



Contents

- White Horse Health Centre - latest
- Wiltshire Police
- Wiltshire Council News
- Cllr Suzanne Wickham
- Edington Parish Council News
- Musings of a Villager
- Edington and District Gardening Club
- Children's Society
- Woodlice of Edington
- Christmas Cards and Gift Sale
- Three Villages Minibus
- Game on for Christmas
- Cut back your hedges
- Edington Arts
- Sale of Preloved Items
- Competition Time
- Erlestoke and Coulston Cricket Club
- Edington What's On Diary
- Charity Draw
- Sharing your newsletter
- Contacting us

Find out more about a number of events coming up in the next few weeks in this edition.



Welcome to the nineteenth edition of the Edington Village News.

This month we have an edition of 18 pages. A selection of events taking place over the coming weeks plus a number of articles across a range of subjects

and a Christmas competition

- Don't forget we are always looking for articles to publish, we have our regular articles and there is always room for more.
- Remember we are reliant on contributions to make this newsletter a success.
- Send your articles to

newsletter@edingtonwiltshire.org.uk



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

Dear Patients

As you become eligible for the covid booster vaccination, you will receive a letter or text message from NHS England. You will need to follow the instructions on the letter and book through the national booking system by phoning 119 or using this link below.

<https://www.nhs.uk/.../book-or-manage-a-booster-dose-of-the-.../>

The surgery will not be contacting you to book directly.

Unfortunately the surgery have a new website but it is not displaying current news so we can not provide you with updates. **The Editors.**

www.westburygp.co.uk



Wiltshire Police

Wiltshire Police Officers will offer reassurance checks to public

Wiltshire has seen a drop of eight per cent in reported crime over the past 12 months as police forces across the country continue to see the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. The latest figures released by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) today (04/11) show that crime in Wiltshire has dropped more than the

national decrease (three per cent) and regional South West decrease (five per cent).

This data shows that Wiltshire Police has the second lowest figures for reported crime per population during the 12 months to June 2021, with 52.5 crimes for every 1,000 people.

However, although the Force's long-term trend shows relative stability in the crime rate, we are expecting crime volumes to increase as we return to expected levels, post-Covid.

Superintendent Sarah Robbins, Wiltshire Police's head of geographical crime said: "Although this eight per cent reduction in reported crime is obviously a positive thing, both for us as a police force and for our communities, it is important to remember that these figures reflect an unprecedented 12 months, where the pandemic had an understandable and predictable impact on the types of crimes being reported.

"However, the fact Wiltshire has the second lowest crime rate per population is something to be celebrated and I hope it provides some reassurance to people locally about the work Wiltshire Police is doing to keep people safe.

"We are now focused on the long-term picture, and we are already looking ahead to what we expect the coming years to bring as the country returns to a new normality.

"Our job now is to be prepared for this so we can respond and ensure any crime rises are minimal.

"We are committed to protecting the public and although a huge amount of police work is around investigating and solving crime, and ensuring offenders are brought to justice, it is potentially even more important that we focus on crime prevention and reduction.

"We have various long-term initiatives in place, including working closely with partner agencies, to tackle the root cause of crime and ideally prevent offences being committed in the first place."





Use Your Voice and Help Make Wiltshire Safer

Wiltshire's PCC Philip Wilkinson has launched a public survey and consultation – and wants to hear from you!

Part of the PCC's role is to produce a Police and Crime Plan for the county. It's a blueprint for the strategic policing and crime priorities for the next three years.

As this current plan comes to an end by March 2022, the new Plan will start immediately afterwards.

It sets out how the PCC's pledges and priorities will be delivered throughout Wiltshire but more importantly it should reflect the needs and priorities of all our communities too.

So this is where YOU come in.

The PCC is asking you to Use Your Voice and help him to make Wiltshire safer for all.

It is vital that all parts of our communities' voices are heard.

What you say will directly influence Wiltshire Police's priorities, objectives and activities. The new Police and Crime Plan will ensure both the force and the PCC's office are working towards the same goals in a joined-up, co-ordinated, approach.

It also will be the way the PCC holds the Chief Constable to account for delivering these priorities – your priorities.

