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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. We are planning to publish this newsletter monthly but 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, 7 days a week)



Welcome to the second edition of the **Edington Village News** and a big thank you to all those of you who have passed on your comments to us about how you like this new venture from the Parish Council.

Village Helpline -Latest

Edington Village Helpline - We are still receiving calls to the helpline and we will continue to operate it until such time as there is no longer a need.

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.

Local surgeries - latest



White Horse Health Centre and Bratton surgery
Westbury surgery TELEPHONE 01373 828330
Bratton Surgery TELEPHONE 01380 831911

At the time of writing the White Horse Surgery and Bratton Surgery continue to operate the temporary system of appointments.

- All patients requesting on the day appointments will be screened through reception using the existing triage system and a second layer of triage with a phone call from a member of the Acute Care Team.
- Any patient with respiratory symptoms and/or temperature should not come to the practice. You will be treated over the phone where possible, or asked to call 111.





• Any patient with any other symptom, where possible will be treated over the phone. If the clinician you speak to decides they need to see you, they will make this decision and ask you to attend the practice.

You can find out more including an online consultation system on the surgery website www.westburygp.co.uk

As we know that a number of people in Edington use the services of the doctors in West Lavington and Market Lavington we have included information about these as well.

Courtyard Surgery - West Lavington



TELEPHONE 01380 813 300

At the Courtyard Surgery, our normal working arrangements might have changed, but our doctors and nurses are still working hard and are here for you when you need them. More care is provided at a distance, and all these changes are to keep you safe. You can discuss concerns by:

- phone
- face-to-face
- video consultations
- photographs

If you are worried about any aspect of your health, please call your GP practice. We will discuss the most appropriate ways to access any care you may need.

You can find out more including an online consultation system on the surgery website www.courtyardsurgery.co.uk

Market Lavington Surgery



TELEPHONE 01380 812500

The practice is working as normal.

Appointments can be made online, in person or by telephoning the surgery. If the appointment is not urgent please do not ring before 10:00 am. Most appointments can be made up to one month in advance.


You can find out more including an online consultation system on the surgery website www.marketlavingtonsurgery.nhs.uk

Wiltshire Police

Our local PCSO is Luke George.

My name is Luke George I've been working for Wiltshire Police for 3 years, I cover Westbury



Rural, this includes Dilton Marsh, Bratton, Edington and Coulston. I hope to support the community by tackling local anti-social 



behaviour, deterring speed and liaising with everyone in those communities furthermore I am more than happy to discuss any ongoing issues that you may have in your area.

My email is

lukegeorge@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk

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


Wiltshire Council

Wiltshire Council

During the current pandemic I think all of us in Wiltshire are so grateful that we live in such a rural area with access to our gardens and beautiful countryside to walk in. I would like to thank everyone involved in your Community network responding to COVID19, which I know is working extremely well, helping those who need prescriptions and shopping etc. The response from Wiltshire as a whole, has been nothing more than magnificent.

Wiltshire Council has been very focused on supporting all parts of our Community during the pandemic, with vast numbers of staff being re-deployed from their normal roles, to ensure that support is provided to all who need it. I won't list all the additional work that has taken place, as it would fill several pages, but the main thrust has been on supporting the elderly, vulnerable adults and children, people who are self-isolating and those who are caring for them, together with administering all the Government loans and grants available to employers, businesses, and latterly the self-employed.

The Council is keeping records on all the significant direct additional costs incurred due to the emergency. It is also identifying additional costs and loss of income due to the response and this information is being shared with the government so that it is fully aware of the Council's financial situation. The Council is lobbying hard to receive further financial support. Watch this space!

As it has not been possible to hold normal meetings of Wiltshire Council and all the various decision-making committees, a 



protocol has now been agreed to ensure that democratic services continue and meetings will for now, be online. Details of all can be found on the Wiltshire Council website.

With best wishes

Suzanne Wickham

Wiltshire Councillor – Ethandune
Suzanne.wickham@wiltshire.gov.uk
Tel 01380 870476 Mob 07967 213336

Library Service – latest

All libraries until further notice are closed. Any items borrowed that were due back from 9 March onward will be renewed automatically throughout the closed period and no fines or charges will be incurred. If your loans were due back before this date, please contact

libraryenquiries@wiltshire.gov.uk.

Items cannot be reserved whilst the libraries are closed. The library service will hold all Wiltshire items that were reserved before the libraries closed.

You can still borrow eBooks, eAudiobooks and eMagazines.

Local buses – latest

May 2020 - Service updates - 18th May
In response to feedback we have received and from ongoing monitoring, we are making some changes to service levels from Monday 18th May.

