

FOCUS

DECEMBER/JANUARY 2012



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THE FOUR VILLAGES MAGAZINE

EATON BRAY

NORTHALL

EDLESBOROUGH

DAGNALL

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**Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!
Please join us over the festive season for a meal or a drink.**



Christmas Menu

- (V) (G) Roasted Butternut Squash Soup
(G) Chopped Field Mushrooms & Bacon in White Wine & Cream Sauce with Cheese Straws
Chicken Liver & Brandy Pâté with Toast
Prawn & Crab Cocktail
oOo
Roast Turkey with Sage & Onion Stuffing
With Pigs in Blankets
(G) Honey Roast Confit of Duck
Pot Roasted Shin of Beef in Mulled wine Punch
(G) Rump Steak with
Wild Mushroom & Red Wine Sauce
(G) Sea Bass Fillet on Crushed Potatoes
With Lemon Butter
(V) Parsnip and Spinach Risotto
(All with Roast Potatoes, Parsnips and Seasonal Vegetables)
oOo
Christmas Pudding with Brandy Sauce
Homemade Sticky Toffee Pudding
Sparkling Winter Fruit Gelee
Topped with Mascarpone
(G) Chocolate Marshmallow Parfait
(G) Rum and Raisin Ice Cream
Cheese and Biscuits
oOo
Coffee and Mince Pies
- £26.95 per person
(V) Vegetarian (G) Gluten Free



New Years Eve 2011 into 2012

Set Menu

Pan fried Scallops

With Lime, Chilli and Poppy seed dressing
oOo

Lemon Sorbet

oOo

Fillet Steak

With Fondant potatoes, French Beans and Madeira Jus
oOo

Strawberry and Champagne Tart

with Vanilla Ice Cream
£37.50 per person

Vegetarian and Gluten free alternatives available on Pre - booking

Focus - The Four Village Magazine

Magazine Committee

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Design and Layout: Tracey Moren (Moren Associates Limited) 01525 229695

Printed by: Priory Press, Dunstable 01582 699851

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): 101

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

P.C. Viv Dady Mobile: 07506 745133

Typetalk: 18001 01582 437418

Email: LPT.LeightonRural@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk

Thames Valley Police (Edlesborough, Dagnall & Northall)

General Assistance: 101

PC Jared Levens Mobile: 07773 398 727

PCSO Jackie Dodson Mobile: 07800 703 524

PCSO Chris Baker Mobile: 07974 973 866

Email: WingSouthNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

Village Hall Bookings

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

Northall: Lorna Cabbage, Tel: 01525 220361

Eaton Bray: Norman Lee, Tel: 01525 222831

Dagnall: Elizabeth Coates, Tel: 01442 842550

Edlesborough Memorial Hall: Beverly Sage, Tel: 01525 229358

Village Diaries December/January 2012



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, 9.15am - 12.15pm, Mrs Ann Tobin 07816 358342
- Mon-Fri (term time) Edlesborough Under 5's Pre-School, Edlesborough Memorial Hall, Angela Paine, 01525 229529
- Mon-Thu (term time) Totternhoe Pre-school, mornings, Totternhoe Memorial Hall, Ellie Deeley on 07913 529574
- Mondays Pilates, 10.45am, St.Giles Church Hall, Totternhoe, Lisa: 01582 412426
- Mondays 2nd Eaton Bray Brownies, girls 7- 10 years, Edlesborough Memorial Hall, 6 - 7.30pm, Sarah 01525 229194
- Mondays Dagnall Community Choir, All Saints Church 7.45 – 9.45pm
- Mondays Weight Watchers, 7pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall
- Mondays Zumba Fitness Class, 9.30-10.30am, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Zoey 07595 986892
- Tuesdays Line Dancing, 1.30-3p.m., Eaton Bray Village Hall, Lyn Stubbs 220731
- Tuesdays Baby's First Cafe (Support for Breastfeeding mums), 9.30 - 11 am, Ivinghoe and Pitstone Sure Start Children's Centre, Brookmead School, High Street, Ivinghoe
- Tuesdays Pilates, 10-11am, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Nicky Roussou 07861 162680
- Tuesdays Totternhoe Baby & Toddler Group, 9.30-11.30am, St. Giles Church Hall, Nicki Banfield 07855 888338
- Tuesdays Northall Baby & Toddler Group, 9:30-11:30am, (open in the Summer School Holidays) Northall Village Hall, Andie 07966437673
- Tuesdays Tap & Ballet Classes, JoAnn Latus School of Dance, 4-8pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall, 01582 620576
- Tuesdays Yoga, Dagnall Village Hall 7.45 – 9.15pm
- Tuesdays Zumba, Dagnall Village Hall 6.30pm
- Tuesdays Zumba Fitness Class, 8.15-9.15pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Zoey 07595 986892
- Tuesdays Coffee Morning, Bring & Buy, Table Top Sale, 10-12noon, Salvation Army Hall, Booth Place, Eaton Bray
- Fortnightly Cheeky Monkeys Under 5's playtime, 1pm - 2.45pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall, contact Rachel on 07789 760007
- Weds (term time) Pilates, 7.15pm, Northall Village Hall, Lisa: 01582 412426
- Wednesdays Egyptian Dance Class, 7.30-8.45pm at Eaton Bray Village Hall. Contact: Soraya on 07976 964316 for more details
- Wednesdays Northall & District Age Concern Wednesday Club, 10am - 3pm, Northall Village Hall, Contact Anna 221996 or Julie 220153
- Thurs (term time) Baby & Toddlers Group, Dagnall Village Hall, 12:45-2:45pm (12:15 if bringing lunch) £1 child 50p adult. Contact Faye 07746 120163 or Samantha 07882 903282
- Thursdays Yoga, Northall Village Hall, 11.30am-1pm 01525 377542
- Thursdays Keep fit, 2-4pm, 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
- Thursdays Jazzercise, 9.30-10.30am, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Angela Veryard, 01525 715208
- Thursdays Grace Baptist Church (by the Post Office) Bible Study 7.30p.m.-9.00p.m. all welcome, Peter Feben 01525 221048.
- Thursdays Karate, 7-9pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Brian Bates 07958 348086
- Thursdays Central Bedfordshire Children's Centres' Toy Library, 9-9.45am, Eaton Bray (School Lane) Public Car Park
- Fortnightly

Village Diaries December/January 2012

Fridays	Tap & Ballet Classes, JoAnn Latus School of Dance, 4-8pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall, 01582 620576
Fridays	Hartbeeps Multi-sensory pre-school play & music sessions, Northall Village Hall. Bookings and information: Gemma 01525 381196
Saturdays	Jazzercise, 9.30-10.30am, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Angela Veryard, 01525 715208
Saturdays	Drama Class for Children, 10.35am-12.35pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Claire Casey, 07792 508591
Last Saturday	Coffee Morning, 10-12 noon, Edlesborough Methodist Church
Sundays	Grace Baptist Church (by the Post Office) prayer time 9.30am, main meeting 11.00am-12.00pm. All welcome, Nathan 07794 615626, or Peter 01525 221048.

Monthly

1st Monday	Eaton Bray Parish Council Meeting, 7.30pm, The Coffee Tavern
1st Monday	Eaton Bray W.I. Meeting, 7.30pm. Eaton Bray Methodist Church Hall. Contact Barbara Collier on 01525 221401
1st & 3rd Monday	Knit n Stitch. 2pm-4pm. Edlesborough Memorial Hall, Eaton Bray. Knitting, crochet & needlecraft. Tel Wendy 07908 828414. www.wendy-pool.co.uk
1st & 3rd Tuesday	Dunstable & District Orbit (social and charitable) 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 Thursday	CAMEO Coffee, tea & chat, 10am-12noon, Edlesborough Methodist Church
3rd Thursday	Edlesborough Parish Council Meeting, 7.30pm, Memorial Hall
3rd Saturday	Farmers/Craft Market, 12.30 till 3.30, Edlesborough Memorial Hall
3rd Sunday	Lunch club 11.30 to 2.00pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Chris Hewitt 222288

