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A Happy New Year to our readers

Whilst still in the first half of January 2023 we have a number of events taking place in the village with this coming Saturday 14th



January being a busy day. In the morning there is another session of Carpet Bowls in the Parish

Hall and then in the afternoon we have the village Wassail in the Coal Path Field.

If Carpet Bowls is not for you then why not take the TVM to Salisbury in the morning to undertake some shopping or just enjoy the views.

The Parish Hall committee are also looking for people to organise and run events in the Parish Hall during the course of the year, more details on page 10.



Welcome to the thirty-third edition of the Edington Village News.

A slightly smaller edition this month as people are recovering from Christmas and haven't got round to writing articles for this

edition.

We do of course have our regular articles including part 2 of Stephen's wildlife trip to South Africa and Mercedes musings. For those of you who missed the Christmas Tree lighting or the Advent Windows around the village we have included some pictures for you.





Local surgeries latest

REMEMBER YOU MUST WEAR A FACE COVERING WHILST IN THE BUILDINGS

White Horse Health Centre and Bratton

Surgery

Westbury surgery TELEPHONE 01373 828330



Bratton Surgery TELEPHONE 01380 831911
For medical emergencies dial 999

White Horse Health Centre Patient Survey 2022.

Very many thanks to the more than 1500 patients who have already completed our Patient survey.

There will be some further SMS being sent in the next few days to ask those who have not completed the survey if they have a few moments to do so.

The survey can be completed using this link:
<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/IWRTRK/>

The survey will close on Monday 16th January 2023.

Westbury Group Practice Facts and Figures for the week 19th December - 23rd December 2022

- Phone calls taken: 1760
- Face-to-Face appointments: 1410
- Telephone appointments: 932
- eConsults submitted: 152
- Appointments where the patient did not attend (DNA): 64 - equivalent to 16 hours
- On the day emergency appointments where the patient DNA'd: 1 – equivalent to 0.5 hours

Dr Edwards & Partners

www.westburygp.co.uk

Courtyard Surgery, West Lavington



Telephone 01380 813 300

For medical emergencies dial 999

[The latest news from the surgery - Our Practice Leaflet can be read here.](#)

FRIENDS OF COURTYARD SURGERY WEST LAVINGTON

Are you a patient registered at the Courtyard Surgery, West Lavington? Would you like to join our group? We are a small group of people (patients and Staff) who fundraise to facilitate the purchase of equipment which would otherwise have to come out of the surgery's normal budget.

Recently the Friends of Courtyard Surgery have purchased smartphone microscopes. These allow almost any mobile phone to be turned into a microscope to take photos of moles and lesions, these can then be sent straight to a dermatology consultant to get his advice and saved into medical record. We also raised funds to replace the surgery defibrillator.

We have an AGM in the early part of the year where we appoint a Chair, a secretary and a treasurer. There is usually another meeting to discuss dispersion of funds, after consultation with the surgery, later in the year.

Our ongoing fundraising, the sale of books and jigsaw puzzles at the surgery and also the Christmas raffle, has help boost funds. Patients often gift memorial donations which, as ever, are gratefully received.

If you think you can help please send your details to Susan Zaman sueandroy@msn.com or give your details at reception on your next visit. You will be contacted as soon as we have a date for the next meeting and invited to join the group.



Wiltshire Police

More than 100 drivers reported for drink and drug driving offences following Christmas campaign by Roads Policing Unit

A total of 112 drivers were stopped by officers suspected of drink or drug driving across the county in December.

Our Roads Policing Unit worked closely alongside partner agencies from the Road Safety Partnership to carry out the annual Christmas Drink Drive campaign from December 1 to 31.

During the month of action, a total of 46 drivers were reported for drink driving and a further 59 drivers were reported for drug driving. Three drivers failed to provide a sample when requested and four drivers were reported for driving whilst unfit.

Eleven of these drivers came to police attention after being involved in road traffic collisions.

A/Insp Will Ayres said: "Of course we hold a zero tolerance approach to drink and drug driving all year round, however, we know that the festive period sees an increase in parties and events for people to attend and enjoy, and with that often comes an increase in the amount of alcohol people consume. Drink and drugs can seriously affect your ability to navigate the roads safely and react to any hazards that arise.

