



Contents

- White Horse Health Centre
- Courtyard Surgery
- Wiltshire Police
- Wiltshire and Bath Air Ambulance
- Wiltshire Council News
- Village Musings
- Edington and District Gardening Club
- Forthcoming Roadworks
- Maggie Foss
- Village Volunteer Group
- Waders around Edington
- Enrolment on Parochial Church Council
- Keevil School News
- Edington Arts
- Recipe of the Month
- Edington Parish Hall Open Morning
- White Horse News
- Edington Wassail
- Salisbury Plain Training Area
- Three Village's Minibus
- March Lunch in the Parish Hall
- Edington What's On Diary
- Sharing your newsletter
- Contacting us

VILLAGE VOLUNTEER WORK GROUP

Can you spare a few hours a month to help tackle some tidying tasks around our village, we are desperate to attract some more like minded volunteers.

The group has been toiling away for some years now, meeting on the third Wednesday morning each month usually 9-30 to 12-00ish.

Come along to our first session of the year next Wednesday 19th February 9.30am in the Parish Hall car park



Welcome to the fifty-seventh edition of the Edington Village News produced by villagers for the village of Edington.

This month we have all our usual articles including the recipe of the month, a request for more people to join the volunteers to help keep the village looking good and we have our regular articles.

Following a request from readers we are now including the latest news regarding when army activity will be taking place up on the plain.

Deadline for articles 10th of the month



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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



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"

February 6th

#ARV responded to a reported attempted break to an outbuilding near Bradford On Avon, a pursuit was then authorised the Jetta, the vehicle crashed into a wall in Bristol, 2 arrested and the vehicle was on cloned plates.



February 11th

The Lambo was stopped by #RPU for excess speed. Checks revealed illegal window tints, tyre below 1.6mm, expired MOT and no front reg plate.

Naturally it was all our fault and the driver expressed their displeasure by driving off at excess speed, just to add another offence!





Two teenagers found guilty of arson in Warminster

Published:05/02/2025

Two 16-year-old boys have been found guilty of arson after setting fire to a cage at the back of a shop in Warminster.

The teenagers from the local area were sentenced at Salisbury Youth Court on Tuesday (04/02).

One 16-year-old from Warminster was given a 10 month referral order and the other 16-year-old from Westbury was given a nine month referral order.

Just before 8.30pm on June 2, 2024, Wiltshire Police received reports that a fire had been started outside Iceland.

PC Lauren Fairley said: "This was a serious offence that could have easily gone out of control. The fire reached immense heights and was left to completely engulf a six foot cage.

"It is a miracle that the fire didn't spread further into the building. If someone had not spotted the fire and called the fire service I believe this could have had a different ending.

"The two teenagers have been given referral orders that require that offender to agree a contract of rehabilitative and restorative elements which are to be completed within the sentence.

"Wiltshire police are dedicated to working for the community and punishing those that believe they can get away with committing offences. This prosecution was supported by Warminster Town Council whose CCTV footage was crucial at court.

"If you see anything suspicious I would urge you to get in touch. You can do this through our website or by calling 101. Always call 999 in an emergency."

Chief Constable Roper welcomes endorsement of PCC's budget

Published:06/02/2025

Chief Constable Catherine Roper has welcomed the endorsement of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) Philip Wilkinson's budget by the Police and Crime Panel yesterday (05/02).

She said: "The approval of this budget and the increase in the policing element of the council tax, means the £11m funding gap we were facing is reduced to £6.8m for 2025/26.

"We've already identified £1.6m of this figure and work is underway to identify the further £5.2m via efficiencies, savings, rationalisation of our estate footprint and our vehicle numbers.

"Notwithstanding these financial challenges, the PCC and I both remain absolutely committed to continuing to make significant improvements to our service - ensuring Wiltshire Police becomes one of the most effective and efficient forces in the country.

"We are already seeing increased outcome rates for victims, falling crime rates and improvements in our visibility within our communities."



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



Wiltshire Council

Hoax calls cost lives

On Monday 13 January 2025 we were tasked to a 'stabbing' incident in Swindon, but it turned out to be a hoax call.

Due to the severity of the call, multiple emergency services were dispatched, with both Wiltshire and Bath Air Ambulance Charity and Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance flying to the area.

When it was discovered to be a hoax, both critical care teams were then stood down just before landing, causing great frustration and cost to the two charities.

Making a hoax call to the emergency services is a criminal offence as it can cost lives.

Every hoax call we attend takes resources away from genuine emergencies, can delay us in reaching patients with life-threatening injuries or illness, and also wastes valuable funds for the Charity which have been donated by the public.

A statement from Wiltshire Police:-

On 13 January 2025, we received a call reporting that someone had been stabbed in Station Road, Swindon.

This was treated as a priority incident and a significant police and ambulance response – including a critical care team of two air ambulances and a doctor – were mobilised.

