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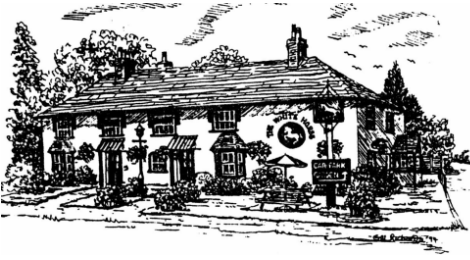
February 2007



THE FOUR VILLAGES MAGAZINE

**EATON BRAY**  
**EDLESBOROUGH**

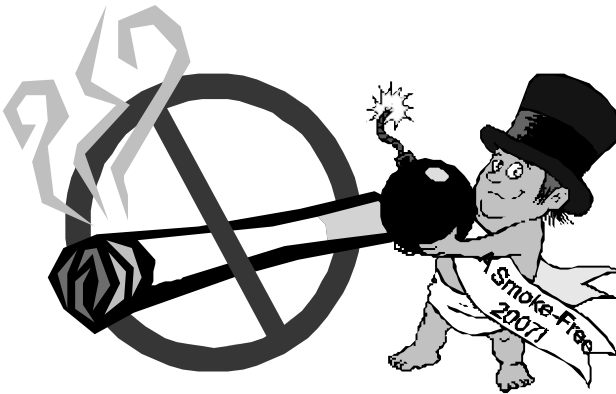
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# Focus - The Four Village Magazine

## Magazine Committee

**Joint Editors:** George Crutcher - 7 Summerleys, Eaton Bray 221637

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**Advertising:** Sally Siddons - 34 Wallace Drive, Eaton Bray 221733

**Production Manager:** Tracey Moren (Moren Associates Limited) 01525 229695

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

*Focus accepts no responsibility as to the accuracy or content of any advertising or articles published in 'this' magazine neither do they reflect the opinion of members of the Committee.*

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**Focus would like to remind contributors that the deadline for articles is the 10th of the preceding month**

## Robert 'Bob' Palmer Died 26th December 2006

Janet & family would like to thank friends, neighbours, doctors, nurses - District & Iain Rennie for their help, support, cards and messages of sympathy. Thank you also to the Rev. P Dudeney and all at Eaton Bray Methodist Church for a very personal service

## NORTHALL BAPTIST CHAPEL

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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.

## In Memory of Val Wood

'Phil, Elizabeth, Catherine and Matthew would like to simply express their deepest thanks to all of the many, many people in Dagnall and the surrounding villages who provided such love and support to us over the last 10 months of Val's illness. At the time of her death we asked for any donations to be made to Iain Rennie Hospice at Home. They have told me that you have donated £2113.30, much of it Gift-Aided, so that the final total will be higher once income-tax is reclaimed.

Love and thanks to you all.

**Phil Wood and family**

### Poem for Val

A glowing spirit who's rainbow of colours flowered, touching all around her.  
A smile that came from deep within that never will fade in the hearts of others.  
Tender-hearted soul with words to share amongst her friends so loving with care.

No sad tears to be shed today

Only warm tears of happy memories would be Val's way

(In memory of Val Wood; 28th Feb 1959 - 5th Nov 2006. Written by Steph and Mark O'Donnel)

# Village Diaries



## February 2007

### Weekly

Mon-Fri (term time)	Eaton Bray Pre-school, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Cindy 07773 095624
Mon-Fri (term time)	Dagnall Under 5's, Dagnall Village Hall, 9.15-12 noon
Mon-Fri (term time)	Edlesborough Under 5's Pre-School, Edlesborough Memorial Hall, Sue Connor 01525 222739
Tuesdays	Yoga Classes, Northall Village Hall, 1.45-3.15pm
Tuesdays	Line Dancing, 1.30-3p.m., Eaton Bray Village Hall, Lyn Stubbs 220731
Tuesdays	Baby Cafe, 10.15 - 11.45 am, Pitstone Memorial Hall
Wednesdays (term time)	Eaton Bray Under 5's, 1.15-3pm Eaton Bray Village, Hall Cindy 01582 477568
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 (term time)	Mums & Toddlers session, Dagnall Village Hall, 1-3pm
Thursdays	Yoga Classes, Northall Village Hall, 11.30am-1pm
Thursdays	Eaton Bray Badminton Club, Eaton Bray Village Hall, 8.15-10pm.
Thursdays	Keep fit, 2pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Mrs Johnson 220304
Fridays	SOCATOTS, 12:45, Eaton Bray Village Hall, 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	Eaton Bray W.I. Meeting, 7.30pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Contact Sheila Beal on 01525 221185
1st & 3rd Tuesday	Dunstable & District Orbit Club meet in central Dunstable at 8pm. For more details contact 01525 222441 or 01582 755147
2nd Tuesday	Toddlers' Church, St Mary's, Eaton Bray, 2.00pm
2nd Tuesday	Dunstable & District Local History Society meeting, 7.45pm, Methodist Church Hall, Dunstable
2nd Tuesday	Edlesborough W.I. Meeting, 7.30 pm, Edlesborough Memorial Hall
2nd Wednesday	8.15pm Healing Service in St Mary's Church
3rd Thursday	Edlesborough Parish Council Meeting, 7.30pm, Memorial Hall

### Other Regular Events

7th & 21st	Bingo, Dagnall Village Hall, 8pm
9th	Leukaemia Research Coffee Morning, 2 Dunstable Road, 10.30 am
20th	Over 60's, Dagnall Village Hall, 2.00 pm

### One Off/Annual/Irregular Events

10th	Eaton Bray Tennis Club Valentines Ball, 7.30pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall. Tickets £18 per person from Ross 221411
24th	Dagnall School Quiz Night, 7.30pm, Dagnall Village Hall, £6 pp, Teams max 8, includes jacket potato supper, Tickets 01525 221470

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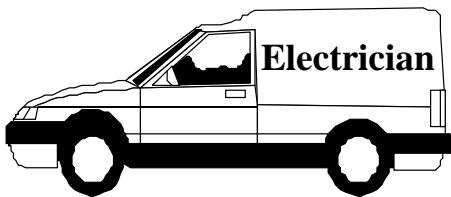
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# **Highlights from the Minutes of the Eaton Bray Parish Council Meeting - Held on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2006**

## **NEW COUNCILLOR:**

The Chairman welcomed Maria Crace as a new Parish Councillor. Maria completed and signed the Acceptance of Office of Councillor and Notification of Financial and Other Interests.

## **PUBLIC FORUM:**

Mr. S. Willis addressed the council with reference to a letter he had received from SBDC in response to his complaints about the District Council Planning committee's response to their objections to a planning application for land adjacent to Bower Lane, and the incorrect representation of the area of Greenbelt land to the rear of 20-23 Medley Close. Mr. Willis does not feel that the letter explained the anomaly. The Clerk had not received a response to the PC's letter requesting an explanation.

## **CHAIRMAN'S CORRESPONDENCE & COMMENTS.**

A note of thanks from the Poppy Appeal organiser for the donation of £75 for wreaths, a total of £1,512.11 had been raised in the village.

Copies of Alarm Notification Order leaflets from SBDC, giving details of the new order effective from 26<sup>th</sup> Nov.2006 that requires owners of commercial and residential properties fitted with burglar alarms to register keyholder information with SBDC not later than 24<sup>th</sup> Dec.2006.

A report giving the crime figures for November as follows: Total of 16 offences – 1 aggravated burglary, 1 criminal damage, 3 criminal damage to vehicles, 3 miscellaneous theft, 3 other burglary (allotments etc.), 1 criminal damage to a building, 1 assault, 2 theft from shop, 1 theft from motor vehicle.

A letter requesting permission to erect a flagpole for a St. George's flag. The council asked the GP committee to investigate this further and to bring recommendations to the council.

