

FOCUS

FEBRUARY 2006



THE FOUR VILLAGES MAGAZINE

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**NORTHALL
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14th February

22nd to 25th March

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Focus - The Four Village Magazine

Magazine Committee

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Copy for publication to the Editors or one of the following by the **10th of the month:**

Kevin Cabbage - 'Larums', Eaton Bray Road, Northall

Val Barrow - 3 Chestnut Close, Dagnall

Articles and reports printed in Focus do not necessarily reflect the opinions of members of the Committee.

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Missing!

We lost our brown tabby cat a few weeks ago from The Nurseries. She has no collar and is about 4 years old. We have put up notices in the village and are offering a reward. If you think you have seen her please phone mobile number 07885 273292.

NORTHALL BAPTIST CHAPEL

Chapel Lane, Northall

(just beyond the speed limit signs on the road to Leighton Buzzard)

Everyone is welcome to our Sunday worship each week between 11am and 12.30pm including tea/coffee and time to talk together
For more information contact: Steve and Helen Orchard 01525 373106

There has been a Baptist Chapel in Northall for more than 200 years. Today we continue to seek to worship God, serve him in our daily lives and support and encourage one another in the difficult and the joyful times.

Eaton Bray Baptist Chapel

(opposite Edlesborough Post Office)

Times of Services:

Sunday Morning - 10.30am

Sunday Evening - 6.00pm

Bible Study and Prayer Meeting

Wednesday Evening - 7.30pm

Pastor Rimes will preach at most Sunday services. Occasional visiting ministers as announced.

In Memory of Tony Smith

Barbara, Simon and Amanda Smith would like to thank friends and family for their kindness and donations. A special thanks to the Iain Rennie Hospice at Home nurses for their valuable support.

Eaton Bray Village Hall

A.G.M.

Monday 20th March

7.30 pm

The Salvation Army, Booth Place

Weekly Activities

Sunday

Sunday School 9.45am

Morning Service 11.00am

Evening Service 6.00pm

Monday

Games Night (Ages 5-8) 4.30pm

Wednesday

Home League (Ladies Meeting) 2.30pm

Thursday

Young Ladies Fellowship

(Last Thursday in every month)

Friday

Young People 5.00pm

(Singing, tambourine & recorder practices)

Village Diaries



February 2006

Weekly

Mon-Fri (term time)	Eaton Bray Pre-school, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Cindy 07773 095624
Tuesdays	Yoga Classes, Northall Village Hall, 1.45-3.15pm
Tuesdays	Keep Fit/Body Conditioning, Dagnall Village Hall, 7.30pm
Tuesdays	Line Dancing, 1:30-3 pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Mrs Burdett 222793
Wednesdays (term time)	Eaton Bray Under 5's, 1.15-3pm Eaton Bray Village Hall Cindy 01582 437756
Wednesdays	Chi Kung & Wu Chi classes, Coffee Tavern 11am - noon
Wednesdays	Keep fit, 7:30-8:30pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Mrs Roch 220669
Thursdays	Yoga Classes, Northall Village Hall, 11.30am-1pm
Thursdays	Eaton Bray Badminton Club, Eaton Bray Village Hall, 8.15-10pm. New members (over 18 years old)
Thursdays	Keep fit, 2pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Mrs Johnson 220304
Fridays	SOCATOTS, 12:45, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Mr Daniel Walker 07968 778681
Saturdays	Jazzercise, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Mrs Angela Veryard, 715208

Monthly

1st Monday	Eaton Bray Parish Council Meeting, 7.30pm, The Coffee Tavern
1st Monday	Dunstable & District Local History Society meeting, 7.45pm, Salvation Army Hall, Dunstable
1st Monday	Eaton Bray W.I. Meeting, 7.30pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall
1st & 3rd Tuesday (Dec 1st Tuesday only)	Dunstable & District Orbit Club, Bar Chameleon, Dunstable, 8pm
2nd Tuesday	Toddlers' Church, St Mary's, Eaton Bray, 2.00pm
2nd Tuesday	Edlesborough W.I. Meeting, 7.30 pm, Edlesborough Memorial Hall
3rd Thursday	Edlesborough Parish Council Meeting, 7.30pm, Memorial Hall

Other Regular Events

2nd	7.30pm Churches Together Committee Meeting in Eaton Bray Methodist Church.
Feb 2nd, 9th, & 23rd, Mch 2nd	Mums & Toddlers session, Dagnall Village Hall, 1-3pm
6th, 20th & 27th	Dagnall Under 5's, Dagnall Village Hall, 9.15-12 noon, Mon-Fri
Feb 8th & 22nd, Mch 1st	Bingo, Dagnall Village Hall, 8pm
8th	8.15pm Healing Service in St Mary's Church
9th	8.00pm Parochial Church Council Meeting
10th	Leukaemia Research Coffee Morning, 2 Dunstable Road, 10.30 am
12th	10.00am Worship for Everyone Service in St Mary's Church
14th	2.00pm Toddlers' Church at St Mary's
19th	10.00am Sung Eucharist at St Mary's and launch of this year's Parish Project to support Kagando Hospital in southern Uganda.
21st	Dagnall Over 60's Dagnall Village Hall, 2pm, Accordion Concert

One Off/Annual/Irregular Events

4th	Concert by the MYFS in All Saints, Dagnall, 7.30, in aid of Church Extension Fund
1st March	See separate display for times of Ash Wednesday services in the Parish.

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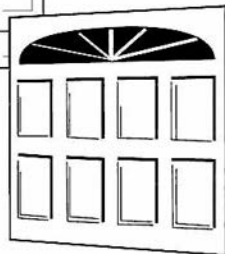
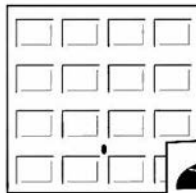
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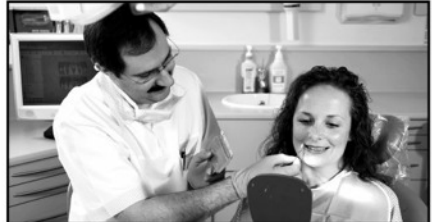
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Support Your Local Pharmacist in her Egyptian Fundraising Campaign



I have just committed myself to raise a minimum of £2,750 for the British Heart Foundation (Registered Charity Number 225971) and I need your help to get me there!!

I shall be cycling 408km through Egypt next November. This extremely tough challenge will take its 40 participants through contrasts of flat to undulating routes, and from fertile green vegetation to desert - all along the lifeblood of Egypt, the River Nile.

As you may know, heart and circulatory disease is still the BIGGEST killer in the UK, touching every one of us either personally or through family and friends.

I would be enormously grateful for any pledges or sponsorship towards this truly worthwhile cause (and ongoing support for all the cycling and training I shall now have to be getting into - if I look exhausted at work from now on, you will know why!!) Please don't hesitate to pop into Edlesborough Pharmacy for more information or to make a pledge whenever you are next passing.

Many thanks and wish me luck!!

Claire Davies

Methodist Church Report

Our Christmas Lunches and Bazaar were a great success. Thank you to everyone that helped and to the many people who came along on the day, The proceeds from the day of £1000 will be shared between the Iain Rennie hospice at home and our Church Maintenance Fund.

The Carols Evening was well supported. Our thanks to John Mead for organising an excellent programme and our organists Jean Carter and Margaret Mead for their playing.

Many thanks to our young people and their teachers for producing a very special Carol Service. We were treated to a most entertaining slant on the Christmas Message- with their Christmas Alphabet presentation.

One of our organists Sandra Johnson, is to take over the responsibility for music at St. Augustines Church in Dunstable. We shall miss Sandra's dedication and expertise in our organist team. We thank her for all her help over many years and wish her well in her new position.

February lunches will be served on Saturday 11th from 12.00 noon until 1.30 pm and the charity to be supported will be the Tigers Club Project which works with street children across Africa to rebuild lives, restore dignity and realise potential. Do join us.

Eaton Bray Under 5's Playtime

The Under 5's meet every Wednesday in term time. At 1.15pm to 3.00pm at Eaton Bray Village Hall and is run by a qualified Play Leader.

Babies, toddlers and children under 5, Parents, Carers and Grandparents are welcome to come and join in the fun. If you have a child who is attending school in the morning they are still very welcome to attend.

