

# FOCUS

February 2008



**THE FOUR VILLAGES MAGAZINE**

**EATON BRAY  
EDLESBOROUGH**

**NORTHALL  
DAGNALL**



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**Sunday 2nd March  
"Mothers Day"**



# Focus - The Four Village Magazine

## Magazine Committee

**Joint Editors:** George Crutcher - 7 Summerleys, Eaton Bray 221637  
Sally Siddons - 34 Wallace Drive, Eaton Bray 221733

**Email:** [sallysid@hotmail.com](mailto:sallysid@hotmail.com)

**Dagnall Representative:** Sue Cawdell - 10 Deans Meadow, Dagnall 01442 842200

**Northall Representative:** Derrick Bonfield - 'Poppy'n', Eaton Bray Road 220013

**Circulation Manager:** John Plater - 41 Church Lane, Eaton Bray 221095

**Treasurer:** Ken Coates - 10 The Nurseries, Eaton Bray 220868

**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**

### EATON BRAY PARISH COUNCIL

**has a vacancy for a  
Parish Councillor**

To be eligible for co-option onto the Council you will need to be an elector over 21 years of age and have lived or worked within 3 miles of Eaton Bray for at least 12 months.

If you are interested in serving your community on the Parish Council please write to: Clerk to Eaton Bray Parish Council, 8 Station Road, Stanbridge, Beds LU7 9JF or email to [clerk@ebpc.co.uk](mailto:clerk@ebpc.co.uk)

*Letter to the Editor*  
*May I, through the pages of Focus express my thanks for the years of helpful, friendly service received as a customer of Edlesborough Autos. Being served petrol I was always greeted with a smile and friendly chat. I quite understand the reasons for them ceasing to sell petrol and have really appreciated them continuing until now. So thank you to Ben, Twig, and all the staff at Edlesborough Autos.*  
*Angela Feaviour*

### Re The Late Win Barrett

Liz, Emma and Vicki Warby would like to thank everyone for all the cards, flowers and tributes that we have received since the death of our beloved mum and gran. Thanks also to Malcolm Grant for his help and the lovely service. She will be sadly missed by us all.

## Village Diaries February 2008



### 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
- Mon-Thu (term time) Totternhoe Pre-school, mornings, Totternhoe Memorial Hall, Kay 07803 925254
- Mondays Pilates, 10.45am, St.Giles Church Hall, Totternhoe, Lisa: 01582 412426
- Mondays (term time) Mums & Tots Group, 1-2.30pm, Grace Community Church
- Tuesdays Yoga Classes, Northall Village Hall, 1.45-3.15pm 01525 377542
- 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 Northall Toddler Group, 10am - 12 noon, Northall Village Hall, Ellie 01525 222144
- 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
- Wednesdays Pilates, 7.15pm, Northall Village Hall, Lisa: 01582 412426
- Thurs (term time) Baby & Toddlers Group, Dagnall Village Hall, 12:45 - 2:45pm (12:15 if bringing lunch) Contact Michelle Tel 01442 842 676
- Thursdays Yoga Classes, Northall Village Hall, 11.30am-1pm
- Thursdays Keep fit, 2pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Mrs Johnson 220304
- Thursdays Kfa Body Moves 40+, Fitness through movement, exercise & dance. 8-9pm, Edlesborough School, Pat 01582 668735
- Thursdays Baby & Toddler Group, Salvation Army Hall, Booth Place, Eaton Bray, 9.30-11.30am
- 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 at Dunstable Rugby Club at 8pm. For 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 (opposite Wilkinson)
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	Grace Community Church Service, 11am, all welcome, Bruce Moulding 01525 221601
3rd Sunday	Lunch club 11.30 to 2.00pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Chris Hewitt 222288

## Other Regular Events

6th & 20th	Bingo, Dagnall Village Hall 8pm.
8th	Leukaemia Research Coffee Morning, 2 Dunstable Road, 10.30 am
19th	Over 60's, Dagnall Village Hall, 2pm

## One Off/Annual/Irregular Events

18th	Edlesborough WI Coffee Morning in aid of improved access to new cemetery, 10.30am - 12 noon, 12 Pebblemoor, Edlesborough
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## 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.

## The Salvation Army, Booth Place Weekly Activities

### Sunday

Sunday School	9.45-10.45am
Morning Service	11.00am
Evening Service	6.00pm

### Sunday Evening (1st and 3rd each month)

Youth Group (age 12+)	7.45-9.00pm
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### Monday

Junior Club (age 8+)	6.30-7.45pm
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### Wednesday

Home League (Ladies Meeting)	2.30pm
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### Thursday

Baby and Toddler Group	9.30-11.30am
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### Thursday Evening

Young Ladies Fellowship	7.45pm
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**(last Thursday in every month)**



## **Edlesborough Under 5's**

**Monday - Friday 9.15 am - 12.00 noon**

**Tuesday & Thursday 12.45 pm - 3.15 pm**

*"Edlesborough Under 5's provides good quality nursery education"*

*"Children come into the group happily, eager to take part in the activities"*

*"Children's creative skills are promoted very well through a stimulating range of opportunities"*

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 Debbie on 07854 939226 between 9am - 12 noon, to arrange an appointment. A warm welcome awaits you.

**For registration details, or to place your child on the waiting list,  
please phone Sue Pickering: Tel - 01525 222199.**

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[www.edlesboroughunder5s.org.uk](http://www.edlesboroughunder5s.org.uk)

## **Member of a local church or living in the villages, but attending church elsewhere?**

Churches Together in Eaton Bray, Edlesborough, Northall and Dagnall invite you to join with them for Lent Groups 2008

### **'The Lord's Prayer' - praying it, meaning it, living it in five sessions from York courses**

at 8pm Tuesdays 5th 12th 26th Feb & 4th 11th March  
at 2 Orchard End, Edlesborough (tel: 220527)

or 10.30am Wednesdays 6th 13th 27th Feb & 5th 12th March  
at 2 Bower Lane, Eaton Bray (tel: 221814)

or 8pm Wednesdays 6th 20th 27th Feb & 5th 12th March  
at Chestnut Lodge, Leighton Road, Gt Billington (tel: 378864)

or 8pm Thursdays 7th 21st 28th Feb & 6th 13th March  
at 11 Yew Tree Close, Eaton Bray (tel: 229696)

(Please note that all courses omit half term week 11-15 or 16 -24 Feb)

For more information or to purchase a course booklet  
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# From the 1st Eaton Bray and Edlesborough Scout Group

1st December 2007

## Local Scouts Celebrate Centenary

1st Eaton Bray and Edlesborough Scout Group celebrated 100 years of Scouting on Saturday, by inviting past and present members and leaders to the planting of a special centenary rose at the village Scout Hut.

The Scout Group and committee with the help of local archivist and former Cub Leader Peter Mayne, created an impressive display of old photographs and documentation of the Group's history since 1913. Past members including Mr Percy Pitkin, a leader during the 1940's, were invited to reminisce and contribute as part of the celebration.

Despite the appalling weather, over 100 people from the village and surrounds, many with a Scouting connection, dropped into the hut during the afternoon's event and helped piece together a record of the group's past.

It was also an opportunity for the current generation of Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorer Scouts, part of the thriving village Scout Group, to show the diversity of activities they enjoy today.

Anyone with historical information to offer regarding the group, or with an interest in assisting or becoming a leader, is urged to contact the Group Scout Leader, Nick Evans on 01525 220040.



Edlesborough Under 5's

### Pre-school Assistant Vacancy

We currently have a temporary staff vacancy to cover sickness for our Monday morning sessions. The length of contract will be reviewed at regular intervals.

For further information, please contact Alex Razak on 01525 220722 or 07946 467438.



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[www.etctennis.org](http://www.etctennis.org)

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## EDaN Project Update

In the last issue we reported that data analysis was under way and that a presentation of findings would be made to Edlesborough Parish Council during January. On January 23rd this presentation was made, a few of the key findings from the questionnaires are shown below.

The four issues overall you were least satisfied with:-

1. Visibility of Police
2. Noise and speed of HGV's on the A4146
3. Condition of road surfaces
4. Luton Postcode

Your list of priorities for the future:-

1. Retain post office
2. Drainage
3. Beautifying of villages
4. Youth shelter

### What next?

A full presentation of the findings from your questionnaires will be coming to your village at the end of February and early in March. There are some variations by village that will be covered in more detail. Please see flyer in March issue for full details of dates and timings. Come along and see if the results were what you expected and find out whether other people have the same concerns and priorities as you. If you can't make a presentation date in your own village please come along to one of the others.

