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Welcome to the eighth edition of the Edington Village News and again a thank you to those people who have made positive comments about the new initiative. Our subscription list of people who receive the newsletter online has grown again this month and we have an unknown number of subscribers who either receive it in printed form or it is emailed to them by friends.

This month we have the Christmas cards designed by some of the children in the village, a reminder to light up Edington for Christmas and to add to that a Christmas Scarecrow Challenge. We also have our monthly musings from a villager along with the musings of a senior citizen and the second part of Stephen's article on the Beetles of Edington. In this bumper Christmas edition we also have contributions from two children as to what Christmas means to them.

For those of you thinking of purchasing a new car in the future an interesting first hand experience from someone who has done just

that and they have bought an electric car.



Remember if you have anything that you would like to swap, sell or give away please email us at our usual address, newsletter@edingtonwiltshire.org.uk with your name, details of the item(s) and even a photo of the item if you wish. Please ensure that we have this information by the 1st of the month.

Village Helpline Latest

Now that we have left lockdown again and entered tier regimes we anticipate that there may still be a demand for the village helpline to assist people.

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** (now 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



Covid 19 – Westbury Group Practice update 16th November 2020

Important Changes to Access at Whitehorse Health Centre to keep our patients and staff safe

It is the priority of Westbury Group Practice to protect the safety of our patients and staff. Whilst we are still open and continuing to provide the majority of services, to minimise the risk of transmission of Covid-19 the main doors to the Health Centre will now be accessible via an intercom system only.

When attending the Health Centre you will need to press the intercom button to the right of the main doors and wait for a receptionist to check your details before opening the door. When you need to exit the building please follow the one way system. For those patients who may need additional help when entering the building, and have reason where the intercom is not suitable, our reception team will be readily available.

To avoid unnecessary queues, we are asking all patients not to attend the White Horse Health Centre or Bratton Surgery unless you have a pre-booked appointment or have been advised by a member of staff that you are

required to make a delivery or collection.



We appreciate that this may not be the preferred way of contacting the Health Centre for some patients, however, we have to reduce the footfall in the Practice and appreciate your cooperation with this.

Alternative ways to contact the Health Centre:

For booking appointments:

E-consult - [E-Consult WGP](#)

Telephone - **01373 828330** or **01380 831911**

Further information about the various services offered can be found on the practice website.

www.westburygp.co.uk

Courtyard Surgery West Lavington



TELEPHONE 01380 813 300

No new information about current working practices, please check the practice website for any further updates.

www.courtyardsurgery.co.uk

Market Lavington Surgery



TELEPHONE 01380 812500

No new information about current working practices, please check the practice website for any further updates.

www.marketlavingtonsurgery.nhs.uk




 HM Government



TIER 2

HIGH ALERT

FROM 2 DEC

<p>MEETING FRIENDS AND FAMILY </p> <p>No mixing of households indoors, apart from support bubbles. Maximum of six outdoors.</p>	<p>BARS, PUBS AND RESTAURANTS </p> <p>Pubs and bars must close, unless operating as restaurants. Hospitality venues can only serve alcohol with substantial meals. Venues must stop taking orders at 10pm and must close by 11pm.</p>	<p>RETAIL </p> <p>Open.</p>	<p>WORK AND BUSINESS </p> <p>Everyone who can work from home should do so.</p>
<p>EDUCATION </p> <p>Early years settings, schools, colleges and universities open. Childcare, other supervised activities for children, and childcare bubbles permitted.</p>	<p>INDOOR LEISURE </p> <p>Open.</p>	<p>ACCOMMODATION </p> <p>Open.</p>	<p>PERSONAL CARE </p> <p>Open.</p>
<p>OVERNIGHT STAYS </p> <p>Permitted with household or support bubble.</p>	<p>WEDDINGS AND FUNERALS </p> <p>15 guests for weddings, civil partnerships, wedding receptions and wakes; 30 for funerals.</p>	<p>ENTERTAINMENT </p> <p>Open.</p>	<p>PLACES OF WORSHIP </p> <p>Open, but cannot interact with anyone outside household or support bubble.</p>
<p>TRAVELLING </p> <p>Reduce the number of journeys you make and walk or cycle if possible. Avoid busy times and routes on public transport. Avoid car sharing with those outside of your household or support bubble. Avoid entering a Tier 3 area, other than where necessary such as for work or education. Further exemptions apply.</p>	<p>EXERCISE </p> <p>Classes and organised adult sport can take place outdoors, but cannot take place indoors if there is any interaction between people from different households. Organised activities for elite athletes, under-18s and disabled people can continue.</p>	<p>RESIDENTIAL CARE </p> <p>COVID-secure arrangements such as substantial screens, visiting pods, and window visits. Outdoor/airtight visits only (rollout of rapid testing will enable indoor visits including contact).</p>	<p>LARGE EVENTS </p> <p>Sport, live performances and business meetings limited to 50% capacity or 2000 people outdoors (whichever is lower) and 50% capacity or 1000 people indoors (whichever is lower)</p>

