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Welcome to the twentieth edition of the Edington Village News.

This month we have an edition of 27 pages. A selection of events taking place over the coming weeks plus a number of articles across a range of subjects, an item for sale and the products of the Christmas competition.

- Thank you to all of those people who have contributed to the editions over the last year.
- 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 the address on the last page.

Edington Parish Council



**Invite you to the turning on
of the Christmas tree lights
with carol singing led by
Bratton Training Band**



**Where: -
Village
Playing
Field**

**When: -
Friday 10th
December**

**Time: -
6.30pm**

**Minced pies and mulled
wine**

**Tree generously donated
by
The Three Daggers**





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

Dear Patients

Just to let you know that once again we have introduced an on the day appointment system at Westbury Group Practice for all GP and Acute Care Team appointments for the duration of this winter. We have done this to ensure that we have some flexibility to meet both patient demand and staff availability over this Covid affected winter. Given the unpredictable progress of the pandemic, as evidenced by the emergence of the new Omicron variant, we are not able to book appointments fully in advance, as we cannot rely on past experience to estimate demand for appointments. This is also affected by staff availability: we too may have to self-isolate if unwell or if a family member is affected. Whilst we acknowledge that this reduces some convenience for patients, it does mean that you can call for an appointment on a day you are available to come in for review, and not a day dictated by a routine booking system. However and especially if you are requesting a specific clinician, it may be we are



not able to offer you an appointment on the first occasion one is requested.

We continue to need to factor in capacity for Covid vaccinations, including the booster campaign, and need some flexibility into the future to be able to respond in a timely fashion as these become available.



We have also made some tweaks to our internal systems which we hope will increase your access to us, which we can assure you we take very seriously. We have changed the way our clinics are run to meet the need for acute respiratory illness in anticipation of increased demand. This already seems to be having an effect, with reduced wait times on the telephone systems for example. We would also like to reassure you that this "on the day" system is very similar to the one Westbury Group Practice has successfully utilised over the festive period for several years, and that it remains under constant review.

Thank-you for your ongoing patience as we all continue to adjust to different and difficult times. We would like to reassure you in the meantime that we remain open and happy to serve your needs remotely or in person, whichever is most appropriate.

Yours sincerely

Dr Edwards & Partners

www.westburygp.co.uk

COVID-19 remains a serious health risk. You should stay cautious to help protect yourself and others.

Let fresh air in if you meet indoors.

Meeting outdoors is safer

*You must wear a face covering in shops and on all public transport
Get tested and self-isolate if required*

If you haven't already, get vaccinated





Wiltshire Police

Your CPT – Warminster & Westbury



Inspector: Insp Al Lumley
Neighbourhood Sergeant: Sgt Kevin Harnsworth
Neighbourhood Officers:
PC Victoria Howick
PC Richard Salter/Daniel Chavantre
PC Jamie Darvill
PCSOs: Leigh Holcombe, Roland Revers
(Warminster) Daniel Gill, Neil Turnbull (Mere,
Tisbury) Stewart Hunt, Christopher Doyle, Alice
Moore (Westbury)

Performance – 12 months to August 2021

Wiltshire Police has had a decrease in the volume of recorded crime by 7.0% in the 12 months to August 2021 and continues to have one of the lowest crime rates in the country.

- Wiltshire Police has seen a 18% reduction in vehicle crime and a reduction of 31.2% in residential burglaries in the 12 months to August 2021.
- Our service delivery remains consistently good.
- In August 2021, we received:
 - 9,719 '999' calls, (answered within 9 seconds on average);
 - 11,115 '101' calls, (answered within 14 seconds on average);
 - 11,169 'CRIB' calls, (answered within 2 minute and 1 second on average).
- In August 2021, we also attended 1,706 emergency incidents within 10 minutes and 9 seconds on average.

Stop and Search information for Warminster CPT
During the 12 months leading to July 2021, 59 stop and searches were conducted in the Warminster area of which 76.3% related to a search for controlled drugs.



During 66.1% of these searches, no object was found. In 32.2% of

cases, an object was found. Of these cases 72.9% resulted in a no further action disposal; 25.4% resulted in police action being taken; 11.9% resulted in an arrest.



Of the stop and search subjects who defined their ethnicity:

- White – 47 stop and searches.
- Black or Black British – 2 stop and searches
- Asian or Asian British – 1 stop and search

Wiltshire Police statistics for 12 months to August 2021

Crime Type	Crime Volume	% of Crime
Totals	37873	100.0
Violence without injury	6503	17.2
Violence with injury	5785	15.3
Criminal damage	4797	12.7
Stalking and harassment	3601	9.5
Public order offences	3455	9.1
Other crime type	13732	36.2

Warminster CPT statistics for same period

Crime Type	Crime Volume	% of Crime
Totals	2665	100.0
Violence without injury	460	17.3
Criminal damage	384	14.4
Violence with injury	361	13.5
Stalking and harassment	270	10.1
Public order offences	245	9.2
Other crime type	945	35.5

Local Priorities & Updates - Westbury

Officer Verification Checks

Following the tragic events of the Sarah Everard murder in London, some of the public have understandably been concerned about the legitimacy of police officers when they are stopped and spoken to. We are working hard to try and rebuild the trust that has been damaged by the actions of one evil individual and have set up a process whereby a member





of the public can ask for the officer to verify that their business is genuine and lawful. These will be done through the police radio on loudspeaker so that the member of the public can feel reassured. If you have any concerns please ask the officer to do this.