Thankfully, the South Western Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust were able to stand down the critical care team before they arrived on scene.

Two double-crewed land ambulances and an operations officer still attended, with the view that someone was in a medical emergency and needed urgent help.

Further enquiries then established that the call was possibly a hoax, and officers attended the home address of the person who reported the stabbing.

Here, we arrested a 16-year-old on suspicion of improper use of an electronic communication system. He has been released under investigation.

Family and Community Learning team helping hundreds learn new skills

Published 10 February 2025

Wiltshire Council is helping more people in the county learn new skills and gain knowledge to take next steps for their lives, as more than 600 people have taken part in Family and Community Learning courses over the last year.

Family and Community Learning (FACL) is part of the council's Targeted Education Service. It offers a range of courses as an adult community education programme, which provides courses for adults in wellbeing, skills for independent living, helping their child, and work skills. The council also provides programmes in English for speakers of other languages who are resettling in the county.

In the recent annual report, 605 individual learners were signed up for courses last year. The learners made 750 community learning course enrolments and 355 family learning course enrolments. A total of 99% achieved their course learning outcomes and met the success criteria. Of these 80% of learners went on to further study, volunteering, work or other positive next steps. Demonstrating the wide-reaching benefits of attending these courses, 93% of learners felt more confident, and 84% made positive healthy lifestyle changes.

One of the learners who received an award for their work at a recent FACL awards ceremony was Maria Barandalla-Fernandez who received the Into Work award.

She said: "It has been challenging for me to go back into work trying to balance my family needs but I am really grateful for receiving the support from FACL. All the team from admins to tutors have been very supportive and encouraging in





achieving my objective. I recommend anyone that needs to refresh skills or need to feel more confident to enrol on these courses. I am now enjoying my job at a school and I can only say thank you for what you do."

FACL receives Adult Skills Fund through a contract with the ESFA for Tailored Learning. The funding is used to deliver high-quality courses to engage individuals of different ages and backgrounds to gain new skills, reconnect with learning, learn how to support their children and better prepare them for progression to further learning, employment or volunteering.

Council commits to be part of warm homes scheme - potentially benefitting thousands of households

Published 6 February 2025

Wiltshire Council has confirmed its ambition to be part of a government scheme that will support even more homes in the county to be energy efficient - saving residents money and keeping homes warmer for longer.

Wiltshire Council has confirmed its ambition to be part of a government scheme that will support even more homes in the county to be energy efficient - saving residents money and keeping homes warmer for longer.

The council has bid for around £13m of funding from the government's Warm Homes: Local Grant scheme. The scheme is the government's successor to its Home Upgrade Grant (HUG) phase two programme, with Wiltshire Council on track to retrofit 86 homes by the end of March, with measures such as low carbon heating systems, solar panels and wall/loft insulation.

The Warm Homes: Local Grant scheme is set to get underway from April and will be in place to support households that:

- Are of low income
- Have an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) between D and G

- Are privately owned (owner occupied or privately rented)

The purpose of the Warm Homes: Local Grant scheme will be to ensure that more homes in the county are warm, efficient and well adapted to climate change. By focusing on low-income households and areas of high economic deprivation, upgrades to the housing will support communities, ensuring they are not left behind in the transition to net zero and will help combat fuel poverty. Wiltshire Council estimates there could be around 13,500 households eligible for improvement in Wiltshire under the scheme.

Cllr Dominic Muns, Cabinet Member for Environment and Waste, said: "Following on from the successful implementation of the Home Upgrade Grant scheme, which is rolling out across the county as we speak, the next logical step forward for us is to commit to this even bigger scheme. The Warm Homes: Local Grant Scheme has the potential to support many more homes to be as energy efficient, warm and safe as possible and it's an opportunity we can't miss.

Wiltshire Council expects to hear back from government on its application for funding in the coming weeks.

Cabinet approves Gypsies and Travellers Development Plan

Published 6 February 2025

Wiltshire Council's Cabinet has endorsed the draft Gypsies and Travellers Development Plan Document, which will now be reported to Full Council on Tuesday 25 February for approval. The Plan outlines how the council plans to meet the housing needs of Gypsies, Travellers, and travelling showpeople in the county up to 2038.

This plan, alongside the





Wiltshire Local Plan review - which was approved by Full Council and has been submitted to the Secretary of State - completes the update of the adopted Wiltshire Core Strategy. Together, these documents will ensure that the accommodation needs of all parts of Wiltshire's communities are addressed and that the council meets its equalities duties.

Cllr Nick Botterill, Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning, said: Like all Local Planning Authorities, we have a statutory duty to provide land to meet the accommodation needs of Wiltshire's Gypsies and Travellers, including the allocation of sites in development plans.

The approved plan sets out how these needs will be met and I'm pleased that Cabinet has agreed to take it forward today for approval by Full Council on 25 February.

