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Welcome to the thirtieth edition of the Edington Village News.

We have as usual a selection of articles ranging from a seasonal message from the fire and rescue service to the recent appearances on various TV stations around the world of a couple of our villagers, plus of course a monthly wildlife article this month all about Corvids. We also have an article outlining how one villager is helping restore the entente cordial with our neighbours across the channel.

We have a number of events coming up in the village during October and November and hopefully they will be fully supported by villagers as it was disappointing to read about how few people came to the Macmillan coffee morning last Saturday.

There are three talks in the coming months ranging from "Mars to Long Hollow - Becoming Self employed in the pandemic", a gardening club talk about "pruning and small tree maintenance" and "Personality as seen in handwriting". Full details of these talks and other events can be found on the village website.

Along with these talks we have an opportunity for villagers to learn or refresh their skills at Bowls or at least the carpet version and in between games you can indulge in bacon or sausage butties.

There is also a reminder about the opportunity to partake of Tai Chi on a regular basis in the village.

The monthly village lunch is taking place next Wednesday in the Parish Hall, ring Pauline asap to book your place.

Finally an opportunity to stimulate the "grey cells" we have the Curry and Quiz night on 19th November. Why not start organising your team now and you would even have time for a few





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
For medical emergencies dial 999

Due to increased COVID infection rates in the community, from the 3rd October 2022 we will be asking that all patients and visitors coming to the practice wear a face covering if they are able to do so.

Westbury Group Practice Facts and Figures for the week 26th September - 30th September 2022

Phone calls taken: 1947

Face-to-Face appointments: 1989

Telephone appointments: 664

eConsults submitted: 152

Appointments where the patient did not attend (DNA): 63 - equivalent to 14 hours

On the day emergency appointments where the patient DNA'd: 2 – equivalent to 0.30 hours

Thank you

Dr Edwards & Partners

www.westburygp.co.uk

Courtyard Surgery, West Lavington



Telephone 01380 813 300

For medical emergencies dial 999

[The latest news from the surgery can be read here.](#)

Wiltshire Police



Cyber Security Awareness Month

Stopping criminals hacking into your bank account or protecting your social media sites from fraudsters are just two of the many aims of Cyber Security Awareness Month throughout October.

During the month we will be posting top tips to remind people how to stay safe online.

Using unique passwords, additional security levels like Two Factor Authentication, regularly backing up data and keeping on top of software updates are some of the areas people need to think about when using computers, tablets and smart phones.

Detective Sergeant Phil Nash, from the Digital Investigations and Intelligence Unit (DIU) at Wiltshire Police, said: "In our busy lives, where being online is part of everyday work and downtime, it's easy to forget or become complacent around cyber security.

"We all do it. However, this possible chink in the armour is often how criminals get into people's private social media accounts, bank details and other online systems to steal identities, manipulate social media accounts and even take money. They rely on us not being aware or updating our security settings.

"Cyber Security Awareness Month is a good way of reminding us all of what we should do to keep our passwords and accounts safe from criminals.

"Please, keep an eye out for our social media posts during Cyber Security Awareness Month with advice to help you stay safe."

To report cyber-crimes contact Action Fraud via www.actionfraud.police.uk/ or call 0300 123 2040.

More information can be found on our website too: www.wiltshire.police.uk/advice/advice-and-information/fa/fraud/online-fraud/cyber-crime-fraud/



Wiltshire Council

Latest News from Wiltshire Council

Cabinet to consider further investment in successful Parish Stewards programme

Published 4 October 2022

Wiltshire Council's Cabinet will consider a proposal to invest more money into its successful Parish Stewards scheme.

At its meeting on Tuesday 11 October, Wiltshire Council's Cabinet will consider a proposal to invest more money into its successful Parish Stewards scheme.

There are currently 18 Parish Stewards throughout Wiltshire - one for each community area. The stewards focus on small jobs in their community, such as filling potholes, drain clearance and cutting hedges. All work is based on the priorities of the local town or parish council.

However, they are limited one-person jobs and only have a certain selection of tools. So to help with this, the council is proposing to employ an extra two-person Parish Steward support team that will work around the community areas to undertake larger jobs with more equipment.

The extra investment would meet the council's business plan mission to have well-connected communities.

Cllr Dr Mark McClelland, Cabinet Member for Transport, said: Our Parish Stewards scheme has been a real success story. They improve the safety and appearance of Wiltshire's highways network and work hard to deliver on communities' highways priorities, such as fixing small defects on roads and cutting back foliage.

It's because of this success that we want to invest more into this scheme, with an extra two-person team that will work around the county to support the existing Parish Stewards.

If agreed, the new two-person team will be able to help with tasks that need more than one person to complete and will also carry additional equipment to complete larger scale safety and maintenance works. This investment would further deliver on local highways priorities and also improve the visual impact and safety of the county's road network.

If approved by Cabinet, the council will invest a further £233,000 each financial year until 2024/25 into the new two-person Parish Stewards team and work with contractors to source the vehicle and extra equipment.

