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## Memories of our first edition

### Edington Village News

ISSUE - 01  
MAY 2020

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#### Latest from the Parish Council

**Edington helpline** - to date we have over 50 volunteers and the helpline has received 22 calls. The helpline can provide assistance with shopping, collecting prescriptions, dog walking and a listening and talking service along with many other things that we can find access too. If you need help please call the helpline and we can help you in these difficult times, if we cannot help we will find someone who can help you.

#### Why the council are producing this newsletter?

Although there are numerous sources of information available in various locations we have started this newsletter to bring together all of the most useful pieces of information for people in one place. If the information you

want is not here ring the helpline and we will try to find it for you.

The Parish Council has received some donations to help villagers experiencing difficulty in these times. If you are struggling to purchase essential items or pay outstanding bills please contact the helpline and we may be able to assist you.

At present we have no clear idea as to how long these difficult times will continue so please contact us before the problem becomes overwhelming. All calls to the helpline will be treated in the strictest confidence.

We are planning to publish this newsletter monthly but may produce it more frequently if there is a change in information or events, the village website will also be updated on a regular basis to help keep everyone up to date with the latest information. The newsletter can be delivered directly to your inbox just visit [www.edingtonwiltshire.org.uk/newsletter](http://www.edingtonwiltshire.org.uk/newsletter) and enter your details.

Don't forget to contact the help line on 07933143021 (available 9am to 6pm, 7 days a week)

#### White Horse Health Centre - latest



#### COVID-19 Surgery Update

White Horse Health Centre would like to reassure our patients that the surgery is not closed. However, following NHS guidance we are operating by booking telephone appointments where possible for the



Welcome to the forty-eighth edition of the Edington Village News. Yes we have been producing this newsletter for four years since we started when Covid was running amok across the world and we felt that there was a need to keep the villagers up to date

with what was happening. Our first edition was published in May 2020 and this along with all of the subsequent editions can be read on the village website.

This month we have an article about the problem of dogs worrying farm animals and the actions of thoughtless people leaving litter and dog mess around in the fields and the impact it has not only on the views of the countryside but also on the farmer's livelihood and their animals health.

Edington and District Gardening Club have been celebrating their 20th birthday with a celebratory evening.

We have another article about life in France and how their farmers react to perceived low prices along with restoring old buildings in their village.

The Under 5's have been busy making Easter biscuits and cupcakes and this month's recipe is for parsnip soup, something warming on a chilly spring day.

Finally Erlestoke and Coulston Cricket Club are starting their junior cricket season shortly and are looking for more youngsters to join them on a Monday evening.





## 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**

**Dr Edwards & Partners**

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

### Courtyard Surgery, West Lavington



**Telephone 01380 813 300**  
**For medical emergencies dial 999**

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

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

## Friends of Courtyard Surgery

The AGM for FOCS will be held on Tuesday 9th April 2024 at 6.30pm in the surgery. Any patients wanting to join us would be most welcome.



## Wiltshire Police

### National initiative Operation Recall asks dog owners to keep dogs under control around livestock

The Operation Recall week of action running nationally from the March 27 to April 3 and is hoping to highlight such issues around livestock worrying with a view to protect livestock and dogs. Wiltshire Police is supporting the operation across the county.

Superintendent Doug Downing, strategic lead for rural crime said: "Weather permitting, we hope that you will be able to get out and enjoy the Wiltshire Countryside this Easter weekend. But please be considerate and keep your dogs under control on a lead when walking anywhere near to livestock."

"We are in the peak season for lambing and the consequences of having ewes and lambs attacked or chased can have an emotional and serious financial consequence for farmers.

"It is a criminal offence and can mean the dog owner could face prosecution and a fine of up to £1000, in the most serious case."

In Wiltshire, we have an average of 2 reports of livestock worrying each month and believe that many more go unreported. Please report attacks you see happening.

Kate Salmon, Operation Recall lead for Naturewatch Foundation, said, "The consequences of attacks for all animals involved can be devastating. Some people go out for a walk with their dog, or unknowingly allow their dog to escape their property and return home without their family pet. With more awareness and self-responsibility, people can enjoy their pets, whilst keeping them and livestock safe. We're calling for everyone to protect their dog and protect livestock."

The RSPCA's advice is to keep





dogs on leads around livestock, and Geoff Edmond, national wildlife coordinator at the RSPCA, said: "No one wants to see animals suffer and whilst the vast majority of dog owners take care as a matter of course, sadly accidents can happen and even the most docile and obedient dogs can get distracted and excited by grazing animals. By listening to the advice and getting behind Operation Recall the public can end such unnecessary incidents. Some actions in life we can't avoid. This one we can.'

Operation Recall was born in 2023, with national animal welfare charities, including Cheshire Police Rural Crime Unit, Naturewatch Foundation and the RSPCA, joining forces with the National Rural Crime Unit (NRCU) and police forces to launch the strategic project to tackle the issue across the country. National figures suggest that, as a consequence of dog attacks on farm animals, at least one dog is shot a week.

Find out more about livestock worrying and how to report it on the Wiltshire Police website:

<https://bit.ly/3tlc3tV>

**If you see a dog worrying or attacking livestock please call 999 or report online at**

<https://www.wiltshire.police.uk/ro/report/rwc/rural/report-rural-crime/>

**or call 101 after an occurrence.**

## Road units honoured by High Sheriff

**Published:05/04/2024**

Various units dedicated to keeping the public safe on our roads have been honoured for their work by the county's High Sheriff.

