

FOCUS

May 2008



THE FOUR VILLAGES MAGAZINE

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Focus - The Four Village Magazine

Magazine Committee

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

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

Val Barrow - 3 Chestnut Close, Dagnall

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

Police Contact Numbers...making neighbourhoods safer together

General Assistance (Recommended Number) 01234 841212

Leighton Buzzard Police Station/P.C.Viv Dady 01582 473418

P.C. Viv Dady Mobile 07900051367

Typetalk: 18001 01582 437418

Email: SNT.Leighton-Rural@Bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk

Cover Photograph

Front Cover picture is Pitstone Windmill. The picture was taken to illustrate a new walking book on the area due to be published in June. The Northern Chilterns and the Southern part of Bedfordshire are a well kept secret. While other areas and regions of this country have a deserved reputation for being excellent walking country, this part of the world has hidden away, guarding its beauty and its diversity. Thick wooded slopes, rolling chalk downland, steep hillsides with terrific views at the top. Tranquil towpaths alongside canals with the occasional narrowboat chugging past. Peaceful undulating farmland and sleepy picturesque villages. A book not to be missed by all local walking enthusiasts.

Published by the Book Castle, price £8.99.

Pete Maunders

Mrs Audrey Maunders and family would like to thank friends and neighbours for the flowers, donations, cards and messages of sympathy following the sad loss of Pete.

Village Diaries May 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 01525 222199
- 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

- 9th Leukaemia Research Coffee Morning, 2 Dunstable Road, 10.30 am
14th & 28th Bingo, Dagnall Village Hall 8pm.
20th Over 60's, lunch at The Cock Inn, Wing + Afternoon Tour. Leave Village Hall 11.30am

One Off/Annual/Irregular Events

- 3rd Coffee Morning, 10.30-noon, St Mary's Church
3rd Brunch at All Saints Church, 9.30 – 11.30 am
10th Dagnall Village Fete 12.30 – 4pm, Dagnall Recreation Ground
10th Edlesbray Players: Carry on Laughing, 7pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Box office 01525 222283
10th Dagnall Pet Show, bring small pets to Dagnall Village Hall at 1.30pm if caged, 2pm for dogs. 50p per entry
10th Totternhoe Fete, on the recreation ground, 11 till late
13th Dagnall Village Hall Committee AGM. 7.45pm
17th An Evening of Jazz with 'Gentle Jazz', 7.30pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Tickets: 07768 415605
17th Edlesborough Methodist Church 150th Anniversary Flower Festival. 17th: 10-5.30pm, 18th: 2-6pm
19th Eaton Bray Village Hall AGM, 7.30pm
24th, 25th & 26th Pitstone Church Spring Festival of Art & Flowers, 24th 2-6pm, 25th 11-5pm, 26th 11-6pm
31st Lunchtime Barbecue, 12.30pm, Watermead, Churchgate, High Street, Edlesborough. Tickets: 220143

Lunchtime Barbecue

including salad, sweets and a glass of wine

to be held at

“Watermead”, Churchgate, High St, Edlesborough

on Saturday 31st May from 12.30pm

in aid of St. Mary’s Church Flower Festival

The proceeds of which will go to the Church Roof Fund

and a small donation to Iain Rennie Hospice at Home

Tickets £10.00 each available from

Edna Moore

220143

Sally Siddons

221733



Edlesborough Book Group Review

A Portrait in Sepia by Isabel Allende

This is a sweeping family saga, covering three generations of a family living in San Francisco and Chile in the latter half of the nineteenth century. Its heroine, Aurora del Valle, is conceived out of wedlock. Her mother, who is half Chinese, dies in childbirth and her father, the son of a wealthy Chilean business family, is indifferent to her birth. Her maternal grandparents take sole charge of her and her first five years are secure and happy in the Chinatown district of San Francisco. When her beloved grandfather dies suddenly, she is given into the care of her other grandmother, the flamboyant and extremely rich, Paulina del Ville. Their relationship becomes very close and Aurora leads a much more privileged life. Paulina realises that because of her granddaughter’s mixed blood, there are inherent problems for her when she grows up and so decides to leave San Francisco and return to Chile, where she originated and where her family still live.

Aurora is told nothing of her origins and her true identity and that of her father, remain a mystery. Her story involves her self discovery, her love of photography, which lead her to independence and her eventual acceptance of her ancestry.

The plot is dense covering many issues regarding South America, its wars, revolutions and history. It comments on racial issues and the social divides operating in America in the late nineteenth century. Long passages of lyrical prose and many characters, some of which come from previous novels, make it very much a book to either love or hate. Two members of our group loved it.

Edlesborough Autos

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1st Eaton Bray and Edlesborough Scout Group

Letter from Dave Jones – Chairman

There's lots happening with our troop at the moment. After a wonderful centenary celebration and lots of camps and activities, we are looking forward to a great summer term of adventure and fun.

The Beaver, Cub and Scout sections have a full schedule of events to make the most of the summer weather and relive Baden Powell's vision of outdoor exploits and healthy pursuits.

The success of the group means that we're always looking for more helpers to cope with the demand. Have you got some time and enthusiasm to lend a hand? Specifically, we know that Erika, our Beaver Leader will be leaving within the next year. To have a smooth transition and easier handover, we'd like to find a new Beaver Leader now. Please have a look at the advert below and do come and join the fun.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Dave Jones (Chair) 221489, Erika (Beaver Leader) 220834, Nick Evans (Group Scout Leader) 220040



Our Beaver Scouts had lots of fun making easter Chickens this week (see photo) and were kindly supported through the donation of Chocolate eggs from our local Dunstable Sainsbury's Store.



Beaver Leader required

1st Eaton Bray and Edlesborough Beaver Scouts

Thriving colony requires enthusiastic leader or assistant leader.

Are you willing to give up a little of your time for extremely great rewards?

All training and support provided, previous knowledge of scouting not essential

Tel. Erika 220834 or Nick 220040 for more details

Eaton Bray Village Hall 100

Club Winners

February 2008

22	S Siddons	£100
181	M Calloway	£25
47	H Martin	£25
190	D Mann	£25
78	C Dixon	£25

Drawn on 19th March 2008 at D & E Hines, The Butchers. Please direct any correspondence to Ross Bagni, 71 Bower Lane, Eaton Bray, Bedfordshire, LU6 1RB, Telephone: 01525 221411.



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Website by [LJupiterwill](#)

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EDaN Project Update

Interested in your village? Not sure how to make things happen? Come and see us during the afternoon at Dagnall Fete on 10th May and at St. Mary's Carnival, Edlesborough on 5th July. We still have spaces for volunteers to help action some exciting projects for example:

- Cycleways – to link Edlesborough, Dagnall and Northall
- Beautifying the villages
- Affordable housing for local residents
- Youth groups
- Village shop co-operatives (Dagnall and Northall)

For a full list of projects please refer to the Edlesborough Parish Council website: www.edlesborough.gov.uk. These projects won't happen without your continued support and input. So don't delay, get in touch today.

Please contact us: Alan Williams 01525 221926 or Vicky Lee 01442 843361

Email us at edanplan@yahoo.co.uk

What next?

The Steering Group continues to work with dedication and are at present putting together the 'Parish Plan' document. This will be a document detailing the findings from our Open Days and Survey and it will contain an action plan showing priorities, timescales etc. This plan will be available to every household in the parish in some form hopefully by this summer.

Look out for the special flyer coming through your door with up-to-date information and details of projects we need your help with. Some of you indicated you would volunteer but we don't know who you are! If you didn't attend one of our village meetings please contact us.

