



ECCHINSWELL VILLAGE HALL

e-Newsletter February 2025

After a beastly winter the first signs of Spring are in evidence, along our hedge rows and riverbanks, the snowdrops are once more peeking through with their promise of new life. We are so blest to have such a display on our doorstep every year! But before we leave winter behind many of us will still be chuckling to ourselves over the antics of our Ecchwellian Thesbians who featured in this year's Pantomime Robin Hood.

The show was a resounding success playing to three full audiences keen to participate with their cheers and boo's - all in the right places of course! As with all good stories it had a happy ending and everyone left with a smile on their face after a rousing chorus of a song vaguely reminiscent of Lilly the Pink. And ohh those green tights - I didn't know they had Lycra in the 13th century.....

Well done to all the cast, crew and especially Allan Unnnuk who wrote, and produced the show with Eileen.

And because a picture tells a thousand words I'll shut up.....





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Now let's think forward to see what's happening over the next few months.....

February

February 1st Village Hall, Kingsmill Room: Jumble Collection

This is one of our main days for collecting jumble so bring your bags and boxes of goodies along we will be at the Hall from 10.00 until 2.00pm and we want to be busy!

February 2nd St Lawrence's Church 11.00am



Some villagers may not be aware that Sunday 2nd February is Rev Anthony Smith's last service at St Lawrence's Church as our rector.

In their relatively short time in the parish Anthony and Naomi have touched the lives of many people in the village and we are sad to be saying goodbye. All are welcome to join us on Sunday morning and if you cannot make that date, Anthony's very last service is in Burghclere, Church of the Ascension at 10.00am on Sunday 16th February. There is also a concert at Burghclere Church, 7.30 on February 14th.

Tickets £12 & concessions £6 with proceeds to the church from www.burghclere.church/valentines

February 4th & March 4th Coffee Morning 10.00am

As always, we will be serving piping hot drinks to warm you on these cold February mornings. There will also be a selection of home-made cakes to tempt you. So come along to the Hall for a nibble and a natter!

....and its not too late to bring any donations for our Jumble Sale that is later in the week (08/02).

We will be grateful for clean wearable or usable items. Thank you!

More about the Jumble Sale on the next page....

February 7th Village Hall, Kingsmill Room: Jumble Collection

Another opportunity to bring your jumble donations along to the Village Hall. You'll find us in the Kingsmill Room between 4.00 and 7.00 pm.

Final offerings also accepted 10.00 to 12.00 on the 8th - the big day!

Ecchinswell Village Hall



On Tuesday, 10 - 11:30am

EVERYONE WELCOME!



February 8th Jumble Sale 2.00 – 4.30

Have you seen our posters and flyers? The Events Team have been very busy recently, popping flyers through letterboxes and pinning posters around the village. This is because we want you all to come to our Jumble Sale! It will be the first in a very long time so please help us to make it a success! There will be plenty of bargains and our usual choice of delicious refreshments.....

AND

There is still time to **donate jumble**. Our drop off times, at the Village Hall, are in the top right hand corner of the poster. We will gratefully receive any items clean and/or in working order but not too big e.g. furniture, bicycles etc.

IF

You feel inspired to **lend a hand** (its terrific fun), either at one of our drop off times or on the day please do contact us on ecchinswellhall@gmail.com with any dates/times that you can manage clearly marking your email Jumble Sale.

BUT

Even if you have no jumble to donate or are unable to help **please come along anyway**.

*Grab a few bargains

*Have a Cuppa

*And a bit of fun!

DROP OFF JUMBLE AT ECCHINSWELL VILLAGE HALL ON:

Sat 1st February: 10:00–14:00

Fri 7th February: 16:00–19:00

Sat 8th February: 10:00–12:00



**ECCHINSWELL
VILLAGE HALL**

Ecchinswell Road, RG20 4UB

FROM 2.00 - 4.30pm

8TH FEB 2025



February 22nd Race Night 7.00pm

For those who have never been to one of our race nights you are seriously missing out! This event has become somewhat of a tradition in the village. Pre-recorded races form the basis but the Race Course and Horse Names have been changed. Each race has 8 runners and you make your bets – not too big - £1.00 will do. There's nothing too scientific about choosing your horse (I tend to go with the name I fancy). Odds are calculated from the bets placed then they're off. All eyes are glued to the screen.....Hooting and cheering fills the hall as the horses make a dash for the finishing line..... Collect your winnings or better luck next time? There are 8 races so eight chances to get lucky!

