

ETTINGTON AND FULREADY VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

March 2026

As March arrives, we find ourselves looking hopefully to the sky, willing the rain to ease at last and make room for a little sunshine. After months of grey, even a brief glow of light feels like an invitation, a gentle nudge to stretch our legs, wake up our winter-weary bodies, and step back into the village we love. This is the moment when Ettington begins to stir again. Buds appear on branches, birdsong grows louder, and the footpaths around the village start to feel alive with possibility. A simple walk becomes a reminder that nature is quietly blossoming all around us, waiting to be noticed.

It is also a wonderful time to reconnect with neighbours, with community events, and with the small acts of kindness that make village life meaningful. Whether it is joining an activity, lending a hand, or simply stopping for a chat, doing something for others has a way of making us feel more alive ourselves.

Rennie, the editor

USEFUL LOCAL CONTACTS:



Ettington Parish Council

Clerk, Jane Carter, clerk@ettingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk

Ettington Church Churchwarden, Phil Knight, 07886 126098, phee100@btinternet.com

Ettington Community Centre Bookings

Eva Lowe 07975 682775 bookings@ettingtoncommunitycentre.co.uk

Ettington & Fulready Village Newsletter

Enquiries and/or contributions to Rennie Boreham, the editor:

ettingtonfulready.newsletter@gmail.com

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Dear Friends,



Over the past few weeks, I have been thinking a lot about what it means to share a meal with someone. Over the years, I've shared many meals, BBQ's, Afternoon Tea, Harvest suppers, Burns Night and Passover meals. As I sit down to these meals both with people I know quite well, and with others I barely know at all, it has been wonderful to see how the food on the table brings us together - it lightens the mood, it shifts the dynamic, develops rapport, and it strengthens the bonds that we are building.

Food can become a topic of conversation and lead to discovering shared experiences and interests. At one of these meals, someone humorously recounted his childhood when he was the slowest eater in his family, and everyone would have to sit and wait for him to be finished before they could move on to dessert. At a community Christmas dinner, a number of us discussed a shared love of Brussels sprouts, whilst others groaned. Both of these moments were full of laughter and developed or deepened friendships.

The connections that are built when sharing a meal, whether it's with your family or with others, are powerful. Food is not only meant to sustain and nourish us, but it's also meant to fulfil us. It's intended to be pleasurable and enjoyable and to offer social connection. Church services are meant to be like this - to refresh us, feed us spiritually, to build community and communion together. Different services can be like different meals, and sharing meals is a fundamental component to our physical, emotional and spiritual well-being. Over meals we can talk, be silent and listen, ask questions, eat, drink and be merry. So, as we sit down for breakfast, whether with family, friends, or neighbours, I hope that we are able to savour not only the flavours on our palates, but also the connections that we build.

Come and join our Lent Lunch and share not only a lovely homemade soup and roll, but companionship and friendship.

