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# THE NEWS

Merry Christmas  
from all at  
The News



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# 'THE NEWS'

Dec 2015 / Jan 2016

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**Editor** Fiona Frise, 60 High St Erlestone SN10 5UA  
*telephone 831 097 mobile 07816 160 163 email thenewseec@gmail.com*

**Hon Treasurer** Bryan Mulligan-Scaife, Birchwood House, Westbury Rd, Edington BA13 4QF  
*telephone 830 112 email brymar@btconnect.com*  
*email newseec.treasurer@gmail.com*

**Design** Rebecca Hunt-Davis, Brounckers Court Farm, Erlestone SN10 5UE  
*email rebeccahuntdavis@btinternet.com*

## Representatives

Edington Pauline Dorgan, Post Office, Edington. *telephone 830 013 (9am-12 noon)*

Coulston Charles Riley, 1 Coulston, Coulston. *telephone 830 089*

**ALL ARTICLES** for the news are to go to email address [thenewseec@gmail.com](mailto:thenewseec@gmail.com) Items delivered by hand/post should go to Turners Garage, High St, Erlestone clearly marked 'The News'

## DEADLINE FOR ALL COPY & ADVERTISING 18TH OF THE MONTH

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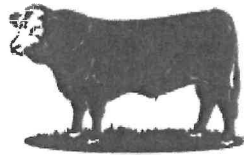
Yes! get the xmas jumpers out and this black and white shot doesn't do mine justice, believe me you need sunglasses to view it. There are a lot of lovely events to attend over the Christmas period around the villages and beyond so it looks like a busy time for all. **The villagers offer for the George and Dragon was rejected so it's back to the drawing board to see what the next move can be. Check the progress on our facebook page: Save the George, Erlestone.**

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our readers and if you enjoy reading The News, consider making a yearly subscription of £10 to the news to help keep us going. Thank you to everyone who donated money last month after my pleas. *Fiona*

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

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.

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## WHARF THEATRE, DEVIZES



Friday 11th December –  
Saturday 19th December at 7.30pm  
Matinees: 12th and 19th at 2.30pm  
No performances 13th or 14th

### ALADDIN

a pantomime by Ben Crocker,  
directed by Craig Fisher

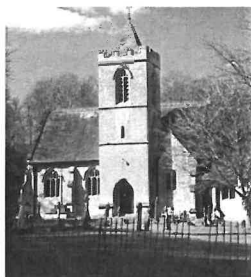
Tickets: Evenings £9, Matinees £7

Friday 29th January –  
Saturday 6th February 2016 at 7.30pm

### THE SECRET LIVES OF HENRY AND ALICE

by David Tristram, directed by Kevin Smith

Tickets £8 & £9



## ERLESTOKE CHURCH EVENTS

**Saturday 5th December**

Book Swap, 10 – 12 noon.

**Saturday 12th December**

Christmas Bingo. Doors open 1.30pm. Eyes down 2pm. Raffle, refreshments and fun!

**Saturday 19th December**

Childrens workshop, 10–12 noon. All ages welcome, children under 5 to be accompanied by an adult.

**Sunday 20th December**

Carol Service 6.30pm, followed by mince pies and mulled wine. Erlestoke Church.

**Saturday 2nd January 2016**

Book Swap, 10 - 12 noon. Erlestoke Church



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SERVICES IN THE BENEFICE DECEMBER 2015

Sunday	Bratton	Edington	Erlestoke	Coulston
1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup> December <i>Second Sunday of Advent</i>	08.00 HOLY COMMUNION (BCP) 11.00 FAMILY SERVICE: TOY SERVICE 18.00 CAROL PRAISE			11.00 PARISH COMMUNION (CW) (Bishop of Ramsbury) FOLLOWED BY INFORMAL LUNCH IN ERLESTOKE CHURCH
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> December <i>Third Sunday of Advent</i>	08.00 HOLY COMMUNION (CW) 11.00 PARISH COMMUNION(CW)	09.30 PARISH COMMUNION (CW) 18.30 EVENSONG	9.30 FAMILY SERVICE WITH HOLY BAPTISM	
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> December <i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i>	08.00 HOLY COMMUNION (BCP) 11.00 FAMILY SERVICE WITH BAPTISM ST JAMES' 18.00 CAROL SERVICE WITH THE BRATTON SILVER BAND	09.30 PARISH COMMUNION (CW) 16.00 CAROL SERVICE	18.30 VILLAGE CAROL SERVICE	11.00 CAROL SERVICE
24 <sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> December <i>Christmas Day</i>	11.00 FAMILY COMMUNION FOR CHRISTMAS DAY	09.30 FAMILY COMMUNION FOR CHRISTMAS DAY		11.00 FAMILY COMMUNION FOR CHRISTMAS DAY
4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> December <i>First Sunday of Christmas (Sunday after Christmas Day)</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 & SERVICES:**

**Daily offices:** Morning Prayer will be led by participants on Wednesday and Thursday mornings at 9am at Edington during the vacancy.

**Wednesday Communion Services:**

At 9.30am on the at Edington Priory Church on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and, 9<sup>th</sup> and, 23<sup>rd</sup>, and 30<sup>th</sup> December, and on the 16<sup>th</sup> at the Priory Church for Informal Carols at 2.30pm .

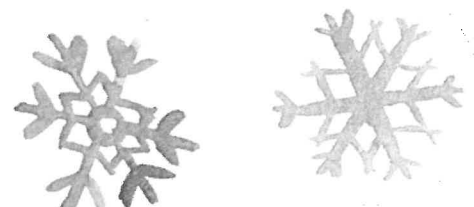
12<sup>th</sup> December: Edington Arts Advent Concert – with the choir of Merton College, Oxford

12<sup>th</sup> December: Christmas Bingo and Book Fayre, Erlestoke Church

15<sup>th</sup> December: Bratton Primary School Christmas Play at Edington Priory Church, 7pm

16<sup>th</sup> December: Carol Service at Brattton Primary School, 7pm

3<sup>rd</sup> January: Epiphany (transferred) celebrated within the Benefice.



SERVICES IN THE BENEFICE JANUARY 2016

Sunday	Bratton	Edington	Erlestoke	Coulston
1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday  3 <sup>rd</sup> 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 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday  10 <sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday  17 <sup>th</sup> January <i>Second Sunday After Epiphany</i>	08.00 HOLY COMMUNION (BCP)  11.00 'THIRD SUNDAY SERVICE': <b>AT ST JAMES' CHURCH</b>	09.30 PARISH COMMUNION (CW)	18.30 EVENSONG	11.00 PARISH COMMUNION (CW)
4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday  24 <sup>th</sup> January <i>Third Sunday After Epiphany</i>				11.00 BENEFICE SERVICE
5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday  31 <sup>st</sup> January <i>Presentation of Christ in The Temple</i>  <i>Candlemas</i>	11.00 PARISH COMMUNION (CW)	08.00 HOLY COMMUNION (BCP)  11.00 FAMILY WORSHIP  18.30 EVENSONG	9.30 PARISH COMMUNION	

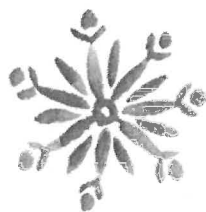
**MIDWEEK SERVICES**

**Public Morning & Evening Prayer:**

Thursdays at 7am and Saturdays at 8am in the Oratory room at the Church Institute at Bratton; Wednesdays and Thursdays at Edington (9am)

**Wednesday Communion Services:**

At 9.30am on 6<sup>th</sup> (MW), 13<sup>th</sup> (MW), 27<sup>th</sup> (MW) and on the 20<sup>th</sup> at 14.30 at Shepherd's Cottage, Edington.



We wish you a happy and relaxed holiday season!





## TVM CHRISTMAS LUNCH



You are cordially invited to a 2 course Christmas Lunch with a choice of seasonal casseroles and a selection of festive puddings on



WEDNESDAY 9<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER  
at 12.30pm in the Parish Hall, cost £7.50.



