



Happy New Year to all our readers

Contents

- White Horse Health Centre
- Courtyard Surgery
- Wiltshire Police
- Wiltshire Council News
- Edington Parish Council News
- Village Musings
- Wassailing
- Swans Around Edington
- This month's recipe - Cheesy Vegetable Bake
- TVM Report
- Edington and District Gardening Club
- Westbury and Ethandune Banking Hub
- Edington and Tinhead WI
- Three Village's Minibus
- Edington What's On Diary
- Sharing your newsletter
- Contacting us

7.30pm in the Parish Hall by Jonathan Bailey on the Special Operations Executive in the Second World War. Then we have what is becoming an annual event Wassailing on the Coal Path field on Saturday 20th January at 3.00pm, don't forget to wear your wellies and bring something to wake the tree up with! Not only will there be the wassailing but also the White Horse Morris Dancers and Edington Brass. Something not to be missed.

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

*Finally can we wish all of our readers a very
Happy New Year.*

Pauline and John



Welcome to the forty-fifth edition of the Edington Village News. A slightly smaller version this month as people recover from the holiday.

In this month's edition we have our usual selection of articles ranging from Wiltshire Police outlining their new local policing services, Wiltshire Council explaining the criteria that they use for filling in potholes and our regular nature series which this month is entitled Swans around Edington.

Now that we are in 2024 we can start looking at the forthcoming events in the village, starting with a talk on this Tuesday evening at





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

Winter Vaccine bookings:

From December 15th 2023 the national booking service for Covid-19 and Flu vaccination will close.

There will still be opportunities to have your vaccination after this date. If you have not had your vaccination we suggest you book this. The surgery is still administering Flu vaccination; you may wish to enquire at local pharmacies to see if they are providing the Covid-19 vaccinations.

Reminder

Our new online option for patients is called PATCHS and we are introducing this on 1st February 2024. The link on our website to the existing patient online option (e-Consult) will be replaced with the link to PATCHS in time for that February date.

We will be publicising more details on how we intend to use PATCHS and we will keep you informed as we progress. This will be via us sending you a text message with a link to our website to see the latest updates. We will also ensure we publicise this information in the Waiting Room at the surgery. In advance we are asking you now to ensure that we have your up-

to date email address; our Reception team will ask you about this and we will also be considering how else we can get this information from you.

Contact details

In order to assist us in contacting you, please ensure you update us with your mobile number and e-mail address. This can be done any time you have a contact with a member of staff or send it to us via

bswicb.wgppatientvoice@nhs.net

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 Daggers.

Transport available contact

Pauline or Joy.



Wiltshire Police

Extract from the latest Chief Constables report to the Police and Crime Commissioner.



2024 will be an important year for Wiltshire Police as we continue to make significant and sustainable improvements to the service we deliver. This starts with us launching our new operating model for frontline resources on Monday (January 8) which includes the re-establishment of dedicated Neighbourhood Policing Teams (NPTs) to improve the visibility and engagement with all our communities.

In addition, our new model will also see;

- An increase in resources in our NPTs
- Better alignment of policing resources to meet our demand (including the introduction of a new Response shift pattern)
- An increase in our proactive capability to tackle community concerns
- The launch of our Community Commitments – ensuring consistency of high policing standards across the county
- New neighbourhood engagement vehicles out and about in our communities.

Our communities can find out much more about the changes and how they will affect their local service, by visiting this page on our website.

I will also be taking part in a Facebook Live broadcast on Monday 22 January between 6.30pm-7.30pm where I can answer any questions our communities have about these exciting changes.

The festive period was a particularly busy time for us, and I would like to share some clear examples of our commitment to Keeping Wiltshire Safe;

Local policing

In January 2024, we are making a series of changes to improve the visibility, consistency and resilience of our local policing services within Wiltshire in order to make best use of resources, and provide a more consistent service across the county. As part of a range of improvements we are making to our local policing services, we are

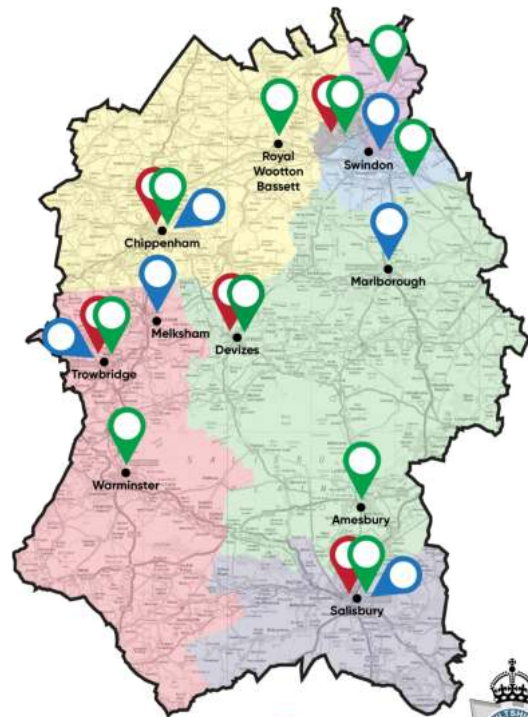
making some changes to the locations our Response Teams use to start and finish their shifts (hubs).

