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DECEMBER 2014 JANUARY 2015

THE NEWS

THE COMMUNITY MAGAZINE FOR EDINGTON
ERLESTOKE AND COULSTON

'THE NEWS'

December 2014 & January 2015

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• **ALL ARTICLES** for the news are to go to email address thenewsec@gmail.com Items delivered by
• hand/post should go to Turners Garage, High St, Erlestoke clearly marked 'The News'
• **DEADLINE FOR ALL COPY & ADVERTISING 18TH OF THE MONTH**
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I was fortunate to be part of the team that installed the poppies at the Tower of London this year in August and also proud to be one of the removal teams – seen here with my treasures on the way to being packed. The weather was reminiscent of the Somme so made the occasion all the more poignant as we waded around in the mud and rain. It was a magnificent art installation that attracted millions of visitors to London. Perhaps we should think of doing a similar tribute for our own villages next year — it would be a great fund raiser. *That's not all I've been up to*, as I was almost a human victim at Tedington Day as the pic shows me being hoisted up to the gallery with no parachute, unlike the teddies who were also in receipt of some sterling medical care on landing, being stretchered off to the doctors for appropriate bandages. See more pics of the day on page 34.



**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR
TO ALL READERS OF THE NEWS**



Advertise in THE NEWS for as little as £40 for a year for a small ad, half page advert for £120 for the year, free design assistance included

THE NEWS IS AN INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY MAGAZINE FOR ALL RESIDENTS OF ERLESTOKE, EDINGTON AND COULSTON. THE CONTENT IS NOT INFLUENCED BY THE PARISH COUNCILS NOR ANY OTHER ORGANISATION. Opinions expressed or implied in this publication are not necessarily those of the Editors and no responsibility can be accepted for any errors of fact printed in this publication. The Magazine is FREE to residents.

EDINGTON FARM SHOPTM

LATE NIGHT SHOPPING CHRISTMAS FAYRE

THURSDAY 4TH DECEMBER 4.00-10.00PM

Join us for mulled wine, mince pies, and home-made winter warming stews this festive season!

Find the perfect gifts and unique stocking fillers to make the ultimate family Christmas

Make sure you don't miss Steeple Rocks Choir performing your favourite carols

Come along and order your turkeys / joints of meat / veg boxes / hampers / trees / Three Daggers beer

Enter our free raffle for a chance to win our amazing giant Christmas chocolate robin

We look forward to welcoming you to Edington Farm Shop on Thursday 4th December 4-10PM

EDINGTON FARM SHOP
47 WESTBURY ROAD, EDINGTON • 01380 830940

Charity Sale

Thank you to those who came along to the Card and Gifts Sale. Alzheimers Support, Chernobyl Children in Need, Dorothy House, Guide Dogs for the Blind, Wiltshire Wildlife, Pheonix Cards- Penny Brohn cancer, Sue Ryder and Biblelands were well supported. A Total of nearly £730 was raised for these charities together with The British Heart Foundation who were given the refreshment proceeds this year. Thank you again for your generous support. Jacky and Pauline





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ERLESTOKE GOLF CLUB

A Very warm welcome awaits you

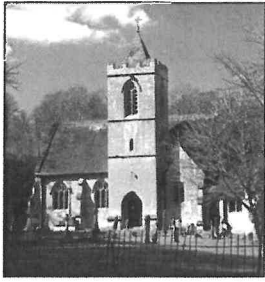
December Festive Sunday Carvery Sunday 7th December

£6.50 pp

The Festive Season Lunch December 2014

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Pies @ £15.75 pp**

**Call for available dates/tables &
further details on 01380 831069
or email :
info@erlestokegolfclub.co.uk**



ERLESTOKE CHURCH NEWS

Join us for **The Book Swap** at the Church on Saturday 6 December and 3 January from 10am. **Meet up with chums for a natter**, meet fellow villagers, tea or coffee, cake and biscuits. **All Welcome – particularly doggies.**



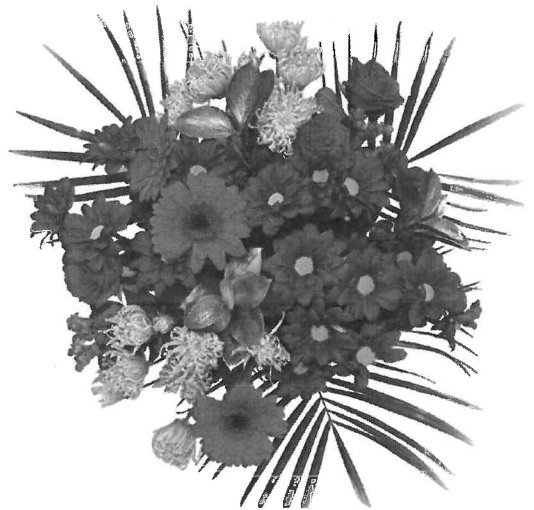
WE NEED YOU

Do you have a few hours to spare and a petrol strimmer? If so, would you be willing to help keep the Churchyard at Erlestoke strimmed. Please contact Chris Hampton on 01380 830 204, or just turn up there and strim round the headstones. Thank you.

ERLESTOKE FLOWER ROTA

21 Dec – all welcome to decorate the Church for the festive season

- 4 Jan No Service
- 11 Jan Mrs C Hampton
- 18 Jan Mrs P Hampton
- 25 Jan Mrs E Kemp



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LOOKING BACK, AND LOOKING FORWARD

At this time of year it is so easy to get caught up in all the preparations for Christmas that we lose the opportunity to reflect on what has happened in the year that has just passed.

The year started with the Ebola outbreak in West Africa, with, at the time of writing, 10 000 people infected and 5 000 deaths. This is an on-going problem for the whole world. The Russians held Winter Olympics in Sochi, designed to send out a positive message about their country, but which were almost completely overshadowed by events in the Ukraine in February, where the pro-Russian President Yanukovich was removed from office, after civil unrest and a hundred deaths in Kiev. The Crimea was formally annexed by Russia a month later, and tensions with Europe grew significantly. The question of the good government of Donetsk and Luhansk remains. On March the eighth, contact was lost with Malaysian Airlines Flight 370, and the aircraft has still not been found. In April, an estimated two hundred and seventy six women and schoolgirls were abducted and held hostage in Nigeria by Boko Haram: the reported ‘bride price’ has been quoted as being £7.50. These events are still unresolved. For a few months, the news was less dramatic, unless you lived in Nigeria, where terrorist activity was considerable. In June, the world in general heard its first of ‘Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant’ as it got uncomfortably-close to Baghdad. In July, following the death of three Israeli and a Palestinian teenager, a ground invasion of the Gaza strip was launched, leading directly or indirectly to the death of 71 Israelis and 2,100 Palestinians. Although troops are now back to their original positions, the reasons for the mistrust continue. August saw the bombing of ISIS/ISIL by the United States, which continues at the time of writing, and protests in Hong Kong were prominent in October. Finally, in November, the month started with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change reporting on ‘severe’ and ‘irreversible’ damage to the climate of the world due to carbon dioxide emissions.

