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EDINGTON PARISH HALL COMMITTEE INVITES YOU TO

Join us 

**celebrating,
encouraging
& supporting
volunteers**

At an Open Morning at Edington
Parish Hall to celebrate Village
Halls Week
(with tea, coffee and homemade
cake)

**ON SATURDAY 22nd MARCH
FROM 10AM TO 12 NOON**

More details inside on page 11



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

This month we have a bumper 30 page edition with all our usual articles including the recipe of the month and part 2 of Waders around Edington. We also have a question for you to answer about recycling, information about various annual meetings taking place in the near future and an advertisement for a flower festival slightly further afield in Salisbury Cathedral.

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"

This stop in Chippenham is pretty much a "how not to do it" for Learner Drivers:

- X driver breath reading: 99**
- X supervisor breath reading: 90**
- X three bald tyres, two with cord out**
- X defective lights**
- X no insurance**

- **Two in custody**
- **PG9 written**
- **Recovery on the way**



We've been working with schools & @wiltscouncil about planning for a major incident in a school.



Although lockdown events are uncommon & schools are safe places, we have a collective responsibility to make sure we are as prepared as possible to keep our children safe.





Walk and Talk phase two

Published:08/03/2025

A new scheme to help protect women in Wiltshire continues with its second phase. Walk and Talk was launched by us, with the help of partners, in November 2024. This is where we link up with women in person to understand first-hand how safe they feel in the communities they live.

Temporary Superintendent Lucy Thorne, who leads our tackling Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) scheme, this time met up with Cath in Salisbury to discuss women's safety in the city.

Lucy said: "Walk and Talk gives our police force the opportunity to speak directly to local women to get an insight into how they feel as a woman living in Wiltshire and what we and our partners can do to improve women's safety."

On Thursday (06/03) evening, Lucy and Cath walked around Cath's local area in Salisbury. Cath discussed how she has seen improvements in society coming together to tackle VAWG along with a renewed confidence which appears to be growing amongst women to report violence. However, she would also like to see more improvements to her locality, like better lighting in poorly lit areas which makes her and other people feel unsafe and where she feels may attract criminality.

More safety for women

Cath is an active member of Salisbury Soroptimists who have been campaigning for four years to improve the safety for women and girls - they believe the work they are doing will contribute to improvements for everyone in Salisbury. This ranges from street light audits to creating awareness for children and young people around consent and respect.

Lucy Thorne said: "Feedback from Walk and Talk is shared with our partners in the local authority to see what we can do as a

collective to improve the safety of women. It's vital we work together to combat VAWG and improve how women feel in our area."

Police and Crime Commissioner Philip Wilkinson said: "One of my priorities is to reduce anti-social behaviour and serious violence across the county. It is too easy for women and girls to simply be told they are safe in the night-time economy in Wiltshire, as we do have lower crime rates than many urban areas, but we must ensure they are actually safe – and feel it too, not just on International Women's Day but every day of the year.

Hotspot Fund

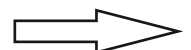
"Extensive research has been done by Wiltshire Police to ensure we are placing our resources in the right place - with additional funding secured by my Office from the government's Hotspot Response Fund we are able to further bolster Wiltshire Police's efforts with additional resources to target the anti-social behaviour and serious violence in some of the worst affected areas in Wiltshire and Swindon.

"Through my Community Action Fund, my Office has also funded FearFree's 'Free the Night', a night time march that calls for the right for women to be safe when out and about in our communities at night. My Office will continue to invest in these, and other projects to show our commitment to reducing violence and serious harm, tackling violence against women and girls, and creating a safer night time economy for all."

The first Walk and Talk was held on Friday (29/11/24) in North Swindon.

Each Walk and Talk should last around 30 minutes and plan to be held quarterly throughout Wiltshire.

You can also report [feeling unsafe](#) in public spaces via the StreetSafe app, completely anonymously.





Major drugs operation across UK, including Wiltshire, carried out

Published:07/03/2025

More than two hundred people have been arrested and drugs worth more than £45 million were seized during a week of national targeted activity against organised criminal gangs - including several in Wiltshire.

Forces across the country have once again focused their efforts on targeting major cannabis grows to disrupt violence, exploitation and organised crime in England and Wales.

Regionally, across the South West, large quantities of cannabis plants plus several grams of cocaine and a cache of weapons were recovered in the latest phase of Operation Scorpion and Operation Mille (see notes to editors for an explanation of each op).

In Wiltshire, there were:

Eight arrests
Six warrants carried out
More than £12,000 in cash recovered
One knife found
246 grams of cocaine and 101 grams of cannabis recovered.
During the seven days of operation, from 17 – 23 February, police teams targeted addresses of suspected drugs dealers and suppliers.

Wiltshire Police Deputy Chief Constable, Mark Cooper, said: “The aim of such an operation like Op Scorpion (and Op Mille) is to maintain an already successful momentum tackling organised criminal gangs and the disruption of illegal drugs production and supply in Wiltshire, the South West and even wider across the UK.

“This activity helps to deter and prevent further unlawful incidents like modern slavery and human trafficking – commonly linked to international drug gangs – and the anti-social behaviour which often goes hand in hand with this type of criminality and blights communities.

“These arrests and seizures mean that a significant number of drugs have been removed from our towns and rural areas, as well as the disruption of criminal networks which prey on the vulnerable and bring so much misery to people.

“Operation Scorpion is also a great opportunity for us to work together with partners, colleagues and other police forces from across the South West.”

South West regional drugs intensification weeks are a collaboration of five police forces in the South West region – Dorset, Devon & Cornwall, Avon & Somerset, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire - and their Offices of the Police and Crime Commissioners.

Anyone with information about illegal drugs activity should report it to police online or by using the non-emergency 101 number. Always call 999 in an emergency.

Alternatively, you can pass information anonymously to the independent charity CrimeStoppers, 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year on 0800 555 111 or you can use their non-traceable online form

Cannabis farms are often run by organised gangs who exploit vulnerable people and damage local communities.

The victims never benefit from the crimes they are forced to commit.

Don't let it impact your community. Tell us.

TAKE CONTROL

#NoPlaceForDrugs



Behind-the-Scenes Tour

Join the team on one of our behind-the-scenes tours of the charity's airbase. By joining us, you will gain an insight into how we run our lifesaving service.

We will be opening the doors to our airbase to give our guests a unique experience.

The tour will cover our flight room, helicopter hangar and simulation room.

All monies raised will go directly to help save lives in Wiltshire, Bath and the surrounding areas.



Please note, the tour will be led by our charity team and as this will be an operational day, we cannot guarantee the crew or helicopter will be present during your visit.

During the tour guests will be on their feet for up to two hours. While walking around the base it will include 22 stairs up to our viewing platform (however there is a lift at this location) and 22 stairs down to the hangar. Please advise us in advance if you would struggle with this.