By grouping our Response Teams together around where they start and end their shifts - in four hubs instead of five – we are strengthening their communications and ability to respond to demand. The teams will continue to provide a highly visible presence in their existing geographical areas through patrol activity and response to crimes and incidents.

Our Neighbourhood Policing Teams will continue to work from their existing stations and the number of stations open to the public will remain unchanged.

WILTSHIRE POLICE

LOCAL POLICING IN THE COUNTY



Stations open to the public Response Team hub Neighbourhood Policing Team base

www.wiltshire.police.uk

[f wiltshirepolice](https://www.facebook.com/wiltshirepolice) [X @wiltshirepolice](https://twitter.com/wiltshirepolice) [@wiltshirepolice](https://www.instagram.com/wiltshirepolice) [in company/wiltshirepolice](https://www.linkedin.com/company/wiltshirepolice)



More than 100 drivers were investigated during our Christmas Drink and Drug Drive campaign.

On December 1, 2023, we launched our annual month long campaign with the message 'Don't Risk It', urging drivers to plan their journeys in advance if intending on consuming





alcohol or illegal drugs over the festive season.

During the month-long campaign, our Roads Policing Unit, neighbourhood teams and special constabulary increased patrols alongside the Road Safety Partnership, to target those drink or drug driving.

During the month, a total of 108 drivers were investigated. Of these, 94 were arrested. These arrests came about either as a result of officers proactively stopping vehicles after observing poor driving, reports from members of the public or minor collisions where the drivers were signed off fit to detain by the ambulance service.

Fourteen of the drivers were dealt with outside of arrest due to being involved in serious collisions which involved hospital processes.

A/Insp Will Ayres, of our Roads Policing Unit, said: "Although the annual Christmas campaign is over, we will continue to target drink or drug drivers throughout the county every day, and we encourage the public to report people to us who they suspect of committing these offences.

"This year we saw a switch towards more people drink driving with a total of 65, compared to just under 40 for drug driving. We did see a dip in drink driving offences following COVID but with the world now back to normal, people's drinking practises have resumed and combined with the celebratory mood over Christmas, this appears to have led to a higher number of arrests.

"It's completely unacceptable to get behind the wheel of a vehicle having consumed alcohol or illegal drugs – you are putting your own life and the lives of other road users in serious danger. Please think carefully about whether or not you are fit to drive when you get into a vehicle – it's simply not worth the risk"



Wiltshire Police and Crime Commissioner

Residents are being urged to use their voice and tell the Police and Crime Commissioner how they feel about policing in their communities, what Wiltshire Police should be prioritising and how the policing budget should be spent next year.

The Policing, Priorities and £s survey, seeks the views of residents and stakeholders as PCC Philip Wilkinson develops the budget for policing and commissioned services for the next financial year (2024/25).

As part of the survey respondents will be asked whether their household would be prepared to invest more in policing through the police precept part of their council tax.

Wiltshire Police's budget is set by the Police and Crime Commissioner based upon the operational policing advice and guidance given to him by the Chief Constable.

It is the responsibility of the PCC to ensure Wiltshire Police has the necessary resources to fight, and prevent, crime and ensure it has the right resources, tools and equipment.

Funding is made up of centralised government grants from the Home Office and locally from the police precept part of you council tax. Wiltshire Police is constantly challenged by the fact it is one of the lowest-funded Forces nationally due to head of population.

As with your household budget, factors such as inflation and increases in goods and services mean it is highly likely that money allocated for policing will not deliver the same level of policing service during the next year – unless the overall amount of money is increased. It could mean that some spending would have to be cut or larger savings made for the PCC to deliver a balanced budget.

Current financial plans make several assumptions about funding in the years ahead including forecasting how much the Government will provide, as well as other factors such as inflations levels, future pay awards for the police workforce and the police precept part of your council tax

No decisions have yet been made for the following financial year yet but and there are various factors which could alter whether the amount you pay to the police part of your council tax will need to change. As part of this budget planning process, the PCC needs to hear your views.

