



Contents

- White Horse Health Centre
- Courtyard Surgery
- Wiltshire Police
- Wiltshire Council News
- Edington Parish Council News
- Village Musings
- Village Litter Pick
- Herons and Ibises around Edington
- Edington and District Gardening Club
- Trowbridge Pastors
- Memories of Edington School
- This month's recipe - Pear and Blueberry Crumble
- Edington Arts
- Quest Good Food - Bad Food
- Edington and Tinhead WI
- Pollinator Project
- Four Villages Link
- Three Village's Minibus
- Edington What's On Diary
- Sharing your newsletter
- Contacting us

Elaine Powman which was delivered to a packed Parish Hall.

If this wasn't enough, we have also delved into the archives to find an extract on life in the village school during the winter months, for some people it may stir memories of frozen bottles of milk in the playground and the like!

We also have an item for sale and remember we always welcome for sale or free to a good home items, subject to conditions.

Now a request from the newsletter, we would like more articles.

- Do you belong to a group that would like some free publicity, then write an article for us.
- Do you have an interest that other people would like to know about then write an article for us.
- Do you run a business in Edington or one of the surrounding villages then why not write an article for us to let people know about what you do.
- We need your articles so please don't just think about it but write something for the next issue. If unsure then talk to Pauline in the Post Office and she will guide you.

To keep up to date with village events we are planning to ensure that all village events are on the village website in the What's On page.



Welcome to the forty-sixth edition of the Edington Village News.

In this month's edition we have our usual selection of articles ranging from the latest news from the parish council, the new role of chemists in the community, to the ongoing changes in Wiltshire Police and news of the annual village litter pick. Our nature article this month features Herons and Ibises around Edington and this month's recipe - Pear and Blueberry Crumble is one not to miss. Edington Arts are starting the 2024 season with a full length performance of Bach's St John Passion and there is a report from the WI of their talk in January on





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

Pharmacy Treatments

From 31st January Patients in England will be able to get treatment for seven common conditions at their high street pharmacy from today without needing to see a GP, as part of a major transformation in the way the NHS delivers care.

Highly trained pharmacists will be able to assess and treat patients for sinusitis, sore throat, earache, infected insect bite, impetigo, shingles, and uncomplicated urinary tract infections in women (under the age of 65) without the need for a GP appointment or prescription.

NHS App - new features

From 30 January 2024, patients in England can use the NHS App to view all their prescription details, order repeat prescriptions and generate a barcode that can be shown to a pharmacy for collection without a paper prescription from their GP.

Hospital Waiting Times

From 30th January the NHS App will start showing average waiting times for hospital appointments.

Did you know you can request your medications via the NHS app?

More information can be found here:

<https://www.nhs.uk/nhs-app/>

Download the app now!

Dr Edwards & Partners

www.westburygp.co.uk

Courtyard Surgery, West Lavington



Telephone 01380 813 300
For medical emergencies dial 999

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

The website has been updated and is easier to use from a smart phone. Also, more of the pages link direct to nationally managed NHS England webpages, so they will always be up to date.

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



Coffee Morning Drop In

Every Tuesday

10.30 -11.30 am

in the Three Dagers.

Transport available contact

Pauline or Joy.



Wiltshire Police

Dementia Wristbands



Smart wristbands designed to help find missing people with dementia quicker are now being rolled out to the public.

The hi-tech bands are a result of a collaboration between Wiltshire Police and its partners, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, the Wiltshire Bobby Van, Alzheimer's Support, and Carer Support Wiltshire.

They will be distributed to those who are identified as needing them via the Wiltshire Bobby Van, Alzheimer's Support, and Carer Support Wiltshire.

The wristbands, which were the brainchild of Avon and Somerset Police and first launched in their area in 2015, contain a micro-chip and carers or family members will load it with key information about the wearer, including their name, age, and town or village they are from as well as next of kin details like their name and phone number.

The bands can be scanned by a smart phone and the information on the chip will then be displayed on that phone. You don't need an app to scan the band. If the wearer is found by a member of the public and appears lost or vulnerable, that member of the public can scan the band and contact the noted next of kin.

The wristbands do not contain a GPS tracker, nor an alarm and are not a replacement for calling 999.

Helping hand

Angharad Caton, Missing Persons Co-ordinator with Wiltshire Police, said: "The purpose of the wristbands is to improve the way people with dementia are found. Anyone who finds a person in distress or appearing lost wearing one of these new bands can help reunite that person with their carers and loved ones quickly.

"We hope, with the help of these bands,

anyone who goes missing will be found quicker and returned home safely with minimal police interaction. However, they are not a replacement for friends and families contacting us if a loved one goes missing and you are concerned for their welfare.

"Our officers and staff are also aware of the new bands and know what to do if they find someone wearing one."

The project has been part funded by Police and Crime Commissioner Philip Wilkinson's Community Action Fund, with a grant of £2000 contributing towards the setup of the scheme.

In November, representatives from The Bobby Van Trust, Alzheimer's Support and Carer Support Wiltshire met with Mr Wilkinson to discuss the current missing person procedures and the need to protect the vulnerable.

For more information and to access a referral form, please [click here](#).

Changes made to improve local policing services within Wiltshire

Further to announcements made at the end of November 2023, the first phase of a series of changes to improve the visibility, consistency and resilience of our local policing services within Wiltshire has taken place.

Since joining Wiltshire Police in February 2023, Chief Constable Catherine Roper has received consistent feedback from local communities and teams within the Force of a need to provide a stronger focus on visible neighbourhood policing. Based on this feedback we are evolving our local policing approach to make best use of our resources and provide a more consistent service across the county.