Full details and how to book can be found [here](#)



Brew with the Crew for Easter



Come and join us at our popular Brew with the Crew event this Easter.

This is your chance to visit our Airbase in Semington and enjoy a relaxing brew and tasty treat while our lifesaving crew of pilots, doctors and paramedics mingle and chat with guests.

The event is being held during the Easter holiday's, so is perfect for all of the family and alongside the tea & cake there will be some Children's activities available.

Don't miss out, book your place today.

Please note, our aircraft will be operational therefore we cannot guarantee it will be present during your visit.

Full details and how to book can be found [here](#)

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MISSIONS
LAST WEEK

Last week

We attended incidents in and around Amesbury, Bath, Bradford-on-Avon, Calne, Chippenham, Marlborough, Melksham, Royal Wootton Bassett, Salisbury, Swindon, Trowbridge, Warminster, Westbury, Bristol and Somerset.

Report



Wiltshire Council

Latest news from the Council

Wiltshire Council's £22m extra investment making a huge difference on the county's roads

Published 3 March 2025

Wiltshire Council's extra investment into its roads is improving highways throughout the county, with more roads resurfaced, more potholes filled, and more gullies emptied in every part of Wiltshire.

- More than 114 miles of roads resurfaced, surface dressed and retextured over 154 sites.
- More than 7.3 miles of roads repaired by Bobcat machines across 574 sites.
- 14,758 potholes repaired following reports from the public in 2024.
- 89% of top priority potholes repaired within one day.
- More than 70,000 gullies - over 80% of all gullies in Wiltshire - attended this financial year to prevent flooding.
- Three teams of engineers completing CCTV drainage inspection work.

The council has invested an extra £22m over two years into improving its roads and footpaths and preventing flooding, and this is on top of the £20.7m it receives from the Government to fund highways maintenance.

One of the key things that the funding has paid for is two Bobcat machines, which are tackling potholes around the county. These machines can remove and replace large areas of road in a matter of minutes, making high quality, permanent repairs to the road surface, before moving on to the next job.

So far this financial year, the Bobcats have repaired more than 7.3 miles of road in the county across 574 sites - with many more sites to come.

More potholes are also being filled when

reported to the council, with priority one potholes (which should be fixed in one day according to the council's Highways Inspection Manual) taking an average of 0.7 days to fix and 89% repaired within the one day timeframe, and priority two potholes (fixed within 14 days) taking an average of 8.3 days to repair.

But the council's approach to tackling potholes isn't just about cure - it is doing a lot of preventative work by also investing in more resurfacing and other road treatments such as surface dressing and retexturing. It is on track to complete more than 114 miles of resurfacing, surface dressing and retexturing this financial year throughout the county.

Another key focus of the extra funding is flood prevention, in the form of both gully emptying and maintenance, and also drainage inspection work to identify drainage issues and engineer solutions.

Cllr Nick Holder, Cabinet Member for Highways, said: "Other councils around the country may be cutting budgets, but we're investing in Wiltshire's highways to fix problems, and more importantly to prevent issues before they happen - improving our road networks for years to come and meeting one of our key Business Plan objectives.

"We know that there is still work to do, but we also know that things are improving in Wiltshire, as evidenced in the recent Department for Transport road condition survey.

"We have doubled our resurfacing and surface treatments, fixed more potholes and invested in two Bobcat machines to repair large patches of road at once.

"We have also emptied more gullies than ever before to prevent flooding and invested in three teams of engineers who are completing CCTV drainage inspection work - up from one in the previous year.

"There is much more to do, but we are focused on improving our





highways network, and our significant investment is paying off in all parts of Wiltshire."

Reuse revolution comes to Devizes as new Reuse Shop opens

Published 28 February 2025

Kennet Furniture Refurbiz (KFR), in partnership with Wiltshire Council and FCC Environment, has opened a new Reuse Shop at their unit on Hopton Industrial Estate in Devizes (on Friday 28 February 2025).

The shop will provide an opportunity for good quality items with life left in them to be donated at Household Recycling Centres (HRCs) throughout Wiltshire. The pre-loved items will make their way to the shop where shoppers can bag a 'new to you' bargain, do their bit for the environment and help raise funds for a local charity.

Daniel Thompson, Operations Manager at KFR, said: "At KFR, we believe in the power of community and sustainability. Our partnership with Wiltshire Council and FCC Environment embodies our commitment to giving furniture a second life, reducing waste, and creating a brighter future for all."

The Reuse Shop represents a commitment to sustainability and community support by aligning with Wiltshire Council's environmental and social goals.

Cllr Dominic Muns, Wiltshire Council Cabinet Member for Environment and Waste, said: "This Reuse Shop will mean residents can pick up quality items at an affordable price while helping to reduce waste as much as possible.

"KFR do brilliant work in our local community helping people to access affordable furniture and white goods and I'm really pleased that we can support their work through this initiative.

"Our household recycling centres are

particularly busy at this time of year so there will be a good range products available. I would encourage people to visit the shop and see what's on offer, but also to donate any items they no longer need at their local HRC so they can be refurbished and given a new home."

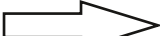
FCC has been instrumental in enhancing the visibility and convenience of reuse at the council-owned HRCs. Chris Ellis, FCC's Operations Director Waste & Recycling commented, "Our goal is to make it as easy as possible for residents to donate items for reuse. All eight of the recycling centres operated by FCC on behalf of Wiltshire now accept a range of products for reuse, providing an accessible location to donate any underappreciated items residents have stowed away in the corners of their homes. Keep an eye out for the orange bicycles on our sites and ask members of staff for help!"

Wiltshire Council budget confirmed for 2025/26 with prevention continuing to be the council's top priority

Published 27 February 2025

Wiltshire Council's budget for 2025/26 has been approved with its strong long-term focus on prevention ensuring it can continue to invest in key services for residents, communities and businesses while living within its means.

The budget was debated and agreed at the meeting of Full Council on 25 February.

The confirmed Wiltshire Council budget for 2025/26 is £527.42m, compared to last year's £490m. There will be a net £37m increase in spending on services, ensuring the resources are provided to deliver the council's Business Plan priorities. In addition, around £53m has been added into the 2025/26 service budgets to support the delivery of services that are focussed on the council's preventative and early help work, delivering the best 



outcomes for the residents of Wiltshire.

The council's strong financial foundations mean it doesn't need to increase the Wiltshire Council element of its council tax as much as it is permitted to by Government - being one of the few councils in the country in this position. Therefore, it will increase it by 4.5% (2.5% for basic council tax and a 2% adult social care levy) rather than the full 4.99% permitted. This sees an increase of £1.56 per week for those in a Band D property for the Wiltshire Council element of council tax. The adult social care levy will raise £7m and will help to fund the £20m of inflation and demand growth that has been built into the Adult Social Care budget.

