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

This month we have an article about when Edington won the Calor Village of the year competition in 1999 and the travels of David Perkins.

The Gardening Club are celebrating their twentieth birthday, they are inviting visitors and past members to join them for the evening.

We also have some musical appeals this month as Edington Brass are looking for more members to join them at their Friday night rehearsals in the Parish Hall and the Priory Church Choir are also looking for more members. Finally whilst talking all things musical there are now only a few seats left for the Edington Arts Concert on Saturday 23rd March.

The Parish Council have made some progress in trying to reduce the speed of traffic in the vil-

lage, providing that they get the proposals approved by Wiltshire Council. Whilst talking about speeding in the village, the Community Speed Watch group have restarted for this year and in a session near Longlands Close this week 19 motorists were recorded exceeding 35mph, all of them will be reported to Wiltshire Police. The group will be active throughout March so make sure that you do not receive a letter from the police or if a repeat offender a visit from the police.

As Easter approaches we have two recipes this month so no excuse not to try out your cake making skills. There is also our regular articles including the second part of Stephen's article on herons and Ibises around Edington and Mercedes's latest musings. As the cricket season is restarting we have the latest news from our local cricket club.

Finally thank you to those four villagers who came to the litter pick on Saturday morning to help the parish council tidy the village, a pity that more people couldn't make it.





## 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**

### IT Help Session

On March 5th, 13th, 21st and 26th.  
April 3rd, 11th, 16th and 24th  
May 2nd.

Between 5.30pm and 7.00pm we will be holding an IT Help Session for patients, in the Waiting room at the surgery.

This will primarily be to offer help with the **NHS App** and using **Egress** to receive secure emails from the practice. Make sure you bring your smartphone or tablet.

We look forward to see you.

Many of our patients will have received letters from the health centre in the past. There are a variety of reasons we do this, some will be to invite someone for their chronic disease annual review, some will be to advise that the doctor has asked them to book a blood test and others will give the patient their referral details.

In everything we do at the health centre we are keen to do in the most efficient and cost effective way; you may be surprised to learn that our postal bill is approximately £20,000/year. This is money that we feel can be better used to help you, our patients.

With this in mind, the surgery will be moving towards using electronic means of

communicating as our default option wherever possible, over the next few months. The use of email and mobile phones to send this information is both quicker and more cost effective.

We will start doing this from 1st February 2024. So that we can ensure the emails we send you are confidential we will be using a system called Egress which encrypts your email. By quickly creating an Egress account you will be able to view the letter we have sent you. We have added a user guide to completing this process to the 'Contact' page on our website.

This action is not necessary when we send you messages via your mobile phone.

Please can we remind you that we do rely on you, our patients, to ensure we have your current contact details. We understand it may not be your first thought to update your surgery when you get a new mobile phone number or email address, but this is vitally important so that we can communicate with you when necessary, in support of your health care. Can we also ask parents who may have added their mobile number/email address to their young children's records in the past to consider if that record now needs updating as their children are now older. This applies in particular to young adults' records.

You can use the 'Contact' page on our website to update us with your new contact details; please always ensure you add your full name, date of birth and address details when contacting the surgery using this option.

Please help us to help you by ensuring we have your up-to-date details.

As always, we are pleased to hear your feedback and comments. The





best way to do this is via our email at

[bswicb.wgppatientvoice@nhs.net](mailto:bswicb.wgppatientvoice@nhs.net)

you can also write to us or call in at the surgery.

## Egress secure emails

When we send you emails we will use a secure method of sending those messages via Egress which will involve you creating an account to view that message.

Please use the link below to access the Egress website for instructions on how to create your account.

Click [HERE](#) to access Egress website

Alternatively, we have created this user guide here:

[EGRESS – Setting up Egress](#)

## Dr Edwards & Partners

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

## Courtyard Surgery, West Lavington



Telephone 01380 813 300

For medical emergencies dial 999

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

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

## Wiltshire Police

**Wiltshire Police officers are getting extra training to tackle anti-social behaviour (asb) within communities.**



Wiltshire Police officers are getting extra training to tackle anti-social behaviour (asb) within communities.

Twenty officers from across the Force took part in additional training on Thursday (29/02) to become anti-social behaviour advisors.

The training aims to give them a greater understanding of the ASB tools and powers, partnership working (particularly identifying occasions where other agencies may be best suited to help resolve a matter) and understanding, recognising and mitigating the harm that can be caused by ASB. Once trained, these individuals will be pivotal in providing advice, guidance and support to colleagues dealing with incidents of ASB (acting in an advisory capacity).

Problem Solving and Prevention Supervisor Emma Reid, who organised the training said: "We know antisocial behaviour can adversely affect people's everyday lives. We all deserve to live free from intimidation and harassment and we will endeavour to deal with those perpetrators, together with our partner agencies.

"We are committed to tackling it, as it can have a lasting impact upon our communities which we are dedicated to protecting. We know it's not a low-level crime, it can be devastating for those who become victim to it, and can it be a pre-cursor to more serious crime. Often people even consider moving house to escape antisocial behaviour."

Safer Spaces is one of the top priorities for Chief Constable Catherine Roper, and anti-social behaviour is a big part to that. Wiltshire Police work closely with the OPCC, local authorities and community safety





partnerships to identify and prevent hotspots of anti-social behaviour that affect the lives of many of our communities. Through this the Force hopes to address the underlying causes of the anti-social behaviour through early intervention, education and prevention activities, in addition to greater enforcement.

**Wiltshire and Swindon Police and  
Crime Commissioner**



**Wiltshire PCC marks one year  
since new Chief Constable appointment**

**Published Tuesday 27 February 2024**

Wiltshire's Police and Crime Commissioner has welcomed how an improved policing service for communities has been driven forward in the last 12 months as Wiltshire Police's Chief Constable marks one year since taking the helm. PCC Philip Wilkinson has said the introduction of robust, strategic, leadership from Chief Constable Catherine Roper is paying dividends but says they are both aware there is not a 'quick fix' to implementing or sustaining performance improvements.

