
'THE NEWS'

April 2018

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ALL ARTICLES for the news are to go to email address thenewseec@gmail.com Items delivered by hand/post should go to the Editor, 60 High Street, Erlestoke, Wiltshire, SN10 5UA

DEADLINE FOR ALL COPY & ADVERTISING 18TH OF THE MONTH



Our guest editor for this issue is Sandie Lewis from Edington. Sandie worked for Wiltshire Council for 30 years, but since retiring has been able to become more involved in the community. She is a Parish Councillor, secretary of Edington & District Gardening Club, leads on the Ethandun Tapestry Project and is about to help as a community champion for older people in

the Westbury Community Area. Sandie has always dealt in antiques as a hobby and now spends more time at that and in her garden. She likes to keep busy, and add to the list that she is a wife, mum and granny and you can see she keeps herself occupied!

Sandie is working with the editorial team at The News on this issue and is learning about how best her own Parish Council can communicate really well with villagers.

The Editor



ERLESTOKE MARQUEE 6 X 3M, FOR HIRE

£40 per hire – all proceeds go to upkeep of the marquee so it can be used at all village events.

Contact Fiona on 07816 160 163 for details

Advertise in THE NEWS for as little as £40 for a year for a small ad, half page advert for £120 for the year,

THE NEWS IS AN INDEPENDENT COMMUNITY MAGAZINE FOR ALL RESIDENTS OF ERLESTOKE, EDINGTON AND COULSTON. THE CONTENT IS NOT INFLUENCED BY THE PARISH COUNCILS NOR ANY OTHER ORGANISATION. Opinions expressed or implied in this publication are not necessarily those of the Editors and no responsibility can be accepted for any errors of fact printed in this publication. The Magazine is FREE to residents.

BALLARDS FARM NEWS

The sharp frosts and the snow at the end of February were sufficiently short lived that the crops in the ground shouldn't have been affected. But in consequence the soil has been colder than you would normally expect at this time of year and this has meant a slow start to spring fieldwork. The first application of fertiliser, which the crops need to kick start their spring growth, was delayed. It is only possible to spread nitrogen fertiliser when the ground is dry enough for the spreader to travel without picking up too much mud on the wheels and also avoid making ruts in the tramlines. For the first application of spring fertiliser we spread granular urea with a spinner, which throws it across a 24 metre wide strip. When the crop is planted the seed drill plants the seed in rows. To make tramlines 24 metres apart the appropriate seed coulters are switched off where you require a tramline wheel mark to be left as an unsown strip up and down the field. Driving up and down these lines enables the spinner to accurately spread the fertiliser. At the same time the wind speed needs to be low when spreading otherwise the spread pattern will be distorted. As we go through March we hope the weather will allow us to spread all the fertiliser and the soil will get dry and warm enough to plant the spring barley.

As the cattle are all in the barns and yards they didn't seem to worry much about the snow and the cold although most of their water troughs did freeze overnight. Fortunately it was fairly easy to thaw them as it warmed during the day and so we managed to keep the water troughs full at all times.

A few dry days at the end of February allowed us to get onto the grass fields to complete the season's hedge trimming, which we were very pleased to be able to do. If the ground is too wet, we are unable to finish cutting all the hedges we would like as we are not allowed to cut hedges between 1st March and 31st August. Hedge trimming is a task which is quite difficult to fit in as we only have access to the arable fields between harvesting and autumn planting. The grass fields can be left until after the arable work is finished in the autumn and the cattle brought in but frequently they are too wet to beat the 1st March deadline.

EDINGTON STATION YARD LTD OPEN DAY

To Celebrate 25 Years of Edington Station Yard, Ltd, the Board would like to cordially invite everyone to our open days on either the afternoon of **Friday 11 May from 2-6pm** or the next morning **Saturday 12 May from 10am to 1pm**

Do come along and see us and maybe become involved.



ERLESTOKE CHURCH EVENTS

Saturday 7th April Book swap 10am till noon

Saturday 21st April Spring Bingo. Doors open 1.30pm, eyes down 2pm. Donations for prizes gratefully received.

Saturday 5th May no book swap in the morning.
Plant sale at the church from 2pm.

All plant donations gratefully received.



FLOWER ROTA

21 April – Sylvia Buckland



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SERVICES IN THE BENEFICE – APRIL

	<i>Bratton</i>	<i>Edington</i>	<i>Erlestoke</i>	<i>Coulston</i>
1 st Sunday 1 APRIL Easter Day	08.00 HOLY COMMUNION 11.00 EASTER COMMUNION FOLLOWED BY EASTER EGG HUNT	05.30 EASTER LITURGY 09.30 EASTER COMMUNION FOLLOWED BY EASTER EGG HUNT	09.30 EASTER PARISH COMMUNION	11.00 EASTER PARISH COMMUNION
2 nd Sunday 8 APRIL 2 nd Sunday of Easter	08.00 HOLY COMMUNION 11.00 MATINS (AK) 18.00 SING PRAISE @ BAPTIST CHAPEL	09.30 PARISH COMMUNION with Baptism 18.30 EVENSONG	09.30 FAMILY SERVICE	
3 rd Sunday 15 APRIL 3 rd Sunday of Easter	08.00 HOLY COMMUNION (BCP) 11.00 FOOTPRINTS SERVICE at St James	09.30 PARISH COMMUNION	18.30 EVENSONG	11.00 PARISH COMMUNION
4 th Sunday 22 APRIL 4 th Sunday of Easter	11.00 PARISH COMMUNION	08.00 HOLY COMMUNION 11.00 FAMILY SERVICE 18.30 EVENSONG	09.30 PARISH COMMUNION	
5 th Sunday 29 APRIL 5 th Sunday after Easter	11.00 BENEFICE SERVICE			

MIDWEEK SERVICES

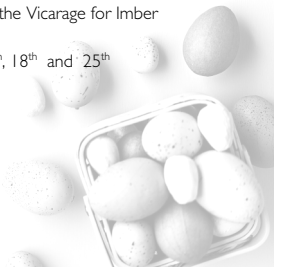
Public Morning Prayer Saturdays at 8am in the Oratory Room, Bratton Church Institute. Thursdays at 9am Edington

Evening Prayer 5.30pm at Erlestoke (Mondays), Coulston (Tuesdays), Edington (Wednesdays), the Vicarage for Imber (Thursdays), St James' Bratton (Fridays).

