



## Contents

- White Horse Health Centre
- Courtyard Surgery
- Wiltshire Police
- Wiltshire and Bath Air Ambulance
- Wiltshire Council News
- Edington and Tinhead W.I.
- Best Kept Village Competition
- Edington Village Fete
- Edington Arts
- Edington VE day celebrations
- Waders around Edington - part 3
- Edington Parish Hall
- Edington and District Gardening Club
- View From The Boundary
- 80th Anniversary of Belsen 15 April 1945
- Belsen Remebered
- Dorothy House
- Keevil School News
- Forthcoming Roadworks
- Edington Station Yard
- The Sharpe Brothers - information wanted
- Salisbury Cathedral Flower Festival
- White Horse News
- Westbury Care Home
- Edington Parish Council
- Salisbury Plain Training Area
- Three Village's Minibus
- May Lunch in the Parish Hall
- Edington What's On Diary
- Sharing your newsletter
- Contacting us

June and information about the village VE day celebrations. We also have the first of a series of articles highlighting the various groups that make use of the Parish Hall. There are also several AGM's taking place in the coming weeks.

### Deadline for articles 10th of the month



***First Round Judging - 12 May to 8th June.***  
*Please help the village to win by making sure that your garden and the surrounding pavement and road is tidy and free of litter.*



Welcome to the fifty-ninth edition of the Edington Village News produced by villagers for the village of Edington. This month we have a bumper 41 page edition, the biggest that we have ever produced. We have two very poignant articles reflecting on villagers personal experiences of the Belsen concentration camp. Along with this we have advanced notice of the Village Fete on 7th

Edington Village News is an independent publication and its content is not influenced by the Parish Council nor any other organisation. Opinions expressed or implied in this publication are not necessarily those of the editors and no responsibility can be accepted for any errors of fact printed in this publication. ©Edington Newsletter



## Local surgeries latest



### White Horse Health Centre and Bratton Surgery

**Westbury surgery TELEPHONE 01373 828330**

**Bratton Surgery TELEPHONE 01380 831911**  
**For medical emergencies dial 999**

Despite requesting information from the surgery they have not sent us anything and their new website no longer has a latest news section so unfortunately we cannot provide any news from the Westbury White Horse Health Centre.

### Editors

**Dr Edwards & Partners**

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



### Courtyard Surgery, West Lavington

**Telephone 01380 813 300**

**For medical emergencies dial 999**

Courtyard surgery continue to produce a monthly newsletter for their patients and it can be found on the link below.

[Latest surgery newsletter can be found here.](#)

<https://www.courtyardsurgery.co.uk/>



## Wiltshire Police

**Specialist Operations at @wiltshirepolice**

**Wilts Specialist Ops @WiltsSpecOps**  
*Some recent "encounters"*

Armed Response Officers stopped a vehicle in Trowbridge and the two occupants were arrested on suspicion of possession with intent to supply. The two males have been released on conditional bail pending further enquiries.



Spec Ops stopped a car in Marlborough. The driver, who was wanted on court warrant, admitted being disqualified and taking the vehicle without consent. He was further arrested on suspicion of drug driving.





## Devastating impacts of livestock worrying

Published:26/03/2025

Wiltshire Police urge dog owners to always keep their dogs on a lead and under control when walking through fields. Even if livestock cannot be seen, it is best to keep your dog on a lead as it could run into neighbouring fields containing livestock and spook or injure them. Dogs chasing livestock without causing physical injury can still cause devastating impacts, as pregnant ewes may miscarry and the animals may injure themselves in an attempt to run from the chase. As James explains, sheep that survive livestock worrying incidents can be affected for some time due to the stress they are put under.

PC Howick from the Rural Crime Team says: "Over recent weeks, Wiltshire Police have seen an increase in the number of reports of sheep being attacked by dogs. We are asking the public, when out enjoying the countryside, that you are vigilant and respectful of sheep in fields."

If you witness a dog chasing or attacking livestock, call 999. For more information about livestock worrying, please visit the Wiltshire Police website - <https://www.wiltshire.police.uk/police-forces/wiltshire-police/areas/campaigns/campaigns/livestock-worrying/livestock-worrying/>

## Police issue advice following increase in quad bike and ATV thefts

Published:27/03/2025

Wiltshire Police have received an increasing number of reports of stolen quad bikes and all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) in recent weeks, particularly in South West and South East Wiltshire, with the most recent being this week. In light of this, the public are reminded to

check the security of their agricultural equipment and plant machinery to make theft as difficult as possible for criminals.

Since the beginning of the year, 12 quad bikes or ATVs have been reported stolen to Wiltshire Police, however we believe this figure may be higher and some thefts may not have been reported.

All rural incidents which are reported to the police are reviewed by the specialist Rural Crime Team, who also link in with neighbouring police forces to share intelligence to get the best chance to reunite victims with their stolen property. Wiltshire Police take all crime reports seriously. If you have been a victim of theft, dial 101 or report via the Wiltshire Police website. If you notice suspicious activity or witness a crime in progress, dial 999.

## Former Rescue Dog Adopted from Dogs Trust Celebrates One Year with Wiltshire Police

Published:17/03/2025

A former rescue dog adopted from Dogs Trust by Wiltshire Police has celebrated his first year of service as a police dog.

Wiltshire Police adopted three-year-old English Springer Spaniel Reggie in February 2024 from Dogs Trust Evesham. Reggie excelled during training due to his enthusiastic nature and love for a tennis ball, becoming a Drugs, Cash and Firearms Recovery dog in May 2024.

During his milestone first year of service, Reggie carried out more than 60 searches of houses, open spaces, and vehicles. His many successes include finding thousands of pounds of cash and quantities of drugs, including cannabis, cocaine and heroin.

Reggie's crime-fighting potential was first spotted by the team at Dogs Trust Evesham when he was handed into the charity's care due to his owner's ill health.





Reggie had high energy levels and was very focused on the ball. He was happiest when he had an activity or training to focus on. Reggie's Dogs Trust carers felt he had all the qualities required to be an excellent working dog.



## PCC responds to Government's neighbourhood policing plans

Published Thursday 10 April 2025

Police and Crime Commissioner for Wiltshire and Swindon, Philip Wilkinson said: "Whilst I welcome the Government's commitment to neighbourhood policing, there is very little in the Government's new Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee that Chief Constable Roper has not already actioned.

"Wiltshire and Swindon's residents will benefit from this neighbourhood policing grant, but it does not address the years of underfunding of Wiltshire Police caused by the national police funding formula that means Wiltshire Police continues to be the third lowest funded police force per head of population in the country.

"Without adequate core funding from the Home Office to deliver the basics and business as usual of policing, the policing postcode lottery will inevitably continue to exist until a fairer funding formula is established that ensures those who live and work in Wiltshire and Swindon get the policing service they rightly deserve and expect."

"During his first year as a police dog, he has had some great jobs, including two stand-out warrants. One where he found lots of drugs and cash and an outside search where he located a package of drugs which officers had been unable to locate.

"I hope Reggie will have a long and happy career in the police, and he couldn't be better suited to the job."

Sergeant Jon Harwood, from the Wiltshire Police Dog Unit, said: "We have a close working relationship with the Dogs Trust and are grateful for being able to give Reggie an opportunity to put his intelligence and energy to good use.



## Four Villages Link

Please call 0785 25 6939 to offer your services or if you are requesting help. Thank you.



## Awareness of safety after aborted landing

Our aircrew were about to touch down to respond to a trauma injury incident on 30 March when children came running towards the landing spot, forcing the pilot to abort.

Chief pilot Matt Wilcock, who was in the cockpit at the time, says: "Safety is our top priority. We had to make the difficult decision to abort the landing to ensure the safety of everyone involved, including the children who unexpectedly entered the landing zone."

The helicopter was able to land at the second attempt, but there was an inevitable delay to our arrival on scene.

***Matt added: "We urge the community to be aware of the dangers and to follow the guidelines we've provided to prevent such incidents in the future. Every second counts in an emergency, and delays can have serious consequences."***

The safety guide released by the Charity includes eight simple steps which should ensure the experience for everyone runs smoothly, and most importantly safely.

The guide includes information about making space, watching for downwash and staying clear until the aircrew have landed and the blades have stopped turning.

The pilot will remain with the helicopter whilst the critical care team carry out their work. Once they have finished the necessary paperwork, and if time permits, this is usually the opportunity to approach and meet the pilot (wait to be called forward). There could even be the chance to look around the aircraft and take pictures, if the situation permits.

The Charity's helicopter and two critical

care cars all have QR codes on their livery, which will help you learn more about our Charity and submit photos and videos.

Matt continued: "Our guide will help ensure a positive experience for you, but most importantly, a safe environment for everyone, including our aircrew and patients.

"Your help and continued support is truly appreciated."

## Saddling up with Bath Racecourse

Wiltshire and Bath Air Ambulance Charity is delighted to announce an exciting partnership with Bath Racecourse.

The association comes hot on the heels of the Charity's rebranding in late 2024, which saw the inclusion of Bath in its name to better reflect its operational area.

The collaboration aims to raise awareness about the Charity's vital work and engage the community in its efforts.

The highlight of the partnership will be the Wiltshire and Bath Air Ambulance Charity Raceday, to be held on Wednesday 16 July 2025.