Find out what support you can get

For example, if you're out of work, need to get food, or want to take care of your mental health.
[gov.uk/coronavirus](https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)

If you have any coronavirus symptoms:

A high temperature • A new, continuous cough
A loss of, or change to, your sense of smell or taste.
Get a test and stay at home

For more information and detailed guidance visit:
[gov.uk/coronavirus](https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)





Your local Wiltshire Councillor is

Suzanne Wickham

Email:

suzanne.wickham@wiltshire.gov.uk

Tel 01380 870476 Mob: 07967 213336

If you have elderly or vulnerable neighbours it might be worth popping over to check they are okay if you have had cold callers visit your house.



An official visitor will always arrange an appointment with you before and will not turn up unannounced.

Our advice will always be to not open the door to anyone you don't know or are not expecting. Always check by using a spy-hole or look through a window.



Wiltshire Police



Most people that call at your home will be genuine. But sometimes, people turn up unannounced, with the intention of distracting you and tricking their way into your home to steal money or valuables or sell you something you do not want or need.

These types of people are often referred to as 'Nottingham Knockers', 'distraction burglars', 'bogus callers' or 'cold callers'.

If offenders are trying to sell you something on your doorstep, often cleaning products, they have been known to claim they are part of a rehabilitation scheme or similar arranged by probation services. This is not the case.

People should never feel pressured into buying something on their doorstep, whether it is goods or a service. We would urge people to contact the police if they feel threatened or intimidated.

If you have one of these outside your home you could help Wiltshire Police by signing up to Community Messaging.

When we issue alerts and appeals in your area the CCTV you have may help us solve a crime or help find a missing person.

Community Messaging is free to join.
Find out more and sign up at:

www.wiltsmessaging.co.uk



We are asking people to sign up to Community Messaging the free alert & messaging service from Wiltshire Police & partners. It will allow us to contact you directly with policing & crime matters in your area.

Learn more & sign up at <https://crowd.in/b0stX2>

Tips to avoid becoming a victim of crime when you are out and about during the Christmas period:

When out shopping, keep your purse and handbag with you; don't leave it in your trolley or unattended.

- Keep any cash you may have on you to a minimum
- Mobile phones and wallets in back pockets are a target - keep secure and out of sight
- Be careful at cash machines and when paying by card - shield your PIN at all times.



Edington Parish Council News

Litter bins are still causing the Parish Council problems. The bin at the bottom of Inmead has now been returned by Wiltshire Council however a number of bins around the village have not been emptied recently despite the Council assuring us that they are emptied on a regular basis. We have been informed by the Council that - "They should be emptied at a frequency that prevents them from overflowing. Some may be twice weekly, some may be weekly etc".

If whilst walking around the village you spot a bin that is full please report it on the MyWilts App or at <https://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/mywilts-online-reporting>

Remember this can also be used for reporting potholes, fly tipping, blocked drains and many other things that Wiltshire council are responsible for looking after.

Do not assume that someone else has reported the problem.

Further on in this edition you will find the entries that we received for the Christmas Card competition. The Parish Council would like to thank Kate for judging all of the entries and for the children and their parents for entering the competition. Congratulations to George and Alice for achieving Best in Group. All of the entries are also on the village website where they can be downloaded and printed out to place in windows to help make Edington a brighter place at Christmas.

