little ones to play
whilst parents can have a chat and a cuppa*

Recommended donation

£2 a session per family

For more details please contact - Judith 07445 224607

At Silverstone Methodist Chapel, Murswell Lane, Silverstone, NN12 8UT



News from the Methodist Chapel



Advent will soon be upon us. At the Chapel we will have an Advent ring with five red candles, four red for each

Sunday and one white for Christmas Eve/Day with readings and prayers on the theme of 'You're a Gift'. A busy time for us all, with Christmas events and services to look forward to, but also a time to wait & prepare for the birth of Jesus, the Light of the World.

We shared the Remembrance Day service in the village. It was good to see the War Memorial looking so good after its renovation and to be able to read, so clearly, the names of those from this village who gave their lives in the 1st & 2nd World Wars.

In September we hosted part of the Art Trail of Northants & Rutland Open Studios, and it was wonderful to see such amazing creations made by many talented people. Those who visited really had a wonderful time. We provided teas, coffees and cakes for the visitors and all money raised



from their sales amounted to £366 which was sent to All We Can, the operating name for the Methodist Relief and Development Fund, working in countries where help is needed. Thank you all.

The **Community Café** is open on the 2nd Thursday of each month from 10am – 12noon, serving your favourite coffees – cappuccino, latte, flat white, espresso- and pots of tea, plus amazing homemade cakes. A huge thank you to all our volunteers who work so hard each month and to everyone who comes along and gives so generously. Join us for our Christmas Café on December 11th - money raised will go to Action for Children.

The village **Carol Service** will be held on Sunday December 21st at 4pm at St Michaels Church.

On **Christmas Eve** we will have a service at 7pm which will include Holy Communion. This will be led by our Minister Rev Sara Cliff; everyone is very welcome.

Sunday services - each week at 10am we meet for a mix of modern and traditional worship – 9.40am coffee is served - and on most Sundays at 3pm for a traditional worship service. We share United Services with our friends from St Michaels Church on the 3rd Sunday of each month at 10am. In December this will be at St Michaels Church and in January & February at the Chapel.

Our Minister is Rev'd Sara Cliff - 07974 784059. Wishing you all a Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

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Silverstone

HOTEL AND RESTAURANT



TRACKSIDE FESTIVITIES

**JOIN US AT ESCAPADE
FROM 1ST DEC - 3RD JAN**

CHRISTMAS PARTIES

From grand office parties to intimate gatherings, host your end of year celebration in a unique and electric setting.

FESTIVE DINING

Fuel the festive fun! Tuck into our Festive Menu - bursting with the best British winter flavours and innovative takes on seasonal classics.

Two-courses £55pp

Three-courses £65pp



**SCAN
TO BOOK**



ESCAPADE.SILVERSTONE.CO.UK/FESTIVE-SEASON

Stowe House Events

Key: **B** - booking essential via www.stowehouse.org

Proceeds from the events hosted by Stowe House Preservation Trust go back into restoring and maintaining this Grade I listed eighteenth-century masterpiece.

Photography Competition Exhibition

19 October 2025 – 27 February 2026 10.30am - 3.30pm

To celebrate 25 years of restoration at Stowe House, photographers of all ages and experiences were challenged to capture the beauty and detail of the House across a range of categories. This special exhibition showcases the winning photographs offering a fresh perspective on Stowe's history, architecture and surroundings. Free with admission

Creative Stitch & Mend Workshop

Sunday 14 December 1.00 – 4.00pm

Learn three approaches to stitching and mending as you turn your hands to creative patchwork, darning and visible mending in this informative three-hour creative stitch and mend session with local artists from Black Swans Studio.
B £45

Christmas in an 18th-century Country House

Thu 18 Dec 6.30–7.30pm, Sat 20 Dec 4-5pm & 6-7pm,

Sun 21 Dec 4-5pm & 6-7pm

Step into the 1700s this festive season at Stowe House to discover how Christmas was celebrated in Georgian times. Wander through the grand State Rooms adorned for the season and uncover the fascinating traditions of the Georgian era, brought vividly to life by our expert guides. Round off your visit in true festive style with a warming glass of mulled wine (or a soft alternative) and a mince pie, as you soak up the magical atmosphere of Christmas at Stowe.