Other Regular Events

3rd Dec	Christmas Railway Show of Beds Area Narrow Gauge Model Railway Club, 10am-4.30pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall. Adults £4, accompanied under 16s free
7th Dec	Bingo Xmas Party Dagnall Village Hall 8pm
8th Dec	ELF Christmas outing for lunch
9th Dec	Leukemia Research Sherry & Mince Pies Morning, 2 Dunstable Road, Dagnall 10.30 am
10th Dec	Cafe Community, 11am-1pm, Eaton Bray Methodist Church
13th Dec	Dagnall Over 60's Xmas Lunch 2pm at Village Hall. Carols, Bring a prize to win a prize Max £3
15th Dec	ELF Meeting at Coffee Tavern for Sherry & Mince Pies
1st Jan	Beds Area Narrow Gauge Model Railway Club meeting, 11.30am-4.30pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall.
4th & 18th Jan	Bingo, Dagnall Village Hall 8pm
13th Jan	Leukemia Research Coffee Morning, 2 Dunstable Road, Dagnall 10.30 am
17th Jan	Dagnall Over 60s Birthday Party & AGM – 2pm at Village Hall
18th Jan	An evening of light music with Christian singing duo Light Touch 7.45pm at All Saints Dagnall

One Off/Annual/Irregular Events

3rd-4th Dec	Christmas Tree Festival, St Mary's Church, Eaton Bray, 11am-6pm, Admission £2.50
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Diary continued on page 6

Village Diaries December/January 2012

One Off/Annual/Irregular Events continued

- 3rd Dec Unveiling of Dagnall village sign by John Bercow at 12 noon, followed by songs by Dagnall Community Choir and Christmas carols
- 3rd Dec Dagnall Under Fives and Dagnall School Christmas Fayre, 1-3pm, Dagnall Village Hall
- 6th Dec Let's Talk Together community meeting, 7-9pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall
- 9th Dec Dagnall Gardeners' Society A.G.M., 7.30pm, Dagnall Village Hall
- 10th Dec Lions Club Christmas, craft and second hand book sale, 10am-4pm, Dagnall Village Hall
- 18th Dec Christmas Carol Service, 11am-12 noon, Grace Baptist Church
- 18th Dec Carols by candlelight, 4.30pm, Northall Baptist Church
- 19th Dec All Saints' Church, Dagnall Christmas Coffee Morning, 10.30am-12.30pm
- 22nd Dec Eaton Bray Parish Council Christmas Carols and Brass Ensemble from 7pm
- 24th Dec Christmas Eve Candle Services, St Mary's Church, Eaton Bray, 4.15 & 6pm
- 18th Jan Churches Together 'Light Touch' concert, 7.45pm, All Saints' Church, Dagnall, Contact: Chriss 01525 222288
- 26, 27 & 28th Jan Edlesbray Players present 'Pirates of Edlesbray' pantomime, Eaton Bray village hall, 7.30pm plus 2pm matinee on Saturday. Box Office: 01525 222283

Let's Talk Together

Residents of Leighton Rural area, if you want to see action taken to improve your area or if you simply want to highlight local issues and be part of the solution, then come to the Let's Talk Together meeting on 6 December.

The meeting for Leighton Rural area, including the surrounding villages, is being held at Eaton Bray Village Hall, Church Lane between 7pm and 9pm and will be chaired by Councillor and Executive Member Mark Versallion (Heath and Reach ward). Local issues can be discussed at the market stalls such as speeding, the M1 link road and transport issues such as car parking.

Importantly the Let's Talk Together meetings are a great opportunity to meet with service providers, local Councillors and Bedfordshire Police, agree the Local policing priorities, get crime prevention advice, arrange a free home fire safety check, join the Neighbourhood Watch, Street Watch or Speed Watch to help improve your community. The organisers are keen to work with local communities to tackle issues together and look forward to people getting involved at the meeting.

Central Bedfordshire Councillors will also provide residents with an update on the council's budget setting process and how residents can get involved in this and have their say.

The Let's Talk Together meeting is organised by the Central Bedfordshire Together partnership which includes Central Bedfordshire Council, Bedfordshire Police, NHS Bedfordshire, the Fire and Rescue Service, Town and Parish Councils and other organisations who play an active role in the community. Meetings usually last around two hours, but you can attend for as much or as little as you like.

For more information about Central Bedfordshire Together or the Let's Talk Together meetings visit www.centraltogether.org.uk

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Join us for Christmas carols on
Tuesday 13th December,
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A warm welcome awaits you at

Northall Baptist



Church



Chapel Lane

where you are invited to

Carols by Candlelight
on Sunday 18th December
at 4:30pm

(refreshments afterwards)

Christmas Morning
a short Family Service
10:30 – 11:15

*Churches Together would like to
invite you to*

An evening of light music with
Christian singing duo

Light Touch

followed by a buffet supper

at All Saints' Church, Dagnall
on Wednesday, 18th January
at 7.45 pm

*Donations on the evening to the
Hospice of St. Francis, Berkhamsted*

*For information contact: Chriss (01525
222288) or Dorothy (01442 843237)*

Also to a United Service for the
Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
at St Mary's Church, Eaton Bray on
22nd January at 4 pm

All Saints Church Dagnall

Christmas Coffee Morning

Saturday Dec 19th
10.30 to 12.30

in aid of the Church Project
for 2011

**Bring & Buy - Traidcraft
Cake Stall - Cards**

Grace Baptist Church

(by the Post Office)

Come and join us for our
**Christmas Carol
Service**

Sunday 18th December 2011
11 am to 12 noon

Special Notice

**We are sorry that there will not be a
service on Christmas Day**

Join us again on Sunday 1st January
2012 and every Sunday morning
11 am - 12 noon



Refreshments and
fellowship afterwards



You will be very welcome!

For further information please contact:-
Antony: 07848 007977 Nathan: 07794 615626
Peter: 01525 221048



HO HO HO!



Dagnall Under Fives & Dagnall School

CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Saturday 3rd December

1-3pm

Dagnall Village Hall



Come and meet santa, buy presents from our stalls or sit, relax and enjoy refreshments...

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Entrance free



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Christmas, crafts and second hand book sale
Dagnall village hall on Saturday 10th December from 10 til 4

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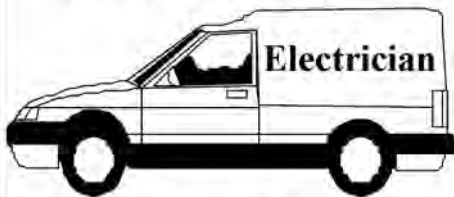
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RACE NIGHT

Friday 3rd February
Edlesborough Memorial Hall
7.00pm (First race 7.30)

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Christmas Eve Candle Services

4.15pm
& 6pm

St Mary's Church
Eaton Bray





Celebrate Christmas with
EATON BRAY PARISH COUNCIL

Enjoy ...

Christmas Carols & Brass Ensemble Around The Village
On Thursday 22nd December 2011
From 7:00pm



To help us all get in the Christmas spirit, the Parish Council have arranged for a small brass ensemble to play a few of the most popular Christmas Carols around Eaton Bray on the evening of 22nd December.

The Brass ensemble will visit a number of locations. The evening commences from 7:00pm in Medley Close, then moves to Knights Close, Cantilupe Close, Greenways, ending outside the White Horse at around 8:45pm.

All adults & children are urged to come outside and have a good old Christmas sing-a-long.

(song sheets will be available but please bring your own torch/lantern)



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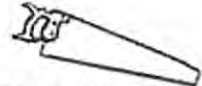
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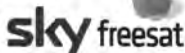
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A Letter from Rev'd Coralie

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Church Warden: Catherine Hayden (220527)

Parish Administrator: Elisabeth Ryder (07890 718117)

Web contact: eatonbraychurch@aol.com

When the world was dark and the city was quiet, you came. You crept in beside us. And no-one knew. Only the few dared to believe that God might do something different.

Walking along the quiet Eaton Bray / Edlesborough footpaths on a still, bright, chilly November morning I had no idea what to write here. The headlines offered little inspiration; *Death toll in Syria rising, European finances in freefall, Teresa May faces a grilling over immigration checks, Greek PM announces new Government, Iran facing tougher sanctions, etc.*

Then I picked up a book, *Forgiving and Forgetting* by Nick Fawcett. There is no mention of tinsel, turkey or indigestion - just a summary of four key truths at the heart of Christmas; a time for giving, receiving, forgiving and forgetting.

Christmas is a time for giving presents, thoughtfully chosen, from the heart. The presents we buy need not be expensive or the latest 'must have' but given with love because *'it's the thought that counts'*.

