

FOCUS

February 2009



THE FOUR VILLAGES MAGAZINE

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NORTHALL

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14th February



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See our website for details

Focus - The Four Village Magazine Magazine Committee

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

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

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

Val Barrow - 3 Chestnut Close, Dagnall

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

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

Police Contact Numbers...*making neighbourhoods safer together* Bedfordshire Police (Eaton Bray)

General Assistance (Recommended Number) 01234 841212

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

P.C. Viv Dady Mobile 07908520148

Typetalk: 18001 01582 437418

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

Thames Valley Police (Edlesborough, Dagnall & Northall)
0845 8505505

Village Hall Bookings

To book your local village hall for an event please contact the following:

Northall: Lorna Cabbage, Tel: 220361

Eaton Bray: Norman Lee, Tel: 222831

Dagnall: Elizabeth Coates, Tel: 01442 842550

Edlesborough Memorial Hall: Beverly Sage, Tel: 01525 229509

Hospice at Home

Hospice at Home are looking for a Minutes Secretary to join the board of Trustees. Hospice at Home is a registered charity that supports people and their families with life limiting illnesses. For further information, please phone the Chairman Ian Coulter on 01582 668004

Village Diaries February 2009



Weekly

- Mon-Fri (term time) Eaton Bray Pre-school, Eaton Bray Lower School, 01525 220468
- 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, Northall Village Hall, 1.30-3pm, Doreen 01525 377542
- Tuesdays Line Dancing, 1.30-3p.m., Eaton Bray Village Hall, Lyn Stubbs 220731
- Tuesdays Baby's First 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) Cheeky Monkeys Under 5's Playtime, 1:00pm - 2:45pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Contact Louise on 07784 165259
- Wednesdays Chi Kung & Wu Chi classes, Coffee Tavern 11am - noon
- Wednesdays Pilates, 7.15pm, Northall Village Hall, Lisa: 01582 412426
- Wednesdays Egyptian Dance Class, 7-8.30pm at Eaton Bray Village Hall. Contact: Soraya 01525 853360
- 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, Northall Village Hall, 11.30am-1pm 01525 377542
- 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
- Thursdays Keep Fit Edlesborough School, 8pm Tel: 01582 668735
- 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

- 4th, 18th Bingo, Dagnall Village Hall 8pm.
10th Dagnall Over 60's, 2pm Village Hall , Talk by Geoff Spencer on
NOTE DATE Life in German P.O.W. Camps
13th Leukaemia Research Coffee Morning, 2 Dunstable Road, 10.30 am.

One Off/Annual/Irregular Events

- 23rd Eaton Bray Village Hall Open Evening, 7.30pm
25th Ash Wednesday, 8pm, Sung Eucharist, St. Mary's Church, Eaton Bray
28th Thai Curry & Quiz Night, 7.30pm, Edlesborough Memorial Hall, Tickets: Kath 07786 061959
28th Food, Humour & Dance, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Tickets: Ross 01525 221411

'Sing Like an Angel' in Northall

'Sing Like an Angel' in Northall was the invitation issued through letterboxes to village residents in the week before Christmas. Judging by the numbers of cups of tea and coffee consumed afterwards, about 70 people responded to the invitation as Northall Baptist Church regulars and visitors joined together in rousing, and reflective Christmas Carols in an atmospheric candlelit chapel. We are also pleased to report that over £180 was donated to work with vulnerable children by Spurgeons www.spurgeons.org.

New Yoga Class

Northall Village Hall
Tuesdays at 1.30 p.m. to 3 p.m.
Beginners welcome
Please contact Doreen Locke
Tel. 01525 377 542

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)	

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The Parish Council is nine members of the public

We come to each Parish Council Meeting in the Coffee Tavern on the 1st Monday of each month and spend on average around two hours each month advising and helping to run our village.

**At present we have one vacancy – will YOU come and join us?
If yes, please contact:**

Mrs Heidi Head, Clerk to Eaton Bray Parish Council
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St Mary's Parochial Church Council meeting, 11th Dec 2008

The PCC discussed the following matters at the December meeting.

Carol Service at St. Mary's Church, Edlesborough.

The Churches Conservation Trust has defined new fire safety regulations specifically referring to the use of candles and prohibiting their use on ancient materials. As it was too late to make contingency arrangements for the Carol Service electric light would have to be used. Plans for future services would be considered.

Resignation of David Radwell – Organist

David Radwell who has been with St Mary's for nearly thirteen years had given his resignation effective from January 4th 2009. This news was received with great regret but understanding as he and his wife are moving out of the area. David has been such an asset to the Church and his leadership, dedication, tuition and development of the choir and individuals will be sorely missed. The advertisement for his replacement was discussed. The post will be termed "Organist and Director of Music". In the meantime we will need the help of volunteer organists.

Flowerbeds in the churchyard.

The Parish Council have agreed to take over the maintenance of the gardens in the church yard.

Parish Charity Project 2009

Each year the congregation are invited to put forward names of charities to be considered for the fund raising project for the year. 2008's project was Cancer Macmillan and the final amount raised will be announced shortly. The charity chosen for 2009 is Merlin Medical Relief. Merlin is the agency which responds worldwide with vital health care and medical relief for vulnerable people caught up in natural disaster, conflict, disease and health system collapse.

Carnival 2008

The final total raised was £12,258.93. This was an excellent result considering the financial climate and Peter Bennett was congratulated and thanked once more for all the work he and his Committee put into making the Carnival a success yet again.

Dagnall Management Committee

The Christmas Craft sessions were a success. A Coffee Afternoon meeting is being arranged for 'young mums'. The Congo Crisis appeal raised £133.

Church Flowers

We were pleased that Carole Johnson has agreed to take on the church flowers organisation and it is hoped that she will receive support from everyone within the parish.

The Vicar's retirement.

Malcolm Grant had advised the PCC in November of his decision to retire from full-time ministry and his last service will be Sunday 8th March. He was, therefore, invited to adjourn from the meeting, as protocol requires, whilst administration matters were discussed concerning his replacement and the manning of services during the interregnum. The prime concern is that there should be as little disruption to services as possible. Members also voiced their particular sadness and regrets that he will be leaving the parish.

Church Mouse



Northall Social Groups

About five years ago, thanks to the efforts of The Northall Village Hall Management Committee, various social groups were formed. They have proved to be successful and a useful means for Northall residents and others in surrounding areas to meet and socialise. There could be new residents now in the villages who may be unaware of the existence of the Groups and as some time has elapsed since they were originally formed, it was felt that it would be useful to give below contact details and a brief synopsis of each group's activities:

- ART** Contact Priscilla Dorrance, Tel 01525 221273
Email: priscilla.dorrance@virgin.net
Small group - mixed media, meeting Friday fortnightly at 7.30pm in members' homes.
- BOOK CLUB** Contact Amanda Scott, Tel 01525 229056
Email amandascott@hotmail.com
Members read a novel and then meet to discuss it (over a glass of wine and/or coffee). Meeting fourth Thursday monthly, 7.45pm in members' homes. Membership limited to 12.
- SCRABBLE** Contact Lorna Cabbage, Tel 01525 220361
Email lornacabbage@larums.com
Meeting first Tuesday monthly in members' homes, 7.30 pm.
- WALKING** Contact Alan Tipper, Tel 01525 221295
Email tipper_alan@hotmail.com
Walks Wednesday fortnightly time 10.00 am. Distance three to four miles. The walks are not too strenuous and usually finish at a pub or café to enjoy a drink and a chat.
- WINE TASTING** Contact Susan Young, Tel 01525 221013
Email susangaryoung@hotmail.com
Meeting first Friday monthly at Northall Village Hall. Time 8.00 pm-11.00 pm. Membership limited to 30.

All the Groups are friendly and are a good mix of people from various backgrounds and walks of life. If you are interested in joining any of the Groups or would like further information, please get in touch with the group contact.

E.M. Ward

Royal British Legion Annual Poppy Appeal - 2008

Although this year's appeal took place during two weeks of almost continual rain, hail and snow, Eaton Bray's renowned generosity ensured that the Royal British Legion would once again benefit handsomely.

This year's collection amounted to a magnificent £1973.14.

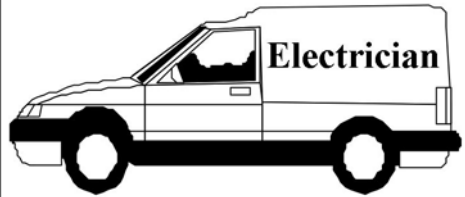
From ourselves and the Legion we offer our thanks and gratitude to all who helped with the appeal collection and to everyone who opened purses or pockets and gave so generously to help those from the armed forces who are in need. Again this year we have been heartened by your kind and supportive words and are grateful for your continuing encouragement.