Thanks

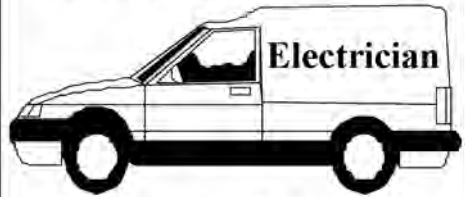
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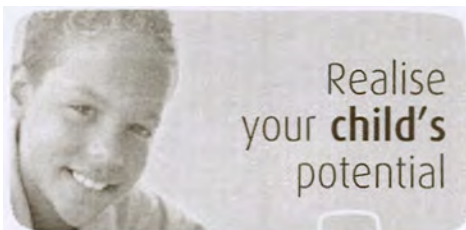
THUR 9.30am St Giles hall

SAT 9.30am E B Village Hall

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Glebe Farm Cottage, Dunstable Rd, Toddington

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

Passers-by will have noticed that the east end of our parish church is once more encased in scaffolding, as we begin the costly work of repairing the chancel roof and replacing the lead which has kept wind and rain out for the last century or so. This is the third phase of the renewal of the whole roof: the nave roof was done two years ago and the south aisle the year before that. The first two phases cost around £100,000 – all money raised by the local church over the years.

As we were planning this new phase last year, we had hoped that we would have enough money available to complete the whole task. But since then two things have overtaken us – the rapid rise in the cost of metals, and the consequent spate of thefts of lead from church roofs. It is the second factor which has made it impossible for us to repair more than the chancel roof at present. Because of the number of claims for lead theft, as soon as scaffolding is erected the insurance on all materials, including all the lead already on the roofs, is suspended. In consequence, we must pay security guards to protect the building when the contractors are not on site for the entire duration of the contract, which will increase the cost by £30-40,000. What we had hoped would pay to re-roof the north aisle will instead be spent on “one man and his dog”. The present work will cost us almost £90,000, at the end of which all the money we have been building up carefully over the years will have been expended. And we shall still be left with a fourth phase, the north aisle, to be done at some future date.

It will not surprise you, therefore, to know that there will be plenty of fund-raising activities organized to raise money for the church repairs, and we would beg everyone who values the existence of their village church to support our efforts as generously as possible. An analysis of last year’s accounts shows that it costs £301 a day to keep the church running – but that figure does not make any provision for major repairs, restorations or improvements. Every penny of that money has to be raised by the direct giving and efforts of parishioners – contrary to popular rumour there is no outside money subsidizing the local church – and major projects require special events to fund them. We have an important historic church at the heart of our village, and we have no hesitation in asking people in the villages to help us make sure that it is still here for future generations. Please help us.

I make no apology for raising another matter for which I urge your generous support. With this magazine you will receive an envelope for this year’s Christian Aid Week appeal, and someone from the churches in our community will call on you during the week 11-17 May to collect your gift. All this money goes directly to help victims of natural disasters – floods, earthquake, famine, drought – and man-made disasters, and to improve farming techniques and create small local industries for the poorest people on earth. A small gift can transform another person’s prospects for the future, and

money given to Christian Aid will be well used. So, please be generous, and if you are a tax-payer, please fill out the Gift Aid declaration on the envelope to increase the value of your gift by 28%.

Thank you for all the support you can give to Christian Aid and to your local parish church.

MALCOLM

From the Parish Registers

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

30 March Mia Jane Gregory

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

18 April Theodore Stanley Clarke Thorne of Brownlow Avenue, Edlesborough



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

EVERYONE WELCOME AT THESE SERVICES

WEEK-DAY SERVICES are suspended while building work is in progress. This does not affect the availability of the church for weddings and funerals.

All Saints’ Church, Dagnall - Services in May 2008

Sun. 4th May	9.00 pm	Eucharist
	10.30 am	Morning Service
	6.00 pm	Evening Service with Holy Communion
Thu. 8th May	7.30 pm	Eucharist
Sun. 11th May	10.30 am	Morning Service
	6.00 pm	Sung Eucharist
Sun. 18th May	10.30 am	Family Communion
	6.00 pm	Circuit Service at Edlesborough Methodist Church
Sun. 25th May	9.00 am	Eucharist
	10.30 am	Family Service
	6.00 pm	Evening Prayer
Sun. 1st June	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.



Edlesborough

Parish Council Meetings

3rd Thursday of every month

7.30pm Memorial Hall

Next meeting: Thurs 15th May 08

Eaton Bray

Parish Council Meetings

1st Monday of every month

7.30pm The Coffee Tavern

Next Meeting: Wed 7th May 08

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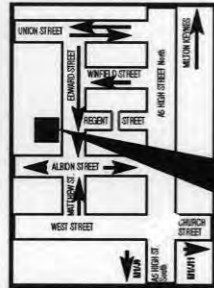


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Dagnall News

Over 60's

In April we were treated to a most interesting talk by Sally Thorne, who described her experiences when she took part in the Marathon Des Sables. It is indeed a pleasure to welcome a resident of Dagnall to give such an interesting talk.

In the month of May we will be having our second outing for lunch, when we plan to visit The Cock Inn at Wing to once again enjoy their well known carvery meal.

It is amazing that we are planning our May meeting. It doesn't seem long since New Year's Day! How time flies when we are enjoying ourselves.

Dagnall School

As the holiday begins, the sun is shining, but I understand the weather is about to change again and winter is to return. It certainly has been a topsy turvy term for weather and a very busy one for the school.

The school received the Activemark for the wonderful work that has been done in PE. A successful themed week was held before Easter full of activities around that festival. Book day was also celebrated.

The children have been entertained by the Rapping Robot who came to teach them about recycling. A dance drama workshop also took place on the theme of Space. They have also had multi-skills training and taken part in an athletics festival at Cottesloe School as part of the Federation of Small Schools.

Sadly, we shall have to say Au revoir to Mrs James, who is beginning maternity leave in June, as she is expecting her second child. We will look forward to her return and will miss her greatly! We all wish her well!

Dagnall Church

As promised in last month's Focus, the amount raised at the Beetle Drive exceeded £300 for Crossroads International (our Church Project for 2008). Many thanks to everyone for their time, contributions and effort to make this event so successful.

Our support for Fairtrade producers does not stop. At All Saints' Church, we have pledged to commit to using Fairtrade tea and coffee for all meetings for which we have a responsibility and after services; to move forward on using other Fairtrade products e.g. sugar and biscuits; and to continue to support Fairtrade through other activities whenever possible. So not only will you be supporting our chosen charity (Crossroads International), you will also be supporting Fairtrade when you buy cakes from our cake stalls and partake of refreshments at other events being held during the year.

Leading nicely on to our next social events. As the days are getting lighter and warmer, our thoughts are turning towards tivating our gardens and planting the spuds on our allotments. Do you work on an empty stomach? Fancy a brunch later on but don't want to make it? Why not come to All Saints' Church and have it made for you on Saturday 3 May from 9.30 – 11.30 am and enjoy a breakfast takeaway? Bacon roll with tea/coffee £3.00; croissant/Danish with tea/coffee £2.00. Our next breakfast takeaway will be on Saturday 7 June: same time, same place.

As previously mentioned in Focus, Dagnall's Village Fete will take place on Saturday 10 May on the Rec. Lots of activities and fun for all to enjoy – but don't forget to visit

our cake stall, proceeds from which will support Crossroads International.

Dagnall Village Hall

See separate entries for Dagnall Fete and Pet Show on May 10th and the AGM on May 13th.

Biting the Bullet

By Leighton Buzzard Drama Group

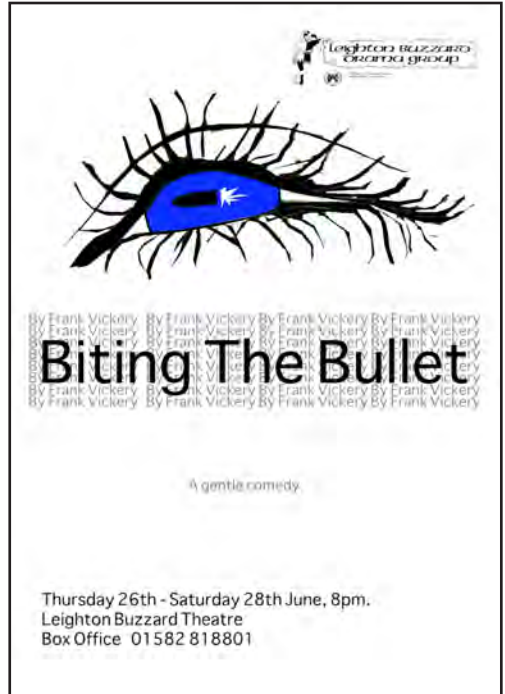
26 – 28 June 2008

A sharply observed, warm comedy that follows housewife Beryl whilst she deals with the emotional aftermath following the breakdown of her marriage. Realistic, touching, & often hilarious, this gentle play will allow you to watch Beryl's moving journey to its conclusion.

