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Welcome to the twelfth edition of the Edington Village News. This month we have as always a selection of articles including our regular musings from Mercedes and Stephen's latest article on the "Wildlife in our ponds". A

brilliant article from Eloise about life in lockdown for a 16 year old, an update on the Electric Vehicle and a request for volunteers to help with reading. There are also a number of updates from village groups as lockdown starts to ease.

Now that lockdown is easing and events are being planned we have introduced a village calendar of forthcoming events.

This month we have a number of items for sale. Remember if you have anything that you would like to swap, sell or give away please email us at our usual address, with your name and address (not for publication) details of the item(s) and even a photo of the item if you wish.

Village Helpline Latest

Whilst we are still in lockdown remember that the helpline is still operating for anyone requiring assistance.

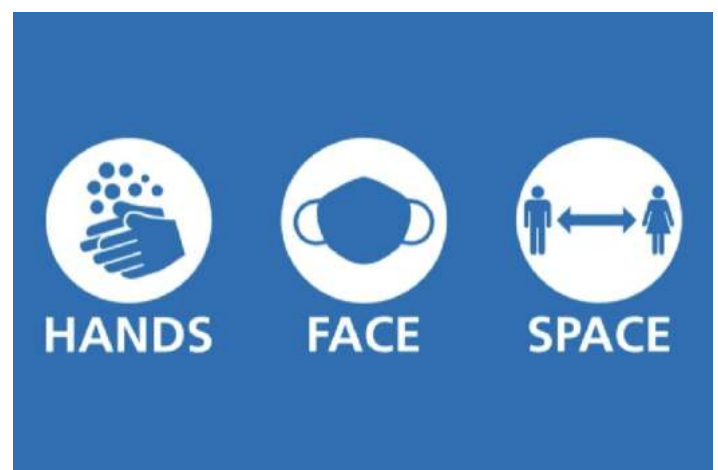
The Edington Village Helpline can provide assistance with shopping, collecting prescriptions, dog walking and a listening and talking service along with many other things that we can find access too. If you need help please call the helpline and we can help you in these difficult times, if we cannot help we will find someone who can help you.

The Parish Council has received some donations to help villagers experiencing difficulty in these times, if you are struggling to purchase essential items or pay outstanding bills please contact the helpline and we may be able to assist you.

This newsletter is published monthly but we may produce it more frequently if there is a change in information or events, the village website will also be updated on a regular basis to help keep everyone up to date with the latest information. The newsletter can be delivered directly to your inbox just visit

www.edingtonwiltshire.org.uk/newsletter and enter your details.

Don't forget to contact the help line on **07933143021** (available 9am to 6pm, Monday to Friday)





Local surgeries latest

REMEMBER YOU MUST WEAR A FACE COVERING WHILST IN THE BUILDINGS

White Horse Health Centre and Bratton Surgery



Westbury surgery TELEPHONE 01373 828330
Bratton Surgery TELEPHONE 01380 831911
Vaccination Update

We gave our first coronavirus vaccines on 19th December 2020. Since then the Westbury and Warminster PCN have given over 10,000 vaccines.

We have staff from both practices (Westbury Group Practice and The Avenue), the military, our volunteers and you, our patients, to thank for this huge achievement.

It has not been without its challenges but we are proud to say that we have been able to invite everyone in cohorts 1 – 7. We are currently inviting people in cohorts 8 and 9. All those 55 years of age and over plus all those 50 years of age and over.

The vaccines

We have been giving both the Pfizer and the AstraZeneca vaccines. We are currently not able to order the vaccine ourselves so are governed by the national programme in terms of which vaccine we have and when we have it. The vast majority of first doses we are giving now will be AstraZeneca. Our AstraZeneca clinics are in our porta cabins and our Pfizer clinics are in the main surgery building. Both vaccines are safe and effective. As healthcare professionals we have great confidence in both vaccines and are proud to be part of such an historic programme.

Second appointments

We are routinely booking second dose appointments for 11 weeks from the first dose. The appointment will be on the same day of the week at the same time as the first dose. In order to achieve the best possible protection from the vaccine it is essential that everyone has a second dose. All of our second dose clinics are fully booked so we are unable to bring forward appointments without there being a specific medical need.

More information

If you would like some more information about the vaccine please look at the NHS web pages Coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccine - NHS (www.nhs.uk) or if you have concerns specific to you please contact the surgery.

Many thanks

Dr Edwards & Partners

www.westburygp.co.uk

Courtyard Surgery West Lavington



TELEPHONE 01380 813 300

We are part of the Sarum West Primary Care Network, and our vaccination centre is at Wilton. This is entirely run by volunteers, including 6th formers from Salisbury Grammar School. A few people were vaccinated in Devizes, and others, who could not travel far, in the surgery or their homes as vaccines came available. We are now concentrating on people under 65 with a severe health risk from COVID19 and family carers.