Thank you. Keith and Jean Stanley. Hon. Organisers. Tel. 01525.220608.



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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

The global “credit crunch” will affect us all. Some are already experiencing its chill winds through loss of investment income, reduced pensions and the drop in property prices and the stagnancy of the market. Others have to face unemployment or the threat of redundancy; for some in our own community the blow has already fallen. We see familiar names disappearing from the High Street, and our plans for the future have to be rethought. Non-one is immune from this, and our concern for all such people is expressed in the prayers we offer daily in your parish church.

Events like this challenge the Church to exercise its prophetic ministry – not in offering slick answers to complex problems, but in discerning the underlying meaning of what is happening and listening to whether God is speaking to us through current events. That was the role of the ancient prophets, and many of them made themselves extremely unpopular by saying “This is what God says”.

Various religious leaders today have offered a word of prophecy in the current crisis. The basic truth is that we have placed too much reliance on money, and in seeking to obtain more and more of it, we have undermined its value. The great materialist boom has lured us further and further into the realms of debt, often unsecured. We have become greedy, avaricious, and our appetite for material goods and possessions has increased. What we thought was the road to happiness has led instead to frustration, dissatisfaction and disappointment. And, like any addict, we have gone for more and more of what has failed to satisfy. Just think of the increasing incidence of mental illness, of family breakdown, of depression and stress: this is where our obsession with material prosperity has led us.

It hasn't been all wrong. But we have neglected other aspects of our human nature in our pursuit of material things. As someone said the other day, “the flat-screen television has become more important than playing with our children”. What has happened to our relationships? Are they not far more important than almost everything else? How many people in the rat-race can no longer find time for relaxation, for simply being with families and friends? We used to be content with so much less: what has happened to change this? Where was that subtle twist which made what we do seem so much more important than who we are?

These are the issues we are being challenged to face today. A recent writer offered an interesting diagnosis of our condition. We are suffering from a new disease, “affluenza”, which causes us to put affluence and physical comfort above everything else. We need effective treatment to rid our bodies of this virus, and to set us free to concentrate on the spiritual things of life. I don't necessarily mean “religious” things, although I personally believe that our neglect of these is part of the problem – religion is one way of establishing a proper balance in our lives. But I do mean those things which nurture our inner being, the real person we are behind all the frenetic activity.

We need to appreciate the beauty all around us, the care and love of those closest to us, the simple pleasures (many of which are free) of daily living, and let go the need for the newest and the latest and the biggest things around.

One of our human failings is that it often takes a really significant jerk to bring us to our senses – the prophet might well say that this is exactly what we have had. Will have the required effect? Is God showing us the folly of our ways in the only terms we will hear? That, I believe, is how divine judgement expresses itself in daily living. So my hope and prayer at the start of 2009 is that we may all heed what is being said, and have the courage and strength of will to take the right steps to put right the deadly imbalance in our contemporary way of life.

May God bless you all, particularly those who are seriously affected by the financial crisis.

MALCOLM

From the Parish Registers

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

23 November Harry Edward Fry
Hollie Jo-Ann Toyer

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

5 December Ian William Gearey of Tasker’s Row, 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
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WEEK-DAYS :

Tuesday: **7.30am** – Eucharist
 2.00pm (2nd Tuesday) – Toddlers’ Church
Wednesday: **9.30am** – Eucharist
 8.00pm (2nd Wednesday) – Healing Service
Thursday: **7.30pm** – Eucharist (on 2nd Thursday at All Saints’, Dagnall)
 EVERYONE WELCOME AT THESE SERVICES

ASH
WEDNESDAY
25 FEBRUARY
8.00pm Sung Eucharist
in St Mary’s Church

Confirmation Classes 2009

If you or your children, aged 11 or over, are considering Confirmation this year please contact Gordon Gray on 220136. An initial meeting will be held at noon in St Mary’s Church on 15 February. Classes will take place through the Spring with the Confirmation Service on 28 June.

Dunstable

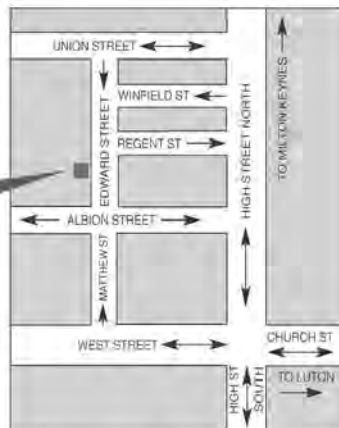
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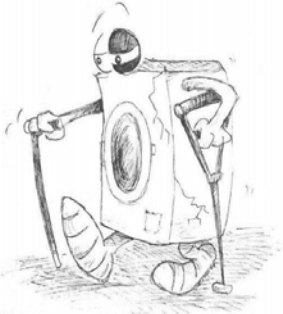
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Village Hall News

The deadline for the Focus publication is approaching fast - and it's time to update the village on what has happened, and what is planned to happen down at the Village Hall. A flowing script from the 'Old G.I.' normally entertains focus readers, but on this occasion, the chairman of the Trustees has been coerced into putting a few words together – from the quiet one!!

Well, some said it would never happen, some wondered what was happening, and some watched what was happening and a few made it happen - but it gives me great pleasure to announce that, other than a few odds and ends, we have now completed the renovation of the Village Hall!

Yes, the 'heart-throb' born in 1964, has had a total face-lift and significant surgery to her interior. She now stands in splendour to face the ups and downs of the 21st century – that's when the current lease runs out.

The major renovation programme has been completed over three phases incurring expenditure of over a quarter of a million pounds – all raised locally by numerous fund raising events and donations. It is a credit to all concerned and to the Eaton Bray village and surrounding communities.

The hall now has new heating and lighting systems; new flooring and refurbished kitchen and other improvements including facilities for the disabled. It has to be seen to be believed and this is when I say – enough is enough – and extend an invitation to the village community to come and join us at an open evening on Monday 23rd February to see for yourselves, the transformation of the Eaton Bray Village Hall.

Before I forget – if you can find a slot in your busy schedule to join us, light refreshments and a glass of wine will be there to welcome you – from 7.30 p.m. onwards

From me, a big thank you to all who have supported us over the past four years, and a thank you to the Trustees who have supported the three phases of the renovation programme – see you on Monday, 23rd February.

Norman H. Lee, Chairman - Hall Trustees

Churches Together in Eaton Bray, Edlesborough, Northall and Dagnall

Lent Groups 2009

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Dagnall News

Over 60's

Our January meeting was, as usual, our Annual General Meeting and Birthday Tea. During February we will be interested to hear a talk presented by one of our members, Mr Geoff Spencer, who, during the war, was unfortunate to be a Prisoner of War. We look forward to learning of some of his experiences. Please note that this meeting will be on February 10th, which is a week earlier than usual.

Don't forget the Organ Concert by Jean Martyn on March 28th in the Village Hall. Tickets available from Roy Castledine on 01442842048. See separate advert.

Dagnall School

Centenary Celebrations

Congratulations to Dagnall school on its 100th birthday which was celebrated by the schoolchildren in old-fashioned dress in school on January 9th. More next month.

Centenary celebrations will be held on Saturday 11th July. Everyone invited. More details to follow.

Photo - John Bercow (MP) helping to cut the centenary cake.



Ashridge Visit

Yesterday when we got to Ashridge, a lady called Louise told us what to do and she told us to go to the woodland and collect a few leaves and sticks and wood. Eventually we made colour strips. After, Louise sent us out into the woodland again and we made a rabbit after lunch. Then we climbed up the monument. It took ages and ages. It was 170 steps and it was a crystal staircase. Then we went out of a door that led to a balcony. After a minute we had to go down another 170 steps. After that the lady said we had done a very good job and that it was time to go home.

Maddie

Dagnall Church

The Christmas period proved very fruitful in regards to fund-raising for the charity Action for Children, formerly know as N.C.H. (or National Childrens Homes). Two evenings of singing, together with the offering at the Christmas Morning Service, amounted to £540.00 being sent to the above charity.

The organizers would like to express their thanks to everyone who supported these events in any way. By supplying refreshments of different kinds along the route, using their excellent singing talents and spreading the news in leaflet distribution. Well done one and all.