A letter from Mrs. S. Hounslow, Head of Eaton Bray Lower School, informing the PC of their success with gaining the approval of Beds. C.C. for the planned nursery building. The PC was asked to grant permission for parents to temporarily park cars in the neighbouring park car park, and to allow for a new pathway through the hedge to the back of the school. It was unanimously agreed to give the council's approval in principle but to request further information concerning the expected use of the car park and the need for the new path.

## **DISTRICT & COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES:**

County Councillor Brian Piggott addressed the council with an outline of some of the implications following from the recent White Paper on Local Government Reform, highlighting the moves towards a two-tier system across the county.

## **EATON BRAY & EDLESBOROUGH CARNIVAL 2007:**

The PC propose to have a stall at the 2007 carnival to provide the opportunity to meet members of the public and Councillors from Edlesborough in an informal environment.

## **Skateboarding.**

This is being researched; the young residents making the request are to be invited to the next GP meeting.

## **Allotments.**

The GP committee proposed that markers should be placed showing the position of each plot.

## **VILLAGE HALL REPORT:**

Mr. Norman Lee addressed the council on behalf of the Village Hall Committee, and stated that Phase One of the improvements was now completed.

As a result of the improvements, there had been an increase in booking income, which together with careful management, reducing running costs by approx. 17%, had led to a much better financial

position. Successful fundraising gave sufficient reserves for Phase Two of the improvement programme, which will provide upgraded rest room facilities with better disabled access.

It was also reported that recent storms had caused considerable damage to the roof and other areas, but the hall was still “open for business”. This damage would be the subject of an insurance claim.

#### **FENCING ADJACENT TO R. OUZEL BRIDGE:**

The Chairman opened the quotes for work to replace fencing, and advised the council of the contents.

It was agreed unanimously to instruct Aaron Fencing to proceed with the work.

#### **PARISH COUNCIL WORKING AGREEMENT:**

It was agreed to amend the appendix to the working agreement that deals with the Parish Clerk’s hours of work, the new arrangements are as follows:

The Clerk will normally be available during the following hours:

Monday and Tuesday            09.00 - 13.00

Friday                                09.00 - 12.00

At other times a telephone message may be left. These messages will normally be picked up between 17.00 and 18.30. The Clerk will respond to non-urgent messages at the next time as above. Urgent messages will be acted upon without delay.

E-mails. The Clerk may be contacted using email, an email will be sent to acknowledge receipt. The Clerk’s response will be as for telephone messages.

#### **CLERK:**

It was agreed to add Cllr. M. Crace to the Lloyds bank account mandate.

The new allotment tenancy agreements have been distributed.

The Clerk reported that the annual fire extinguisher tests had been carried out.

The council was advised that redecoration to the Coffee Tavern cottage was now complete, and a new bathroom suite installed. The next step is to purchase carpets and curtains.

---

## **All Saints, Dagnall - Services and Meetings in February 2007**

Sun 4th Feb.	9.00 am Eucharist	
	10.30 am Morning Service	
	6.00 pm Evening Service with Holy Communion	
Wed. 7th Feb.	7.45 pm Mid-week Meeting led by Revd Lucille Kaye	
Thu. 8th Feb	7.30 pm Eucharist	
Sun. 11th Feb.	10.30 am Morning Service	
	6.00 pm Sung Eucharist	
Wed. 14th Feb.	7.45 pm Mid-week Meeting led by Revd David Jenkins	
Sun. 18th Feb.	10.30 am Family Communion	
	6.00 pm Evening Service	
Wed. 21st Feb.	7.45 pm Circuit Ash Wednesday Holy Communion Service	
Sun. 25th Feb.	9.00 am Eucharist	
	10.30 am Family Service	
	6.00 pm Evening Prayer	
Wed. 28th Feb.	7.45 pm Mid-week Meeting led by Colonels Dorothy and Brian Knightly, S.A. Missionaries	
Sun. 4th Mar.	9.00 am Eucharist	
	10.30 am Morning Service	
	6.00 pm Evening Service with Holy Communion	

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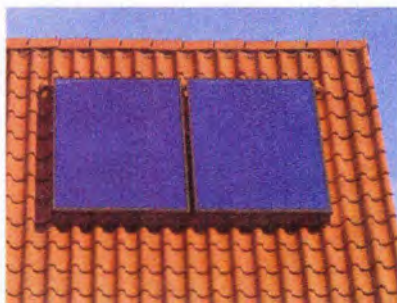
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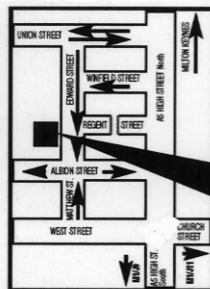
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# Eaton Bray with Edlesborough Parish News

**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**

If the headlines are anything to go by, 2007 did not get off to a very bright start. We emerged from our Christmas festivities into reports of the deteriorating situation in Iraq and, indeed, throughout the Middle East, to dire predictions about global warming, underlined by some unusually mild winter weather, to alarm stories about crime and criminals, and lots more gloom. The news always seems to be the bad news these days. You have to dig deep to find good news.

It is easy to condemn the media, but sometimes the church suffers the same problem. To many people the church seem over-preoccupied with sin – usually other people’s – and human frailty, and rarely seems to say anything about the good things that are happening. Part of the reason for focusing on sin is so that we can rejoice in the wonder of forgiveness and the joy of a new start, but in modern times that’s not “news”.

The only contact a lot of people have with the church today is at times of difficulty and sorrow – in serious illness, or personal problems, or at a funeral. This makes their picture of the church one-sided. Just as the newspapers and the television shift our perception of life by concentrating on bad news, so this limited encounter with the church can give the impression that it is only concerned with the down-side of life. And the media don’t help. It’s always possible to find a religious leader who will come on the air to condemn something, but how often do they even bother to look for one who will praise some new initiative or invite us to celebrate success and achievement.

One of the Bible stories Christians traditionally read early in the New Year is the story of Jesus at a wedding. It starts with a problem: the hosts ran out of wine. But in the story as St John tells it (chapter 2) Jesus made new wine for the assembled company from the water standing in the huge jars that stood ready to wash the feet of travellers. The first thing Jesus is recorded as doing in St John’s Gospel is making people happy and sharing in their joy. Later on in the Gospel Jesus says “I have come that people may have life, and have it in full abundance”. There’s something to correct the melancholy imbalance of contemporary life. In the Christmas story the angel tells the shepherds “I bring you news of great joy – joy for all the people”, and the church should be a community of joy, the joy that flows from the assurance of God’s never-failing love and mercy.

There is joy all around us, if we’re prepared to look for it. There are plenty of things to celebrate, and we need to share our celebrations with one another instead of keeping them all “private”. It is easy to look back at times of difficulty and see how a sense of community was created out of shared adversity, but shared joy and celebrations strengthen and renew family- and community-life. We need to look for the good things of life. We need to talk about them and share them with others. We need to celebrate them. Weddings are among the most obvious such occasions, and even they are becoming fewer and fewer. But Jesus at the wedding feast reminds us that life is meant to be enjoyed, and there are good things all around us.

So, even though it’s a bit late, may I wish you all a truly **joyful** New Year.

MALCOLM

## From the Parish Registers

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

November 26 Lucian Alexander Hellewell  
Lucas John Smith

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

December 27 Giles Stephen Daniels & Melissa Sarah Dawson

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

December 15 Eileen Margaret Green of Main Road North, Dagnall  
Christine Maud Anne Lawson of Pebblemoor, Edlesborough  
January 10 Linda Margaret Ward of Mill End Close, Eaton Bray





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## St Mary's Parochial Church Council Meeting - 14 Dec 2006

**Hymn Books:** We have been using the present hymn book for 25 years and so the time has now come to look at its replacement – “Common Praise”. Subject to cost it was agreed to go ahead with the changeover.

**Lunch Club:** The Lunch Club, which is aimed at people living on their own, is proving very popular. This success has created the need for helpers.

**Eaton Bray Village Hall:** We continue to work closely with The Hall Trustees to make sure that this vital Village resource is properly supported.