Following the public debate in the Cabinet meeting, we will request that when assessing the proposed allocations within the Plan, the Inspector takes into account any additional supply of pitches that have been approved since the Regulation 19 consultation.

We had more than 650 responses to our consultation, which was held from 20 August to 4 October last year, and we also held five in-person engagement events around to county and one online event to enable people to find out more.

The Gypsies and Travellers Development Plan Document is a key part of our strategy to meet the housing needs of all community members, including Gypsies, Travellers, and travelling showpeople. It helps us fulfil our obligations and plan for sustainable growth in accordance with national policy and also meets our Business Plan commitment to live well together in cohesive communities.

Car Parking in Wiltshire Council Car Parks



Scammers have been known to place fraudulent QR codes on signage in parking areas. When scanned, these can lead users to fake websites designed to steal payment information

To avoid being caught out, always:

- Inspect the QR code for signs of tampering
- Check that the website address is legitimate

Alternatively pay for your parking using our @MiPermit app, or by using cash or card.

[MiPermit](#) (opens new window) allows you to pay for parking in Wiltshire by text or online.

[More information about parking in Wiltshire Council car parks can be found here.](#)



Village Musings

Walking around our village at the moment is such a delight, with the earliest signs of spring sparkling out from the quietness of winter colour. There is a renewed joy in the walks we take and the birdsong reminds us that already there are new families starting to form ready for spring broods, even though it is still very cold.



Soon there will be so many daffodils we shall barely notice them, but the very first one we see is a wonder. The fragile, demure, early irises catch our eye in a way that wouldn't happen later in the year when everything is bright and busy. It feels easy to choose joy on a bright, clear day with spring in the air and these jewels on the ground.



I was inspired by one of our villagers this week who takes out a bag and litter-picker on the day before dustbin collection, and does a brisk walk around her local area to clean up the litter left and throw it in her bin. I am going to do the same from now on – just before bin day, I shall also be out there collecting litter to dispose of. If anyone else feels inspired to do the same, our beautiful village could be even better and cleaner. Having lots of visitors to the village does mean that there is probably more litter than there might otherwise be, but we can make a difference by giving just a few minutes once a fortnight to this project.





Edington & District Gardening Club

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

A new member and a visitor were welcomed to the February meeting, joining our members. We were taken on a trip along the Wilts & Berks canal. David Maloney gave us a history lesson about the canal dating from 1810. After falling into disrepair after the war and with a declining income it was abandoned. The Wilts and Berks Canal Trust took on the project in 2000, to bring nearly 70 miles of the canal back to life from Melksham to Abingdon, with several link branches. A difficult task with now over 250 landowners along the canal and several areas having housing built on the route.

Howard Yardy, the Trust's wildlife officer, then showed us all the work done to bring native wildlife back to the area. From bee routes, creating new wildflower pastures, hedge laying and creating dead hedges (instead of having bonfires), planting trees and forming scrapes (allowing winter ponds forming). There has been a tremendous increase in wildlife from newts to otters and kingfishers. Bird and bat boxes have been installed. There is now 8 miles of finished canal.

Look at their website www.wbct.org.uk for further information.

Next month, Thursday March 6th, Andrew Tolman will speak on the topic of Damp, Shady, Ferns and Stumperies. Visitors are always welcome. Don't forget your surplus books, seeds and plants!

Kind regards

Jacky

(Further information on 830133)

Forthcoming roadworks

17 Feb - 28 Feb 2025

Bratton Road between Crossroads Farm and West Ashton - Road Closure

Wiltshire Council - drainage and associated works

17 Feb - 20 Feb 2025

High Street Erlestoke - Road closure

Wiltshire Council - Footways Resurfacing and Ironwork adjustment

Reminder Update

A36 at Limpley Stoke is closed and will now re-open on 1 March 2025

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

Maggie Foss

Maggie lived in the village with her husband Bill for 14 years, leaving in 2009 to relocate to Kent and to be nearer her family. Maggie died last week having endured a few years of poor health. Those of us who became part of her inner circle of friends remember with great affection her and Bill's enthusiasm for village life, joining in and helping whenever they could. Maggie and Bill were on the Save the Children committee, helped with church events, loved the festival, helped with the fair, attended village lunches and were enthusiastic supporters of the pub. Maggie would be found around the village with their black labrador and always ready for a chat. Her close neighbours enjoyed their hospitality on many, many occasions and we have happy memories of Bill in charge of the bar.

If you would like to make a donation in memory of Maggie please make it to Save the Children, the family will be very grateful.



Village Volunteer Work Group

Can you spare a few hours a month to help tackle some tidying tasks around our village, we are desperate to attract some more like minded volunteers.

The group has been toiling away for some years now, meeting on the third Wednesday morning of the month usually 9-30 to 12-00ish.

We also intend to arrange the occasional session on a Saturday morning, particularly as the village has entered the County's "Best Kept Village" competition.

Here is a snapshot of some of the tasks.