Wednesday Communion Services 2.30pm on 4th at 1-2 Charlton Hill, Edington. 9.30am on 11th, 18th and 25th at Edington Priory Church.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Tuesday 10th April – St James' PCC Annual General Meeting, 7.30pm Bratton Church Institute



There is a hard edge to Charles Wesley's Easter hymn:

Love's redeeming work is done
 Fought the fight, the battle won:
 Lo! our Sun's eclipse is o'er;
 Lo! He sets in blood no more.
 Vain the stone, the watch, the seal;
 Christ has burst the gates of hell!
 Death in vain forbids His rise:
 Christ has opened Paradise.



That brisk sequence of short, sharp words packs a hard punch: vain. . . stone. . . watch. . . seal. . . Christ. . . burst. . . gates. . . hell. Wesley has the courage to face up to the unavoidability of suffering and death. There is no attempt here to tone down the message, to try to airbrush the raw truth, lest it offend the sensibilities of our secular culture. And what is that truth? Nothing less than this: that Christ died on a cross, his body was buried in a sealed tomb, he rose again on the third day, and is alive, here and now, for ever.

In virtually every Easter hymn we sing, death's dread sting is faced squarely, not glossed over, not diminished. The brutality of death, which includes the grief of bereavement, is central to the Christian belief in resurrection. It is resurrection we believe in, not immortality. When the risen Jesus appeared to his disciples, it was to the marks of his dying (his wounds) that he drew their attention. When he ate supper at Emmaus on the evening of that first Easter Day, it was by the symbols of his death (the bread broken, the wine outpoured) that he disclosed himself to the two disciples. Easter does not cancel out Good Friday; it interprets it and transforms it.

As this month we celebrate Christ's resurrection (and Easter lasts for seven weeks until Pentecost on May 20th), there will be some for whom the cross of bereavement is a recent and terrible burden. For others, the loss may not have been so recent, but the pain is still there, contained, but no less bitter. None of us can escape from this deeply troubled world and its sufferings. By singing our Easter Alleluias, we are not turning a blind eye to the darkness, but looking at it, like Charles Wesley, square in the face, and seeing in it the figure of the dying Christ transfigured by his resurrection.

The Christian faith at it's best faces up to the harsh reality of the darker side of human life. It is not an escapist religion, as some would claim, but a journey of faith that honours the truth and encourages us to live with faith, hope and love.

Andrew Sinclair

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PARISH OF EDINGTON

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting
will be held in Edington Parish Hall
on Wednesday 18 April at 7.30pm



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Jazz Appreciation Society

The Jazz Appreciation Society is still meeting, weather permitting, on the last Wednesday of the month at the home of Maggie Atterbury, The Pentire, Church Lane, Bratton. The dedicated few are enjoying listening to a selection of recordings, some from the 1920's!

Do join us if you feel inclined.

Call Maggie on 01380 830 452 for more details.

ROSSANO SPORTIELLO

I am delighted to announce that Rossano will again entertain us in the Priory Church on Friday 8 June from 7.30pm. Tickets will be the customary £15, there will be tasty snacks and a drink in the interval and the concert should end at approximately 10pm. Call to book your place now on 01380 830452.

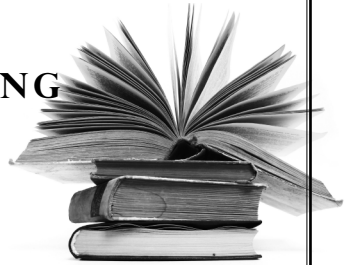
Maggie.

ERLESTOKE BOOK SWAP & DROP IN COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 7th April

10am–midday, Erlestoke Church

Come for a chat amongst friends and discuss
new books on offer – all welcome – even dogs!



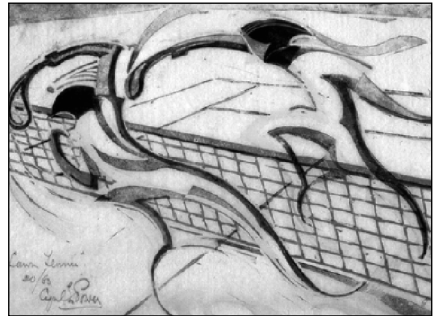
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THE FOUR VILLAGES LINK, is your local community support group that can provide you with assistance should the need arise

If you would like help just call us on **07852 256939** **between 9am – 6pm Monday to Friday** and one of our duty coordinators will log your request and find a volunteer to help you. (Please note that all calls are charged at mobile rates). We are not there just to provide transport to and from medical appointments – we can

help with shopping, take your dog for a walk, call in for a chat, even do small practical household tasks that don't require the services of a specialist tradesman. As responding to requests can be demanding it really helps to receive plenty of notice when being asked to organise assistance, ideally not less than 48 hours in advance. However, please note that our telephone is not manned at weekends or bank holidays so any messages left on it will not be dealt with until the next working day.

FOUR VILLAGES LINK AGM – ADVANCE NOTICE!

The Four Villages Link AGM will be held on Thursday 24 May at 2:30pm in Edington Parish Hall. This is a great opportunity for clients, volunteers and other interested parties to find out how we have fared over the last financial year and to look at the challenges that we face going forward.

Why not come along and hear all about how we operate and then stay after the meeting for tea and a chat with some of the people who offer their services to the scheme and find out more about becoming a volunteer - you can offer as much or as little time as you like, at a time to suit you. It is a great way to meet new people and become more involved in the community, as well as providing an important service to those in our four villages who might need a helping hand from time to time. Just come along to the AGM to find out more about how **you** can help **your** neighbours.

