



Contents

- Village Helpline - latest
- Local Surgeries - latest
- Wiltshire Police
- Wiltshire Council News
- Edington Parish Council News
- Edington Neighbourhood Plan
- Musings of a Villager
- Notes from Little Court Lane
- The Joy of Spring
- Enrolment on Parochial Church Council
- Edington and District Gardening Club
- Viola Hale
- Edington Arts
- Same Old Walks
- Four Villages Link
- Edington Parish Hall - update
- Litter
- Small ads / Swaps
- Sharing your newsletter
- Contacting us



Welcome to the eleventh edition of the Edington Village News, yes it is nearly a year ago that we started this publication.

This month we have as always a selection of articles including our regular musings from Mercedes and Stephen's latest article on the "Joy of Spring". We also have "Notes from Little Court Lane" and an article about the amount of rubbish left around the village and the efforts of one villager to help tidy the village. There are also a number of updates from village groups as lockdown starts to ease. This month's for sale item is a pine bookcase being given away.

Remember if you have anything that you would like to swap, sell or give away please email us at our usual address, newsletter@edingtonwiltshire.org.uk with your name, details of the item(s) and even a photo of the item if you wish. Please ensure that we have this information by the 1st of the month.

Village Helpline Latest

Whilst we are still in lockdown remember that the helpline is still operating for anyone requiring assistance.

The Edington Village Helpline can provide assistance with shopping, collecting prescriptions, dog walking and a listening and talking service along with many other things that we can find access too. If you need help please call the helpline and we can help you in these difficult times, if we cannot help we will find someone who can help you.

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

This newsletter is published monthly but we may produce it more frequently if there is a change in information or events, the village website will also be updated on a regular basis to help keep everyone up to date with the latest information. The newsletter can be delivered directly to your inbox just visit

www.edingtonwiltshire.org.uk/newsletter and enter your details.

Don't forget to contact the help line on **07933143021** (available 9am to 6pm, Monday to Friday)





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

We have started to use an online booking system for Covid Vaccinations, you may receive a text from us, this is not a scam, the text will read as follows:

Message from The White Horse Health Centre
You are eligible for a covid-19 vaccination. Your appointment will be at the White Horse Health Centre in Westbury. The clinic date is for your first dose and for your second. Please click this link to book your appointment (link provided Qhealth). Please note that once your appointment has been booked, this will automatically book your second appointment for the same time. If you are unable to use this link do not phone the surgery, we will be contacting you in due course.

Polite Reminder - if you have an appointment at the surgery for your covid vaccination or any other appointment, please only arrive when it is time for your appointment. We are having an increasing number of people arriving early, which is causing an issue with the car park and social distancing. Thank you in advance for your help with this.

Many thanks

Dr Edwards & Partners

www.westburygp.co.uk

Courtyard Surgery West Lavington



TELEPHONE 01380 813 300

Our new website can be found at www.courtyardsurgery.co.uk From the website you can order medications, contact us with questions and much else. Via DoctorLink you can enter your symptoms and get advice about who you should contact to get the correct care. The surgery gets sent details of these questions and answers. Phone apps, these allow you to access your medical record, order prescriptions and get medical advice via your mobile phone. There are two main ones used in Wiltshire. Airmid which has been developed by the company that provides the clinical software used in all the surgeries in Wiltshire, and the local care homes, and the NHS App. Both can be downloaded from Applestore and Playstore, and you will need to be able to prove your identity including you NHS number.

www.courtyardsurgery.co.uk

Market Lavington Surgery



TELEPHONE 01380 812500

Covid vaccinations

We are all working incredibly hard to get everyone in as soon as we can. You may be offered an appointment at the weekend and at the moment these clinics are taking place in the Corn Exchange in Devizes. You may also be vaccinated by a different GP surgery. If you are offered an appointment at one of the vaccine centres which is far away, if you can, please attend the appointment.

www.marketlavingtonsurgery.nhs.uk



Wiltshire Police

Public reminded of importance of adhering to lockdown after fines issued at five house parties

People are being reminded about the importance of continuing to adhere to the national lockdown after officers were called to five separate house parties over the weekend.