On his penultimate day in office, Wiltshire High Sheriff Pradeep Bhardwaj attended the Force headquarters in Devizes yesterday (04/04) to award certificates to the Roads Policing Unit, Serious Collision Investigation Team, Forensic Collision Investigation Unit, Speed Enforcement Team and Specials Road Safety Unit.

The awards were in recognition of the units' work on the county's roads, from targeting driving offences and speeders to investigatory and forensic work when a collision has occurred.

He said: "Today is to celebrate the hard work that each one of you does.

"I'd like to personally thank each one of you for all the good things you do day in and day out."

The awards also paid tribute to the Force wide road safety campaign which was introduced last summer following a high number of fatal and serious injury collisions.

The five teams worked together on the campaign which resulted in a 25 per cent reduction in the number of serious and fatal collisions last year.

As part of the campaign, the Roads Policing Unit introduced Project Zero, which continues to take place every Wednesday and sees specific locations in the county inundated with RPU officers targeting the 'Fatal Five' offences.

RPU is supported by the Specials Road Safety Unit, a volunteer unit which involves officers giving up their free time to aid RPU with their work.

The Serious Collision Investigation Team heads up the investigation of all serious injury and fatal road traffic collisions. Their professionalism and hard work, often in extremely distressing circumstances, saw 38 per cent of collisions attended in 2023 either charged or with a case being built as a potential prosecution case.

The Forensic Collision Investigation Unit provides the forensic response to all serious injury and fatal collisions gathering evidence by various scientific techniques to reconstruct the collision. Their tireless work at scenes, no matter the time of day or weather, is key to the success of many cases brought to court.

The Speed Enforcement Team, as well as their daily work around the county, assists RPU with Project Zero days of action. On average last year they dealt with 686 speeding drivers a month.





The High Sheriff added: "All five of the teams have worked together to help reduce serious and fatal collisions in Wiltshire by 25 per cent in the last year.

"We all agree that one serious or fatal collision is one too many and we cannot count how many lives these teams have saved."

The awards ceremony was also attended by Chief Constable Catherine Roper.

She said: "These teams work incredibly hard to make sure we're safe on our roads.

"The success of the road safety campaign last year is testament to the incredible amount of work that they do and continue to do to ensure that the public is as safe as possible on our roads.

"It is right that they are recognised for their outstanding work."



## Right Care Right Person

**Published: 19/03/2024**

Wiltshire Police is working with partners to roll out a national operational model aiming to ensure vulnerable people get the right support from the right agency when they need it.

Right Care Right Person was initially instigated by Humberside Police in 2019 following an increase in health related calls which did not fall within the core responsibilities of policing.

A national partnership agreement has since been signed at ministerial level for Right Care Right Person to be rolled out across all police areas.

Temporary Chief Superintendent, Force Operations and the Crime and Communications Centre, David Minty said: "Right Care Right

Person is focused on giving the most appropriate and beneficial care to members of our communities. There are circumstances where our partners are best placed to offer support to vulnerable people."

### Threat to life

Right Care Right Person will not stop the police attending incidents where there is a threat to life or risk of immediate serious harm to an individual. We have a duty to protect our communities and we will continue to do so.

Within the Wiltshire Police area, the first phase of Right Care Right Person will be implemented from Monday 8 April.

This first phase will apply to calls for service about concern for the welfare of a person, those who have walked out of a healthcare setting and people who are absent without leave (AWOL) from mental health services.

A second phase will follow relating to medical incidents including requests for transportation of patients.

The Right Care Right Person model will not be applicable to children when it is initially rolled out within the Wiltshire Police area.

### Partnership working

Wiltshire Police is working closely with partner agencies to deliver Right Care Right Person. The College of Policing is also supporting the implementation across all police force areas with a national toolkit including operational guidance.

Gill May, Chief Nurse, Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire Integrated Care Board, said: "A mental health crisis is every bit a medical emergency as a severe physical injury, and it's only right that vulnerable people in these challenging situations are cared for appropriately and in environments that can ensure their wellbeing is maintained.

More information about Right Care Right Person is available on the Wiltshire Police website. [Click here for more.](#)



## Protect your dog. Protect livestock.



Play your part in  
ending dog attacks  
on animals.

*Keep your dog safe.*

SIGN THE PLEDGE:



MORE INFO:



@naturewatch.org



@naturewatch\_org



@naturewatchfoundation

[naturewatch.org](http://naturewatch.org)



## Wiltshire Council

### News from Wiltshire Council

#### Families encouraged to check if they are eligible for free school meals

**Published 2 April 2024**

Wiltshire Council is encouraging families to access healthy lunchtime free school meals in reception and years one and two, and to check if they remain eligible in year three and above. The initiative helps to save families more than £350 per year.

All infant school children, those in reception, year one and year two have been entitled to free school meals since September 2014. All families need to do is tell their school that they want their child or children to continue to have free school meals. If families are in receipt of a qualifying benefit, their school will also receive a pupil premium of £1,385 per pupil. This funding is provided to all schools by the government to enable schools to help children from lower income families achieve their very best.

For children in years three and above, free school meals are not provided automatically. They can be awarded if the family receive any of the following benefits:

- Income support
- Job seeker's allowance (income-based)
- Employment and support allowance (income-related)
- support under part six of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child tax credit - providing they are not entitled to Working Tax Credit and your family's annual income (as assessed by HMRC) is not more than £16,190 (as of 6 April 2012)
- Working tax credit 'run-on' - the payment you may receive for a further four weeks after you

stop qualifying for working tax credit Universal credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods)

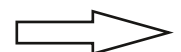
If a family receives these benefits, their school will also continue to receive the pupil premium of £1,385 per pupil. If a family that receives these benefits would still like their school to benefit from the extra funding provided but does not want their child to have free school meals, they must still register for free school meals. For every child registered the school receives £985 for secondary-aged pupils or £1,385 for primary-aged pupils.