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

Cemetery Access

The Parish Council have discussed the proposed route at length and have made the decision to utilise the piece of land originally purchased by the Council along the rear of the Churchyard access being gained from the Bridleway. The cost will be much less than original estimates for going through the Churchyard. A specification is being prepared for submission to contractors to enable quotations to be received.

The Council has expressed its concern to Bucks CC that the full length of the Bridleway, recently resurfaced, was not completed up to the A4146. When further funds are available Bucks CC will review this matter.

Traffic Calming

Now that the M1 roadworks are virtually completed the Waste Disposal Companies have been instructed by the Bletchley Landfill Depot to use the M1/A5 route. The Council have observed a significant drop in the number of large waste disposal lorries travelling through the villages although one or two companies are not adhering to the instructions and large lorries carrying soil and other materials are still using the village roads. The situation will continue to be monitored.

Training lorry companies have been requested not to use Edlesborough High Street during 'drop off' and 'pick up' times at Edlesborough School.

Litter Picking

Volunteers have come forward to help with collection of the litter constantly being left on The Green, in particular around the Pavilion, and the Memorial Hall. The Parish Council are extremely grateful to these volunteers.

Ditch clearance

The ditch adjacent to the Northall allotments has been cleared to prevent properties along the A4146 being flooded, other drains have been cleared by Bucks CC.

Open Forum

In future the Agenda for Edlesborough Parish Council monthly meetings will include an 'Open Forum' item thus allowing parishioners the opportunity of attending the meeting to raise any questions they wish to put to the Council.

Precept

Council agreed a precept of £62,500 a 3.7% increase on 2008

EDaN Projects

Planters have been installed at various locations around the villages and will be planted up in the Spring. A .pdf version of the Edlesborough Parish Plan can be viewed on the Parish website: www.edlesborough.gov.uk

The Green, Edlesborough

Title of part of The Green has been registered with the Land Registry. The allotment end of The Green is registered under the Commons Registration Act but enquiries are being made as to whether this could also be registered at the Land Registry.

South End Lane, Northall

Council has expressed its concern to AVDC Planning regarding the unsatisfactory condition of the lane caused by developers.

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

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

**Edlesborough
Parish Council Meetings
3rd Thursday of every month
7.30pm Memorial Hall
Next meeting: Thurs 19th Feb 08**

THE PARISH NURSE CHARITY - Registration No. = 204752

The Charity was set up by a philanthropic local family, many, many years ago, to help residents living in Edlesborough, Northall and Dagnall with medical needs which they otherwise could not afford. Remember, it was started in the days when the whole area was a poor, farming community, with many of the residents unemployed, or with only seasonal work, and before state pensions and the NHS, and when everyone had to pay for all of their own medical services, including doctors, medicines and even quite ordinary things like blankets, coal, bandages etc, etc.

Since this time the remit of the Charity has been sensibly and legally updated from assistance for the “necessitous poor of the parish” to helping the disabled, elderly, sick and frail of the parish.

Although, not a large amount, the Charity still receives an annual income from the same source, whereby the Trustees are able to make grants to individuals providing the applications come within the current tenet of the Charity.

The Trustees are all local people and are therefore aware of the needs of those living within the community. Every request we receive is considered on its own merits and in the strictest confidence.

Grants can only be awarded to individual residents (not groups) of the villages of Edlesborough, Northall and Dagnall, for a specific medical and, or practical purpose, who are disabled or elderly or frail in some way. The Charity can sometimes assist with medical equipment which cannot be provided from any other source e.g. the NHS.

Can we help you ?

Sue Parker.

Correspondent 01525 221416.

**Dunstable & District
Local History Society
Tuesday 10th February, 7.45pm
'Dunstable Museum Trust'**

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Climate Change Challenges for the
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*Stuart Warrington - National Trust Regional
Nature Conservation Adviser, East of England
Region*
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Bull Pond Lane, Dunstable**
Visitors are welcome at £1
*For further information
phone 01582 583688*



Edlesborough School My Trip to R.A.F Hendon

On the 20th of November, year 6 went to R.A.F museum When we got to school we checked if everybody was there. Then we got on the coach at nine a clock to go. When we got there a lady called Sarah showed us around the museum. We went in the science room and we had a look at all the experiments. Then we got to have a look at the airplanes. We got to stir and drive them as well. After we watched a film all about when the war started and what the Blitz was. I learnt a lot. Then we had lunch. After lunch we met back up with Sarah and we went in to a world war two classroom.

I sat next to Georgina we made a gas mask box and identity card then we went back to 1939, and Sarah was pretending to be a teacher from world two she was very good and strict. In class we did pounds shillings and pence, then the air raid siren went of and we had to hide under our desks. After we came out and the teacher said that someone had been playing on the bomb sites Tom got asked up and got the cane. It looked really real. Then it was time to go home but I had a great time and I will go back because I loved it.

By Lydia James, Year 6 Edlesborough School

My trip to RAF Hendon

By Aarron Gauntlett (Edlesborough School)

R
A
F

On the 20th November we went to the RAF museum in London. It was very interesting there were lots and lots of planes .like Hurricanes and Spitfires, also there was Messerschmitt.

First we went to the interactive gallery telling us how to fly a plane and throttle control.

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Next we went into the Exhibits hall that had lots of information from 1910 to 2002.

Next we went to the Bomber hall this contained Lancaster bombers and lots of Different bombers.

Then we went to watch a movie about WWII called our finest hour in the battle of Britain.



Then lunch

Finally we went back in time to 1939 to be an evacuee we used an old pen and made a gas mask box. Then we left RAF HENDON

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EDaN Project

Are you a creative 8 to 18 year old?

The EDaN Project's YOUTH Team invite you to help us by designing a cover for our forthcoming publication –

'EDaN Youth Directory – What's on and Where'

A small prize will be awarded to the winning entry.

All Entries must

- Be from 8 – 18 year olds
- Include the words 'EDaN Youth Directory – What's on and Where'
- Be A5 size, or be submitted in a digital format

The winning entry will be used as the cover of the directory, with acknowledgements

We want entrants to consider the following aspects;

- The Youth of the parish
- The three EDaN Villages (Edlesborough, Dagnall and Northall)
- Popular activities
- Colour schemes

All entries submitted will become the property of the EDaN project steering group and may be reproduced for publicity purposes

All entries must be received by **Friday 27th February 2009** – to Edlesborough Post Office, Edlesborough or Dagnall Schools or to Munns Farm shop in Dagnall. Or submit your design by email to either address below (confirmation of receipt will be given to electronic entries)

More information available from

Vicky Lee 01442 843361 vickylee35@hotmail.com and

Liz Coates 01442 842550 lizcoates@btinternet.com

Mains Drainage for Postcodes LU6 2EE, 2EH, 2EJ & 2EQ Tring Road, Leighton Road, Pine Road – 38 households) Progress Report No. 2 – 24.12.2008

The 'Assessment for Public Sewage' application was acknowledged by Anglian Water Ltd on 6th November 2008. A Site Visit took place on the morning of Monday 8th December, which included a representative from Anglian Water, Mr. Drumm and myself. The whole of the area covering the 38 households was viewed.

The problems being experienced at my premises, at Amble in Pine Road, and at Mr. Drumm's house were highlighted. Photographs and notes were taken in Pine Road, Leighton Road, Tring Road and the service road behind Tring Road. It was stated that this visit should not be taken as a commitment to provide mains drainage, but as part of the assessment procedure.

Also adjacent groups of properties on Dagnall Road and Ivinghoe Way were drawn to the attention of the Anglian Water representative.

See your 'FOCUS' magazine for future progress reports.

Talbot Griffiths

(No. 5 Leighton Road)

Food, Humour & Dance

Christmas was a peaceful time and New Year was heading that way when by beloved wife fell down the stairs and broke her shoulder. We saw in the New Year on the way to the L& D in an ambulance and got home at 3.30 in the morning. The upside to all this? Our guests had done the washing up and all was neat and tidy.

Next year we will do the washing up ourselves and miss the hospital trip!

Prior to all the excitement, the old GI's took the Dunstable Christmas float out and walked the streets to help boost, both our and Round Table funds.

Another joint venture happened at the Panto when once again the one or two GI's who know anything about alcohol will have run the bar. It is really a pleasure getting involved with other organisations to help at their events and all goes to show that we have a great community within our Village.

My main objective in this article (probably not an accurate description of this item) is to promote our next main event.

Food, Humour and Dance.

On Saturday 28th February 2009

in the Village Hall.

Our aim is to titillate your palates, make you laugh with our pair of comedians and finish off by getting rid of those extra calories with dancing to live music. A completely guilt free evening!!