A row following a firm's dinner dance is the catalyst for Ted's decision to leave Beryl, his wife of 32 years, whilst he submits to his mid-life crisis. At first Beryl is shattered, but gradually works back from the edge of despair helped by her exuberant daughter Angie and the down-to-earth, straight talking neighbour, Dawn. A holiday abroad, a complete make-over and a platonic friendship with the handyman - who gives her new ways at looking at life – all go to rescue her from the nightmare of separation.

When Ted decides that the grass is not so green on the other side of the fence, Beryl is able to meet him on her own terms – but what will she decide about her future?

A lovely touching comedy that should not be missed!



Samaritans of Luton, South Beds & Harpenden.

Charity No: 254432

Samaritans is available 24 hours a day to provide confidential emotional support for people who are experiencing feelings of distress or despair, including those which may lead to suicide. We speak to people by telephone, email & face to face, and it has been shown that this confidential contact, when we listen attentively to allow callers to speak freely of their worries, is of great benefit to them. Our support aims to give callers the strength to cope with their distress, make sense of their feelings and the decision to carry on with their lives remains ultimately theirs. Samaritans can be contacted on 08457 909090 & by email to jo@samaritans.org

Volunteers: Some 100 Volunteers make a commitment averaging 5 hours a week. Many Volunteers also undertake additional duties & responsibilities to ensure the smooth running of the Branch. All Volunteers are fully trained & part of our commitment is to undergo ongoing training every year, so that we remain at the forefront of modern thinking and best practice in our work. We provide speakers on request, attend Festivals, Carnivals & other outside events, and welcome suggestions to any events that we could be of help. The age of our Volunteers ranges from 18 to 85, and we always want new Volunteers to man our local branch or help with fundraising.

Fundraising: Since we are an unaided charity, we depend entirely on voluntary contributions, legacies, street collections and any other ideas our Volunteers and Friends can think of to raise funds. Fundraising is an ongoing necessity, which requires much work to ensure we remain solvent and maintain our service to the public in Luton, South Beds & Harpenden and surrounding areas. Could you help with our house to house collection in Harpenden?

Friends: We are greatly indebted to a group known as the Friends of Samaritans who provide valuable assistance by organising and helping with fundraising and publicity. Nevertheless the raising of funds to enable us to maintain our service is important to every volunteer. If you would like to join our group of Friends to help fundraise for us, you would be very welcome.

If you are interested in becoming a listening Volunteer or Friend, please contact the local Branch at 33 Cardiff Road, Luton, LU1 1PP. Tel: **01582 720666**. Or Email us on **luton.publicity@samaritaneast.org.uk**

Our next Introduction Day will be held on **Sunday 27th April 2008 at 10.00am**.

DAGNALL VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the Dagnall Village Hall Management Committee will take place on Tuesday 13 May 2008 at 7.45pm.

All residents of Dagnall aged 18 and over are welcome to attend and eligible to vote.

The following officers of the committee will be elected:

Chairperson

Secretary

Treasurer

Bookings Officer

Anyone wishing to stand for election to one of the offices may obtain a nomination form from the secretary (telephone 842129).

Village organisations currently represented on the committee are Dagnall Church, Dagnall School, Dagnall Under Fives, Dagnall Over 60's and Dagnall Gardeners' Society. These organisations are invited to appoint a person to the committee as their representative. Any village clubs or societies not currently represented on the committee are welcome to attend the meeting in order to seek the opportunity to appoint a person to the committee as their representative.

Please do make the effort to attend the AGM – it's your village hall and you have an opportunity to influence how it is managed.

Letters to the Editors

Dear Sally,

In answer to the poem in the March edition of Focus, I believe that Medley Close was named after Mrs Medley who was head mistress of Eaton Bray school when I moved to the village in 1953. She lived in a large house in the centre of what is now Medley Close until her death; the house then became a ruin and us local kids spent many hours playing in it. The land was later sold for building and the house was boarded up and used as a store and canteen for the builders.

When the bungalows were finished the house was knocked down but some of the trees that were in the garden are still there today. The cottages that were behind the Roebuck garage were probably called Bedford Square because they were behind the Bedford Arms pub. When it shut it was incorporated into the Roebuck garage which until then was next door.

Yours faithfully,

Bruce Wiseman

Dear Editor,

Just over two years ago I was asked, together with a number of other people if I would be prepared to donate a sum of money towards the purchase and erection of a flagpole, in order that the National flag could be flown in the Parish. As I am proud of my English heritage I duly stumped up.

After many months of red tape and going to and fro between different bodies, committees etc. the said flagpole and flag duly arrived and has been flying until one day last week, I was driving by and the flag was missing. Making a few enquiries, I am informed that the church will only allow the flag to be flown on certain days of the year. This I find astonishing. How can it be wrong to fly our national flag? It beggars belief that we have a Scottish flag flying on an English Vicarage permanently, but we are not allowed to fly our national flag near our very English church except on certain days of the year. Are there any more PROUD ENGLISHMEN IN THE PARISH WHO FEEL THE SAME AS ME? If so PLEASE write to the Church Wardens or Focus and express your views.

Reg Hellard

Theatre Review - Old Time Music Hall

A very special event took place on 28th March at Eaton Bray village hall. Eighteen young people aged from 10-18 presented a full-scale traditional Old Time Music Hall to a sold-out audience to raise money for the Friends of St Mary's.

There was a buzz of expectation as a packed hall greeted the appearance on stage of James Lake who introduced the evening in the guise of the traditional music hall Chairman. Dressed in top hat and tails he introduced each act with witty quips, jokes, alliteration and a bang of the gavel (who remembers Leonard Sachs on The Good Old Days?!). He introduced the 'orchestra' for the evening - Ros Yalden on the piano - with traditional jibes about the quality of her playing but it was all in good humour and she accompanied the performers beautifully all evening.

The opening choruses were sung by the entire company and we could tell straight away that we were in for a good evening as the cast danced and sang with great strength and quality – they were all clearly enjoying the experience. They all looked authentic, with period costumes and props supplied by Wendy Ashman, whose husband, Peter, directed the show and provided much of the script.

The workload for the evening was fairly shared across the entire company with each performer having at least one solo performance in each of the two acts – that was a wise decision as everyone in the cast was clearly a highly competent performer – there were no weak links.

The first half consisted of fourteen separate acts starting with one of the all time greats – Daisy Bell – beautifully sung by Sophie Yalden. Other highlights in Act One included: a cheeky performance of a little known song called What's that For Eh? by Alice O'Neill who had the audience in the palm of her hand; a hilarious comic rendition of the poem The Green Eye of the Yellow God by Heather Mullett whose arm movements were provided by Emily Ann Varley; the Stanley Holloway monologue Runcorn Ferry by Sebastian Calloway (how did he learn all those lines?); Don't Dilly Dally and Daddy Wouldn't Buy Me a Bow Wow sung by the highly talented Heather and Holly Potten; Cockles and Mussels sung with great conviction by Alex Mustoe; a touching performance of Won't You Buy My Pretty Flowers by Molly Blumsom: and a melodrama which had Freddie Marshall being henpecked by a convincing Melissa Wade before getting his revenge by selling her to the local squire wonderfully played by a joke-cracking William Sanders (who went on to give us a classical guitar solo in Act Two).

After such a slick and fast-paced first Act, the audience were ready for their lovely ploughman's supper provided by Val Trantum and her vastly capable team.

In Act Two the audience were treated to delights such as I Was A Good Little Girl sung by Olivia Calloway who made several gentlemen's nights by flirting with them from the stage whilst her talented sister Sabrina Calloway attracted whistles from the audience as a scantily clad artist's model in It's Alright in the Summertime. Emily Lake gave a beautiful rendition of the little-known Shine On Harvest Moon and the half climaxed with a performance of the melodrama The Old Red Barn which had strong comic acting from Erin O'Neill as the wronged Maria Martin and Joe Ashman as the wicked William Corder who ends up killing her – but not before he milked the boos and hisses from the audience.