B £10 Adult, £8 Child

St. Michael's Church Soup Lunches

This year has been the most successful ever for our Church Village Soup Lunches and enormous thanks are due to Judith Paybody and Ruth Reddall for so efficiently and thoughtfully organising and running these Monday lunchtime sessions during Lent and the autumn. Many thanks also to Christine Branch who volunteered to organise a lunch in each group of 4 and made us all so welcome. We provided a hearty lunch of homemade soups, bread and cheese, fruit and cakes with tea or coffee to follow and were delighted to welcome many villagers including a number of WI members who not only came to enjoy the food and company but also made soup, helped setting up the tables, working in the kitchen and as waitresses and the worst job, clearing up afterwards!

Sincere thanks too for all the other friends who supported us in so many ways with a special mention of Penny Almond, the wonderful cake maker!

We are delighted that these lunches have become a lovely, friendly, welcoming hour or two for Village residents providing an opportunity for meeting old friends and making new ones. It has become an excellent money raising venture for our Church funds and this year so far, we have made over £2,000.

We hope that many of you will be able to join us on **Monday, 15th December** between 12 noon and 1.30pm when we will be holding our Christmas Soup Lunch and as often before at this particular event, we will be running a Raffle to raise money for "Harry's Rainbow", a charity committed to supporting bereaved children and families in Milton Keynes and the surrounding area.

Please join us in the Church Rooms if you can!

Anne Pullen



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Village Events

Date	Event	Time	Location
19/10/2025 - 27/02/2026	Photography Competition Exhibition	10.30am - 3.30pm	Stowe
24/11/2025	SGC Planning a low maintenance garden	7.15pm for 7.30pm	Church Rooms
26/11/2025	Community Drop In	2.00pm - 4.00pm	Church Rooms
29/11/2025	Blackpit Brewery Xmas fair & carols	See website	Blackpit Brewery
30/11/2025	Aston Martin November football match	9.00am	Woodford Football Club
01/12/2025	Craft Collective	1.00pm - 3.00pm	Church Rooms
03/12/2025	Book Club	7.00pm	SRA
05/12/2025	The Wood Oven	5.00pm - 8.00pm	SRA
05/12/2025	Take That tribute	8.00pm	White Horse Pub
06/12/2025	Breakfast with Santa	9.00am - 11.00am	White Horse Pub
08/12/2025	Planning Committee meeting (prov)	7.30pm	SRA
09/12/2025	WI meeting	7.00pm	Church Rooms
10/12/2025	Gurkha Streetfood	5.00pm - 8.00pm	SRA
10/12/2025	Community Drop In	2.00pm - 4.00pm	Church Rooms
11/12/2025	Community Café	10.00am - 12pm	Methodist Chapel
12/12/2025	Towcester Farmer's Market		Sponne Shopping Centre Car park
12/12/2025	Cher tribute	8.00pm	White Horse Pub
12/12/2025 - 03/01/2026	Lap of Lights	See advert	
13/12/2025	Comedy Night	See advert	Silverstone Circuit
14/12/2025	Creative Stitch & Mend	1.00pm - 4.00pm	Blackpit Brewery
14/12/2025	T@4	4.00pm	Stowe
15/12/2025	Christmas Soup Lunch	12.00pm - 1.30pm	Church Rooms
16/12/2025	Craft Collective	1.00pm - 3.00pm	Church Rooms
18/12/2025	Christmas in an 18th Century House	See article	Stowe

19/12/2025	ABBA tribute	8.00pm	White Horse Pub
20/12/2025	Christmas in an 18th Century House	See article	Stowe
21/12/2025	Village Carol Service	4.00pm	St Michael's Church
21/12/2025	Christmas in an 18th Century House	See article	Stowe
25/12/2025	Christmas Family Worship	10.30am	St Michael's Church
31/12/2025	New Years Eve Party	6.00pm to late	SRA
31/12/2025	NYE party Drag Bingo & Dragaoke	8.00pm	White Horse Pub
05/01/2026	Leisure Enhancement Committee meeting	7.00pm	SRA
08/01/2026	Community Café	10.00am - 12pm	Methodist Chapel
12/01/2026	Finance Committee Meeting	7.00pm	SRA
12/01/2026	Planning Committee Meeting	7.30pm	SRA
12/01/2026	PC meeting	8.00pm	SRA
14/01/2026	Gurkha Streetfood	5.00pm - 8.00pm	SRA
15/01/2026	News & Views cut off for February edition		
26/01/2026	SGC Simon Milner - Willow Structures	7.15pm for 7.30pm	Church Rooms
01/02/2026	Rotary Last Night of the Proms	See article	Whittlebury Park
06/02/2026	The Wood Oven	5.00pm - 8.00pm	SRA
09/02/2026	Planning Committee meeting	7.30pm	SRA
09/02/2026	PC meeting	8.00pm	SRA
11/02/2026	Gurkha Streetfood	5.00pm - 8.00pm	SRA
12/02/2026	Community Café	10.00am - 12pm	Methodist Chapel
23/02/2026	SGC Avril Hughes - Shady Characters	7.15pm for 7.30pm	Church Rooms