**Edlesborough – Saturday 15th March & Monday 17th March**

**Northall – Friday 29th February & Saturday 8th March**

**Dagnall – Saturday 1st March & Tuesday 4th March**

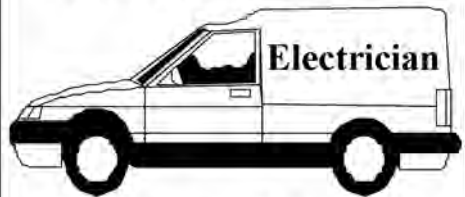
For full details and times please see flyer in March Focus. Put the date in your diary now, these issues can not be actioned without your support.



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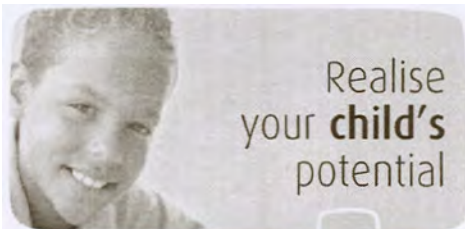
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## **Eaton Bray with Edlesborough Parish News**

**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**

On the first Sunday of the New Year I had the pleasure of handing over to representatives of the Chilterns Multiple Sclerosis Society the results of our fund-raising on their behalf during 2007, a grand total of £6,137. It is a tremendous achievement, and I want to take the opportunity, on behalf of your Parish Church, of thanking everyone who supported us and helped to make this grand total possible.

When I was a choirboy, one way we used to occupy ourselves during long sermons (apart from playing surreptitious games of ‘hangman’) was to explore the unfamiliar parts of the Prayer Book. One of the more interesting bits was the “Table to find Easter Day”, which meant you could work out when Easter would fall in any year up to 2199! From those childish researches I know that the earliest possible date for Easter is March 23 – it has to be the first Sunday after the first full moon after the vernal equinox (the first day of spring) - and that is the date of Eater this year. This means that Lent begins very early – Ash Wednesday is 6 February – and Whitsun will be 11 May. This has all sorts of unexpected consequences, e.g. the school Easter holidays set by our two counties will be entirely different, and unless we have some very mild weather it may be difficult to find spring flowers for Mothering Sunday (2 March).

Lent is a time when we are encouraged to reflect on our life-style and see what could be improved. Giving up being grumpy is probably far more significant than giving up sugar in your tea! After all, much of the traditional emphasis of Lent was on our relationships with God and other people, and it is important for all of us to take stock of our significant relationships from time to time to see if there are ways in which we can improve them, and to recognize habits and attitudes which undermine them.

Another important area for review at this time is our own personal “carbon footprint”. It is easy to say that the scale of the problem is so vast that nothing I can do will be of any significance, but that simply is not true. The sum of lots of people’s tiny contribution can make a real difference, and Lent is a good time for us to think about the way we use our cars and the sort of car we use, our use of power domestically (including all the lights we leave on and appliances which are left on “stand-by”), our travel arrangements, the food we eat and the waste we generate. These all contribute to global warming, and are all relatively simple problems to address. Can Lent 2008 lead us all to a healthier, greener life-style? If so, it can have an immediate advantage for us personally, as well as being part of our response to what is possibly the most important environmental issue of our

day. A more sustainable lifestyle now means a better future for our children and grandchildren.

This all sounds like a “secular Lent”, but, of course, I would want to encourage people to make Lent 2008 a time of spiritual growth as well. Perhaps if you have got out of the habit of going to church Lent or Easter this year could be a time of making a return visit. You know you will always be welcome at St Mary’s. May God’s love and blessings surround you throughout this New Year.

MALCOLM

### From the Parish Registers

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

18 November Frida Lilia Merino  
25 November Max Daniel Conner  
Thomas John Holloway



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

15 December John Edmund Campbell & Fiona Dorothy Elaine Robertson

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

6 December Marjorie Eileen Proctor, formerly of Tasker’s Row, Edlesborough  
8 January Winifred Edith Barrett of Northall Road, Eaton Bray

### Services at St Mary’s Church

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

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

*EVERYONE WELCOME AT THESE SERVICES*

## ASH WEDNESDAY

The start of Lent

Wednesday, 6 February

Join us at St Mary’s:

9.30am – Eucharist

8.00pm – Sung Eucharist

## MOTHERING SUNDAY

2nd March

There will be a special  
FAMILY EUCHARIST

at St Mary’s

at 10 o’clock.

Everybody welcome

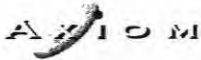
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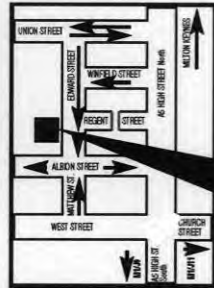


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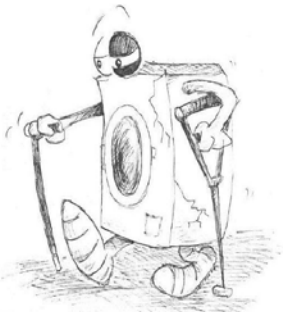


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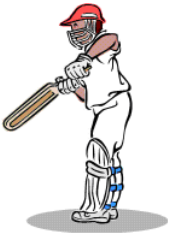
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## Edlesborough Cricket Club Review of the 2007 Season

### A triumphant season for the Colts

Without a shadow of a doubt, the best performances by Edlesborough Cricket Club in 2007 were those of its Colts side. In only their second year competing in the Under 15s East section of the Aylesbury & District Midweek Cricket League, they won their division and then came back from the dead in an exceptionally exciting final played against the West division winners, Grendon & Westcott, before losing by the narrowest of margins. Ably led by Charlie Dear, the side developed a real team ethos and, coming from a village with very limited junior coaching facilities, can be extremely proud of what was very much a collective achievement. Quite a few of the juniors gained experience in adult matches during the season, and members of the side will hopefully help ensure the future of cricket in Edlesborough in the longer term.

In retrospect, the tenor for the season can be seen to have been set in the first league game against Northchurch, a side against which the Edlesborough have struggled in the past. Bowling first, the ECC Colts dismissed their opponents for only 38 runs, with all six bowlers used taking wickets and not a single wide being bowled (unprecedented in my experience of Colts cricket!), before knocking off the runs easily. Batting first in the following game against Long Marston, they set the formidable 20-over total of 157 for 4, which included a stand of 70 between Declan Hall (51 n.o.) and Charlie Dear (34), that their opponents could not match.

Further efficient wins against Ivinghoe & Pitstone and Wendover set up the key game of the season against an unbeaten, and by all accounts very strong, Cublington side. Batting first, ECC Colts put on the competitive score of 127 for 3, with the foundation being provided by opener James Kight's 56 n.o. In the Cublington innings, Edlesborough took the initiative from the start, dismissing their most dangerous opening batsman first ball and running through the entire side in under 10 overs for only 41 runs, with Sam Slatter taking 5 wickets for 7 runs in just 3 overs with an outstanding piece of bowling. With the pressure reduced in the final league game, Edlesborough lost to a strong Tring Park side, with loose bowling allowing their opponents to score sufficient runs so that even innings of 51 from Declan Hall and 43 from Adam Lee could not turn the game around. In a very tight league, Edlesborough, Cublington and Tring Park all finished with records of won 5 and lost 1, but Edlesborough came top through scoring most bonus points.

After an extremely wet summer in which the league sides had been fortunate to complete all their fixtures, the inter-divisional final on 18 July was played in beautiful weather on an excellent pitch at Dinton, the previous year's winners. With both Edlesborough and Grendon & Westcott having scored a lot of runs during their campaigns, the scene looked set for a high-scoring game. However, Edlesborough won the toss, elected to bat and promptly collapsed, eventually crawling to 46

all out in 16 overs with only Declan Hall reaching double figures. No excuses can be offered – the batsmen just failed to deal with accurate bowling, with 9 out of the 10 wickets falling being bowled. Not surprisingly, Grendon & Westcott at this point clearly considered the game as good as won, but Edlesborough had other ideas. After an initial struggle during which their opponents reached 30 for 2, Edlesborough really turned on the pressure. Tight bowling from Charlie Dear and Tom Howard, who each took 3 wickets for 9 runs, and brilliant catching (5 taken and not one dropped – seniors note!) reduced Grendon & Westcott to 41 for 8 and an improbable victory seemed within grasp. However, it was not to be and Grendon & Westcott scraped home by 2 wickets, having reduced their adult supporters to nervous wrecks! Overall, an extraordinarily exciting, low-scoring game, played in a good competitive spirit and from which both sides could take credit.

Team (from): Charlie Dear (captain), Sam Blumsom, Martin Coates, Declan Hall, Tom Howard, James Kight, Adam Lee, Charlie Morris, Charlie Oliver, Adam Scott-Lewis, Sam Slatter, Alex Smith, Ally Thorne, Gus Thorne, Olly Thorne.