Rev'd Nicki

LENT LUNCHES



**4TH MARCH
HALFORD
VILLAGE HALL**

**11TH MARCH
ALDERMINSTER
VILLAGE HALL**

**18TH MARCH
NEWBOLD
CHURCH**

**25TH MARCH
PILLERTON
PRIORS VILLAGE HALL**

**12.30MD
TO 2PM**

**1ST APRIL
ETTINGTON
CHURCH**

NO CHARGE DONATIONS TO CHARITY

STOURDENE BENEFICE SERVICE ROTA - March 2026					
MARCH	Time	Church	Service Type	Clergy	Readings/Notes
Sunday 1st LENT 2 PURPLE	9.30am	Newbold	Morning Worship	AGP	NICKI A/L Genesis 12:1-4a Romans 4:1-5, 13-17 John 3:1-17
	9.30am	Halford	CW Communion	DJ	
	11am	Ettington	CW Communion	DJ	
	11am	Alderminster	Morning Worship	AGP	
	11am	Pillertons	Morning Worship	AGP	
	6pm	Butlers	Evensong Psalm 121	AGP	
Wednesday 4th	10am	Newbold	CW Communion	NC	
Sunday 8th LENT 3 PURPLE	8.30am	Pillertons Priors Village Hall	BCP Communion	NC	Exodus 17:1-7 Romans 5:1-11 John 4:5-42
	9.30am	Butlers Marston	CW Communion	NC	
	9.30am	Halford	Morning Worship	AGP	
	10am	Ettington	Morning Worship	AGP	
	11am	Alderminster	CW Communion	NC	
Sunday 15th LENT 4 MOTHERING SUNDAY PURPLE	8.30	Ettington	BCP Communion	NC	Exodus 2:1-10 2 Corinthians 1:3-7 Luke 2:33-35
	9.30am	Halford	Morning Worship	NC	
	9.30am	Alderminster	CW Communion	DJ	
	11am	Pillertons	Morning Worship	NC	
	9.30am	Butlers Marston	Family Service	AGP	
	11am	Newbold	CW Communion	DJ	
Sunday 22nd LENT 5 PURPLE	8.30am	Halford	CW Communion	NC	Ezekiel 37:1-14 Romans 8:6-11 John 11:1-45
	10am	Ettington	Café Church	NC	
	9.30am	Pillertons	CW Communion	DJ	
	11am	Butlers Marston	BCP Communion	DJ	
	10 am	Alderminster	Morning Worship	AGP	
Sunday 29th PALM SUNDAY RED	10.30am	HALFORD	BENEFICE SERVICE	NC	Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 Matthew 21:1-11

No responsibility can be taken by the editor or Ettington Parochial Church Council, or any individual connected to it, if the advertisers in this newsletter do not meet customer expectations.

ETTINGTON CHURCH, PART OF THE STOURDENE GROUP OF CHURCHES

Visit the **Stourdene website** at stourdene.com, where you will find contact information for all 6 Stourdene churches and information relating to life events such as baptisms, weddings and funerals.

STOURDENE

We Exist To Make Christ Known

Contact **Revd Nicki Chatterton**, Rector of Stourdene, on email chat2rev.nicki@gmail.com or call **07769 871237**.

[Bible Book Club and Bible Study](#)

Bible Book Club: the next session of the book club will take place on **Tuesday, 3rd March at 1.30 pm** back in Ettington Church, when we will be discussing chapter 4 of our book 'How to be a Bad Christian but a better human being'. Thank you to Revd Nicki for hosting us at the vicarage during the winter.

Bible Study group: the group continues to meet on **Wednesday evenings at 7.30 pm** in each other's homes, and at the time of going to press, they are just finishing their current study on 'Images of the Spirit'.

If you are interested in joining either of these groups or would like to find out more, then contact Jane Evans at email janealisonevans@gmail.com or call 07802 348309.



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LEGO CAFÉ

Ettington Church
2 - 4pm
4th SATURDAY of the month

25th January	28th June
22nd February	26th July
22nd March	27th September
26th April	25th October
24th May	22nd November



Fun for all ages!

ETTINGTON COMMUNITY CENTRE

Ettington Community Centre is a perfect venue for parties, business meetings, workshops and self-catering christening/baptism parties, weddings and wakes. With three differently sized rooms available, space can be configured flexibly to suit your needs.



The centre is served by superfast broadband, which is available throughout the building.

Regular classes include:

*Cheeky Chimps Toddler Group *Keep Fit/Zumba/Pilates classes *Ladies' badminton *Mosaic classes *Tai chi classes *Brownies *Monday Club *Snooker Club *Slimming World

For Ettington Community Centre bookings and enquiries, please contact Eva Lowe on 07975 682775 or email booking@ettingtoncommunitycentre.co.uk.

Tea Dances with music to dance and sing to for all the different charities we support each year take place in **the main hall of the Community Centre every second Wednesday of the month from 2.30 pm**. Next session is on **11th March 2026**.

There's lovely CD music to sing to, listen to or dance to like Waltzes, Quicksteps, Cha Cha Cha and Rumba. It costs £5 per person, which includes tea/coffee and biscuits. Further details can be obtained from **Alan and Vivian** on **01789 204989** or by email to ilov2getherdancing@hotmail.com. **Everyone Welcome.**



Mobile Library in Ettington

The van will continue to visit on a **Wednesday** and stop at The Chequers at **11:05-11:25**. The dates are **11th March 2026**. For all enquiries or to renew books, telephone **01926 851031** or renew online at Warwickshire.gov.uk/libraries.