"The team have been working extremely hard over the past few weeks to keep the roads within our county as safe as possible, targeting those who take risks and drink drive. We hope these figures send a reassuring message to law abiding drivers that we are fully dedicated to dealing with those who commit an offence, putting the lives of other road users, as well as their own, at risk."

If you suspect somebody of drink driving, please report your concerns. In an emergency call 999, or 101 for non-emergencies to report

details. Please try and give as much information as possible, including a description of the driver, the vehicle and direction of travel.

Police and Crime Commissioner asks for public support to increase precept

It is my job as Police and Crime Commissioner to ensure Wiltshire Police has the necessary resources to fight and prevent crime.

As with your finances during this time, your Force is facing increased financial pressures too.

With an indication of a 1% increase in central funding from Government for 2023/24, Wiltshire Police faces making £5.5m worth of savings.

This is at a time when we need to invest in the policing service to ensure necessary changes and improvements are made to keep the county safe – and to bring the Force out of the HMIC Engage process (special measures). Yesterday afternoon (12 Dec), the Government increased the cap on police precept, without local referendum, so that PCCs can now potentially increase by up to £15 a year for a Band D household.

Originally, I could only increase the precept by 4.1% which meant an average Band D household would pay an extra £10 a year, 83p a month or £251.47 annually.

Today's announcement means I could now increase the average Band D police precept by up to 6.2% - an extra £1.25 a month, £15 per year, or £256.47 annually.

The implications on finances if an average £15 precept increase per Band D household is taken are now being worked on by my team and I will let you know the detail as soon as I am able.

During the last year, our communities have reinforced the need for more frontline police officers – and I agree with them. Using your support for a precept increase, we will have additional police officers to help provide more visible policing and quality investigations.

Working with the Chief Constable, and on his operational advice, we will deliver 40 additional police officers for our neighbourhood





and volume crime teams as a result of the annual review of the current workforce mix. This will mean Wiltshire Police will better meet the needs of our communities.

These officers will bolster Wiltshire Police's work in the community, and crime investigation, and are in addition to the Uplift officers who are also coming through the recruitment and training pipeline into our communities, as well as specialist roles and the rural crime team.

I know in normal times an increase in contributions will be felt by our communities but in the current economic situation I realise this increase will be felt more keenly than ever before but I am asking for your support for the increase.

The decision to ask for this support has been a difficult one – and one that I would not make if there was an alternative.

I encourage you to fill out the survey - it is only by using your voice that we can truly understand the views of local people.

[Access the survey here](#)

Thank you.

Philip Wilkinson
Wiltshire and Swindon Police and Crime
Commissioner

Coffee Morning Drop In

Every Tuesday

10.30 - 11.30 am

in the Three Daggers.

Transport available contact

Pauline or Joy.



Wiltshire Council

Latest News from Wiltshire Council

Travel by bus this winter - most single fares cut to just £2 or less

Published 4 January 2023

Wiltshire bus users can now travel on most routes in the county for just £2 or less for a single fare until 31 March.

The fare price reduction has been funded by the Government, and is aimed at getting more people to use buses across the country during the current cost of living challenges.


As part of the promotion, many single bus fares in Wiltshire have been capped at just £2 for both adults and concessions. If the single fare was originally less than £2, it will remain at the reduced price, and many day return tickets have also been reduced.

Cllr Dr Mark McClelland, Cabinet Member for Transport, said: This is a fantastic initiative to get more people using Wiltshire's buses, as the £2 single fare cap offers an affordable and easy way to get around the county.

If more people choose to leave their car at home and take the bus, it will help to maintain bus routes in Wiltshire, as well as reducing congestion and carbon emissions, and improving air quality.

As we have set out in our Business Plan, we want to have vibrant, well-connected communities here in Wiltshire, and buses are a key part of that.

Most bus services in Wiltshire are included in this great value offer, so I'd urge people to save money and explore Wiltshire by bus this year.

