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EDINGTON PARISH HALL COMMITTEE INVITES YOU TO

COME AND JOIN US AT A MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING



Where: Edington Parish Hall

When: Saturday 16th October

Time: 10.30am to 12 noon



Welcome to the eighteenth edition of the Edington Village News.

This month we have a bumper edition of 24 pages. A whole host of articles to read and enjoy whilst watching autumn arrive outside.

- 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

WORLD'S BIGGEST
COFFEE
MORNING

Fundraising for

MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT



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

Bath and North East Somerset,
Swindon and Wiltshire
Clinical Commissioning Group

Eligible for a Covid-19 booster vaccine?

You will be contacted.

Dear Patients

As you become eligible for the covid booster vaccination, you will receive a letter or text message from NHS England. You will need to follow the instructions on the letter and book through the national booking system by phoning 119 or using this link below.

<https://www.nhs.uk/.../book-or-manage-a-booster-dose-of-the-.../>

The surgery will not be contacting you to book directly.

Thank you for your cooperation and patience.

Dr Edwards & Partners

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

Wiltshire Police Officers will offer reassurance checks to public

Wiltshire Police officers will be offering a simple verification process to the public which will allow them to confirm that the officer is on duty.

All officers will now proactively offer to carry out this verification check to anyone they engage with who appears concerned for their safety or vulnerable by putting their personal issue radio on loudspeaker and asking a member of our control room to confirm who they are and that they are on duty.

This check can also be requested by any concerned member of the public.

Chief Constable Kier Pritchard said: "Following the murder of Sarah Everard, it is only right that my operational colleagues expect and are tolerant of those who wish to be further reassured in our interactions with them.

"I have asked all of my operational colleagues to take additional time to explain and reassure our communities who they are, what they are doing and why.

"We appreciate that the onus is on us, as a police service, to proactively offer any additional reassurance we can to the communities we serve.

"This new process is a small step but one which I feel is appropriate, proportionate and will be welcomed by those we serve.





"I would encourage our communities to feel confident to ask any questions they might have of any of my officers, members of staff or volunteers.

"We are here to protect and serve you and we understand that you might have questions or comments on how we work to achieving that.

"This new verification process is just one action we can take to try and rebuild some of the trust and confidence this horrific case has eroded and I appreciate this is just the start.

"I look forward to continuing to cultivate an open, two-way dialogue with our communities to move forward together."

Wiltshire Council

Extracts from the Wiltshire Council latest news.

New parking payment machines in Wiltshire Council car parks make it easier to pay

From Monday 4 October, Wiltshire Council has started installing 14 new parking payment machines at car parks across Wiltshire, which will make it easier for people to pay by cash or contactless card.

The new payment machines are part of the council's machine replacement programme, and will offer customers much more choice when paying for parking. The new machines will help to meet the changing needs of customers by offering the option to also pay by contactless card, including mobile wallets such as Apple Pay and Google Pay.

Cllr Dr Mark McClelland, Cabinet Member for Transport, said: This is our first large instalment of these contactless payment machines in Wiltshire, which we are moving forward with following a successful trial of three machines in two car parks in Salisbury over the last three years. We look forward to seeing the new machines up and running and hope these new contactless

payment machines will help make the process of paying for parking much easier for customers.

The 14 locations that will have the new contactless payment machines installed this week are; Bath Road in Chippenham; Emery Gate in Chippenham; Borough Parade in Chippenham; Boroughfields in Royal Wootton Bassett; Sainsbury's in Devizes; Station Road in Devizes; West Central in Devizes; Cross Hayes in Malmesbury; George Lane in Marlborough; Church Street in Melksham; The Station in Bradford on Avon; and Court Street in Trowbridge.

During the installation, there will be no disruption to users of these car parks, as other machines will remain available to take payments.

If people have any questions relating to parking they can email:
ParkingServices@wiltshire.gov.uk.

Cabinet to decide on electric vehicle charging infrastructure plan for Wiltshire

At next week's meeting (Tuesday 12 October), Wiltshire Council's Cabinet will consider approving a new electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure plan, which looks to improve the council's current EV charging network and work with local communities to increase the number of charging points in the county.

The council currently has 76 EV charging points (38 charging units, two points on each) in its car parks, which are operated and managed by BP Pulse. Many of these were installed several years ago, and now the technology is advancing quickly, there is an opportunity to replace the old units with modern, faster chargers.

To ensure there is a more reliable - and widespread - charging network in Wiltshire, the electric vehicle charging infrastructure plan seeks to improve the network across the county, by replacing the non-working chargers and those in high use areas.



It also proposes the offering of grants to support parish, town and city councils to provide more charging points in council-operated car parks. The plan also sets the foundations for the national move to electric vehicles, which will then be built upon in the Local Transport Plan in 2023.

Cllr Dr Mark McClelland, Cabinet Member for Transport, said: "We know that some of the charging points in our car parks are not working, and we know how frustrating that can be for electric vehicle owners. That's why we're bringing forward this plan to replace the council's current network with modern chargers and to work with local communities to help more people make the switch to electric vehicles.

"If this plan is approved by Cabinet, we can move forward with the tender process and people can expect to see new machines in our car parks and more charging points installed throughout Wiltshire over future years."