For further information on the Four Villages Link and what you can do to support it please call:

07852 256 939

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**A big
thank you**
to all who
turned up for
the big clean

of Edington Church on 10th
March, much was achieved
both workwise and socially.

*With thanks to you all
Rosemary Wooff*

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Snow Day

It was wonderful to watch our children (and staff!) having a completely amazing time in the snow on our school field on Thursday 1st March. We have a really good sledging hill in school, so the children brought in their sledges and enjoyed speeding down onto the playground. (We try not to be too risk averse in this school so that children can take reasonable risks under strict supervision). We had a specially long playtime so that everyone could enjoy modelling snow, running in it and enjoying it. It was made particularly funny because the children had all come into school dressed up for World Book day – so we had all sorts of magical creatures and characters playing in the magical snow. It was a truly memorable day – the sort of day that will stay in our memories forever.



Wheat Growing

We have now dug the ground and planted the wheat seeds for our whole-school wheat growing project. We hope to have healthy, strong wheat ready to harvest when we return to school in September. Children will learn how to thresh the wheat and Mrs Read has organised for Devizes Museum to lend us a quern stone so that we can grind the wheat by hand. Our hope (and expectation) is that we shall have enough wheat to bake several loaves of bread to enjoy at Harvest time. Our very sincere thanks go to the Pepler family who farm at Ballard's Farm - they have supported us so strongly and given us great advice on getting started with this project.

Charity Afternoon

Eighty of our children have decided to form teams (of about four to six children in each team) to raise funds for their favourite charity. Each team had to "Pitch" for a table in our hall and in the pitch had to explain why they had chosen their particular charity, what activity they were going to offer to raise funds and how they were going to manage the stall efficiently. On the 20th March, they will set up their stalls and sell their wares to their peers. Each year, this event proves very popular and helps children to develop all sorts of entrepreneurial skills, as well as making them more sensitive to the needs of those who need more support. Amongst the charities supported are the RSPCA, WWF, Air Ambulance, Muscular Dystrophy, Guide Dogs, Heart Foundation, Diabetes, Water Aid, Nestling Trust, Crohns and Colitis and Cancer research – showing a remarkably sensitive awareness of the issues faced by so many people and animals.



THREE VILLAGES MINIBUS – JOY FRASER (830 426)

APRIL 2018 *Regular Shopping Trips starting at Edington*

DESTINATION	COST	APR	START TIME
Warminster	£2.30	Tuesday 17th	1.25pm
Devizes	£2.70	Thursday 5th	9am
Westbury	£1.70	Every Thursday	1.25pm
Salisbury	£4	Saturday 21st	9.30am

Please note the Salisbury trip this month has to be on the 21st due to the minibus not being available for its usual slot.

These trips are open to all resident of our villages – do come on board.

The G&J trip to a **Wilton Retail Centre** is on Friday 20 April. It will leave Edington at **the later time of 1pm** and return at about 4.30pm.

Please book your seat for any of these trips (or to hire TVM for your group or for yourself and family/friends) by contacting Pauline at Edington Post Office (telephone 830 013). Pick up points for all journeys can be organised to suit you. All these journeys accept concessionary passes and will return you to your door.

The next lunch will be on Wednesday April 11th, so we hope to see you there.

LUNCH IN THE PARISH HALL

We are holding an Easter Celebration Lunch
(with a selection of casseroles & a choice of puddings)
on Wednesday April 11th at 12.30pm
in the Parish Hall, Edington

Price £8 in aid of Parish Hall Funds

All will be most welcome to join us.

Please let Pauline know if you are coming to help catering arrangements.

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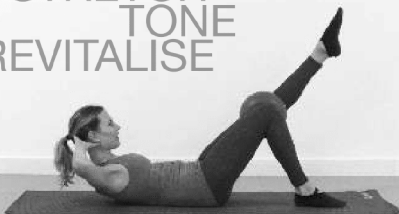
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EDINGTON STATION YARD LTD

25 year Anniversary Open Day



One of our most successful local enterprises celebrates its 25th anniversary this year. Since 1993, Edington Station Yard Ltd has benefitted many people, from the tenants who operate their own businesses from the site, to the charities, local schools and good causes that receive generous donations from the company.

Yet some people in the area aren't aware of the company's existence or even where the Station Yard is! So the company is holding two 'drop-in' Open Days on Friday 11th and Saturday 12th May, where everybody in the area is invited to pop along to the site for a look around, a cup of tea or a free glass of wine, plus something to eat. Bring family or friends too. The company is particularly keen to meet newcomers to the villages of Edington, Erlestoke, Coulston, Bratton and Steeple Ashton, who might want to get involved in some way, now or in the future.

So go along on either the afternoon of Friday 11 May from 2-6 pm or the next morning Saturday 12 May from 10am – 1pm.

With luck the sun will shine and I'll maybe see you there – Bryan Mulligan-Snaith



TASH MARSHALL

See Erlestoke's latest talent, Tash Marshall, perform her own play – **Half Breed**. A one woman, partly autobiographical, dark comedy about faith in yourself, finding your voice, fighting for what you want and being fearless in who you are. Half Breed was shortlisted for the **Soho Young Writer's award 2016** and the **Alfred Fagon Award 2016**. Marshall has also been nominated as "Most promising Playwright" for Half Breed in the #Offies2018. Bristol Old Vic 24/2
*6/27 Apr. Arc Theatre Trowbridge 3 May,
 Swindon Arts Centre 5 May*

EDINGTON PARISH HALL

Annual General Meeting, Tuesday 3 April 2018, 7 for 7.30pm

Please come along and find out about developments at the Parish Hall (and try out our new chairs at the same time). All Welcome.