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.  
Please book your place with Pauline

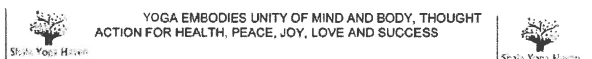


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07896 469 904 (Erlestoke, near Devizes)

## PREGNANCY YOGA

Tuesdays 7pm - 8.30pm

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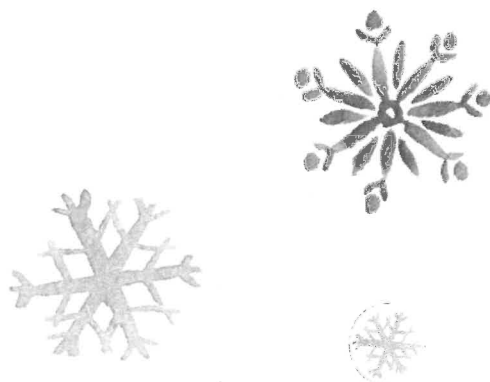
## YOGA FOR BABIES & MUMS

Wednesdays 10.30 - 11.30am

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Contact: Konnie: 07956 983 154 - [konikasn@gmail.com](mailto:konikasn@gmail.com)

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## YOUTH ACTION WILTSHIRE.(DECEMBER)

YAW has been working with Wiltshire's young people for over 60 years. Their success has been built upon developing innovative, effective and exciting services and through the expertise of their friendly and dedicated staff.



They offer young people accreditation and qualifications in Functional Skills (English, Maths and ICT), Key Skills (Working with Others, Improving Own Learning and Performance and Problem Solving), Employability, Leadership and Volunteering.

Over the last 12 months 46 young people aged 16-18 who were 'Not In Education Employment or Training' (NEET) have engaged in their Inspire 'Study Programme'.

YAW could not undertake its work without the key support of its partners. YAW works closely with Wiltshire Council, Swindon Borough, The Conservation Volunteers, Wiltshire's IYS, WASP, Ambition, UK Youth, GreenSquare Housing along with collegiate Third Sector organisations and wide ranging funders and corporate sponsors. "We help these fantastic local youth groups through, providing full set up support for new groups, a wide range of training for adult and young leaders, a diverse activity programme, accreditation for projects and help with funding".

## BREAST CANCER CARE (JANUARY)

Breast Cancer Care was founded by Betty Westgate on Christmas Eve, 1973, five years after her own diagnosis of breast cancer in 1968. Breast cancer care wants every person affected by breast cancer to get the best treatment, information and support.



What they do is combine the personal experiences of people affected by breast cancer with clinical expertise, using this in a unique way to: provide information and offer emotional and practical support, bring people affected by breast cancer together, campaign for improvement in standards of support and care & promote the importance of early detection.

**How they work is to focus on the unique experience of each individual affected by breast cancer.**

They use their understanding of the emotional and practical issues facing people affected by breast cancer alongside our clinical expertise. If you have a particular concern about breast cancer or just want to talk, their specialist nurses and trained staff are there for you. 0808 800 6000 Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm Saturday, 10am-2pm.

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

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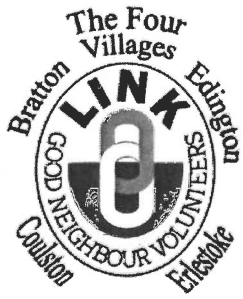
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We all know that everyone needs a little help from time to time and **THE FOUR VILLAGES LINK** registered charity scheme offers support in a practical and caring way to those who need some assistance. In October we had over 30 requests for help and members of our dedicated, but dwindling, group of volunteers were able to fulfil all but 2 of them. The majority were taking clients to local hospitals or surgeries but we did also have some non-medical requests.

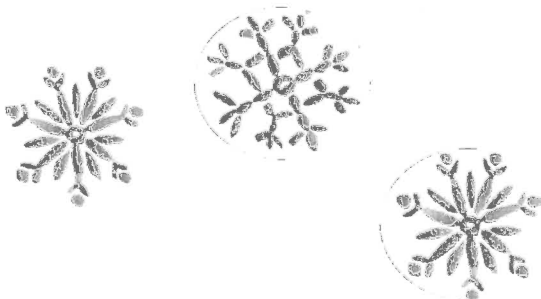
If you would like our help just call us on 07852 256 939 between 9am–6pm Monday to Friday and one of our friendly duty coordinators will log your request and endeavour to find a volunteer to assist you. All calls are charged at mobile rates. As responding to requests can be demanding it helps to receive plenty of notice when being asked to organise assistance, ideally not less than 48 hours in advance and particularly so during the forthcoming Christmas/New Year period.

### COULD YOU BE A FOUR VILLAGES LINK VOLUNTEER?

We are still actively looking for new volunteers to join this local scheme. If you have some time to spare and are interested in serving your local community in some capacity then please do call 07852 256 939 to find out more about volunteering. Being a volunteer can give you a new interest as well as making good use of your skills and experience. All we ask for is a little of your time, as much or as little as you are able to give.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE SERVICE WILL BE CLOSED BETWEEN 25TH – 28TH DECEMBER AND ALSO ON NEW YEAR'S DAY.

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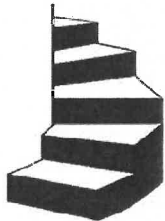


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## THREE VILLAGES MINIBUS – JOY FRASER (830426)

DEC 2015/ JAN 2016 *Regular Shopping Trips starting at Edington*

DESTINATION	COST	DEC/ JAN	START TIME
Devizes	£2.70	Thur 03/ 07	9am
Warminster	£2.30	Tue 08/12	1.25pm
Westbury	£1.70	Every Thursday	1.25pm
Salisbury	£4	Sat 12/09	9.30am

The G&J trips will be on Friday **December 4 to Whitehall Garden Centre** leaving Edington at 11.30am. and returning around 2.30pm. The **January** trip will be announced later.

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.

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Steve Dagnall 01380 727 976



Teams are always looking for new parents to get involved with the running of teams in some age groups, but also stepping forward to help develop the skills of the children : get involved, it's fun, . and you get some exercise along the way Please contact the coaches, who are always looking for a helping hand.

With the Christmas holidays fast approaching, some of the teams are involved in various Cup competitions: The Under 15 passed Pewsey Vale to reach the last 16 of the Wiltshire Cup, whilst the Under 13 will play Wootton Bassett in the 2nd round.

U13: despite being 3rd in the League, they suffered their second defeat of the season losing away to 2nd placed team Bradford 4-2 recently.

U12: are joint leaders with 10 points (at the time of writing this article), but have played more matches. Recent win 3-1 against Amesbury, but losing a vital home match to local rivals Devizes. Other teams in the lower age groups continue to develop their skills and play various matches in the respective 'friendly' leagues – where results cannot be published. Happy Christmas to all our readers.