Tickets are now on sale on the website, and racegoers will have the opportunity to learn more about the Charity on the day, including its lifesaving work and how they can contribute to its mission.





## Wiltshire Council

### *Latest news from the Council*

#### **More Wiltshire businesses ordered to close following illegal tobacco sales**

Two more Wiltshire vape shops have been issued with closure orders, following investigations by Wiltshire Council's Trading Standards team.

Published 11 April 2025

The three-month closure orders were issued at Swindon Magistrates Court yesterday (Thursday 10 April), following the sales of illegal tobacco at Chippenham Mini Market in Chippenham and Vape Shop in Trowbridge. The orders were granted under the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act.

Chippenham Mini Market, in Market Place opened in October 2024, selling vapes, e-liquids and other smoking paraphernalia. An undercover Trading Standards officer visited on 25 October 2024 and was sold illegal tobacco, leading to officers visiting again on 6 November 2024 to advise the owner about the sale of illegal tobacco and vapes.

Two days later, officers visited the premises with a tobacco detection dog, where counterfeit tobacco and illegal vapes were found in the shop. Similar products were also discovered in the adjacent Turkish barbers, which belongs to the same owner. Later the same day, an undercover officer was again able to purchase illegal tobacco.

Vape Shop, formally known as My Sweet Shop, in Wicker Hill, Trowbridge has also been ordered to close.

**Read more here about this story**

#### **Dog owners urged to microchip pets following prosecutions**

Dog owners are being reminded that it is a legal requirement to microchip their dogs and ensure the details stored on it are up to date - failure to do so could lead to a prosecution and fine.

Published 10 April 2025

The reminder follows recent prosecutions by Wiltshire Council's Dog Warden Team.

Microchipping is in place to enable identification of a dog and helps authorities reunite stray pets with their owners. Updated microchips also act as a deterrent to dog theft and give vets and officials the ability to easily contact an owner in an emergency.


Microchipping for dogs over eight weeks of age was made compulsory in England, Scotland and Wales in April 2016.

In 2024/25, Wiltshire Council dog wardens collected 245 dogs as strays, of which 75 were successfully reunited with their owners. Of those collected, only 14 had up to date and correct information registered on their microchips.

For microchip data to be useful, the details recorded must be up to date. Therefore, owners who move house, or even change their mobile telephone number should remember to ensure their dog's microchip details are updated. Incorrect or out-of-date information means that your dog is not legally considered as microchipped.

To report a stray dog people should call Wiltshire Council, 24 hrs a day, 0300 4560107

#### **New High Sheriff for Wiltshire and Swindon 2025-26**

Wiltshire's new High Sheriff was sworn in on Friday, 4th April 2025 in a ceremony which dates back to Saxon times. Mr 



Martin Nye made his Declaration at St Martin's Church, Bremhill, nr Calne, taking over from Dr Olivia Chapple. Around 80 guests attended the ceremony and reception

*Published 7 April 2025*

Mr Martin Nye has had a broad-ranging business career, including several chief executive roles in private and public companies, and now has a portfolio of non-executive and chair positions. He is chair of the Soil Association, and a Council member of the National Trust. He was chair of the Wiltshire Museum until 2024, and continues to be a trustee of the Devizes Assize Court Trust which aims to revitalise the Assize Court as a new home for the Museum. He is a trustee of Worldreader and the World of Books Foundation, both of which support literacy. He read History at the University of Cambridge.

Martin lives on a farm in Foxham near Chippenham where his wife Victoria breeds organic grass-fed beef shorthorn cattle and opens their garden for the National Gardens Scheme and to support local charities. After a career in financial services, Victoria is active with charities and community projects in the county as a Deputy Lieutenant, a trustee of the Wiltshire Gardens Trust, the chair of the local farm cluster and a school governor. They have three adult children.

In addition to the customary role of supporting the Judiciary, Police, Emergency services and the voluntary sector, Martin has chosen as his theme for the year "Food", to encompass all aspects of food from farm to fork. He looks forward to meeting charities and other organisations working across the food sector.

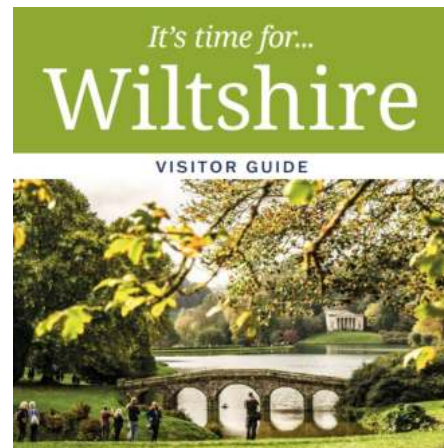
## Household recycling centres (HRCs) and waste collection over Easter

Household recycling centres are likely to be busy over the Easter period and queues are expected. Save time by sorting your waste before visiting. If you don't have time at home, make use of the sorting tables while on site.

There are no changes to waste and recycling collections on bank holidays, with the exception of Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day, so your collection schedule will continue as normal during Easter.

Please put your bin out by 7am on your normal collection day.

## Discover Wiltshire's Wonders with the new 2025 Visitor Map and Guide



Visit Wiltshire has launched its new Visitor Map and Visitor Guide for 2025, offering a fresh perspective on exploring this captivating region.

Both the map and the guide are part of Visit Wiltshire's ongoing commitment to promote local tourism and support the region's economy. By providing up-to-date and accessible information, Visit Wiltshire aims to enhance the visitor experience and encourage more people to discover the unique charm of Wiltshire.

[View the Visitor Guide](#)



## Edington and Tinhead W.I.

I've lived a lie all my life:  
from now on I am Davina not Dad.  
This was the substance of an email sent to our April Speaker from her 70 year old father announcing his transgender identity. Living in different countries and continents had resulted in less frequent contact between father and daughters, but this announcement came completely out of the blue and had profound physical, emotional and mental effects; likened to a grieving process, with disbelief, anger and sorrow. "Dad" had had "manly" jobs and hobbies; not to mention the little matter of seven wives! Our Speaker has written a book chronicling her experiences with humour alongside the tsunami of emotions and questions. Over the intervening ten years the family have gone through a process of adjustment and accommodation; easier for some generations than others. The old pronouns sometimes slip out and going out with Davina for a pedicure and clothes shopping can have a surreal air. Now fully transitioned and with a husband, Davina lives on a different continent, welcoming family visits and is happy.

The May meeting will be our A.G.M. when we will elect our committee for the forthcoming year and finalise the programme of talks and activities. We will also return to the proposed Resolution for the National A.G.M. "Bystanders can be Lifesavers" which aims to improve knowledge and confidence in cardiac resuscitation, and make a final decision on our position. In June we will hear from local historian Anne Johns and a colleague about the background to their book "Born to Teach" a history of teacher training in Salisbury. Visitors and new members from all of our surrounding villages would be very welcome.



The countryside charity  
Wiltshire

## Best Kept Village Competition

Edington will be entering the Council for Protection of Rural England (CPRE), Best Kept Village Competition this year.

The Judges will be visiting the village from 12th May to 8th June.

We will be judged on a variety of factors including, the tidiness of the village and absence of fly tipping and litter, in all areas including Public open spaces and Footpaths. Notice Boards will be checked including looking for any out-of-date material which is still advertised, and our bus stop will be checked for cleanliness. The exterior of public buildings including the Priory will be visited. We can all play part, by ensuring that the area around our homes is free of litter and that verges are tidy. If you spot anything that you think is relevant and you are unable to remedy it, please do let me know and hopefully it can be dealt with.

We are so lucky to live in such a wonderful village and we hope that the Judges will appreciate our community, and everything that is available to residents and visitors alike.

Please feel free to contact me if you have comments or questions about the competition this year.

Best wishes and good luck to Edington!

Suzanne Wickham.

Email: [suzwickham@outlook.com](mailto:suzwickham@outlook.com)

Mobile: 07967 213336



# Edington Village Fête

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> June, 2pm  
Coal Path Field

Entry & Games Free

Stalls  
Games  
Races  
Bouncy Castle  
Balloon Creations  
Cream Teas and more  
with Edington Brass

[www.edingtonpriory.church](http://www.edingtonpriory.church)



## Edington arts

The next concert in the Edington Arts 2025 series is another change of direction – **A Night at the Opera, on Saturday May 10th at 7.30pm.**

It is interesting how many of the great opera tunes are familiar to people who don't identify as opera-lovers; adverts, television and film sound tracks often use them for atmosphere or to generate a particular kind of emotion. The melodies stand on their own merits, regardless of how bonkers some of their opera plots may be, let alone the great operatic tragedies.

As promised, it includes some of the loveliest arias from operas by composers ranging from Mozart, through Bizet, Wagner, Verdi, Rossini, Gounod, Offenbach and Puccini, and even includes some classic Gilbert and Sullivan, Leonard Bernstein and Johann Strauss. Most of the pieces will be familiar, but there are some which are less well known.

So when our four great soloists – Anna Sideris-Dupuy, soprano, Beatrice Sideris-Dupuy, mezzo, William Diggle, tenor and Thomas Bennett, bass – get together to perform a programme of songs and arias from a wide range of operas, some of the pieces will already be firm favourites. They will also take the opportunity to introduce us to some less familiar music. Expect solos, duets, trios and quartets, all with piano accompaniment.