The most significant areas of Wiltshire Council spend in 2025/26 will be:

- Adult services - £194m
- Families and children - £75m
- Highways and transport - £43.4m
- Environment (including waste) - £49.5m
- Education and skills - £38m

Although the council has received some extra social care funding from government of around £4.8m, challenges have emerged following confirmation of its local government finance settlement which the council had to respond quickly to. Through changes to government grants and the impact of employees' national insurance contributions, Wiltshire Council has almost £7 million less funding this year. The most significant loss of funding was via the stopping of the Rural Services Delivery Grant, which was designed to enable large rural authorities like Wiltshire to meet the extra costs involved in delivery of services across a wide geography with significant travel times - issues not faced by urban authorities.

The council's capital programme outlines the authority's commitment to invest in the infrastructure of the county. The capital

programme for 2025/26 has been budgeted at around £253m. It is likely the capital budget will change throughout the year as it's common for time frames on major capital projects to evolve, particularly given the external influences that the council cannot directly control.

Some of the capital spend in 2025/26 will include:

- Council house building and stock refurbishment - £40.5m
- SEND provision including Silverwood school - £28.6m
- Structural maintenance and bridges - £16.2m
- Refurbishment of council housing stock - £15.3m
- Trowbridge leisure centre - £14m (with more budgeted for the next two years)
- A350 Chippenham bypass phases 4 & 5 - £13.9m
- Highways investment plan- £10.4m
- Schools' maintenance and modernisation - £8.1m
- Environmental and waste projects - £8.1m
- Wiltshire Ultrafast Broadband and Wiltshire Online - £1.1m

The council is in a strong position, but just like other local authorities across the country it faces challenges and the need to make savings - ensuring it is as efficient as it can be while still providing essential high-quality services. Inflation continues to affect council contracts, while the changes to National Insurance Contributions will also have a detrimental financial impact, as well as the increasing challenges of the investment needed to manage the growing demand and complexity for vulnerable people.





Council welcomes publication of National Highways' M4 to Dorset Coast Study and what it could mean for Wiltshire's roads

Published 11 March 2025

Following the publication of National Highways' M4 to Dorset Coast Connectivity Strategic Study, Wiltshire Council has welcomed its findings and what they could mean for Wiltshire's road network in the future.

The current network makes use of both the A36 and A46, via Bath and then through Wiltshire via Warminster and Salisbury. The study also looks at this network and the potential to adopt an alternative corridor as the main strategic route for the area.

The study highlights this alternative corridor as the A350 from the M4, via Chippenham, Melksham and Westbury, before then moving to the A36 at Warminster via Salisbury and then south. Based on the findings of the study, a programme of road upgrades could then be made to improve this corridor to link the M4 to the Dorset coast.

Parvis Khansari, Corporate Director - Place, said: "We very much welcome this study, which identifies the A350 and then the A36 as the key corridor from the M4 south to Dorset.

"Much of this route runs through Wiltshire, and so it has huge implications for our county's road network and it now means that highways improvements could be made at several key points in the county, including at Melksham, Westbury, Warminster and Salisbury.

"We will now consider the study's findings and we will support National Highways to move the study's recommendations forward and develop a programme of developments to secure further investment into our roads.

National Highways report can be read [here](#).



Edington and Tinhead W.I.

The Darker Side of Wiltshire –Tales of Murder ,Witches, Ghosts, Highwaymen and more!

The speaker at our March meeting was Clare Dimond Mills, a local historian and we knew from previous experience that she is lively and engaging. All her stories are based on thorough research of contemporary documents, court proceedings and eyewitnesses accounts.

In 1841 a man accused of killing Anne Little defended himself: " I beat her many times before and she didn't die". Found guilty, he was deported for life to Norfolk Island , " a hell on earth". Florrie, a farmer's wife was thrown down the well, for being unfaithful. The well has a glass cover in what is now The Red Lion, Avebury. If a bearded man sits by the well, Florrie is reputed to rise up, looking for her lover! A hand, clutching playing cards, was found in the wall of The Haunch of Venison in Salisbury. Was it a 'Glory Hand' to ward off evil? There is a long history of witches in the city. The Cherhill Gang of Highwaymen in the mid 18th century eventually came to a bad end after a successful career, betrayed by their leader. Sally in the Woods, a road into Bath, is reputedly the most haunted place in Wiltshire.

We then celebrated the founding of Edington WI in 1938. Delicious home- made cake, copies of minutes and programme of that first meeting , and slides of contemporary Edington photos rounded off a memorable evening.

It had been an enthralling talk, but as Edington didn't feature, we had no qualms in walking home, torches in unwavering grasp.

Next month's speaker on 8th April at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall will be Fiona Frise on The Military Life. Visitors are welcome.



Village Musings

How lucky we are to live alongside the farming community in our village! It is endlessly fascinating to walk past the arable fields and see the crops growing – wondering whether the autumn sowings will make it through the winter, or the spring sowings will survive a dry



or wet or cold spring. To see the sheep clearing the fields of green manure, leaving them ready for the next crop. To see the early lambs gambolling next to their mothers. To watch the farmyard animals thriving.



In this season, farmers who have ewes in lamb set their alarms to ring every two or three hours throughout the night so that they can get up, put on their wellies and coats, and go out to check on the ewes and to help where necessary with the lambing in the icy night air. Then they get up early in the morning to pick up the sunlit daily tasks. And always with a cheerful attitude and a real commitment to our local community as well as the wider country.

Watching the farming year unfold is one of my favourite aspects of living in this beautiful village.





EDINGTON PARISH HALL COMMITTEE INVITES YOU TO



**celebrating,
encouraging
& supporting
volunteers**

At an Open Morning at Edington Parish Hall to celebrate Village Halls Week (with tea, coffee and homemade cake)

ON SATURDAY 22 ND MARCH FROM 10AM TO 12 NOON

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 classes, groups, clubs and events that offer a great opportunity to socialise and make new friends. If you have recently moved to the area, you will be particularly welcome. We look forward to seeing you on 22nd March.

The following will be in attendance: -

- Edington Parish Hall Committee
- Edington & District Gardening Club
- Edington Brass
- Village Volunteers Group – more people are needed to help keep the village looking great!
- Best Kept Village entry organiser - can Edington repeat the success of previous entries if everyone becomes involved? Come and find out what you can do to help.
- Let's Move Dance Fitness – as well as running Dance fitness classes, Ellen also helps run The Footlights whose aim is to give young people the opportunity to take part in theatrical productions and an annual pantomime. If you have children who would enjoy this do come and chat to Ellen.
- Tai Chi
- The Three Villages Minibus – more drivers are needed. Can you help?
- The Four Villages Link – more volunteers are needed, especially drivers. Can you spare some time to help out with what is a lifeline for many people?
- Edington Priory Church – volunteers are always needed for grass cutting, cleaning and flowers; why not join the choir or the bell ringers?
- Friends of Edington Priory Church
- Edington Arts
- Edington Music Festival within the Liturgy – taking place this year from 17th to 24th August. Could you offer accommodation to the choristers and adult choir members? Help is always needed with car parking, the Tea Hut, and stewards are need to welcome people for each of the services.
- The Rotary Club of Westbury - a well established club with members from a variety of professions and backgrounds, who are constantly looking for fresh ideas and energies to enable even more community activities.