All the fun of the Newbury Races in our own Village Hall. No need for fancy hats or ties and compare the prices at our bar Really what's not to like???



Tickets for our Race Night go on sale from January 27th. You can buy your tickets in advance by contacting us on ecchinswellhall@gmail.com marking your email RACE NIGHT. Reserve a table and come as a group (6 to 8 is ideal) or join a table with others on the night.

March 29th Tabletop Games – 7.00pm

This will be a first for us! At the moment we are busily trialling a series of games for you. Don't worry you won't be stuck with any one individual game for more than 10 minutes and whether it's card games, dice games, skill or knowledge that is your strength it will all be there and much more besides so put the date in your diary. **A night guaranteed to put a smile on everyone's face.....**

AND WHAT COMES NEXT?



We have a **Family Fun Event** scheduled for June (date to be decided), and the Events Team are already beginning to think about what to put in the programme for our next season (25/26).

There are the old favourites such as Quiz Night and Race Night, but we also like to ring the changes.

Do you have any ideas? We would be delighted to hear from you! .

Contact us on ecchinswellhall@gmail.com clearly marking your email IDEAS. Many Thanks!



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NEWS FROM THE REGULAR USERS

If you have ever walked past the village hall on a Monday evening and wondered what's going on inside, let me enlighten you, Monday night is karate night! Under the leadership of Sensei Paul Clark the group practice and develop their skills. Training methods include solo punching and kicking drills, pad drills, partner drills, self-defence drills, Kata and sparring. Over the years the club has seen a good number of students graduate from beginner to the coveted Black Belt. Best not to mess with anyone in the vicinity of the Village Hall on a Monday night then.....



Joking aside this is what Sensei Paul says about Karate:-

Karate is good for health and fitness, developing self discipline, mental strength and confidence. Getting good at it takes many years though and there is no fast-track method. It really is a case of you will get out of it what you put in.

All journeys begin with a first step so come on in and give it a go!

The first class is free.





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REGULAR HALL USERS

You can join any of our regular user groups. Karate, Pilates and Table Tennis are all open sessions. If you are interested in Ballet please contact Holly Unnuk, details supplied below.

Mondays: Karate Club 7-8pm from age 6. Call in or contact Lynne on 01635 298571.

Tuesdays: Coffee Morning First Tuesday of each month 10-11.30am.

Ballet Intermediate/Advanced ballet lessons. Contact hollyunnukballet.com for more details.

Wednesdays: Pilates 10-11am, £10 per session. All abilities welcome, you can turn up on the day but you are advised to check the web site www.dannipilates.com

Ballet Grade 5 ballet lessons. School years 7-9. Contact hollyunnukballet.com for more details.

Thursdays: Table Tennis 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month 7pm until 9pm. Fun session – all ages and abilities!

AND FINALLY: NEWS FROM THE VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

The committee met on 14th January, one of the topics discussed was the ongoing problem of dog fouling on the playing fields. Action has now been taken in that there are now two extra bins for dog poo – one on the far side of the playing field at the start of the path that leads to Cow Lane and the other on the allotment side of field. There are also two notices fixed to the hall. As well as being highly unpleasant dog poo carries the risk of toxocara infection to young children and prosecution could lead to a £1,000 court fine so please make use of this facility. On a different note the Village Hall Committee is looking for new members. For more information email ecchinswellhall@gmail.com marking your email VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE. Promise there is much more to discuss than dog poo!



This E-Newsletter is produced by the Events Team which is a subcommittee of the Village Hall Committee Contact us on ecchinswellhall@gmail.com, use the same address for the main committee

Events Team Tracey Larkin, Kathy Debenham, Liz Heronima-Kuteszko, Mel Willson, Amanda Letch

Village Hall Committee Paul Oldring – Chair, Allan Unnuk – Treasurer, Lynne Hutchins – Secretary and Bookings Clerk, Paul Debenham – Parish Council rep, Bill Fry – Football rep, Liz Heronima-Kuteszko – Events Team rep, Jackie Bayliss - Panto rep, Chris Hutchins – Caretaker.

If you no longer wish to receive this Newsletter, please reply with UNSUBSCRIBE on the subject line.