The full programme is on the Edington Arts website, [www.edingtonarts.org](http://www.edingtonarts.org), or by phone from Chrissy on 01380 831256, from £11-£25; there is, as always, a 10% discount for Edington Angels, and 18 and under come free.

The Three Daggers in Edington will be offering a pre-concert supper menu from 5-6.30pm: please book direct.

## EDINGTON VE DAY 80th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

**Monday 5th May**

*On the green by the pond*

**10 am - 12 noon Well Dressing**

Come and help make a well dressing to commemorate the day. Your help would be welcome no experience needed, come and spend a fun sociable hour making pictures from flowers.

*Any donations of flowers welcome*



**2 pm - 5 pm Village Bring and Share tea party**

Tea, coffee and soft drinks will be available.

Games for children, and hopefully a bit of singing

Come and join the party.

Visitors welcome



## Waders around Edington – Part 3

As we have seen over the past couple of months 'waders' are typically long-legged and long-beaked birds, usually seen half-submerged on shorelines. However, not all wading birds are seen wading in water. Some like the Lapwing, Curlew, Redshank and Snipe can be found on farmland in Wiltshire, while others are found in woodland like the Woodcock. Still others like the Stone Curlew are found on dry, stony ground places such as found on Salisbury Plain. They are also unusual in being nocturnal. Others like the coot and moorhen though often seen searching for food on the mud flats, spend a lot of time just swimming around on the water.

Wading birds usually eat aquatic organisms such as worms hiding in the mud and molluscs and crustaceans hiding under rocks. All wading birds possess long legs that enable them to stay clear of the water while they look for food.

What waders eat and how they do it is often one of the more fascinating things about each species - and the clue is in the beak. Most waders are specially adapted to finding a certain prey species just under the surface of a wetland. Waders with longer bills like curlew and snipe use them like chopsticks to pick out worms deeper in the mud, whilst the shorter-beaked lapwings use theirs to catch aquatic insects just under or on the surface.

Waders nest on the ground in waterlogged areas of short vegetation. Because they nest on the ground in the open, breeding waders are very vulnerable to predators such as crows, badgers and foxes that eat the eggs or chicks.

### Stone curlew

I have a particular fondness for stone curlews as I had one at the Animal Centre at Wiltshire College Lackham when I lectured there. It had been brought in with a damaged

wing and could not be released back into the wild. They are unmistakably odd-looking birds. They're sandy brown, with darker streaking on the back and breast. There is a pale, whitish bar across the wing. The most distinctive features are the long yellow legs and large, prominent yellow eyes. They also have a heavy, yellow beak with a black tip.

Stone curlews are unusual for wading birds, as you're most likely to find them on dry, stony ground. They also have unusually large yellow eyes - perfect for hunting beetles at night. They nest on the ground, relying on their camouflage to keep them safe. They can spend most of the day sitting still, making them very hard to spot. They become more active at dusk, when their large eyes help them hunt beetles, worms, and other invertebrates even in low light.

They're spring and summer visitors to the UK, where they nest on sandy heaths, well-grazed grassland, and arable fields. I have seen them nesting at the Great Bustard site on the Salisbury Plain (the area can be visited by appointment). They spend the winter in southern Europe and northern Africa, with British birds recorded as far south as Sierra Leone.



Stone curlew (del. S.F. Henning)





## Water rail

Water rails have a blue-grey body, with black and brown streaked upperparts and black and white barring on their flanks. They have a long, red bill and pale pink legs. Water rails are not often seen in flight as they prefer to migrate under the cover of darkness.

Water rails are more often heard than seen and they make a sound like a piglet squealing and occasionally you also get grunts and groans, and 'purring' They are secretive birds that live in reedbeds and freshwater wetlands, hiding among the vegetation. They feed on invertebrates and small fish.

They are small relatives of the moorhen and coot and about the same size as a redshank. They can be seen at Slimbridge, Langford Lakes and at the Coate Water Park, near Swindon, Wiltshire.



Water rail (del. S.F. Henning)

## Moorhen

Moorhens can be distinguished from the similar-looking coot by their olive-black back (separated from their blue-black bodies by a white line), the white patches under their tails, and their red bills, which have a yellow tip.

They are common birds of our wetlands, and can often be seen on park lakes, ponds

and rivers. They spend more of their time out of the water than their relative, the coot, and they even climb trees. Moorhens are omnivores, eating everything from snails and insects to small fish and berries. When disturbed, they usually take cover in nearby vegetation, but if they do take to the air, their flight is short and laboured. At Slimbridge a couple of months ago I followed one around for some time watching what it fed on and even when it was disturbed it did not take to the wing. Where I found it was quite far from any water, and it was quite happy foraging on the dry ground.

They breed in spring and make a large untidy looking nest out of twigs in rushes and other emergent vegetation. If you get too close they will defend the nest with ferocity. They certainly keep me at a distance.

The moorhens are widespread throughout Wiltshire. They are in fact one of the world's commonest birds and can be found right around the globe, going by different names such as 'skitty coot', 'marsh hen' and 'common gallinule'. They can be found in freshwater wetlands, towns and gardens.



Moorhen (del. S.F. Henning)

## Coot

Coots can be distinguished from the similar-looking moorhen by their





larger size, entirely black body (with no white patches), and bright white bill. Coots are not typical wading birds but are related to both the water rails and moorhens which are. Although coots spend much of their time away from the bankside, diving for food, they don't have webbed feet.

Coots can be found everywhere on our wetlands. They are often seen on park lakes, ponds and rivers. They spend more of their time on the water than their relatives, the moorhen, and will dive to catch small invertebrates. Unlike ducks, coots will bring their catch to the surface before eating it, leading to squabbles over food.

Coots breed in spring and build rather untidy nests among emergent vegetation. I remember as a child when my dad took us rowing on our local lake being enchanted by these large scruffy nests. He always took us close to them so we could see one of the parents incubating the eggs. I particularly loved watching the coot chicks when they hatched, they are black with orange fluff around their faces and bodies. And they leave the nest soon after hatching. They are able to swim and forage for food almost immediately, with their parents' providing guidance and feeding during the early weeks.

They are widespread in Wiltshire and the UK across town and countryside.



**Coot (del. S.F. Henning)**

## Spotted Crake

Spotted Crakes are similar in size to Starlings. Their legs are greenish, and their short beaks are yellow with a reddish base. The back is brown with dark streaks, and they have a blue-grey face and an olive-brown breast - all covered with white flecks and spots. Their under tails are a warm buff colour.

Spotted Crakes tend to skulk in thick cover and walk with their body close to the ground, tail flicking. They swim with a jerky action like that of the moorhen. If surprised in the open, they run for cover or jump up and flutter away with legs dangling.

They breed in freshwater marshes and wet meadows with dense vegetation cover, but migrants and wintering birds may also be found in freshwater wetlands and brackish marshes. Retiring and rarely seen, but they sometimes come out at muddy edges, mainly early and late in the day. Recent Wiltshire records are from the Swindon area and also at Slimbridge in Gloucestershire.



**Spotted Crake (del. S.F. Henning)**

## Golden plover

Plump birds with black legs and a short dark beak. In summer they have a gold-spangled back, with a black belly that extends up the breast and onto the face.





The amount of black varies, and some have very little on the face. A band of white separates the black underparts from the golden upperparts, creating a strongly contrasting appearance. In winter, they are more uniform golden brown, with a pale belly. In flight, the base of the underwing is white, which helps separate them from similar species.

The Golden plovers can be found on uplands, farmland, heathland, wetland, grassland and muddy estuaries around the coast. They use their keen eyesight to spot prey on the surface or in shallow soil, particularly in grasslands and agricultural fields. They feed on worms, beetles and other insects, spiders, and a small amount of grass seeds and berries.

They typically nest on open ground in upland, flat or gently sloping heather or grass moorland, or blanket bog, avoiding tall or dense vegetation, and woodland. They prefer areas with patches of heather mixed with grass.

They are resident all year round in the UK and are often seen around Wiltshire. In summer they breed on upland moorlands. In winter they move to lower ground and form large flocks on wetlands, farmland, and fields. On the 20th of March 2025 twelve golden plovers were seen at Durrington in Wiltshire.



**Golden plover (del. S.F. Henning)**

## **Ringed plover**

Ringed plovers are small rotund waders with an orange beak that has a black tip, orange legs and no yellow ring around the eye like the similar little ringed plovers. Sandy-brown above and white below, they have a black chest-band and black bridle markings on their heads. When they fly, they display a broad, white wing-bar.

They are a resident species in the UK, although they are joined by wintering birds from Europe. Like other plovers, they forage for invertebrates and crustaceans in a particular way: standing and watching, running forward, pecking, then standing still again. Ringed plovers tempt underground prey to the surface by 'foot-trembling': tapping their feet fast on the ground to mimic raindrops. I have spent many hours watching them on mud flats and have never become bored with their antics.



**Ringed plover (del. S.F. Henning)**

They nest on bare gravel, shingle and sand at the coast and around flooded gravel pits and reservoirs in inland areas. When nesting, individuals will feign a broken wing to draw predators away from the chicks. I am always enchanted when they have done it to me when I have got too close to their nests. The chicks are perfectly camouflaged against their sandy substrate, so will sit and 'hide' if



they can as they are near impossible to spot.