As well as giving at Christmas we also receive. Do you remember what you got last year? Do you still have it or has it joined the bag for the tombola? It's not just about gifts, it's about getting the most out of Christmas and so often the more we put in the more we get out.

Christmas is a time for forgiveness. It isn't easy to say sorry and sadly many people also find it difficult to accept an apology. If we are to mend broken relationships and restore trust then we also have to let go. Whoever we are we shouldn't dwell on the past but live today and tomorrow in this world. In his letters to the new Christian communities that sprung up after the death of Jesus, St Paul tells the people, who often lapse into their old ways, that although there may be trials and tribulations there can be joy, peace and hope if we but *put away all bitterness and wrath and anger.....and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving. As God in Christ has forgiven us.* (Ephesians 4:31-32)

When the world was dark and the city was quiet, you came. You crept in beside us. Do the same this Christmas, Lord. Do the same this Christmas.

Christmas Greetings and a happy, healthy New Year



Coralie

Services at St Mary's Church

SUNDAYS : **8.00am** HOLY COMMUNION
 10.00am PARISH SUNG HOLY COMMUNION

On Third Sunday of each month:

10.00am – WORSHIP FOR EVERYONE a shorter, less formal service for families. (For anyone wishing to attend a service where Holy Communion is offered, there is a Family Communion at 10.30am at All Saints' Church, Dagnall, where visitors are assured of a warm welcome).

WEEK-DAYS:

Tuesday: **2.00pm** TOTS (Tots on Tuesdays) (2nd & 4th Tuesdays)

Wednesday: **10.00am** Holy Communion

EVERYONE WELCOME AT THESE SERVICES

John Bercow to Unveil Dagnall's Village Sign

Saturday 3rd December



The EDaN Beautification Team will be pleased to welcome Mr. Speaker to the parish once again to unveil Dagnall's beautiful pictorial village sign, designed by our talented team member, Megan Howells. We will meet at the sign, on the wide grass verge entering the village from

Edlesborough on the left before the Red Lion, at **12.00 on Saturday 3rd December.**

Some of you will have already noticed the metal post surrounded by a circular hardwood bench on this area, which will make an attractive resting place for weary hikers and villagers out for a stroll. The views from this area are quite spectacular – sometimes we don't spare ourselves the time to appreciate what a beautiful place we are lucky enough to live in. We hope local folk will enjoy this special place and sit awhile.

We are proud to remember Mrs. Norma Price's husband, Michael, on the bench facing the roadway and the land he worked for so many years and thank Norma for her kind donation. Mrs. Anne Thompson, recent Chair of Edlesborough Parish Council, a great lady who always had the interest of Dagnall at heart, is remembered on the section facing the downs.

Members of Dagnall Community Choir will be there in force to sing a few suitable pieces from their now vast repertoire - please join in with the Christmas carols!

We will then all decamp to the village hall where Mr. Bercow will open the Dagnall Under Fives & Dagnall School Christmas Fayre, then we can all have a warm up with mulled wine or tea/coffee and mince pies. Come and meet Santa, buy presents, or just sit, relax and enjoy listening to the choir once again. **SEE YOU THERE!**

Acknowledgments

To all the ladies and gentlemen, especially our children, who have given unstinted assistance to Owen and myself during his illness, we wish the most happiest of Christmases and a prosperous new year.
Sincerely, June Moseley

*I am no longer a spring chicken,
so must be an old hen.
but I get up and go,
just potter so slow -
but I get there you know in the end
Phyllis Kaye*

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Highlights Of The Meeting For Eaton Bray Parish Council

Held in The Coffee Tavern on Monday 7th November 2011 at 7:30pm

CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS WITH EATON BRAY PARISH COUNCIL

Christmas Carols & Brass Ensemble Around the Village - Thursday 22nd December
To help us all get in the Christmas spirit, the Parish Council have arranged for a small brass ensemble to play a few of the most popular Christmas Carols around Eaton Bray on the evening of the 22nd December, starting in Medley Close at 7:00pm and ending outside the White Horse at around 8:45pm. Details of where the brass ensemble is to visit can be found on the parish website and within the December Focus.

CENTRAL BEDS REPRESENTATIVE

Cllr Mustoe wished to remind all residents of the Lets Talk Together Meeting being held in Eaton Bray Village Hall on 6th December 2011.

VILLAGE TRAFFIC

The Parish Council are investigating whether Central Bedfordshire Council has a policy on 20mph speed limits outside of schools. The council are looking into the current location of the 30mph sign in Bower Lane and the possibility of it being moved to a more suitable position.

RECREATION GROUNDS

The yearly RoSPA safety inspection of the village recreation play grounds and skate & ride area are due to be carried out.

PARISH TREES

The Parish Council have received final quotes for tree work to the Ransome Strip/Middle Path and agreed contractor to be contacted to carry out the work.

THE COFFEE TAVERN

The Council are looking at installing a notice board near The Coffee Tavern for community use, with the current notice boards fixed to The Coffee Tavern being for Coffee Tavern/Parish Council use only.

ALLOTMENTS

Allotment renewal payments are coming in and the clerk is in the process of collating payments; which if not received within an allotted time will mean the tenants of those allotments losing their tenancy and the plots being released to new tenants.

PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE: www.ebpc.co.uk

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

CONTACT DETAILS FOR EATON BRAY PARISH COUNCIL/CLERK

Parish Office: 20 Good Intent, Edlesborough, LU6 2RD; Tel/Fax 01525 221464 & Email clerk@ebpc.co.uk

Office Hours: Tuesday/Thursday/Friday
09:30-13:30hrs [messages can be left on answer phone]

[Emergency contact only: Cllr. Piggott - tel 01525 220944 - email cpn.poultry@btinternet.com]

Eaton Bray Parish Council Meetings

1st Monday of each month

7:30pm The Coffee Tavern

Next Monthly Meetings: Mon 5th Dec

Mon 9th Jan

EDaN – Post Code Action Group

The Post Code Action Group has now completed the tasks set out in the Parish Plan. Namely:



- We have established that the LU post code does not have an adverse affect on home, contents and car insurance. In fact dummy quotes were slightly lower than for nearby villages with HP post codes.
- We have completed the Royal Mail process for change of postal addresses, and every property in Edlesborough/AVDC now has Edlesborough in the address (and not Eaton Bray)
- All the changes of address have been notified to Land Registry (Leicester Office) and it has made a ‘multiple change’ to the Register. Changes to individual register details will be made when there is activity on that register. i.e. home-owners affected by the change of address need take no action with Land Registry.
- Edlesborough Parish Council will inform the Chief Constable of Thames Valley Police of the changes to addresses and remind her that in spite of the Bedfordshire postal address, the whole of Edlesborough comes within their area.
- If you still experience problems with Thames Valley Police, reply “I pay my Council Tax to AVDC” to resolve the problem. Please also inform a member of EPC. ”
- As Windsor has had no success in its attempt to ‘lose’ the Slough post code, there is absolutely no chance of us having more success!

We hope you agree that this EDaN Action Group can now disband. We have done our best to take action on the issues raised in the EDaN questionnaire.

Elizabeth Braiden

On behalf of EDaN Post Code Group – Community Action – working for you.

EDaN Buses & Transportation

Leighton Buzzard Bus - Use it or loose it!!!

It is vitally important that we all keep using the Leighton Buzzard Bus otherwise we may loose it.

Many of us are fortunate enough to have our own cars and may not be in need of the public transport at the moment but in the future as we get older, we have to remember that we may well be in need of using public transport so it is vitally important to keep the service going.

Why not relax and take the bus to the lovely market town of Leighton Buzzard one morning, admire the wonderful scenery on the journey, do a little bit of shopping and maybe have some refreshment at the highly recommended ‘High Street Tea Rooms’. No need to worry about parking the car or car park charges, let the bus take the strain. The Leighton Buzzard bus operates Monday to Saturday. On Tuesday and Fridays pickup time from Leighton Buzzard is a little later at 1.40pm giving you a little longer to maybe enjoy some lunch.

I am told by an existing passenger that the drivers of this bus are very friendly and helpful and provide a really good service to their customers. Kathy Bovington on behalf of

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Edlesborough Book Group Book Review

Fixing Shadows by Susan Barrett

One woman, the Duchess of Fainhope, and her desperate struggle to retain power, is the driving force for this melodramatic novel. The main story begins dramatically in 1873. The duchess and her daughters' governess, Miss Mantilla, give birth to sons within hours of one another. Tragically, the much needed heir to the dukedom dies, and the two women solve their individual problems by exchanging their babies. Thus, securing the Duchess her position, but also linking her inextricably with the governess because of their shared secret.