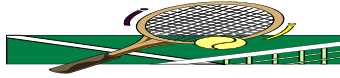
You are welcome to come along have a cup of tea or coffee and a biscuit and let the children explore the kitchen area, learn road skills on the ride-ons and produce some artwork. At about 2pm we stop and have a drink and a biscuit for the children and then off they go again.

This half term we have been making cats and dogs and other animals, finger puppets and cards for Valentines.

We will be closed for Half Term (Wednesday 15 February) and be back on Wednesday 22 February.

The cost is adult: £1 first child: £1. Any other child 50p each. Please telephone Maggie 01525 220 201 or Cindy on 01582 477 568.

Thank you for all the support we have received to date.



Eaton Bray Lawn Tennis Club

So another New Year has begun, and this time I'm determined stick to my regular annual devout resolution of losing weight and getting fit. I have a dream, one in which I am gracefully flitting around the tennis court, much like a newly awakened butterfly from flower to flower, amazing my opposition and the assembled crowds with my silth-like figure, bulging quadriceps and magnificent six-pack as I race to meet every oncoming shot played to our side of the net – forehand topspin, sliced backhand, powerful volley – no matter I arrive in the perfect position to play them all. OK I still actually miss every one of them, but how good it must look just getting there. To track my progress towards this (some would say impossible) dream, simply join us at the courts for one of our regular knock-arounds, and enjoy the dramatic transmogrification of your EBLTC Focus reporter from an XXL tub of lard into one of the fittest and fastest sportsmen since Linford Christie gave up jogging and became a jet pilot. Probably.

Just before Christmas we hosted around 100 people at the Village Hall for the highlight of our year, our eagerly awaited and much anticipated annual dance. The theme was 'naughty and nice' which involved much dressing up as a huge variety of animals, minerals and vegetables, some more immediately obvious than others. There were little winged angels, big horny beasts (stop making up your own jokes) and one couple who, unfortunately, had mis-read the theme as 'naughty *but* nice' and came as a pair of iced victoria sponge slices. And no, they weren't the Kiplings. We feasted on a King's supper of either steak, chicken or something else that escapes me, all prepared with an enticing accompaniment of suitable sauces, tasty vegetables and the ubiquitous bread roll. A further choice of dessert followed, the precise details upon which I would have reported upon had it not been for the effects on my memory of the very generous wine during the main course. It was however delicious, I'm assured. And the dessert...

And then, after a suitable build up, the band arrived on stage. Jim Balls and his Racquets, a group of unlikely musicians from, of all places, Dunstable tennis club. Suitably named despite missing out on the top 40 at any time during their tenure in the last couple of centuries, they nonetheless entertained the expectant, throbbing crowd of dancers with a medley of popular tunes relentlessly executed on their three guitars of various types, plus an extremely enthusiastic drummer. It should be stated at this point that Jim normally carries four racquets, but this evening his kit bag was one racquet short due to an urgent job that had come up. Unfortunately the missing racquet happened to be the keyboard player, which the band managed to cleverly disguise until the first chorus of their opening number where there were clearly some fairly major gaps in the proceedings. Nevertheless they continued unabated and during the course of the evening gradually developed a certain expertise in covering for their missing racquet by strumming even more excitedly on their acoustic guitars. By close of play they nearly brought the house down, quite literally. After all those improvements too. Chatting to Jim afterwards, it transpired that their keyboard player had an 'important job with the government' and when it came to a choice of playing with Jim's racquets in Eaton Bray, or leading Britain's investigative resources in a key covert operation across international borders, which included carrying a GPS and a who's who guide of Warsaw Pact helicopters, then there really was no choice. They've promised to play for us again with all their racquets intact once world peace resumes. Please for the sake of us all may that be very, very soon.

For any further information about the club, including when we get together for our social tennis sessions up at the School Lane courts, please call either Chairman Glenn Wigley on 01525 220006, Coach Nick Boys on 07810 832774 (can also be found under 'Boy's Cabs' in Yellow Pages), or if they're all out and I'm not out jogging (so you're fairly safe there...) me, Andy Cross on 01582 477114.

Now where did I leave that jam doughnut.....?

M.J. POULTON

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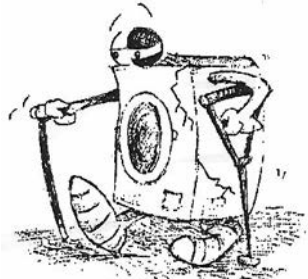
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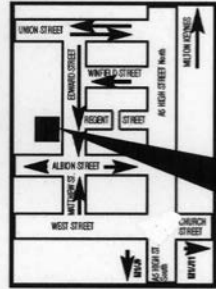


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All Saints, Dagnall Services and Meetings in February 2006

Wed. 1st Feb.	7.45 pm	Mid-week Meeting - Quiz arranged by Tony Lumley
Sun. 5th Feb.	9.00 am	Eucharist
	6.00 pm	Evening Service with Holy Communion
Wed. 8th Feb.	7.45 pm	Mid-week Meeting led by Revd Lucille Kaye
Thu. 9th Feb	7.30 pm	Eucharist
Sun. 12th Feb.	10.30 am	Morning Service
	6.00 pm	Sung Eucharist
Thu. 16th Feb.	7.45 pm	Sankey Evening
Sun. 19th Feb.	9.00 am	Eucharist
	6.00 pm	Evening Service
Wed. 22nd Feb.	7.45 pm	Mid-week Meeting - Speaker: Mrs. Parsons
Sun. 26th Feb.	10.30 am	Family Service
	6.00 pm	Evening Prayer
Wed. 1st Mar.	10.30 am	Eucharist for Ash Wednesday
	7.45 pm	Circuit Ash Wednesday Holy Communion Service at <u>Sundon Methodist Church</u>
Sun. 5th Mar.	9.00 am	Eucharist
	6.00 pm	Evening Service with Holy Communion



Sunday School meets each Sunday at 10.30 am.

Becca's letter from Uganda

I suspect that hardly anyone reading this letter will know me, but those of you who have lived in the area for many years will perhaps know my family.

My name is Rebecca Baldock. My grandfather was Eric Baldock who used to own the chemist shop at the top of George Street in Dunstable until he retired and who was a Reader at the Priory Church in Dunstable for many decades. My father is Martin Baldock, who went to school at Dunstable Grammar School (1963-70) and was Head Boy in his final year there; he is now a vicar in York.

Me? I arrived in Africa on 6th July 2005 on a three-year placement and am working as a physiotherapist and missionary at Kagando Hospital here in SW Uganda. Kagando is set in the foothills of the Rwenzori mountains. It's a quite rural setting and it's nearest town, Kasese, is about 1hr drive away (owing to the poor state of the roads).

Kagando hospital is part of a larger project, including a farm, and primary school. The hospital was originally a Leprosy centre, but was made into a hospital in 1965 when missionaries had to move out of Congo. It now has 8 wards: Paediatric, Maternity, Surgical, Male medical, Female medical, Leprosy, TB, and Cholera.

So why am I writing? Well, recently I learnt that St Mary's Church in Eaton Bray has chosen Kagando as its principle charity for 2006. I had been praying that Kagando might be selected as the needs here are great but I didn't dare to hope that it would be chosen.

My parents spent some time in Zambia as missionaries before I was born and I was brought up on stories about Africa, so it has always been a big part of me. When I was at university it kind of became a bigger idea. Then after a year working as a physiotherapist I started praying and thinking about what the next stage of my life would be and whether this was the time to go to Africa. I wanted to go with a mission so I wrote to several to see what the options were. I ended up applying to, and being accepted by, African Inland Mission (who actually founded Kagando Hospital); they suggested this place. I was really unsure about it at first, felt neither hot nor cold about it, but as I spoke to people who had been there, and prayed about it, it started to feel that this was where I was meant to be. And having come here it's very me. God certainly knows us very well.

When I was investigating, it became clear that most missions recommend that you have some biblical training, although it isn't compulsory. So I prayed about it and applied - only to All Nations

College in Ware, as that seemed to be the best one. All Nations College lets people come for only a term. I had exactly the right amount of money to do that, and the term that I was able to go to was the term that I was able to study the subjects I was most interested in. It was an amazing time. At the College I was surrounded by Christians from all over the world, studying the bible and praying together. It was amazing to be able to spend that much time focused on God, and time with God.