Laura Mayes, Cabinet Member for Education and Skills, said: "Free school meals ensure that all children can benefit from a healthy meal at lunchtime, and also provides schools with additional funding to support children from lower income families to achieve their full potential.

"Free school meals are available for all children from reception until year two, and I would encourage all families to check if they are eligible to continue receiving free school meals from year three as this can represent a saving of more than £350 per year. If children are eligible to continue to receive free school meals, their school will also continue to receive the premium of either £985 or £1,385 extra per eligible pupil, which really helps schools to ensure all children have the very best start in life."

Free school meal applications for all primary schools are managed by Wiltshire Council. However, a small number of secondary schools manage their own applications and will advise parents on their process.

Registering for free school meals is confidential, no one will know a family has registered and it will not affect any other benefits they are claiming. Families can [apply online](#), or by printing and returning the form on [our web-site](#).





## Air Quality Action Plan formally adopted by Wiltshire Council

Published 4 April 2024

Wiltshire Council has formally adopted its Air Quality Action Plan, which details how it will continue to progress with improvements to air quality and health protection across the county.

The Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) fulfils the council's statutory duties, as set out by the Local Air Quality Management Framework. It outlines the action the council will take to improve air quality in Wiltshire up to 2029. The action plan replaces the previous AQAP, which ran from 2015-2023.

The council currently has eight Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA) declared in the county. These are Salisbury (in three separate areas within the city), Bradford-on Avon, Westbury, Marlborough, Devizes and Calne. An AQMA is an area where the local air quality is unlikely to meet the Government's national air quality objectives, so the council applies special measures to make improvements.

Projects delivered directly and indirectly through the previous action plan include:

Ensuring Air Quality was incorporated into wider spatial planning and transport policy. Supporting the implementation of LTP (Local Transport Plan) 3, where it brings about improvements in Air Quality. Including implementing key junction improvements identified by the Devizes Transport Strategy (including acceleration of A361/London Road junction improvements, and addition of new cycle towpaths improvements / contraflow cycle lane).

- Establishment of local air quality groups to spearhead their own local initiatives to improve air quality within Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA's).
- Supporting bids to OLEV and for the introduction of electric buses in Salisbury.
- Developing revised Supplementary Planning Guidance on air quality for developers.
- Developing a dedicated Air Quality website

giving access to data to Wiltshire residents and others.

- Introducing a Know and Respond text service for vulnerable people to alert them of poor air quality episodes.

The council has designed actions that can be considered under the following broad topics:

- Alternatives to private vehicle use
- Environmental permits
- Freight and delivery management
- Policy guidance and development control
- Promoting low emission transport
- Promoting low emission plant
- Promoting travel alternatives
- Public information
- Transport planning and infrastructure
- Traffic management
- Vehicle fleet efficiency

The action plan was formally adopted by Wiltshire Council's Cabinet at its meeting on 19 March. This followed a period of consultation with a number of stakeholders last year, including National Highways, neighbouring local authorities, the Environment Agency, Defra and members of the public.

Wiltshire Council Cabinet Member for Waste and Environment, Cllr Dominic Muns, said: "I'm pleased we have finalised this action plan following a robust process and really worthwhile consultation. It is important that the plan will develop over time, and it sets out clear direction and priorities to support our efforts to improve air quality throughout the county.

"It is our responsibility to drive this plan forward but, alongside partners and the public, we all have a collective responsibility to do what we can to continue the progress which has seen pollutant trends moving towards an overall improvement in air quality in the county."

[View the cabinet report and full Air Quality Action Plan.](#)



## Edington Parish Council News

At a recent meeting of the parish council we were disappointed to hear about the amount of rubbish and dog poo being left in some of the fields in the village. Not only is this unsightly but also potentially harmful to any animals grazing in these fields. A field is not a recreation area but part of a farmers business and any loss of animals or crops affects a farmers income. Access to fields along public footpaths is obviously permitted but people are expected to respect the countryside and not leave rubbish etc. in the fields. The parish council are supporting the Wiltshire Police initiative Operation Respect which was highlighted earlier in this newsletter.

Find out more about livestock worrying and how to report it on the Wiltshire Police website:

<https://bit.ly/3tlc3tV>

**If you see a dog worrying or attacking livestock please call 999 or report online at**

<https://www.wiltshire.police.uk/ro/report/rwc/rural/report-rural-crime/>

**or call 101 after an occurrence**

### What is livestock worrying?

Wiltshire is undoubtedly a beautiful rural county and agriculture dominates 73% of the landscape. It is only natural that people delight in exploring the open spaces but there is a need to respect the countryside too and especially so when out walking with a dog.

Livestock worrying is when a dog attacks or chases livestock in rural or any agricultural areas. No matter how well behaved you think your dog is, it's every dog's instinct to chase, even if they are usually obedient and good with other animals.

When a dog chases livestock it can result in significant injury or suffering and in the worst cases, death of the animals involved.