The novel then follows their lives and that of the adopted heir, between Fainhope Hall and Victorian London up to the Blitz in World War Two. There are numerous minor characters all of whom are vital to the plot, but they have little depth and we, as readers, find little with which to empathise. The book is meant to be a Dickensian pastiche, but these characters do not come alive on the page making us indifferent to their stories. The one exception to this is Lucy, the abused and downtrodden nursery maid, whose life we do care about and who plays a pivotal role in the drama.

The prose imitates the Victorian style and is very florid, with lengthy descriptive passages. The reading group was mainly unimpressed with Fixing Shadows. No one hated it, but it is not a book we would recommend.



The Salvation Army, Booth Place - Weekly Activities



Sunday

Footprints (Sunday School) 9.45-10.45am

Morning Worship 11.00am

3rd Sunday of the month

No footprints

Family Worship 11.00am

Songs of Praise 4.00pm

Monday (term time)

Champions Challenge Club

(Ages 5-10 years) 5.30-6.30pm

Tuesday

Coffee Morning

(alternate weeks) 10.00-11.30am

Music practices (all welcome) 7.30-9.00pm

Wednesday

Home League

(Ladies Mtg but all welcome) 2.30-3.30pm

Thursday

Parent and Toddler Group

(Term time) 9.30-11.30am

Bible Study (1st & 3rd weeks) 7.30pm

Ladies Fellowship

(Last week of month) 7.45pm

See website for updates:

www.salvationarmy.org.uk/eatonbray

Captain Jenny Dibsall 07717 813682

E: jenny.dibsall@salvationarmy.org.uk

News from the Lions Den ...

Do you believe ?

There are 7 billion people living on planet earth. Over one-third live in poverty, meaning they don't have enough to eat, don't have access to clean drinking water, live in sub-standard housing, or they lack proper medical care. It is very likely that all of the above applies.

Poverty, homelessness, abuse, disease and disabilities, both physical and mental affect millions of people. Lions Clubs international can not provide responses to all of these people. Or can we?

I believe that we can make a difference. Helping just one person can set an example for others to follow.

The Yellow River is the seventh longest river in the world, stretching 3395 miles in length. It is often called the cradle of the Chinese civilisation, serving as the birth place of northern Chinese civilisations and giving prosperity to millions. And yet, at its source, high in the Bayan Har Mountains, it all begins with a very humble trickle of water. It gains its power and strength as it flows northwest, then northeast, turning southward and finally east, flowing through seven provinces along the way and nourishing over 120 million people. Its astonishing that such a mighty force starts out so small.

Lions Clubs International also had a humble beginning. Our founder, Melvin Jones and a few of his colleagues, were similar to those few drops of water that today, some 94 years later have changed the world and touched millions of lives.

Believe that You can make a difference!

On 10th December we will be holding our Christmas, crafts and second hand book sale at Dagnall village hall from 10am until 4pm. Entry is free so why not come along and get some Christmas treats for your family and friends? A full list of the stall holders and books we are selling will be published on our website closer to the date so keep checking www.ebelions.org.uk for further updates. Santa has promised us he will be in attendance and will be found in his grotto all day giving out gifts to younger members of our community, (a £5.00 entry charge applies to the grotto but all children will receive a gift). Once Santa's duties are done at Dagnall, he will be making his way to the local children's ward and leaving gifts for some of those children that aren't able to visit him this year.

Please support us in any way you can, especially at this time of year when so many people are in need of our help both at home and abroad.

We still have a limited amount of pitches available for stall holders so if you would like to come along and sell your crafts, please do get in touch by calling Rachel on 01525 229 656. Stalls are priced at £15.00 or £10.00 for charities.

Ordinary people doing amazing things



Friends of Ashridge Spring Plant Fair

The Spring Plant Fair will be held on Sunday 13th May 2012, 11am-4pm, and not 6th May 2012 as reported in the November issue of Focus. Offers of plants gratefully received by John Cartwright: 01442 864984 by 6th May.

All Saints' Church, Dagnall

Services and Meetings in December 2011 and January 2012

Sun.4th Dec.	9.00 am	Eucharist
	10.30 am	Morning Service
	6.00 pm	Evening Service with Holy Communion
Wed.7th Dec.	7.45 pm	Mid-week Meeting led by Revd Lucille Rogers
Sun.11th. Dec.	4.00 pm	Dagnall Village Carol Service
Wed.14th Dec.	7.45 pm	Mid-week Meeting - Speaker: Sally Thorne
Sun.18th Dec.	10.30 am	Family Communion
Christmas Day	9.00 am	Eucharist
	10.30 am	Family Service
Sun. 1st Jan.	10.30 am	Carol Praise
Wed. 5th Jan.	7.45 pm	Mid-week Meeting - Speaker: Revd Coralie McCluskey
Sun. 8th Jan.	10.30 am	Covenant Service
Wed. 11th Jan.	7.45 pm	Quiz Evening
Sun. 16th Jan.	10.30 am	Family Communion
	6.00 pm	Evening Service
Wed 18th Jan.	7.30 pm	An Evening with Christian Singing Duo - 'Light Touch'
Sun. 22nd Jan.	10.30 pm	Family Service
	4.00 pm	United Service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity at St Mary's, Eaton Bray
Wed. 25th Jan.	7.45 pm	Mid-week Meeting - Speaker: Revd Peter Dudeney
Sun. 30th Jan.	10.30 am	Informal Worship
	6.00 pm	Eucharist
Wed. 1st Feb	7.45 pm	Mid-week Meeting led by Revd Lucille Rogers

Sunday School meets each Sunday at 10.30 am except when there is a Family Service.



Edlesborough W.I.

We recently celebrated our anniversary by holding our Birthday Dinner at Dunstable Downs Golf Club. This has proved a very popular venue for a number of years. As usual, we spent a really happy evening, enjoying both an excellent meal and service from the friendly staff.

On this occasion we were entertained by Eliza McClelland with anecdotes under the title 'A Woman For All Seasons'. Eliza is a familiar figure to us, as she has given talks at various W.I. gatherings. She is a versatile lady, who combines her acting career with such occasions as this. Her entertainment consisted of humour, a small quiz, a playlet and some serious issues, all centred around the lives of women. Eliza mixed the theme of her talk so that we were laughing one minute and considering hard facts the next. She is clever in the way she does this, and certainly proved as much that evening. Once again, we had a very Happy Birthday. Val Harris

**DAGNALL GARDENERS'
SOCIETY
AGM
9th DEC 2011 7.30 pm
Dagnall Village Hall
All Welcome**

Wing South Neighbourhood Update

From Police Community Support Officer Chris Baker

Recent News

The local policing team were out patrolling the villages throughout Halloween. We are pleased to report that there were no issues of anti social behaviour and that people were able to enjoy the evening in the right spirit.

Road Safety issues

The Police Community Support Officers have been out in October gauging recent trends in speed in certain villages in response to requests from our Have Your Say meetings. They have found emerging issues in Westfield Road, Pitstone, Winslow Road, Wingrave and High St, Edlesborough. The Neighbourhood team will be out in November with the speed gun to enforce these speed limits.

Operations tackling serious crime

We are continuing to run Operation Attali and seeing great results in keeping crime low. Officers from across the rural neighbourhoods have been in your local villages into the early hours looking for those wanting to commit crime, checking to see that farm gates have not been damaged, and responding to members of the public who have reported suspicious activity. This Operation will continue to run throughout November.

Crime Stats

The Wing South area continues to show a decrease in crime levels on last year which is fantastic news. In October 2011 there were 21 recorded crimes compared to 45 in October 2010. For the period April – September 2011 we are seeing an overall reduction in crime of 36% compared to the same period last year. Burglary Dwellings are down 52%, Theft of Vehicles is down 57% and Burglary Non Dwellings (sheds, garages etc) are down 71%. Please remember to visit the National crime mapping website (www.police.uk) which shows the crime recorded in your village. Crime in your area is below the national average which is welcome news. If you require information for your street please do get in touch with us.