	Community eats & drinks
	Events
	Groups & clubs
	Church/Chapel events
	PC

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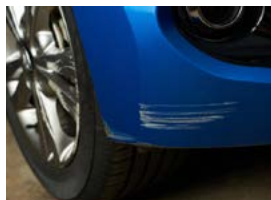
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Village Remembrance Service



A very large number of adults and children attended the Village Remembrance Service at the War Memorial led as is usual with much compassion by Clare and Trevor. A number of Village groups were present and laid wreaths at the War Memorial including the Brownies and the Village school children who individually laid crosses in memory of all the local men who sadly did not return from battle. The Service continued in St. Michael's Church.

Anne Pullen



The WI ladies (from left to right Linda Bain, Brenda Evans, Claire Anthony and Deirdre Galloway) who maintain the Silverstone War Memorial Garden, pictured alongside the newly acquired soldier. The ladies worked hard to ensure the garden was at its best and ready for Remembrance Sunday.

Proper Silson No: 3. Alice Mayo

Alice was the widow of a forestry worker who died in 1937 of Tonsillitis. Can't be correct? Yes, for this was in the days before Penicillin. Even a simple infection could be fatal! So, Alice continued to live at 62 High Street. She developed severe arthritis in her later days. Her brother, Les Potter, managed 'Top Shop', opposite number 62; the store that had the two village petrol pumps.

When Doc succeeded Dr Burgess, he found himself visiting Alice two afternoons a week to hold a Surgery; an arrangement made before his time which must have brought a small payment, for there was no village Surgery. Dr Lewis had a similar calling place at The Parsonage in Whittlebury Road.

The routine would find waiting patients in the back parlour of 62. Alice would usher them, from her kitchen, in turn, to the front room where Doc consulted. All seen and departed, she would join Doc bearing a tray of tea, bread and butter and a bowl of tinned fruit. There ensued compulsory gossip, but not about the patients! Prescriptions of that afternoon joined any left with Alice earlier. Tea had to be concluded in time for Doc to rush to Jeyes Chemist in Towcester by 4 o'clock. Then to be dispensed and taken to Towcester Post Office by 5 o'clock to be put into the Silverstone posties bag for delivery the next day. A donation to the postman of 1 old penny per packet and 2 pence per bottle, these being heavier. Archaic? Yes, but it worked! As Alice grew older. Doc realised that there had to be a village surgery. So, in 1972 he purchased a small plot, a pick and a shovel.

Alice retired having provided for years, a wonderful, unrecognised service to the village.

Doc

Aston Martin F1 Team Movember Appeal

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9:00am Sunday 30th November 2025

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To donate to the Aston Martin Team Movember appeal, use this QR code or visit <https://uk.movember.com/team/2447848>



Grey Matter Workout

Answers on page 46

1. Which popular Christmas beverage is also called “milk punch?”
2. The movie *Miracle on 34th Street* is based on a real-life department store. What is it?
3. Elvis isn't going to have a white Christmas, he's going to have a....
4. In the classic Christmas movie, *How The Grinch Stole Christmas*, the Grinch was described with three words. What are they?
5. In the movie, *It's A Wonderful Life*, what happened every time a bell rang?
6. What words follow “Silent Night” in the carol?
7. Which Hollywood actor played six different roles in *The Polar Express*?
8. In Charles Dickens's *A Christmas Carol*, what was the first name of Scrooge?
9. The first artificial Christmas tree was made from what?
10. According to the song, what did my true love give to me on the eighth day of Christmas?