As well as face to face appointments at home or in the surgery, we now have telephone and video consultations. If you telephone the surgery the person who answers will take as much detail as you will give and put this on a list for the Doctors to call you back. They may ask you if you can send a photo. The doctors prioritise calls by need, and if you ask for a specific doctor there may be a longer wait.

www.courtyardsurgery.co.uk



Market Lavington Surgery



TELEPHONE 01380 812500

Covid vaccinations

We are all working incredibly hard to get everyone in as soon as we can. You may be offered an appointment at the weekend and at the moment these clinics are taking place in the Corn Exchange in Devizes. You may also be vaccinated by a different GP surgery. If you are offered an appointment at one of the vaccine centres which is far away, if you can, please attend the appointment.

www.marketlavingtonsurgery.nhs.uk



Wiltshire Police

Neighbourhood Watch Launches Protect Your Car Campaign

Car crime is a real problem in the UK. Alarming, one car is stolen every ten minutes. With

Covid-19 and the recent lockdowns, many people aren't driving or checking on their cars as much as they used to. At Neighbourhood Watch, we need your help to remind car owners to remain vigilant about where and how they park their cars, in order to keep them safe.

John Hayward-Cripps, CEO of Neighbourhood Watch Network, says

"Most car crimes happen because cars are left unlocked. There is a misconception that some cars are auto-locking and lock themselves if left unattended after a period of time. This isn't always correct. Another misconception is that your car is too old and no one will bother stealing it. This is also incorrect – both new and old cars are at risk. Having a car stolen or broken

into is more than simply a hassle, it can impact on people's livelihoods. The good news is that there are simple steps everyone can take to help reduce the risk to their car. With only a 46% recovery rate we're reminding everyone to leave your car locked, lit and empty."

Remember - Leave your car:

- 1. Locked** - A simple mistake that can prove calamitous: 44% of cars are broken into via an unlocked door.
- 2. Lit** - 80% of car crime occurs during the evening or at night. Parking near street lamps or in a busy area can deter thieves.
- 3. Empty (or with no items on show)** - Owners often forget that personal belongings within the car are at as much risk of being stolen as the car itself.

**PROTECT YOUR CAR,
LEAVE IT:**

- 1. LOCKED**
LOCK YOUR CAR WHEN YOU LEAVE IT
- 2. LIT**
PARK IN A WELL-LIT AREA
- 3. EMPTY**
HIDE ANY ITEMS ON SHOW

**SHARE THESE 3 STEPS
WITH 3 FRIENDS**

www.ourwatch.org.uk
Neighbourhood Watch Network is a charity registered in England & Wales, CID no: 1173349

Visit

www.ourwatch.org.uk/protectyourcar

for top tips and advice on keeping your vehicle safe.



Wiltshire Council

With the elections a little over a month away, poll cards are starting to be sent out by Wiltshire Council to eligible voters, and will soon land on residents' doormats.

The council is legally obliged to send out poll cards to registered voters. The poll card also contains details of the resident's local polling station. More than 20 polling stations have changed from previous years, with extra measures being introduced to make them COVID-secure. In total there will be 348 polling stations across the county.

On 6 May 2021, unitary and town and parish council elections take place, as well as the Police and Crime Commissioner election. Given the amount of elections and COVID measures required, the count of the ballots will take place from 7 to 10 May 2021. There are also 10 neighbourhood planning referendums, and those eligible to vote in those will be sent an additional poll card.

People do not need to bring their poll card to vote but it is helpful if they can bring it with them. Given the ongoing pandemic, Wiltshire Council's Returning Officer wants as many people as possible to vote by post if they can, as this is the safest and most convenient way for people to have their say.

However, measures will be in place at all polling stations to ensure those who choose to vote in person can do so safely. These include staff in place to support people to follow the measures, screens, one-way systems, hand sanitiser, and people being requested to bring their own pen to cast their vote, and having to wear a mask.

Edington Parish Council News

Newcomers to Edington.

It has been our intention to deliver a pack of welcome information to newcomers to the village shortly after they arrive and to invite them to a Coffee Morning, in April, each year to meet each other over a cup of coffee with other villagers who have shared information about what is going on in the village. The Coffee Morning has been an opportunity to encourage the growth of vibrant village life which many residents value and believe makes Edington a happy place in which to live.

It has not been possible to hold a Coffee Morning in April of either 2020 or 2021. Some of you may not have received a Welcome Pack either. Many activities in the village have had to change during these times of restrictions. Some meetings have been on zoom. Some have not happened but we have tried to keep good communication especially on the village website, in this publication, in The News and between neighbours. The Post Office is a caring hub too.

If you would like a Welcome Pack please contact Chloe on 830600 or tell someone who can pass on your request. If you have a new neighbour, please tell Chloe and she will deliver a pack to them.