Drug Dealer Conviction

We are pleased to say that following an extremely protracted and complex investigation involving many specialists officers and staff we have been able to secure a custodial conviction for one of Warminster and Westbury's most prolific drug dealers. The individual will be staying at her majesty's pleasure for the foreseeable future, with a sentence of 32 months. Our teams continue to remain focused on some of this individual's peer group in order to dissuade them from filling the void left behind by his absence from the dealer scene.

Op Sceptre

Plans are in motion for the annual Op Sceptre – an operation focusing of reducing the harm caused by weapons within our communities, especially focused around knife crime prevention. This will include a range of tactics from amnesty bins located at key locations in the community, to multi-agency enforcement activity against those believed to be carrying or distributing weapons.

Theft from Vehicle Series

Towards the end of October we saw a spate of thefts from vehicles overnight in the Edington/ Bratton area and along the B3098. It would appear that a team of criminals used this route for a crime spree that extended from Devizes to Trowbridge and beyond Wiltshire's borders. Some of the property has been recovered and enquiries continue to locate and prosecute the suspects. Please ensure valuables are out of sight and vehicles are left alarmed and secure in case this team strike again.



They spend very little time with each vehicle before moving on

so making a vehicle less of target is the key to help preventing more offences.



Community Engagement

We are in the process of increasing our community engagement opportunities to ensure we are available to as many people as possible, through multiple methods. This has included being interviewed on Warminster Community Radio and reinvigorating a number of our pre-Covid drop in locations where local officers will be present and can be available to meet the public and discuss any concerns they may have.

For more information on Wiltshire Police's performance please visit:

- **PCC's Website** - <https://www.wiltshire-pcc.gov.uk/>
- **HMICFRS Website** - <https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmicfrs/police-forces/wiltshire/>
- **Police.uk** - <https://www.police.uk/pu/your-area/wiltshire-police/>
- **For information on what crimes and incidents have been reported in the Warminster Community Policing Team area, visit** <https://www.wiltshire.police.uk/police-forces/wiltshire-police/areas/about-us/about-us/cpts/warminster-cpt/> **to view a crime and incident map and find links to more detailed data**

Keep up to date with the latest news and alerts in your area by signing up to our Community Messaging service – www.wiltsmessaging.co.uk

Follow your CPT on social media

- Warminster Police Facebook
- Warminster Police Twitter
- Westbury Police Facebook
- Mere Police Facebook

Find out more information on your CPT area

at: www.wiltshire.police.uk and here www.wiltshire-pcc.gov.uk





Wiltshire Council

Christmas waste and recycling collections and HRC opening times

Waste and recycling collection dates will not change over the Christmas and New Year period, as waste collection crews will be working as normal on Bank Holidays Monday 27, Tuesday 28 December 2021, and Monday 3 January 2022.

Garden waste collections will stop for two weeks over this period. The last collections will take place on Friday 24 December and they will restart on Monday 10 January 2022.

Residents can check their waste, recycling and garden waste collection online at [Waste collection calendar](#).

Household recycling centre (HRC) opening times and dates will change over the Christmas and New Year period and residents are advised to check online before visiting an HRC at Household recycling centres (HRCs).

HRCs that normally open on Fridays will be open on Christmas Eve, 24 December from 10am but will close at 1pm. All HRCs will be closed on Saturday 25, Sunday 26 December and Saturday 1 January 2022. Other than on these dates, the centres will open as normal on their specified opening days.

Cllr Dr Mark McClelland, Cabinet Member for Waste, said, At Christmas time many of us generate more waste than usual. We would like everyone to do their bit by recycling as much of their waste as possible. Our kerbside recycling collection service helps make this easy to do.

In addition to the everyday items people tend to recycle in their blue lidded bin and black box, people can add items including wrapping paper, providing it scrunches into a



ball*; cardboard packaging; plastic sweet tubs (up to 5 litres); mince pie foil cases; drinks cans;

glass bottles; and Christmas cards without glitter. Local charity shops may be happy to receive donations of unwanted Christmas presents.



It is important that people do not place batteries or electrical items into any of their bins. These items can cause fires in collection vehicles or at waste processing and sorting facilities. These should be disposed of at HRCs instead.

Households with extra recyclable materials such as cans, cardboard and paper can place these in suitable alternative containers alongside their bin for collection. Flatten cardboard and wash and squash plastic bottles and cartons and put the lids back on, as this will help make more room in your blue-lidded bin.

People who pay to have their garden waste collected can put their real Christmas tree alongside their garden waste bin on their first collection in January. We will collect your tree for composting, or you can support local charities by paying a small donation to have your tree collected via the JustHelping charity Christmas tree collection scheme.

For information about local recycling centres, recycling Christmas trees, collection days and advice on how to reduce waste and recycle as much as possible during the festive period, visit [Rubbish and recycling](#).

*The scrunch test is when you try to squeeze paper into a ball. If it stays in a ball, it is most likely the wrapping paper is made of paper only. If it does not, it is likely the paper contains other materials, which means we cannot collect it for recycling.

Thank You

The Editors would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the Newsletter over the past year and look forward to further contributions in 2022.

Happy Christmas

Pauline and John





Cllr Suzanne Wickham

I am writing this article for the December magazine hoping that we all have a peaceful and enjoyable Christmas. However, at the time of writing, no one knows how COVID will affect our Christmas celebrations, but I do hope that everyone enjoys some restful time with family and friends over the festive season. As for 2022 can I wish you a Happy New Year in the hope that it is better than 2021.



Please make a note of the Thursday 17th February, this is the date of the next Westbury Area Board. We really hope that this will be a face-to-face meeting at The Laverton in Westbury, and members of the public are warmly invited. We will of course be guided by the relevant advice that may require the meeting to be online.

