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Welcome to the sixteenth edition of the Edington Village News.

This month we have as always a selection of articles including our regular musings from Mercedes and this month Stephen has written a second

article about parasitic wasps of Edington. We also have a follow up article on bee keeping, plus our regular update on the local cricket club at Erlestoke.

Along with this we have an article about probably the most well known person in the village written by her husband.

- Don't forget we are always looking for articles to publish, we have our regular articles and there is always room for more.
- Remember we are reliant on contributions to make this newsletter a success.
- Send your articles to

[newsletter@edingtonwiltshire.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@edingtonwiltshire.org.uk)

## Twenty-five years

It was twenty-five years ago next month that our spacious double-garage last housed any kind of car. Twenty-five years since I lost my name and my identity to become simply "Pauline's husband". Twenty-five years since Pauline became postmistress of Edington Post Office.



In the intervening twenty-five years the village post office has expanded from its minor role of dispensing sundry postal services to become the major NASA, communications, social services, village events and gossip centre for Edington, and an all-knowing

encyclopedia of village doings, affairs and going-ons.

Pauline sits at the untidy, somewhat dusty centre of this vibrant, organic web and attends to all-comers, always with patience, and a smile and always offering good, sound advice and help. A shaman, a confidante, a friend, and a walking bus timetable and who's who knowledge fount.

Who lives at forty-seven? What's Joan's phone number? Who is buying the pub? Can I book a seat on the minibus? What's the cricket score? How do I get a doctor's appointment? Who is moving into Ivy Cottage? How is old Mrs Smith? Know a good local plumber? How do I contact the bin collection? The calls on her are many and varied, Sometimes she even sells a stamp. Pauline hardly gets any time to read the papers.

Laughter floats out of the post office most mornings, filling the garden like birdsong. The Edington well-being centre at work. I suspect every village needs a Pauline.

Twenty-five years.

I do miss the garage though.

**Pauline's husband.**



## 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**

Following the lifting of covid restrictions in England from Monday 19th July 2021 and as we are in a high risk environment we will be maintaining the control measures we currently have in place. This will include the following:

- \*Intercom at the main door
- \*Social Distancing
- \*Face Coverings
- \*PPE for healthcare Staff

The new variant is much more transmissible, and we ask all patients to be cautious when attending for a face to face appointment, and cancel and seek advice from 119 if in any doubt in regards to possible symptoms.

Our intention is to keep both patients and staff safe while we continue to deliver you medical services.

Thank you for your cooperation and patience.

**Dr Edwards & Partners**

[www.westburygp.co.uk](http://www.westburygp.co.uk)

As the Covid situation eases we will only be featuring the Lavington surgeries news if there is a significant item appearing on either of their websites.



## Wiltshire Police

### Emergency Alerts

About Emergency Alerts

Emergency Alerts is a new service from the UK government. It's expected to launch in summer 2021.

Emergency alerts will warn you if there's a danger to life nearby.

In an emergency, your phone or tablet will receive an alert with advice about how to stay safe.

### When you get an emergency alert

Your phone or tablet may:

make a loud siren-like sound, even if it's set on silent

vibrate

read out the alert

The sound and vibration will last for about 10 seconds.

Stop what you're doing and follow the instructions in the alert.

Sometimes an alert will include a phone number or a link to the GOV.UK website for more information.

The government and mobile phone networks are testing emergency alerts. You may get an alert if you live in, or travel through, a test area.

### If you're driving or riding when you get an alert

Find somewhere safe to stop before using your phone or tablet.

It is illegal to use a hand-held device while driving or riding.

### If you want to see an alert again

You can find current alerts and past alerts at [gov.uk/alerts](http://gov.uk/alerts).

You can also search for them on your phone or tablet.

### Find alerts on Android phones and tablets

Find alerts on iPhone

If you get reminders about an alert

Android phones and tablets may get more than





one reminder about the same emergency alert. To turn these reminders off, search your settings for 'emergency alerts'.

### Reasons you might get an alert

The government and mobile phone networks are testing emergency alerts.

You may get an alert if you live in, or travel through, a test area.

### How it works

Emergency alerts are broadcast from mobile phone masts. Every compatible mobile phone or tablet in range will receive an alert.

The government does not need your phone number to send you an alert.