Mr Wilkinson added more time – and attention on driving up standards around quality of investigations and sustaining the victim focus – was needed but that it was important to note the right steps are being taken in order for the Force to truly say it is delivering 'the best service' it can.

He said Wiltshire Police had seen improvements across all areas as a result of Chief Roper's appointment – including a clear strategic direction, new policies and systems to measure demand and monitor force performance alongside a clear focus on standards and an emphasis on service delivery.

And added he was confident Chief Roper's plans will continue to deliver for communities including: greater visibility, and proactive engagement, from officers in communities,

increased positive criminal justice outcomes, a refocus to concentrate on those crimes that matter and an improved trust and confidence picture.

Mr Wilkinson said: "Recruiting an experienced chief officer, from outside Wiltshire, was a conscious decision to drive the improvements Wiltshire Police needed, at a crucial point, so it could deliver the police service residents want – and deserve.

"One of the main positives from Chief Roper's leadership is her ability to listen to her officers and staff, really hear what they are saying and implement change – quickly - to enable them to deliver a quality frontline policing service for their communities.

"There has been a noticeable change in the core policing service offer to our communities and a collective focus - from senior leaders to those in our neighbourhoods - to really engage with communities, tackle those crimes which matter most and to deliver the priorities within my police and crime plan.

"Wiltshire Police has many dedicated and hardworking officers, staff and volunteers and they are now being enabled and supported from the top down to focus on what they want to do – delivering a quality, frontline, policing service which delivers for its communities and to be the best they can be."



## **Coffee Morning Drop In**

Every Tuesday

10.30 - 11.30 am

in the Three Daggers.

Transport available contact

Pauline or Joy.



## Wiltshire Council

### News from Wiltshire Council

#### We're investing millions into Wiltshire highways

Published 26 February 2024

Wiltshire Council is investing millions of pounds into filling potholes, resurfacing roads and tackling the causes of highways flooding throughout the county in 2024/25.

The council has allocated an extra £10m over the next two years to spend on filling potholes and a road resurfacing programme that will help to prevent potholes and other highways defects across all areas of the county. The investment will also fund more small, local repairs to verges on rural roads.

This funding is in addition to the £20.7m the council receives from the Government's Highways Maintenance fund for 2024/25, plus

the £5.2m from the Department for Transport's recently announced Road Resurfacing Fund following the cancellation of HS2.

The council also allocated an extra £1m in its recent budget for emptying gullies around the county to prevent flooding and enable teams to focus on problem areas that are most at risk - on top of the £1.27m the council already spends on gully emptying.

Cllr Caroline Thomas, Cabinet Member for Transport, said: While other councils around the county are cutting budgets, we are investing millions into the everyday things that matter to people, such as filling potholes, resurfacing roads and emptying gullies to help prevent road flooding. And that is on top of the tens of millions we already spend on these highways issues with Government grants.

We have also recently invested more than £1.5m into painting white lines, renewing road signs, tackling fly-tipping and cleaning up litter - because we know that these are the things that people care about, and they're the small things that improve their communities and make travelling that little bit easier.



**GULLY EMPTYING IN WILTSHIRE**

**£1m** extra invested over three years into gully emptying to prevent flooding

Another **£1m** agreed in the 2024/25 budget to get ahead and stay ahead of blocked drains and gullies across the county

**40,000** gullies emptied each year

**THREE** vacuums to clear gullies, in use all year round

We're **fighting back** against unprecedented rainfall

We're **digging out** more ditches to prevent flooding

We have **ONE** gully tanker dedicated to solving local issues on request from town and parish councils

We have **TWO** combination jet vacuum units to blast through thick layers of debris to clear gullies

**Wiltshire Council**



This is all part of our Business Plan commitment to have vibrant, well-connected communities and to invest in our highways network.

The changes won't happen overnight but, over the coming months, people in all areas of the county will see more resurfacing work, more potholes filled and more gullies emptied as this multi-million pound investment starts to bear fruit.



## Never put batteries in the bin

NEVER put batteries or electricals containing them in the bin. Recently a fire started at one of our recycling centres because a battery was placed in a scrap metal bin. Please recycle batteries in the battery collection point or use our battery collection kerbside service.

Many electrical items also contain batteries. You can recycle electricals safely in the designated electrical bin at our recycling centres or see if they can be recycled using our small rechargeable electricals kerbside service.

Since launching the kerbside battery collection service we have recycled around 28 tonnes of batteries, this is equivalent to over 1.2 million AA batteries! \* Thank you for recycling.

\*Based on the weight of an Energizer Max Alkaline Battery.



## What you shouldn't put in your household recycling bins

The most common items incorrectly placed in blue-lidded bins in Wiltshire are:

Carrier bags and bin bags - put these in the general waste bin for energy recovery.

Hard plastics, such as toys and plant pots - take these to a household recycling centre for recycling; or put in the general waste bin for energy recovery.

Scrap metals - take these to a household recycling centre for recycling.

Nappies - put these in the general waste bin for energy recovery.

Remember most of the general waste we collect from households does not go to landfill and instead is sent to waste treatment facilities for energy recovery. Unfortunately contaminated material found in recycling bins goes to landfill. Therefore, putting items that are not suitable for recycling in the general waste bin still has an environmental benefit.

## Large item reuse and collection

Having a clear out and not sure what to do with those bulky items? Take advantage of the large item reuse and collection services offered by local charities.

Bulky items that are in a useable condition such as white goods, furniture and electrical appliances can be collected directly from your doorstep for reuse by local charities.

## Monthly myth buster

**Myth** – All waste ends up being mixed in the same lorry.

**Fact** – We don't use the same vehicles for collecting waste and recycling. The recycling lorries have a large space in the back where mixed recycling goes and a separate compartment where glass is collected to make sure this is separated. Collecting good quality recycling is important to us and we would never want to mix it with non-recyclable waste.