The evening concluded with the Chairman inviting the audience to join in the final choruses in traditional style (“chiefly yourselves”) and the entire cast sung and danced such numbers as Any Old Iron and Beside the Seaside with great energy, enthusiasm and quality.

The audience went home happy after two and a half hours – nearly a thousand pounds was raised for Friends of St Mary's and they had been entertained by a group of highly-talented young people. There were no 'stars' in this show – every performer was exceptionally strong – they looked good, were well-rehearsed and clearly enjoyed entertaining their audience. When are we going to get an encore?!

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Lasting Powers Of Attorney

Lasting Powers of Attorney (LPA) were introduced on 1st October 2007 and are powerful legal documents. Rather like a Will records who is to act as Executor(s) at the time of a death, the two LPAs separately record who (Attorney(s)) is to manage the property and financial affairs and make decisions about the personal welfare of the Donor.

A Personal Welfare LPA is only operative after the Donor's loss of mental capacity. Loss of mental capacity is determined by a medical practitioner and can result from an accident or illness, and can be temporary or permanent.

A Property and Affairs LPA is also often made dependent on a Donor's loss of mental capacity, but need not be so. For example, a person may still be capable of making decisions but restricted mobility makes it more practical for an authorised person to implement the decisions and any related tasks.

Accidents and illness can strike at anytime so LPAs are not just for the elderly. For both types of LPAs more than one Attorney can be appointed. They can act together and or independently, and the authority granted can be open or restricted. The authority granted by the Donor to one Attorney does not have to be the same as that granted to another. It is not necessary to have both types of LPA, but it is probably sensible to do so.

When a person loses their mental capacity and there is no LPA available a member(s) of the family or a friend(s) will need to apply to the Court of Protection to obtain the authority to make decisions on their behalf, whether in respect of financial matters and or personal welfare. This is not straightforward and is an expensive and lengthy process.

In a similar way to having an up to date Will available, having LPAs available when they are needed relieves loved ones of a great deal of expense and time wasting. By recording the person(s) who is to act on behalf of the Donor when they are unable to do so, certainty prevails and family differences are avoided at a very emotional and stressful time. Appropriate decisions and actions can be taken immediately.

Once a LPA is registered with the Court of Protection, the nominated Attorney(s) can act according to the powers granted to them. At all times an Attorney must act in the best interests of the Donor. The Court of Protection oversees that this is so.

LPAs are far more complex than the Enduring Power of Attorney which the LPA Property and Affairs replaced. It is recommended that expert guidance is obtained on all the options available, ideally in the privacy of your home, and that the LPA(s) are prepared by Law Society regulated solicitors. Sovereign Will & Probate Services Ltd provide this service, as well as Wills and Probate, locally for a very competitive fee.

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Methodist Church Hall, Dunstable

Sat 5th July



Fairy Tales

St Mary's Village Carnival

Sat. 5th July 2008 **Edlesborough Green**
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CARNIVAL COUNTDOWN!

Spring Clean for carnival:

Unwanted items lurking in the back of a cupboard? We need good quality unwanted goods – please contact us on the carnival website for collection.

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We desperately need more helpers to make carnival day the great event we all love. Please get in touch via the web or call 01525 221284 if you can help us.

Get Your Kit on!

Join the procession with a Fancy Dress Float for your group – book via the carnival website. We also want lots of people walking in the procession in costume. www.stmarysvillagecarnival.com

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In 2007, £11,000 was raised for local charities & good causes.



Eaton Bray Methodist Church

Our 10 o'clock club are holding a Coffee Morning with Bring and Buy, Cake stall and Raffle on Saturday May 10th from 10.00am until 12.00 noon. Proceeds from the event will be shared between the Luton and Dunstable Hospital Incubator Appeal and the Methodist Homes which are the Clubs charities for the year.

Do join us and support two worthwhile causes.

On Sunday May 11th at 10.30am we have our Sunday School Anniversary. This is always a very special day in the life of our Church Family and a warm welcome awaits. This service will be led by Roger Owers and our young people.

Jane, James and Nikki MacFarland are once again opening their gardens at Chestnut Lodge, Leighton Rd, Gt. Billington to host a CREAM TEA'S AFTERNOON on Saturday June 7th from 2.30pm until 4.30pm. There will be various stalls; Cakes, Bric-a-Brac, Plants and Games including Crockery Smashing. A really Fun afternoon for all ages with a scrumptious tea in lovely surroundings and plenty of parking space! The event is also to try to raise money for the Tear Fund Disaster Appeal and Church Funds. Do join us.

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FAIR TRADE STALL



Eaton Bray 5th Annual Beer festival
Eaton Bray Hall
Friday 6th June and Saturday 7th June 2008



As usual I am trying to think of a snazzy way to start this piece and as usual (as those of you who read my pieces will have noticed) I am failing miserably. So I thought I would start with some basic facts.

The Dates

Friday 6th June 6pm till 11pm
 Saturday 7th June 12 noon till 11pm

The Beer

16 Real ales plus cider & perry

The Food

BBQ (the best as run by me!) plus baked potatoes and assorted fillings. And all the other usual bits!

The Entertainment

Friday evening Jerome Chance
 Saturday afternoon Children's magician
 Saturday evening Bob Thompson

Other Drinks

For those of you who do not like Real Ale or are either too young or driving we will have a selection of lagers, wines and soft drinks.

All in all this should make for an excellent couple of days. We do hope you will join us and remember we are delighted for families to come and join in the fun as the bar is in a separate area.

All monies raised from the event are going to the continuing refurbishment of the hall.

The quiz, which by the time you are reading this, will have happened was sold out by the first week of April with a waiting list. So we are sorry to any disappointed villagers. I have promised to give those people first dibs for our next **Quiz on Saturday 11th October**. The rest of you don't say you haven't been warned.

See you at the Beer Festival. Any further enquires please contact **Ross on 221411**

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New interest.....

Anyone interested in writing who would like to help form a "Writer's Group" to meet once a month in Edlesborough Memorial Hall, please ring Ian O'Neill on 01525 222653, or email:
 ian_carole_oneill@yahoo.co.uk



Pet Show - Dagnall - Saturday 10th May 2008

Do you have a small 'portable' pet that you would like to enter into a pet show?

Is your canine companion worthy of winning a rosette?

Bring your pet - whether feathered, furred or scaled along to Dagnall Village Hall by 1.30pm if caged, or by 2.00pm for dogs.



Each entry will cost you 50p.
Winners will be announced after 2.00pm.



Or just come along and see the rabbits, guinea pigs, birds and other animals or to ask questions about the care of your pet.



For more details from Liz Coates on 01442 842550

Part of Dagnall Fete 2008



Feeling hungry?
Fancy a brunch made by
someone else?

Why not come and join us on Sat 3
May & 2 June between 9.30-11.30 am
at All Saints' Church for a breakfast
takeaway. Bacon rolls with tea/
coffee for £3.00; Danish/croissant
for £2.00.

Proceeds in aid of Crossroads
International, our
Church project for
2008.



Edlesborough
Methodist Church

150th Anniversary
Flower Festival

May 17th & 18th

Opening Times:
Saturday 17th 10am to 5.30pm
Sunday 18th 2pm until 6pm Service

Refreshments will be available

Proceeds for the Bethany
Children's Trust



**THE
EDLESBRAY PLAYERS**



Present:

CARRY ON LAUGHING!

A REVIEW

IN AID OF ST MARY'S CHURCH ROOF FUND

SATURDAY 10TH MAY 2008

AT 7.30PM

EATON BRAY VILLAGE HALL

Doors open 7.00pm

Tickets £7.50 including

Ploughman's Supper. Bar available.