Since arriving in Uganda I've been working hard to learn the language. So far my biggest error has been saying that God was pregnant! Still it is quite fun to make the mistakes and laugh about them together. It's very interesting the different reactions I've received to learning Lukonzo. The elderly people love it. Their faces just light up when you greet them and try to talk to them. Other people think it's quite funny, but help and get their friends to help as I try and talk to them. Others just think it is strange, they stare at me and don't understand what I'm saying even when I'm talking correctly, just because they don't expect a Mazungu (white person) to speak their language.

I realise now that we take so many things for granted in England. The water went off for part of today, although generally that has been quite reliable. The power is frequently off. At first it seemed to be working once every three nights, but it has been off for the last 7 nights. It would be nice to have matches that work and hot, clean water and warm showers. Yet it's amazing how quickly you adapt and don't miss such things, and just regard it as a blessing when we actually have them.

Due to it getting dark at about 7.30pm, not much happens after 8. I've had people over for dinner a few times, but otherwise I get the time pretty much to myself. I'd thought I'd get really bored by this, but am actually quite enjoying it. It's nice to have some space at the end of the day to relax, learn more Lukonzo, write letters, play guitar etc. A few of the nurses/students here want to learn more guitar. They know A, D, G and play every song using just those three cords, so it's quite fun to learn with them.

Before coming here I thought I'd see much of the effects of AIDS. However since being here I've really not seen much evidence, possibly a child and two adults who may have had the disease. What I have seen however is the effects of Malaria. Of course, I had expected to see people with Malaria, but the Children's Disability Centre is treating people who had been diagnosed with cerebral palsy. It is true that the symptoms were similar to cerebral palsy, but the effects were as a result of poorly treated malaria becoming cerebral. Some children also presented with is called "post injection paralysis". This is basically where a child has been given a quinine injection for malaria, but poor technique results in it affecting the sciatic nerve. This results in muscle paralysis generally around the foot. Some get spontaneous recovery others are left with residual paralysis. On top of this many adults and children are affected by sciatica post injection. I can't quite get my head around this, to me all the paralysis and sciatica should be completely avoidable, but I will have to investigate more.

I will try to write a letter each month for Focus.

Prayer requests:

- Please pray for Kagando and its staff
- Please to pray for my learning of the language – I can now instruct a patient in a simple treatment session in regards to what I want them to do, but can't explain anything or understand much of what they are saying
- Please pray for understanding for me in regards to the culture as there are certain work ethics etc that I don't understand.
- Please continue to pray for Uganda and its people in the uncertain political situation in advance of this year's elections.

Thank you
Love Becca



Easter Lilies

St Mary's Church

Sunday April 16th 2005

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International Women's Week

6th March - 14th March 2006

A series of events will be taking place to:

- Empower women and celebrate women's achievements
- Provide support, advice, information, and training to meet the needs of all women
- Bring together diverse groups & communities

The events being held will focus on the following three areas:

- Events for older people
- Mental health and disability
- Domestic violence and life afterwards



The week will begin with a launch event, involving women to participate in workshops such as art, dance, and creative writing. Speakers will also be present.

It will end with a Women's Achievers Awards day, which will involve entertainment, exhibition of workshops, and awards.

We would like to invite people to nominate for the women's achievers awards, run their own events or take part in events. For more information please contact Glenis Orkisz.

Events will also be held to bring together women from rural and urban communities

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These are just a few of the comments made in our forth OFSTED Report (Sept 2004). The report reflects the high quality of learning on offer to all children at Edlesborough Under 5's and highlighted the quality of teaching by the staff. We are currently operating a waiting list for 2½ to 4½ year olds. If you would like to pop in for a look around, please phone Kerry on 07854 939226 between 9am - 12 noon, to arrange an appointment. A warm welcome awaits you.

For registration details, or to place your child on the waiting list, please phone Sue Connor: Tel - 222739.

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An Outstanding New Year Resolution?

MAKING A WILL, or reviewing an existing Will, is a New Year resolution that we all should make and keep. Our Will is probably the most important document we will sign in our life time.

Over the coming months I will introduce the basics that can ensure that what you would like to happen when you die does take place.

Wills are not just for the elderly. Death can strike at any time. Wills are as vital to the young married couple, those in a civil partnership, the single person and to those in a common law relationship.

Without a Will we are all subject to the Rules of Intestacy. They are arbitrary and never reflect our personal wishes. They can be a source of hardship and family stress. Your assets could be handed to the Crown.

Other than for the simplest of Wills, taking guidance from a specialist, typically a solicitor, is essential if your Will is to achieve what you want. Many of us will prefer consultation to take place in the home rather than in a solicitor's office. This is likely to be more relaxed, convenient and usually cheaper. Maybe the best is a combination of the two, whereby in-home guidance is provided with documentation prepared by a solicitor, as is available from my practice.

KEY POINT: Your Will is your final instruction. It must record your current requirements and be efficiently structured if your wishes are to be followed on your death and any inheritance tax is to be kept to a minimum.

Next Month: I will take a look at inheritance tax which is charged at 40% on the value of an estate that is over £275,000. Now, how about that New Year Resolution!

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Salvation Sound. . . . February 2006

Cold winter winds, snow-covered ground, frost laden air.

Let us plan our holidays. So the fun begins; -- brochures, maps, books, newspaper adverts. Visits to travel agents. cruises, sunshine holidays, deserts, seas, adventure camps, the list goes on and on. Such are the wonders of the world.

Planes, trains and boats and cars; in this mobile society it is easy for us to 'pack up and go'. Motivated as we are to 'get away from it all', or to see somewhere new.

In the days of David, the psalmist, it wasn't quite so simple; yet he describes an ideal situation. He talks of plentiful provision, a restful sleeping place, a quiet river giving peace and contentment to the soul.

There, there is no danger, no evil, no high-jacking, no kidnapping, for the Lord watches over His people.

I looked at my post-cards and my maps, and in my mind journeyed to the Holy Land once again. This time it cost me nothing ... yet I am refreshed, for strength is given in quietness, we can be secure in His love, my cup runneth over. Psalm 23.

Where we live has such beauty, we need not travel far.

Look at nature if you want to know the way to live -
Nature has so much to do and has so much to give -
Yet flowers and trees don't grow as if competing in a race -
Each attains perfection at its own appointed pace....
Do not waste precious moments rushing to and fro -
Give yourself some time to think, to rest, to pray, to grow.

We do not need to travel thousands of miles to refresh ourselves; we can just look to the Psalms where the countryside is both lovely and practical, sacred and workaday and to where they tell us "Be still, and know that I am God".

We can delight to read God's word,
We can say "Ah, yes it's true!"
But we must go beyond mere words,
And seek His will to do.....



Eaton Bray WI

Our president Deirdrea Ellins welcomed members to our January meeting, after singing a rousing Jerusalem it was down to business.

A thank you letter has been received from the Luton NHS Trust thanking the Eaton Bray WI for the Christmas hamper and gifts sent for the long-term mentally ill patients.

A number of social invitations have been received to join our friends in the Dunstable Group of WI's and a number of outings have already been arranged.

We are sad to hear that one of our members is seriously ill and in hospital. A card is to be sent wishing her a speedy recovery back to good health.

We welcomed our speaker Paul Marsden from the trading standards department who showed us a video on how to deal with bogus doorstep callers. He then spoke about our consumer rights. This was followed by a question and answer session.

Paul gave us all a calendar with useful tips and phone numbers on dealing with unwanted callers.

Our evening concluded with the committee performing their mini comic version of Dick Whittington. Our very own Sheila Beal rounded off the proceeding with a hilarious monologue on the subject of Christmas.

Our next meeting is on 6th February at 7:30pm in Eaton Bray Village Hall new members and friends are very welcome.



Mothers Union Eaton Bray with Edlesborough

November Meeting

We met at the Coffee Tavern on 9th November and after our opening prayers; our speakers Eileen and Peter Bennett were introduced. They had brought along about a quarter of their collection of plastics to talk to us about. Surprisingly it all started in the 19th century with Vulcanite, which was used for upright telephones, fountain pens etc. Gutter Percha, which made jewellery, billiard balls etc. Celluloid was discovered in 1870 which made toys (who remembers celluloid dolls) combs and table tennis balls. Casein came next which was made from skimmed milk - this made buttons, some really big ones. Then came Bakelite which was mainly in dark shades, and was used for radios, telephones, ash trays, electric light plugs and switches and later became available in brighter colours, and was made into serviette rings in different shapes (Rabbits etc.) cruetts in all shapes and sizes, perfume bottles - it was a very versatile product.