## Edington Parish Council News

### Proposed speed reduction measures in the village.

After lengthy discussion with Wiltshire Highways the parish council have agreed on the first phase of work to reduce the speed of traffic passing through the village. These proposals will now be forwarded to the next meeting of the Local Highways and Footpaths Improvement Group (LHFIG) in May and if the funding is agreed the work could be carried out in the summer.

At both entrances to the village on the B3098 there will be village gateways with new signage and in addition the lateral strips across the road will be repainted and the height of them increased to provide a rumble effect on traffic passing over them. At the Bratton end of the village there will also be a new sign "No Footway for 520 yards" to alert motorists to the fact that there may be pedestrians walking in the

road between here and the top of the hill to the east of the Downsvew turning.

There will also be some measures implemented in Lower Road. Along the southern side of the road between Inmead and the Greater Lane junction there



will be a carriageway edge line and on the northern side there will be a broken line approximately one metre from the road edge with signs indicating that it is a pedestrian area.

Future work on speed measures will include an evaluation of the proposed measures above to determine their effectiveness in slowing the traffic and if any further measures are needed. The parish council will also be looking with the Highways department at the possibility of placing speed cushions on various roads through the village where traffic is travelling significantly above the 20mph. More updates later in the year when we have had more conversations with the Wiltshire Council Highways Department. In the meantime we have to get the measures outlined above approved at the next LHFIG meeting. The total cost of the project to date is in the region of £10,000 of which the parish council will be required to contribute £3,000.

### Best Kept Village Competition

The parish council have been invited to enter the village in the 2024 competition however this can only happen if villagers are prepared to assist in preparing the village for the competition. If you are interested in the village participating please let one of the council members know before its next meeting on Monday 11th March. Later in this newsletter is an article about the village winning the competition in 1999.



## Village footpaths

After some delay the council are pleased to announce that the old stile at the end of Lambourn Lane on the east side at the start of footpath EDIN17 has now been replaced by a kissing gate and work is now underway to provide a less muddy track into the field. There has also been a change to the stile on the bridleway EDIN16 which it make it easier for walkers to proceed along the path.

## Village Litter Pick

Thank you to those four villagers who came to help tidy the village on Saturday morning with the five parish councillors, a disappointing number of villagers who are concerned about keeping the village tidy.

## Annual Parish Meeting

The meeting this year will take place on Monday 8th April in the Edington Parish Hall commencing at 7.30pm. As well as giving an update on the achievements of the parish council over the last year we are also planning to launch a new Neighbourhood Watch group for the village at this meeting.

## Forthcoming roadworks.

### Salisbury Hollow

20 March - 22 March 09:30 - 15:30 each day  
Vactor drainage works

### B3098 Erlestoke

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

## Advanced notice

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

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



## Do you love to sing?

Come and join a truly local choir and sing from the glorious repertoire of sacred music, ancient and modern, in the famous acoustics of Edington Priory Church. We are currently seeking keen singers in all voice parts.

## What makes us different from other choirs? More singing!

We sing mostly in four part harmony. We rehearse every Thursday evening from 7pm – 8.30pm. We regularly sing five times a month – three Sunday morning services at 9.30am and two evening services at 6.30pm. In addition we are also sometimes asked to sing at Weddings and Funerals or additional seasonal services.

There are no auditions, and whilst being able to read music would be very helpful, it is not absolutely essential, as learning resources are provided. A willingness to learn is more important. Unlike many choirs, we do not charge a joining fee, and in fact for weddings there can even be a small remuneration. All music and robes are provided.

We have a regular choir who sing at all the services, and we also welcome occasional singers who join us for special services, eg Christmas and Easter.

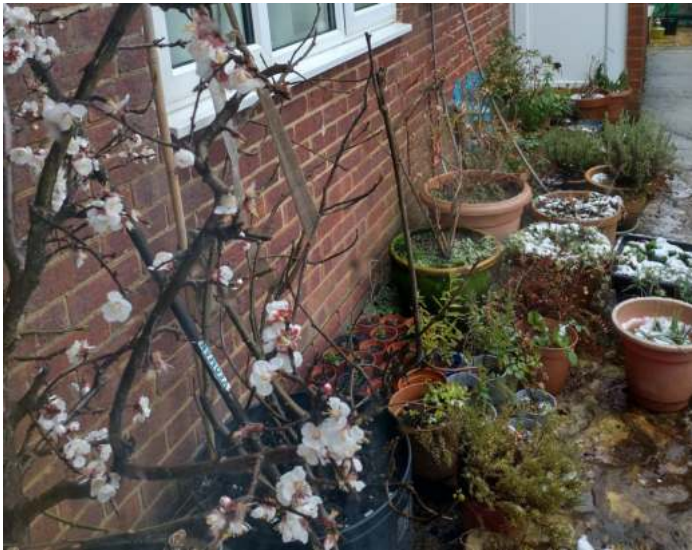
If you are interested, please call Andrew King on 01380 831227, and/or come to a trial rehearsal.



## *Village Musings*

How lovely it was to see the snow arrive early in March! Not enough to stick for long and not enough for a really busy snow day, but beautiful and welcome nevertheless.

The apricot tree in our sheltered little courtyard was in blossom when the snow fell – I don't expect many apricots this year!



We are enjoying the sheep in the village at the moment. One of the very unique features of Edington is the way we have green fields and green spaces deep in the heart of the village so that we can see sheep from the pub, the local lanes and our windows!

You may have noticed the sheep in the Weir



field – we don't usually see sheep in that particular field. They are feeding on the grazing turnips that have been planted in that field, and spring crops will be sown when the sheep have finished.



