

FOCUS

June 2007



Open Gardens

Sunday June 10th

12 - 6pm

Edlesborough

Memorial Hall

THE FOUR VILLAGES MAGAZINE

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Focus - The Four Village Magazine

Magazine Committee

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

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

Village Diaries June 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, 9.30-12 noon, Mrs Ann Tobin 07816 358342

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 (Support for Breastfeeding mums), 10.15 - 11.45 am, Pitstone Memorial Hall

Tuesdays FITKID, 6-7pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Caroline 08445 606432

Tuesdays Totternhoe Baby & Toddler Group, 9.30-11.30am, Totternhoe Village Hall, 07986 730922

Tuesdays Fortnightly Coffee Morning, Bring & Buy, Table Top Sale, 10-12noon, Salvation Army Hall, Booth Place, Eaton Bray

Weds (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

Thurs (term time) Mums & Toddlers session, Dagnall Village Hall, 1-3pm

Thursdays Yoga Classes, Northall Village Hall, 11.30am-1pm
 Thursdays Keep fit, 2pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Mrs Johnson 220304
 Fridays SOCATOTS,12:45, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Daniel Walker
 07968 778681

Fridays (term time) The Venue for 8-12s @ Grace Community Church, 7.00-8.45
 pm, Bruce Moulding 01525 221601

Saturdays Jazzercise, Eaton Bray Village Hall, 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 details contact 01525 222441 or 01582 755147

1st Sunday Grace Community Church meeting, 3.30 pm, all welcome,
 Bruce Moulding 01525 221601

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

2nd Thursday CAMEO Coffee, tea & chat, 10am-12noon, Edlesborough
 Methodist Church

3rd Thursday Edlesborough Parish Council Meeting, 7.30pm, Memorial Hall

3rd Sunday Lunch club 11.30 to 2.00pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Chris
 Hewitt 222288

Other Regular Events

8th Leukaemia Research Coffee Morning, 2 Dunstable Road, 10.30
 am and plant sale

13th & 27th Bingo, Dagnall Village Hall, 8pm

19th Dagnall Over 60s Ploughmans Lunch Village Hall 1.30pm

One Off/Annual/Irregular Events

6th Christian Aid is 50 Concert, 7pm, St Mary's Eaton Bray

7th Northall & District Age Concern AGM, 8pm, Coffee Tavern

9th Eaton Bray Methodist Church Summer Garden Fete, 12 noon,
 Chestnut Lodge, Leighton Road, Great Billington

10th Open Gardens, 12-6pm, Edlesborough Memorial Hall

16th Eaton Bray Tennis Club, Play Tennis Day, 11.30-3pm

18th Eaton Bray Village Hall Public Meeting, 7.30pm, E.B.V.H.

19th Eaton Bray Village Hall AGM, 8pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall

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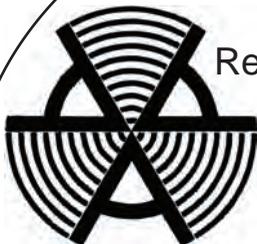
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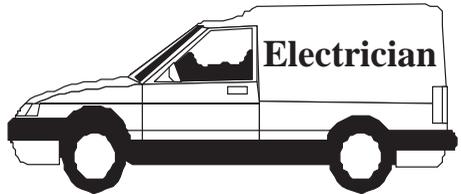
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Your Hall Needs You!

A public meeting will take place at
Eaton Bray Village Hall

on

Monday 18th June, at 7.30pm

The trustees of Eaton Bray Hall invite ALL villagers to see the plans for the refurbishment of the existing toilets due to be carried out this summer.

The trustees would also like to discuss with you the progress being made towards the next major phase of the refurbishment, which will include a disabled toilet, creation of a meeting room along with a completely refitted kitchen and completion of replacing the present roof.

It is important to the trustees to have your input.

Please do come along

**Eaton Bray
Village Hall
A.G.M.**

Tuesday 19th June

8pm

**Eaton Bray Village
Hall**

**Talk & Book Signing
Grove Theatre, Dunstable**

**From Grand to Grove
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We're almost ready for carnival on 7th July and here is our queen with the princess and attendants who are now preparing for their big day leading the procession and presiding over the occasion. Pictured are (back row from left)Katie Neal –attendant,



Bethan Roberts –carnival princess, Emma Baldwin – attendant and in front, Melissa Sibley our carnival queen. But before the big day, watch out for Clarabel the Cow's visit to the villages later in June. It's just £1 a shot to guess where Clarabel will make her special deposit and it might win you a big cash prize so make sure you don't miss Clarabel. And here are just some of the exciting things you can join in with on the day:

The Procession – get dressed up and come on a float or on foot

Best Dressed House Competition – if you're home is on the procession route, give us a good display and you could win a beautiful trophy from our sponsor, Leighton Buzzard Observer

Worm Charming – some amazing techniques and strong competition

Silent Auction – place your bids for some top quality items

Climbing Wall - new challenge this year scaling the heights

Clarabel's Lucky Cash Prize- Don't miss Clarabel the Cow's performance in the arena. Guess where she will make her special deposit and you could win a substantial cash prize-the more guesses the bigger the prize!

The Grand Draw – Some of the best prizes for miles around

Of course we'll also have vintage vehicles, belly dancing, chainsaw carving, traditional home baking, tombola, and many other sideshows, stalls and entertainments so make sure you're there for a fun filled day. For more info, check out the carnival website www.stmarysvillagecarnival.com

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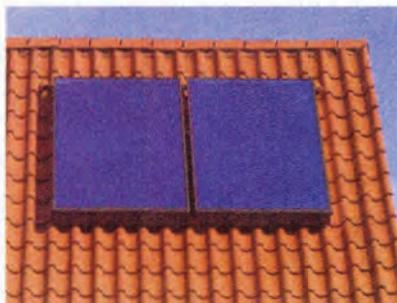
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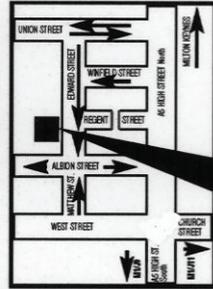


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Eaton Bray with Edlesborough Parish News

Vicar: Canon Malcolm Grant

The Vicarage, 11 High Street, Eaton Bray - Tel: 01525 220261

Hon. Assistant Priest: The Revd John Heffer

35 Peblemoor, Edlesborough - Tel: 01525 220618

Last year the Open Gardens Afternoon brought pleasure to many people and raised a remarkable sum of money for Kagando Hospital in Uganda. Building on this success we are pleased to offer another Open Gardens Afternoon on Sunday, 10 June, this time in aid of our Church Roof Fund and this year's Parish project, the Chilterns Multiple Sclerosis Centre. I want to express our thanks to the kind people who are allowing us to invade their privacy and enjoy their gardens, and invite *FOCUS* readers to come along for a wonderful afternoon and contribute to two very worthwhile charities.