**House Group:** “The Gods Story in action” was well supported and Canon Grant was encouraged to run another soon.

**Welcome pack:** The revised newcomers guide to St Mary's Church was presented and approved subject to final adjustments. It will be made available for distribution as quickly as possible.

**Land in Bower Lane:** Discussion took place as to the future of land in Bower Lane which is jointly owned with the Parish Council. It was agreed to discuss the matter with Eaton Bray Parish Council.

**Fees:** The new fee structure for weddings, funerals etc in 2007 was discussed and approved

**Parish Project 2007:** The Chilterns MS Centre.

**Charitable Donations 2006:** The names of the beneficiaries of our annual donation to local charities were agreed.

**Fabric Matters:** The new bench has been installed in the Churchyard

**Christian Aid Week 2007** commences Sunday 13th May 2007

**Kagando:** On Monday March 5th 2007, at St Mary's Church, Rebecca Waldoock will give a slideshow about life in Kagando

Church Mouse



### Edlesborough Book Group

LABYRINTH by Kate Mosse



We approached Labyrinth by Kate Mosse, author and broadcaster, knowing that other readers had seemingly either loved or loathed this hefty tome of 697 pages. Unfortunately, the majority of our group fell into the latter category which led to a discussion regarding slick marketing and authors' reputations.

Mosse lives in Carcassonne, south west France, and her novel concerns its medieval past and the persecution of the Cathars, a Christian sect who lived within its city walls. Mosse admits Labyrinth is “in some ways my love letter to Carcassonne” with its “mountains, hills, rocks, woods as much characters in the story as the people, real and imagined.”\* But we felt this passion for historical accuracy, theological analysis and intense detail of setting and character was its downfall with members needing to refer to earlier pages to confirm ‘who was who’ and ‘what was what’! The novel opens in 2005 with amateur archaeologist, Alice, slipping into a French mountain cave where she finds two skeletons and an ancient ring with a labyrinth symbol. Her sense of the supernatural is compounded by someone calling her name. Yet it sounds strangely like “Alais”, a French medieval name and here Mosse creates the link between the modern and the medieval, with contemporary lives recalling and echoing medieval ones. So the novel moves between past and present as Alice and twelfth century Alais each recognise that their destiny is to keep safe the secret of the labyrinth and so safeguard the true Grail from villainous Grail seekers. The reader too is seemingly caught in the twists and turns of a labyrinth as memories and truths, misunderstandings and betrayal, murder and revenge emerge.

Yet despite such excitement of a seemingly page-turning plot, most of us felt Labyrinth lacked momentum and it was generally agreed that this was due to poor technique and a clumsy writing style. <http://us.penguinroup.com/static/rguides/us/labyrinth.html>

Kathie Allen (Dec 06)

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These are just a few of the comments made in our fourth 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 Tracey on 07854 939226 between 9am - 12 noon, to arrange an appointment. A warm welcome awaits you.

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## Eaton Bray Post Office and Village Stores

We would like to thank everyone for their continued support in 2006 and wish everyone a happy and peaceful 2007.

Just a reminder of things that are available at the post office counter:-

For people who have moved in recently we are a car tax office. Leaflets about car insurance are available on the counter. There is also a £5 Post office stamp which is great help to save towards car tax.

### **Bureau de Change**

We can supply a wide range of currencies; when ordered before 2pm, they are in the office the next day by 11.30am. These are commission free. From early Spring we will be an on demand office for Euros.

### **Banking at the Post Office**

Cash can be drawn with a cash card; cash and cheques can be deposited all free of charge. The following bank accounts can use this facility:- Abbey Basic, Nationwide Flex Account, Barclays Current, Co-op, Smile, Cahoot, Lloyds TSB, Alliance and Leicester, Clydesdale and Bank of Ireland. Special envelopes are available for depositing cheques.

### **Gift Vouchers**

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# The Members and Friends of Grace Community Church, Edlesborough

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warmly invite you to a new series of seven monthly meetings, where the theme will be  
**‘The World We All Want’.**

I'm sure everyone would agree that this world is not as we would want it. Wars, fights, arguments, sickness and sadness are the harsh realities of daily life for all of us.

Why is this? And what can be done about it?

These are the kind of questions that we will be exploring followed by refreshments  
**on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday afternoon of each month at 3.30pm (next meeting, 4<sup>th</sup> February)**

We look forward to seeing you there.

GCC also run ‘The Venue’ on Friday evenings during term time which is an exciting new youth club. All young people aged between 8 and 12 are welcome to come along at 7.00pm

For further details please contact Bruce or Nicky Moulding on 01525 221601

## Royal British Legion Annual Poppy Appeal - 2006



We are delighted to report that donations to this year's appeal reached the grand total of £1,512.11 - a splendid result. We thank everyone for your donations, our local traders, pubs and restaurants and our stalwart house to house collectors for supporting the appeal this year. Once again we are encouraged, not only by the generosity of your donations but also by the many kind and supportive thoughts expressed to the collectors as they made their rounds. It is very obvious that the work of the Royal British Legion is valued and appreciated here.

In 2006 the Legion marked its 85th anniversary having been set up in 1921 to look after the interests and welfare of ex-service men and women and their families. Every year since, house to house collectors have given invaluable and selfless service and can be rightly proud of the contribution they make to the Annual Poppy Appeal: none more so than Miss Joan Raisey, who this year celebrated 60 years of continuous service as a house to house collector. In recognition of this truly remarkable achievement Joan was presented with the Royal British Legion's 60 years' service medal after morning service in the Salvation Army Hall on Sunday 22nd October, in the company of her friends. On behalf of the Royal British Legion, the presentation was made by Lt. Col. Brian Knightley of the local Salvation Army Corps. Many congratulations to Joan and our gratitude for help so freely given. Joan, an example to us all now hangs up her collecting box and poppy tray. Would anyone offer to take Joan's place? We shall need more collectors next year and won't hold you to 60 years!

Thank you for your support in 2006.  
Keith and Jean Stanley. Hon. Organisers. Tel. 01525.220608.

## What's On - Ian Rennie Hospice at Home

**Saturday, 17 February 2007, 7.15pm**

**PEPPER QUIZ - Ashlyns School, Chesham Road, Berkhamsted**

Pepper's annual quiz night. Brain teasing, mind boggling questions and fun. Fish and chip supper included. Ticket enquiries to Mitzi Wynne-Jones on 01296 632266.

**Saturday, 24 February 2007, 7.30pm**

**PEPPER AT THE OPERA - Berkhamsted Collegiate School, Kings Campus, Kings Road, Berkhamsted**

The Garden Opera perform *Così fan tutte* by Mozart, sometimes subtitled "The School for Lovers". Enjoy a famous Pepper cocktail (or two!) prior to the performance.

Adults £25, children £12.50. Tickets available from Mike Jenkins on 01442 876337



# Dagnall News

## *Dagnall School*

Dagnall School celebrated Christmas with the production of Whoops-a-Daisy Angel which they performed three times to packed audiences of playgroup, Age Concern, parents and friends. Even though a virulent stomach bug had hit the school and many parts had to be re-arranged at the last minute, for each performance, as children fell prey to the illness, the children all did extremely well.

Parents were invited to a Carol Service at the end of the last school day. The school looked magical as it was lit by candles held in candle holders that the children had made themselves.

The children also sang at the Dagnall Village Carol Service. Earlier in the day a very special visitor came to deliver parcels and a party was held with food very kindly donated by parents. Thank you.

The school has been awarded Investors in People Status and John Bercow MP came to present the award. A celebration tea was also held.

The school has also been awarded the Basic Skills Quality Mark for the third time. Well done to everyone!

A little belated but we wish all of you a very Happy 2007 and hope to meet up with you either at school or at village events.

## *Dagnall Church*

### **Carol Singing in aid of the National Children's Homes.**

The combined total for both evenings was - £395. Thanks to everyone who turned out on such dark, winter nights - especially on the Wednesday evening, when it was extremely cold and foggy. We are also indebted to those who gave so generously!