### TEAM CONTACT DETAILS:

Reception Year (tasters) + Under 6 & 8's: Mark – 01380 813 160/07974 723 008

Under 7 and 10/11 – Jason 07734-627449

Under 9s – Dave 07843-678781; U-12: Stuart 07756 540 864

U-13: Jake 07741 306 303; U-15: Neil 01380 818 193



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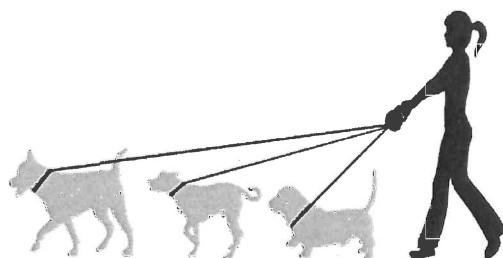
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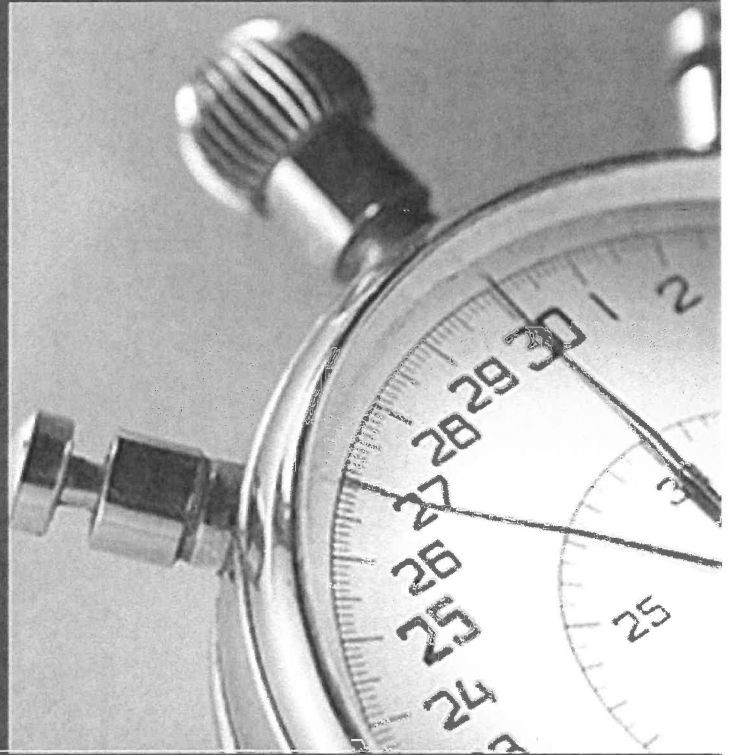
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I HAVE ALWAYS  
THOUGHT OF TIME AS A KIND  
CHRISTMAS TIME GOOD  
FORGIVING TIME CHARITABLE  
ON TIME WHEN MEN  
THE LY KNOW OF AND  
SEEM BY CON WOMEN  
ONE SENT TO OPEN THEIR  
SHUT-UP HEARTS AND TO THINK OF  
HEARTS HEARTY AND TO PEOPLE  
BELOW AS IF THEY REALITY  
THEM AS IF THEY REALITY  
FELLOW WERE REALITY  
PASSENGERS THE GRAVE  
ANOTHER AND NOT  
RACE OF CREATURES  
OTHER BOUND ON  
JOURNEYS! MERRY  
TO YOU! CHRISTMAS





Presents an Advent Concert in the Priory Church, Edington, at 7.30pm on Saturday 12th December.

Benjamin Nicholas, Director of Music at Merton College, (and Artistic Director of the Edington Music Festival) will be bringing the highly acclaimed mixed voice College choir of 30 singers, many of whom are choral scholars at the College.

The programme makes the journey from plainchant, through Byrd and Bach, Pearsall and Adolphe Adam, Vaughan Williams and Benjamin Britten (three movements from A Ceremony of Carols) to the present day with Bob Chilcott, Dubra, Esenwalds and Matthew Martin.

Tickets £20/15/10, discount for Edington Angels, 18 and under FREE. Add £2 if you buy on the door. Phone 01380 831256/871549, or email [music@edingtonarts.com](mailto:music@edingtonarts.com). Full programme information at [www.edingtonarts.org](http://www.edingtonarts.org).

## Sing Alive Christmas Concert

Edington Priory - Friday 11th December  
Doors open 7pm, concert starts at 7.30pm



Sing Alive community choir invite you to join them for a joyful evening of Christmas carols, seasonal songs and readings to celebrate the season.

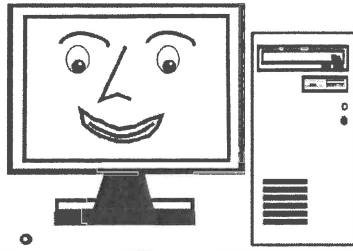
Join us as the massed voices of this lovely Wiltshire choir fill the Priory Church with a gorgeous mix of traditional carols, rousing English folk carols, an 11th century Irish hymn and secular and sacred songs from Ukraine, Africa, and the USA.

Tickets £6 in advance, £7 on the door (Under 16s free) from [www.singalive.org/events](http://www.singalive.org/events)  
You can also message us on 07809 566021 or Email [info@singalive.org](mailto:info@singalive.org) to book.

We also hope you will stay for a warming cup of mulled apple juice, tea or coffee and a festive nibble after the performance. This will be by donation.



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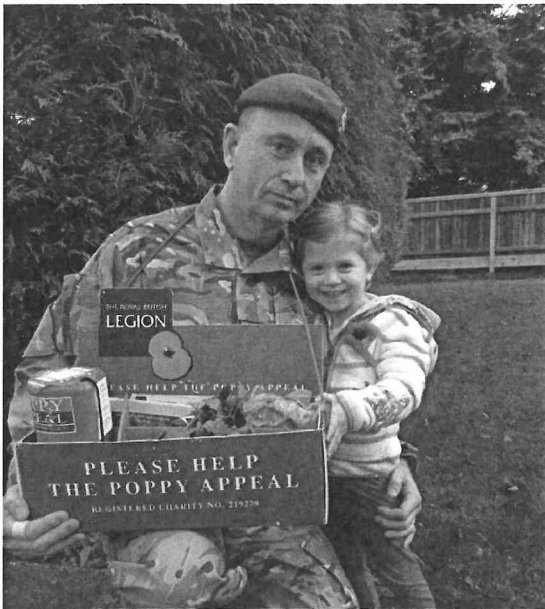
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Another successful year for The Poppy Appeal (Edington, Coulston and Imber Branch).

A grand total has been raised of £2,036.81 of which £448.95 came from the Remembrance Service in Edington Priory Church and £118.66 from St.Giles' Church, Imber.

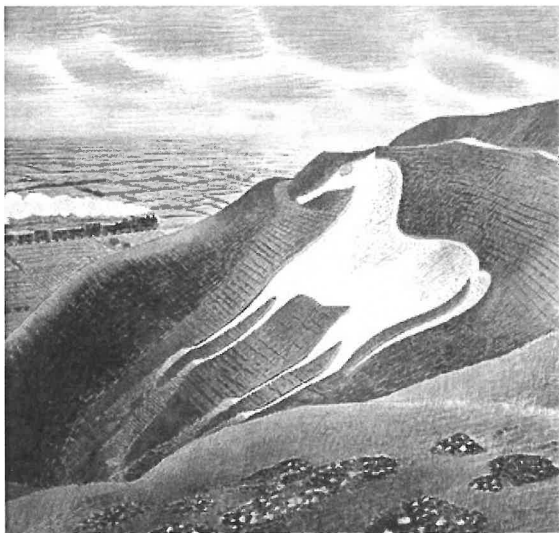
I would like to thank everyone who has been so generous with their gifts and their time over the last year.

*David Woodward*

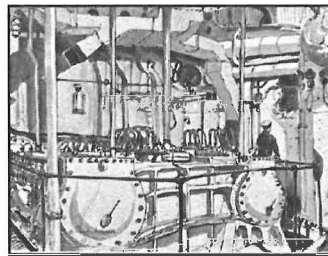
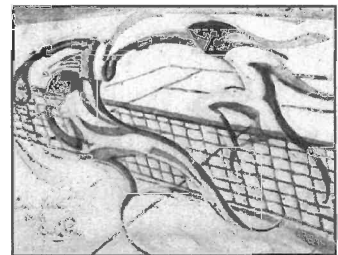
*"The one thing women don't want to find in their stockings on Christmas morning is their husband."*

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## RICHARD GAMBLE

### WILTSHIRE COUNCILLOR FOR THE LAVINGTONS & ERLESTOKE DIVISION

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by phone on 07762 018 209

Christmas is coming. It's the season of goodwill, and all that!

Except, as I write this, the mood is not exactly festive. The terrorist attacks in Paris have taken place and, for the time being, the f-word is fear, not fun. Dozens of families will have to get through the holiday season without their loved ones.

Such was the scale of the murderous outrage that I am sure it will still be in the front of our minds when you are reading this. Feelings of helplessness and impotence in the face of that malignancy may remain.