Despite the Government's announcement on the plan to hopefully slowly lift restrictions over the coming months, the current lockdown remains in place and we are urging the public to ensure they are sticking to the rules.

The latest figures show that between 22/02 and 28/02 Wiltshire Police:

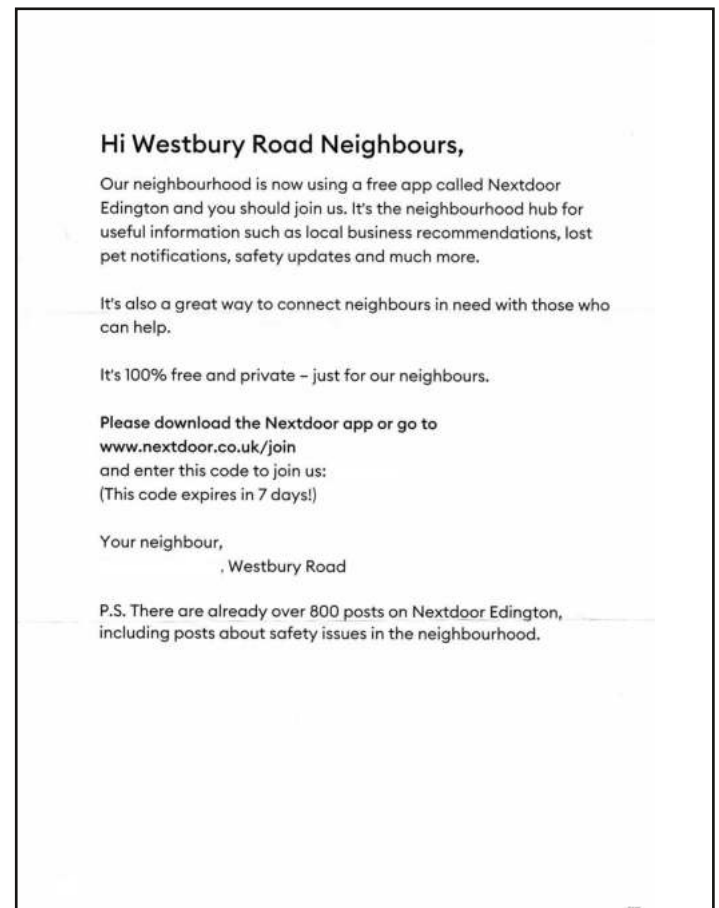
- Issued 59 fixed penalty notices. This brings the overall total to 696 (this will include FPNs issued retrospectively).
- Issued 93 formal warnings to people for failing to adhere to the Government rules.
- Recorded 357 reports from members of the public, either via the phone or using our online reporting tool.
- Recorded three Covid-related crimes and 38 Covid-related incidents.

Warning of a SCAM

A number of residents in Edington have received a letter similar to the one below and some people have received an email also about a so called "Neighbourhood App".

This is nothing to do with the Edington Parish Council and our enquiries suggest that it is a marketing scam by a company.

Do not respond to it.



Please make sure that your neighbours are aware of this scam and are not persuaded to join it.



Wiltshire Council

Wiltshire Council is urging people to register to vote by post, with a number of elections and referendums due to take place later this spring.

On 6 May, registered voters will be able to have their say in the Police and Crime Commissioner, unitary, and town and parish council elections, as well as a number of neighbourhood planning referendums.

Due to the ongoing pandemic, Wiltshire's Returning Officer is asking that as many people as possible register to vote via post.

To avoid the risk of fraud, a signature is required when applying for a postal vote. Anyone unable to print a postal vote application form at home should call Wiltshire Council on 0300 456 0112 and they can arrange for a copy to be posted out.

For those who haven't already registered to vote by post, details on how to do so are detailed on the Household Enquiry Form that the council recently sent to households. The Household Enquiry Form is to help the council ensure its electoral register records are as up to date as possible.

People can also visit the Government postal vote page for more information and to get a form.

To manage the amount of elections, and to keep everyone safe, the verification and counts will be spread over four days.