Gardens are special places, oases of peace and pleasure, and for many an escape from the pressures of the world. For some they are truly a sanctuary – there is an old saying “you are nearer to God in a garden”. There is truth in that, for the joy of the garden gives us a sense of wonder at the beauty God has created. But it causes me some concern because it can make God a comfort zone into which we retreat from the harsher realities of life, and the God Jesus reveals to us is a God who is deeply committed to our world and every aspect of its complex life.

In the Bible, the garden does indeed represent paradise, but the Garden of Eden story shows how even in idyllic surroundings pride and rebellion can assert themselves, and human beings are so easily led astray. There are two other garden stories in the Bible we should think about. It was in a garden (Gethsemane) that Jesus struggled with his human frailty to consecrate himself to the path of suffering to reveal the full wonder of God's saving love, when he died on the cross to break the stranglehold of sin and death over us. And it was in a garden, close by Calvary, that the risen Jesus first appeared to his followers to show them he had been raised from the dead to open up God's new future – eternal life – for the whole human race. Those gardens have definitely brought us nearer to God.

I am reminded also of a well-known carol, which sees us as King Jesus's garden. It lists the virtues that ought to characterize our lives – chastity, humility, patience, obedience, and, above all, charity – and pictures them as the flowers we cultivate. In so many busy lives these qualities can easily become neglected – unnourished, unwatered and choked with weeds – and wither away. So, as we enjoy other people's gardens, or work away in our own, can we spare a bit of thought and effort for the cultivation of our own personalities to encourage the growth of positive virtues in our own lives, and so make our little corner of God's world a little more like the paradise it was always meant to be?

MALCOLM



Services at St Mary's Church

SUNDAYS: 8.00am – The Eucharist

10.00am – **PARISH SUNG EUCHARIST** (with Sunday School).

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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)

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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 **01525221779**. Lesson and practise duplicate play 2.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m. until June 8th, restarting Sept 21st 2007

Bridge Curio

These are the hands of all the players:

♠ 7 6
♥ 9 8 3 2
♦ A K Q J 3
♣ K Q

♠ J 10 3
♥ 10 5 4
♦ 8 7 6
♣ 5 4 3 2

♠ 5 4 2
♥ Q J
♦ 10 9 5
♣ J 9 8 7 6

♠ A K Q 9 8
♥ A K 7 6
♦ 4 2
♣ A 10

Through a bidding misunderstanding, South became the declarer in a contract of 6 clubs (12 tricks with clubs as trumps). It is most unusual to play in a trump contract when the opposition have got a nine-card fit in your trump suit, especially when you are at the small slam level. West leads the ♠J. You can see all four hands, can the contract be made? Answer on the website:

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

Bridge courses

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E-mail: jbchadburn@lineone.net

Keyboard Magic

My name is Jan Sloggett and I will be going to Romania for the eighth time in July for 3 weeks to lead two Holiday Bible Clubs as part of the Frontline Mission Team with Scripture Union, one in Bocsă, a small village near the Serbian border, and the other in Craiova, a city in the South of the country.

As well as leading 2 Holiday Bible Clubs, I will also be teaching English at a Church Camp just outside Bucharest for 5 days, and I also plan to visit several families in Craiova which Northall Chapel support with prayer and by providing money for food and clothes. Some of these people are almost destitute and rely on aid from the chapel. When I visit, I can see first hand, where the money is spent and spend time with them in their homes.

To raise money for Scripture Union Romania, I will be playing my keyboard for 12 hours on Saturday, 16th June, from 8am to 8pm at Northall Chapel and would like to invite anyone to come along to give me moral support and, if they feel led, to make a donation.

All the money will go to Biblia Pentru Toti - Bible for All - which is what Scripture Union Romania is known as.

Because Romania has just joined the EU, people like Alex Bruda, Director of Biblia Pentru Toti, has had to spend a lot of money on, for example, having health and safety inspections, which has cost him over £300, money which he could not really afford.

So I feel led to help in a small way; to help Alex to do the job which he loves doing, which is telling children and young people about the love that God has for them.

I look forward to seeing as many people as possible on 16th June.

Thank you and bless you



Andrei with his new shoes



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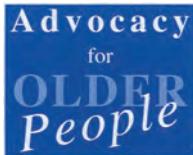
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Chairman's Report for Edlesborough Annual Parish Meeting 19th April 07 - My report covers the period May 06 - April 07

Your Parish Council is made up of 3 Wards Edlesborough Northall and Dagnall. 5 Councilors represent Edlesborough Ward; they are John Wilkinson, David Brown, Marilyn Pryce-Jones, Julie Ratheram and Steve Munday. Northall Ward has 2 representatives, Councilors Kevin Cubbage who is Vice chairman of the Parish Council & Phil Conacher. Dagnall Ward also has 2 representatives; Councilors Karen Coppen and me, Anne Thompson. Cllrs John Wilkinson, Phil Conacher & Karen Coppen are responsible for all planning issues in their respective wards. We are all supported by our industrious Clerk, Lin Sergeant, who deals with all telephone calls, correspondence, burials and the every day business activities of the Council. This past 12 months has been a positive and successful period for the Parish Council with many projects taking a huge step forward, or being completed. I will enlarge on some of these issues later in my report. To achieve these results every member of this council, including the clerk works tirelessly on your behalf and for that I personally thank them.

I would also like to mention and thank our County Councilor Avril Davies and District Councilor Pauline Hannelly. Both these ladies contribute a huge amount of time and effort to our Parish.

Committees

General Purposes Committee: chaired by Cllr David Brown comprises Councilors Marilyn Pryce-Jones Vice Chair; Steve Munday, Kevin Cubbage, John Wilkinson, myself and two co-opted non voting members, Sue & John Parker. Our Clerk Lin records the minutes. This committee continues to do sterling work, responsible for making decisions on the Churchyard/Cemetery, Memorial Hall, allotments, lighting and open spaces, thus reducing the time spent in full council when these decisions are ratified. Some of their decisions will be commented on later in my report.

Aylesbury Vale Local Committee: These meetings are run by Bucks C.C. and cover all the issues that are dealt with by them in the Vale of Aylesbury. Cllr John Wilkinson attends these meetings on our behalf. John continues to pursue the legality of the no repeater signs decision through the High Street in Edlesborough; he has also campaigned for white edge lines on the Bucks section of the A4146, Bucks being the only County on the A4146 not to provide this type of road marking. I am pleased to report that due to John's persistence this was finally agreed at the last meeting and will be implemented at the same time as the dragon teeth markings on the A4146 Northall/Edlesborough boundary. Without John's input at these meetings we, as a Parish, would simply be put at the back of the queue for 'getting things done' so we thank you John and look forward to your continuing presence on this committee.

Local Cluster meeting: This is a group run by County Cllr Avril Davies and is a

very useful smaller version of the local committee as it covers Avril's constituency of which we are part. Any local problems are raised and discussed at this meeting.

Neighborhood Action Groan: South Wing NAG meetings are a Thames Valley Police run group which deal with problems in our local community. Our representatives are The Clerk, Cllr Wilkinson and myself. The format of these meetings is about to change so these will be reported on at forthcoming Council meetings.