For me, when I look down the list, it isn’t the number or variety of major events that makes 2014 difficult to categorise. There have always been years filled with death, disease and destruction: indeed perhaps the most famous thing about 2014 is that it is the centenary of the commencement of World War I. No: for me, the interesting thing is that so many of these events are inconclusive: they are yet to be resolved. We don’t know whether Ebola will be controlled; we don’t know what will happen in the Ukraine; we don’t know whether the tide will be turned against the terrorists, or whether loved ones will be found. In our neat lives, some things are beyond our control –and we have to live with that. As a Christian, this is where the hope present in the Gospels means so much: it enables me to carry on with confidence, knowing that the God who made himself known in the muck of a stable was with us then, and is with us all, forever more.

God bless you all. Revd Mark Jones

DECEMBER SERVICES

Day	Bratton	Edington	Erlestoke	Coulston
1 st Sunday 7 th December, <i>Second Sunday of Advent</i>	08.00 HOLY COMMUNION (BCP) 11.00 PARISH COMMUNION (CW) 18.30 CAROL PRAISE	09.30 PARISH COMMUNION (CW)		11.00 PARISH COMMUNION (CW)
2 nd Sunday 14 th December <i>Third Sunday of Advent</i>	08.00 HOLY COMMUNION (BCP) 11.00 TOY SERVICE	09.30 PARISH COMMUNION (CW) 18.30 EVENSONG	09.30 FAMILY WORSHIP	
3 rd Sunday 21 st December <i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i>	08.00 HOLY COMMUNION (BCP) 11.00 THIRD SUNDAY AT BCI 18.00 CAROL SERVICE with members of the Bratton Silver Band	09.30 PARISH COMMUNION (CW) 16.00 CAROL SERVICE	18.30 VILLAGE CAROL SERVICE	11.00 COULSTON CAROL SERVICE
24 th December <i>Christmas Eve</i>	18.00 CRIB SERVICE 23.30 MIDNIGHT MASS	16.00 CRIB SERVICE 23.30 MIDNIGHT MASS	22.00 CHRISTMAS COMMUNION SERVICE	
25 th December <i>Christmas Day</i>	11.00 FAMILY COMMUNION	09.30 FAMILY COMMUNION		11.00 FAMILY COMMUNION
4 th Sunday 28 th December <i>First Sunday of Christmas</i>	11.00 PARISH COMMUNION (CW)	08.00 HOLY COMMUNION (BCP) 11.00 FAMILY WORSHIP 18.30 EVENSONG	9.30 PARISH COMMUNION	

SELECTED SPECIAL EVENTS

- 13th December, 4pm Christmas Concert: Songways Combined Choirs Concert, Edington Priory Church
 16th December, 7pm Friends of Erlestoke Prison Christmas Event, Edington Priory Church
 17th December, 7pm Christmas Service for Bratton Primary School at Edington Priory Church
 20th December Imber Festival of Carols: Ticketed entry only; on sale from 1st November

Public Morning & Evening Prayer : Mondays and Tuesdays (9am, 5pm) -at Bratton; Wednesday and Thursdays at Edington (9am), 5pm at Bratton; end Thursday 18th December, recommence January 7th.

Wednesday Communion Services at Edington

At 9.30am on 3rd, and on the 10th, Informal Carol Service at 2.30pm on Wednesday 17th, Parish Hall.



JANUARY SERVICES

Sunday	Bratton	Edington	Erlestoke	Coulston
1 st Sunday 4 th January <i>Epiphany (transferred)</i>	08.00 HOLY COMMUNION (BCP) 11.00 PARISH COMMUNION (CW)	09.30 SOLEMN EUCHARIST (CW)		11.00 PARISH COMMUNION (CW)
2 nd Sunday 11 th January <i>Baptism of Christ</i>	08.00 HOLY COMMUNION (BCP) 11.00 PARISH COMMUNION 18.00 SING PRAISE	09.30 PARISH COMMUNION (CW) 18.30 EVENSONG	09.30 FAMILY WORSHIP	
3 rd Sunday 18 th January <i>Second Sunday After Epiphany</i>	08.00 HOLY COMMUNION (BCP) 11.00 'THIRD SUNDAY SERVICE': AT ST JAMES' CHURCH	09.30 PARISH COMMUNION (CW)	18.30 EVENSONG	11.00 PARISH COMMUNION (CW)
4 th Sunday 25 th January <i>Third Sunday After Epiphany</i>	11.00 PARISH COMMUNION (CW)	08.00 HOLY COMMUNION (BCP) 11.00 FAMILY WORSHIP 18.30 EVENSONG	9.30 PARISH COMMUNION	

MIDWEEK SERVICES

Public Morning & Evening Prayer : Mondays and Tuesdays (9am, 5pm) at Bratton; Wednesday and Thursdays at Edington (9am), 5pm at Bratton;

Wednesday Communion Services:

At 9.30am on 7th, 14th, 28th, and at 2pm on the 21st at Shepherd's Cottage, Edington.



Operation Christmas Child

A huge thank you to everyone who knitted, shopped, packed and contributed in any way to our Samaritan's Purse effort this year. We achieved 48 complete boxes, 9 almost complete and we also have bags of knitting, stationery and other items which will go to fill yet more boxes at the depot. Hurrah.





SERV (BLOOD BIKES)

SERV exists to provide the facilities and resources which allows their volunteer members to deliver this vital service – a Rapid Response Medical Transport Service, Transporting urgently needed medical items including Blood, Blood Products, Biological Samples, Vaccines, Medical Notes, X-Rays, Scans & Donor Breast Milk to Hospitals Out of Hours Free of Charge to the NHS

All of their members are volunteers and cover all fuel and servicing costs for their vehicles themselves. The Service is run entirely on donations; they do not receive any funding apart from charitable donations.

SERV Wessex is always looking for more volunteers, riders, drivers, controllers and fundraisers.

If you are interested in getting involved as a rider/driver/controller, helping out with events or becoming a sponsor, please contact them on: secretary@servwessex.org.uk Without your continued support, lives would be lost.

Please help by sending your donations to the PCC Treasurer for Edington Priory Church; Col Hugh Hancock, Dunge Farm, West Ashton, Trowbridge, BA14 6AX



MUSICIANS WANTED

MARKET LAVINGTON CONCERT BAND

Like most Bands we are looking for new players to swell our numbers, so whether you're proficient, learning an instrument or returning after a long lay-off from playing...

Why not come along to one of our rehearsals?

The band rehearsals are now held in Easterton Village Hall every Wednesday evening from 8pm–9.30pm. so either simply come along to one of our rehearsals or contact *Mervyn* for further information on : 07985 665 417





UNSEEN

Their purpose is to work towards the eradication of slavery wherever it is found providing survivors with safety, hope and choice. They believe the most effective way of achieving this goal is to concentrate their work on prevention, survivor support and increased collaboration with other experts. They identify the genuine issues surrounding human trafficking through thorough research and then provide care and support where it's needed. All of their current projects and those in development are the result of detailed investigation

So far together they have:

- Delivered their first safe accommodation project in the UK
- Launched a resettlement project to provide on-going services and support to survivors
- Increased national awareness training
- Led and continue to chair the Centre for Social
- Justice policy review into anti-slavery practice

*Please help by sending your donations to the PCC Treasurer for Edington Priory Church;
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I will honor Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year.

