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Welcome to the thirteenth edition of the Edington Village News.

This month we have as always a selection of articles including our regular musings from Mercedes and the second part of Stephen's article on the "Wildlife in our Ponds". The first part of the life of a serving soldier's family moving around the world and the latest from the local Erlestoke cricket club.

As lockdown eases various village activities are starting up again with news of the minibus services, the WI's plans for the summer, the proposed Picnic in the Park and the restarting of the Tuesday morning Drop In coffee mornings in the Three Daggers.

Don't forget we are always looking for articles to publish, we have a couple being prepared for next month but there is always room for more.

Remember we are reliant on contributions to make this newsletter a success.

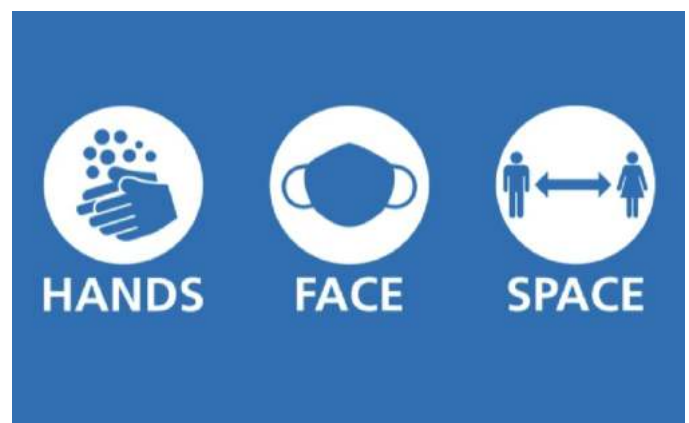
## Village Helpline Latest

Now that we are hopefully nearing the end of lockdown the Parish Council have decided to stop offering a helpline as it has not received any calls this year. However don't forget that the Four Villages Link continues to operate for anyone needing assistance and can be contacted on **07852 256939**, Monday to Friday 9am to 6pm (Except Bank Holidays). This is also the number to ring if you need assistance to attend hospital appointments etc. and you can now check out about the Four Village Link Scheme on their new website.

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

At the last online Parish Council meeting it was agreed that due to the success of this newsletter we will continue to produce it for the foreseeable future. The editors would like to thank all of those people who have contributed articles over the last year and look forward to receiving many more in the future. We would also like to thank all of those people who have offered their thanks for the newsletter.

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](http://www.edingtonwiltshire.org.uk/newsletter) and enter your details.





## 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**

### GP appointments and bookings

The way we access GP services has changed. Below are some frequently asked questions that may help you understand these changes:

#### Why can't I walk into my GP practice?

The coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic has forced us all to work differently to help slow down the spread of the virus. All healthcare settings are taking special measures to protect you, the public and their staff. GP practices are working as hard as ever, but differently.

Where possible we want to avoid people having to wait inside a waiting room together, as we know this increases the risk of the virus spreading. Like hospitals and dentists, we have also had to change how we offer our services to you.

If you do need to come in, then we can ensure there are a minimal number of people in the practice, we can maintain social distancing and keep patients and staff safe.

#### How do I get an appointment?

The easiest and most effective method is to use e-Consult through the practice website, or you can telephone 01373 828330. You will then be contacted by a clinician to talk through your symptoms either over the phone, via email, or if needed and you have the available technology, through a video consultation.

### Why can't I book a face-to-face appointment?

We have adapted the way in which you can get an appointment quickly and safely.

Most patient's health concerns can be managed over the phone or via video consultation. This is why we are providing either an initial phone call or video consultation to decide what would be the best way to help. If we can support you without needing you to come into the practice then we reduce the need for you to travel, and reduce the risk of the virus spreading.

If you do need a face-to-face appointment, you will be invited to attend the practice.

If we can ensure there are a minimal number of people in the practice, we can maintain social distancing and keep patients and staff safe.