Clear the pond of unwanted weeds and strim away nettles – usually twice a year.

Clear entrances to footpaths,

Tidy Parish Hall area, including carpark.

Plant hedge in Coal Path Field,

Clear road gutters.

Cut hedges.

Mend and preserve village benches.

And many others tasks as they occur.

Contact John Richardson 01380830902

Or Pauline at the Post Office.





Waders around Edington – Part 1

We are nearly through winter, and it is now coming up to our last chance of seeing some of the birds that have been overwintering with us. In the autumn, these birds migrated south to escape cold arctic conditions in northern Europe, Iceland, Canada and Russia, to find food and shelter for the winter in the UK. These migrants included waders, wildfowl, and other winter visitors.

One of the most amazing sights in winter is seeing waders in vast numbers jostling for space on our mudflats here in the UK. What do I mean by waders? These birds are ones that wade in shallow water and mudflats to forage for food. They are part of the bird order Charadriiformes. This group of related birds also includes gulls, terns, skuas and auks. They are a large order of birds that are mostly found in wetlands.

Waders are birds in a hurry. Many of those we see in the UK breed far to the north, in the Arctic, or at least close to it. Summer is short there, so it doesn't pay to hang around. They head north in spring, try to raise some chicks and are on their way south again by 'our' summer.

The first birds to return are usually adults that failed to breed – perhaps their nest was predated, or they couldn't find a partner to begin with. They're soon followed by more successful adults, who leave their young to fend for themselves at an early age. Finally, the young birds start to arrive, making their very first migration.

The UK has the ideal location for wading birds as it is bathed by the warm Gulf Stream, together with wetlands and coastal mudflats that are extremely rich in invertebrate life. The largest numbers can be seen on the big, sheltered estuaries, places like the estuaries of

the Severn, Humber, Solent, Dee, Mersey, Thames and the Wash, but they can turn up almost anywhere. You could find them on coastal mudflats, inland gravel pits, and even stone-lined reservoirs. In Wiltshire a couple of places where you can find them in numbers are Langford Lakes and Lower Moor Farm, both Wiltshire Wildlife Trust Reserves.

You can recognise waders by the fact they have long legs, and they use their bills to probe the mud and sand for food. They often eat small arthropods like crustaceans and aquatic insects

There are several wader species that you can see around Edington and other places in Wiltshire. In fact, a variety of wading birds can be found on farmland in Wiltshire, such as the Lapwing, Curlew, Redshank and Snipe. Other species are more likely to be found in wetland habitats like Langford Lakes and others in woodland like the woodcock. Some 25 species of waders have been recorded in Wiltshire over the past few years.

Lapwing

The lapwing looks black and white at a distance with distinctive crest. Close approach shows it to have a glossy green and purple sheen. It is known to many as the Pee-wit because of its distinctive pee-wit call.

The Lapwing was once widespread and a very common sight across the fields and downs of Wiltshire both as a breeding bird and a wintering migrant. This earned it a place as the logo of the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust. Lapwings in the southwest have declined by 80% since 1960 and is globally 'Near Threatened'. In Wiltshire, birds are gone from former haunts and winter flocks reduced. Salisbury Plain is one area where Lapwings still breed.





Lapwing (del. S.F. Henning)

Curlew

This is UK's largest wader with a down-curved bill, long legs, and brown upperparts. It can be found on estuaries in winter and moors in summer. In summer its bubbling curloo-oo call stirs memories for me of wild desolate places. It uses its long bill to probe in the mud for worms, molluscs and crabs. The curlew is a resident in the UK, wintering on the coast and then moving inland to breed.

Although the curlew still breeds in



Curlew (del. S.F. Henning)

Wiltshire, notably on Salisbury Plain; the open wet grassland needed by this species has meant that they have suffered at the hands of intensive agriculture. It has been reported that numbers have declined by 46% since 1994.

A recently published record for a curlew was on the 22nd of November 2024 at the Cotswold Water Park.

Redshank

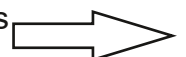
A typical wader but easily identified by its bright red legs and base of bill. It is often seen standing on top of posts guarding its territory during the breeding season. It uses its long bill to probe in the mud for worms, molluscs and crustaceans.



Redshank (del. S.F. Henning)

The Redshank is not as common in Wiltshire as it used to be but can be found quite widely in places such as the Cotswold Water Park during winter. There is a recently published record of it from Cricklade, Swindon, on the 6th of November 2024.

However, as a breeding bird it has





been reduced to only a few scattered locations around the county.

Common Snipe

It is a heavily streaked, well camouflaged wader with long, straight bill. It is found mostly on freshwater marshes and wet meadows. It uses its long bill to probe into the mud for worms and insects. During the breeding season one can see the snipe's distinctive mating display where the males engage in a 'drumming' flight to attract a mate.