You can complete the survey [here](#)



Wiltshire Council

News from Wiltshire Council

Date announced for Warminster 'Ask the Leader of the Council' event

In 2024 Wiltshire Council is continuing its series of community events across the county where people can ask questions to find out more about the work of the council, with the next event taking place in Warminster later this month.

Published 4 January 2024

In 2024 Wiltshire Council is continuing its series of community events across the county where people can ask questions to find out more about the work of the council, with the next event taking place in Warminster later this month.

Events are being held in each community area so they are convenient for people to attend and questions are relevant to the local area. The next event will take place at Warminster Library on 24 January, from 6pm to 7.30pm.

People are encouraged to ask any questions about the council, its objectives and priorities, and the challenges ahead. The events are an opportunity to put questions directly to the Leader of the Council, Cllr Richard Clewer, and hear his thoughts and plans for the future.

Previous events last year took place in Chippenham, Devizes, Westbury, Trowbridge, Salisbury, Southern Wiltshire, Calne and Melksham.

Cllr Richard Clewer, Leader of Wiltshire Council, said: "Thank you to everyone who came along to an Ask the Leader event in 2023, it has been really useful to meet people face to face and hear their experiences of local issues. We've had some really good discussions around possible solutions to local issues and I've taken these forward following events. In 2023 I held

events in eight community areas and I look forward to visiting the rest of the county this year.

"The next event takes place in Warminster on 24 January and I would encourage residents to come along and ask me any questions and find out more about the work we are doing.

"These events are a great way to ensure our priorities reflect those of our local communities. If people can't make the event but would still like to ask a question, they can submit it in advance to communications@wiltshire.gov.uk"

Potholes and Carriageway Defects

Potholes and other defects appear in our roads not only because of the age of the surfacing material, but because of the effects of weather, traffic loading and ground conditions. Wiltshire Council has an extensive programme of road resurfacing, but with a backlog of maintenance required on the road network nationally, it is necessary to make localised repairs to keep our roads safe.

Repairs are prioritised so that the most urgent defects are dealt with first.

Wiltshire council uses a number of processes to treat potholes, including tubs of ready mixed materials, excavating and laying new material, and velocity patching which sprays material into the defect. The type of treatment can depend on the nature of the defect, its location and weather conditions.

The repairs may not look attractive, but their purpose is to keep the road safe.

Safety Inspections are carried out on the highway network to identify all defects likely to create danger or serious inconvenience to users of the network or the wider community. Such defects include those that will require urgent attention within 24 hours as well as those where the locations and sizes are such that longer periods of response would be acceptable.





(Most C class roads and all unclassified roads)

Potholes on main roads (A, B and some C class roads)

Size of Pothole	Response
More than 75mm (3") deep and wider than 250mm (approx 10").	Normally dealt with within 24 hours. In some cases where an immediate repair is not possible temporary signing and guarding may be required.
Potholes between 40mm and 75mm (3ins) wider than 250mm (approx 10")	Normally dealt with within 7 working days. In some cases where an immediate repair is not possible temporary signing and guarding may be required.
Potholes less than 40mm (1 3/4") deep.	Site would be considered for inclusion in future maintenance programme, and will continue to be monitored.



Carriageway defects of less than 40mm depth, including areas of delamination (where the road surface is deteriorating) will be considered for repair or resurfacing as resources permit.

Other surface depressions and irregularities may require temporary signing to warn of uneven road surface or slippery road signs, depending on circumstances.

Potholes on minor roads

Size of Pothole	Response
More than 100mm (4") deep and wider than 250mm (approx 10").	Normally dealt with within 24 hours. In some cases where an immediate repair is not possible temporary signing and guarding may be required.
Potholes between 40mm and 100mm (4") wider than 250mm (approx 10")	Normally dealt with within one month. In some cases where an immediate repair is not possible temporary signing and guarding may be required.
Potholes less than 40mm (1 3/4") deep.	Site would be considered for inclusion in future maintenance programme, and will continue to be monitored.



Type of Road	Type of defect	Response
On main roads (A, B and some C class roads)	An area immediately adjacent to the road more than 150 mm deep and width greater than 200 mm.	Normally dealt with within one month. In some cases temporary signing and guarding may be required.
Minor Roads	An area immediately adjacent to the road more than 150 mm deep and width greater than 200 mm.	Will be considered for future treatment.

On minor roads defects over 100mm are treated as priorities.

Carriageway defects of less than 40mm depth, including areas of delamination (where the road surface is deteriorating) will be considered for repair or resurfacing as resources permit.

Other surface depressions and irregularities may require temporary signing to warn of uneven road surface or slippery road signs, depending on circumstances.

Verge over -run

During wet weather rural grass verges can be damaged by vehicles leaving the carriageway. Verge over-run adjacent to main roads is prioritised.

