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Welcome to the thirty-seventh edition of the Edington Village News, another bumper edition of 26 pages. This is our third birthday, yes it was three years ago that Covid struck and we started this newsletter

to keep villagers informed of events.

This month along with our regular articles we have a selection of pictures of the making of the Well Dressing display that took place as part of the Coronation weekend. We also have another of our occasional articles on life in France and a different view on Coronation food plus a glimpse back to our first edition.





## Local surgeries latest

REMEMBER YOU MUST WEAR A FACE  
COVERING WHILST IN THE BUILDINGS

White Horse Health Centre and Bratton  
Surgery



**Westbury surgery TELEPHONE 01373 828330**

**Bratton Surgery TELEPHONE 01380 831911**

**For medical emergencies dial 999**

No current news.

**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**

No current news.

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

## Edington Village Fete 2023

**SAVE THE DATE**

**When: Saturday 10th June**

**Time: 2pm-4,30pm**

**Where: Coal Path Field and surrounds.**



## Wiltshire Police

**We are recruiting for  
Police Community  
Support Officers to join  
our police family**

Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) are a vital link who strive to keep our communities safe every day, listening to local concerns and finding solutions those who live and work in the area.

Working reactively and proactively with their local communities, no two days are the same. PCSOs help safeguard and protect the community, creating strong relationships, working alongside schools, businesses, and community groups.

PCSOs deal with minor offences and support the front-line of policing. They do not make arrests, conduct interviews, deal with prisoners or investigate serious crime. They do tackle anti-social behaviour, provide crime prevention advice and education, and conduct high visibility patrols which act as a deterrent to crime. PCSOs go out on solo patrols which means they will be expected to walk their areas alone.

An operational role, PCSOs are part of our local policing teams working closely with police officers, supporting frontline operations to tackle crime and safeguard our communities.

This can include intelligence gathering for cases, cracking down on rural and cross border crime, human trafficking, drugs networks and counter terrorism. You will attend warrants and carry out house to house investigations, as well as supporting at incidents such as road traffic collisions.

ACC David Minty said: "Police Community Support Officers harness our presence in local communities and are the everyday face of the Force. Most people meet police officers in emergency situations, but PCSOs are





embedded in finding solutions to problems and local issues on a day-to-day basis. Attending events, schools and businesses they are often the community's link into Wiltshire Police.

"The roles are vitally important and help support operational policing and Community Policing Teams by providing a visible presence, building links with local community and supporting front line policing.

"PCSOs offer local knowledge and guidance to officers and investigating staff. They are the heartbeat of our communities."

Successful candidates must be at least 18 years old at the time of application and need Level 2 qualifications in Maths and English, and a Level 3 qualification. Confidence, good communication skills, decision making, and problem-solving skills are all important.

PCSOs work a 37 hour week over a ten week shift pattern. Shift patterns consist of a mix of day and evening shifts with some weekend working and rest days.

The salary starts at £23,694 per annum rising to £24,807 in two annual increments plus further payments for working unsocial or irregular hours.

Benefits include pension scheme, 25 days annual leave and access to gym facilities and wellbeing services. Career progression opportunities are good, learning transferable skills for roles such as Police Constable, Local Crime Investigator, or Contact Centre Operator.

We are accepting applications until 11.55pm on Tuesday 16 May, with successful applicants joining us for training in October 2023.

For more information and to apply, please visit the Wiltshire Police website [Police Community Support Officers | Wiltshire Police](#)



## Wiltshire Council

### News from Wiltshire Council

#### Wiltshire Council to continue its successful grants programme to boost the county's high streets

**Published 5 May 2023**

Following a successful programme of grants and support to generate activity on Wiltshire's high streets, Wiltshire Council has announced that it will continue the Wiltshire Towns Programme for the 2023/24 financial year.

The council's Wiltshire Towns Programme underlines its Business Plan commitment to have vibrant, well-connected communities by providing grants and meaningful support through local councils. This supports businesses to grow and promotes events that encourage visitors, support employment and transform Wiltshire's high streets to meet the needs of local communities.

As part of the Wiltshire Towns Programme, the council invited town and parish councils of all 18 Wiltshire towns, the city of Salisbury, plus Pewsey, Tisbury and Downton, to submit action plans to improve their high streets and attract more visitors to their communities. They have then received grant funding that is based on their own local priorities to improve their town centres.

Examples of the projects include new planters in Trowbridge town centre, improved signage in Corsham and an improved Taste Salisbury Food Festival.

Cllr Richard Clewer, Leader of Wiltshire Council, said, The Wiltshire Towns Programme is a £1m per year investment into Wiltshire's high streets to support events, increase marketing and attract residents and visitors to stay and spend more with local businesses - which is one of our Business Plan aims.





Through the £285,000 generating activity grant fund, we are working in partnership with town, parish and city councils to create and sustain vibrant, resilient town centres by recognising and celebrating our high streets' unique identities.

As the first financial year of the Wiltshire Towns Programme has now ended, we are pleased to have worked successfully to grant the £285,000 allocated through the scheme to 22 local areas throughout the county to generate activity on their high streets.

We know high streets are facing many challenges, but by working together with our communities, we can help to revitalise our town centres.

Some of the projects funded in the 2022/23 year include:

- Redecoration of street furniture and railings in Chippenham
- Short social media videos to promote Devizes
- New signage in Melksham
- New planters in Calne
- Design work to redevelop the Rotunda in Westbury
- A new town hall light projector in Royal Wootton Bassett
- An extra tourism and events officer in Bradford on Avon
- Additional bunting in Amesbury
- A community day in Pewsey
- New directional signs in Wilton
- Town dressing improvements in Downton

## **Council continues commitment to tackling the climate emergency**

**Published 3 May 2023**

Wiltshire Council has updated on its progress towards its goal of being a carbon neutral organisation and supporting the county to achieve the same.