There are precedents to such events. 22 years ago the IRA exploded an enormous bomb in Bishopsgate destroying a part of London where my wife and I had both worked until only a few months before. Life in London carried on and now there is peace, more or less, in Northern Ireland.

In the 1970s the Baader Meinhoff group and the Red Army Faction conducted a series of terrorist attacks in West Germany. Remember them?

In 1913, the suffragettes exploded a bomb that partially destroyed Lloyd George's house, yet now we look rather kindly on Mrs Pankhurst.

No one now has even heard of the Sheffield Outrages, a series of explosions and murders by a small group of trade unionist militants carried out in the 1860s. They had a just cause in objecting to conditions in the steel industry but took their actions a little too far.

None of this makes the current situation any happier but I hope history allows us to put current events into context. The wartime message resonates now: Keep Calm and Carry on.

I hope you have a safe and happy Christmas.

*Richard*

*And girls in slacks remember Dad  
And oafish louts remember Mum  
And sleepless children's hearts are glad  
And Christmas-morning bells say 'Come!'*

POET LAUREATE JOHN BETJEMAN (1906-1984),  
FROM HIS POEM CHRISTMAS

## BRATTON PRESCHOOL

(Contact Wendy Waller/Paulene Bryant) Tel: 07949 286991

During November the children held a Sponsored Bounce to raise funds towards the Christmas festivities. Many families have been surprised by how many bounces their child can do in 1 minute but a good time was had by all and we thank everyone for their support.

Rehearsals are well underway for the Christmas Performance to be held on Thursday 10 December at 11am. The Committee will be holding a raffle and serving light refreshments after.

This year we are again taking part in the All Saints Church Christmas Tree Festival. (10-13 December). The children will be making decorations with their families and then spotting them on the tree in Church over the weekend.

The Christmas Party will round the term off on the 18 December and if we are very lucky then we should have a special visitor too!

*Happy Christmas from all at Bratton Preschool.*



*“It snowed last year too: I made a snowman and my brother knocked it down and I knocked my brother down and then we had tea!”*

DYLAN THOMAS, A CHILD'S CHRISTMAS IN WALES



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one more time...**



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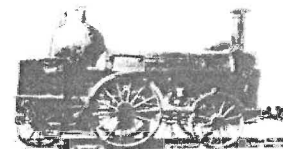
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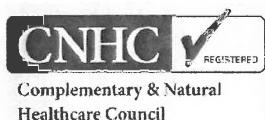
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If you would like more information on how Reflexology can be of service to you, Please contact me. Mobile 07731 811180

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## BRATTON GUIDING NEED YOUR HELP



Guiding in Bratton is thriving, we have over 60 girls in attendance at present. Due to family commitments the Rainbow Guider is having to step down, we desperately need to find a replacement.

Rainbows are girls aged 5-7 years, The unit have 10 girls in attendance and a waiting list. They meet on a Thursday from 4.30 – 5.30. The current guider is willing to work along side. Her replacement until July. If nobody comes forward the unit will close in

July. Rainbows has been in the village since 1999 it would be good to keep the group open. No experience is required just a desire to have fun and help the girls become more confident. It's just an hour a week. You will be fully supported by the other Guiders in the village and the Girlguide Association.

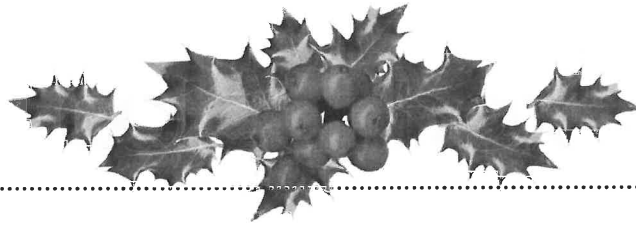
PLEASE, PLEASE KEEP RAINBOWS GOING AND KEEPING GUIDING GOING IN BRATTON. TEL. 01380 830 885 MARGARET MARGARET@WESTBURYOFFICE-SERVICES.CO.UK

## POLICE WARNING

Police are urging people to be vigilant after a spate of frauds where people in Wiltshire have been tricked into handing over large amounts of money to criminals posing as police officers. Two women from Wiltshire were recently targeted and duped into travelling to London and handing over tens of thousands of pounds and valuable goods to fraudsters. These cases are the latest in a spate of recent incidents where members of the public, sometimes vulnerable elderly people, have been tricked by scammers.

We would urge people to be cautious when speaking to people over the phone who claim to be from the police, the bank or any other body.

- A genuine police officer or bank official will **NEVER** ask you to reveal personal financial details, about your account over the phone.
- They will **NEVER** ask you to withdraw or transfer money to different accounts or and deliver money to them at a named location.
- A real police officer or bank official will not mind you checking them out. However **ALWAYS** hang up your phone and use a different phone either mobile, friends or neighbours if necessary to make a call to 101 or to your local bank branch. The suspect will hold your landline open leading you to believe that you are dialling out when actually they are still there.- Never allow the person to transfer you.
- If you have any reservations about the call put the phone down.



"I would like, through the pages of 'The News' to thank everyone who has helped me through the early stages of my illness, either by practical efforts, visits, cards, letters etc., you all know who you are. My treatment is on going until May of next year, when hopefully all will be well.

Wishing everyone a happy Christmas and a successful and healthy New Year.

*Margo Mulligan-Scaife*

*"I was about nine and my father was sacked on Christmas Day. He was a manager, the results had not been good. On Christmas Day, the telephone rang and he was sacked in the middle of our lunch"*

JOSE MOURINHO REMINDS US THAT ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE IN FOOTBALL

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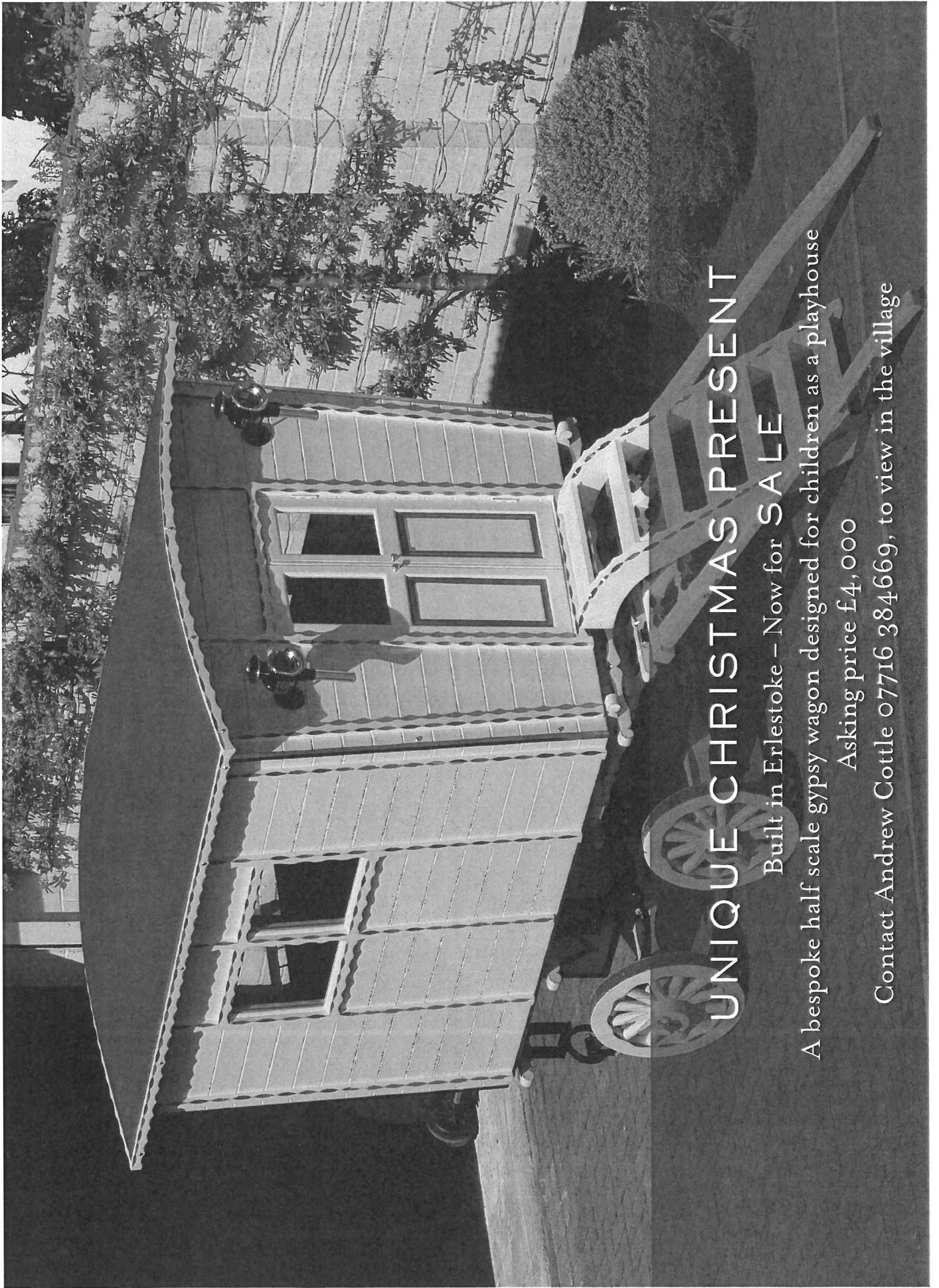
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## SUSAN – AND CHRISTMAS!

