



ECCHINSWELL VILLAGE HALL

e-Newsletter March 2025

Oh when will there be an end to this damp and gloomy weather? February has been a dreadful month, hasn't it? At least we have had the snowdrops to make us smile and have you noticed the early daffodils are beginning to make an appearance? Like little rays of sunshine to brighten our days! Despite the gloom, February has been a busy month for the Events Team but before we get into all of that we want to say a big thank you to Liz HK who after many years is standing down from the Team. Liz was a founding member of the group along with Gill Lock. Together they set up our Coffee Morning back in February 2018 and over the years the Events Team as we know it today has evolved from that early initiative! We will miss Liz's calming presence as part of the Team, but she is not withdrawing completely and will still be serving coffee and cake on the first Tuesday of the month as usual! Thank you Liz!

In early February, Ecchinswell had its first jumble sale in many years! We had oh so much to sell! Clothes for everyone, accessories galore, mountains of books and toys, bushels of bric-a-brac, some electricals and even fitness equipment! A big thank you to all those who donated goods and to our hard-working helpers! Despite the beastly day, there were about 80 shoppers. We hope that they were all pleased with the bargains they found!



OUR JUMBLE SALE!





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Later in the month, saw many of us in the Village Hall for a little flutter at the races. Yes, it was our annual Race Night Event! Some found it a nail-biting experience whilst others got lucky, and we all had a jolly good time! Thanks to everyone that supported this event!



DATES FOR MARCH

March 4th and April 1st Coffee Morning 10.00am



FIRST TUESDAY MORNING OF THE MONTH IS...

COFFEE MORNING

10.00 until 11.30 in the Village Hall

Come join us for piping hot drinks

Delicious cakes

And most importantly

A good ol' chat!

See you there!



March 29th Table Top Games

Right at the end of the month we have

Table Top Games!

We are planning a fun and lively evening featuring a variety of table top games and more to pit your wits, test your skills and see how lucky you are..... We will be sitting in tables of 4 to 6 and there will be a scoring system both for individuals and teams. This is the last of our main events for the season and it's a new one for us so do come and support your Events Team and the Village Hall! We are sure you won't be disappointed!

The evening is designed mainly for adults with a bar and nibbles on the tables but well-behaved teens are welcome.

September and Beyond

At the end of March our Events Team will be taking a well-earned break! But come the Autumn we will be back with a host of events to keep you entertained through the Autumn and Winter Months. Alongside our favourites such as **Quiz Night, Christmas Crafts and Race Night**. We have some exciting new ventures such as **Line Dancing, Wine and Cheese Tasting, A Musical Extravaganza** – the list goes on but more about all of these in the April issue of our Newsletter!



NEWS FROM THE REGULAR USERS

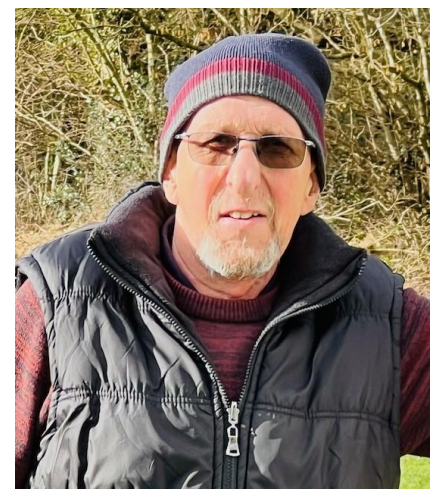
Have you ever walked along the Ecchinswell Road on a Sunday morning and wondered what's going on the other side of the hedge near the Village Hall? In all probability, it will be the football! And so, this month we go outside of the hall to take a peak! One Sunday morning, early in February, I braved the elements to go and watch the Diamonds play Frilsham. Our home team, the Diamonds, in the turquoise shirts, were the victors with an impressive 6:1 score. In the last ten minutes of the game - the bit of the match that I watched, there were no goals, but it was lively, and I am rather proud of my action photography despite my fingers nearly dropping off from the cold! How do those linesmen stand there in the freezing temperatures for over 90 minutes?



Some of you will already know Bill Fry, our grounds man, he can often be found, along with Chris Hutchins, in the vicinity of the recreation field inspecting and caring for the pitches.

What Bill doesn't know about ground maintenance isn't worth knowing! When Bill first started as grounds man in 2002 the field was in a sorry state. Bill took on the mammoth task of getting it back into shape with the incentive that the Newbury Post Office Team - where he worked, could start playing there. Well, the rest is history because there has been regular Sunday football on the field ever since! Bill loves the work, but it's not without its challenges as the ground is prone to becoming waterlogged so regular inspection and spiking at the right time of year is necessary! There are also the problems created by unruly youngsters churning up the ground by riding over it and making it unsafe to play football on. There are also other problems such as mole hills and dare I say it dog poo..... But despite these hazards, Bill soldiers on keeping our field in great condition!

Well done Bill! In a future Newsletter we will look at the history of football in Ecchinswell, something else Bill knows a lot about!





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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!

VILLAGE HALL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting for the Village Hall is on April 8th, 7.00 pm in the Kingsmill Room.

All are welcome!



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, 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, Jackie Bayliss – Panto rep, Chris Hutchins – Caretaker.

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