**Dr Edwards & Partners**

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

### Courtyard Surgery West Lavington



**TELEPHONE 01380 813 300**

We are part of the Sarum West Primary Care Network, and our vaccination centre is at Wilton. This is entirely run by volunteers, including 6th formers from Salisbury Grammar School. A few people were vaccinated in Devizes, and others, who could not travel far, in the surgery or their homes as vaccines came available. We are now concentrating on people under 65 with a severe health risk from COVID19 and family carers.

As well as face to face appointments at home or in the surgery, we now have telephone and video consultations. If you telephone the surgery the person who answers will take as much detail as you will give and put this on a list for the Doctors to call you back. They may ask you if you can send a photo. The doctors prioritise calls by need, and if you ask for a specific doctor there may be a longer wait.

[www.courtyardsurgery.co.uk](http://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](http://www.marketlavingtonsurgery.nhs.uk)



## Wiltshire Police

### Keep burglars out of your property

Burglars will use a variety of ways to avoid being noticed.

They don't want to be seen or heard by a neighbour or passer-by because they will feel exposed and identifiable.

Distraction burglars will pretend to be someone they are not, so it's important you are aware of the common methods they will use to get you to let them into your property.

Here's some useful advice, firstly on helping to keep burglars out by giving them no hiding place and, secondly, on how to prevent a distraction burglary.

#### Keep it visible

You'd think that it would be best to make a property less visible from the street, and to keep it hidden from prying eyes behind overgrown bushes, trees, high fences or walls. In reality, all

that this serves to do is make it easier for a burglar to get close to a home unnoticed, and provide somewhere to hide while carrying out a burglary or theft from the property.

1. Lower fences at the front around one-metre high are preferable to high fences as they allow for a clear view over the top and don't provide cover for anyone wishing to hide.
2. At the rear and sides, taller fencing is recommended to prevent easy access.
3. Trellis, thorny plants, or a suitable anti-climb topping such as plastic spikes make it difficult for anyone climbing over a fence or gate.
4. Planting prickly or barbed shrubbery along boundaries and fence lines acts as an effective natural barrier.
5. Gravel driveways and paths will make sure you hear anyone approach.

For more information on creating a boundary, visit our [advice on criminal damage](#).

#### Distraction burglary

Distraction burglars pretend to be someone they are not in order to gain entry to your home.

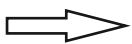
#### Common methods used by distraction burglars

- pretending to be from a care agency, the council or a utility company investigating a gas or water leak
- seeking help to leave a note for a neighbour or even asking for a drink of water if they claim to be thirsty or unwell
- claiming to be in a hurry or emergency and needing to get into your home quickly
- working in teams, with one person distracting you while the other searches your home.

#### How to prevent it

There are a number of things you can do to prevent distraction burglary. Always remember "if in doubt, keep them out":

- use your door viewer to see who's there
- if you open the door put the chain on first, always ask for ID and check it with the company before letting somebody into your home





•use the phone number advertised in the phone book or online, as the number on their identity card could be fake. For a utility company, call the customer service department. Close the door while you do this.

•remember that genuine callers won't mind checks. If you feel at all unsure, schedule a time for the caller to come back when a friend or relative is there.

•for pre-planned appointments with utility companies, a password scheme can be set up.

**If you feel threatened or in danger by the presence of the caller, call 999.**

## Wiltshire Council

Wiltshire Council has successfully bid for more than £4.4m from the Government's Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme to reduce carbon emissions by upgrading the heating systems in many of its buildings.

The award, which totals £4,452,281, will be spent on a series of energy efficiency and decarbonisation schemes that will update the heating systems and generate electricity at several Wiltshire Council buildings.

The majority of the funding will be used to install air to water heat pump systems at Five Rivers Health and Wellbeing Centre in Salisbury, Warminster Leisure Centre, the Olympiad in Chippenham, and, subject to planning permission, Lime Kiln Leisure Centre in Royal Wootton Bassett. Solar panels will also be installed at a further 19 council buildings, including leisure centres, libraries and depots; while further heating and air handling upgrades will be made at 10 council properties.