CHARLES DICKENS

village pantomime

SHERLOCK HOLMES meets mother goose

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THE FRIENDS OF ERLESTOKE PRISON

Christmas Concert

Tuesday 16th December 2014
7pm (doors open 6.15pm)
Edington Priory Church
Edington, BA13 4QF

The Wessex Male Choir



Winners of the Gold Cup for best overall choir at the Cheltenham Festival of Performing Arts 2013



and
The Bratton Silver Band
West of England 3rd Section Champions 2014

Mulled wine and mince pies will be available during the interval

Tickets - £15/adult Under 16s free
To download a seat order form, please visit:
www.friendsoferlestokeprison.com

Or email:
info@friendsoferlestokeprison.com
and we'll send you a form

The Friends of Erlestoke Prison aim to reduce reoffending rates by funding projects which help offenders with the challenges of rehabilitation and resettlement and to keep in touch with their families whilst completing their sentence.
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SATURDAY 06 DECEMBER & 05 JAN

10am–12.30pm, Erlestoke Church

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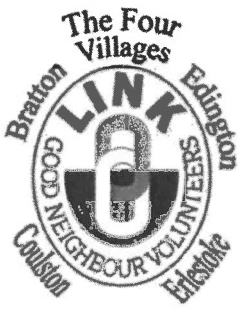


War Hero needs a home

Blaze is a wonderful older Springer Spaniel who is beautifully behaved and great company. He was trained by the army and was shortlisted for the Dickens medal. He would be lovely companion.

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We all know that everyone needs a little help from time to time and the value of THE FOUR VILLAGES LINK registered charity scheme has clearly demonstrated that. Last month we had over 30 requests for assistance and members of our dedicated group of about 40 volunteers provided transport and helped with a variety of practical tasks. Many of the transport requests are for journeys to local doctors' and dentists' surgeries although we do undertake longer trips to hospitals in Bath, Bristol and Salisbury. We also offer assistance with small practical household tasks and we even have a wheelchair that can be loaned out on a short term basis.

So, if you would like help just call us on **07852-256939** between **9am – 6pm** Monday to Friday and one of our duty coordinators will log your request and find a volunteer to help you. All calls are charged at mobile rates. Responding to requests can be demanding so it helps to receive plenty of notice when being asked to organise assistance, ideally not less than 48 hours in advance, particularly during the Christmas period. **Please note that the service will be closed on 25th & 26th December and also on New Year's Day.**



TFVL is one of 45 support schemes in Wiltshire staffed by volunteers and anyone, of any age or ability can make use of the scheme for almost anything, and in this way we can help to improve the quality of life for residents in our community. Whilst the LINK supports and complements local health and social services it is able to operate at a far more personal level and, for your peace of mind, all our volunteers are CRB checked and carry identity badges.

We are always looking for new volunteers to serve the community helping with our many requests, connecting our clients with appropriate volunteers or serving on our Management Committee. Being a volunteer can give you a new interest as well as making good use of your skills and experience. The success of the LINK scheme is purely down to the continuing support of our volunteers so, if you feel you can help or would just like to find out more about volunteering in any capacity, then please call for an initial chat on 07852-256939. **Registered Charity No: 1064923**

STATISTIC OF THE MONTH

Nearly one in five Britons aged 65-69 is still in employment; in France, just over one in 20 is. Across the EU, the average employment rate among over 65s is 11%

**LAWN HOUSE
CHIROPRACTIC CLINIC**

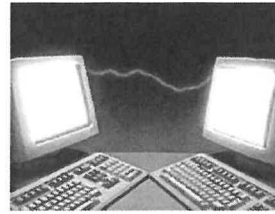
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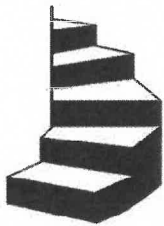


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THREE VILLAGES MINIBUS – JOY FRASER (830426)
DECEMBER/JANUARY *Regular Shopping Trips starting at Edington*

DESTINATION	COST	DEC	JAN	START TIME
Devizes	£2.70	Thur 04	08	9am
Warminster	£2.30	Tue 09	13	1.25pm
Westbury	£1.70	Every Thursday		1.25pm
Salisbury	£4	Sat 13	10	9.30am

All these journeys accept concessionary passes and will return you to your door. The G&J trip to **Whitehall Garden Centre** on **Friday December 5th** will leave Edington at **11am** and return at about **2pm**. The **January** trip will be on **Wednesday 28th** for lunch at the Oliver Cromwell, leaving Edington at **1200**.

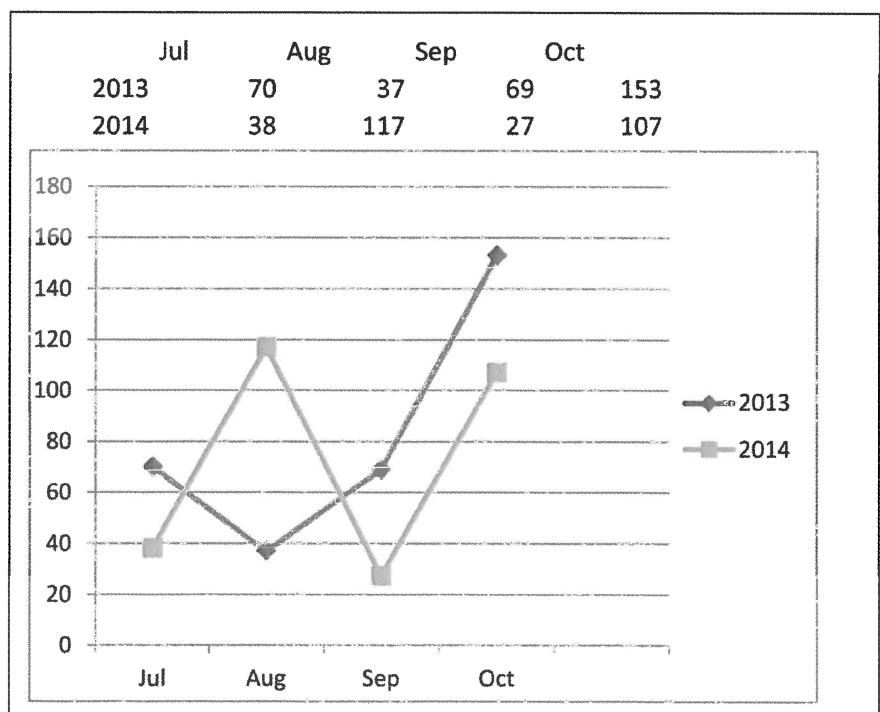
Please book your seat for any of these trips (or to hire the TVM for your group or for yourself and family/friends) by contacting Pauline at Edington post Office (telephone 830 013). Pick up points for all journeys can be organised to suit you.

We are holding a lunch in aid of TVM on **December 10th at 12.30**; all are most welcome to join us for a delicious meal while helping our funds. A further lunch will be held in January – watch out for details!

We are most grateful to Gilbert Green for a generous donation to TVM.

ERLESTOKE RAIN STATS
BY BILL KEMP
Pumpkin Champion 2014

Total July–Oct
2013 – 332 cm
2014 – 289 cm





THE BADGERS WORTON AND CHEVERELL F.C.