Most normal bus services are included in the promotion, including services 



operated in Wiltshire by the following bus companies:

Beeline Coaches
Coachstyle
Damory Coaches
Faresaver
First Bus
Fromebus
Libra Travel
MoreBus
Stagecoach
Salisbury Reds
SouthWest Coaches
Swindon's Bus Company

To find out more about bus services and operators in Wiltshire, people should go to:

www.connectingwiltshire.co.uk/getting-around/bus/

Council focuses on potholes after cold snap and wet weather

Published 4 January 2023

Following the hot and dry summer, a period of cold winter weather and the continuing heavy rain, Wiltshire Council and its contractors are working hard to fix cases of potholes on the county's highways.

As well as its usual teams working to fix potholes where they occur, the council has also tasked its 18 Parish Stewards to solely focus on mending potholes that meet our defect criteria over the next few weeks to help get on top of the issue.

Cllr Dr Mark McClelland, Cabinet Member for Transport, said: Following the summer, the recent cold snap and the increasingly wet weather we have seen an increase in potholes on some of Wiltshire's roads, and we're working hard to respond to this, to ensure we have well-connected communities, as set out in our Business Plan.

The weather has provided the perfect conditions for potholes to form, and that's why we're seeing an increase in the number of road

defects throughout the county.

Our teams are responding to customer reports about potholes and other highways issues, and to help with this, we've tasked our 18 Parish Stewards to only work on patching potholes in their communities over the coming weeks.

Because the weather is so wet, in many cases our teams will patch the hole as a temporary fix, and then, later in the year, more permanent repairs will take place when conditions are more favourable.

People can quickly and easily report potholes through our MyWilts app or website.

In Wiltshire, the M4, A303, and A36 are all managed by National Highways, and so any issues on these roads should not be reported to Wiltshire Council.

If people see a pothole on Wiltshire's roads, they should report it using the MyWilts reporting system - either through the MyWilts smartphone app for Apple or Android devices, or online at www.wiltshire.gov.uk/mywilts

New Year - new opportunities: Find out about Family and Community Learning courses

Published 3 January 2023

Boosting your employability skills, helping your child with anxiety and worry and discovering wellbeing and confidence are just some of the free courses people can sign up to in the new year in Wiltshire.

Eligible people wanting to start 2023 with fresh learning under their belt can have a look at a raft of courses by Wiltshire Council's Family and Community Learning (FaCL) team which has tutors ready to welcome people for courses both in person and online.

People can find out about the courses by going to Work Wiltshire pages where they can book online and join the courses.

Recently the FaCL team has been rated Good by Ofsted with inspectors saying learners "feel well supported by tutors who help them





build their self-confidence. and improve their well-being. The FaCL team aligns with the council business plan priorities to help people be empowered to have the skills to lead full and enriched lives.

Courses include a single session online course around helping your child with anxiety and worry using practical methods to help. Another is around boosting your employability skills covering job searching, applications, CVs and interview skills. Another is on wellbeing and feeling more resilient and in control by discovering healthy coping strategies for stressful times.

To be eligible for the courses you must be over 19 and resident in the UK or EU for more than three years and live in Wiltshire and tick any one of these criteria

Less than 5 GCSEs grades A-C
English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)
In receipt of benefits
Military family
Family with a child with special educational needs and or disabilities
Unemployed and seeking employment
Adults with certain types of immigration status and their family members are also eligible to join our courses.

Cllr Laura Mayes, Cabinet Member for Education and Skills said: Our courses are free and can help provide you with skills for a new job, help your child with school or generally learn how to build your confidence and wellbeing - there will be a course to help you. The team has rightly been praised by Ofsted and we want to ensure more eligible people can enjoy and benefit from the range of courses available. 2023 is a new year with new beginnings and taking a course can be a good step in the right direction.

FaCL has a number of courses upcoming in January including well-being and boosting employability skills. Information about the courses is on the Work Wiltshire website at [Family and Community Learning - Work Wiltshire](https://www.workwiltshire.org.uk).

Edington Parish Council News

A Happy New Year to all villagers

The Parish Council have been informed that the new 20mph areas in the village are still scheduled to be installed before the end of January 2023. (Update - workmen were seen on Monday) Please ensure that when they are in situ we all adhere to them by ensuring that we keep to under 20mph and this will ensure that any following motorists also keep to the speed limit. Remember we have introduced these limits to make the roads in the village safer for everyone.