To find out more about EV charge points in Wiltshire, people should visit our website. To read the Cabinet report, [people should go online.](#)

Edington Parish Council News

The Parish Council would like to thank all of the villagers who submitted their views on the proposal to enhance the village playfield facilities and also the villagers who attended the Parish Meeting. The Council met on the Thursday following the Parish Meeting and having considered all of the comments made both at the meeting and in written form decided unanimously to agree in principle to the proposal submitted by Three Dagers Operating Ltd. We will now start firming up the proposal with Three Dagers Operating to ensure that we end up with an enhanced playfield that will be of benefit to the entire village, whilst at the same time ensuring that we have taken on board comments made by villagers. The Parish Council will have the playfield enhancement as a standing item on all future meeting agendas

and we will also be issuing updates in this newsletter at the appropriate time. Obviously the negotiations will at times be subject to confidentiality as we are working with a commercial organisation.

The village speed watch group continues to operate on a regular basis and our next three week session will be in October. We share the gun with Bratton and West Ashton so we normally have it for three weeks in every nine. Unfortunately we are still "catching" a significant number of motorists exceeding the speed limit. In one of our recent sessions we recorded 18 vehicles exceeding the speed limit in excess of 35mph and five of those were in excess of 40mph. To help keep the village safe especially for pedestrians please ensure that when driving through the village you adhere to the speed limit of 30mph.

Our bid to have a 20mph limit on all village roads except the B3098 goes before the relevant committee in County Hall in early October and by the next edition of this newsletter we should know if we have been successful. If we are successful it is anticipated that the work on installing the limit and changing signage etc. will take place in early summer 2022. We hope that the changing of the speed limit between Edington and Bratton from 50mph to 40mph will be completed shortly.

Forthcoming roadworks - work will be carried out in the area around Woodbridge between the 25th and the 29th of October 2021, it is anticipated that the road will be closed during this time from the bottom of Greater Lane through to West Ashton. The B3098 will be closed in Little Cheverill between 11th and 15th October for tree and associated works. In Greatwoods between the 20th and 22nd October there will be footway resurfacing, edgings and ironworks.

Remember you can always contact the Parish Council by email

parishcouncil@edingtonwiltshire.org.uk



Village Musings

My favourite season of the year is autumn. The fire of the leaves licking across the trees, bright against the grey skies delights my soul, and so does the dew on the cobwebs. There is that very special scent that belongs to October – earthy and full and sleepy. A sense of earth preparing to curl up and rest through winter. In Edington, with our downs and our trees and our fields surrounded by jewelled hedgerows we can be completely immersed in autumn and revel in it. We will light our first fires and pull the rugs over our legs and remember how to rest through the darker days.

From the playfield, you can look down onto the field where the sheep graze; you can pick up walnuts and conkers perhaps, and feel the grass making your shoes wet and the damp air curling your hair. Spend a moment or two to enjoy this especially this autumn – by next autumn the sheep field and the green heart of our village may look very different (if the plans put forward by the 3D reach fruition).



The white poplars along Lambourne lane shimmer against our grey autumn skies with a brilliance that always surprises. The sun is lower in the sky, and turns the landscape golden as you face south to where the swallows have already flown.

I love to walk along our lanes and see the shorn fields, the quiet trees and the puddles. I enjoy the anticipation of the cold to come and the snugly, comforting dark nights and short days. I never tire of the joy of the changing seasons.

Mercedes Henning

Edington & District Gardening Club

First Thursday in the month at the Parish Hall 7.30pm

10 members had an enjoyable afternoon at The American Museum at Claverton in September. Despite it being later in the season there were still plenty of flowers and wonderful grasses out in the lovely sunshine.

The Museum and Gardens opened to the public in 1961 and is the only museum outside of the United States to showcase the decorative arts of America. We were there for the Garden this time. It is set in the 30 acres around the house with spectacular views across the Limpley Stoke Valley and beyond. We were shown around by guide Amy, the newly planted area was commissioned in 2018. The planting follows the free form style made famous by the firm's founders, (OvS) Wolfgang Oehme and James van Sweden. Also included is a replica of George Washington's garden at Mount Vernon, a Lewis Clark trail and an Arboretum. Remnants of the old Italianate style include the grotto, the balustrade and curtain walling, and ornamental stone work.

Our next meeting will be in the Parish Hall, at 7.30pm, 4th November, we look forward to hearing Judith Plante-Cleall. The talk will be 'The Grand Tour'.

Visitors are always welcome

Further details on tel.no. 830133



costs).

We meet every Thursday in Edington Parish Hall between 10am and 12 noon. The first session is free, and only £2 per family thereafter (to help with running



Slugs of Edington

One of my daughters recently sent me a photo of one of her prize marrows which had been eaten by slugs. It had been totally hollowed out and one of the culprits was still happily munching away inside.



Yellow slug - *Limax flavus* eating one of my daughters' prize marrows

We are all rather disgusted by slugs with their naked slimy bodies and gardeners in particular hate the damage they do to plants and vegetables in their gardens. But slugs are in fact very interesting and important parts of the ecosystem.

There are some 40 species of slug found in the United Kingdom but only a small number of these are actually considered to be pest species of crops. The vast majority of species are considered to be generalist herbivorous feeders and will usually eat such things as decaying plant material, flowers, fruits, mushrooms and lichens. As well as these herbivorous slugs, there are a number of species that are omnivorous, and some are even carnivorous. These will eat carrion, and some will actively hunt other slugs and snails.

Slugs are also an important part of the ecosystem as they provide food for a variety of our native predators such as hedgehogs, toads, birds such as thrushes and even carnivorous ground beetles.

Slugs are also interesting in the way they move and find their way around our gardens. They move in rhythmic waves by contracting muscles on the underside of the foot. At the

same time a layer of slimy mucus is produced that helps to smooth the slug's path across the ground. They also use their slimy trails to guide them back to their tunnels.