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Steve Dagnall 01380 727 976



With the European Qualifiers now well under way, it is no great surprise to find our own international team now planning their tour for next May 2015. Yes, the Under 14s, who last year toured in France, are now in the planning stage to visit Eifel in Germany, with 2 games against local opposition and a tour of the FC Koln stadium.

In the league the Under 14s have now moved into 2nd in their respective league with a recent tough match winning 6-5 against Westbury Lions. However, November matches may prove a challenge.

At the younger age groups of the Club, training for the Winter months has moved to new locations on Friday evenings, due to weekend matches, with the Under 8s having a great start to the season - being unbeaten.

Reception Year new players are welcome to come along and play in our short 'taster' sessions at Market Lavington School indoor sports hall, on Friday evenings from 5.00 – 5.30. Come along on the night or contact either Mark (U7 coach) on 01380 813160 or Dave (U8) on 07843 678 781 who are also training here.

New players are also welcome to join at Under 6 (Year 1), Under 9 and 10 age groups – please contact Jason Reynolds 07590 427 999. Training is now at Devizes Leisure Centre on Friday evenings, on the outdoor Astro pitch 1. Under 6s from 16.00 to 17.00 , and U9/10 from 17.00 to 18.00.

Short Rain Jokes

Q:What is a king's favourite kind of precipitation?

A: Hail!

Q:When does it rain money?

A:When there is "change" in the weather.

Q:What's the difference between a horse and the weather?

A: One is reined up and the other rains down.

Q:What do you call it when it rains chickens and ducks?

A: Foul (fowl) weather.



JASON KENT

PAINTING &

DECORATING

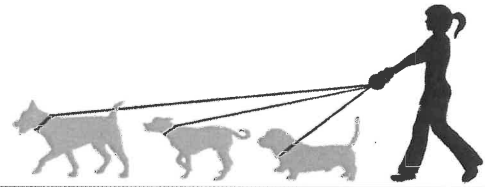
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Wednesday 17th December 7.30pm
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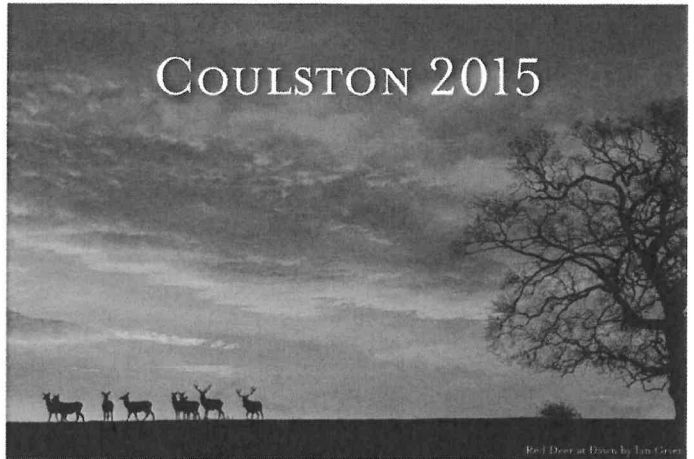
COULSTON PHOTOGRAPH COMPETITION 2014

Thank you to everyone who entered photos for the competition. We live in a beautiful area and have some talented photographers in Coulston.

James Peat has worked very quickly to put the Coulston 2015 calendar together. Thanks to Janet & James for all their hard work.

If you would like to order a calendar please email: helen.park@btinternet.com or call 01380 831169.

Calendars will be on sale at the Coulston Christmas Bazaar on Saturday 6th December 10:30am in Coulston village hall. Calendars will cost £7.50 each with profits going to the village hall.



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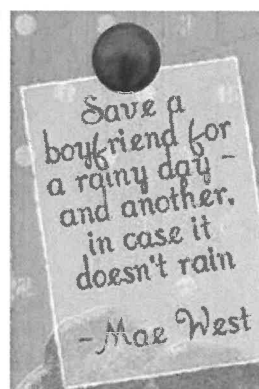
The November general meeting of U3A heard a very interesting and entertaining talk entitled "A Policeman's Lot". Alan Rogers had travelled from Warwick finding his way around the Westbury Road works. Now retired, he concentrated on events from the lighter side of his 33 year service as a police officer.

Alan joined Warwickshire Police, the smallest force in the country, as a 17 year old cadet on the advice of his father who thought it a more secure career than the alternative on offer, professional football. He did however, play football for the police at county and national level being a member of various teams that beat Wiltshire Police.

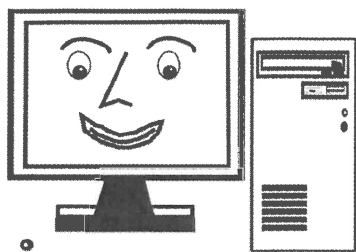
After Police College Alan was a fully-fledged PC at age 19 and was assigned to work with an experienced tutor constable. With a great deal of encouragement from his mentor Alan made an arrest on his first day on patrol, a young lad fooling around with pelican crossing lights after a few drinks. The charge used a very obscure law as the offense and Alan and was never allowed to forget about it by his superiors.

Five years later as a Tutor Constable himself Alan used "practical jokes" to teach his pupils. This involved scenario settings with volunteer "dead bodies" that had to be searched in order to identify them, a method of tuition that is no longer considered correct. Later on whilst working in the traffic division he chased and eventually stopped a speeding motorcyclist who was travelling at 136 mph. On removing his helmet the motorcyclist was seen to be an OAP, who explained that at 86 he was having a last blast of speed before handing in his driving licences having sold both his car and motorcycle. Alan also mentioned that he thought he had recognised one or two people in the audience and wondered if he had seen them in the lens of a speed camera from 1 km away!

Next month members will enjoy the Christmas social, before starting the New Year with a meeting on January 13th when Elizabeth Goring will tell us about an Edwardian Traveller in Kosovo.



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I've never understood why people consider youth a time of freedom and joy. It's probably because they've forgotten their own.

MARGARET ATWOOD, QUOTED ON BUZZFEED.COM

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CHRISTMAS

This is such a lovely time of the year for all our children, and in line with our Christian foundation, we make sure that the messages of Christmas are clearly marked in a fun and engaging way. The children will perform in Christmas plays (one for Key Stage 1 and one for Key Stage two) which emphasise the values of the Christmas story, there will be a carol concert (with handbells), a carol service, a Christmas party, Christmas dinner and a Christmas recorder concert. The children in the Year 5/Year 6 class have spent a day at Salisbury Cathedral exploring some of the deeper meanings of Advent and Christmas. Worship is centred around Advent themes as children enjoy the breathless anticipation of Christmas.



EISTEDDFOD

We were delighted that our Eisteddfod choir won the Carol Party class and did very well in the general choir singing class against many other schools in the Devizes Eisteddfod. Our thanks to the children, their parents and particularly Ms Sharman, our choir mistress, who works so hard to ensure that our children enjoy being part of a choir and are so well prepared for their performances. The standard they reach is outstanding.



CREATIVE CURRICULUM

We strongly believe that happy learners are good learners and that a creative and engaging curriculum is at the heart of children's learning. At the beginning of November, we had a Hindu visitor who spent a day doing workshops with our children on the Hindu faith and culture – it is vital that our children learn to respect and enjoy the enormous diversity of faith, culture, language and race in our country.