Wiltshire gifted three "Tree of Trees" from The Queen's Green Canopy

Published 3 October 2022

Wiltshire Council and Swindon Borough Council are delighted to receive three special trees from The Queen's Green Canopy "Tree of Trees"

Wiltshire Council and Swindon Borough Council are delighted to receive three special trees from The Queen's Green Canopy (QGC) "Tree of Trees" which stood tall outside Buckingham Palace as a message of hope, regeneration and optimism to the nation and the world as part of the Platinum Jubilee weekend celebrations.

Wiltshire and Swindon join over 300 organisations from across the UK who were recently announced by the QGC as recipients of these special trees in The Queen's name, which are gifted in a pot embossed with Her Late Majesty's cypher.

The Wiltshire recipients are the volunteers from Swindon's vaccination programme, The John of Gaunt School in Trowbridge and The Harnham Water Meadows Trust in Salisbury. Presented by the Lord-Lieutenant of Wiltshire, Mrs Sarah Troughton, the trees will be planted at ceremonies to be held this Autumn.

The trees will become part of the living legacy in honour of Her Majesty, joining





over a million trees already planted across the UK as part of The Queen's Green Canopy.

Mrs Troughton said, I am delighted that Wiltshire and Swindon been chosen to receive the trees (two *Alnus glutinosa* [alders] and a *Betula pendula* [weeping birch]) from the Queen's Green Canopy "Tree of Trees" and am proud to become part of this project to honour Her Late Majesty in our county.

I much look forward to attending the planting ceremonies this Autumn, and I hope that these trees, plus the trees which were already planted in the county as part of The Queen's Green Canopy, are enjoyed by everyone in the local community as a symbol of hope and regeneration for many years to come."

Council updates on finances amid challenging national picture

Published 27 September 2022

Wiltshire Council has provided its first formal financial update since the 2022/23 budget was agreed in February, as it looks to continue to provide high-quality services while mitigating the increased challenges brought on by inflation, the cost of living, and the changing national picture.

In February, the council set its 2022/23 budget, which ensured that vital services to the residents, businesses and communities of Wiltshire will continue to be provided while also delivering on the commitments as set out in council's Business Plan and making significant savings.

With the completion of the first quarter of the financial year, the most significant pressure to the budget is being brought on by the high level of inflation that the country is currently experiencing. The original assumption when the 2022/23 budget was set and agreed was that contractual inflation for the financial year would be around 4% and pay inflation at 2% and council budgets were aligned to that accordingly. The current Consumer Price Index (CPI) stands at 9.9%.

Currently, the council is forecasting an overspend of around £12.4m, but mitigations

actions will reduce that to around £6m. This is a forecast overspend, and depending on service demand and inflation the position could further deteriorate, however the Council has prudently set aside £9m in reserves to deal with the inflation pressure on a one off basis in this financial year.

As at the end of June, the council had already achieved more than 45% of its identified savings target for 2022/23, which equates to around £11.3m. As it stands, £21m, which is around 84% of the total savings that need to be made, is forecast to be achieved by the end of the financial year. [More information here](#)



Action Fraud has received 139 crime reports relating to fake text messages purporting to be from the UK government. The texts state that the recipient is "owed" or "eligible" for an energy bill discount as part of the Energy Bill Support Scheme. The links in the emails lead to genuine-looking websites that are designed to steal your personal and financial information.

You can see screenshots of the text messages on our Twitter post [here](#).

How to protect yourself

- Energy Bill Discount : £400 off energy bills for households in Great Britain from October 2022. You do not need to apply for the scheme and you will not be asked for your bank details.
- Spotted a suspicious text message? Forward it to 7726 (it's free of charge). If you forward a text to 7726, your provider can investigate the origin of the text and arrange to block or ban the sender, if it's found to be malicious.

For more information on how to stay secure online, please visit www.cyberaware.gov.uk



**DORSET & WILTSHIRE
FIRE AND RESCUE**

#SaveSafely this winter

With living costs rising all the time, everyone is looking for ways to save some money, so Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Service is highlighting some areas where a saving could be a false economy – and a fire risk.

The Service is asking people to #SaveSafely, and there is a wealth of information about staying safe at home and on the roads at www.dwfire.org.uk/save-safely. This includes energy saving tips, cooking safely advice, how to stay warm safely, staying safe when cutting costs, cutting the costs of driving, and signposting to financial help.

Some top tips include:

- Pulling something like electric heaters or electric blankets out of the loft, that haven't been used for years, can be risky. Watch for signs of dangerous or loose wiring, such as scorch marks, hot plugs and sockets, fuses that often blow, or circuit breakers that trip for no obvious reasons.

- If you're drying clothes indoors rather than use a tumble dryer, keep them well away from the heat source so they can't catch fire.

- Air fryers and microwave ovens are great at saving energy when cooking, but

please read the manufacturer's instructions and keep them clean between uses.

- Getting chimneys swept when you have a woodburner or open fire is essential to reduce the risk of chimney fires. Also be careful of what you burn; green (unseasoned) wood may seem cheap, but it doesn't create much heat and it creates a residue that can easily catch alight within the chimney.