If you haven't put up your outside Christmas decorations yet why not do it this week, we are trying to make sure that Edington is lit up like never before to brighten up the village for

Christmas and we invite everyone to turn on their lights at 6pm on Friday 11th December. We would like to thank the Three Daggers Farm Shop for providing the tree again this year on the Playfield.  Weather permitting we hope to start work soon on the field adjoining the burial ground. Initially we intend to open up the gateway onto the Coal Path, yes there is a gate there at the moment but not easy to see in amongst the vegetation that has grown up over the years. Once we have the hedgerows, fencing and gate sorted we are then hoping to set up some wild flower areas along with some seating to make this into a quiet area for people to enjoy whilst walking around the village.

Useful Contacts if you need help and support

If you are self isolating, you could contact one of these organisations for help and support, all of them have websites and most have phone numbers:

Age UK Wiltshire 0808 196 2424

Asthma UK 0300 222 5800

BHF 0300 330 3311

CALM helpline for men open 5pm to midnight
0800 55858

Diabetes UK 0345 123 2399

Mind 0300 123 3393

No Panic helpline for young people
0300 606 1174

Samaritans 116 123

Scope 0808 800 3333

Silver Line independent support for older people 0800 470 8090

Wiltshire Council Wellbeing Hub 0300 003 4576

For information and extra help as to how keep safe online visit

www.actionfraud.police.uk

Also victim support either through the website www.victimsupport.org.uk

or their support line – 03003030157



Village Musings

As we approach Christmas, it is very fitting that the walks across the fields take in the sheep that we enjoy seeing so much. The shepherds in the middle east two thousand years ago would have been part of similar scenes on their hillsides. The sheep we have in the Weir field and around the village are the beautiful Wiltshire Horned Sheep, a breed that almost went extinct at the start of the 20th century when the price of wool



was very high. These special sheep have shortish wool which does not need shearing – in spring it just moults away. It does mean the sheep go through a phase of looking a bit tatty, but it saves all the stress of shearing them. Obviously, these sheep are not reared for their fleeces. The Wiltshire Horned Sheep were bred for meat, being hardy and well adapted to feeding on the



poor grass of the downs, with strong, nimble legs that can carry them long distances over difficult terrain to find food. They were also very useful as a means of fertilising the wheat fields in the old days. They have re-gained in popularity in recent decades, as man-made fabrics take the place of wool, and more people want lean, good quality meat which these sheep provide so abundantly.



We like them because they have lovely faces, with their gently curling horns and large eyes. They look at home here, in Wiltshire, on the downs where they belong.



A walk up from the Edington Priory church to Ralph's seat is the perfect walk at this time of year. With the leaves having fallen from the trees, the glorious building of the church is visible from Ralph's Seat, as it is not in summer. Ralph Dudkey was a vicar of this parish a long time ago but his memory is never forgotten because of this serene place where one can sit peacefully, up high amongst the trees. Then continuing on across the stile, you will find yourself in the field with the sheep, and the breath-taking landscape of our beautiful village before you.

Mercedes Henning



EDINGTON & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

Here we are again back in lockdown but not to be deterred the garden club went ahead with the November 5th. meeting on zoom. This meeting had been postponed before so it was really good to go ahead with fourteen members joining .

Piers Horry from the National Trust property of Dyrham Park was our speaker for the evening on the history and development of the gardens.

Piers has worked first as a ranger then a gardener at several National Trust properties including Hatchland Park and Hughenden in Buckenhamshire, previously a home of Benjamin Disraeli, but Piers didn't start his work at Dyrham until March, two days before the first lockdown.

The Park is a Grade II* listed Baroque garden with formal lawns from the 17c. in those times this had to be cut with a scythe, no lawn mowers available then. Dyrham originally Doeham meaning Deer Park, first came into being in 1511 when given a charter by Henry VIII for a hunting park so the first house was a Tudor mansion. This was later taken over by William Blathwayt in 1686 who rebuilt the house and in 1689 an estate map and the garden emerged. Today we have a good idea how the garden looked as in 1710 Johannes Kip produced an engraving.

William Blathwayt was really a civil servant and diplomat who had worked in administration in the American colonies and the Hague eventually working for William III, (William of Orange) When the garden at Dyrham was developed plants from America were introduced and lots of tulips also an orangery to represent his political leanings to the king. There were fountains and a cascade with 125 steps, a

pool and plenty of tulips.