Remember, if it matters to you, it matters. Use your experience to help make Wiltshire safer.

Complete the survey online <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Z3J5RXN>

If you are having trouble accessing the online survey or need this in an alternative format or language, please contact us. The survey is also available in paper format on request. Please email pcc-consultation@wiltshire.police.uk

You can email your thoughts around policing priorities. Please email: pcc-consultation@wiltshire.police.uk or send us a message on Facebook or DM us on Twitter

After the plan has been drafted, the PCC will be holding debates and discussions at

numerous events and stakeholder group meetings. He will be looking for your feedback.

We will update all events on the Use Your Voice website page once definite dates have been arranged. This will be during December and January before the final draft is presented to the Police and Crime Panel in February.

You will also be able to download the draft Police and Crime Plan, once produced, from the website and provide your feedback and comments to us.

The first part of the PCC's Police and Crime Plan development is centred around a public survey which aims to be as wide-reaching and diverse as the community he represents.

This is open for four weeks until November 14th and there will be a variety of ways you can get involved during the process. This will be updated on the PCC's website www.wiltshire-pcc.gov.uk

Wiltshire Council

Extracts from the Wiltshire Council latest news.

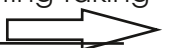
Wiltshire Council is ready to help keep the roads safe this winter

We have robust plans in place and a fleet of 24 gritters ready to deploy when road temperatures near freezing

Wiltshire Council is prepared with a winter maintenance team and fleet of specialist vehicles ready to take action to keep the roads safe across the county.



The council's fleet of 24 gritters is on hand to be deployed for when the road temperatures require them, with salting taking





place whenever road temperatures near freezing.

Salt is usually used on roads after the evening peak of traffic or before the morning rush, as late evening and early morning are the most likely times that frost and ice affect road surfaces. All key routes in Wiltshire receive precautionary salting when ice is forecast, including motorways, trunk roads and class A and B roads.

People are encouraged to be cautious when the roads may be icy or in severe weather, firstly considering whether a journey is necessary and driving to the conditions of the road. During the winter, roads are treated in order of priority and dependent on conditions, and people are urged not to assume that a road has been gritted, as many of the minor roads will receive no treatment.

Cllr Dr Mark McClelland, Cabinet Member for Transport and Street Scene, said: Our winter maintenance team does a fantastic job of looking after our county's roads in very challenging conditions and circumstances, to help keep our residents and road users safe across Wiltshire. Our dedicated team of duty engineers monitors the weather 24/7 during the season, supported by highways staff, with 24 gritter drivers on standby to be called into action at any time.

We have robust plans in place and work closely with communities to ensure we are ready to deal with any cold and harsh winter weather conditions. Although the conditions are unpredictable each year, our teams are well trained, prepared and equipped to help keep Wiltshire moving.

The council has 13,000 tonnes of salt in stock, strategically placed throughout the county in six storage sites. It also has weather stations in key areas that provide real-time information and assist in producing accurate forecasts to ensure gritters are sent out at the right time.

On average it can take up to 140 tonnes of

salt to grit Wiltshire's A and B class roads and 230 tonnes to salt an extended list of roads during prolonged cold weather.

During winter, the council teams share regular updates on both the weather and road conditions on Twitter, and people can follow @WiltshireWinter and the main council account @WiltsCouncil to keep updated.

People can report any winter road or salt bin issues under the weather emergency section of the MyWilts online reporting or via the MyWilts App, available to download from the App Store (Apple) and Google Play (Android).



Cllr Suzanne Wickham

Since my election to the role of Wiltshire Councillor for Ethandune in September 2019, I have always written a short article for 'The News'. (Edington Erlestoke Coulston magazine)

Until last May both Coulston and Edington were a part of Ethandune, but as you may know Coulston subsequently joined Devizes Rural West Division and my colleague Cllr Tamara Reay, now publishes her article each month. It now makes more sense for me to update residents of Edington with any relevant Wiltshire Council news via the Edington Village News, and I am grateful to the Editors for giving me this opportunity.