This includes:

Moving our Response Teams on to a new shift pattern that will ensure we have better alignment of our resources to our demand and can give a higher quality of service to victims of





crime and our wider communities. As part of this, Response Teams now start and end their shifts from four hubs instead of five, strengthening their communications and ability to respond to demand whilst continuing to provide a highly visible presence in their existing geographical areas. The number of police stations the public can access has not changed and our Neighbourhood Policing Teams continue to work from their existing stations.

We have published a set of Community Commitments – clearly outlining what engagement our communities can expect to receive from our Neighbourhood Policing Teams. This will improve the consistency of service we provide and allows communities to hold us accountable for the service they receive from us.

In addition to the improvements made so far, we will also be:

Increasing the number of dedicated neighbourhood engagement vehicles in our fleet. These have been funded by the Police and Crime Commissioner for Wiltshire and Swindon and will be used by our Neighbourhood Policing Teams to improve our visibility and engagement across our communities (particularly in rural areas).

Looking at the operational model for our investigative and specialist teams to ensure they are able to provide consistently high-quality services to victims of crime.

[Read more about the changes here.](#)



**Wiltshire Police
and Crime
Commissioner
Philip Wilkinson
alongside
Wiltshire Police**



Chief Constable Catherine Roper have launched their Estates Strategy 2023-27.

Plans to invest more than £100M into Wiltshire Police estate – including the modernisation and

redevelopment of police headquarters in Devizes and the delivery of a Southern Policing Hub - over the next 10 years have been announced.

The new strategy provides residents with a comprehensive vision for how well-placed police stations, hubs and touchdown points provide the right facilities for Wiltshire Police to work smarter, adapt to changing crime demand and, more importantly, provide greater visibility and reassurance in communities.

Main highlights include the planned investment of more than £100m over the next ten years which includes:

£90M investment to deliver the redevelopment of the Police Headquarters site in Devizes over the next decade, including the relocating of Devizes policing hub to the existing headquarters site, and to develop a new operational policing site, training facilities, and administrative office space.

£19M investment to deliver a new dedicated Policing hub in South of the County by 2028 - the PCC and CC have identified that the current arrangements for policing estate in the south are not meeting operational need. We continue to progress our location options, on with Old Sarum and High Post being our two most developed plans at present.

This commitment to investment in facilities from the Police and Crime Commissioner is specifically designed to support the changes to the new operating model recently implemented by Chief Constable Roper to improve local policing services by providing a more consistent policing approach alongside increased proactive and visible policing within communities.

To find out more visit: [Estates Strategy 2023 - 2027 \(wiltshire-pcc.gov.uk\)](#)



Wiltshire Council

News from Wiltshire Council

Don't Mess with Wiltshire campaign aims to tackle litter in the county

Published 29 January 2024

Wiltshire Council has launched a new campaign to help reduce littering in county. The striking Don't Mess with Wiltshire campaign focuses on littering in towns and parishes, plus litter hotspots such as laybys and on main roads such as the A36 and A303.

The campaign, which will be seen on media, buses, social media posters and on-demand television, will be backed up by more enforcement of litter offences - including CCTV cameras in lay-bys on main roads and new officers to prosecute persistent fly-posters - along with more community litter collections, litter picks on main roads, plus educational resources to encourage behaviour change.

Cllr Caroline Thomas, Cabinet Member for Transport, Street Scene and Flooding, said: "Litter is a blight on the beautiful landscapes that we are lucky to have in Wiltshire and it can also be harmful to our local wildlife and environment. Rural litter can be a big problem for us and we currently spend more than £1.5 million per year cleaning up litter across the county.

"As part of our Business Plan commitment to take responsibility for the environment, we are launching the Don't Mess with Wiltshire campaign to encourage behaviour change and reduce the incidents of littering in the first place - these are key priorities for us to focus on.

"Don't Mess with Wiltshire is encouraging people to play their part to keep the countryside clean, use litter bins or take it home to recycle or dispose of in their household waste. It is a great opportunity to educate people to dispose of their litter responsibly and to empower them to

take part in litter picking initiatives in their local community.

"Last year, we estimate that community litter picking groups saved the taxpayer in the region of £32,000; if we can encourage more people to help us in the fight against litter, we can spend money on other essential services instead."

While some of Wiltshire Council's responsibility for litter collection is delegated to town and parish councils in Chippenham, Salisbury, Trowbridge, Pewsey and Devizes, we are committed to working in partnership with local communities across Wiltshire to ensure where litter is dropped it is addressed quickly and enforcement of littering offences is undertaken to ensure behaviour change.

To report high volumes of litter in Wiltshire or to find out more about the campaign and how to get involved in a community litter pick, people should visit [our website](#).

Street Tag coming soon to Wiltshire

Published 25 January 2024

Street Tag, an interactive app which encourages people to explore their community parks and green spaces while keeping active and earning prizes, is coming soon to Wiltshire.

Street Tag launches on Monday 29 January and encourages people to scan virtual tags at locations across Wiltshire to record the distance they have walked, cycled, run or used a wheelchair between virtual tags. People will collect points for visiting Street Tag locations and they can compete as an individual, team or with their school to win prizes.

The app encourages people to explore their local community and green spaces and keep physically active. People can see their points add up on the app and get inspired to climb to the top of the leader board.

In addition to the pre-populated tags across Wiltshire, users are encouraged to create their own tags around their community using the 'create a tag' feature on the app.