The council will also do everything it can to keep polling stations and count centres as safe as possible for voters and staff by making sure venues are COVID-secure.

People should visit Wiltshire Council's election pages for all the information they need on the upcoming elections.

Elections in 2021: Police and Crime Commissioner, unitary, town and parish, neighbourhood planning referendums

Don't forget to register to vote by post

If you can't print an application form at home, please call **0300 456 0112**

wiltshire.gov.uk/elections

Wiltshire Council

Edington Parish Council News

By the time that you read this the work in Monastery Road will have been completed and the path is now safer to walk along without potholes and the like.

After lengthy negotiations with Wiltshire Council it has been agreed that the Parish Council can erect some lighting in the Parish Hall car park. We were asked back in June 2020 by the Parish Hall committee if the Parish Council could install some lighting, as the car park has been identified as being unsafe for users after dark especially as there is no nearby lighting and the surface is uneven thereby posing a health and safety risk. We will shortly be erecting two LED solar powered lights that will be activated by motion sensors to provide illumination within the car park and a small LED solar powered bollard light near the entrance to assist people entering the car park before the main lights are illuminated.

If you have ventured into Salisbury Hollow recently you will have noticed that the surface has become even more uneven and this has been exacerbated by the increased use by 4x4 vehicles. As you may remember from previous updates we have been working with Wiltshire Council on having the entire track regraded, unfortunately due to Covid this has been delayed but we have been informed that work will start in April. As Salisbury Hollow is





classified as a Byway open to all traffic (BOAT) the Parish Council did request that a closure order be put in place to prevent vehicles using the hollow but we were informed that it would cost in the region of £1,400 that would be payable by the Parish Council! We were also informed that there was a voluntary closure in place instigated by the Green Lane Association, unfortunately this only applies to members of the association and therefore has very little effect on the use of the hollow by vehicles whose owners are not members of the association. The Parish Council will continue to monitor the situation and also talk to other parish councils in Wiltshire and further afield that have similar trackways in their area to find a long term solution to the problem. In the mean time please continue to use the MyWilts app to report not only the dangerous condition of Salisbury Hollow but also potholes and the like in the area. The more people that report issues on the app the more likelihood that action will be taken by Wiltshire Council. You can also report issues at

<https://my.wiltshire.gov.uk/>

The volunteer group will be back working later this month once restrictions are eased to allow up to six people to meet outdoors. The work will continue in the field adjacent to the burial ground and the group will start on renovation work to the steps leading up to Ralph's Seat. The next session will be on Tuesday 30th March meeting in the church car park at 9.30am, feel free to come and join in and help make the village even better.

Don't forget the elections coming up in May, there is more information in the Wiltshire Council section in this newsletter about the different ways to vote. The Wiltshire Council website has information for prospective election candidates including the requirements to stand at an election for either Parish Council or Wiltshire Council.

Edington Neighbourhood Plan

A Neighbourhood Plan for Edington is in the process of development. The Plan will be a document, approved by the village, which seeks to describe residents' aspirations and preferences for the future in a number of important areas: housing; transport; local economy; countryside and nature; facilities and social wellbeing. The Plan will have legal effect as part of Wiltshire Council's Local Plan and will carry significant weight, for example in planning matters.

As part of the Neighbourhood Plan process we need to identify any pieces of land in the village which owners would be interested in being used for the small-scale development of one or more homes, particularly if suitable for affordable housing.

If you have a piece of land that you think may be suitable please follow the link below to find out more about the process and how you can record your expression of interest.

www.devplan.edingtonwiltshire.org.uk/sites





Village Musings

One of our favourite walks takes us up Coach Hollow – over the road from, and a little to the west of, the pub. The hollow is a tranquil, damp, sheltered spot, with ferns and vines trailing up the steep banks, clear traces of badgers and deer,



and, in summer, the most beautiful green light filtered through to the tunnel under the trees. One could be in any jungle or woodland in the world once deep into the trail. The scent of

woodland, fallen branches, muted bird song and a certain hush seem to be universal in wooded areas.