Wintering Ringed Plovers are widely distributed round the coasts of the UK, with small numbers recorded inland. A recent Wiltshire record was from Castle Eaton near Swindon.

## Black-winged stilt

Black-winged stilts are black and white wading bird with incredibly long bright pink legs. Their bodies are mostly white, with black wings and a dark back. Males have a glossy black back. Females and young birds have a browner back, which contrasts with the black wings. There are often dark markings on the head and neck, especially on males. They have a long, dark needle-like beak.

They live in a variety of wetlands, from marshes to coastal lagoons. They wade through the water, plucking insects from the surface. Their incredibly long legs (around 60% of their height) allow them to walk through deeper water than other wading birds. I know them from my time in South Africa where they are also found. The first time I saw one it must have been in deepish water because I did not realise how long its legs were. As it waded out much to my surprise the legs just got longer and longer. I had never seen such long legs on such a small bird.

Black-winged stilts are found in a wide range across Europe, Africa, Asia, and Australia. The European population is mostly migratory, flying to Africa for the winter. Although the UK was too far north to be part of their usual range, birds from southern Europe do sometimes turn up here more regularly in recent times, possibly due to climate change. Nesting attempts have also become more common in recent decades. Warmer weather in southern Europe dries out the wetlands where they would usually nest, pushing them north to find more suitable sites. Most records are from southern and eastern England and there are several from Wiltshire. I am hoping I

will make their acquaintance again here in Wiltshire.



**Black-winged stilt (del. S.F. Henning)**

**Stephen Henning**

## EDINGTON PARISH HALL AGM

**Wednesday 30th April**

**At 7.30pm**

**In the Parish Hall.**

Refreshments available before the meeting starts.

All are welcome to come and hear a review of the year, a financial update and the Parish Hall

Committee's plans for the future.



## Edington Parish Hall

Have you seen our new website? Please take a look by following the link <https://eph.edingtonwiltshire.org.uk/>

You can also follow us on Facebook (click on the link from the Parish Hall website) to find out about upcoming events in the Parish Hall as well as news updates and a photo gallery of past events. If village groups would like any posters, photos etc posted, please email a copy/details to [parishhall@edingtonwiltshire.org.uk](mailto:parishhall@edingtonwiltshire.org.uk)

**The Parish Hall AGM is on Wednesday 30th April at 7.30pm** with light refreshments prior to the meeting from 7pm. A warm invitation is extended to come to the AGM to hear a review of the year, a financial update and the Parish Hall Committee's plans for the future. The committee look forward to seeing you there.

**Village Halls Week Open Morning** - Thank you to the 15 groups / organisations who came, set up lovely displays and showcased how volunteers are at the heart of our community and make Edington a good place



to live – such a pity that it was not a day for recruiting new members and volunteers despite the best endeavours of all involved.



Also, thank you to the loyal villagers who supported our Village Halls Week celebration, as they do all village events, while enjoying coffee and cake and a chat! The event offered the opportunity for those who do not usually support village events to find out more about what is on offer in Edington as the amazing volunteers who run the numerous groups and organisations in our village put in such a lot of time and effort for the benefit of the local community. It would be good to see more villagers become involved for as the saying goes '.... use it or lose it...'

Each of the 15 groups provided information for a rolling PowerPoint presentation and over the next few months, the information will be shared in this newsletter in a 'Focus on.....' item and just maybe these will encourage more people to become involved!

**Wendy Pollard**





## Edington Parish Hall

### **FOCUS ON** .....

**Edington Arts** was formed in 2014 to bring live classical music of the highest possible quality to music-lovers in Edington and surrounding areas.

Our concerts take place in the Priory Church, on a Saturday night; we have four or five concerts a year, and offer one choral workshop, led by a high-profile musician, open to anyone who can read music.



Over the last eleven years, we have had 34 concerts (everything was cancelled during Lockdown), from musicians with international reputations and musicians nearer the start of their professional careers.

Each has given us wonderful evenings of very different kinds of music, from solos, through duets, trios, quartets, and larger ensembles right up to a full orchestra, choir and soloists.



Our annual Advent Concert at the beginning of December, given by an Oxford or Cambridge College Chapel choir, has become a hugely popular event, bringing audiences from a wide area.

We have programmed



- harp, harp and percussion, guitar,
- a wind trio, a wind ensemble, brass ensembles, string trios,
- two clarinet, cello and piano trios,
- solo pianos, choral ensembles, a saxophone sextet,
- a Russian male voice choir from St Petersburg,
- a jazz piano/classical violin duo, and our latest, Sanctuary, the totally superb saxophone, organ, soprano and percussion ensemble led by Christian Forshaw.



**Our next concert is on May 10th** – an evening at the Opera, with four fantastic opera singers and piano accompaniment.

Tickets are on sale now through our website, [www.edingtonarts.org](http://www.edingtonarts.org) or by phone from Chrissy on 01380 831256.



Our ticket prices range from £11 to £25 depending on where you sit; 18 and under come free, and we have a Friends Scheme, called Edington Angels, which offers a 10% discount and priority booking.

We'd love to welcome you to a concert!



## Edington & District Gardening Club

First Thursday in the month  
Parish Hall, 7.00pm doors open.

The April meeting welcomed Marcel Floyd A Specialist in Clematis and Climbing Plants since 1992.

This month Suzanne reports on the evening:

Marcel commenced with an open forum followed by a slide show. He first fell 'in love' with clematis at the 1984 Chelsea Flower Show when he was 17 / 18! By the end of that year he had between 80 and 90 growing in his parents' garden. First clematis in the UK was in the 1500s! They are divided into 3 main groups:

**Group 1:** Spring flowering. These only require pruning to keep them in their allocated space. Prune after flowering.

**Group 2:** Repeat flowering. Prune at the end of February / early March.

**Group 3:** Autumn flowering. Chop off at the base at the end of February. If one chooses not to prune all the flowers will be at the very top of the plant.

If a condition called 'slime flux' affects clematis, clear it off as soon as possible. It is commonly pink in colour and as the name implies, slimy! Clematis should be planted in a hole 18" x 18" at least 18" from fence. Lean the support back to the fence. Fill the hole with water and wait until all drained away then part fill with a layer of compost and grit then water again. Once planted surround with a good layer of grit to provide shade. Plants in green sand will require frequent feeding. If planting in clay soil, dig as big a hole as possible and part fill with several layers of compost and grit.

Feed plants with a good quality feed or Tomorite once per fortnight and there is no need to deadhead.

Containers: if planting in containers aim to use Fibre clay or terracotta frost free pots. Use plenty of crocks, John Innes 3 compost, add some Fish, Blood and Bone Meal and grit. Feed once a week.

Growing up Trees: always plant on the North side ie: away from the sun. Cut the end of a plastic water bottle and sink by the roots of the plant to ensure the clematis receives the water and to prevent the host tree taking the water! The Viticella group of plants are good for this type of growing.

Problems: Mildew, often caused by dryness at the base. Spray with diluted semi-skimmed milk!

Wilt, when the whole plant collapses, cut down completely for 2 – 3 years. If no success by 3rd year throw onto the compost heap. You never know you may end up with a very pretty compost heap just like my friend! It is acceptable to plant a new clematis where one has previously been grown.

Slugs and Snails, one remedy is to form a circle around the plant taking care not to go too near the main stem, with porridge oats, yes porridge oats!

Cuttings: take intermodal cuttings, place in a mix of 50% each of perlite and peat and place a plastic bag over the top.

The above was followed by a slide show of a large variety of clematis.

Next month's meeting will be **MAY 8th**, due to the elections the previous week.

There is a change of speaker. Charlotte Howard will be telling us all about 'Life as a Garden Designer'

Doors open at 7.00pm, join us for refreshments. The AGM will follow at 7.15pm and then the speaker at 7.30pm. more details on 830133

**Jacky**



## **Edington & District Gardening Club**

**Edington Parish Hall**

**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

**Doors Open at 7:00pm – AGM at 7:15pm**



### **AGM**

*followed by*

## **Charlotte Howard**

***'Life as a Garden Designer, Wildlife Friendly'***

**Open to Visitors – entry £5.00**

**Members – entry £4.00**

***Reminder: make use of the Swap Shop - books / plants / seeds / other!***



## View from the Boundary



To the casual observer these two photos are of a newly mown field. To the keen cricketers amongst us it signifies that the new cricket season is just around the corner. To the amateur meteorologist it probably means that a deluge is on its way, in all likelihood coinciding exactly with the first match of the season.

There are over 50 matches lined up for the 2025 summer, and as ever we would like to invite anyone who would like to play a match to get in touch. There are friendlies, league and interclub games to chose from. As a keen follower of the club, I might also say age, sex and ability are no barriers to joining up and playing. Indeed, if you can stand



upright for a few hours and look good in white - you're in.

*We look forward to welcoming you up at the Walled Garden.*

**Joe Dorgan**  
ECC Chairman



## YOGA WITH MARILYN

Would you like to improve your strength, balance and flexibility and also your well being?