In October 2020, the council also received £185,818 from the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme. This was spent on replacing the gas boilers at Warminster Library with an air to water heat pump system and installing solar panels on

the roof of the library. The funding was also used to install solar panels on the roof at the Nadder Centre in Tisbury. This work was completed in March and will save an estimated 30 tonnes of carbon each year.

Simon Hendey, Director of Housing and Commercial, said: "This is significant funding that will enable us to reduce our carbon emissions by upgrading heating systems, and also reduce our energy bills longer term. In addition, costs will be mitigated as electricity will be generated by solar panels at 19 of our buildings.

"Once all the upgrades are completed in the autumn, they will save 1,200 tonnes of carbon each year, and also bring the council financial savings.

"The changes will also help us to embed expertise on new, greener technologies, such as air and water heat pumps, into the Wiltshire workforce, which will make it easier for residents to make similar changes to their properties, should they wish to do so.

"We will continue to pursue all avenues for funding to help decarbonise our property estates as we progress with our aim to make the county of Wiltshire carbon neutral by 2030."

## Edington Parish Council News

You will have noticed when you voted in the recent election that there was no ballot paper for Edington Parish Council, the reason being that we have eleven seats and there were eleven candidates and consequently an election was not required.

The first meeting of the new council will take place on Monday 17th May 2021. Due to Covid restrictions only members of the Parish Council will be able to attend in person and should any member of the electorate wish to attend they will have to do so remotely, more details on the village website. This will be our first face to face meeting for over a year!

Unfortunately we are still finding people allowing their dogs to foul the footpaths around





the village and the owner not clearing up afterwards. Can we remind villagers and their visitors that the playfield behind the Three Daggers is a children's play area and the Parish Council do not allow dogs onto the field to protect the children playing in there. Recently not only was someone spotted exercising their dog in the playfield but they also allowed their dog to leave an "offering" on the field.

Can we all take care when parking around the village, recently, as some of you will know there was a problem when someone parked in front of the bus shelter and post box on Westbury road opposite Tinhead Road; this led to the post not being collected from the box. Please ensure that whenever possible you park your vehicle on your property but if you are forced to park on the public highway please ensure that you do not block access to village facilities such as the bus shelter and post box or cause an obstruction to other road users.



it wheelchair friendly. If that wasn't enough we have also started on repainting the gates leading from the Church car park down to the burial ground having already painted the hand rail.

Next session on Wednesday 19th May, meet in the Church car park at 9.30 am.



## Village Volunteers

The group were able to restart their activities last month and have now finished the repairs to the steps and stile near Ralph's seat and they have



made further progress on opening up the field beyond the burial ground. If you have walked along the Coal Path recently you will have seen that the old gate that was hiding in the undergrowth has gone and there is now the start of slope leading up into the field and in the coming months this will be completed to make





## *Village Musings*

The walks around Edington are endlessly fascinating – even if we did the same walk every day for 365 days, we would never get tired of it because the countryside, the sky and weather change each day and make it a different experience. We enjoy chatting to different people on the walks, identifying different birds, listening to different things. We enjoy the different scents in the air, depending on where our weather is coming from, or the time of the year.



One of our favourite loops take us around the east part of Edington, where we can look up and see the hills, enjoy the fields as they change through the farming season, wave at the trains and enjoy the truly extraordinary cloudscapes that are such a feature of our village.



The white poplars along Lambourne lane provide an endless sequence of beautiful images. In winter, their skeletal arms bow down in the face of the winter winds. In spring and summer, their greens change subtly from bright to deep and in autumn, their silver white leaves shine out from the grey, damp skies. I never tire of watching them.



Recently, with air flows from the Sahara, we have seen some extraordinary sunsets – and I think there is something really amazing about having desert air coming through our village! How many camels walked on this dust, I wonder? And the polar air brings the sparkle of frost from the frozen north even in these late spring mornings.

There is a sense of interconnectedness with the whole world when we reflect on these things.