- Get your boiler serviced – a well maintained boiler is more efficient and reduces the dangers of carbon monoxide poisoning.

- Only use the correct charger for mobile devices. Although it can be cheaper to buy imported and unofficial chargers, fake ones are often made with poor quality components that fail to meet UK safety regulations. This means they can cause injury, electric shocks and even fires.

- Make sure you follow the manufacturer's instructions when using wheat bags – don't heat them for too long, or at too high a temperature. The Fire and Rescue Service offers free Safe & Well advice, which can include a home visit and the provision of smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. To request this for yourself, a family member or a vulnerable person, please call 0800 038 2323 or visit www.dwfire.org.uk/safe-and-well-visits



**Remember to #SaveSafely
when cutting costs**



**DORSET & WILTSHIRE
FIRE AND RESCUE**



Cllr Suzanne Wickham

Are you visible?



Last Saturday evening I drove almost the entire length of Ethandune from West to East. I was on my way to Holy Trinity church in Dilton Marsh for the concert performed by Bratton Silver Band as a part of the Westbury Festival. It was early evening and getting dark, and what struck me was the number of people who don't appreciate how important it is to be seen at times like this, when the sun is going down and it can be more difficult for motorist to see the road ahead clearly at twilight.

On a road where there are no pavements, I saw the eyes of animals coming towards me before I realised that they were two dogs. The person walking the dogs was facing oncoming traffic, which is correct, but he was dressed completely in dark clothes and if I had been travelling too fast, I would have possibly not had time to avoid him safely. Just further down the road, where there is also no pavement, another pedestrian was walking, again in dark clothing but this time with his back to oncoming traffic. He would not have had a chance to take avoiding action if any traffic was driving very close to the kerb and had not seen him. Continuing my journey, and now approaching Westbury, a cyclist was coming towards me, with cycle lights on but again, completely in dark clothing.



All three of these people were taking a risk that motorists are always alert, not driving too fast and are not distracted by something in their car. I think we should all remind ourselves that as pedestrians and cyclist we have a duty, as the Highway Code requires, to BE SEEN BE SAFE. Ideally wear something reflective and carry a torch. This way motorist will see you from much further away. The thought that a pedestrian or cyclist could so easily be struck by a vehicle just does not bare thinking about, so please do take care on the road at dawn and dusk.



On a lighter note, I arrived at the concert and thoroughly enjoyed the whole evening. The highlight had to be the premier performance of 'The Lost Village of Imber' which was commissioned to celebrate the band's 160th anniversary. This is a wonderful piece, which tells the story in music, of Imber from before the war, to the present day. I really hope that I get the chance to hear this performed again soon.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if I can help with any local matter.

Suzanne Wickham - Wiltshire Councillor - Ethandune

Email: suzanne.wickham@wiltshire.gov.uk

Tel: 07967 213336



Edington Parish Council News

Community Speed Watch

We have just completed our month of sessions and in that time we undertook 19 sessions and a total of 47 motorists were recorded at speeds between 36 and 39 mph plus another 11 were reported for speeds between 40 and 45, there were a total of 4762 vehicles passing in the 19 sessions.

The highest volume of traffic in one session was 378 and the greatest number of offenders in one session was 6 near the start of the month and the numbers decreased as the month progressed so perhaps the drivers were getting the message! Some of the motorists recorded were recognised as "locals" so we cannot say that it is just drivers passing through the village who speed.

We are always looking for more volunteers so if you could spare anything from an hour a week once a month then please volunteer by emailing the Parish Council, email address at the end of this article. You will have to undertake a short training session with Wiltshire Police and then you will be able to join us at the roadside.

As the nights are drawing in please take extra care when walking around the village, are you clearly visible to other road users both during the day and in the evenings? If you have a high vis jacket then please wear it and carry a torch so as you can be seen.

Defibrillator

The second defibrillator for the village has at last arrived and is now located in the cabinet on the outside of the toilet block in the Church car park. Both of the defibrillators in the village are the same make and are both Automated External Defibrillators, meaning that the user is given explicit instructions once the button on the

device is pressed. Also in the cabinets are a second set of pads for use on children, a responder kit containing scissors, wipes etc. and an instruction card showing the steps to follow. A copy of the card is on the next two pages of this newsletter. We all hope that we will never have a need to use the defibrillator but should the need arise



familiarity with the process before the need will reduce the stress at the time. The defibrillator in the Three Daggers car park has been taken from the cabinet on a number of occasions since its installation, fortunately it has never been used.

To access the defibrillator cabinet the user needs to dial 999 ask for the ambulance service and then ask for the cabinet code.



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



USING THE AED

If the patient is unconscious or unresponsive, and is not breathing or not breathing normally, ensure emergency medical assistance has been called and start using the AED.

1 TURN AED ON

Press ON/OFF button to turn AED on. Follow the voice prompt instructions. (NOTE: To power off the AED at any time, press and hold the ON/OFF button for approximately two seconds)

2 PREPARE THE PATIENT

Remove clothing from patient's chest. If necessary, dry chest and remove excess chest hair.