Wiltshire Youth Council

Our newly formed Youth Voice Team will soon be supporting schools and colleges to elect a Wiltshire Youth Council. This is an exciting opportunity for young people between 11 – 18 years to represent the youth voice at a county level in Wiltshire, and potentially to stand for election to the UK Youth Parliament, where Wiltshire has three seats.

Youth councillors will be required to attend at





least one full youth council meeting a month where invited guests will seek the youth Councillors views on important topics, such as environmental issues, transport, or mental health. During this process the youth council will have a say in how Wiltshire Council policy is shaped.

The Youth Council will also take part in inspections, such as town centres and leisure facilities, to make sure that they are 'youth friendly'. They will also advise on how money is spent for young people. Monthly training sessions will be held to support Youth Councillors in their role.

A Youth Cabinet with links to Wiltshire Council Cabinet will be formed to scrutinise services to ensure that young people are fairly represented in Wiltshire.

Schools will provide Wiltshire Council with a list of their candidates by 17th December. Candidates' campaigns will be supported by schools and voting will be online from 31st January to 4th February 2022. Students will also be asked to complete a survey which tells us what their priorities are as a young person in Wiltshire. Election results will be published on 7th February.

Are you someone who would like to represent their peers, learn new skills that will make you stand out when applying for further education or work? Or maybe you are a parent or carer who can see your child or young person in this role. Watch out for all the information coming soon from your school or college, and good luck!

Suzanne Wickham
Wiltshire Cllr Ethandune

Tel: 07967 213336

[Email: suzanne.wickham@wiltshire.gov.uk](mailto:suzanne.wickham@wiltshire.gov.uk)

Edington Parish Council News

October has been a quiet month for the Parish Council with little happening. We have heard that the new 40mph speed limit on the road between Edington and Bratton has now been approved and the new signage will be in place by the middle of January 2022. We are still waiting to hear if we have been successful in our bid for a 20mph limit on most of the roads in the village, the announcement is expected shortly.

You may have noticed that the new lights in the Parish Hall car park were put up but unfortunately were not working properly, they have been sent back to the suppliers and we hope to have the replacements delivered soon and then the car park will be a safer place for users after dark.

The village Christmas tree is being supplied by Three Daggers again this year and the Parish Council would like to thank them for their contribution. We are planning to have a lighting event on Friday 10th December at 6.30pm. The Bratton Training Band will be there again this year as we start Christmas with carol singing.

We know that a number of villagers expressed their concerns about the recent road closure and the poor signage. We contacted Wiltshire Council about the lack of information on the signage and were informed that what was displayed was what the law requires from contractors. Hopefully future signage will be of more use to road users!

Forthcoming roadworks - 21 November B3098 closed near Coulston between 8am and 4.30pm for BT works. 27-28 November the B3098 will be closed between Sandy Lane and Monastery Road for work by Wessex Water. 13-15 December pavement resurfacing in Greatwoods.

Remember you can always contact the Parish Council by email

parishcouncil@edingtonwiltshire.org.uk



Village Musings

As we laid to rest the ashes of my late father in the beautiful churchyard of Edington Priory Church, I have had the chance to spend more time in this serene and peaceful spot. And it was the magnificent yew tree that drew my attention over and over again.



I wonder how old it is? Certainly, it must be several hundred years old, judging by the size of the trunk. This great tree speaks of the darkness of grief, with its deep and sombre colours, but also of the sturdy endurance of courage and of life.

Right back to pagan times, the yew has been counted as a holy tree though it is not clear why they are found so often in churchyards. Perhaps because of the links between early Christianity and paganism? Perhaps because their toxic berries and foliage discouraged local people from allowing their animals to graze in churchyards? Whatever the reason, their powerful sense of holding together life and death has come to be a symbol of Christian burial rites and belief in the afterlife. Certainly, there is a sense of permanence, restfulness and fortitude in the tree we have in Edington churchyard.



And in other news – the mallard ducks continue to visit our beautiful village pond in Tinhead road! We have often seen ducklings being brought up in the pond in spring, and, with the adult male and female regularly visiting the pond through autumn and winter, I suspect we may see more babies next spring. It is clearly perceived to be a safe and welcoming place for them. As the pond matures into a haven for wildlife, we see newts and frogs and many, many water insects, as well as the wonderful water vegetation, flourishing there. It was a surprise to see a water lily flowering on the 1st November! This is climate change in action. We hope that it does not cause other wildlife to succumb as their natural way of life is impacted by the warming weather.