Slugs mostly rely on their sense of smell to find their way around. Slugs also have two retractable pairs of tentacles on their heads. The upper pair of tentacles are called the optical tentacles and are the eyes of a slug and are also used to smell. The shorter tentacles extending downward are used for feeling and tasting. The mouth parts are below the tentacles and the slugs eat using a radula which is a tongue-like organ that is covered with thousands of microscopic teeth. The radula scrapes up, or rasps, food particles from the food surface. Slugs have a large respiratory pore which leads to a single lung and is generally found on the right-hand side.

Slugs usually only venture out in cool damp weather, rain and fog is the best weather for them as they don't have an outer shell to protect them. In dry and warm weather, they may dry out so they will try to find a cool, dark, and damp area to hide in.

The colour of most species varies considerably often making it difficult to identify them at a glance. Some of the species that you might find around Edington are:

The Grey field slug is the most commonly cited pest species in the UK, and one of the most serious global plant pests. It grows to about 3-4.5 mm long. Colour is exceedingly variable and ranges from bright white to almost entirely black; it is most commonly pale buff with darker blotches. The sole is pale, commonly with a visible darkened central strip of gut contents. The



The Grey field slug (*Deroceras reticulata*)





head and tentacles are dark. They are found in most open habitats. It is a particular problem for commercial growers, as they can reach huge numbers on cultivated land.

One of the carnivorous species is the Ear shelled slug that feeds mainly on earthworms. It grows to between 7 and 10 cm in length. Their colour is usually creamy-white to yellow brown, commonly darkening towards the tail tip and is without distinct markings. They have a small, often slightly convex, ear-shaped shell near the tail. The tentacles are brown. The foot fringe and sole are creamy white or pale yellow like the body. It is usually found in rich soils including gardens and allotments where earthworms are common.



The carnivorous Ear shelled slug (*Testacella haliotidea*)

The Large red slug feeds on live plant material, however it also omnivorous diet and more and readily feeds on decaying vegetation and food waste. commonly occurs in gardens, woods, moors and agricultural land. It is a large slug and can grow to 6-15 cm in length. Their colour can be extremely variable, even within the same population. Most commonly it is grey or orange, but extreme morphs of black and almost white are rarely recorded. The foot fringe is usually a bright orange. The sole is paler than the body sides, often with a distinctive orange tinge, particularly towards the head. Tentacles and



The Large red slug (*Arion rufus*)

head are almost always darker than the rest of the slug. Tubercles are large but can often appear flattened.

Spanish slugs are usually associated with built up areas and arable land and if conditions are right, they can reach extremely large populations sizes. They have an omnivorous diet that includes excrement, dead animals, garden plants and a variety of crops that are not normally susceptible to slug feeding. They are also known to outcompete and push out other slug and snail species. They can grow to between 6-15 cm in length and their colour varies, usually ranging from light orange-brown to dark chocolate brown. They have dark brown-black tentacles, coarse tubercles and a dark grey sole.



Spanish slug (*Arion vulgaris*)

The Yellow Slug (*Limax flavus*) as its name implies is a large yellowish slug mottled with grey patches which can grow up to 10cm in length. Its tentacles are blue. It is common and widespread in England, Wales and Ireland. Often found in gardens and damp places in houses, it can be considered a pest, but is an important nutrient recycler. Feeds voraciously on seedlings and vegetables so where it does occur on agricultural and horticultural land it can do serious damage.

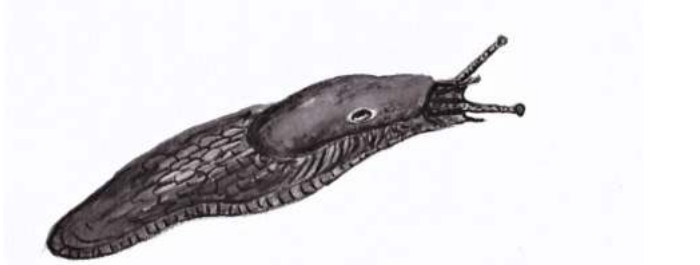


The Yellow Slug (*Limax flavus*) – this individual found feeding on my daughter's marrow.





The Large Black slug (*Arion ater*) is usually black in colour but can be brown with an orange frill. can grow up to 14cm when fully mature. Commonly found in gardens and woodland areas.



The large black slug (*Arion ater*) is also often – confusingly – a bright orange and beige colour.

Leopard or great grey slug *Limax maximus* is easily recognisable with its leopard-like spots and very long tentacles, and it can grow up to 16cm. This species is not usually a plant pest with its preferred diet being fungi, dead plant or animal matter. It is commonly found in parkland, woodland and gardens.



Leopard or great grey slug (*Limax maximus*).

Stephen Henning

Coffee morning Drop In



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

Are there ideas we can share to do our “bit” for the environment?

I am sure we all have our own ways of helping the environment, but could we share what we do and make a bigger impact that way?

Would there be support for a “swishing” event to exchange goods and clothes with a donation to to the parish hall?

My feeling is to keep as much as we can locally, so:

I buy local honey from the farm shop in Edington or Home farmshop just outside Westbury. That way I feel I am helping local beekeepers and the bees and local traders.

I buy eggs from Edington when they are available.

If I need pork I buy it from Edington Pigs, delivered to the door.

I buy other meat from the butcher in Market Lavington, delivered to the door.

I ask friends and neighbours for surplus apples at this time of year.

I use the excellent TVM to get to Devizes market once a month and to Westbury when I need supermarket shopping, again returning me to my door.

I am sure you all do much more, so can we share our ideas?