Verge over-run damage less the 150mm deep or 200mm wide will be monitored and considered for treatment as resources permit. In the winter or during wet weather





Type of Road	Type of defect	Response
On main roads (A, B and some C class roads)	An area immediately adjacent to the road more than 150 mm deep and width greater than 200 mm.	Normally dealt with within one month. In some cases temporary signing and guarding may be required.
Minor Roads	An area immediately adjacent to the road more than 150 mm deep and width greater than 200 mm.	Will be considered for future treatment.



extensive damage can be caused to verges by large vehicles and repairs may have to wait for better weather in order to be treated.

Don't forget you can report potholes on the [MyWilts app](#) or on the [Wiltshire Council website](#).

Beat the new year blues and sign up to your local gym this January

This new year, join your local Wiltshire Council leisure centre and prioritise your own physical health and fitness journey.

Published 3 January 2024

All 20 leisure centres throughout the county will be offering no joining fee membership deals between Tuesday 2 January to Monday 15 January, a saving of £25. With a diverse range of memberships available including junior, senior, corporate and concession, there are a number of choices available to suit all abilities, fitness levels and ages.

With membership at a Wiltshire Council

leisure centre giving access to all 20 sites, if you take up the Life Zone membership, you can access a wide range of group exercise classes, from high intensity classes, including the internationally renowned Les Mills classes, through to wellness classes like pilates and yoga. Classes provide a motivational way to build regular activity into a weekly routine and provide a great platform to meet new people and be inspired by enthusiastic instructors.

Wiltshire Council Cabinet Member for Leisure, Cllr Ian Blair-Pilling, said: A key priority in our business plan is to help the people of Wiltshire increase their activity levels and improve their health, and we hope that by offering our memberships without the admin fee this January, more people will take that first step towards a more active lifestyle.

We're committed to providing the best possible experience for all users of our facilities but if you're a first-time gym user, or someone that's returning to a more active lifestyle, our fitness teams are on hand to provide you with a professional, supported and guided introduction to the gym. This includes a consultation session to assess your aims and goals and address any worries and concerns, along with an introductory session in the gym to show you the equipment and make sure you're happy using it, plus a personalised fitness programme to ensure that your time with us is well spent.

For those who are less interested in using the gym, our Swim Only membership may be the one for you. With 16 swimming pools in the county and a good value membership that includes unlimited public swimming at all pools, swimming could be the ideal way to increase your physical activity in a low impact way. We offer a variety of different sessions from early morning lane swims to less structured family fun sessions.

For more information or to become a member, please visit our website at: www.wiltshire.gov.uk/leisure-memberships



Edington Parish Council News

At the December meeting of the parish council the latest proposals put forward by Wiltshire Council to reduce the speed of traffic entering the village along the Westbury Road and Lower Road were put forward. These included a Gateway (a white gate as is installed in Monastery Road), refreshing the existing white lines, additional roundels (the 30 signs painted on the road surface), buff coloured high friction surface, repainting rumble strips and an additional enhanced 30mph sign. The proposals for Lower Road included the marking of a pedestrian routeway along the northern side of the road from the Greater Lane junction to the junction with Inmead. The cost to the PC would be in the region of £4500. The suggestion had been made by Wiltshire Council that it could be reviewed if in fact it was not having the desired effect on traffic speeding in and out of the village. The parish council was not impressed with these suggestions. The proposals were nothing short of simply cosmetic.

Experience showed and has been backed up by various reports produced by the Department for Transport that they would not have a deterrent effect and that what was needed was a physical barrier such as a build out or even provision of a proper footpath (such as recently installed in Westbury on the B3098) with priority signage. The council was sceptical that having spent £4500 of the councils limited money and £9000 of Wiltshire Councils Highways funding the possibility of further money being spent was unlikely. The issue needed to be addressed properly now for the long term. We were reminded that this issue had been discussed many times in the past as part of a larger strategy to reduce the impact of traffic throughout the village.

The council felt that they could not support the proposals as they would not meet the requirements of slowing down the traffic and any expenditure would necessitate increasing the

village precept to pay for the work. The council have requested that the Highways department submit a new proposal in time for the January meeting.

The requirement for any road scheme now is that the parish council are required to pay 30% of the cost unless the total cost of the project is greater than £20,000 in which case the scheme would be submitted into the substantive bids schemes for highways improvements across Wiltshire. There would be no guarantee that it would be successful and if it was the parish council would still be expected to make a contribution towards the final cost.

The parish council at its meeting on Monday evening will decide on the precept for the 2024/25 year. The decision made will be posted on the village website early next week once the calculations have been completed.