All this for just £19 per head! That has to be the best credit crunching deal of 2009! Do come along and give those winter blues a shove in the back and have a good time.

The event is jointly run by the Village Hall Fund Raising Committee and Eaton Bray Tennis Club.

We do hope to see you there and may I wish you all a Happy New Year and may it be better than 2008 in many ways.

For further information call Ross on 221411

And remember a pair of free tickets to the first person who rings me and tells me the page our advert appears on!



The Nude Ewe Project

A group of Edlesborough ladies have donated their locks to help preserve local meadows. A small flock of Wensleydale sheep has provided fleeces for a new nature conservation project. 'The Nude Ewe' is a partnership between the Wildlife Trust and BedsLife, a Bedfordshire-based environmental coalition.

Sheep and other livestock are responsible for the beauty of the English countryside. Our lovely green hills, valleys and fields were traditionally maintained by stock. Sheep are nature's lawnmowers. They eat bramble, shrubs and other rough vegetation. Without regular grazing, fields turn into scrub and eventually forest. Grazing gets rid of the scrub and in doing so maintains incredibly diverse grassland and heathland habitats. These habitats are now quite rare and some are globally important.

In recent decades agriculture has modernised, and so have livestock. Sheep and cattle have been selectively bred for maximum production, be it for meat, milk or fleece.

Modern sheep breeds are not nearly as hardy as the old breeds, which had to thrive in difficult conditions. Modern sheep will often eat only tender grass, which must be grown using fertilisers to improve its nutritional value. Fertilisers destroy our rare grassland and heathland habitats, which need low-nutrient soil. As old species-rich fields are fertilised they become monocultures of nutrient-rich lawn.

Another side effect of these agricultural advances has been the decline of many of our 'heritage' livestock breeds. Heritage breeds tend to be smaller, slow growing and not as commercially productive as modern breeds. As a result many are threatened and some are critically endangered. But because of their hardiness heritage breed sheep are often used in nature conservation projects. Groups like the Wildlife Trust and National Trust, and private individuals, keep small flocks to graze and maintain nature reserves and other areas of important habitat.

Sheep must be shorn every year, which costs about a pound per animal. But the fleeces are almost worthless and often just go to waste. The fleeces of most breeds must be sent to the British Wool Marketing Board, which acts on behalf of farmers to get the best prices for wool. This works well for farmers with large commercial flocks. But small graziers don't benefit from such economies of scale. Many of the fleeces simply end up as garden mulch.

Now the fleeces from Edlesborough's 'nude ewes' have been spun into beautiful white yarn. Wensleydales are considered 'at risk' by the Rare Breeds Survival Trust. They are large sheep which originated in Yorkshire during the 1840s. Like the Edlesborough flock most are white although a few black flocks exist. Wensleydales are also Britain's softest breed. Their lustrous fleece falls in long fine ringlets highly prized by hand spinners and dyers.

The new yarn is called Nude Ewe 'Wes'. Like all Nude Ewe wools it is undyed, unbleached and spun in the UK. It is available in 100g hanks at a price of £7.00 per hank. Proceeds from the sales of 'Wes' are going to the Greensand Trust to help maintain local grassland and heathland habitats.

The Nude Ewe project started a year ago with a single flock of Hebridean sheep. Since then we've grown a bit so we can offer a variety of yarns. The original dark brown 'Heb' wool is still available. And thanks to a grant from the Chilterns Conservation Board we're spinning up more Heb to meet the demand. Wes is our second yarn, and will soon be followed by 'Speck', from a flock of Beulah Speckled Face sheep at Aston Rowant National Nature Reserve.

To purchase Wes or find out more about the Nude Ewe project visit our website at www.bedslife.org.uk/nude-ewe. And knit up your own piece of Edlesborough!



Edlesborough Parish Residents

I am continuing to sell the Green AVDC Refuse Sacks for the disposal of garden waste until, hopefully, the residents of Edlesborough, Northall and Dagnall are provided with a special wheelie bin by AVDC - and for as long as the Parish Council allow me to do so. I think that we are unlikely to receive these extra wheelies before the Autumn.

For those residents that haven't yet discovered the green sacks, they are currently £4.50 for a roll of 20. They are all marked AVDC, and are for garden waste only (not bricks, stones, flower pots etc). When full you just stand them (as many as you like) beside your ordinary wheelie on your usual refuse collection morning, and the dustmen (perhaps I should refer to them as Refuse Removal and Disposal Operatives or similar) will take them away.

This scheme has been going for approximately 12 to 15 years and I currently sell somewhere between 2500 and 3000 green sacks each year. The PC sell the sacks to residents at the price they pay for them, and nobody makes any money from the sales, except whoever makes the sacks in the first place I suppose. Originally it was started to try to alleviate the dumping of green waste along our highways and byways and especially in Cock Close (between Pebblemoor/Ford Lane junction and A4146) which had become really bad. Its hard to believe that I have been doing this all these years, but I look forward to seeing you all again come gardening time.

Sue Parker. EB 221416

All Saints, Dagnall - Services and Meetings in February 2009

Sun. 1st Feb.	9.00 am	Eucharist
	10.30 am	Morning Service
	6.00 pm	Evening Service with Holy Communion
Wed. 4th Feb.	7.45 pm	Mid-week Meeting led by Revd Peter Dudeney
Sun. 8th Feb.	10.30 am	Morning Service
	6.00 pm	Sung Eucharist
Wed. 11th Feb.	7.45 pm	Mid-week Meeting led by Revd Lucille Kaye
Thu. 12th Feb	7.30 pm	Eucharist
Sun. 15th Feb.	10.30 am	Family Communion
Wed. 18th Feb.	7.45 pm	Mid-week Meeting led by Revd David Jenkins
Sun. 22nd Feb.	9.00 am	Eucharist
	10.30 am	Family Service
	6.00 pm	Evening Prayer
Wed. 25th Feb.	7.45 pm	Circuit Ash Wednesday Service at Eaton Bray Methodist Church
Sun. 1st 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.



Thai Curry & Quiz Night

Test your knowledge at the Edlesborough Under 5's Quiz and Thai Curry night. Tickets only £10 per person. Price includes Thai Chicken or Vegetable Curry with Rice followed by Dessert and Coffee/Tea.

Date: Saturday 28th February 2009. Doors open at 7.30pm.

Venue: Edlesborough Memorial Hall, High St (on corner of Pebblemoor).

Teams: Come as singles, couples or teams - prize for the winning team.

Food: Will be served from 8pm until 9.15pm. Quiz will commence at 9.30pm. Bring your own alcoholic or non-alcoholic beverages. Everyone welcome. Bring friends and family.

Contact: Call or text Kath Mead 07786061959 or email kmorrison2@hotmail.com for further information or to book tickets. Book early to avoid disappointment.

This is an Edlesborough Under 5's fundraising event.



Dagnall Over 60's Club

An evening with

Jean Martyn L.G.S.M., A.T.C.L.

International Organist

A welcome return visit of this
popular artiste

SATURDAY MARCH 28th 2009

at 7.30pm

in Dagnall Village Hall

Tickets £6 to include refreshments

All proceeds to Over 60's Club



Eaton Bray Village Hall Fund Raising Committee

&

Eaton Bray Tennis Club

Present



Food, Humour and Dance

On Saturday 28th February 2009

in

the Village Hall.

Our aim is to titillate your palates, make you laugh with our pair of comedians and finish off by getting rid of those extra calories with dancing to live music.

A completely guilt free evening!!

Tickets £19.00

No Bar just bring your own!

For more information or for tickets contact

Ross on 01525 221411

ross.bagni@btinternet.com

or

Katrina on 01582 661279

brandmarketing1@aol.com



Edlesborough Under 5's

Monday - Friday 9.25 am - 12.00 noon

Tuesday & Thursday 12.45 pm - 3.15 pm

"The quality of teaching and learning is good. Children are actively involved in their learning, play independently and are assisted by staff to develop their confidence." "Group times at all sessions were very positive experiences for all the children and enjoyed by all present." "Children of all ages have the opportunity to develop their skills in all areas, supported by a dedicated staff team." "Children are encouraged to make choices and decisions throughout the day, supported by a staff team that know them well."

These are just a few of the comments made in our fifth OFSTED Report (March 2008 - available via our website). The report reflects the high quality of learning on offer to all children at Edlesborough Under 5's and highlighted the quality of teaching by the staff. We are currently operating a waiting list for 2½ to 4½ year olds. If you would like to pop in for a look around, please phone Tracey on 07854 939226 between 9am - 12 noon, to arrange an appointment. A warm welcome awaits you.