Much like the Redshank; the Snipe is much more common across Wiltshire during the winter months. This is because the resident birds are joined by migrants from the north. Birds congregate in areas of water and wetland. Unfortunately, breeding has declined to be almost non-existent within the county's boundaries making the drumming display a thing of the past.

It was recently recorded on the 25th of January 2025 at Cricklade, Wiltshire.



Common snipe foraging for food (del. S.F. Henning)

The Jack Snipe is similar to but a smaller version of the common snipe with a shorter beak. Recently recorded on the 2nd of November 2024 at Coleshill, Wiltshire.

Woodcock

The exquisitely camouflaged woodcock is a fairly large (the size of a pigeon), short-legged wading bird. Its legs are greyish-pink, and it has a very long, straight bill. They're mostly brown, with an intricate pattern of black and grey barring, and broad, dark bars across the crown. They are larger than the similar-looking snipe and are sometimes known as "snipe of the woods", as they are birds of woodlands, rather than grasslands and moorlands.

The woodcock lives in woodlands and on heathlands where it probes the ground for earthworms and beetles to eat. It is mainly nocturnal, hiding in dense undergrowth during the day. If you happen to disturb one, it will fly off in a zig-zag pattern between the trees before dropping back to the ground and the safe, dense cover of the undergrowth.

In spring and summer, male woodcocks perform a display flight known as roding. At dusk, and just before dawn, they take to the air and patrol over large areas of their forest and heathland homes, calling in a series of grunts and squeaks, competing with other males to attract females.



Woodcock (del. S.F. Henning)





They are widespread and fairly common. The woodcocks that breed in the UK are mostly residents, but they are joined by wintering birds from Finland and Russia.

Black-tailed godwit

A large, elegant wader with long dark legs and a long bill. The bill is orange or pinkish at the base and darker at the tip. It probes the mud for snails, worms and insects. It has orange-brown plumage in summer and grey plumage in winter. It is an inhabitant of freshwater marshes, flooded fields and estuaries.

A small number of black-tailed godwits nest in the UK, but many more come for the winter from Iceland, or stop off on their journey to southwest Europe or West Africa. They tend to spend the winter on coastal wetlands, but on migration can drop in on inland sites. They form flocks and wade out into belly-deep water to feed.

The most recent recorded sighting in Wiltshire was on the 3rd of January 2025 at the Cotswold Water Park.



Black-tailed godwit (del. S.F. Henning)

Dunlin

A small, plump wader with a slightly down-curved black bill, black legs, and a white belly. In winter, it has grey plumage on the back and white beneath, but in breeding season adults have a reddish-brown back and distinctive black belly patch.

Dunlins nest in boggy uplands in northern parts of the UK, heading to West Africa for the winter. Birds nesting in Iceland and Greenland also stop off here to refuel on their route south. Other dunlins spend the winter in the UK, arriving from breeding grounds in Scandinavia and Russia.



Dunlin (del. S.F. Henning)

Dunlins are usually found in flocks. Huge numbers gather at coastal sites, but small flocks are often found inland. They are active birds that run around pecking at the mud for molluscs and crustaceans. A recently published record for them was the 2nd of December 2024 in Swindon.

Stephen Henning



Enrolment on Parochial Church Council Electoral Rolls 2025

Please note that the information published in the February edition of The News is incorrect due a production glitch, the correct information is published below.

Every year Parish Electoral Rolls are updated in time for the Annual Parochial Church Meetings (APCMs) that take place in the Spring – planned dates are shown below and/or will be displayed in each Church. If you are a member of the Church of England you are entitled to attend the Meeting and vote in elections for members of the Parochial Church Council (PCC). But you must be on the Electoral Roll to attend and vote.

APCMs are the ‘Annual General Meetings’ at which an annual report and the annual

accounts for each Parish are presented and discussed.

Every six years a completely new Electoral Roll is made – 2025 is a ‘sixth’ year. So even if you were enrolled last year or you are not a member at present you must apply to be on this year’s Roll

Notices about how to enrol are, or will be, displayed in all Benefice Churches.

Application forms are available on request from Parish Electoral Registration Officers. Closing dates vary as they are related to the date of each APCM.

You may register with more than one Parish but may only participate in one APCM.

(The PCCs should not be confused with local government Parish Councils, details of which are available from Wiltshire Council; most easily on their website.)

Parish	Applications Close	APCM	Electoral Registration Officer
Bratton	25 March (tbc)	22 April	Gill Humphrey aiglenicher@icloud.com
Edington	6 April	27 April	Hugh Hancock ero@edingtonpriory.church
Coulston	See Church Noticeboard		Malvina Hicks malvina.hicks@outlook.com
Erlestoke	tbc	tbc	See Church Noticeboard

Three Villages Minibus AGM

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

Coffee Morning Drop In



Every Tuesday
10.30 -11.30 am
in the Three Dagers.

Transport available contact
Pauline or Joy.