EDINGTON CHARITY OF THE MONTH

MEDICAL DETECTION DOGS

Medical Detection Dogs uses the amazing power of the dog's nose to detect human diseases. Their research is based on the dog's ability to detect minute odour traces created by diseases.

Because dogs are able to detect tiny odour concentrations, around one part per trillion (the equivalent of one teaspoon of sugar in two Olympic sized swimming pools), the dogs are potentially able to detect diseases, such as cancer, much earlier than is currently possible. Their pioneering work could help to speed up the diagnosis process and impact on thousands of lives.



The Medical Detection Dogs charity is very excited and proud to be carrying out an NHS ethically approved study into the dogs' ability to detect urological cancers using their sense of smell. Alongside the urological study they are running the first NHS ethically approved proof-of-principle trial exploring the ability of dogs to detect breast cancer and have interest from many in the medical profession on the potential to detect other cancers such as lung and colorectal cancers. Their cancer work has two main aims:

To assist scientists through their research into the development of electronic systems (E noses) that will assist in the early detection of cancer through cheap non-invasive tests. In the short term, their cancer dogs could provide additional testing for cancers that are currently difficult to diagnose reliably, such as prostate cancer.

MEDICAL ALERT ASSISTANCE

The Medical Alert Assistance Dogs are trained to detect minute changes in an individual's personal odour triggered by their disease and alert them to an impending medical event.

The Dogs are trained to help people with life-threatening health conditions, giving them greater independence and above all saving their lives on a daily basis.

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VANILLA by J Merrill Forrest

The tatty, much-creased map lay unfurled on the table, held down by a heavy crystal bottle on one side and a slim black tablet on the other. Her grey-green eyes roved across the towns and cities until they alighted on York. Had she been there? She searched her memory. Yes, but it was a long time ago. It would be safe to return. *So who would she be this time?*

Allegra Highsmith had been her identity for the past eight years, Samantha Kingsley before that. How about Jade Elliott this time? Or Tamara Tynan, Aurora Montaigne? She tapped the tablet and swiftly entered her choice.

Within an hour all the documents were ready and her considerable funds transferred to a new account.

With a contented sigh, she lifted the lid from the bottle and dabbed a tiny drop of vanilla-scented liquid the colour of absinthe onto her tongue.

Packing up was easy. She had no ornaments, no knick-knacks. She left in the night with just the clothes on her back and a small bag carrying the tablet, glass bottle, and a few other things she would need *But she never made it that far.*

A deer leapt in front of her. The brakes locked and the car went into an uncontrollable skid to the edge of the narrow, rain-slicked road. For a tantalising second it hung there, before tipping forward and rolling until halted, wrecked but the right way up, by a stand of trees.

The scent of vanilla brought her back to consciousness. The scent that made husbands sidle up, eyes a gleam, and whisper, “You smell wonderful.” The scent that made wives ask, in tones that dripped with jealousy, “Do tell me the name of your perfume.” But she would never tell, never divulge what it was that drove men to lust after her and women to hate her. As long as she kept moving before people started to notice that she showed no signs of aging. Her head pounded and her ribs hurt badly, quite likely one or two were broken, but she had to find the bag. It had landed in the footwell, spilling its contents beneath the pedals. She unclipped the belt and pushed the seat back as far as it would go. A razor sharp pain shot through her as she pushed aside her purse, a lipstick, the tablet, a notebook held together with a narrow purple ribbon. She pulled her hand back, spraying blood, furious to see a shard of pearlescent glass lodged in her finger.

One hundred and fifty years she had been taking the elixir that was the colour of absinthe and gave her skin the scent of vanilla. One hundred and fifty years of living and looking like a human of exquisite youth and beauty. There had been enough for another century, maybe more, but a deer, of all things, had put paid to that. There was no more to be had, not on this world.

She searched for the gold-topped dropper, hoping there would be just enough to give her the strength to escape and hide herself away, but she could not find it. She was weakening fast; her face and body were changing. She knew what the rear-view mirror would reflect if she were to look.

Her last action was to use her remaining strength to drive her heel into the tablet until it was smashed to pieces. Her last thought was sorrow for the rescuers who would struggle to comprehend what they found in the tangled metal, for it wouldn't be the body of a young, beautiful woman who had been on her way to York.

J Merrill Forrest has lived in Edington for ten years. She is the author of two published novels and a collection of poetry. For more short stories and information about her writing visit her website www.jmerrillforrest.com

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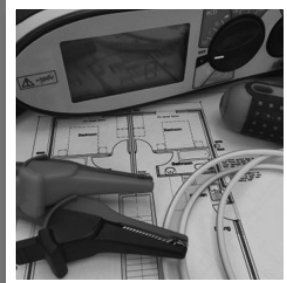
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THE EDINGTON TUESDAY DROP-IN

All are welcome to join us at the Three Dagers on Tuesdays between 1030 and 1130 for an informal chat and get together.

Catch up on village gossip while you drink coffee and eat cake for £2.50.

Children and dogs welcome too!

If you find getting there difficult transport can be arranged with TVM.



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Contact 830133 for details and prices.

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Keevil C of E Academy Scarecrow Trail

Saturday 19 May and Sunday 20 May 2018

Friends of Keevil School will be hosting its 10th annual Scarecrow Trail, and once again will see 40 fabulous scarecrows around the village of Keevil. This year's theme is 'A Royal Celebration' which will see an array of royal scarecrows decorate the village. There are great prizes to be won; most correct answers wins £100 cash and best scarecrow wins £50. A children's 'Lego' themed trail will be available too with fabulous prizes so there's something for everyone.

To take part costs just £3 per entry sheet for the main trail, and £1.50 for the children's trail.

It's a great, fun, family event. This year will see a bar, BBQ, tea and cakes, locally sourced ice-cream and other food stalls on sale in the school grounds, plus refreshments in the village hall. We'll also have a tombola, raffle, stalls and games on offer throughout the weekend.