### Spreading disease

There is growing evidence of the links between two specific diseases in livestock and the presence on grazing land of faeces from infected dogs. The two diseases are:

- Neosporosis – which can cause abortions in cattle
- Sarcocystosis – which can cause neurological disease and death in sheep

### **Wiltshire Rural Crime Team is asking people to remember the following when enjoying the lovely Wiltshire countryside:**

- Keep dogs on a short lead when around livestock
- Clear up after your dog as faeces can harm cattle and sheep – and humans too!
- Tampering with farm signs and electric fences could have serious consequences, they are intended to everybody keep safe
- Please do not remove signs that are there to keep people safe and always leave gates how you found them - or follow instructions on signs on gates
- Your actions can affect the livelihoods of other people

Please make sure that you leave nothing behind when walking in the countryside and if you see a dog worrying farm animals either call 999 at the time or 101 after the event.



Use the QR code to the left to report rural crimes you may have witnessed after the event or [click on this link](#).

Thank you to those villagers who came to the Annual Parish meeting on Monday evening to find out more about the work of the parish council, Wiltshire Council and Wiltshire Police.





## Forthcoming roadworks.

### B3098 Erlestoke

2 April - 13 April between 09.30 and 15:30 each week day. Tree and associated works

18 April - Tree and associated works

### A360 Longbarrow Roundabout to The Avenue,

Salisbury

2 April - 13 July Road closed

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

Remember you can always contact the Parish Council by email [parishcouncil@edingtonwiltshire.org.uk](mailto:parishcouncil@edingtonwiltshire.org.uk)



## Edington & District Gardening Club

**First Thursday in the month  
Parish Hall doors open 7.00pm**

It was a full house for our 20th Birthday. One visitor joined 29 members for a celebratory evening.

Two cakes, made by Maxine and David (thank you both), were soon demolished together with cheese on biscuits and a sparkly drink!

A special mention was made to those who had started the ball rolling in April 2004, Stella and Edward Callaway, me, Carol and Roger Mussell and Vera Tyler, George and Joy Fraser.

Our speaker for the evening, Alex Learmont, gave an excellent talk on the endeavours of Shapwick Moor in Somerset on the Avalon Marshes. Owned by the Hawk and Owl Trust, the 150 acres, formerly arable land, is managed by Alex together with 14 volunteers. It was bought in 2007 and is being transformed into meadow. Ruby Red cows are used to graze, and the grass is removed in late summer. Hedgerows have been planted, high and wide! and the Rhynes are cleared of vegetation and there are ponds and scrapes. The result has seen not only birds of prey increase, barn owls, buzzards, kestrels, sparrowhawks, marsh harriers, peregrine and other seasonal birds of prey, but the butterfly count has increased together with harvest mice, otters, and hares.

Check out the web site for more information <https://hawkandowltrust.org>

**Next month, MAY 1st, WEDNESDAY**, (due to the elections) is the AGM when subscriptions are due. The new Programme will be available, and the Schedules for the Flower & Produce Show being held on 7th September.

The speaker will be Lynda Brown – Herbs, sowing, growing, harvesting, and preserving. Visitors are always welcome.

Contact 830133 for further information.

## Police and Crime Commissioner election -Thursday 2nd May 2024

Bring  
photo ID  
to vote



A monthly meet-up  
to explore  
the **big questions of life**  
- all faiths and none

### Miracles

Did they really happen? Do they happen today?

All views welcome. What do **you** think?

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May, 5-6pm  
Edington Parish Hall  
Hot drinks served from 4.30pm



*Please*  
**RESPECT, PROTECT  
AND ENJOY THE  
COUNTRYSIDE**



**TAKE YOUR  
LITTER HOME**



**LEAVE GATES AS  
YOU FIND THEM**

**CLEAN UP  
AFTER YOUR DOG  
BAG IT AND  
BIN IT**



**FOLLOW  
THE PATH**



**NO FIRES  
OR BBQS**

*Thank you*



[Countrysideonline.co.uk/countrysidecode](http://Countrysideonline.co.uk/countrysidecode)

**IT'S LAMBING SEASON,  
KEEP YOUR DOG  
ON A SHORT LEAD  
AROUND SHEEP**



**DOG WASTE ISN'T JUST  
UNPLEASANT, IT CAN  
ALSO CAUSE ILLNESS IN  
FARM ANIMALS**

**BAG IT,  
TAKE IT,  
BIN IT.**



**LITTER CAN HARM  
THE ENVIRONMENT,  
WILDLIFE AND  
FARM ANIMALS**





ARE YOU A...

# RESPONSIBLE

# DOG OWNER?



### KEEP YOUR DOG UNDER CONTROL

Keep dogs on a short lead around cows and sheep

### CLEAN UP AFTER YOUR DOG

Bag it and bin it wherever you are

### NEVER GET BETWEEN COWS AND CALVES

Walk round the herd and re-join the path when safe

### IF CATTLE FOLLOW YOU STAY CALM

Walk quickly and quietly round the herd

### IF YOU FEEL THREATENED BY CATTLE

Release your dog and get to safety separately

### IS YOUR GARDEN SECURE?

Many dog attacks on sheep happen when the dog has escaped from home.





## *Village Musings*

Although we are a "Springs" village and there is no river nearby as there often is in settlements, we do have some pretty streams around Edington. Walking to the end of Lambourne Lane brings you to a lovely little stream, which is



really full at the moment with all the rain we have been having. In the evenings in summer, you can often see fish jumping in this river as they catch the mayflies.

And you might have been forgiven for thinking that the footpath leading past the

village pond up to the main road was a stream at one point in the past week! So much water was running down the footpath that it was completely impassable.