Today the gardens are being restored but the work has changed because of Covid19. With no volunteers available the tulip bulbs have been left in the ground instead of lifted, hoping there will not be too much tulip blight as a result.

To cut down on the weeding, it has been done in a selected way only removing those plants about to seed but leaving the border plants to self seed to save on replanting next year.

The finance of Dyrham has been hit by Covid but in the long term it is planned to return the West Parterre to the 17c. design. So all look forward to 2021 when hopefully life will be getting back to some sort of normal and the Garden club can have a visit to see for ourselves the work in progress.

In the meantime keep safe and keep watch for the Edington and District Gardening Club to open its doors again.

The meeting in January is planned for the 7th. Via zoom with a talk by Stephen Henning on plants of South Africa and on February 4th Wiltshire Wildlife will be giving a talk on Hedgehogs in the garden.

If you are interested in joining these Zoom meetings please contact Jacky for the Zoom code.



Linda Burbidge

Linda passed away after a short illness on Wednesday 26th November having reached her 100th birthday back in October.



Beetles of Edington

Continued from last month

We all know and love the ladybird beetles as they control aphids and pests in our gardens. They belong to the family of beetles known as Coccinellidae, of which there are at least 3,500 species worldwide. In the UK there are 46 species known to be resident, around 26 of which are colloquially called ladybirds.



The seven-spot ladybird

The seven-spot ladybird is one of the commonest in Edington. Its bright red, black and white colouring is a warning to predatory birds that it contains alkaloid poisons and would be distasteful and dangerous to eat. Both the adults and their larvae are voracious predators of aphids and other soft bodied plant pests. Ladybird larvae look somewhat like tiny alligators, with elongated bodies and bumpy exoskeletons. In many species, the ladybug larvae are black with brightly coloured spots or bands.

Another beetle found around Edington is the common sexton beetle which is a carrion or



Larva of the seven-spot ladybird that feeds on aphids

burying beetle. It buries in, and lives off, small carcasses. In fact, it has been recorded being able to detect the scent of rotting flesh a mile away.

As carrion beetles eat decaying animal remains, they help recycle nutrients back into the soil. The parent beetles work together to create a nursery for their young in an underground chamber with a mammal or bird corpse. Then the female watches over the eggs and feeds the larvae with the partially digested carcass. This is a rare case of maternal care in beetles. Most beetles do not look after their young.



Common sexton beetle

One of the most interesting beetles I have found around Edington is the oil beetle. This is a large beetle up to 40 mm long and exudes an evil-smelling fluid from its joints to deter predators. It also has a remarkable life-history. The female becomes greatly swollen and lays thousands of tiny eggs in batches in cracks or holes in the ground. These hatch into long-legged larvae which swarm over plants in hot weather. Only those survive which manage to attach themselves to a wild bee and are carried to the bee's nest. There, they enter brood-cells and at once eat the egg or young larva in the cell. They then change into chafer-like larvae, feed on the store of honey, and grow fast. They pass the winter as headless, legless maggots, then change shape again, rest for a time and finally pupate. The wingless adults crawl about in the spring sunshine on open grassland nibbling at buttercup plants.





Adult oil beetle – note reduced wings



Oil beetle larva on bee

Water beetles are one of the most diverse groups in freshwater and in the UK, there are around 350 species. Typical water beetles, such as the great diving beetles, spend most of their lives in water, and, if the water dries up, they either burrow into damp mud or fly elsewhere. Most have a supply of air enclosed in their wing-cases to use when under water. This makes them so light that they cannot stay below water except by swimming with their hind legs or gripping weeds or stones with the middle pair. The front pair are used for catching aquatic animals on which most of them feed. They renew the air supply frequently by projecting their tail-ends above the water. The larvae are also aquatic and carnivorous.



Adult great diving beetle found in ponds around Edington



Larva of a great diving beetle

Longhorn beetles belong to a family of beetles with very long antennae which give them their name. Many species have interesting patterns, colouration and are generally larger in size which makes many species easily recognisable in the field. Worldwide there are more than 30,000 species described to science. In the UK there are 69 species that are considered native or naturalised. Most longhorn larvae are wood-borers of deciduous and coniferous wood. Some longhorn beetles are among the largest insects in the world.