The trail is open from 10am – 4pm over the weekend.

For all our latest news, follow us on Facebook (Keevil Scarecrow Trail). The Friends of Keevil School Scarecrow Committee

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4. **Wednesday nights is happy hour** 6pm – 8pm all Daggers Ales only £3.00 a pint.
5. **Thursday night** is order any 3 dishes from the snack menu for only £10

Celebrate everything that is special about Easter this April. Enjoy a delicious Sunday lunch with family and friends, prepared by our Head Chef and his team.

To avoid disappointment please book a table.

Menu subject to change

Booking times: 12 – 2.30pm, 5pm & 7pm.

Call us on 01380 830 940

Sunday at the Three Daggers Sample Menu 2 Courses £2, 3 Courses £24.50

JUBILEE HALL BRATTON

Jubilee Hall in Bratton

Supper Night this month will be on Friday 20th from 6:30pm till 8pm, so come and join us for a three course meal plus tea or coffee for a maximum price of £8.50.

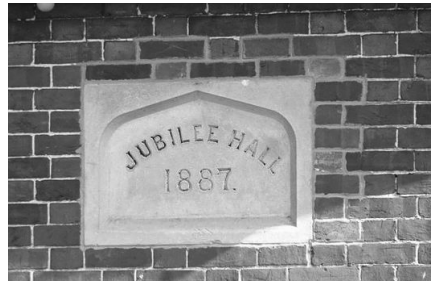
Friendly service and a warm atmosphere guaranteed.

A vacancy has arisen for the position of Part Time Caretaker in the Jubilee Hall. The JHMC are looking for an honest and reliable person who can carry out the main roles of this job, these are to ensure the cleanliness of the hall and immediate outside area at all times, to open the hall in a timely manner for the various groups that use it, carry out minor maintenance tasks such as changing light bulbs and minor repairs. The applicant must be able to manage to lift and move chairs and tables as required for the various activities.

The successful applicant will be required to work a 12 week probationary period after which, if satisfactory, the applicant will be issued with a Contract of Employment.

A more detailed Job Specification is being prepared meanwhile more information can be obtained from Ken Davis on 07792 533357, e-mail daviskj101@aol.com or contact Maz Talbot on 07986 973209, e-mail maztalbot@hotmail.co.uk or contact any member of the Jubilee Hall committee.

The Jubilee Hall in Bratton is a large modern village hall which can accommodate over 80 people seated for meals or for events. There is a fully equipped kitchen and a bar area and a stage which can be used for plays, a disco or a band. The ceiling in the main part of the hall is high enough to erect an inflatable bouncy castle for children's parties. For smaller events the top end of the hall can be easily partitioned off and used separately. For more information please see our website at www.brattonjubileehall.info. The hall is available for single event bookings or weekly/monthly multiple bookings. Anyone wishing to book the Jubilee Hall please contact Val Witcomb on 01380 830 297 or email valwitcomb1948@gmail.com.



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THE BRATTON HISTORY ASSOCIATION

The next meeting of the Bratton History Association will be on Sunday April 15th at 4pm in the Church Institute. All Welcome

The talk will be given by **TIM MAYHEW** and the subject of the lecture will be:

WILTON ESTATE FARM HISTORY

Newcomers and non-members are welcome.

Annual membership: £8 Single £12 Couple.

Lecture fee: £2 Member £4 Visitor

Further details can be obtained from posters in the village or by contacting: Secretary: Mo Maclean on 01380 830 221 or

sec@brattonhistory.co.uk Chairman: Anne Bailey at chairman@brattonhistory.co.uk

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BRATTON IRON WORKS – AN ILLUSTRATED RECORD

Bratton History Association has just published an 80 page booklet describing the rise and fall over 160 years of the agricultural engineering firm of R & J Reeves & Son that was based in Bratton – on the prominent site that is now the village green.

The author, Dennis Gardner, has collected a great deal of information over the years since closure - photos, catalogues, leaflets, written documents and artefacts, as well as personal memories from some of the ex-employees still living nearby (mostly now passed on). The Bratton History Association encouraged Dennis to present a good deal of this material in written form, and this new publication, full of pictorial detail, is the result - a really good read, even for the non-technically minded!

Copies are available from Westbury Heritage Centre, Hillworth Stores (Bratton) or from the Association, at £9 each.



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Please contact Ken Davis on 07792 533 357 or email daviskj101@aol.com

For entry forms as a competitor please contact Dot Reeves 01380 830 987

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Dear Villagers, we are entering for the Best Kept Village award again in 2018. Please help us by ensuring your own frontage is kept bright and tidy wherever possible and bins kept out of the way once they are emptied. If you spot places in the village that need maintenance or attention, please do let us know and we will try to improve it.

We will keep you informed about approximate judging dates in May or June, through Village notice boards and the post office board. Help us to make a special effort and if you are frustrated because you need help with your own frontage, let us know.

Sandie on 01380 830722 or email sandielewis@live.co.uk

EDINGTON UNDER FIVES

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For more information see our Facebook page "Edington Under 5's" or contact Helen Shaw on 07543 125 849.





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A MESSAGE FROM RICHARD GAMBLE

Wiltshire Councillor for The Lavingtons & Erlestoke Division

You may contact me about this or any other matter by email to richard.gamble@wiltshire.gov.uk or by phone on 07762 018209.

“Oh, to be in England, now that April’s there...” So wrote Robert Browning in 1845 in his lyrical poem Home Thoughts from Abroad. He was travelling in Northern Italy at the time and, although you may think that could not have been too awful, he pined for the new leaves on the trees, the blossoms and the bird song of his native land. The romantic image of England that Browning conjured up was typical of the era but it reflects a nostalgic mood we may all have felt from time to time.