3 PREPARE PADS*

Tear open pads package.

Peel adhesive pads from blue liner.

Note: If the patient is an infant or child under 8 years or less than 55 pounds (25kg) and paediatric pads are available, disconnect the adult pads connected to the AED and connect the paediatric pads. Do not delay therapy to determine exact age or weight. If paediatric pads are not available, apply adult pads in the position shown in step 4 below for a child/infant and use the AED.

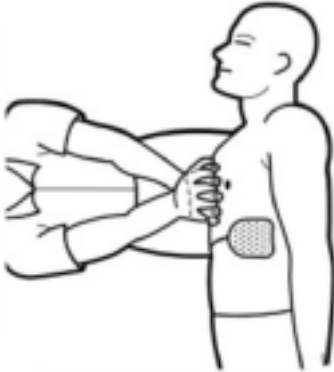
ADULT PATIENT **OR** **CHILD/INFANT PATIENT**

4 PLACE PADS

Apply pads to patient's bare chest.




PERFORM CPR
7



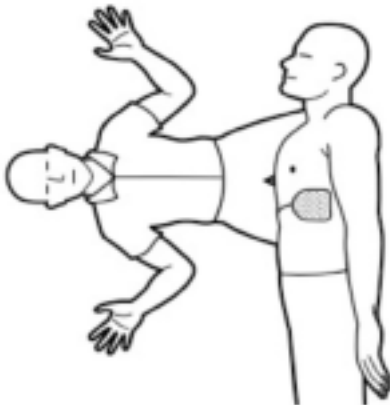
Follow instructions to perform CPR, if needed.

CONTINUE TO FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS
8



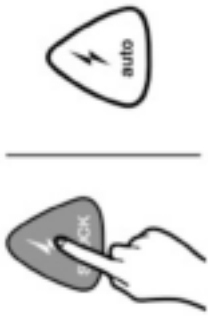
Continue to follow the voice prompt instructions

STAND CLEAR
5



When instructed, do not touch the patient.

IF INSTRUCTED, PRESS SHOCK BUTTON
6



If instructed, press "SHOCK" button.

IMPORTANT: The device will shock the patient automatically without any further user intervention. **Do not touch the patient while the SHOCK Required ("auto") indicator is flashing.**



Village Musings

As a country, we paused to say farewell to our Queen recently, and amongst the most moving parts of that time for me was hearing the church bells ringing across our village – muffled and solemn. It happened to be on the anniversary of my father's death and I was in the



churchyard as the bells started to ring. It was a moving, poignant and meditative time, to stand in the afternoon sunlight, listening to the bells mark the moment.

We are fortunate in Edington to have a full ten bells – it is rare in country churches to have so many. And we are also fortunate that they have been looked after and are regularly rung. When we first came to the village in 1998, we all joined the bell ringers and had the privilege of ringing in the new millennium. Our younger children had to stand on boxes to allow them to ring, but what a great moment it was!



And over the years, we have enjoyed walking through the village on long summer evenings, and on bitterly cold snowy nights, hearing those bells ring out across the countryside. Lying awake at night, I enjoy hearing the single bell telling the time each hour. And on

Sundays, we hear them joyfully inviting us to worship.

The bells have a timelessness about them, joining us in our celebrations and mourning, setting the hours carefully each day and linking us to our long ago ancestors who did not have mobile phones or watches and had to rely on the bells to guide them through their daily lives.



Mercedes Henning



Meeting every second Tuesday of the month 7.30pm.
Edington Parish Hall www.facebook.com/edingtonandtinheadwi
Contact Jan Billinge 07309 117686
email: janel.billinge1@gmail.com

EDINGTON & TINHEAD

OCTOBER NEWS



**"FROM MARS TO LONG HOLLOW"
BECOMING SELF EMPLOYED IN A
PANDEMIC WITH STUART ROBBINS**

**TUESDAY 11th OCTOBER
7:30pm
AT THE PARISH HALL**

All Welcome!



A tale of two villages: Coals to Newcastle

When we return from our home in France we usually bring back with us a number of speciality French foods that we particularly like and of course French wine. This time however we took French food to France! Because of a mustard harvest failure, to their horror it is impossible to find Dijon mustard on French supermarket shelves at the moment whilst in the UK it still exists. So to the delight of our French neighbours we arrived carrying many pots of Dijon mustard and were welcomed much more than usual.

The summer has been particularly dry and hot in France this year and the drought is exceptional. Rivers are desperately low and our



village fishing pond dried up completely, requiring the fish therein to be moved to safety. The commune then took the opportunity to renovate the pond, digging deeper and lining it with clay. The village celebrated (with wine) the opening of its new children's playground structures and improved free tennis courts. I tried out the mountain bike track but it pales into insignificance compared to the free to use,



sponsored BMX track in our local small town, Descartes.

The other major village project is the renovation of its recently acquired auberge. The interior is now stripped away whilst retaining its character beams etc. and rebuilding will soon begin. Thank goodness, again there can be a coffee and tiny rose wine and a local gossip catch up when I go down on my bike to collect the morning breakfast baguette.