Formaldehyde made sets of beakers which fitted one inside the other, and picnic sets in baskets.

Many things were invented towards the late thirties, but weren't available until the 1950s owing to the war.

An Ovaltine Beetleware mug, with lid shaped liked a nightcap can now cost in the region of £75. This was also used to make cream makers, lemon squeezers, knitting wool holders, darning mushrooms, hair dryers, knitting needle gauges, dominoes etc. The 1950s was the poly plastic era -polythene. Polyurathene etc from which were made brooches of all shapes and sizes, necklaces called poppets, and last of all came Melamene

We were all able to examine samples of all the products, which were all in pristine condition.

Who would ever have thought that plastic would become collectors items, and would be worth a great deal of money. All in all a most interesting afternoon.

After having tea, we closed with The Grace at 4 p.m

Marjorie Cook

December Meeting

18 members met in the Coffee Tavern on 14th December and we finished what had been a very good year on a happy and informal note. Prayers were led by Thelma, after which any member who wished to do so, read out a favourite piece either from the scriptures or just something which they particularly liked. We were joined by Rev. Malcolm Grant and with our tea we had some mince pies and sherry. We ended with Grace at about 4pm.

January Meeting

Twenty members met at the Coffee Tavern on 11th January. Our opening prayers were led by Deirdrea, after which Rev. Malcolm Grant showed us his collection of slides depicting 'Hidden Treasures' of various churches, all within a twenty mile radius. It isn't until you see the detail in close-up that you can realize the beauty that there is in churches, a great number of them dating back to the 11th, 12th and 13th centuries. Considering the primitive tools and the availability and means of obtaining the building materials at their disposal in those day, makes it all the more amazing.

Many of the churches have been enlarged over the years, but the changes are not always obvious until they are pointed out.

Rev. Grant has spent a long time collating this collection and it has certainly been a very worthwhile and interesting project.

Sheila gave a vote of thanks after which we had a very successful 'Bring and Buy' sale followed by tea and refreshments. We closed by saying Grace at about 4 p.m.

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Eaton Bray with Edlesborough Parish News

Vicar: Canon Malcolm Grant - The Vicarage, 11 High Street, Eaton Bray - Tel: 01525 220261

Hon. Assistant Priest: The Revd John Heffer, 35 Pebblemoor, Edlesborough - Tel: 01525 220618

Changing direction seems to be the current fashion among our political parties. It may sound cynical, but I suspect most of the changes are made to attract votes rather than out of any deep conviction.

Changing direction will be necessary for all of us in the long run, because our current way of life is not sustainable, given the world's limited resources. Our energy-consuming, self-indulgent way of life has already used up our grandchildren's share of the raw materials our planet provides.

Global warming, poverty and world-hunger, careless and polluting industrialization, if unchecked, will have disastrous results for life on earth. These are serious challenges for governments to face – but they are also challenges for individuals. By changing our transport policies and patterns of car use, by being more economical in our use of energy (turning down the thermostat, switching things off when not in use, insulating buildings, and taking recycling of materials much more seriously) we could actually make a difference, even if only a small one, and increase awareness of the issues.

Or think of our (over-)eating habits, the food we waste, and all the foodstuffs carried half-way round the world just so that we can indulge our fancies throughout the year. Our dependence on highly-processed “junk” foods is undermining our health. Compare our eating habits with so many in the world who are starving - this cannot go on indefinitely. And our trading patterns have a built-in bias against the world's poorest people – an issue which the Fair Trade Movement is striving to address.

Just a few examples – but the future of the world hangs on our ability and willingness to change direction towards a more sustainable and responsible use of the world's resources. And to preserve peace we need to start narrowing the gap between the haves and the have-nots in the world. It is the single greatest threat to world peace today, for where hope is destroyed people will take desperate measures because they literally have nothing left to lose. We in the developed world must take the initiative and change direction to meet their needs before it is too late.

Changing direction is basic to the Christian life. The challenge of Jesus's preaching was to “repent”, to change direction and adopt a new life-style. The basic idea behind the word “repent” is to turn our backs on old, wrong habits and embrace a new way of life, modelled on His example. The season of Lent gives Christians a special opportunity to think about these things, but it is a good time for all of us to think about our part in the wider issues that confront our society today. Lent begins on 1 March, and begins a period of special effort to make things different in our own lives: so this month should be a time of thinking about (some, at least, of) these issues, and deciding on a practical life-style plan, a personal change of direction, which we try to carry out during the six weeks of Lent, and perhaps make a permanent change of direction in our own lives.

May God bless us all in those efforts and guide us to a better way of living.

MALCOLM.

SERVICES AT ST MARY'S CHURCH

SUNDAYS : **8.00am** – The Eucharist
 10.00am – **PARISH SUNG EUCHARIST** (with Sunday School) on Second Sunday of each month:
 10.00am – **WORSHIP FOR EVERYONE** – a less formal service with Holy Communion

WEEK-DAYS : **Tuesday:** **7.30am** - Eucharist **2.00pm** (**2nd Tuesday**) - Toddlers' Church
 Wednesday: **9.30am** - Eucharist **8.15pm** (**2nd Wednesday**) - Healing Service
 Thursday: **7.30pm** - Eucharist (**on 2nd Thursday at All Saints', Dagnall**)

From the Parish Registers

Baptisms – “*Brought to new birth in the family of the Church*”

November 27	Emily Charlotte Eagling
	Dana Louise Piggott
December 4	Christopher Price
	Jamelia Elsie Caroline Price



Weddings – “*To love and to cherish till death us do part*”

November 26	Courtenay Wade Gould & Amada Louise Vanessa Bradbury
-------------	--

Funerals – “*Grant them, O Lord, eternal rest*”

December 19	David Symonds of Wallace Mews, Eaton Bray
December 22	Phyllis Rollings of Greenways, Eaton Bray
January 9	Harold Antonio Davey of Pebblemoor, Edlesborough
January 12	Antony Edward Smith of Pebblemoor, Edlesborough

St Mary's Parochial Church Council

At the last meeting of the Parochial Church Council thanks were expressed to those who had organised the recent Christmas Fayre, which had raised a much-needed £1000 for church funds. In view of the expense being incurred in repairing the roof it was agreed that it was now time to bring together a group of people to create a Fund Raising plan.

It was also agreed that monies should again be allocated from this year's income to donate to charitable organisations as in previous years.

The young people had enjoyed a memorable Christmas Party on 3rd December, although attendance had been down on last year.

Arrangements are in hand to produce a 'Welcome Pack' - material to be made available to new visitors to St Mary's, providing information about its history, its worship pattern and its many activity groups.

St Mary's has habitually had an annual 'Parish Project' - a charity for which fund raising is carried out throughout the year - in 2006 it was agreed that they should support 'Friends of Kagando' - a charity in Uganda providing medical care.

ASH WEDNESDAY

1st MARCH

9.30am – Eucharist

10.30am – Eucharist at Dagnall

8.00pm – SUNG EUCHARIST

Everyone welcome.

Start Lent right – in church!

Love and Loyalty!

One night in bed a wife says to her husband of 50 years. 'When we were young you used to hold my hand.' Slowly, a little irritated, his hand reaches out. 'And when we were young you used to snuggle up against me.' A little more slowly his body creaks and turns; nestling against hers. 'And when we were young you used to nibble my ear.' Abruptly the covers are thrown back and he lurches out of bed.

'Where are you going?' she asks, a little hurt. 'To get my teeth,' he grumbles. To nibble an ear when you are full of romance and bubbling hormones and the room is scented with perfume, is one thing; to still be nibbling when that ear holds a hearing aid, the room is scented with Deep Heat, and you have to get up to get your teeth - that's something else. That's love and loyalty.

Extract with thanks from the United Christian Broadcasters (UCB) Booklet "The Word For Today"

Eaton Bray Village Hall and Eaton Bray Lower School Auction of Promises

Cast your minds back to 2004. The funding for Stage One of the Village Hall refurbishment was nearing completion - £150,000 had been raised or promised. Step forward a small party of 5 Gallant Idiots ("G1's") with those reckless words "no problem, we will start to raise money for Stage Two" (new toilets, disabled toilet, baby changing facilities and new meeting room).