As part of the Parish Council's mission to improve the safety of all road users the Chair recently met with a senior highways engineer from Wiltshire Council and Suzanne Wickham our Wiltshire Councillor to look at other measures that could be implemented on the B3098 to reduce the speed of traffic through the village. The Parish Council look forward to receiving the suggestions as to what can be undertaken, at a cost to the Parish Council, to improve the safety for all road users.

On Monday of this week we had a visit from a Wiltshire Police Speed Enforcement Officer, she recorded 8 motorists exceeding the speed limit, 7 will be offered a speed awareness course and 1 will be given £100 fine and receive 3 penalty points.

Dog fouling has again been raised by a number of villagers who are fed up with finding offerings left by irresponsible dog owners on the footpaths around the village, please ensure that if you take a dog for a walk around the village you bag and bin any excrement left by the dog.

Later in this newsletter is an article illustrating the impact of dog fouling on farmers and how it can affect their livelihood.

Remember you can always contact the Parish Council by email parishcouncil@edingtonwiltshire.org.uk



Cllr Suzanne Wickham



I hope your New Year resolutions are going well if you made one. Let's hope that 2023 will bring some positive news and the cost-of-living problems will ease.

For anyone who is finding making ends meet a struggle, please look at the Wiltshire Council website for Cost-of-Living information and links that can be found there. Many additional benefits are automatically allocated to residents, but there are money-saving hints and links to the government websites and to charities.

If your New Year resolution is to do more exercise and get fitter, check the Wiltshire Council website for all the leisure and sport facilities. If you want to start by joining a regular walking group, you will find walking groups available in all our local towns. These walks are led by qualified walk leaders and are a great way to meet new people. You can choose from three walks, ranging from a 30 minute Starter Walk, a 45 – 60 minute Stroller walk or the 60 – 90 minute Strider walk.

After a dry summer which has caused subsoil shrinkage, then heavy rain and frosts, our road surfaces are really suffering. Please report any potholes on the Council's website or using the MyWilts App. This is the most efficient way to report any issues with highways, pavements, fly tipping, street lighting and many other problems of this nature.

The Council is concentrating on making the roads safe, but often this could be a temporary fix, and maybe even repeated several times, until the weather improves, and more permanent fixes can be carried out with proper machinery. I understand why people comment that potholes should have a more permanent repair initially, but this is a tried and tested process and the most cost-effective use of the Council's work-force time and machinery. During the cold weather our multi-skilled Parish

Stewards have been driving gritter vehicle but are now helping fill potholes.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or think I can help with any local issues.

Best wishes

Suzanne Wickham – Wiltshire Councillor – Ethandune

Email: suzanne.wickham@wiltshire.gov.uk

Tel: **07967 213336**

Wassail Wassail a Jolly Wassail

“Health to thee, good apple-tree,
Well to bear, pocket-fulls, hat-fulls,
Peck-fulls, bushel-bag-fulls.”



**Saturday 14 January 2022
at 3pm in the Coal Path field**

Come and join us for Edington's 2nd
Wassail

Bring along something noisy to wake
up the old apple tree

Mulled cider and apple cake
available



Village Musings

It has been a wonderful winter in Edington! We have had mist, frost, snow, rain, wind and bitter cold which has made the season feel old fashioned and just right. Standing out on our beautiful downs with the pale sunshine glinting on the hard ground, the frosty air like champagne, it feels as though we are in touch with generations of villagers who have enjoyed



the spectacular winters of Edington before us. Many of us have joined to celebrate, in the church, in our homes, in the village hall, and outside, singing, eating and drinking together. In the darkest days we are remembering that



spring will be peeping around the corner in just a few weeks. In the meantime, we snuggle down and revel in these quiet, dark days for a little longer.

For many, this has not been an easy year. And next year will present challenges as well. But I wish you all a very special new year which will bring, as well as the hard times, lots of very precious moments.



Mercedes Henning



Dangerous parasite in dog faeces causes pregnant cows and sheep to abort their young, farmers warn

A dangerous parasite found in dog faeces is causing pregnant cows and sheep to abort their young, warn farmers. *Neospora caninum* is most commonly spread by dog fouling and can remain in grass, water and contaminated animal feed for several months, representing a serious threat to livestock.

Landowners have joined calls for dog owners to pick up after their pets when out walking in the countryside to help reduce the spread of the harmful infection.