Keevil school news – for February 2025

• Happy New Year everyone! The pupils and staff have returned to Keevil School rested and raring to go for Term 3.



• Thank you to everyone who supported our nativity performances in December. It was great to see St. Leonard's church so full for the afternoon and evening performances. Here are some pictures of our budding actors in their costumes. A special thank you goes out to the very talented Keevil school mum, Amy Mutton for making our new angel costumes – aren't they wonderful!?



• Summer class was very busy before the Christmas holidays with a special Christmas Concert in the church during the last week of term, and a trip to Goodson Lodge in Trowbridge to sing Christmas songs to the residents there. The pupils also gave out some handmade Christmas cards during their visit.



• Congratulations to all the winners at the first Keevil School Christmas Chocolate Bingo evening in November! It was great to see so many pupils, current and former, in the hall enjoying some bingo. And we were even treated to a performance by the school choir during the interval.

• Look at our fabulous TAs getting into the festive spirit! School drop-off was made extra exciting on the last day of term with some special visitors joining Mrs Hermon on duty at the school gate.





• Dates for your diary: **Saturday 17th and Sunday 18th May 2025**. Yes, the **Keevil School Scarecrow Trail** is returning for another weekend of scarecrow merriment! Come along to join in the fun. There will be something for everyone with the adult trail and a Keevil Rocks trail for younger participants. Plus, all the usual food, drink, entertainment and stalls. We would love to see you there. More details on getting involved or sponsoring a scarecrow in the coming issues.

• Ahead of the scarecrow trail this year, we are happily **accepting donations of raffle prizes, bottles for the tombola and cuddly toys** looking for a new home. Please drop any donations off to the school office.

• Finally... Calling all quizzers – FoKS (Friends of Keevil School) are hosting a **quiz evening in Keevil Village Hall** on Friday 28th March. 7pm for 7.30pm start. £25 per team of max 6 people, including cheese and wine. To book your team in, please email cjoram21@hotmail.co.uk.

Lindsey Hermon, Headteacher
Caroline Noonan, Chair of FoKS

Two days before half term, we received the extremely sad news that Mrs O'Brien, one of the Summer class teachers, had passed away suddenly. Mrs O'Brien was part of Keevil School for many years and touched the lives of many children. We were all saddened by the news and extend our heartfelt condolences to her family, friends and colleagues. If anyone would like to contribute to her book of condolence, please email messages to cjoram21@hotmail.co.uk or visit the school office.

Friends of Keevil School

Wine & Cheese

QUIZ NIGHT



Friday 28th March 2025

7pm for 7.30pm start

Keevil Village Hall

Cheese and wine per table.
£25 per team, max 6 people.
To book please email cjoram21@hotmail.co.uk
Card only bar, table service.



Edington arts

The first Edington Arts concert of the 2025 season brings together a fascinating and soul-satisfying combination of saxophone, organ, soprano and percussion – Sanctuary, on Saturday 8th March at 7.30pm in the Priory Church.

Saxophonist Christian Forshaw started his musical life as a church chorister, took up the piano and clarinet after listening to Mozart's Clarinet Concerto, moved to the saxophone in his late teens, graduated from the Guildhall School of Music with honours, and spent the early part of his performing career playing jazz.



“But” he says, “it was other people’s music, and I wanted very much to find my own voice. So I went back to the sounds I knew were a part of me, the sounds of church music, and started to devise a way of adapting that to suit my playing. That was the beginning of the Sanctuary Project, where I tried to combine floating, ethereal soprano sax lines with more

emotionally intense alto lines.” His original compositions, as well as his arrangements, are deeply rooted in sacred melodies and the church choral tradition.

This has become his distinctive sound, which has led to recording and performing here and abroad with many leading ensembles both instrumental and choral, as well as films and collaborations.



His co-performers are Richard Pinel, (organ, former Director of the Edington Music Festival),

Soprano Rosanna Wicks,



and percussionist Ryan Hepburn.

Tickets will be on sale through the Edington Arts website, www.edingtonarts.org, from £11-£25, with 18 and under coming free.

Availability to purchase :-
Edington Arts Angels - Monday 20th January 2025.

General sale - Monday 27th January 2025.

An Unmissable Concert.



Recipe of the month - February

SQUIDGY LEMON GINGER CAKE

If you like ginger cake, this is a delicious moist teatime treat which gets better and better when stored for a few days before eating! Cuts into 12 slices.