For overall size, the South America Longhorn Beetle (*Titanus giganteus*) is probably one of the biggest beetles with bodies over 16 cm long (not including their antennae)

The wasp longhorn beetle is black and yellow like its namesake, and up to 16mm long. It is found in Edington. This longhorn beetle looks and moves like a wasp darting around on logs and flowers. It is harmless though and mimics the common wasp to protect itself from predators. Adult wasp beetles are excellent pollinators and can be seen from May to July on flowers in woods and hedgerows. The larvae live in dry, dead wood such as willow and birch.



The wasp longhorn beetle

I have seen the scarlet lily beetle in my garden at Edington. The adults and larvae eat lilies and fritillary flowers, so they are often considered pests by gardeners. This non-native species is now widespread in the UK. The female lay their eggs on the undersides of leaves. The larvae

that hatch are reddish-brown with black heads but tend to be hidden under their own black droppings, known as frass. The adult beetles winter away from lily plants - in soil, leaf litter and other sheltered places. They emerge in late March and April where they search for their host plants.



The scarlet lily beetle

There are approximately 60 species of dung beetle in the UK. They are not the 'ball rollers' seen in warmer countries and on TV, instead they live inside the dung pile (dwellers) or in the soil beneath it (tunnellers). They are closely allied to the chafers (and goliath beetles) with the same robust, thick-set build and similar structure, especially the antennae. The larvae, too, are similar. The beetles usually have powerful, spiny legs adapted for digging. They all have a one-year life cycle. Different specialise in different types of droppings and the dor beetle that can be found around Edington, concentrates on horse and cow dung. Dor beetles are tunnellers and the females can dig a shaft as deep as 2 ft (60 cm), with brood chamber off the sides. The male brings her bits of dung which the female then rolls into a ball. She lays a single egg into the ball and will guard the ball until the larva hatches.

Stephen Henning



Musings of an E-villager

As Jane Austen might have said, it is a truth universally acknowledged that an English country dweller in possession of a small fortune must be in want of a gas-guzzling SUV in which to swank about the place. SUVs are now outselling electric cars in the UK by a ratio of 37 to 1, which unless you don't follow the news or don't care, just seems plain wrong. (Might as well stop here if you think there isn't a climate emergency eh?).

In order to do our bit to restore the ratio, we decided to dispense with a diesel and get a fully electric car.

The argument against an electric car had always been the short range, the time to recharge and the lack of performance. How do you do that occasional long journey short of spending a lottery win on a Tesla? But think, how often do you actually do that, and what is the length of your usual journey?

However, the new models hitting the market now have been designed with these worries in mind, a range of well over 200 miles is now achievable, the advent of rapid charging means that you can now add 90 miles of range in a half-hour stop at a motorway services and 0-60 in 9.5 seconds is not too shabby either, taking care of the performance angle.

VW and Renault both had models meeting these criteria, but the people with 'va va vroom' had a better deal on offer and chucked in the wall box to charge it as well, so job done!

It has to be said that the government also provides some incentives to run on electricity: you get £3500 towards the cost of your car, plus £350 towards the installation of a wall box charger, provided you have off-road parking. A

charger starts at about £500. The installation of the wall box needs its own dedicated 32 amp fuse in your distribution board, so check it out with suppliers - your main fuse needs to be 100 amp too. Take advantages of these incentives while you can, and beware of Brexit restricting the supply of European EVs next year. Oh, almost forgot, road tax is a big fat zero and no congestion charge in London.



Charging has a range of options: (1) 50KW rapid charge, these are generally public and the nearest is in Morrisons' car park in Westbury!, (2) 43KW fast/normal charge, usually public too, (3) overnight charge from your home 7KW wall box, or (4) if you have the right lead, from a 3-pin plug too which takes much longer, but is fine if you're in no great hurry. Some public chargers are provided by councils and are free to use, some are pay per KWh. Not all EVs can take rapid charging, and cannot really have a rapid charger at home unless you have three-phase electricals and deep pockets.