If you are unable to come to the Open Morning but would like to find out more, please email parishhall@edingtonwiltshire.org.uk and we will forward your details to the relevant organisation.



Waders around Edington – Part 2

On the 2nd of March 2025, we visited the Wildlife & Wetlands Trust at Slimbridge to see if we could see the last of the winter migrants about to head north and the first spring migrants coming in from the south. These migrants include both waders and waterfowl.

The reserve is of course famous for the overwintering Bewick's Swans who fly in from Artic Russia in early November every year. By the time of our visit there just two Bewicks still on the reserve. The vast majority of the overwintering 70 plus Bewicks left on 22nd February when there was a clear sky providing them with the perfect conditions to set off for their migration back to Arctic Russia.

Interestingly, this year there was also a pair of whooper swans overwintering at Slimbridge among the Bewick's. They arrive in the UK from Iceland every winter but are usually found at other sites like WWT Welney on the Ouse Washes. An interesting fact is that of the 16,000 migrating pairs of whoopers flying in every year, some 24 pairs actually stay and nest in the UK

But I digress. I went to Slimbridge to see the migratory and resident waders. At all times of the year, you are likely to see redshanks, black-tailed godwits, lapwings, little-ringed plovers, ruffs, avocets and oystercatchers. In fact, I had the most wonderful view of a pair of oystercatchers from one of the hides, foraging on the wet grassland. They were digging their long beaks into the soft mud to catch earthworms and insect larvae. I sat watching them entranced for some time before being dragged away by my family.

The last of the winter visitors to be seen at Slimbridge are dunlins, lapwings, golden plovers, bitterns and water rails. Spring will bring an influx of snipe, jack snipe, dunlins,

curlews, oystercatchers, green and common sandpipers.

Slimbridge is a wonderful place to get to know our waders and other waterfowl. The following are a few more examples of wader species one would be likely to see locally around Wiltshire.

Oystercatcher

The oystercatcher is very noisy wading bird with a loud piping call. It is a fairly large, distinctive glossy black-and-white bird, with pink legs and a long bright orange-red beak. It also has a red eye with a red ring around it. In flight, it shows a broad white bar on each wing and a white rump that extends up the back in a narrow V.

It is found on the UK coasts throughout the year, with numbers boosted by migrants from Norway and Iceland in winter. Some move inland to nest in spring and summer, when it can often be found on wetlands and fields. It is now found all year round at places like Slimbridge, Langford Lakes and the Coate Water Country Park.



Oystercatcher (del. S.F. Henning)

On the coast, it specialises in eating shellfish, particularly cockles and mussels, which it either prises off or hammers open with its strong, flattened bill. Inland in freshwater habitats it feeds on earthworms





and insect larvae.

Originally a coastal species, the oystercatcher has moved further inland over the last 50 years to breed on fresh waterways and lakes. Locally it has been found breeding at the Coate Water Country Park and at Slimbridge.

Green sandpiper

The green sandpiper has a very dark, blackish-brown back, speckled with faint, fine white spots. The head and breast are a slightly paler, streakier brown. The belly is very white, with a sharp distinction between it and the streaky brown breast. The long legs and fairly long beak are greyish green. In flight it shows a white rump and a white tail with thick black bars, as well as very dark underwings.

It is often found on inland waterbodies, picking its way around the muddy margins. It can turn up on surprisingly small, muddy puddles. It is usually on its own, rather than in flocks. Like other sandpipers, it bobs its body up and down as it walks.



Green sandpiper (del. S.F. Henning)

It is one of the first overwintering waders to return to the UK. Some arrive as early as June, whilst other birds are still making their way north! The green sandpiper breeds in Russia and Scandinavia, though occasionally a pair or two nests in Scotland. Most summer

and autumn visitors just stop off on their way to southern Europe or northern Africa, but some stay for the winter. It can be found locally and has recently been recorded at Foxfield near Marlborough and at Langford Lakes.

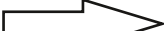
Common sandpiper

It looks similar to green sandpipers but is slightly smaller and not as dark on top. The upperparts are a warm brown, whilst the underparts are white. A useful feature is that the white feathers reach up the sides of the body, forming a spur between the brown feathers of the breast and the wings.

The common sandpiper usually crouches down and often bobs the rear of its body. In flight it has a bold white bar on each wing, and the brown of its back extends down onto the tail. It has a distinctive flight style, low over the water with rapid bursts of wingbeats and short glides. Listen out for its high-pitched 'swee swee' call.



Common sandpiper (del. S.F. Henning)

The common sandpiper breeds in the UK, on upland rivers and reservoirs in the north and west. It migrates south for the winter, heading to coastal West Africa. As they head south in late summer and autumn, they make pit stops in other parts of 



the UK, as do migrants from continental Europe. They can be seen from March to September at Slimbridge, Langford Lakes and the Cotswold Water Park.

Ruff

The ruff is incredibly variable bird, in size as well as plumage! It has a plump body, a long neck, and a head that looks too small for it. The legs are yellowish-orange and the medium-length beak curves down slightly. For most of the year, adult ruffs are fairly plain with a scaly-looking grey-brown back and paler belly.

In spring, the male develops an incredible new look, with plumes on its head and a huge feathery ruff around its neck. Some of the early returning males in summer may still have traces of this plumage.

It feeds on insects and their larvae especially midges, craneflies and caddis flies. On migration they will also feed on other flies, beetles, small fish, shellfish, worms and even plant material.



The ruff has a head that looks too small for it (del. S.F. Henning)

The ruff will feed in both freshwater and saltwater marshes and often turns up inland. You can sometimes find it feeding on wet grassland, too. It can be found locally at Slimbridge Langford Lakes and wetlands around Swindon.

The ruff once nested across Britain, but its wetland habitats were drained for farmland and the birds themselves hunted for feathers. Now nesting attempts are rare. Fortunately, it's still commonly seen passing through on migration from Scandinavia and Russia to Africa. Some occasionally stay in the UK for the winter.

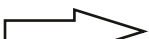


Male ruff displaying in breeding plumage with exotic ruff that can be orange, white or black (del. S.F. Henning)

Little stint

The Little Stint is a tiny wading bird with short black legs, a squat body, and a short, straight beak. It is reddish-brown or grey-brown above and white below, with some smudgy streaking at the breast sides. They turn greyer in winter. Autumn birds have two prominent white stripes or 'braces' down the back.

In Wiltshire it is usually found visiting the edges of lakes and reservoirs. It feeds by picking up food from the surface of the mud or from water but rarely probes the mud with its beak. It eats insects (especially flies and beetles), small worms, tiny shellfish, shrimps and even plant material including seeds.