Sadly the summer is starting to move towards autumn but is still warm at 22 degrees and a common sight now is the delivery of wood for winter heating. Our local farmer dropped us off some metre-long seasoned oak 



logs which are now safely under cover ready for our winter log fires. The forests here are "farmed" for their wood, keeping them productive and natural. Oak for heating has gone up 10% in price but thankfully the French government has capped electricity increases to just 4% (they own EDF) and the price of petrol has been pushed down now to £1.30 per litre.



The strictly regulated hunting season started a couple of days ago, so on Thursdays and Sundays it is best to wear a yellow jacket when walking the dog near woodland, and occasional shooting accidents appear in



newspapers. You also see a few terrified deer and wild boar tearing across the fields accompanied by the sound of barking dogs and gunfire. All part of seasonal change in rural France.

Sadly Brexit continues to cause many difficulties, the devaluation of the pound by 18%, the 90 day limit on stays in Europe in a six month period, the reintroduction of phone roaming charges and of course the long delays at immigration controls, soon to get worse with "automation" at points of entry. We are envious of the freedom to travel enjoyed by other Europeans and so many French still ask us "why did you leave?".

Still, the weather and countryside are beautiful right now, and are there to be enjoyed, as are the seasonal autumn treats such as raclette, melted cheese on top of charcuterie. The grape harvest is now underway and promises to be good with low yields but high sugar content. The first pressing cloudy "wine" garnache now stands fizzing at supermarket checkouts but having bought more than our usual supplies at the recent seasonal wine sales, it just remains today to visit a local producer of Saumur Champigny, for something a little special. Salut!

Edington Resident.



Four Villages Link

If you require a lift to an appointment, shopping or help around the house or garden, call our coordinator on 07852 256939.

Information on LINK can be found at

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



Tai Chi in Edington

**Did you know there are Tai Chi
lessons available in Edington**

Sessions are available in the Parish
Hall on Mondays 11am to 12noon.
Donations to cover the cost of the hall.

Join in FREE sessions on the playing
field behind 3 Daggers pub on
Mondays, Wednesdays Fridays from
8.15am to 8.40am.

All weathers except
rain!

For more info
Contact Anne on her
mobile:
07905748359





Larger corvids of Edington

As we start the month of October my thoughts start to turn towards Halloween and things that go bump in the night. This started me thinking about crows which are often associated with Halloween. As the Halloween costumes start appearing in stores you often find depictions of crows with them.



The crow plays an important part in Halloween (del. S.F. Henning)

Crows most likely became part of the tradition due to a number of their habits, including their feeding habits. Crows are large and black with a "caw caw" sound that is often considered grating compared with the melodic sounds of other passerines or songbirds. This shrill call has an unsettling sound to many who hear it in grey autumn skies. These birds are scavengers, and eat the flesh of dead animals, and this plays into

the macabre of Halloween. Due to their carrion diet, even before the traditions of Halloween, the Celtic peoples strongly associated crows with war, death, and the battlefield. They were known to feast on the remains of people struck down in battle.

In German mythology, witches didn't ride brooms but ravens. Swedes thought the harsh song of the crow was the voice of the dead who did not receive a proper burial.

The poem by Edgar Allan Poe, "The Raven," has also been suggested to have led a part to the association of ravens and hence crows to Halloween. In the poem the raven called a thing of evil and a prophet, suggesting a connection with the supernatural.



The raven is the largest corvid with a stout, heavy bill (del. S.F. Henning)





Corvids also have a reputation for being very intelligent birds, with various species having been shown to be able to use tools, recognise themselves in the mirror, and remember human faces.

Ravens were once common in Britain but years of persecution by man had wiped them out in most of the east of the country. Despite the fact they feed mostly on carrion, they were blamed for killing livestock and so were shot, trapped, and poisoned, particularly in the mid to late 1800s. By 1900 they were extinct in much of lowland Britain and had retreated to the mountainous areas and uninhabited areas in the north and west of the country. They now appear to be returning thanks to better wildlife protection legislation.

Ravens were absent from Wiltshire for about a hundred years, but recently they have started to make a comeback. The first pair of ravens recorded making a return to Wiltshire was in 1992. Breeding was initially confined mostly to the southwest of the county, but numbers have grown and now stand at between 30 to 50 pairs breeding in Wiltshire, mainly nesting in trees. They are now frequently seen around Edington and a pair have been reported breeding in the quarry near the Westbury Whitehorse.

They are the largest of the corvids being huge black birds with a four-foot wingspan and a chunky, powerful bill, and they give a much deeper sounding call than other corvids.

They can be seen flying mainly in hilly country and frequently soar like a bird of prey. They are mainly scavengers, but also kill small birds, reptiles, and mammals. They will also feed on eggs, snails, insects, and grain and other seeds. They look similar to carrion crows but are considerably bigger with more powerful head and bill, shaggy beard, and large wedge-shaped tail.