Although these self-populated tags will be worth less points, they enable communities to improve their Street Tag experience and generate more tags at places of interest around their community. It will also help the Street Tag team to consider and design new official tag additions to the app. Self-populated community tags will be reviewed by Street Tag to ensure they are placed in locations that are safe to access.

Cllr Ian Blair-Pilling, Cabinet Member for Public Health, said: "We're really excited for Street Tag to launch in Wiltshire. It supports communities across the country to get out and explore local green spaces and keep active, and it's fantastic that the app will be now available here in Wiltshire as well.

"We're encouraging everyone to give it a go and see what they can discover while out and about. You can even compete as a team with your school, workplace or with family and friends to climb to the top of the leader board and win prizes.

"In addition to the Street Tag app, and to understand more about your health and physical activity, why not try an activity tracker watch or blood pressure monitor? These are available to borrow for free for six weeks from Trowbridge or Chippenham libraries, or the North and South mobile libraries".

"Street Tag will also support the local economy by encouraging people to spend more time in their community and visit local businesses while earning points by visiting tags."

"I'm excited to get out and about and explore Wiltshire using the Street Tag app with my golden retriever, Chino, and I hope to see many of you on my travels."

Competitions within the Street Tag app will take place at certain times throughout the year, but people can record their progress as soon as they download and start using the app.

The app is free to download and easy to use. It is now available in app stores and officially launches on 29 January 2024.

People can find out more about Street Tag by visiting [Physical activity](#) or watching the Street Tag introduction video on [YouTube: Street Tag - This is Street Tag \(opens new window\)](#).

Specific information for schools who are interested in getting involved with Street Tag is available at Physical activity

People can find out more about borrowing an activity tracker watch or blood pressure monitor on the Wiltshire Council website at: [Health activity tracker watches and blood pressure monitors available to borrow from Wiltshire libraries.](#)

Council continues along prudent and preventive path as budget proposals published

Published 18 January 2024

Wiltshire Council's draft budget proposals for 2024/25 have been published, with its prudent and preventative approach putting it in a strong position to deliver on its Business Plan priorities and deliver high quality services for Wiltshire's residents, businesses, and communities.

Last year, in anticipation of the various national financial challenges that are impacting local authorities up and down the country, Wiltshire Council set out its financial strategy for the three years, from 2023/24 to 2025/26. This strategic approach ensured the council was well placed to meet those challenges head on, with a balanced budget set across the next three years.

The most significant spending in 2024/25 will be:

Adult services - £179.4m

Families and children - £70.8m

Environment - £49.5m

Highways and transport - £43m

Education and skills - £35.1m

[Read more about the budget proposals here](#)



Edington Parish Council News

At the council's meeting in January we set the budget for the 2024-2025 financial year. After a lengthy discussion it was decided that the council needed to raise the precept from the 2023/2024 amount of £16,000 to £21,000 for the coming financial year. This will mean that a Band D property will incur a charge of £1.19 a week (£62.06 per annum) against £0.91 a week in 2023/2024 (£47.28 per annum).

The reasons for the increase were forced upon the council for a number of reasons and the full statement produced by the council to explain the increase can be found on the [village website](#).

The Edington Parish Council are aware of the ongoing increase in living costs but were left with little choice but to increase the precept if they are to continue providing a service to the village whilst improving the environment and making the village roads safer for all users.

Following proposals from Wiltshire Council to reduce the speed of traffic entering the village, outlined in the January edition of this newsletter there has been a further meeting and new proposals are being put forward for discussion at the next council meeting, more details in the March edition of the newsletter.

As you will remember from previous reports the council are active participants in the Wiltshire Council pollinator project and Councillor Liz Pike is the parish council lead and she is organising a session later this month to undertake some tree planting, full details further on in this newsletter.

Unfortunately some people passing through the village consider it to be acceptable to leave their litter at the road side and to that end we are organising the annual village litter pick on Saturday 9th March, meeting at 9.30am in the Parish Hall car park. Don't rely on other people coming to help, mark the date in your diary and come along to help tidy the village. Litter picking tools and bags will be provided but please

wear a high vis vest or bright clothing to ensure that you are visible when collecting the "litter". The more who come the easier the task becomes. Although this is the annual event there is nothing to stop anyone collecting litter at other times and to help, Pauline in the Post Office has a number of litter picking tools that can be borrowed to assist in the tidying of the village.

Finally advanced warning that community speed watch (CSW) will be resuming in March when the team will be out and about recording errant motorists who have failed to notice the speed limit when entering the village (or have chosen to ignore it)! Please make sure that we don't record your registration number for exceeding the speed limit and you then receive a letter from Wiltshire Police. The Bratton group are operating throughout February so please ensure that you are also obeying the speed limits there and everywhere else! Even when the CSW groups are not operating the Speed Enforcement Officers from Wiltshire Police and the traffic officers will be conducting their own speed checks in the villages.

Forthcoming roadworks.

Steeple Ashton Road - Station Yard rail bridge

17 Feb 2024 22:00 - 25 Feb 2024 07:00

Network Rail Infrastructure will be closing the bridge for associated works.

A360 High Street West Lavington

14 Feb 19:00 - 8 Mar 23:59

Carriageway resurfacing, road marking, adjustment of ironworks and associated works

Advanced notice

B3098 Erlestoke

29 Mar 09:00 - 13 Apr 15:30

Tree and associated works

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



Village Musings

Our beautiful village is fascinating in every season. In midwinter, the colours and shapes of the landscape seem to be more sharply in focus, outlined in bright skies, still fields and the skeletons of trees.



We love noticing glimpses of views that are hidden in leafy summer, and enjoying the shapes of the sky visible between the branches of trees.