The Little Stint breeds in the Arctic and winters in Africa, with some stopping off in the UK on its way south. It is most common on the east coast but can also be seen on the west coast and at inland waterbodies. It 



is often found with flocks of dunlin. Recently recorded from the Cotswold Water Park.



Little Stint (del. S.F. Henning)

Avocet

An elegant bird that's mostly white, with black markings on the wings, the back of the neck, and the crown. They have long, blue-grey legs and a slender black beak that curves



Avocet (del. S.F. Henning)

upwards.

The avocet feeds on insects including the larvae of midges and other flies and beetles. It also feeds on shrimps, ragworms and sandhoppers.

It is found in the UK all year round. In summer it nests on coastal lagoons and increasingly on inland wetlands. Most move to the south coast in winter, where it can be found on sheltered estuaries as well as coastal wetlands. Locally it can be seen at Langford Lakes, Slimbridge and at Cricklade, near Swindon.

Stephen Henning

WELL DRESSING 2025



This is last years Well Dressing. We hope to hold another well dressing this year.

Calling any villager who would like to help take it forward.

First meeting **Wednesday 19 March @ 7.30pm in the Three Dagers**

All welcome see you there or contact me for more information.

Liz Pike 01380 830684



A Question

“How could I look my grandchildren in the eye and say I knew what was happening to the world and did nothing” – **David Attenborough**.

A statement you may have heard before? Our planet is changing and there are many little things you can do which all add up. Recycling your refuse waste is one. Did you know that once your recycling is picked up by the truck it goes to a Mixed Recycling Facility (MRF). The centre is in Calne and I was able to visit it and see it in operation recently. The vast warehouse was astonishing, many conveyor belts with surprisingly a lot of analogue technology based on angular projections to sift our sizes of items by tossing them about with paddles! Once the items had been separated magnets removed the ferrous metals and an electric field the alloys. Various other machines used compressed air to blow materials to their correct destinations. Technology is only as good as what it expects to receive, it cannot unfortunately sort out the problem of human goodwill. The contamination from polythene, carrier bags, small electricals including batteries and more all cause problems. Flexible plastic wrappings clog up machinery and I could see many meters of this wrapped around the machinery's sorting mechanisms. My guide was sympathetic to the willingness of people to recycle however as he showed me a worn out car brake drum which was retrieved out of the machinery following a breakdown, it became clear to me my own recycling process at home could really be improved. I saw the final quality control point with human interaction on the conveyor lines removing the final imposters that mechanicals and tech can't yet do for us. I was somewhat saddened that people put the alien items in their recycling bins to begin with. My guide showed me a

piece of tech on trial which illuminates alien items using colours on the belts for humans to pick off, it's not perfect but helps.

I learned that nesting is a problem, this is where materials of different items are placed inside each other for example a cereal box still has it's plastic bag inside, or has other items inside it such as empty tins. I thought cardboard and paper would be easy, how wrong I was! Greasy takeaway pizza boxes are a problem as the contamination from the food can render the material worthless. We're lucky in Edington to have a delivery service coming from a Westbury outlet, so may I ask if you have delivery, tear the clean part of the box off usually the lid and put that in your recycling - sadly the rest in to the residual black bin. I asked what happens to the black bin contents. Landfill really isn't an option these days the contents are made in to fuel for electricity generation. It's something which is very emotive to think we have to burn waste. The methane, a powerful greenhouse gas created by landfill is potentially worse with no recuperation of that energy. How do we reduce both? It's easier than you may think. Segregate your recycling from residual waste, wipe it clean, don't add other materials like flexi plastics, don't nest items inside others and leave them complete don't cut them up in to smaller pieces as they'll fall through the machinery in the MRF or not be sorted as the nested weight it too great, leave bottles loose. Medicine tablet packing, those you know with the plastic base and aluminium press through tops? Sadly they also fall through the machinery sorting so they also have to be placed in the residual waste. What about tin foil I hear you cry that's aluminium, indeed it is so please scrunch it up if it springs back it is flexi plastic so pop it in the residual waste otherwise continue to scrunch up your tinfoil together into the size of a single tennis ball before popping in to your blue lidded recycling bin so it will no longer fall





through the sorting process.

The County is yet to collect Food Waste but 'Simpler Recycling' is coming as confirmed by the Wiltshire Council cabinet, a focus on recycling and also collecting Food Waste. It's happening. Let's get Edington ahead in upping recycling rates for the County with clean segregated materials. Remember don't bag it, clean it, only put the correct items in the blue lidded bin. You can put small electrical appliances about shoebox size on top of your blue lidded bin, used batteries in a clear bag tied up too.

So these pesky flexi plastics.....the cling film and wrappings - drop them back to the supermarket when you shop or hand back to your delivery driver, be kind clean it out especially those pet food pouches!! If you can't, put them in your black residual waste.

Legislation is coming putting more responsibility on the manufacturers to make their packing eco recycling friendly along with a plastic bottle take back scheme which already operates in many countries through reverse vending machines. It's yet to be seen how the UK will apply this, however the principle is you feed your empty PET plastic bottles in to the machine and it will give you a credit per bottle back which you would have been charged at the point of purchase. The system has a social benefit too from reducing littering and increased recycling rates. Is it just me or does the Corona fizzy pop from days gone by spring to mind?

"How could I look my grandchildren in the eye and say I knew what was happening to the world and did nothing" – **David Attenborough.**

I'm doing something, are you?

Mat Tuck



Edington & District Gardening Club

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

For our March meeting, Andrew Tolman came along and explained all about stumperies, shady plants and ferns.

The first stumpery was set up at Biddulph Grange in 1856, built by Edward William Cooke. The stumpery at Highgrove was created in 1995. Oak or sweet chestnut are best, the outer layer of soft wood deteriorates over 40 – 60 years to get the desired stump. To form walls or arches the stumps are interlocked, otherwise they are laid out to form a rockery of stumps. Plants and ferns are planted between. Even a small area of 6' x 3' could be used to create this idea. Andrew gave lots of examples of gardens to go and visit.

The next meeting will be Thursday April 3rd, doors open at 7.00pm. A popular speaker will be returning, Marcel Floyd. He will be talking to us all about climbers and clematis. He will be bringing plants along to sell, so bring your money along to!

Jacky



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



View from the Boundary

Spring is in the air! The sun is out, the temperature is rising and the days are getting longer. It won't be long now before we can take our preseason training outside and enjoy the surroundings of The Walled Garden in all its glory. Until then, we have 2 more indoor net sessions at Lavington School and we hope that they are just, if not more popular than the first few we have had.

We are also excited to welcome our first ever overseas player at Erlestoke CC as Cooper Webster arrives in late March to enjoy a season of cricket and travelling here in the South West. We are so very grateful to club members Des and Sue Moloney, who have kindly volunteered to house Cooper for the summer and allow him to have a season of cricket here in England.