Parish Plan: I am pleased to report that this project, championed by Cllr Karen Coppen & initially Cllr Kevin Cabbage, is now up and running, A steering committee has been formed, comprising local residents and hopefully 1 Parish Councilor from each of the three villages The committee is chaired by Ms E Braider, a parishioner and has been called the EDaN project. This is YOU the parishioners plan supported by the Parish Council and we look forward to lots of interesting things happening in the very near future. PAIN is the very important group which looks after our interests with regards to any Luton Airport issues and for this we continue to support them. Cllr John Wilkinson is the council's representative. You can rest assured that any future development plans for the Airport will quickly be addressed by PAIN.

www.edlesborough.gov.uk: is in its very successful 4th year. The success of this website is due entirely to one man's efforts. He has maintained and kept the site updated since its inauguration, it has always been his 'baby' and that man is, of course, Cllr Kevin Cabbage.

We had many problems in the early part of last year caused by our Web provider but as I'm sure you've all noticed the site is back up and running thanks to Kevin's doggedness. Without Kevin's massive input this site would not be the triumph it is, so Kevin many sincere thanks.

Churchyard/Cemetery: Discussions are still taking place with the Church Conservation Trust about various issues. Plans have been agreed for upgrading the entrance and access to our Cemetery through the grounds of the old Churchyard in an aesthetic and sympathetic way. We have agreed to fund this initial work up to £15,000. To complete the project, the next stage will be to provide a turning circle so enabling the Hearse and mourners to access and exit the cemetery with dignity and ease. I would like to thank Canon Malcolm Grant, S. R. Dillamore Ltd Funeral Directors, the families of the three graves involved in this project and the advisor and architect from the CCT for their help, advice and contribution to make these very important plans come to fruition. It is envisaged works will start in the forthcoming summer months. We have recently commenced work in the cemetery to make it a fully functional lawn cemetery. The contractor has also removed ivy from the trees so they will be able to flourish and the hedge has been reset where necessary. I am pleased to report favorable comments have been received with reference to the contractor's ongoing work.

Burial and internment fees have been increased in line with other cemeteries in the area, a list of the fees can be found on our website.

Allotments: Allotments throughout the Parish continue to be well used; there are still plots available in all three villages. Funding has been agreed by Safer Routes for School for the footpath through Dagnall allotments for the accompanied village children to walk to school during term time, the work should be carried out this summer making it much safer than along the A4146. Once again I would like to thank Dagnall Gardeners Society for being such an asset to our community, supplying everything any gardener needs. If ever you want a chat about anything to do with gardening or anything else for that matter the Gardening hut on a Sunday morning is the place to be.

Edlesborough Memorial Hall: The hall continues to be well used by a large range of local organisations. The new floor is being laid at this present time and I would like to thank the under 5's and the other regular users for their patience and understanding during this period of unforeseen delays. But removing all the hazardous materials and having a much more user friendly surface can only be a huge plus for the Parish. Progressing well under the watchful eye of the Chairman of the General Purpose Committee Cllr David Brown and our Clerk Lin the works should be completed week commencing 7th May. The cost is in the region of £17,000. Thanks to Cllr Brown who on behalf of the PC has secured funding to the tune of £15,000 for this project, £5,000 from Aylesbury Vale D.C. and £10,000 from the Lottery Awards for All fund. The result of which has left us with reserves for future projects within the hall, thank you David. This year we also funded the fencing of an outside play area for the under 5's so providing them with a much needed facility. We continued to support Dagnall and Northall halls with a donation of £1,000 each, to help with their everyday running and maintenance costs. Due to the amount of articles submitted for this month's Focus, the 2nd half of this report will be included in the July edition of Focus.

Anne Thompson

Chairman Edlesborough Parish Council

Christian Aid is 50!

**This year Christian Aid is 50 years old,
so come and help us celebrate!**

A concert performed by children from Edlesborough School and St Mary's Church will take place at **St Mary's, Eaton Bray**, on **Wednesday, 6th June starting at 7pm.**

All are welcome. We have a lively and varied programme! Light refreshments. Tickets are £3.00 from Edlesborough School, or on the door.



Edlesborough W.I.

Our recent Members' Night was held in Edlesborough School, as new flooring was being installed in our usual venue, the Memorial Hall. Vivienne Grundy was thanked for holding our recent coffee morning at her home, when £275 was raised for the Iain Rennie Hospice at Home. Sue Parker was thanked also for the report she gave at a recent Beacon Group Meeting.

The main part of the evening had been arranged by Brenda Shields. On Members' Night the Committee hand over to other members who plan the evening. Brenda and her helpers had done a grand job. To start off, we were presented with lovely spray orchids, in appreciation of our efforts during the year. Also included were June Morton and Jill Paton who set out the Memorial Hall before each meeting. Brenda's thanks went also to the ladies who were helping her that evening.

Joyce Corless was introduced by Brenda as our speaker. She gave us an insight into Milton Keynes Theatre - an extremely interesting talk. Joyce is a G.S.R. (Group Sales Rep.) working for the theatre. There are ten G.S.R's, all covering their own districts; Joyce covers Luton & Dunstable. They promote the theatre, and encourage people to go there. Part of their work involves watching shows elsewhere and inviting other groups to Milton Keynes Theatre.

The theatre belongs to the Ambassador Theatre Group which is the largest in the West End and second largest in the U.K. Regions. Milton Keynes Theatre opened on 4th October, 1999 after twenty-five years' planning. Originally it was the dream of Sean Hennessey, a Council member. Sadly, he died aged only fifty-three, and never saw the building. The Hennessey Rehearsal Room is named after him. Similarly, Margaret Powell Square remembers a lady & her family who gave many donations and carried out numerous acts of good work. Milton Keynes Gallery, Metro Restaurant and Milton Keynes Orchestra all run separately from the theatre.

There are a number of facilities which help disabled visitors to the theatre: extra wide doors, ramps, wheelchair spaces, help for the deaf and visually impaired. Joyce described the decor: blue ceilings, green carpets, rough brick foyer, use of glass to give a view into and out of the building. The ceiling can be raised or lowered according to the sound needed. In fact, it can cover the circle area. The size of the stage can be changed, and there are fourteen trapdoors. Scenery and drapes are connected by ropes to a fly tower. These are all numbered, so can be pulled individually. The saying 'dropping like flies' originated with reference to these, not insects. Another phrase - 'in the limelight' - goes back to the time when lime was placed along the front of the stage and burned to give light.

A busy activity backstage is the cleaning and drying of costumes and wigs. When a new company arrives, wardrobe boxes containing dirty clothes are unloaded directly from lorries into the back of the theatre. Special effects also come with each group. There are fourteen dressing rooms, and dressers are employed to help with change of clothes during performances. This is particularly fast for dames in

panto, who have at least twelve costume changes in one performance.