### **A middling season for the Seniors**

As seems to be becoming something of a tradition, results for the adult games divided equally between wins (10) and losses (10), with half a dozen draws and an exceptionally exciting tie thrown in for good measure. The Saturday side finished fourth of ten teams in the second division of the Marrant Four Counties Cricket League, winning 5 games, losing 3 and drawing 6, with 4 other games being cancelled or abandoned due to the generally wretched weather. The Sunday friendly side won 5, lost 7 and tied one game. The last-named was away against Bourne End in late July, on a day when Edlesborough was struggling for players and had to bring in 4 from Gaddesden Row, against whom a week previously we had scraped home in a thoroughly enjoyable game that epitomised the best of village cricket. Bourne End batted first on a pudding of a pitch, on which their total of 130 seemed a competitive score. In reply, Edlesborough struggled to score and had still not reached 100 with only 3 of the 40 overs left. However, some massive hitting by Paul Mortimer (39 n.o.) left us needing 3 to win off the final ball – only 2 were scored, but the tie felt like a win in a game we had looked destined to lose.

The player of the season in terms of all round performance was undoubtedly Matthew Merrick, and it was a major loss to Edlesborough that he was available for only 5 league games. He topped both the batting, with an average of 48.4 and a top score of 111 n.o. in the home win against Studham, and the bowling, with an average of 11.5 and the season's best performance of 6 wickets for 13 runs in the home win against Turvey. The only other century of the season was Neil Morgan's 122 in an away friendly against Studham and no other Edlesborough bowler took five wickets in any game. Usually reliable performers struggled to score runs consistently and among the bowlers only Jaco Jacobs, with 33 wickets at an average of 14.8, stood out. Encouragingly, however, some of the Colts performed well in

adult games, with Charlie Dear's 4 for 18 in a league game against a strong Tring Park side and Charlie Oliver's 3 for 9 and 3 for 24 in friendlies against Whitchurch and Gaddesden Row respectively being the pick of the bunch. In closing, the club's thanks are due to Barry Jenkins, who as usual did the scoring in his impeccable fashion at nearly every senior game.

Robert Prys-Jones

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## Dagnall News

### Over 60's

The January meeting consisted of the AGM and Birthday Party with entertainment by the pupils of Dagnall school. Later in January several members made the pilgrimage to Eastbourne for the weekend, which has proved in the past to be very enjoyable.

In February we will have tea and a talk by Bill Pattison entitled 'The Challenge'.

### Dagnall Church

Carol Singing in aid of NCH

The total collected during two evenings of Carol Singing around Dagnall was a record amount of £420, which has been sent to NCH. Thanks to everyone who gave so generously and especially to those who braved extremely cold evenings to come singing.

Thank you to everyone who supported Dagnall Christmas card delivery service, we raised £145 +£10 for IRHH.

### Dagnall School

Dagnall School celebrated the end of the Autumn Term with three performances of 'It's a Baby' which played to full houses. The musical told the story of how there was no room at the inn and how a grumpy innkeeper became a very happy innkeeper at the birth of Jesus and welcomed the shepherds and wise men.

The children also sang with the playgroup at the Dagnall Church Carol Service. On the last day of term the traditional party and a visit from Father Christmas was followed by the School Carol Service which, this year, took the form of a Christingle service.

Dagnall School has also something to celebrate at the start of the New Year as we have been awarded Healthy Schools Status. Well done to everyone who has supported us in this programme!

The new term is now well underway and we wish you all a belated Happy New Year!



Edlesborough Under 5's

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## **Mothers' Union Eaton Bray with Edlesborough**

On 14th November 2007 we celebrated 10 years of the revival of the Mothers' Union with a 'Thanksgiving Service' led by Malcolm. We were pleased to welcome guests from the Parochial Church Council.

The afternoon concluded with a 'Celebration Cake' thanks to Audrey and lovely refreshments from members. Mary, the longest serving member, did the honour of cutting the cake. It was an afternoon enjoyed by all.

Our December meeting was held in the Coffee Tavern - an afternoon of poetry and readings by the members concluding with sherry and mince pies. A perfect ending to 2007.

At our meeting in January, we were pleased to welcome ex Headmaster, Mr Malcolm Curtis, who entertained us with his anecdotes about his teaching days. He was, in the 70's, the youngest Headmaster in Bedfordshire. His policy was 'Firmness and Fairness' with his Primary School pupils. His last school, before retiring 18 months ago, was Ashton St Peter's, Church Street, Dunstable, now, sadly, Aldi supermarket.

A very pleasant afternoon ending with tea and cake. Our best wishes go to Marie who is recovering from a spell in hospital.

At our 13th February meeting we welcome Father John Heffer, subject - 'On the Buses' - all are welcome.

---

### **Eaton Bray Village Hall 100 Club**

C/O Ross Bagni, 71 Bower Lane, Eaton Bray, LU6 1RB, Tel: 01525 221411  
Eaton Bray Village Hall 100 Club still has some spare numbers. If you would like the chance to win a prize each month - £100.00 1st prize and 4 prizes of £25.00 then please contact Ross Bagni.

It costs £24.00 per year and the proceeds go towards the Village Hall refurbishment fund. You can pay by Standing Order (£2.00 a month) or by cheque once a year and be in the draw each month with a better chance of being a winner than if you have a Lottery Ticket!

It could make a nice gift for someone, or just a little flutter for yourself each month. Call Ross on 01525 221411 for more details.

#### **Eaton Bray Village Hall 100 Club Winners**

<b>November 2007</b>			<b>December 2007</b>		
88	James Siddons	£100	170	Bob Stilliard	£100
4	Katrina Hurley	£25	85	Tanya Watkin	£25
72	Alf Waller	£25	107	Suzanne Hawkes	£25
26	Ron Overhill	£25	115	Margaret Jones	£25
121	Mrs A B Hunt	£25	159	Barbara Morton	£25

Drawn on 17th December 2007 at Eaton Bray Playgroup. Please direct any correspondence to Ross Bagni, 71 Bower Lane, Eaton Bray, Bedfordshire, LU6 1RB, Telephone: 01525 221411.

## Christian Aid

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Perhaps your road is one listed below; even if you can only manage to collect from a few houses, your help would be sincerely welcomed.

Christian Aid week this year is: 11th-17th May

Areas not currently covered by Christian Aid collectors

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Waterside, Edlesborough

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Totternhoe Road, Eaton Bray

Dyers Road, Eaton Bray

Moor End, both sides from the triangle to the river

Moor End, both sides from the river to Summerleys

The Rye

Greenways

The Comp

Moor End Lane

Orchard Way

Eaton Bray High Street, Woodside to Bower Lane triangle, both sides

Bower Lane

Medley Close

Please think about whether you can help and contact Catherine Hayden 220527 or Richard Stroud 221086.

## Eaton Bray Methodist Church

Our Christmas Lunches were a great success and we thank Helen Joels and Ann Plater for all their organization before and on the day. Our thanks go also to everyone that helped and supported us in making this such a special event. The Carol Service and the Christmas Day Service were both excellent Family occasions and it was lovely to see many new faces joining us.

Our February lunches will be served on Saturday 12th from 12.00 noon until 1.30 pm and our chosen charity will be Fibromyalgia. FMS (Fibromyalgia syndrome) is a chronic widespread musculoskeletal pain and fatigue disorder giving pain in the soft fibrous tissues in the body. It is hoped that by raising awareness of Fibromyalgia by support groups, organisations and medical professionals the quality of life for people living with FM will be helped. Do join us for Lunch and support this cause.

A date for your diary: March Lunches are on Saturday 8th and our Charity to be supported will be the Iain Rennie Hospice at Home.



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*Gail Thomas. St Albans Abbey Guide*

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Each month I will list the highs and lows and any interesting facts from the previous month.

In the near future I will be launching a live web site giving the current weather conditions and forecasts plus recent history. The information will include the Observations: Rainfall, Temperature, Dew point, Pressure, Humidity, Wind Speed, Wind Direction & Wind chill. They will be in the format of Gauges, Charts and Graphics as well as text.

The plan is to run the web site 24 hours a day automatically updating every 30 mins but this will depend on obtaining some form of funding from sponsored links hopefully from local businesses to support the running costs.