### ***Over 60's***

2007 has got off to a good start for members of the Over 60's club. During the month of January we held our 36th AGM and Birthday tea. We also visited the pantomime in Milton Keynes and had a weekend in Eastbourne on January 19th.

For our February meeting we will be welcoming Mr & Mrs Rinkell from Berkhamsted. Julia has previously given us an illustrated talk on 'Hats'. This time she will be joined by her husband and we look forward to an interesting afternoon.

We have a busy programme for the year ahead. Membership is thriving and we continue to encourage only Dagnall residents due to popularity of our club and the facilities available.

### ***Soup Kitchen in Aid of Iain Rennie Hospice at Home***

Chris and Val would like to thank everyone who supported the Soup Kitchen. A fantastic £320 was donated to the charity, for which they were very grateful.

---

## **Mothers' Union, Eaton Bray With Edlesborough**

On Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> December, eighteen members enjoyed a very pleasant Christmas lunch at the White Horse, Eaton Bray. Flora, our retiring Diocesan Vice President was presented with a basket of primroses from the members, with their thanks.

At our meeting on Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> December, we had no speaker, but each member read a favourite passage or poem, some of which were very amusing. We celebrated the end of a successful 2006 with sherry and mince pies.

## **Northall and District Age Concern and Eaton Bray Methodist Church**

are delighted to announce a return visit by Len Rawle, the very popular organist, on Friday 4th May 2007.

Keep this date free and watch out for ticket sales information.

Helen Wilkinson 221137



## New Year Resolutions – Forgotten Already?

Many of my clients have been putting off making their Wills for years. Many say each January they will get their Will sorted *this year* because they know at heart that not having a Will in place is crazy. Keep your resolution and enjoy the relief and peace of mind that comes from making a Will. Without a Will everything will be sorted according to the state's rules, even the children, and the tax bill could be huge. It can mean hardship and stress for your loved ones.

New Year Resolutions need to keep could include:

- 1 I must have a Will in place that reflects my true wishes. *"I must ask Mum and Dad if their Wills are sorted". "What about our Kids. The grand children could really miss out"*
- 2 I must get the *Right* wills, then I could avoid £114,000 inheritance tax. *"Must tell Bill and Mary how to avoid all this tax. Bill will be impressed. He'd hate to leave his money to the Treasury."*
- 3 I must check our Wills are up to date. Will our heirs get the maximum tax savings? *"We said we would must look at our Wills every couple of years as things do change – lets do it now, 2007"*
- 4 I must change the ownership of the house from joint names to shared ownership (tenancy in common) if the children are to be best protected and a future enforced house sale to meet care costs is to be avoided. *"I bet most of our friends still have to do this – we better tell them about it"*
- 5 I must sign and witness my Will, it has been hanging around so long. **Tragically one of my young clients – family man with two children – overlooked signing his Will before being killed in a motor accident. He has left his family broken hearted and in near chaos.** *"I am signing mine NOW – 'call Rosie and Graeme over to be witnesses'."*
- 6 I must get a Deed of Variation arranged. Its over a year since Jim died. *Alice (Jim's wife) could save the family a fortune in tax but she needs some guidance. Remember Harry, who had been a widower for years and didn't even leave a Will? Well, his nephews rearranged how things were to be shared out almost 18 months after he died. All their relations are really pleased they did'."*

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

Show your love for your family, be decisive and be a forward planner – **MAKE A WILL in 2007**. You will then be in control, have peace of mind and be ready to live life free of an outstanding task nagging at the back of your mind.

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 cheaper. Maybe the best is a combination of the two, whereby in-home guidance is provided with documentation prepared by a expert solicitors, as is available from Sovereign.

**Note:** *My business traded previously as **The Will & Probate Practice**. Little has changed. Demand for my services means my team is now 10 consultants. More are needed. Do you know anyone in Bucks or Herts wanting a quality part or full time self employed role? If so please contact me.*

Tony Duke: Regional Director

Sovereign Will & Probate 01525 220644

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Mobile: 07850 777944 (9:00-21:00 Mon-Sat)

# WANTED !

## FOR 07-07-07



As you will see from the 'Flyer' in this month's Focus, planning is well underway for the 2007 Carnival. If you would like to be involved whether on the Committee, as an assistant to one of the Committee members or on a stall on the day please give me a call or visit us on our website [www.stmarysvillagecarnival.com](http://www.stmarysvillagecarnival.com) and click on "Contact us". We are also always happy to welcome anyone willing to give us a hand putting the site together on Friday evening (6th July) and Saturday morning and knocking it down again on Saturday evening.

Finally, we are in search of an inexpensive, second hand, **20 foot shipping container** for storing all our equipment. If anyone knows of the whereabouts of such an object then I would be thrilled to hear from you.

Thanks for reading this and please fill in the Flyer to help us know better what you expect of your Carnival.

Peter Bennett – Carnival Chairman (01525 221284)

### Carnival 2007

With another Carnival fast approaching – no, it's not long until July 7<sup>th</sup> – we will shortly be writing to local organisations (clubs, societies, charities etc.) who might be interested in taking a fund raising stall at the Carnival.

However, it is sometimes difficult to keep mailing lists & contact details current, so if your organisation has not heard from us by the end of February or you are desperate to book a pitch, please call Chris Banks on 01525 221556.

Please contact us via:

[www.stmarysvillagecarnival.com](http://www.stmarysvillagecarnival.com)

### The Salvation Army, Booth Place Weekly Activities

<b>Sunday</b>	
Sunday School	9.45am
Morning Service	11.00am
Evening Service	6.00pm
<b>Monday</b>	
Games Night (Ages 5-8)	4.30pm
<b>Wednesday</b>	
Home League (Ladies Meeting)	2.30pm
<b>Thursday</b>	
Young Ladies Fellowship (Last Thursday in every month)	
<b>Friday</b>	
Young People	5.00pm
(Singing, tambourine & recorder practices)	

## *Belle of the Ball*

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*Styles for all ages*

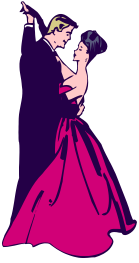
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*Size 10-18*

*to view by appointment contact*

*Amanda Brookes 01525 874803*





*Eaton Bray Tennis Club's*  
*Annual Valentines Ball*

*(Well this could be the first of many!)*



*Saturday February 10<sup>th</sup> 2007*

*At*

*Eaton Bray Village Hall*

*7.30pm for 8pm*

*To include a fabulous meal  
and romantic dancing*

*to*

*Jim Balls and the Racquets.*

*Put the date in your diaries.*

*Why not make up a table?*

*Tickets £18 each and are available from*

*Ross 221411*

*Jan 220191*

*Or by e-mail [ross.bagni@btinternet.com](mailto:ross.bagni@btinternet.com)*

*Smart evening wear suggested*





### **Edlesborough - What's in a name?**

Penny Sydenham's letter - "Putting Edlesborough on the map" (December/January Focus) stimulated memories of the not too distant past when Summerleys, Two Counties Mill (now Waterside and Mill End Close) and all of the area of Moor End west of the mill race, were in the parish of Eaton Bray, in South Bedfordshire District, in the County of Bedfordshire. Those were the days of Kingsnorth's grocery and general store and Buckrod's amazing hardware emporium where you could ask for and buy anything from a couple of screws and a gallon of paraffin to a timber roof truss, without having an eyebrow raised in protest.

This parish divide continued until some time in the early 1990s when the Boundary Commission - a curious government agency the job of which is to mess about with long standing and entirely satisfactory administrative boundaries to no apparent public benefit - descended upon Eaton Bray and Edlesborough. Why this area was chosen remains unclear, at least to me. Presumably the Boundary Commission had to demonstrate to its political masters, a Conservative Government of the time, that it had found suitably fruitless ways of spending the taxpayers money allotted to it, and couldn't find anywhere less in need of change.