Anne Tottingham

Anne Tottingham, Homeopath, Reiki Master/Teacher, Tai Chi practitioner



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). Any drivers not familiar with our new vehicle and covid requirements will need to have guidance from an appropriate member of the TVM committee.

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.

We are having a Wednesday afternoon trip to Wells leaving Edington at 1.15pm. on Wednesday October 20th; anyone interested in going should contact myself or Pauline.

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

Joy Fraser (830426)



Four Villages Link

Do you live in Bratton, Edington, Erlestoke or Coulston and would benefit from a helping hand?

We have a team of volunteers who are happy to help at no cost to you (unless you would like to make a donation). Our services include:

- Driving you to and from appointments – doctor, dentist, hospital
- Taking you shopping
- Visiting you for a chat or help around the home.

Phone **07852 256939** and our friendly coordinator will make the arrangements.

Go to this site if you would like to read more about Four Villages Link:

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

Shopping Trips starting at Edington on

Destination	October	November	Start Time
Devizes - £3.20	Thursday 7th	Thursday 4th	9am
Warminster - £2.80	Tuesday 12th	Tuesday 9th	1.25pm
Westbury - £2.30	Every Thursday	Every Thursday	1.30pm
Salisbury - £5.00	Saturday 9th	Saturday 13th	9.30am



Thanks, and reflections on the joy of living in Edington from Anne Tottingham

Tai Chi practitioner, Homeopath, Reiki teacher
21st September 2021

The main bulk of this thank you note was written in August, so I wanted to add to this as I can do what I like now... says the consultant at the hospital! I asked various questions and he said yes to them all as he had just seen me walk down the corridor. Such expertise.

I am not walking the distances I did but know I can if I choose. So, you may see me out on my bike, doing tai chi on the field, who knows what I will do now?! I did walk up and down Long Hollow and Salisbury Hollow with the help of 2 friends, more of a challenge than we all bargained for, but hey ho, we enjoyed it I am grateful for the good weather we have had.

As I recover very well from a recent operation on the 6th of August, I am truly grateful for the concern, good wishes and help received in this amazingly supportive village.

I know that I went into the operation buoyed up on a sea of love and care.

My fast recovery was helped by the fact I was sent so many good wishes, have been doing tai chi for so many years, (I will be back on the playing field Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, 8.15am asap!), homeopathy (yes, I do have a homeopath, I wouldn't trust self-medication in these circumstances) and the reiki community sending healing energy my way. Plus, I have a strong constitution.

Of course, the surgeon is an excellent craftsman, so a good job done there. As people know who have been through this process before, regular walking is part of the recovery plan.

Walking slowly, for the sake of walking, is not something I usually do so I have been relishing

the joy of it, walking further than I have been able to for 2 years and not like a duck! Walking along Baynton Way is a joy as it is flat and full of wildlife from birds to insects to the breeze on the leaves and the wonderful views across the newly mowed fields.

I have a pedometer on my phone which gives me an incentive to check the distance covered and the speed at which I am travelling, not that I am competitive in any way. I gave myself the challenge of walking up and down Charlton Hill, just once!

My aim of being able to put my own socks on and tie my shoelaces has been achieved at the end of 3 weeks after the operation. I love the idea of being able to reach these small goals.

As part of being involved with reiki there are 5 principles we pay attention to every day. I do not pretend to adhere to all of these, but my intention is always there. Two of these are, "Just for today be kind to myself and others" and " just for today show gratitude".

With heartfelt thanks

Anne Tottingham

EDINGTON PARISH HALL

At the top of Monastery Road, is available for hire at very reasonable rates and has the



benefit of a car park opposite the hall. Suitable for parties, meetings, family celebrations, funeral wakes and other events.

For more information or to book the hall, using the online booking system, go to

www.edingtonwiltshire.org.uk/hall

Alternatively email

parishhall@edingtonwiltshire.org.uk or phone

01380 830441. We look forward to welcoming you to the hall.



Suez

I was prompted to recall my memories of Suez in the 1950s by Paul Millard's review of Phillip Harris's book 'Caught in the Crossfires of History' (Edington Village Newsletter, September).

I was in the Canal Zone before Phillip. My father was posted there as head of army medical services in 1952 and I lived there for a year in a town called Fayid which is about halfway down the Suez Canal and on the west bank of the Great Bitter Lake.

Phillip gives a wonderful description of the military action by British and French forces around Port Said. They were sent in to open the Suez Canal to international shipping after the Egyptians closed the canal in 1956.

My mother and I arrived by troop ship to Port Said and my memory of that is firstly the Egyptian small boys who would dive very deep to retrieve coins thrown from the ship by passengers. Secondly there were the 'Gully Gully' men who did magic tricks; the one I particularly remember was conjuring a tiny live yellow chick out of my ear.

I was 8 years old and have many positive memories of my time in Fayid. I do not remember the house we lived in very clearly but I think it was single-story and had a tin roof; I remember this because I got into trouble for going out at dusk and firing stones from my catapult onto the roofs of surrounding houses. This made a most satisfying noise but the neighbours did not appreciate the noise as much as I did and complained to my parents. My father did not often get cross with me but he did on this occasion, partly because when he came out to find me I hid in the dark.

I do remember the garden because it was mainly sand and I could make extensive roadways for my toy cars. We lived in a secure military compound; my happiest memory is that I could cycle on my own to the sailing club, take out a small sailing boat and swim down to a

sunken wreck in the clear water. I was surrounded by seahorses and have always had a particular affection for these lovely creatures. There was an island in the middle of the lake and on my birthday a party was organised on the island for me and my friends. One of my friends was a girl called Annette and she did a trick with a handkerchief; she folded it in such a way that it formed two conical breasts when held onto her totally flat chest. I was tremendously impressed. I suppose that was the first time I realised that girls were rather special beings. I have never seen anybody do that trick since.