Then why not join the new Yoga class in Edington Parish Hall

**When:** Each Friday morning

**Where:** Edington Parish Hall

**Time:** 10.30am to 11.30am



## 80th Anniversary of the Liberation of Belsen, 15 April 1945

### Richard Spicer

January the 27th was Holocaust Memorial Day, the 80th this year, VE Day will be on 8th May and VJ Day will be in September. I however have a particular reason to think about World War 2 in April.

Holocaust Memorial Day commemorates the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest of all the Nazi death camps in World War 2. In total 6 million Jews were slaughtered along with other groups of people singled out for extermination.

In April 1945 it was my first birthday and I was in England with my mother and older brother and sister. My father, William Robert Colquhoun Spicer, however was in Belsen as part of the first group of the British Army to enter the Bergen Belsen concentration camp and liberate it on 15th April 1945. He was a Lieutenant Colonel in the Royal Army Medical Corps (RAMC) in which he served from 1928 to 1957. After Belsen he served in other theatres of war so that I did not meet him until I was 3 years old. This included a spell in Palestine, trying to stop Arabs and Jews killing each other as the state of Israel was established.

My father never spoke of anything he did in the war. After his death my brother and sister and I cleared out his house and, amongst other documents, we found a letter he had written to his elder brother John from Belsen on 8th May 1945. John was a doctor in the Royal Navy at that time and he died before my father. Their younger brother Clive was a doctor in the RAF during the war. I reproduce the letter below. There must have been a handwritten accompanying note but this has not survived. My father was proud of his typing skills and in his final years when his eyesight was failing, he wrote typed letters to family and friends.

The letter speaks for itself. What he does not say is that the emergency hospital he and his colleagues established in the German Army barracks at Belsen became the largest hospital in the world ever, before or since. By the time Belsen concentration camp was finally emptied it had 15,000 beds! The camp had existed earlier in the war and contained about 7000 persons; as Allied forces advanced across Europe and started to win the war, internees from other concentration camps were herded towards Belsen by the Germans, such that by the time of Belsen's liberation it contained 90,000 people.

I need to decide what should happen to this letter when I die. Do I lodge it in a museum or entrust it to my children and grandchildren? The whole family already have copies of it, but holding the original in my hands has a powerful effect on me. Much has been written about Belsen, - by those who were interned there, those who liberated it such as Leonard Berney and Ben Shephard, and the thoughtful book by Viktor Frankl, Man's Search for Meaning. Frankl was a Belsen survivor whose wife died in Belsen at the time my father was there. He analyses his whole experience from the viewpoint of existentialist philosophy, compassion and forgiveness. Did my father meet Frankl or his wife Tilly? We will never know because my father never spoke about the war.





8.5.45.

Robert's letter from

Belsen.

9/2/45

\* 121 Br Gen Hospital  
B.L.A.

As you see I am still with the B.L.A. but have been detached from the hospital to do temporary duty with the hospital at Belsen concentration camp where I have found plenty to do. The conditions here quite live up to the descriptions in the papers and were even worse than I anticipated. The main trouble here was not so much deliberate torture but more and more people were crowded into a camp without any consideration as to its capacity, sanitation & feeding and were then just left there to rot. 17,000 had died in the month before we arrived and most of these had been left unburied. Since we came here we have been admitting 600 sick a day and have 7,000 in hospital and there are many thousands more waiting to come as we can sort them out and find room for them. The death rate has been going down steadily but it is still in the region of 80 a day.

I now have one block of 600 pts to look after and am assisted by one Swiss doctor two internee doctors 2 trained red cross nurses and 4 Ramc, practically all the pts are too weak to walk due to starvation and a large proportion also have typhus dysentery Beri beri etc. The internee staff are too weak to do much work and from years in a camp are completely demoralised and unreliable. Their one aim is to sneak as much food as they can and then retire to bed and let the patients do the best they can for themselves. The language question is terrible. Only 2 in my block speak English and a few French the rest speak Hungarian Polish Czech German Roumanian Greek and any other European language you care to mention.

At first the problem of merely feeding them was more than enough and we are only just getting down to the problem of individual treatment and diagnosis. Our latest addition to the staff is a batch of German (Nazi) doctors and nurses and I can not think of a better punishment for them than to work and live in the Hospital Blocks. The first lot were employed in the human laundry where the patients are washed shaved and de-loused. Eleven of the nurses employed there have already gon





Down with typhus, by the time the patients reach me they have been pretty efficiently deloused and I have been very thoroughly innoculated so that there is no risk of infection for me. We live in tents and although it has been vdry cold for a week the weather is now beautiful and I have snatched an hour off in the afternoon to type this letter sitting in the sun. Hitherto I have not finished until 11pm or later and by that time it has been too cold in my tent and I have been feeling a little tired for letter writing. The Armistice has been rather an anticlimax as we have had no wireless or papers and not much time for festivities.

I hope that you are enjoying the absence of black out and any other peace time amenities that may have materialised.

I do not care what is remembered of my lifetime, but my strongest wish is that future generations in this country should never forget what happened in the Holocaust.

Genocide, the most serious crime against humanity, has happened since 1945 and is still happening. Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia, Darfur, Myanmar, Xinjiang, the Yazidis, Sudan, Syria. Britain is a civilised country which led in the fight against Nazism. It is vital that our government provides plentiful resources for internal security and our armed services so that we may prevent extremists in the UK from flourishing and resist external threats from malign regimes. Antisemitism, covert and not-so covert, is increasing in Britain, proving that the lessons of the Holocaust have not been learned by all, and that groups who wish to do harm to others purely because of their nationality, ethnicity, race or religion are a present threat to our civilised country. Recent world events have highlighted the urgent need to build up our defences.

As Henry Kissinger said, 'A nation which does not shape events through its own sense of purpose eventually will be engulfed in events shaped by others'.

And as Viktor Frankl said, 'When we are no longer able to change a situation, we are challenged to change ourselves'.

On this poignant anniversary we would do well to remember the experience of my father and the words of both Kissinger and Frankl.



## Belsen Remembered – Incomprehensible, Desolate, Heartrending.

By Paul Millard

In October 1978 I was sent to Northern Germany to report on Exercise “Provident Gesture” along with a bunch of other journalists plus some 6,000 regular and volunteer soldiers who, in those days, formed 7 Field Force - a UK based reserve force of some five regular and four TAVR Units whose primary function was to provide support to the British Army of the Rhine in its NATO role in the event of hostilities between the Alliance and USSR.





It was a two-week exercise ranging across the cold, wet Polder lands of Northern Germany and I was part of a contingent of journalists and photographers sent to cover the exercise as part of a PR driven recruitment and awareness drive.

I was a reporter on the Wiltshire Times – in those days still a traditional broadsheet with a circulation of some 40,000 and a readership of double that. We ran a feature across three full pages of the paper but all these years later, it isn't the huge numbers of soldiers or the military expertise that remains with me – or even the young, flamboyant lieutenant who managed to get his map upside down and take us away from our rendezvous point - instead it's a small, almost incidental, aside that remains – and, I suspect, will always remain, the starkest of memories.



I had been in the field with A Squadron the Royal Yeomanry – formerly the Wiltshire Yeomanry – and had rejoined the main group of journalists towards the end of the exercise and were moving towards the headquarters camp when we were given the opportunity to visit a camp of a very different kind – Bergen Belsen.

Near the entrance was a museum, photographs mainly, some memorabilia, a reflection of what the liberating British Army found when they entered Belsen. As journalists we considered ourselves a robust bunch, but this was grim, breathtakingly grim – death on a scale that was/is almost impossible to comprehend. And death not from gas chambers or firing squads -but from starvation and neglect and disease.





It was a desolate wasteland, cloaked in a heavy, oppressive silence and dotted with occasional monuments and the small mounds of the mass graves. I walked in behind a small black-clad woman carrying a bunch of white lilies which she lay at the foot of one of those slightly raised earthen mounds. The journalist in me was intrigued as to how she could know where to lay her tribute to her lost family or friends - but the brass plaque read simply: "Herein Lie Buried 10,000".



And so it went on, mound after heartbreaking mound, monument after monument. The silence that pervaded the place itself seeped into our hearts and minds and none of us spoke for the rest of the journey, each of us perhaps trying to come to terms with how some 60,000 people could have died here in such a brief period between 1943 and 1945.

Writing this, some 45 years later, it remains a most haunting memory that still makes the hairs on my forearms stand on end. A terrifying reminder of how readily we abandon our own humanity and a chilling example of how easy it is for others to turn away and ignore the true horror of what is happening in their own back yard.



# Let's Move!

## *Dance Fitness*

## Low Impact Dance Fitness

Edington Parish Hall

Tuesdays 10-10:45am

A low impact class suitable for beginners, seniors and those looking to get moving and become more active.

No prior dance experience needed.

Take it at your own pace, have fun  
and meet new people.



## GET IN TOUCH

Whatsapp or text Ellen Wilkinson

**07925 051525**

letsmovedancefit@outlook.com

Facebook @Letsmovedancefitness



## Important community update from Wayne de Leeuw - Chief Executive

I felt it imperative that I send an update on our Together in Adversity Campaign.

I am sorry to tell you that despite our best efforts, our situation has not improved. I wish I was able to share more positive news but this is the reality we are facing today. It is with a heavy heart that we are now in the process of working through potential redundancies with some of our workforce. I know this news may come as a shock, and for that I am sorry. We still hope as we progress through this process that the level of change will be minimal, but we must ensure we have the right size and structure of organisation for the future. As a passionate supporter of Dorothy House, I wanted you to hear this news directly from me.