In the field north of the playground, we see the beautiful Wiltshire horned sheep that spend much of their time there. These sheep do not need to be sheared – they "moult" later in the year, leaving them looking a bit bedraggled for a while.



And soon the lambs will be here, with their promise of the new growing year.

**Mercedes Henning**



# EB

EDINGTON BRASS

**All ages, all abilities, one passion:  
brass music!**

**Edington Brass warmly welcomes  
players of every level to our Friday  
night rehearsals (6pm-7.45pm) at  
Edington Parish Hall.**

**For more details, please contact Anna  
Cottle on 07876 222616 for more  
details.**



## Hérons and Ibises around Edington - Part 2

Last month we were looking at various species of heron and allies who have recently colonised the UK from continental Europe - Cattle Egret, Great White Egret, Little Egret, and the Eurasian Spoonbill. We also looked at some species that are on the verge colonising - Glossy Ibis and Night Heron. We also briefly looked at our two resident species of heron – the Grey Heron and the Bittern. Here we are going to look at two other species on the verge of colonising – the Purple Heron and Little Bittern. Also, a couple of observations on our common Grey Heron, the Glossy Ibis, and Spoonbill.

Just one further point on Cattle Egrets, although young birds and adults in winter are all white like the Great and Little Egrets, in the breeding season the adults show bright orange-yellow feathers on the crown, lower back, and chest. These brighter feathers can be visible from spring well into autumn. The yellow bill also turns a brighter red-orange colour during the breeding season, and the dark or greyish-yellow legs take on brighter yellow and then pinkish ones. So, for a lot of the year they can easily distinguished at a glance from the other white egrets.



**Cattle Egret with buff breeding plumage (del. S.F. Henning)**

### Purple Heron

Purple Heron has been recorded from Europe, Africa, Asia and its islands. It is considered an occasional breeder here in England. Its European breeding population has been expanding since at least the 1940s, and it has colonised France and the Netherlands during that time. This shows this species as a potential colonist to the UK. Birds seen in the UK are mostly seen in April and May. As they have already bred here, some birds may become resident especially as the climate becomes warmer and dryer.

The Purple Heron has a narrow body and streamlined long, thin neck. Its yellow bill is slightly longer proportionally than related species. It has a buff head and neck, black cap with a long plume on each side of the head, grey back, and deep chestnut shoulder patch. A thin black stripe runs down each side of the neck from the eye to the belly, which is striped with chestnut and black.

It favours dense vegetation, such as reedbeds, of shallow waterbodies.



**The Purple Heron (del. S.F. Henning)**

The Purple Heron is colonial nester with many pairs breeding in fairly close proximity to one another. Colonies of over 100 pairs are common in Europe, and sites with up to 1,000 nests have been recorded. Nests are built in reedbeds, concealed by rushes and dense





vegetation, close to the edge of the water. Purple herons' nests are bulky constructions, made from dead reeds and other plant matter. The nesting season in the Northern Hemisphere is usually between April and June.

## Little Bittern

The Little Bittern has been a rare visitor to the UK but in recent years there has been several breeding attempts. The species was first recorded nesting in Yorkshire in 1984, but it wasn't until 2010 that it bred again in the extensive reedbeds of the RSPB reserve in Somerset. Then again in 2013 it was found breeding in the reserve. Breeding has been reported at the reserve most years since then. Hopefully in the near future it will be breeding in Wiltshire as well.



**Female Little Bittern (del. S.F. Henning)**

It is a very small member of the heron family, about the size of a pigeon. Both sexes have a white wing panel, the male with black upperparts, the female brown. They have distinctive thick necks and long, sharp yellowish bills.

It inhabits freshwater marshes, flooded ditches, swampland, and lakes with dense vegetation offer an ideal habitat for breeding little bitterns, where it can feed and nest among the waterside rushes and reeds without being detected.

Fish, amphibians, and insects caught at the

edges of wetland habitats is the main diet of the Little Bittern. Crustaceans, molluscs, worms, frogs, tadpoles, and small reptiles are also eaten. The Little Bittern is crepuscular, with its most active feeding periods at dusk and dawn.

The male of the Little Bittern constructs its nest in dense aquatic vegetation, including grasses, reeds, rushes, and papyrus, slightly raised above the water level. Occasionally, the species may nest in the lower branches of waterside trees.

The Little Bittern is a summer visitor to Europe and Central Asia, and breeds throughout Europe and north-western India in the south, then down into Africa, Madagascar, and Australia. The Little Bittern migrates from Africa to Britain & Ireland in spring with most recorded from April. It returns to Africa in the autumn.

## Grey Heron

The Grey Heron is often seen standing as still as a statue on its long thin legs in shallow waters of ponds and lakes patiently waiting for its next



**The Grey Heron is an easily recognised, grey-backed bird, with long legs, a long, white neck, bright yellow bill (del. S.F. Henning)**





meal to swim by. These tall birds spend most of their time alone feeding mainly on fish but can be tempted by the occasional tasty small mammal or amphibian. When feeling particularly lazy the heron will visit gardens with ponds for a quick and easy snack.

It is an easily recognised, grey-backed bird, with long legs, a long, white neck, bright yellow bill, and a black eye stripe that continues as long, drooping feathers down the neck. It flies with its long legs stretched out, but its neck pulled in.

Found throughout town and countryside, on canals, ponds, lakes, and rivers across the UK. I have also seen it visiting the village pond in Edington.

## Glossy Ibis

The Glossy Ibis is a scarce visitor to the UK, though records have become more common in recent years. The glossy Ibis is a dark wading bird with long legs, a long neck, and a long, curving curlew-like bill. In the sunlight, the wings, tail and much of the upperparts shimmer with iridescent green and purple. In breeding plumage, the neck and body turn a rich chestnut - in winter, and in young birds, they're a darker brown.