I wanted to take this opportunity to say a big “Thank you” to all who have supported, whether by deeds, words or prayers, me and Susan over the last 12 months, from the diagnosis of breast cancer last November through to her death on the 15th October. Robert, Rachel and I have been overwhelmed by the cards, letters, notes and words of comfort that we have received from such a vast number of people; and to all who wanted to come to her Funeral and to the brief Committal Service at Semington, to say their final farewells to her. The high regard in which she was held was both amazing and humbling. The cancer, whilst it may have killed her to this life, has shown that there is a surpassing glory: of the love, care and compassion that has been shown to her and to me. Hers was a life that has lived on in the memories of so many people. It will be nigh on impossible for me to say “thank you” personally to you all; for all that you have done over the past year and beyond, for all who played a part in the preparation for and organisation of the funeral, all who took part in it in some way. The music, the flowers, the tributes spoken and written, the refreshments – everything was truly amazing. Thank you. To some the love and support we have received may be seen as simple practical kindnesses. But I see in it more than that. In all that has happened, it is for me, and was for Susan, a spiritual understanding of the working out of our Christian faith: being as Christ, loving our neighbour as ourselves. Or, as in the parable of the sheep and the goats: whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers (or sisters) of mine, you did it for me. Way, way back in September 1989 the White Horse Churchman had a series of articles on “What my faith means to me” and Susan had been asked if she would make a contribution. Here it is. I can say with certainty that Susan found the peace of which she spoke and the hope which comes from a continuing walk with our Lord Jesus Christ:-.

And so to Christmas. Nations throughout the world celebrate it. For some people it is just an opportunity to give presents and to have a party. But for us Christians it is first and foremost a Christian Festival of the Advent hope realized; it is the wonder and joy of Immanuel – God with us in the person of Jesus. That’s what we celebrate: God’s great gift to us. If we as a community, if we as a nation were to put self aside, to turn away from doing all those things that we know in our hearts are wrong and seek to nurture the good in ourselves and in all people then I believe we would begin to roll back the forces of darkness that so infect our world.

The Churches in our Benefice, Anglican as well as Baptist, have a wonderful range of Services to celebrate the birth of Jesus. Let it grip your hearts. If you can, please take the opportunity to join with us. Be a part of us to proclaim the Good News of Jesus that all may know that He is our rightful Lord and Saviour.

May the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

*Malcolm Wieck (Honorary Associate Priest)*

## EDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

The Parish Council would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and hope you can join us on the playing field at 5pm on Saturday 12th December for our annual Christmas tree switch on; full details of this event can be found below.

Pond Clearance - We would like to thank Emily and team for their hard work in clearing out the pond, which is now lovely and clean. We are monitoring the ongoing problems with vermin around the pond area and the Parish Council request that villagers do not feed the remaining ducks as this has led in the past to an increase in the rat population.

We congratulate Mike Swabey on being elected as Parish Council Chairman following the resignation of Eric, we will formally publicise the casual vacancy created by Eric's resignation early next year.

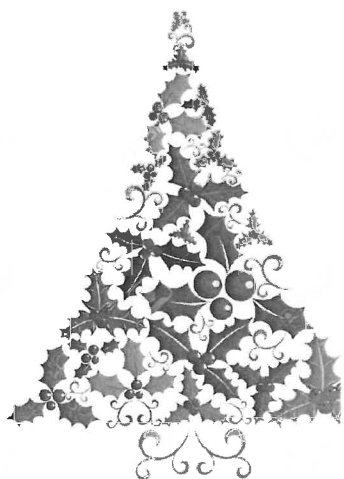
Our condolences to Malcolm Wieck our Parish Clerk on the loss of his wife Susan, our thoughts are with you.

A plea for considerate parking – highlighting Downsview amongst others this month where inconsiderate parking recently prevented emergency services accessing the close.

A gentle reminder that the Parish Hall car park is primarily for parking for users of the hall and not long stay or overnight car parking. The hall is very well used particularly at this time of year so your cooperation would be appreciated.

Villagers will be aware that Balfour Beatty are no longer providing services to the county council and a new provider will be chosen in April, in the meantime the council have suspended routine maintenance but they are providing a reactive service for any issues. If anyone discovers a problem such as potholes, blocked drains etc. please report through the **My Wiltshire** app or through the Wiltshire Council website.

All that remains is for the Parish Council to wish you all a happy and prosperous new year.



### **Edington Christmas Tree light switch on**

**Saturday 12th December at 5pm on the Playing Field.**

**Come and join the fun, and celebrate Christmas with your neighbours.**

**Carol singing mulled wine and mince pies.**

**Our thanks go to The Three Daggers for their generous donation of the tree and for providing the refreshments.**

## ADVANCE NOTICE

The Guest speaker at the January meeting of Edington and Tinhead W.I. will be Mr Andy Rogers, Governor of HMP Erlestoke. Visitors welcome to what will be an opportunity to hear about the aims and work of the service and its staff.

Tuesday January 12th 2016 at 19.30 in the Parish Hall.

Contact Helen O'Donoghue 830501

*The results of the makery held at he last WI meeting reported on at page 40*



## WASTE COLLECTIONS FOR XMAS

Waste and recycling collection dates will change over the Christmas and New Year period. Garden waste collections will be suspended from Friday 25 December until Saturday 9 January and household recycling centre (HRC) opening hours will change. See the website for full details.

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Many thanks for your assistance Donna Mountford

Communications officer (marketing and campaigns)

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Email: [donna.mountford@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:donna.mountford@wiltshire.gov.uk)

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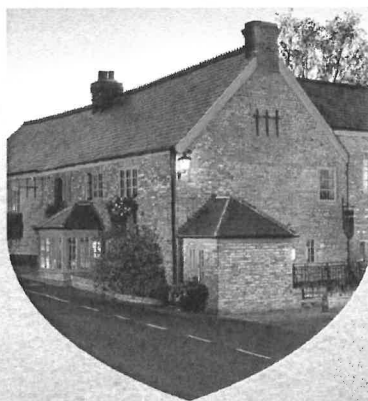
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## DO YOU WANT A FAIR NEXT YEAR?

We need your support to continue to run Edington Fair. Helpers have diminished over the years and are now critically low.