The railway line is a place of endless interest, with its promise of travel, destination and adventure. The straightness of the rails can

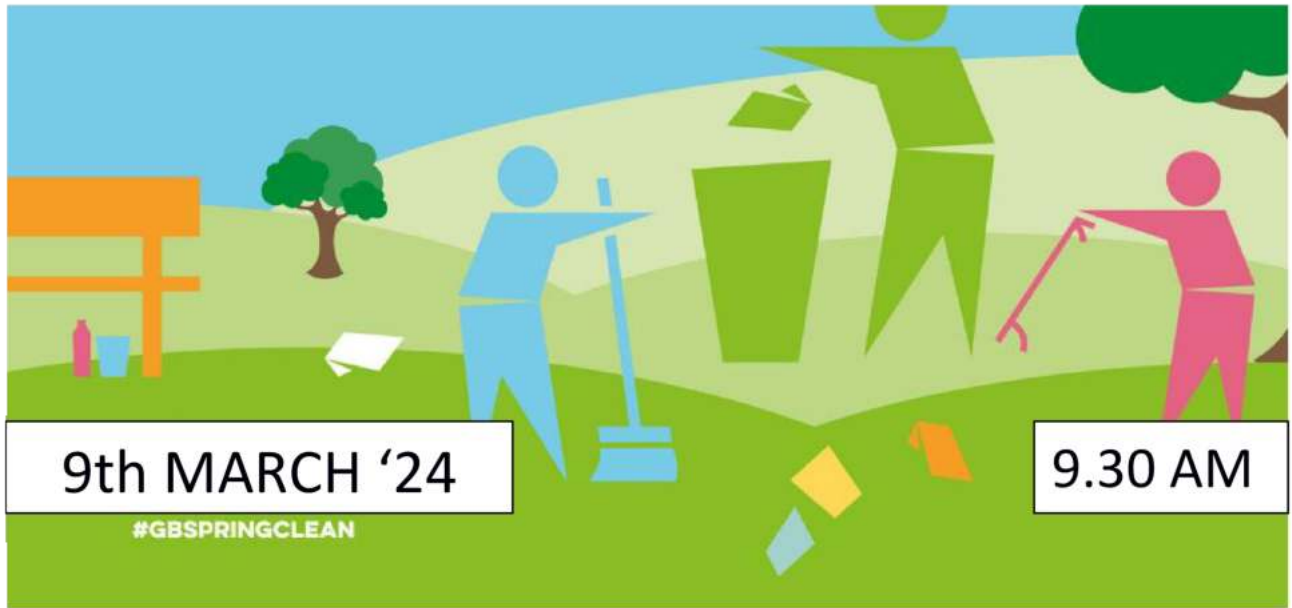


sometimes be matched by contrails in the sky, also signalling journeys and fun. We love waiting on the railway bridges for a train to come rushing under us, making a great fuss about speeding through our village.



We see the fields planted with their winter crops, holding and nourishing the soil through the cold, wet times, and we know the farmers are starting to prepare for the early spring planting. Snowdrops are out and buds are starting to swell on most plants. This is already a time of excitement at the coming of spring. But we hope for at least one day of snow before we bid farewell to winter this year!

Mercedes Henning



HELP CLEAN UP YOUR VILLAGE

MEET IN THE PARISH HALL
CAR PARK @ 9.30AM ON
SATURDAY 9TH MARCH



2024





Herons and Ibises around Edington

I was looking at recent bird sightings in Wiltshire and was amazed to see that on the 15th and 16th of January 2024 Glossy Ibises were recorded and photographed at Langford Lakes. The Glossy Ibis is a heron-like bird with a long, curving beak. This along with numerous sightings of Great White, Little, and Cattle Egrets in Wiltshire during January of 2024 took my mind back to my youth in South Africa.



Glossy Ibis were recently sighted at Landford Lakes in Wiltshire (del. S.F. Henning)

I had always been a keen bird watcher and when I was about 8 years old my father joined the Witwatersrand Bird Club. I then spent lots of weekends over the next few years walking in the African bush with large binoculars around my neck looking at birds.

A school friend was also very interested in birds, and he told me he had seen Glossy Ibis

nesting in a big heronry in a marshy area near one of the mine dumps along the Main Reef Road near Johannesburg. The mine dumps were huge hills of yellow sand and the water creating the marsh was pumped up from below in the mines. High levels of arsenic and other heavy metals were in the water and on the dumps. In the rushes there was a huge heronry where a number of species of egret, heron and ibis were nesting. He took my brother and me there on one day during our school holidays in 1964. We went on our bicycles – quite a ride as we lived about 10 miles away from the marsh on the West Rand.



Heronry in reed bed showing nests and chicks.

We hid our bikes in the reeds and waded carefully into the reeds towards the heronries. We did not want to disturb the nesting birds as we just wanted to get a quick close look, but the birds near us on their nests were quite unperturbed. The noise and smells were incredible. Before us in the reeds were tiers of nests. The chicks looked really scrawny with their sparse coating of white down. The eggs of the egrets were a beautiful pale chalky blue and then as we walked along the edge of the colony we found a Glossy Ibis nest; the eggs were bright sky blue and almost the size of a chicken's egg. The mud was soft and mixed up with guano and dead chicks. It was an incredible experience.