The X31, 270 and 273 services will increase to hourly from the current 'Sunday' service levels between Monday and Saturday. We are also reinstating the 0828 trip on service 60 (Trowbridge - Studley Green) and 1713 trip from Chippenham to Devizes on service 33.

We are continually monitoring service levels and further changes will be made to enable social distancing and to ensure those passengers who are returning to work over the coming days and weeks are able to commute.

We would remind all passengers that only essential journeys should be made to ensure that sufficient space is available to those who have no alternative method of transport. Timetables for these changes are available to view on the COVID-19 timetable section of our website and bus stop information will be updated this weekend.

If you have any queries regarding these timetables please contact us on 01249 444444 or visit the website.

www.faresaver.co.uk

Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue

The message remains the same as last month -



Please avoid having bonfires at the moment, they cause many unnecessary turnouts and they get out of control easily as it is dry.

Neighbours complaining about bonfires also tie up 999 lines. People are also suffering with breathing difficulties and we are mindful that smoke won't help.

We have already had one fire in the village which necessitated the deployment of the fire brigade, please ensure that they are not called upon again.

#BinItDon'tBurnIt



Edington Parish Council news

You may have noticed some new signs have appeared around the village, these are to advise HGV's not to use the local roads to access the Station Yard development.



In case you have noticed there has been an increased police presence in the village recently, this has been at the request of the Parish Council. The latest data from the Speed Indicator Device (SID) near the farm shop showed that 69% of all drivers passing the sign were passing it in excess of 30mph and 30% were in excess of 35mph.

We have asked the Police to carry out regular speed checks through the village and last week one motorist when stopped for driving in excess of 30mph stated that he thought it was a 40mph zone despite the fact there are numerous repeater signs and road markings showing 30 near where he was stopped !

Further checks will be taking place in the coming weeks and we are hopeful that

Community Speedwatch will be able to restart in the near future once social distancing rules have been relaxed.



Edington Fair - Unfortunately the fair has had to be cancelled for this year, however it will be back in 2021 on Saturday 12th June.

Considerate parking - do you always park your vehicle in a way that ensures that both pedestrians and other road users can pass it safely? We have very few pavements in the village and yet some people seem to think that the pavements are for parking cars on rather than providing a safe area for pedestrians, please do not park your vehicle on the pavement.

Secondly there has been an increase in the number of farm vehicles moving around the village as we move into the summer and it has been difficult for them at times to pass safely along some roads as people have failed to leave sufficient space for them. When parking your vehicle please ensure that large farm vehicles in particular can pass by safely without having to modify your vehicle in the process! We are a rural village and farm vehicles are part of our local community.

Final moan for this month - some dogs appear to have failed to educate their owners of the need to pick up the offerings that they leave behind, please bag it and bin it for your dog.





There are plenty of bins around the village for you to deposit their offerings in rather than just

leaving it where they deposit it or in some instances hanging it from a nearby bush. Please ensure that you are a responsible dog owner.

Salisbury Hollow - we have been informed by Wiltshire Council that work will commence in July on repairs to the byway, more details when we receive them.

Latest planning applications:-

Luccombe Mill, Imber Road, Bratton – Single storey timber orangery (this is within the Edington Parish boundary)

Land Adjacent Church Monastery Road Edington – reduce lime tree

Brocksway House 46A Westbury Road Edington – Installation of new first floor balcony

Planning applications can be viewed on the village website

www.edingtonwiltshire.org.uk/planning

A thank you from Vera Tottingham

Can I post a thank you note to the people of Edington who helped to make my 95th birthday on 23rd May very special.

I hope everyone keeps well and survives the lockdown!

Best wishes from Vera Tottingham

Village Musings

The musings of a villager

Monks' Well

One of my special walks takes in Monk's Well, a rather secret and beautiful gem of Edington. It is at the Edington end of the village, on the right as you head out to Bratton. The entrance to the Monks' Well area is not easy to find but



worth hunting for. Locate the white railings (see photo) and find the little gap which allows you to slip into really magical little otherworld. It is a difficult path, steep, slippery and very full of nettles, but not very long. It is as it should be – this is not a place that ought to be tidied up and made safe.

Follow the path down to the bottom of the dell, where the little brook bubbles along. In front of you is a rather ugly concrete lock up – I don't know what that is about, but maybe maintenance of the water way? Then look to your right. There, in amongst the ferns and brackens, is a dark opening made from stone. This is Monk's Well.