Dog owners are being urged to act responsibly when using public footpaths and rights of way that cross fields grazed by cows and sheep in the district. The farmers are backing the 'Bag it, Bin it' campaign to help protect their livelihoods - and the animals themselves.

A spokesperson said: "Farmers and other landowners are raising awareness of the parasite *Neospora*, which causes abortions in livestock. They are keen to encourage responsible dog owners to use the rights of way across their land, while ensuring they don't lose unborn livestock as a result of dog fouling on their land.

"Cattle and sheep can abort their young after coming into contact with *Neospora* - found in dog faeces - leaving farmers' livelihoods in danger. We are working with farmers to educate dog walkers about the importance of bagging and binning dog muck at all times, even in the most rural countryside."

"*Neospora* can remain in grass, water and contaminated feed for months after a dog fouls, presenting a serious threat to livestock," said the spokesperson. "One symptom is for the animals to abort their young.

"Poo bags are essential supplies for any dog

owner, so please remember to take them with you and use them - even if you're in a field or woodland area it's important to remove all traces of you being there as dog faeces poses health risks to livestock.

Dog owners are also being reminded to keep their pets under control following a number of incidents of sheep worrying.

Allowing a dog to worry or attack livestock is a criminal offence under the Dogs (Protection of Livestock) Act 1953.

Sheep represent a farmer's income and are often worth a substantial sum. If they are attacked or killed, the loss that farmers face can leave them substantially out of pocket.

Sheep worrying can include dogs attacking animals physically, running after them or chasing the sheep around, especially when they are carrying lambs or there are young lambs within the flock. Dog faeces left on grazing land may also carry disease that can kill sheep and affect unborn lambs.

Police can seize and detain a dog where an officer has a reasonable cause to believe that the dog has been worrying livestock on agricultural land; and no person is present who admits to being the owner of the dog. It can ultimately lead to a dog being put down.

Ultimately a landowner by law, and as a last resort for protecting their livestock, is able to shoot a dog which they believe is worrying sheep. However, nobody wants to see this outcome.

Anyone who witnesses an incident of sheep worrying livestock or who has information relating to dogs being dangerously out of control is urged to contact police on 101 or contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 immediately.

A reminder that some of the footpaths used by dog walkers around the village are permissive paths which means that the farmer has the right to close the path if people continue to allow their dogs to foul on the land.



Meeting every second Tuesday of
the month 7.30pm.

Edington Parish Hall

[www.facebook.com/
edingtonandtinheadwi](http://www.facebook.com/edingtonandtinheadwi)

Contact Jan Billinge 07309

117686

email: janet.billinge1@gmail.com

EDINGTON PARISH HALL



A Happy New Year to everyone and the committee look forward to welcoming you to events in the Parish Hall in 2023.

A Happy New year to you all!

Changes to the planned speaker for next Tuesday

As the police are unable to attend this month to talk about sex workers in Swindon, we are going to share our views of the 4 RESOLUTIONS we need to vote on to go forward for further discussion at this year's National Annual Meeting.

These are highlighted in the November/ December issue of the magazine WI Life. We can spend time, including a quiz to test our knowledge, looking at each resolution and then voting on our preferences.

The WI has been at the forefront of many campaigns over its lifetime and is an integral part of our belonging to this organisation.

At our February meeting on the 14th, we will have a speaker from the Nelson Trust talking about vulnerable women in Wiltshire.

FEDERATION EVENTS for WI members only

Dates for your diary

To check availability if the closing date has passed or for more information Tel: 01380 739340. Please remember to add dietary requirements to all application forms for events that include food.

Weekly WI Quiz Night

Every Wednesday
with "doors open" at 6.30pm
for a 7.00pm start

Zoom Virtual Meeting FREE

Millinery Rose Workshop

Saturday 4th February 2023

10.00am to 12.00pm or

1.00pm to 3.00pm

At WI House £20

Crockery missing from the Parish Hall



Unfortunately, some of the crockery seems to have gone walkabout! We are missing 4 of the pink and green floral pudding bowls, 5 glass ramakins and 6

white side plates. If you have 'borrowed' any of these to take food home after an event, please return them to the Parish Hall so that replacements do not have to be purchased.