Glossy Ibis nest with eggs

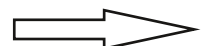
I remember when we left the reeds, we were black from the waist down and had to wade into a stream to wash off all the muck. It was a most uncomfortable ride home as our clothing was wet and it chafed our skin on the insides of our legs as we pedalled along. To protect our feet from the reeds and any sharp objects in the mud we had worn our shoes into the reed bed and when we got home, we were shouted at by my mother for ruining them. The sad thing is that the marsh and heronry were long gone by the mid 1980's when the mine closed down. The marsh was drained, and the area turned into an industrial estate. The yellow mine dumps are also gone. By the early 1970's when I was at the University of the Witwatersrand, I was part of a project that helped revegetate the dumps – they mostly look like grassy hills now,

But to have Glossy Ibises joining me in Wiltshire, along with my old friends the Grey Heron, Cattle and Little Egrets from the heronry is an unexpected treat. Glossy Ibises breed in parts of southern and southeast Europe as well as Africa and have been occasional visitors to the UK over the years. However, in recent decades sightings here have become more common, mirroring an increase in their breeding population in southwest Europe. Glossy ibises made a couple of breeding attempts in England in 2014 and 2016, with the first confirmed

successful nest in 2022. It's predicted that breeding may become more common as climate change results in drier summers in southwest Europe and milder winters in the UK. And this year of course it was recorded several times in January 2024 at Langford Lakes near Salisbury.

The Ibises belong to the family of wading birds called Threskiornithidae which also includes the spoonbills. They are all fairly large birds with rather short legs for wading birds but have fairly long toes. Their bodies are robust with moderately long necks and slightly down-curved bills. Their diet consists of small aquatic and other animals such as lower vertebrates and large insects captured in shallow water or open ground. They will also eat carrion. They are often gregarious and may nest in communities or singly. The spoonbills differ from the ibises in the shape of their bill which is flattened and spoon-shaped, not down-curved like in the ibises. Eurasian Spoonbills have also recently returned to the UK and had not bred here since the 17th century. The first recent successful breeding was recorded in 1999 and since then they have regularly bred in the east of England. There have been recent sightings of spoonbills in Wiltshire and hopefully we will eventually get them back breeding here in the near future.

Besides the Glossy Ibis there are several new heron-like species beginning to call the UK their home. The herons all belong to the family Ardeidae and are tall and slender wading birds, with long, lax plumage, long and pointed bill, long and slender toes with long curved claws. They frequent shallow water, marshes and sometimes grassy flats and cultivated lands in search of their prey, which consist of fish, water animals of all sorts, insects and even mice in some cases. Their nests are platforms of sticks or weeds, often in large colonies placed in trees, reed beds or rank marshy vegetation. Our native breeding species are the Grey Heron and the Bittern. These have been joined by the Cattle, Great White and Little Egrets now





breeding in the UK. In addition, there are also recent breeding records for the Purple Heron, Night Heron, and Little Bittern in the UK. All these species are also found in South Africa and were part of my youth as a bird watcher.

The **Little Egret** is a small white heron with attractive white plumes on crest, back and chest, black legs and bill and yellow feet. It first appeared in the UK in significant numbers in 1989 and first bred in Dorset in 1996. It is now at home on numerous south coast sites, both as a breeding species and as a winter visitor. There have been numerous sightings so far this year in January 2024 all over Wiltshire – Warminster, Westbury, Longleat, Ashton Keynes, 12 at Great Wishford, 10 at Langford Lakes; at Salisbury; 15 at Swindon; several in flooded fields opposite Lechlade Riverside car park; 10 at Pewsey; 7 at Amesbury, at Rymill, and many other records throughout the county. One species with which it can be confused is the Cattle Egret. The simplest way to tell them apart is that Cattle Egrets have yellow or greyish legs and a yellow beak, compared to the black legs (with yellow feet) and black beak of the Little Egret.

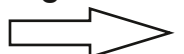
The **Cattle Egret** is also a former rare vagrant but is now an established breeding species and can be seen in all months of the year. It is a gregarious small white heron more often found in pastures and along roadsides than in wetlands. It is often seen following cows, horses, and tractors feeding on the insects that they stir up. Until the late 19th century, the Cattle Egret only existed in Africa and Asia. The Cattle Egret is now perhaps the most widespread species of bird on the planet having colonised Europe, the Middle East, and North and South America from Africa, and Australia from Asia. Cattle Egrets were first reported to have bred in Britain in 2008, with two pairs nesting in Somerset. More breeding attempts have followed and there is now a slowly expanding population in southern England. The colonisation that is taking place is likely to be due to climate change. Numerous Cattle Egret sightings have occurred so far this year in January 2024 in Wiltshire – 3 seen in Devizes, 3 at Warminster, 25 recorded on flooded fields opposite Lechlade Riverside car park; 33 were recorded several times during January at SWP29, plus many more sightings.



The Little Egret has black legs with yellow feet and black beak (del. S.F. Henning)



The Cattle Egret has yellow or greyish legs and a yellow beak, (del. S.F. Henning)





The **Great White Egret** is a tall, white heron is considerably larger than the similar little egret and has an orange bill and completely black legs and feet. Once a rare visitor to the UK, sightings have become more common over the last few decades, with several pairs now breeding. A few decades ago, records of great white egret were less than annual, but many now winter in the UK and a few pairs even nest here. There are several recent sightings in January 2024 in Wiltshire - at Westbury, Swindon, Langford Lakes, and Salisbury and other places throughout Wiltshire. It can be found throughout both town and countryside, on canals, ponds, lakes, and rivers.



The Great White Egret has an orange beak and completely black legs (del. S.F. Henning)

Our common Grey Heron often seen around Edington and found throughout Wiltshire and in fact the whole of the UK was also found throughout South Africa. They are instantly recognisable as they stand like a statue on the edge of ponds and lakes, looking for their next meal.