We still face a fundraising shortfall this year. This means our appeal for help to protect our core services is now more urgent than ever. It is vital that we do all we can to protect our core services, but we need your help to do this.

The news of a “cash injection” of funding from the Government for hospice care, although welcome, has not solved our current situation. We now know that the initial payment available to us is £298,000, however it is also restricted to capital funding only, meaning that it will not help with our current funding shortfall.

Our costs continue to rise, hospice care remains critically underfunded.

There has been no change to our position of only 20% statutory government funding.

- There has been no reversal to the £422,000 increase per year in National Insurance costs for Dorothy House, an almost 40% increase from last year.
- Our staffing costs increased by £983,000 during the last financial year due to public sector pay awards.

What does that mean? At Dorothy House the vast majority of our core costs are our people. We deliver more than 90% of our care in homes, as well as on our Inpatient Unit. This means our critical funding need is to invest in staff able to deliver this vital care, not capital expenses. Although all funding is welcome, and we will ensure this is put to great use, this will not help to pay the costs for those delivering care to patients and families now.

Your donation will make a difference, just £33 could pay for an hour of a nurse’s time to provide essential care, symptom control and pain relief on our Inpatient Unit.

[To find out more and make a donation please go to the Dorothy House website](#)



## Keevil school news – for April 2025

• Thank you to everyone who has given their condolences after the passing of **Maria O'Brien**. Despite being a very sad time, it has been lovely to hear from former pupils and their families. The condolence book will stay open until after the Easter holidays so please get in touch if you want to contribute a message.

• Our reception and KS1 classes (Winter and Spring) went to the theatre in Bath recently to see a wonderful performance of 'There's a bear on my chair'. The children had a brilliant time, and we are still debating which was the best character. A big thank you to FoKS for covering the cost of the trip for everyone.



• World Book Day 2025 was celebrated at school with a jam-packed week full of book related activities. It started with a '**Decorate an egg**' competition. We had some excellent entries including Owl Babies, The Cat in the Hat, Harry Potter, Dog Man and even 101 dalmatians (yes, there really were 101 dalmatian-decorated boiled eggs!). The judges said there was a lot of egg-pressive artwork on



display and they had a shell of a time allocating the prizes (excuse the puns)!

• One of the special things about our school is the wonderful sense of community. This was especially evident when our **reading buddy** system was put to good use during World Book week. Older children are paired with someone from the lower half of the school, and everyone gets to enjoy reading. The glorious sunshine in the playground and the fantastic array of World Book Day costumes certainly helped too!



• And of course, Mr. Moose, our reading therapy dog was present to put his paw print on everything (before he dashed off to star in an episode of Crimewatch... did you spot him on the telly?). The children all love reading to him as you can see in the photograph!



• Our week of activities for World Book Day was rounded off by a **visit from author**





**Rachel Delahaye.** The children were treated to some fantastic workshops about the importance of stories and storytelling. Thanks again to FoKS for covering the cost of this visit which was enjoyed by everyone.



- On 4th March we welcomed the **Ofsted** inspector to our school. As well as gathering information from staff, governors and parents/carers, he sat down with several pupils to hear their views. A big thank you to everyone for their input in the inspection. The full report will be published in due course.

- Huge congratulations to Miss Mortimer who went on maternity leave after half term and has already welcomed her new baby boy to the world! In her absence, Spring class is in very safe hands with Mrs. Brown covering four days instead of her usual one. And we are delighted to welcome Mrs. Stainer back to the staffroom to look after Spring class on Fridays.

- It isn't long now until the **Keevil School Scarecrow Trail**. Please come and join us on 17th and 18th May. If you cannot wait until then, there are several ways you can get involved already...

- Cuddly toys – any clean, tidy cuddly toys looking for a new home are very welcome at school to take part in our mystery teddy stall. Donations gratefully received in the school office.

- Bottles – Our bottle tombola is back! Donations of any bottles (drinks, spirits, bubble

bath, etc) would be very welcome.

- Scarecrow builders – If you or your organisation would like to build a scarecrow for the 2025 event, please contact Caroline (via the school) to secure one of the last remaining slots.

- Sponsorship – get your business/group seen by ~4000 people. Sponsorship packages start from £100.

- Volunteer hours – If you need to complete volunteering hours for a Duke of Edinburgh award or something similar, we can help! There are various positions available during the Keevil School Scarecrow Trail weekend which would be very glad of an extra pair of hands. Please get in touch via the school office.

**Lindsey Hermon, Headteacher**  
**Caroline Noonan, Chair of FoKS**

---

## Forthcoming roadworks

**B3098 Westbury Road between Edington and Erlestoke - Road Closed**

**7 April - 17th April every weekday between 09.30 and 16.30**

Urgent tree safety works

**Salisbury Hollow - Byway 26 (Part), Edington - Emergency Closure of the Byway 9 Apr - 29 Oct All the time**

The current condition of the public right of way poses a safety risk to both pedestrians and vehicles due to the extensive cracking of the surface.

**A360 West Lavington 26 Apr 09:30 - 28 Apr 15:00**

Surface Dressing and associated works

You can find out about roadworks across Wiltshire by going to <https://one.network/>



edington  
arts

# A Night at the Opera

Saturday 10th May 2025

Edington Priory Church

7.30pm

Tickets are £11-£25 (under 18s free)

available at [www.edingtonarts.org](http://www.edingtonarts.org)

or on 01380 831256



Reg charity no. 1187289



**EDINGTON STATION YARD LTD**



To all members of our local community:

## EDINGTON STATION YARD LTD

Edington Station Yard is a light industrial estate which is owned and run by members of the local community.

Edington Station Yard Ltd is always keen for residents of the local area to become involved both as shareholders and more actively in helping to run the company.

Background - ESY Ltd was established in 1993 partly to allow residents to have control over what was happening at the old Station Yard but primarily, as traditional jobs in agriculture disappeared, to provide the possibility of employment opportunities in the immediate area.

Community Donations - ESY Ltd has enshrined a policy of each year distributing a significant proportion of the income generated to supporting local organisations.

Would you like to become involved? - contact Edington Station Yard Ltd at:  
[esyl22@outlook.com](mailto:esyl22@outlook.com)

It is very rewarding to be part of a group who, through donations, can make a real difference to those living in Edington and the surrounding villages!

**Let's Move!**  
*Dance Fitness*

**Low Impact Dance Fitness**

Edington Parish Hall  
Tuesdays 10-10:45am

## The Sharpe Brothers, Lambourne Lane



I am seeking information on the Sharpe brothers, probably twins, who, during the 1940s and 1950s, had a small farm in Lambourne Lane. They lived in a caravan at the farm.

They travelled to local markets in a pony and trap, looking very smart in their identical gaiters, breeches and flat caps.

I found this photograph on the internet with no caption, but it does look very much like them.

Any snippet of information about the 'Sharpies' would be most welcome. It is possible that they were related to the Amor family.

### Alan Cristall

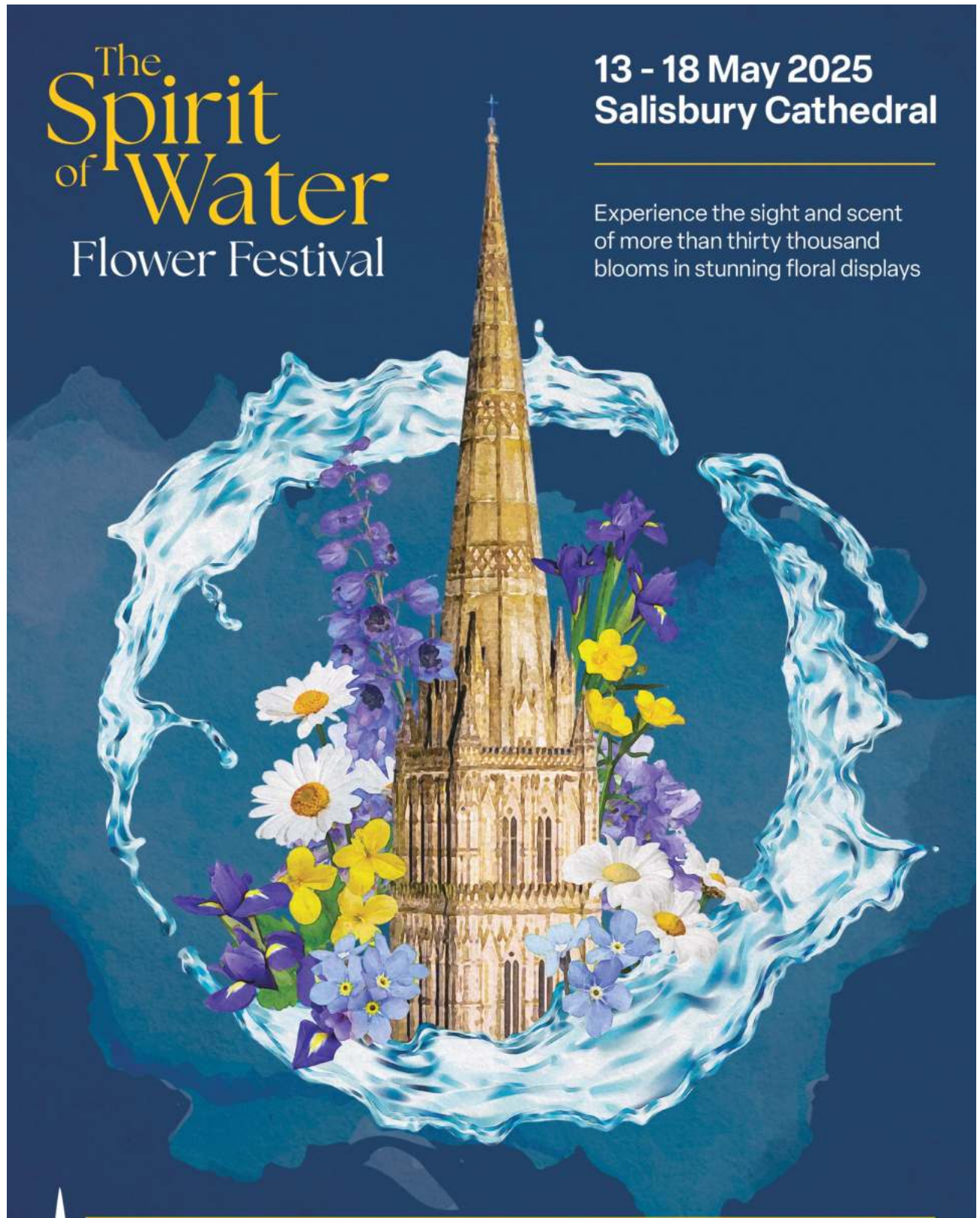
28 Knightley Way  
Knightley Way  
Gnosall  
Stafford  
Tel: 01785 822022