It's not only the ground that is getting prepared at the moment and by the time you read this, the access track leading to the ground will hopefully have had some much-needed treatment. Thanks to those volunteers who were up at the ground early on Saturday to help spread and fill the holes- let's hope it improves the access for all our members and friends that use the ground.

On this note, membership for the new season can now be obtained and will include the fixture card and parking sticker. Please visit the Post Office or via the club's email to renew your membership.

The recent weeks have also seen us working hard to raise funds for the new pavilion with Mike Barton surviving his 24hour Dartathon and the Golf Day both proving very successful. Thanks to the efforts of both events and to The Bell Inn and Erlestoke Sands Golf Club for hosting, we have added

over £2000 to the pavilion funds and now look forward to the Race Night at the end of March which will no doubt only add to the total proceeds made in March. There are still spaces left for the 'The Race Night' for anyone able to get a table of 4 together. Please see our FB page for details.

There is still plenty of time for anyone keen to rekindle their cricketing past to come along and have a practice before the season starts and it has been so nice to have a few new faces come along to nets already. Please get in touch if you'd like any information or are interested in playing this year.

Joe Dorgan

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

Let's Move!
DANCE FITNESS

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



Four Villages Link

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



Are you looking for a way to relax and re-awaken your body into spring?

**Would you like to ease any pain or tension?
Do you feel that some support with physical or emotional healing would be beneficial?**

Biodynamic Craniosacral Therapy and Holistic Massage can help!

Biodynamic Craniosacral Therapy (or BCST) is a very gentle and potent therapy that uses light touch to support and nourish the systems of body, mind and spirit. It can help you to process and release unresolved pain and difficult experiences to bring a greater sense of well-being and ease. Through deep listening, it works with your whole being from the root to give space and support for any compromised parts to come back into health and balance.



BCST was born out of osteopathy and has influences from trauma resolution work and neuroscience. More than 100 years ago, osteopaths highlighted that all living tissue expresses a subtle rhythmic motion which is called Primary Respiration. In healthy tissue, Primary Respiration is full and balanced. However, internal and external stresses such as emotional, physical, psychological and

societal trauma, injury, environmental toxicity, surgery and disease, can compromise these subtle motions and lead to imbalances and health issues. BCST can support your system to let go of these physical and energetic knots, helping to restore health and vitality to your body, mind and spirit.



Holistic Massage uses therapeutic and holistic bodywork techniques including Swedish massage, myofascial release, trigger point work, acupuncture and shiatsu. Particular attention is given to areas that are in pain or discomfort and calling for relief. Holistic Massage supports you to connect more fully with your well-being and the wisdom in your body to aid relaxation and healing.

If you would like to book a Massage or a Craniosacral session, available in Edington, please email: alice@awakeninginthebody.com or telephone Alice on 07946 165 753 - Take advantage of the spring offers available until 31st May 2025: £40 introductory standard session and 4 standard sessions for the price of 3 - check out

www.awakeninginthebody.com

for more information about each healing modality.



Keevil school news – for March 2025

• 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.

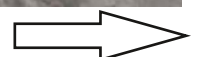
• The beginning of March was Mental Health week and Keevil School took part in several activities throughout the week. The topic of emotions was discussed in every class with the help of the Disney Pixar film 'Inside Out'. The week finished with a 'wear what you like' day to raise money for Place2Be. Thank you to everyone who donated to this very worthy cause.

• Following a recommendation from a Keevil School parent who works in the police force, the CEO and founder of the charity Escapeline spent a day in school talking to Autumn class (Yr 5 and 6) and all the Keevil School parents and carers on the difficult topic of county lines and the grooming of children into criminal gangs. Autumn class explored how gangs recruit and trap young people in their networks through class discussions and role play activities. The parent information session revealed some shocking statistics as well as the four stages of the recruitment process gangs use. The sessions brought to light an extremely important topic which is vital in our efforts to keep children safe, and we will look to deliver the session again in the future as part of our two-year curriculum.

• At the end of February, we had a SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) inspection. The inspector spent a day in the school, talking to the governors, staff, pupils, parents and carers and we are all very proud of the glowing report we received. To have our efforts to create a happy and safe environment where the children can achieve, thrive and blossom recognised by an external professional was very heartening and affirming for us all. The full report can be found on the SIAMS website.



• The children in Summer class enjoyed two trips out of the classroom recently. The first was to Woody's Farm to help plant some trees. The children also enjoyed a tour of the milking parlour and got to sample of some delicious milkshakes after their hard work. Summer





class highly recommend you visit the milkshake vending machine at Woody's Farm when you are next passing! Summer class also spent a morning at The Farm Cookery School in Bromham where they learnt how to make pizzas from scratch (see pics). Delicious! Check out the Farm Cookery School website for weekend and school holiday workshops.



• As part of our World Book Day preparations, the Year 5 children spent an hour at Goodson Lodge in Trowbridge reading to some of the residents. The children enjoyed sharing their favourite books and talking to their reading partners (see pics).



• Our inter-house competition for the term was 'Under the sea'. It was wonderful to see so many fantastic creations coming into school, including moving models, poems,

posters and 3D structures. Congratulations to everyone who entered and a big thank you to Miss Mortimer for coordinating everything.

• Many thanks to FoKS (Friends of Keevil School) for purchasing some new equipment for the playground. This included a set of interlocking scooters, some giant building tiles and lots of skipping ropes and hoops for everyone's enjoyment. Anyone passing the school at playtimes will hear the new equipment being put to good use!

• Talking of FoKS fundraising, the next event is our Quiz Night in Keevil Village Hall on 28th March. We only have space for two more teams so send an email to cjoram21@hotmail.co.uk to reserve your table. Max 6 in a team. £25 to include a cheese board and glass of wine. 7pm for 7.30pm start. We look forward to seeing you there.

• And preparations for the Keevil School Scarecrow Trail are well underway. If you would like to get involved with the event by making a scarecrow or becoming a sponsor, please email cjoram21@hotmail.co.uk. We would love to involve as many local organisations and businesses as possible. The dates are **17th and 18th May**.

Lindsey Hermon, Headteacher
Caroline Noonan, Chair of FoKS

Coffee Morning Drop In



Every Tuesday
10.30 - 11.30 am
in the Three Daggers.

Transport available contact
Pauline or Joy.



“Fancy Meeting You Here”

Many years ago, my parents were on holiday with us in Majorca and were strolling along the seafront when we passed a couple walking in the opposite direction with whom they were acquainted. They greeted each other with the comment “fancy meeting you here”!

On reflection, I do not think that the experience of meeting people we know in unexpected places is uncommon. For instance, on two occasions, Joy and I have crossed paths with people who had lived in Edington but had moved away from the village.