If anyone has a question or wishes to contact me please email me: [aonb-weather@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:aonb-weather@tiscali.co.uk)

David G Killick

### Weather Conditions for December 2007

#### Dagnall Weather Station (AONB)

**Elevation: 450 ft - Latitude: 51° 50' 13" North - Longitude: 0° 33' 34" South**

	High	Date/Time		Low	Date/Time
<b>Temperature:</b>	13.4°C	6 Dec 18.30		-5.6°C	20 Dec 06.30
<b>Mean Temperature</b>	4.6°C				
<b>Dewpoint:</b>	12.1°	6 Dec 22.00		-5.6°C	20 Dec 06.00
<b>Humidity:</b>	97°C	22 Dec		70°C	27 Dec 13.30
<b>Barometer:</b>	1041.7	13 Dec 11.30		976.0	9 Dec 12.00
<b>Wind Speed</b>	31 mph	7 Dec 07:00	Average	2.4	
<b>Wind Chill:</b>	12.7°C	6 Dec 22.30		-5.5°C	20 Dec 06.00
<b>Dominant Wind:</b>	SW				
<b>Rainfall</b>					
<b>Monthly Rain:</b>	73.1 mm		=	2.88 ins	
<b>Rain Days:</b>	20 Days	Wettest Day	Dec 25	18.2 mm	0.72 ins
<b>Yearly Rain:</b>	25.Sept	To 31 Dec		228.1 mm	8.98 ins

**Station Owner David G Killick**

## Old GI'S Take the Long Road

It was December the 15th, the frost lay heavily on the roads and cars, 12 very cold GI's walked alongside Dunstable Round Table's Christmas Float. The carols (well Bing sings Christmas actually) were coming out at a fair rate of decibels and we all felt that wonderful feeling when the children look up at Father Christmas with absolute trust and belief. The last 3 hours of freezing feet and hands is all forgotten and the thought of that young GI's (Katrina) chicken casserole waiting in the warmth of her and Paul's home kept us going for the next half hour or so. It really does seem to put a little belief back into Christmas after all the commercialism that exists in this day and age. Talking of which, by helping Round Table on two nights and standing outside Asda for two half days we will benefit the village hall to the tune of nearly £1,000. Huge thanks to all the villagers who came out and helped. Like all organisations we are nothing without people like you. Thanks!

The Village Hall Fund Raising is coming on. As you know we need to raise £10,000 by June of 2008, to add to the Wren Grant of £37,800 which we have been promised. We have had the Quiz and the 200Club has put £2,000 into the coffers, Thanks you all who are members, December's winners are listed elsewhere in this esteemed publication.

We are then running a bar at the Panto Thursday 24th January through to Saturday 26th January. After that we are holding our bi-annual joint Quiz with Eaton Bray Tennis Club on Saturday 26th April. Book early as we sold out last time!

Then we have the Beer Festival in June, Friday 6th and Saturday 7th, similar format to the last 4 years. Why change something that everybody seems to enjoy. Bring on the burgers I say!

Well before the end of the summer, we will have completed the majority of the major refurbishment on the Hall. I am sure everybody in the area will be delighted with the results.

Following on from that, we still need to do the car park, a new partition, and many smaller items that will keep us fundraising for a few years more but perhaps not with the ferocity of the last 4 years!

We hope you all enjoy the various events we hold and we really enjoy organising them.

P.S. Honourable Chairman of the Village Hall did everything right this year, did not run out of fuel or get his key stuck in the ignition lock on the lorry. So I cannot even have a dig at him. Or can I? He did forget to bring the money bags at the end of one night, so we had loads of piles of cash with nowhere to put it. Does that count? Answers on a postcard please to .....





## Loss of Child Benefit Records and Identity Theft

HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) has admitted the loss of computer discs containing 25 million child benefit records. The discs were sent in the post but never arrived. They contain names, addresses, dates of birth, child benefit and national insurance numbers and, in some cases, bank account details of all families claiming child benefit. The government has confirmed that child benefit will continue to be paid. People should check their bank accounts and report any unauthorised transactions to the bank immediately. HMRC has set up a child benefit helpline on 0845 302 1444 for people who want more details. For people who are worried about identity theft as a result of this security breach, advice is available on the website of the banking industry body APACS at [www.apacs.org.uk/AdviceonIDtheftforchildbenefitrecipients](http://www.apacs.org.uk/AdviceonIDtheftforchildbenefitrecipients).

The British Bankers' Association website has published the same advice at [www.bba.org.uk/bba/jsp/polopoly.jsp?d=145&a=11525](http://www.bba.org.uk/bba/jsp/polopoly.jsp?d=145&a=11525).

For more information contact the Citizens Advice Bureau, Grove House, High Street North, Dunstable. Tel: 01582 661384. Would you like to join our volunteers? Please contact the above number for more information on volunteering opportunities at Dunstable Bureau.

### **Sparx Theatre Company**

Sparx provides accessible theatre especially for people with Special Needs and is open to all ages and disabilities. It also actively encourages integration and welcomes anyone who wishes to participate. Run by our project leader Chris Amos, a local professional theatre practitioner, Sparx holds creative drama workshops on a regular basis throughout the year culminating in a performance at Leighton Buzzard Theatre.

Workshops run in the Theatre lounge on Saturday mornings (normally to coincide with school terms) between 10.30 am and 12.15 pm

Costs - £2 per session.

Just come along to one of our workshops where you will be made very welcome, or if you would like more details about us please contact Ray on 01525 874335.



**Edlesbray Players**

**"Carry on Laughing"**

**Spring Review**

**Saturday 10th May 2008**

Put the date in your diary and watch March Focus for how to get tickets. If you can't wait until March or would like to 'do a turn' then phone Val on 220972 or Peter on 221284

# Carnival 2008

## 5th July

### “Fairy Tales”



Wave that magic wand and banish winter gloom! Summon your Fairy Godmother and get ready for a touch of magic! St Mary's Village Carnival is on 5th July 2008 - and this year's theme is Fairy Tales!

Last year's carnival raised over £11,000 for charities – a record breaking sum and that's our target for 2008. With your help we can do it! This year's chief beneficiary will be the Air Ambulance Service.

Our VIP guest to open the carnival is The Dean of St Paul's Cathedral (London), the Right Revd Graeme Knowles, originally a local lad whose father was headmaster of Eaton Bray School. The event starts with the procession of floats, then on to Edlesborough Green for a day of fun, entertainment and a huge number of stalls.

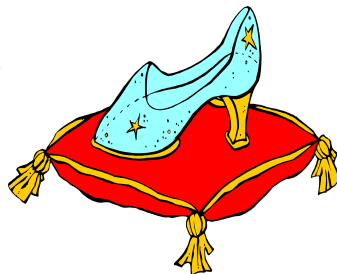
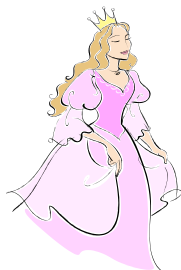
**Join us** - we need more helpers and with a variety of jobs there's sure to be something you can do. Call Peter Bennett, chairman on 01525 221284



**Run a stall** for your local group, business or charity – Our carnival is the biggest event of its kind in Bucks, so you'll get lots of trade. **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 or download a Booking Form from the Carnival Website: [www.stmarysvillagecarnival.com](http://www.stmarysvillagecarnival.com)**

**CarnivalQueen** Girls aged between 8 and 13 who live in Edlesborough, Eaton Bray, Dagnall or Northall or who are in the congregation of St Mary's Church may enter. Watch this space for details.

**Contact us** on 01525 221284 or get in touch via our website on [www.stmarysvillagecarnival.com](http://www.stmarysvillagecarnival.com)



**EDLESBOROUGH W.I.**

# **COFFEE MORNING**

**IN AID OF IMPROVED ACCESS  
TO NEW CEMETERY**

**MONDAY 18TH FEBRUARY**

**10.30AM - 12 NOON**

**AT HOME OF MAUREEN SHIPWAY  
12 PEBBLEMOOR,  
EDLESBOROUGH**

**RAFFLE**

**BRING & BUY**

**ENTRY £1.50**

**ALL WELCOME**

# **FAIR TRADE BREAKFAST AND COFFEE MORNING**

**Saturday 1st March**

**St. Mary's Church, Eaton Bray**

**9am - 12 noon**

**Breakfast Adults £2.50**

**Children £1**

**Coffee and Cake £1**

**Fair Trade Stall and Raffle**

**In aid of the Fair Trade Foundation**

**For more details contact**

**Sally Taylor on 221576**



## **Wanted – Gardens**

**In Eaton Bray, Edlesborough and Northall**

Following on the success of the 2006 and 2007 Open Gardens event we need volunteers to open their gardens on 8th June 2008.

If you would be prepared to do this, or would like more information, please contact Gordon Gray on 220136.

# *Katwalk Fashion Show*

In association with Eaton Bray lower School HSA

**Wednesday 12th March 8.00pm**  
**At Eaton Bray Lower School**

**Women's clothes for sale by top high street  
retailers at greatly reduced prices**

**Tickets £3.50**

**Includes entry and a glass of wine**

**Phone: Eaton Bray Lower School**  
**01525 220468**



Village Theatre Company

**FRONT ROW**

presents

by kind permission of Samuel French



## **Stepping Out**

A Sparkling Comedy by Richard Harris

**Thursday 17th, Friday 18th and  
Saturday 19th April**



**at Eaton Bray Village Hall**  
**Doors open 7.30 pm, Licensed bar**

Tickets on sale from 8th March - Box Office details  
in next edition of FOCUS



## Eaton Bray Cricket Club

In April Eaton Bray Cricket Club will begin its 28th season at The Rye Gardens. The ground was converted from Parish Council owned allotments with a lot of hard work by the then President George French and Chairman Ken Bearton. The first match was played in June 1981 with Eric Pratt opening the innings. Soon after, Richard Archer scored the first century. Since these beginnings the Club has moved on and developed in many areas. League cricket started slowly in the early 80s with clubs arranging their own fixtures. Now the league organises fixtures for 6 divisions of Saturday cricket. Eaton Bray Cricket Club has teams in the first and third divisions.