Grey heron at dusk (del. S.F. Henning)

The Bittern is another bird belonging to this group found in Wiltshire. This species is also found in South Africa. In Wiltshire, Coate Water Country Park in Swindon is the best place to observe bitterns. This dusty brown heron can be found living in reedbeds throughout the year, but they're most visible during the winter months. Male bitterns can be heard making a loud booming sound between January and April - during the mating season. The most recent recorded sighting in Wiltshire was on the 23rd of October 2023 at the Cotswold Water Park.



The bittern is very well camouflaged, with pale brown plumage, streaked with beige and black markings (del. S.F. Henning). →



Another heron to keep an eye out for is the Night Heron. They are small herons with rather squat, thick proportions. They have thick necks, large, flat heads, and heavy, pointed bills. The legs are short and, in flight, barely reach the end of the tail. It is a species I also know well from South Africa. It has a wide breeding range that extends across much of Eurasia and Africa. Up until recently it was a scarce visitor to the UK, and was usually seen in either April/May or October/November. Recently it was reported that a pair of Night Herons had apparently bred within the Avalon Marshes in Somerset. The parents and two fledged juveniles were seen on various dates during July 2017 at Westhay Moor NNR, managed by the Somerset Wildlife Trust. Over the next few years this heron might also become a common sight in Wiltshire as well.



The Night Heron is small with rather squat, thick proportions (del S.F. Henning)

There are a few more species of heron that we are likely to see around Edington over the next few years, but I will discuss them in the next issue.

Stephen Henning.



Edington & District Gardening Club

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

After welcoming a new member to our meeting this month, details were given of planned trips for the remainder of this programme, and for the new programme starting in June.

Visits to local snowdrops at Lacock, bluebells at Clafford Woods, Exbury Gardens, Abbotsbury, Forde Abbey, and the Taunton Flower Show should keep us busy.

Matt Simpson from Horningsham gave us an insight to his business which is now moving from the walled garden to another site but is still in Horningsham. Simpson Seeds is well known and specialises in seeds, harvesting their own. Matt is now making his own chilli sauces in small batches. Members couldn't resist buying some bottles. He is also experimenting with hydroponics and showed us how to make a simple, cheap system using a square 17litres tub with bars set just below the top, covered and then a 10l pot placed on the top with a wick wrapped around the plant reaching into the tub below, which is filled with water. Nutrients are added weekly. Yellowing of plants indicate underfeeding. Interestingly mistreated peppers are hotter than well fed ones!

We hope to visit Matt at Keepers Yard in August.

Next Month, March 7th, Jackie Haines, from Bratton Plant Center has kindly filled in last minute for us. The topic is the same, as advertised – Soft fruits and fruits.

If you would like more details about the club, please check on the village web page. If you would like to come along visitors are most welcome.

**Jacky
(830133)**



Memories of Edington School - entries from the school log book and records

Bad Weather

Snow, rain and severe cold had effects on attendance and was the cause of a number of school closures.

It is interesting to note the extremely low temperatures that sometimes obtained in school, especially when the method of heating was by coal or coke.

1920 Oct 25 to Nov 1 - No coals - no fires and mornings bitterly cold. Chart registers about 40 F. Nov 3 - 5cwts house coal, 10cwts coke and 300 peat blocks delivered to school.

1921 Oct 24 - Fires started this morning. At 9 a.m. 45F in infants Dept, 41F in Senior Dept.

1922 Feb 7 - Lavatory taps are frozen
Feb 14 - Lavatory taps are still frozen. Flushing has to be carried out by means of buckets of water.

Nov 1 - Extremely heavy rain throughout the night and still continuing has turned the hill tracks and paths into quagmires. 11 children absent, 5 of these are evidently absent owing to the weather and the state of the roads and paths. They are all long distance children.

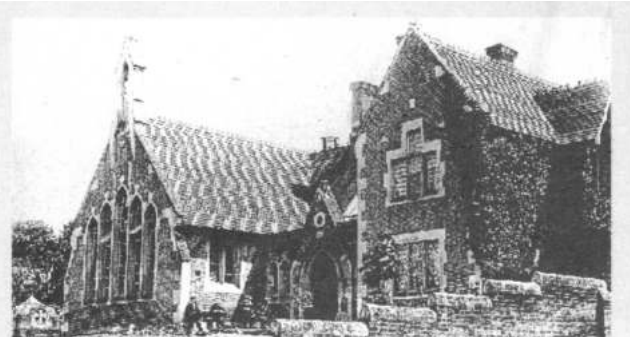
1923 General - Several cases occurred similar to that of Nov 1, 1922.

Nov 26 - An extremely cold morning. Fires were lit at 7a.m. but at 9a.m. temperature of school was 32 F. By 2 p.m. temperature had risen to 50 F.

Nov 27 - Temperatures today at same levels as yesterday. A great deal of sickness.

1924 Mar 3 - Twelve children are absent today owing to the conditions of the roads, there having been a fairly heavy fall of snow. Several children who have had to walk two miles were present at both sessions.

1927 Dec 19 - Temperature of School below Freezing Point at opening of School, in spite of



the fact that large fires had been lit two hours before. Temperature rose rapidly on admittance of children but never rose above 40F all day.

1929 Feb 11 to 15 - The school has been closed owing to inclement weather conditions when the morning temperatures in School registered 32, 24, 26 and 31F respectively.