Wiltshire Council has updated on its progress towards its goal of being a carbon neutral organisation and supporting the county to achieve the same.

The council has provided its latest six-monthly report on how it is tackling the global climate problem locally, leading from the front on a number of projects and initiatives to help inspire people and organisations to take the kind of action that will make a positive difference.

At its meeting held on 26 February 2019 Full Council resolved to acknowledge that 'there is a climate emergency and to seek to make the county of Wiltshire carbon neutral by 2030'. Cabinet subsequently committed to make the council carbon neutral by 2030.

In its latest report, which was presented at the Cabinet meeting on 2 May, updates were provided on a range of projects including:

- the key funding it has secured to retrofit homes and drive tree planting
- innovations for waste services to help recycle as much as possible
- educating young people on what they can do to make a difference
- making its own buildings as green as possible
- supporting residents across the county to install solar panels
- continuing to develop active travel schemes and investing in electric vehicle charging technology.

Being confirmed as a Bronze Carbon Literate organisation by the Carbon Literacy Project. In a recent independent Corporate Peer Challenge, it was said in the final report that Wiltshire Council is excelling in work to address climate change - further demonstrating the council's commitment to the climate cause. The report stated: "The council's work to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change is impressive, with many activities that would be considered exceptional in other organisations being seen very much as the 'day job'."

Cllr Nick Holder, Wiltshire Council Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change, said: "As our Business Plan clearly states, we want Wiltshire to be a place where we all take responsibility for the environment and are on the path to carbon neutral. As clearly





demonstrated by our latest update on the response to the climate emergency, we are doing everything we can to not only lead by example in our activity as an organisation, but inspire others to do what they can too. We are an organisation of influence but the climate emergency is everyone's responsibility and we must all work together on this shared global issue that will have such an impact on not only our futures but those of generations to come.

"We will continue to push forward and do as much as we can to build on the progress we have already made, and hopefully take many people along on that journey with us."

Here's a summary of how the council is supporting the county to become carbon neutral:

Funding of more than £3.6m successfully secured from Government which will increase energy efficiency and reduce carbon footprint of up to 210 Wiltshire homes

90 council homes have been retrofitted to be more energy efficient

£294,800 of funding successfully secured from Government to support tree planting and woodland creation targets - delivering 111 hectares of trees in 2023/24 and 222 hectares in 2024/25

The council is on track to deliver more than 700 installations in Wiltshire as part of the Solar Together scheme - totalling more than 5,000 solar panels. A second scheme will be launching in early summer

Between August 2022 and January 2023, more than 58 tonnes of reusable items were collected at household recycling sites, saving 23 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e compared with sending this waste to landfill

A pop-up reuse shop in Devizes prevented 2.1 tonnes of waste from going to landfill by selling items collected from recycling centres such as bikes, tools and toys

More than 15 tonnes of batteries collected so far through new kerbside collection scheme

Leisure items recycling scheme launched at four centres which allows usually discarded items to be eventually recycled and used again

74 cycle parking spaces and an e-bike docking station has been installed at Salisbury Train Station

1,200 pupils have attended Bikeability training since the start of the 2022/23 school year  
£878k allocated for further Active Travel schemes in the county

Applications have been received through a council scheme for 35 sites to have electric vehicle charging point feasibility studies - with funding support from the council

The council is investing an extra £1m between 2022/23 and 2024/25 to empty gullies and help prevent flooding

The Warm and Safe advice service has been extended for a further three years

Libraries service secured funding to produce a series of talks and book collections on climate change and sustainable living

The Salisbury River Park project continues to make progress - the council's flagship project to improve resilience to climate impacts

Here's a summary of Wiltshire Council's progress in becoming a carbon neutral organisation:

Almost 60 members of staff complete carbon literacy training to help them become more energy efficient in their work and home lives, and the council has been awarded a Carbon Literate Organisation Bronze award

The council's case studies featured at the UN Climate Change conference COP27 in Egypt  
Air source heat pumps have been installed at three leisure sites reducing gas usage by around 6,200 MWh per annum

54 installations of solar photovoltaics at leisure sites generated 1,746 MWh of electricity in 2022/23

Renewable energy on council property increased by more than five times between 2019/20 and 2022/23 - from 324 MWh to 1,746 MWh



The council's 2021/22 greenhouse gas emissions are 5,275 tCO<sub>2</sub>e which is a reduction of 75% on its 2014/15 footprint - 2022/23 data available later this year

The council adopted a socially responsible procurement policy which played a part in awarding its recent £80m highways contract Telematics have now been installed in all 200 of the council's own vehicles - providing vital data on fuel consumption and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions related to driver behaviour

The council has upgraded its gritters and replaced them with a new modern fleet with Euro 6 compliant diesel engines - much better for emissions

91% of staff training was carried out online rather than face-to-face

The number of council printers reduced by 50% and ageing printers have been replaced with ones that use 60% less energy

As well as the Business Plan, the council's Climate Strategy informs all the work the council is doing to tackle climate change in Wiltshire covering seven delivery themes: transport; built environment; waste; green economy; energy generation, storage and distribution; natural environment, food and farming; and carbon neutral council. In addition, the council's Green & Blue Infrastructure Strategy is another key plan and both documents are used as frameworks for the council's policies and plans in this area.

More information about Wiltshire's Climate Strategy can be found [online](#).

If people want advice and support on what they can do to make a difference, they should visit [our climate change individual page](#).

The full climate update can be found [on our website](#).

The update report will also be presented at Full Council on 16 May.