The ground has been developed too. Showers were installed in an extended pavilion in 1985. The club purchased a sight screen, metal lock-up, boundary rope and a second sight screen. The money was raised through indoor boot sales, raffle tickets and the ever popular 100 Club. The club was also a beneficiary of Ivan Brandom's estate and his donation has gone a long way to improve the facilities. The wicket and improves year on year thanks to Robbo and the ground is generally kept in tip-top condition by Mick, Sharan and James Flecknell.

The club now has over 40 members and has been successful on and off the pitch for the last 10 years. The first team regularly contests the league title and often ending as champions. The second team has won successive promotions and the Sunday team continues to nurture talent.

On Sunday 17 February the club holds its Annual General Meeting. This is an important gathering as the Club reviews its constitutional rules and elects its Officers for the coming season. This is will be an interesting meeting with the captaincy of all three teams likely to change hands. Paul Harris is stepping aside from first eleven duties and Dave Wheeler and Andy Norris relinquishing the captaincy of the second eleven and the Sunday team respectively.

Newcomers are welcome at the AGM or to attend the indoor net practice sessions currently underway at Dunstable Town CC. So if you are a budding Freddie Flintoff or a budded Geoffrey Boycott please get in touch Ian Jones 07956340888

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### Eaton Bray Cricket Club

#### 100 Club Winners

**December 2007**

£25 Robert French No 42

£10 Darren Kerins No 33

**January 2008**

£25 Richard Piggott No 127

£10 Mike Smith No 31

Eaton Bray Cricket Club is kindly sponsored by F.A. Hawkins and M&M Properties



Whether you are new to the area or would like to become more active in your community, volunteering is an easy way to get involved. In return for your time, commitment and enthusiasm, volunteering offers great opportunities to meet other people, gain new skills and interests, and have some fun.

Eaton Bray Lions AFC is seeking an extra pair of hands. Pitches need to be white lined and mowed every few weeks throughout the year, so if you enjoy outdoor activities and have some spare time on your hands, then they would very much like to hear from you. They provide a sit on mower, a white lining machine and a trailer for ease of transport with equipment.

Similarly, Appledown Rescue and Rehoming Kennels are always grateful for help from fellow dog lovers. This can be either as a dog walker, home visitor or even as a web designer. The four legged residents need to be walked come rain or shine and have even been known to enjoy the odd pub walk! When a rescue dog has found a potential new home, a home visit needs to be carried out to ensure both pet and owner are as well matched as possible.

The rescue kennels are desperate to have their very own website to enable them to inform the public of the work they do and the animals available for rehoming; so if you have the expertise to help they would love to hear from you.

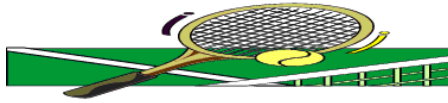
If you are involved in, or know of a voluntary or community group in and around Eaton Bray that is looking for volunteers, please contact the Volunteer Centre South Bedfordshire. We will be very pleased to promote the volunteering opportunities locally. Potential volunteers can access information on local volunteering opportunities via the internet, through telephone enquiries and informal face-to-face interviews with members of the Volunteer Centre Team.

We currently promote over 700 volunteering opportunities within South Bedfordshire ranging from Administration to Counselling, Teacher Support to Gardening, Conservation to Cat Fostering. There is something for everyone, whatever your age, interest, skills or experience.

To find out more about volunteering, call us on 01525 850559 or pop into our office for a no-obligation informal chat. Or visit our website [www.action-southbeds.org.uk](http://www.action-southbeds.org.uk) where you can search for volunteering opportunities in your area and even apply online.

**There is something for everyone  
whatever time you have available.**

**Dunstable & District  
Local History Society**  
**Tuesday 8th February, 7.45pm**  
*Napoleonic Souvenirs of French  
Prisoners of War*  
by Paul Chamberlain  
**Methodist Church Hall, Dunstable**



## **Eaton Bray Lawn Tennis Club**

A belated Happy New Year to all our readers from us at Eaton Bray Tennis Club! What an opportunity to make yourself a new year's resolution to do some more exercise, get a little fitter, feel better and make some new friends! Our little club awaits you, offering one of the oldest and most respected sports ever played. After all, the very first tennis match is even mentioned in the Bible; when Joseph served in Pharaoh's court (Genesis 41), and the score at the start of the first set is mentioned in Thessalonians 4:10 as 'love all'. This was just before the Apostles decided to do their bit for global warming and arrange a car share scheme, as Acts tells us that the Apostles were in One Accord. Must have been a tight squeeze. Anyway moving on, as well as the chance to learn a new skill (most of us never get even close to mastering it!) and play in both social tennis sessions and competitions, there are some fun social events such as quizzes, the odd dance (very odd...), barbecues, an award-winning Newsletter (the chairman bought me a pint as an award for writing the last one) and even the occasional race night. You don't even have to own a racquet to join – we can lend you one until you decide what type suits you best. I generally find that the ones with the biggest heads are best; mine's about eight feet across and I still keep missing the ball. So 'come on down' as Dale would say; give us a ring and we'll help introduce you to the whole new world of Eaton Bray Tennis Club.

By the time you read this, we'll have held our Annual General Meeting - full report next month. However the most exciting proposal before the new committee is our new 'groundshare' scheme with financially-strapped Luton Town. The Hatters have been trying to get out of their current rabbit hutch of a ground since football was invented, and we think we have just the solution, which would solve their immediate money problems whilst bringing additional revenue into our club. By removing the nets from our three new courts, dropping down the interior fence and simply rolling out a strip of artificial turf (using tent pegs to secure it firmly to the ground), our courts could quickly and easily be converted into a temporary football pitch within just a few minutes. Our clubhouse will make an excellent changing facility for the teams and officials, and the 10,000 or so supporters every week could be comfortably housed in four temporary stands around the courts, which one of our builder members reckons he can knock up with a bit of scaffolding and some planks of wood. They'll be on wheels so they can be rolled back and stored in the school gym between matches when we convert back to the tennis courts until the following Saturday. We already have the floodlights, we can cadge a set of goalposts from the EB Lions, so the only other thing we'd need would be a few burger vans which could park on the Green, and we're away! We take half the

weekly admissions and make around 75 grand a week some of which we'll give to every household in the village to help pay for boarding up your windows on a Saturday afternoon.

Just think what an opportunity this is for Eaton Bray's businesses. The Luton supporters will love the peaceful atmosphere of our village, sipping a quite pint whilst enjoying a pub lunch in the White Horse, then maybe a quick haircut before the game, or even a relaxing manicure. After the match as they stroll amiably back along the High Street to their cars (we're recommending the Village Hall car park...) they can pick up some fresh sausages for tea, perhaps a crusty loaf of bread and a lottery ticket, or choose a tasty Chinese to eat on the way home. Everybody wins; Luton Town, us, local shops and businesses - including our builder and any glaziers in the area (especially when Millwall come to play) - this scheme is a sure fire winner and we'll let you know how we get on at the AGM so watch this space!

Finally, we'd like to express our gratitude to the Happy Valley take-away in the High Street for providing us with a superb Fish and Chip supper at our recent quiz night at our clubhouse. It was worth going along for the food alone. Based on my general knowledge skills, next time I'll skip the first four rounds and just turn up for the supper, no one will notice!

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 nailing planks of wood together me, Andy Cross, on 01582 477114.

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### **Rotary Club - Christmas Lunches**

On Christmas Morning an intrepid band of Rotarians from the Rotary Club of Dunstable assembled at the Salvation Army Hall in Bullpond Lane, Dunstable to collect 16 lunches that had been prepared by the staff there.

Each Rotarian had time for a period of conversation with the deserving recipient who would otherwise not had a Christmas lunch or any visitors. This is considered as important to them as the meal itself.

In addition, the Salvation Army provided a 'goody bag' of additional items for each of our recipients which were most welcome.

Our thanks have been expressed to Major Paul Wright for the invaluable assistance provided with this project. The proceeds from a Raffle held at a recent Club meeting will be sent to him in due course to help to cover the 'out of pocket expenses' for the food.