Whatever the reason, the boundary was changed and Summerleys and adjacent areas became parts of Edlesborough, Aylesbury Vale and Bedfordshire. But, what's in a name? In this case quite a lot. Suddenly, those children in the area who attended middle and upper schools in Bedfordshire lost the right to travel into Dunstable on the school bus, for example.

There were other difficulties - we no longer had access to a locally based County Councillor. Our representative on Bucks County Council seemed invisible and distantly based - Pitstone as I recall. From that time onwards any inquiry that necessitated a visit to the District Council offices required a lengthy journey to Aylesbury rather than a short trip to Dunstable. Further, the relative remoteness of Edlesborough from Aylesbury seemed to be accompanied by much more attenuated and unreliable public services - in particular a shambolic refuse collection service and the end to street cleansing. The first of these has improved subsequently but the latter service has ceased altogether from the time of transition and I have not seen a street cleaning vehicle in Summerleys since.

"Not much to be upset about there then!" I hear you say - and you may have a point. But the residents of Summerleys do pay a price for the convenience of having shops at the end of the street, and that price is litter. It seems that whenever a customer purchases goods from the local shops the first thing they do is to remove the wrapping and chuck it on the ground. Something about the form of the buildings around the junction seems to mean that, whatever the wind direction, most of this discarded rubbish gets blown along Summerleys and ends up in people's gardens or under their cars, or, and this goes for the majority, lying in the gutter. We get plastic drinks bottles, ice cream, lolly and chocolate bar wrappers, cigarette packets, carrier bags, and the bits of newspapers that nobody wants to read.

Of course the good citizens of Summerleys pick this stuff up on a daily basis and put it in their capacious "wheelie bins" but it is a tiresome and dirty chore which we could all do without.

Is there any hope that a representative of one of the Councils which has responsibility for this area might read this letter and be motivated to see if anything can be done about it? Do any of them live in the Focus catchment? And if they do, do they read it? Let's hope so.

*In the meantime, while I understand and sympathise with Penny Sydenham's frustration over postal addresses and deliveries, I do not share her concerns about which of the two villages Summerleys is seen to fall into. There is nothing on the ground to mark the great divide between the two parishes and I am sure that the distinction is not appreciated by those who visit or pass through the area in cars or on buses. So! What is in a name? Perhaps in this case it is better to be in Summerleys, Eaton Bray and get your post and deliveries without delay, than to be in Summerleys, Edlesborough, and not!*

*George Crutcher*

\*\*\*\*\*

*To the residents of the three villages*

*Over the past 12 months some fourteen different companies have placed through our letterboxes flyers asking you to give your unwanted items of clothes, shoes, blankets etc. to help the third world. Please don't donate anything as these companies are all commercial enterprises and not charities and all monies raised, when these items are sold, will be for the company only.*

*Please only give your items to registered charities such as The Salvation Army, The British Heart Foundation, Oxfam, Help the Aged etc. These charities always leave a plastic sack with their name on and all necessary information should you wish to contact them.*

*On the B.B.C. television last year a programme called "Inside Out" by the well-known broadcaster Chris Packham (wildlife expert) did a complete documentary on these scam companies. He proved beyond doubt that the companies do not contribute to charities or third world countries. They rely on the generosity of the general public who think they give money but all monies raised goes into the company's pockets.*

*So please be aware, give only to registered charities and be sure your generosity goes to help the needy in England and abroad and not the greedy.*

*A concerned villager*

*Name and address supplied.*

---

## **Focus on Film Society**

The society is now in its second half of the year running from January to May.

Thanks to an anonymous donation we have been able to complete the purchase of all the equipment needed to show films in Eaton Bray Hall. The final items being an electrically operated roll up screen that is 13ft wide and 9ft tall and a superb digital projector.

The society meets at 2pm on the second Monday of each month between September and May. Membership costs £16 per half season and guests are invited to see if they like the idea for £4 for one film.

We still have room for a few more new members so if you think you may be interested come along to our next film on 12th February. Or give our membership secretary Sue Gladin a call on 01525 220749.

Future films will include  
Captain Corelli's Mandolin  
A town Like Alice  
Girl with a Pearl Earring  
Dr Zhivago



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**Contact:**

**Jane Lodge (PGCE MUS B HONS)  
Telephone 01525 222803**

## Ever seen the Chairman hot wiring a truck?

They say, "the young never feel the cold". Well it may be true but us old GI's certainly do. Along with a lot of helpers from our community we took over the Round Table Float for 3 ½ nights/days to help raise money for the Round Table and the Village Hall refurbishment.

To be honest it wasn't that cold and walking round the houses seeing all the children so delighted to see Father Christmas outside their homes was worth the odd 5 mile walk. We have raised over £1250 from the efforts put in by many people. You know who you are but we again say thank you!

What's this about the Chairman hot wiring a truck? Well it all started 3 years ago when the same gallant GI forgot to check the diesel in the lorry and we had to hang around while he and an elf went to get some. This year he went one better. As I was arriving, a little late at Asda, a couple of Saturdays before Christmas, I rang the said person to say sorry for being late. He told me not to worry as he was locked out of the lorry with the float on and the key was broken in the ignition.

Some two hours later a "very nice man" came from a breakdown company and got the key out and showed Nor... ops sorry nearly gave the name away there, how to hot wire the lorry. This, he has been doing ever since!

Since this bit of education, I have been locking my car in the garage (and I don't even have one!) you can't be too careful.

All GI's, old and young(ish) would like to thank everybody who has helped us in Fund Raising during 2006 and wish all villagers a very Happy and Healthy New Year.

Don't forget our next events. These are, the Joint Quiz with Eaton Bray Tennis Club Friday 20<sup>th</sup> April, in the Village Hall, Tickets £8 from either:

ROSS 221411 or KATRINA, 222503

The 4th Annual Beer Festival, similar format to previous years, Friday June 1<sup>st</sup> and Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> June, in the Village Hall. More info to come. Just put the dates in your diary and get extra aspirin in!

Last, but by no means least; the Villagers are holding a Race Night on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2007. All proceeds will be going to the Village Hall refurbishment fund. So if you fancy a little flutter look out for further information later on.

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## Looking for recruits!

The South Central Ambulance Service Patient Public Involvement Forum is made up of a group of volunteers who feel passionately about our Ambulance Service.

Following the recent re-configuration of the Ambulance service, they now have the huge task of monitoring an Ambulance Trust that stretches from Milton Keynes to Southampton, covering 4 Counties, and 12 unitary authorities.

At the moment they have only 3 members living in Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes, and feel that in order to represent Buckinghamshire, and Milton Keynes properly they need to recruit more members from this area.

If you can help please contact

Mike Gower. Forum Support Officer

P.P.I. Forum Support Office

6, Burners Lane

Kiln Farm

Milton Keynes

MK11 3HB

Tel. 01908 266696

[mike.gower@ppi-mk.co.uk](mailto:mike.gower@ppi-mk.co.uk)



### **National Trust** **South Bedfordshire Association** **Talk**

Monday 12th February, 2007

The Wonderful World of Willow

*Sandra Barker, basketmaker*

**2.30pm, Salvation Army Centre,**

**Bull Pond Lane, Dunstable.**

*Visitors are welcome at £1.00*

*For further information phone 01582 527790*

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

## **Parish Plan**

The date for the first meeting to discuss ‘The Edlesborough, Dagnall & Northall Parish Plan’ will take place on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2007 at Edlesborough Memorial Hall commencing at 7.45 with coffee followed by the meeting commencing at 8.00pm. A speaker from Buckinghamshire Community Action will be in attendance and topics to be discussed are:

- WHY Parish Plan for Edlesborough?
- WHAT is a Parish Plan?
- HOW is it done?
- WHO is involved?

## **Traffic Calming**

Yellow backed signs have been installed throughout Edlesborough Parish and roundels are expected shortly.