## Edington Parish Council News

### Annual Parish Meeting

The Parish Council would like to thank those villagers who attended the recent event to find out more about the work of the council

### Neighbourhood Watch

Edington has in the past had a successful neighbourhood watch scheme. After some time we have finally been able to set up a new scheme. The main method of communication in this scheme is going to be through a Whatsapp group.

To make a neighbourhood watch scheme work it needs as many people to join as possible. To join officially you need to go onto the national neighbourhood watch website [ourwatch.org.uk](http://ourwatch.org.uk) and look up the Edington scheme and register and ask to join the scheme.

Once you have joined the scheme you will receive regular updates from Wiltshire Police and local updates.

More news on the launch of the scheme in Edington in the June edition of this newsletter.



### Latest Neighbourhood Watch News

***Be alert when selling online - we are investigating reports of payment scams in your area***

We are currently investigating reports of payment scams for online sales and purchases in your area of Wiltshire.

If you sell through digital marketplaces, like Facebook Marketplace, a scam to watch out for is over payment - when a buyer overpays or offers more than the amount listed, then pretends it was by accident and asks you to refund the difference, perhaps to a different account they initially paid you from, or in cash.

This is a major warning sign. If





possible, don't accept this payment and don't return the extra money. It's very likely to be fraud and will need reporting to Action Fraud and your bank to investigate.

To prevent this from happening, preferably do not provide your bank details for payment of goods until the buyer is present with you and they are in the process of collecting the item. Or, receive payment in cash.

Another tactic scammers use to convince you out of money is to send a fake, legitimate-looking receipt or invoice that appears to be from a financial service, such as PayPal. This invoice includes an amount that's more than the asking price. The swindler will then claim that until you pay the difference, via bank transfer or in cash, the money they've sent won't hit your account.

Any time you experience this type of suspicious behaviour, we advise you to check with your financial service directly.

Please double check all of the information before selling and buying on digital platforms.

If you are part of a local group and would like further information and guidance on how to protect yourself from fraud, please contact Fraud Protect Officer, Detective Constable Rachel Davies at [rachel.davies@wiltshire.police.uk](mailto:rachel.davies@wiltshire.police.uk)



## B3098 update

The council are still developing with Wiltshire Highways the best strategy to reduce the speed of traffic entering the village particularly from the Bratton direction.

The latest figures downloaded from the Speed Indicator Device (SID) situated near Greater Lane showed that 37% of vehicles entering the village had speeds between 30 and 35mph, 20% were between 35 and 40mph and 9% were in excess of 40mph with 20 vehicles in excess of 60mph. There were a total of 37,385 vehicles passing the SID in April. The council are part of a pilot project with Wiltshire Police to analyse the data from SID's to identify the worst times for speeding to allow the police to target their resources at these times in the village. The Community Speed Watch group will be operating throughout May to record any offenders and report them to Wiltshire Police. You can find out more about the [Wiltshire PCC's initiative to make roads safer here.](#)

## Forthcoming roadworks.

The B3098 will be closed in Erlestoke from 15th May for three days to allow Wessex Water to carry out repairs.

The railway bridge in Great Cheverell will be subject to road works from 6 February until 26 May and will be closed completely from 10 March until 13 May for bridge and associated works by Network Rail. This means that HGV's that normally use Great Cheverell to avoid the low bridge on the A360 will be diverted along the B3098 through Edington to Westbury.

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)



## *Village Musings*

The Coronation of King Charles III has provided communities across the country with the opportunity to gather and celebrate. Part of being human is that we enjoy coming together to mark special events. We enjoy eating together, chatting with people whether we know them well or not, doing things together, we enjoy being part of a community with shared values.

Whether we support the idea of a monarchy or not, this event has helped to build community spirit across Edington, with lots of street parties held in various parts of the village, the well dressing with a picnic at the village pond and many other events that have reminded us that Edington is a great place to live.

Perhaps the Coronation also gives us a moment to consider the issues that King Charles has always held in the forefront of his work – action to look after our natural world, to walk more lightly across the earth, to care for our planet with more compassion. Probably the single biggest challenge that our children and grandchildren will face is that of climate change and perhaps this is a good moment to recommit ourselves to working towards a safer, better world for them.

**Mercedes Henning**

### **The making of the Well Dressing display**







## The finished Well Dressing displays

Thank you to Liz and her team of helpers for producing these displays which will remain near the pond for the next few days for everyone to view.





## Coronation Crumble – Now There's Food for Thought

**Writes Paul Millard**

Where would you think of if I were to say, Pasta or Paella or Haggis or Sauerkraut or Fondue? Hopefully, the same places I identify those foods with. Food is one of those key things that trigger a certain sense of national identity – there's a good reason the French call us Les Rosbifs and not Les Quiche.

So, perhaps understandably, there has been a certain amount of head-scratching among the people I chat to as to what led to the decision to nominate a broad bean and spinach quiche as the dish to celebrate the Coronation with – not least in the local butcher's shop where the discussion was slightly more passionate.

The Royal Family's website described it as: "A deep quiche with a crisp, light pastry case and



delicate flavours of spinach, broad beans and fresh tarragon and suggests we should eat it hot or cold with a green salad and boiled new

potatoes - perfect for a Coronation Big Lunch!"

Now I give you that holding on to roast beef and Yorkshire pud (not to mention the two veg and gravy) at your local street party might pose something of a challenge but the choice of a tarragon flavoured quiche accompanied by new potatoes and a nice crisp salad I found difficult for a number of reasons – irrespective of how inclusive it might be. I mean, we could have had a Coronation Crumble couldn't we? Very British and lovely touch of alliteration and it could also be made with in-season rhubarb. Lovely!