**IF** you can commit to a little time either to help organise it or to help on the day Please contact me.

The Fair hopefully will take place on 11 June 2016

Next fair meeting: Wednesday 13 January, 8pm in The Daggers All welcome

Here we will make a decision on whether there is enough support from the village to continue. **The Fair's Future is now in your hands.**

Liz Pike, tel.. 830684 [elizabethdpike@aol.com](mailto:elizabethdpike@aol.com)

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## LUNCH CLUBS FOR DECEMBER

Supported by Wiltshire Good Neighbours  
[www.wiltsgn.org.uk](http://www.wiltsgn.org.uk)

**The Duke Pub Lunch Club – 7 Dec at 12.30 for 1pm**

Please contact Lise on 07541 353 401 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](http://www.wiltsgn.org.uk)*

Note: For those of you that may not be aware, the Erlestoke lunch club that previously met in the George & Dragon every 3rd Wednesday of the month has now re-located to the Churchill Arms in West Lavington.



*The Churchill Arms Pub Lunch Clubs, West Lavington*

Please book in advance by ringing Helen Diskett on 01380 831 127.

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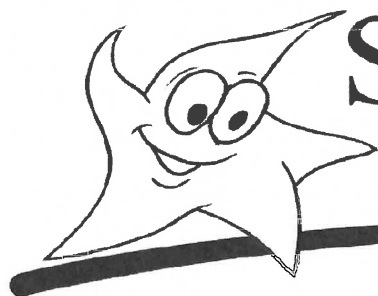
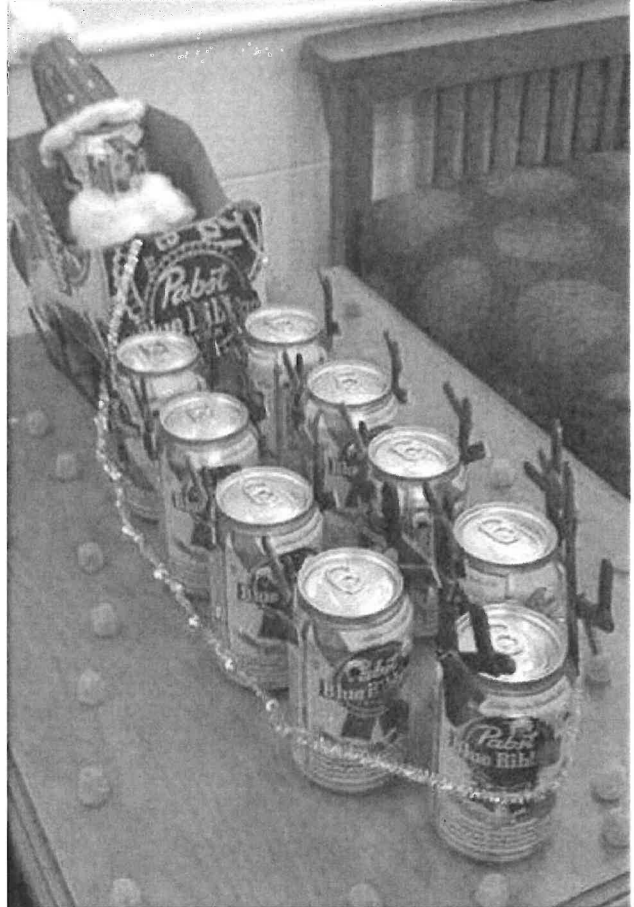
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*“Unless we make Christmas an occasion to share our blessings,  
all the snow in Alaska won’t make it white”*

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## VOLUNTEER TREASURER NEEDED

The Four Villages LINK is looking for a new Treasurer.

Initially to work with the current incumbent prior to her standing down, and then to take over the role.

Tasks include:

- basic book-keeping,
- reimbursing volunteers' expenses,
- banking
- record keeping,
- preparing and presenting the annual accounts at the AGM.
- The role is not arduous and will only take a few hours a month to carry out.

If you think you have the necessary skills and time to fulfil the position please would you contact Ian Lafferty on 07774-891135. Registered Charity: 1064923



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*In-between 15 & 17 High Street, Dilton Marsh,  
Westbury, Wiltshire. BA13 4DL.*

# Heads on High

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Call Sarah, 79 High Street, Littleton Panell Telephone 01380 818 563





## THE BRATTON HISTORY ASSOCIATION

*There will be no meeting of the Bratton History Association in Dec. The next meeting of the Bratton January 17th at 4pm in the Church Institute.*

THE TALK WILL BE GIVEN BY MARGARET MILLER AND THE SUBJECT OF HER LECTURE WILL BE:

### WAR TIME RECOLLECTIONS

THE AGM WILL FOLLOW THE LECTURE

*Newcomers and non-members welcome.*

Annual membership : £8 single, £12 couple.

Lecture fee: £2 member £4 visitor.

Further details can be obtained from posters in the village or by contacting. Mo Maclean on 01380 830 221 or Anne Bailey at [bratton.history@live.com](mailto:bratton.history@live.com).





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## EDINGTON UNDER FIVES

Contact Patricia Genner on 07801 847508 for more information.

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

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

Children can enjoy playing, singing, a healthy snack and a fun craft activity. Tea and coffee is

available for parents. **Where:** Edington Parish Hall. **When:** Every Thursday 10–12pm (closed during school holidays)

### COULSTON VILLAGE ART GROUP

**Amateur and Professional Artists**

**We meet on a Thursday morning**

**9.30-12.30pm**

**Our annual exhibition and sale is held in**

**December at the Village Hall.**

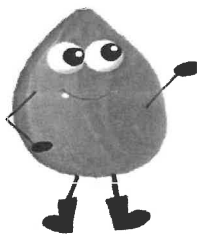
**There is a fee per term to cover cost of the hall and coffee.**

**If you would like to join us please contact Kris Massey on 01380 830085**

**Art Exhibition & Sale at Coulston Village Hall**

**10.30–2.30pm**

**Sat 12 December**



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07584 504 311

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## NEWS FROM YOUR GOOD NEIGHBOUR CO-ORDINATOR

*A free and confidential service for residents of Bratton, Edington, Erlestoke and Coulston. We work primarily with older people, and can visit you at home or discuss your needs over the phone.*

*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 922 027*

Providing older people in our villages with information on sources of help and support, here are some of the issues I have been helping people with over recent months:

- Where to go for help with applying for Attendance Allowance
- How to find a local domiciliary care agency
- Information on help and services locally for people with memory problems and their families
- How to apply for the Carers Emergency Card (giving reassurance if someone depends on you for their care)
- How to get online and access computer training
- Free fire safety checks from Wiltshire Fire and Rescue
- Social activities available locally
- How to get assistance at the station when travelling by rail
- Support for blind and partially sighted people and their carers

Wiltshire Good Neighbours provides a free, confidential service for the residents of the villages of Wiltshire.



New members and visitors are always welcome

Meetings every second Tuesday of the month in the Parish Hall

[www.facebook.com/edingtonandtinhedwi](http://www.facebook.com/edingtonandtinhedwi)

Contact Helen O'Donoghue 830 501 for more information

## CREATIVE FLANNEL AND SOAP? WHAT ON EARTH WAS HAPPENING?

We all arrived at the Parish hall on November 10th clutching our flannels and soap to be vastly entertained and helped to make these items into a reindeer! With much hilarity and many interesting comments, we ribboned, glued and folded until there were some that really did look like...well sort of reindeerish. We also folded napkins into trees – as you do.

This was part of a workshop led by Meg McGlynn and Sue Davies who had also brought examples of easy (!) decorations /gifts to make, including: decorated Pringle tins for incense sticks, wrapped coffee jars for sweets, Xmas biscuits on a bed of icing sugar, angels out of card and lovely rag or net wreaths using a coat hangar and a lot of patience. They also provided some decorative fruit/marshmallows on sticks for consumption. Some members had wrapped some lovely presents to be given to people in need in the community.

Our president Helen told us about various Federation events happening during the next few months including a talk by David Leakey "Black Rod"; making traditional marmalade; rock and roll singing workshop with Adrienne Hale (Steeple Rocks Choir Director) and seasonal spring food with Stephanie Honeychurch amongst others.

As part of our fund raising this year we have given £100 to the Nepal earthquake Fund and £300 to Julia's House Hospice.