Car park lighting

At a recent meeting of the Westbury Area Board the Parish Council were given a grant towards the installation of LED solar powered lighting in the Parish Hall car park. This will enable us to install two motion sensor lights in the main car park and a bollard light in the entrance way, thereby significantly improving the area for all users of the Parish Hall and car park after dark.

Litter picking

The Council have now bought a number of litter pickers for villagers to volunteer and keep their part of the village clean, they can be borrowed from Pauline in the Post Office.





Edington Neighbourhood Plan

A reminder that the closing date for submitting a site to be possibly included in the Land for Housing request is Monday 10th May. Full details can be found on the Edington Neighbourhood Plan website.

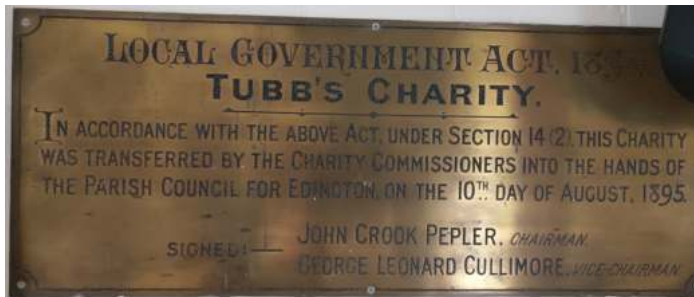
www.devplan.edingtonwiltshire.org.uk/sites

Community Speed Watch

You may have noticed that the volunteers have now been given permission by the police to resume their duties and in the first week of operation 11 motorists were reported to the police for exceeding the speed limit in the four sessions that were undertaken.

We will now be conducting regular checks in the village and the Bratton group will also be starting up in the near future. The police will also be seen conducting their checks to support the volunteers in trying to educate drivers of the need to drive below the set speed limit in the villages.

Tubb's Charity



Have you ever wondered what the sign above located in the Edington Parish hall is about?

“LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1894
TUBB'S CHARITY.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ABOVE ACT UNDER
SECTION 14 (2) THIS CHARITY WAS TRANSFERRED
BY THE CHARITY COMMISSIONERS INTO THE
HANDS OF THE PARISH COUNCIL FOR EDINGTON
ON THE 10TH DAY OF AUGUST 1895.

SIGNED JOHN CROOK PEPLER. CHAIRMAN
GEORGE LENOARD CULLIMORE. VICE
CHAIRMAN”

Extracts from the archives relating to this act state – In the parish church of Edington there is a tablet stating that William Tubb gave to the poor of this parish and that he died June 1650.

By his will proved in 1640 William Tubb left £50 to the poor of the parish. The money was invested in land c.1715. In 1833 the property lay in Steeple Ashton; at that time the rent of £3 15s. was accumulated for several years and then distributed equally among all the poor who had not been relieved by the parish during the last year. The charity is still administered in much the same way; since 1894 recipients have been chosen by trustees appointed by the parish council. Income in 1952 was £3.

This money is supposed to have been invested in land about the year 1715. the land now belonging to Tubb's charity consists of of a close of pasture land, containing by estimation about two acres situate at the Moores, in the parish of Steeple Ashton : it goes by the name of the Poor Ground. A second piece of garden land was also acquired.

Both of these have over the last 30 years been sold with the consent of the Charity Commission and the money invested in Lloyds Bank.

The trust these days is managed by Edington Parish Council with three past and present councillors being the trustees and the Clerk of the Parish Council is also the Clerk to The Charity. Gifts are made by the charity when a specific need is identified to assist a villager.

The trust receives donations from villagers and along with the investment income the trust has been able during the recent Covid pandemic to help villagers.

Donations are of course always welcome and should you wish to donate please contact the clerk to the Edington Parish Council.



Village Musings

In Edington, we have a lovely Gardening Club, run mostly by Jacky Hiscock. We have interesting speakers, newsletters, plant sales, competitions and lots of wonderful, like-minded gardeners at the club. Over Lockdown, Jacky has kept the Gardening Club going through Zoom talks and newsletters with photos of our gardens – this has been so popular that we have even recruited new members over this difficult time.



Over spring, we were all asked to take part in Jacky's "Spring in your Step" initiative, which involved people putting beautiful displays of spring bulbs and plants out on their doorsteps or front gates in

Edington to brighten up the area. I took the project on at the local primary school, and, as a result, there were "Spring in you Step" displays all the way from Westbury Leigh to Devizes as children and their families embraced the idea with enthusiasm. There were paintings, crafts and containers of spring flowers cheering up the whole local area. This is what



happens when we live in a close and joyful community!

The spring flowers are especially beautiful this year, I think, and the wild primroses in particular are a delight, sparkling out from the dark ground with

their courageous brightness. Walking around the village we see the changes daily, as winter melts away, and spring rushes and froths into our fields and hedgerows. The birds are in their breeding plumage now, and the days are longer than the nights. There is a breathless excitement that is the preserve of early spring. How lucky we are to live in a place where we can enjoy this season so fully!