Offenders brought to justice

- On the 21st October a 53 year old male was arrested and charged with harassment in Edlesborough
- On the 18th October an 18 year old male was arrested and cautioned for causing criminal damage to a vehicle in Pitstone.
- On the 27th October a 19 year old male was charged for possession of a controlled drug on the Beacon in Ivinghoe
- On the 25th October an 18 year old male was given a formal warning for possessing cannabis in Station Road, Cheddington.
- In this period a 15 year old male has been charged with a burglary.

Remember to Have Your Say online

You can now send non-emergency messages to us using the online form that is available on the Thames Valley Police website. A number of people have already sent their concerns using this method. For you to do that please follow the link <http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/yournh/yournh-about-nh-pol/yournh-tvp-pol-area-n257-hys> Please allow some time for us to get back to you as we do check our mail box only at

certain times of the day.

If you want any advice or would like to contact the neighbourhood team you can call us on the police non emergency number 0845 8 505505 or email WingSouthNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk. Please note this email address cannot be used to contact Thames Valley Police to report crimes or for any urgent matters. Alternatively you can visit the force website at www.thamesvalley.police.uk to view information on your neighbourhood.

Memory Lane - A Plea for Help

Dear Focus

Can you help? I came to live in Victoria Terrace, Bower Lane, Eaton Bray and until moving to Totternhoe in 1957 I went to Eaton Bray School.

I am trying to find out the names of the two children in the photographs. They were found in my father's things five years ago and since then I have been searching and exhausted all avenues. I have been back to Eaton Bray and Edlesborough many times and although the original residents from Bower Lane have moved away I have made contact with several people who can remember that time. I have also made use of the excellent Eaton Bray website.

One Edlesborough resident said that she could remember her mother Hilda saying that the woman my father was living with at the time had to leave all of a sudden because his wife (my mother) and his daughter (me) were arriving. Today the same situation would go unnoticed but in the early 1950s it could have been termed scandalous and the upset might not so easily be forgotten. My father's name was Jonathan Weir and he frequented the many pubs in the villages at the time. He was appointed the caretaker at Totternhoe School when it first opened. My mother was the cook, I feel sure that the children were important to my father, otherwise the photos would not have been treasured for so long.

What I am wondering is.

Who was the woman who lived at 51 Bower Lane and where did she go and were the two children in the photos hers or theirs? I am hoping to solve the mystery of these two photographs. Who are the children and where are they now?"

Thank you

Jane Burdiak

If any reader recognises the children in the photographs or has any knowledge about 51 Bower Lane and its occupants in the 1950s please get in touch with the editors and we will pass the information on.



Edlesborough Parish Council News

Including Edlesborough, Dagnall and Northall

Enquires and reports of any incidents with regard to the Memorial Hall, the Pavilion, Edlesborough Green and playarea should be directed to the Assistant Clerk - Beverly Sage on 01525 229358 or e-mail: assistant.clerk@edlesborough.gov.uk

War Memorials

Both the War Memorials in Edlesborough and Dagnall were refurbished in time for the Remembrance Service in November and the contractor has been thanked for the amazing improvement to the Edlesborough Memorial. Unfortunately due to the original lettering on the Dagnall Memorial containing lead this has resulted in a few light red marks appearing but the Contractor will continue to endeavour to rectify the problem.

Edlesborough Memorial Hall

Quotations being requested for the re-decorating of the toilets and the replacement of existing light fittings.

Vandalism

Chewing gum and super glue have recently been inserted into the key hole of the Pavilion door.

Cemetery

An up to date copy of the Rules and Regulations regarding burials and memorials has been placed on the Cemetery notice board.

Street Lighting

Contractors currently waiting for Permit to carry out connection to the light on Main Road South, Dagnall.

Would parishioners please note that if they wish to report a malfunctioning streetlight within the Parish this must be reported to the Clerk and not to AVDC or Bucks CC.

Edlesborough main sewer

Anglian Water have recently carried out maintenance work and this will in done on an annual basis.

Proposal to extend Pebblemoor Car Park

A number of details still have to be resolved to ensure that the Council arrive at the best possible outcome for the benefit of the majority of parishioners. Once completed the Council will draw up detailed plans so that it can consult with all parishioners and consider any feedback/suggestions/objections etc. before deciding whether or not to go ahead with the project.

Litter Pickers

Would anyone willing to help with the litter picking particularly around the Green and Pavilion area please contact the Clerk. This is carried out on a voluntary basis by only one or two dedicated parishioners who would appreciate extra help.

Thames Valley Police – Information for parishioners

Thames Valley Police new national single non-emergency number as from 14th November 2011 will be 101 which will replace the 0845 8 505 505 number. Both numbers will run side by side until the end of March but if the demand for the 0845 8

Edlesborough Parish Council Meetings

3rd Thursday monthly

7.30pm Memorial Hall

Next Meetings: 15th Dec
19th Jan

505 505 number drops it may be discontinued earlier. If a call is made to 101 within a force area that has not yet 'gone live' the caller will hear a recorded message telling them to redial using the relevant non-emergency number. **In an extreme emergency the 999 number should be used.**

E-Mail addresses

Any parishioner wishing to be kept informed of Parish matters are asked to forward their e-mail address to the Clerk.

Full details of all General Purpose Committee Meeting and Parish Council Meeting minutes are available on the parish website www.edlesborough.gov.uk after they have been approved and signed at the following meeting.

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

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

Beverly Sage – Assistant Clerk to Edlesborough Parish Council – 01525 229358

E-mail: assistant.clerk@edlesborough.gov.uk

Website: www.edlesborough.gov.uk

Edlesborough Memorial Hall Booking Secretary: Beverly Sage – Tel. 01525 229358

St Mary's Church, Eaton Bray Parochial Church Council Report

St Mary's PCC continues to try to reduce church expenditure and to raise the large sums of money needed to maintain our beautiful village church; our giving to charities however will be maintained and we are currently seeking the views of the congregation regarding which additional charities to support in 2012.

Plans are progressing to build a much needed toilet and kitchen area and some parts of the church sound system may soon need to be replaced, so fund raising will go on. The very successful Poppy Prom will be followed by the popular Christmas Tree Festival on 3rd & 4th December where at least 30 trees will be on show – in all their various glories! Also, church calendars and Christmas cards are on sale and might still be available then.

A highly pro-active approach is being taken about metal theft. The replacement for the stolen manhole cover and other metal objects inside and outside of the church have now been treated with "Smartwater", ensuring that anything taken can be traced and the police can prosecute the criminals. The church is about to have a full interior clean by volunteers, so spiders beware! Small teams will then keep the church clean on a weekly basis but more teams are needed to reduce any individual person's annual commitment.

Our Vicar is encouraged that many use the church during the week for quiet prayer and contemplation. The church belongs to everyone in the village and all are welcome to pop in and enjoy its stillness.

Church Mouse



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:

John Hazell 01525 218142

Email northallchapel@btinternet.com

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.

2011 Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal – Eaton Bray

Many thanks to all the house to house collectors (including the new ones this year) and to all the shops and premises in Eaton Bray who hosted a poppy box. The total for this year is £2110.58 and this is just over 16% up on last year. Our real thanks though go to all of you who put your hands deeper into your pockets when times are getting tighter. The children and staff of Eaton Bray Academy deserve an enormous merit star because they increased their donations by £40:00 to almost £128:00 – fantastic!

If you would like to join the Eaton Bray collecting team next year, or if you live in Edlesborough and would like to know what's involved with becoming the Poppy Appeal organiser for Edlesborough, then please contact us on 221137. Roger & Helen Wilkinson – Poppy Appeal organisers for Eaton Bray.



British Legion Poppy Collection in Northall

The Collection Total

I am very pleased to be able to report that we have “done it again” and raised a very good total of £325.94 for the Poppy Collection in Northall this year. This total is down on the amount we raised last year as I was unable to complete my House-to- House rounds owing to a severe cold. However the generosity of those houses that I managed to visit meant that I was able to collect a respectable £77.55. This was completely overshadowed by the staff and customers at “The Swan” who raised an impressive £93.10 and even this was eclipsed by the staff and pupils at Edlesborough School who raised an incredible £110.29! Thank you all for all your help and support. As you can see, I couldn't do it without you! We are still waiting for some outstanding payments and I will put the final total in the February edition of “Focus”.