In winter, oddly, it is lighter, with winter's dim light falling through the empty branches, brightening the path. Views through to the sky and the animal tracks higher up the bank are more easily visible. The ground is wetter and heavy, but there is still that sense of excitement, breathlessness and awe in this little secret place within a place.

There is a fascinating tree which has clearly been used as a rubbing post by some animal – and the bark has been rubbed smooth, with scratches visible in the surface. And there are tracks and trails and evidence of lots of animal activity here. One day, we shall put a trail camera up there and film the wildlife whose home this is.



There are records of coaches travelling from the Edington coaching inns up onto the Plain and back down again, commuting to Salisbury and beyond. The downs here are too steep for ordinary carriage horses

to manage to draw their loads, so huge, heavy, muscular horses were kept at the bottom of the hollows and at the top and these beasts of burden would be harnessed to the coaches in place of the bloodstock, to get the coaches up and down the hollows safely, though slowly.

Once at the top of Coach Hollow, the views



are breath-taking. No matter what the weather or season, they never cease to entrance – always different, always moving, always fascinating. And, up there on the high places, almost always windy!

Mercedes Henning



NOTES FROM LITTLE COURT LANE

I expect the term "Lockdown" will be engrained in our thoughts for some time to come.

Here in Little Court Lane movement is limited to delivery vans, our welcome postie and the odd car and dog walker. Fortunately, as exercise is permissible, we have the occasional knock on the door as friends call when taking their walk. They then retreat halfway down our drive for a quick exchange of well wishes and news. Not much has caused concern to the residents other than developers, but we still have the anomaly of 'Old Bills' garages which over the years have ruffled a few feathers and given amusement as various property speculators have departed with their money to secure the tumbling ruin held together by the persistent ivy happily flourishing and thumbing its nose.

Over the years Little Court Lane has seen a little infill of modern housing and boasts, like the rest of the village, lots more cars but still the sight and sound of a horse being exercised is a real joy.

On a glorious sunny day here on 24 January we awoke to a wonderful snow-covered landscape with no hint of car or human tracks. A couple of adults down the lane went into the field and rolled a good- sized snowball, made a head and gave it a hard hat and scarf. Other neighbours joined in with children using a small sledge and a snowball fight started! In our back garden the birds entertained us with their feeding antics and then as the day progressed the snow began to melt, and the fields returned to green.

No doubt as the 'Lock down' rules are eased a gradual return to more gatherings or neighbourly get-togethers will ensure all the village gossip and more far-reaching events will be discussed. This can be viewed as a contemporary happening reflecting the court dramas held in Little Court & Court Lane in times gone by but with less expectation, judgement and the settling

of grievances from the Lord of the Manor. Or perhaps not? May it ever be so.

As we look forward to a sunny start to spring with daffodils in abundance, we feel grateful that we live in Edington. We had no idea when we came to live here 19 years ago that we would find such a friendly and active village.



Everyone is willing to help out in all circumstances as not only have immediate neighbours helped us out in the past year but other villagers as well.

Looking at the sparrows squabbling in the garden

Seeing Salisbury Plain beyond
To the cloudscape of the sky
And the world to which we belong
We are blessed.

Terry & Anne Tottingham



The joy of Spring

I have always had a fascination with birds. This is probably due to the fact that my father was a fanatic as well. He spent every free moment as a teenager back in the nineteen thirties cycling around the Hampshire countryside with his camera photographing birds. Some of my earliest memories were of paging through his photo albums of birds, their nests, and eggs. In South Africa, this was further enhanced by the fact that my father signed up my younger brother and myself as junior members of the Witwatersrand Bird Club back in 1956 when I was only about eight years old. We then spent the weekends for the next few years out in the African bush bird watching. My first ever publication was a note in the bird club's newsletter in 1958 when I was nine recording a rare sighting of a European stork on the Witwatersrand.

Having returned to England, I have enjoyed seeing in real life those fantastic birds that I first got to know from my father's old photographs. Spring here in Edington is absolutely breath taking with the sound of bird song. My garden is alive with birds many of which never left but happily fed on my bird feeders all winter.