**Mercedes Henning**



## Edington arts

With the Roadmap now unfolding according to plan, wind and brass playing has been given permission to resume in church. Edington Arts is therefore confident that the first concert of their 2021 season, on Saturday June 12th starting at 7.30pm, will go ahead. The excellent international brass quintet Fine Arts Brass will be performing a lively and varied programme of works written or arranged for brass quintet, including by Bach, Piazzolla, Malcom Arnold, de Falla, Rossini and songs from the 1920s. It will be a wonderful evening of actual live music in performance – a first venture back to normal musical life.

The safety of everyone is paramount. Seating in the Priory Church will be socially distanced, meaning that numbers will necessarily be very constrained, and that tickets will be allocated to specific seats. If you would like to come as a group of up to four people, please arrange for a single transaction so that seats may be allocated appropriately. All tickets will need to be paid for and will be issued in advance; regrettably there can be no walk-ups on the day, and even worse, there will be no bar in the interval!



Should there be a glitch in proceedings, Edington Arts will need contact details to communicate any changes of plan as well as fulfilling test and trace requirements, so please be prepared to give your details when you order your tickets. Please either ring Chrissy on 01380 831256 or email [sue@edingtonarts.org](mailto:sue@edingtonarts.org).

Edington Arts recommends that you buy your tickets as soon as possible (£20/15/10 as usual with 18 and under free). If demand is heavy, a waiting list will be in operation.

Full programme information will be at [www.edingtonarts.org](http://www.edingtonarts.org) as soon as it is confirmed.



## The Four Villages Link

The Four Villages LINK is a local befriending and support scheme staffed by a team of local volunteers who offer support and assistance to anyone in our community as and when required.

We are looking for someone to join our Co-ordinator team to answer the LINK mobile phone on weekdays arranging for a volunteer to fulfil a request made by the client. The duty is shared between 3 other coordinators and you would be needed to hold the mobile for a two week period approximately every eight weeks.

If you are interested or would like to find out more, please call for an initial chat on 07852-256939

This is also the number to ring if you need our assistance to attend hospital appointments etc. and you can now check out our website <http://thefourvillageslink.org.uk/>

Registered Charity No: 1064923



## Edington & District Gardening Club

April 1st. 2021. Yes on April Fool's day the Edington and District Gardening Club went ahead with another Zoom meeting with our speaker Richard Cripps, a very knowledgeable and no fool when speaking about Basic Veg Growing and Propagation.

Twelve members zoomed in to learn how things have changed in the gardening world over recent years especially with the reduction in the amount of chemicals that is available to the amateur gardener.

Easter has now past so the time has come to turn over the soil ready for planting, a good source of information is to be found in seed catalogues. When planting your seeds you need a good sunny site and good soil after adding compost or well-rotted manure.

It is not necessary to have a large plot, potatoes can be planted in a large container as can runner beans, and then kept on a patio.

Look after your fresh seeds, they need an even temperature to germinate if they develop as healthy plants they will resist disease.

A few tips from Richard could be useful, watch out for cow parsley flowering as that is the time carrot fly is about so earth up your carrots to deter them.

Plant chives near your veg to deter fly and pinch out the tops of broad beans before black fly gets to them.

Smear Vaseline around the tops of flower pots to put off marauding slugs and snails but do learn to live with them, they are not all bad.

Lastly let's encourage children to grow veg. radishes are a good starter and are always successful.

HAPPY GARDENING.

## theWI INSPIRING WOMEN

Meeting every second Tuesday of the month  
[www.facebook.com/edingtonandtinheadwi](https://www.facebook.com/edingtonandtinheadwi)

Contact Liz Pike for further information **01380 830684**

[elizabethdpike@aol.com](mailto:elizabethdpike@aol.com)

**Next meeting Tuesday 11 May 7.30 on Zoom**

### Topic : Resolution Meeting

Dr Hattie Connell will be leading a discussion on ovarian cancer outlining the subtle signs of this disease. These are often missed which is why survival rates are so low as the disease is often well advanced before diagnosis.

**Future meetings** May and June will continue to be on Zoom. July we will hopefully hold our annual garden party and celebrate being together as a WI with a glass or two of wine. August onward meetings are planned to resume in the Parish Hall subject to government restrictions. We are also planning small gatherings of six in member's gardens over May and June.