Lorna is hanging up her House-to-House collecting tin

As I mentioned above, I was unable to carry out a complete village House-to-House collection this year as I was away for a few days at the beginning of Remembrancetide and then came home with an awful cold which made it very difficult to get out with my tin. It has become increasingly difficult during the past few years to do the House-to-House collection as not only do we have to contend with Bonfire Night and “Hallowe'en” when people are less keen to open doors on dark evenings but also all the local shops now sell poppies well before we are allowed to start knocking on doors and many people already have their poppies before I arrive. So after 28 years collecting in Northall, I have decided to “hang up my House-to-House tin”. I will still be ordering poppies, wreaths, crosses etc and will supply the “Swan”, the School, and Age Concern. I will make visits if you contact me, but I will not be out knocking on doors in the dark next year.

Remembrance Service Road Closure

The annual Remembrance service was held at Edlesborough War Memorial this year and for the second time we all enjoyed the service in peace and quiet as the road was closed for an hour, with a diversion in place. I would like to thank all those who gave up their Sunday morning (and attendance at the service) to man the barriers on the main road and at Pebblemoor so that we could have our peaceful service. Thanks to Mike Scott, Vince Taylor, Mark Wilson, John Sayer, and Jim and Norma Wright, and also to the Police who helped us on the day. It is not



an easy thing to do. Some drivers – I hope that they were not local! - were rather rude at having to use the diversion despite the fact that it had been advertised for at least a fortnight. I would especially like to thank William Pratt who again very kindly helped me to distribute and collect all the heavy barriers and signs. Next year the service will be held at Eaton Bray, so we are all off duty!

Charity Christmas Puzzle 2011

It is nearly time for Gordon Gray to distribute this year's Charity Christmas Puzzle. This, the 21st annual Puzzle that Gordon has set, has a theme designed to help completion and will appeal to people who enjoy doing Crossword puzzles, such as in the Daily Telegraph (though it is not a Crossword puzzle). Puzzlers have plenty of time to find the answers and Puzzles should be returned, with donation, by 22 January.

Four winners will each receive a £30 prize.

Everyone who enters will qualify for a £30 prize draw.

Gordon plans to post Puzzles on 7 December, so those already on the distribution list should receive their copies by 9 December. Anyone else who would like a copy of the Puzzle can access it from the web at www.christmaspuzzle.co.uk. You can register early to receive a copy on the issue date of 8 December.

Over £41,000 raised for charity

£5,000 donated last year

This year's puzzle will support St Mary's, Eaton Bray plus four other charities. If you want further details contact Gordon Gray on 01525 220136.

Christmas Tree Festival

St Mary's Church
Eaton Bray

3-4 December
11am – 6pm

Fantastic trees - dreadful puns
Christmas gifts

If you would like to dress a tree
contact Jenny Hewett: Tel 220295

Refreshments, lunches from 12-2

Admission £2.50



Eaton Bray Methodist Church

Our next Cafe Community will be held on Saturday December 10th from 11-00 am until 1-00 pm . The Charity to be supported will be Amnesty International in this their 50th Anniversary Year. The Theme will be " Do Human Rights Help Heal Human Wrongs ?"

Some of our ladies have been busy making special handmade gifts for Christmas. These will be on sale at our December Cafe Community and all proceeds from the Craft Stall will be for our Chapel Maintenance Fund. What better way could there be to get the Christmas Shopping done than to do it locally, in friendly surroundings, with a coffee and a hot snack available.

During January we will not be holding Cafe Community but we will be having our Sunday Cafe Worship Service. We will recommence our Cafe Community on Saturday February 11th 2012 when our Charity to be supported will be Luton Womens Aid Centre. This will also be our Charity for both March 10th and April 14th Cafe Communities

We do extend a warm welcome to you to come along and relax, leaf through the newspaper and chat with friends old and new, enjoy a cup of real coffee and stay for a light hot lunch if you have time, that is Cafe Community.

Eaton Bray WI

The 90th Birthday buffet was held in the Methodist Chapel hall, which was decorated for the occasion and a beautiful array of food greeted the members. Only one member was unable to attend as she was on holiday, but sent a lovely card. Deirdrea welcomed everyone and past members and their valuable contributions were remembered. Various 90th Birthday cards were read out.

Gladys Deamer was given a card and good wishes for her birthday and good wishes were expressed to Helen Wilkinson, for the occasion of her daughter's forthcoming wedding.

Sheila's son Jeff prepared an excellent music quiz, which kept everyone trying to hum the tunes and guess the names of the singers. He really had chosen some very different and difficult tunes for us. Then the buffet began with everyone tasting a little of everything and pronouncing it excellent. Susan's quiz really challenged the brains and it was quite difficult to have all the answers when the allotted time was up. It was much harder than Mastermind. The quiz winners were given prizes and Susan and Jeff given a thank you gift.

A Birthday raffle was drawn with some very special prizes for the lucky recipients. The cake was cut and teas and coffees served. To continue the 90th Birthday celebrations, a meal will be enjoyed at the White Horse.

Two large boxes full of gifts for children, which would be delivered to, and distributed by the Dunstable Salvation Army, were collected.

The next meeting will be on Monday 5th December, when members of the Group WI's will be guests, for a Christmas celebration. The speaker will be Jenny, the Captain of the Salvation Army, who will speak about the Canal Path Patrol. Envelopes will be given out at that meeting in preparation for payment of the 2012 subscriptions, in January 2012. Visitors are always welcome.

A Message for Christmas

This is a special time of year for most people – irrespective of their religious beliefs. Indeed my own family is fond of reminding me that I'm a regular churchgoer. I go to church every Christmas. Regular, yes. Frequent, no.

So what is Christmas time's broad appeal? For me it's not the giving and receiving of presents (although it is magical to see the faces of small children when they realise that Santa hasn't forgotten them). No, for me, it's the chance to forget about the world's problems for a moment and to spend "quality time" with family and friends.

But, of course, for some people Christmas can never be enjoyed in the same way that it used to. They are either caring for someone who is very ill, or remembering the anniversary of the passing of a loved one. In our case December 20th will mark the second anniversary of the death (from bowel cancer) of our 24 year old daughter Claire. Nothing nor no one will ever be able to compensate for our loss. But during these past two years we have been overwhelmed by the love shown to us.

- From family and close friends who amazed us with the support and love they have given us, and continue to give us. I needn't mention names – you know who you are.
- From Claire's friends from the schools and universities that she attended – some of whom we met for the first time at the celebration of her life a month after her funeral. Many have kept in contact and have visited us, and we have visited them – frequently.
- From the residents of Northall. This year I took part in a 10K run to raise money for the hospice where Claire passed away. As part of the fundraising my dad and I pushed leaflets through the letterboxes of nearly every Northall house. The response was fantastic, with some people anonymously pushing a donation in an envelope through our letterbox with a simple message of condolence. To all of you a sincere, heartfelt, "Thanks".

Those mentioned above, and others, have helped us through this terrible time. And along with Claire's continued inspiration to "Go for it" we shall try to have a more "normal" Christmas this year.

And that's what's prompted me to write this piece. For wherever I can, I want to use the experience of these past two years to help others. So please, when you meet family and friends this year, remember that your best Christmas present is their presence.

God Bless

Gary, Kate, and Rob Freeman

Thank You
from
Eaton Bray Academy
HSA

We would like to thank the following people and businesses for their donations and contributions towards our recent Christmas Fayre, and everyone who gave up their time to make the event a success.

Mr Grundy
Patricia's Cuisine
Eaton Bray News, Food & Wine Shop
High Street Hair
Trading Faces
Hines Butchers
Café Masala
Butlins
Mead Open Farm
Ten Pin Bowling (Milton Keynes)
Tiddenfoot Leisure Centre
Luton Town Football Club





E B Lions AFC

THE childrens village football club
www.eblions.co.uk



Season 2011 - 12

We are THE village children's football Club – serving Edlesborough, Eaton Bray, Dagnall, Northall, Studham and Kensworth too. We provide village based safe, friendly, competitive and fun football for boys and girls of all ages, from 4 to 18.

This season has seen another record breaking number of teams and players - an amazing 22 teams and almost 300 children who play team sport in our villages every week, of which over 90% come from our rural villages!!!!

Furthermore the quality and skill of our players and teams just gets better and better. We are now one of only 10 Charter Standard Community Clubs in Bedfordshire and one of the largest too – great for the villages!

Season 2011-12 - New Players Required

Whilst we have been hugely successful in stimulating huge demand for childrens football, particularly from the youngest age groups upwards, we do have a few places still available in certain teams.