**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



A parent's thoughts on our playgroup:

"My child attended Dagnall Under Fives for just over a year. As a parent helper I noticed that all the children seemed settled with excellent care, they enjoy a structured and stimulating routine to their mornings. All the girls working there showed a genuine interest in every child and meeting their individual needs. A good foundation towards the next stage in their lives. . . school!"

We are a committee run playgroup operating five mornings a week 9:30 - 12:00 for children aged 2½ to school age.

**If you would like to find out if your child would be happy here,
please phone our Playgroup Leader, Ann Tobin on 07816 358 342.**

St Mary's Parish Project 2008

Macmillan Cancer Support

We would like to thank everyone who has supported our fundraising efforts during 2008, either by attending functions and events, having a small change box, making donations to collecting boxes in local shops or in any other way. We were delighted to be able to hand over a cheque for £5112.33 after the service on Sunday 11th January. It has been a very enjoyable and rewarding year and the final figure makes all the hard work worthwhile.

Thank you once again.

Sheila Banks, Kathy Fry and Lyn Stubbs

PROJECT 2009

Every year St. Mary's Church supports an outside charity.

In 2008 it was Macmillan Cancer Support and through Fund Raising Events we contributed over £5000

MERLIN 2009

Do you know that over 20% of children in Central Africa
DO NOT LIVE to see their 5th birthday.

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Should you wish to help in any way, be it with time and talents, sponsor an event, or with a donation.

PLEASE CONTACT ME (01525 222726)

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Thank you - Mel Grundy



Letter to the Editors



Dear Editors

How fortunate we are to retain our Post Office, the service is brilliant and now they offer an even wider range of services. Unfortunately this brings with it the ever increasing problem of the parking outside Edlesborough Stores.

As a resident of Summerleys I am becoming increasingly annoyed at the lack of consideration by many drivers. Every day this week I have had to walk with my children & pushchair on the road when passing the shop. People park on the pavement, across the junction, on the keep clear boxes and in the bus stop opposite! This then coupled with dogs tied up outside the shop causes an unusable pavement.

Sadly the icing on the cake came last night (Thursday 18th December) when we were eagerly awaiting the annual visit of Father Christmas. Two of my three daughters (aged four and six) had marked the day on the calendar, eagerly washed, cleaned teeth & dressed ready for bed in anticipation of being allowed to stay up late to wave to Father Christmas as he passed. Well you can only imagine their dismay when they waited & waited & waited for a well loved man who did not come. The four year old fell asleep on the sofa at 8:15, followed by my six year old sobbing herself to sleep just after 9.

Upon investigation today it has been reported to me that due to the inconsiderate parking at the top of Summerleys Father Christmas had not been able to travel down our road. Thank goodness an emergency vehicle didn't need access to our road last night!

We are all well aware of how frustrating it can be not being able to park outside our own homes, or near a shop we wish to use, but please remember pavements are for people not cars & keep clear boxes are painted on roads for very valid reasons.

So from three very disappointed residents of Summerleys (& I know it is not just our family) please please think before you park.

Yours faithfully

Penny Pataky

Thanks from Super-Santa



Thanks to everyone in the Four Villages (and beyond!) who sent a donation to Eaton Bray Village Hall through super-Santa and the super-Elves. Super-Santa was able to pass on £140 to the Eaton Bray Village Hall Trustees – and he sent this note to the super-Elves just yesterday!

Thanks to everyone who donated to the Eaton Bray Village Hall this year and thanks as well for all the wine, whiskey, beer, coke, milk and mince pies left out for me at Christmas – trust me they went down a treat! Weren't there a lot of Wii's and DS's on the lists this year! I'm glad I bought my Nintendo shares when I did!!

Sent from super-Santa's blackberry on a sunny Mauritius beach

Lots of love

The super-Elves



Edlesborough W.I.

At our November meeting we welcomed two new members: Jane Jones and Margaret Sallows.

'Policeman to Gamekeeper' was the subject of a talk by Mr J Grace. He spoke of his life as a village policeman from 1966 until his retirement eleven years ago. At the age of nineteen he joined Bucks. Constabulary, which became Thames Valley Police two years later. His first 'patch' was Iver, and in 1980 he was posted to Winslow, where he remained for 17 years. Life for a country policeman at the start of his career was vastly different from that of today. Mr. Grace used his own bicycle on duty and, before personal radios came into operation, he had to receive messages by pre-arranged calls at various telephone boxes. He dealt with such problems as a lost ferret, a stubborn horse blocking a lane, etc.! Life seemed so much simpler then, and it was really interesting to learn how things have changed. Mr. Grace ended his talk by telling us that he had a photograph taken with Margaret Thatcher on his last day with Thames Valley Police. He now acts as a part-time gamekeeper.

Our A.G.M. and Christmas party took place in December. The Committee remains the same for 2009, with Phrena Wilkinson as President. After we listened to the various annual reports our celebrations began. Members were served a tasty supper, and entertained musically by Les & Claire. Val, Sue, Brenda & Megan each contributed a monologue, and presents were distributed to members and our guests from W.I.s in the Beacon Group. The evening ended with a sing-song accompanied by Les and Claire. One or two of us even managed to dance-along! It was a lovely end to a great evening. Thanks to everyone who helped to make it so.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Val Harris

Can you think as far ahead as 14th June 2009?

**It will be light. It will be warm.
We will all be enjoying our gardens.
Time then for:**

**OPEN GARDENS
2009**



To stage this successful event for a fourth year we will need some new gardens as well as revisiting favourites from previous years.

Can you help?

If you might be prepared to open your garden either as a newcomer or an old hand please contact Kay Griffiths 01525 22849.

You will be contributing to a growing community event and raising money for charity.

Stuart Ball

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Eaton Bray Lawn Tennis Club

They say that 24 hours is a long time in politics. That may be true, especially if you're a Lib Dem because that means it's been an extraordinarily long time - several hundred thousand years in fact - since David Lloyd George held office, but for us, 2 months is certainly a long time in tennis. Since our last report concerning our Final's Day results, the final positions from last summer's South Beds league were confirmed. Best performers were our Men's C team who play in Division 4, who finished in 2nd place out of the 7 contenders, and the Mixed A team who finished a very credible 2nd out of 8 in Division 2 with 5 victories. Our Men's A team managed 3rd place out of 8 in Division 1 despite winning 6 of their 7 matches, such was the overall high standard of the division. The full final standings were:

Team	Division	Won	Drawn	Lost	Position
Men's A	1	6	0	1	3 / 8
Men's B	2	3	0	3	4 / 8
Men's C	4	3	1	2	2 / 7
Ladies A	1	2	0	5	4 / 8
Mixed A	2	5	0	2	2 / 8
Mixed B	2	3	0	3	6 / 8
Boys U. 16	2	0	0	5	7 / 7

These are extremely satisfying results for a small village club in a league which includes big names such as Dunstable, Linslade and Luton & Vauxhall. It was great fun to play such competitive tennis during 2008 against some high quality but very friendly opposition - we always enjoyed a few sarnies with a nice cup of tea and some cake afterwards, no matter who won!* Congratulations to everyone involved in the teams. Our focus this year will be to bring our younger players up to the same standards, and the coaching team will be working hard at this over the coming months.

So what else has been going on? Well, our membership Secretary Jon Moon has revealed that he has a secret talent which to date has remained known to only very close friends and immediate family. No, not what you're thinking. He can design Web sites, you know, those things that begin 'www' with a few random letters and numbers, which you key in (has to be in the right order or all sorts of things can go wrong) to enter an exciting world of information and entertainment. Not to be outdone, we commissioned him (one free pint in the pub when it's finished) to develop a site for us, and lo and behold, it's up and running! The things that man will do for a free pint. Take a look at www.ebltc.org.uk and you'll find everything you always wanted to know about the club. See the photo archive page – image number 7 - for a special preview of Peter Hales new patented compact wrist-attached umpire's scoresheet illumination device.

Finally, arrangements were completed for the joint Eaton Bray Village Hall Fund Raising Committee & Eaton Bray Tennis Club 'Food, Humour and Dance' event on Saturday 28th February 2009 in the Village Hall. Our aim is to titillate your palates, make you laugh with our pair of comedians and finish off by getting rid of those extra Christmas calories with dancing to live music. A completely guilt free evening!!

Tickets are just £19; so for more information contact either Ross on 01525 221411 (ross.bagni@btinternet.com) or Katrina on 01582 661279 (brandmarketing1@aol.com).