A few ladies went to the Autumn Council Meeting where we heard about the Federation year and listened to Michael Portillo describing his life in politics and as a TV presenter. Our congratulations go to our very own Joan Gifford who will be federation vice-chair again. Some of us joined with 4 Villages LINK in a very worthwhile Dementia Awareness session. Our flexible Skittles team continue to enjoy playing.

**Our December meeting on Tuesday 8th** will be our Xmas meal where we will bring guests/friends/partners to a shared meal in the Parish Hall.

We will have our own annual meeting in February when the committee will be elected again. There will be a vacancy or two so do consider being part of this excellent organisation. Our subs are due this month, so you are welcome to see what great value belonging to the WI is.

On **Tuesday 12th January 2016** at 7.30pm our speaker will be the Governor of Erlestoke prison.

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## Coulston Village Christmas Bazaar

Saturday 5th December from 10.30am

The Coulston Village Christmas Bazaar will be on Saturday 5th 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.

Andrew Buley, Chairman, Coulston Village Hall Committee,  
Tel: 01380 831372



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**Sunday 13th December 2015**  
**Sunday 10th January 2016**

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## EDINGTON & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

FIRST THURSDAY IN THE MONTH PARISH HALL 7.30PM

This year as usual the annual produce show was well supported with the cream teas on offer getting a special mention!

The Gardening Club won the Club entry, special thanks to Sandie Lewis and Jan Richardson for their cake, craft and flower entry. Congratulations to Edward Calloway who won the silver salver and to Sandra Salmon who won best in show.

Our speaker for the November meeting was Julia Moore, of Julia Moore Floral Designs who treated us to a demonstration in making a seasonal arrangement of autumn colour arranged in a pumpkin. Julia gave us lots of tips on choosing, cutting and making flowers last well before and after the arrangement is in place. Julia kept us entertained with stories about the ups and downs of providing floral arrangements for weddings and other events . . . especially when the lorry is held up in Calais and the wedding is tomorrow! As well as the sunflower and pumpkin arrangement, Julia made a lovely winter buttonhole and advised us all to make use of whatever autumn and winter colour we can find in our gardens and hedgerows, to supplement the flowers we may buy.

**On 3rd December** we have our Christmas social evening in the Parish Hall, with lovely food and lots of fun. Members and non-members welcome. Please ring for full details.

**On 11th December** we have an addition to our regular programme of visits. We are going to Westonbirt Arboretum for the wonderful illuminated trail. This year they are promising the best ever displays so please join us for the 45 minute trail. It is scooter and wheelchair friendly. If you would like more details, please ring.

Sandie Lewis, Club Secretary, Edington & District Gardening Club, 01380 830722

*“Christmas time! That man must be a misanthrope indeed, in whose breast something like a jovial feeling is not roused – in whose mind some pleasant associations are not awakened – by the recurrence of Christmas.”*

CHARLES DICKENS, SKETCHES BY BOZ



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**St John's Sunday Masses :**

Saturday (Vigil) 6pm; Sunday 10.30am & 6pm

**Weekday Masses:**

Mon: 9am; Tues: 6pm; Wed: 8.30am; Fri 6pm

Sat: 10am; 6pm (Vigil)

**Rosary:** Weekdays before Mass. SVP Fri  
6.45pm

**Confessions:** Sat: 10.30-11.15am and 5-5.45pm

**St Bernadette's Sunday Mass – 9am**

**Weekday Mass – Thursday 11 am**

**Confessions/Reconciliation before Mass and  
any time on request**

**St John's Social Group Invite You to  
An Evening of Christmas Carols & Songs  
Mince Pies & Mulled Wine  
In the Parish Centre  
Sunday December 6th  
7.00—9.00 pm  
Admission £2.50 (on the Door)  
Compere: Denise Drew  
Music: Christiana Turner**

To help plan for numbers put names on the porch list.  
Or phone/email Frank Geraghty 01380 871083  
[f.geraghty303@btinternet.com](mailto:f.geraghty303@btinternet.com)

Donations of Mince Pies greatly appreciated.

Marquee 8 x 4, trestles, tables and  
chairs for hire  
Proceeds to Edington Fair.  
contact 830133 for details and prices.

**BRATTON JUBILEE HALL  
JUBILEE PLAYERS**

The players will be presenting

**“JACK & THE BEANSTALK”**

in Bratton Jubilee Hall

on 21st, 22nd and 23rd January  
2016 plus matinee on 23rd  
January 2016.

Tickets £7.50, £5.00 children  
under 14 years old.

Available from Box Office/ Gill  
Hurn 01380 830497

**The Christmas Dinner**

will be held on

Friday 11th December 2015  
at 6.30pm for 7pm.

Cost £12.50 for 3 course dinner,  
tea/coffee mince pies.

Contact: Gill Hurn 01380 830497 or  
Ken Witcomb 01380 83297

The Committee are in the process  
of trying to raise funds in the sum of  
approx. £13,000 for the replacement  
of the 2 boilers (only one now  
working) and also replacement of  
the original flat roof

Grants are being applied for which  
will hopefully cover this urgent work.



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## **Our outstanding School**

The government has sent us a letter of congratulations for being in the top 2% for the Phonics screening check – a tremendous achievement for our younger children! Our children have also achieved incredibly well in the statutory tests at Key Stage 2 and in the Key Stage 1 assessments – with attainment in all subjects and overall being significantly better than the national averages. Our average point score was higher than we achieved in our already exceptional performance last year. We are tremendously proud of our children – their aspirational attitude and tremendous work ethic has resulted in another outstanding year! As we always remark, although the academic achievements of our children are immense, we are just as proud of the kind of people they are – compassionate, courageous, aspirational and joyful. These aspects of their lives are just as important as their academic outcomes and are certainly more likely to help them to live fulfilled and happy lives. We ensure that every child feels valued and valuable, whatever their particular gifts and talents, and that they are given the chance to learn across a broad and balanced curriculum, including arts, sports, humanities, citizenship and much more. A happy learner is a good learner and our children tell us that they enjoy school because of our creative and exciting curriculum. Our thanks go to our extraordinary staff, governors and families who all work together to give our children the very best possible education.

**Music making at Holy Trinity** – We set a high priority on music making at Holy Trinity, and our Eisteddfod choir has performed very successfully in the Devizes Eisteddfod for several years under our wonderful choir mistress, Liz Sharman, and talented accompanist, Ruth Edwards. This year, we have once again won the Carol competition at the Eisteddfod. We have various other choral events through the year, as well as recorder concerts, guitar and keyboard performances, ukulele and brass events, handbell and orchestra concerts and our very popular summer music concert. We love to sing, as a school, and the children are expert in singing rounds and simple harmonies. There is something wonderful about 150 children singing together!

**It's Christmas!** – Our Christmas plays are in production and we look forward to the fun and excitement of the performances in the last week of term. All our children take part in these performances, which help them to understand the importance of Christmas to Christians and to others. With the Christmas fair, Christmas music concert, Christmas party, carol service and an exciting visit to the pantomime in Salisbury, as well as all sorts of other amazing events, this is a wonderful term for our children.

**Visits to our school** – We do not hold Open Days at Holy Trinity, because we would rather meet each family individually and show them around our school, giving them the opportunity to ask questions of the headteacher and others in the school. If you would like to look around Holy Trinity as you consider which school is best for your child, please phone us to make an appointment on 01380 813 796, or email us at [admin@holytrinity.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@holytrinity.wilts.sch.uk) for news, photos and our consultation on admissions policy 2017-18!

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## SALISBURY PLAIN TRAINING AREA DECEMBER 2015 NEWSLETTER

The Army Weapons Effect Simulation Exercise WESSEX STORM for 4th Battalion The Rifles in the mechanised infantry role run by the Field Training Unit which started on 21 November will continue until 7 December. This exercise which involves the use of Mastiff and Jackal wheeled armoured vehicle, will be supported by armoured, armoured cavalry, armoured infantry, and armoured engineer sub-units. They are joined by a foreign force infantry company from Oman making this the largest exercise on Salisbury Plain this year. The public should be aware that tank crossings over the A360, A345, A338, B390, and the C22 (Tilshead to Chitterne) roads will be very busy and in the current wet conditions mud clearance parties will be working on the crossings. Drivers are advised to exercise caution when passing all tank crossings on the Plain. Notice is also given that the training areas in the Copehill Down and Bourne Valley (SPTA East) areas will be heavily used over this period and that recreational use of the Salisbury Plain military lands is to be restricted to public rights of way only as per the byelaws.