A warm welcome is extended to any visitors or anyone wishing to join us. The first three meetings are free.

## Coffee morning Drop In



Restarts on 25th May,  
10.30 - 11.30 am  
in the Three Dagers.  
Transport available.



## Wildlife in our ponds - continued

We also get a number of aquatic bugs in our pond such as pond skaters, water striders, water crickets, lesser water boatmen and back swimmers.

It is hard to miss pond skaters on your pond – and practically every pond will have them at some point. Pond skaters are predatory bugs that mainly go around picking off the dead and unfortunate animals that fall onto the water surface and are trapped there. The common garden species are all good fliers which can easily move from pond to pond. But they cannot all fly, and when they find a nice spot some of their young will often be a type that doesn't have wings.

As winter approaches pond skaters will also produce young that can fly, and they so can move to a winter hibernation spot that is safe.



**Pond skater**

There are two other groups of bugs that like pond skaters you might see on the water surface. These are the common water striders or measurers and one of the two species of water crickets. Neither skates like a skater: water measurers trot about with a high stepping grace like a miniature prancing pony; water crickets scuttle across the water, their little legs going for all they are worth.

Lesser Water Boatmen and Backswimmers are two group of water bugs that look very similar, but one swims on its front and the other on its back.



**Common water strider**

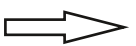


**Water cricket**



**Water Boatmen swim on their fronts.**

Water beetles are one of the most diverse groups in freshwater and in the UK, there are around 350 species. Typical water beetles, such as the great diving beetles, spend most of their lives in water, and, if the water dries up, they





either burrow into damp mud or fly elsewhere. Most have a supply of air enclosed in their wing-cases to use when under water. This makes them so light that they cannot stay below water except by swimming with their hind legs or gripping weeds or stones with the middle pair. The front pair are used for catching aquatic animals on which most of them feed. They renew the air supply frequently by projecting their tail-ends above the water. The larvae are also aquatic and carnivorous.



**Adult great diving beetle found in ponds around Edington.**

The diving beetle larvae hunt by clinging to the bottom substrate, vegetation or by hanging from the water surface, and remaining still until food passes, they then lunge and secure the prey with the front legs and mandibles. The larval food consists mainly of small crustaceans and insect larvae.



There are also fly larvae, leeches, flatworms, and other worm like creatures in your pond. These worm-like creatures do all look rather similar, and a bit wriggly. So, it might come as a bit of a shock to realise that there are more different kinds of these creatures living in freshwater – especially the flies – than any other kind of animal.

Flies and worms are nature's hoovers for rotting organic matter. But this is such a diverse group of animals that you can find just about every possible different way of living amongst them: from docile grazers to fierce predators.



**Midge larva**

One of the commonest are Midges which are classified as flies or Diptera – which comes from the Greek for two wings. In the UK, alone there are more than 500 species of non-biting midges and more than 150 species of biting midges. You are most likely to spot midges when groups of them dance in mid-air. What you are seeing are the males saying to the females: here we are, where are you? They give off a signal that is partly smell and partly sound. If you watch really carefully, you might see a pair of midges dropping out of the group to mate. Midges swarm near an object such as a branch which gives them a point of reference.

Adult female midges lay their eggs in the water or on the margins of water. The eggs hatch into free-living larvae which go through several moults before they pupate. The adult





emerges and sits on its empty case for a moment to open its wings before buzzing off.



**Male adult midge with hairy antennae**

One of the first inhabitants of any new wildlife pond are mosquitoes with larvae swimming in it or adults flying over it. As larvae mosquitoes filter floating food particles, grazing on algae, leaf detritus and animal remains. The adult females procure a blood-meal (from humans, livestock, birds, reptiles, and mammals, depending on the species) and supplement their diet with plant juices. Adult males do not require blood relying solely on plant juices. The females need the protein from the blood for the development of their eggs.