Outside the compound things were considerably less secure. When I accompanied my mother on shopping trips to Ismailia we were accompanied by two soldiers with machine guns. I thought this was great of course and it never occurred to me at the time that my mother must have been a bit worried or frightened.

My only negative memory of that year in Egypt was having to go to the army school. As the son of a Colonel I was given a very rough time by the bigger children of 'other ranks'. I do not remember whether I kept quiet about this or complained to my parents but in any case at the end of the year I was sent to a boarding prep school in Sussex. The first time I went swimming at the school my sun-bleached hair and dark brown skin were remarked on. I do not remember sun lotion ever being applied to my skin and I have not yet developed skin cancer. My sister, 10 years older than me, met her fiancée during our time in Egypt. He was out there doing his national service as a Royal Engineer and was also a Parachutist. He developed swellings in his neck which were biopsied and it was confirmed that he had Hodgkin disease, a form of malignant lymphoma which at the time was a death sentence. My father was responsible for sending him to the Westminster Hospital in London where he was successfully treated. He and my sister later had two daughters and





subsequent grandchildren and great-grandchildren. As a medical student at Guy's Hospital in the 1960s I went to the Gordon Museum at Guy's to see the specimens which Thomas Hodgkin prepared when he described the disease which bears his name in 1832. They can still be seen there.

There is an essential postscript to my story. As Phillip Harris says at the end of his brilliant description of the Suez Expedition as seen through the eyes of a soldier, it was 'the last great amphibious assault in history' and was a great military success but totally undermined by politicians-, 'a political fiasco'. Both the British and French forces suffered a major blow to their military morale caused by politicians withdrawing their forces before the job was finished. They demonstrated extraordinary dithering and lack of faith in their military, - and the chief culprit was the British prime minister, Anthony Eden. He made things even worse by alienating the Americans who should have been allies of the British and French. The Russians exploited this by taking the side of the Egyptians. Sadly, a medical disaster was one of the factors in Eden's poor performance. He was unwell in the months leading up to Suez and it was decided, quite correctly, that he should have a cholecystectomy, an operation to remove his gall bladder. If you are going to have an operation choose a good surgeon and let him or her get on with it. Unfortunately in Eden's case, despite good advice (which was ignored) and under undue pressure from politicians that 'the patient was so important that this operation must be done to extra -high standards' the operation turned out to be disaster. As a wise boss of mine said many years ago: 'It's the little bit more that's the little bit too much. The better is the enemy of the good.'

I knew a number of surgeons of that era who would have made a good job of his operation, one of whom I worked for, but I also worked as a junior doctor under one of the two surgeons

who did Eden's operation. I would not have chosen him. Eden's main bile duct was injured and he nearly died of haemorrhage at a second operation by the same surgeons to attempt to correct things. Throughout this period there was one particular surgeon nearby in London who would have been able to rescue the situation. The surgical events were obfuscated by deliberately mendacious operative notes. Eden ended up going (unnecessarily) to the USA for further operations and was in poor health for the rest of his life. At the time of the Suez events his judgement would have been seriously impaired. In 1956 the NHS was only 8 years old and politicians had not yet started to exert the malign control over the doctors and nurses who ran it which is now such a problem; that started in the 1970s and has become an increasing stranglehold ever since. They appoint escalating numbers of well-paid managers in their quest for total micromanagement and in the process demotivate and deprofessionalise those who do the actual useful work, which of course results in the problems with recruitment and retention we now see.

Clinicians in today's NHS feel very much about their political masters as those soldiers in Suez felt back in 1956.

Richard Spicer

Coffee morning Drop In



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

Transport available.



Tales of the Unexpected

We came to Edington in 1975 when we bought our present house in Greatwoods. The bungalow was for sale because the man worked for Ushers Brewery which had been purchased by Watney Mann and he was being transferred to a senior post in the Midlands.

On a recent coach trip to Suffolk, we shared a dining table with a couple who lived in Yeovil, having moved there from Trowbridge a few years ago. During our conversations, they said that they had worked for a short time at Usher's Brewery so we mentioned how we had bought our property from an employee. They immediately enquired what he was called. After a period of trying to remember his name, it came to mind as Phillip Goodwin.

The lady gasped and said, "I was his secretary".

When we were purchasing the property in Edington, the Goodwin's kindly invited us into their home on a number of occasions including watching the 1975 Cup Final on TV as our furniture was in store. They mentioned that they had one child, a daughter called Alison, who had finished university and left home.

A few years ago, a lady came to our doorstep (out of the blue) and explained she was visiting the area and that her parents had lived there many years before. They wondered if we knew what had become of the people who had succeeded them. Her parents were now in their nineties and were in poor health. We said "you must be Alison" (imagine her amazement) followed by "we are still here".

After a long conversation, she thanked us for the information stating that her parents would appreciate our best wishes and left a very happy woman.

George and Joy Fraser.



South Hills Old School Nursery

High Street, Great Cheverell

News and Views November 21

South Hills Old School Nursery staff and children have been excited to hold their first open evening since COVID, it has been fantastic to welcome our families back into the nursery to share the superb facilities and resources we have. Parents were delighted to see their children's art work and models displayed and also hear about the fabulous opportunities their children have. We have also been raising money to buy a new sand pit for our field and sails to cover our courtyard to create an all year round learning environment. In memory of Merv Ridout, our long standing neighbour who sadly passed away earlier this year, we have created a seaside scene with his boat forming our sandpit, alongside a lighthouse and his well-recognised rainbow framing the stunning view



behind.