If you do take this footpath, and stop to have a look at the beautiful village pond, you will see that we have newts resident there now! Such a



tribute to the people who have cared for this environment as a wildlife habitat. We also often see wild mallards flying in to feed in the pond for a while, and there are a lot of frogs and other wildlife resident in the pond. Supporting our wildlife with this pond has been a hugely successful project.

**Mercedes Henning**



**ST MARY'S  
STEEPLE ASHTON  
PRESERVATION TRUST**

# Steeple Ashton Open Gardens

Sunday 2nd June 2024  
11am - 6pm

Refreshments & Cream Teas  
Plants & Flower Sales  
Raffle & Tower Draw  
Pimms on the Lawn

Advance Tickets from:  
The Village Shop - £8.00  
[www.ticketsource.co.uk](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk) - £8.00  
Tickets on the day - £10.00



## More birds of prey around Edington

I have recently been looking at the List of Recent Sightings of Birds published online by the Wiltshire Ornithological Society and have been quite amazed at what species end up here around Edington at this time of the year. In the list of sightings from February and March 2024 I was surprised to see several records for the Marsh Harrier, Hen Harrier, and Merlin. None of my bird books includes Wiltshire in the distribution of the Marsh Harrier or Hen Harrier. The Merlin though has been recorded as a winter visitor to Wiltshire for some time. All these sightings of new birds moving into Wiltshire is yet another sign of Climate Change. While it is great having all these new records of species moving into Wiltshire, other of our more well-known local species are moving out. I find the Speckled Wood butterfly in my garden every year but until recently it did not occur much north of the M4 motorway. However, recent surveys show it now occurring as far north as Shrewsbury in Shropshire as it's got warmer. But let us rejoice in the new species joining us in this part of England.

### The Marsh Harrier

I first saw a Marsh Harrier in the Norfolk Broads last year and got to know it well. Most breed in the eastern parts of the UK, especially in East Anglia and Kent, but it also breeds in small numbers in parts of lowland Scotland, Lancashire, Yorkshire, and Somerset. I presume the birds seen regularly here in Wiltshire over this spring and last winter are ones breeding in Somerset. Breeding begins in April and birds here in Wiltshire will presumably heading back to Somerset this month. It tends to be seen hunting over reedbeds or soaring and gliding at a great height with wings held in a V-shape. It feeds on small mammals and birds that live in or near reedbeds, marshes, and other wetlands. It will also come and feed on carrion. It is bulkier and

broader winged than the Hen Harrier. The best place to observe one around here is Langford Lakes as the habitat is perfect for them.



**The Marsh Harrier is bulkier and broader winged than the Hen Harrier (del S.F. Henning)**

### The Hen Harrier

The male Hen Harrier is pale grey above with white rump and black wingtips. The female and juveniles are brown above with a white rump and streaked with brown and buff below. It breeds in upland areas of Scotland, parts of northern England, Isle of Man, North Wales, and Ireland. The nest is a platform of sticks and twigs in low vegetation. In winter, it is much more



**The male Hen Harrier is pale grey above with white rump and black wingtips (del S.F. Henning)**





widespread and can be found as far south as the south coast of England. It tends to keep to the coastal areas of England. The Hen Harrier breeds in upland heather moors but will also nest in young conifer plantations. However, in winter it visits lowland farms, fens, southern heaths, and coastal marshes. When hunting it flies low over the ground, with wings forming a shallow V when gliding. It usually feeds on small birds and mammals but may also take larger prey such as rabbits.



**The female Hen Harrier is brown above with a white rump and streaked with brown and buff below. (del S.F. Henning)**

## Merlin

The Merlin is a small species with the male not much bigger than a Mistle Thrush. The male is blue-grey above with dark terminal band on tail. The female is brown with multiple-barred buff and brown tail. Both sexes heavily streaked below. It breeds in the uplands in the north and west of Britain, and also parts of Ireland. It nests on the ground in heather moorlands. But in recent years increasing large number of nests are found in trees often in old crow nests. In winter it spreads south and visits lowland farms and coastal marshes. It is often recorded in Wiltshire during winter and along the south coast of England. When out hunting it hovers, soars, and has a swift aerial dive. It has rapid wingbeats, followed by a short glide, often low to the ground. It chases small birds with agile

twists and turns. It regularly perches openly on posts or rocks and will take off and land on vegetation or the ground.



**Male Merlin on its prey - a dead pigeon (del S.F. Henning)**

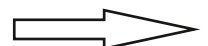
## Red-footed Falcon

The Red-footed Falcon is a recent addition to the list of birds of Britain and Ireland. It is a medium-small, long-winged bird of prey. Sexual dimorphism in its plumage is more marked than in any of the regular British falcons. The adult male is all blue-grey, except for his red undertail and legs; its underwings are uniformly grey. The female has a grey back and wings, orange head and underparts, and a white face with black eye stripe and moustaches.

It breeds, often colonially, in Eastern Europe and



**Sexual dimorphism in the Red-footed Falcon is more marked than in any other British falcon – male (left), female (right) (del S.F. Henning)**





Asia. It typically nests in an empty corvid nest in a tree. Its journey to and from its South African wintering grounds routinely leads it across the eastern Mediterranean. In spring when it makes its return journey to the breeding grounds, it often takes a more westerly route, and some end up in Britain and Ireland. It is mostly seen in May and June in Britain sometimes two or three together. It has been recorded from Wiltshire and a recent record was on the 14th of July 2021 at Langford Lakes.