It was really interesting to learn how much backstage work occurs in order to run each performance in the theatre. Following this, tea and delicious cakes were served and Phrena, our President, thanked all concerned for the very enjoyable evening. Val Harris



Edlesborough Book Group

Cold Comfort Farm by Stella Gibbons



Stella Gibbons, a journalist, wrote this, her first novel, after only publishing a book of poetry. She viewed the rural novels of the time with disdain and wrote this as a parody of the, as she saw it, florid prose and romanticised characterisation of the countryside that they portrayed in that genre.

The heroine of the story is Flora Poste, a well educated and well connected young lady, living in London with a very merry widow as her chaperone. When Flora's parents die, leaving her with a small allowance on which to live, she decides that she must approach various relatives with a view to becoming a semi permanent guest. She decides to live with her cousins at Cold Comfort Farm. On arrival, she discovers that the farm and its occupants live up to its name and the thrust of the novel lies in the contrast between the cool headedness of Flora and her mission to organise and restore order from chaos; and the shambolic Starkadder family, who are ruled over by the fearsome matriarch Ada Doom, who manages to control the whole family from her bedroom and is held in awe by all. Everyone appears to accept her ruling that no one can ever leave, "because, there have always been Starkadders at Cold Comfort Farm". Judith Starkadder and her husband Amos run the farm with their sons Seth and Reuben and a supporting cast of typical rural characters. Flora succeeds in disentangling the web of psychological complexes and dysfunctional behaviour and solves each cousin's individual problem, bringing about happy endings for everyone including herself.

The group was divided in its approach to the book inasmuch as some had read it a long time ago and remembered it with great affection and the rest, who were all familiar with the story but had never read the book. So, for all of us, its reputation had gone before it and we had been told, "it is a brilliantly funny book," which is hard for the novel to live up to. At the meeting we were even more divided in our opinions. There were those who had reread it and still thought it was a brilliantly funny book. Those, who on second reading, found it dated and did not enjoy it. There were new readers that had appreciated the sly and socio-political humour and those who did not find it all funny.

We all found the characters well drawn and enjoyed the way that the purple prose was signposted with an asterisk. There were some wonderful set pieces, a ball at the local manor house and a country wedding and the fictional dialect was wonderfully realised. But, a very divided group at the end of the evening with no overall winning opinion. It would appear to be a book that has to be read by the individual and only he or she can decide whether or not it is "brilliantly funny."



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Saturday 16th June
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ON Saturday June 9th

From 12 noon

**AT Chestnut Lodge,
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Great Billington**

Lunches from 12 noon until 2.00 pm

Various Stalls and Side Shows

Ample Car Parking in the Grounds

**A warm welcome awaits you to a
Fun day**

**Proceeds to The Chernobyl Children
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QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday 7th July

**6pm Start at Dagnall Village Hall
Doors open at 5.45pm**

**Bring your own refreshments ...
Opportunities for the children to
participate ...**

**Teams of 4 – 8 Adults ...
Prizes for the winning team ...
Raffle ...**

£3 per adult entry

**All proceeds to be donated to
Dagnall Under 5's Playgroup**

Contact Michelle: 01442 842 676



**Looking for a great day out?
Pig Roast at Edlesborough Mill,
from noon on Sunday 1st July 2007
Entertainment by "Smooth Jazz"**

Bar Available

Bring your own table and chairs

Tickets to include lunch cost £15

Available from the box office on Eaton Bray 220972

Stalls and Concessions on site

All proceeds to Iain Rennie and Macintyre Homes

OPEN GARDENS

**Sunday 10 June
12 - 6pm**

**In aid of the Chiltern MS Centre
& St Mary's Roof Fund**

Edlesborough Memorial Hall

Admission: adults £4, children free

**Tickets £3.50 in advance from St Mary's
on Sunday 3 June at 11.15 am**



WILLS -Top Ten Tips

- 1. Choose who draws up your Will wisely:** You can make your own Will using a DIY kit but the process is full of pitfalls and errors are easy to make. Lawyers make more money sorting out badly drafted Wills and dealing with claims against those Wills, than they make for drawing up wills. Your Will is a key component in your financial planning and an essential record of your wishes. DIY is OK for home improvements, but it's not for Wills. Use a specialist solicitor.
- 2. Choose your executors well:** Executors are responsible for exercising your estate in accordance with your instructions. It is a responsible and demanding role, and can involve large sums of money. Also make sure the people you choose are happy with the role.
- 3. Appoint a default or substitute executor:** If you are married you will probably want your spouse to be your executor, but don't appoint them as your sole executor. If you both died together e.g. in a car accident, neither of you would have an executor living. Always appoint a default or substitute executor in case your spouse is unwilling or unable to act.
- 4. Appoint guardians:** If you are the last living parent and you die leaving children under age 18, a guardian will be appointed by the court if you have not specified who this should be in your will. If you are unmarried but you and your partner have children, you might not even get guardianship of your children. If an unmarried man dies, his female partner automatically gets guardianship of their children, but if an unmarried woman dies, her male partner does not. Appoint each other as guardians in your wills to overcome this problem.
- 5. Appoint trustworthy trustees:** This might sound obvious, but if you are setting up a trust in your will or if your beneficiaries could be aged under 18 when you die, you will need to appoint trustees. Trustees will be responsible for managing and investing money, or looking after property until it passes to the beneficiaries, so make sure they are people with a good grasp of financial matters.
- 6. Make specific legacies:** If you want to preserve family heirlooms or items of special sentimental value, (for example, a grandfather clock, or a wedding or engagement ring), you should leave these items as a specific legacy to a named beneficiary.
- 7. Leave a residual legacy:** The 'residue' is what is left over in your estate after you have made any specific legacies. You must specify who this goes to, as if you fail to do so, you will create a partial intestacy in your will. In other words, the small gifts and legacies would pass according to the Will, but the residue is subject to the intestacy laws.
- 8. Beat the Tax Man:** 40% Inheritance tax is an increasing burden for many families, e.g. where the value of a property pushes the value of a couple's joint estate above £300,000. If you are married, recently widowed or civil partners you can include a discretionary trust in your Wills, which could save the family up to

£120,000 in inheritance tax at current rates AND give children and the home the best protection.

9. Sign your will: It's all very well having your Will drafted, but if you don't sign it in front of two independent witnesses, it will not be valid. A witness cannot be anyone mentioned in the will or anyone married to anyone mentioned in the Will.

10. Have it stored safely: Once your Will has been correctly signed and witnessed, have it stored in a proper safe storage facility. This will protect it from fire, flood, damage, or loss. Your executors will be provided with a certificate showing them where your Will is stored and how to get hold of it if you die. The Probate Registry will want sight of the original Will, not a copy. Whatever you do – don't hide your Will. Your will is no good to anyone if it cannot be found after your death.

TONY DUKE. Regional Director, **SOVEREIGN WILL & PROBATE**

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Will writers for the TIMES Will writing service, charities, financial advisers etc.

22ND Marathon Des Sable - My Story by Sally Thorne

My adventure started at Gatwick Airport on Thursday 23rd March, when I joined 232 mad Brits all with Raidlight rucksacks, full of mixed emotions, sad at leaving my husband and children but exhilarated at the thought of finally after 20 months preparation, fulfilling my dream of competing in the toughest foot race on earth.