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

The government's analysis of our test results has been published – including analysis of the Year 1 Phonics screener, Year 2 SATS and Year 6 SATS. Once again, our children have achieved outstandingly well when compared with national levels across all the tests. The progress measure puts us in the top 4% of the country and all Year 6 children this year achieved Level 4 or better in all areas. We also received a letter from the Schools Minister, Nick Gibb, congratulating us on coming in the top 2% of the country for our Phonics tests. These results are a tribute to our committed and engaged families, our aspirational and hardworking children and our outstanding and creative teachers and support staff. **We would like to wish everyone in our community a joyful and blessed Christmas and a happy new year!**

A MESSAGE FROM RICHARD GAMBLE

COUNCILLOR FOR THE LAVINGTONS & ERLESTOKE DIVISION

As we approach Christmas, I hope you are in good cheer!

For some, life may not be easy and I trust that the season of goodwill will bring a measure of comfort.

For others, you may agree that there is much to be thankful for. After the spring floods, the summer and autumn weather was pretty good. The economy in Wiltshire is performing above the national average and the number of job-seekers is down. The economy of the nation as a whole is better than all our principal competitors. Average life expectancy in the county is the highest it's ever been for men and for women. Our local schools are all doing well in their respective categories. Our farmers had a respectable harvest. Our crime rate remains low.

So far, so good and I hope, like me, you will be raising a glass over the Christmas period to toast t

But before you over indulge, remember that not only is the weather still getting colder but the financial pressures, particularly on the public budgets, remain severe. It's too soon to know exactly how much Wiltshire Council will have to spend next year but it looks as if we may yet again have to find about £30 million of savings on top of the £100 million or so the Council has cut over the past few years.

Innovation and streamlining processes have got us through so far without much loss of service on the front line but, each year, the task gets harder. I am, therefore, immensely impressed with the resilience and fortitude of our staff who have achieved so much with fewer and fewer resources. 2015 could be tough but I am confident that, as always, the Council will do its best for the good people of Wiltshire.

Merry Christmas!

Happy, happy Christmas, that can win us back to the delusions of our childhood days, recall to the old man the pleasures of his youth, and transport the traveler back to his own fireside. CHARLES DICKENS



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Friday 5th December Acoustic band Stamp 8pm

Steeple Rocks sing Christmas carols Monday 15th Dec 7.30pm

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COULSTON COMMEMORATION EVENT SUNDAY 9 NOVEMBER

Coulston villagers came together on Remembrance Sunday for a unique and deeply moving commemoration of the start of the Great War. The idea was the brain child of Mel Suter who – with Helen Park,

Michelle Whiting and Chris Thompson – put together a vivid and compelling story in words and music of the first five months of the War. Over seventy people of all ages filled the candle-lit church to hear about the Coulston servicemen who died between 1914 and 1918. Readings and poems covered not just the events of the war but activity on the Home Front, as well as details of the famous

“Christmas Truce” as recorded by Capt Sir Edward Hulse in letters to his parents in Salisbury. The musical interludes linking the readings included hymns, folk songs, a haunting piano and cello duet, and culminated in the traditional Last Post and Reveille.

After the commemoration in church the congregation was invited to adjourn to the village hall for a finger buffet organised by Rosie Grier. A wonderful selection of canapés, sandwiches and cakes was laid out alongside the detailed histories of the Coulston servicemen. This was supplemented by information about relatives of villagers who had been killed in the First World War.

Heartfelt congratulations to Mel and all her team for organising such a remarkable occasion, and to Helen's mother for identifying two previously unknown servicemen with strong links to Coulston. The evening was enjoyed hugely by everyone. To crown it all, the retiring collection raised an amazing £220 for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal – a truly fantastic result!





NEWS FROM YOUR WILTSHIRE COUNCILLOR JERRY WICKHAM

As we draw to the end of another year we have the opportunity to reflect on what has been achieved this year and look forward to the challenges ahead. I was only elected as your Wiltshire Councillor in March but in the time that has passed, I have very much enjoyed getting to know the area and meeting many people and helping wherever I can. As I go around the villages, I often think that we live in a lovely part of the country and should have a lot to be grateful about.

Wiltshire Council, like the rest of our community, recognises the challenging economic climate in which we are operating in. We also foresee a future where we expect central government cuts to our local government funding for years to come. In these circumstances we also need to reflect and to defend all that we have that is positive here in Wiltshire. This means acting to maintain the front line services that our communities and residents care about and there is much good news in this sphere:

The Council has managed to preserve all of our leisure centres and libraries as well as opening new ones and for longer hours

Within the Westbury area, a well researched proposal to improve local facilities by the creation of a 'campus' will be examined in detail in December

We also look forward to superfast Broadband being rolled out to in excess of 95% of our county

Our roads are also being put into a better state of repair than most of our neighbours and there is the

Continued delivery of decent services to the vulnerable members of our community.

So as 2014 draws to a close we can reflect on the achievements and indeed the commemorations of the year, including the extensive WW1 recognition throughout the county and country. I very much look forward to joining with those who lead in our villages to address the local challenges that arise in Ethandune in 2015.

In the meantime as your Wiltshire Councillor I would like to wish all those who I have the privilege to represent, a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

You may contact me by email to jerry.wickham@wiltshire.gov.uk or by phone on 01380 870476 or 07980 701617.

"Maybe Christmas, the Grinch thought, doesn't come from a store."

DR SEUSS



PUMPKIN DAY 2014

Fortune favoured us as we had a mild sunny day amidst the stormy weather. Outside the hall was a hive of activity, conker players young and not so young fought valiantly to a crowd of enthusiastic onlookers. **This year's champion is Alex Mountsford.**

Apple bobbing and target games were also popular. Inside was an array of wonderful carved and decorated pumpkins. Our judge was amazed at the high standard and thought all entries deserved a commendation.

This year's winners were:

Under fives decorated 1st Chedley

Over fives decorated 1st Abigail Evans, aged 7

Best carved 1st Alex Mountford, 2nd Harry Miller and 3rd Lottie Wilson.

The best group effort went to the McGregor family.

Bill Kemp won the largest pumpkin with an enormous 160lb which was auctioned at the end.

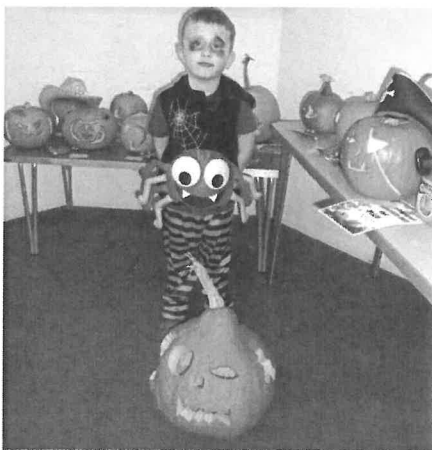
The Pumpkin cookery was well supported, its amazing what one can do with a pumpkin!

Rosemary Woof won the sweet section with a fine looking cake. She also took the savoury prize with a pumpkin dip. The most unusual was won by Liz Pike with pumpkin and raspberry ice-cream. The best preserve went to Laura Searle with her Japanese Glace pumpkin which the Judge thought was best in show.

Our Thanks go to our Judges particularly our food judge who stepped in with five minutes' notice

A light lunch with a pumpkin twist was enjoyed by all. Thanks you to the under five parents who did most of the cooking and to the Priory Farm Nursery who provided the pumpkins.