We are now beginning to celebrate Autumn with our pumpkin display outside and lots of walks to collect natural resources, we will be walking up to the church to visit the Autumn displays and

donating food to the local food bank. At the beginning of November we are taking our first trip in the South Hills mini buses, when we head off to visit our Wilton farm to explore the forest school and meet the animals.

If anyone would like to come and visit the nursery we have spaces available for 2-4 year olds, please ring Julie on 01380 812418 or email oldschoolmanager@southhillsschool.com



A Tale of Two Villages. Part 3. Beauty and the Beasts.

As the summer comes to a close in Cussay in the Touraine, warm days and evenings are a sheer delight, enhanced by the wide fields of sunflowers surrounding our house, welcoming the sun each morning and turning their heads during the day to follow the sun, hence their name .. tournasol.. turn to the sun.



At this time the village roadsides are a flood of colour, each village having its own gardener charged with keeping the village tidy and beautiful. Social funding ensures that all can enjoy a beautiful and tidy environment irrespective of whether they are rich or poor. But, at the same roadsides, alongside the flowers, there are also frequent reminders of how fickle our life can be, with nearby memories



of whole families murdered 75 years ago by the "beasts", because of their attempts to defend their freedoms. How sad that soldiers could justify shooting a whole family and an 11 year old child, and how relevant when we see the news coming out of Afghanistan.



Covid issues still prevail in France and even our famous local philosopher Rene Descartes, from Descartes, obviously takes the matter





seriously, wearing his mask in the market square, as still required in all shops. There is a joke about philosopher Rene's famous phrase.. which says "je pense donc je suis"... "I think therefore I am". The locals say for their wives it should be slightly different. It should be "elle depense donc elle est"... "she spends therefore she is". Of course I couldn't comment!



Sadly, Brexit is now finally starting to have a significant detrimental effect on many Brits with second homes or now living in France, or simply travelling there for holidays, apart from the 15%



devaluation of the pound and people's pensions. The freedoms of travel and starting new lives or retirement in new places that we so readily took for granted, sadly now lost to us, our children and grandchildren. Visa requirements, customs regulations and insurance are all now more complex and don't let your kids use their mobile phones when on European holidays any more.. the returning roaming phone charges may bankrupt you.

On a lighter note, our most local chateau has an amusing history. In its day, our locals say that the owner had an unacceptable dalliance with one of the king's maids in waiting. Caught in the act, the King gave instruction that his turrets should immediately be cut off! As you can see however, events were more lenient and his chateau was only reduced from four to two turrets! Lucky man....

Edington resident.



View from the boundary, the end of season Cricket Club report.

On Friday

10th September, the cricket season officially ended at The Walled Garden. Under unusually sunny and warm weather, a group of club members put the square to bed, ready for a long and well-deserved rest over the winter. It has been another great year up at the ground with many successes to be proud of. The Saturday side secured top spot in division 4 with a great final win on the last game of the season that sees them promoted into division 3 next year. With over 25 club members turning out on a Saturday, it has truly been a club effort and there have been so many wonderful performances that have ensured the club finish in the top spot.

You only need to look at the league stats to get an idea as to how successful the club has been this year. The top three run scorers across the league were all Erlestoke players, with Toby Dorgan (607) Tommy Lucas (585) and Mike Barton (526) helping the club to set 4 of the highest scores of the season, 427 for 5 in 45 overs topping the stats. But it wasn't only with the bat that ECCC players showed their skills, with Dorgan brothers Joe and Toby both finishing on 22 wickets apiece along with Will Croucher taking a match winning hat trick to wrap up the last game of the season. Skipper Mike Barton and Toby Dorgan proved to have the best hands in the league with 9 and 10 catches respectively and Tommy Lucas hitting the highest individual score with a boundary filled 204. It truly has been a brilliant season for everyone involved, with contributions from 1 to 11 throughout the season.

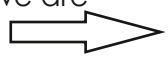
Our thanks go to Mike Barton who has once again led the side with passion, skill and spirit that sees so many members enjoying their cricket on a Saturday. We would also like to thank Patrick Stayt, the resident groundsman, who has worked hard all year to ensure that every game at The Walled Garden is played on an outstanding wicket and lush, fast and true green outfield. We also thank Terry Evans for his time given to umpiring every week and to all the supporters who have come and watched and cheered us on. We look forward to seeing you all again in division 3 next year.

But that's not the only success from this year. The juniors were once again well attended, and we regularly saw 20 or more young cricketers enjoying the game on a Saturday morning. We can't wait to build on this next year and look forward to welcoming you all back in the spring.

The Sunday and Midweek teams have also had another cricket filled summer. It's been great to welcome back some old faces this year as well as finding some new talent. It's a shame the season is over, it's come and gone too soon, but a winter will allow some respite and then it will all start again. The Sunday and Midweek would not be the success they are if it was not for the hard work behind the scenes of Joe Moloney and Felix Plant and we wish them a well-earned rest over the winter – they deserve it.

But although the cricket is done, there's still plenty to be excited about. The pavilion project moves from strength to strength, and we also look forward to the opening of the George and Dragon at the bottom of our track. It's great that the pub is reopening and will be great for the village and the community. It's also been wonderful to have so many new friends of the club sign up recently, who are keen to use our carpark when enjoying the woods. Your support is very much appreciated.