Last spring, I was amazed how many birds actually bred in my garden. I had jackdaws, black birds, blue tits, long-tailed tits, dunnocks, house sparrows, wood pigeons, collared doves, goldfinches, wrens, and robins all breeding in our hedges and trees. Also, in the surrounding houses I could see house martins breeding under the eaves and barn swallows flying in and out of farm buildings where they were nesting inside.

My father had photographed the nests and eggs of nearly all these species and I always had a fascination of how different all the nests were. Some were simply a platform of twigs in a tree, or beautifully woven cup-shapes; others were domed-shaped or in holes in trees and

walls.

Breeding in my garden are wood pigeons and collared doves who simply create a nest by making a platform of twigs in a tree. This is often so poorly made that one can see their white eggs in the nest through the holes in the bottom. I am always amazed that the eggs were not dislodged when the large clumsy wood pigeons crashed into the tree to take over the incubation of their eggs. I also, have always, been fascinated that all pigeons and doves first feed their helpless downy young with pigeon milk. Pigeon milk is a secretion from the lining of the crop of the parent birds that is regurgitated to their chicks. It is extremely high in protein and fat, containing higher levels than cow or human milk.

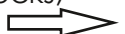


Woodpigeon nest and eggs



Collared dove on its flimsy stick nest

A number of species make cup shaped nests in trees or bushes. These include the dunnocks,





goldfinches, goldcrests, blackbirds, and other thrushes. Robins also make a cup shaped nest on the ground, in a tree stump or on a bank. The number and colour of their eggs though is quite variable – the dunnock lays 4-5 eggs that are bright blue, goldfinches 4-7 black-spotted blue eggs; goldcrests 7-10 brown-speckled white eggs; blackbirds 4-5 red-spotted light blue eggs; while the other thrushes also lay blue eggs variably spotted with reddish-brown or black. The robin lays 5-6 reddish-speckled white eggs.



The cup-shaped nest of a blackbird with egg and newly hatched chicks

The great and blue tits also make cup-shaped nests but make them in a tree hole or nest box. They both lay about 7-12 reddish speckled white eggs.



Cup-shaped nest of a dunnock with their plain blue eggs



Goldfinch feeding young in a cup-shaped nest.



Cup-shaped blue-tit nest in nest-box with eggs and newly hatched eggs

Other species make beautiful dome-shaped nests. These include the long-tailed tit which makes a dome in a bush into which it lays 8-12 white eggs. The wren makes a dome shaped nest but in a hole in a bank and lays 5-8 red speckled white eggs.

The house sparrow also builds a dome -shaped nest in a hole in a building or in a tree. They lay 3-5 dark grey blotched grey eggs.

We also had a pair of jackdaws breeding in the ivy on top of a electric pole in our garden.





The nest was roughly cup-shaped and made of twigs. They lay 4-6 brown-spotted pale blue eggs. In the houses around us they were also breeding in holes in buildings and chimneys. When we lived in Worton they would get in under the eaves of our house and made a nest in the



Long-tailed tit perched on side of its dome-shaped nest with chicks sticking their heads out of the entrance hole on the side.

roof above our bathroom and did it every year for the twelve years we lived there.



Wren feeding chicks in its dome-shaped nest in a hole.



House sparrow nest in a tree

Over the road from us are house martins breeding colonially under the eaves. They make dome-shaped nests made out of mud and they lay 4-5 white eggs. When we walked past, I loved hearing the chicks chirruping away and seeing their little head poking out of the nests.



House martin with dome-shaped mud nest under the eaves of a house

In Worton we lived in an old coach house in a stable yard and had an old barn opposite us. Every year barn swallows bred in the old barn. They would collect little balls of mud around the stable yard to make their mud cup nests into which they would lay 4-5 reddish-spotted white eggs. We had a silver tabby cat at that time who was a great hunter of wildlife and had





obviously at some point tried to get at the swallows' nests, so the swallows kept an eye out for him. We were amazed one year when we saw the swallows dive-bombing him whenever he went out. Here was our great hunter crouching down fearfully as the swallows angrily swooped down low over his head. I do not think our cat enjoyed that summer and was very happy when the swallows finally reared their young and migrated back to Africa.