## **Dial-A-Ride**

A communication received from Dial-A-Ride informs the Parish that their remit is to offer membership to anyone who has a problem using public transport within the whole of the Aylesbury Vale area including Edlesborough, Dagnall and Northall and would welcome anyone should they care to join. Dial-A-Ride can be contacted on 01296 330088 Email: [enquiries@dialaride.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@dialaride.org.uk) or you can visit their website: [www.dialaride.org.uk](http://www.dialaride.org.uk)

## **Post Offices**

The Countryside Alliance are urging people to write to Jim Fitzpatrick MP stressing the importance of retaining Village Post Offices. The Parish Council have duly written.

## **Edlesborough Memorial Hall**

At the request of the Under 5’s the Parish Council have agreed to fence part of the area between the Memorial Hall and the Scout Hut in order that the Under 5’s can enjoy outside activities.

Applications are being made to both ‘Awards for All’ and Aylesbury Vale District Council for funding to assist with the Memorial Hall replacement floor.

## **Goal Posts**

The existing goal posts are in urgent need of replacement and funding is being sought. The Parish Council are also investigating the acquisition of a Kick Wall.

## **Churchyard/Cemetery Access**

A further site meeting will be taking place early in the New Year.

## **Police**

A Police Officer will be assisting the PCSO throughout the Parish.

## **Vandalism**

Following the installation of a donated seat on The Green in memory of a previous Edlesborough cricketer the Parish Council were devastated to learn that an attempt had been made to move the seat and on the following evening the seat had been completely uplifted. The seat has now been reinstated and the Parish Council will have no hesitation in prosecuting anyone found to be causing any future damage.

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

E-mail: [parish.council.clerk@edlesborough.gov.uk](mailto:parish.council.clerk@edlesborough.gov.uk)

Website: [www.edlesborough.gov.uk](http://www.edlesborough.gov.uk)

## **Edlesborough Parish Council Meetings**

3rd Thursday of every month  
7.30pm Memorial Hall  
Next meeting: Thurs 15 Feb 2007

• • • • •

## **Eaton Bray Parish Council Meetings**

1st Monday of every month  
7.30pm The Coffee Tavern  
Next Meeting: Mon 5 Feb 2007



## Neighbourhood Watch

Every day thousands of people's lives are affected by the distress of crime and anti-social behaviour within their own homes and local community.

**Neighbourhood Watch** is a *proven* way to help *prevent* these crimes, to help *protect* your home, your family your community and you.

**Schemes have recently been set up in St Mary's Glebe, Chiltern Avenue and Good Intent in Edlesborough, however more are required to ensure that the whole village can benefit from Neighbourhood Watch.**

### What are the Benefits of Neighbourhood Watch?

- Less crime because members become more aware of the problems and more active in helping to prevent it.
- A stronger community as people get to know and look out for each other.
- Less fear because people are made aware of the real risks.
- A better environment as people take pride in the area where they live.
- Better links with the police and other agencies as members learn how to help the police and get the service they want.
- As a member of a NHW scheme your household insurance premium may be reduced.
- Knowing you are not alone.

Many people are helping to reduce crime. It has become generally accepted that crime reduction and prevention are most successful when they involve everybody, not just the police. Make your community a safer place to live, introduce NHW into your street.

If you would like more information about how to set up Neighbourhood Watch in your street, or TVP Community Messaging contact:

**Helen Thomas and Diane Brown**

**Watch Administrators**

**Aylesbury Police Station,**

**Tel 01296 396262**

**Email [ringmaster.aylesbury@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:ringmaster.aylesbury@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk)**

**or view [www.tvpcommunitymessaging.org](http://www.tvpcommunitymessaging.org)**



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## Edlesborough W.I.

Our last meeting in 2006 combined the A.G.M. and Christmas party. The usual reports were given and the Committee and other helpers thanked for their help throughout the year.

Phrena Wilkinson was re-elected President, and the Committee members for 2007 were named.

Once the business matters were completed, we settled down to our party celebrations. This began with a very tasty supper enjoyed by members and our guests from other W.I.s in the Chiltern Group, followed by the distribution of gifts. At the end of the meal four of our members performed very amusing monologues. Val Richards, Sue Parker, Brenda Shields and Megan Howells were the ladies concerned, and each of them had the audience in 'stitches'. They really were excellent entertainers.

As last year, "Les & Dave" supplied the music for the evening with keyboard & singing. They are a great act, and we had a marvellous time joining in the ever popular songs and, the more energetic amongst us, dancing. In fact, some of the ladies bravely did the conga out into the street - a rather unusual sight for any passing villagers! It was a lovely evening, and a very happy way to end our W.I. Year.

A very happy new year to all.

Val Harris

**Stuart Ball**

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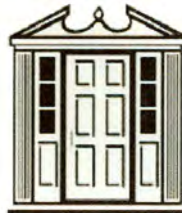
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## Eaton Bray Methodist Church

Our Christmas Lunches and Bazaar were a great success. Thank you to everyone who supported us and our very special thanks go to all the organizers and helpers beforehand and on the day. A cheque for £500 has been sent to the "Special Appeal for the Iain Rennie Hospice at Home" and the balance to Chapel funds.

Once again our Carol Service was one of the highlights of our year. The Sunday School presented a play entitled "The Real Christmas" which was written by one of our young people Alex. Set in "Scroogeville" it told of a grumpy shopkeeper who overcharged all the customers and threw one out because he was odd and different. This particular customer didn't know what Christmas was about and hadn't heard of Jesus. Upset because he was not liked he stole other peoples presents but he was tracked down by an angry mob. In the midst of all the angry shouting a child taught them all the meaning of Christmas with this message:

Christmas is Gods love  
For people on earth  
The day that we celebrate  
Jesus' Birth.

The play then ended with the traditional Nativity scene. Thank you and congratulations to all the Sunday School members and staff.

February Lunches will be served on the 10<sup>th</sup> from 12 noon until 1.30 pm and the charity to be supported will be Northall Age Concern.

March Lunches will be on the 10<sup>th</sup> from 12 noon and the charity on this occasion will be the Bethany Trust.

A warm welcome awaits you to join us at our lunches.

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY; FRIDAY 4<sup>th</sup> of MAY. We are delighted to announce that Mr Len Rawle will be paying a return visit to our Chapel to entertain us with an evening of light music on his Yamaha Concert Organ. Once again this will be a joint promotion between Northall Age Concern and our Chapel with shared proceeds.

### Eaton Bray Village Hall 100 Club Winners December 2006

Number	Name	Winnings
79	Alf Waller	£100
47	Heather Martin	£25
189	Sonia Dean	£25
165	Dick Wood	£25
106	John Plater	£25

Drawn on 14th December 2006 at Eaton Bray Playgroup. Please direct any correspondence to Ross Bagni, 71 Bower Lane, Eaton Bray, Bedfordshire, LU6 1RB, Telephone: 01525 221411.