An amazing £180 was collected and will be split between the Parish Hall and Under Fives group.



LUNCH FOR TVM

The minibus will be holding a lunch on
Wednesday December 10 at 12.30pm.

in the Parish Hall, Edington

Price £8.50.

All will be most welcome to join us.

Please let Pauline know if you are coming to help catering arrangements.

TVM will provide door to door transport.



"He who has not Christmas in his heart will never find it under a tree.

ROY L SMITH

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BRATTON YOUTH CLUB

All sessions take place in the Jubilee Hall, Bratton, between 7.30 pm and 9.30 pm unless otherwise advertised. For more

details of Youth Club events phone *Simon 830 550 or Wanda 830 278.*

All young people of secondary school age (11–18) in Bratton or surrounding villages are welcome to attend.

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COULSTON VILLAGE HALL NEWS

CHRISTMAS
BAZAAR

**Coulston Village Christmas Bazaar –
Saturday 6 December from 10.30am**

The Coulston Village Christmas Bazaar will be on Saturday 6th December from 10.30am, so please make a note of the date and time. If you would like to help run a stall, please let a member of the Committee know. Of course if you are from one of our neighbouring villages and would like to get into the festive spirit early, pop a note in your diary and join us in some festive fun. Look out for further information on notice boards and through your door.

**Sing-along-a-carol evening
Friday 19 December from 6.30pm**

After the success of previous year's evenings there will be another chance to lose those inhibitions and sing your heart out amongst the talented and not so talented residents of Coulston and neighbouring villages, under the musical directorship of Mr Chris Thompson. Refreshments will be available to sustain you and keep the vocal chords lubricated!

Andrew Buley Chairman – Coulston Village Hall Tel: 01380 831372

CAROLS

LUNCH CLUBS FOR DECEMBER



Duke Pub Lunch Club, Bratton

01 December 12.30 for 1pm

Please contact Lise on the number above to order and book your place.

The lunch club is open to anyone – main courses £7.50. A good opportunity to meet up with people over a home cooked meal. Thanks again to Lyn and the team for making us so welcome.

Supported by Wiltshire Good Neighbours www.wiltsgn.org.uk



The George and Dragon Pub Lunch Club, Erlestoke

You can be assured of a warm welcome and excellent food. Please book in advance by ringing Helen on 01380 831 127

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Father Christmas

On his float to West Ashton/Edington

On Wednesday 10th December between 6-8

The Guides will be collecting monies towards their Unit Funds



EDINGTON PARISH HALL NEWS

Our harvest supper on 11 October was a very successful evening. We had great food, company and entertainment. Rachel and Andrew King sang songs from the 1914-18 war and everyone joined in. We raised over £400 for improvements to our hall. Thanks to everyone who supported the event.

RESULTS FROM THE 100 CLUB

1st Simon Hunt £17.50

2nd Julia Taylor £10.50

3rd Gill Mitchell £7.00

If people would like to join contact Rachel King on 01380 831 227

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happened to
our sexual
relations?

I don't know.
I don't even
think we got
a Christmas
card from them
this year.



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TEDINGTON DAY 22 NOV

Another rainy day didn't dampen the enthusiasm of the brave teddies of Edington who strapped their parachutes on and leaped from the Belfry in the Priory. There was also an opportunity to make a wish whilst stirring the xmas puddings of Annabel Brooks and Co. Lots of other Christmas Bazaar stalls were there selling local produce. There was a lovely atmosphere, aromas of Christmas Pud and laughter at the derring do's of the parachuting teddies — expertly commentated by Roger Pinson.



Roger Pinson provides the commentary while Paul Wiffin hoists the teddies to complete their jump



2 of the medical staff checking the heart rate and dressing broken bones of the heroic jumpers



A delighted teddy owner, only a broke leg, expertly bandaged by the medics



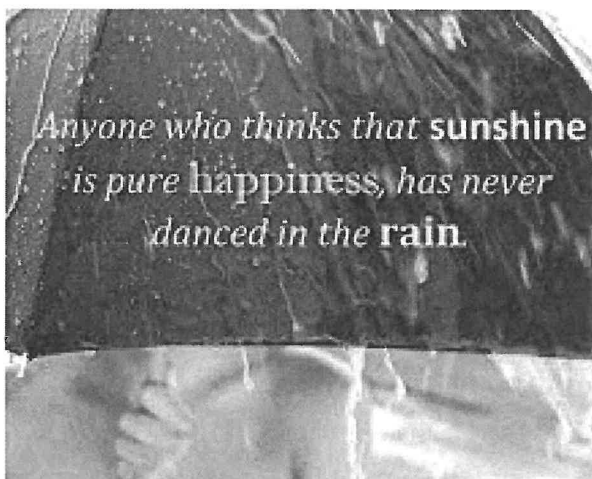
Annabel Brooks with the Stir up ladies, making wishes come true

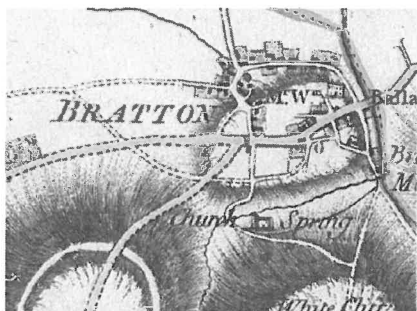


Brave monkey with arm in a sling



Tombola fun stall





BRATTON HISTORY ASSOCIATION

There is no meeting of the Bratton History Association during December. The next meeting of the Bratton History Association will be held on Sunday, January 18th at 4 pm in the Church Institute.

The talk will be given by *Mark Noble* and the subject of his lecture will be :-

BELL RINGING IN BRATTON

The AGM will take place at the conclusion of the lecture.

Newcomers and non-members welcome.

Further details can be obtained from posters in the village or by contacting. *Mo Maclean* on 01380 830221 or *Anne Bailey* at bratton.history@live.com



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EDINGTON UNDER FIVES

Contact Vanessa Lescott on 07776 133 099 to find out how to join.

Want something to do on a Thursday with your toddler or baby?

The first session is free, and it's only £2 per family thereafter (to help with the food, and running costs).

Tea and coffee for parents are available as well as a healthy snack and activity for the children.

Where: Edington Parish Hall

When: Every Thursdays 10-12pm (closed during school holidays, except weekly summer outings)

In November, the children had some arts and crafts fun, painting wonderful pictures and decorating some beautiful autumn leaves. The 'Mini Beatles' music group continues to be a hit with the little ones.

The Pumpkin Show was a huge success and we would like to say a big well done to Charlie Rose, Beatrice Lescott and Finley Heath who came first, second and third respectively in the 'Best Under 5s Decorated Pumpkin' category. The Under 5s 'Gruffalo' came a very respectable 2nd in the 'Carved Pumpkin with Adult Help' section. Well done to all!

A reminder that this year's children's Christmas Party will take place on Sunday 7th December 3pm-5pm at Edington Parish Hall. There will be entertainment and some party food so please come along. The more the merrier! Entry fee: £2.50 per child. No charge for adults (the fee has been amended since the November News).

Finally, Under 5s would like to wish everyone a very happy Christmas. We hope it brings everything you wish for and good luck to those expectant mums amongst us!