Sitting there in the cool, dim green light, listening to the water chuckle along, I can imagine that I am in a different era – a slower, quieter, more tranquil time. I want to whisper, rather than talk out loud. Almost, I can see the shadows of those long ago monks drawing



their water from the stone trough, kept filled by the spring even in the hottest, driest summer. I find my spirit slows down, quietens and rests as I sit there. It is an emotive, atmospheric place and, providing you are sure-footed, very worth



a quiet, remote visit, touching the earth very lightly as you stop there for a moment.

Mercedes Henning

Monk's Conduit well house (see above)

Well houses are medieval structures built to protect the water supply to institutions such as monasteries and abbeys. They are small, typically stone built structures placed over a spring or near several water sources. The water which collected in a stone or lead tank was transported to its destination by lead pipes or gutters. The surrounding structure protected the tank from contamination.

The Monk's Conduit well house is a well preserved and complete survival which has served as the outlet of a spring for over 500 years. There is a strong likelihood that its construction was associated with the Priory of the Bonhommes.

The monument includes the Monk's Conduit, a 15th century well house situated in a small valley on a springline in the centre of Edington, a village below the chalk scarp of Salisbury Plain. The building is rectangular and measures 3.5m long and 2.5m wide. It is set into a steep bank so that only the west facing wall, which is 3.5m high with a triangular gable above a doorway, is visible from outside. The vaulted roof is stone tiled and supported by two stone ribs. Water rises from apertures in the back wall and flows into a large stone tank 1m wide and 2.5m long. The water then overflows the tank and drains through the doorway, forming a small stream. The Monk's Conduit is Listed Grade I and, as the name implies, may have been associated with the Priory of the Bonhommes who were in Edington from 1358 to 1534.



Battle of Ethandune AD 878

The importance of the Battle of Ethandune in the history of our village cannot be overstated.

It is celebrated on the signs on the B3098 on the entrances to the village and has been included in many TV programmes over the years. Although the site of the battle has never been identified, the belief was that it took place somewhere on Salisbury Plain to the south of the village.

In November 2017, the Wiltshire and Swindon Historical Society advertised that a talk on the subject was being given by Michael Wood, the well-known historian and TV presenter at the Centre in Chippenham. At least 25 residents from Edington were present in the "sell out" audience of approaching 200.

He explained that he had used the information recorded in the Anglo Saxon Chronicles which he had carefully interpreted and analysed to form an alternative view on the battle site. The following is an extract of the record of the talk on the Society's website.

"Michael laid out the background to the Battle of Edington, which took place the second week of May 878. He explained how after a surprise attack at Christmas by the Danes at Chippenham, King Alfred hid in the Somerset marshes at Athelney, building a fortress there. Alfred called a levy at Egbryhtesstan (Egbert's stone) which Michael attributes to Penselwood in Somerset. Alfred was joined by men from Somerset, Wiltshire and Hampshire, and quite possibly Dorset as well. The next day they moved to Iley Oak, just south of Warminster, and thence to Ethandun or Edington, in Wiltshire, where they made a surprise attack on Guthrum and the Danes.

Michael argued that the conventional belief that the battle took place on the hillside overlooking the settlement is incorrect, and that the archival sources would indicate instead that the battle took place actually within the royal settlement, possibly on the site of the old vicarage of Edington. (Edington was one of Alfred's family estates and he left a manor called 'Ethandune' to his wife in his will.) This needs to be followed up with archaeological investigation such as geophysical surveys to see if evidence of the battle can be found."

The report didn't make clear that he followed this by suggesting that Alfred might have planned to defend this estate and the battle could have taken place to the north of Lower Road in what is now the large field between Woodbridge and Greater Lane.



Michael Wood has used his expertise in Anglo Saxon history and his detailed interpretation (and translation) of the historical text of the Anglo Saxon Chronicles to question the siting of other important battles: in a recent article, he has proposed that the site of a major battle in Yorkshire is now covered by a motorway!

George Fraser



Brodie - Edington's "Pets as Therapy" dog



Allow me to introduce you to Brodie, our seven years old Golden Retriever (pedigree name Rosinante Blues Brothers) who is a registered Pets As Therapy dog.

Pets As Therapy (can be shortened to PAT) dogs, and cats, visit hospitals, care homes and schools with the aim of offering companionship and helping to reduce stress. Pets As Therapy was founded in 1983 in Derbyshire by a lady named Lesley Scott-Ordish. When it started the scheme had two Collies, a German Shepherd and a Old English Sheepdog. At present there are five thousand dogs and one hundred cats active. It is estimated one hundred and fifty thousand patients benefit from visits during a normal week. At present, however, our visits have been curtailed due to Covid 19.