The fact that it is that The King's Quiche is a vegetarian dish doesn't concern me at all, nor does the fact that our most popular national dish is, apparently, chicken tikka masala! No, its not that – its just that it doesn't seem to shout out Britishness not like, roast beef or fish'n chips or, dare I say it Coronation Chicken.

There's another thing, in a previous life I was involved in many campaigns to promote British food one of which was called " Just Ask" – the idea being to persuade the great British public to "Just Ask" where their food came from – whether that was in the restaurant or the grocer's or the butcher's shop. The end goal of this campaign was about persuading people to buy, not only British, but, preferably, locally produced food. It was about raising awareness and creating a greater understanding of where food comes from and the miles and costs, both financially and environmentally, of getting that food to you. Local, we hoped, would become the new organic.

Back to our Coronation Quiche. Broad beans, even those planted by the most green-fingered gardeners back in November, are not yet in season in this country so they'll have to be imported or frozen. Likewise, spinach – not yet in season, new potatoes – barely coming in but maybe the earliest Jerseys were available in time but most likely they'd be from Egypt or Cyprus and salad, well, there may be some hydroponically produced home-grown salad on the market but, again, most likely imported.

So, can we really see our grandchildren raising a glass of fine white wine (probably produced on the White Horse by then) and taking a large bite of Coronation Quiche and saying " Here's to the Old King, granny used to talk about this quiche all the time." Nice idea, but, somehow, I doubt it.

Another issue that sprang up as a tangent to this discussion (the quiche and crumble one) was about British beef. It was British Beef Week recently and by way of celebration we had a lovely piece of locally-grown, slow





roast brisket for our Sunday roast – but it prompted me to reminisce about the delights of more mature beef from some of our old-fashioned British cattle. Most of our beef breeds are simply not mature enough at 30 months to develop the wonderful depth of flavour proper grass-fed beef can achieve and as a cook, I regret that.

It begs the question of whether the 30-month rule is still as relevant or necessary as it may (or may not) once have been.

The rule was introduced to combat the projected disaster of BSE, Bovine spongiform encephalopathy or mad cow disease.

It's a brain disease that can infect cattle, sheep and goats. BSE belongs to a family of diseases, some of which can affect humans, among them is Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD). In the mid 1990's, scientists discovered a new strain of CJD that affected mainly younger people and researchers concluded that the most likely origin of this new disease, called variant CJD, or vCJD, was human exposure to BSE.

BSE was thought to have arisen from the practice of mixing animal protein or bone meal into animal feed – a practice which is now banned throughout Europe and there were vCJD thought to have arisen from people eating infected meat.

But the disaster never manifested itself on the scale that was projected and protections were put in place to ensure it never would – including slaughtering cattle before they reached 30 month of age because the disease arose largely in older cattle.

Speaking to farmer friends it appears the risks have now diminished; better practices are now in place in both slaughterhouses and meat processing plants and incidence of the disease has dropped away. I'm no scientist but I wonder if there is now a case for reviewing the rule which robs some of us of the significant delight of eating full-flavoured mature roast beef – as an alternative that is, to The King's Quiche!



## Edington & District Gardening Club

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

A change from meeting in the Parish Hall, 19 members travelled to Downside Nursery at Westwood for the April meeting.

Several members had not been to this plantsman nursery, originally starting out in the 1960's as a vegetable growing nursery. Once supermarkets became the norm for cheaper vegetable purchases Lorraine Young and her husband branched out into supplying plants to the trade, following on from her husband's death 20 years ago, Lorraine and her son then decided to retail directly to the public, growing with the demand. Their wealth of knowledge is to the fore. Lorraine spoke briefly about different suitable climbers for varying positions and a little on container planting.

The nursery was full and filling up even more for the start of the seasonal rush, so after tea and biscuits we were able to wander and of course purchase the odd plant or two.

More information about forthcoming meetings can be found on the village website.

**Jacky (tel.830133 for any further details)**



## 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**



## Hedgerows around Edington

We have a large mixed hedge at the back of our property, and it has amazed me again this year how many bird species are nesting in it. It is not just the birds using the hedge and we have had wood mice getting into our greenhouse and eating the newly planted seeds before they had a chance to germinate.

The wood mouse is the most widespread and abundant British mammal. It is found in all habitats including hedgerows. It is also common in gardens. It is very active, running and bounding from place to place and venturing into open spaces where other small mammals will rarely go.



### **The wood mouse is the most widespread and abundant British mammal (del. S.F. Henning)**

If my little bit of hedge is such a wildlife haven, the mind boggles at the thought of how important all the hedgerows lining our roads and fields are to wildlife. As a mixture of woodland, scrub and grassland, hedgerows contain a wealth of different plant and animal species, and across large swathes of the countryside are an essential habitat and refuge for the majority of our farmland wildlife.

Hedgerows provide food and shelter for many species of wildlife. Not just birds and mammals but amphibians, reptiles, and all sorts of arthropods such as insects, spiders, centipedes and so on. Hedgerows also often link small woods so provide essential corridors

along which animals can travel. In addition to providing excellent wildlife habitat, hedges can help reduce soil erosion and water run-off on arable land.

A managed hedgerow is a line of woody vegetation that has been cut so that trees no longer take their natural shape. Published statistics show that regularly managed hedgerows have declined in England from 1984. However, since 1990 onwards the decrease has mainly been through the lack of management leading them to change into trees/shrubs and relict hedges rather than them actually being removed.

Hedges provide song posts, shelter, territory markers, and nesting opportunities for both woodland and farmland birds such as yellowhammer, whitethroat, blue tit, and great tit, while nectar, berries, nuts and leaves provide food for an assortment of invertebrates, mammals and birds. The huge number of invertebrate species that is found in hedgerows contributes to the food supply of our insectivorous bird species.