This Winter we are keen to attract new players for the following teams, from the following school years:-

Boys and Girls – Reception year – entry level Reception year, for our U5's.

YEAR 1 – Boys and Girls – just a couple of places left for our U6's,

YEAR 4 – 2 Boys required to complete our third U9 team this season.

GIRLS YEAR 3 and 4 – Girls to register interest in joining a new U10 Girls team 2012-13 next summer.

GIRLS YEAR 5, 6, 8 and 11 – 2 Girls each, to join our vibrant U11's, U13's and U16's squads.

We would particularly like to hear from you if you fall into these age bands – but indeed from anyone who has a son or daughter of any age who wants to play competitive football for their village club. We have teams at every age group. Please email us at enquiries@eblions.co.uk

Training Pitch – Project 'E B Astro'

We are working on an exciting project to build an all weather 3rd Generation pitch within the village envelope. This is at an early stage, but would, if successful mean we can provide all weather all year around facilities on an artificial surface to all our teams.

Clearly this will be subject to funding (this is a highly expensive investment) and planning, both of which are detailed and complex, but would transform our facilities and vastly expand opportunities for our local children, improve their fitness and skills. It would also reduce both travelling to training and be provided at only a minimal cost to parents. We are working closely with Eaton Bray Parish Council who have been extremely supportive of this project so far, which is budgeted to cost around £200,000, a massive investment in rural sport and a huge fund raising project is just underway.

Golf Day

We had a hugely successful Golf Day in September 2011 at Three Locks golf club,

where almost 40 golfers enjoyed bright sunshine to play team golf and a fantastic day was had by all. Our sincere thanks to Paul Cook (from Eaton Bray, our U13 Coach) for running a brilliantly organised event and we raised almost £2,500 as early fund raising for our new training pitch.

Committee

We have been blessed with a very keen and enthusiastic committee for the last 9 years and moreover have a wonderful group of dedicated coaches, which is now in total over 40!

As part of our continued development there are several key roles we are now looking to appoint and we are seeking keen mums or dads interested in the Club – be them parent, coach, grandparent etc.

- 1. ASST CLUB SECRETARY – to support our excellent Club secretary and help with general organisational matters. This would suit an organised IT literate helper and is only a couple of hours a week.*
- 2. ASST GROUNDSMAN – to help Adrian Bush with lining and looking after our pitches and goals.*
- 3. U5/6 COACHES – to support our youngest age groups.*

All these roles are very much occasional/part time. Everyone on the committee and those coaching have busy lives, jobs and families, but in sparing a few hours a week we make a vital difference to the fabric and life of our children in the villages, without which there would be few healthy sporting opportunities without getting into a car and travelling. Please step up to help make a difference. All require full CRB clearance and Club acceptance.

Team Sponsors

We are delighted to have team sponsors for all our 22 teams this Summer, whom we are hugely grateful too. They include the following new sponsors:-

TAYLOR FRENCH DEVELOPMENTS LTD – kind thanks to Steve French for his sponsorship of our U16 Girls. www.taylorfrench.co.uk

1CPUBLISHING – Peter King for his sponsorship of the U9 Whites. www.1cpublishing.eu

PDJ FINISHING – Paul Hurleys kind sponsorship for our brilliant U11's. www.vibratoryfinishing.co.uk

TALKTALK PROUDLY SUPPORTS E B LIONS AFC

NEXT GENERATION NETWORK COMES TO EATON BRAY BRINGING BEST VALUE BROADBAND

TalkTalk, the home phone, broadband and mobile provider, is proud to be sponsoring E B Lions AFC for the next twelve months. The donation will be used to maintain facilities at the club and to provide a personalised club training fleece for every coach. Alongside the sponsorship, TalkTalk is investing £50,000 in technology to bring best value broadband offers to Eaton Bray and surrounding areas. TalkTalk is expanding its Next Generation Network in the area, which gives customers access to fast, reliable broadband services for all of the family's needs. Tristia Clarke, Commercial Director at TalkTalk said, "We are delighted to be able to support E B Lions AFC for the upcoming year. We wish them all the best for their endeavours on and off the field". Expanding its Next Generation Network allows TalkTalk to offer its best value for

money packages to even more of the UK. With maximum speeds of up to 24 Meg, prices for broadband and phone packages start from as little as £6.50 plus line rental and include unlimited evening and weekend calls.

TalkTalk's Next Generation Network will cover Eaton Bray, Northall, Edlesborough, Slapton and Totternhoe.

For more information visit www.talktalk.co.uk/local

Keep the dedicated hard work going!

E B Lions AFC



Dagnall News

Over 60's

On November 15th we have a Speaker from Dogs for the Deaf, followed by Tea and Raffle and a chat.

On December 13th we will have our Xmas Lunch in our village hall. I have been informed that work will not start on the kitchen until later in the month.

On January 17th we have our Birthday tea and AGM, so hopefully the work will be completed!

Dagnall School

Fireworks

Rippling like water,
Spinning like tops,
Showering like raindrops.

Popping like popcorn,
Shining like stars,
Racing like F1 cars.

Whistling like wind,
Banging like gates,
Wooshing circles like dinner plates
Sizzling like sausages,
Crackling like thunder,
Exploding in a rainbow of colours.

By The Chaffinches, Reception Class at Dagnall School

Community Choir

With November behind us and the hectic period of three concerts and a trip to The West End to see "Les Miserables" now becoming a pleasant memory we are looking forward to the immediate future and working on expanding our repertoire for concerts being planned for next year.

Our early November concert at Dagnall Village Hall was much enjoyed by Choir and Audience alike and will probably become a regular date. The refreshments provided by Friends of Dagnall School (FODS) went down well, with proceeds going to the School.

We are fortunate indeed to have the experience, enthusiasm and ability of our mostly tolerant and normally tolerable leader Stuart Harding. Similarly we appreciate the talent of our accompanist James Burden. His solo spots are always high points at our concerts. When he is not available, John Ralphs sits in but is much missed from the ranks of the basses.

We still have between 40 and 50 singers at our regular Monday evening practice sessions at Dagnall Church and, on the more and more frequent occasions that we get it right, it is a joy to hear our little Church reverberating to the sounds of beautiful music. Dates for next years concerts will feature in "Focus" as soon as arranged.

World Challenge – Argentina July 2012

We are progressing well with the planning of our itinerary with the support from World Challenge. After we have completed our charity project, we will be undertaking a 10 day trek through remote villages and Inca ruins in the Andes. We also hope to have time do some of the following, a canoe safari on the Rio Paraguay, complete the high canopy zip wire in Salta, learn to tango in Buenos Aires, see the awesome Iguazu Falls and taste an Argentinean steak. World Challenge encourages us to research our destination & make decisions for ourselves.

You may have seen us on our stall at the carnival, we raised nearly £200 with your help. However, we still have some way to go to reach the £3700 we need to pay for the expedition.

We are collecting:

- clothes, bags, shoes, bedlinen, curtains & any textiles
- mobile phones
- empty printer cartridges, laser toners & laser drum units



If you have any of the above items to donate we would be happy to collect them from you. Please call Stuart 220943 or Alex 223185

Many thanks for your help

Stuart Ranson & Alex Nilsen

St Mary's Ladies Guild

There was almost a full attendance at the November meeting. Deirdrea welcomed all the members (and Catherine, who had joined us for the afternoon) and led the devotions on Remembrance.

Judy Venn and Gladys Deamer were given birthday cards,

The highlight of the afternoon was having Joan Fossey once again demonstrating her flower arranging skills, her theme was "Remembrance". She did a beautiful arrangement in a pedestal with red carnations, poppies and an assortment of foliage. A long arrangement was done, which could be for a graveside and then a most delicate round arrangement for a loved one, with pale lemon carnations and tiny orange roses. Joan was thanked and given a card and gift as a thank you, by Marjorie.

Tom Heffer was presented with the cheque for £350 which the members had collected for the Mission to Seafarers. Tom thanked the ladies and went on to explain about the current situation of threats of piracy at sea, most especially near the Somalia border. The members will continue to raise money for this cause each month, with a raffle and bring and buy stall each month.

There was a large assortment of raffle prizes with a pre Christmas theme, plus the two special flower arrangements which were won by Barbara Ilic and Jean Bates.

Details were given out of two outings to World's End and Poplars garden centres.

Social time plus tea with a lovely assortment of cakes and savouries followed.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday 14th December, the theme will be "Christmas Celebrations".