As I'm sure you are aware these boards were introduced to enable local people to have their say on local topics, and to provide grants to community groups through three separate funding streams, Youth funding, Health and Wellbeing groups and capital funding that can support all types of local group projects and ventures. Parish Councils are often the recipients of grants for all sorts of reasons, recently these include funding for Defibrillators, funding Youth workers to provide Counselling for young people and a project helping older people to learn the skills they need to be more confident with IT. We are always happy to receive applications for funding from Parish Councils and local organisations.

We have two guest speakers at our February meeting, Philip Wilkinson, the Police and Crime Commissioner for Wiltshire, and colleagues from Wiltshire Council who will provide a short presentation on Contextual Safeguarding, which is an approach to understanding and responding to young people's experience of significant harm beyond their family.



Updated information can be found on the Wiltshire Council website [Westbury Area Board](#).



Suzanne Wickham
Wiltshire Cllr Ethandune

Tel: 07967 213336

Email: suzanne.wickham@wiltshire.gov.uk

Edington Parish Council News

The Parish Council are pleased to say that at the recent Westbury Area Board meeting our request for a grant towards a second defibrillator for the village was successful. It is planned to install this defibrillator in the Church car park on the outside of the toilets and as soon as we have been able to secure the remainder of the money we will purchase the equipment and have it installed.

At the time of writing we are still waiting to hear whether we have been successful in securing the funding for the introduction of a 20mph limit on most of the village roads, hopefully we will hear shortly.

We would like to thank the Three Dagers for their generous donation of a Christmas Tree for the playfield again this year, don't forget to come to the switching on of the lights this Friday at 6.30pm when we will be singing carols with the music provided by the Bratton Training Band. In the new year there will be a first for the village in the form of a Wassail in the field adjacent to the burial ground. Sunday 16 January at 3pm and don't forget to bring something noisy to help wake the apple tree up from its slumbers!

Forthcoming roadworks - 15 December, Monastery Road will be closed between Westbury Road and Lower Road for the removal of a dangerous tree. The pavement works in Greatwoods have been delayed again until 4 January 2022, perhaps third time lucky!

Remember you can always contact the Parish Council by email parishcouncil@edingtonwiltshire.org.uk





Village Musings

One of the best things about living in Edington is the amazing sense of community that we have here. As we walk through our lanes and footpaths, we greet each other cheerfully and exchange a word or two. We reach out to those who are in need and put ourselves out to help each other. We work hard to ensure that this community is strong, resilient and compassionate.

It has been fun to join in with the community at Edington Priory church to share this companionship – whether we believe in God or not, it is a wonderful venue for gathering and enjoying each other's company. Such an amazing building should be used by all villagers for fellowship and community activities, and it is increasingly becoming a hub for village life.



At the end of November, we got together to have a cup of coffee and mince pies, and, for those of us inclined to do so, to make a few Christmas decorations. What a lovely morning it was! We had people from the age of 2 to 84 there and everyone had

a good time. There was a lot of eating, laughter, glue and ribbon, and as the snow swirled around outside (yes, we actually did have snow!), the



warmth inside seemed very comforting. If you happen to walk past the church, do pop in and

see some of the decorations that were made there – they are on a branch in the Children's Corner.



We are very grateful to all those who came along to make this such a special event – and



we hope that people will increasingly see this as "their" church, their place of welcome and companionship whatever

their faith or non-faith philosophy.

There is a mince pie competition to be held before the nativity service on Christmas Eve, with prizes for the best mince pies. And then, after the service, everyone gets to eat the mince pies and



have some hot mulled apple juice! Another chance to socialise and join with the remarkable community of Edington.

Mercedes Henning

Welcome to Edington

Welcome

Louis Collins

to Birchwood Cottages,

Westbury Road





Mince Pie Competition

Are you a star baker?

Enter the Christmas mince pie competition!

Bring your mince pies to Edington Priory Church
between 2pm -3pm on Christmas Eve

The prize winners will be announced after the
Crib Service which starts at 4pm
on Friday 24 December

Categories: Children (Primary and Secondary), Adults
Please enter six mince pies on a paper plate for judging
Entries to be enjoyed after the service!





Edington & District Gardening Club

First Thursday in the month at the Parish Hall 7.30pm

Looking forward to Christmas the Gardening Club were determined to take the opportunity to go ahead with the Christmas social gathering, whilst trying to forget that the Covid cases were on the rise again.

20 of our members and friends joined together in the Parish Hall, where tables were laid, wine poured and a lovely meal served to us all, followed by mince pies and coffee. Then we tested our gardening knowledge with a quiz and lots of raffle prizes were won.

It was a lovely time to enjoy together and think about a brighter future for next year.

The Gardening Club's first meeting in 2022 will be via zoom when we would like members without computers or zoom knowledge to join a member who has, the date is 6th. January. The speaker will be Katherine Crouch from Hardy Exotics. Please join us then.

Wishing everyone a very good and healthy New Year.

Edington & District Gardening Club.

Visitors are always welcome

Further details on tel.no. 830133

Coffee morning Drop In



Every Tuesday,

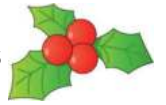
10.30 - 11.30 am

in the Three Dagers.

Transport available.



Four Villages Link,
providing free services
to Bratton, Edington,
Erlestoke and Coulston
communities



In October volunteers clocked up around 500 miles, mainly driving to hospitals and surgeries. Two thirds of clients were from Edington, with most of the rest from Bratton.