A warm invitation is extended to everyone to join us for the next **Carpet Bowls session on Saturday 14th January from 10am to 12 noon**. No experience necessary as friendly tuition and advice will be given on playing Carpet Bowls. Test your skills on the target mat, a prize for the person with the highest score! Bacon and sausage butties, tea, coffee and cake will be available for a small charge.

Several people have said that it would be good to see more village events in the Parish Hall. If anyone would like to organise and run a 'one off' or regular event in the Parish Hall please get in touch as it would be good to see the hall used more, especially during the day.

Don't forget that the Parish Hall can be booked at reasonable rates for meetings, parties etc. Contact details and the online booking form can be found on the village website

<https://edingtonwiltshire.org.uk/hall/>

Wendy Pollard



Wildlife trip to South Africa – Part 2

After three days at the game reserve, we set off for Betty's Bay where my brother lived. Betty's Bay is a strip of land and houses between the Kogelberg mountains and the sea. The mountains are part of the 18 000ha Kogelberg Nature Reserve home of baboon, porcupines, klipspringer, grey rhebok, Cape genet, leopards, and many smaller mammals. At first glance it seems to be green & brown boring mountain nature reserve. Not at all - it has more plant species per hectare than anywhere else on earth.



View of Betty's Bay with Kogelberg mountains in distance

Being on the edge of a nature reserve may seem a blessing, but the residents of Betty's Bay are plagued by baboons. They even have had to take measures to protect themselves from the baboons. All the houses in Betty's Bay have security doors and bars on the window to stop the baboons getting in. No one leaves a door open and only does so if the security door is in place. Even the few shops in Betty's Bay have security doors and we had to unbolt the door to get in the Spar supermarket.

My brother had the flimsy bars he had on his bathroom window pulled off by one of the dominant males. Inside the big male named Scarface made his way through the house to the kitchen and raided the fridge. He then left again through the bathroom window with his booty.

We all laughed about this when my brother told us the story but while we were there it got even worse. When my brother and his wife arrived for supper at our house on our last night in Betty's Bay, they told us a sad tale. They said when they got back home from dropping off their daughter and granddaughter at Cape Town airport (round trip of about 4 hours), they found 3 young baboons in their house. They were all waiting very contrite at the front door when it was opened. They had trashed the house and pooped on the floor a number of times. Mr brother said he picked up 35 poos. In the kitchen, all the cupboard doors were open, and food was spread everywhere. They had urinated on the kitchen units which dissolved the spilt sugar – this then ran down the door and solidified. It appears they had got in through the window in his granddaughter's room, which then had snapped shut after they got in. As they could not get out, they had a lot of time to rampage through the house. After supper we went to help them clean up the baboon's mess and sterilise the house. I have actually never seen a house trashed so much in such a short time before.

Back to the story of our holiday - the vegetation at Betty's Bay was completely different from that at the game reserve as we were back into the Cape fynbos. We had hired a house for a week complete with baboon proof security gates and barred windows. The field opposite looked orange from the large number of orange pincushion proteas growing there. Virtually every bush had cape sugarbirds feeding on them.





The pincushion proteas at Betty's Bay were absolutely stunning (photo G.J.U. Williams)



Cape sugarbirds were on virtually every orange pincushion protea



A female cape sugarbird flew into our window and stunned itself – it flew off after a couple of minutes

On our first morning in the house, we woke up to the sound of a Cape canary pecking on our tinted bedroom window. This is usually because they can see their own reflection, and think it is a challenger for their territory. The Cape canary is a common and gregarious seedeater in South Africa. Its call is tsit-it-it, and the song is warbled goldfinch-like trills and whistles given in display flight or from a high perch.

When I opened the curtains in the sitting room there was a Cape grey mongoose wandering on the patio without a care in the world. It is predominantly insectivorous but also carnivorous. Insects and other Arthropoda such as spiders are caught on the ground and then held down with the forefeet and





A Cape canary pecked at our bedroom window

eaten. Larger prey such as rodents are stalked and killed with a bite to the head. Large prey items are held down with the forefeet and then torn into bite size pieces with the teeth. They have been known to eat carrion and garbage as well. Often, they live in close association with man, often under the floors of outbuildings, and even live successfully on the fringe of suburbia.