Box office opens Mon 7th April:

01525 222283



crafts * refreshments * tombola * auction * bouncy castle *

DAGNALL FETE

At Dagnall Recreation Ground

SATURDAY 10th MAY

12.30—4.00

GRAND PRIZE

draw



Featuring - The Sea Cadets
And Ellesborough Brass Band

In Aid of Dagnall School & Village Hall

* cake stall * small animals * plant stall * vintage car display *

plant stall * cake stall * B-B-Q * bouncy castle * auction * tombola * refreshments

Small animals * plant stall * vintage car display * crafts * refreshments * tombola



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 Tina 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.**

"We are an Equal Opportunities Employer"

www.edlesboroughunder5s.org.uk

ROTARY CLUB OF DUNSTABLE DOWNS PRESENTS

AN EVENING OF JAZZ WITH 'GENTLE JAZZ'

SATURDAY 17 MAY 2008 AT 7.30PM

EATON BRAY VILLAGE HALL

TICKETS £12 TO INCLUDE PLOUGHMANS' SUPPER



- ◆ **Bring your own drinks, glasses and nibbles**
- ◆ **Dancing area for the energetic**
- ◆ **Tables of 6 and 8 can be reserved**
- ◆ **Raffle with quality prizes**

All proceeds to be donated to local charities

Tickets on sale from 12 March

Enquiries welcome tel: 07768 415605

proudly present their

Midsummer Ball

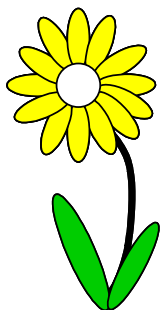
Saturday 28th June 2008
7.00pm til late

Dinner and licensed bar, auction with fantastic prizes, raffle
and dancing to the spectacular 'Planet Funk'

TICKET PRICE £55.00

available from Edlesborough Village Store or by calling 01525 222873

TO BE HELD IN A MARQUEE WITHIN EDLESBOROUGH SCHOOL GROUNDS



OPEN GARDENS

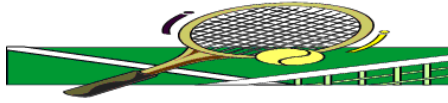
Sunday 8 June

In aid of the Macmillan Cancer Support
& St Mary's Roof Fund

**Admission: adults £5 (£4 in advance)
children free**

**Four previously unseen
gardens will be open this year**





Eaton Bray Lawn Tennis Club

Everyone has a dream. Some come true, others slowly fade away into oblivion. Such was ours; thanks to the imminent relegation of Luton Town, they can no longer afford to rent our tennis courts and play on our artificial Subbuteo pitches. I was only sent two anyway and one of those had beer stains on it. No one bought a plank, our grandstand builder has vanished (VAT issues I think...) and I've had to walk home from the Cayman Islands having spent all my spare dosh on one last rum and coke. So bringing league football to Eaton Bray will have to remain a dream. Always optimistic though, I've put a letters in the post to the London Wasps and Inter Milan (with a few Euros) so we'll see what comes of that...

My homecoming caused much excitement, and a huge party was thrown for me at the Village Hall. To keep it a surprise from me, the Chairman booked it under the pseudonym of his hur-humphth birthday party (I'm not allowed to say which one but it wasn't his 59th or 61st). Whilst entertaining some party-goers I'd cleverly manoeuvred into a corner so I could regale them with interesting stories of my secret assignment in the Caribbean, I was approached by a lady I didn't recognise. Now this usually starts alarm bells ringing due to past experiences, but as she wasn't dressed as a policewoman I acknowledged her, at which point she reached into her handbag and extracted a folded photocopy of my last Focus article. Having introduced herself as Lesley, a founder member of our tennis club back in 1988, she proceeded to ask me to sign the article. My first ever autograph! My cornered partygoers looked on in awe (or something resembling disbelief) as I gave her my full attention and commenced a detailed narrative history of the last fifteen years of my involvement on the committee. I'd only got to 1997 when she excused herself to attend to a 'personal matter' and I never saw her again. I expect the excitement of obtaining my signature had overwhelmed her; same for the other people I was talking to as they'd gone too. The band played 'I Think We're Alone Now' and I danced with myself.

I don't believe I've reported yet on our other recent moment of fame? A few weeks ago, Eaton Bray Tennis Club was the answer to the third clue on BBC Three Counties Radio 'Treasure Quest' programme where studio contestants have to solve clues to guide their intrepid reporter, Victoria (aka 'Cookie') around various locations in the county to find the treasure. This week there was a sporting theme, and after several false starts, the clue 'Old Macdonald's place by the river. Can you hear a donkey make a racket?' was successfully found to be our club! There were 12 of us playing as the reporter arrived, running breathlessly from the car park, followed at some distance by a huffing and puffing soundman carrying most of Dixons on his back. We hid her fourth clue in a bucket of tennis balls, which we asked her to hit over the net (with my new racquet!) until she uncovered the clue. She was pretty good in fact and asked what happened if she got all ten balls over. 'If you get ten balls over', quipped John Palmer of dodgy umpiring fame, 'then you're in the first team'!

Having successfully found the next clue, which was something about local leisure centres, Cookie turned her attention to me and thrust a microphone in my face as I was unexpectedly interviewed about the club, live on air! To say I was a tad nervous is a huge understatement, but as this is our 20th anniversary year, it was a good opportunity for a 'plug' about what we do, both socially and on the courts, especially in the wonderful sunny weather that adorned our three new courts that morning. She then scurried off with her heavily laden soundman in pursuit, in search of the next clue, leaving us to enjoy our tennis and bask in our newfound fame within the three counties.... I did drop her a note asking if there were any top media jobs going at Three Counties, but I guess she's been too busy to get back to me. So I put 'On the Radio' by Martine McCutcheon on continuous loop on the CD player and danced with myself....

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 presenting News at Ten, me, Andy Cross, on 01582 477114.

NORTHALL & DISTRICT AGE CONCERN

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday 3rd June at 8.00PM at the Coffee Tavern, Eaton Bray. Interested members of the public are very welcome to attend.

INTERESTED IN DANCING?



**Then why not come along to Wyvern
Wheelers Square Dance Club**

At Toddington Village Hall.

We meet every Sunday from 7.30-10pm

Both experienced dancers and
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First 2 sessions FREE

Present weekly tariff members £2.50

Non members £3.00

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Couples or Singles welcome.

Call Jim or Brenda on 01525 221224

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are looking for a driver to help on a
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It is a very rewarding and friendly
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Plater on 01525 221095 if you are
interested.

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articulate person with Apple Mac
skills. To work 3 mornings per
week for 12 hrs in total. £10.00 per
hr. If you are interested please call
Jonathan on 01525 222364.

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

PUBLIC OPEN FORUM

Concerns were raised regarding the state of the Parish roads and the Parish Council confirmed they are aware of the problems and are bringing issues raised to the attention of Bedfordshire Highways. Also issues were raised concerning airport expansion/new flight paths with the Parish Council confirming they are looking into this. Concerns were raised regarding dog fouling in the Parish, the Parish Council agreeing to look into the purchasing of additional Dog Hygiene Bins (i.e. for Holmans Field, Market Square, The Meads), but also wishing to highlight to dog owners that it is “an offence not to clear up after your dog”.

DISTRICT AND COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES

District Cllr Janes reported that he had received correspondence from residents regarding rubbish at the Chiltern View Site, confirming that it is managed by Bedfordshire County Council. The Parish Council asked District Cllr Janes to contact Beds County Council requesting they take on their responsibility for the site.

POLICE REPRESENTATIVES

PC Viv Dady presented crime statistics for the month of March:

10 recorded crimes/incidents and 1 harassment warning given.

REPORTING A CRIME: Let’s make our neighbourhood safer, together, report a crime.

Local: Leighton Buzzard Police Station 01582 473418/All crimes: General Assistance 01234 841212

CHURCH ROOF FUND

The Parish Council are to make a donation to the church roof fund of £100.

DRAINS

The problems being experienced with blocked drains in the village are being reported to the relevant authority.

CLERK

The Clerk requested items for the Annual Parish Meeting Agenda by Friday 25th April 2008.

VISIT FROM ANDREW SELOUS MP

Andrew Selous MP is planning to hold a surgery in Eaton Bray Parish on Friday, 18th July 2008 from 11:30am-12Noon at The Coffee Tavern. He hopes to meet as many constituents as possible.