Mercedes Henning

Edington Volunteers

March 30th saw the restarting of the village volunteers group after being released from lockdown. They have now started on repairs to



the steps leading to Ralph's Seat and continued in the field adjacent to the burial ground. Next session Wednesday 21st April meet at 9.30am in the Church car park.



Edington arts

With Boris's Roadmap out of lockdown now underway, we are very hopeful that we can restart our concert programme in Edington Priory Church. All our events this year will be offered under whatever Corona guidelines are in place at the time, and will be made as safe and welcoming as possible.

The first concert will be at 7.30pm on Saturday 12th June. This is a change from the date we had to give you in the March issues of all the Parish magazines (early deadlines meant we had to submit copy before the Roadmap announcement.)

So, we are absolutely delighted to be able to announce that our first performers of 2021 will be the internationally renowned brass quintet Fine Arts Brass. Consisting of two trumpets, trombone, french horn and tuba, they were founded in 1980, and have toured over 60 countries, commissioned over 50 new works, broadcast on BBC Radios 2, 3, and 4 and much else



besides. They have a repertoire which ranges from baroque to swing and everything in between. This year is the 100th anniversaries of both Malcolm Arnold and Astor Piazzolla, so works by both composers will form part of an exciting programme.

There will be few better ways of celebrating a return to live music in person, but we will still be under some form of seat limitation. Therefore tickets, which will go on sale in late April, will be tied to specific seats in the church. We are anticipating strong demand, and will be operating a waiting list. Do check our website www.edingtonarts.org for updated information, and we look forward to seeing you .



The Four Villages Link

RE-Covid Vaccinations

Thank you to all our volunteers who have been able to keep the Four Villages Link Service going throughout the

pandemic. Now that the vaccine rollout is well under way, if you find you need transport to the White Horse Health Centre please call us. We have PPE equipment and endeavour to keep our passengers safe.

Co-ordinator Role

We would like to thank Margarete Lara, who is retiring after many years' service as a coordinator for Link. We are now looking for someone to replace her. At present we have four coordinators who work on a rota basis answering calls and matching requests up with a suitable volunteer. This service does not require any driving and a phone is provided. It operates from 9-5 weekdays only.

The four coordinators have regular meetings to assess the level of requests and identify the most appropriate assistance and support available. If you think you could help or would like further information please ring us on **07852 256939**.

This is also the number to ring if you need our assistance to attend hospital appointments etc. and you can now check out our website

<http://thefourvillageslink.org.uk/>



The
Edington Music Festival
A Festival of Music within the Liturgy

DATES FOR EDINGTON MINI MUSIC FESTIVAL ANNOUNCED

There will be a live Festival of Music within the Liturgy in Edington Priory Church this year, to run from Compline on the evening of Thursday 26 August until Eucharist on Sunday morning 29 August.

Due to the strong possibility of ongoing government restrictions, Director Richard Pinel, in consultation with the church and community, has taken the decision to limit both the number of participants and the duration of the festival in order to create the safest possible environment for all involved.

"It is a truly joyous thing that we can come together for a celebration of music and worship in August. However, for this year only, we feel it would be responsible to invite fewer singers than usual, and therefore to shorten it. We will therefore regretfully be without our Nave Choir trebles, and so our liturgy will be adorned by two choirs this year – the Schola and the Consort.

The mini festival will follow our traditional framework of three or four services a day, but we will be limiting the congregation inside the church for each service. Because this will inevitably mean that a large number of people will not be able to enjoy the services from inside the church, we will be live streaming every service through our website, and will also be able to accommodate a controlled number of people outside in the churchyard. How we achieve this is currently under discussion, and we aim to make the process of allocation as open, transparent and fair as possible."

Regular updates will be posted on the festival's website, www.edingtonfestival.org, and information about attending will be communicated using every possible means.

Contact: Anne Curtis **07977 464375**

kann3c@gmail.com

Edington & District Gardening Club

The Edington and District Gardening Club has been continuing with zoom meetings, the last one being on the 4th. March attended by 19 members.

The club is fortunate to have amongst the members Dr. Stephen Henning who was happy to enlighten us on Pond Life.

As local people know Edington has it's own village pond which has recently been cleared of overgrown vegetation thus allowing wildlife to thrive. Anyone can have a wild life pond for themselves which can be made from an old sink or tub, it does not need to be big, just add gravel ,rocks and a slope to allow creatures to get in or out. Put in a few mini plants then animals will arrive by themselves. Please do not transfer any life or water from a neighbours pond as you may transfer disease as well.