Finally the Edington Parish Council would like to wish all villagers a very Happy New Year.

Forthcoming roadworks.

Woodbridge Road (Lower Road) 10 Jan 09:00 - 12 Jan 15:30 Traffic control (stop/go boards) Vactor drainage works

C49 Woodbridge Road, Edington betwixt junction with Greater Lane and junction with Crossroads Farm 29 Jan 07:30 - 2 Feb 18:00 Road closure
Drainage CCTV investigation survey and repairs to alleviate carriageway flooding

Advanced notice

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.

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

It is the season to get out and enjoy a cold, blustery, winter walk! The going might be heavy but it is such fun to get out into our beautiful countryside and tramp around our village. A minute or two from our front doors, and we are out into spaces that, in my view, are amongst the best in the world.



A great walk if you don't mind a bit of uphill and have the stamina for about an hour, starts in Salisbury Hollow. The track is rutted and uneven, but the woodland vegetation is lush, even in winter, and takes you into a deep green world full of damp, wintery scents. It is a bit of a climb to get to the right hand turn that will take you along the top of the downs, but there are beautiful views on the way up and a bench to rest on if you need to.

Following the footpath along of the edge of the field at the top of the hill opens up magnificent views from the Marlborough Downs to the Mendips, and our village is visible as a tiny, homely glimpse in the dip of the hills. The



iconic fan trees, the highest point on the Plain, open up on your left as you tramp along the footpath.

The walk along the hills, whichever route you take, is wonderful. Wildlife, views and skies are absorbing and the walk brings peace and mindfulness.

Perhaps you will walk back to the village down Long Hollow, or down Coach or City Hollow. Or you might stretch out and make for Sandy Lane. If you get across to this end of the



village, and come past the allotments, you could pop into the little dell where you can enjoy Monks' Well, very full at this time of year with the rushing of water over the ancient stone very beautiful. Then you could go down Parsonage Lane to see the fairy doors in the trees, down the Coal Path to the church, and then up the steps to Ralph's seat. At this time of the year, you can see the church through the trees from the seat. Then over an old-fashioned style, back across the Weir field with the sheep and our village lying ahead, and the last stretch past the playing field.

And it is so good to arrive home, weary and muddy and exhilarated.

Mercedes Henning



Wassail Wassail a Jolly Wassail

Health to thee good apple tree

Saturday 20 January 2024

3pm Coal Path Field



Come and join us for Edington's 3rd Wassail

Featuring

Edington Brass

&

White Horse Morris Dancers

Mulled cider and apple cake

Bring along something noisy to wake up the old apple tree

Welly boots recommended



Swans around Edington

Waterfowl generally refers to ducks and geese, which we have been discussing over the past few months. Waterfowl are defined as birds that are strong swimmers with waterproof feathers and webbed feet. They use their webbed feet as flippers to push through the water. So, besides ducks and geese, swans are also classified as waterfowl. Most waterfowl also fly well and migrate huge distances every year between their summer breeding grounds and the regions where they spend the winter. These long-distance migrations have fascinated me for years. I think one of the most amazing migrations is that of the Bar-headed Goose that flies over the Himalayan mountains and reaches a top height of 6,437 m (4 miles) the highest flight of any known bird.

We have three species of swans in the UK two of which migrate huge distances every year from their summer breeding grounds to overwinter here in the United Kingdom. Bewick's Swans are the smallest swans to visit the UK. They migrate here for winter, all the way from Siberia in Arctic Russia, flying sometimes 4,000 miles to reach this country. They tend to over winter in Lancashire, southern England and on the fens from East Anglia to the Humber. Their traditional feeding grounds are the Ouse Washes and



2023-06-09 On the boat looking at the large number of Mute Swans swimming on the Hickling Broad

Slimbridge and they are most numerous in southern England. There are lots of recorded sightings of Bewick's swans from Wiltshire every year and could well be observed around Edington. I suppose these are mainly excursions of the swans overwintering at Slimbridge which is only 30 miles from Edington as the crow (or swan) flies. The distance is 50 miles by car, but Slimbridge is well worth a visit as the sight of hundreds of Bewick's Swans grazing on the grass next to the water is awe-inspiring. January and February are good months to go and see them. The migratory birds will start returning to their breeding grounds late February to early March.



2022-05-16 Mute Swan on Coniston water in the Lake District.