Ravens only raise one brood a year, starting in early spring even as early as February. Both sexes build the large nest of twigs, sticks and stalks of other plants. They usually lay 4-6 pale greenish-blue eggs spotted with brown. The male feeds the female on the nest while she incubates the eggs.

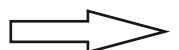
Carrion crows look similar to ravens but are about a third smaller with a less massive head and bill. They are common around Edington, and I have seen them regularly in the area. Like ravens they are scavengers and feed mainly on carrion but will also kill small birds, and eat eggs, insects, worms, and seeds. Crows feed mainly on the ground but will drop food such as a crab from the air in order to smash the shell.



The carrion crow's smaller size and squarer tail distinguish it from a raven (del. S.F. Henning)

They are heavier built than rooks, but less sociable and are usually seen singly or in pairs. They can be easily distinguished from rooks in not having bare skin round the base of the bill.

Both sexes build the nest at the top of a tree. The female lays 4-6 greenish-blue eggs speckled with brown during late March or early April and incubates them for 18-20 days. The male keeps her supplied with food during this time. The young on hatching are helpless and





downy and they will take some 4-5 weeks to fledge and leave the nest.

Crows are highly intelligent and resourceful birds. A neighbour in South Africa had a pet pied crow that actually talked like a parrot or a budgerigar. In fact, it may be even easier to teach a crow a quite extensive vocabulary. The reason that this is not common knowledge is because crows and other corvids such as ravens and magpies are not often kept as pets.

The rook is a highly gregarious crow, forming large flocks, roosts, and colonial nesting groups called rookeries, in tall clumps of trees. It is like the carrion crow, but slimmer and more angular, especially in flight. The crown of its head has a distinct peak above the eyes and the bare skin around the base of the bill distinguishes it from the other corvids.



The rook's bare skin around the base of bill distinguishes it from other corvids (del. S.F. Henning)

It feeds mostly on arable land but taking more pests than crops. It feeds mainly on worms, insects, and seeds. It is often seen following farm ploughs picking up leatherjackets, wireworms, and other insects.

Before the leaves are out in spring, rooks congregate in breeding colonies high up in tall trees, their nests standing out against the network of bare branches. The females lay 3-5

pale blue-green eggs blotched with brown which are incubated by her for 16-20 days. The male keeps her provided with food.



Otter photographed on the 13th of September 2022 in a garden in Berry Road, Edington (photo Peter Grist)

Back in August I reported that an otter was seen walking along Tinhead Road. This otter has not moved on but is still around and raided the fishpond of Peter Grist in Berry Road on the 12th of September 2022 eating all his fish including two large ones over 30 years old. At first, we were not sure what had raided the pond – was it an otter or a mink? Peter found some whitish fur caught on the wire netting over the pond which indicated it was probably from the underside of an otter. It could not have been a mink as the ones recorded from Wiltshire are dark brown almost black. Peter then set up a trail camera the next night and was rewarded with this photo of the otter who had come back into his garden looking for seconds. He also got some video footage of the otter. Although Peter was sorry at the loss of his fish, I think he was even more happy to know that otters are here and thriving in Edington.

Dr Stephen Henning



Edington arts

CALL FROM CHORAL WORKSHOP: TENORS AND BASSES NEEDED!

The Edington Arts Choral Workshop on Saturday 22nd October is still taking applications, and anyone interested is urged to apply. Application forms are downloadable from the Edington Arts website, www.edingtonarts.org. There is space for more singers, but Edington Arts is encouraging tenors and basses in particular to apply.

The workshop, to be taken by former Kings' Singer and international choral conductor Simon Carrington has attracted a good response; the two pieces to be worked on, Britten's 'Rejoice in the Lamb' and Elgar's 'Great is the Lord', have interested choral singers from Devon, Hampshire, Dorset and Sussex as well as from Bath, Bristol and Salisbury, as well as all points closer to home. However, the assembled forces could do with more male support, so don't be shy!

The day will run at Edington Priory Church from registration at 9.30am to about 4.30pm, and there will be a final run-through at 5pm after tea and cakes, when singers' friends and families are invited to join the party. (No charge, but donations welcome).

The cost of the day is £25, £22.50 for Edington Angels, and £10 for students in full time education or training. This includes refreshments on arrival and mid morning, and hire of copies.

Visit the website or email anne@edingtonarts.org for more information.

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.



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). For more information contact Emily on

07910228383



EDINGTON PARISH HALL

CARPET BOWLS IN THE PARISH HALL

The Parish Hall Committee extend a warm invitation to everyone to join them for **the first taster session, with tuition on Saturday 29th October from 10.00 am – 12 noon** when Bacon or Sausage Rolls will be available in addition to tea and coffee.

No experience necessary and all equipment is provided.

It is hoped that after the taster session, a 'Village League' can be formed consisting of teams from village organisations, families and friends making for healthy rivalry, a fun social occasion as well as the competitive spirit to win!!

Perhaps Edington village clubs and organisations will challenge their counterparts in neighbouring villages and towns to a game? Families and friends are also welcome to book the Parish Hall and use the equipment as a fun activity.