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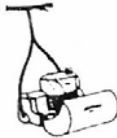
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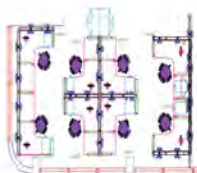
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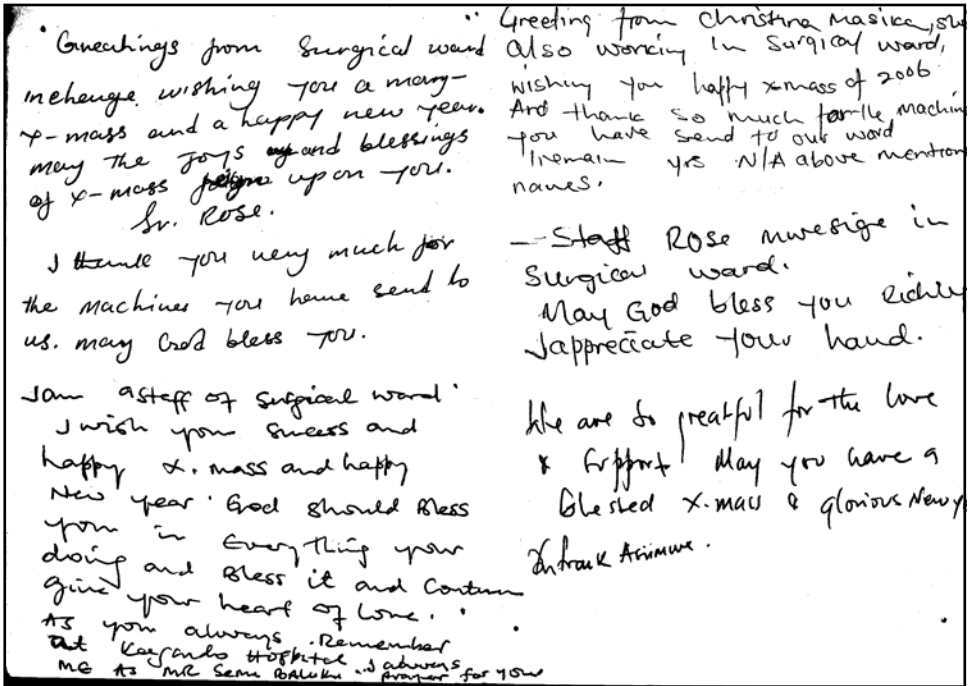
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## Becca's Letter from Uganda

Hello once again. I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and New Year. Some of the hospital staff sent their thanks and best wishes for Christmas as shown below.



This will be my final letter for a while, although I will continue to keep you updated on how your money is being spent and write yearly updates about what's happening in Kagando.

I'd therefore like to take this opportunity to thank you once again for taking an interest in Kagando. For giving your time to read these articles, choosing to support us as your charity for this year, and responding so amazingly. I've been overwhelmed by your generosity. I've been so amazed and challenged by God since being out here, particularly as far as money is concerned. I've never been in a position where I've had to rely totally on God for his provision. I've been blessed in receiving so much. This has enabled me to bless others through giving. I've seen people praying for needs and how God has provided for them and in turn, they've been able to bless others. There's a real sense of how God is in control and all it needs is for people to listen and respond. This is the same for Kagando. Our director at Kagando once shared with me, how he often worries about the hospital and finances; where the money is going to come from, to pay things like staff salaries and medications. Yet time and time again God provides and how it humbles him to be reminded that he's not in control here but God is. So thank you once again for listening and responding. I think it's such a great thing that you are doing as a church/ community in greatly assisting different causes each year. It really makes a difference, and I pray that you are blessed through what you are doing. £1307,37 of the money you have raised has so far been spent on:

- **Pulse oximeter** – This measures the amount of oxygen in the blood, and the heart rate. It's great to be able to monitor a sick patient and has been really effective so far in prompting the nurses in the care of these patients.
- **Manual suction pump** – This is used to remove secretions from the lungs in patients who are



unable to cough it up themselves. This is really important as if secretions remain in the lungs they can cause a blockage and reduce the amount of air entering and leaving the lungs.

- **Resuscitation cupboard, Laryngoscope blade and sterile drum** - These were purchased to complete a resuscitation kit for the surgical ward. If a patient arrests then time is the essence so it's important to have these things readily available for the doctors to use. They should be put in place this month and training done.
- **Path** – This path joins the surgical ward to the leprosy and fistula ward and the physio department. The three wards often work together, so it's great to have a path going between them. As a physio department we are very excited as it's been a nightmare trying to get mobility impaired patients, who really need physio, to the department to carry out proper treatment. In the past the absence of a smooth path has often meant that we have been unable to offer physio where it is most needed.

We are also planning to purchase a Continuous blood pressure monitor, and possibly an oxygen concentrator. This will mean that you will have equipped the surgical ward with an "intensive care" bed for the very sick patients, built a path and helped to establish a resuscitation cupboard. This should total about £2,000 (or £3,500 with the oxygen concentrator) and will result in many lives being saved that would otherwise have been lost.

If we receive any extra money (for example from the money raised from Gordon's Christmas Puzzle) we would like to put it towards an electricity project. At present our power is supplied by hydroelectricity. This is great when there is lots of rain, but in the dry season there are times when the hospital is without power. During these periods a large generator is used, but it is old, inefficient and often breaks down; we are, therefore, looking at purchasing a new generator. We are also hoping to set up an inverter system in each ward. This will have batteries, which store electricity that can be used when there is no power to run lighting and some machines.

I will be in Eaton Bray on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> March, where I will be giving a presentation about Kagando. If you are interested in attending please contact Gordon Gray on 220136 so a suitable sized room can be booked.

Thank you once again for your support, interest and prayers. Please continue to pray for us as we try and reach out and serve this community.

Love Rebecca

**A year of fundraising for  
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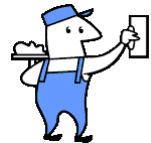
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Ice-veined the hawthorn, frost on the bough.  
Webs of white lace thread the grass;  
Chill of the moon as its rays search the lochs,  
Splinters of silver on glass.  
Flurries the wind through the starkness of trees,  
Etchings of black upon white,  
Whipping the skeletal left-over leaves,  
Patches of shadow and light.  
Thin puffs of snowflakes spiral the scene  
Hinting of blizzards to spread;  
Winter decides on its theme for NEW YEAR,  
Forecasting shivers ahead.



E.Gozney.

Isn't life a miracle?; To think that God created us and knew us from the moment of conception. The same Creator who formed the beauty of this earth, from the delicate snowflakes to the pounding seas, He created us!!

Psalm 139. The Message. "I was sculpted from nothing into something". How could God have possibly put so many cells together to create a human being? Apparently there are 5,000 different aspects of our personalities alone that He has combined together to make us each one a unique person. No wonder we are so very different - God sees us as a work of art - of His creative ability. Reflect for a moment on the miracle of your birth. No one else smiles, talks, or thinks the way you do.

"Our Father which art in heaven."

Our Father, who doesn't just bless us with one or two gifts, He is generous, so generous that He has blessed us with every spiritual blessing there is, and this includes the blessing that the Holy Spirit gives to us.

We are sons or daughters because God chose us. Deep within us there is a need to know that we are wanted and loved.

If our earthly parents or families haven't communicated this to us we can often end up with feelings of insecurity, and suffer from the awful feeling of being "so alone".

1 Corinthians 15 : 10. says "By the grace of God I am what I am". He knows, loves and accepts every aspect of our being; warts and all..!

Turn to Him, talk to Him, He will then lessen your anxieties and pressures. Jesus must have felt good when He heard His Father say "You are my Son, in whom I am well pleased". If you listen, you may hear those very words; "I am proud of you, I love you".

After all He made you, that is the un-changing basis of our true identity.