Christmas is coming up soon – volunteers can help you in many ways: a shopping trip, transport for a visit to friends and family or to a carol service. Perhaps you would like help with decorating a tree, wrapping parcels or simple baking. That's along with our usual trips to the doctor, dentist and hospitals.

For any services please call our friendly coordinator on 07852 256939.

Information on Four Villages Link can be found at <http://thefourvillageslink.org.uk/>

All of us from Four Villages Link wish you a merry Christmas and happy New Year, and we hope to see you soon.

Catherine Elliott

Charity Card Sale

A big thank you to those who came to support this year's Christmas Charity Cards and gifts sale.

After missing last year it was good to see you back enjoying the event with coffee and cake and lots of chatter.

Even the mask wearing did not spoil the show!

Charities this time were Guide Dogs for the blind, RNLI, Julia's House, Bath Cats & Dogs Home, Embrace, Doorway, Wiltshire Air Ambulance, Dorothy House and the NSPCC. Refreshment monies went to Smalls for All. Over £800 was taken.

Thanks again.

See you next year!

Jacky and Pauline.





theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

Meeting every second Tuesday of the month at the Parish Hall

www.facebook.com/edingtonandttheadwi

Contact Liz Pike for further information 01380 830684

elizabethdpike@aol.com

Edington and Tinhead WI wish you all a very Merry Christmas. We are celebrating in style with a meal at The Angel Upton Scudamore in December.

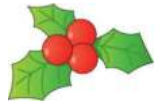
Why not come and join us for a fun evening on January 11 when our local Scrap stall will be entertaining us by leading a creative workshop with their materials

Julia House the Wiltshire & Dorset Children's Hospice was the subject of our speaker at our November meeting. The Hospice is situated in the old council offices in Devizes where it has been since 2019 so it is at the heart of the community.

Julia Perks a former nurse saw the problems of families supporting children with specific health needs so started fund raising for the hospice, unfortunately she died in the late 1990's but the cause was taken up by volunteers who eventually achieved their goal. The Hospice not only provides care for the very poorly and terminally ill children but the whole of their family by giving respite support also 200 hours of care for the child and family to use how they wish. This care can be provided either in the child's own home or visiting the hospice, enabling parents to have a time away from all the daily difficulties. There are 59 families being supported in Wiltshire with 65% of care in the community mostly in their own home, especially during Covid. Whilst in the hospice children can



enjoy the use of a sensory room with lights, movement and bubble tubes, particularly useful for the partially sighted. The wonderful bright conservatory has ramps to enable the children to get into the garden where there is a wheelchair trampoline and suitable swings all providing a very happy environment



The idea is to support the whole family giving children care and play therapy but supporting parents, siblings and grandparents. When necessary an end of life suite is provided so the whole family can be together as long as possible then later giving support for up to five years with counselling etc.

All these services are 100% public funded with nothing from the government so they always need our support to be able to continue the good work.

Wassail Wassail a Jolly Wassail

"Health to thee, good apple-tree,
Well to bear, pocket-fulls, hat-fulls,
Peck-fulls, bushel-bag-fulls."



**Saturday 15
January 2022**
*(not 16th as advertised
elsewhere)*
**3pm Paddock
adjoining burial
ground**

Come and join us
for Edington's first
Wassail

Bring along something noisy to wake up
the old apple tree





Winter wildlife in Edington

Winter is once more upon us, and we will now probably have frost on the ground until March next year. We are not worried by these plummeting temperatures as we can huddle in our centrally heated houses and watch television in front of a blazing wood fire.

The wildlife in our gardens, hedgerows, and fields around Edington are not so lucky. I know we try and make the lot of wildlife more comfortable by putting out food for them and ensuring the water in our garden is not frozen over, but they still have to get through the freezing nights.

A lot of our birds migrated south in Autumn to escape the cold and have been replaced by other species migrating here from further north. Some stay all year round and those that do find shelter at night. Often some of our common species use nest boxes as a winter roost. Blue and great tits often use nest boxes individually while one of our commonest garden species, the wrens, will roost together. The British Trust for Ornithology once recorded an amazing 63 wrens using the same nest box.



The wren roosts communally in winter (del. S.F. Henning)

The larger birds of prey like owls also have a harder time in winter. As temperatures start to drop in winter, small mammals become less active which means a lot less food is available for Barn Owls and other owls, and they need to work extra hard to find it. This often results in the owls being forced to feed during daylight even though they are naturally nocturnal hunters. In very cold weather, Barn Owls are more inclined to use perches such as fence posts to hunt from rather than hunting from the air. This saves energy that would be used in flight and reduces heat loss.

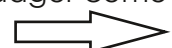


A barn owl roosting in an old barn (del. S.F. Henning)

On some sunny days we might see some butterflies that hibernate as adults come out and gambol around our gardens for a bit before returning to their hibernating sites – a shed, woodpiles, or even a hole in a tree trunk. It is always a joy to see, even briefly, a peacock, small tortoiseshell,

red admiral, or comma butterfly playing about in the winter sun.

The larger animals around Edington also prepare themselves for winter. In autumn, badgers lay down a large amount of fat under the skin to get them through the lean months. They do not hibernate but are not as active over winter and tend to stay in their setts where they live off their fat. They do on occasion, however, emerge from their setts. When we first arrived in Edington over twenty years ago now, we had a badger come





into our garden most late winter evenings and steal the bird food from the bird table outside our kitchen window. I spent many enjoyable hours watching her. It is during winter that badger cubs are born in a special lined breeding chamber in the sett.