The other migratory swan that we might see is the Whooper Swan, which is much bigger than the Bewick's Swan, being of similar size to our well-known Mute Swan. It is mainly a winter visitor to the UK from Iceland, but a small number of pairs nest in the north. The Bird Atlas 2007-11 recorded successful breeding in south-east England, as well as Northern Ireland and Scotland. There is the odd record of this swan being recorded from Wiltshire. In the spring, Whooper Swans will fly, non-stop, from the UK to Iceland. During this 600-800-mile migration, they may travel at very high altitudes; a pilot flying at 8,000 metres once reported seeing a flock of swans that were thought to be Whoopers. The temperature at this height could





have been -50oC. The actual height of the migratory swans can't be verified so the bar-headed goose still holds the highest flight record.

Our third swan is the well-known Mute Swan. It is widespread and numerous permanent resident throughout most of Britain. It gathers in huge flocks outside the breeding season. When I visited Hickling Broad in Norfolk back in June 2023, I was amazed at the number of Mute Swans on the broad. At one place there must have been 60-70 swans swimming together. The guide said that there are only 12 breeding pairs at Hickling Broad, and all the others were mostly young birds not yet breeding. In fact, most Mute Swans will not breed until at least their third or fourth year of life. Some may also have been adults unable to find a mate, or a pair who did not find a suitable territory to build a nest.

Bewick's Swan

Bewick's Swan adults are white all over with a black and yellow bill, while young birds are greyish with a pinkish bill. Compared to the



The Bewick's Swan is smaller than both Mute and Whooper Swans (del. S.F. Henning).

similar Whooper Swan, these swans have proportionally more black and less yellow on their bill. They're also smaller than both Mute and Whooper Swans and have faster wingbeats. They have a wingspan of about 6 feet and weighs between 11 and 17 lbs with males being bigger.

They arrive from Siberia in late autumn, returning north again in the spring. They will often feed on fields during the day, eating crops like leftover potatoes and grain, before heading to roost on open water.

Nests in Siberia but spends the winter in the UK, mainly in East Anglia, the Severn Estuary and Lancashire. Their nests are a huge mound of vegetation.

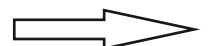
Whooper Swan

The Whooper Swan is a very rare breeding bird in the UK but has much larger populations that spend the winter here after a long journey from Iceland. It has more yellow on its yellow-and-black bill than the Bewick's Swan.



The Whooper Swan usually holds its long neck erect (del. S.F. Henning)

The Whooper Swan is a large white swan, bigger than a Bewick's Swan. It has a long neck, which it usually holds erect, and black legs. Its black bill has a large triangular patch of yellow on it. It has a wingspan of 7-9 feet and can weigh up to 25 lb with the males being larger than the females.





The Whooper Swan has a wingspan of some 7-9 feet and can weigh up to 25 lb (del. S.F. Henning)

Whooper Swans require large areas of water to live in, especially when they are still growing because their body weight cannot be supported by their legs for extended periods. The Whooper Swan spends much of its time swimming, straining the water for food, or eating plants that grow on the bottom.

Whooper Swans have a deep honking call and, despite their size, are powerful fliers. Whooper Swans can migrate hundreds or even thousands of miles to their wintering sites in the United Kingdom and southern Europe and eastern Asia.

Whooper Swans' pair for life, and their cygnets stay with them all winter; they are sometimes joined by offspring from previous years. Their preferred breeding habitat is wetland, but semi-domesticated birds will build a nest anywhere close to water. Both the male and female help build the nest, and the male will stand guard over the nest while the female incubates. Their nest is a mound of vegetation at the water's edge, usually on an island.

Mute swan

The Mute Swan is a very large white waterbird. It has an S-shaped neck and an orange bill with a black base and a black bump. It flies with its neck extended, making regular, slow wingbeats. Some birds stay in their territories all year, while

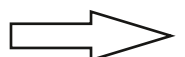
others move long distances and form winter flocks. In cold weather, some birds arrive from Europe into eastern England.

The Mute Swan is one of the most familiar birds in the UK, its long, curved neck and graceful glide a regular sight on our waterways and waterbodies. Mute Swans feed on plants, particularly waterweed. They usually mate for life, but some will have numerous partners.



2022-05-16 Mute Swan cob holding his foot out of the water as he swims along. This aids the regulating of his body temperature. Black foot turned toward the sun absorbs heat and so he can warm himself during cold days. On hot days it allows cooling as water evaporates from his foot.

The only common swan in most places, the Mute Swan is easily recognised by its all-white body and its reddish-orange bill that has a large black 'knob' at the base.





Found throughout town and countryside, on canals, ponds, lakes, and rivers across the UK.

Adult Mute Swans typically range have a wingspan between 6 and 8 feet. It is one of the heaviest extant (living) flying birds with some males (cobs) reaching up to 15 kg (33 lb) although the average weight in the UK is about 11.8 (26 lb). The smaller females (known as pens) average about 8.5 to 9.67 kg (18.7 to 21.3 lb). While the top normal weight for a big cob is roughly 15 kg (33 lb), one unusually big Polish cob weighed almost 23 kg (51 lb) and this counts as the largest weight ever verified for a flying bird, although it has been questioned whether this heavyweight could still take flight.