Well, there we were, and here we still are, and so far we have raised £18,500! You will have seen many articles and adverts in Focus telling you how this has been achieved, but actually, it ALL comes back to the generosity of YOU.

The group have also been ably helped by the benevolence of the Village Carnival Committee, who made us their major recipient in 2004, and by The Villagers, who have organised two major events for the benefit of the hall, the last being the ball held on 10th December 2005, which was a great success. Thank you to the 'old codgers' (you guys can sue me for defamation, but I am as old as some of you and definitely more codgery than most of you anyway!).

With only 5 and sometimes 6 "G1's" we thought, "how could we lighten the load?" You see we are not really that stupid. Ha! A flash of brilliance came upon one of the "G1's" (well he was seen to move): "why not get some help from other organisations in the village?" Thus, two years ago, we approached the Village School, to arrange an **Auction of Promises**. Hey presto 5 "G1's" joined by some young parents from the Home School Association (HSA), thus reducing the average age by half, set about organising this very successful event.

Fast-forward to 2006, and... well you can guess the rest can't you. The School want to improve the outdoor facilities for the children and we still need toilets for the hall. What an emotive combination! So here we go again with *another* Auction of Promises. As you can see from our advert, **Friday March 31st 2006** is the date, and the venue is the Village Hall!

We have some superb Promises to Auction, including a Helicopter Flight with Mike Smith; yes the same Radio1 DJ and Television presenter who married Sarah Greene and broke many a heart of men of a certain age! Who likes Pink Floyd? We have some memorabilia signed by drummer Nick Mason. Someone going to a wedding? Well why not get that special hat made especially for you in the style and colour of your choice: not only will it save you money, but think how happy hubby will be not having to visit 20 shops just to find the right colour! Interested in your family tree? Then let an expert help you. Want to hold a dinner party, but want someone else to do all the hard work? Then come along and bid for it, have a great time, and help TWO worthy causes.

For any further information or to buy tickets, call me, Ross (old "G1") on 221411, Katrina (youngest "G1") on 222503, Tanya (young HSA) on 222582, or contact Eaton Bray Lower School on 220468.



HOME SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

Eaton Bray

Village Hall

Trustees

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n



Auction of Promises

Friday 31st March 2006

7.30pm

for an 8.00pm start

Eaton Bray Village Hall
Church Lane
Eaton Bray

Tickets - £5.00 each
to include a Ploughman's Supper
available from

Katrina on 01525 222503

or Ross on 01525 221411

Eaton Bray Lions AFC Mid-Season Report



The club would like to say a big thank you to all the parents, relatives and friends of our footballers and to the readers of Focus magazine who so kindly collected Tesco Vouchers for us. We are also grateful to the Farm Shop at Dagnall and Kafé Kalor at Edlesborough for acting as collection points. You provided the club with over 3,500 vouchers which we are using to obtain training equipment for the new Under 8 team which will be recruited for the 2006/2007 season. In addition we have ordered equipment, such as football pumps, for the existing teams. The vouchers have enabled us to order over £200 worth of equipment so I'm sure you'll agree that it was a worthwhile exercise. We would also like to thank Edlesborough School for allowing some of our teams to train and play home games on their playing field and Ben and Jane Wright for letting us use their field for winter training.

On a chilly but bright Saturday morning in December I dropped one son off at Holman's Field for football training and then proceeded to Edlesborough Green where there was an amazing sight to behold. EB Lions under 9 and girls under 12 teams were playing matches, the under 10 team was warming-up to play their match and the boys under 12 team were training. The Green was a sea of black and white striped shirts and red and black training tops! Whilst the newspapers seem full of scare stories about childhood obesity and lack of PE in schools it was heart-warming to see so many of the village children enjoying the competitive sport of football. It was also most gratifying to see how many dog-walkers and parents taking their children to the playground had stopped to watch the matches and cheer on the home teams. We really appreciate your support and the children find it very encouraging and inspiring. If you would like to see how the teams are getting on please access our website at www.eblions.co.uk where you will find information about the club and weekly results and match reports.

By Christmas all the teams had reached the mid-point of their fixtures so the managers have provided a brief summary of the season so far.

The Eaton Bray Lions Under 8 squad came together over the summer of 2005, with 9 boys and 2 girls from Edlesborough, Eaton Bray, Northall, Dagnall and Ivinghoe Aston. They've come up against some good teams, who have been playing together for a longer time period than they have, but despite some difficult games the players continue to improve, work hard for each other, never give up, and most importantly really enjoy themselves!

The Under 9 team had a good opening to the season with a 6-1 win over St Joseph's Greens. Since then, they've won four out of seven games, although they lost to the league leaders at the start of January. They are fifth in the table at the moment, but they do have a game in hand.

The Under 10's have continued their superb progress, after finishing second in the top division of Chiltern Junior Sevens League for the last 2 years, by qualifying for Division 1 (40 teams now compete in 4 divisions). At Christmas they were in 4th place with a game in hand and if they win that they will go into second place and try to catch Hitchin Town. They also face Barton Villa in the league Cup semi final in late January and hope to reach the final as Cup holders after last years epic final victory over Barton. There is a great team and parent spirit in the Under 10's and everyone is invited to watch this great team play on Saturday mornings on the Green (in front of the tennis courts) for their home games.

This season heralded a new phase in the growth of EB Lions with the introduction of a girls Under 12 side. The first half of the season started with some big defeats against the more established sides in the League but culminated in a thrilling 5-4 victory over top of the League Leighton Utd. This was a fantastic match on the village green with plenty of local support and gives us huge encouragement to progress in the second part of the season in both the League and the Cup.

The Under 12 boys' team had a flying start to the season reaching top of the division by the start of October and were still lying in second place at the end of that month. However, a series of disappointing results has seen them drop down the table and they are determined to produce better

performances in 2006. Their first match of the year was an encouraging 4-1 victory over Houghton Wanderers.

Although the Under 14 team has enjoyed the season so far, making good use of the village pitch at Holman's Field, the results have not matched the effort put in. Often the managers of opposing teams said that we were the better side even when we lost! We look forward to better luck this year which got off to a great start with a brilliant 1-0 win over Limbury Saints despite difficult circumstances.

Liz Coates (Press Officer) 01442 842550 lizcoates@btinternet.com

The Edlesbray Pantomimes Revisited

Eaton Bray Village Hall, March 4th 2006 at 7.30 pm

Calling all those who have ever been involved with the Edlesbray Panto. Why not come along to Eaton Bray Village Hall on Saturday 4th March to help me, and everyone else who have been involved in the Edlesbray Players, to reminisce over our past productions. There will be a light-hearted quiz and I am sure we will be singing some of those songs that were concocted to meet our needs. Some members have indicated that they would like to entertain you – if you feel a similar urge please get in touch. The cost will be £5.00 a head including a ploughman's supper and the box office on 222283 will open on February 6th. I look forward to seeing you there

Valerie Trantum



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(Mary French)

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Eaton Bray Pre School Playgroup

Welcome to the children (and their families) who have joined playgroup in January. We are pleased to see everyone settled in very quickly!

In honour of the new students this term includes 'Fundamentals' as part of the theme. We have been studying basics such as numbers, letters A to E, colours, days of the week etc.

Australia day on 26th January was acknowledged by the pre-schoolers in many ways. The favourite activity on the day seemed to be painting (and imitating!) kangaroo's and koala bears.

Monday 30th January will see in the Year of the Dog in the Chinese calendar. This will be an occasion marked at playgroup with the children attempting some Chinese writing. We are also hoping to enjoy some Chinese cuisine!

In the last week of half-term we shall be glittering, sticking and painting 'valentines' for our families. We hope the cold weather isn't bothering you too much, and here at playgroup we are studying 'Winter' as the term's second topic. We have already seen some impressive snowflakes of the paper variety.

I am pleased to report that we have a new chairperson. Michelle Shulman has been involved in the committee in different roles for several years and feels it is time to take control! If you wish to join Michelle and the committee we can always use extra input and help with fundraising and playgroup administration.