It was a surprise to see a water lily flowering on the 1st November! This is climate change in action. We hope that it does not cause other wildlife to succumb as their natural way of life is impacted by the warming weather.

Mercedes Henning

Welcome to Edington

A warm welcome to Edington to Angus, Lauren and Ruaridh LEAN, who have moved into The Laurels, 36 Westbury Road



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).



Edington & District Gardening Club

First Thursday in the month at the Parish Hall 7.30pm

After many months, on the 7th. October, 17 members of the Gardening Club met in person at the Parish Hall to enjoy a presentation on autumn colours and winter structure from our speaker Jane Moore the head gardener at The Bath Priory Hotel.

Jane has been a head gardener for thirty years, eighteen of those at The Bath Priory, before that a contributor to many horticultural magazines and a head gardener in Sussex.

Jane came to speak about autumn colour and winter structure but started by giving us information on the garden at Bath Priory, this is a three acre garden which is flat and south facing containing two walled gardens a kitchen garden and Victorian greenhouse.

In this garden grows plenty of shrubs which provide colour in the autumn such as dogwood which also has flowers in the spring. For colour try sorbus, the mountain ash, including varieties with different colour berries such as white, pink or red and for lovely shapes in winter plant Acers which also have lovely coloured leaves. While in the garden don't forget to plant snowdrops, aconites and hellebores which provide colour and interest before other plants come into their own.

Before the evening was over our Chairperson Jacky presented a R.H.S. medal to Edward Callaway as a long standing member of the club and the committee , also winner of many produce entries over the years.

Visitors are always welcome

Further details on tel.no. 830133

TO THE HOLDERS OF THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY HOUSE COLLECTION BOXES

BRATTON CHURCH INSTITUTE COFFEE MORNING SATURDAY 13th NOVEMBER 10.30am

As you will remember, each year I organise a Coffee morning for people to bring along their house collection boxes to be counted. Your box will be opened, the contents counted and the box returned to you. If you are unable to come to the coffee morning, please contact me on 830149 and I will arrange to collect your box. In the last few years, the total contributed to the Children's Society has been over £1500 annually for the fantastic work they do with vulnerable and disadvantaged children. With the COVID-19 restrictions and requirement to Stay at Home last year I was unable to organise a collection, but this year I have been able to set a date for this to take place.

There is plenty of information about the work of The Children's Society on their web site www.childrenssociety.org.uk so you can see how your money helps children in the UK. Many thanks for your continued support.

Gill Humphrey



A **Big Thank you** to everyone who came to the recent Coffee Morning in the Parish Hall, **£300 was raised for Macmillan Cancer**. Thank you also to those who made cakes and helped on the day.



Woodlice of Edington

If you are wandering around in your garden and you pick up a rock, plant pot, or log, you will probably find a few woodlice. They may look a bit like insects, but in fact they're terrestrial crustaceans and are related to shrimps and crabs. They all tend to look the same but in fact there are about 3,500 species of woodlice in the world, and 40 of these can be found in the British Isles in an array of colours from brown and grey to pink!

Most woodlice are found on land, but their ancestors used to live in water, and they still breathe using gills attached to paired appendages on the underside of their abdomens.

Woodlice lose water by diffusion through its permeable shell (exoskeleton). Because of this, to avoid drying out, they often seek out environments with humid air and plenty of ground moisture, to minimize rate of water loss. So, in hot dry weather they hide in warm, moist places like under logs, stones, and compost heaps. They have a tendency to be bunched up in large groups which helps to maintain moisture and protects them against predators. Apart from man, their main predators are centipedes, toads, shrews, and spiders.

Woodlice are detritivores and play an important part in decomposition and nutrient recycling. They chew decaying vegetation and fungi into small pieces which allows rapid colonisation and decomposition by bacteria and micro-fungi in the soil. This then indirectly speeds up the recycling of nutrients back into the soil.