After lunch we travelled to the penguin reserve at Stony Point about a mile away. When we arrived, the first thing we saw were dassies (rock hyraxes) with lots of babies. I am always amazed that their closest living relatives are elephants. My grandchildren absolutely loved them and the baby dassies were absolutely gorgeous. It was difficult getting the kids away from the dassies to go look at the jackass (or



Outside on the patio was a Cape grey mongoose

African) penguins. There were penguins everywhere. Also, on the rocks and flying around were kelp gulls, Hartlaub's gulls, Cape cormorants, and black oystercatchers.

It was so great to see the penguins doing so well. My brother pointed out that they had spread outside the reserve, and we could see other colonies further along the coast. At the reserve there were lots of large chicks moulting into adult plumage. There were also a few small chicks around. There were also lots of nesting cormorants and greater black-backed gulls. I was surprised to see some Egyptian geese swimming on the sea.



When we arrived, the first thing we saw were dassies (rock hyraxes) with lots of babies





Photographing African or Jackass penguins on a slipway at Betty's Bay



The rock hyraxes came right down on the beach with the nesting penguins



I also saw some Cape cormorant nests on the rocks above the penguin colony

Later that day we visited my brother's large garden full of proteas and other fynbos plants. Here I found some large pine emperor moth (*Nudaurelia cytherea*) caterpillars about 11 cm long on one of his proteas.



Pine emperor moth caterpillar



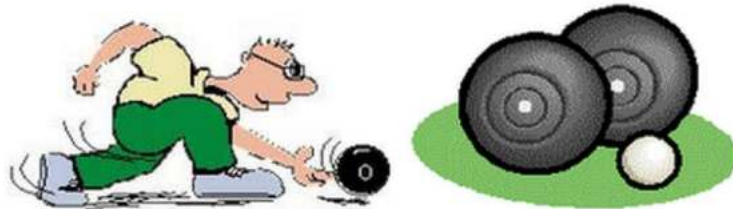
Pine emperor adult

In the next part of my trip, I visit Harold Porter National Botanic Gardens in Betty's Bay and have my own encounter with a troop of baboons.

Dr Stephen Henning



**WHY NOT MAKE A NEW YEAR'S DATE FOR THE NEXT
CARPET BOWLS SESSION IN THE PARISH HALL?**



When: Saturday 14th January 2023

Where: Edington Parish Hall

Time: 10 am – 12 noon.

**COME AND BUILD ON THE SKILLS LEARNT IN THE
FIRST SESSION OR TRY A NEW SPORT IF YOU
COULD NOT MAKE THE FIRST SESSION - Friendly
tuition and advice will be available.**

**How many points could you score on
the target mat? A prize will be
awarded for the highest score!**



**Bacon or sausage butties and tea and
coffee will be available for a small charge**



Trowbridge Street Pastors



For the past 12 years teams of Street Pastors have patrolled the streets of Trowbridge every Saturday evening from 10 p.m. until around 2:30 / 3:00 a.m. with the aim of keeping people safe and giving a practical example of our Christian Faith. Each team consists of three or four trained volunteers, all of whom are members of the various Christian churches in the area.

We wear a distinctive uniform and freely distribute lollipops to instigate conversations to ensure that everyone is having a good evening. It is amazing what people tell us and sometimes we need to give time to listen to their worries and cares. We also have bottles of water for those who have over imbibed, and flipflop sandals to help ladies who are having difficulty walking on their high heels. (They then keep them for their next holiday).

We work with the police, and usually try to call in to the 'Cop Shop' to let them know that we are about and to see whether we should be aware of anything that evening. There have been occasions when the police have asked us to stay with a casualty awaiting an ambulance to allow the officers to get on with other things. The last train from Bristol/Bath should arrive in Trowbridge at 23:50. Most of the 100 or more passengers disperse happily, but there are invariably a few who have difficulties getting

away, either through being unable to get a taxi or, being the worse for wear having over indulged. It is not unknown for party goers heading for Swindon or Reading to appear having got on the wrong train at Bath. As the taxi fare can be pretty extortionate, they phone a friend to come to collect them! The station is a lonely place at night and we never leave anyone there by themselves. It can sometimes be a long wait!.