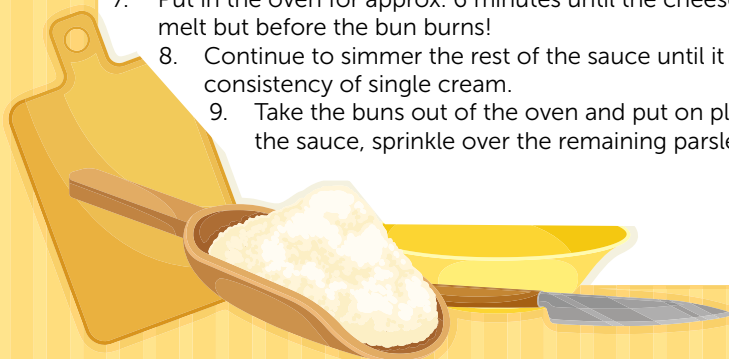
Mmmm Moreish Mushrooms!

Mushroom and melty cheese buns - Ingredients for 4

- » Four brioche burger buns
- » 450g approx. Of your favourite mushrooms, roughly sliced
- » Handful of parsley, chopped
- » Small tub of sour cream
- » 200g of your favourite melty cheese (Brie or Camembert are great, but so are cheese slices and Costello Blue if you like a mild blue cheese)
- » Small garlic clove, crushed
- » Generous lump of butter
- » Small pinch of Nutmeg
- » Salt and pepper to taste

Method

1. In a large frying pan or similar, melt the butter and add the mushrooms to fry over a medium heat.
2. After about five minutes, add the crushed garlic, salt and pepper to taste and the nutmeg. Stir occasionally as the mushrooms give off liquid and then that evaporates.
3. Once nearly all of the liquid has gone, add the sour cream and most of the parsley (keeping a small amount to sprinkle over the finished dish) and turn the heat down to low.
4. Now put your oven on to heat to 190 degrees, split the buns open, lightly toast under a grill or in your toaster (careful, they burn easily) and then put them on a baking tray ready to add the mushrooms.
5. Use a slatted spoon to scoop the mushrooms on to the buns, leaving most of the liquid in the pan.
6. Evenly divide the cheese and put on each of the mushroom topped bun halves.
7. Put in the oven for approx. 6 minutes until the cheese has started to melt but before the bun burns!
8. Continue to simmer the rest of the sauce until it is the consistency of single cream.
9. Take the buns out of the oven and put on plates, pour on the sauce, sprinkle over the remaining parsley and eat!



Silverstone Community Café

A busy Café in October raised £435.00 for "Let's Shine Together Community Grants Fund"

November's Café will raise money for the Northamptonshire Health Charity who provide gifts for those in hospital on Christmas Day.



In December (11th) all profits will go to "Action for Children" a leading children's charity working with young people affected by poverty, disability and abuse. A big thank you to you all for your continued support throughout this year.

Dates for your diary

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| January 8th | SRA – money raised to go towards internal decorations of the Hall and bar/lounge area. |
| February 12th | Hope Centre in Northampton - a leading charity tackling poverty, hunger and homelessness in Northamptonshire. |
| March 12th | Renew 169 Wellbeing Café Towcester – a quiet space, where its OK not to be OK. |
| April 9th | Methodist Homes for the Aged. |

At Silverstone Methodist Chapel

Silverstone Community Café

2nd Thursday of each month

10am-12noon

Serving homemade cakes, scrumptious coffee and teas, to help raise funds for local groups and charities.

Highest civic honour awarded to former councillors for outstanding service

At last night's Full Council meeting, West Northamptonshire Council awarded the prestigious title of Honorary Alderman to a group of former councillors, recognising their exceptional service and dedication to both the Council and the communities they have represented over many years. Amongst them was Dermot Bambridge from Silverstone.

The title of Honorary Alderman is the highest civic honour that can be offered to a former councillor. It is a non-political award, presented in recognition of individuals who have made a significant and lasting impact through their work in public service.

Dermot was elected to South Northamptonshire Council in 2003, serving as the member for Silverstone for 22 years until standing down as a member of West Northamptonshire Council in 2025. Dermot's career was in the automotive and motorsports industries at senior levels in public relations, including a period working at Silverstone Circuit.