- To avoid libellous action from the Chairman**, when I say ‘we’, I don’t actually include myself in that. Although I did help cut the sandwiches once. ‘Cut one, eat one. Cut one, eat one. Cut etc...’
- ** This relates to last year’s Chairman. This year’s will be much more understanding! Following the January AGM a new committee has been formed – full details next month!

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, you can visit our website at www.ebltc.org.uk; Alternatively call either our new Chairperson Bernadette Hillman on 01582 602587, Coach Nick Boys on 07810 832774, or if they’re all out and I’ve not been blackballed at the AGM, me, Andy Cross, on 01582 477114.



Age discrimination in redundancy selection

Long service can be used as a criterion in redundancy selection according to the High Court. In this case, unusually, the employer sought to argue that the length of service criterion in its collective agreement with the recognised trade union was unlawful as it was age discriminatory. The union argued that it was lawful. The court agreed with the union in a decision which the union hailed as one giving extra protection to older workers.

The collective agreement provided for a redundancy selection scheme in which employees were scored against five criteria. A point was awarded for each year of service. The aim of the selection procedure was to produce a scheme that was fair and could be ‘peaceably’ implemented. The court held that the ‘advancement of an employment policy which achieves a peaceable process of selection agreed with the recognised union’ was a legitimate aim. It went on to say that ‘the criterion of length of service respects the loyalty and experience of the older workforce and protects the older employees from being put on to the labour market at a time when they are particularly likely to find alternative employment hard to find.’ However, it also said that it might have decided otherwise if the only selection criterion had been ‘last in, first out’.

It was unusual for this case to be heard in the High Court rather than by an employment tribunal, and the High Court judge only agreed to hear it with considerable misgivings. The employer has been given leave to appeal as this is ‘an important point for both parties’. We shall keep you informed of developments.

Birth or death: ‘Tell us once’ pilot

The ‘Tell us once’ pilot is a new service to make it possible for people to let the authorities know about a change in circumstances with just one visit or telephone call.

The cross-government service is a collaboration between the Department for Work and Pensions, HM Revenue and Customs, local authorities, the Driving and Vehicle Licensing Agency, and the Identity and Passport Service.

To start with, the service is only when registering a birth or death. There are plans to extend it to cover change of address.

The pilot starts in Tameside, Southwark, Rotherham and Wolverhampton and will extend into Kent and Lancashire over the next few weeks.

Prescription charges and cancer patients

In England, from 1 April 2009, the government has announced that cancer patients will be exempt from prescription charges. There will also be a move towards exempting patients with long-term conditions over the next few years.

We have no more details at present but will keep you informed.

Savings guarantee increased

From 7 October, the compensation limit for deposits is increased from £35,000 to £50,000. Further information is available on the Financial Services Authority's (FSA) website at www.fsa.gov.uk or from the FSA consumer helpline on 0845 606 1234.

We have amended AdviserNet.

Time off work for dependants

Employees who are caring for dependants are entitled to take any necessary unpaid time off work to deal with unexpected problems.

In an Employment Appeal Tribunal (EAT) case, the employee's child minder told her she could not cover a particular day. The employee told her employers of this two weeks in advance of that day and asked for that day off. Her employers refused and disciplined the employee when she took the day off.

An employment tribunal decided the employee was entitled to the day off and had therefore suffered a detriment for exercising that right. The employers argued that the right to time off only applies in a sudden and unexpected emergency.

The EAT ruled that to say the right only arose where the employee had no warning was too narrow an interpretation of the law and that a tribunal would take into account the amount of time between the employee becoming aware of the risk of disruption and it happening, and what alternative arrangements had been explored, when deciding whether the time off was necessary and should therefore be given.

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.

Highlights of the Minutes of the Eaton Bray Parish Council Meeting

Held in The Coffee Tavern on Monday 1st December 2008 at 7:30pm

PUBLIC OPEN FORUM

Concerns were raised with regards to the parishes Neighbourhood Watch in that there is a need for more residents to join the scheme; currently only 11 roads in Eaton Bray are registered with the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. The Parish Council agreed to support the Neighbourhood Watch believing it to be a vital support for the police and for residents to become more involved. The Parish Council agreed to look into this further.

POLICING WITHIN THE PARISH

PCSO Joanne Glen attended the meeting and confirmed that she and PC Viv Dady had been visiting Parishes last weekend. It was reported that there has been an increase in distraction burglaries recently and that the police are looking into this.

DONATION TO THE PARISH COUNCIL FROM ST MARY'S VILLAGE CARNIVAL

It was agreed to the purchase of daffodil bulbs from the money kindly donated to the Parish Council from the St Mary's Village Carnival; which will be planted in/around the parish.

BOWER LANE CEMETERY

Due to a recent enquiry to the Parish Council on the scattering of ashes; the Parish Council confirmed that the general scattering of ashes is prohibitive at the Cemetery. The Parish Council have agreed to the following: (i) if the wishes of the family are to scatter on a family grave, the turf/stones needs to be pulled back/lifted to allow the ashes to be scattered and then reset in original place (ii) the ashes can be buried in an old family grave, if the previous burial was a full burial; however approval would have to be obtained by the Parish Council (iii) the ashes are interred within the new section of the cemetery. In all cases Cemetery costs will apply.

VILLAGE GATEWAYS

The Clerk updated the Parish Council on the damaged Bower Lane Gateway. The insurance company have confirmed that the paperwork is currently being processed.

CLERK REPORT

"Under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOI) the Parish Council is required to routinely and proactively provide information to the public. Information can be viewed on the Parish Council Website or alternatively by applying to the Parish Clerk."

EATON BRAY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

A full copy of the minutes of the Eaton Bray Parish Council can be found on our website.

Parish Clerk Details: Mrs Heidi Head, 20 Good Intent, Edlesborough, LU6 2RD
Telephone: 01525 222601, Email clerk@ebpc.co.uk, Parish Council Website: www.ebpc.co.uk

Eaton Bray Lower School

We would like to thank all those people who supported the Eaton Bray Lower School Christmas

Fayre in particular:

High Street Hair

Pinstripes

Patricia Cuisine

Garden Scene and

Splat Gaming

They all helped to make our fayre a great success.

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.

Treat Yourself to a Massage in the New Year



There are various types of massage you can have which will have differing effects.

Sports massage is a deep form of therapeutic massage designed for active individuals to stretch out and relax specific muscle groups or areas of the body.

Soft tissue massage often targets a wider area and is used to relax muscles, improve blood supply and give you a general feeling of well being. The main effects of massage are described below:

PHYSICAL EFFECTS

• Increase tissue permeability

The stroking effects of massage helps to increase tissue permeability ie it allows fluids and nutrients to pass through which helps remove waste products like lactic acid and encourage the muscles to take up oxygen and nutrients which helps them recover quicker.

• Stretching

Massage can stretch tissues that cannot be stretched in the usual method which releases tension and pressure build-up and improves tissue elasticity.

• Break down scar tissue

Scar tissue is the result of previous injuries or trauma and can affect muscle, tendons and ligaments.

PHYSIOLOGICAL EFFECTS

• Pain reduction

Tension and waste products can cause

pain and massage can help reduce this in many ways and encourage the release of endorphins.

• Relaxation

Muscles relax through the heat generated, circulation and stretching.

PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECTS

Relaxed muscles and nerves lead to reduced levels of anxiety and stress.

Everybody has a certain amount of stress in their lives such as money worries, relationship problems or just the fast pace of everyday life. You cannot always avoid stress but the healthiest and most productive people are those who learn to relieve stress and manage it.

As stress builds up you find you become less able to relax and tension develops causing aches in muscles, feeling tired and having little energy. A massage can help break the stress cycle and trigger a relaxation response.

Let us treat you to a massage – for your chance to win simply let us know why you deserve it and the winner will be notified by 31/01/09.



St Judes Clinic

26 Lake Street

Leighton Buzzard LU7 1RX

01525 377751

Email: enquiries@stjudesclinic.com.

Or visit our website at: www.stjudesclinic.com



Mothers Union Report Eaton Bray with Edlesborough

2008 continued to be a good year, with good attendance from our 25 members. Audrey's demonstration of Christmas cracker making was good fun, finishing with sherry and mince pies, at our December meeting. The year rounded off nicely with a Christmas lunch at the White Horse.