Dial a Ride UBUS Service in Ettington

UBUS dial a ride community transport service operates in Ettington and surrounding villages on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays between 9.30 am-2.30 pm. Travel locally and into Stratford-upon-Avon to go shopping, visit friends or attend social groups. To register with UBUS or for more information, please **call 01789 264491** between 8.30 am-6 pm Monday-Friday. Return journey fare from £6.00.



Oompah Night Bierfest Comes to Ettington!

Dust off your lederhosen (optional), practise your thigh-slapping (strongly encouraged), and prepare your singing voice (quality not important)... because Ettington is going full Bavarian for one night only!

Our next headline fundraising event at the **Community Centre** is an Oompah Night featuring the incredible **Bierkeller Schunklers** - and if you've ever wondered what happens when great beer, rousing brass music and enthusiastic audience participation collide, this is your chance to find out. Having been lucky enough to experience Oktoberfest in Munich - and more than one lively evening in the Munich Hofbräuhaus - I can confidently say this: it's superb fun! Think big sounds, bigger singing, toe-tapping, table-tapping, and that irresistible oompah rhythm that somehow makes everyone feel like they're in the Alps (even if they're actually in Warwickshire).

On the night you can expect German beer on tap, proper German sausages / bratwurst, infectious live oompah music and plenty of singing along (whether you planned to or not) all interspersed with regular, obligatory "toasts".

This is not a sit-quietly-and-clap-politely kind of evening. It's a raise-your-glass, join-in-the-chorus, grin-at-your-neighbours sort of night. In short: a whole lot of fun. Most importantly, it's all in support of our brilliant Community Centre - so every stein raised helps keep our village thriving. We really hope you'll come along on **Friday, 21st March from 7:30 pm** and help us turn Ettington just a little bit Bavarian for the evening.

Prost!

PROST TO GOOD TIMES!
Ettington Community Centre Present

OOMPAH NIGHT

THE BIERKELLER SCHUNKLERS

📅 Saturday 21st March

🕒 7.30 PM Till Late

📍 Ettington Community Centre,
Rogers Lane, Ettington CV37 7SX

🎟️ **£15**
entry & hotdog

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ETTINGTON MONDAY CLUB

OUR MARCH MEETING WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY, 2ND MARCH, AT 2 PM IN THE SMALL HALL AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE. ELIZABETH FOSTER, TEXTILE ARTIST, WILL SHOW US SOME COSTUMES SHE HAS MADE FOR LOCAL THEATRE PRODUCTIONS.

VISITORS ARE VERY WELCOME TO JOIN US AT A COST OF £3, TO INCLUDE REFRESHMENTS.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT EITHER JACKIE COLLINS 07811 579273 OR PAT BEATTY 740664.



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Hello families and young people around our area. This is a special update from Pillerton Scout Group as we celebrate our 10th anniversary in March and turn our thoughts towards the community and volunteering for the coming year.

On Monday 12th January the scout group set out with torches and coats around the majority of Ettington village posting flyers door to door asking for donations to the Kineton Fosse Foodbank. Our scouts and leaders posted over 350 flyers despite the cold and the rain.

On Monday 26th January we returned to the village with trepidation, not knowing what to expect and the scouts not having ever done anything like this before.

Well done Ettington. You did us proud ! As we walked around our routes we were delighted that virtually every house had put out donations in anticipation of our return. Our carry carts were soon full to bursting. The smiles spread across the scouts faces knowing the impact we would make with the amazing contributions from our village – thank you so much everyone ! The donations can be seen in the picture below. These were handed over that week to Fosse Foodbank volunteers at Kineton Church.



SCOUTS

AGE 10-14

cubs

AGE 8-10

BEAVERS

AGE 6-8

If you would like to know more information about Pillerton Scout Group please get in touch. We need helpers and leaders (especially to help us relaunch our Beavers section in September) or if you have a hobby or skill you think any of our young beavers, cubs or scouts would love to try please do get in touch at gsl@pillertonscoutgroup.org.uk

Finally a huge thank you to the volunteer team and parents that make our Scout Group so amazing and provide safe adventures to many young people around our area – you are awesome ! (written by Tom Aggiss – Pillerton Scout Leader)

REPORTS FROM ETTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

A meeting of Ettington Parish Council was held on Wednesday, 11th February 2026. Here are the key points from the meeting.