After mating, female woodlice carry their fertilised eggs in a small brood pouch under their bodies. The young hatch inside the pouch and stay there until they are big enough to survive on their own. A common woodlouse can live for up to three or four years.

Of the 40 species of woodlice found in Britain, the following five are the most common and can be found around Edington.

The Smooth Woodlouse is one of the largest and most common species of woodlouse in the British Isles growing to a length of 16 mm and width of 6mm. It is relatively flat and is a shiny brown/grey in colour. The common woodlouse occurs in a wide range of habitats. It is chiefly found under stones, and on rotting wood. It is often found around items such as rotting fenceposts



The Smooth Woodlouse

The Rough Woodlouse has an oval body and can grow up to 20 millimetres in length. It is usually a grey colour, paler underneath, although brown, blue, yellow, or pinkish hues may also be observed. The upper surface of its segmented exoskeleton is covered in a series of small bumps hence its common name. It lives in a wide variety of damp habitats. Like other woodlice it is a detritivore which means it mainly feeds on decaying leaf litter but will consume any rotting plant matter. Living plants are of limited nutritional value for these woodlice which prefer to feed on the bacteria and fungi which cause decay. The females carry about 25 to 90 fertilized eggs until they hatch. The young are fully grown after 3 months. The adults have a life expectancy of about two years. Many species such as shrews, centipedes, toads, spiders and even some birds, prey on them.





The Rough Woodlouse

The Common Striped Woodlouse may reach 11 millimetres in length and has a shiny body which is greyish brown in colour mottled with yellow longitudinal stripes. It is also known as the fast woodlouse, because, as this name suggests, it is much faster than the other common species of woodlice. Its body is raised up off the ground rather more than the others and the head is always very dark in colour. It eats deadwood, leaf litter, dead animals, fungi, fruit and even its own faeces. Its main predators are centipedes, toads, shrews, and spiders.



The Common Striped Woodlouse

The Common Pygmy Woodlouse may be distinguished from other British woodlice chiefly by its small size, as it only reaches about 5 millimetres in length. Its body is elongate and quite rounded in cross section, and typically purplish to reddish in colour. Its body surface is smooth. Like other woodlice, it eats decaying plant matter of various kinds. There are two distinct reproductive strategies within this species of woodlouse. It is preyed on by shrews, spiders, centipedes, and perhaps carnivorous carabid beetles.



Common Pygmy Woodlouse

The common pill woodlouse, common pill-bug, or potato bug is a widespread species. It is usually grey in colour and often mottled with yellow. Pink specimens can sometimes be found too. It may reach a length of 18 millimetres and is capable of rolling into a ball when disturbed. This ability, along with its general appearance, gives it the name pill-bug. It is also able to withstand drier conditions than many other woodlouse species. It feeds chiefly on decaying plant matter, but also grazes on lichens and algae from tree bark and walls.



The Common Pill Woodlouse



The Common Pill Woodlouse rolling in a ball for protection

Stephen Henning

A decorative border consisting of a row of green Christmas trees, with a vertical column of trees on each side, framing the central text and images.

A Christmas card featuring a red border, a small illustration of a bird, and a photograph of a snowy winter landscape.

A small illustration of holly leaves and a golden bell.

Charity Christmas Cards and gifts Sale

Saturday 16th November 2019
10.00 to 12.00
at The Parish Hall
Edington

Three colorful balloons (red, purple, and yellow) with long, flowing ribbons.

A plate of round, lattice-topped pastries, possibly mince pies or scones, decorated with holly leaves.

A Christmas card featuring a red border, a small illustration of a bird, and a photograph of a snowy winter landscape.

Come along and choose your cards and gifts from your favourite charities, or just come for a coffee and chat.

Light refreshments available

A small illustration of holly leaves and a golden bell.

A small illustration of holly leaves and a golden bell.



THREE VILLAGES MINIBUS (TVM)



We are still operating covid restrictions and ask everyone to continue to

wear face coverings (unless, for medical reasons they are exempt) and hand sanitise before entering the vehicle. Any drivers not familiar with our new vehicle and covid requirements will need to have guidance from an appropriate member of the TVM committee.