So, hedgerows are hugely important for our native birds. The number of bird species, as well as the number of individual birds tends to increase with the size of the hedge and the number of woody plant species that the hedgerow is made from. As shrubs flower and fruit at different times throughout the year, a greater variety reduces gaps in the food supply. Hawthorn and dog rose are particularly valuable shrubs for providing food that can last throughout winter.

The base of a hedge is also really important for many nesting bird species. A dense hedge with good cover, especially in the lower 1m of the hedge, increases bird population sizes. Similarly, hedge height is important, with taller hedges generally supporting a greater bird diversity and more nesting pairs. This is possibly due to a reduction in the chance of predation. Wrens particularly like dense hedges to nest.





**Wrens like dense hedges to nest (del. S.F. Henning)**

Bats also use hedgerows as feeding sites, exploiting the increased populations of flying insects it attracts. They also use them to travel from their roosts to other feeding sites. Especially for bats with limited echolocation ranges such as the pipistrelle, having a network of well-connected hedgerows near their roosts is very important.

Pipistrelles are Britain's smallest bats and also the most abundant and widespread. They congregate in large colonies, often in buildings. They eat small insects in flight. Larger ones may be taken to a perch such as a tree branch. The young are born in June. Pipistrelles, like other bats, hibernate in winter.



**The pipistrelle bat is found commonly around Edington (del. S.F. Henning)**

Hedgerows can break up wind speeds, which can be important in exposed areas. Without hedgerows, insects can struggle to fly on windy nights which reduces the amount of prey available for the pipistrelle and other bats.

Hedgerow trees can also be valuable roost sites for other species of bat which can live in rot holes or in crevices in the bark. The loss of hedgerow trees and lack of new ones being allowed to emerge, will consequently have a detrimental impact on all the bat species that call them home.

Two other mammals that make good use of hedgerows to travel around are weasels and stoats. Both are active hunters and will tackle prey several times their size. They are found in a wide range of habitats all over Wiltshire and even in some lightly populated urban areas. They can be surprisingly bold, living in outbuildings, and are active both day and night, so there is a much better chance of seeing them than some of the other mammalian predators.

It is difficult to tell them apart, but the stoat is much larger (body about 25 cm long) with an 8 cm long, black-tipped tail, while the weasel is smaller (body 20 cm long) and has a tiny 5 cm long tail which is very hard to see with no black tip.

One of our most interesting encounters with weasels happened a couple of years ago when we were returning to Edington by car. Suddenly in the road in front of us were two weasels fighting ferociously attacking and chasing each other. We stopped and watched them totally engrossed for several minutes. They were probably a male and a female.

The female weasel was probably rejecting an unwanted suitor with a typical display of ferocious aggression. Only when she is on heat will she accept a male's advances. He then approaches the female cautiously, rubbing himself on the ground with twisting movements and making excited trilling calls. If she answers in kind, the brief courtship begins. They sniff at each other, trilling incessantly, and





follow each other around. If she is fully receptive, or if it is not the first encounter between the pair, she may leap playfully around him, whereupon he immediately grabs her by the scruff of the neck.



**Suddenly in the road in front of us were two weasels fighting ferociously attacking and chasing each other (del, S.F. Henning)**

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Weasels mate in the spring and usually have one litter. They will often nest in other small animals' holes and burrows. Four or five kits are the norm for a litter, and they are independent after a period of about nine weeks.

Weasels are excellent climbers, and their small size allows them to explore the tiniest of cracks and hollows. Their small size has drawbacks, though. Weasels need to eat almost a third of their bodyweight each day, so they are incredibly active both day and night in the pursuit of mice, voles, and shrews, as well as rats

and small rabbits. Their fast-paced life is short, and weasels only live for about three years. Pound for pound, weasels have a more powerful bite than any other mammal.

When prey is plentiful, a frenzied weasel will often kill much more than it can eat. This is no problem; the leftovers will keep. Weasels evolved in cold climates and learned to use this to their advantage. They dig little underground caches near their den entrances and keep them stocked with leftovers. In the winter, when it's too cold to go outside, a weasel can just go to the fridge and pull-out yesterday's vole or that extra mouse from last week.

The stoat is one of the fiercest predators and is active by day and night. It uses its sense of smell and hearing when hunting in dense cover. Once located, their victims are usually caught in a couple of bounds. They may wrap their bodies around large mice or small rats to subdue them. It often kills prey more than twice its own size by biting deeply into the neck.

Rabbits, small mammals and birds provide the bulk of its diet. A stoat's hunting ground usually cover about 50 acres.



**Stoat looking out of its den (del. S.F. Henning)**

The stoats' larger size means they need to eat less often than weasels. The best time to see stoats is during the rearing of the





young during April and May, when adults are hunting continually, or when kits are leaving the nest.

Stoats have one litter, usually of seven to 12 kits, depending on the amount of food available. They use rabbit burrows, other hollows or even buildings. The kits are independent after about 11 weeks.

**Dr Stephen Henning**

## Four Villages Link



We provide help around the home and garden as well as transport to medical appointments, shops,

hairdressers etc. In the past 3 months 2300 miles were covered by our 20 volunteers. If you would like to find out what Four Villages Link has to offer, or to use our services, please call the coordinator on call **07852 256939** or go to

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

Look out for events over the Coronation weekend in May and we will do our best to provide transport.

**Our AGM is Tuesday 16th May in Edington Parish Hall, from 10am for refreshments; do come along.**

**Catherine Elliott**

## Edington Village Fete 2023 SAVE THE DATE

**When: Saturday 10th June**

**Time: 2pm-4,30pm**

**Where: Coal Path Field and surrounds.**



We look forward to seeing everyone on Saturday 10th June at 2pm in Coal Path Field at our traditional village fete.