Warwickshire Unitary Authority Consultation

The council is currently working on its response to the Government's consultation on a proposed unitary authority for Warwickshire. Two options are under consideration, and the council's preferred response supports the creation of a unitary authority for South Warwickshire - combining the Stratford and Warwick district areas into a single authority. The council believes this would provide full and meaningful representation for the communities of the south of the county.

20mph Speed Limit and Traffic Calming on Banbury Road

Discussions regarding the 20mph speed limit along the Banbury Road are continuing, though progress has been slow. One suggestion under consideration is the installation of a chicane at the north entrance to the village to help reduce vehicle speeds. Encouragingly, a meeting has been arranged with our MP Manuela Perteghella, Highways Officers and the Police Commissioner to address concerns about speeding and traffic along this stretch of road. The meeting will also look at proposed changes to the staggered crossroads at the Fosse.

White Lining Outside the School

White line markings outside the school are to be redone and will be repositioned to their correct location. The existing markings are currently in a position that conflicts with necessary parking, and the revised layout will properly address this.

CCTV Cameras - No Further Action

Following a report by Stratford District Council, which did not support the case for CCTV cameras within the village, the Parish Council has decided to take no further action on this matter.

New TV at the Community Centre

A new television has been installed at the Community Centre, and it is already proving a great success! Screenings of sporting events have been particularly popular, and it's wonderful to see the centre being well used and enjoyed by residents.

Playfield Path - Graveling Work

The path from Banbury Road through the playing field has been very muddy of late, which we know has been inconvenient for many residents. Plans are in place to gravel the path as soon as possible, and we hope this will make a real difference.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of Ettington Parish Council will be held on Wednesday, 11th March 2026 at 7.30 p.m. All residents are welcome to attend.

Ryepiece Concerts at Holy Trinity in Ettington



Skye Consort & Emma Björling

On **March 20th** we welcome Skye Consort & Emma Björling for the first time. Renowned musicians from Canada and Sweden who mix trad music from Scandinavia, Ireland and the British Isles, French-Canada, and tunes of their own devising. They find enchanting stories and melodies, then bring them into the 21st century with worldly chamber-folk settings. Voices, fiddle, nyckelharpa, cello, bouzouki, banjo, and percussion riffing on whirling polkas, groovy reels, passionate love songs, breathtaking hymns, and original compositions. Have a listen on Spotify [here](#).

Tickets will be on sale in the shop after the Tightrope Moon concert, or you can buy them online now [here](#).

Bird in the Belly

Last up for this little run we have Bird in the Belly on **Friday, 17th April**. This Brighton-based Folk group consists of folk-duo Hickory Signals (Laura Ward and Adam Ronchetti), alt-folk singer-songwriter Ben Webb (Jinnwoo, Green Ribbons), and multi-instrumentalist and producer Tom Pryor. Together they collect little known and forgotten lyrics, poems and stories from around the UK, and set them to their own “hypnotically original compositions” (fRoots). A soulful and hypnotically entrancing collective; haunting and ethereal melodies to both chill and warm your soul.

Their new album may just be out by April, but their back catalogue can be explored [here](#). Again, tickets are on sale [online](#) now and in the shop at the end of March.



If you don't already, please follow us on Instagram [here](#). Any likes, comments or shares really help us reach more people.

If you haven't Liked our Facebook page yet you can find it [here](#).

Again, liking posts, joining events, etc. all help the algorithms.

ALDERMINSTER GARDENING CLUB

Our **March** meeting will be a talk in **the Village Hall on TUESDAY 10th starting at 7.30 p.m.** Subject is "History of Hidcote Gardens", speaker is Derek Bull. We are lucky to have these world-famous gardens so close to us. Members' competition is "A flowering shrub", visitors are welcome at £3.00 p.p (includes refreshments). The subs for 2026 remain the same after the AGM, namely £15.00. The program is in place with 7 meetings, 3 visits and the Christmas Meal. We are a friendly club. If you want to know more, come along to a meeting or ring Gill on 01789 621053.



Carers4Carers - your local support group for family carers. We usually meet on the **fourth Friday of the month** (except December) from **10:30 to 12 noon at Kineton Village Hall**. Loved ones are welcome too - they can join our Companionship Group during the meeting.