Home charging still seems ridiculously cheap, about £8 for 240 miles of range on the model we bought. Batteries are a little susceptible to temperature, so maybe max 240 plus in summer and 190 in the winter. You can work out how much a full charge at home would cost from the KWh of the battery in the car times the amount you pay per KWh. Our Zoe is 52 KWh, and if electricity was 15p per KWh, then the cost would be £7.80. However, you rarely charge from zero. At the time of writing, the public charge points operated on behalf of Wiltshire Council (good on them!) only charge you a £1.20 connection fee and the electricity is free, which is a real bargain. There is even an EV charge point installer in the village at Station Yard (iddea.co.uk).

You really need a smartphone to make the most





of an EV (electric vehicle), as there is always an app to go with it, which allows you to schedule charging when power is cheaper if you have the option. The app also does a lot of other things such as allowing you to get up on a cold and frosty morning, take a quick look out of the window and instruct your car to defrost itself and warm the seat from indoors while you are munching toast and slurping coffee and still in your dressing gown. Now that is dead cool and worth the price alone! You can also grab an app called Zap Map which will tell you where all the charging points are in the country, what they can provide and allow you to plan a longer journey with the appropriate stops/recharges.

So one Tuesday saw us take the train to Weston super Mare to pick up Zoe. We were a bit concerned she would sound like Michael Bulling's milk cart in the dead of night, but shouldn't have worried. Spoiler alert: It's exactly like driving a normal car.... you can even make it sound like a real car with generated engine noise if you are worried about alarming the local pedestrians or frightening the horses. Everything is configurable and is controlled from a tablet computer which also doubles as the media centre.

Renault is very good at the other eco-credentials - creating a cabin material that is 100% recycled - made from safety belts, textile scraps and plastic bottle recycling in the Zoe. The fabric is used for the manufacture of seat covers, dashboard coverings, gear lever brackets and door fittings. The New Zoe also uses 38.5 lbs. (17.5 kg) of recycled plastic in areas in the passenger compartment, such as low-polypropylene interior cabinets.

So you need never go near a petrol station again, feel thoroughly good about the car and

its low impact on the environment and enjoy a cracking drive too! We were lucky enough to be able to buy a new model, but check out the secondhand market in EVs too, there is something for all budgets - the earlier Zoe and Leaf models are absolute bargains if you can work with a shorter range and more frequent charging. Have a look at drive-green.co.uk, who are the other side of Radstock.



One of the other oddly pleasing things about an EV was told to us by a lady first-generation Nissan Leaf driver who still takes great delight in switching out of Eco mode and using the instant acceleration of an electric motor to beat off any Clarkson type petrol-heads at traffic lights!

John and Jo Petersen

What is a senior citizen?

A senior citizen is one who was here before; the pill, television, frozen food, contact lenses, credit cards.....and before men walked on the moon. For us "Time Sharing" meant togetherness, not holiday homes, and a "chip" meant a piece of wood. "Hardcore" meant nuts and bolts and "software" wasn't even a word.

We got married first, then lived together, and thought cleavage was something that butchers did. A "stud was something that fastened a collar to a shirt, and "going all the way" meant staying in a double decker to the bus depot. We thought that "fast food" was what you ate in lent, a "big Mac" was an oversized raincoat and "crumpet" we had for tea.

In our day "grass" was mown, "pot" was something you cooked in, "coke was kept in the coal house and a "joint" was cooked on Sundays!

We are today's Senior Citizens. A hardy bunch when you think how the world has changed!

MMS



Mummer Plays

Mummers plays are a form of early pantomime, the origins go back a 1000 years. It is probably England's oldest surviving Christmas custom. The play loosely depicts King George and the Dragon. It represents the forces of good triumphing over evil, King George representing good, fighting one or more characters representing evil.

There is usually lots of sword play before one or more characters are defeated and fall down dead. Cue for the doctor to enter who miraculously raises the fighters from the dead symbolizing earth reawakening from its long winter slumber. The last character to appear is Jonny Jack whose role is to beg for money and or beer. He frequently wears rag dolls on his back to elect sympathy from would be benefactors. "In come I Johnny Jack with my wife and family on my back. Out of eleven I have but seven as three of them have gone to heaven one to the workhouse he is gone the rest will go when I get home" Father Christmas usually acts as narrator. And most troupes sing a selection of songs at the end of the performance.