This is an example of what the Rotary Club of Dunstable does for deserving causes in the local community. Anybody interested in becoming a member should contact Roger Sharp on 01582 606405

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For a brochure and details call Peter or Celia on **01525 220173** or visit the website at [www.479losnaranjos.co.uk](http://www.479losnaranjos.co.uk).



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**Website: [www.bellowsmill.co.uk](http://www.bellowsmill.co.uk)**

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# **Highlights of Minutes of the Eaton Bray Parish Council Meeting Held on 7th January at 7.30 p.m.**

## **Public Open Forum**

Mr Brian Webb gave an update on the situation regarding the planning application at Dyers Road.

Mr Woolridge asked for an update on the situation at Mill End.

Cllr Beal stated that he and Cllr Pearson had carried out a site visit and had noted the piles of wood, it was still undecided whether this area would require a security fence or be developed as a public amenity (see item 9) Mr Woolridge stated that in his opinion the state of the ground surface made this area unsuitable as a public space.

Cllr Marriage reported that the village handyman had been instructed to repair the fence to the left of the bridge.

Cllr Beal reported that the legal representative of the owner of the adjacent land had instructed the council to obtain estimates for the work which needs to be done.

Cllr Beal stated that

- the pruning of the hedge in Middle Path was in the April 2008 precept and work would be authorised after this date.
- the GP meeting had consulted the Byelaws and horse riding was not permitted on the greens around Mill End Close. The Byelaws would be displayed in the village notice board in that area.
- there was no objection to the erection of a gate providing certain conditions were met – see GP minutes.

Cllr Brand stated that there is no record of who owns the piece of land located between the Deeres and the Worrels the land registry have been contacted but were unable to offer any help.

Mr Woolridge asked if the Ransom strip was council owned logically would not the three access points ( in the original plans to give a right of way to resident to enable them to reach the back fence) between the houses also be council owned?

District Cllr Janes stated that SB's will have a site plan of the estate from when planning permission was given. He would obtain a copy and pass to Cllr Beal.

Cllr Brand reported that some residents were unhappy about the hedges being trimmed and were stopping access

## **District and County Representatives**

County Cllr Piggot had sent his apologies

District Cllr Janes reported that

- Bedfordshire is still waiting for a ministerial decision regarding the proposed administrative changes to the County
- he had visited two Traveller Sites recently, at Chiltern View he had accompanied SBCC representative to look at rubbish clearance.

**District Cllr Janes reported that more provision for Travellers is required in the county. SB have fulfilled their required responsibility however Mid, North and Luton have yet to fulfil their obligation**

### **Police Representatives**

Viv Dady

Presented crime statistics for the year:

- 160 in total giving an average of 13.25 per month
- June and November had the worst crime figures
- May and August the lowest crime figures.

Three highest incidents were:

- burglary from buildings e.g. Houses, garages, sheds, greenhouses etc.
- damage to motor vehicles
- theft from motor vehicles.

Viv advised constant vigilance – report anything suspicious, security, especially to outbuildings and locking cars when unattended and not leaving valuables on show. Cllr Beal advised that police contact numbers will be displayed in the new village notice boards.

Future Plans:

- Josh is continuing with the ‘Caps’ securing of number plate and will advise when he is in the area.
- Surgeries dates for these are still to be decided , Viv requested that one Cllr should also be present.
- Two speed checks are planned for the next three months.

Viv asked about the progress of the Youth Shelter. Cllr Marriage advised that a meeting with Laurent was planned (21-2-08) to discuss the exact needs and the way forward. Viv would be asked to make a contribution when more details were known.

### **Election of Vice Chairperson.**

It was proposed that Cllr Marriage be elected to the position of vice chairperson.

Carried Unanimously

### **Court Appearance**

The date for the case has been moved from 9-1-08 to 20-3-08. The cost of the damage to trees in Eaton Bray School Lane rec. was £300

It was proposed that Cllr Beal be the official Council representative at the court.

Next meeting to be held at 7-30 at the Coffee Tavern on **Monday 4th February 2008**

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Eaton Bray</b> <b>Parish Council Meetings</b> 1st Monday of every month 7.30pm The Coffee Tavern <b>Next Meeting: Mon 4th Feb 08</b></p>
--

## **Edlesborough Parish Council**

### **(including Edlesborough, Dagnall and Northall) News**

**EDLESBOROUGH MEMORIAL HALL BOOKINGS: Enquiries should be made on 01525 229509**

The Parish Cemetery access project is unfortunately on hold pending further estimates being received.

A further Police Surgery was held in November and those attending were informed by the Police that many of the issues raised at the previous meeting were being attended to. It has been decided that the Police Surgeries will be held every 3 months in future.

The General Purposes Committee are in discussion with the Under 5's regarding the extension of the outside play area adjacent to the Memorial Hall and agreement has been reached that additional outside areas can be allocated to the Under 5's and work will be carried out by the Under 5's in the New Year.

The Remembrance Service held this year at Edlesborough had been very well attended. Suggestions for traffic diversions during the service when this is held at Edlesborough are being put to Thames Valley Police.

Bucks County Council are being urged to replace the missing Village signs throughout the parish and a request made to cut back the encroachment of grass over many of the footpaths.

It has been observed that 'builders rubble' is appearing in the litter bins and the Parish Council would emphasize that the litter bins are established in the villages as a convenience for parishioners to place litter such as paper, bottles, cans etc. and should not be used for heavy waste.

Further graffiti has appeared on the Pavilion over the Christmas period and damage caused to the roof of the Memorial Hall.

The Chairman and Councillors take this opportunity of wishing all it's Parishioners a Very Happy and Peaceful New Year.

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)

<p><b>Edlesborough Parish Council Meetings 3rd Thursday of every month 7.30pm Memorial Hall Next meeting: Thurs 21st Feb 08</b></p>
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### **Northall Toddler Group**

We're a small, friendly group for children from birth to school age and their parents/carers. We meet every Tuesday morning 10am - midday at Northall Village Hall (including most school holidays). There are lots of toys for all age groups, we have a different craft activity every week and have a song, story and fresh fruit break in the middle of the session. Only £1.50 per family, first session free. Why not come along and see if you like it, or contact Ellie for more details: 01525 222144, [elycooke@yahoo.com](mailto:elycooke@yahoo.com)





## Edlesborough School...

Year One have been thinking about their New Year Resolutions and would like to share some of them with you:

I am going to help my mummy by tidying up my bedroom – Lily Case.

Sometimes I play with my toys when my mummy says to go to sleep. In 2008 I shall not play with my toys when my mum says go to sleep. I will not backchat her – Katherine Walley.

Sometimes I cry when I lose a game called 'Finger Football. In 2008 I shall not make such a fuss. My dad says, "You mustn't cry when you lose (my dad won 3-2 last night), otherwise if you win all the time you won't have any friends" – James Brock.

Sometimes I will not do as I'm told. In 2008 I shall tidy up my room. I will also listen at school and I will tidy up at school. In 2008 I will also eat up all my dinner – Georgia Griffiths.

Sometimes I do not stop talking when mummy asks. In 2008 I will help mum and dad tidy my bedroom – Joshua Farnfield.

Sometimes I drop messy food on the floor on purpose. In 2008 I am not going to drop food on the floor. I shall halt the play station immediately and tidy my room immediately. In 2008 I shall stop saying, "Why didn't you bring my Gameboy to the hairdressers?" In 2008 I shall not eat my dinner slowly – Alex Sibley

Sometimes I backchat my mum and I do not listen. In 2008 I shall help my mum, pick up things from the floor, tidy my room and also put on my shoes when my mum asks me to – Ben Sage

Sometimes I am very naughty at home because I pinch my mum and dad and they get cross. In 2008 I will be good when I go on the computer I will listen to mum and get off the computer when she says. In 2008 I will go to bed when my mum says and then she gives me a kiss – James Head



## Royal British Legion Annual Poppy Appeal 2007

We are delighted to report that donations to this year's appeal amounted to a truly splendid £2035.03. Your donations will be used by the Legion in many ways, providing a safety net for ex-servicemen and women in need. This can range from simple advice to short term financial support or long term care. Again we are grateful for your support and humbled by your generosity and the many kind words spoken to our team of house to house collectors as they went from door to door. We also thank the many local traders and organisations who willingly display poppies and collection boxes every year.

Finally, congratulations to Lorna Cabbage and Northall who have won the Christine Rowley Trophy presented annually by Buckinghamshire Royal British Legion.

Thank you for your support in 2007.