Dermot also served on Silverstone Parish Council from 2003 to 2025 and has been involved in the growth of Silverstone Village and the re-generation of Silverstone Circuit and the surrounding business park. During his time in office, Dermot's specific responsibilities included holding the portfolios for Environmental Services and Economic Development, Regeneration and Housing.

He also served as Chairman of South Northamptonshire Council in 2010-11 and as Chairman of Moat Lane Regeneration Board from 2015 – 2021.

Dermot's other activities included serving in the Territorial Army with the Honourable Artillery Company and in the 1970-80s an instructor with Sussex Army Cadet Force. From 2000 – 2012 Dermot was active in fund raising with St John Ambulance Northants.

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Silverstone Church Fete – but Where?



The previous photographs were of "Silson Tommy" being taken by United Nations convoy to Bazra, Iraq to be with Pte. Fred Wootton.

Ivor Billhook – Old Silson Correspondent



Silverstone Gardening Club

It was with much sadness that we learned, in September, of the death of our Treasurer, Kathy Laband. Kathy was an energetic, enthusiastic and special member of our committee where her valued friendship and input will be greatly missed.



Bulbs have been tucked into the flower planters in the village centre in anticipation of them emerging next Spring to bring a burst of cheerful colour. A blanket of ivies and winter flowering plants have been added to provide some colour during the bleaker wintry months.

Our Club was founded in 1996 by a group of like-minded villagers who wished to promote the enjoyment and value of gardening. Since then, it has continued to thrive with an annual membership of around 90. We are delighted to soon enter the 30th

Anniversary year with a varied programme of speakers. We have some special talks and events to entertain us. Programmes and membership cards for 2026 are now available.

Annual membership is £5 per person. Members pay £2 on Club nights, and guests are welcome to come along for £3.

2026 dates

January 26th	Simon Milner - Willow Structures
February 23rd	Avril Hughes - Shady Characters
March 28th	Spring Show
March 30th	Paula Fleming - Gardens of Le Manoir Aux Quat'Saisons
April 27th	Paul Green - Alpines & unusual plants
May 9th	Plant Bring & Buy
May 11th	Visit to RHS Hyde Hall
June 15th	Visit to a Winslow Garden
June 29th	Rebecca Webb - Pink Welly Posies
July 20th	30 years of Silverstone Gardening Club - A special summer social
September 28th	James Allison - The Secrets of Successful Water Gardening
October 26th	Ann Lester - Whittlewood Bees
November 30th	In time for Christmas - Demonstration of Table Decorations



All are welcome to our Club meetings in St Michael's Church Rooms. Doors open at 7.15pm for a chat over tea/coffee before starting at 7.30pm.

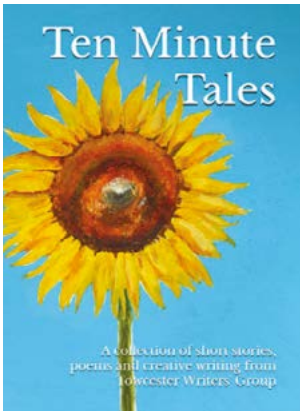
For further information about the Club, please contact the Secretary, Sally Hudson, at silverstone.garden.club@gmail.com. For information about Silverstone Flowers, please contact our co-ordinator, Glenda Hunter Fuller at glendalouisefuller@yahoo.co.uk

Best wishes to all for Christmas and for 2026

Heather Illingworth

Chairman - Silverstone Gardening Club

Towcester Writers Group Launches Anthology to Support Ukraine Aid Mission



Local Authors Unite to Raise Funds and Deliver Hope Through "Ten Minute Tales"

The Towcester Writers Group has announced the launch of a new anthology, "Ten Minute Tales", with the aim of raising essential funds to support aid and ambulances for Ukraine. In a remarkable show of community spirit, members of the group have joined forces to produce a book of poetry and prose, each piece designed to be read in under ten minutes, offering readers both entertainment and a chance to make a tangible difference.

All profits from the sale of "Ten Minute Tales" will go directly towards the ongoing mission in Towcester coordinated by the Tove Benefice of Churches, which has been sending much-needed aid and ambulances to Ukraine amidst the ongoing conflict. As the demand for support continues to grow, the group hopes that their literary endeavour will help save lives and restore hope in regions most affected by the crisis.