We start 2009 with Malcolm as our speaker. I would like to thank all the members and helpers who keep the M.U. running. Good Health and happiness for 2009. June



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The Church Mouse – January 2009



On January 4th, at the 10am service we said goodbye to David Radwell, our organist and musical director. The congregation and choir were sad to see him go as he has contributed so much to the music of the Church and wish him and his family well on their move to Lincolnshire. His post will be advertised in the February issues of See Round and The Door and on St Mary's website. The closing date for applications is February 23rd.

By arrangement with Eaton Bray Parish Council, a Parish Office will be set up in the small committee room of the Coffee Tavern and should be ready for use on February 1st.

The PCC was delighted to hear that St Mary's Church has received two grants towards the cost of the roof repairs - £4000 from the Beds and Herts Historic Churches Trust (they raise much of their money from the annual sponsored bike and hike which they organise every September) and £5000 from WREN.

The building of the new pulpit can proceed once approval has been received from English heritage.

There will be three courses running during Lent – the North Chilterns Group course on Tuesday evening, Churches Together and the Wednesday afternoon house group.

A monthly Prayer Group will start in April.

Arrangements were discussed for Easter services. There will be a procession at the 10am service on Palm Sunday, services on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday and Easter Eve as well as the usual Sunday services on Easter Day. There will be no Evensong at Edlesborough this year during the vacancy.

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17	Danny Kerr	£100
103	Peggy Bearton	£25
186	Les Jones	£25
128	Kevin Miller	£25
125	Sally Taylor	£25

December 2008

188	Jill Richards	£100
200	Tanya Watkin	£25
186	Les Jones	£25
50	Frank Pell	£25
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Edlesborough Tennis Club

10 brave souls ventured out onto the frozen fairways of the Mentmore Golf Club on Friday 5th December to compete for the annual Edlesborough Tennis Club - Golf "Ben Wright" trophy. Won this year by one of our ex men's singles champions, Stuart Brown who managed to amass an amazing total of 40 points and that's playing off a handicap of 9. Next year to lessen the risk of hyperthermia the event will be staged at the beginning of October. Thank you to David Brown for organising the afternoon.

In the evening the losing tennis/golfers drowned their sorrows at The Bell public house before replenishing their lost energy with some of the hearty fare on offer like the home made "mother in law" mushroom soup followed by a main course of Xmas turkey. Thank you to "mien hosts" Alex and Andy.

The Edlesborough TC Quiz Night on Friday 21st November was another very entertaining evening hosted by the ebullient quiz master Miles Emmett and his beautiful assistant. We would like to thank all the local businesses who kindly donated prizes for the raffle. Meal for 2 @ FIVE BELLS – Meal for 2 @ CAFÉ MASALA – 1 HOUR TENNIS LESSON with Head Coach Leon Leenders – 18 HOLES @ TILSWORTH GOLF CLUB donated by Nick Webb – ORCHID from BUDS OF MAY – NECKLACE from SEVENTH HEAVEN – MARIO KART GAME from SPLAT GAMING – GOODY BAG from AURORA HAIRDRESSERS WINE + XMAS CRACKERS from EDLESBOROUGH NEWSAGENTS – CAR WINTER SAFETY CHECK from EDLESBOROUGH AUTOS - £15 DRINK VOUCHER from THE BELL – INDOOR PLANT from IONA and last but not least a TUBE OF TENNIS BALLS from Edlesborough Tennis Club who were feeling particularly generous. Thanks to all the participants for supporting the event and especially our friends from Eaton Bray Tennis Club.

Any local young people 16 or over wishing to obtain an official Tennis coaching qualification, The Bucks LTA are running a COMPETITION ORGANISER COURSE on Saturday 31st January @ Aylesbury Tennis Club and a TENNIS LEADERS COURSE on Sunday 1st February @ Marlow Tennis Club.

We hope that one of your New Year's Resolutions was: -

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Eaton Bray Cricket Club

100 Club Winners

December 2008

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£10	Jack Horne	No 11

January 2009

£25	Lewis Wright	No 126
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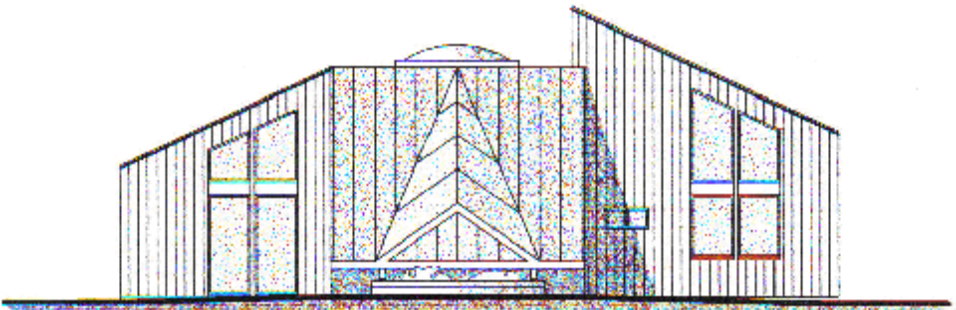
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TOP MARKS!

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."

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Dagnall Weather Station (AONB)

2008 Weather Conditions Yearly Summary

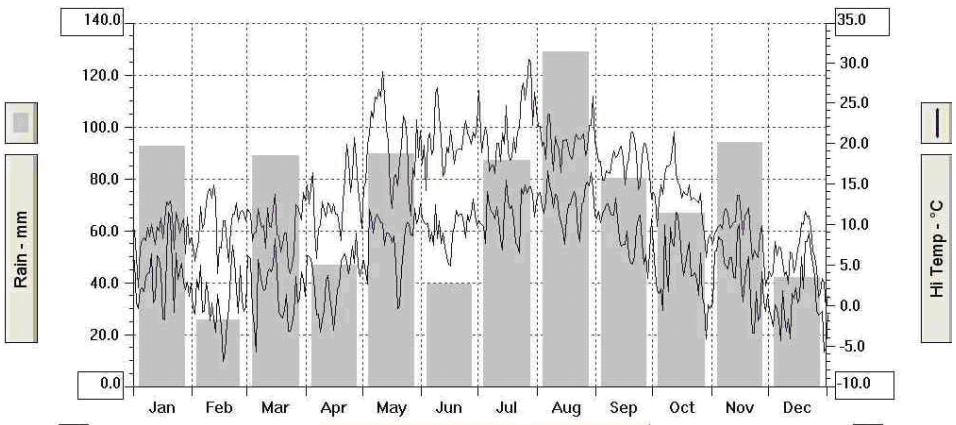
Elevation: 450 ft – Latitude: 51° 50' 13" North - Longitude: 0° 33' 34" West

2008 was overall an average year but it was noticeably colder in November and December than recent years. In December, there were 15 days (134) hours when the temperature dropped below -0°C and on the 30th it did not reach 0°C. The temperature dropped below 0°C on 65 days. August was the wettest and a windy month, 128.6mm (over 5inches) of rainfall. February was the driest with only 25.6mm (1 inch of rain). Rain was recorded on 224 days, and on 9 days it rained over 20mm (3/4 inch)

Temperature in °c					Rain in mm				Wind in mph			
-------------------	--	--	--	--	------------	--	--	--	-------------	--	--	--

	Hi Temp	Date	Low Temp	Date	Mean Temp	Day Max	Date	Month Total	Hi	Date	Avg	Dom Dir
Jan	13.0°	20 th	-1.8°	17 th	6.5°	22.5	15 th	92.6	40.0	31 st	3.4	SW
Feb	15.0°	12 th	-6.8°	17 th	5.0°	6.4	5 th	25.6	25.0	29 th	2.2	SW
Mar	14.0°	30 th	-5.7°	5 th	5.5°	19.8	10 th	89.0	30.0	1 st	3.1	SW
Apr	20.8°	26 th	-3.3°	8 th	7.7°	11.6	29 th	46.8	27.0	27 th	2.6	SW
May	28.9°	11 th	-0.3°	19 th	13.6°	36.2	26 th	89.5	27.0	6 th	4.9	NE
Jun	27.0°	9 th	4.9°	16 th	14.7°	22.2	3 rd	39.4	37.0	19 th	5.6	W
Jul	30.4°	27 th	6.6°	22 nd	16.5°	29.2	9 th	87.1	31.0	19 th	6.0	W
Aug	25.9°	30 th	7.6°	15 th	15.9°	26.8	31 st	128.6	33.0	13 th	6.4	W
Sep	21.4°	20 th	3.4°	26 th	12.9°	21.4	5 th	80.2	31.0	2 nd	5.0	W
Oct	21.5°	12 th	-4.0°	29 th	9.1°	12.6	20 th	66.6	34.0	25 th	6.3	W
Nov	13.7°	14 th	-3.3°	22 nd	6.6°	19.8	1 st	94.0	42.0	9 th	6.6	NW
Dec	11.7°	20 th	-5.7°	30 th	3.2°	21.0	13 th	42.0	44.0	12 th	5.5	NW
Lows /Max	30.4°	Jul	-6.8°	Feb	9.8°	36.2	Year	881.3	44.0	Dec	4.8	SW
						May		34.7 in				