Keith and Jean Stanley. Hon. Organisers. Tel. 01525 220608

## All Saints' Church, Dagnall - Services and Meetings in February 2008

Sun 3rd Feb.	9.00 am	Eucharist
	10.30 am	Morning Service
	6.00 pm	Evening Service with Holy Communion
Wed. 6th Feb.	7.45 pm	Circuit Ash Wednesday Holy Communion Service at Toddington Methodist Church
Sun. 10th Feb.	10.30 am	Morning Service
	6.00 pm	Sung Eucharist
Wed. 13th Feb.	7.45 pm	Mid-week Meeting led by Revd Peter Dudeney
Thu. 14th Feb	7.30 pm	Eucharist
Sun. 17th Feb.	10.30 am	Family Communion
	6.00 pm	Evening Service
Wed. 20th Feb.	7.45 pm	Mid-week Meeting – Speaker: Sue Cato from the mental health charity, “Mind”
Sun. 24th Feb.	9.00 am	Eucharist
	10.30 am	Family Service
	6.00 pm	Evening Prayer
Wed. 27th Feb.	7.45 pm	Mid-week Meeting led by Revd David Jenkins
Sun. 2nd Mar.	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.		




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### The Swan at Northall

Graeme & Lynne wish everyone a very Happy New Year and take this opportunity to introduce the “BLACK ROCK GRILL” an innovative dining experience beginning at The Swan on Friday 8th February.

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## **Edlesborough W.I.**

At our penultimate meeting of 2007 Kathy Froud was thanked for baking our birthday cake, and Sue Parker for acting as Phrena's stand-in the previous month. A report was given on the Bucks Federation Council Meeting when James White, son of 'James Herriot' had given an interesting talk. We learned also that we had received another Tree for Life Certificate from Yorkshire Tea.

Our speaker that evening was Mr Roger Skipper, aided by his wife Anna. Some time ago, Mr Skipper - a retired policeman - had shown members around his beautiful garden at Woodham Green, and his talk was based on the work involved in growing such lovely plants. With the help of slides, he took us through all the seasons in the garden. It is just under an acre in area, and the aim is to have colour in it every week of the year.

Mr & Mrs Skipper have lived in their house since 1980, and between them have created their beautiful garden. It is a credit to them, especially as they raise money for charity by holding open days, the next one being in July. The garden is a joy to see judging by the slides we were shown by these two very dedicated gardeners.

Our final meeting of the year combined our A.G.M. with the Christmas party, to which several members from other W.I.s were invited. The annual reports were given and Phrena, our president, thanked all who had helped to run our institute during 2007. The committee for 2008 remained the same as previously, and Phrena was re-elected President. Once the official business was completed, party time began.

Members were served a delicious supper and entertained again by the popular musical duo, Les & Dave. They were accompanied this year by singer, Claire Lutterlock. As in previous years, members all enjoyed singing along with them. Val Richards, Megan Howells and Brenda Shields provided more entertainment with their amusing monologues, and we had the added pleasure of a display of Christmas decorations made by the talented ladies in our craft group. Each member gave and received a gift, and so ended a very happy evening.

We now look forward to 2008 and wish everyone a Happy New Year.

Val Harris

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### **Focus on Film Society...**

meets on the second Monday of each month at 2.00pm in Eaton Bray Village Hall. Our members select the films we show, and refreshments are provided after the screening. Why not come along and sample a film as a guest before joining us, it will only cost you £4.

On February 11th we are showing "The Queen" and on March 10th "A Good Year". Put the dates in your diary and come along and see us for a good afternoon's entertainment on a big screen! For more information please contact Sue Gladin 01525 220749.





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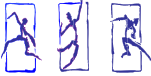
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## **To Ex Members of Rotary, Lions and Round Table**

To any past members of the above clubs, or anyone who might be interested in Rotary, who has now moved to this area. An invitation is extended to you to make contact with a local Rotary club that was formed 25 years ago to cater for people who lived in the area, but did not necessarily work in Dunstable/Luton. The club meets on Thursday evenings. Please contact Alan Felstead on 01525 220014.

There is also a Dunstable Town Rotary Club which meets on Tuesday lunchtimes for those working in or near Dunstable. If interested please contact Phil Gillam on 01582 608601.

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## **Totternhoe Preschool Update**

We ended Autumn term on a high note with a wonderful performance of Christmas songs by the children at the open day followed by a special visit from Father Christmas at the end of term party. Most of the children were brave enough to go up by themselves to collect their presents, although few of them broke some speed records in their haste to get away afterwards!

After a well deserved break, everyone's back and raring to get to grips with this term's theme: "all about me". The children will be getting messy with paints doing hand and foot prints, learning about some basic mathematical concepts by being measured and weighed, and bringing in baby photos to talk about themselves and how they've changed.

If you care for a child aged between 2 and school age and would like them to join in the fun, please call Kay on 07803 925254. We run sessions Monday to Thursday in term time between 9.15 and 11.45 in Totternhoe Memorial Hall, Castle Hill Road.

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## **British Legion Poppy Collection in Northall**

Many thanks to everyone in Northall who supported the 2007 collection in November. This year we have managed a staggering £378.98, which included the House to House collection, collections at "the Swan" and Edlesborough School, and a private wreath. Actually, this year the staff and customers at "The Swan" have excelled themselves by contributing the amazing amount of £97.08 towards the final total! Thank you all for your continued support and generosity.

As usual, I have to apologise to anyone I may have missed (or couldn't make hear etc.) on my evenings out and about in Northall.(in the dark! - where have all the streetlights gone....?) Northall has gradually increased in size over the past few years - and I walk a lot slower these days - and probably talk more!! So I am finding it difficult to get to every house in the village during the first week of Remembrancetide - and by the second week most people have their poppies!

So if there is anyone out there who could give up one - or even two - evenings between 5.30 and 7.30pm next year to walk about in the dark and cold/wet and dodge the traffic(!) and hammer on doors - well I'd love to hear from you! (Number



below - ever the optimist!!)

In a similar vein, I am aware that there is no House to House service in Edlesborough, although you seem to be able to get poppies in the shop. If there is anyone in Edlesborough who feels that they would like to do even one street in Edlesborough, please contact me (at the number below) preferably by July 2008, so that I can order extra supplies, and we could provide a small service in Edlesborough, complete with local total raised at the end.

Also, just to let you know that Northall has been selected by the Bucks branch of the British Legion to receive the Christine Rowley Trophy for (I understand) the highest percentage increase in giving for 2006. So I am off to Aylesbury in January to receive the Trophy on your behalf and will let you know all about it in March/April Focus. Well done everyone!

Lorna Cabbage, "Larums", Eaton Bray Road, Northall, Nr. Dunstable, Beds. LU6 2EU Tel: 01525 220361 e-mail: lornacabbage@larums.com

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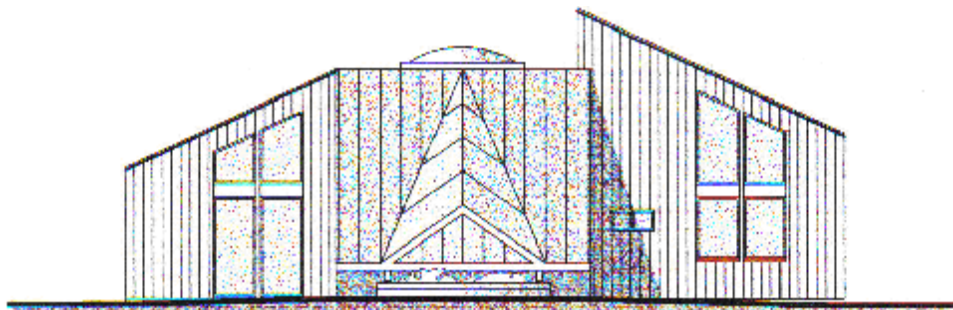
# Eaton Bray Lower School

## TOP MARKS!

The opening paragraph from the OfSTED inspection report, after their October 2007 visit, said this about EBLS:

"Eaton Bray Lower is an outstanding school. It modestly evaluates itself as good with some outstanding areas, but it is better than this. Its self-evaluation is correct in identifying strengths and areas for development. It provides an outstanding quality of education and care for its pupils and excellent value for money. Staff work exceptionally well in partnership with parents and the community for the benefit of all pupils. Pupils' enjoyment of school is impressive. The supportive parents are delighted with all aspects of its provision. Leadership and management are outstanding. The headteacher's vision for a school at the heart of its community is shared by the highly committed staff and excellent governors. This is set to become more firmly realised with the building of a new nursery with facilities for the local community and visiting professional from children's services."

**Please come and visit our friendly village school. Phone 01525 220468 or email [eaton@deal.bedfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:eaton@deal.bedfordshire.gov.uk)**



**COMING SOON:** EBLS Nursery with extended School provision and wrap-around care in a modern, light, environmentally-aware building - due to complete Spring 2008 - please call at the school (01525 220468) to find out more



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## New Montessori Opens in Centenary Year

Kingfisher Montessori has opened in the Centenary Year of Montessori Education. Situated in the Village Hall at Gaddesden Row, a short drive off the Leighton Buzzard Road, Kingfisher Montessori caters for children aged 1 - 5 years old. Joint Principals Camilla Bruce and Ruth Good are very excited to be opening in the Centenary Year of Montessori, with Camilla having reached the shortlist for the Montessorian of the Year award for 2007!