[Find out more about How emergency alerts work](#)

## Wiltshire Council

### Extracts from the Wiltshire Council latest news.

#### Council and Community First uniting to support young people feeling isolated

Five of Wiltshire Council's area boards are working together with a local charity to support and improve engagement with young people, particularly those who might feel isolated due to living in a rural area.

Community Engagement Managers, Councillors and younger residents identified a need in rural areas for more activities for young people such as regular clubs or one-off events. Access to positive activities for young people can be a little more difficult in rural areas. This new project will involve research and consultation to identify the best solutions for young people during the initial phase. A second phase will see projects set up with the help of community groups and partners to deliver positive activities for young people.

The area boards of Amesbury, Pewsey, Tidworth, Southern Wiltshire, and Warminster have each contributed £5,000 to the

programme, which will see Community First engaging and working with young people. The Area Boards have worked closely with colleagues at Wiltshire Council including Children in Care, Child and Youth Voice and the Employment and Skills team. The programme will further strengthen Wiltshire's resilient communities with support from Area Boards.

Community First, an award winning charity that has supported people and places across Wiltshire and Swindon for more than 50 years, submitted a successful bid to run the project. The programme, set to get underway in August, is initially for one year and, if successful, it is hoped it can continue beyond that, but this would require further funding.

#### Winning combination: Wiltshire social workers achieve national awards

Wiltshire Council social workers have achieved national recognition for their outstanding dedication and commitment to children and families at a prestigious awards ceremony this week.

Pier Pritchard, Charlene Handyside, Lydia Campbell, Kelly Hogan and Kate Farrar, all social workers for Wiltshire Council, were all selected as finalists in the annual Children and Young People's Awards.

Charlene Handyside and Lydia Campbell were attending representing the Support and Safeguarding Team South and picked up The Safeguarding of Children Award in recognition of their hard work with families. Kate Farrar also was commended for her work with Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children in The Children's Champion Award section. Pier Pritchard was nominated for her long service to social work and Kelly Hogan for her child protection social work.

The National Children and Young People's Awards aims to improve public awareness and understanding of social work by showing the positive impact of social workers in the wide range of roles they undertake.



## Edington Parish Council News

So far this month it has been relatively quiet in the village especially with the road to Westbury being closed for the last week. Speed Watch started the latest sessions at the beginning of August and only recorded 60 vehicles in an hour on the first Monday, normally we count around 200 vehicles in an hour. Once the road has reopened we plan to operate again to have an impact on vehicles travelling through the village, it is interesting watching the sudden braking as the driver spots the yellow vests standing by the road side.

If you have been near the Parish Hall car park you may have seen the new solar powered lights have been installed, making the car park

area a much safer place for all users in the evenings when it is dark.

The volunteer group are continuing in their work to help maintain the village and always welcome more volunteers, they meet on the third Wednesday of the month at 9.30am in either the Church car park or the Parish Hall car park. Why not come and join them.

Road closure - the road from Edington through to West Ashton will be closed on 25th and 26th August to enable Wessex Water to repair manholes.

Remember you can always contact the Parish Council by email

[parishcouncil@edingtonwiltshire.org.uk](mailto:parishcouncil@edingtonwiltshire.org.uk)

## HOW TO HEAT YOUR HOME WITHOUT HEATING THE PLANET

**Come along to a presentation by the experts!**

**7pm Thursday 9th September**

**SAVE (Steeple Ashton Values the Environment)** have organised for speakers to come along to talk about:

- Renewable Heating – Heat Pumps / Biomass
- Solar Energy – PV / Thermal / Battery Storage
  - Availability of Grants
  - Options for Older Homes

Our speakers will talk for around 20 minutes each after which there will be an opportunity for questions and a further informal discussion.

The presentation will be held in the village hall on Church St, Steeple Ashton, BA14 6EW

The speakers are from local suppliers of renewable heating and solar energy. The SAVE committee is not connected to these suppliers and you should be aware that other suppliers are available in this area.



## *Village Musings*

As we move gently towards the end of summer, it is time to enjoy the rhythm of the harvest once again. There is something fascinating about watching a combine harvester moving patiently up and down the fields, about enjoying the satisfying symmetry of the straw bales in the fields at the end, dotted like little suns around the shorn ground. Even into the late darkness, the local farmers keep going, lights on, as they bring home the harvest. The trailers come by us on Tinhead road, delivering the grain to the silos, journey after journey, day after day until the work is done.