EATON BRAY PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Annual Parish Meeting, Tuesday 6th May 2008, 7:30pm at The Coffee Tavern

Monthly Parish Council Meeting, Wednesday 7th May 2008. 7:30pm at The Coffee Tavern

Contact details for the Parish Clerk are: Mrs H.R. Head, 20 Good Intent, Edlesborough, Dunstable, Beds, LU6 2RD; Email: clerk@ebpc.co.uk Website: www.eatonbray.com/parish-council

Edlesborough Parish Council

(including Edlesborough, Dagnall and Northall) News

VILLAGE FREIGHTER REMINDER

The Village Freighter will be calling at the three villages of Edlesborough, Northall and Dagnall as follows:

Dagnall – Tuesday 13th May 2008 – 7.30am until 11am in the Village Hall Car Park

Edlesborough – Tuesday 13th May 2008 – 12noon until 3.30pm in the Memorial Hall Car Park

Northall – Wednesday 18th July 2008 – 7.30am until 11am in the Village Hall Car Park

Co-opted Parish Councillor

At its meeting held on 20th March 2008 Edlesborough Parish Council co-opted Tim Jones as a Parish Councillor who will be representing Dagnall Ward

Street Lighting

Repairs to the streetlights hopefully will be carried out during week commencing 14th April. Please report all faulty streetlights to the Clerk as soon as problems occur.

In order to assess Parishioners views on traffic calming measures for Edlesborough High Street the proposed switching off of 2 streetlights has had to be deferred pending re-installation of the damaged streetlight at Cow Lane.

Northall Playground

Installation of new play equipment took place adjacent to the Village Hall during April. Council have agreed to include the equipment and safety surfacing together with the play equipment at Dagnall within the Insurance Policy which currently covers the play equipment at Edlesborough.

Play Around the Parishes Play Scheme

Following the success of the event run by Aylesbury Vale District Council at Edlesborough and Dagnall last year the Parish Council have requested the return of this scheme during the summer holidays and to include Northall. Further information will be notified in due course.

Safer Routes to School have been successful in obtaining grant funding to upgrade the bridleway between Ivinghoe Aston and Edlesborough thus enabling the children to walk to Edlesborough School in safety.

Dagnall have received approval of grant funding to install a Multi-Purpose Recreational Track on Dagnall Recreation Field.

Transport

Unfortunately the bus to Milton Keynes has had to be withdrawn due to costs involved in running the service and has been replaced by a daily service to Bletchley. Buses will continue to run between the villages of Northall, Edlesborough and Dagnall to Dunstable, Leighton Buzzard, Bletchley and Hemel Hempstead. The Parish Council are continually pressing for the 61 bus from Luton to Aylesbury to have a pick up point at Dagnall as well as Edlesborough and this is being looked into.

Parish Meetings:

The **Annual General Meeting** will take place on Thursday 15th May 2008 preceding the Ordinary Parish meeting.

Edlesborough Memorial Hall Bookings can be made by telephoning Beverly Sage on 01525 229509. E-mail: parish.council.clerk@edlesborough.gov.uk Website: www.edlesborough.gov.uk

Village Hall AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the Eaton Bray Village Hall is being held at 7.30pm on Monday 19th.May. Members of the public are encouraged to attend this meeting.



Macmillan Cancer Support
St. Mary's Church 2008 Charity



Desserts and Divas Evening

Saturday 19th July 7.30pm

Tickets Price £7.00

A summer gala evening is to be held in South End Lane, Northall to raise funds for this very important charity. We invite you to bring along YOUR favourite dessert/pudding and sample other delicious desserts. Recipes of these to be provided if required. There will be music in the marquee.

We have been very fortunate that most of the members of the 'Just A Cappella' group have agreed to sing for us in two separate performances during the evening.

Price to include all the desserts you can comfortably eat, plus your welcome drink.

Other drinks will be available throughout the evening.

All welcome. Tickets available from Lyn Stubbs 01525 220731.

Luton Airport



Terminal Control North-Airspace Change Proposals

The changes to the flight paths in this area by the above will have serious consequences for all of us if these proposals are implemented.

For further information and details log onto www.nats.co.uk/TCNconsultation section 'Chiltern and Luton Area' or see the document at the Local Library.

NATS are asking for a response by the 22 May 2008 which is insufficient time and the

point should be made.

They are also asking for constructive comments and if you have any, these can be made through their website or in writing to TCN Consultation, NATS, FREEPOST Reading BERKS RG1 BR

It is suggested that we should write to our MP and local Councillors with our views and send copies of any response we make. These are very serious changes with the Westerly Departures to the East/South East moving from South of the Airport to the North over this area and only by communicating our views and concerns will we have any chance of influencing the outcome.

Aircraft noise, register your complaint with the Airport Environment Office on 01582 395382.

Dagnall Weather Station (AONB)

March has been a wet month. Although I recorded 24 days rain, there were only 8 days of any significant rain. The weather centre equipment is so precise that it measures rain in 0.2 mm (1/125 ins.), an extremely small amount such as very fine drizzle or a few minutes of light rain.

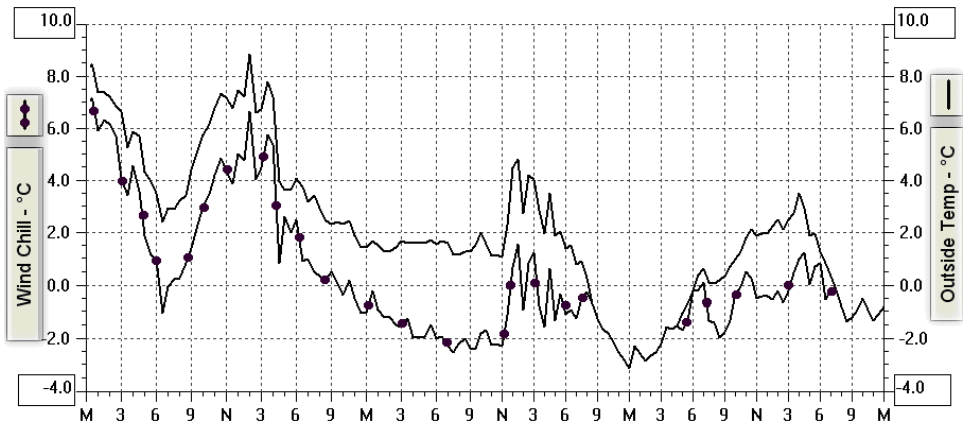
We have heard the weather forecasters this month talk about ‘wind chill’, particularly during Easter. Normally our dominant wind comes from the SW when there are little differences between the measured temperature and wind chill, but at Easter for a few days it was coming from the NNE, direct from the Artic.

The plot below shows the effect of the wind on the temperature: on Easter Saturday 22nd at 7.00am the wind was 25-mph coming from the NNE the temperature was 1.7°C, but it felt like -2.3°C; a difference of 4°C - no-wonder it felt so cold! It would be a lot better if Easter were at the same time each year in mid-April, hopefully a bit warmer.

If anyone has a question, comment or wishes to contact me please email me: aonb-weather@tiscali.co.uk

David G Killick, Station Owner

Friday 21st - Sunday 23rd March



Weather Conditions for March 2008

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

	High	Date/Time	Low	Date/Time
Temperature:	14.0°C	30 March 16.00	-5.7°C	5 March 06.30
Mean Temperature	5.5°C			
Dewpoint:	10.1°C	15 March 15.00	-6.8°C	5 March 06.30
Humidity:	96%	31 March 04.30	41%	30 March 17.30
Barometer:	1036.2 hPa	5 March 08.30	961.00 hPa	10 March 14.30
Wind Speed	30 mph	1 March 02.00	Mths Avg.	3.1 mph
Wind Chill:	13.9°C	30 March 16.00	-5.3°C	5 March 05.30
Dominant Wind:	SW			
Rainfall				
Rain Days: 11	Wettest Day	10 March	19.8mm	0.80 ins
Monthly Rain:	Total	March	89.0mm	3.50ins
Yearly Rain:	Total	3 Months	207.30mm	8.15ins



Edlesborough Under 5's Great Easter Egg Hunt 2008



On the Sunday 30th March we held our annual Easter Egg Hunt. This year over 80 local children and their families took part!!