Contact Playgroup leader Cindy on 07773 095624 if your young ones would like to join in the fun here at the playgroup. We are to be found at the Eaton Bray Village Hall weekday mornings between 9.30am and 12.00pm.

Get Gardening with

Fancy a spot of gardening?



Spring is just around the corner, and warmer weather brings greener gardens. So we need YOU to help with our Gardening Project.

Whether you're a beginner or an expert, you could be of service to older and disabled people looking for help in the garden. Gardening can be a major concern for older and disabled people who may have difficulty keeping their gardens under control. By lending a hand with basic tasks like forking beds and borders, weeding, cutting back shrubs, and mowing lawns you could make a big difference to someone in your community. So get out there and flex those gardening muscles! You will meet new people, swap gardening tips with other volunteers, keep fit and have fun!

All volunteer expenses related to the Gardening Project (including travel) will be paid and you will be covered under our insurance policy. Volunteers on the Gardening Project also receive support and training from a member of staff at Vale Volunteers.

If you have a few hours to spare once a week or a fortnight then get in touch with Laura on 01296 337456, or e-mail: gardening@valevolunteers.org.uk.

Eaton Bray Village Hall 100 Club Winners

November 2005

Number	Name	Winnings
15	Anna Cornwall	£100
36	Anthea Burke	£25
118	Stephen Simmons	£25
156	Jane Silvester	£25
140	Mel Grundy	£25

Drawn on 23rd November 2005 at Eaton Bray Village Hall

December 2005

Number	Name	Winnings
26	Ron Overhill	£100
53	Graham Carter	£25
96	Mary French	£25
117	R C Roe	£25
199	Jan Blundell	£25

Drawn on 16th December 2005 at Hines the Butchers, High Street, Eaton Bray. Please direct any correspondence to: Maggie Kerr, 96A, High Street, Eaton Bray, Bedfordshire, LU6 2DP, Telephone: 01525 220201

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Letter to the Editors



Dear Ed

Like Steve (Dec/Jan issue) I have lived in Eaton Bray for some time, 10 years in fact. During this time I have watched the road safety committee come and go, seen an inaccurate record of the number of cars that speed through the village, (that has not changed since Sept 2003) and watched accidents and road congestion.

It seems that Eaton Bray is now the only village in the area not to have either traffic calming measures or SADS within the village bounds.

Kensworth has both traffic calming and a speed camera. The justification for this is the school in the village. The camera in Kensworth must be half a mile away from the school. Eaton Bray has a school but no camera, why? Is Kensworth a higher priority than Eaton Bray, I don't think so and believe it has more to do with Kensworth being the home of a Beds councillor.

In addition to this, one of our village councillors and a member of the safety committee told me that they did not want to spoil the aesthetics of the village feeling that was more of a priority than road safety. Indeed the road safety committee received a reward for their work towards road safety. **WHAT ROAD SAFETY?**

Each day we see more and more traffic speeding through the village. Until the council stands up to be counted and pursue whole-heartedly traffic calming measures, including speed camera's, the villagers will continue to run the gauntlet of fast cars during the day and have their sleep patterns disturbed at night. I hate to think what volumes of traffic the village will suffer once the widening of the M1 starts and Dunstable becomes a town of traffic chaos above and beyond that already existing

But as usual I don't expect anything to happen, just as nothing has done over the last ten years. And in 20 years it will probably still be just the same.

Julian Hicks
village resident



Dunstable & District Orbit Club

Working for the Community

Dunstable & District Orbit Club have been busy recently. In November we held our Gameopoly night at Eaton Bray Village Hall and raised £256.87 for Dunstable Disability Resource Centre, and during December, some of our members went on the Round Table float and raise £346 for Teenage Cancer.

We are a social and charitable organisation and welcome people from 30 onwards to join our friendly club.

We meet every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month at Bar Chameleon, High Street North, Dunstable, at 8pm. Contact 01525 222441 or 01582 755147 for more details.

Our meeting dates for 2006

February	7 th & 21 st	August	8 th & 15 th
March	7 th & 21 st	September	5 th & 19 th
April	3 rd & 18 th	October	3 rd & 17 th
May	2 nd & 16 th	November	7 th & 21 st
June	6 th & 20 th	December	5 th one meeting
July	4 th & 18 th		

Dagnall News

Over 60's

On January 17th we celebrated our Birthday and held our AGM – 35 years since the club was formed, and still going strong!

On February 21st we welcome the visit of the 'In Accord' accordion band, followed in March, again on the 21st, by a special speaker in our opinion, Lorna Stephens, her talk being 'On the Fiddle'. We recommend to all our members that they do not miss this meeting.

On Saturday March 18th we are hosting a Musical Evening in the village hall, details of which are published elsewhere in Focus. Tickets price £5 are now available from members or direct from the Chairman on 01442 842048. Proceeds are to be shared with the Church Extension Fund.

The annual programme will be available to members at the February meeting.

Dagnall School

The Autumn Term at Dagnall School was brought to a close by the production of Rock the Baby, a Christmas party and a carol service. The children performed very well indeed and had a lot of new songs to learn. Age Concern was welcomed to one performance where cards and gifts, made by the children, were presented. Rock the Baby is a musical nativity story written originally in aid of the Dunblane appeal. A retiring collection raised £90 towards the school that we have links with in Sri Lanka.

The Christmas party had lots of scrumptious food, kindly supplied by the parents. A special visitor came, Father Christmas, who managed to fit us into his busy schedule.

Parents joined us for a short carol service at the end of the school day, where the school was decorated by Christingles made by the children.

As the new term gets underway all the children will now stay all day. We also welcome Mrs Hillyer to the staff, who becomes the teacher responsible for the teaching of the children in Year 1.

If it's not too late may we all wish you a very Happy 2006.

All Saints Church

Thanks to all who made the Village Carol Service such a success, resulting in £208 being donated to NCH, who were also the recipients of a further £ 378 from the efforts of the carol-singing party



Leighton Linslade Citizens Advice Bureau

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We are currently looking to recruit new volunteers to join our team. No special qualifications or experience are needed as a full individual training programme is given to every volunteer. Most people give 8-10 hours per week, over two days.

As well as helping clients, the CAB helps to identify issues where clients have been unfairly treated and, as part of our Social Policy activities, help to initiate legislative changes.

What do volunteers gain? We are a small friendly team who enjoy getting to grips with knotty problems or unravelling clients' worries so that they can manage their lives more effectively. It is rewarding and stimulating work which is so varied it can never be boring.

Interested? If so please contact the Manager, Barbara Brown, either by phone on 01525 374589, or drop in to see us at Bossard House, West Street, Leighton Buzzard.

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Eaton Bray Taverners Bridge Club

Bridge Players

Why not bring a partner and play duplicate bridge on Friday evenings from 7.30 p.m. to 10.30 p.m. If you need a partner, please phone the club secretary on **01525 221779**. Lesson and practise duplicate play 2.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m. on Fridays (no partner needed).

Bridge Problem

Here is a bridge problem for you to solve:

♠ J 8 3
♥ K 2
♦ A Q 10 5
♣ K Q J 4

♠ K 10 5
♥ A J 3
♦ 8 7 4 3
♣ A 9 5

You are South, the dealer, playing teams and open the bidding with 1NT. North jumps to 3NT. How do you play to ensure the contract, after West has led 5♥ to 2♥, Q♥ and A♥? Check out the answer on the website:

www.watson-eaton-bray.freeserve.co.uk

Bridge new and courses

In January 2006, the club begins its 10th year. If you would like to learn or brush up your game then there are courses proposed for 2006. Those who have attended bridge courses previously might find the Friday afternoon sessions useful for practising their play techniques. Many players who have attended the afternoon sessions now also attend the evening club sessions, many attending both. The club strives to make newcomers to the game feel welcome. Please phone the club secretary on **01525 221779** for details.





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To find out more or to arrange a visit,

Please telephone the playgroup leader: Mary Powell 01442 842767



Disability Discrimination

Major changes to the law on disability discrimination come into force on 5 December 2005. From then, it will no longer be necessary to prove that a mental illness is clinically well recognized. A progressive disease will be recognized as a disability even if it has not yet had an effect on day-to-day activities. The main diseases covered are HIV, cancer and multiple sclerosis which will be recognized from the day of diagnosis. There is a new questionnaire to cover goods and other services as well as employment.