Entry, games and entertainment free, bring a bit of cash for delicious cream teas, ice cream and cake stall.

Parking available in Parish Hall car park. If the weather is unkind we will move into the church. If anyone would like to give a hand at the end to stack tables, chairs etc. that would be most welcome too!

**See you there!**



## Some of the pages from our first edition in May 2020

All previous editions can be found on the village website:

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

- Latest Coronavirus news from the Parish Council
- White Horse Health Centre - latest
- Wiltshire Police – advice
- Wiltshire Council
- Library Service – latest
- Local buses – latest
- Dorset & Wiltshire Fire & Rescue
- Edington Parish Council news
- The Four Villages Link Scheme
- Local businesses offering services
- Edington Post Office
- The musings of a villager
- The story of the Jersey penny
- Edington nature notes
- Vie Hale – a tribute
- Erlestoke and Coulston Cricket Club
- Sharing Your Newsletter
- Contacting us
- Coping Calendar

### Latest from the Parish Council



**Edington helpline** – to date we have over 50 volunteers and the helpline has received 22 calls. The helpline can provide assistance with shopping, collecting prescriptions, dog walking and a listening and talking service along with many other things that we can find access too. If you need help please call the helpline and we can help you in these difficult times, if we cannot help we will find someone who can help you.

#### Why the council are producing this newsletter?

Although there are numerous sources of information available in various locations we

to find it for you.

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

At present we have no clear idea of how long these difficult times will continue, so please contact us before the problem becomes overwhelming. All calls to the helpline will be treated in the strictest confidence.

We are planning to publish this newsletter monthly but may produce it more frequently if there is a change in information or if the village website will also be updated on a regular basis to help keep everyone up to date with the latest information. The newsletter will be delivered directly to your inbox if you enter your details.

**Don't forget to contact the help line 07933143021 (available 9am to 6pm 7 days a week)**

### White Horse Health Centre latest



#### COVID-19 Surgery Update

White Horse Health Centre would like

### Some of the village rainbows and animals displayed in windows



dition. You can also find it on the village website.

### Local businesses offering services with delivery

Below are some of the local businesses that are offering a delivery service. The Edington Parish Council do not endorse any of these businesses, they are merely businesses that have been recommended by villagers. If you know of any other businesses that provide a delivery service to the village please email us at [newsletter@edingtonwiltshire.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@edingtonwiltshire.org.uk) and we will add them to the list for the next edition of the newsletter.

**Bratton Plant Centre** – large selection of plants available tel 07498 818 268 Website [www.brattonplantcentre.co.uk](http://www.brattonplantcentre.co.uk)

**Brokerswood Farm Shop** – meat, fruit and vegetables, dairy products and store cupboard ingredients, plus some frozen foods. Free delivery on orders over £25. tel 01225 753000 Website [www.brokerswoodfarmshop.co.uk](http://www.brokerswoodfarmshop.co.uk)

**Central Fruits** – local suppliers of fruit and vegetables straight from the grower, tel 07741252862 or 07468412207

**Davies of Westbury** – garden supplies, hardware, electrical products, household products and paints, at present delivery restricted to vulnerable and elderly persons, ring for details tel 01373 822431

**Elliott's Traditional Butchers** - High St. Westbury, tel 01225 753000

and Vegetables for Wiltshire Residences also dairy products. tel 01380 502498 Website [www.wiltshirefruitandveg.co.uk](http://www.wiltshirefruitandveg.co.uk)

**5adaybox** – fruit and veg boxes, kitchen cupboard ingredients and a selection of dairy products. tel 01380 860968 Website [www.5adaybox.co.uk](http://www.5adaybox.co.uk)

### Edington Post Office

Throughout the lockdown and beyond, our hours remain unchanged. Monday – Friday 9am – 12noon.

Some people may not be aware that you can take money out from all the high street banks, can deposit cash and, if you have personalised paying in slips, cheques can also be deposited.

We have strict social distancing in place, i.e. only one customer inside the post office at any one time, but you can queue up to 2 metres apart and catch up on village news whilst awaiting your turn. Bring your own umbrella if wet!

### The musings of a villager

In these extraordinary times, we are fortunate to live in a village as beautiful as Edington. The walks we can take are varied, beautiful and healing and the perfect little spaces all over the village can help us to remain positive, calm and

We have the village pond near our house and what joy this brings! It is worth taking a walk to have a look at this lovely spot, if you have not been here for a while. At the moment there are some rather funny model crocodiles that bob about on the surface! The children enjoy them.

But you might also see some wonderful examples of our natural world enjoying the pond as well - the mallard ducks that visit the pond regularly, the frogs and the





## A tale of two villages: British/ French antagonism?

The Spring in central France is well under way now and the countryside is a hive of activity, with cultivating, spraying, fertilizing and the sowing of sunflowers and maize. There is a notable increase in the amount of spring beans going in this year, as in the UK, to reduce the dependency on expensive artificial nitrogen. So the countryside will have a lovely aroma when they are in flower. No late frosts either, so our fruit trees promise peaches, nectarines, cherries and of course figs.



The recently completed nearby cycle and walking track, the Voie Vert, is now proving a great asset. Walks along the peaceful riverside ex-trainline are a delight and with wild strawberries lining the sides of the track, there will be yummy treats to be had later in the year. Dotted along the line, at each road crossing is

an old “crossing keepers” house. These are a delight and many are now holiday homes or coffee-stops.