Most Glossy Ibis arrive in the UK in autumn, occasionally staying through the winter, though it could be seen in any month. It's often young birds that turn up here, sometimes just months after leaving the nest. Bird ringing projects have allowed us to see where some of these visiting ibises have travelled from, as they're fitted with a ring on their leg that allows birdwatchers to identify individual birds and trace their origins. It appears that most of the ringed birds that have been spotted here were given their identifying rings as nestlings in Doñana in southwest Spain. They are most commonly seen in the south of England and Wales, with numerous records this year from Wiltshire.

The Glossy ibis is usually found in wetlands or damp fields, using its long bill to probe the mud for food. It has a varied diet, mostly feeding on

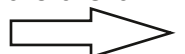
invertebrates like water beetles and dragonfly larvae, but occasionally eating newts, frogs, lizards, and other vertebrates. Its bill has special sensory organs in the tip that can detect pressure and vibrations, allowing it to find food buried in the mud.

## Spoonbills

The Spoonbill is named after its bizarre spatula-like bill. It generally feeds in flocks, swinging its slightly open beak from side to side through shallow pools of water. Its remarkable bill is packed full of sensors attuned to the tiniest vibrations, and once located, unlucky beetles, crustaceans, worms, small fish, tadpoles, and frogs stand no chance of escape. Although it bred in East Anglia during Medieval times, the Spoonbill has not bred in Britain for over 300 years until 2010, when a small colony was discovered on the north Norfolk coast. A breeding colony of spoonbills was pointed out to me when I visited the Norfolk Boards in 2023.



**A spoonbill showing its distinctive spatulate bill  
(del. S.F. Henning)**





Similar in build to a grey heron though smaller, the spoonbill's plumage is white except in the breeding season when adults show a small patch of yellowish feathers on their chest. In the summer mature birds also have a rather fetching, shaggy crest at the back of their head.

Nesting birds are easily disturbed, so it's usually not possible for visitors to view the breeding colonies. However, they can still be observed feeding in sizeable flocks away from the nesting sites. It finds shallow pools and scrapes filled with water the best places to find food.

The Spoonbill is a frequent summer visitor to coastal lagoons and large wetlands in the south and east of England. It has also recently been recorded here in Wiltshire so keep an eye out for them.

**Stephen Henning.**



## 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**

## TROWBRIDGE STREET PASTORS



Did you know there has been a Street Pastors Initiative operating in Trowbridge since 2009? If you know of our existence, what do you think we do?

I think people have a mixed idea of what it is like to walk the streets late at night as a Street Pastor. The first surprise often comes when there is a squeal of delight from a young lady, who runs over to us when she sees us, gives us a hug and asks for a lolly! This is often accompanied by her friends telling us how we helped one of them or gave a friend some flip-flops when she couldn't walk in her heels. Most people really appreciate what we do. Of course that doesn't apply to everyone we meet, but the vast majority are friendly and happy to see us - we really do have fun! They know that we are there to help them, to provide water if they've had too much to drink, or to help them get to a taxi. We can sometimes defuse a tense situation between people, hopefully stopping it from escalating. This can be challenging but it is very rewarding too. Because we are on their 'patch', we are on the front line between the world and God's Kingdom, we carry Jesus with us onto the streets and he makes ALL the difference. So, yes there are times that are difficult and we have to show wisdom, but there are also really good conversations about why we do what we do, for no pay, which is so counter cultural that people are really taken aback. We have the opportunity to show people God's love, in action, which is truly wonderful.

So, if you would like to know more then please contact Julia Wade on 01380 870137 or email [juliawade8@gmail.com](mailto:juliawade8@gmail.com) If you would like to hear a short talk about our work in your church, then ask your leader to book us. You are welcome to come out as an observer to see for yourself what we do.



## Edington & District Gardening Club

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

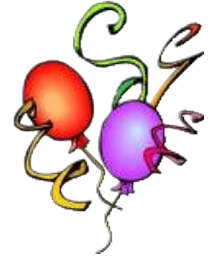
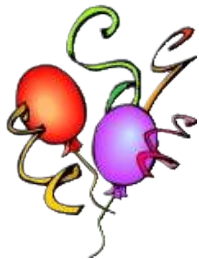
Spring must be in the air, 25 people attended the meeting to listen to Jackie Hames talk all about fruits – soft, bushes, trees, citrus, all kinds. We were not sure whether Rhubarb was fruit, but this was also discussed! A little history was included from Alfred the Great, Romans, and

the Victorians who gave us our passion for fruit. In general, over winter mulch and feed in the spring and summer to help give the best crops.

Jackie brought along some of her plants to sell from Bratton Center preventing her wild fieldmouse from eating them!

Next month is our 20th Birthday, so there will be cake! Cheese and drinks as well as speaker Alex Learmont, from the Hawk and Owl Trust talking about the Shapwick Nature Reserve.

For further information about our meetings and visits ring 830133.



## Edington & District Gardening Club

Est April 2004

### It's our 20th Birthday April 2024

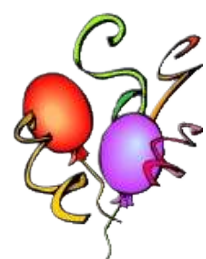
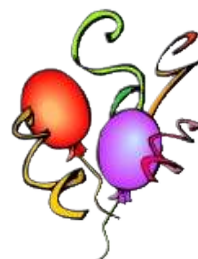
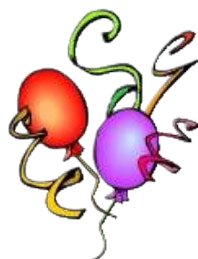
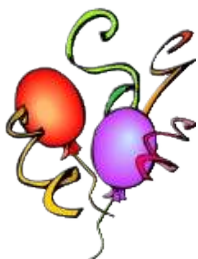
We are celebrating at our meeting 4th April with a cake, cheese, and drinks.

Edington Parish Hall. Door opens at 7.00pm

The speaker Alex Learmont from the Hawk & Owl Trust will speak at

7.30pm on Shapwick Moor Nature Reserve.