We arrived in Morocco and the first night was spent in a 5 star hotel, this was my last taste of luxury for the next 8 days.

Day 1: Next morning at 9.15am six coaches arrived to take the British competitors on a six hour trip to the bivouac at Jebel Irhs. Bearing in mind we are all drinking as much water as possible, the French organisers in their wisdom refused to stop the coaches for a comfort break until lunch time, 3+ hours into the journey, this was our first experience of having no toilet facilities, no trees, no boulders, no anything, just sand and 232 cross-legged Brits. After another 3 hours on the coach excitement erupted as we caught sight of our camp in the distance. The coaches stopped and we all disembarked to be herded like cattle onto Moroccan army trucks with our suitcases, rucksacks and litres upon litres of bottled water, to be transported to checkpoint 1 for registration. We were the first to arrive and were directed to our so-called tents! My tent was number 76 and my companions for the duration of the marathon were 4 men and 3 other girls, little did we know then of the strong bond that would be formed by complete strangers over the next 8 days and how important this friendship would become. After polite introductions we sorted out our gear and had our first lesson in queuing, in fact we queued for everything from water, to seeing doctors, dentists, to send our one allowed email, in fact the only thing we didn't queue for was toilets as there was ample sand for everyone.

Our first magic night under the stars in the desert was soon turned into turmoil as

the first of many sandstorms hit, a quick lesson was learnt that night to always sleep with your sand goggles on and always put your kit away safely. After 6 hours trying to hold onto the tent and 3 hours sleep day 3 was upon us. At this point I must thank Moira D'Arcy and St Judes for providing me with the best sleeping bag ever. I was the only one in our tent that was not shivering in the freezing night time conditions. Day 2: The whole day was spent going through rigorous medical and kit checks. One by one all 760 competitors, made up from 33 nationalities, had their rucksacks weighed. The minimum weight is set at 6.5Kg, I wish! Mine was a staggering 13Kg, only 2Kg below the maximum allowed. That night we had our last real meal before moving over to the delights of dehydrated food.

Day 3: Self-sufficiency began the next day with the first stage of the race a gentle 30km. After another cold night and sand storm 757 competitors set off in high spirits. All went well, a super day and after 6 hours in temperatures of 43° and humidity at 14% I was 4th back to tent 76 and with tomorrow's stage being an extra 7km up a 25% difficult climb. I knew I had to reduce the weight of my rucksack as my back was breaking. My tent mate Paul decided to do a cull which included my mess tin (as I could borrow his), this I would live to regret. Some clothing, medical supplies and my sleeping bag liner, which I noted he used!

Day 4 Stage 2: I started off at a good jogging pace and got to checkpoint 1 in good time, but made my first mistake by not taking enough time out to rest and didn't take enough salt tablets. After 18km I started the 1st of 2 steep climbs I soon became nauseous and faint so had to stop and many competitors passed me including my tent mates Paul & Lee. This was my 1st of many lows and I shed a few tears. But then Jo appeared, another girl from our tent, and literally dragged me to checkpoint 2. I took on some more water and salt tablets; met up with the boys and we all set off together. After 15 minutes I hit a real high but stayed with Jo and the boys as they were now struggling. We completed the big climb pulling ourselves up on ropes. By the time we reached the top we were losing light fast and only had 90 minutes to complete this stage, the adrenalin rush was immense we just ran and ran, up and over the sand dunes to reach base 3. It was now dark but the camp had seen four lights appearing over the dunes and news travelled fast and the whole camp clapped us in, it was the greatest feeling I was to experience; and unfortunately it was downhill from now on.

Sally's story continues in the next issue of Focus

**Totternhoe Baby &
Toddler Group
Tuesdays - Term Time
9.30 - 11.30am
Totternhoe Village Hall
07986 730922**

Douglas Frederick Chandler

Joan and family would like to thank everyone for their cards and messages of sympathy following Doug's death.

Also thank you to everyone for their support over the last few months.

Open Gardens – Sunday 10 June

Please come along and support the village Open Gardens event on the afternoon of Sunday 10 June – 12 to 6pm. Many of you will remember the event last year, which was a wonderful social event. Tickets for adults, price £4, will be available from 11.30 on the day from Edlesborough Memorial Hall where there will also be parking, refreshments and stalls; admission for accompanied children is free. Alternatively you can get tickets in advance from Gordon Gray or Sally Taylor or from St Mary's Church at 11.15 on Sunday 3 June.

Nine gardens will be open to the public during the afternoon, in Edlesbough, Northall and Eaton Bray. The gardens range from small plots to plots of several acres – you will see a range of garden features from traditional herbaceous and perennial borders to more unusual gardens, lakes and woodland and the occasional 'secret' garden.

Refreshments, toilets and plant sales are located at the Memorial Hall but will also be found at some of the gardens you will visit. Wheelchair access is available at most of the gardens and some gardens offer parking. We would be grateful for donations of plants or cakes, brought to the Hall on the day.

A walk taking in all nine gardens will be available from the Memorial Hall during the event. We do hope many of you will take advantage of these to explore the local countryside.

The money raised by the event will be shared equally between St Mary's Parish Project for 2007, the Chiltern MS Centre in Wendover, and the St Mary's Roof Fund.

Do come along and support us and pray for good weather.

Northall and District Age Concern

On Friday 4th May Len Rawle, international theatre organist, returned to our village for a second concert. He once again played his fabulous Yamaha HS8 electronic organ to a packed house at Eaton Bray Methodist Church and what a superb evening we all enjoyed. The original idea for the whole event came from Maurice Sanders, a lifelong Eaton Bray resident and an active member of both Eaton Bray Methodist Church and Northall and District Age Concern. The proceeds of the evening have been shared between both organisations.

Many thanks to everyone who supported this magical event.

Northall and District Age Concern members enjoy themselves each Wednesday at Northall village hall. They forget about aches and pains for a little while, spend time with their friends and enjoy a freshly cooked lunch. If you are on your own and a little bit lonely why not come along and try us out (most of our members tell us they wish they had joined sooner!)

The only thing we ask is that you are over 70 and live within the area of the four villages served by Focus.

If you are interested and want to know more, please ring Helen - 221137

Round Ireland Charity Bike Ride - Update...

Well, 2 weeks and 1,340 miles later, Shaun completed his quest to cycle all the way around the coastline of Ireland whilst raising money for cancer-related charities. He began on Saturday 24th March and finished on Saturday 7th April.

The trip was blessed with good weather. Shaun reported only one particularly blustery morning, whereas, the majority of the ride, the wind was not too strong or in his favour. He only 'donned' his waterproofs for 3 hours one morning in Northern Ireland. The rest of the time, he was riding in April sunshine. Uncanny, particularly for The Emerald Isle. Great for the trip, but, surely, it's another indication of Global Warming?!

No punctures at all! The only 'technical' hitch was a broken cycle chain whilst scaling a particularly steep and winding hill. However, Shaun's ace back up team (AKA Calum and Beccy) came to the rescue with the spare bike and then went on ahead to find someone to repair the chain.