Badgers tend to lay down fat under their skins and become less active over winter (del. S.F. Henning)

Hedgehogs avoid the problems of winter by hibernating in a waterproof nest of dead leaves often at the bottom of a hedge. My daughter found one once hibernating in her shed in her Christmas tree which was stored there. When she went to get the tree to decorate for Christmas, there it was fast asleep and safe in its nest of dead leaves.

Wood mice, which are common in our gardens, sometimes in winter go into a torpid state – almost like hibernation – where they use less energy than usual. This helps them survive food shortages in winter. Wood mice will also gather food stores of berries and seeds in the autumn, which they keep in underground burrows or sometimes in old birds' nests.

Bats around Edington also become torpid or hibernate over the winter months when food tends to be in short supply. For roosting, they use



caves, rock crevices, hollow trees, the rooves of houses, cellars, and a wide range of other human-built structures.

In preparation for winter, bats build up their fat reserves, which act as insulation against cold and heat loss and also as the main energy store through the hibernation period. In suitable weather and temperature, bats often arouse themselves to perhaps move roost or to forage for any food available.

The rabbits in the fields around Edington don't hibernate in winter. Instead, they shelter during the winter months in their burrows or warrens which protect them from the cold and strong winds. Rabbits will still forage for food but, during the winter, they eat more wood-based



The brown hare found in the fields around Edington (del. S.F. Henning)

food sources, such as tree bark, and twigs.

Hares also don't hibernate. However, unlike Rabbits, they do not make a burrow, but instead shelter in shallow depressions in the ground or in long grass, called forms. In winter, hares often use nearby woods and hedgerows for shelter. In

summer, hares usually eat grasses but, in the winter, they will also eat the buds, twigs and bark of shrubs and trees.

We can't leave out the grey squirrel that we all see regularly in our gardens and that raids our bird feeders. It also does not hibernate in winter as it cannot store enough energy to survive for long





periods without food. Their main foods of choice are nuts, acorns, and other tree seeds. These will be collected in autumn and buried underground, ready to be eaten in winter when food is scarce. We had a walnut tree in our garden in Edington and the local squirrel collected the nuts and buried them all round our garden, even in a plant pot in the greenhouse and in another pot on our upstairs balcony. In spring we are for ever pulling up young walnut saplings. My daughters, as children, once collected a basket full of conkers and when they started going mouldy, they were stuck outside our patio door. The squirrel in our garden could not believe his luck and the whole basket was soon stripped bare. Next year our neighbour complained to us that she had horse chestnut saplings growing up all over her garden and did not know where they were coming from. Also, to survive the winter, the squirrel builds a larger, thicker winter nest or drey, usually on a strong branch close to the trunk. The one in our garden last year was in the ivy near the top of a telephone pole.

I will finish off with the most iconic winter bird we see in our gardens, and in fact throughout the year. It has graced so many Christmas cards over the years that I am disappointed if I don't get one with it on every year. Of course, I am talking about the robin. The robins we see in our gardens in winter may not be the same ones we saw in summer - those may have migrated south. A lot of continental robins arrive in the UK in autumn to escape the harsh winter there and some of them could well have got as far as Edington. Here on a cold winter night the robin may hide in a shed, hedge, or thick tree and tuck its head under its shoulder plumage. Unlike other animals I have mentioned, birds cannot lay down a layer of insulating fat under the skin



to keep them warm as this would hamper their ability to fly. What the robin does is it puffs out its

feathers so that they almost stand on end, trapping warm air pockets next to its body. These work so well insulating it, that there can even be as much as a 38oC difference in temperature just through those layers of feathers.



The iconic robin in a typical winter scene with puffed out feathers to keep it warm (del. S.F. Henning)

Stephen Henning

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED TO SAVE EDINGTON FAIR

Most of the committee wish to stand down this year, without more volunteers to take their place the fair will not happen.

Please consider giving a little of your time to keep this important event going

We will hold a meeting in the 3 Daggers

8pm Thursday 13 January 2022 .

Be There !

For more information
contact **Liz Pike 830684**





Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire Partnership -

Please help us Shape a Healthier Future and get involved

Shaping a Healthier Future Survey

Health and care organisations across Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire have been working on a health and care model that describes how we want health and care to be like for people in the next ten years and will provide a framework to ensure we take a coordinated approach to how we design and plan services across our partner organisations.

We want health and care to become much more than providing services for you when you are ill or injured. We want to focus more on helping everyone to live a healthy life and to stay well.

We have developed some ideas and want to share them with you now to hear what you think and to make sure we aren't missing anything that is important to you. Please take the time to complete this survey, it will really help us to make sure we are making the right plans for you and your community. To complete the survey visit <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/62X5T3D>

The deadline for completing the survey is Tuesday 14th December 2021



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). For more information contact Emily on **07910228383**



THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY



A very big thank you to everyone who returned their house collecting boxes on the 13th November to the Church Institute. Over 30 boxes were returned and with nine volunteers we were able to count every box before the end of the morning. Along with the boxes and donations for Coffee and cake a total of £820 was raised. A very big thank you too to the counters, without their help it would have taken me many hours and to Joan our lovely caretaker who served the coffee/ tea and cake.

I have now paid this money into Barclays Bank. There were 66 bags of bronze (1p & 2p coins) each bag weighs 356g making a total of 23.496 kilos! Plus all the other coins!

However, the story does not finish here because there are a lot of boxes still out there waiting to be counted!

Please email me at Aiglenicher@icloud.com or phone if you would like me to come and pick up your box for counting.

Thank you all once again for helping to make Saturday such a successful morning.