This calls to something very primitive in us, I think. We will be safe and fed through winter because the harvest has been taken in. I love to see the tight green knots of blackberries soften and loosen into ripeness and to take children out to pick them. The best ones are always too high and too deep, and scratches are inevitable. I love the purple faces and the stained fingers after a blackberry trip. Foraging for our own food is deeply satisfying and children (and adults) are fascinated by wild food. And we eat so many courgettes and runner beans from the allotment and vegetable garden that we begin to run out of different ways to prepare them! But the freezer will be



packed and we shall enjoy them through winter. Soon it will be apple season and we will be moving towards beautiful autumn – my favourite season of all.

In Africa, the seasons are not clearly defined and it is one of the joys of living in England that we can enjoy months of each precious time of the year. I never fail to be enchanted by the change



of seasons and grateful that I can look forward to the next one even as I enjoy this one.

**Mercedes Henning**



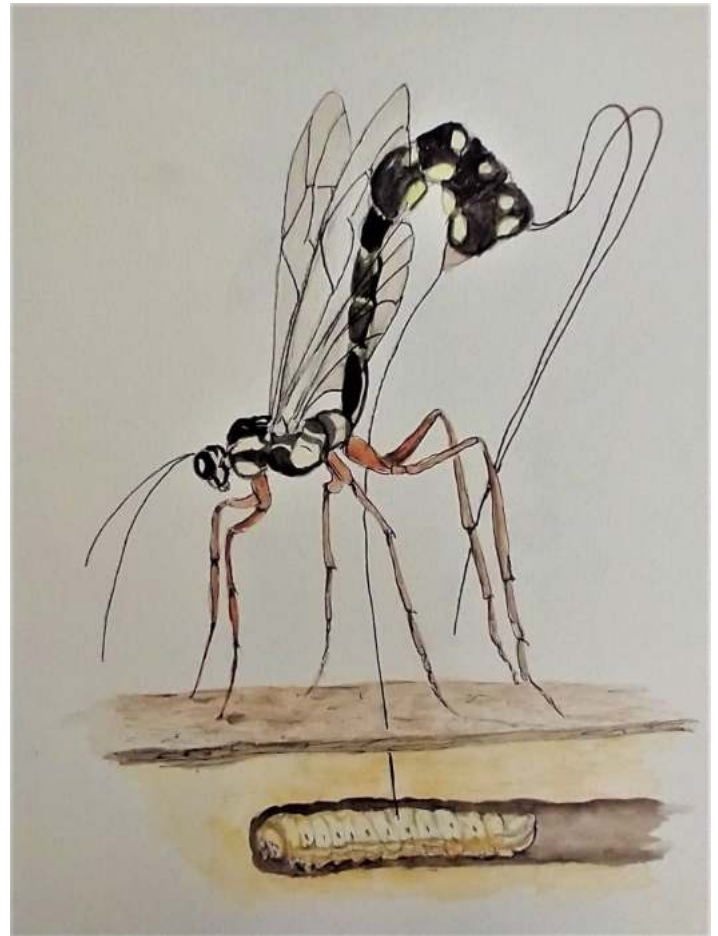
## Parasitic wasps of Edington

In our gardens and along the hedgerows and fields around Edington there is a miniature bizarre world most of us could not even dream of. It is where microscopic wasps lay their eggs on the eggs of other insects and caterpillars happily munch away on leaves unaware that tiny wasp larvae are eating them from the inside. It reminds me all very much of the Sci-fi movie from the 1980's the 'Alien'.

There are about 7800 species of Hymenoptera (wasps, bees, ants, sawflies, wood-wasps) in the UK of which some 80% are parasitoids on, or inside the various life stages of insects. We call them parasitoids as they are distinct from true parasites in that a parasitoid will ultimately kill its host.

These tiny wasps are living all around us in Edington and the only reason we don't see them is the fact that they are so small. Also, the fact that they spend most of their life inside another insect egg or caterpillar. Generally, we usually only notice them when they are spotted on dead hosts – a dead cabbage white caterpillar with tiny yellow silk cocoons attached to it, for example. Or you may have read about them being used as biological controls. These are amazing little insects, and we can get to know more about them if one observes closely what is happening in miniature in our gardens, fields, or hedgerows. None of these wasps has a sting – they are perfectly harmless to humans. And many are very beneficial to us.