The anthology is available from Croft Stores, every copy sold contributes directly to the mission. Towcester Writers' Group encourages the community and readers everywhere to support this cause, emphasising that every purchase makes a real difference where it's needed most.

For further information or to get involved with the mission, please contact <http://www.towcesterwritersgroup.wordpress.com>.

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Rosemary's Garden Tips



After a rather grey and chilly October, November has proven to be much milder which has enabled some of our summer colour to continue into autumn.

I have Cosmos, roses, shrubby Salvia, Gaura, Hydrangea, Honeysuckle and Ergeron still in flower, plus some tiny fresh green shoots of Snowdrops emerging. It's worth noting varieties like these because not all plants seem to thrive in our Silverstone soil.

Delphiniums and Lupins for example don't do well at all, neither do spring bulbs at least in our part of the village. So when choosing new plants it's a good idea to check out your neighbours gardens and make note of what is thriving there.

Jobs for December

Protect plants which are vulnerable to frost as the year enters its coldest phase, bringing in tender items if you haven't already done so.

Raise potted plants off the ground to prevent waterlogged roots.

Give greenhouses a good clean to let in more light.

Regularly clean and disinfect bird feeders.

Make sure small ponds don't freeze over during cold spells, to prevent harm to frogs and newts.

Rake up the last of your fallen leaves and compost them.



There has been an abundance of nuts and berries this autumn. So why not have a go at making your own Christmas wreath for your front door. Look for evergreen shrubs and find some red berries from your garden or local hedgerows, perhaps add some trailing ivy or a red bow. It's free and fresh and will mean so

much more if you make your own. A few willow or dogwood stems can be tied into a circle to start you off, then add the evergreen stems, tying them in as you go.

Peruse seed catalogues and enjoy a nice cup of tea with your feet up, whilst making plans for next year's gardening!

Today the last of the leaves fell from my Magnolia, and in their place were masses of fat green leaf and flower buds waiting patiently for early spring to arrive. Nature has a way of looking forwards, never back, full of optimism for things to come.

Wishing you all a joyful and peaceful Christmas, and good things for 2026!

Tom Lovell on the Silverstone War Memorial



In 2010, when researching the names on the Silverstone War Memorial to help raise funds for its restoration, I produced the booklet called **The Heroes of Silverstone**, there was one name that could not be tracked down. That was Tom Lovell.

On the war memorial and in the church, appear Thomas Lovell and Tom Lovell. Thomas was from Hall End (High Street) and Tom from Cattle End. It had been assumed that Tom tried to enlist but was too young.

He then left home one day, never to be seen again, presumably being underage, enlisting using a different name and date of birth. No more was known about what happened afterwards. Where and when he died and in which regiment he served remained a mystery. But now, thanks to the help of my old school friend Chris Richards, we know, with certainty, the main part of the missing story.

The 1901 census, shows the Lovell family living in one of the long-demolished tiny houses, called Barrack Row, at the top end of Cattle End. Owen the father was a woodman, and Elizabeth the mother lived there with their six children, including five-year-old Harriet,

who was to become Gerald Lovell's grandmother. Ten years later in the 1911 census, the Lovell family were still in the same house. Owen, was a 49-year-old underwood labourer and Elizabeth 39 with four children at home, of which Tom was 12, Walter 7, George 6 and Lizzie just 9 months. Harriet, at that time, was in service elsewhere.

The records Chris Richards sent me, show that Tom enlisted into The Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment) as James Lovell and on 9th August 1917 he was in France. Two weeks later, on the 23rd, he transferred to the 2nd/2nd (City of London) Battalion of the London Regiment (Royal Fusiliers) and his recorded name was changed to Thomas. Three days, on the 26th October 1917, he was killed, just 17 days after he arrived in France. The action on the day he died was during the initial advance of the Second Battle of Passchendaele. The battle started at 5.30am: the conditions were dreadful and many of the dead were never found; Tom amongst them.

In 1919, Tom's parents started to receive a pension of 5 shillings a week – about £16.50 in today's value but when they discovered he had died is not known.

The names of those lost in battle, but with no known grave, were put on memorials such as in this case Tyne Cot and the Menin Gate, nearby in Belgium. Searches through the Commonwealth War Graves Commission could not find his name. However, an application has just been made to the CWGC for his name to be added to an appropriate memorial and we await their decision on this.