Gill Humphrey

830149

**Edington Parish Council
would like to wish everyone
a very Happy Christmas
and New Year**





THREE VILLAGES MINIBUS (TVM)



We are still operating covid restrictions and ask everyone to continue to wear face

coverings (unless, for medical reasons they are exempt) and hand sanitise before entering the vehicle. 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.

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

Joy Fraser (830426)



Coffee morning Drop In



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

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.

Shopping Trips starting at Edington on

Destination	December	January 2022	Start Time
Devizes - £3.20	Thursday 2nd	Thursday 6th	9am
Warminster - £2.80	Tuesday 21st	Tuesday 18th	1.25pm
Westbury - £2.30	Every Thursday	Every Thursday	1.30pm
Salisbury - £5.00	Saturday 11th	Saturday 8th	9.30am





A Tale of Two Villages. Part 4

**Food Glorious Food.. no empty shelves
in the Touraine!**

As in the UK, life in rural France continues to evolve in response to modern ways of living, with small shops and traditional bars steadily closing, their place being taken by supermarkets and the



Amazons and ebays of this world. But, the French love of food and wine remains alive and well.

There are certainly no empty shelves in the Touraine right now as they are not subject to the detrimental effects of Brexit, but the availability and choice of fresh food certainly still carries strong seasonal trends as the seasons progress.



Warm melted cheese and dried meats, raclette, is typical of the autumn, together with soft

cheeses, forest mushrooms, foie gras, duck, game and seafood dishes.

Shop shelves burst with fresh seafood of every type particularly as we approach



Christmas. A visit to our nearest large supermarket already offers shellfish of every type beautifully presented, including fresh sea urchins, scallops, squid and live crabs and lobsters.

Washed down with a lovely Touraine sauvignon blanc and you are in heaven despite the autumn weather.

The French State encourages the love affair with food, particularly lunch, and tax freedom is given on the meal vouchers that many companies give to their employees. Shops often close for two hours over lunch and town parking is generally free to enable you to easily dine at your favourite town restaurant. A three course lunch including wine is still only around £11.



You only have to look at the meticulous displays of food in shops to know you are in for something special.





Success of Preloved items sale at Edington Parish Hall Saturday 13th November with contributions to Wiltshire Wildlife Trust

A big thank you to all who contributed to this sale. We had loads of donations in superb condition.

A huge thank you to the stalwart people who helped to set the items up, especially the order and neatness of the clothes, and to those who helped to clear up so efficiently afterwards. Thanks also to the WI who provided refreshments with the usual high-quality goodies. They made a small sum for their funds.

We did not have many people to buy the goods, but so far, we have £163 to give to the Wildlife Trust. Typically, there are a LOT of goods, including superior quality clothes, left over, and so a couple of us are going to



Standerwick Car Boot sale on Sunday 21st November with a view to selling all that is left. Again, any money raised will be given to the Trust. Anything remaining will be donated to any charity shops we can get to!

My main aim in all of this was to recycle as much "stuff" as possible, within a local setting, with the beneficiary being a charity working especially with Climate Change.



Everyone said the event was a promising idea, so is anyone motivated to do something similar in 2022?!



Update 5 December 2021

Tracy Miller helped with the car boot sale. I found the whole experience fascinating, and I know I could not have managed it without Tracy's help. We set up in the dark at 6.45am and people were coming round with torches to see what we had before we got everything out the car, so a few helped us with putting the



loaned coat rails together. By the time it was light we were still putting clothes out. Tracy was a dab hand at arranging the jeans and woollies with the labels facing out and getting the best price!

From questions like "have you any jewellery" or "stamp albums" to "have you anything that is so naff nobody would want it" (he was a stand-up comedian who uses very unloved items as part of his act. we found a 2020 pop up flower calendar!) the few hours went quickly till the cold wind started to blow about 10am and we called it a day.

We STILL had a lot left, so we gave the rest to charity shops in Devizes and Westbury. Once I took the money to the Wildlife Trust, we found there was £363.90. Some money was in the collecting tin as who knows how the 90p worked!

Anne Tottingham





Pebbles' Interview



Well, Pebbles, we've now lived in Edington for over 10 months so I thought it time to get your impressions.

"Impressions? I'm impressed!"

OK, but we need more detail so I'm going to ask you some questions.

Do you like living in Edington?

"Yas! I love it. It's a great place for dogs... and humans".

And you don't miss our old home?

"Only a little bit. I did miss it at first but now I like our home here so much I only think about our old home now and then".

Excellent! And what is it you like about Edington?

"I like the walks all over up on the plain, and the walks across the fields to Bratton and the walks in Erlestoke Woods and Hill Wood. And I like all the friendly people that say hello to me".

OK, and what are your favourite bits about Edington?

"My favourite bits? Easy... the walks, the people, the horses, the Three Daggers, the Farm Shop, the other dogs, the cats I can chase, drinking from the cows' water troughs, checking out the cows, rolling in fox poo, drinking from Paradise Pool, the..."



Whoa! I said your favourites.

"Yas! They're all my favourites. I have an unlimited capacity for

favourites. ... and I like pooing with a view on the plain".

Yes, I noticed you liked that. What's that all about?

"I get to relax and take in the 360° view knowing that, with you on guard, we can spot any predators for miles around. And it's so liberating!"

Liberating?

"Yas! You should try it".

Erm, I don't think so.

And do you have any special favourite people in Edington?

"Well, I like them all, but for strokes I especially like Frankie B E and the 3D Babes, and for snaccos I like Terry the Prop who gives me crisps, and I like Smiler Swabey because he shows us new walks, and I like Pearly and Blondie because they make us stop on our walks and take in the view.