Barn swallow chicks in their cup-shaped nest in a barn

So, this spring enjoy the bird song and nesting activity in your garden and along the hedgerows. I cannot wait until I find out what will be breeding in Edington this year.

Dr Stephen Henning

Enrolment on Parochial Church Council Electoral Rolls

Every year Electoral Rolls are updated in time for each Parish's Annual Parochial Church Meetings (APCMs) which take place in the Spring. If you are a member of the Church of England you are entitled to attend the Meeting and vote in elections for members of your Parochial Church Council (PCC). But you must be on the Electoral Roll to attend and vote.

If you enrolled last year your name will be carried forward unless you wish to make a change; otherwise you need do nothing. If you are not a member now, you can apply. Notices about how to enrol are displayed in all Benefice Churches and on the individual Parish pages of the Benefice website, www.beciebenefice.org. Application forms are available on request from Parish Electoral Registration Officers and to download. Closing dates can vary as they are related to the APCM date.

You may register with more than one Parish but may only participate in one APCM.

(The PCCs should not be confused with local government Parish Councils, details of which are available from Wiltshire Council; most easily on their website.)

Parish	Applications Close	APCM	Electoral Registration Officer	Email
Bratton	16 Mar	7 April	Gill Humphrey	aiglenicher@icloud.com
Edington	20 Mar	11 April	Hugh Hancock	ero@edingtonpriory.church
Coulston	20 Mar	TBC	Malvina Hicks	rshicksLtd@talk21.com
Erlestoke	20 Mar	TBC	Alice Wilkins	becie.benefice@gmail.com



Edington and District Gardening Club

Do you have Hedgehogs visit your garden?

On Thursday 4th. February the Garden Club had a visit from the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust who said how fortunate you must be to have visits from our spiny friends .

Eleanor Dodson from the Trust came to tell us, via zoom, how rare the hedgehog is becoming, the numbers have dropped 46% in the last 13 years.

The Wildlife Trust has a project in Wiltshire to improve the countryside for nature by joining wild places by linking hedgerows to enable wild creatures to travel. This project also helps by working with young people and those with mental health problems.

Did you know Hedgehogs can travel 10-20 hectares and there are 14 different species around the world, as for our British hogs, we must protect them.

Hedgehogs are wonderful for our gardens, eating slugs and snails so please do not use slug pellets. They hibernate from November to February, depending on the weather, so before lighting that bonfire please check that there are no little creatures fast asleep inside, this also includes checking compost heaps as so many are injured with garden forks etc.

If you have a pond, please add a ramp so any creatures that fall in have a means to get out but to allow Hedgehogs to get into your garden in the first place they need access, maybe via a hole in the fence at least 13cm. square. To encourage them leave a dish of water and some food, dog or cat food is good but do not feed them with bread, milk or mealworms. Finally how about making a Hedgehog house for them to reside in over winter although the baby Hoglets will not survive unless they weigh 60g.

There were 16 club members on this Zoom presentation, all said they had not seen a Hedgehog in our area for years so let us see if we can change that situation. At this meeting we welcomed a new member Margaret from Bratton and it was good to see Edward Callaway join us.

Our next meeting will be via Zoom on 1st April when Richard Cripps will give a talk on "Basic vegetable and seed growing, and propagation".

The weekend of March 13-14th the club are promoting "Put Spring on Your Step" see the poster below. The aim is to help us look forward to better times by leaving pots of flowers around our doorsteps. Spring is on the way.

Best Wishes from Edington and District Garden Club.

Edington & District Gardening Club
HELP US TO BRIGHTEN UP OUR VILLAGE

We would like to ask all villagers to put some fresh flowers or a pot of flowers on their doorstep or driveway to spread some cheer after such a difficult year for many. Members are kindly asked to accompany their flowers with a small card with Edington & District Gardening Club on it, to spread awareness of the gardening club

SAT 13TH & SUN 14TH MARCH





Viola Hale 1924 – 2020

Former members of Steeple Ashton and District Young Farmer's Club have gifted a tree to the village in memory of Vie Hale in recognition of her many decades running the club. Many of us have remained close friends since we joined in our youth, over fifty years ago. Back in 1974 Vie, as Leader of the club, encouraged us and helped plant hundreds of trees in the area, so it seemed a most apt way to provide this as a living memorial to a dear lady. With the help of Pauline Dorgan a suitable site was found on the village playing field overlooking Funtingdon House, where Vie lived for most of her life.