For more information contact the Citizens Advice Bureau, Grove House, High Street North, Dunstable Tel: 01582 661384

Do you know anyone who would be good at advising and helping people? If so Dunstable Bureau is the place to be. Please contact the above number for more information on volunteering.

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Eaton Bray Parish Council

Highlights of meeting – Monday 5th December 2005

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS:

The Mobile Library has changed times to every second Friday from 1.45 to 3.45 pm

The Poppy Appeal raised £1561.45

The ROSPA Playground Inspection has been completed. GP Committee to study findings and report on work needed.

Public Meets the PC was very successful with 12 Parishioners attending.

Main areas of concern were speeding, youth nuisance and overhanging bushes on the footpaths. There were also many constructive comments on making the Village more attractive, these will be discussed at the January meeting.

Letter received from the PCC thanking the Councillors for clearing the War Memorial area ready for Remembrance Day.

HIGHWAYS WATCHMAN IN CHIEF:

Graeme Symonds attended to report on the new Highways contract. He informed the Council that contract performance would be closely monitored, and that a 24 hour hotline for fault reporting was now in operation.

An annual Parish Survey will take place with area teams. He is also looking to attract financial support from Central Government.

BOOTH PLACE PLANNING APPLICATION:

Several Residents attended the meeting to voice extreme concern about a planning application for a detached cottage to the rear of the Salvation Army building.

Points raised were as follows:

Loss of parking spaces which would cause more obstruction to the High Street.

Loss of privacy

Conservation Area

Building not in keeping with others

A right of way affected

Trees affected

Dispute on land ownership

The Application has false statements.

All these concerns will be forwarded to SBDC

A full copy of the minutes can be viewed on www.eatonbray.co.uk or can be obtained from the Clerk; Mrs E Hopwood, 12 School Lane, Eaton Bray, Beds, LU6 2DT,

Eaton Bray Parish Council

Highlights of Meeting - Monday 9th January 2005

CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS:

Councillors have been invited to attend discussion on the Policing Budget for the next financial year.

SBDC- Proposed new alcohol free zones in The High Street were unanimously agreed.

The Parochial Church Council is to support the Youth Club with an annual provision of £500 towards Youth Workers salary.

Details of stair lift to be obtained for the Coffee Tavern in line with making the building more user friendly for disabled users.

MATTERS ARISING:

Poppy Appeal- It was noted that Mr & Mrs Stanley had won an award for top fundraisers in the area. Their efforts are greatly appreciated.

Coffee Tavern- Three more windows had been broken. Police aware of this and also of an attempted distraction burglary.

PUBLIC MEETS THE PC:

After the recent successful meeting with Parishioners, all items brought up were discussed with the following comments:

Commercial Lorries have successfully been diverted away from the Village.

Options to reduce speeding are to be sought from the Road Safety Officers with help from Neville Johnson the Community Police Liaison Officer.

Dirt bike track not viable at present.

Dialogue with owners who have overgrown hedges has been successful.

Having a locked gate at the Nurseries end of School lane Rec. would cause more problems than it would solve.

The Parish Council is proactive and has a 3 year financial plan in place. Permission is to be sought for planting up grass triangle at the Rye junction.

Unanimous agreement for a budget for Christmas lights for 2006.

Another Public meets the PC is planned for the Spring.

Next Council Meeting

Monday 6th February 2006 7.30 pm. at the Coffee Tavern.

A full copy of the minutes can be viewed on www.eatonbray.co.uk or can be obtained from the Clerk; Mrs E Hopwood, 12 School Lane, Eaton Bray, Beds, LU6 2DT, ebpc5@aol.com

<p style="text-align: center;">Edlesborough Parish Council Meetings 3rd Thursday of every month 7.30pm Memorial Hall Next meeting: Thursday 16th Feb 2006 Eaton Bray Parish Council Meetings 1st Monday of every month 7.30pm The Coffee Tavern Next Meeting: Monday 6th Feb 2006</p>



Edlesborough W.I.

At the Village Fayre in December the W.I. cake and Christmas stall proved very popular, and at our meeting the following week all concerned were thanked by our president.

Our December meeting combined the A.G.M. and Christmas party. One of our ladies had an extra celebration: Vi Read had reached her 95th Birthday! We all sang Happy Birthday and congratulated Vi.

The yearly reports were given, which reminded members what an interesting and varied calendar we had enjoyed in 2005. The Committee and all those who had helped during the year were thanked. Two ladies were retiring from the Committee – Maggie Grigg and Kathy Bowers – and Jacky Hockey was welcomed as a new member. Phrena Wilkinson was elected President for a further year, which brought the A.G.M. part of the evening to an end.

Ten ladies from W.I. in our group were welcomed to the party, and each received a poinsettia plant when presents were distributed. A very tasty supper, arranged by Ann Brinklow, was served by the Committee, and this was followed by the recitation of poems by three of our talented ladies. Val Richards, Sue Parker and Megan Howells are great performers, and their entertainment is always well appreciated.

To continue the happy evening, we were provided with music and song by 'Les and Dave'. We all joined in with songs old and new, and there were many feet a-tapping to accompany the duo. 'Les and Dave' were terrific fun, and we had a marvellous time – smiling faces all round! They ended their performance with another "Happy Birthday" wish to Vi. Our thanks to them both.

We look forward to another W.I. year and send New Year wishes to everyone.

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Edlesborough Parish Council (including Edlesborough, Dagnall and Northall) News

The following issues were discussed at the December General Purposes Committee and Parish Council Meetings.

Community Policing

Following a visit and presentation by Thames Valley Police the Parish Council will be considering taking part in establishing a Community Support Officer for the Parish. This project will require to be funded by the Parish Council and meetings are being arranged with neighbouring Parishes to discuss possible joint funding.

Finance

An Extra Ordinary Meeting was held on 10th January to discuss the budget and to set the Precept for 2006/7

Dagnall S106 Agreement documents have been signed and returned to AVDC

Traffic Calming

The Parish Council hope to have additional roundels and yellow backed speed limit signs installed early in the New Year throughout Edlesborough.

The 'Build Out' for Dagnall has been refused on safety grounds but the Parish Council are pursuing this issue.

The Parish Council have requested the addition of double yellow lines to be installed on parts of Edlesborough High Street.

Edlesborough Christmas Fayre

This event, not organised by the Parish, had been a great success and the Parish Councillors were in attendance.

Edlesborough Village

Quotations are being requested for the replacement of the Memorial Hall floor, for the erection of Basketball Nets at Edlesborough and Dagnall and grass cutting throughout the Parish.

A Dog Hygiene Bin has been erected in Slicketts Lane.

Despite numerous requests and promises for works to be carried out to the pavement in Taskers Row by the County this has still not taken place and John Bercow MP has been requested to intervene.

Pine Trees Garage

Bucks CC are taking steps to have the 'HAND WASH' sign removed and following complaints from neighbours the Parish Council are in contact with Bucks CC regarding the operation of this business.

Luton Airport Issues

Following receipt of the Master Plan for London Luton Airport expansion the Parish Council has responded stating it's concerns regarding the proposed expansion and noise levels envisaged.

Parish Plan

Details of 'What is a Parish Plan' appeared in the December/January issue of Focus. If any Parishioner wishes to attend a meeting to discuss the setting up of a Village Plan and to put forward ideas and suggestions would they please contact the Clerk for the necessary Invitation and return slip.

Fly Tipping

The dumping of rubbish along the highways is once again becoming a problem throughout the Parish particularly in Northall. If a Parishioner wishes to report this and to request for the rubbish to be removed please phone Highways on Call telephone number 0845 230 2882 for the Aylesbury Vale area.

Lin Sargeant – Clerk to Edlesborough Parish Council: Tel. 01525 220859

E-mail: parish.council.cerk@edlesborough.gov.uk Website: www.edlesborough.gov.uk

What's On - Ian Rennie Hospice at Home

Sat, 11 Feb 6.30pm

PEPPER AT THE OPERA

The Centenary Hall, Berkhamsted Collegiate School, Kings Road, Berkhamsted
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Fri, 24 Feb, 7.30 for 7.45pm

HARP & FLUTE RECITAL

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Sat, 25 Feb

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British Legion Poppy Appeal Collection in Northall

Many thanks to everyone who supported the British Legion Poppy Appeal in Northall last November. I am sorry that I was unable to announce the final amount in the last edition of "Focus" but I was away and did not return until after the final date for copy. However I am pleased to let you know that we had another very successful collection and raised the sum of £341.73 (including donations for wreaths from Edlesborough Parish Council). This is a very impressive amount for such a small village and I have to apologise to many of you as I found it difficult to reach all parts of the village this year. Special thanks to "The Swan" and their customers for continuing to support us and also to the staff and pupils of Edlesborough School for their support.