And I like it that you have lots of nice people to hang with so I don't have to entertain you all the time".

Oh, thank you for that. And are there any negatives?
"Hmm... the cowardly squirrels. The

*little b&**!#s won't stay and fight. They have no cojones. They just run up trees like smelly tree rat cowards".*

Well I'm not surprised. You do have almost 50kg on them, fats.

"I'm not fat! But wait, listen, I've got a





good one for you...hehe: Why do squirrels continually collect nuts?"

I don't know. Why do squirrels continually collect nuts?

"Because they have none of their own! Hahaha".

Oh very funny. But you're not supposed to laugh at your own jokes.

"Hehehe. Oh, and I specially don't like it when you go and visit your drop-in chums or when you go to the Rock Choir and I have to stay at home alone and watch Dog TV".

So, apart from those (very minor) negatives you feel our move has been a success?

"Yas!".

Right I think I've asked about all the questions I had mind but, there's one potentially contentious issue we need to address. The word in the village is you recently disgraced yourself in the Farm Shop.

"What? No I didn't!".

The word is you stole a whole loaf of bread off the bread shelf. That was a very bad thing to do.

What did the Farm Shop guys make of that?

"They thought it was funny! Mr Gary Three Carrots and Miss Princess Rowena laughed and laughed".

Hmm. You're lucky they like you. At this point would you like to add anything?

"Yas. There are lots of humans I haven't mentioned and I want to say hello to them. ... Da Friday Night Boyz from Da Hood (oh, by the way, I wanted to ask you, where are their Missing Wives?)".

I don't know. Maybe they're all at a Friday night Anne Summers party, hehe... we should go and check that out.

"Don't be silly. At your age you'd have a heart attack, LOL. Anyway, carrying on, the Dog Lady; The Oracle; the Drop-Ins; Canute Zaman; Lord S

and Sweet Lady Jane; the Antebellum Savanna Blondes (or are they the Blonde



Bombshells)?..."

You mean Blondie and Miss Lisa? I

think that first reference is a bit obscure and anyway, 'Blonde Bombshells' suits them better.

"OK... and Bundle of Joy, Saffa Rob; Doc S and Bubbly: the Gecko Girl (we haven't seen her in ages. I like her... she said I was pretty); the Cat Loving Commies; Big Guy Sawyer; the Charlton Hill Septet; Indefatigable Una; Smiler and Queen Bee; Hegel Howard; the 3 Carrot Babes".

Wow, you've got to know a lot of people. Finally, do you have a message for the villagers?

"Yas, they must have a Merry Christmas and a Yappy New Year (hehe) and tell the little villagers they mustn't be afraid of me as I am



very friendly but, watch out for my tail. I have no control over it and will accept no responsibility for its behaviour".

Well, Pebbles, thank you for talking to us today.

"Blah, blah... I'm bored. Can we go for a walk now?".

OK.

Readers should know that Pebbles uses these names affectionately and as aide memoires. In the unlikely event that any reader is offended, she suggests they make themselves feel better by donating to a cat or squirrel rescue fund.

Theo Taylor





End of season stumps at Erlestoke & Coulston Cricket Club



Once again we find ourselves reflecting on yet another successful season at Erlestoke and Coulston CC. It makes all of us involved with the club so very proud to look at the state of the membership now and to see how far we have come and how much we have grown in a variety of ways over the recent years.

Our junior section is back up and running and going strong. Attracting over 20 regulars early in the summer, we have begun to build the base for a new generation of cricketers at the club. We were unfortunate to lose some mornings to the rain early on in the season, but the enthusiasm and enjoyment from children and parents was clear and this foundation will only help secure the club in the future, not just through the encouragement of youngsters to play Sundays and midweek cricket, but also through the dads sitting and watching; wondering if they still have the ability to play. We hope that next year these dads get on board and start playing for the club.

Our membership has grown through the 'friends of the club' scheme as well as new playing members joining us. Not only has this increased funds, but it makes the life of the captain's job much easier if they are able to cast their net wider for players. Hopefully the juniors and their dads will only go to strengthen our playing membership in 2022. But it's down to all of us, over this winter, to seek out, talk up and bring along new members to winter nets in January and the April centre practices.



The league side won their division and it was truly a team effort. Building on the success of the 'Covid League' last year, they showed the strength in depth by winning the league with one game to spare. You only need to look at the stats to see just how much everyone contributed. Our thanks go to Mike Barton who led the team brilliantly and to everyone who turned up on a Saturday to play. Having league cricket at the club is a huge strength, as is the way in which we continue to play and treat these games. We are already looking forward to that first game in April next year in Division 3.



But although league cricket is an added bonus at Erlestoke, the bread and butter and the life of the club is securely held in our Sunday and Midweek cricket. Running these teams has had its ups and downs this year and we want to thank Joe Moloney and Felix Plant for all their time, effort and hard work in ensuring teams were put out each week. It's not an easy task, and sometimes is a thankless one, but you both have done a great job and on behalf of all members we'd like to say thank you for doing the job.

The cricket played at Erlestoke, be-it Saturday, Sunday or midweek, would not be the joy it is if it wasn't for Patrick Stayt and his endless hours of rolling, cutting, mowing, mower mending and general pottering. It's no wonder that we secured the highest points for our ground in the league, as it is a truly wonderful place to play. Without you Patrick, we would not be half the club we are so thank you once again for another year of hard labour and quiet grumbles. We only hope that in the coming 12 months, we may have a new pavilion that suits the club and is as beautiful as our ground, square and setting. We all have fingers crossed for the next phase of our pavilion project getting underway soon.