It is a mostly an insect eating falcon like the Hobby, but smaller, with a longer tail. It often hunts from a perch such as a dead tree, pole, or fence and flies out to grab insects in flight. Or it drops to the ground to catch beetles. It will also hover like a kestrel searching the ground below, then makes a short steep dive towards the target, but usually dashes after prey. Its diet consists of a variety of insects, but also includes amphibians, reptiles, mammals, and birds.

Stephen Henning.



## 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



## Four Villages Link

If you are in need of transport to medical or other appointments, shopping, hairdressing etc, please call the coordinator on 07852 256939. The volunteers also

undertake good neighbour tasks and are happy to just keep people company over a cup of tea. There is a meeting for volunteers at 10.30am on 10th April at The Duke, Bratton. Do come along if you would like to hear volunteers' experiences and to find out more about the Link.

## Steeple Rocks Concert Friday

**19th April in Bratton Jubilee Hall:**

We would like to thank Adrienne and the choir, Debby and Nick and Bratton Folk for giving their time to a fund-raising concert for the hall. This will be a casual concert, with seating around tables, nibbles, a bar and donations rather than tickets. Don't miss out!

## THE BIG SPECTACULAR BRATTON PLANT SALE

**SATURDAY 4th MAY. 10.30am**

**BRATTON CHURCH INSTITUTE**

BACON BUTTIES SERVED AT 10.00am

Come along and get your garden ready for Summer! There will be a wide choice of flower and vegetable plants available for you to purchase organised by Lucy Ellis. The plants will include more unusual ones as well as the familiar.

We will welcome any donations of plants to sell too.

There will be a bygone section of garden tools, plant pots and garden related objects so come and find a bargain!

Bacon Butties will be served from 10.00am (entrance through the main door to the hall) Plant Sale will begin at 10.30am entrance by the side gate.

After you have made all your purchases why not join us for tea and cake in our lovely hall? Do come and see us and please tell you friends to help us spread the word!



## A road is a road is a road.

France is well known for its well maintained and litter-free roads and this year this has been particularly beneficial as the Touraine has had incredibly high rainfall this winter and fields have been inundated with water often spilling into road side verges. However, the practice of infilling all roadside edges with gravel which can be driven on, has been a blessing this year making them safe and robust.



“green route, some 30 miles long and following a river much of its route. It is free to use by walkers and cyclists and our local railway station has been renovated into a



tourist office and free to use office space. But, great to see there, alongside the cycle racks used when passing cyclists visit the local cafes, are free to use bicycle tools and air supply. What a great idea and state sponsored initiative. Some things to look



You may be aware of the recent French farming demonstrations taking place, complaining about what they perceive to be low prices for their produce. Blocked roads and “manifestacions” were common.

Amusing has been the sight of village names turned upside down at the entrance and exit of villages to represent “faulty thinking”.

We also have a “new road”, a converted railway line called the



forward to.

Our house in the Touraine is close to an old chateau ruin from which emanate many caves and tunnels cut from



the local Tuffeau stone, some of which were



previously used in which to grow mushrooms. However, our neighbour is clearing some of the calcium-rich land above the caves to plant truffle oaks, a new venture and something interesting to look forward to. So too our local



community-restored auberge which is moving to completion and looking really good.



Local artisans have done all the work, financed by grants, regional development funds and the sale of village land for low cost housing.



France loves cycling and our regional version of The Tour de France starts next week with decorations, fetes and any excuse to eat, drink and be merry as the cyclists wizz by for about 30 seconds!

And finally of course the spring and summer is ahead of us. The frogs are super active in our pond and all the baby fish show how healthy the water is. Last year in the drought we were frequented by deer, wild boar and of course



badgers and foxes, showing just how beneficial a bit of water can be. Yesterday's walk with our dog was spring-rewarding with the sight of a herd of ten wild deer and four boxing hares enjoying the sunshine.

Roll on summer.



## Coffee Morning Drop In

Every Tuesday

10.30 - 11.30 am

in the Three Daggers.

Transport available contact

Pauline or Joy.



FRIENDS OF  
ERLESTOKE PRISON

## 'Summer Dreams' a concert by The Farrant Singers

*including music from Purcell, Gibbons, Parry,  
Byrd, Finzi and others*



*"The Farrant Singers, based in Salisbury, are widely recognised as one of the most articulate and eloquent chamber ensembles in England."  
(Review in The Church Times 20 June 2022)*

**Thursday 20th June 2024**

**7.30pm (doors open 7pm)**

**All Saint's Church, Chitterne, Wiltshire, BA12 0LF**

*Parking available*

***Tickets £15/person (including a welcome drink) from:  
[treasurer@friendsoferlestokeprison.com](mailto:treasurer@friendsoferlestokeprison.com)***

All proceeds to The Friends of Erlestoke Prison charity to support rehabilitation projects for HMP Erlestoke prisoners and their families.

[www.friendsoferlestokeprison.com](http://www.friendsoferlestokeprison.com)

Registered charity number: 1201388



## EASTER DECORATING WITH THE UNDER 5'S

**EDINGTON PARISH HALL**

**AGM**

**TUESDAY 7TH MAY**

**7.30 pm**

***The Hall will be open from 7.00 pm***

***for light refreshments.***

Please come along to hear about  
the committee's running of the  
Parish Hall on your behalf - how the  
last year has gone, and future  
plans.

The Under 5's (and not so Under 5's) enjoyed a sticky but artistic morning decorating egg shaped biscuits and rabbits head biscuits as well as cupcakes ready for Easter. They also made cornflake nest cakes – yum yum!

Icing was carefully applied to the biscuits before the chosen decorations were added and decisions made as to which colour gel pen was to be used for the rabbit's nose and eyes and also the chick's eyes.