But what does 'Montessori' mean?

Dr. Maria Montessori was the first woman in Italy to become a physician. She opened her first school in Rome one hundred years ago in 1907, having developed a method based on her observation that children teach themselves actively through discovery, using all five senses, not just through listening or watching. They learn best at their own, individual pace and according to their own choice of activity. Children in a non-Montessori setting will be told when to stop a particular task and start on the next. A Montessori teacher will never interrupt a child once he or she is concentrating on a purposeful activity. This allows the child's powers of self-discipline, independence and concentration to develop, which form the basis of future learning, creativity and effective self-expression. Despite the difference in approach, Kingfisher Montessori recognises the need to fulfil government requirements, and is registered with OFSTED to accept the Nursery Education Grant for 3 and 4 year olds. Children are prepared for 'big' school, both socially and academically, whilst developing their natural self-confidence and individual potential. "We have started to build relationships with local schools, both State and Private, many of which have noted how children coming to them from Montessori nurseries are advanced in terms of independence and social skills," says Camilla. "Children can start with us from one year of age in the nurturing environment of our Baby Room," adds Ruth. "They move to the Main Room at around two and a half years old. The safe and calm atmosphere means older and younger children can often work and play together and all levels are catered for, up to 5 years of age."

"Children join in yoga, baking, art & craft and of course plenty of nature walks in the beautiful countryside we are lucky enough to have on our doorstep." One hundred years after the first Montessori school opened in Rome, it is great to see Montessori thriving in the 21st Century in Gaddesden Row!

Contact: Ruth Good, Kingfisher Montessori : 01582 849351 Village Hall Clements End Road, Gaddesden Row, HP2 6AG

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## Salvation Sound - February 2008

After all the indulgences of Christmas and New Year fare, I wonder how many of us decided to lose some weight this year? Have you stuck to your resolution? One of life's mysteries is how a 2 lb box of chocolates can make a woman gain 5lbs. Amazing how you can hang a dress in the wardrobe for a month or so and it shrinks 2 sizes!

The older you get, the more difficult it is to lose weight because by that time your body and your fat are really good friends!

Skinny people sometimes irritate me! Especially when they say things like...“You know, sometimes I forget to eat!” Now, I've forgotten my keys, where I've put a really important letter, my Mother's maiden name, my pin number, but I've NEVER forgotten to eat!! In fact I find myself sometimes planning the next meal before I've finished the first one!

Japanese eat very little fat and suffer fewer heart attacks than us.

Mexicans eat a lot of fat and suffer fewer heart attacks than us.

Chinese drink very little red wine and suffer fewer heart attacks than us.

Italians drink excessive amounts of red wine and suffer fewer heart attacks than us.

Germans drink beer and eat lots of sausages and fats and suffer fewer heart attacks than us...

My conclusion, all things in moderation, and be thankful that someone designed stretch jogging suits!! But you know, in the parable of the rich fool, (good news bible. Luke 12:19) it says, “Lucky man! you have all the good things you need for many years. Take life easy, eat, drink, and enjoy yourself!

But the sting in the tale is that, that very night God called and the man met his demise!

The Lord provides all that we need; greed, eating to excess, leads us to obesity, heart problems, diabetes, Dr's surgeries, hospitalisation and we become a drain on the N.H.S. So will someone tell me, why do we do it?

Now where did I put that diet sheet?!!

“Somebody said that it couldn't be done,

But with a chuckle he replied

That “Maybe it couldn't,” but he would be one

Who wouldn't say so till he'd tried.

So he buckled right in with the trace of a grin

On his face. If he worried he hid it.

He started to sing as he tackled the thing

That couldn't be done, and he did it!

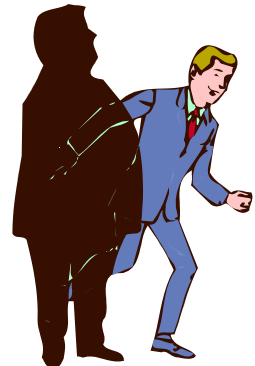
There are thousands to tell you it cannot be done,

There are thousands to prophesy failure;

There are thousands to point out to you, one by one,

The dangers that wait to assail you.

But just buckle in with a bit of a grin,





Just start to sing as you tackle the thing  
That “cannot be done”, and YOU’LL DO IT.

Happy New Year...

Where’s my calorie counter? I’d go for a walk but it’s raining!!

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### **Friends of St Mary’s - Family Singalong**

On Friday 21st December, a new event was held at St Mary’s Church, Eaton Bray. Friends of St Mary’s (FOSM) aims to raise money to preserve the fabric of this lovely church, and the event was organised to appeal to all members of the community. Old favourites including Away in a Manger, Little Donkey, Silent Night and, of course, We Wish You a Merry Christmas rang out as around 170 people came together for some festive fun, accompanied by organist David. The carols were interspersed with a few short, seasonal poems read by local children, James, Emily, Amy and Joe, and the evening was also compered by James. It was lovely to see people of all ages enjoying themselves together, and the evening was definitely enhanced by the addition of various jingle bells and instruments played by some of the younger children! Mince pies and drinks were served at the end by Val and her team, and a total of over £480 was raised. Many thanks to everyone who supported this event. Next, there will be an Old Time Music Hall at Eaton Bray Village Hall on Saturday, 22nd March 2008 – look out for details in future issues of Focus!

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### **Edlesborough Book Group Review**

#### **The Grave Tattoo**

**by Val McDermid**



The discovery in the Lake District of a mummified body, tattooed in the style of the South Seas, sets Wordsworth scholar, Jane Gresham on the journey which forms the story of *The Grave Tattoo*. The body of the Bounty mutineer, Fletcher Christian, has never been discovered on Pitcairn Island and, as he and William Wordsworth were once schoolmates at Cockermouth, Jane feels that this could prove her long held belief that Christian returned to the Lake District and was sheltered by his friend. She has a theory that Wordsworth set down Fletcher Christian’s story and that there is somewhere an undiscovered manuscript which has been hidden by Wordsworth’s descendants. This could be worth a fortune, and her efforts to find the document and validate her theory, sets off a series of events in London and the Lake District, culminating in a series of murders.

The group read *The Grave Tattoo* as complete newcomers to the works of Val McDermid and her highly praised reviews led us to expect great things. The book was very easy to read, but we thought that the characters lacked depth. We also commented on the amount of minor characters which did not seem necessary and this made for too many sub plots to bring together for a satisfactory conclusion. This, we felt spoiled the book and made it rather difficult to believe.

## **St Mary's Parochial Church Council Meeting**

A Happy New Year to you all from everyone at St.Mary's. At the last meeting of the PCC held in December, it was decided to donate one hundred pounds to each of the five charities nominated by the congregation as well as seven others from whom we received appeals. In addition two hundred pounds has been donated to each of four larger beneficiaries. For 2008, four nominations were considered for the Parish Project, it was decided to adopt Macmillan Cancer Support.

A substantial amount of work on the fabric of the Church will be required throughout 2008, and thanks to a generous donation we will be getting new chairs installed later in the year.

The PCC met on Thursday 10th January 2008 at All Saints' Church, Dagnall following a celebration of the Eucharist.

There is still no volunteer to represent St Mary's at Churches Together.

Three members of the PCC met with a representative from a Contract Cleaning Company with regard to cleaning the Church. It was agreed that we should employ this company fortnightly.

Discussions about a new meeting venue for the Mothers' Union is ongoing.

Ash Wednesday is the 6th February. Lent courses are being arranged. Churches' Together subject will be "The Lords Prayer" - the North Chilterns Group subject will be "Religious Drama". The Wednesday House Group is holding a weekly course. Posters will give full details of dates, times and venues for all the courses together with appropriate telephone numbers to contact, if you are interested in attending.

Two new chair samples are in church together with two colour swatches, the congregation has been asked to give their preference to Mike Smith or Churchwardens.

The proposal to create the position of Parish Administrator is still ongoing.

Over £6,000 has been raised by St Mary's for its charity of the year 2007. A cheque was presented to representatives of the Chilterns Multiple Sclerosis Society on Sunday 6th January at the 10 a.m service.

Friends of St. Mary's coffee morning in the church will resume in April. There will be a Fair Trade Breakfast in March. The Parish Lunch held on the third Sunday each month continues to be a great success but more help is required.

A discussion about a service directed at children was lengthy. A volunteer from the congregation, Sunday School Teacher's and representatives from the PCC are to meet to put some proposals together. The children's services at Christmas were well supported and enjoyed, thanks to Gordon Gray who seems to connect with the children so well.

Budget proposals for 2008 were presented by our Treasurer and accepted by the PCC.

The Church Mouse



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