Visitors and past members are very welcome.





## CALOR Village of the Year 1999 – A Personal Recollection

**David Perkins**

Edington was the winner of the medium Village category of the Wiltshire Best Kept Village competition in the spring of 1999. We were therefore invited to submit an application into the recently started Calor Village of the Year. Whilst the Best Kept Village was all about how well the Village was maintained, the CALOR competition looked at the way a village was run.

The Parish Council passed the challenge on to ERLAC – Edington Recreation and Leisure Advisory Committee – an existing sub group consisting of representatives of all the village organisations. ERLAC met regularly and was in an excellent position to draw together the various resources to submit an application and organise the required presentations.

Three Regional Judges visited in September. We were required to give an hour long presentation on why the village should be the winner. At that stage Edington was blessed with a vibrant community with lots of things going on. ERLAC had set up the Parish Hall so that representatives of the various village groups could each give a brief summary of their recent



**Friendly Circle**

achievements. We even had a rehearsal a few days before to ensure that it all ran smoothly. On the day the judges were met at the church car park and escorted up to the hall, where they found around 100 excited villagers. John Bennett was master of ceremonies and introduced the speakers from:-

The Parish Council; ERLAC; EVES ( Edington Village Enhancement {or Environment} Squad); Edington Villagers Ltd – with Tinhead Nursey School, After School and Holiday Club; Pauline's Post Office; Edington Priory Church Bell Ringers ( Mostly teenagers being trained to ring for the Millenium); The Three Villages Minibus; Edington Fair; The News; The Four Villages LINK; Women's Institute; The Friendly Circle (for retired folk); Under 5's Group; Gardening Club, Newcomers Coffee morning; Station Yard; The Royal British Legion; Edington Music Festival; Weekly Drop In in The Lamb and representatives from several local businesses.



**May Pole Dancing**

The judges were then taken on a tour of the village in the TVM. They visited the Priory Church, where they met the vicar; Station Yard, where they looked at the businesses; a tour of the farms to the East of the village (to stress the rural nature of the community), then a brief look at the Post Office before finishing at the school for refreshments. Whilst the judges were on the tour, the villagers had made their way from the





Village Hall to the school, so the judges were again met with lots of excited Villagers, all of whom wanted to tell them that Edington was a fantastic place to live. When they finally insisted that they had to depart, the TVM took them back to their cars and we waved them goodbye.



**Skateboard Park**

I was told afterwards that the judges had been blown away by the enthusiastic welcome they had received, so our cunning plan had worked!

A few weeks later we heard that we had won the regional round and that another group of judges were coming to see us. We put on the same show for the National Judging team in late October. Then we were invited to send two representatives to the presentation lunch in the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, just off Parliament Square in Westminster, in December. The Parish Council nominated David and Dee Perkins to go. We jokingly said that we would ring the church bells if we won!

It was an elegant lunch in a magnificent setting with probably 200 or so people. We were initially a little overawed to be representing little, rural Edington amongst the opulence of the venue, but began to realise that the name 'Edington' attracted quite a bit of attention, and that we had been placed on table No 1! When it came to the presentations our excitement grew as the lots of intermediate prizes were given out, so when Edington was

pronounced to be the overall winner we both jumped up and hugged each other! I do not really remember hearing that it was joint winner with a place called Weobley.

We did not have mobile phones in 1999, so we dashed away as soon as we could, probably earlier than we should, to get the next train home in order to bring the good news back to the village. Unbeknown to us, television crews and newspaper hacks had swarmed into Edington just after we had left to catch the train in the morning, so everyone was already well aware that Edington was the National Village of the Year! When we eventually got back, the Priory Church bells were ringing, there was a party in the school and there were celebrations going on in the pub, which was then The Lamb. Nobody was interested in our news as they knew it before we did. We felt surplus to requirements!

The prize money of several hundred pounds was used by the Parish Council to upgrade the equipment in the playfield, in particular the building of a climbing frame/ slide structure and the skateboard park. The presentation plaques are still on display in the alcove of the Parish Hall.



**Eves Group**

## Post Script.

The following year I was invited to join the regional judging team and spent two weeks annually in a different region visiting villages to assess their achievements in order to





recommend a winner to the national judging team. It was quite an eye opener to see what some communities got up to, but that is another story! I was, however, lucky enough to be invited to the annual presentation lunch in central London with celebrities such as Prince Charles and Princess Anne, TV personalities and top politicians of the day.

In 2006, Calor decided to run a secondary competition for the 'Best of the Best' which was open to all previous regional winners. Unfortunately the village had lost some of the eye catching organisations, such as the school, the bellringers, and the Friendly Circle, but had gained the annual 'Jazz at the Priory' and 'May Ball' events. We still put on a lively presentation on the same lines as before, and ended with the Edington Barbershop Quartet rising from the audience to give a rendition of the Irish Blessing, which brought rapturous applause from the villagers. Although highly commended, we did not win.

**PPS** A new CEO took over Calor in 2010 and declared that the competition was a waste of money, so that year's contest was rapidly curtailed and the contest drew to a close. It was fun while it lasted, and generated a huge amount of excitement in the village. It drew together all the groups to work to achieve a common aim, and the goodwill continued for several years.



**Three Villages Minibus**



## YOGA WITH MARILYN

Would you like to improve your strength, balance and flexibility and also your well being?

Then why not join the new Yoga class in Edington Parish Hall

**When:** Each Friday morning

**Where:** Edington Parish Hall

**Time:** 10.30am to 11.30am



## Four Villages Link

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

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



## Recipes of the month - March

### Easy Easter nest cupcakes

A simple vanilla sponge topped with chocolate buttercream and decorated with mini eggs. The vanilla cupcakes can be made in advance and frozen ready to be decorated for an Easter teatime treat. A great recipe to make with children!