Side wearing tatters

Traditionally actors wore tatters which are costumes made of rags the object of this was for disguise as employers may

not have been happy with their employees begging. Rags were also cheap to make. Mummer plays were common in villages in England. The story line of surviving plays is similar but fighters and words may vary. Many plays have survived and are still performed around Christmas time in many venues including several

sides still performing in Wiltshire.



I have been involved with the Quidhampton mummers play over many years. The Quidhampton play was collected by Edith Oliver. It was last performed by the village in 1913 the first world war bringing its demise. The play had been passed down verbally through the generations. Edith collected the words from the remaining players many of whom only knew their own part. They told her that they had to recite as they had heard them without any attempt to alter words, unlike the ad-libbing of players today. She published the play in a Wiltshire WI publication in 1941.



In 1974 Steve Dunford's mother showed the play to Steve when he was looking for an activity for Salisbury Folk club's Christmas party. The folk club was held at the Rising Sun Castle Street Salisbury. It was meant to be a one off

performance but has been performed every year since, but sadly unlikely to be this year unless we can sort out sword fights on zoom. The current players wear costume rather than rags taking their cue from the opening lines "we are not one of the ragged crowd". The fighters include Turkish Knight, Bold Soldier and Cut The Dash. The play is principally performed at pubs along the Wylie valley from Salisbury to Warminster during the week preceding Christmas.

Quidhampton mummers have so far raised over £3000 for local charities. However several now suffer from creaky knees and where as they used to fight for the fighting parts now try and avoid them as being raised from the dead is





becoming more difficult. They would welcome new blood to share the load if there are any budding actors out there.



Liz Pike

Christmas Scarecrows

This is a message for all you creative people out there. We have a challenge for you this December! In these lockdown times it's clear that Christmas is going to be a little different this year, and we thought we might be able to bring the community together and get into the Christmas spirit if we all share in a creative activity.



So, we want you to make a Christmas Scarecrow – dressed as one of the characters in a traditional Nativity. It could be Mary or Joseph or Baby Jesus, or a shepherd, or a king, or an angel, or a sheep, or a donkey, or a cow or a star – the choice is up to you!



When your scarecrow is ready put it on display outside your house. As we get nearer and nearer to Christmas, more and more scarecrows will pop up around the village.

On Christmas Eve at 4pm we will have our traditional Crib Service at Edington Priory Church. But because we can't all get into the church we will be holding it outside the church. And we want you to bring your scarecrow with you so that we can make a crib scene in the churchyard with all the scarecrows!

Our lives may be restricted in various ways, but we can still have fun as a community this Christmas.

Andrew King. 01380 831227

What does Christmas mean?

“ Christmas means spending time with my family, especially my cousins because I don't get to see them often at the moment. Christmas means delicious puddings and silly jokes in my cracker and snow angels but let's not forget the presents too! **Beatrice Lescott 8 1/2 years old.**

Christmas means waking up in the morning and seeing frost and specs of snow falling down. I love the feeling when I walk into the living room and see presents under the tree. I love the Christmas turkey roast especially the crispy potatoes! Christmas means school nativity plays and fun rehearsals with my friends. It also means spending time with my family. **Emilia Lescott 10 years old.** ”



On the following pages are the entries for the Newsletter Christmas Card competition. They can all be found on the village website where you can download any of them to display in your window over the Christmas season.



BEST IN GROUP

5 TO 10 AGE GROUP



GEORGE



BEATRICE



FLEUR



IZZIE



UNDER 5'S



BEST
IN
GROUP



Alice



Atticus aged 3



William aged 4



Joel aged 2



Henry



OSCAR R age 12 MONTHS



ELIZA 21 MONTHS



William age 4 & Florence 21 months!



All of the cards are available on the village website for you to download, print off and display in your windows.

www.edingtonwiltshire.org.uk/cards

*Don't forget to
light up
Edington for
Christmas*



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.



This month's bargain

The bargain of the year - a large quantity of quality knitting wool is available for anyone who wishes to collect all or a part of it. See Pauline for more details.



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.

Edington Parish
Council would
like to wish
everyone a very
Happy
Christmas

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