Ingredients

200g stoned dates
200g butter cut in pieces
300g dark muscovado sugar or dark brown sugar
2 large eggs
50g fresh root ginger grated
1 lemon, grated zest only
200g self-raising flour.
1 Bramley apple (about 250g) peeled, cored and chopped into pea-sized pieces
75g white chocolate
1 tbsp mixed peel to decorate



Oven Temperature: 160C, Fan 140C, Gas 3

Cooking time: approx. 1 ¼ hours

Method

1. Pre heat the oven. Line a 20cm round cake tin (about 8cm deep) with baking parchment or use a parchment cake tin liner.
2. Put dates in a bowl and cover with boiling water.
3. Heat the butter in a medium saucepan until melted, and stir in the sugar. Allow to cool slightly. Beat in the eggs, grated ginger and lemon zest.
4. Drain the dates and chop them finely or blitz with a stick blender. Scrape them into the pan too, and mix well. Stir in the flour, then apple. Spoon into the cake tin, put the tin on a baking sheet (this stops the base browning too much) then bake for about 1¼ hrs, until well risen. A skewer or cocktail stick stuck into the cake should come out with just a few moist crumbs sticking to it.
5. Leave it to cool in the tin.
6. When cold remove the cake from the tin and peel off the baking parchment.
7. Break the white chocolate into a non-metallic bowl. Heat in the microwave, on medium setting, in one minute bursts until melted (or in a bowl over a pan of simmering water). Trickle or pipe the chocolate over the cake, scatter with the mixed peel and leave to set before serving.

Note: If well wrapped, the cake keeps for at least a week Suitable for freezing undecorated.
Adapted from a Good Food Magazine Recipe



EDINGTON PARISH HALL COMMITTEE INVITES YOU TO



**At an Open Morning at Edington Parish Hall (with tea,
coffee and homemade cake!)**

ON SATURDAY 22ND MARCH FROM 10AM TO 12 NOON

to celebrate Village Halls Week 2025



**celebrating,
encouraging
& supporting
volunteers**

The Parish Hall has an active and varied social calendar which is not just for those who live in Edington but also for people from the wider community who are always given a warm welcome!

Do come and find out more, by meeting and talking to those who run the groups, clubs and events that offer a great opportunity to socialise and make new friends.

If you are new to Edington or the local community you will be particularly welcome (more details in next month's newsletter).

Do you know that the Parish Hall is available for hire for your party, meeting or other event. Why not come and have a look?



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

A year in the life of Westbury: Local photographers plan 'Westbury in the Year 2025' book

A small group of local photographers are set to capture a unique snapshot of Westbury's life and history by taking one photograph every day throughout 2025.

The project aims to record a year in the life of the town with the photographs being combined in a book.

"The aim is to reflect life and people in the town," said one of the photographers, Julian Sandoe, who will be supported by other keen local photographers Jon Street, Barry Hill and Emyr Roberts.

The initiative was inspired by Westbury in the Year 2000, a similar book produced 25 years ago. "The idea is to record Westbury as it is in 2025 so that, years from now, people can look back and see how it has changed," Julian explained.

The 2000 book captured the town at the turn of the millennium and serves as a fascinating piece of social history.

[Read more about this story here](#)

HRH The Princess Royal celebrates milestone at Westbury's sailing club

Westbury welcomed a royal visitor this month as HRH The Princess Royal visited the West Wilts Youth Sailing Association to celebrate the club's 58th anniversary and mark the transfer of ownership of the lake to the group.

The visit took place on Friday 17th January, with Princess Anne meeting the association's leaders, volunteers and patrons. She toured the sailing club, watched a demonstration by youth instructors and took a close look at the club's motorboat.

One of the highlights of the visit was Matravers pupil Rebekah Slarke, WO1 RSM from Matravers Combined Cadet Force, giving a salute to the Princess upon her arrival. Rebekah said, "It was an absolute honour to meet Her Royal Highness, especially coming from Westbury – it's a place where things like this don't usually happen. It was a real privilege to represent my school and my contingent at an event like this."

[Read more about this story here](#)

Westbury Area Network thanks local community for overwhelming support

The Westbury Area Network, which provides the town's vital food bank, has thanked the local community for its fantastic ongoing support.

The food bank's services were in higher demand than ever in 2024 with 1,890 food parcels being distributed throughout the year – a 30% increase from 2023 and a 50% increase from 2022.

"We have been overwhelmed by the kindness and generosity from the local community – local firms, supermarkets, schools and churches and many local people who donate to us, either by way of food or cash donations," said Janet Gray, a





volunteer with WAN. “We received donated groceries as well as financial donations that enabled us to purchase much-needed items to help struggling families. “We are especially grateful as so many have kindly donated despite these difficult financial times.



WAN, which won White Horse News Group of the Year last year, emphasised that their ability to meet the growing demand depends entirely on the community’s generosity.

[Read more about this story here](#)

Imber Ultra Marathon set to challenge runners this March

The scenic but challenging Imber Ultra Marathon is returning for its 11th edition on Sunday, March 2nd, promising an unforgettable day for both participants and spectators.

This year’s race will kick off at 9am from the Leighton Recreation Centre in Westbury, with the last determined runners expected to cross the finish line by 4pm.