Now is the time for frogs and toads to breed, you may have noticed frog spawn in a mass in your pond, if you see a string of spawn this is from a toad and any tadpoles that have feathery gills will develop into a newt. Toads have warty skin and walk whereas frogs hop. We learnt that it is good to have vegetation around your pond so any creatures can hide from predators, frogs and toads do not live in water all the time.

We must look forward to summer evenings when we can sit near a pond and watch for lots of invertebrates, dragon flies, may flies, pond skaters and water beetles of which there are 350 species and lots of bugs which in turn will attract birds and bats to you pond..

Thank you Stephen for encouraging us to not only have a pond but to open our eyes, to look and see the life around it.

The meeting ended at 8.40 with the news that the speaker for the meeting on the 1st. April has been changed. This will be held via zoom by Richard Cripps on basic vegetable growing and seed propagation.



Wildlife in our ponds

I really know that spring is finally here when I see frog spawn in our ponds. I love it so much when I see the ponds suddenly come to life. Here in Edington our ponds are usually full of wildlife – from vertebrates like frogs to invertebrates like insects.



The frog spawn we usually find in our garden ponds is that of the common frog and many of us enjoy watching the cycle of their lives as it unfolds, from spawn to tadpole, to fully grown frog.



Common frog

Other amphibians that you might be lucky enough to find in your pond are the common toad, palmate newt, smooth newt and the great crested newt.

Common toads can be distinguished from the similar looking Common Frog by their drier, and

more warty skin, and their very striking coppery eyes. They also tend to move by walking, rather than hopping. The glands in the toad's skin contain powerful toxins which deter many predators and allows them the luxury of this more sedentary lifestyle.

Toads have a strong migratory instinct, following the same route back to their ancestral breeding ponds each spring. This leads to the characteristic mass 'toad crossings', which can sadly result in considerable road deaths. We used to have a toad watch near the Priory Church when we first moved into Edington in 1998. They used to cross the road there on their way to the Priory fishpond to breed. However, the fishpond was dredged a few years ago to get rid of an infestation of American signal crayfish which also effectively got rid of the

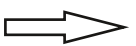


toads. However, toad watches still occur in our area and my daughter and granddaughters took part in one near Bath in mid-March and were amazed to find that besides toads, there were frogs and newts all crossing the road.

Bucket of toads, frogs, and newts from my daughter's toad watch



Common toad





Toad spawn.

The newt most commonly found in our ponds is the Smooth Newt and the one you are most likely to see in garden ponds. Ponds are thought to now be an important habitat for this species due to the decline of ponds in the countryside. They prefer standing water with plenty of weeds, such as lake margins, ponds, and ditches, in which to breed. They lay individual eggs which are wrapped up in the leaves of pond plants. The larvae have feathery gills around the head, distinguishing them from frog and toad tadpoles.



Smooth newt

Believe it or not bats also use our garden ponds and many drink from open water surfaces and many species also forage on emerging insects – such as caddis flies, crane flies, midges and mosquitoes – that have aquatic larval

stages.

The pond though is really a haven for invertebrates, and these can be pond-skaters, water snails, water beetles, water boatmen and a lot of insect larvae such as caddisfly, dragonfly and damselfly to name just a few.



Smooth newt egg

Dragonflies are probably the most conspicuous inhabitants of our local ponds with their large size and bright colours. Dragonflies are divided into two groups – true dragonflies where the adults cannot fold their wings and they stick straight out from their thorax, and damselflies where they can fold their wings along their



The Emperor dragonfly UK's largest dragonfly is often found in Edington ponds.





The Large red damselfly is common around Edington ponds.

Dragonflies spend most of their lives in their larval stage.

During this time the dragonfly catches and eats live prey at every

opportunity, moulting its skin several times until it is fully-grown. Larval development typically takes one or two years but ranges from 2–3 months (Emerald damselflies) to more than five years (Golden-ringed Dragonfly). Development takes longer in cooler waters where food is scarcer, whilst in warm waters there may be a new generation every year.



Dragonfly nymph

All dragonfly larvae have six legs (as do adults), wing-sheaths, an extendable hinged jaw (labium) that can shoot out in an instant and catch prey. Prey includes insect larvae, crustaceans, worms, snails, leeches, tadpoles, and small fish. Dragonfly larvae themselves can fall victim to predators, including other dragonfly larvae, fish, and waterfowl.

Mayflies are also well-known pond inhabitants and there are ten different species commonly in them. By far the commonest mayfly in ponds is the Pond Olive. Pond Olives are fast colonizers of



Dragonfly extendable jaw that can shoot out and catch prey.

new ponds, including ponds in gardens. They begin life as eggs laid on the surface of the water that sink to the bottom.

The

aquatic nymphs of mayflies' creep around rocks and vegetation and feed on algae and plants. After months or years of growth (depending on the species), they float to the surface and moult to a winged but sexually immature subadult. Often within hours, another moult occurs, and the final stage emerges — the reproductive adults which live for only days or hours.