Mute Swans nest on large mounds that they build with waterside vegetation in shallow water on islands in the middle or at the very edge of a lake. They are monogamous and often reuse the same nest each year, restoring or rebuilding it as needed. Male and female swans share the care of the nest, and once the cygnets are fledged it is not uncommon to see whole families looking for food. They feed on a wide range of vegetation, both submerged aquatic plants which they reach with their long necks, and by grazing on land.



2022-05-17 Mute Swan female (pen) and cygnets at Fountains Abbey. The male chased me away aggressively soon after I took this photograph.

Mute Swans can be very aggressive in defence of their nests and are highly protective of their mate and offspring. Most defensive acts from a Mute Swan begin with a loud hiss and, if

this is not sufficient to drive off the predator or intruder, are followed by a physical attack. Swans attack by striking at the threat with bony spurs in their wings, accompanied by biting with their large bill.



2022-05-16 Mute Swan cob giving me a loud hiss when I got too close at Coniston Water.

The familiar pose with the neck curved back and wings half raised, known as busking, is a threat display. Both feet are paddled in unison during this display, resulting in more jerky movement. The swans may also use the busking posture for wind-assisted transportation over several hundred meters, so-called windsurfing.



Mute Swan in familiar pose with the neck curved back and wings half raised, known as busking, Stephen Henning.



Recipe of the month - January

A creamy vegetable bake with a crunchy topping of cheesy rosemary croutons – a meat free main course often enjoyed at the Village Lunch.

Cheesy vegetable bake - Serves: 6

Ingredients

For the filling:

350g (12.5 oz) carrots
200g (8 oz) potatoes
250g (9 oz) swede
200g (8 oz) broccoli
30g butter (1 oz), plus some to grease the oven proof dish
1 tbsp garlic puree or 3 cloves crushed garlic
350g (12.5 oz) trimmed leeks
salt and pepper

For the sauce:

500ml (17 fl oz) milk
30g (1 oz) butter
15g (0.5 oz) plain flour
100g (3.5 oz) mature cheddar cheese
salt and pepper

For the topping:

6 slices of stale bread, crusts removed
100g (3.5 oz) mature cheddar cheese
6 springs of fresh rosemary
Glug of olive oil



Method

1. Preheat the oven to 180C, Gas 5.. Slice the bread into sixths by slicing in half vertically and into thirds horizontally, then cut all the little square in half diagonally to create 72 little croutons.
2. Place on a greased baking tray and bake for 8 minutes until crisp but not browned, then set aside.
3. Peel the carrots, swede and potato and cut into 1 cm cubes. Divide the broccoli into florets.
4. Place in a pan of water, bring to the boil and cook for about 8 mins until just tender. Drain and add to the greased oven proof dish





5. Meanwhile, melt the butter in a frying pan over a medium heat with a good pinch of salt and pepper.
6. Finely slice the leeks and sweat in the butter with the garlic for about 8 to 10 minutes over a gentle heat
7. Add the leeks to the casserole dish and mix well with the other vegetables.
8. To make the white sauce, put the butter, flour and milk in a saucepan, place on a medium heat. Whisk lightly until it thickens, then add in the grated cheese and stir until melted.
9. Season to taste then pour over the vegetables
10. Spread the croutons on top of the casserole and then sprinkle with grated cheese.
11. Place the rosemary sprigs on top, then drizzle with olive oil. **Note: I usually take the leaves off the rosemary sprigs and scatter over the croutons.**
12. Bake in the oven for around 10 minutes until golden and bubbling.

This recipe can be made a day in advance up to point 9 and kept in the fridge. Remove from the fridge and continue with point 10 and 11 Reheat for approx. 45 minutes. Gas 5. 180C until piping hot. Note: this recipe also works well with a mixture of Mediterranean vegetables and onion in place of the leeks.

Suitable for freezing but stop at point 9

Three Villages Minibus – A year of service success

TVM has continued to serve its community well over the last year.

The January – December 2023 period has seen TVM carry 558 local villagers on the scheduled shopping trips, an increase of 47 shoppers over 2022. This is despite the number of shopping trips falling slightly from 91 in 2022 to 85 this last year.

TVM's hirings by local villagers and village groups has seen a massive 66% increase in passenger number carried, 916 this year and 549 last year. The number of hire trips has also increased to 66 trips in 2023.