Some of these tiny wasps, like the fairy flies, develop inside insect eggs and have adults that are less than 1mm in length. Others develop inside large caterpillars and can be up to 30mm long. Some female parasitic wasps have what appears to be a long 'sting' on the rear end of the abdomen. This is part of the female's egg-laying equipment.



**A parasitic ichneumonid wasp about 30 mm long drilling her slender ovipositor deep into the stem of a plant to reach the host caterpillar feeding inside. It will lay one or more eggs into the caterpillar (del. S.F. Henning).**

Insects can be attacked by parasitic wasps at any stage in their life cycle, such as at the egg stage, larvae or nymphs at various ages, pupae, or adults.

Parasitic wasps lay their eggs either on the outside of the host animal or they insert the eggs inside. On hatching, the parasitoid wasp larvae initially feed on the blood in the host insect bodies. Later they feed on non-vital organs, such as fat reserves. The host animal continues feeding and shows no signs of distress until the parasitoid larva or larvae have reached the stage where they are fully fed. In the case of them developing in caterpillars, this often





coincides with the host caterpillar also completing its feeding. At that stage, the wasp larvae complete their feeding by eating the host animal's internal organs. The wasps either pupate within the carcass of their dead host, or they emerge and pupate in silk cocoons nearby.



**The 5 mm long braconid wasp endoparasite *Cotesia glomerata* of the caterpillars of the Large white butterfly (del. S.F. Henning)**

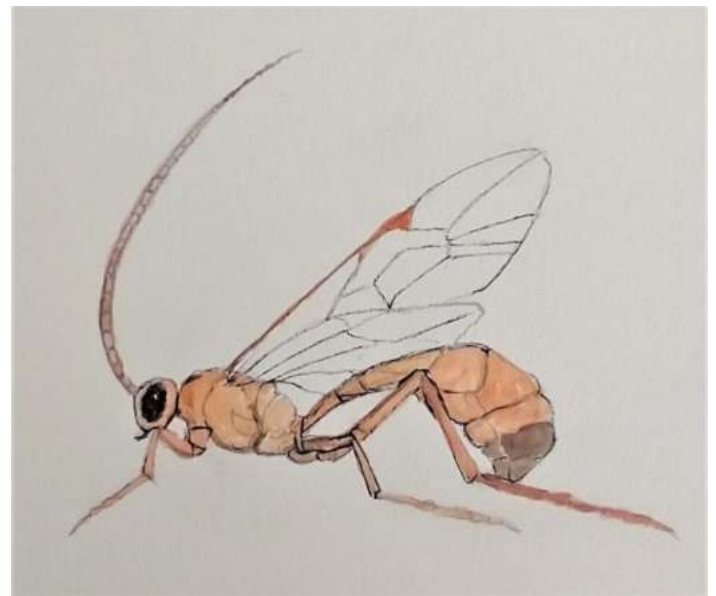
One common parasitic wasp species likely to be seen by us around Edington gardens or countryside is the braconid wasp parasitoid *Cotesia glomerata* (it has no common name) which develops as larvae in caterpillars of the Large white butterfly. If your cabbages are being ravaged by butterflies, you might take some comfort from the fact that up to 70 per cent of the caterpillars are likely to be parasitised.

Other wasp species develop as larvae inside adult ladybirds, while other species develop as larvae inside aphids.

The ladybird parasitoid inserts an egg into the underside of an adult ladybird's body. The parasitoid larva develops inside the ladybird's



**Braconid wasp larvae spinning cocoons after emerging from a butterfly caterpillar.**



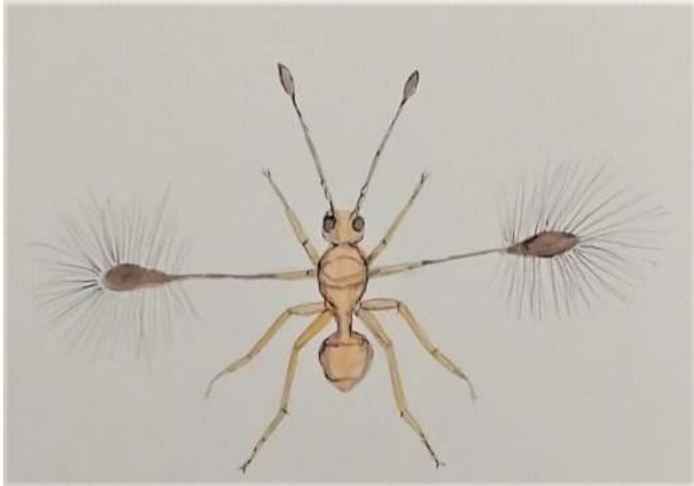
**A common Ichneumon wasp around Edington is *Netelia testaceus* which is an ectoparasite of moth larvae. It is about 16 mm long, flies all summer and is nocturnal and is often attracted to lights (Del S.F. Henning)**