I hope that this will happen so that Lovell family members and other Silson folk will be able to go and see Tom's name where it rightly should be.

Lastly, and very poignantly, Tom was not the only soldier from the tiny road of Cattle End who died in the First World War. In all there were seven – Tom of course who was 18, Frank Chapman aged 24, Edward Davis 22, William Spencer 19 and three of the four Roberts children living in Cattle End – Forester 20, Septimus 21 and Tom 31.

Dermot Bambridge



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**Silverstone Recreational
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CHARITY NUMBER 269521





Since the clearance of Clare House and the arrival of its contents in Odessa to support both a hospital and orphanage, another ambulance was dispatched to Ukraine paid for by our sister Becket club in Northampton and supported by Towcester. A second pantechnicon then took the contents of Ridgeway House, Towcester plus collected warm, winter clothing on a similar trajectory. The efforts of everyone are so appreciated by our fellow Rotarians in Ukraine. And a special 'thank you' to the folks of Silverstone who helped pack 23 hospital bed plus furniture, medical equipment and so much more in the first lorry.



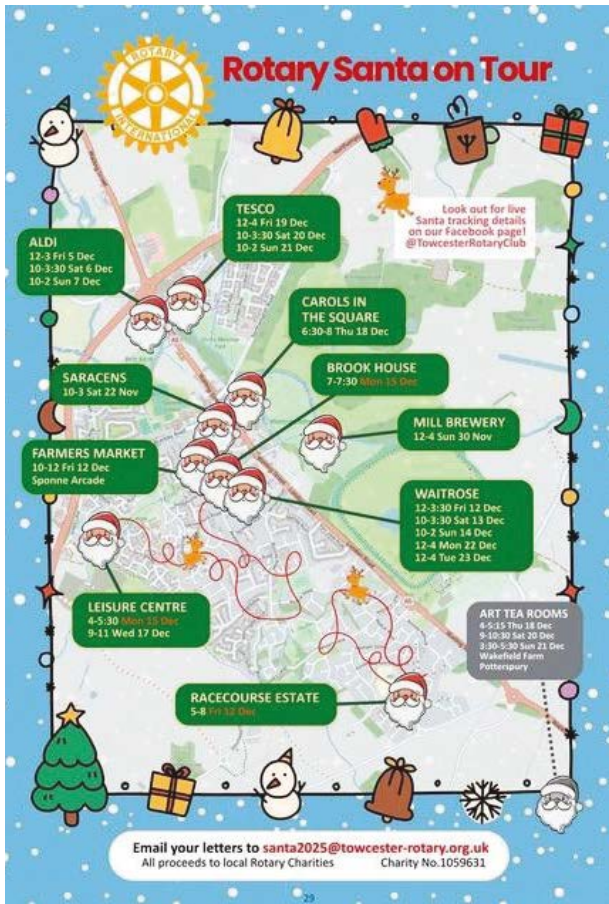
Look out for the Naughty Elf on the Shelf in the shop windows in Towcester with a competition for the children and a special Farmer's Market in Sponne car park on Friday, 12th December.

As we approach the festive season, Towcester and District Rotary can reflect on numerous successful ventures with many planned into the New Year. Father Christmas and his supporting elves will be doing their rounds of the area (see the map for where he will be with his elf helpers – and sweet treats plus collecting buckets!)

The New Year sees a visit to the area from a Rotary Club in Willich, Germany who wish to twin with our club. The group will be visiting various well-known destinations and are staying locally. Their itinerary includes Silverstone Museum, Towcester Museum, Stoke Bruerne, lunch at The White Horse, Delapre Abbey, finishing off with entertainment at Whittlebury Park. It is hoped that a reciprocal trip will be organised in 2026.



President John being presented with supplies by Specsaver's corporate member Stefan de Leo for Santa's sleigh.



On Sunday, 1st February we will celebrate the 12th Anniversary of the Rotary Club's 'Last Night of the Proms' organised by Towcester Rotary at Whittlebury Park. Tickets will be on sale for this fundraising event on the Rotary Website shop from 1st December - www.towcester-rotary.org.uk. Stop by Footworks in the High Street for tickets, too. Further information will be available in the new year.

