

## Yarlington Village Annual Report 2025- 2026 Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2026

### Introduction:

A snapshot of events that have happened in Yarlington Village this year.

Yarlington Fringe – with Dancing, food, drink and Music in the field, Art exhibition in the Hall and a production of Marriage of Figaro in the church, not forgetting the Duck Race.

The Plant Fair

The Stag's Head is fully open for business in the hands of Louise and David

Events in the Hall included some Breakfasts, a MacMillan Coffee morning, a wonderful Harvest Lunch, as well as the Life Drawing, Pilates Classes and BBQ's under the outside roof on the patio, which now has a new awning.

The Church held the Remembrance service and Carols at Christmas

And we had the Councilor's Christmas lunch, and a Village Christmas Meal in the pub – did I mention that the pub is now open??

Power outages, planned and unplanned

Yarlington Lodge is almost ready to be opened

The Trout Ponds and extra wildlife (Heron, Geese, Swans, Kingfishers, Ducks, Cormorant and Otters)

The Gallop and the Sleights..

Easter services

Many Thanks to residents and friends who have supported all these events. In particular, Thank you to Hillary Parry for keeping us electronically connected and being a wonderful help to our village.

We remember two people in the village who have sadly died; Val Russel and David Handley. Val and Hamish raised her family here, contributing to many aspects of village life, vegetarian cooking, Prosecco and never -to -be -forgotten 'Address to the Haggis', with sword, on Burn's night. David joined Lizzie in his retirement and spent time serving the community as a Yarlington Councilor, we are all grateful for his service and filled the pub, before it was officially open, with his family and the villagers for his 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party.

We've seen the departure of Robin and Linda Newton from the village –thankfully, still breathing, just feeling warmer in a new, modern house!

There have also been some New Arrivals: Tom and Hannah in the big barn on the farm, and other Manor Farm staff. Brigid and David will eventually move from rented to their own property and the newest must be Caroline and Adrian; welcome to you all (and we expect cakes for the Plant Fair!!) There is also the new development of black houses on the outskirts of the village, who are in the parish, and hope to meet them soon

## Infrastructure

The fabric of the roads and lanes continue to be impacted by the size, quantity and frequency of traffic flow of the past year, and with it the ongoing traffic issues. As across the county, Potholes are a problem, and the verges are still being broken down as the increased volume of traffic find ways of passing each other on a single track road, or avoiding the hole in the road. Younger families have moved to the village, and some residence have put up their own signs to remind motorists to keep their speed down and watch out for children and pets. We hope that the gradual opening of Yarlinton Lodge will bring careful drivers and community-minded guests to the village. Old walls remain under threat still being shaken by the volume of lorries and agricultural vehicles. The Church pond and the link through to the Trout Ponds is a peaceful walk in the center of the village, with only marginal noise disturbance these days from the diggers on The Sleights – but more of that later.

**Power Outages:** There have been 2 or 3 power cuts, some planned, over the Winter months. Lightening strikes and work on improving power on the new builds. The Pub managed to keep open one Sunday afternoon, on an unplanned event, and cater for a large private party, which made everyone very happy.

**Flood Prevention:** The working party continues to address flood prevention along the river Cam. This, in part, has been funded by Wessex Water, and thankfully Yarlinton has been spared the problems of 2023. The Flood Alert App is up and running, working with the flood gauges in place, and being monitored by various members of the community. Phosphate sampling happens at regular intervals. Land owners have been taking measures to alleviate the flooding issues; diverting and slowing waterflow off the fields, removing debris from the streams and calverts, and once again we ask residents to adopt the drains that are by their properties and keep them clear of leaves for the benefit of the wider community.

We Thank Zoe Young and Saul Gittens for all their help liaising with the Community and E.E. They provide a listening ear, frequently visible in the village and making a difference to our communities.

**Emily Estates:** Ongoing- **Manor Farm** is still functioning in the original buildings and sheds, with the British Whites and sheep in the pastures. A stones throw away, the New Farm buildings are emerging under the bluebell copse and Sleights. Further, unexpected changes, include the Mound of earth behind the farm buildings, which we understand will later be used in the groundworks of the new sight, and multiple metal /wire fences have gone up, instead of continuing to make the traditional hedgerows work, for the benefit of the wildlife and Somersets legacy. It is noticeable that there has been a marked decline in the sightings of British mammals. We also have the loss of the ancient Drover's Track, used by generations of local farmers across the Sleights, replaced by a cutting for an 'Agricultural permissive right of way'. Gorse has been stripped from some areas, to make way for another yellow brick road. **Yarlinton Lodge**, after 4 years is now ready for it's 'soft opening'! The villagers have kindly been invited over for a light lunch and an opportunity to have a look around, and on behalf of the village we would like to thank Emily Estates for this kind gesture. The landscaping of the Lodge is nearing completion on the inside of the Black metal fence, and on the outside there

are still trees being felled and all that comes with that.. The woodland area, parallel with the Gallop, had dense planting. Numerous trees had not survived the many years of neglect. Whilst we understand work had to be done, we hope it will be followed by a sympathetic scheme of landscaping and planting that embraces the Somerset countryside and it's heritage. Next to Pin Lane Cottage, the small Orchard has had some attention to the trees, but the permissive right of way footpath through it, is strewn with various debris from the building works. Despite this, there are signs that the beautiful wild flowers are making an appearance again.

**The Stag's Head Inn** has been a great success and been supported by the community near and far, as it's reputation grows. The need for more parking is now being addressed for the Pub and the Church to accommodate the growth in demand.

**Future:** We hope that the scar being made across the Sleights will improve with natural growth and sympathetic planting. It is a shock to see such a change made to a precious part of Yarlington.

We hope that Yarlington Lodge and it's guests enjoy and appreciate this wonderful village and the countryside around it, and respect the quieter, slower way of life and Nature here.

We will keep monitoring the state of the lanes around the village and hope motorists drive with care to the Lodge, the pub, and are kind to the verges.

We will be alert in heavy rain to the possibility of flooding, and be thankful of all the preventative measures that in place and being built into the future new structures around us.

We await further news, and the opportunity for consultation, on the future of the Old Farm Site.

We await the completion of the New Manor Farm as per it's planning application.