Contact Vanessa Lescott on 07776133099 to find out how to join.



BRATTON PRE-SCHOOL

CONTACT: *Wendy Waller or Paulene Bryant 07941 286 991*

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NEWS FROM YOUR GOOD NEIGHBOUR CO-ORDINATOR

*A free and confidential service for residents of Bratton, Edington,
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*Lise Griffiths (Edington, Coulston and Bratton) 07541 353 401 or
westburygnc@communityfirst.org.uk. Alex North, Good Neighbour Co-ordinator for Devizes
villages. M: 07557 922027.*

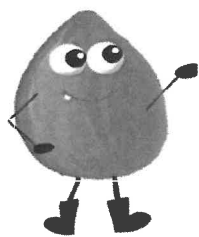
HELPING OLDER RESIDENTS LIVE INDEPENDENTLY FOR LONGER

With the long summer days behind us, it is at this time of year that we begin to prepare for the colder days to come. If you are worrying about winter fuel bills or how to stay healthy and stay out of hospital perhaps we can help. Are you worrying about the possibility of a fall, or thinking about getting a Lifeline? Have you thought about getting online? It is a great way of staying connected with family and friends and feeling less isolated. Be prepared and give me a call for more information on all of these things and more.

Ask me about:

- Grants for older people in fuel poverty
- A free service to help you get online or improve your computer skills
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Bratton Primary School *David Brown*

As many readers may know, I have chosen to retire from the teaching profession at Christmas. After 40 years working in schools, my wife, our daughter and I will be moving away to start a different life, yet we will still be close to a village like Bratton.

Over the years I have seen a huge change in the Government expectations of Teachers, Schools, Governors and of course children. Fundamentally, Primary Education is little different than when you, or your parents, were at school. Children still need to be able to read, write and undertake calculations. The big difference is that they are expected to do these things at ever increasing levels of attainment and at much younger ages. I am firmly of the belief that the Primary School Curriculum must include a wealth of life expanding opportunities. This is the nature of the school's curriculum and children at Bratton Primary School engage in all sorts of team building activities, visits to famous places and topics which allow them to understand themselves in the wider context of the world. All of this, of course, puts huge pressures on Teachers and Governors to deliver these expectations. Fortunately, Bratton Primary School has an excellent team of dedicated and capable staff who work tirelessly to support the children in our school.

We have had so much fun over the years with plays, sports events, trips to outdoor centres, visits to Bratton Orchard, dancing at village fetes and dance festivals, going to Twickenham to play Rugby, singing for the Lions Concerts in Westbury, street parties and Carol Concerts in Edington and Harvest in the Chapel. Not to mention the removal of Asbestos from the school, rewiring, new boilers, a new roof and new windows to name but a few improvements over the years.

It has been an absolute pleasure, and an honour, to have been the Headteacher here from January 2006 until December 2014. It has been an excellent way to end my teaching career and, although I will remember all of the schools in which I have taught, I will have particularly fond memories of being the Headteacher at Bratton Primary School. As I leave the school I truly believe that it is in better shape now, both structurally and academically, and so I can know that in some way I have made a difference. Thank you to

everyone in the village who has supported the school, and me, during that time. The School Governors are currently seeking a new Headteacher and I know they will find an excellent candidate. Once that person has been appointed, I am sure they will introduce themselves to the village through this publication. *David Brown*





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10.30am – 3.30pm
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There's more, much more, to Christmas Than candlelight and cheer; It's the spirit of sweet friendship That brightens all year. It's thoughtfulness and kindness, It's hope reborn again, For peace, for understanding, and for goodwill to men!



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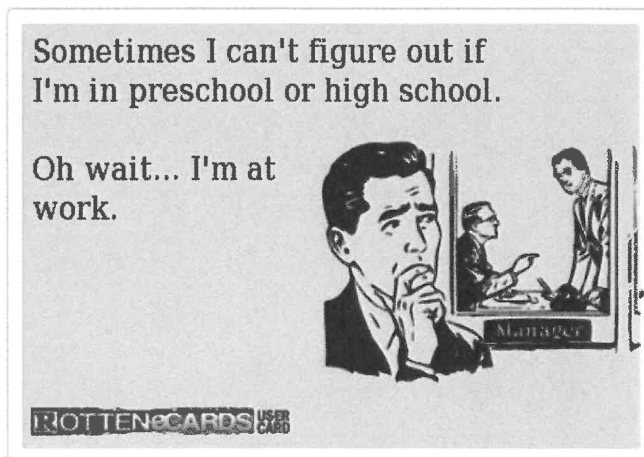
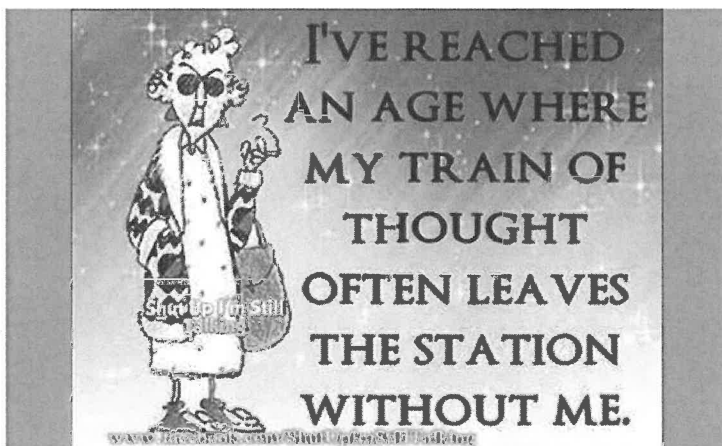
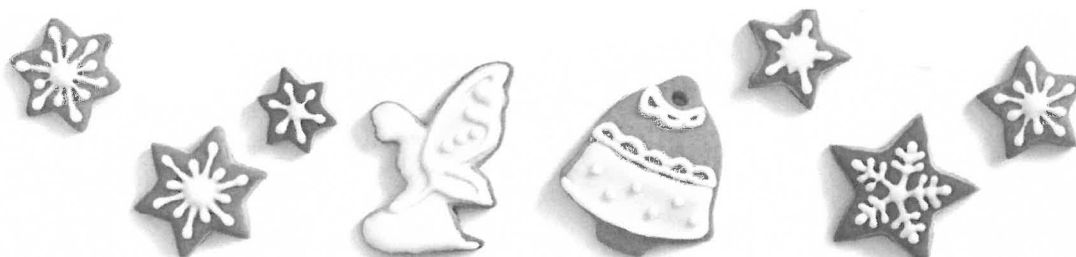
NEW MEMBERS AND VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

Contact Helen O'Donoghue on 830501 for more information

At our November meeting we were highly entertained by Claire McNaughton who regaled us with tales about her family and also about life's annoyances (which are mainly those of her husband and children) as well as the perils of being a modern British feminist military spouse and an established journalist. Claire started the blog 'A Modern Military Mother' to explain life from the other side of the British military, ie that of a mother, bringing up her children single handedly for much of the time whilst her Chinook pilot husband was being deployed to a variety of hotspots. Along the way there have been many challenges, particularly when her husband arrives home and struggles with the transition between military and domestic life, as well as the constant battle in bringing up two children, nicknamed The Grenade and The Menace! All in all this enjoyable glimpse into Claire's somewhat chaotic life was fascinating and highly amusing. Following the Annual Council Meeting in October attended by our President, it was good to hear that the Wiltshire Federation is doing well, that funds are healthy, and there have been 3 new WIs formed over the last year. However, the Federation is keen to recruit new committee members so if you are interested why not ask Joan Gifford more about what this might entail as she is a Federation Committee Chair.