A little about Carpet Bowls

Carpet Bowls was devised as a scaled down version of indoor bowls and was designed to be suitable for playing in small village halls.

The principle aim of the game, is the same as all other bowls disciplines, to deliver your wood closer to the jack than your opponent. The game is played on a mat approximately 30 feet in length and 6 feet wide, using biased bowls of 4 inches in diameter. On the centre of the mat there is an 18 inch block and the delivery of the woods takes place from a designated area, this prevents the game continually being killed by the firing shot and creates a more interesting and skilful game



All bowlers use the same woods which are provided and this removes the need for players to purchase equipment themselves.

Carpet Bowls is a sport suitable for everyone - male and female, children of all ages, as well as less able-bodied people (the sport can be played sitting down) all have the ability to play.



We hope to see you there!

For more information contact Wendy on 01380 830441

Forthcoming Events

Do come and join us for either or both of these Autumn events in the Parish Hall.

Further information will be found on the village website, village notice boards and at the Post Office nearer to event date.

Saturday 29th October – 10am -12 noon Carpet Bowls taster session with tuition.

Bacon / Sausage butties and tea and coffee will be available for a small charge.

Saturday 19th November- 7.30pm Curry & Quiz night (Teams of 4)

100 Club is always looking for new members.

Please contact Helen O'Donoghue for more information or to join.

If you would like more information, please contact Wendy Pollard 830 441 or Helen O'Donoghue 830 501 or email parishhall@edingtonwiltshire.org.uk



WORLD'S BIGGEST
COFFEE
MORNING

Fundraising for
MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT

Unfortunately, our aim to at least match if not exceed last years total of £300 was not met, as sadly the coffee morning was not nearly as well supported.

A **Big Thank you** to the 19 people who came to this year's Coffee Morning in the Parish Hall. Thanks to their generosity and others who kindly gave donations, **£152 was raised for Macmillan Cancer**. Thank you also to those who made cakes and helped on the day.

Wendy Pollard - Edington Parish Hall Committee

Coffee Morning Drop In



Every Tuesday,

10.30 - 11.30 am

in the Three Daggers.

Transport available contact

Pauline or Joy.

Birchwood House

Margo Mulligan-Scaife would like to express her sincere gratitude to everyone in the village and beyond who have supported her and her family throughout the difficult time of Bryan's loss.

Thank you all,

Kind Regards

Margo and family



LOOKING FOR A NEW SPORT THAT CAN BE PLAYED BY PEOPLE OF ALL AGES AND ABILITIES (it can even be played sitting down!), THEN WHY NOT COME AND TRY CARPET BOWLS?



OR TEST YOUR SKILL ON THE TARGET MAT



When: Saturday 29th October 2022

Where: Edington Parish Hall

Time: 10 am – 12 noon.

Bacon or sausage butties and tea and coffee will be available for a small charge.

The Parish Hall Committee were able to purchase the equipment thanks to a grant from Westbury Area Board





The Q

(The journey to pay respect to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II) Would I do it again?

The news that her Majesty the Queen had died at Balmoral came as a shock to many across our nation, even though she was in her 97th year. With the loss of a much-loved Monarch and Colonel in Chief of the Queens Lancashire Regiment (my Regiment) I felt that I had lost a very close relative. As soon as the details of Her Majesty's lying-in state were made public, I knew I had to make the journey to London to pay my respects. I have 2 sons, Philip and Paul, who between us have served Her Majesty for 79 years in total and without hesitation they both wanted to join me in London.

With good military planning the trains and a hotel was booked. Paul and I arrived in London just after lunch on Thursday, with Philip arriving early evening to join us. As with any military operation a recce is best practice. Paul and I walked from the Union Jack club (our hotel) to the South Bank. On the route was a Salvation Army tea wagon and information point, giving out free tea and biscuits to travellers. Here we were given our first inkling into the numbers expected to make the journey. As we arrived on the South Bank it was obvious the flow of people heading towards Westminster was extremely long and growing steadily. At various points along the route there were route Marshalls, one of whom gave us excellent advice telling us that we would need to get wristbands at the end of the queue and that there was a government website giving hourly information using 'what 3 words' to identify where the end of the queue was and the time it was expected to take to get to Westminster Hall. We walked to Tower Bridge to get an idea of the route and facilities (food and toilets) along the way.

We then strolled back to our hotel to meet up with Philip and make plans for the following day.

We decided to leave at 5am, appropriately dressed in suits, medals and headdress along with essentials in a small bag We hailed a taxi to take us to the end of the queue. At 5.15am the taxi driver, using 'what 3 words', dropped us at the location where wristbands were being strictly distributed, 1 per person and no collecting for others. We duly joined the queue with an expected time of 12 hours to reach the Great Hall.

As dawn approached, the media circus began. Our first encounter was from Good Morning Britain who interviewed Philip and Paul about their expectations for the day. This was not our last TV interview but set the pattern for the day. We then decided we were hungry and to our amazement, Paul had been up early and made marmalade sandwiches, if they are good enough for the Queen and Paddington bear, they were good enough for us.