With the darker nights drawing in and the temperatures dropping, it's also the time of year for the Cricket Club Bonfire Night which we are





excited to be able to run again this year. The 6th of November will see the return of fireworks, bonfire, BBQ and this year something a bit special! Details can be found in this newsletter, on our Facebook page, as well as in Edington Post Office. We are particularly excited about

our Guy Competition this year and our Medieval themed evening. We hope to see you there.

Joe Dorgan
ECCC Chairman



Saturday 6th November
Medieval Themed
BONFIRE &
FIREWORKS
@ Erlestoke & Coulston Cricket Club
Gates open 4.30pm – fire starts at 6.30.
Adults £7.50 / Children £5 / Family (up to 5) £20
Meet our Medieval Knights – Get free hands on experience
Plus - Bar, BBQ, Hot Soup, Mulled Wine,
Coffee, Cakes and Glow Stuff
CASH ONLY EVENT!! 



Saturday 6th November Medieval Themed Guy Competition



Enter our Guy Competition this year for the chance to win a prize. Build a brave knight, a beautiful princess, a strong archer or a terrifying dragon to adorn our castle bonfire! All entries to be handed into Edington Post Office by 11pm on Friday 5th November or delivered to the Cricket Ground by 11am on Saturday the 6th. Please attach a label with your name and contact number— just in case it's a winner. Good luck everyone, can't wait to see them go up in smoke!



EDINGTON UNDER FIVES

Edington Under 5's is under new management. If you would like to join us with your under 5 (we welcome parents, grandparents or carers) contact me, Emily Greening on 07910228383 or see our facebook page 'Edington Under Fives'. We meet every Thursday in Edington Parish Hall between 10am and 12 noon. The first session is free, and only £2 per family thereafter (to help with running costs).

We had a lovely session last Thursday, where we had 16 children join us. We sang Old McDonald had a farm with a huge selection of animals on our farm including a lion! We also decorated leaves for our Under 5's tree that is now on the wall in the Parish Hall and as always we enjoyed our snacks.

What would be really helpful would be to have an extra pair of hands without a child in tow who would be available 10-12 on a Thursday morning to help the session run smoothly.

Emily Greening



EDINGTON &
TINHEAD
WI

Trump and the Puritans By Martyn Whittock



**Tuesday 12 October
7:30pm Parish Hall**

Visitors welcome

For further information contact

Liz pike 830689

elizabethdpike@aol.com



Hold The Front Page!

It's probably the best job in the world – but it's also probably the worst paid considering the qualifications needed and the responsibility undertaken.

That's how the world of journalism was introduced to me when I started training as a newspaper reporter in the very early 1970's – and it wasn't far from the truth. It was a job which took me on an extraordinary 14-year journey, to witness and record places, people and events which most never have the privilege or good fortune to see and share but it was a job full of extremes, touched sometimes by joy, sometimes horror and equal parts of laughter and sorrow.

When I joined the Wiltshire Times and Chippenham News it was a two-section broadsheet of often 40 pages, printed on a hot metal press - a huge, paper guzzling monster of a machine which lived in the depths of the newspaper offices in Duke Street, Trowbridge. We printed 4 separate editions with up to 5-page changes in each edition and a total print run at its top end of some 42,000 papers each week. We sold around 35,000 copies a week – others were posted out or sent free to advertisers - our readership was reckoned to be four times that and market penetration was around 70 percent.

The Wiltshire Times, along with the Wilts Gazette & Herald, the Swindon Evening Advertiser and the Bath Evening Chronicle were all part of Westminster Press Group, then, the largest provincial newspaper group in the country which also owned the Financial Times. We were its most profitable division with a full-time team of 10 reporters, three photographers, a sports editor and three sub-editors plus of course the editor Michael Lansdowne – the last member of the paper's founding family still to be working there.

I signed up for a three-year indenture, which,

in those days, was pretty much the only route into journalism irrespective of previous academic qualifications. All new entrants set out on an indentured contract part of which committed us to train in newspaper law and practice – which included civil and local government law as well as criminal law in as much as it affected what you were and were not able to do. We had to be able to write shorthand at 100 words a minute – and most of us learned the system invented by Trowbridge's Sir Isaac Pitman – and type at 50 words per minute using an old Imperial manual typewriter. I still have mine hiding somewhere in the attic. The end game was to achieve the National Council for the Training of Journalists Proficiency Certificate parts 1 and 2 – that was the objective, not everybody achieved it although I was lucky enough to do so.

Most of our days, and nights and often weekends, were filled with rounds of regular meetings, County, town and rural district councils later to become district councils. We covered some of the larger parish councils as well as Parochial Church Councils, Diocesan Council and health authority meetings. Magistrates Courts and Juvenile courts were held across the whole county in what was then the Petty Sessional Divisions and there was a court going on somewhere pretty much every day of the working week.

Steeple Ashton – Whorwellsdown – was/is the oldest petty sessional division in the country. In my time the court was held in the old village hall, a tin building with a tin roof and an old coke stove which meant everything steamed on cold, wet winter's days. When it rained the thunderous beating on the tin roof meant that everybody had to shout to be heard. It was quaint old England and could easily have been some part of a Thomas Hardy novel. The bench – and there was always a full bench at Steeple Ashton – was chaired by Stanley Blackmore from Bratton and the vice chairman was Tom "York" King from





Lower Baynton, Edington, Bob King's grandfather who only occasionally needed to be reminded that deporting people to the colonies was no longer an option available to magistrates!