#### **Easter Nest Cupcakes** – Makes 12

175g (6oz) softened butter or baking spread

175g (6oz) Caster Sugar

3 large eggs

1 teasp vanilla extract

175g (6oz) self raising flour

½ teasp baking powder

#### **Buttercream**

200g(8oz) Icing Sugar

25g (1oz) cocoa powder

100g (4oz) butter or baking spread

1 tbsp milk

2 chocolate flakes

Mini eggs



**Oven Temperature** – 180°C, Gas 5

**Cooking Time** – 20-25 minutes

#### **Method**

1. Preheat oven to 180°C (Gas mark 4/350°F). Line a 12 hole muffin tin with 12 muffin cases.
2. Place the butter or baking spread into a mixing bowl and using an electric mixer beat together with the caster sugar until light and fluffy. Break the eggs into a bowl and lightly whisk with a fork. Add the eggs a little at a time to the butter and sugar mix well beat well in between. Add the vanilla essence.
3. Sift the flour and baking powder and gently fold in to the creamed mixture.
4. Divide the cake mixture between the 12 cupcake cases

**Top Tip – use an ice cream scoop to evenly divide the mixture between the muffin cases**

5. Bake for 20-25 minutes until risen, golden brown and springy to the touch.
6. Once the cakes are cooked, transfer to a wire rack to cool.
7. While the cakes are cooling, make the chocolate buttercream icing:
8. Sieve the icing sugar and cocoa powder together. Whisk the butter or baking spread with an electric whisk until light and fluffy. On a low speed gradually beat in the icing sugar/cocoa mix. Add enough milk to make the buttercream the right consistency for piping.
9. Using a palette knife, spread a layer of buttercream icing over the top of each cupcake.
10. Spoon the remaining buttercream into a piping bag with a star nozzle. Pipe a nest shape around the edge of each cupcake. Sprinkle the crushed flake around the edges.
11. Finish off each cupcake by adding 2 or 3 mini eggs to each nest.





## CHOCOLATE EASTER NEST CAKES

Brilliant to make with children over the Easter Holidays.  
A recipe that the Under 5's enjoyed making last Easter!

### Nest Cake ingredients

- 225g/8oz dark chocolate broken into pieces
- 2 tbsp golden syrup
- 50g/2oz butter / baking spread
- 75g/2¾oz cornflakes
- 24 -36 mini chocolate eggs



**Top tip** to make it easier to measure the golden syrup, run the tablespoon under hot water before using; the golden syrup will then easily fall off the spoon!

### Method

1. Line a 12-hole fairy cake tin with paper cases.
2. Melt the chocolate, golden syrup and butter in a bowl set over a saucepan of gently simmering water (do not let the base of the bowl touch the water). Stir the mixture until smooth.
3. Remove the bowl from the heat and gently stir in the cornflakes until all of the cereal is coated in the chocolate.
4. Divide the mixture between the paper cases and press 2 or 3 chocolate eggs into the centre of each nest. Chill in the fridge for at least 1 hour, or until completely set.



**Note:-** Crushed shredded wheat can be used instead of the cornflakes. Use approximately 75-100g (3- 4 oz) Shredded wheat makes a more twig like nest



# HAPPY EASTER COOKING!





## Edington arts

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

Evangelist. The performance is being generously sponsored by Edington Station Yard Ltd, and by The Three Daggers.

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

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

### LAST FEW TICKETS REMAINING FOR EDINGTON ARTS' CONCERT

*There is still time to buy tickets for the Edington Arts concert on Saturday 23rd March, but fewer than 50 seats remain. The opportunity of hearing one of the world's greatest tenors performing in one of the great musical works of all time, with some of the most exciting interpreters of the music, in Edington Priory Church, is proving very exciting.*

*Tickets for the Bach St John Passion, with soloists Mark Padmore, Florian Störtz and Ben Davies, and accompanied by the Oxford Bach Soloists and orchestra have been selling steadily since they went on sale at the beginning of January.*

*There are still seats available from £12.50.*

*The Lord Lieutenant of Wiltshire, Mrs Sarah Troughton, will be attending the concert, which is also a celebration of Edington Arts' first ten years promoting live classical music concerts in Edington Priory Church.*

**Choose your seats, book and pay online from [www.edingtonarts.org](http://www.edingtonarts.org), or phone Chrissy on 01380 81256 – but don't delay!**



## Erlestoke and Coulston Cricket Club

The Erlestoke Eagles had a resounding game in their 3rd/4th playoff last week when they walked away triumphant after a good win against Potterne. Although disappointed not to have made the final, it was a great season for the indoor league team who enjoyed every game and the chance to play a bit of cricket during the winter. Thanks to everyone who played, Chalk Architects for sponsoring the team and the Bell Inn and The Three Daggers for keeping us hydrated pre and post games. The beginning of March also saw the club hold its final indoor net session and it was a good opportunity for the playing members to get in one last practice before we head outside. It's been a bit wet recently and the ground has been a tad soggy, but there is high hope that we will be out on the grass during April and ready to start the season on the 21st April, with our first game up at the Walled Garden.

### Juniors

But before that arrives, the juniors will have already started and we are looking forward to Monday the 15th April when our first junior session will get underway. Starting at 5pm and running for an hour, we are looking forward to welcoming our U5-U11 from the surrounding areas to once again fill the ground with fun and laughter and of course, plenty of cricketing skills on Monday nights. After feedback from last year, we will be running the juniors slightly differently this year and will be asking our juniors to join for £30 as members of the club. This will cover all 14 planned sessions for the season and will include a membership card and car park sticker for the parents. We are also excited


about the possibility of entering some tournaments this year, due to the fantastic numbers we had at the end of last year. For more information about the juniors for 2024, please contact Joe Dorgan on 07846213702.