The range and nature of the groups using TVM has also expanded and includes the Brownies, Bishop's Canning School, The Dodgers, Bratton Brass Band, Rotary, Urchfont Bus, Erlestoke Cricket Club, Lunch Club, Urchfont Pre-

School, Lavington Beavers, The Music Festival and Edington Church. As well as these group hires TVM provided 16 private hires in 2023 for family trips, sporting events, celebrations and special trips.

None of this could have happened without the support of our volunteer drivers: Martin Killian, David May, Joy Fraser, Peter Mercer, John Pollard and Dave Perkins. We thank them all for their time and kind generosity. Also many thanks to Eric Mitchell who has worked wonders on the TVM maintenance performance during 2023 and greatly reduced our repair costs. Long may that continue.

TVM is likely to enjoy a busy and rewarding 2024. Remember, it is your bus and it is there for you or your village group to use. TVM hiring rates are very modest.

Jasper Dorgan
Chairman, TVM



Edington & District Gardening Club



Our talk on 1st February will be Simpson Seeds, seeds, and sauces – Matt Simpson

Keep gardening!
Jacky

Westbury and Ethandune Banking Hub

This Petition is to ask Westbury Town Council to pursue a Banking hub in Westbury, through Cash Access UK, which would serve all the outlying villages and the town. Together this would serve a population of 21,500.

To sign the online petition [click here](#)

Let's Move!
DANCE FITNESS

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



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**



BACKGROUND

Many towns and villages throughout the UK no longer have bank branches available, including Westbury and surrounds. A new idea, developed by a group of banks, is to provide banking hubs that enable various banks to share premises. So they set up Cash Access UK to develop these. 67 have been set up so far, with 2 in Wiltshire (Calne and Wotton Bassett). They are open all week 9-5, with different banks "open" on separate days.

With a growing town and thriving businesses, having this hub will attract more people to the town.

If you want to see a bit more click on this [LINK](#) to take you to their website



Edington and Tinhead WI



On 9th January we are looking forward to hearing Jonathan Bailey speak to us about the work of the SOE (Special Operations Executive). The SOE was a secret organisation created in July 1940. We would encourage everyone to come along regardless of aender and/or WI affiliation.

EDINGTON AND TINHEAD W.I.

Invite you to a talk on Tuesday January 9th
2024 at 7.30 pm
in Edington Parish Hall

ELIANE PLEWMAN & SOE

BY JONATHAN BAILEY



"I would do anything for England" Eliane Plewman, c. 1942

Jonathan Bailey will talk about the short but dramatic life of the 'MONK Circuit' of Special Operations Executive (SOE), in Marseille 1943-44. He will focus on the story of a family member, Eliane Plewman (**Gaby**), her betrayal and death, and unresolved mysteries.

It is a tale of action, betrayal, horrors at the hands of the Gestapo, and a further monstrous betrayal which has never been adequately explained.

Everyone welcome, open to all.

Come along for an interesting and informative evening, free admission.



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.

Groups within our villages can hire TVM if they have a driver who satisfies our criteria; please contact Pauline on 830013.

Our next lunches will be on Wednesday January 10th & February 14th.

We are most grateful to Edington Station Yard for their generous gift in support of our lunches and the minibus.

Over 2023 we raised over £300 for our two chosen charities; Jula House and the Disaster Emergency Fund and donated, in total, over £650 to Edington Parish Hall and the Three Villages Minibus.

Joy Fraser (830426)

February Lunch in the Parish Hall



We are holding a Two Course Lunch (with a choice of main course and a selection of puddings) on **Wednesday February 14th at 12.30pm.**

in Edington Parish Hall.

Price £8.00 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	January 2024	February	Start Time	Cost
Devizes	Thursday 4th	Thursday 1st	9.00am	£3.20
Warminster	Tuesday 16th	Tuesday 20th	1.25pm	£2.80
Westbury	Every Thursday	Every Thursday	1.30pm	£2.30
Salisbury	Saturday 13th	Saturday 10th	9.30am	£5.00

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

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

Contact Pauline or Joy Fraser to book a place



Edington What's On Diary

Date	Time	Event	Venue
2024			
9th January	7.30pm	WI Meeting	Parish Hall
13th January	9.30am	Salisbury Shopping Trip	
15th January	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	Parish Hall
16th January	1.25pm	Warminster Shopping Trip	
20th January	3.00pm	Wassailing Ceremony	Coal Path Field
1st February	9.00am	Devizes Shopping Trip	
1st February	7.00pm	Gardening Club	Parish hall
10th February	9.30am	Salisbury Shopping Trip	
12th February	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	Parish Hall
13th February	7.30pm	WI meeting	Parish Hall
20th February	1.25pm	Warminster Shopping Trip	
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