Friendly and comfortable B+B's ensured that Shaun had a good nights rest and fortifying breakfasts. Either a traditional full Irish breakfast or bowl of porridge gave an energy boost at the beginning of each day. Shaun's on-going concern that his body would have trouble coping with the cumulative effects of riding was proved not to be an issue. He surprised himself with how much he was able to achieve each day; averaging between 90 and 100 miles every day and reported that he felt his body gaining strength as he went along.

He made it look easy, though he vows it wasn't!!

Donations have been coming in and we thank all those people who have generously shown their support for Shaun's ride. The Macmillan Support and Cancer Research UK charities will benefit from the money raised. I'm sure we have all been touched in some way by the effects of cancer and this is an opportunity to help.

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO DONATE!

If you'd like to donate, but haven't had the opportunity to yet, then, you still can.

Either visit Shaun's web site, where there are his diary entries and photo's taken 'en route' to give a bit more detail. www.drude.co.uk where you can give on-line (and have the opportunity to Gift Aid) or, Eaton Bray Lower School has kindly agreed to take in any money/cheques and send them on to us.

Happy biking and have a great summer!

Beccy Haydon

NORTHALL & DISTRICT AGE CONCERN

**The Annual General Meeting will
be held on**

**Thursday 7th June at 8.00PM
at The Coffee Tavern, Eaton Bray.**

**Interested members of the public
are very welcome to attend.**

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St Mary's Parochial Church Council Meeting

We met on 10th May at All Saints Church, Dagnall. The meeting was the first to be held after the Annual PCC meeting when members were appointed to the PCC for the coming year. The meeting agreed the new responsibilities of the newly-elected Church Council.

This year's Parish Project, the Chiltern Centre for Multiple Sclerosis, has got off to an excellent start with the £50 raised by Sally Taylor's card sale being added to by £320 from a coffee morning organised by Mark Saccoccio and £450 from a stall on Leighton Buzzard market run by Joan and Robert Calder. The next event for this cause will be the Open Gardens Scheme on 10th June.

Unfortunately, the spring cleaning of the church had to be postponed, due to lack of available help. It has been re-scheduled for 26th and 27th July, and anyone who can lend a hand (and elbow) will be most welcome.

The "Friends of St Mary's" launch evening was a success and several events are already planned. The first will be an organ concert by Liverpool Cathedral organist Ian Tracey on 2nd June. There will be monthly coffee mornings on the last Saturday of every month starting on 30th June, 10.30 to 12.00. Weather permitting, it will be held in the grounds of St Mary's. During the school holiday, a children's entertainer will be in attendance.

Plans for the Village Carnival on 7th July are well in hand, although more help is needed for the after show clear up. If any able-bodied people can help to clear Edlesborough Green after the show it would be a great help to the small band of stalwarts who stay on after this wonderful event.

The Church Mouse

All Saints, Dagnall - Services in June 2007

Sun. 3rd June	9.00 am	Eucharist
	10.30 am	Morning Service
	6.00 pm	Evening Service with Holy Communion
Sun. 10th June	10.30 am	Morning Service
	6.00 pm	Sung Eucharist
Thu. 14th June	7.30 pm	Eucharist
Sun. 17th June	10.30 am	Family Communion
	6.00 pm	Evening Service
Sun. 24th June	9.00 am	Eucharist
	10.30 am	Family Service
	6.00 pm	Evening Prayer
Sun. 1st July	9.00 am	Eucharist
	10.30 am	Morning Service
	6.00 pm	Evening Service with Holy Communion
Sunday School meets each Sunday at 10.30 am		



FITKID HAS ARRIVED IN EATON BRAY!
TUESDAYS 6.00pm-7.00pm in the VILLAGE HALL



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Describing a typical session, Caroline Corcoran explains, "We follow the aerobic curve, so we start with stretching exercises and warm-up games, work up to higher intensity throughout the session and then work back down again. So we make sure we're giving children the aerobic workout needed for proper health benefits, but as far as they're concerned, they come along and have a great time."

Fitkid also offer **Fitkid Magic birthday parties**, combining lots of Fitkid activities, a few traditional party games and culminating in a magic show by local magician Stefano, a Member of The Magic Circle.

To find out more call Caroline on 08445 606 432, or email caroline@fitkid.co.uk.

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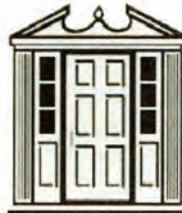
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Old & Young GIs Unite to Take First Prize at Largest Ever Quiz!

On Friday 29th April the Village hall was throbbing, with 173 eager minds just waiting for the off. Keith Blackburn (the greatest living quiz master in Eaton Bray) took the microphone and we were away. What a night, with difficult questions great banter, as exceptionally talented teams fought it out to become the champions. In the middle of all this we had a lovely supper and I didn't win one of the fabulous prizes in the raffle. Still you can't have everything, can you?

Into the final round and 5 teams at the top could all win the title. "Art's Cool" led "The Team with No Name" by just half a point. After the last round with all the contestants waiting with baited breath while Keith in classic style announced the results in reverse order.....at last the final result: The Team with No Name were winners by half a point!

Well would you believe who was in the winning team? Yes the old and young GI's united in their brilliance (well actually it was two of our guests who answered 90% of the questions) but we will happily take the glory. Perhaps even happier was the Mary French team who had a great evening and went away with a large carton of Celebration for being the best non winners. Congratulations ladies.

The real winners, The Village Hall and the Tennis club, who will split the £1483 profit between them. Our thanks go out to all the villagers and guests who come along and make the organisers life so easy.

A special thanks to Keith who gives up a lot of time to make these quizzes so special.

And so onwards, towards our **4th Annual Beer Festival on Friday evening 1st June and all day Saturday 2nd June, with the beers chosen and served by volunteers from CAMRA.** We will be having 14 beers, 2 ciders and a Perry, not to mention lager, wine and soft drinks for non real-ale types. We will also have entertainment on both evenings plus a magician for the whole family on Saturday afternoon. Hope to see you all there.

Again thank you all for your support for the quiz and as I had to turn 3 people away on the morning of the quiz **book early for our next one, Friday 5th October Eaton Bray Village Hall.**

Edlesborough Surgery Acute Clinic

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Please appreciate that only urgent problems can be dealt with at this appointment, you may be asked to make a routine appointment to discuss any other problem.