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These are the hands of North and South:

♠ J 10 3  
♥ 7 4  
♦ 8 2  
♣ A 10 9 6 4 2  
♠ A 2  
♥ A 8 6 5  
♦ K Q 3  
♣ K Q 8 3

West was dealer and opened with 1♦, North passed, East bid 1♥, and South doubled. West passed and North bid 2♣ and East passed. South who was wearing his rose-tinted spectacles ended as declarer in 3 No-Trump. West led 9♠ to 10♠, Q♠ and South wondered how on earth he could make the contract. How should declarer plan the play to give himself a sporting chance? Answer on the website:

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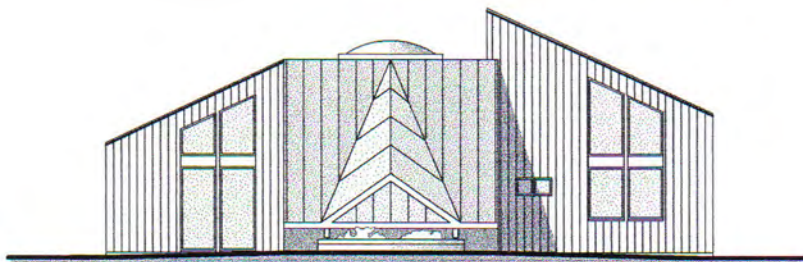
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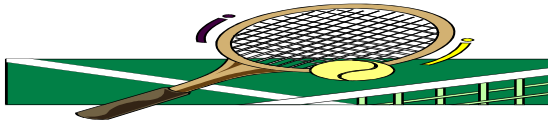
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## Eaton Bray Lawn Tennis Club

A somewhat belated Happy New Year to all Focus readers from all of us at EBLTC. By now the memories of the festive season have long faded, the decorations are boxed up and back in the loft, even the last of the turkey left-overs have been finished, and we're once again ensconced in our daily routines trudging through rain, fog and snow on our way to wherever we have to go. So, the weekends when they come around are even more important to allow us to relax and have some fun in preparation for the long, lazy summer days that lie ahead, hopefully with some tennis included for good measure. What better way to blast away those post-Christmas blues than a good dance? With some potential romance thrown in? Plus a fabulous\* meal? Well that's what around 100 of us will be doing on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> February at the Village Hall as we celebrate together at our Annual Valentine's Ball. When I say 'annual', it'll actually be our first one, but if it's not a total disaster we might do it again next year. There are still a very few tickets left for what promises to be a glittering occasion, so if you're free on the 10<sup>th</sup> and fancy a good night out, just call Ross Bagni on the number below and he'll sort you out a ticket or two; first come first served! Tennis club, served...get it? Think I'll stick to the day job.

I was playing around on Google Earth\*\* the other day during a rare slack moment at work (just in case the boss is reading this) when I thought I'd have a butcher's at what our tennis courts look like from space. I'd always wondered whether you could make them out from an orbiting satellite, like you can the Great Wall of China, but not possessing a spaceship let alone a suitable launching site, or indeed the necessary funding to purchase a 'space tourist' ticket off the Russians, Google Earth seemed the next best thing. The news was disappointing. Our courts are not visible from space; in fact I had to zoom in to an equivalent height of around 15,000 feet before I could just make them out. However once you zoom in closer you can even make out the court markings, the nets, and, nestled amongst the trees, our clubhouse! A fascinating tool for nosy people like me, I discovered that apart from the tennis courts belonging to EBLTC and Edlesborough clubs, there are in fact two additional private courts in the villages! I hope you're both members! And there's a very nice swimming pool not that far from our courts too; I must make friends with that family. Finally I noted that they still haven't mended that hole in the roof of my old house in Woodside that I made when attempting to fix the TV aerial some years back. A good job Google Earth wasn't around when we sold that place, we'd never have shifted it in that state.

By the time you're reading this, we'll have had our AGM and the new committee will be in place, putting all the plans together for another fun-filled year of activities both on and off the courts. Look out for next month's article for a full run down of everything we've got organised for the year ahead, and why not help to fulfil that New Year resolution to get a little fitter and join us for some gentle tennis (none of us are too energetic) and make some new friends into the bargain. It could be the start of a whole new you...!

For any further information about the club, including when we get together for our social tennis sessions up at the School Lane courts, or our various activities, please call either Chairman Ross Bagni on 01525 221411, Coach Nick Boys on 07810 832774, or if they're all out and I'm not spying on someone's back garden, me, Andy Cross on 01582 477114.

\* Fabulous is in the eye of the beholder, or rather in the stomach of the satisfied. No refunds if you don't like it!

\*\* Other similar software programs are available.





## Edlesborough Book Group

NEVER LET ME GO by Kazuo Ishiguro



Kazuo Ishiguro's latest novel is set in the 1990s but its story line is futuristic. The majority of our group enjoyed the narrative although some members, who had read previous works by this author, felt his writing style to be rather formulaic. This provoked a lively discussion regarding writing styles which then took on an ethical dimension as we debated the concept that Ishiguro's fiction could so easily turn into fact.

The book opens with the character of Kathy H who, using first person narration, tells us she has been a 'carer' for twelve years. She explains that although this is an unusual length of time, it is because she is good at her job. Indeed she is now allowed to choose her 'donors', many making their third or fourth 'donations' before 'completion'. By using familiar words to introduce unfamiliar concepts, Ishiguro skilfully introduces a sense of the sinister; a dark undercurrent to Kathy's childhood memories and present lifestyle which fuel the novel's momentum. Kathy reminisces about her upbringing at Hailsham, a boarding school set deep in the English countryside. She describes life there and her particular friendships with Ruth and Tommy together with their emotional highs and lows. Yet as the story unfolds, tantalising questions arise such as why are these children so special? Why are their artistic skills so important? Why is their physical wellbeing checked so regularly by their guardians/teachers? Cocooned from mainstream society, these children are unusual in that they do not speak of holidays from school, homes or parents. Instead we spookily learn that Hailsham is their total world and somewhere in society there is a 'model' for each child. We become increasingly involved in their lives as they develop into young adults, sexually active but each accepting their own infertility. And so too do they courageously but frighteningly accept their destiny: the reason for their existence.

Most bookclub members found this a sad and moving tale but others were disappointed by the characterisation and remained outside the emotional aspects of the novel. Still it was felt to be an intriguing and technically satisfying read. Kazuo Ishiguro has introduced some scary concepts and the possibility that such deeds are already being implemented, if not in England then somewhere else in the world, was a sobering thought as we embarked upon our refreshments!



### Edlesborough School's winning streak continues!

In December, a group of eight very excited girls from Year 6, took part in their first netball tournament against four other schools from the local area. This was the first time that they had taken part in a tournament, and they did extremely well! All of the teachers and children are very proud of them. Here is their tournament report:

Hello, we are going to tell you about how the Edlesborough school netball team got on when they played a tournament. The eight girls arrived at school at 8:30 am. All of us were very nervous but excited as we set off to Cotlesloe School. When we arrived, we started to warm up and watched the other teams come in. Then the tournament began. We had to be ready as we were playing first against Brookmead. But this was a challenge as the last time we played them they won. When we started playing, we tried our very hardest... and we WON 8-0! A good start to the morning, and our winning streak continued. Against Overstone it ended 5-0 to us; against Newton Longville 3-0 to us. It was a shame about the 3rd match though as we drew 2-2, but still it's not losing! After that we had a break, but we couldn't relax, the results were being revealed soon. Finally the moment of truth, suddenly the room went quiet. "In 5th place Newton Longville, in 4th place Overstone, in 3rd place St. Michaels, and in 2nd..... Brookmead, which means in 1st place, is EDLESBOROUGH!!!" We got a gold medal each and a shield, we were also the first school to ever win the competition. So thank you and well done to Hattie French, Lucy Everson, Megan Viljoen, Kayla Irving, Hannah Thompson, Harriet Whitcombe, Emily Hodson, and Lucy Poynter. Also a special thank you to the coaches Jenny Finch and Debbie Ellis.

By Hattie French and Lucy Everson.

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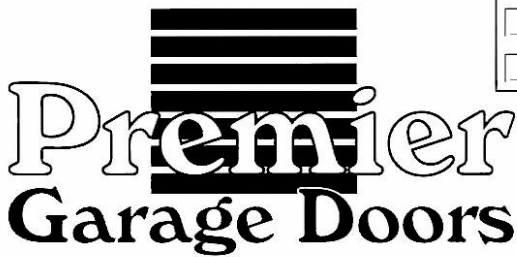
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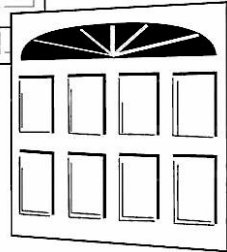
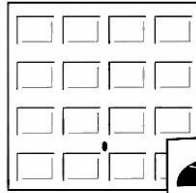
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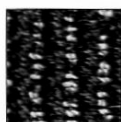
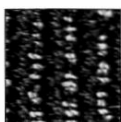
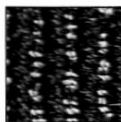
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