The door staff on the night time venues keep an eye on their customers and resolve difficulties on their own premises. However, revellers can get excited whilst moving between the pubs and nightclubs. Our uniformed presence usually tends to calm things down but, if things do start to kick off, we try not to get involved and call 999. The police monitor the town center CCTV and are pretty quick to come on the scene if needed. They remove the trouble makers, leaving the Street Pastors to deal with the aftermath.

Patrolling the streets of Trowbridge in the small hours Sunday morning can be quite an eye opener. We are mostly made very welcome, connect with a great range of people and are always ready to help anybody who needs it. It can be fun, sometimes a bit disturbing, occasionally a little frightening, but it is always very rewarding to know that we have been of help in some way.

So, if you happen to be enjoying the night life in 'Trow-Vegas' late on a Saturday evening, keep an eye out for the Street Pastors, come and say hello, and claim your free lollipop!!

To find out more, visit our website:-

<https://streetpastors.org/locations/trowbridge>



Scenes from Christmas in Edington 2022 The tree lighting and some of the Advent windows





Tai Chi in Edington

Did you know there are Tai Chi lessons available in Edington

Sessions are available in the Parish Hall on Mondays 11am to 12noon. Donations to cover the cost of the hall.

Join in FREE sessions on the playing field behind 3 Daggers pub on Mondays, Wednesdays Fridays from 8.15am to 8.40am.

All weathers except rain!

For more info
Contact Anne on her
mobile:
07905748359





Four Villages Link

Please call 07852 256939
to volunteer or request a
service and see more
information at
<http://thefourvillageslink.org.uk/>



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



Edington Parish Hall
Thursdays 2pm-4pm
All welcome!

EDINGTON PARISH HALL

At the top of Monastery Road, is
available for hire at very reasonable
rates and has the benefit of a car park
opposite the hall. Suitable for parties,



meetings, family celebrations, funeral
wakes and other events.

For more information or to book the hall,
using the online booking system, go to
www.edingtonwiltshire.org.uk/hall

Alternatively email
parishhall@edingtonwiltshire.org.uk or
phone 01380 830441. We look forward
to welcoming you to the hall.



THREE VILLAGES MINIBUS (TVM)



First, a Happy New Year to all our passengers, drivers and helpers!

All of the journeys listed below 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.

Group hire can now resume if groups wish to do so.

The next Edington lunches will be on January 11th and February 8th.

Thanks to all the lunch team and diners, we raised funds in 2022 for Edington Parish Hall, the Three Villages Minibus and the charities, Tents for Lent and Dorothy House.

Joy Fraser (830426)

Lunch in the Parish Hall

We are holding a two course Lunch (with a choice of Fish Pie or Cottage Pie & a selection of puddings)

on **Wednesday February 8th** at 12.30pm.
in Edington Parish Hall.

Price £8.00 in aid of Edington Parish Hall.

All will be most welcome to join us.

Please let Pauline know (by Friday February 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	January	February	Start Time
Devizes - £3.20	Thursday 5th	Thursday 2nd	9am
Warminster - £2.80	Tuesday 17th	Tuesday 21st	1.25pm
Westbury - £2.30	Every Thursday	Every Thursday	1.30pm
Salisbury - £5.00	Saturday 14th	Saturday 11th	9.30am

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 January	7.30pm	WI meeting	Parish Hall
11th January	12.30pm	Village Lunch	Parish Hall
14th January	9.30am	Salisbury Shopping - TVM	
14th January	10.00am - 12 noon	Carpet Bowls	Parish Hall
14th January	3pm	Wassailing	Coal Path Field
17th January	1.25pm	Warminster Shopping - TVM	
2nd February	9.00am	Devizes Shopping - TVM	
2nd February	7.30pm	Gardening Club talk - An introduction to Houseplants	Parish Hall
8th February	12.30pm	Village Lunch	Parish Hall
11th February	9.30am	Salisbury Shopping - TVM	
14th February	7.30pm	WI meeting	Parish Hall
21st February	1.25pm	Warminster Shopping	
Every Thursday	2.00pm - 4.00pm	Warm Space	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

www.edingtonwiltshire.org.uk/newsletter

and enter your details or email

newsletter@edingtonwiltshire.org.uk

and you will be added to the mailing list.