Damselfly nymph



Olive mayfly adult

To be continued next month

Dr Stephen Henning



Volunteers needed to listen to children read in local primary schools after lockdown

Our reading volunteers are going to be desperately needed following the Coronavirus pandemic. Thousands of children won't have had enough reading practice during lockdown. In a normal year, one in four children leave primary school unable to read well. Most children will have missed a term of school, so the reading gap is now even wider. Children who struggle with reading are more likely to live in poverty and be unemployed as adults.



Schoolreaders needs more volunteers in Wiltshire to support children's reading and prevent them falling further behind. If you want to make a difference to a child's life, apply to become a Schoolreader. No qualifications are needed; just a love of reading and some spare time each week.

To join us, please visit the website www.schoolreaders.org/volunteer-application-form or call **01234 924111** for further information.

Charity Number: 1159157

EV update

Six months on, sadly due to the restrictions relating to COVID, Zoe, our electric car, has spent a long time in the garage! Having said that, on the occasions that we did venture out, we found it a pleasure to drive. One a sunny day in late November we did manage a day out (with a 130 mile round trip) to Gilbert White's garden at Selborne, Hampshire. The drive was a true pleasure, and absolutely no range anxiety and it performed very well on the motorway and the battery percentage used was absolutely as per the manual.

No doubt there are many functions available that we have not yet explored but we are looking forward to the time when we can! The car software needs to upgrade itself from time to time (fortunately not when you are in transit!), a bit like your smartphone, but it's mildly disconcerting when it decides to ask to do it when you've just parked in the street by the museum in Devizes.

One noticeable difference in the passing of time, is that the battery life increases as the weather warms up, and as quoted in the advertising, the car is now performing at 230 miles for a full charge. (back in the winter months we were averaging 190 miles on a full charge.)

We would thoroughly recommend an electric car to anyone who like us are trying to be mindful of climate change, and don't forget, this is going to happen, ie the phasing out of gas guzzlers, whether we like it or not! (That is if our government is to be believed!).

The Zap map app now seems to be showing the first ever charge point in Edington too, which has got to be a bit of village history-making.

Additionally, we have heard a rumour that a local farmer is about to acquire an electric UTV (Utility Task Vehicle).....

John and Jo Petersen



View from the Boundary

Well it's here and it's official. The cricket season will start on time!!! As of the 29th March, thousands of men women and children across the

country have been busily dusting off kit bags, checking the state of whites and wondering if they should buy a new bat for the new season. The excitement amongst the Erlestoke and Coulston brethren was no different and by the end of March, the club's membership forms had already started to pour in. Not only did it include playing members, but this year sees us offering a 'Friend of the club' membership for all those who just want to support the club or those who use the car parking facilities on a regular basis. We have had a huge, positive response to this.

One of the driving features behind all the forms coming in is the need to be a signed up member of the club in order to play or train. To many members this word 'train' has been a distant memory; something that young, fit and highly-enthused people do, but such has been the length of the lockdown that the club not only held its first ever fielding session on the 31st March, but it was actually attended by 25 members who breathed heavily for over hour and whose hands were reminded of the hardness of a cricket ball.

The turnout, enthusiasm and joy that was on display by a bunch of middle aged/very old blokes just goes to show how important it is to us all to get out and about, socialise responsibly and enjoy getting back to some normality. It's also testament to the club that the atmosphere up the ground on that Wednesday was so warm and positive and that everyone was keen to get stuck in and follow coach Toby's intense fielding drills.

With the first games just weeks away and a

full fixture list to look forward too, the club is now keen to get into the middle and have a bit of practice on a square that is looking as good and inviting as it ever has. The hard work and passion showed by those 25 slightly out of shape cricketers on Wednesday night is insignificant compared to the effort and time that our groundsman, Patrick, has put into the ground this year. As ever, we are indebted to his time and dedication to the job and our thanks go to him for all the work he has put into the Walled Garden to ensure that we start on time this season.

That hard work also means that the junior sessions will be starting on the 1st May (weather permitting) and running every Saturday during term time - 9:30-10:30. This is a slight change to previous time so please pass this on if you are interested in coming along. For further details please see junior flyer on the next page or send us an email at

eccjuniors@outlook.com.

As ever, if you are interested in getting involved, playing or just want to find out a bit more information, pop into the Post Office and Pauline Dorgan will be more than happy to help out.

Joe Dorgan
Chairman, ECCC

Edington Fair 2021 - June 26th

This year will be a scaled back version of the usual fair. It is hoped to take the format of a picnic in the park with live music provided by local bands, there may also be a few stalls to browse. Social distancing will still be required and the event taking place will of course be subject to the latest government advice.

More information next month.



