

ERLESTOKE VILLAGE 2017



The name of Erlestoke is thought to be derived from the nobleman who held the area at the time of Edward the Confessor – Earl Harold – and “stoc” the Old English for a secondary settlement or farm.

Although not mentioned by name in the Domesday Book, a site marked at Coulston, between modern day Coulston and Erlestoke was recorded as consisting of 14 households and worth £5 to its lord in 1086, who was listed as Brictric brother of Alwy. The village also has evidence of Roman occupation with archaeological finds near the golf course.

In 1309 there were 73 households in the village and by 1377, 136 tax payers. It is estimated that the population was between 250 and 300. Today the population of the village is 210 (census of 2011).

Between the wars, the MOD purchased 1,235 acres of land in the parish to temporarily house personnel undergoing training in the area – which accounts for the blip in the census of 1951 – when the population was recorded as 843. In 1961, it was back to 226.

Erlestoke House was built in 1786 to 1791, to replace an Elizabethan manor, for Joshua Smith, the then MP for Devizes. At the same time architect, George Stewart also designed and built cottages along the high street in Erlestoke.

Today Erlestoke has 27 grade II-listed buildings and monuments, including the former George And Dragon Inn, a milestone on a footpath from Great Cheverell to Coulston, a K6 telephone box and the Holy Saviour’s Church.

The late Victorian church was built by G E Street for Lady Hannah Watson-Taylor, of Erlestoke Park. The interior borrows from a previous church dedicated to St James, with a 16th century oak pulpit and brass plates to the memory of residents who died in the 18th century.

During the Second World War Erlestoke House was requisitioned as a training school for the Special Operations Executive. In 1950 the house was seriously damaged by fire. Since 1960, the country residence has been part of HM Prison Erlestoke – the only prison in Wiltshire, housing category C male inmates.

Watering holes?

Unfortunately, the George And Dragon pub closed in 2015. However, nearby Great Cheverell has The Bell Inn offering a well-stocked bar, with ales from the Wadworth Brewery. Sit in the

bar, dining room, or head to the beer garden. The Bell serves excellent home sourced, home cooked meals offering a good selection of favourites, specials and a set menu to suit any budget.

Edington, just down the road has the Three Daggers gastro pub offering delicious seasonal produce in an interesting and varied menu.

They also have their own microbrewery, so you can drink on tap, what’s made on site; a farm shop offering all kinds of locally sourced produce and a café. If you need a little lie down after all that, they do B&B too.

Good schools?

Erlestoke’s nearest school, in Great Cheverell, is The Holy Trinity Church of England Primary Academy rated as “outstanding” by Ofsted. Also in the area, and rated as “good” are Dauntsey Academy Primary School, Bratton Primary School and St Barnabas Church of England School, Market Lavington. Secondary schools rated as “good” are Lavington School, Devizes School and Matravers School. For an “outstanding” choice, you will need to travel eight miles to St Augustine’s Catholic College in Trowbridge.

Well connected?

Erlestoke is a pretty village near on the northern edge of Salisbury Plain, that’s six miles east of Westbury. It sits 20 miles

from both the historic cities of Bath and Salisbury, with all the entertainment, shops and leisure activities on the doorstep, while enjoying a quiet country lifestyle.

A couple of miles away, the A350 offers good road links to Westbury and a mainline railway station, with London Paddington just 90 minutes away. To the north, Chippenham is 17 miles away, the M4 is 21 miles and centres such as Bristol (34 miles), Marlborough (21 miles) and Swindon (25 miles) are day commutes.

What does it cost?

There is a good range of property available in the Erlestoke area. A stunning 10-bedroomed manor at Worton, arranged over three floors, set in 21.5 acres costs £1,495,000. On a smaller scale,

but equally baronial, a seven-bedroomed gothic revival home with the advantage of a triple garage and a huge garden costs £895,000. A very pretty stone built two-bedroomed semi-detached cottage, with a 200ft garden in the heart of the village costs £280,000. An extended three-bedroomed semi-detached home, built in the 1970s in Great Cheverell, in need of some cosmetic updating, would cost £215,000. According to property experts, Zoopla three houses have been sold in the village at an average price paid of £307,833. The average price for a property in Erlestoke is estimated to be £373,558, that’s an increase of 2.34 per cent or +£8,547. Council tax for the current year is £1,100.33 for Band A through to £3,301.00 for Band H.