abdomen. When it is fully fed it paralyses the ladybird by destroying its nervous system. It emerges from the host insect and spins a silk cocoon in which it pupates underneath the ladybird's body. The red and black markings on a ladybird are warning coloration that tell birds and other predators that ladybirds are not good to eat. By hiding itself under the immobilised ladybird's body, the parasitoid pupa benefits from this protection.





Aphids that have been parasitized develop abnormally swollen and rounded bodies compared to healthy aphids. When a parasitized aphid has died, it becomes greyish brown. The adult wasp emerges through a circular hole eaten in the upper surface of the aphid.



**Mymar pulchellus, with a wingspan of about 3 mm is one of the largest of the fairy flies which grow up inside the eggs of other insects (Del. S.F. Henning).**

Fairyflies are some of the most common chalcid wasps but are rarely noticed by people because of their extremely small sizes. They are amongst the smallest insects in the world. The



**Trichogramma species are produced commercially to control plant pests (Del. S.F. Henning).**

smallest have body lengths of only 0.14 mm. Their adult lifespans are very short, usually only a few days. All known fairyflies are parasitoids of the eggs of other insects, and several species have been successfully used as biological pest control agents.

Trichogramma wasps often only 0.2 mm long are used for biological control on numerous crops including cotton, sugarcane, vegetables, sugarbeets, orchards, and forests. Some of the moth pests controlled include cotton bollworm, codling moth, apple moth, and European corn borer.

**Stephen Henning**



## Erlestoke & Coulston Cricket Club

With the arrival of August, the cricket club already finds itself looking towards the end of the season. With only 4 league games left and a handful of Sunday and midweek friendlies, it's once again all come and gone too soon. However, there is still plenty of opportunity for the club's members to score runs and take wickets, not to mention an exciting home test series to watch between England and India.

Although the rain did its best in late June and July, the club once again managed to run a successful junior section that saw us welcoming many children from the local area. We hope to increase our numbers next year and look forward to running the junior sessions next season.

With another successful year in league cricket coming to an exciting conclusion, the Saturday team have had a great run of results recently and in late July find ourselves at top spot in Division 4 with a lead of 13 points over our nearest rivals. This week's home game against Marlborough is a must win game and we wish all involved much success.







Another recent success was the annual cricket tour, which this year was based in and around of Swanage. We managed to play 3 games over the weekend and lost one to the storms. After losing the opening T20 game, the tourists rallied and had impressive close wins on Saturday and Sunday. A huge thanks to all involved in organising and playing this year. It was another excellent 4 days away with plenty of sun, sea and good cricket.

But the season is not done yet and whilst the sun shines, there is still the opportunity for any keen cricketers to come and have a game. Please get in touch if you would like to find out more about the club, or pop up on a Saturday or Sunday to watch and meet some of the club members.

**Joe Dorgan**  
**Chairman ECCC**  
**07846 213702**

## Don't forget the Flower and Produce Show

**Saturday 4th September at  
2.30pm in the Parish Hall**



## THREE VILLAGES MINIBUS (TVM)

We are still operating some covid restrictions and ask everyone to wear face coverings (unless, for medical reasons they are exempt). This also means that all drivers will need to have a familiarisation exercise, both with the operations of the vehicle and with the corona virus requirements. This guidance will be either with myself or another designated committee member and will take place before they can drive TVM.

Regrettably, due to diesel prices having increased significantly and the need to cover these and the cost of disinfecting the bus, sanitisers etc., we will be putting up fares for our shopping trips in September, subject to approval from Wiltshire County. The last rise was 10years ago. However, these changes will not affect passengers with concessionary passes.

All these journeys accept concessionary passes and will return you to your door. These trips are open to all resident of our villages; we welcome everyone, of any age.