Using chocolate buttercream to pipe the "nest" onto the cupcake was not a problem and no one succumbed to eating the mini eggs, although the temptation was great!!

The finished goodies were put into a box and ribbon tied around the box so that the contents got home safely!! A fantastic effort by everyone to produce some excellent Easter goodies.

The Under 5's meet each Thursday from 10am to 12 noon in the Parish Hall during term time. There is always a craft activity as well as time for free play and action songs. If you would like to join in the fun with your Under 5 – parents, grandparents and carers welcome, why not come along? For more information, please contact Emily Greening on 07910228383

## 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](http://www.edingtonwiltshire.org.uk/hall)  
or email [parishhall@edingtonwiltshire.org.uk](mailto:parishhall@edingtonwiltshire.org.uk)  
phone 01380 830 441





Edington Under 5's making their Easter biscuits and cupcakes





## Recipes of the month - April

### PARSNIP SOUP

A warming soup that has the natural sweetness of the parsnips and the addition of curry powder enhances the flavour. This soup is a firm favourite at the Parish Hall lunches.

#### Parsnip Soup – serves 4

##### Ingredients

60g (2oz) butter  
750g (1 1/2 lb) parsnips  
1 large onion  
2 cloves of garlic  
2 teaspoons mild curry powder  
1.5 litres (2 1/2 pints) vegetable or chicken stock  
Salt and pepper to taste  
300 ml single cream  
Chopped fresh chives or parsley for garnishing.



##### Method

1. Peel and finely chop the onion. Roughly chop the parsnips. Peel and crush the garlic
  2. Melt the butter in a large saucepan over a medium heat. Add the onions and gently cook until softened
  3. Add the parsnips and garlic and gently cook the mixture for 5 minutes; stir occasionally.
  4. Stir in the mild curry powder and cook for an additional minute to infuse the flavours.
  5. Pour the vegetable or chicken stock in the pan. Season with salt and black pepper.
  6. Stir well to combine all the ingredients until the mixture starts to boil.
  7. Once boiling, reduce the heat to low, cover the saucepan, and let it simmer gently for approximately 20 minutes until the parsnips are tender when pierced with a knife.
  8. Carefully transfer the soup to a food processor or blender.
- Note:** If you have a stick blender, you can blend the soup in the saucepan.
9. Blend until the mixture achieves a smooth, creamy consistency. You may need to work in batches if using a blender.
  10. Pour the pureed soup back into the cleaned saucepan.
  11. Gently warm it over low heat while stirring constantly and adjust the thickness if needed with a little more water or stock.
  12. Taste and adjust the seasoning as needed.
  13. Heat the soup through without boiling, and then serve it immediately.
  14. Garnishing each serving with a swirl of cream and the fresh chopped chives or parsley

**This soup freezes well and is good for using up parsnips just past their best!**



## TVM AGM 2024

## Chairman's Report

2023 marked a year of change, challenge and commitment for the Three Villages Minibus. The change was a new management team that was tasked with taking TVM forward after Joy decided to step down from running TVM after 16 years at the helm.

The challenge is to keep developing and delivering TVM services in a time of great social, economic and community pressures. Our community demographics continues to evolve and reshape and TVM needs to respond to the changing nature of our community needs and demands. Many of our regular village users are no longer with us or have become less mobile, our challenge is to nurture and grow new village users and to develop services that respond to their needs.

We have begun to introduce some new ideas and user groups in 2023. Our monthly lunch pub trips have been well received and supported and we will continue to develop them during 2024. TVM hiring by local primary and junior schools has also grown over 2023 and we will encourage this to continue. The Dodgers is a village group of mature gentlemen who go out on various day trips to interesting places across the region and they are new regular users of TVM. We have also seen the number of private hirings by village users grow in 2023 and we will look to continue this trend in 2024.

And the TVM commitment is shown every day in the many volunteers and helpers who give their time and energy to TVM in order that this vital and much valued community service continues to thrive and to serve and to grow.

TVM could not and would not exist without the many people who volunteer to make it happen, To our drivers: Martin Killian, Dave Perkins, Joy Fraser, Dave May and Peter Mercer. To our helpers Steve Forward, Helen O'Donoghue, George Fraser, Pauline Dorgan and Mark Burgess.

I would also like to extend my thanks and gratitude to my fellow TVM management team or Eric Mitchell and Keith Girt. They have taken on their new tasks with great energy, skill and enthusiasm and I am ever thankful for their help, support and endeavours.

Jasper Dorgan  
Chairman, TVM

## Three Villages Minibus (TVM) Accounts For 2023

BREAKDOWN OF COSTS	
Tax, Insurance, MOT	2149.96
Tyres, etc	£335.74
Service, Safety Checks, Repairs	£1,766.62
Ad Hoc Costs	£15.00
Diesel	£1,546.46
<b>TOTAL ANNUAL COSTS</b>	<b>£5,813.78</b>

BREAKDOWN OF REVENUE	
Fund Raising Lunches	£695.00
WCC Grant & Fare Reimbursement	£3,977.44
Parish Council Donations	£150.00
Additional Donations	£2,820.21
Usage Fees	£2,718.95
<b>TOTAL ANNUAL REVENUE</b>	<b>£10,361.60</b>

**2023 INCREASE IN FUNDS    £4,547.82**



## Erlestoke and Coulston Cricket Club

### Erlestoke Junior Cricket

Erlestoke junior cricket's first session of the season will be on Monday April 15th at 4.45pm for a 5pm start, The sessions will last one hour.