Friday 27th March - Citizens Advice. We're welcoming Lynne Morris, Reach Out and Help caseworker with Citizens Advice South Warwickshire to tell us about the work of Citizens Advice and, in particular, their home-visiting service for people who struggle to access support in person. For further details about our group or help with transport arrangements to/from our meetings, please contact Gillian on 07947 893504, send an email to kcarers4carers@gmail.com, or explore our website www.carers4carersonthefosse.org.uk (new website under construction).

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A small photograph of Annette Gann, a woman with short blonde hair, sitting in a chair and reading a book. She is wearing a blue patterned top.

REPAIR CAFE Wellesbourne

March 7th

at ...

The Methodist HALL

Bridge Street CV35 9QP

Everyone Most Welcome

10-12pm

10-12pm

REFRESHMENTS

Tea - Coffee - Cakes & Chat!!

Let's All Make an even
Bigger Difference into

2026 !

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Wellesbourne & District Lions Club



Incorporating Wellesbourne & District Lions Club Charity Trust
Registered Charity Number 1061868

On January 24th, Wellesbourne & District Lions held their annual Quiz Evening at Kineton Village Hall.

Around 90 people enjoyed a great night of fun, fundraising and a tasty supper for all. Many of those attending were groups of volunteers from local charities who helped Santa with his 20 sleigh runs in December. This Christmas saw the sleigh's most successful one ever, raising over £ 8,000! Each charity involved received an equal share from the total raised to help them support a diverse range of local communities.

The evening provided the perfect opportunity to present each charity with their cheques and say a big thank you to everyone involved. The picture shows Lions President Elaine Merrygold presenting Chris Evans from Wellesbourne Wanderers with their cheque.

The 20 charities helping Santa this year were:

Barford Youth & Community Centre
Friends of Hastings House
Barford Scouting
Shakespeare Hospice
Ettington Primary School
MacMillan Cancer Support
Girl Guiding
Wellesbourne Scouting
Wellesbourne Poppy Cascade
Wellesbourne & Walton Community Cares
Wellesbourne Cricket Club (Youth)
Riding for the Disabled Association
Kineton Victorian Evening
Myton Hospice
Friends of Wellesbourne School
Wellesbourne Wanderers
Warwickshire Hearts
Red Horse Vale First Responders
Flourish
Friends of Hampton Lucy School



The quizzing competition was very closely contested by the top teams in a close battle to the final round. The team from “Myton Hospice” were crowned winners and can be seen pictured here collecting their prizes. Wellesbourne & District Lions wins Cub Excellence awards



At a UK Regional Lions event in held in Solihull last week, Wellesbourne & District Lions Club were awarded the Club Excellence award for the second-year running! This recognises the full programme of events successfully executed throughout the year. A 100% membership satisfaction award was also given for retaining and recruiting members (Growing the Pride).



President Elaine Merrygold is pictured receiving the awards from District Governor Lion Sue Wilding

Also pictured is Lion Roy Egerton collecting his award for an amazing 50 years of service with the Wellesbourne and District Club.



You can find out more about the Lions charity at facebook.com/wdlionsclub or email us at info@wellesbourne-lions.org.uk

SADIE MEADOWS

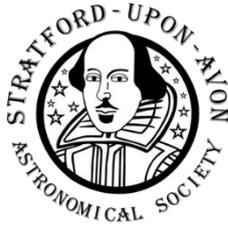
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Astronomical Society News *by Adrian Wakeham and Dave Benton*

The Stratford-upon-Avon Astronomical Society meets **every first and third Tuesday at 8 pm** (doors open at 7.30 pm) at **Alderminster Village Hall**. Everyone is welcome, especially beginners and those wanting to learn more. The first Tuesday is a Club Night; in March, that will be on **3rd March**, and the speaker on the third **Tuesday, 17th March 2026**, will be Dr Steve Barrett from Liverpool University, with a talk called “The Beginning of Everything”. Please note that the speakers usually start quite promptly at 8 pm.

Each month, one of our members, Adrian Wakeham, writes an article on aspects of astronomical observation.

The Spring Equinox and the Northern Lights

As the hours of daylight are expanding and the nighttime decreasing, you may hear people talking about the Spring Equinox. This year it happens on Friday, 20th March at 02:44. This is when (as viewed from Earth) the Sun appears to cross the Earth’s equator. On that day, in the UK (as measured at Greenwich Observatory), we will have 12 hours and 7 minutes of daylight. Daylight is measured from the first rays of daybreak to the last drop of sunshine at dusk. Interestingly, it will be two days earlier, on Wednesday, 18th March, when we have exactly 12 hours of daylight and also 12 hours of darkness.