The first was in an hotel in Inverness when we were returning home from a tour of the Outer Hebrides operated by Chandlers coaches. As the hotel was used extensively by large groups, the evening meal was served in a huge dining room and was filled with around 200 people. During the meal I looked around and some distance away, I recognised two people who had been our neighbours in Greatwoods, Audrey and Phil Hickerton and had moved to Trowbridge.. Imagine their surprise when we went across to greet them. They told us that they were on a Great Railway Journeys holiday in celebration of Phils “big birthday” and were travelling to the west coast the following day. You can imagine the bemusement of our fellow diners until we explained the reasons for our familiarity.

On another occasion we were staying in an hotel near Winchester when a voice behind us said “Its Joy and George Fraser”. Looking around, we saw Hazel and Tim Gillingham who had lived in Lower Road before moving to Norfolk some years earlier. They were on a coach tour from Norwich, visiting the New Forest and the south coast and were staying at the hotel for a short break. “Fancy meeting you here” was my response!

It would be interesting to hear from other

readers who have experienced similar situations.

George (and Joy) Fraser

PS Joy has reminded me of a day when we visited Liskeard in Cornwall with her sister and brother-in- law. We were having lunch in a pub when her brother-in-law was approached by a lady who recognised him and wanted to reminisce about the “good old days” when they were students together at the University of Nottingham. The conversation was somewhat subdued. It turned out that she was an ex-girlfriend: hence his desire to curtail the meeting to ensure marital harmony. “Fancy meeting you here” was not the appropriate greeting on that occasion!

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

High Street Great Cheverell - Road Closed 31 March - 2 April

Wessex Water Utility Repairs

Common Hill Steeple Ashton - Road Closed 20 March 09.30 - 15.00

Wiltshire Council road repairs

B3098 Westbury Road Bratton 17 March - 21 March

Traffic Control

Wessex Water Mains replacement

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



Recipe of the month - March

RECIPE OF THE MONTH – QUEEN OF PUDDINGS

A nostalgic comfort food recipe this month; it was so popular at the village lunch that we ran out! If you missed out on this pudding at the lunch, why not make it and enjoy with family and friends!



Serves 8

Ingredients

600ml (1 pint) whole milk
125g white breadcrumbs (or you can use Maderia cake crumbs)
50g butter
Zest of 1 lemon 1 ½ teasp vanilla extract
225g caster sugar
3 eggs – separated
Strawberry or raspberry jam



Method

1. Pre heat the oven, fan 160C, Gas 4. Grease an ovenproof dish. (I use a large round Pyrex dish)
2. Separate the eggs
3. Warm the milk in a medium saucepan over a low heat until just starting to bubble around the edge.
4. Remove from the heat and stir in the butter, lemon zest, vanilla extract, breadcrumbs and 75g of the caster sugar. Leave to soak for 30 minutes until the breadcrumbs have absorbed the milk and the mixture has cooled. Stir in the egg yolks.
5. Bake in the oven for approximately 30 minutes until the mixture has set but still has a slight wobble.
6. Warm approximately 6-8 tablespoons of jam in a small saucepan just to loosen it and then spread over the set custard. It should be a thin layer so adjust the quantity according to the size and shape of the dish.
7. Reduce the oven temperature to fan 120 C, Gas 2.
8. Whisk the egg whites until stiff and gradually add the remaining caster sugar a little at a time whisking between each addition. The meringue should be glossy and stand in peaks.
9. Spoon or pipe the meringue over the jam layer. Sprinkle with 2 teasp caster sugar (this gives a crisp meringue when it is cooked) and bake for approximately 20-30 minutes until the meringue is a pale golden brown and set.
10. Best served warm.

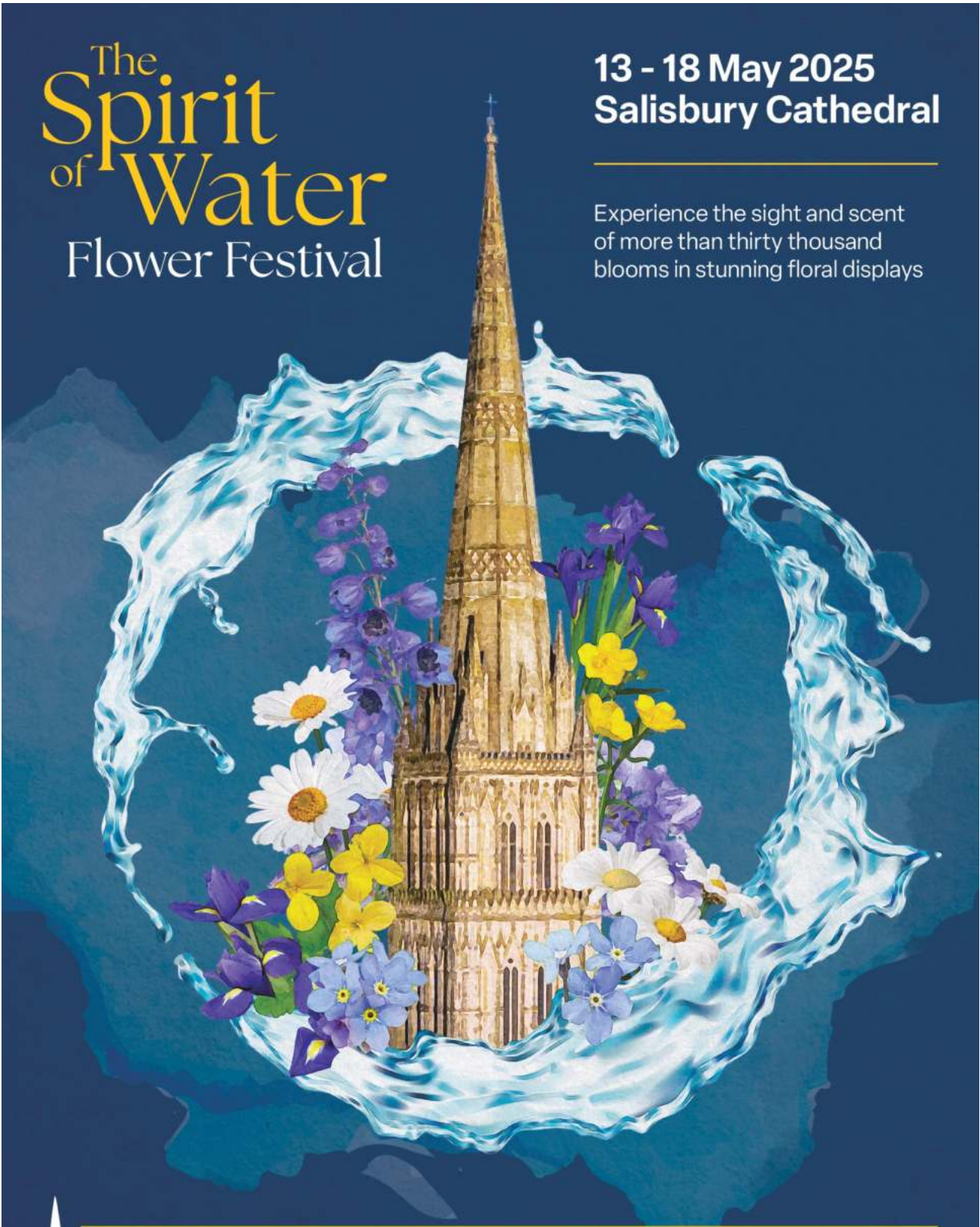
Note: The base, steps 1-6, can be made the day before and once cooled kept in the fridge.