1940 Jan 29 to Feb 5 - The School has been closed owing to inclement weather (icy roads)

1954 Jan 29 - Low attendance this week has been due to the severe wintry weather we have had. The flush tank was emptied the first day of the frost, so there has been no trouble there, but the pipes leading to it and to the taps in the back cloakroom are frozen.

1979 Jan 19 - The Headteacher closed the school after lunch because of the heavy fall of snow.

Jan 23 - School closed for the day because of snow. Teaching Staff and dinners unable to enter the village.

1982 Jan 11 - Very heavy snow prevented Mrs Hough from arriving at the school - Mrs Taylor walked from Bratton on supply.

Jan 14 and 15 - Headteacher forced to close the school as all water supplies frozen, ie no toilets, washing facilities, etc. Temperature at 10am 20C below! On 15th a slight thaw resulting in many burst pipes in the school and house alike.

1985 Jan 18 - Heavy falls of snow overnight produced blocked roads in the area. Headteacher managed to get to school - Mrs Hough did not. Four teachers who live in Edington reported to this school as they were unable to reach their own. Snow still falling by lunchtime - dinners did not arrive, therefore, used emergency rations and closed the school at 1pm.



Edington Wassail 2024

A very cold, overcast Saturday was brightened by about 60 brave villagers and friends joining together to celebrate. Bolstered by mulled cider and apple cake, we enjoyed music from Edington Brass and a lively session of dancing from White Horse Morris. We then progressed down to the (one) apple tree in Coal Path Field and, accompanied by singing and music proceeded to try and wake the tree up. We'll see in the summer if we've had any success. Hopefully the shock of being whacked and shouted at won't have finished it off. We were even joined by a couple of horses and their riders who were passing by and stopped to join in.

Thank you to all those who attended, made the music, danced, made apple cake and gave a donation. We covered our costs and were able to give small donations to the Brass, the Morris and the church for use of the tea hut.

See you next year.





Recipe of the month - February

PEAR AND BLUEBERRY CRUMBLE - Serves 8



A favourite winter warming pudding enjoyed by the family as well as those who come to Lunch in the Parish Hall. Delicious comfort food with a cinnamon flavoured syrup.

Suitable for freezing after cooking.

Recipe

300g blueberries – fresh or frozen
5 pears, peeled, cored and chopped (I use conference pears)
3 tablespoon plain flour
50g granulated sugar
1 teaspoon Cinnamon
1 tablespoon Lemon juice

Crumble Topping

115g Caster sugar
220g Plain flour
120g Porridge oats
125g butter - melted
50g pecan nuts – chopped

Oven temperature:- 190C, Gas 5

Cooking Time:- approx. 40 minutes

Method

1. Pre heat the oven, fan 190C, gas mark 5. Grease 1 large or 2 smaller oven proof dishes.
2. **Make the crumble topping.** Roughly chop the pecans. Place in a mixing bowl with the caster sugar, plain flour and porridge oats. Mix well
3. Melt the butter and pour over the dry ingredients mixing gently with a fork until you get a mix of "pebble sizes" from large to small and set aside. Do not over mix.
4. **Fruit Base.** Peel, core and chop the pears. Add to the baking dish along with the blueberries, the 3 tbsp plain flour (this makes the thickened syrup by absorbing the juices) granulated sugar, cinnamon and lemon juice. Mix well.



Note – if using two smaller dishes it is easier to mix the fruit filling ingredients in a mixing bowl and then divide between the two dishes

5. Spoon over the crumble topping. Bake in the middle of the oven for approx. 40 minutes. Until the topping is golden brown.

Enjoy hot with custard, cream or ice cream if you wish!





edington arts



Edington Arts is celebrating the start of their tenth season on Saturday 23rd March with a full length (two hour) performance of Bach's St John Passion by the Oxford Bach Soloists and orchestra under their conductor Tom Hammond-Davies. The great international tenor Mark Padmore will be singing the role of The Evangelist. The performance is being generously sponsored by Edington Station Yard Ltd, and by The Three Daggers.

Bach's account of the Passion from the Gospel according to St John is 'punchier' than that of the St Matthew, and the superb communication skills of both soloists and chorus will be used to most moving effect. The Oxford Bach Soloists have been performing the St John Passion on Good Friday in Oxford for many years, where it has become an iconic, essential ingredient of the preparations for Easter. This will be the first time they have performed the St John Passion during Lent outside Oxford, and we are delighted they have chosen Edington as their venue. Their recent London debut, with Bach's Christmas Oratorio, received a five-star review in The Guardian, whose reviewer said "This virile, collegiate approach to Bach is the most exciting I've heard in a very long time".

Booking is now open, and tickets have been selling fast. There is still a great choice of seats however, and you can book online through www.edingtonarts.org or by phone from **01380 831256**. The performance starts at the earlier time of **7pm**.



A monthly meet-up
to discuss
the big questions of life

Good Food - Bad Food

does it matter what we eat?

Come and tell us what you think.

Saturday 9th March, 5-6pm

Edington Parish Hall

Hot drinks served from 4.30pm



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



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

Let's Move!
DANCE FITNESS

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



Edington and Tinhead WI



Tuesday, 9th January, 2024

"I Would Do Anything For My Country" – Jonathan Bailey



Jonathan spoke to a packed audience of WI members and other interested parties on the background to the short but exceptional life of his auntie, Eliane Plewman (1917-1944). After years of exhaustive research he has been able to piece together most of the salient details relating to her work as an SOE (Special Operations Executive) operative in the MONK Circuit based in occupied Marseilles, her betrayal and subsequent execution.