### Car Parking and Membership – A Polite Notice

With the spring sunshine in the air and the bluebells about to appear at any minute, we would like to remind everyone that the car park up at the ground is owned by the cricket club and is for the use of cricket club members only. To this end, we are always looking for new members, either playing or non-playing friends of the club and your support will help us to maintain the facilities, support our juniors and will ensure the future success of the club. On joining, you will receive a 2024 fixture card and a windscreen sticker that will act as a parking permit, allowing you to park at the ground without any chance of being pestered by other club members.

The total cost for becoming a non-playing 'friend' member is £25 and will run from April-April. To access the paperwork you can either visit Edington Post Office between 9 - 12 on weekdays, or you can email the club at [ecccmembership@gmail.com](mailto:ecccmembership@gmail.com). Over the coming weeks we will be canvassing cars parked up at the ground and we look forward to welcoming our new members for the 2024 season.

### The Pavilion

The next phase of the pavilion build that will see the brickwork and pillars finished is scheduled to be ready for the end of April and allow us to focus our fundraising attentions on the purchase and erecting of the wooden structure- an exciting time for the club after all the hard years of work. The new pavilion will be a traditional-look wooden construction elevated on brick pedestals and located in the north-east corner of the ground. It will have large changing rooms, a spacious atrium and shelter from 



the bad weathers. A decking will surround the pavilion which will have disabled access and all mod-cons will be incorporated, including indoor male, female and disabled toilets, kitchen area, meeting space and storage facilities.

It is a traditional pavilion designed for our traditional cricket club, but it is also one that is mindful and responsive to the needs of our local community. Designed by local Erlestoke architect and club member Jonny Marrion, the building has been designed to be an eco-friendly building that will rely on solar energy to provide power. Formed from a wooden timber structure, the building will be clean, sustainable and designed with natural materials to ensure it sits perfectly in the shadow of Erlestoke woods. The cricket club has been fundraising for the prospect of our new pavilion for some time and has raised an impressive £40,000 towards the cost of the build. These savings have allowed us to pay for all the groundworks and foundations and some of the construction build, but we still need to raise a further £84,000 to see the new pavilion completed and for it to begin to play its active part in the gilded history of the cricket club.

Every donation we receive helps us move towards our goal of a new pavilion up at the Walled Garden and a wonderful new village amenity for all to enjoy and share. As we move into the next phase of the build, we are now looking for donations towards the building to help us achieve our goals to improve the ground's facilities, amenities, ambience and accessibility.

We welcome any donation, large or small, and its offer will demonstrate in a practical and meaningful way, a gift of heartfelt generosity that will help ensure that the beauty and wonder of the Walled Garden remains a local community asset for all to enjoy, and that village cricket will always be played in its unique grounds, now and for far into the future. Our new CASC (Community Amateur Sports Club) status, means that we can also benefit from tax reliefs, including Gift Aid.

If you are interested in making a donation to help us achieve the next step in our building phase, or would like any further information about the project, please contact Mike Ash the cricket club secretary at [ecccmembership@gmail.com](mailto:ecccmembership@gmail.com).

## Three Villages Minibus AGM

Will be held on Monday 8th April at 2.30pm in the Parish Hall.

TVM continues to provide great service to our community and 2023 has seen more new groups and new passengers enjoying this much valued village asset.

Find out more at the AGM. All welcome.

Jasper Dorgan  
Chairman TVM



## HALL FOR HIRE

### EDINGTON PARISH HALL

PARTIES - MEETINGS - PRIVATE FUNCTIONS

Nearby private carpark

For more information and to book online go to

[www.edingtonwiltshire.org.uk/hall](http://www.edingtonwiltshire.org.uk/hall)

or email [parishhall@edingtonwiltshire.org.uk](mailto:parishhall@edingtonwiltshire.org.uk)

phone 01380 830 441





## THREE VILLAGES MINIBUS (TVM)



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

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

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

Our next lunches will be on Wednesday March 13th & April 10th .

**Joy Fraser (830426)**

## April Lunch in the Parish Hall

You are cordially invited to a  
**2 course Easter Celebration Lunch**  
with a choice of spring casseroles  
& a selection of puddings) on  
**Wednesday April 10th at  
12.30pm.**



in the Parish Hall, Edington.

Price £8.00

in aid of the Edington Parish Hall.

All will be most welcome to join us.



Please let Pauline know by Friday April 5th if you are coming as this helps with catering arrangements.

TVM will provide door to door

transport



### Shopping Trips starting at Edington

Destination	March	April	Start Time	Cost
Devizes	Thursday 7th	Thursday 4th	9.00am	£3.20
Warminster	Tuesday 19th	Tuesday 16th	1.25pm	£2.80
Westbury	Every Thursday	Every Thursday	1.30pm	£2.30
Salisbury	Saturday 9th	Saturday 13th	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
11th March	7.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	Parish Hall
12th March	7.30pm	WI meeting	Parish Hall
13th March	12.30pm	Village Lunch	Parish Hall
19th March	1.25pm	Warminster Shopping Trip	
23rd March	7.00pm	Edington Arts - Bach's St John Passion	Priory Church
31st March	1.00am	British Summer Time Begins	
4th April	9.00am	Devizes Shopping Trip	
4th April	7.00pm	Gardening Club 20th Birthday and Talk - Shapwick Moor	Parish Hall
8th April	2.30pm	TVM AGM	Parish Hall
8th April	7.15pm	Annual Parish Meeting	Parish Hall
8th April	8.30pm	Parish Council Meeting	Parish Hall
10th April	12.30pm	Village Lunch	Parish Hall
13th April	9.30am	Salisbury Shopping Trip	
16th April	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
Every Friday	6.00pm	Edington Brass	Parish Hall

**TVM trips - please Contact Pauline or Joy Fraser to book a place**

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

### Contacting us

Email the newsletter at

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

or via the village website

[www.edingtonwiltshire.org.uk](http://www.edingtonwiltshire.org.uk)

### Future editions

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

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

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

### Sharing the Newsletter

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

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