## Edington Village Fête

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> June, 2pm  
Coal Path Field



Stalls  
Races  
Games  
Children's Entertainer  
PLUS - Cream Teas

Entry & Games Free

[www.edingtonpriory.church](http://www.edingtonpriory.church)



## Sticky Toffee Pudding – a Parish Hall lunch favourite!

### Ingredients

#### For the pudding

225g dates  
175ml boiling water  
1 tsp vanilla extract  
175g self raising flour  
1 tsp bicarbonate of soda  
2 eggs  
85g butter  
140g demerara sugar  
2 tbsp black treacle  
100ml milk

#### Toffee Sauce

100g light muscovado sugar  
50g butter  
225ml double cream  
1 tbsp black treacle



**Oven Temperature:-** 180C/ 160C fan oven/ Gas 4

**Cooking time:-** approx 40 minutes

### Method

#### To make the pudding

1. Grease an oven proof dish/baking tin approx 30cm x 20cm.
2. Chop the dates (stone if necessary), put into a bowl and pour over the boiling water. Leave for 30 minutes until cool. Blitz with a stick blender or mash with a fork. Stir in the vanilla extract.
3. Heat the oven. Sieve the flour and the bicarb together into a bowl.
4. Beat the butter and sugar together in a large bowl until slightly creamy ( the mixture will be grainy from the sugar). Crack the eggs into a basin or jug and beat well. Gradually add the eggs to the creamed mixture beating well after each addition. Beat in the black treacle.
5. Using a metal spoon gently fold in one third of the flour, then half of the milk. Do not overbeat. Repeat until all of the flour and milk has been added. Lightly stir in the dates.
6. Spoon into the greased baking dish and level off. Bake until risen and firm to touch approximately 40 minutes. 10 minutes before the end of the cooking time, make the sauce.

#### To make the toffee sauce

1. Put the sugar and butter into a medium saucepan with half of the cream. Bring to the boil over a medium heat, stirring all of the time until the sugar has completely dissolved.
2. Stir in the black treacle, turn up the heat slightly and let the mixture bubble away for 2 – 3 minutes until it is a rich toffee colour, stirring occasionally to stop it sticking and burning.
3. Take off the heat and beat in the rest of the cream.

When the pudding is cooked, remove from the oven allow to stand for a few minutes and then pour over the sauce.

Serve with cream, custard or ice cream (vanilla or salted caramel ice cream works well)

**Note:** individual puddings can also be made. Grease 6 – 8 mini pudding tins or ramekin dishes. Divide the pudding mixture between the tins/ dishes and cook for approximately 20-25 minutes. Turn out and spoon over the sauce.

To reheat cover the pudding and place in the oven, 180C/160C fan oven/gas 4 for about 20 minutes until the sauce is bubbling. Can also be reheated in a microwave – check instruction book.



## Edington Parish Hall

### Forthcoming social events in the Parish Hall- Please save the dates!

**Carpet Bowls and Pizza evening Thursday May 18th at 7pm** – A fun bowls competition with friendly rivalry between the competing teams. Which team can score the highest points in the Target Mat challenge? All village organisations are invited to take part as well as teams of family and friends - Teams of 4, previous experience not necessary! Booking is essential! To book please email [parishhall@edingtonwiltshire.org.uk](mailto:parishhall@edingtonwiltshire.org.uk) by Tuesday 16th May. Places are limited. Cost £10 per team (£2.50 per person) to cover the cost of the Pizza. Remember to bring your own alcoholic drink!

**An evening with VocalEase– Saturday 22nd July at 7.30pm.** We are pleased to welcome Edington's own Andrew King and VocalEase back to the Parish Hall for an informal and enjoyable musical evening with a light supper and a bar to make things go with a swing! Tickets are £10 each (to include a welcome Pimms and the light supper) Details of how to book tickets will be in next month's newsletter and on posters on the village noticeboards.

**Curry and Quiz Night – Saturday November 18th at 7.30pm**

Further details of all of the events will be published in future newsletters and posters on the village notice boards.

Remember that the Parish Hall is available for hire, at reasonable rates, for private parties or by

anyone wishing to run regular sessions for hobbies, leisure activities etc. The hall can be booked on line via the village website or by emailing [parishhall@edingtonwiltshire.org.uk](mailto:parishhall@edingtonwiltshire.org.uk)

The committee look forward to seeing you at one or more of the social events.

Wendy Pollard

### EDINGTON PARISH HALL

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



for parties, meetings, family celebrations, funeral wakes and other events. For more information or to book the

hall, using the online booking system, go to [www.edingtonwiltshire.org.uk/hall](http://www.edingtonwiltshire.org.uk/hall) Alternatively email [parishhall@edingtonwiltshire.org.uk](mailto:parishhall@edingtonwiltshire.org.uk) or phone 01380 830441.

We look forward to welcoming you to the hall.

### Coffee Morning Drop In



Every Tuesday  
10.30 11.30 am  
in the Three Daggers.

Transport available contact  
Pauline or Joy.



## Homeopathy Corner with Anne Tottingham homeopath

07905748359

### **Some useful remedies for HAY FEVER- but not all!**

#### **Natrum Muriaticum** – common salt

Violent watery sneezes, much worse in the morning.

Eyes are red and the tears are worse for sneezing, coughing, laughing, itching, burning and redness.

Can be thirsty with a desire or aversion to salt.

Better in the open air, sweating, sleep.

Worse for hot stuffy rooms.

#### **Allium Cepa** - think of onions and how you are when you peel **them!**

Frequent, violent sneezing, with watery fluent discharge. The nose area burns and feels sore. Is sensitive to smells.

Eyes water and smart. They water but it does **not** burn. A great desire to rub them.

Throat feels dry. Pain travels to the ears. It feels as if there is a large lump in the throat.

Better for bathing and walking in the cool open air.

Worse for a warm room, damp weather, spring.