We were extremely fortunate with the weather, as it turned out to be a glorious day. The Easter Bunny was out early hiding his eggs around the village. His team of enthusiastic volunteers set up the Memorial Hall with cakes and Easter Activities including a raffle, guess how many eggs are in the jar, a lucky dip, guess the piglets name & face painting.

The event was such a success that we managed to raise approximately £400 which will go towards the running of the Pre School.

We would like to thank all the volunteers who helped with the preparation in advance of the hunt, made cakes for us to sell on the day and those who gave up their Sunday afternoon to help run the event. Without this superb team of volunteers events such as this would not take place. Many thanks to all of you.

Penny Pataky

Edlesborough Under 5's Fundraising Team



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Edlesborough School

This is a story written by Melissa Sibley who is in Year 4

The Ring

Jayne was staying at her Granny's house for a few days in the summer holidays. Jayne liked staying there as her Granny had lots of wonderful old ornaments and books to look at and fancy clothes and jewellery to dress up in.

One night Granny had gone to bed early and Jayne had been allowed to stay up for a while and play before she went to sleep. Jayne was dressing up in one of Granny's pretty old dresses and she was trying to find some jewellery to match it when she spotted a beautiful diamond ring. Jayne slipped the ring onto her finger and suddenly started to feel strange, the next thing she knew she was getting smaller and smaller until eventually she was the size of a mouse!

Jayne stepped back and felt herself falling into something large, pink and fluffy, she shrieked and then realised it was only one of Granny's slippers! She started to laugh, this could be fun she thought. Jayne heard a noise and looked up to see Pompon, Granny's big white fluffy cat walking towards her with his mouth wide open, she suddenly felt very scared, what was Pompom going to do? Jayne screamed but Pompom just yawned and said, 'Why so much noise?' Jayne could hardly believe it, Pompom was talking! Jayne told Pompom how she had got to be so small and Pompom just looked up and grinned, and then he asked her if she would like to join him on one of his night time journeys; she nodded her head and climbed onto him, clinging onto his fur so that she did not fall off.

Through the cat flap they went and out into the garden, then through the garden fence and out into fields and then into the woods. It was dark apart from a dim light in the distance. Pompon ran towards the light and Jayne was amazed to see lots of woodland creatures all gathered together dancing round a large tree stump laid out with feast of nuts and berries. There were rats and mice, squirrels, foxes, birds and badgers. All the animals were getting along together and having fun. There was even music, the mice were playing tiny instruments made of household rubbish. Jayne thought the tunes they were making were the most wonderful sounds she had ever heard. Jayne joined in the fun and when she was finally tired she sat down. Pompom said that it was time to get her back to Granny's and so she climbed onto his back and they set off.

When they were back at Granny's house, Jayne slipped the ring off her finger and climbed into bed. She whispered goodnight to Pompom, snuggled under the covers and fell asleep. The next morning Jayne wondered whether her adventure was real or whether it was all just a dream. When Jayne's Granny came in to see her, she asked why Jayne was looking so tired, Jayne then said that Pompom had taken her on one of his night time journeys, but Granny just laughed and said that Jayne had a wonderful imagination. When Granny left the room Jayne looked at Pompom for a while, and he winked at her!



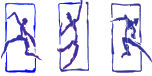


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For 4-7 year olds



Ofsted 2003

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Dagnall school offers

- small classes with high quality teaching
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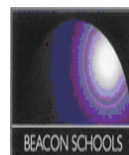
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'Overall academic standards are very high'

'Pupils make very good progress'

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(OFSTED 2003)



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Eaton Bray Cricket Club

The close season activities of quiz nights, race evenings, trips to London and Towcester race course do not compare with the real thing. The real thing started again on 18 April. Yes, it's the cricket season and summer has finally returned.

Naturally when the members of Eaton Bray Cricket Club opened-up the pavilion in April there was snow laying on the outfield. Not wishing to enter the whole debate on climate change, but, haven't the seasons shifted? Aren't the seasons getting later? Well, the cricket 'season' is not getting later. The club started on the third weekend in April and league season started after a further two weeks.

The Club competes in the Morrants Four Counties League, loosely based around Milton Keynes. Since its inception in 2000 the Club has a good record having been champions three times and runners-up twice. However it has not won the title for the past two years.

The second team competes in the third division of the same league and should have a good season with Darren Kerins in charge, and with the return of veteran swing bowler Georgie Coughtrey. Georgie played in the Sunday friendly team last season and missed the competitive edge of league cricket....and a beer on a Saturday night! Within the bounds of village cricket, the Club is quite progressive. It is always looking to improve its facilities and membership. This year it plans to buy a new, second-hand roller. This will allow the pitch to be prepared to an even higher standard! It is also on the look-out for new players; young and old (not too old!). If you fancy getting involved please contact Ian Jones 07956 340888. **MJ**

Home Fixtures for May

- Saturday 3 Whitchurch
- Saturday 10 Olney Town
- Saturday 17 Drayton Parslow
- Sunday 18 Mentmore
- Saturday 24 Milton Keynes
- Saturday 31 Milton Keynes City

Eaton Bray Cricket Club

100 Club Winners

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May 17th & 18th	Flower Festival
June 28th	Ploughmans Lunch
September 21st	Harvest Festival
October 11th	Concert Wesley Singers
November 29th	Christmas Bazaar & Coffee Morning
December 14th	Candlelit Carol service

+ our monthly coffee mornings on the last Saturday of each month and our CAMEO coffee morning on the 2nd Thursday of each month.

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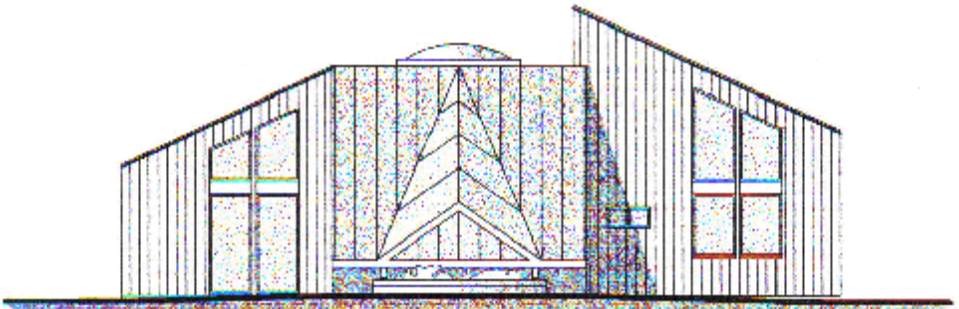
Eaton Bray Lower School

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



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Mothers' Union - Eaton Bray with Edlesborough

At the March meeting members learned the arts of digital photography – well some of them anyway. The speaker was Eileen Bennett, who trained as a medical photographer at the Royal Society of Medicine, subsequently working in hospitals photographing operations, wounds, limbs etc.

Whilst still retaining an 'original' camera, Eileen has been using digital since 2003 and showed her work not only in photographs, but also posters, newsletters, etc.

Digital photography can be cheaper than using film, and perhaps most importantly for our members, ownership of a computer is not necessary. Photos can be printed at many commercial outlets at competitive prices and of course, no film is being used and therefore there is no film to 'run out'. Digital cameras have a card which will take 2/300 exposures and if all these have been printed or copied to a disk, the card can be wiped clean and re-used. On most cameras it is also possible to improve the quality of the photographs by reducing the quantity of photos which the card shows as being the maximum number. Eileen showed examples of the benefit of this technique; cropping photos in which a particular area is enlarged; removing 'red-eye', etc.

Prices for digital cameras can start as low as £50, and after that the 'sky is the limit.'

April

We had a very interesting talk by Patricia Yates, who is a world wide traveller. Her talk was about Tehran. When she arrived she was already prepared for the strange dress they have to wear. You must not show your ankles, so a long button through dress is a must, worn with high boots, also you must cover your head. IN addition to this, all clothing must look dark and with no flowery material.