Group hire can also now resume if they wish to do so.

**Joy Fraser (830426)**

### We hope to Run Shopping Trips starting at Edington on

Destination	August	September	Start Time
Devizes - £2.70	Thursday 5th	Thursday 2nd	9am
Warminster - £2.30	Tuesday 17th	Tuesday 28th	1.25pm
Westbury - £1.70	Every Thursday	Every Thursday	1.30pm
Salisbury - £4.00	Saturday 7th	Saturday 4th	9.30am



## THE SWARMING OF THE SWARM!

Following on from June's newsletter, I thought it would be interesting for you to know how the swarm I caught from Jasper and Pauline's Garden on 27 May is coming along. At dusk I gently tipped the swarm into one of the empty 5 hives I had in the garden. This hive is named 'Beatrice', (the others being Boudicca, Bronwen, Morwenna and Gwyneth).



**ABOVE: BEATRICE, BOUDICCA & BRONWEN**

I placed a Queen Excluder under the brood box in order to stop the queen from getting out and after a week of leaving the colony alone, I removed the excluder and carried out my first inspection. From observation from outside during the week, I could tell they had been extremely busy; in fact, it was like the flight path going into Heathrow airport! What an amazing sight when I got my first peek at the bees – in just one week the hive had turned into a production factory, as the photos show.

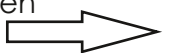
Although I was unable to spot the Queen on that day (I did find and mark her a week later), I knew she was in the hive due to the number of eggs and larvae, in addition to the stores of pollen and nectar being brought in by the worker bees.

In the meantime, I had received 3 boxes of bees from Italy which I had ordered to replace the ones lost the previous winter which had belonged to the lovely late Geoff Lupton. These went into Bronwen, Morwenna and Gwyneth leaving a spare hive next to Beatrice where the Dorgan swarm was busy doing their bee stuff.



**ABOVE: MORWENNA & GWYNETH**

So far so good. Then, on 20 July, a very flustered Mike came into the house to tell me that he thought the bees from Beatrice were swarming. A huge buzzing mass was gathering. It slowly moved down into the orchard behind our garden where it settled in an apple tree. 'Here we go again' I thought, as I lugged the poly box, sheet, brush and smoker whilst kitted out in my thick bee suit, rubber gloves and wellies in 30-degree heat. Neighbours who had been





enjoying the sun were alerted and quickly retreated behind doors. The tree was very low; I had to go on my hands and knees to be able to get to the swarm but after several attempts, managed to get it into the box and left it there on the sheet for any stragglers to join their hive mates.



## Brood frames

I am not sure yet whether it was the original queen from the swarm who decided to up and leave or whether it was a newly hatched queen looking for a home as there was a hatched-out queen cell in Beatrice. As of yet, I have not been able to spot either of them but will keep checking.

The new swarm was popped into Hive Boudicca (next door to where they swarmed from) and they appear to be thriving. I went from 5 empty hives to 5 full ones in just a few

weeks. There will be no honey extracted this year as the bees will need all their stores to keep them fed over the winter months, but I am hoping for a bonanza honey fest next summer!



## Brood frames

**Julie Swabey**  
**August 2021**



**EDINGTON AND DISTRICT  
GARDENING CLUB**

**FLOWER AND PRODUCE SHOW  
SATURDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2021**



**DISPLAYS AVAILABLE FOR VIEWING  
FROM 2.30pm IN THE PARISH HALL**

**~ REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE ~**  
**ADULTS - 50p CHILDREN - FREE**





## Edington What's On Diary

Date	Time	Event Title	Description	Venue	Other information
19 August	7am - 10pm	Police and Crime Commissioner election		Parish Hall	
4 September	2.30pm	Produce Show	Edington and District Gardening Club Flower and Produce Show	Parish Hall	

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

### Coffee morning Drop In



Every Tuesday,  
10.30 - 11.30 am  
in the Three Daggers.  
Transport available.

### Contacting us

Email the newsletter at [newsletter@edingtonwiltshire.org.uk](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:newsletter@edingtonwiltshire.org.uk)

**Deadline for articles 5th of the month.**

### 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](http://www.edingtonwiltshire.org.uk/newsletter)  
and enter your details or email [newsletter@edingtonwiltshire.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@edingtonwiltshire.org.uk)  
and you will be added to the mailing list.