All PAT dogs and cats must pass a rigorous temperament test. They must be well mannered, friendly and reliable. They must also be gentle, particularly with children and the elderly and must enjoy meeting people. They cannot be excitable, nor must they jump up or excessively mouth or lick. They are also not allowed to give their paws due to some

persons having thin skin which may be torn by the claws. The animals must be fit, free from parasites and be wormed and vaccinated against all major dog and cat diseases. They must be at least nine months old and must have been with their owners for at least six months.

Handlers of PAT dogs and cats must also pass an assessment to make sure they can control their animals and naturally undergo a Police check to ensure they are fit and proper persons. Once volunteer and dog or cat have passed the checks and assessments, and paid an annual subscription, they are issued with certificates and photo identification badges which they must wear at all times when on PAT visits. The id numbers on the dog's badge will match the number on the volunteer's badge. The badges last for a year and are renewed annually upon payment of a renewal subscription. All merchandise worn by the volunteers and their animals is paid for by the volunteers as Pets As Therapy is a registered charity depending on donations and sponsorship.

Whilst visiting any establishment the PAT dogs and cats must be kept on a short lead at all times. Extending leads are not allowed.

Brodie is our family pet and in normal circumstances spends Wednesday afternoons at the HC One Residential and Care Home at Market Lavington. He has been visiting there for three years and is a big hit with residents and staff alike. He will quite happily work through a room of residents, adeptly negotiating various wheel chairs and types of furniture. His other regular venue is Julia's House Children's Hospice in Devizes which he attends as and when requested to do so. His vey calm attitude makes him ideally suited to this environment and he will often merely ➡



lie alongside a child just giving a peaceful soothing contact.

We are very proud of our boy whose temperament has made him ideally suited for this task. He always wants to meet anyone he sees whilst we are out walking, particularly children, and is finding Covid 19 a bind as he is restricted in his contact with people.

Stewart and Fiona Jenkinson

Edington & District Gardening Club (during lockdown)

I hope you are all keeping well and are tending your own gardens with great enthusiasm!

At last the Garden Centres are opening up but with the usual restrictions on social distancing. Please support your local nurseries and enjoy those new plants you might see.

Our club has been receiving a newsletter for members each month, if you have not had yours for any reason, please let me know. It has been a steep learning curve with social media, I hope you have been visiting the NGS sites as well as other virtual gardens and shows.

We hope to be returning to the Parish Hall in the Autumn for our usual meetings but will keep you informed of any changes.

Don't forget to sit awhile and relax.

Jacky Hiscock
tel 830133



Edington Village Maintenance Group

Can you spare two or three hours once a month to help look after the village you live in?

Many other villages in Wiltshire and further afield have setup village maintenance groups who help in keeping their village looking good and we are planning on establishing an Edington village group who would be willing to undertake various maintenance tasks around the village. These tasks could include the maintenance of the numerous seats that we have scattered around the village, repairs and renovation of signs etc. and keeping vegetation under control on footpaths to name but a few tasks. Previously we have relied upon the parish steward to carry out some work but his time has been significantly reduced of late and some other tasks the Parish Council have had to pay contractors to undertake.

Initially it is planned that the group would meet one morning a month but if the list of tasks grows it may be more frequent at certain times of the year. If you feel able to contribute to the upkeep of the village please email volunteer@edingtonwiltshire.org.uk

Remember the more people who volunteer the easier it will be and the more tasks that we will be able to complete.

From 8 June, you must pre-book a visit to a household recycling centre

BOOK ONLINE

IF YOU HAVE NOT PRE-BOOKED YOU WILL BE DENIED ACCESS

Find out more:
www.wiltshire.gov.uk/household-recycling-centres

Wiltshire Council



Birds of Edington

We are really blessed living in Edington at this time of Lockdown. The birdlife this spring has been absolutely spectacular. Although I have had some spectacular bird moments in South Africa, this Spring in Edington has surpassed them in the fact that it has not just been one moment, but many.

We have been overwhelmed with the number of birds in our garden this year and have been amazed at how many have actually stayed and bred here. One I was particularly delighted with was a pair of Long-tailed Tits that had a small dome-shaped nest in our hedge. They foraged and occupied our balcony off and on through March and April. They were often joined by a pair of European Goldfinch who had a cup shaped nest further along the hedge.


These two species joined the pair of Dunnock who have nested below our bedroom window for many years. The male often woke us in the early morning pecking on the glass as he fought off an intruder - his reflection in the glass. We loved watching him as he defended his territory and his little cup shaped nest in the hedge with tiny blue eggs like semi-precious stones.