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





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

Westbury's banking hub 'expected by April 2025'

A banking hub could be up and running in Westbury as early as next month.

The town has been without a bank since 2018, when the last remaining branches, Barclays and Lloyds, closed. In response, residents signed a petition launched by local resident Val Jarvis calling for additional banking services.

In April 2024, it was announced that Westbury had been selected as a future location for a banking hub. Now, Cash Access UK—an organisation that provides essential cash services—has confirmed that the service is expected by April 2025, with a property search currently underway.

A spokesperson from Cash Access UK said, "Our team is working hard to find a suitable property for the banking hub in Westbury that meets our requirements. These include size, condition and location. We look forward to sharing positive news on the progress of our search soon and local residents can find updates on the Cash Access UK website."

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

Westbury Town Council has worked closely with Cash Access UK over the last year as the plans progress.

In a comment, the Town Council said, "We are in discussions with Cash Access UK about a banking hub for Westbury and we will release more information when known."

When the banking hub was first announced last year, local MP Andrew Murrison said, "I'm delighted Westbury will get a banking hub. It's essential that people have access to traditional counter services, particularly as not everyone is comfortable with banking online and cashless transactions."

Small rise in crimes reported at Westbury Station

New data has revealed the number of crimes reported at train stations across the UK, showing a small increase at Westbury Station.

At Westbury, the rate of all crime incidents per 100,000 passengers has risen from 3.67 to 8.45 over the last two years according to data from the British Transport Police (BTP). However, the total number of offences remains low, with 10 crimes reported in the 2023-2024 period, compared to 23 in 2024-2025.

Meanwhile, in nearby Dilton Marsh, just one offence at the village's station was recorded for the year.

The BTP emphasised that "every offence is one too many" in relation to the new statistics.

A BTP spokesperson told the





White Horse News, “The chance of becoming a victim of crime on the railway remains extremely low, and reports of high harm crime such as robbery and violence remain low at 2.2 incidents per million passenger journeys. It is important to not sensationalise these statistics and view them within their context. For example, at Westbury station, which has around 270,000 passengers per year, there were 23 reported incidents last year.”

[Read more about this story here](#)

garden with new plant life around the existing tree. Rain gardens help reduce flooding, water pollution, and can be attractive to wildlife.

The project comes in response to long-standing complaints that the current rotunda obstructs views of nearby green spaces, such as Soisy Gardens, and creates an enclosed space conducive to anti-social behaviour. Plans for the redesign have been discussed for several years.

[Read more about this story here](#)

Redevelopment of town’s rotunda expected to begin next month



Work to redesign the rotunda in Westbury’s town centre is set to commence this April, following the selection of a contractor by the town council last year.

The project is expected to be completed by mid-July and is being funded through Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) contributions, a charge collected from housing developers to support local infrastructure projects.

The redesign plans will make use of the existing footprint of the rotunda, creating a granite oval seating area with an additional timber-topped bench. Part of the current plant bed will be removed to create a paved section to improve pedestrian access, while the remaining space will be transformed into a rain

Villages celebrate £86,000 raised over decades for The Children’s Society as bank closures signal end of an era

It’s the ‘end of an era’ in Bratton and Edington, after decades of incredible fundraising for The Children’s Society, which has raised the sum of £86,000.

Since the 1980s, volunteers have organised events to raise money for the charity, which improves the lives of children facing abuse, neglect or exploitation.

One of the events has been the annual distribution of collection boxes to homes in the villages. The boxes were then taken to Bratton Church Institute where the money was counted by volunteers before being taken to a bank. But this task is proving too difficult now and, as a result, a final box collection for the charity was held on Saturday 22nd February.

At the final box collection, a scrapbook about fundraising efforts throughout the years was on display alongside hot drinks and home-made cakes. Pictures and articles detailed pram-pushing events, pub quizzes, scarecrow creations, plant sales and coffee mornings held.

[Read more about this story here](#)



VILLAGE LITTER PICK



**PLEASE HELP CLEAN UP
THE VILLAGE**

MEET IN THE EDINGTON
PARISH HALL CAR PARK

@ **9:30AM** ON

SATURDAY 15th MARCH 2025





Salisbury Plain Training Area (SPTA) firing times: February 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 March 2025 (subject to late changes)

Live firing days on Warminster fixed firing ranges: 17 - 22, 29, 31

Live firing days on Imber ranges, areas 1, 2, 3, 4 (East of Warminster): 17 - 21

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.eph.edingtonwiltshire.org.uk

or email parishhall@edingtonwiltshire.org.uk

Telephone 01380 830441





THREE VILLAGES MINIBUS (TVM)



Destination	March	Start Time
Warminster	Tuesday 18th	1.25pm
Westbury	Every Thursday	1.25pm
Salisbury	Saturday 15th	9.30am
Destination	April	Start Time
Devizes	Thursday 3rd	9.00am
Salisbury	Saturday 12th	9.30am
Warminster	Tuesday 15th	1.25pm
Westbury	Every Thursday	1.25pm

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.

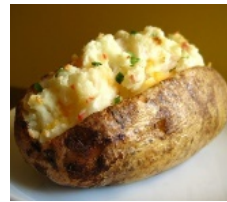
TVM is also available for village groups to hire (contact Pauline on tel:830013).

Our next lunch will be on

Wednesday April 9th

Joy Fraser (830426)

April Lunch in the Parish Hall



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

Mains and a selection of puddings)

on **Wednesday April 9th at 12.30pm.**

in the Parish Hall, Edington.

Price £8.00 in aid of the Three Villages Minibus.

All will be most welcome to join us.



Please let Pauline (tel: 830013) know (by Friday April 4th) 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
March 2025			
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15th March	9.30am	Village Litter Pick	Parish Hall car park
18th March	1.25pm	Warminster Shopping Trip	
19th March	9.30am	Village Volunteers	Parish Hall car park
19th March	7.30pm	Well Dressing meeting	Three Dagers
22nd March	10am-12noon	Edington Parish Hall Open Morning	Parish Hall
28th March	7.30pm	Keevil School Quiz Night	Keevil School

April 2025			
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3rd April	9.00am	Devizes Shopping Trip	
3rd April	7.00pm	Gardening Club talk - Climbers and Clematis	Parish Hall
8th April	7.30pm	WI meeting - Military Life	Parish Hall
9th April	12.30pm	Village Lunch	Parish Hall
12th April	9.30am	Salisbury Shopping Trip	
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

Weekly			
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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			
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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