In my eyes too, England seems ever more desirable. But the cold weather that we experienced at the beginning of March has not been the only Beast from the East that has troubled our land. As I write, poisons purportedly from Russia have polluted the fine city of Salisbury and have brought memories of the Cold War to our shores. There are nuclear threats from Korea. A communist ruler in China plans to be in power for ever and the Middle East remains in turmoil. Guns are again in use in the USA. Such echoes of the past are not welcome.

At home in Wiltshire, on the other hand, domestic crime rates are low, employment is high, school results are good, food is available and relatively cheap, buses are still running. I know there is still plenty to grumble about including traffic, council tax, parking charges and the tedium of Brexit negotiations. Most of us would like more money, more leisure and, perhaps, more romance. Some have the burdens of personal problems and grief. But that would probably be true wherever we may be. Here, at least, for the poets among us, the birds are still singing, the blossom is out and the leaves are budding all around in this green and pleasant land. We are fortunate indeed to be in England, now that April’s here.

I hope you have a very Happy Easter!





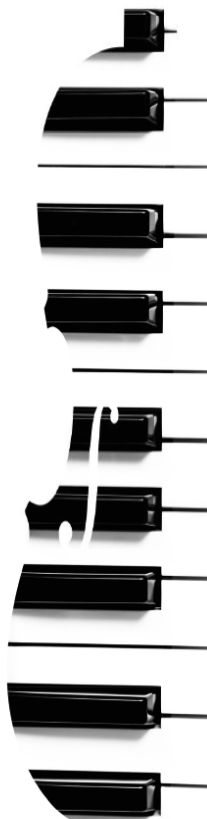
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New members and visitors are always welcome
Meetings every second Tuesday of the month 7.30pm
in the Parish Hall, Edington
www.facebook.com/edingtonandtinheadwi
Contact Meg McGlynn for further information 01380 830 755

Edington & Tinhead WI has been in existence since Friday 11 March 1938 when the inaugural meeting took place in the 'Parish Room' and we still have descendants of some of the original members resident in the village today.

As part of our 80th birthday celebrations, our March meeting took place at Devizes Museum where the Director, David Dawson, gave a brief history of the museum prior to giving a guided tour of the early Bronze Age Gold gallery which covered the years 3000BC – 1000BC. He brought alive how our ancestors lived and worshipped the sun at Stonehenge during that time. The most precious gold, jet and amber objects from the period tell the story of the people who lived in and around Stonehenge when the monument was one of the great religious focal points of western Europe. Indeed, many of the items on show may well have been worn by Bronze Age priests and chieftains as they worshipped inside Stonehenge itself. What a fascinating insight into our local history!

Also discovered in the Museum Shop, nestled amongst a wide variety of interesting books was one entitled 'Inspired to Teach' detailing the life and history of The College of Sarum St Michael (formerly Salisbury Teacher Training College), co-authored by Jenny Head & Anne Johns. Anne, who is a member of our WI, trained at the College and taught in Warminster and Salisbury before becoming a school inspector. Profits from the sale of this and a second book shortly to be published, go towards supporting the education of children in South Sudan and over £6000 has currently been donated. Congratulations Anne and Jenny!

Finally, we repaired to the lecture room together with our guests from the Federation - Steffy Pawling, Viv Penny and Jenny Coates – for bubbly and cake and Joan Gifford, the Federation Chair who just happens to be a member of our WI, proposed a toast to Edington & Tinhead's 80th birthday. Long may we continue!

Next month's meeting will be in the Parish Hall on Tuesday 10 April at 7:30pm and we are going to be immersing ourselves in Dirty History – the story of soap and laundry!



EDINGTON & DISTRICT GARDENING CLUB

FIRST THURSDAY IN THE MONTH PARISH HALL 7.30PM

Sandie Lewis,, Club Secretary, 01380 830 722

It will come as no surprise to you all that not a lot of gardening occurred in early March! For the first time in many a year Gardening Club was cancelled, for reasons of safety both in cars and on foot. We hope our planned speaker will visit us on another occasion. Now that the snow has gone and Spring is official, let's hope we can get on with those tasks. The wonderful bulbs have bloomed regardless and as you read this village gardens and green spaces will be making rapid growth.

At our meeting on 5th April we are very privileged to have Rosie from Hardy's Cottage Plants with us, to talk about getting the best from our gardens.

Rosie has won many gold medals at key flower shows, including Chelsea. For visitors and club members alike, this will be a really good evening. We will meet in Edington Parish Hall, as usual, at 7.30 pm and all are welcome. See the village website for information about this and the other speakers we have planned.

Email sandielewis@live.co.uk or phone 01380 830722



BABY YOGA

FUN playful yoga moves adapted for babies and parent/carer, using songs & rhythms

WEDNESDAY 10.30-11.30 with tea & biscuits

Fridays: 10.15-11am:

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CATHOLIC NEWS

**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST TROWBRIDGE
& ST BERNADETTE'S WESTBURY
(incl VILLAGES).**

PARISH PRIEST FR TOM FINNEGAN

TELEPHONE 01225 752152

www.stjohnthebaptist.co.uk

St John the Baptist – Trowbridge

Sunday Masses: Sat:(Vigil) 6pm; Sun:10.30am & 6pm

Holy Day of Obligation: See Newsletter

Weekday Masses: Mon: 9am; Tue: 6pm; Wed: 12.00
noon Fri: 6pm; Sat: 9.00am

Rosary: Weekdays before Mass. Confessions: Sat:
9.30-10.15am; 5.15-5.30pm and on request.

St Bernadette's – Westbury

Sunday Mass: 9am

Holy Day of Obligation: Vigil Mass 6pm

Weekday Mass: Thursday 10am

Confessions: Thursday 9.15-9.30am and on request.