ECCC

Junior Session's

Every Saturday during term time

First Session 1st May

ERLESTOKE JUNIORS CRICKET



Junior Cricket at The Walled Garden

We are pleased to announce that throughout the summer of 2021, Erlestoke & Coulston CC will be running their junior section of the club. We will be offering fun and all-inclusive cricket coaching for boys and girls aged 5-11 and welcome all abilities and experiences. Our coach, Toby Dorgan, has plenty of experience working with young children and coaching cricket, including all the relevant qualifications. Please drop us an email if you or your children are interested, or come along to our first session on the 1st May.

Erlestoke and
Coulston CC proudly
sponsored by



THE BELL INN
Great Cheverell

JUNIOR CRICKET AT
ERLESTOKE CC
SATURDAYS
9.30- 10.30 AM

FOR BOYS & GIRLS
AGED 5 -11 YRS

ALL EXPERIENCES
AND ABILITIES
WELCOME

ALL EQUIPMENT AND
REFRESHMENTS
PROVIDED

£2 PER
SESSION

HOW TO FIND US

The Walled Garden
High Street
Erlestoke, Wiltshire
Wiltshire
SN10 5TX

Website: www.erlestokecoulston.play-cricket.com

Email: ecccjuniors@outlook.com



Lockdown Experience for a 16-year-old

In March 2020, when news began emerging that schools could have to shut down for the foreseeable future, I remember feeling elated; after all, who wouldn't want to miss some school, especially in arguably the most stressful time yet? My GCSEs were just around the corner and I, like many my age had worked myself into a mess with worry. We all knew it was inevitable, though our school was pretending otherwise and at the time it seemed like this fun thing lasting through the summer, which would obviously end when autumn came around and school started again. Last spring feels a world away from now and I feel I've aged at least three years.

Mocks had finished a while ago and our subjects were all on the final few topics: we were on the home straight. When the news finally broke that exams were cancelled, I remember being in the Chapel of my school for an RE class. There were 7 of us crowded around a phone watching the live broadcast by Gavin Williamson and the moment we found out, I sighed in complete relief. GCSEs are generally painted as the most important thing in the world for teenagers and there is so much pressure to do perfectly in every exam that there was no way I'd feel otherwise. None of us actually thought through the consequences of this decision and what it would mean for our results yet.

The first few weeks of online schooling was such a novel experience, and everyone was so motivated that it was quite fun. You could wake up whenever you wanted, complete work and hand it in anytime. There were a few nights where I finished in the early hours of the next day. But as time passed, the novelty wore away and gradually this sense of hopelessness and weariness set in. We had no exams, we couldn't do anything to influence our results, so what was the point in doing any of this work? At the time, there were no live lessons or form sessions so

there wasn't the sense of comradeship we had in the second school lockdown. Teachers didn't seem to care whether or not we finished anything and as it wouldn't change the nature of our results, nothing mattered anymore. It was around this time I believe the mental health crisis began setting in. Everywhere was shut down, so we were unable to meet with friends or go on trips, which is what would've usually kept us going. Obviously, things like this are crucial for the development of children and teenagers socially and isolation can be detrimental for the mental health of teenagers dealing with illnesses like depression, generalized anxiety or even just plain school stress. My world felt fundamentally changed and I was terrified of what was to come. After that, I barely touched my classwork and with no support from, understandably, stressed teachers, I was left to drown in my fear.

The news was a constant source of both hope and despair. Every day, something came out about there being this 'miracle drug' that would fundamentally change Covid treatment and every day, there was more harrowing news about deaths, rising cases and crucially for me and my peers, how exams were to be marked. No one seemed to know what they were doing and when it became known they were going to use mocks, we all panicked. You see mocks are often what initially motivates many people to properly revise for their exams and doing badly in them can often set people on the path for greater success where they, or their parents, realise just how crucial results are. In addition, there is a significant proportion of people, mainly girls, who suffer from extreme exam stress during this time and often suffer from panic attacks and breakdowns. I am one of them. I knew for a fact that I had failed a few exams, even though I was set for high grades, because I had to be taken out to calm down and couldn't finish tests. The fact that my GCSEs, the most important exams of my life, were to be based on these marks terrified me.





Eventually the government saw reason and the grades were set to be given by teachers. This was around August, when I was lucky enough to be doing a gardening job for a lady in the village. When results day came around and we were all emailed, I couldn't look at them for two days until my parents sat down and read them out to me. I had got into the sixth form I wanted and was beyond happy; with grades of 7s, 8s and 9s. I spent the rest of my summer working and attempting to revise for the next year, which didn't go as well as planned, however this didn't matter too much. As far as I was concerned, it was all over, and I could relax.

Overall, the past year was, whilst highly stressful, almost a relief as the 'big bad exams' I'd been taught to worry about never happened and I managed to get outside every day which must have done wonders for my health. Needless to say, I wouldn't wish that situation on anyone and do feel for those in the years below and above taking continuous assessments in place of exams. I can't imagine that stress of having so many exams without the preparation usually allowed and I hope anyone about to go through that has as restful an Easter holiday as they can.