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.

Group hire can also now resume if they wish to do so.

Joy Fraser (830426)

Coffee morning Drop In



Every Tuesday,
10.30 - 11.30 am
in the Three Daggers.
Transport available.

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. Alternatively email parishhall@edingtonwiltshire.org.uk or phone 01380 830441. We look forward to welcoming you to the hall.

Shopping Trips starting at Edington on

Destination	November	December	Start Time
Devizes - £3.20	Thursday 18th	Thursday 2nd	9am
Warminster - £2.80	Tuesday 9th	Tuesday 21st	1.25pm
Westbury - £2.30	Every Thursday	Every Thursday	1.30pm
Salisbury - £5.00	Saturday 13th	Saturday 11th	9.30am

Please note that the Devizes trip is on November 18th.



Game on for Christmas By Paul Millard

Whether it's The Grinch, Brexit or Covid to blame, it looks like Christmas is definitely at risk of being stolen this year. Not the festival itself, of course, but there are dire warnings that the essential accoutrements that we have come to associate with Christmas – like Brussel sprouts and Turkeys – could be in short supply this winter.

Who could imagine Christmas Dinner without Brussel sprouts (well, apart from all those under the age of 20) worse still, no Christmas Turkey?

Well, here's a thought that might help offset the pedlars of doom and gloom, how about trying game for your festive feast?

We live in an area where game is plentiful and readily accessible – and it makes a delicious alternative to our more traditional fare. Whether you buy it from your local butcher, game dealer or you happen to know the old chap that runs a local shoot; it isn't expensive but it is wild, free-range, low in fat, tasty, sustainable – oh, and generally good for you.

Pheasant, partridge or venison would all make a stunning and mouth watering centre-piece to your Christmas table and its always struck me as a great shame that it has never taken off in our food heritage. Very few of our pubs and restaurants regularly feature in-season, locally sourced game as part of their menu – maybe its because it was always considered too expensive, too rich or the preserve of the landed gentry.

Long ago when I was still a boy (a time when the Dead Sea was still alive) it seems we lived much closer to the land – although game for the table comprised mainly rabbit and pigeon rather than, what were then much scarcer, pheasant or partridge - but it was part of our regular diet, as were the Brussel sprouts we grew in our garden!

Times have changed, when our own children were young, I helped out on a local estate close to where we then lived, the pay for a day's

beating was £4 – which is exactly what a brace of pheasants cost direct from the 'keeper. Now, you can buy a brace of pheasants direct from the shoot for a couple of quid but even if you don't want to pluck or dress them yourself, you can still buy a brace of oven ready pheasants for around a tenner – enough to feed 4 people handsomely.

One of the major hurdles for many was that game has always had a reputation for being served high – making it very rich and, for many, unpalatable. In part, people hung game to tenderise it because it was always considered a rather dry meat – but I believe that's a misconception and simply a reflection of the fact the people cooked it for too long. Those traditions of high game date back to the days when meat safes were the norm rather than 'fridges and when chill rooms were something full of large blocks of ice and certainly not commonplace.

That isn't to say that some people don't still prefer their game well hung – although that now takes place in chilled, controlled, conditions – but, by and large, game meat is now generally hung for a shorter period producing a more delicate flavour.

Its important to understand that even our traditional Christmas turkeys – when available of course – will all be hung for varying lengths of time in much the same way as the 30-day dry cured beef we see advertised in our supermarkets. Poultry and game don't need to hang that long, but the process does help straighten out the proteins thus tenderising the meat and it allows the flavour of the bird to develop.

On a technical note, its worth observing that pheasant and partridge contain a high level of iron, protein, vitamin B(6) and selenium, which helps to protect cells from damage caused by free radicals while venison is high in protein, low in saturated fatty acids and contains higher levels of iron than any other red meat.





Hanging meat is one method of tenderising – and probably the best as far as birds for roasting are concerned – but there are others. If game birds are being used in composite dishes such as pies and casseroles and for all sorts of venison dishes, marinating is often a good option.