Thank you all for being so very friendly and generous as I knock on your doors on dark cold evenings. I hope to continue to collect house to house next year and perhaps I shall be able to reach all parts of the village next year - well all parts that have doorbells and unlocked gates!! Once again, many thanks for all your support.

Lorna Cubbage.



Edlesborough Book Group

The American Boy – Andrew Taylor



Written in the first person, the action of *The American Boy* takes place in 1819 and the style and vocabulary are very authentic for the period. *The American Boy* in question is Edgar Allan Poe and although the author sees him as having a central role in the story we, as a group, felt he played a more peripheral part. The narrator and central character is Thomas Shields, a wounded veteran of Waterloo, who fallen on hard times, manages to get a job as a master in a private school in a London suburb. Amongst his pupils is Edgar and his friend Charlie Frant, son of a wealthy banker. Shields becomes drawn into the Frant's family affairs and falls in love with Sophie, Charlie's mother, though he is treated as a servant by the father and a business associate Stephen Carswall. Frant's bank collapses and he is found murdered. Sophie is left destitute and is forced to turn to Carswall to put a roof over her head and continue her son's education. The action shifts to Gloucestershire, where Shield's relations with both Sophie and Carswall's flirtatious daughter lead him into deep waters. As the story becomes more complex, Shields gains knowledge which leaves him vulnerable and the latter part of the book sees the hero in real danger.

There were mixed reviews from the group with roughly half of us thoroughly enjoying it while the remainder found it rather tedious and long (500 pages). It certainly creates the ambience of the late Georgian period, both in dialogue and description. The morality of the early 19th Century is well portrayed as is the poverty and cruelty suffered by the lower classes. This is a crime novel but is also a saga of frustrated love, class distinction and the arrogance fostered by wealth and social status.

Those of the group who enjoyed the book said that they would definitely read another novel by the same author.

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It is difficult to know whether you have osteoporosis until you sustain a fracture – then it may be suggested. Other symptoms may be a loss of height, a curving spine or very acute unexplained back pain (although there are many other causes of back pain).

The only conclusive way to find out if you have osteoporosis is to have a Bone Density Scan – this measures your bone density.

On Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February, 2006, “Bodycheck” will be visiting our clinic to offer this service. If a diagnosis of osteoporosis is made then there are certain medications that can be taken to slow down bone loss hence helping to reduce the chance of future fractures.

### Who is at risk of developing osteoporosis?

- Women who lose oestrogen (female hormone) early due to early menopause (before 45) or early hysterectomy (before 50).
- Men or women who take long term high dose corticosteroids.

Other factors which can contribute towards osteoporosis are:


- Heavy smoking and drinking
- Family history of osteoporosis
- Immobility
- Low calcium intake due to over-dieting or avoiding dairy products
- History of irregular or infrequent periods – due to over-exercising or over dieting.

### How can you reduce your risk?

1. Exercise - Weight bearing exercise, such as walking helps to keep bones strong.
2. Smoking – smoking can damage bone building cells which keep the bones strong. It is strongly advised to consider stopping smoking.
3. Glucosamine sulphate – this supplement is reported to help maintain healthy cartilage, to date, little research has been done to know its true effects. Many people taking glucosamine, however, have reported significant benefits. If you are considering taking it, consult your doctor first.

If you are interested in attending for a scan at the Clinic, or would like further information, please

| <b>Eaton Bray Cricket Club<br/>100 Club Results</b> |      |                   |     |
|-----------------------------------------------------|------|-------------------|-----|
|                                                     | Amt  | Name              | No. |
| Nov                                                 | £100 | Marianne Nicholas | 25  |
|                                                     | £50  | David Pearson     | 102 |
|                                                     | £25  | Chris Timberlake  | 105 |
|                                                     | £10  | Joan Hing         | 47  |
|                                                     | £10  | Mark Sandifer     | 108 |
| Dec                                                 | £25  | Julia Quinn       | 75  |
|                                                     | £10  | A. Fleet          | 38  |
| Jan                                                 | £25  | Lyn Alder         | 39  |
|                                                     | £10  | John Saving       | 116 |



**The National Trust**

**South Bedfordshire Association Talk**  
**Monday, 13th February 2006 2.30pm**  
 Salvation Army Centre, Bull Pond Lane,  
 Dunstable

Not Just Churches - Anna Conti  
*Stained Glass - how it is made and it's  
 many uses*

For further information phone 01582 527790  
 Visitors are welcome at £1



## Activenture

Activenture is a charity which has been successfully running for 30 years based in Sussex, originally under the ownership of The British Red Cross. Activenture is unique in that it runs residential activity weeks during school holidays for disabled young people (aged 8-18), providing valuable respite opportunity for their carers, but relies on the hundreds of volunteers each year as residential companions/helpers to the young people under the supervision of trained adults and nursing staff. Activenture is now owned by The London Federation of Youth Clubs and actively looking to expand the very successful format operating in Sussex. Sadly, demand for the disabled/special needs young people to attend, has outstripped the current number of places available. Following successful trials at Woodrow High House, Cherry Lane, Woodrow, Amersham, Bucks, during the last two years we are actively seeking local supporters and volunteers to allow Activenture to provide this unique service in your area. Woodrow activities include archery, outdoor obstacle courses, swimming, karaoke, disco, craft sessions, and days out.

**On Sunday 5th February, we are holding a short introductory presentation about Activenture commencing at 3pm. There will be free refreshments available, with opportunity to meet our staff and have a short tour of the house itself. We would like to extend an open invitation to anyone interested in supporting Activenture to come along and meet us.**

**We are particularly looking for:**

### **Voluntary Residential Helpers**

(Age 14+, no upper age limit provided volunteers are able to actively participate!)

### **Voluntary Residential Qualified Nurses**

### **Voluntary Waking Night Staff**

(Aged 18+, volunteering for just one night would be great!)

### **Fundraising Team members**

We provide accredited training for our residential volunteers, and many have found that the experience of working with us for a week has been extremely valuable when applying for jobs / further education, particularly if intending to work in the care/education sectors. Many individuals also benefit by completing their Millennium Volunteer Awards, and The Duke of Edinburgh Award service while staying with us, with several voluntary youth organisations using us to support their own training programs.

Please come and meet us on the day, or contact Les Pond, Activenture Training & Recruitment Officer, at 01342 828218 / [les@hindleap.com](mailto:les@hindleap.com)

For further information about Activenture please visit our web site [www.londonyouth.org.uk/activenture](http://www.londonyouth.org.uk/activenture)

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## **Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal - 2005 - Eaton Bray**

Village donations to the Poppy Appeal this year amounted to a magnificent **£1,561.45**. The Legion greatly appreciates your warmth of spirit in contributing to its invaluable help for ex-service men, women and their families. As local organisers, we are humbled and encouraged by your continuing generous support. Again, we are grateful for the help and hard work of our stalwart house to house collectors, local businesses who display poppies and collecting boxes, our Parish Council and all other local organisations. Without their help, nothing would be possible. Thank you everyone.

In recognition of Eaton Bray's generous and continuing support, the Bedfordshire Branch of the Royal British Legion has awarded the village the Christine Rowley Shield. The shield is awarded annually to the village or local organisation whose donations have made the greatest average increase over the previous three years, in our case an average increase of 41%. A truly splendid achievement.

We offer our heartfelt thanks to everyone for your kindness and encouragement this year and look forward to rattling the boxes again in November.

**Keith and Jean Stanley. Hon. Organisers. Tel. 01525.220608.**

**David John Harris**



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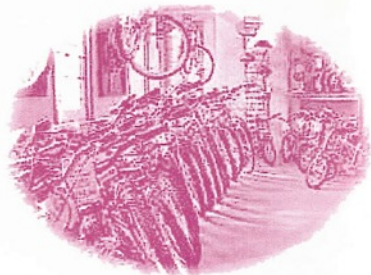
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