## The Spirit of Water Flower Festival

13 - 18 May 2025  
Salisbury Cathedral

Experience the sight and scent of more than thirty thousand blooms in stunning floral displays



  
Salisbury  
Cathedral  
Charity number: 1202770

Kindly sponsored by:  
**South  
Western  
Railway**

With support from:  
**PARKER  
BULLEN**

For more information  
including ticket prices visit  
[salisburycathedral.co.uk](http://salisburycathedral.co.uk)





## WHITE HORSE NEWS

As you may have noticed the White Horse News is no longer delivered to properties in Edington, however we have been in contact with the publishers and they are happy for the Edington Village News to fill the gap and with their permission we will now be publishing extracts from their newsletter in our publication every month.

You can always read the full online edition at :- [www.whitehorsenews.co.uk](http://www.whitehorsenews.co.uk)

### A trip down memory lane: classic cars, tractors and more at Westbury's Vintage Gathering



Westbury's Transport and Vintage Vehicle Gathering is back this month celebrating its 31st year. On display will be classic and vintage vehicles and machinery including cars, trucks, motor cycles, fire engines, stationary engines and tractors.

The event is held over two days on the weekend of Saturday and Sunday 26th and 27th April at the top field of Westbury Road, Bratton BA13 4TT.

[Read more here](#)

### Westbury's new banking hub opens in temporary home



Westbury's long-awaited new banking hub is now open for business, offering local residents a facility for in-person banking services following the closure of the town's last bank in 2018.

The hub has been temporarily set up in The Reading Room at The Laverton, but it is expected to be relocated to a permanent home later this year.

Westbury has been without a bank since 2018 when the last remaining branches, Barclays and Lloyds, closed.

The banking hub's arrival follows a petition launched by local resident Val Jarvis, which garnered 600 signatures in support of the project.

Banking hubs are shared spaces, similar to traditional bank branches, where customers of any bank can withdraw and deposit cash, make bill payments, and carry out regular banking transactions.

The new hub is open Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm, and closed on weekends. Operated by Cash Access UK, it will have staff from different banks available on rotating days.

Cash Access UK has been working alongside Westbury Town Council to find a more permanent home for the banking hub. While the current location at The Laverton is temporary, plans are in place for a permanent site at a different, undisclosed location.

For people seeking to visit the temporary banking hub, there is no access





through the front door of The Laverton – visitors need to follow the signs to The Reading Room entrance.

Currently, a community banker from Natwest will be at the hub on Tuesdays and a Barclays representative on Thursdays. Cash Access UK hope that Lloyds, HSBC and Halifax representatives will be in place in the near future as well.

The hub is available for everyday banking transactions every day of the week, and for more specific or complex enquiries, a community banker will be on-site to assist on designated days.

For more information, visit <https://www.cashaccess.co.uk/hubs/westbury-wiltshire/>

## Westbury gears up for 2025 Soapbox Derby



Plans for this year's White Horse Soapbox Derby are being finalised, with a special STEM theme for 2025.

The exciting free event will see 20 high-spec karts race each other on Saturday 17th May. Brave competitors will hurl themselves down the steep hill near the White Horse as crowds watch on. The route has been described as “one of the gnarliest, most technical and bendy soapbox tracks in the country.”

Live music, a funfair, a climbing wall, a kite festival and helicopter landings will all be on

offer alongside the soapbox race.

To manage traffic and protect the site, a park-and-ride system, taxi services, and designated walking routes will be available for attendees.

[Read more here](#)

## Wiltshire Councillor thanks community as she prepares to step down



Wiltshire Councillor Suzanne Wickham has thanked the community for its support during her nearly six years in the role as she prepares to stand down in May, reflecting on her time in office which began in the wake of her husband's death.

She has represented the Ethandune division—which covers the parishes of Edington, Bratton, Heywood and Dilton Marsh—since September 2019, stepping into politics following the loss of her husband, Jerry Wickham.

Jerry, a former Chief Superintendent in Wiltshire Police and a well-respected councillor, was once tipped to become Wiltshire Council's leader. He died aged 58 in 2019 after living with prostate cancer for three years.

During his time in office, Jerry was praised for his tireless dedication to the communities he served. Initially, Suzanne had not considered following in his footsteps, but she was encouraged to stand in the by-election for Ethandune after being approached by several serving Wiltshire councillors.

[Read more here](#)



## The Westbury CARE HOME

### Exciting refurbishment underway at the Westbury Care Home



We are delighted to share news that the Westbury Care Home is undergoing a major refurbishment to enhance comfort and are for our residents.

The improvements will include upgraded living spaces, modernised facilities and beautifully refreshed community areas, all designed to create a warm and welcoming environment. These upgrades will not only improve the quality of life for those who call The Westbury home, but also to provide a more comfortable space for visitors and families.

We look forward to welcoming the community to see the transformation. Thank you for your continued support.





## Edington Parish Council

### *SID says - March 2025*

Speeding through Edington village has been an ongoing problem that the Parish Council have been trying to address through Wiltshire Council and the Highways department for many years. One of the measures to alert people to their speed in the village was the purchase, in 2022, of a Speed Indicator Device (SID) that you'll no doubt have seen on the B3098 approaches to the village.

So, what does SID say? Well, the latest data from SID for the month of March 2025 tells us that 36,115 vehicles were sensed as they approached the western end of the village from Bratton. Of these, the pie-chart shows us that about 36% of drivers (12,833 vehicles) obeyed the speed limit and were at or below 30mph as they passed SID. Our grateful thanks go to them for their considerate driving and doing the right thing in attention to observing the speed limit. In contrast, about 41% of drivers (14,701 vehicles) were in the speed range 30-35mph, and about 24% of drivers (8,581 vehicles) were in excess of 35mph. To put it more starkly, about 64% of drivers (23,282 vehicles) were above the 30mph speed limit and therefore breaking the law.

If we allow for the fact that those in the 30-35mph range might unintentionally just not have been paying sufficient attention or were distracted at the time and nudged above the speed limit, there's absolutely no excuse for those 8,581 drivers who were in excess of 35mph - on average about 277 per day in March 2025...

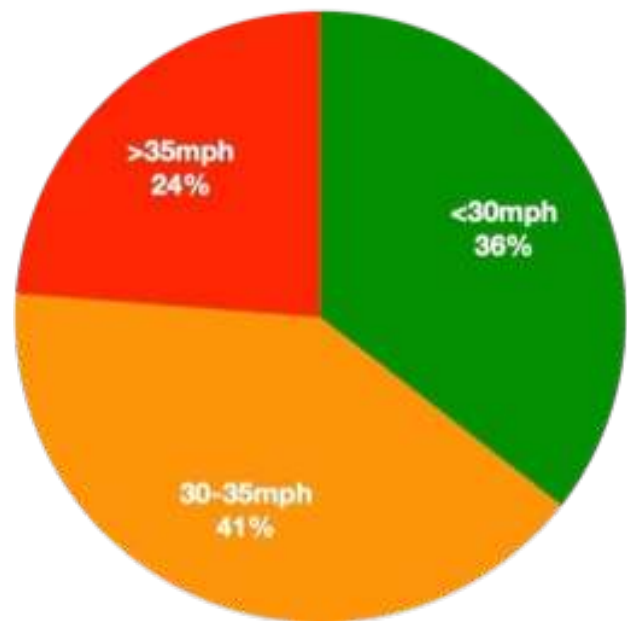
Even worse, the maximum recorded speed in March was 68.2mph (in the hour from 6am to 7am on Monday 17th March).