Halfway point - Paul Roy and Philip

Much has been said in the media about the bonhomie in the queue and the group of people around us shared experiences about the times we had met or seen Her Majesty. Between the 3 of us we had met members of the Royal family, each time being a unique unforgettable experience which we shared with our group. In the group around us we had Filipino nurses working in the NHS (great fun) a lady from Vietnam now living in UK having fled Vietnam after the war, a man from the Sudan who had just finished his night shift, a father and his pregnant daughter from Twickenham and an 80-year-old couple.

Mid-morning, the sun was





shining, and BBC TV appeared and approached us for a soundbite of the reason we were in the queue. They also asked if they could interview us after we had paid our respects. After this an Argentinian TV company approached, there was no hiding place, and the boys were asked if they had served in the Malvinas (Falklands), with one voice they pointed at me and said, 'He did!'. I agreed to do a short interview if it was non-political. This was followed by an interview with the Washington Post and an Austrian newspaper.



The Media circus begins

Mid-day we reached the London Eye, spirits were high, feet and back aching but the camaraderie continued to rise, and the support was enduring. During the journey I saw a man and a little girl (6-year-old) who smiled and waved along the way. They took a break on a bench; I went over to say hello and her dad told me that they had travelled from Sheffield at her request to say goodbye to the Queen. I took my medals off and pinned them on her jacket for a photo memory for her. We continued, explaining our medals on numerous occasions to curious persons in the queue.

At one of the checkpoints along the route security were checking wristbands, if you did not have one you had to return to the end of the queue to get one. One lady who had joined us on route for 4 hours had to leave and go to collect her band and re-join the queue at the start. We kept in touch, and she informed us that she made the journey again the next day.

Passing the South Bank opposite the Palace of

Westminster we had the feeling 'almost there'! Our hopes were dashed when the Marshall informed us that we had at least another four hours!! An hour to reach the snake and another three walking the snake. At this time, we were flagging with sore feet, aching backs but still knew we had to endure. We practised how we would pay our respects, as one, to her Majesty with salute, bow and dignified departure. Ministers of various faiths had joined us in the snake to help keep our spirits up and jolly us along. One said it was like a pilgrimage, join the road not knowing anyone on the same journey and leaving having made new friends.

Having gone through airport type security the mood changed to one of solemnity knowing that within a few minutes we would be in the Great Hall. The pain in our feet and backs seemed to disappear as we viewed the setting before us. The Great Hall, a thousand years old, was a majestic and fitting location for our Late Queens lying in state. The silence was palpable. As one, the three of us approached the left side of the catafalque. Stood, saluted, bowed our heads in respect and grief, turning as one we made our way to depart the Great Hall. We stopped at the exit to take one last look and capture this historic moment in time, forever imprinted in our hearts and minds.



Leaving the Great Hall

Would I do it again? – in a heartbeat!

Captain (Retd) Roy Zaman MBE



THREE VILLAGES MINIBUS (TVM)



Some of our passengers still feel more comfortable wearing a face covering but the option is left to each individual.

A hand sanitiser is still available for use when entering the minibus.

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 now resume if groups wish to do so.

Joy Fraser (830426)

Lunch in the Parish Hall



We are holding a 2 Course Lunch (with a choice of lasagne or cottage pie and a selection of puddings)

on **Wednesday October 12th at 12.30pm.**

in the Parish Hall, Edington.

Price £8.00 in aid of Dorothy House.



All will be most welcome to join us.

Please let Pauline (tel: 830013) know if you are coming (by October 7th) as this helps with catering arrangements.



TVM will provide door to door transport

Please book your place with Pauline

The lunch the following month will be on November 9th.

Shopping Trips starting at Edington on

Destination	October	November	Start Time
Devizes - £3.20	Thursday 6th	Thursday 3rd	9am
Warminster - £2.80	Tuesday 18th	Tuesday 15th	1.25pm
Westbury - £2.30	Every Thursday	Every Thursday	1.30pm
Salisbury - £5.00	Saturday 8th	Saturday 12th	9.30am

**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.
Contact Pauline or Joy Fraser to book a place**



Edington What's On Diary

Date	Time	Event	Venue
10th October	7.30pm	Parish Council meeting	Parish Hall
11th October	7.30pm	WI talk - From Mars To Long Hollow Stuart Robbins	Parish Hall
16th October	9.00am	Devizes shopping - TVM	
18th October	1.25pm	Warminster shopping - TVM	
29th October	10am - 12 noon	Carpet Bowls taster session	Parish Hall
3rd November	9.00am	Devizes shopping - TVM	
3rd November	7.30pm	Gardening Club talk	Parish Hall
8th November	7.30pm	WI talk - Personality as seen in handwriting	Parish Hall
12th November	9.30am	Salisbury shopping - TVM	
14th November	7.30pm	Parish Council meeting	Parish Hall
15th November	1.25pm	Warminster shopping - TVM	
19th November	7.30pm	Curry and Quiz Night	Parish Hall

TVM trips - please Contact Pauline or Joy Fraser to book a place

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

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 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 or speak to Pauline in the Post Office.

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.