**Mosquito pupa which breath through trumpets on their thorax**



**The common house mosquito - male and female**

One of our favourite animals is the larva of the furry bee mimicking hoverfly – the drone fly. Its telescopic snorkel tail is a great way of getting oxygen amongst rotting vegetation that is naturally lacking in this essential gas. But the



**The drone fly**

name we give these creatures does them no favours - rat-tailed maggots. Adults feed on nectar in various habitats and can be seen throughout the year, emerging from hibernation to feed on Ivy flowers on milder winter days.

**Dr Stephen Henning**



**Mosquito larvae breathe through their long siphons on the end of the body that acts like a snorkle.**



## View from the Boundary

At one stage last week, it was looking like the bank holiday weekend was going to be an in – out, rain affected affair. But

thankfully the skies remained clear and both days saw some excellent cricket being played and two good teams visit us at The Walled Garden.

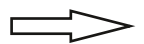
The weekend got off to the best possible start as the club welcomed back the juniors. Eighteen enthusiastic and excited youngsters joined us for their first training session and had a great time up at the ground. Parents, grandparents, uncles and aunts watched on as Toby Dorgan led a fun-filled and full-on session, with plenty of tennis balls flying around, lots of laughter and plenty of impressive cricketers on show. Such was the success of that first session that even a few dads looked as though they thought it might be time to fish out the old whites and maybe revisit their cricketing days! A huge thanks to everyone who came and supported us, got involved and gave us so much lovely feedback - we look forward to seeing you all again next week.

Saturday afternoon and our 2nd league game. We welcomed Marshfield CC to the ground; a team that had had the better of us on our previous two meetings. On a wicket that was a little greener and softer than we are accustomed to (the midweek rain doing its part) Marshfield had no doubts in sticking Erlestoke in and the home team knew it would be a game of attrition and patience. And that's what we got - an excellent opening stand between T Dorgan and M Barton saw the ECCC ship steadied in what was very friendly bowling conditions - and Marshfield were excellent with the new ball; consistency, accuracy and skill ensured that the scoring was slow. But it was a

challenge that was well met and slowly the scoreboard started to tick over. T Dorgan went first driving outside the off stump and was well caught at slip for 20. G Morrison hit a fluent 36 and M Barton 34 before both being undone by the slightly slower nature of the pitch - both caught. J Dorgan came and went quickly for one and J Marrion looked good for 5 before being scuppered by a slow turner. However, at the other end Tom Lucas picked up from where he left off last week and with some fine hitting, dispatched the ball to all parts of the ground, some balls bouncing off the wall, but most flying over it. An excellent 89 with the support of some equally fine hitting from M Hutchins (12) J Azzerati (16 NO) and J Coupe (16) ensured Erlestoke walked off at tea with a good and competitive score of 249- something for the bowlers to defend.

In the afternoon sun, Erlestoke set to the task and with J Coupe and J Dorgan taking the new ball, scoring was slow. J Dorgan soon struck and both openers were on their way back. J Coupe bowled an excellent 9 over spell which continually tested the Marshfield top order and he was unlucky not to be better rewarded, ending with 9-1-33-0. T Dorgan and T Lucas came on to spin a web and again it was a tale of 2 ends, with Lucas walking away with 4 wickets and T Dorgan unsuccessful. Although the Marshfield number 3 started to pick up the pace and the scoreboard began to tick over, the damage had been done and soon, with J Dorgan and J Millard coming back on, the game was over and Marshfield had been bowled out for 159. T Lucas was man of the match with an outstanding all round display, J Dorgan proved he could still bowl with some pace and J Coupe was excellent with the new ball. The top 3 showed us all how to bat in tricky conditions and the tail demonstrated just how much talent we have waiting down the order.

It was an excellent display from the team and a great all round performance with bat, ball and





in the field. We expect another great game with Marshfield in the return fixture and wish them well with the rest of their season.