John Sidwick, our current President, would like to extend his heartfelt thanks for your support and wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous 2026

If you would like to know more about what the Rotary Club of Towcester and District does then visit the Club's website www.towcester-rotary.org.uk or send an email to secretary@towcester-rotary.org.uk

Save the Date!

Picnic in

the Park!

Sat 20th June 2026 7pm
SRA Playing Fields

Music • Food • Bar
Fireworks

Tickets £5 on sale January

Support your village magazine!

Many thanks to those of you who have supported us already. If you would like Silverstone News & Views to continue to produce lively, informative, independent news and opinion moving forwards, **we need your help.**

Join us in our drive to finance the print costs for your local magazine to keep it alive; both now and for future generations.

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1. Monthly Standing Order of £2.00

2. Annual Standing Order of £24.00

3. Monthly Standing Order of more than £2.00

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We are very happy for any support the residents, groups & clubs of the village are able to give us to help keep this publication independent and alive.

We will also be extending page sponsorship to every edition moving forwards. This is a great way to acknowledge a birthday, anniversary, significant date, friend or family member or to see your name or your group's name in that edition. You will see examples in this edition.

Page sponsorship is £5 per edition. If there is a particular page that takes your fancy or you are happy to leave it up to us, just let us know before cut-off for that edition. Send your request to silverstonenewsandviews@gmail.com.

Guidelines for content

Content from a single contributor/club/group/not-for-profit organisation is 450 words. If articles include photographs, these account for 50 words from the 450 allowance.

Free adverts for these types of contributors will be included at half or quarter page where space permits. Please ensure you have both formats to hand and provide them to us by cut off. This enables us to ensure we use the space available in an efficient and effective way, allowing for the maximum coverage for your content.

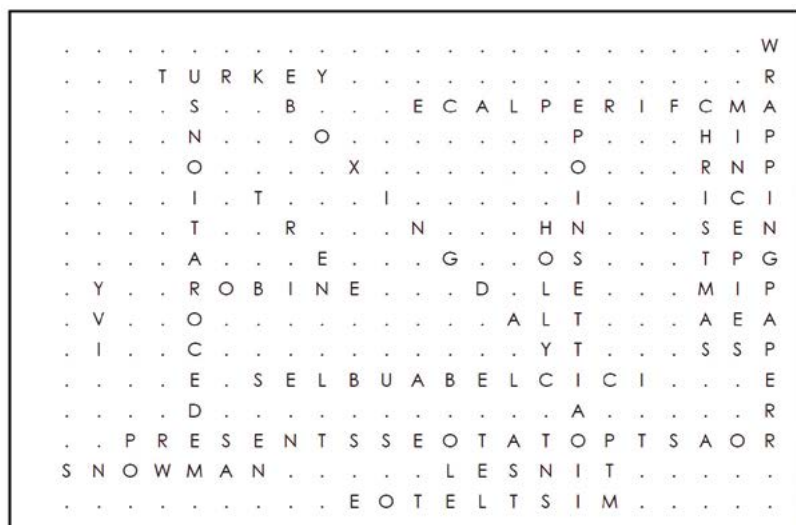
Should anyone from this type of contribution group wish to secure a larger space, for instance, a full page advert, the full page advertising rate will apply, and a space will be guaranteed to accommodate it.

We thank you for your understanding. If you have any queries regarding these guidelines, please contact silverstonenewsandviews@gmail.com

Answers to Grey Matter Workout page 29

1. Eggnog, 2. Macy's, 3. Blue Christmas, 4. Stink, stank, stunk, 5. An angel got his wings, 6. Holy night, 7. Tom Hanks, 8. Ebenezer, 9. Goose feathers, 10. Eight maids a-milking

Answers to Silverstone Search on page 7



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Deadline for February Edition – 15th January 2026

Advertising Rates 2026

2026	Parish based businesses per issue	6 for 5 offer Parish based businesses	Non-Parish based businesses per issue	6 for 5 offer Non-Parish based businesses
Full page	£35	£175	£45	£225
Half page	£25	£125	£35	£175
1/4 page	£17	£85	£25	£125

6 for 5 offer: Pay in advance for your advertising and book six editions for the price of five. Orders must be placed and paid for in advance of cut off date. Contact Annie for more information.



Karen Fanning