Remember, the recorded speed shown by SID is the speed that drivers had slowed to as they passed SID, not their entry speed to the

SID sensing area.

The sad fact is that these figures are by no means unusual. In the first 3 months of this year, about 64% of vehicles exceeded 30mph as they approached the village from Bratton, and about 23% of these were travelling faster than 35mph.

**SID Speed Data - March 2025**  
(36,115 vehicles)



Whilst we would all hope that residents are well aware of the village speed limits and the risks from our narrow roads, those drivers travelling above 35mph are likely to be doing so knowingly and SID can do nothing more than provide a reminder to them in the forlorn hope that their conscience will be pricked when they see their speed flash up.

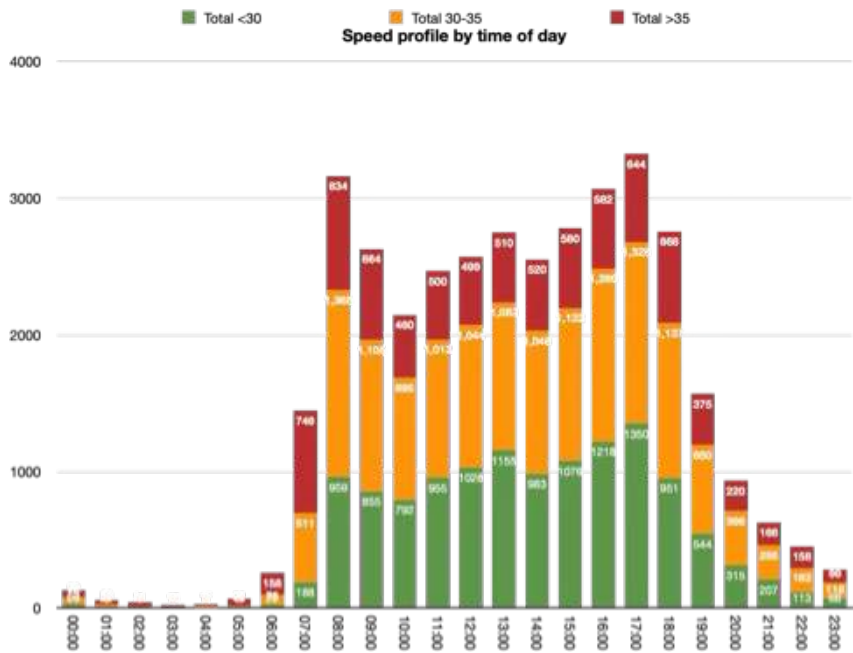
For those who are in the 30-35mph band, please do ensure that you're paying attention as you approach the village, particularly because we have many sections of road that have no pedestrian pavement and people are forced to walk along the road itself. (Without teaching grandma to suck eggs, pedestrians please do remember that it's generally safest to walk on the same side as the oncoming traffic so at least you have a chance of seeing



approaching vehicles that might not be alert to you).

In terms of timings, most of the high-speed problem is outside the 9am-4pm time band, but, as the bar chart shows for March 2025, there's a considerable spike in traffic and excess speeds (above 35mph) in the 7am-9am and 4pm-6pm time windows - i.e. most likely caused by commuters travelling through the village, and just when children are present either going to or coming back from school.

In another attempt to slow traffic, the Lower Road and Tinhead Road rat-runs were given reduced 20mph speed status in 2023 but anecdotal evidence suggests that there are clearly some drivers who pay scant attention to this. The Council also installed 'white gates' at the village approaches as a visual warning that drivers were entering a village area, enhanced 'rumble strips' and new yellow-backed 30mph signs on the B3098 but it seems that they've made little difference it appears.



All this evidence is building, and your Parish Council are engaging once again with Wiltshire Council and Highways to see what else can be done. We're looking at additional SID locations on Lower Road and Tinhead Road if we can find somewhere that meets regulations, and we're again asking that consideration be given to installing speed cushions or similar traffic calming measures on these roads and the B3098.

## Three Villages Minibus AGM



## Coffee Morning Drop In

The TVM AGM will be held at 2pm at Edington

Parish Hall on Wednesday 23rd April.

All welcome.

We look forward to seeing you there.

**Jasper Dorgan**

**Chairman, TVM**

Every Tuesday

10.30 - 11.30 am

in the Three Dagers.

Transport available contact

Pauline or Joy.



## Salisbury Plain Training Area (SPTA) firing times: April 2025

FMarch has Exercise Wessex Storm continuing across SPTA with 3 Battle Groups, a Brigade HQ deployed throughout March operating both day and night. There is a live firing phase in the west which will push other users into the centre and east.

The Headquarters of Salisbury Plain Training Area now has a Facebook page and a Twitter account.

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/HQSalisburyPlainTrainingArea/>

Twitter account [@HQSPTA](https://twitter.com/HQSPTA)

### Monthly firing calendar for April 2025 (subject to late changes)

Live firing days on Warminster fixed firing ranges: 14-16, 22-24, 26-30. Night firing 29th April.

Live firing days on Imber ranges, areas 1, 2, 3, 4 (East of Warminster): None

**Information about May firing times should be available in the near future at the link further down this page.**

Range opening times for the dates above (Subject to short notice changes)

Monday: 9am - 5pm

Tuesday: 9am - 11.30pm

Wednesday: 9am - 5pm

Thursday: 9am - 11.30pm

Friday: 9am - 5pm

Saturday: 9am - 11.30pm

Sunday: 9am - 1pm

*This information is published under the Open Government Licence for public sector information.*

*Full details of this information can be found at :-*

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/salisbury-plain-training-area-spta-newsletter>

# HALL FOR HIRE



## EDINGTON PARISH HALL

PARTIES - MEETINGS - PRIVATE FUNCTIONS

Nearby private carpark

For more information and to book online go to

[www.eph.edingtonwiltshire.org.uk](http://www.eph.edingtonwiltshire.org.uk)

or email [parishhall@edingtonwiltshire.org.uk](mailto:parishhall@edingtonwiltshire.org.uk)

Telephone 01380 830441





## THREE VILLAGES MINIBUS (TVM)



Destination	April	Start Time
Warminster	Tuesday 15th	1.25pm
Westbury	Every Thursday	1.25pm
Destination	May	Start Time
Devizes	Thursday 1st	9.00am
Salisbury	Saturday 10th	9.30am
Warminster	Tuesday 27th	1.25pm
Westbury	Every Thursday	1.25pm

Please note that the Warminster trip in May is on the fourth Tuesday (the 27th) due to bus availability.

All these journeys accept concessionary passes and will return you to your door.

These trips are open to **all** residents of our villages; we welcome everyone, of any age.

TVM is also available for village groups to hire (contact Pauline on tel:830013).

Our next lunch will be on  
Wednesday May 14th  
**Joy Fraser (830426)**

## May Lunch in the Parish Hall



We are holding a 2  
Course Lunch  
(with a choice of

fish pie or cottage pie and a  
selection of puddings)

on **Wednesday May 14th**

**at 12.30pm.**

in the Parish Hall, Edington.

Price £8.00 in aid of Edington  
Parish Hall.

All will be most  
welcome to join us.



Please let Pauline (tel: 830013)  
know (by Friday May 9th) if you  
are coming as this helps with  
catering arrangements.

TVM will provide door to door  
transport.

Please book your place with  
**Pauline**





## Edington What's On Diary

Date	Time	Event	Venue
<b>April 2025</b>			©Edington Newsletter
15th April	1.25pm	Warminster Shopping Trip	
23rd April	2.00pm	Three Villages Minibus AGM	Parish Hall
30th April	7.30pm	Parish Hall AGM	Parish Hall
<hr/>			
<b>May 2025</b>			©Edington Newsletter
1st May	7am - 10pm	Wiltshire Unitary Elections	Parish Hall
1st May	9.00am	Devizes Shopping Trip	
5th May	10am - 12 noon	Well Dressing	Green by the pond
5th May	2pm - 5pm	Village Bring and Share tea party	Green by the pond
7th May	7.00pm	Gardening Club talk	Parish Hall
10th May	9.30am	Salisbury Shopping Trip	
13th May	7.30pm	WI AGM meeting	Parish Hall
14th May	12.30pm	Village Lunch	Parish Hall
27th May	1.25pm	Warminster Shopping Trip	
<b><i>Date for your diary - Saturday 7th June Edington Village Fete 2pm on the Coal Path Field</i></b>			
<hr/>			
<b>Weekly</b>			©Edington Newsletter
Every Monday	11.00am	Tai Chi	Parish Hall
Every Tuesday	10.00am	Let's Move Dance Fitness	Parish Hall
Every Thursday	1.25pm	Westbury Shopping Trip	
Every Friday	10.30am	Yoga	Parish Hall
Every Friday	6.00pm	Edington Brass	Parish Hall
<b><i>TVM trips - please Contact Pauline or Joy Fraser to book a place</i></b>			
©Edington Newsletter			

### Contacting us

Email the newsletter at

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

or via the newsletter website

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

**Deadline for articles 10th 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 newsletter website and enter your details [www.newsletter.edingtonwiltshire.org.uk](http://www.newsletter.edingtonwiltshire.org.uk) or email and you will be added to the mailing list. [newsletter@edingtonwiltshire.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@edingtonwiltshire.org.uk)