“We have an internationally acclaimed runner to start the race and award the prizes to the successful runners – Fiona Price who has represented England and Great Britain in international competitions including European and World Championships,” said Jon Street, from Westbury Rotary Club which organises

the annual challenge along with Avon Valley Runners (AVR).

“The marathon is a gruelling 33-mile race which starts at the Leighton Recreation Centre in Westbury and follows a circular route, anticlockwise this year, around the MOD’s Salisbury Plain Training Area. The route goes past Warminster, Chitterne, Tilshead and then follows the northern range road back into Westbury.



“The race is dependent on volunteers from Rotary and AVR manning checkpoints along the route, coordinating car parking, providing refreshments to the runners along the route, supplying goody bags for the runners and covering many other admin jobs on the day. The Leighton Recreation Centre opens its doors while the cricket club also provides some refreshment after the race, with the St John Ambulance providing first aid cover.

[Read more about this story here](#)

Four Villages Link



During 9 days in early January there were 40 requests for transport! At such times our coordinators struggle to find enough drivers and we would

love to hear from you if you can spare some time to volunteer. If you’re interested, please come along to the Jubilee Hall on the morning of Saturday 15th to learn more and meet current volunteers.

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



Edington Wassail

On a cold winters day in January approximately 70 villagers and friends turned out for our annual village Wassail.



Edington brass opened the ceremony with a delightful array of melodies, followed by a display of Morris dancing by White Horse Morris. The assembled crowd enthusiastically joined in with some of the dances. We were kept warm with a supply of mulled cider or warm apple juice and apple cake expertly delivered by Pauline and her team.



After the dancing everybody assembled around the old apple tree behind the graveyard. For our ceremony this tree represented the fruit trees in our village. The young and young at heart were encouraged to put toast in the tree branches. This is to

encourage the birds particularly the robin who has long been regarded as the guardian of the orchard.

Next cider was poured around the roots to



fertilize and encourage next years crop . The tree was then beaten soundly to wake it up and stimulate the sap to rise. Lastly the evil spirits were driven off by a cascade of noise, the part everybody enjoys.

We finished with a good sing along led by Andrew King.

Our thanks go to all who helped, made



cakes, played, danced, sang or just came along for the fun of it.

Let's Move!
DANCE FITNESS

Low Impact Dance Fitness
Edington Parish Hall
Tuesdays 10-10:45am



Salisbury Plain Training Area (SPTA) firing times: February 2025

February has Exercise Wessex Storm across SPTA with 3 Battle Groups, a Brigade HQ deployed throughout February and 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 February 2025 (subject to late changes)

Non-firing days on Warminster fixed firing ranges: 1, 2, 9, 15, 16, 28

Live firing days on Imber ranges, areas 1, 2, 3, 4 (East of Warminster): 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28
Information about March 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.edingtonwiltshire.org.uk/hall

or email parishhall@edingtonwiltshire.org.uk

phone 01380 830 441





THREE VILLAGES MINIBUS (TVM)



Destination	February	Start Time
Warminster	Tuesday 18th	1.25pm
Westbury	Every Thursday	1.25pm
Destination	March	Start Time
Devizes	Thursday 6th	9.00am
Warminster	Tuesday 18th	1.25pm
Westbury	Every Thursday	1.25pm
Salisbury	Saturday th	9.30am

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 12th February
Joy Fraser (830426)

March Lunch in the Parish Hall



We are holding a Soup and Puds Lunch (with a choice of soup

and a selection of puddings) on **Wednesday March 12th at 12.30pm.**

in the Parish Hall, Edington.

Price £8.00 in aid of the local charity Fear Free.

All will be most welcome to join us.

It is essential to let Pauline (tel: 830013) know, by Friday March 7th, if you are coming, as this helps

with catering arrangements.



TVM will provide door to door transport.

Please book your place with Pauline



Booking essential as spaces are limited



Edington What's On Diary

Date	Time	Event	Venue
February 2025			
18th February	1.25pm	Warminster Shopping Trip	
19th February	9.30am	Village Volunteers	Parish Hall car park
March 2025			
6th March	9.00am	Devizes Shopping Trip	
6th March	7.30pm	Gardening Club meeting	Parish Hall
8th March	9.30am	Salisbury Shopping Trip	
8th March	7.30pm	Edington Arts Concert	Priory Church
11th March	7.30pm	WI meeting - The Darker Side of Wiltshire	Parish Hall
12th March	12.30pm	Village Lunch	Parish Hall
18th March	1.25pm	Warminster Shopping Trip	
19th March	9.30am	Village Volunteers	tbc
22nd March	10am-12noon	Edington Parish Hall Open Morning	Parish Hall
28th March	7.30pm	Keevil School Quiz Night	Keevil School
Weekly			
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

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

©Edington Newsletter

Contacting us

Email the newsletter at

newsletter@edingtonwiltshire.org.uk

or via the newsletter website

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

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 or email and you will be added to the mailing list. newsletter@edingtonwiltshire.org.uk