Next stop Esfahan, where the shops display beautifully coloured items for the house in very lovely bright colours, particularly baby wear, the towels are very pretty and decorative. Then onto Shiraz which is Southern Iran and quite modern and the people seemed more affluent. They use computers in schools, but have very limited access to the world news. The students are very young and many go to university but they are very limited in what they can study. There are separate taxis for ladies and gents and separate rooms when they have wedding parties. They sell very fresh vegetables on the market, but the meat, although fresh, is usually covered in flies! According to Patricia the people love to meet in the parks on Sundays to read poetry.

It was a very pleasant afternoon, we finished off with tea and cakes followed by Grace.

Audrey Reynolds

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
-----------------------	-------------

Monday

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

Wednesday

Home League (Ladies Meeting)	2.30pm
------------------------------	--------

Thursday

Baby and Toddler Group	9.30-11.30am
------------------------	--------------

Thursday Evening

Young Ladies Fellowship	7.45pm
-------------------------	--------

(last Thursday in every month)

Salvation Sound...May 2008

Who would want to be a woman working in the home.?

Step out of bed, and the day starts, you slave away; - washing, ironing, dusting, polishing, Hoovering, cooking, and for what ? Hungry for appreciation, yet nobody notices anything you've done!! In between these chores you tend the garden, do the shopping, a little mending, write the letters, birthday cards etc. arrange flowers, put out the rubbish, clean the bins, sweep the paths, disinfect the drains,... need I go on?... The old saying "A woman's work is never done", is so true. Home come the family? books, boots, coats, just dropped - the cry - "Anything to eat", rings out. Next it's the turn of the briefcase and newspaper - "What a day, I'm so tired, - I could murder a cup of tea," echoes through to the kitchen, followed by "What time's dinner?"

At school you receive gold stars, a. "Well done", from your tutor, at work in the office, another step up the ladder, or perhaps a rise in salary comes your way. But what about the housewife? Within a few minutes the labours of her day are by-passed. When was the last time someone said, "house looks nice Mum", or "like the flower arrangement", or even "that was scrumptious" after dinner. A quick hug, a kiss, someone saying "love you Mum" can make such a difference if your day has been hard too.

It takes strength to work and labour without any recognition. Human beings need love, care and protection; Christian families are bound by these ties; so although the stresses and strains of life might bring about the temptation to go on strike, or at least run away from it all, because we know that our work is primarily a God given task, we know our responsibilities will be rewarded by Him if we are faithful. Psalm 55:22. says 'Cast thy burden upon the Lord and He will sustain you'.

It's not really so bad is it? After all we can stop and have a rest and a "cuppa" whenever we want to. Sit and see a bit of tele' when our back aches - and knowing that tomorrow we have a little retail therapy to look forward to does wonders for our moral.

'As thy day so shall thy strength be'.

The Master told us to take up our cross daily - just call me Martha.!! Patience Strong wrote:

"Don't withhold the word of praise, it may spur someone on -
Just at the moment when they think everything has gone -
A word of praise for work well done, may seem a trifling thing,
But from it - someday, something good and wonderful may spring.
There's always a word that we can say,
To lift their eyes above the seeming darkness of the day
And so renew their confidence to make another start,
And do the job before them with a brave and happy heart..."

Paul wrote to the Philippians, Ch. 4 " 12 & 13:

I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation.
(I wish he'd let me in on it !)

But the end of the verse puts everything in perspective for it says;
"I can do anything through him who gives me strength."





MY FEET HURT!!

Sore painful feet are an absolute curse. It is not an easy part to rest unless of course you can walk around on your hands! It's only when our feet hurt that we realise how much we are upon them in a day.

Metatarsalgia – Literally means pain in the metatarsals – these are the toes and long bones of your forefoot. The pain can often develop for no obvious reason or incident. The pain usually occurs after long periods of weight bearing, running, walking or standing and is often very intense and burning. It will then often ease when you sit down and take the weight off your feet.

If you are suffering from painful feet here are some tips you may find useful:

- Look at your footwear – have your shoes collapsed at the sides, therefore reducing the support to your arches?
- Do you wear heels most of the day? If so, why not try wearing lower heels and even go barefoot in the evenings.
- Exercise your feet by doing both stretching and strengthening exercises. Make sure you stretch your calf muscles too as a tight calf muscle can influence the performance of your feet and lower leg. If you are unaware of how to do this we will be pleased to advise you.
- Try gently massaging the tender tissues.
- Apply ice to the area if hot and swollen.

If the pain does not settle using these tips then seek the advice of your local physiotherapist. Treatment can be done to ease the pain and swelling and teach exercises to off-load painful structures. The physiotherapist may also conclude that it is also necessary for you to see a podiatrist for assessment of how to further correct the mechanics of your foot. This is done by way of prescribing an orthotic, a device that can go into your shoe to help your foot and lower leg alignment. Both our physiotherapy and podiatry service have been extended to include Saturdays for added convenience now.

If you feel you would like further details on this or any other foot problems please call us on: 01525 377751 or e-mail us at: enquiries@stjudesclinic.com. Website: www.stjudesclinic.com. St Judes Clinic, 26 Lake Street, Leighton Buzzard, LU7 1RX.



Edlesborough W.I.

As well as holding our usual monthly meeting in March, we hosted the Beacon Group meeting later in the month.

At our monthly meeting a letter from the Parish Council was read out, thanking us for the donation towards the new cemetery access. We were given some information regarding the new free bus passes, and also details of the EDAN plan.

Our speaker, Mr Stephen Hoole from the Royal Numismatic Society, gave a very interesting account of the history of coinage. Originally coins were produced in mints situated countrywide, and pennies were made of silver. However, when extra money was needed during the Industrial Revolution of 1790, not enough silver was available.

Copper began to be used instead, and was much cheaper. Many coins were made of Welsh copper, and commercial coins came into use. Companies issued their own coins, and many shops gave their own in change. This was a clever move, because they could be used only in the shops concerned. Some coins were political, and others were issued on behalf of certain industries such as whale fishery, bakery and cottage industries. In fact, it was a form of advertising.

Stage coaches began to use money tokens which were converted back into money at the end of the journey. This was in case of a hold-up and, in fact, was the first form of travellers' cheques. Ships crews were paid with ships' own money, which had to be used within a distance of three miles from the ship. This prevented desertion. Many cities had their own coins, and these showed places of interest such as York Minster and Newgate Prison.

Mr. Hoole illustrated his talk with slides of historical coins. It was interesting to see how many different ones had come to be used over the years. Some members had brought along old coins of their own, and were given the history of them.

Our Group Meeting was another enjoyable meeting. It is always interesting to hear annual reports from other W.I.'s, and to get together with members of the Beacon Group.

Mrs Jackie Ayre from Totternhoe demonstrated some beautiful flower arranging. She used a varied amount of foliage along with the flowers, and produced some lovely displays. As well as demonstrating, Jackie gave very useful tips on the care of the plants she used. This applied particularly to the foliage, as most of this came from her own garden. All the arrangements went into the raffle, making very special prizes to be won that evening.

To end the meeting we all enjoyed tea and tasty homemade cakes in the usual W.I. tradition!!

Val Harris

Totternhoe Pre-school News

Wanted – Honorary Treasurer

As a small, community charity, we're dependent on volunteers to run the administrative side of pre-school. We currently need someone to help with keeping track of our finances – no previous experience is required, but a basic knowledge of excel would be handy. If you think you could spare an hour or two a week to help us out please call Irene on 01525 223165 and she can tell you more about it.

The children enjoyed the Easter party at the end of the spring term and were joined by some of the younger children from Totternhoe Lower School. There was face painting, daffodil-making, a treasure hunt and much more – a lovely end to a busy term.

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 07913 529 574. 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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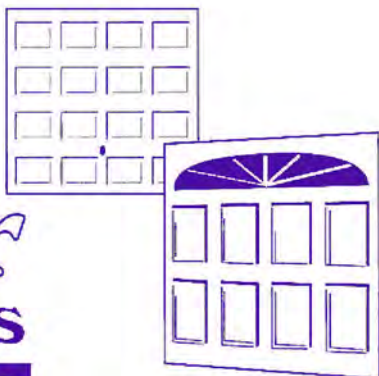
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