On to Sunday and we welcomed our friends Urchfont CC to The Walled Garden and on another sunny afternoon, we witnessed an excellent and closely fought game with the result going down to the wire. Erelstoke batted first and again entertained the spectators, finishing on 161-6 from their 30 overs. Once again L Ellis impressed with the bat, hitting his highest score for the club; a well-constructed 42 before running himself out. M Alsop dazzled with a scintillating 35 and M Bedford managed a well-deserved 2 NO at the end. A good total, but was it enough? Well in the end yes.... But only just! At one stage Urchfont were 69-1 with 15 overs left and plenty of batting to come. But the expertise of Bedford, Ash and Millard with the ball in hand was enough to slow the scoring and Urchfont finished on 153, tantalisingly close. However, the Erelstoke fielding coaches will be scratching their heads as once again the weekend saw some unbelievable drops in the outfield. There were plenty of excuses but few were considered or accepted in The Bell Inn afterwards.

A great weekend up at The Walled Garden and well done and thank you to all involved this weekend; playing, organising, umpiring, watching, supporting.

Up the Stoke!

As ever, if you are interested in getting involved, playing or just want to find out a bit more information, pop into the Post Office and Pauline Dorgan will be more than happy to help out.

**Joe Dorgan**  
Chairman, ECCC

## Edington Parish Hall 100 Club

Have you paid your subscription yet?  
If not please contact Helen asap to pay.

## Edington Fair 2021 - June 26th

This year's fair will take the form of picnic in the park to live music. The idea is to bring your own picnic and rug or chairs. There will be a few of your favourite stalls to browse but no tea tent however the Daggers pub and shop will be selling tea, cakes pizzas and snacks.

Unfortunately most of our games are not covid compatible as they share balls, bats etc. instead we hope to have a children's entertainer and Bingo in the interval. We are still finalizing artists. Full details next month.

**Volunteers needed.** Can you spare an hour? We are required to record all participants for contact tracing and therefore need to man gates for the entire event. Entrance will be by donation so no handling of money. We aim to have two on each gate at a time for a one hour stint. Please help if you can as we need to find 18 volunteers to achieve this .

**Liz Pike** tel **830684** [elizabethdpike@aol.com](mailto:elizabethdpike@aol.com)





## THREE VILLAGES MINIBUS (TVM)



We are delighted to announce that our new minibus has finally arrived, complete to our specifications and we are getting

familiarised with it. Unfortunately, because of the corona virus restrictions, there must be some changes.

All drivers will need to have a familiarisation exercise, both with the operations of the vehicle and with the corona virus requirements. This guidance will be either with myself or another designated committee member and will take place before they can drive TVM.

As the numbers of passengers will be severely limited anyone interested in travelling must book their seat with me beforehand and comply with the following:

- Have no elevated temperature or been in contact with anyone who has the virus,
- Wear a face covering (provided by yourself) at all times when on the minibus,
- Keep the 2 meter social distance rule while waiting for the bus and while of the bus,
- Sanitise with the liquid provided before entering the vehicle each time when entering.
- Follow all the guidance given by the driver or his/her assistant.

### We hope to Run Shopping Trips starting at Edington on

Destination	May	June	Start Time
Devizes - £2.70	Thursday 6th	Thursday 3rd	9am
Warminster - £2.30	Tuesday 18th	Tuesday 15th	1.25pm
Westbury - £1.70	Every Thursday	Every Thursday	1.30pm
Salisbury - £4.00	Saturday 8th	Saturday 5th	9.30am

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. I am afraid that these new restrictions must apply at present, but they are to ensure the safety of all of us.

One of our regular drivers, Dave Mitchell, has decided to 'hang up his driving gloves'. Dave was a regular driver on our Westbury runs and was always willing to volunteer whenever we were short of a driver on other journeys. We are grateful for all his help with TVM and will miss him greatly.

As a result, we desperately need to recruit new drivers. Why not come and have a try? TVM drives like a car; it is just longer and wider! All our drivers need to be aged 25-70 years old (or above with a medical certificate) and have a clean licence. Any training required will be given. Drivers would need to commit to doing one journey a month, at a date to suit themselves. Our services are valued but cannot run without your support.