It was suggested that we go ahead and plant it without ceremony, given the present circumstances. The tree chosen is a 'John Downie' crab apple.

Peter Hailstone at Station Yard has kindly made and is fitting a substantial tree guard, which he is doing at little more than cost. The RHS describes the 'John Downie' as a vigorous small deciduous tree with an ovoid crown and profuse white flowers opening from pink buds. Fruits abundant, ovoid, 3cm in length, bright red and orange-yellow.

The tree's flowers provide nectar for the insects in the spring, and in autumn it bears fruit for the birds. They will also make a fine crab apple jelly.

I'm sure Vie would have appreciated such a cheerful looking tree to remind us all of her wonderful personality.

John Berrett





Edington arts

Edington Arts 2021

Three cheers for the vaccination roll-out – but at the point of writing (mid-February) it is too soon to be able to predict with any certainty when life will have assumed enough normality to regard any future event as a done deal.

However, Edington Arts has a proposed music season organised, and, providing of course that the church is fully open, and subject to whatever regulations are in place at the time, our calendar for live music in Edington Priory Church is as follows:

Saturday 8th May at 7.30: Fine Arts Brass. Baroque to Tango from five international brass players; two trumpets, french horn, trombone and tuba.

Saturday July 3rd, 10-5: The Edington Arts Choral Workshop, lead by Jeremy Summerly. Britten's 'Rejoice in the Lamb' and Elgar's 'Great is the Lord'. Organist; Richard Pinel.

Saturday 2nd October, at 7.30: The Oxford Bach Soloists, conducted by Tom Hammond-Davies. This hugely respected and internationally regarded string ensemble and soloists present 'Bach's Virtuosi'.

Saturday 4th December time tbc: Advent Concert from the Choir of Keble College, Oxford, conducted by Paul Brough.

Detailed Box Office information and anything else we can tell you will be uploaded onto our

website, as soon as we have a confirmed plan, and tickets for May 8th will be on sale from immediately after Easter. Please read the April issue of your Parish Magazine for all the information you will need around the May 8th Fine Arts Brass concert. Meanwhile, keep everything crossed for a successful easing of lockdown rules!

www.edingtonarts.org

Are you fed-up with doing the same old walks?

Walking in Wiltshire

www.walkinginengland.co.uk/wiltshire

is the website for you!

With hundreds of walks to download and print, free, it also has books of walks, contact details for all the walking groups in the county and much more. Whether you want to walk on your own or with a group all the information is there in one place.

John said 'There is so much walking information on the web but it is difficult to find. Walking in Wiltshire (part of the Walking in England suite of websites (www.walkinginengland.co.uk) – one for each county in England) has brought it together in one place so whether you are walking from home, or away on holiday, you will be able to find a walk suitable for you'.

With walks from half a mile to twelve miles plus long, and a note of suitability for pushchairs and wheelchairs, everyone can find a walk to enjoy.

So home or away, check out the websites and get walking!

John Harris

www.walkinginengland.co.uk

email: john@walkinginengland.co.uk



Four Villages Link

In January some members of our committee attended a zoom meeting of Link schemes in Wiltshire. It was interesting to learn how other areas have

managed during this difficult time. Some Links have disbanded altogether, so we were proud to think that, due to the support of our volunteers, we have managed to keep the Four Villages Link going in spite of Covid and all the restrictions.

As mentioned before we have appointed a new Chair-Keith Rayward and a new secretary Col Peter Sharland during this time and have recruited some new volunteer drivers. The committee has been working on producing a new web-site to expand on our services and contact details see address at the bottom of this article.