Annual Clifton Diocese Summer Camps

Bookings are now being taken for the camps which take place 13-17 August for ages 7-11 years and 20-24 August for ages 12-16 years. The camps have moved to a new venue at the Viney Hill Adventure Centre in the Forest of Dean. A week full of fun & friendship underpinned by a sharing and living of our Christian Faith. To book visit www.livingyourfaith.co.uk

CONFIRMATION 2018

Bishop Declan will celebrate the Mass of Confirmation on Wednesday 27th June at 7pm. Children in Yr 8 or above who wish to be confirmed should complete the application form in the church porch and return it to the Parish Priest (Fr Tom).

SHARING OUR FAITH

The Group meets in the Parish Centre, Trowbridge on Wednesdays from 8-9pm. This is open to anyone wishing to learn more about the Catholic Church.

SICK AND/OR HOUSEBOUND

Any catholic who is sick or housebound should let Fr. Tom Finnegan (01225 752152) know as he would be pleased to arrange a visit and bring Holy Communion, if desired.



Anne Tottingham

Homeopath,



Reiki

Master/teacher,

Tai Chi

Practitioner

She can be consulted in her home in Edington or yours.

I am also available for talks

& classes. For more

information and costs,

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or mobile: 07905748 359 or

annetott@homeopath-reiki.co.uk

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Tuesdays, 10-11.30am

BEGINNERS YOGA

Thursdays, 6-7.15pm

BEGINNERS/INTERMEDIATE

Thursday, 7.30-9pm

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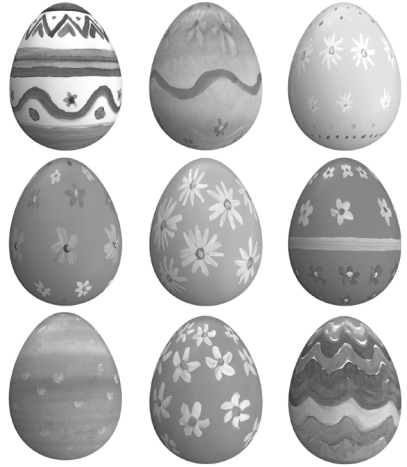
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PICKLEBERRY KNITTING GROUP

Wednesday 1.30–4pm

Come and join us at Pickleberry Coffee Shop, Bratton



Wiltshire Councillor Jerry Wickham



Please feel free to make contact either through my email address jerry.wickham@wiltshire.gov.uk or my home telephone of 01380 870476 or mobile 07980 701617 if you have any issues and need my help.

Wiltshire is a beautiful county and we want it to stay that way and the first stage of the CleanupWilts campaign targeted fly-tipping. If anyone sees someone fly-tipping especially if its taking place, please try to take the registration number and if you have a phone, try taking a photo, then report it to Wiltshire Council – online is best, or phone 0300 456 0105. If the Council can obtain enough evidence, it will prosecute or fine offenders. I also hear, that people do not have anywhere to take their waste and frankly I can't accept this. If they go to the 'trouble' of putting it in their car or van etc, and driving it out into the countryside, they can also take it to one of our many household recycling centres instead.

The second phase has recently been launched to try to stop people littering, specifically targeting 'food on the go', and reinforcing the message that we are all responsible. Why do some people think it's ok to throw their empty food packaging out of their cars? If we can change behaviour it should reduce littering and fly-tipping.

The Great British Spring Clean will have taken place, albeit postponed from earlier in the month due to the snow and I know that Edington has a strong group of volunteers who give up their time to pick up litter, and it must get extremely irritating when their good work is ruined by the thoughtlessness of a few. Wiltshire Council spends £2.5m a year picking litter; that figure would be far higher were it not for the local community efforts such as in the village and would far rather the £2.5m be spent on filling potholes and resurfacing roads or other services.

Perhaps if people knew that it takes up to 80 years for a crisp packet to degrade and even paper cups take up to 40 years, they might think about not littering. Recycling a plastic bottle can save enough energy to power a 60w light bulb for 6 hours.

In our rural areas most of the litter can only come from being thrown out of car windows and all too often its from residents who live in our own communities!

WHAT'S HAPPENING TO ERLESTOKE'S GEORGE & DRAGON?

The sign on our 250-year-old Pub now reads The 'George and Dragon' a symptom of the determination of the owners, Kismet Katering Ltd to turn a profit from our 300 year old pub by turning it into a private house. How long will it be before the sign drops off altogether?

In March 2015, three years ago Erlestone Parish Council nominated the G&D as an Asset of Community Value (ACV). Since then the owners have had their application to turn it into a private house refused by Wiltshire Council. The Pub has now been up for sale since the spring of 2014, three months after opening, however the owners have ignored four reasonable offers to buy the pub from the Erlestone Hub, a 'not-for-profit' community benefit society set up by villagers. Our last offer, made last summer, remains open. At the end of last year, the owners received a 100% cash offer at the full asking price from a local Wiltshire family who were excited at the real potential of the Pub.

When the Wiltshire family received no response to their offer they asked the owners what price they would be willing to accept but, as with all the other offers, the owners simply ignored them and then took the Pub off the market leaving everybody frustrated and mystified.

The owners have always put hurdles in the way of prospective purchasers, such as asking for all sorts of inappropriate information including CV's, cashflow forecasts and business plans. In addition, they have proposed unreasonable covenants and given potential purchasers negative feedback about the village claiming that villagers were responsible for their failed business.

The former agents for the pub, Sydney Phillips can confirm that there had been plenty of interest from other buyers. An email has been received from another Wiltshire resident who was simply so discouraged by the owner's strange demands and prevarication that they decided to drop out.

"After visiting the Pub, it appeared to be everything we were looking for"

"We were a little confused as to why the vendor needed a cv and full business plan as this is not a property being leased but bought as a freehold, free of tie, pub."

"We were advised (by the agent) that it could be quite a complicated purchase if the vendor even decided to sell to us. We decided that we would not pursue the purchase due to the above reasons"



The owners have never entered into any negotiations – which confirms our original belief that they never had any intention of developing the G&D as a pub.