We are grateful to have just received a Wiltshire Grant for this financial year; the continued support of the Council for community minibuses is very much appreciated in these difficult times.

**Joy Fraser (830426)**



## First Quarters

Discussing moving house, I was asked how many times I had moved since I was married. The answer being thirty was received with gasps and cries of how did you do it.

After living in our own place for a number of years we decided, as we were due to go to Germany, we should move into Army accommodation. Being green in the ways of living in married accommodation and also in the terms used it was with trepidation I took the leap. The first thing was that the houses were known as quarters, did we have to share? They were fully furnished down to ashtrays, petit four dishes and mustard dishes???. They were also known as pads and the kids as pad brats! The day for the move or march in came. Did we have to line up and march into the house or was that just another army term for moving? We arrived at this big 4-bedroom house in a quiet cul-de-sac and told to stay in the car until the march in was complete (the goldfish water was nearly boiling) as only the 'head of household' could be present. This consisted of an inspection of every room and every piece of furniture, counting the cutlery and crockery, inspecting the cooker and garden. This took place with a senior officer, the Estate Warden and the serving soldier. After an hour we were allowed in to investigate the place for ourselves. Lovely hallway into the living/ dining room which had a lime green carpet square, orange curtains to divide the living dining area and flowery curtains at the windows. On to the kitchen, where all the crockery and cutlery was laid out in rows, most of it odds and sods (good job I had brought my own). Upstairs to four decent bedrooms, bathroom and loo. Linen laid out on each bed was laundered and starched (hard and scratchy) with grey blankets and candlewick bedspreads.

With moving came the usual register with the doctor where I learned we were to be known as wife/son/daughter of husbands last 4 numbers

and surname. On to the post office to change the address on the family allowance book. The post lady asked me for my allotment book, when I explained I did not know what she meant the full post office fell silent and gasps of unbelief were uttered. I went home and asked my husband where my allotment book was and why I did not have one. We had a joint bank account from the day we married so there was no need for an allotment. The next surprise came when the Commanding Officer's wife knocked on the door to welcome us to the 'family'. Would you like to come in Alice? its Mrs Smith to you, all officers' wives are addressed as Mrs, oh OK.

I was then invited to a coffee morning before the men went off to Cyprus for 6 months so thought I should go and meet some of the wives. I became really good friends with two in particular and throughout the 6 months the men were away we had many lovely outings as they were local and knew some good places to visit. I then got a visit from the wife of the RSM who told me I should not be mixing with wives of lower ranks and should not socialise with them, oh dear another faux pas but undeterred we remain friends 40 years later.

Then came the move to Germany and we were issued with MFO boxes. It was a packing crate consisting of four sheets of plywood with bendy tin riveted joints, an interchangeable lid and base, and loads of screws. The number of boxes you were allowed depended upon the size of your family and your rank! If it did not fit it did not go! I never owned my own ironing board until we moved to Edington and guess what – it is identical to the army issue! You had to pack carefully as the boxes were thrown around by the guys who collected them and transported them. With any luck the contents would arrive unbroken after being thrown around during transportation.

Then came the cleaning.....to be continued!!

**Sue**



## Edington What's On Diary

Date	Time	Event title	Description	Venue	Other information
19th May	7.30pm	Parish Council meeting	This will be held in the Parish Hall for Councillors but due to Covid restrictions any members of the public wishing to attend must do so via Zoom	Parish Hall/ Online	To join contact the PC via website
3rd June	7.30pm	Edington and District Gardening Club	Details to be announced	Online	See village website for latest information
12 June	7.30pm	Edington Arts	Fine Arts Brass	Edington Priory Church	More details elsewhere in this publication
14 June	7.30pm	Parish Council meeting	As for May meeting	Parish Hall/ Online	
26 June	2pm	Picnic in the Park		Playfield	See posters

**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)  
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](http://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](mailto:newsletter@edingtonwiltshire.org.uk)

### 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](http://www.edingtonwiltshire.org.uk/newsletter)

and enter your details or email

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

and you will be added to the mailing list.