We covered the Crown Courts in Bristol, Swindon and Devizes – held in the old Devizes Assize building now sadly fallen into decay but a place where I managed, rather unfortunately and to my lifelong embarrassment, to get my name into the journalistic text books for halting a trial then in its fourth or fifth week. I had to appear in that very court the following day to explain to Judge Sir Ian Lewis why I should not be incarcerated until I had purged my contempt – it was a tense morning's wait, I can tell you. The merry-go-round of general news reporting took us to Industrial Tribunals, School Speech Days, Village Fetes and Flower Shows (oh how we hated typing up those results – Dahlias Pom Pom; Dahlias Dwarf, Dahlias Cactus; Apples Culinary, Apples Dessert and so on until you went cross eyed).

We campaigned for change when we thought the cause was just, we went into bat for people when they needed support, we investigated the activities of one of our District Councils when we thought the actions of some of its officers and councillors were questionable, relentless digging, questioning, researching, finding people willing to give you an insight a scrap of information that might lead onto a bigger, more valuable nugget.

I recall reporting on the campaign to save one of our village schools from the County Council's axe and by simply digging and questioning, exploring alleys that others had not gone down I discovered that the District Council had actually built several hundred houses in the school's catchment area while the County Council had assumed those houses had been built within the town boundary. Thankfully we won and Wingfield School is still open and thriving today.

There were also untimely deaths and murders we reported on – even one here in Edington! At





one time West Wilts had the unenviable reputation of having the highest murder rate per capita outside London. The policeman murdered in Church Walk Trowbridge, the old school friend of mine murdered in Pitman Avenue, a former teacher of mine's wife murdered in her own home, the well-connected landowner from Bradford on Avon, the poor woman working in a late-night garage in Westbury shot in the face with a shotgun. Those were times when you had to know how far you could go and still remain within the law, do the background research, interview the neighbours and associates without prejudicing what might later be produced at trial.

We worked in low-ceilinged, smoke-filled offices that could have been the set for some 1950's film. Desks clustered in groups of three each with a single telephone, banging away on old typewriters on small slips of paper each identified by a catchline so that they could be re-united after their separate journeys through sub-editors, mono and lino typesetters to compositors to finally be assembled in the vast frames of individual letters and lines of backward lead type from which a page proof was taken and checked before being pressed into a papier mâché style "flong" from which the eventual half drum of lead would be formed by pouring molten lead into the mould before being fitted onto the great rollers of the press.

It was a job which opened doors – almost all of them – a job which required you to put people at their ease, you need an ability to listen, to pick out the nuance and the detail, the oddity - to write quickly and concisely and sometimes, when deadlines were short, to put the story together in your head and dictate it over the 'phone – but occasionally it brought rich rewards such as the time I went to talk to a veteran of the Gallipoli campaign.

It was 1981, the film Gallipoli was on its provincial preview in Salisbury and they had

found a veteran of the campaign living in an ancient cottage at Horningsham and had asked him to perform the opening ceremony. I was covering for our Warminster reporter at the time and got the job of interviewing him. What I thought would be a half-hour interview turned into a wonderful whole afternoon and one of the most extraordinary stories you could imagine.

Brookie Boulton had been 15 years old when he volunteered for Churchill's Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve. He lied about his age and had ended up fighting at Gallipoli. He had been commissioned in the field, survived the war and after won a place at Oxford to study silviculture. He ended up being appointed the Queen's Forester whose responsibilities including caring for the timbers of the Palace of Westminster and those of HMS Victory – he also went on to found a company called Rentokill!

There are so many stories seemingly out of proportion for a provincial newspaper reporter but those were different times. We went with the Green Goddesses in Glasgow during the Firemen's strike; we had picket lines in Duke Street during the Miner's Strike; I went to Northern Ireland with the Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regiment on the 10th anniversary of Operation Motorman. I was sent to cover local regiments on NATO Exercises in Northern Germany, went on exercise with the TA and the Yeomanry in Germany, a colleague was in the Maze prison Long Kesh when the prisoners rioted and the Paratroop Regiment were sent in to regain control.

Hold the Front Page – we didn't often get high drama to warrant that shout, but it did happen and when it did, it meant the press ran late into the early hours of the morning.

Paul Millard



EDINGTON PARISH HALL COMMITTEE

INVITES YOU TO
**COME AND JOIN US AT A
MACMILLAN
COFFEE MORNING**



Fundraising for
**MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT**

Where: Edington Parish Hall
When: Saturday 16th October
Time: 10.30am to 12 noon

Edington What's On Diary

Date	Time	Event Title	Description	Venue	Other information
11 October	7.30pm	Parish Council meeting		Parish Hall	
12 October	1.25pm	Warminster shopping trip			To book contact Pauline or Joy Fraser
12 October	7.30pm	WI talk	Trump and the Puritans	Parish Hall	
16 October	10.30am - 12 noon	Macmillan coffee morning		Parish Hall	
4 November	9am	Devizes shopping trip			To book contact Pauline or Joy
4 November	7.30pm	Gardening Club talk	Judith Plante-Cleall 'The Grand Tour'	Parish Hall	
6 November	6.30pm	ECCC Bonfire		Erlestoke and Coulston Cricket Ground	Gates open at 4.30pm
8 November	7.30pm	Parish Council meeting		Parish Hall	
9 November	1.25pm	Warminster shopping trip			To book contact Pauline or Joy Fraser
9 November	7.30pm	WI talk	Julia House	Parish Hall	

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



Charity Draw

Kate Sykes has kindly donated one of her paintings for a charity draw. Tickets are £5.00 each and will be available from the Post Office and various village events. The total money raised will go to the winners charity of choice.

The winning ticket will be drawn on Christmas Eve.

Please support generously for your favoured charity.

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

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

and enter your details or email

newsletter@edingtonwiltshire.org.uk

and you will be added to the mailing list.