Our skittles team is doing well too with two out of two wins so fingers crossed for our next match ladies.

The final meeting of the year will be on Tuesday 9 December in the Parish Hall and the theme is 'A Lebanese Evening'. Now, what on earth is one supposed to wear for that?



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JUBILEE HALL BRATTON EVENTS

CHRISTMAS DINNER

Friday 12th December 2014

7pm reception for 7.30pm

Ticket £12.50 for 3 course meal

Please contact Gill Hurn 830 497
or Val Witcomb 830 297

**I've reached that age
where my brain goes
from "You probably
shouldn't say that." to
"What the hell, let's see
what happens."**



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Edington Parish Council News

The council would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas. The village Christmas tree will be erected on the playing field Saturday 13 December at 9am, helpers welcome. Entries for the best Christmas tree decorations need to be handed in by 10.30am when judging will take place. We would like to thank the Three Daggers for sponsoring the tree. **The Tree lighting ceremony will be on Sunday 13 December at 5pm with carols and mulled cider.**

The May Ball committee have given the playfield fund a generous donation enabling the council to apply to the area board for matched funding. This means the swings should be replaced in the next few months as well as several other small repairs.

Due to ongoing problems with access to Long Hollow, we have asked the police to monitor the situation. It is an offence to block public highways. We appreciate the village was not designed with cars in mind but if all drivers showed consideration when parking a lot of the problems would be resolved.

The neighbourhood plan has just been released and can be found on the county council website.

Planning

14/10329/TCA T1 – reduce crown of cypress leylandii by 15 feet; T2 – reduce crown of cypress leylandii by 8 feet; T3 – remove dead cypress at Becketts House 19 Tinhead Road for Mrs Susan Bromhead.

(a) The following decisions have been received:

(ii) 14/08145/FUL Revised design and siting of ancillary gymnasium previously approved under application 13/07030/FUL at Hillside Cottage 45 Westbury Road for Hillside Cottage Ltd *approved*.

(iv) 14/08854/TCA Crown prune cherry tree by 30% at 54 Westbury Road for Mr Jasper Dorgan – *no objections*.

(v) 14/08451/FUL Alterations and extensions to dwelling at Linwood, 18 Court Lane for Mr S Wylam *approved*.

vi) 14/08880/FUL Remove existing single storey flat roof garage and provide new larger single storey pitched roof garage extension. Alterations to WC and store to form wet room and porch raised to suit new floor levels (amendment to 14/06674/FUL) at June Cottage 35 Westbury Road for Mr and Mrs J & M Ridger *approved*.



EDINGTON & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

FIRST THURSDAY IN THE MONTH PARISH HALL 7.30PM

A new name but the same enthusiasm for all things gardening!

At the start of the November meeting, members voted to include '& District' to our name. We hope others might also join us from around the area.

Our speaker Mike Burgess from Hilmarten gave a very comprehensive talk on 'finding room for fruit' in the garden. With the help of slides and his comprehensive knowledge, he explained how not only gardeners wish to have smaller fruit trees in their gardens, so do the professionals. Orchards are easier for maintenance - pruning, spraying and picking if the trees are from a dwarf root stock compared to the huge trees from the past.

To make the most of the area available try any of the following: an oblique corden - a single stem at 45° at 2' apart, a double U corden, an espalier along a pathside, a fan against a wall, or an upright corden 7'. All plants must be planted with the joint of the root stock at least six inches above the ground. In general pruning is done for training and shapes in August — cut above the 3rd leaf above the basal cluster on the main branch and above the 1st leaf above the basal cluster on a side stem. Winter pruning promotes growth. Lead shoots to keep the desired height are pruned in May.

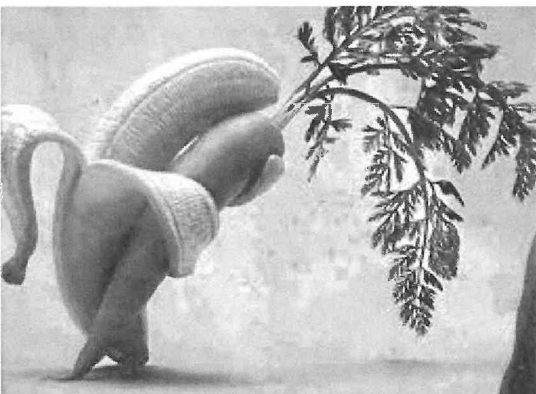
Plums cherries and even gooseberries and currants, although not blackcurrants, can also be trained. Strawberries can be put in pots and tubs. There are many small varieties of soft fruits, even a 12'' apricot!

December is our Christmas Social (check you have booked your ticket)

February 5th brings Richard Cripps talking on 'Basics of vegetable growing' do come along and join us.

We have no meeting in January.

**I would like to wish all our members a Happy Christmas
and a Healthy Growing New Year! JAH**



Christmas isn't a season. It's a feeling.

EDNA FERBER



FORTHCOMING EVENTS

DECEMBER

- 01 Lunch Club, Duke Bratton, 12.30pm
04 Christmas Fair, Edington Farm Shop, 4-10pm
05 G&J Trip, Leaves Edington PO 11am
06 Book Swap, Erlestoke Church, 10-12
07 Carvery, Erlestoke Golf Club, 1230
07 Children's Party, Edington Parish Hall, 3-5pm
09 WI meet, Edington Parish Hall, 8pm
10 TVM Lunch, Edington Parish Hall, 1215
10 **SANTA VISITS EDINGTON IN HIS SLEIGH 6-8PM**
12 Xmas Dinner, Bratton Jubilee Hall, 7pm
13 Art Exhibition, Coulston Village Hall, 1030-3.30pm
13/14 Xmas Tree Event and lighting ceremony Edington 5pm
16 Christmas Concert, Edington Priory, 7pm
17 Christmas Concert, St John's Church Devizes, 7.30pm
19 Sing-a-long Carols, Coulston Village Hall, 6.30pm

JANUARY

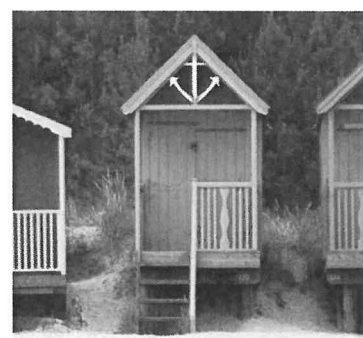
- 03 Book Swap, Erlestoke Church 10-12
18 Bratton History, Church Institute, 4pm
28 G&J Trip, leave Edington PO 1200
29/30/31 **PANTO, GREAT CHEVERELL PAVILION, 7PM**

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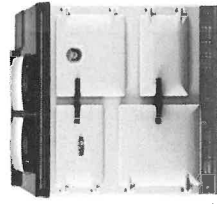
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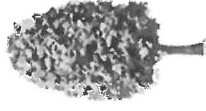
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