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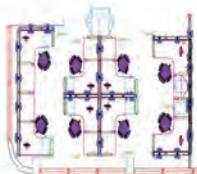
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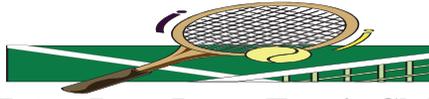
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Christine 07801 844885





Eaton Bray Lawn Tennis Club

I'd like to commence this month with a top tip for all your shoppers who find parking charges prohibitive at big shopping centres like, for example, Milton Keynes. My thanks go to one eminent club member for recounting the following true story regarding how to get free parking for three days in a two hour parking bay. This member, who for legal reasons had best remain nameless (I can't afford a good lawyer, or even a bad one for that matter), parked her car at Sainsbury's in Milton Keynes last Friday whilst she nipped in to purchase a few essentials for husband R....oh gosh nearly gave it away. Once finished she popped into another couple of shops before returning via a different route to Sainsbury's to find her car gone. Vanished into thin air, disappeared, missing, departed, in fact, assumed stolen. Police were alerted, insurance companies contacted and claims lodged, CCTV camera footage studied, witness statements taken, and a full scale Missing Mini alert launched (oh no, there I go again, that rules out all non-Mini owners). Our member was distraught; not only had her car been nicked but she'd left her very expensive Gucci sunglasses in the glovebox. And worse of all, she had to call her husband, break the news and ask him to come and pick her up in his Cit....(oh good just stopped myself).

Exhaustive enquiries continued over the weekend with the police diverting all available resources into tracking down the exclusive gold Mini (oh heck). By Monday morning they were running out of ideas when they received a phone call from Sainsbury's along the lines of 'There's this car been abandoned in our car park, could you come and take it away please'. They duly arrived and were clearly delighted to discover the 'missing' Mini, which had evidently been sitting in the same car-parking space since the previous Friday, un-moved and very definitely un-stolen. Yes, when our member had returned to find her car, she'd been looking in the wrong car-park!! To say she was a little embarrassed is like saying that Jose Mourinho is a little shy. Oh how the police sighed with relief and smiled about it. MI5 were stood down and the insurance company's claims team were re-deployed. As for our member, all's well that ends well; she got her car back, plus her sunglasses, and as a bonus three days free parking and she didn't even lose her no-claims discount! Apparently her other half was very good about it all and there was absolutely no barney (uh oh that's torn it do EasyJet fly to Brazil)??

Following our Spring Dance (see last month's report on the drumming) we followed up in April with a joint Quiz Night with the Village Hall committee. Over 170 people across 20 teams tried to answer questions on subjects from the symbol for the chemical element Barium, to the birthyear of George II. Or was it the III, or it may have been the year of his death, but by then it was all a bit of a blur. We stopped after four rounds to enjoy a magnificent cheese and pate platter provided for each table together with crusty bread, and supped some more beer and wine

from our cooler bags. I was seconded to a team who couldn't think of a suitable name, so we appropriately called ourselves 'The Team with No Name'. The second half of the evening saw us rapidly climb up the scoreboard as we sailed through the Sports and Geography rounds thanks mainly to a very intelligent dentist in our ranks, aided by a bank manager who knew the currency of Azerbaijan (1 manat = 100 qapik, in case you ever need to order any), and by some miracle after the full eight rounds we found ourselves overall winners by half a point! We accepted our prizes of bottles of wine with gusto and determined to keep them away from our chairman who was eyeing them with more than a passing interest. The evening raised around £750 each for both the Village Hall committee and our tennis club, and everyone seemed to have a good time as well, so look out soon for booking details for the next Quiz on 5th October. 170 people can't be wrong!

Finally, see the advert in Focus this month for our Play Tennis Day on Saturday 16th June. Chiltern Black Thunder, Andrew Selous MP, free tennis, competitions, and my famous BBQ. Don't miss it!

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 ~~Barney~~ Bagni on 01525 221411, Coach Nick Boys on 07810 832774, or if they're all out and I'm not fighting extradition from Sao Paulo, me, Andy Cross, on 01582 477114.

Practice Pilates

Pilates when practised regularly, your general posture will improve, your stomach will flatten and overall muscle tone will increase. Any muscular imbalance will be corrected which will reduce unwanted stress and tension.

Pilates is now practised by all sorts of people. It is particularly useful for those with skeleton/muscular problems brought on by injury, disability or other trauma; physiotherapists and osteopaths are now widely supportive of the technique and frequently refer patients to a course of pilates exercises.

It is also extremely useful for the healthy person; in today's lifestyle we rarely look after our body properly and too often develop bad posture which leads to stresses and strains all over the body. This particularly affects the lower back but is also common around the shoulders and neck and in the pelvic area.

However, to achieve these goals, Pilates requires concentration and dedication. **It is not a quick fix but a long term investment.**

New Pilates class in the village, starting Monday 14th May at 10.45 at St Giles Hall, Totternhoe or Wednesday 16th May at 7.45pm in Northall village hall. FREE TRIAL, no need to book just turn up. Nutrition, Weight Management and fitness classes starting the week after. For further information and a full class list please call Platinum Fitness on 01582 412426 or check the website www.platinum-fitness.net

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Salvation Sound. . . . June 2007

Wafting across my garden came the pungent smells of a Bar-B-Q. !! It was such a lovely day, blue skies, warm sunshine, just the hum of bees, the songs of birds and the scent of flowers, a day for me to contemplate my allotted plot; a day to commune with nature and my God; - but it was spoiled for me by the intrusive smell of burnt fats and meat...

So then I retired to the inner sanctum of my lounge; where I started to mull over times gone-by. Afternoon tea on the lawn with bread and butter, strawberry jam, and a homemade fruit cake. A picnic with salmon and shrimp paste, or sometimes bloater paste sandwiches, with mustard and cress or water cress added; perhaps even finger rolls with cheese and pickle, and tomato wedges, madeira cake and swiss roll. Flasks of tea and bottles of homemade lemonade; and very important, the Box Brownie, for the family photograph. We all carried something and set off for a spot by the river or a place under the trees in the orchard. Happy days, a time of innocence and simplicity, days when fields were still ploughed by ploughmen, when you paid for your groceries with shillings and ha'pennies, and when no motor traffic noise was heard; when we could gather bunches of wild flowers and take them home to be placed in a jam jar on the kitchen window sill.

I thought of that wonderful picnic that Jesus held, when He fed five thousand with loaves and fishes. Matthew 14:13-21.

One of the joys of getting old is that we can look back a long way. Sometimes the Senior years are viewed as a pleasantly useless era - when we just claim benefits, senior citizen discounts, have lots of free time and do very little. On the other-hand we can be useful - for God still has much for us to do - we may be prone to illness and weakness, even confined to our homes, but we can still PRAY. However infirm, this is a benefit we can offer, and we can become a godly example to others.

"When I am old and greyheaded, O God, do not forsake me, until I declare strength to this generation." Psalm 71: 18.

"The older saints who trust God's word,
Have trod the paths that you will walk;
They've fought the battles you will fight -
There's truth and wisdom in their talk."

Then I thought time for tea - I could just go for one of those burnt sausages and a dollop of mustard !!!

"Some tempestuous morn in early June
When the year's primal burst of bloom is o'er.
Before the roses and the longest day -
When garden-walks and all the grassy floor
With blossoms red and white of fallen May
And chestnut flowers are strewn -
So have I heard the cuckoo's parting cry,
From the wet field, through vex't garden-trees;

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The bloom is gone, and with the bloom go I!

Matthew Arnold. 'Thyrsis'.

