

ES & BG News – April 2017

Our April meeting took place on Wednesday 12th April at Ecchinswell Village Hall.

Many thanks to Borough Councillor John Izett for coming along to share news from Basingstoke & Deane council.

Cllr Izett informed us that the Basingstoke Police have moved their Front Office from the police station in London Road to the Basingstoke Police Investigation Centre (PIC) which is situated at Jays Close on the Viabes Business Park, RG22 4BS. The office is open from 8:00 to 20:00 on Monday to Saturday and from 9:00 to 17:00 on Sunday but closed on Bank holidays. The office serves several public facing functions such as enquiries, reporting crime, reporting for bail and lost and found property. Details can be found at <https://www.hampshire.police.uk/news/general/front-office-open-new-basingstoke-police-investigation-centre/>

We would like to remind you that the **Annual Parish Assembly** will take place in Ecchinswell Village Hall on May 10th at 19:30 and is open to all. Along with our regular agenda, we will be discussing the parishes' need for a neighbourhood plan. This is something which everyone could be affected by so this will be an excellent time to come and hear about it. During the evening, there will be expert guest speakers and the Parish Council will provide light refreshments and drinks.

Ecchinswell is holding its popular May Fayre again this year so the parish will be seeing the arrival of its famous "beasts", all hoping to win the top prize in the Build-a-Beast competition. Please participate by building your own beast – you'll find application forms at The Royal Oak - or just wander around the parish marvelling at people's ingenuity and construction skills! The Fayre is taking place on the 30th April at its regular location, the garden of the Royal Oak. Everyone is welcome to come along to this hugely popular event.

There are still a few allotments available in Ecchinswell village, at the top of Oakfields Close opposite the Royal Oak pub. They're all ready for planting and the rental is £30 per annum for the large and £20 the small plot. Contact clerk@ecchinswell-pc.gov.uk if you, or someone you know is interested - you don't need to be a resident of the village to rent one!

Finally, after many years of great service to the Parish, we're sad to say goodbye to our hard working clerk Doreen Gascoine who has decided to put away her pen and retire to a life of peace and quiet! We therefore have a vacancy for a parish clerk which is a part-time paid role requiring 12 hours a week. Detail of the role and how to apply are on the parish web site at www.ecchinswell-pc.gov.uk or request a job description by email on the address in the paragraph above.

Hope to see you on May 10th for our annual assembly – come and hear about ideas for our neighbourhood plan and share your thoughts with us.

Nick Owen - Parish Councillor