Jonathan's investigation was seriously hampered by the lack of any official

documentation regarding the work of the SOE in general or reference to individual operatives like Eliane. The SOE was established on 22nd July, 1940 to conduct espionage, sabotage and reconnaissance in order to set Europe ablaze! It's role was technically illegal and not universally approved of. It was disbanded on 15th January, 1946 and British records were either unknown, lost or destroyed. In 1966 M R D Foot published *The SOE in France* but the only reference made to Eliane was the condescending comment that she was conspicuously attractive.

Eliane was multi-lingual; Spanish mother and English father, born in Marseilles and educated in England and Spain. She worked for the Press Section of the British Embassies in Madrid and Lisbon until 1942 when she returned to London to work for the Spanish Press Section of the Ministry of Information. In February, 1943 Eliane joined the SOE and was taught all the skills necessary for a field operative.

All of this information is now freely available on the Internet but did not exist when Jonathan began his research. He took us through the painstaking process (newly available documentary evidence, memoirs, letters, personal family contacts ...) to the point of her betrayal and arrest on about 23rd March, 1944.

We eagerly await part 2 of this gripping tale. What happened, who was responsible and why? There appear to be more questions than answers but we hope that Jonathan will return later in the year to share the last chapter of a remarkable life.



Pollinator project

I'm excited to say we are progressing with phase 2 of Edington's pollinator plan, which is to reinstate the hedge along the Coal Path and to add a small copse of Blackthorn and Hawthorn trees to the bank of the Parish Hall Car Park.

Our thanks go to the village volunteer squad who have cleared the area ready for planting, cutting back the Alder and clearing the area of undergrowth. In the process they have built a fine dead hedge, which will help our invertebrates thrive as well as a environmental friendly way of using the woody waste.



We are now looking for volunteers to plant the hedge.

**Come and help wildlife thrive
Saturday 17 February 9.30am
Church car park
All welcome
bringing your own spade.**



Four Villages Link

2023 was a busy year for our volunteers. Our coordinators dealt with 457 requests and our drivers drove on average 330 miles. The volunteers also undertake good neighbour tasks and are happy to just keep people company over a cup of tea. We are fortunate to have enrolled more volunteers this year, so that there is always someone available and both client and volunteer appreciate the interaction.

Please call 07852 256939 to request a service or to volunteer.



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.

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

Our next lunches will be on Wednesday February 14th & March 13th .

Joy Fraser (830426)

February Lunch in the Parish Hall



We are holding a Two Course Lunch (with a choice of soups and a selection of puddings) on **Wednesday February 14th at 12.30pm.** in Edington Parish Hall.

Price £6.00 in aid of the Three Villages Minibus.

All will be most welcome to join us.

It is essential to let Pauline (tel: 830013) know, by Friday February 9th 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	February	March	Start Time	Cost
Devizes	Thursday 1st	Thursday 7th	9.00am	£3.20
Warminster	Tuesday 20th	Tuesday 19th	1.25pm	£2.80
Westbury	Every Thursday	Every Thursday	1.30pm	£2.30
Salisbury	Saturday 10th	Saturday 9th	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



March Lunch in the Parish Hall



We are holding a 2 Course Lunch
(with a Main Course and a selection of puddings)
on Wednesday March 13th at 12.30pm.
in the Parish Hall, Edington.

Price £6.00 in aid of the Wiltshire Air ambulance.

All will be most welcome to join us.



Please let Pauline (tel: 830013) know if you are coming (by March 8th)
as this helps with catering arrangements.



TVM will provide door to door transport.

Please book your place with Pauline

Celebrate Christingle with us!

Help us bring light and hope to children living in poverty in this country.

Sunday 11th February
11am
Edington Priory Church

A service for all ages, with
candles and sweets!





Item for sale

Hunter Heralded 5 woodburning multi fuel stove.
Dimensions: 575mm wide, 560mm high, 340mm deep.
It has had very little use and is in very good condition.

Offers over £425. Buyer collects.

Contact: Susan Hunt 07703393831



Don't forget we are always willing to advertise items for sale within the village on the condition that we can take no responsibility for the items.

To advertise an item for sale or "give away to a good home" just contact the newsletter or Pauline in the Post Office



Edington What's On Diary

Date	Time	Event	Venue
10th February	9.30am	Salisbury Shopping Trip	
11th March	11.00am	Christingle Service	Priory Church
12th February	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	Parish Hall
13th February	7.30pm	WI meeting	Parish Hall
14th February	12.30pm	Village Lunch	Parish Hall
17th February	9.30am	Tree Planting	Church Car Park
20th February	1.25pm	Warminster Shopping Trip	
7th March	9.00am	Devizes Shopping Trip	
7th March	7.00pm	Gardening Club Talk	Parish Hall
9th March	9.30am	Salisbury Shopping Trip	
9th March	9.30am	Village Litter Pick	Parish Hall car park
9th March	5.00pm	Good Food - Bad Food	Parish Hall
11th March	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	Parish Hall
12th March	7.30pm	WI meeting	Parish Hall
13th March	12.30pm	Village Lunch	Parish Hall
19th March	1.25pm	Warminster Shopping Trip	
23rd March	7.00pm	Edington Arts - Bach's St John Passion	Priory Church
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

TVM trips - please Contact Pauline or Joy Fraser to book a place
For these and future events please check the village website for more details.

Contacting us

Email the newsletter at
newsletter@edingtonwiltshire.org.uk
or via the village website
www.edingtonwiltshire.org.uk

Future editions

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

newsletter@edingtonwiltshire.org.uk

Deadline for articles 5th of the month.

Sharing the Newsletter

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

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