A major help in driving the pavilion project forward was the recent success of the Annual Bonfire and Fireworks evening at the Walled Garden, which saw us raise an unbelievable £6000 for the club. This was an amazing achievement and there has been nothing but positive comments coming back to us. Des Moloney deserves all the credit he has received and more, as does his team, for putting on a truly incredible event. I think we have now set our standards high for next year and know that we will build on this success to ensure another memorable evening in 2022.

But although it's getting cold, the eyes of the club are already looking towards next season and preparations are in place. Winter nets are planned for the New Year in Warminster and we are also entered into a mini-indoor league organised by Urchfont CC starting in early

December. We will hopefully have the opportunity and interest for the golf morning again as well as the possibility of a pre-season quiz. Watch this space for further details.

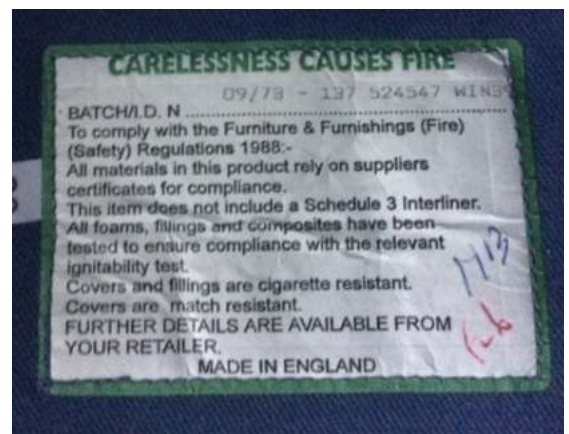


Finally, we would like to thank everyone who has supported the club this season; players, friends, supporters, ball sponsors, The Bell Inn, Old Station Yard, Fastglobe, Wessex Tree Care, wives, girlfriends and all our well-wishers.. We would not be the successful club we are if it wasn't for all your love, support and patience. Thank you to everyone who has been involved this year and we hope to see you again in early April when it all starts again.

Have a wonderful Christmas.

Joe Dorgan
ECCE Chairman

This month's bargain



We have a 2 seater blue Laura Ashley sofa bed, going free. Hardly used, would need to collect. We live in Edington. Please contact Simon Wylam 07711 611193





Edington What's On Diary



Date	Time	Event	Venue	
10 December	6.30 pm	Christmas Tree lighting	Playing field	
11 December	9.30 am	TVM - Salisbury shopping trip		Contact Pauline or Joy Fraser to book a place
13 December	7.30 pm	Parish Council meeting	Parish Hall	Due to Covid restrictions please contact the clerk if you wish to attend
21 December	1.25 pm	TVM - Warminster shopping trip		Contact Pauline or Joy Fraser to book a place
24 December	2 - 4 pm	Mince Pie competition	Priory Church	
2022				
6 January	9 am	TVM - Devizes shopping trip		Contact Pauline or Joy Fraser to book a place
8 January	9.30 am	TVM - Salisbury shopping trip		Contact Pauline or Joy Fraser to book a place
10 January	7.30 pm	Parish Council meeting	Parish Hall	Due to Covid restrictions please contact the clerk if you wish to attend
13 January	8 pm	Edington Fair meeting	Three Daggers	
15 January	3 pm	Village Wassail	Field adjoining Burial Ground	
18 January	1.25 pm	TVM - Warminster shopping trip		Contact Pauline or Joy Fraser to book a place



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





Christmas Tree Decoration Competition

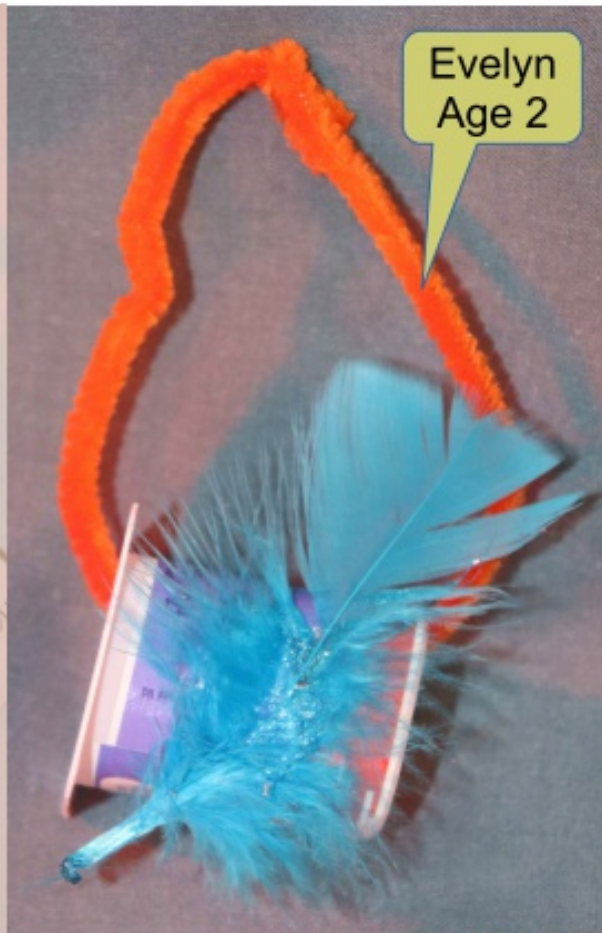
Thank you to all the contributors, their finished items are on the following pages.







Aaron
Age 2



Evelyn
Age 2



Violet
Age 2



Dee







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 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.