The change in the duration of daylight hours is an effect of the Earth’s axial tilt of approximately 23.5 degrees. As the Earth continues its journey around the Sun and the daylight hours extend, the Sun appears to travel north until June 21st, when the geographic North Pole is angled towards the Sun. This is the Summer Solstice or Midsummers Day, with the longest period of daylight of 16 hours and 43 minutes in the UK. Then, as Earth continues in its orbit, the Sun appears to move south, going through the Autumn Equinox, until on 21st December the Earth’s geographic north pole tilts away from the Sun on the Winter Solstice. At this point, here in the UK, we have around 7 hours and 40 minutes of daylight but longer nights, which is great news for amateur astronomers.



The longer nights are also good for another event, namely the Northern Lights. Scientifically known as Aurora Borealis (you have the Aurora Australis in the southern hemisphere). Some people think you only get aurora activity in the winter or spring; in fact, the aurora can happen any time of the year, but you need dark (and usually clear) skies, and these are more frequent at this time of year. The tilt of the Earth also has an effect.

For the last couple of years, you may have been aware of several spectacular displays visible to the naked eye from Warwickshire. The reason for this is that the Sun has been at solar maximum, when the Sun’s atmosphere has been most active. This heightened activity stems

from the fact that the Sun's equator rotates faster (around 25 days) than the poles (33 days). This differential rotation twists the magnetic field lines, causing the magnetic poles to swap places roughly every 11.5 years (known as the solar cycle). All this solar activity feeds the Sun's solar wind of charged particles. When the solar wind reaches Earth, our magnetic field deflects most of it, except at the magnetic poles, where it is funnelled into our atmosphere, reacting with oxygen and nitrogen, and causing nature's firework display. This is emphasised when the Earth's magnetic field is tilted towards the Sun and the poles are more exposed to the solar wind. This happens at the equinoxes in March and September. The stronger the aurora, the further south the display appears.

If you get the chance to see them, make an effort, as they are amazing. At the moment, you have a chance of ticking them off your bucket list, potentially without even leaving your garden, and avoiding the expense of going to Norway or Iceland.

Club Nights offer more information on what to look out for each month. If it is clear, we do some observing just outside the Village Hall, so please join us. There is no charge initially to come along and find out more, but if you do want to become a member, then the fee is just £15 a year and it's free if you are in full-time education. For more details, go to the website <http://www.astro.org.uk> or contact the Chair, John Waller, john.waller@astro.org.uk or on 07703 192188.

Happy Observing!



Introduction to Beekeeping

Are you interested in Beekeeping but not sure what is involved?

For those with intentions of becoming beekeepers, but with little or no knowledge of beekeeping, why not join our **Introduction to Beekeeping Course** with theory on **Wednesdays, 4th & 18th March** and practical on **Saturdays** (weather dependent) at **Luddington Village Hall**.

Please visit our website for more details:

www.stratfordbeekeepers.org.uk



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9:00-13:30

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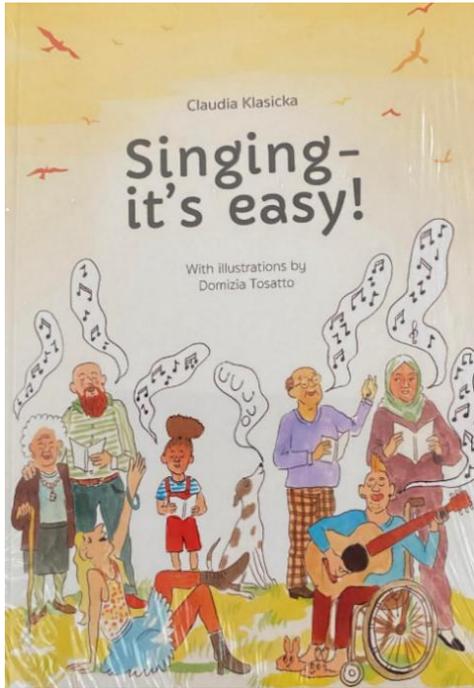


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