Mothers' Union, Eaton Bray With Edlesborough

On Wednesday, 11th April Lillian Appleby from Dunstable showed the Mothers' Union a small part of her collection of over seven hundred and fifty thimbles.

The Romans made the earliest thimbles and one found at Verulamium is on show at the museum in St. Albans. Thimbles are most usually made from metal, leather, rubber, wood, glass or china. Originally thimbles were used to push needles through fabric or leather, and particularly by sailors when making sails, but now thimbles are made for commemorative, advertising and decorative purposes.

In the 19th century many thimbles were made from silver and 'Dorcas' thimbles, made by Charles Horner, who had strengthened the soft metal by using a steel core covered inside and out with silver, are very popular with collectors. The Thimble Guild produces a monthly book for collectors with information on new and old thimbles.

As an example of the different types of thimble which have been produced, the first one Mrs. Appleby showed was one made of chalk, with a picture of the white cliffs of Dover on it, followed by one made of coal – showing a picture of a coal mine! The ingenuity of thimble makers became evident when she produced thimbles made of cane, crocheted yarn, wood (one particularly special one from Jerusalem made of olive wood) Indian wood with brass inlay, minute beads, enamel with wire, hand blown glass, varnished papier-mâché – the list seems endless. From the nineteenth century thimbles have been produced by the great porcelain makers – Wedgwood, Sevres, Limoge, Meissen.

It seems almost anything can be commemorated with a thimble – and Mrs. Appleby's collection proved it – royal occasions: the Queen's 80th birthday, Jubilee, the Princess of Wales Memorial Foundation: Counties; stamps and bank notes – a Penny Black 1840; a five pound note; important dates; Olympic Games 1948; V.E. Day, St. George's Day; the life of Richard Whiteley 1943-2005, and many many more. All beautifully decorated, and interesting to see how many different categories and events in our lives are recalled and remembered in this miniature way.

Collecting something small and interesting which can easily be displayed is an obvious advantage, but Mrs. Appleby did admit that the most difficult thing about her collection is the dusting!

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Thursday

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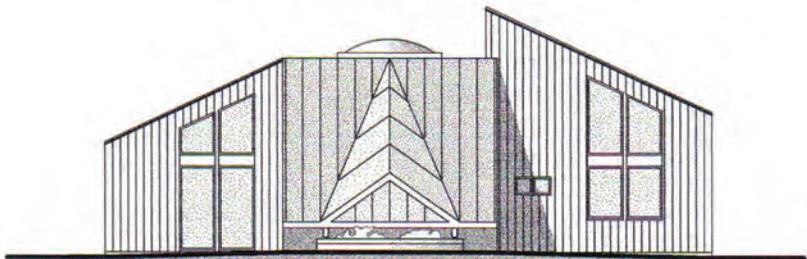
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Bee-keeping Look Out For Swarms.....

Spring started early this year with rape, flowers and blossom in full bloom by the beginning of April. I extracted honey by the middle of the month, four weeks earlier than last year - global warming?

The weather until now has been good for bees with warm sunny days although as I am writing it is about to change, mind you we could do with some rain.

I have the clearing boards in the hives and hopefully I will be extracting some rape honey by Saturday the 5th of May.

Rape and ivy honey sets very quickly, so to avoid the honey setting in the comb it has to be extracted before the honey is fully capped (sealed), the norm is that honey should be extracted when the frame is no less than 3/4 sealed but with rape and ivy it has to be done earlier.

I collected my first swarm of the year from Caddington of all places. It was massive and on top of a tree, a bit of a difficult job as I had to cut several branches to get to it and all of this on top of a ladder (the things we do for love). I placed my skep (straw basket that Victorians used as beehives) on top of the swarm, I smoked them a bit and the whole swarm crawled inside the skep, mind you it took two hours. They are now happily settled in one of my empty hives.

Skeps are ideal for swarm collection as the bees can breathe through the gaps and crawl about the place avoiding overheating that can easily kill them, especially on hot days.

Bees will swarm from a hive to somewhere near, most times it will be a tree branch where they will hang in a kind of ball for several hours to several days. Bee scouts will look around the country side for a permanent home favouring dark and reasonably large places with small entrances. It is the first stage of swarming that bees can be 'easily' collected, once they are settled inside a tree trunk or a chimney things get difficult.

We are entering the swarm season so I have in place several 'bite hives', that is empty hives with narrow entrances and inside a couple of old combs hoping to catch wandering swarms.

Roll on summer!

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Eaton Bray Village Hall 100 Club Winners April 2007

Number	Name	Winnings
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161	Jayne Bradbury	£25
137	Carole Blundell	£25
150	Frank Alston	£25
183	Heather Abrams	£25

Drawn on 23rd April 2007 at Eaton Bray Playgroup. Please direct any correspondence to Ross Bagni, 71 Bower Lane, Eaton Bray, Bedfordshire, LU6 1RB, Telephone: 01525 221411.

Dagnall News

Over 60's

After three outside visits in March, April and May we are returning to the Village hall for our annual Ploughmans Lunch on June 19th.

Our meetings continue to get a most enthusiastic response from members, both for outside visits and local meetings in Dagnall.

We are continuing to implement a policy of restricting new membership to residents of Dagnall, due to the ability of our helpers to assist larger numbers at our meetings.

Dagnall School

Willow Structure

A willow structure has been constructed by Julie Ramsay, Kathy Bovington, Julia Bolton and the children of Dagnall School in memory of a much loved Governor, Mr Brian Peavor. Brian served on the Governing Body of Dagnall School for many years and then went on to be Chairman. He loved gardening and this will be a fitting tribute to his memory. Thank you to all the parents and staff who contributed to this fund.



Dagnall School Children and helpers erecting the Willow

Marathon Des Sables

See Sally's report of her experiences in a separate article.

Local Private Tuition

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**Please contact Sonya on
07961 155 870 or 01525 221278**

Edlesborough

Parish Council Meetings

3rd Thursday of every month

7.30pm Memorial Hall

Next meeting: Thurs 21 June 2007

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.

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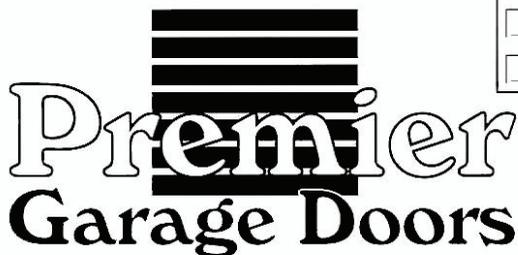
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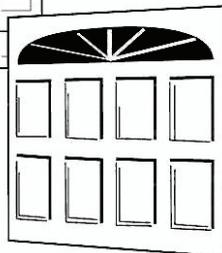
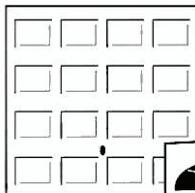
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In aid of St Mary's Church Fabric Fund,
Edlesborough Cemetery Access Project,
and other local charities & good causes*

In 2006, £10,000 was raised for local charities & good causes.