2008 Rainfall & Ho / Low Temperatures



Station News The Dagnall weather station is now live on the web with 15 mins updates <http://myweb.tiscali.co.uk/dagnallweather>. If anyone has a question, comment or wishes to contact me please email me: davidkillick@tiscali.co.uk
David G Killick station owner

Highlights of the Minutes of the Eaton Bray Parish Council Meeting Held in The Coffee Tavern on Monday 5th January 2008 at 7:30pm

Public Open Forum

Representatives from the newly formed Eaton Bray Under Fives Play Time Group, Cheeky Monkeys (Wednesday afternoons, 1:00pm to 2:45pm at Eaton Bray Village Hall) applied to the Parish Council for a grant/donation for their group. The group wished to purchase new toys and to cover the initial rental/insurance set-up costs. The Parish Council confirmed that they do consider grants/donations to local voluntary or charitable groups if the work of the group should benefit some or all of the residents of the Parish of Eaton Bray. The Parish Council agreed to a donation.

Policing Within the Parish

PC Viv Dady and Sergeant Glennister (5289) attended the meeting. PC Dady wished to correct an error in a letter written by a resident, printed in Focus, presenting crime figures for the parish as provided under the Freedom of Information Act. The crime figures reported included 35 domestic incidents (not classed as crime), many relating to low level arguments. Therefore the detection rate should have been 16% not 5% as indicated – Eaton Bray being an area low in crime. The police are currently on target to reduce crime levels from last year. The Parish Council informed PC Dady that they were very pleased to see PCSO Glen walking around the village recently, a number of parishioners have approached Councillors pleased to see a police presence within the parish.

The Parish Council was also informed of a new link on the Leighton Buzzard Police Rural website where people can look at a crime map and obtain crime figures for an area.

PC Dady wanted the Parish Council to make parishioners aware of a scam, using the digital TV changeover as a means for distraction burglaries. More details of this can be viewed on the Parish Council Website, under Neighbourhood Policing (Community Safety Update, January 2009).

Adoption of the Parish Council's Publication Scheme

The Parish Council formally agreed to adopt the Parish Council's Model Publication Scheme as laid out under the Freedom of Information Action (FIA). Information can be viewed on the Parish Council Website or alternatively by applying to the Parish Clerk.

Clerk Report

Village Gateways: The Insurance Company have confirmed receipt of our letter/s and quotation for the work and we are expecting to hear a decision from them by the end of the month.

The Nurseries Road Markings: The order for the road markings was placed with South Beds District Council Highways on 22nd September 2008 and the contractors have again been contacted regarding the delay.

Information from Parishioners

Housing Needs Questionnaire: The Parish Council have currently only received a small number of responses back. Opinions from residents are appreciated by the Parish Council who is trying to ascertain the housing needs of the parish. Blank forms are

available from the Parish Council's Website, under Business Matters and are printed in the December/January 2009 Focus, page 73.

Your Neighbourhood Priorities Form: The Safer Neighbourhood Team is still looking at finding out the policing needs of the parish and would appreciate comments from residents. Blank forms are available from the Parish Council Website, under Neighbourhood Policing and are printed in the October 2008 Focus, page 27.

Eaton Bray Parish Council Meeting

A full copy of the minutes of the Eaton Bray Parish Council can be found on our website.

Next Meeting: Monday 2nd February 2009,
7:30pm at The Coffee Tavern.

Parish Clerk Details: Mrs Heidi Head, 20 Good
Intent, Edlesborough, LU6 2RD

Telephone: 01525 222601, Email clerk@ebpc.
co.uk, Parish Council Website: www.ebpc.
co.uk

**Eaton Bray
Parish Council Meetings
1st Monday of every month
7.30pm The Coffee Tavern
Next Meeting: Mon 2nd Feb 08**



Edlesborough Book Group Review **MARY BARTON by Elizabeth Gaskell**



We may see ourselves as casualties of the 'credit crunch' but thankfully we are not living in the 1840s. It was during this decade when Mrs Gaskell, the wife of a Unitarian minister in Manchester, witnessed the horrific social and economic deprivation of the urban poor; that monstrous gulf that divided the higher and lower classes. Her realist novel vividly contrasts the privileged lifestyle of the mill owner with his 'clemmed' (starving) employees. Men, women and children existed in cellar dwellings into which all the muck of the street drained. Unable to afford basic food, without fuel or medicine, many families were stricken by illness and death. Mrs Gaskell 'writes from the heart': her style is expansive and detailed in its description of everyday scenes and character. She utilises local dialect to convey a sense of immediacy and underpins her moral message by drawing on real events, such as the 1839 Chartist march to London.

At the novel's opening, Mary Barton lives with her working class parents in a poor but clean terraced house. However, her mother dies in childbirth and her father, a radical trades unionist, becomes increasingly angered and embittered at what he perceives as the 'lack of cordial sympathy' between rich and poor. Meanwhile, Mary is flattered by the attention paid to her by Henry Carson, the mill owner's son, and rebuffs her working class suitor, Jem. The plot turns on the murder of Henry Carson.

The novel's publication in 1848 caused an absolute furore. The cotton masters in William Gaskell's congregation were particularly outraged and a close family friend accused her of "culpable misrepresentation concerning the masters' attitudes to the workers' suffering". She was accused of stirring up class hatred with this 'condition of England' novel but in reply she pleaded for more understanding of the mill workers' feelings of injustice and isolation. Readers must make up their own minds. Unfortunately, some members found it such a harrowing read that they were unable to finish the book.

Salvation Sound...February 2009

Candlemas; the feast of the purification of the Virgin Mary, is held on February 2nd. In the cold of the winter days Psalm 24 is sung, "Lift up your heads, O ye gates, be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors, and the King of glory shall come in."

Who is the King of Glory ? Why Mary's child, Jesus! He was presented, as was every month old child, to the priest, when his mother went to church to be declared "clean" after giving birth.

For centuries in this country it was called the Purification; to give thanks to God for having given birth safely at a time when to have a child could be a near death experience for many women.

The New Year, like Jesus, is already a month old - we are growing older, we carry within us all kinds of experiences, so ideally, we should be mature. Our characters have been formed by what we have thought and done in the past.

The year 2009 will grow up and grow old in just twelve months, Spring flowers will bloom, harvests will be gathered before another winter comes, and the year dies. Probably nothing very outstanding will happen to us, the horrors of the world's problems will be restricted to our television screens; as each day dawns our turbulence will be as confined as our activity allows.

Growing older can mean growing in grace and fruitfulness, becoming more mellow, less critical of others, less impatient; and as our physical strength abates, and health deteriorates, and our memory is not as sharp as it once was, we must not despair but make sure that every day can be a new beginning.

Advice from Patience Strong -

"Have something to show for the winter.

Don't sit between supper and bed-
contented with mere entertainment.

Do something constructive instead.

Create something useful or lovely,
employing your hands and your brain -
or study and set yourself lessons,
new regions of knowledge to gain -

Those hours of long winter evenings
much pleasure and profit can bring.

Do something to prove you've not wasted
the months between Christmas and spring...

What will this year bring ? Hardship, trials and tribulation ? yes for some no doubt. Adversity is a way that God uses to produce good results. Trouble, if it turns us to the Lord, could be good for us. We have become complacent, and too, used to the good life.

Romans 5 : 3-4.

Tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character hope. Jesus' life on earth was short but He lived it to the maximum. Do you likewise. Walk by faith, then each day will be a challenge, live your life fully, our time is fleeting too. Who knows, no-one but God, what 2009 will bring.

Forgive us Lord, for failures past,

Then help us start anew

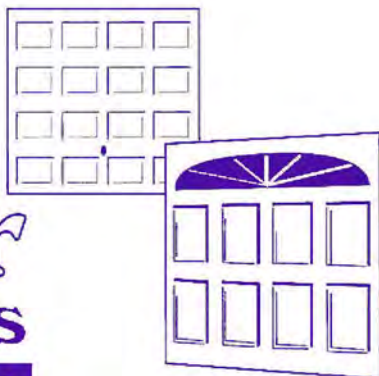
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