The week 1 – 5 December will see extensive live mortar and artillery firing on the Larkhill Ranges as Ex **CROSSED CANNONS** marks the end of four major artillery courses. The remainder of the month will be very quiet in the run up to Christmas and New Year with only low level training being conducted.

**Information about low flying is available from the MOD Low Flying Advisory Service (0845 600 7580) or on line at [www.gov.uk/low-flying-in-your-area](http://www.gov.uk/low-flying-in-your-area) Note: complaints/Enquiries should be made to 01980 620819.**

**Imber Ranges.** The public are excluded except when the roads are specifically opened. Planned open dates for 2015/2016 are as follows:

<b>Event</b>	<b>Open</b>	<b>Closed</b>
Christmas	1800hrs Fri 11 Dec 15	0800hrs Mon 4 Jan 16

1. Even when roads are open the village and buildings remain out of bounds to the public.
2. Dates may change if operational training needs dictate.

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## PICKLEBERRY KNITTING GROUP

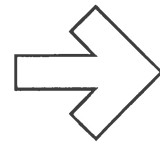
Wednesday 1.30–4pm

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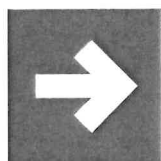
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## News from your Wiltshire Councillor – Jerry Wickham

At the end of another year we have the opportunity to reflect on what has been achieved this year and meet the challenges ahead.

There is great activity amongst councillor colleagues as well as officers in County Hall, trying to prepare a balanced budget for presentation to the Council in February.

Austerity clearly is here to stay and this means that we need to identify further efficiencies on how we provide services in the county. We also understand that a number of central government departments have agreed to reduce their budgets by 30% in the next four years – one of which it is understood is the Department Communities and Local Government, which in effect provides the grant to Wiltshire. We believe that this grant will again reduce and therefore it is prudent for us to reflect on this and begin making the necessary plans to meet this challenge. In simple terms, this means doing more with less and also trying to protect our front line services. We also have to look after the vulnerable in Wiltshire's society as well as maintaining those services used by the rest of the rate paying population.

As we move into 2016, I remain determined to ensure Wiltshire Council's highways team stick to their agreed timeframe for repairing the B3098. This is due to start towards the end of January through into early February and provided we have no inclement weather, I expect this to begin on time since these repairs are long overdue. Equally, all of the parishes along this road have sought for there to be a review of the types and weights of vehicles driving through the villages. Fellow Wiltshire Council colleagues and parish councils will contribute to this review, but there must be realism that many farms and villages will still be served by large vehicles, should any review suggest amendments to the categories of vehicles using the road.

Finally 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 and as always I can be contacted by email [jerry.wickham@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:jerry.wickham@wiltshire.gov.uk) or by phone on 01380 870476 or 07980 701617.

*“My idea of Christmas, whether old-fashioned or modern, is very simple: loving others. Come to think of it, why do we have to wait for Christmas to do that?”*

AMERICAN COMEDIAN BOB HOPE



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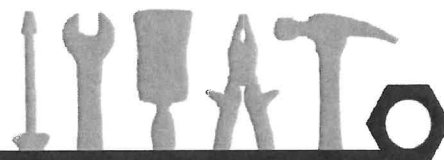
Call **Gary Hicks** Financial Adviser DipFA  
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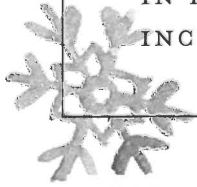
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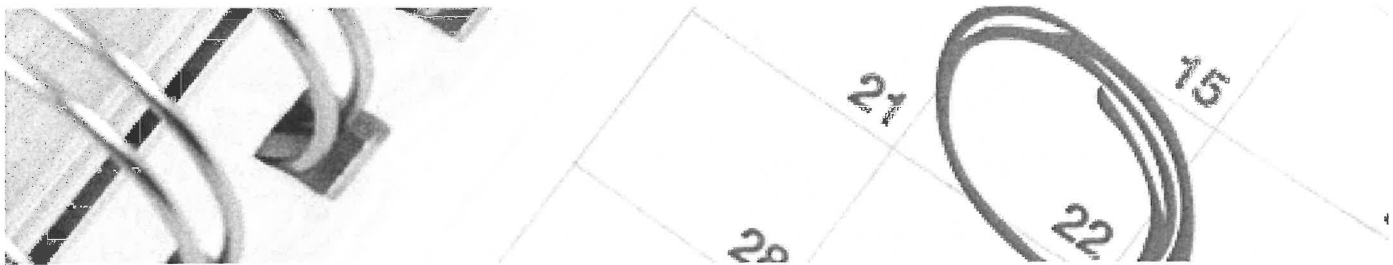
*“At Christmas I no more desire a rose  
Than wish a snow in May’s new-fangled shows”*

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE MENTIONS ‘CHRISTMAS’ ONLY THREE TIMES  
IN HIS WORK, TWICE IN LOVE’S LABOUR’S LOST,  
INCLUDING THE REFERENCE ABOVE



*“Christmas is the season for kindling the fire of hospitality in the hall,  
the genial flame of charity in the heart.”*

WASHINGTON IRVING (1783-1859),  
AUTHOR OF THE LEGEND OF SLEEPY HOLLOW



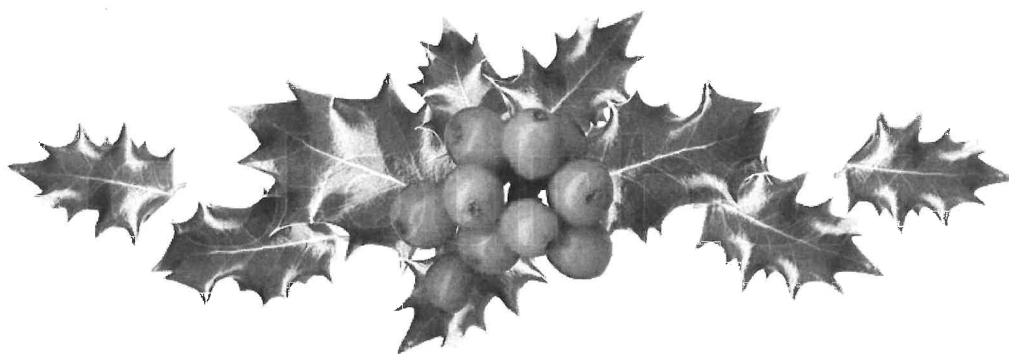
## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### DECEMBER

- 05 COULSTON XMAS BAZAAR, Coulston Village Hall from 10.30am
- 05 Book Swap, Erlestoke Church, 10am-midday
- 08 G&J trip to Whitehall Garden Centre
- 12 Edington Xmas Lights switch on 5pm, Playing Field
- 12 Advent Concert, Edington Priory, 7.30pm
- 12 Xmas Bingo, Erlestoke Church, from 1.30pm
- 12 Art Exhibition and Sale. Coulston Hall, 10.30am-2.30pm
- 12 Advent Concert, Edington Priory, 7.30pm
- 13 Carvery, Erlesoke Golf Club
- 19 Children's Workshop, Erlestoke Church, 10am-midday
- 20 Carol Service, Erlestoke Church, 6.30pm

### JANUARY

- 02 Book Swap, Erlestoke Church, 10am-midday



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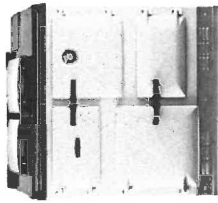
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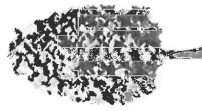
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