We also had our normal host of birds nesting in our garden. The wood pigeons with their clumsy flight crashing into one of the trees to get to their precarious twig platform high up in the branches. The robins were also here in the tangled brush on the bank and the blackbirds with their cup-shaped nest in the trees with their red-spotted light blue eggs. The blackbirds and their fledglings particularly delighted us this year with their antics in what we call our glade. Many was the time we saw them bathing in one of our little ponds.

The Collared Doves nesting in our beech tree were not so popular as their nest was directly above our swing seat which was consequently painted in white streaks.

The wrens in our garden have not been very conspicuous this spring but I presume they were nesting somewhere down the bank as they do most years. The same goes for the house sparrows – I am not sure where they nested this year either but they were still around the garden. The blue and great tits as usual have also been common in our garden this spring. I think the blue tits were nesting in a big beech tree at the corner of our property but I could not see where.

In the field below our house we had a flock of Wiltshire horned sheep most of the spring. They don't have to be sheared like most breeds of sheep but simply moult their wool which meant that there were tufts of wool everywhere. The jackdaws in particular have made use of his bounty and from our sitting room window I spent many happy hours watching them gathering these little balls of fluff and then flying off to line their nests with them. The magpies were also out there getting their share.

Our walks during lockdown have also become bird watching outings. Along Cowleaze Lane on one occasion we watched a song thrush for some time singing his full repertoire and on another watched a Chiffchaff do the same. A Reed Warbler delighted us on yet another occasion. Cowleaze Lane had always been a good place to observe birds and it is where we saw our first Eurasian Jay some twenty years ago. That was a particularly profitable walk on that occasion as on our way back along Court Lane we saw a Long-eared Owl sitting on a fence post. We watched it for ages as it looked back at us with its large 



orange eyes. We were only a couple of metres from it and it seemed quite unperturbed.

Our walks on the plain this spring have also been memorable. Walking along the edge of the airfield we saw skylarks displaying. They would soar up into sky and sing the most wonderful warbling song and we both stood entranced watching it. It was the highlight of a most memorable walk.



The skylark entranced us with its warbling song during its towering flight

On our walk the following day we were this time enchanted by a flock of skylarks doing acrobatics over a field. At times they formed a typical V formation but then filled it in and it looked like an arrowhead.



We were enchanted by a flock of skylarks

We then noticed a pair of buzzards. The female was initially on the ground and the male was in the air making a series of dives

towards her. The male glided steeply down with half-closed wings and then soared up again, almost vertically, to repeat the glide. The female flew up and the pair performed graceful aerobatics, soaring, tumbling and looping the loop, then grappling talons and cartwheeling downward with feet interlocked. We stood transfixed watching them for some time. The male eventually flew off and the female landed on the ground again but eventually flew off herself. What a wonderful experience.



The pair of buzzards performed graceful aerobatics and grappled talons.

This particular walk on the Salisbury plain was probably one of the best we had ever done with the flock of skylarks and the mating flight of the buzzards.

Since then we have also seen a pair of Red Kites soaring over Picquet Hill and we watched them for some time. As spring progressed we were delighted to see the return of the swallows and house martins who are at the moment nesting in the eaves of neighbouring houses.

All in all, it has been a most wonderful birding spring over Edington in Lockdown.

Stephen Henning



EDINGTON STATION YARD – COVID-19 IMPACT



Edington Station Yard Limited was established in 1993 when a group of local residents joined together to purchase the old Station Yard. The goal was to provide light industrial units for rent which would provide job opportunities in this part of rural Wiltshire.

This community owned company has gone from strength to strength since its inception, and there are now 21 small industrial units on the site, all of which are currently occupied.

Despite this good news, the Covid-19 virus, and the necessary government response to it, has caused a number of the businesses to temporarily close their operations. The Directors of Edington Station Yard are very

conscious of the current difficulties being experienced by its tenants and have agreed a 3-month suspension of rent for all occupiers to help them through this unprecedented time.



Edington Station Yard Ltd continues to have a strong focus on the community. It clearly has to look after the interests of its shareholders, but it also supports local small businesses and provides financial support to local charities, schools, and other organisations in the vicinity.

Edington Station Yard Ltd offers all their occupiers, contractors, and professional advisers the very best wishes through this difficult period. The same sentiment goes to everyone else who lives in this lovely village.

Eric Mitchell

Edington Past

Each month we will delve into the photographic archives to bring you some images from Edington past.



Village Pond and Pond House, Tinhead.



Sharing the Newsletter

We are aware that not everyone in Edington has access to the internet and may therefore not receive this newsletter. Please check with your neighbours that they know about this newsletter and 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.

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

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, 7 days a week) or via the village website

www.edingtonwiltshire.org.uk