#### **Ars Alb**

This remedy helps where there is high temperature, worn out. Light hurts the eyes, wheezing and tightness in lungs. Generally an air of worry and restlessness.

#### **Euphrasia** - from the plant Eye-bright.

Affects the eyes mainly, **very watery**, always wanting to wipe them. The tears are **hot or acrid**, much worse in the open air. There may be a thick acid watery discharge from the eyes. The nose can run but it does **not** burn. There is often a cough, which is better when lying down. Worse in sunlight or wind. Better in the open air and for wiping the eyes.

#### **Pulsatilla** – an Anemone, which bends in the wind and thrives best in a group

The symptoms change a lot, but the main thing is the discharge from the nose is thick yellow or yellowy green, or the nose is completely blocked up with a loss of smell. A **“ripe”** cold. **Weepy wants lots of attention.** A cough is loose in the morning and dry in the evening or at night. Coughing can be constant from tickling in the larynx. The person is much better for walking quietly in the open air. **Worse for warm, stuffy rooms. A keynote of this remedy is the person is not usually thirsty.**

#### **Nux Vomica** - made from the poison-nut “strychnine”

Nose stuffed up at night and in open air, fluent discharge by day and in warm room. Very cold, hugs the fire, shivers from slightest movement. **Very irritable, very sensitive to loud noise and smells.**

#### **Sabadilla** - from the seeds of the sabadilla plant found in Mexico

Violent sneezing, watery eyes. Feels generally chilly, eyelids red and swollen, headache, sore throat soothed by warm drinks. Onset can be flowers in the house.

**Anne Tottingham Homeopath May 2023**



## Edington arts

### A HEADS UP FOR OUR JUNE CONCERT,

### and a reminder about the May Choral Workshop

We've been waiting a long time for this, but finally we can let you know that the extraordinarily talented and charismatic pianist **Martin James Bartlett** will be performing in the Priory Church on Saturday 24th June at 7.30pm.



Having won the BBC Young Musicians competition in 2014, he has gone on to fulfil the promise of a glittering career, performing all over Europe and making a number of recordings which have received brilliant reviews. He combines flawless technique, adventurous and wide-ranging musical tastes, and huge emotional depth to produce performances which are remarkable on many levels.

His programme for us is mostly, but not exclusively, French: Couperin, Debussy, Rameau and Ravel, interspersed with Haydn and Schumann/Liszt. This will make for a delicate and expansive evening's music, entirely appropriate for a midsummer concert.

Full details are on the Edington Arts website,

and you can secure your tickets, still at 2014 prices, by ringing Chrissy on 01380 831256 or emailing [sue@edingtonarts.org](mailto:sue@edingtonarts.org); £20/15/10, and 18 and unders come free.

**Don't forget also about the 2023 Choral Workshop with Jeremy Summerly on May 20th, when we will be learning, and learning about, Spirituals. Full details are on the Edington Arts website, [www.edingtonarts.org](http://www.edingtonarts.org). There are still spaces available for all parts.**

## Pollinator Project



Are you fed up with mowing the Lawn?

Are you interested in increasing our insect diversity ?

If the answer to either is yes take part in the No Mow May challenge and liberate your lawn

Free the wildflowers in your lawn so they can grow wild and provide a feast for pollinators and tackle pollution by locking atmospheric carbon below ground.

In May spring flowers are going over but summer blooms are not yet here, pollinators have a hungry gap. Your lawn can make all the difference.

Help the Pollinators by letting your lawn go wild. Join the NO MOW MAY movement today



## THREE VILLAGES MINIBUS (TVM)



Some of our passengers may still feel more comfortable wearing a face covering - the option is left to

everyone. A hand sanitiser is still available for use when entering the minibus.

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.

Groups within our villages can hire TVM if they have a driver who satisfies our criteria.

The next Edington lunches will be on May 10th and June 14th.

**Joy Fraser (830426)**

## Lunch in the Parish Hall

We are holding a 2 Course Lunch (with a choice of soups and a selection of puddings)



on **Wednesday June 14th** at 12.30pm. in the Parish Hall, Edington.

Price £5.00 in aid of the Three Villages Minibus.

All will be most welcome to join us.

Please let Pauline (tel: 830013) know (by Friday June 9th) if you are coming as this helps with catering arrangements.



TVM will provide door to door transport



Please book your place with Pauline

## Shopping Trips starting at Edington

Destination	May	June	Start Time
Devizes - £3.20	Thursday 4th	Thursday 1st	9am
Warminster - £2.80	Tuesday 23rd	Tuesday 20th	1.25pm
Westbury - £2.30	Every Thursday	Every Thursday	1.30pm
Salisbury - £5.00	Saturday 13th	Saturday 10th	9.30am

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

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

**Contact Pauline or Joy Fraser to book a place**



## Edington What's On Diary

Date	Time	Event	Venue
10th May	12.30pm	Lunch in the Parish Hall	Parish Hall
15th May	7.30pm	Parish Council meeting	Parish Hall
16th May	10.00am	Four Villages Link AGM	Parish Hall
18th May	7.00pm	Carpet Bowls Challenge and Pizza Night	Parish Hall
20th May	7.00pm	Edington Charity May Ball	Play field
10th June	2.00pm	Edington Village Fete 2023	Coal Path Field
12th June	7.30pm	Parish Council meeting	Parish Hall
14th June	12.30pm	Lunch in the Parish Hall	Parish Hall
24th June	7.30pm	Edington Arts - Martin James Bartlett	Priory Church
Every Tuesday	10.00 am	Let's Move Dance Fitness	Parish Hall
Every Friday	10.30am	Yoga	Parish Hall

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

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

### Contacting us

Email the newsletter at

[newsletter@edingtonwiltshire.org.uk](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

[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.