This season we invite all juniors to become members of Erlestoke Cricket Club and a cost of £30 covers 14 hour-long sessions, a 10% discount at the Three Daggers Farm Shop, a personal membership card and a car park sticker,

We look forward to seeing and welcoming all 5-11 year olds, all abilities.

Contact Joe Dorgan on 07846 213702 if you have any questions.

## Let's Move!

DANCE FITNESS

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

## Police and Crime Commissioner election -Thursday 2nd May 2024



THREE DAGGERS FARM SHOP  
WILTSHIRE, ENGLAND

ERLESTOKE & COULSTON CRICKET CLUB

**SERIOUS CRICKET**

<https://www.seriousport.co.uk/teamstores/erlestoke-and-coulston-cc/erlestoke-coulston-cc-juniors>

ERLESTOKE EAGLES  
Junior Cricket Information

Each training session will start at 5pm and last for an hour. Please be at the ground by 4:50 to ensure we have a prompt start. Don't forget to bring this membership card to every session to be stamped, so we can keep track of your attendance.

In the need to cancel a session due to poor weather, we will always aim to give you as much notice as we can, using the Junior WhatsApp Group and our Facebook Page.

Key Contacts:  
Toby Dorgan - Head Coach - 07913 006 658  
Joe Dorgan - Safeguarding Officer  
07846 213 702

Session 1	April 15 <sup>th</sup>	
Session 2	April 22 <sup>nd</sup>	
Session 3	April 29 <sup>th</sup>	
Session 4	May 6 <sup>th</sup>	
Session 5	May 13 <sup>th</sup>	
Session 6	May 20 <sup>th</sup>	
Session 7	June 3 <sup>rd</sup>	
Session 8	June 10 <sup>th</sup>	
Session 9	June 17 <sup>th</sup>	
Session 10	June 24 <sup>th</sup>	
Session 11	July 1 <sup>st</sup>	
Session 12	July 8 <sup>th</sup>	
Session 13	July 15 <sup>th</sup>	
Session 14	July 22 <sup>nd</sup>	



## Edington Under Fives

We meet every Thursday in Edington Parish Hall between 10am and 12 noon.

The first session is free, and only £2 per family thereafter (to help with running costs). For more information contact Emily on

**07910228383**



## THREE VILLAGES MINIBUS (TVM)



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.

The Annual AGM of the minibus will take place on Monday April 8th at 2.30pm in Edington Parish Hall. All are welcome to come and hear about your local minibus services.

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

Our next lunches will be on Wednesday April 10th & May 10th.

**Joy Fraser (830426)**

## May Lunch in the Parish Hall

We are holding a 2 Course Lunch (with a choice of main course and a selection of puddings)

on **Wednesday May 8th 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 May 3rd ) if you are coming as this helps with catering arrangements.



TVM will provide door to door transport.



Please book your place with Pauline.

### Shopping Trips starting at Edington

Destination	April	May	Start Time	Cost
Devizes	Thursday 4th	Thursday 2nd	9.00am	£3.20
Warminster	Tuesday 16th	Tuesday 21st	1.25pm	£2.80
Westbury	Every Thursday	Every Thursday	1.30pm	£2.30
Salisbury	Saturday 13th	Saturday 11th	9.30am	£5.00

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

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

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



## Edington What's On Diary

Date	Time	Event	Venue
10th April	12.30pm	Village Lunch	Parish Hall
13th April	9.30am	Salisbury Shopping Trip	
16th April	1.25pm	Warminster Shopping Trip	
1st May	7.00pm	Edington Gardening Club	Parish Hall
2nd May	7.00am - 10.00pm	Police and Crime Commissioner Election	Parish Hall
2nd May	9.00am	Devizes Shopping Trip	
4th May	10.00am	Bratton Plant Sale	Bratton Church Institute
4th May	5.00pm	Quest - Miracles	Parish Hall
7th May	7.30pm	Edington Parish Hall AGM	Parish Hall
8th May	12.30pm	Village Lunch	Parish Hall
11th May	9.30am	Salisbury Shopping Trip	
13th May	7.30pm	Parish Council meeting	Parish Hall
1st June	2.00pm	Edington Fair	Coal Path Field
Every Tuesday	10.00am	Let's Move Dance Fitness	Parish Hall
Every Thursday	10.00am	Edington Under 5's	Parish Hall
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**

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

### Contacting us

Email the newsletter at  
[newsletter@edingtonwiltshire.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@edingtonwiltshire.org.uk)  
or via the village website  
[www.edingtonwiltshire.org.uk](http://www.edingtonwiltshire.org.uk)

### Future editions

We welcome your comments on this venture, please send them to the address below. If you would like to contribute an article to a future edition of the Edington Village News please email us with details of your article and we will contact you or speak to Pauline in the Post Office.

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

**Deadline for articles 5th of the month.**

### Sharing the Newsletter

We are still hearing about villagers who say that they haven't heard about this newsletter, next time you speak to any of your neighbours and friends why not ask if they are receiving a copy and if not inform them that they can register for an emailed copy through the village website or send an email, the address is below. If they are unable to receive an electronic copy a paper copy can be obtained from Edington Post Office or perhaps you could volunteer to print out a copy for your neighbour.

If you would like to receive this newsletter electronically please visit the village website and enter your details  
[www.edingtonwiltshire.org.uk/newsletter](http://www.edingtonwiltshire.org.uk/newsletter) or email and you will be added to the mailing list.  
[newsletter@edingtonwiltshire.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@edingtonwiltshire.org.uk)