Marinades use acidic ingredients such as wine, wine vinegar or other alcohol, fruits and some vegetables all help tenderise and flavour. Meat can be marinated for hours or sometimes days in the fridge but because it really only acts on the surface of the meat, thinner cuts produce better results – just don't leave it too long and turn it to mush!

In terms of venison, there are various types of venison readily available either from the butcher's shop or from online retailers. In our part of the world, Roe deer are the indigenous and most common species – although we are seeing more and more Muntjac around.

Roe venison is a delicate, lean meat about the size of a small lamb when butchered, it is, quite simply, delicious but it does need to be cooked just so and doesn't take kindly to being overcooked. Red deer, largely associated with Scotland, Exmoor and Dartmoor in the wild, is the most common farmed venison and readily available from butchers' shops, supermarkets and via online suppliers. This offers larger cuts and makes excellent roasting joints but for me the best venison for eating comes from the Sikka deer.

Not quite so large as the Reds, they are to be found scattered throughout the South West, most commonly on the Dorset Heath and in some parkland herds. It is closest - but to my mind superior - to beef and makes a delicious roast or casserole. A roasted fillet of Sikka venison, or a venison wellington really is food fit for a King! Sikka venison is a bit more of a challenge to track down – but well worth the effort.

Back to that Christmas Day lunch with roast pheasants. Personally, I prefer to take the legs

off and cook them separately and slowly – remember, pheasants use their legs for running around a lot so they can require a bit more cooking. The crown then needs a lot less cooking and can be kept tender and moist.

But for many, Christmas lunch is about presentation so the whole bird forms an important feature just remember, it doesn't need to cook for hours and hours 30 minutes with a foil covering and a further 30 minutes uncovered should do it. Cover the breasts with streaky bacon and baste regularly. Pheasant goes really well with chestnuts, so a chestnut stuffing would be a perfect accompaniment perhaps with a Port wine sauce or gravy – and of course, Brussel sprouts!

Time to cut back your hedges

Wiltshire Council is reminding home and landowners that now is the best time of year to cut back their hedges and shrubs.

As many keen gardeners will know, November through to January are the best months to cut back hedgerows and shrubs. This month the council's street scene teams will switch from cutting grass and start cutting back hedges and shrubs on council owned land and the council is urging home and landowners to do the same, especially if they have hedges and shrubs overhanging footpaths and roads.

Cllr Dr Mark McClelland, Cabinet Member for Street Scene said, "Hedges grew considerably this summer due to the high levels of rainfall and we have received reports from across the county of hedges and shrubs blocking footpaths. Many of these hedges are not owned by the council and so we are asking home and landowners to do their bit by getting out and cutting back their hedges and shrubs which are likely to cause an obstruction."

The council's street scene team will be cutting back over 550,000 Sqm of hedging and shrubs on council owned land over the coming months."



Edington arts

RETURN OF THE ADVENT CONCERT!

One of the highlights of the Edington Arts concert season is making a very welcome return on Saturday 4th December at 7.30pm in Edington Priory Church. The hugely popular Advent concert will be given by the choir of Keble College Oxford, Paul Brough conducting.

The Keble College choir last sang for us in 2018, when Matthew Martin conducted. By the time he moved to Cambridge in 2019, his choir had become one of the best of the elite group of Oxford and Cambridge College choirs. Paul Brough, who took over, is one of the leading choral directors in the UK, and a great friend of Edington through the festival. Having negotiated their way through a year of rehearsal and tuition by Zoom, the singers are overjoyed to be back singing 'live', and we can be sure that they will give us a memorable evening of Advent and Christmas music – just what we need after last year's cancellations.

Demand for this concert is already brisk, and Edington Arts is encouraging anyone who would like to come to reserve seats for themselves, friends and family as soon as possible. Tickets remain at £20/15/10, with 18 and under free, and Edington Angels have their usual 10% discount.

For this concert the North and South Aisle seats (£10), will be unreserved and audience members may sit where they like within these areas; all other areas will be reserved and seats allocated. Anyone wishing for socially distanced seating should please let Chrissy know as soon as possible on 01380 831256 or Sue at sue@edingtonarts.org when you book your tickets.

And unless things go very wrong between now and then, we intend offering mulled wine and mince pies during the interval. Let the festivities begin!