Eloise Marshall



Have you seen the Tinhead Flower Pot People? thank you to Dave and Dee for brightening the village.

A photo from the archives, Westbury Road before the road widening.





PARISH HALL UPDATE

LATEST NEWS

The Parish Hall Committee, despite a lack of income due to the Covid situation, have been able to improve

facilities during lockdown thanks to the efforts of our treasurer in securing several grants.

A grant from Westbury Area Board enabled us to replace the porch lighting with LED movement activated lights which will make it so much safer for people using the hall after dark.

More exciting improvements though have been made thanks to the Local Connections Fund Grant which helps charities and community groups reduce loneliness and build connections across their communities. The fund is made up of money from the National Lottery Community Fund and the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport. Thanks to this grant, we have been able to bring the Parish



Hall into the digital age and by so doing, offer greater opportunities to those groups who use the hall and together with the possibility of attracting a more diverse number of users, may help to improve digital connections within the community.

Those who use the Parish Hall can now benefit from the Multimedia system

- a Broadband internet connection – available free, on request, to those who hire the hall.
- an audio induction loop system that will enhance the experience and enjoyment of more people during talks and presentations
- a drop down electric screen with speakers that can be used in conjunction with the projector that the Parish Council bought a few years ago and is on permanent loan to the Parish Hall.
- no more broken finger nails wrestling with the old screen! The large screen will enable everyone to see a presentation clearly and the



Department for
Digital, Culture,
Media & Sport



WiFi makes it possible for people to participate in meetings from the comfort of their own home via platforms such as Zoom.

A big thank you also goes to John Pollard who not only researched the equipment needed, but also installed it and set up the internet router and access point, so saving the Parish Hall Committee hundreds of pounds on installation costs- not that he had his arm twisted!!

Wendy Pollard



EDINGTON PARISH HALL

Notification of the

Annual General Meeting

**Monday 19th April 2021 at
7.30pm.**

**Due to Covid restrictions the AGM
will take place via Zoom.**

**If you would like to attend, please
email**

parishhall@edingtonwiltshire.org.uk

**and you will be sent joining
instructions a few days before the
meeting.**



This month's bargains

Pine TV Stand

H53cm, W60cm, D45cm.
Free to collector.
Can be seen in Edington tel 831385
Price - free



Spare Wheel for Audi A1

Brand new Audi A1 spare wheel for sale
125/60 R. 18.94M Tubeless

Contact: Louise on 07917573831



Cobra DG350 Petrol Hover Mower

98.5cc Briggs & Stratton Engine
Only used once. - practically brand new. -
was £359.00 - On sale for £175.00 ONO.
Comes with wheel kit included.
Tel. Simon on - 07711 611193.
Can deliver within 10 miles of Edington.



Small ads/swaps

We are giving readers the opportunity to advertise any items that they want to sell or swap. If you have something to sell or swap that you would like advertised in a future edition please either hand your advertisement into Pauline at the post office or email it to the newsletter, deadline 1st of each month.



Edington What's On Diary

Date	Time	Event title	Description	Venue	Other information
12 April	7.30pm	Parish Council meeting		Online	Held online, to join contact the PC via website
19 April	7.30pm	Parish Hall AGM		Online	Held online, to join contact the Parish Hall Committee via the village website
5 May	7.30pm	Gardening Club meeting	A talk on Irises and peonie by Susannah Applegate	Online	Held on line to join see village website
6 May	7.00am - 10.00pm	Local Government elections		Edington Parish Hall	
12 May	7.30pm	Parish Council meeting		To be confirmed	

For these and future events please check the village website for more details.

Contacting us

Email the newsletter at newsletter@edingtonwiltshire.org.uk
by phone on the Edington Parish Council help line on **07933143021** (available 9am to 6pm, Monday to Friday) or via the village website www.edingtonwiltshire.org.uk

Future editions

We welcome your comments on this new venture, please send them to the address below. If you would like to contribute an article to a future edition of the Edington Village News please email us with details of your article and we will contact you.

newsletter@edingtonwiltshire.org.uk

Sharing the Newsletter

We are still hearing about villagers who say that they haven't heard about this newsletter, next time you speak to any of your neighbours and friends why not ask if they are receiving a copy and if not inform them that they can register for an emailed copy through the village website or send an email, the address is below. If they are unable to receive an electronic copy a paper copy can be obtained from Edington Post Office or perhaps you could volunteer to print out a copy for your neighbour.

If you would like to receive this newsletter electronically please visit the village website

www.edingtonwiltshire.org.uk/newsletter

and enter your details or email

newsletter@edingtonwiltshire.org.uk

and you will be added to the mailing list.