However we will be losing one of our coordinators soon, so we will be looking for someone to replace her. This is a job you can do from the comfort of your own home, no driving required! The co-coordinator answers requests from clients and phones volunteer drivers to find one available. A mobile phone is supplied. It is arranged on a 2 week rota system (not weekends).

If you would like to volunteer for this role or if you need the services of Link for any reason, please phone us on the usual number -

07852256939

web site

<http://thefourvillageslink.org.uk/>

There is no charge for this service but donations are welcome to keep The Link operating.

M.Garbutt (Publicity)



Edington Parish Hall Update

At last good news!

Following the announcement of the 4 Step Road Map to unlocking and having received updated advice from ACRE, the Parish Hall Committee are planning to re-opening the Parish Hall after the 21st June 2021 (Step 4 of the roadmap to unlocking) unless any further restrictions are announced and the hall has to remain closed.

Groups who regularly use the Parish Hall have already been contacted with the good news. However, please be aware that some of the Covid secure protocols that had to be put in place in the Parish Hall last year may still be necessary in order to keep everyone safe and well.

There are certain circumstances when a group is permitted to use the Parish Hall prior to that date so, if you think that your group comes under this category, then please contact me to discuss this, either by phone 01380 830441 or email:

parishhall@edingtonwiltshire.org.uk

If you would like to book the Parish Hall, please use the online booking system on the village website

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

or you can contact me if that is easier.

The Parish Hall Committee look forward to welcoming everyone back to the Parish Hall as we know how much the many opportunities for meeting and socialising in the hall have been missed by everyone!

Do stay safe and well

Wendy Pollard



Litter

I found the time this week to go litter-picking up Salisbury Hollow and back down through Long Hollow. I have given a report to the Parish Council as I usually take the dog elsewhere and was so shocked at the state of the route. At the start of my walk, I encountered several used dog bags which had been thrown to the side of the road and a few empty ones too. Further on,



there were many, many old cans of cider a few sweet/chocolate packets and at one point a lighter. It only got worse from there on out as I had to clean up a load of old dog poo along a field pathway and at the end of that, I noticed something most

people would expect to find on their face, not in a field – a mask. By far the most entertaining part of my walk was the final road back, wherein I picked up at least ten drinks containers, we had Coke, Costa cups and strangely two empty Greggs cups wrapped in a dog bag. By this time, I called it quits as the bag was splitting



apart and I didn't fancy dragging it down the road for ten minutes.

Much of the litter I found was not biodegradable and would be dangerous for dogs or other animals who may attempt to eat items such as masks and drinks cups. Dog owners are also required by law to pick up their dog litter; it really doesn't take much effort to take the bag with you for the rest of the walk and owning a dog does require some work unfortunately. It shouldn't be up to a complete stranger to take responsibility for your rubbish. The litter I found also doesn't do the scenery any favours and spoils the tranquillity of a walk in the country which is a shame as we have such lovely walks around our village.



It would be wonderful if people could remember to bring their litter home with them – perhaps some posters to remind visitors of the dangers of the litter or putting in some litter bins at some points on the walks or near the end of the paths.

Eloise

The Parish Council would like to thank Eloise for taking the time and effort to help remove some of the rubbish left around the village by thoughtless individuals. At the Parish Council meeting on Monday evening it was agreed to purchase some litter pickers for villagers to borrow in an effort to help tidy up the village. Hopefully we will have them in the near future and they can be collected and returned to Pauline in the Post Office.



This month's bargain

Pine bookcase

H200cm, W87cm, D31cm.

Free to collector.

Can be seen in Edington....**07859 026507**



Small ads/swaps

We are giving readers the opportunity to advertise any items that they want to sell or swap. If you have something to sell or swap that you would like advertised in a future edition please either hand your advertisement into Pauline at the post office or email it to the newsletter, deadline 1st of each 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.

Contacting us

Email the newsletter at

newsletter@edingtonwiltshire.org.uk

by phone on the Edington Parish Council help line on **07933143021** (available 9am to 6pm, Monday to Friday) or via the village website

www.edingtonwiltshire.org.uk

Future editions

We welcome your comments on this new 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.

newsletter@edingtonwiltshire.org.uk