(This is not the first time that the owners have tried to exploit an important community asset. They tried to demolish a hotel in a World Heritage site and develop the site as 20 houses leading to significant objections from the local community and local Parish Council. Needless to say, their application was turned down as ‘mediocre, an overdevelopment, entirely inappropriate, unsympathetic, out of context and would significantly distract from the appearance and character of a conservation area’.)

The George & Dragon remains a pub and an Asset of Community Value, albeit now closed, but the Hub continues its efforts to retain it for the community. It’s clear that the owners are only interested in making a profit, at the expense of our community, and, if they had managed to turn it into a house, they would now have been long gone. They can attempt another ‘change of use’ application but, having turned down several excellent offers to buy the pub from people who are happy to work hard to achieve its potential, it will be hard for them to succeed.

They will need to put it back on the market for a period of six months and demonstrate that the Pub cannot be sold to comply with Wiltshire Council’s core strategies.

I have asked the owners if they would be willing to meet to see if there is a way to break the stalemate but without success.

The Hub, however, will continue its efforts to provide some meaningful community activities, such as the ‘pop up pub’ to give villagers the occasional opportunity to meet up with each other.

Keith Lewcock - Chairman of the Erlestoke Hub Ltd

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OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD COFFEE MORNING

- WHEN:** SATURDAY 7 APRIL AT EDINGTON PARISH HALL
FROM 10:30 – 12:00
- WHAT FOR:** To start collecting items for the 2018 Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Appeal and to raise funds for those items that we will be short of and will need to purchase.
- WE NEED:** Stationery items, flannels, soap, toothpaste, combs, small toys, jewellery etc so instead of a Bring & Buy we are inviting you to Buy & Bring!
- WHY:** A small shoebox can have a big impact for children who are in need across Eastern Europe, Africa and Asia. What goes into it is fun but what comes out is long lasting, bringing delight to a deprived child.

Please bring any contributions with you and we will happily store them for use in the autumn when we pack the boxes!



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WORTON & CHEVERELL FC (YOUTH) 'THE BADGERS'



<http://www.pitchero.com/clubs/wortonandcheverellfc>

Diary dates, the Badger Bash returns on 28th April and an opportunity for parents to have a night out and also fund raise for the club. Contact managers below for tickets. WCFC will also be supporting the Devizes Lions Swimathon when it is rearranged so still time to sponsor a badger.

Presentation day will be 30th June at Easterton Village Hall. We will have a football freestyler coming along to demonstrate his skills.

Under 6's are back from their Winter break and are at Northbrook, keen to play in a few festivals in spring/summer time. Under 8's and 9's have continued to train outside and have played a few matches each. A couple of new players have joined the teams and are having fun! Under 10's had been training on Astroturf at Devizes again but are now back at Northbrook and looking forward to getting back into matches. Under 11's have played few matches but both teams are through to their respective cup quarter finals. Under 12's have had two 5-1 victories and a draw this month and are doing well in their league. Under 14's sit top of their league with a few games left to go in that league, 9 wins and only 2 defeats so far. Under 15's cup run came to an end after defeat away to Amesbury and are now back in League action, sitting 4th in their league.

All teams are starting to draw up their plans for summer tournaments so hopefully we can report some good success in them We are recruiting players of most ages and are keen to especially hear from girls who wish to take up football as we wish to support FA drive to increase their participation.

We are also looking for people to join our organisation who are keen to help the club and develop their Coaching skills, interested in taking up football or getting involved in football coaching, please talk to one of the relevant managers whose information is below:

U6/U10 – Mark Goddard – 01380 813160

U7, U8 and U9 – Sharon Black 01380 818193

U11 – Dave Kiddle – 07843 678781

U12 – Neil Black – 01380 818193

U14 – Stuart Swann - 01380 812329

U15 – Jake Davis – 07741 30

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Ethandun Tapestry Free Workshop

10am–1pm Saturday 28 April

Edington Parish Hall

THE ETHANDUN TAPESTRY

Free workshop on 28 April with complimentary lunch.

From 10am (coffee) to 1pm (lunch), in Edington Parish Hall.

Come and have a look at what we are doing and be inspired by our expert Lucy. No skills necessary and no obligation to take part, although you are welcome to. You can just enjoy the fun of seeing progress on this lovely community project which includes participants from young children up to our senior villagers. For more information or to book your place phone Sandie on 01380 830 722 or email sandielewis@live.co.uk



Registered Charity No: 1064923

YOUR LINK SCHEME NEEDS YOU!

The Four Villages LINK scheme urgently needs volunteers to help fulfil requests made by members of the local community. If you feel you could help or want to find out more about volunteering then please call **07852 256 939**.

APRIL

03	AGM, Edington Parish Hall, 7pm
05	Garden Talk, Edington Parish Hall, 7.30pm
07	Book Swap, Erlestone Church, 10.30am-midday
11	TVM Lunch, Edington Parish Hall, 1230
14	Edington Arts Concert, Edington Priory, 7.30pm
15	Bratton History, Church Institute, 4pm
18	Parochial Church meeting, Edington Parish Hall, 7.30pm
20	G&J trip to Wilton, Leaves Edington PO at 1pm
20	Bratton Jubilee Hall Supper Night, 6.30-8pm
21	Spring Bingo, Erlestone Church, 1.30 for 2pm eyes down
24	WI Walk, start from The Daggers at 7pm
28	Ethandune Tapestry Workshop, Edington Village Hall, 10am-1pm
28	Bingo, West Lavington Village Hall, 7pm
28	Mouse Racing, Great Cheverell Pavilion, 7pm

MAY

05	Erlestone Church Plant Sale PLANTS WANTED PLEASE
11-12	EDINGTON STATION YARD OPEN DAY FRI 2-6PM SAT 10-1PM
12	BRATTON HILLY Volunteers required
19-20	Keevil Scarecrow Trail
23	WI walk, start from Daggers at 7pm
26	Edington May Ball

JUNE

09	Edington Fair
26	WI Walk, start Daggers at 7pm

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