SALE OF PRELOVED ITEMS

13 NOVEMBER
2pm – 4pm
EDINGTON PARISH HALL



SUPPORT COP26 AND REDUCE WASTE!

- ❖ DONATE YOUR PRE-LOVED ITEMS
- ❖ REPURPOSE YOUR UNWANTED GOODS
- ❖ GIVE CLOTHING (IN GOOD CONDITION)
- ❖ OFFER TIME FOR A PRACTICAL TASK

**ALL PROCEEDS TO
WILTSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST**

Contact Anne Tottingham for further
information on **(01380) 831055**
or **07905748359**

Refreshments provided by the WI



Competition time



The Edington Village Newsletter is running a competition again this year for the young people of Edington to design a Christmas tree decoration made from recycled material.

There are three age groups, under 5's
The judges will be looking for the best use of recycled material to make the decoration.



The closing date is Monday 29th November, please deliver your decoration to Pauline at the Post Office.

Don't forget to include the name and age of the designer.

The winning entries will be published in the December edition of the Newsletter

***Let's make Edington a
colourful place at
Christmas.***





Bonfire Bonanza

With the cricket clubs' treasurer still counting up the takings from Saturday's bonfire night, the club is still in

shock at the amazing numbers we had that joined us at the Walled Garden. What a night it was. Never in the history of the club have we witnessed such an impressive turn out and we want to thank EVERYONE who came along and helped support our amazing cricket club. Needless to say the evening has surpassed our wildest hopes and we are so thankful for all the positive and wonderful comments that we have received. A massive thank you to Des Moloney and all the club members who gave up their time to help put together another amazing



evening of entertainment. I know that there are already plans afoot for next year (buying 5 more BBQS being one of them I expect!) but it wouldn't be able to happen without the time and effort of our club members. We also want to say a huge a thanks to Stuart and Smart Hema who provided so much entertainment and hands on experience for children and adults alike. It was great to see some real life knights on our medieval themed evening.



For all of you adults and children who came along and have an interest in possibly getting back in some whites and playing some cricket, don't wait until November next year until you come back for a visit! Why not come and see what we do in the spring and summer months. We are always looking for new members to join our club and there is no experience necessary, just a love of the game.

Thank you again everyone and we hope to see some of you in the spring.

Joe Dorgan
ECCC Chairman



Edington What's On Diary

Date	Time			Venue	
9 November	7.30pm	WI talk	Julia's House	Parish Hall	
13 November	9.30am	TVM - Shopping Trip to Salisbury			To book contact Pauline or Joy Fraser
13 November	10.30am	Bratton Children's Society	Coffee Morning	Bratton Church Institute	
13 November	2.30pm	Sale of Preloved Items		Parish Hall	
18 November	9.00 am	TVM - Devizes Shopping Trip			To book contact Pauline or Joy Fraser
20 November	10.30am - 12 noon	Christmas Card and Gifts Sale		Parish Hall	
2 December	9.00 am	TVM - Devizes Shopping Trip			To book contact Pauline or Joy Fraser
4 December	7.30 pm	Edington Arts	Advent Concert	Edington Priory church	
10 December	6.30 pm	Christmas Tree Lighting		Playing Field	
11 December	9.30 am	TVM - Salisbury Shopping Trip			To book contact Pauline or Joy Fraser
13 December	7.30 pm	Parish Council meeting		Parish Hall	

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



Charity Draw

Kate Sykes has kindly donated one of her paintings for a charity draw. Tickets are £5.00 each and will be available from the Post Office and various village events. The total money raised will go to the winners charity of choice.

The winning ticket will be drawn on Christmas Eve.

Please support generously for your favoured charity.

Contacting us

Email the newsletter at newsletter@edingtonwiltshire.org.uk by phone on the Edington Parish Council help line on **07933143021** (available 9am to 6pm, Monday to Friday) or via the village website www.edingtonwiltshire.org.uk

Future editions

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

newsletter@edingtonwiltshire.org.uk

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

and enter your details or email

newsletter@edingtonwiltshire.org.uk

and you will be added to the mailing list.