January will see the start of our new membership year, please come and join us, you will be made very welcome.



Some comments from our recent Ofsted report (Jan 09):

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Edlesborough Tennis Club Finals Day

After a week of gale force winds and torrential rain, when many of the club championship semi-finals had to be played, it was with great relief when finals day arrived and it was considerably less windy and quite mild. Play started at 10.00 am with the LTA Umpires officiating as usual. Matches were hard-fought and very closely-contested in all the 16 junior and senior events, the score not always reflecting just how competitive the matches were. Spectators and relations were enjoying their buffet lunch in the marquee when the force of a sudden gust of wind caused a supporting pole to come loose and strike a founder member on the head. Iona didn't deserve this – all the work she does for the club!! She assured us that she was fine and that she wouldn't be putting in a claim! A new tent next year please! The trophy presentation and barbecue took place in the evening. Thank you to everyone who helped make the day such a success.

RESULTS:


Mens Singles	Bruce Thomson	bt	James Kight	6-4 7-5
Ladies Singles	Anna Henderson	bt	Abigail Kight	6-1 6-0
Mens Doubles	Ziggy Bis & Bruce Thomson	bt	Andy Everson & Andy McLean-Hall	6-0 6-3
Ladies Doubles	Margaret Bis & Anna Henderson	bt	Jackie Hodson & Hilary McCloskey	6-3 6-4
Mixed Doubles	Ziggy Bis & Margaret Bis	bt	James Kight & Abigail Kight	6-4 6-2
Mens Vet. Singles	Bruce Thomson	bt	David Kight	6-1 6-1
Boys U16 Singles	Will Sanders	bt	Scott Mercer	6-4 6-1
Girls U16 Singles	Anna Henderson	bt	Hannah McCloskey	6-0 6-0
Mixed U16 Doubles	Tom Henderson Anna Henderson	bt	Will Sanders Hannah McCloskey	4-6 6-4 (10-8)
Boys U14 Singles	Scott Mercer	bt	Kyle Suter	6-4 6-3
Girls U14 Singles	Georgia Rigby	bt	Sophie McCloskey	6-3 3-6 6-3
Boys U12 Singles	Karl Shrowder	bt	Lee Saunders	6-0 6-1
Girls U12 Singles	Anna Henderson	bt	Georgia Rigby	6-0 6-0
Mini Green	Alex Piddington	bt	Oliver Rigby	1-4 5-3 4-1
Mini Orange	Morgan Emmett	bt	Brandon Lupson	7-2 7-1
Mini Red	Kerys Emmett	bt	Louis Moore	10-5

Congratulations to all our winners and runner-ups!

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Table Corner and the Festive Season

At the risk of sounding like Delia with her Cheat products and recipes, there are a few items which I think are definitely not worth preparing yourself. Not because you can't (most of us could, I am sure) but rather because they take a lot of time to prepare. At the top of my list must be puff pastry. Whilst on a pastry course a couple of years ago, we made it from beginning to end. It took such an awfully long time that I wondered who in their right mind would ever think of making puff pastry rather than buying the ready made version. The saying "time is precious, use it wisely" is even more important at this most wonderful time. We feel festive and want to give the best of ourselves, but the truth is that we are pulled between so many activities, the children or grandchildren's Christmas shows, Christmas shopping, Carol concerts, parties with friends etc. So we have to be very wise indeed with our time. Unless you are wonderful at it, or have an old family recipe which is always your favourite, I also think that shop bought mulled wine and mince pies can be acceptable if you choose from experience.

Despite what I said above, I believe that most shop items or dishes will always be that: just shop items. They do not have the flavour, quality nor the personal touch that home made food possesses. Our signature dish for example is boeuf bourguignon. You can buy it in any supermarket. But I guarantee you that at the first taste, you will experience the difference between ours and the shop bought version. Have you ever tried to buy a dressed salmon in a shop? Not really an option. And this is precisely where I think that we should spend our time at this time of the year. Making some home made brandy butter, creating the best stuffing we can imagine and not settling for one tasting of cardboard. And it need not be difficult. For example, and if you want something a little different from the traditional turkey as your piece de resistance, you could have a beautifully decorated whole gammon. The trick once you have cooked and cooled down the gammon is simply to glaze it. How do you do that? I think that my favourite recipe is with marmalade. You simply and gently remove the skin of the gammon, taking care not to take the fat with it. Heat your oven at a high temperature (200C). Then cover your gammon with a mixture of 8tbsp of fine cut marmalade, 6tbsp of demerara sugar and 1 tsp of ground cloves. If you really want a stunning piece, before you cover the gammon with marmalade you can score the fat into diamonds, then push a clove into the centre of each diamond. Roast for 20 minutes (for a 4kg piece). Et voila! Serve it hot and it is also equally delicious cold.

Have a great festive season. I hope it is not too stressful, but relaxing for you and your family!

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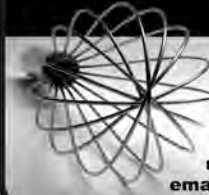
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Eaton Bray Lawn Tennis Club



December is a month for reminiscing; what we've done during the year, what we've enjoyed, what we may have done differently, and who we should have beaten at tennis when we actually lost 6-0, 6-0. So it was that before sojourning to my laptop to pen this small offering, I decided to turn back the years for inspiration purposes, by looking back at the last 15 years of EBLTC Focus articles. There was good reason for this, which I shall come on to later...

That's when the trouble started. Apart from reading 150 editions of Focus, which meant not talking to my wife for over a week (every cloud etc....!) how do you pick your favourite moments? I particularly enjoyed the story of our efforts to transform our courts into the new home of British tennis by extending out towards School Lane, turning the school into a multi-storey car-park, and making School Lane itself a dual carriageway with a Hemel Hempstead style funny roundabout at the junction with the High Street. It was all going so well until our Vietnamese financier, Phut Pholt, ran off with all our money. And then there was the plan to ground-share our courts with Tottenham Hotspur, following their failed bid for the Olympic Stadium, with club training facilities to be based at committee member Glenn Wigley's house, but it then transpired that 'Arry their manager had a taste for Orange sauce, and with the Wigley's keeping ducks, well that was that.

But the true stories are the best, and nothing, but nothing can match that famous committee meeting held at 6, Woodside in March 2000, almost 12 years ago, when our 'International Liaison Officer' John Palmer (who only got the job because he had an old 'Letts' guide book) announced that he had scoured the internet – which in itself should have set alarm bells ringing – and successfully twinned our little club with one in Boulogne, France. He'd already arranged via e-mail for us to visit them and play a weekend tournament! This would comprise of a Saturday morning ferry over, a few games of tennis followed by some good food and wine, a hotel in St Omer, then a late ferry back on the Sunday after a spot of shopping at Tesco's beer shop in Calais. This very evening, we were to call their Chairman to finalise the arrangements. How exciting! What could go wrong?

We made the call all huddled around the speakerphone, used our best French pleasantries, and all was going swimmingly well until about three minutes in, when it became apparent that there were some crossed wires somewhere. Our French counterpart could not comprehend why we were reserving accommodation in St Omer, near Boulogne-Sur-Mer? As uncertainty grew into confusion, it slowly dawned on John that there were two Boulognes in France. One on the North coast, where he thought he'd arranged this tournament, and another Boulogne, a very small village 870 miles south of Calais, 10,000 feet up in the Pyrenees near the Spanish border, and the one from where our French colleague was now asking 'allo.... allo.... are you steel zere'? down the phone. Yes, the one where John had actually arranged the tournament. I should have mentioned that his guide book was on Persia.

Once we had regained our composure – and John had come round – I spent the next 20

minutes trying to explain in my best pidgin French to this very excited gentleman from a miniscule village that had never seen an outsider since the Romans came calling, (during which I apparently ordered seventeen beers), that it was simply not a good use of time or resources to drive 870 miles for a game of tennis, and back again the next day. He was crestfallen; the Mayor had laid on a civic reception, all police leave had been cancelled for both of them, and the eight schoolchildren had been given Union Jacks to wave along the Boulevard de Pyrenees as we arrived. Nonetheless, we eventually extracted ourselves from this delicate situation, assuring our new friend that, at some date in the future, we would try to visit him and his small but high and remote village. When John gets a new guidebook, probably!

So endeth the reminiscing, and also so endeth my monthly scribbles in Focus for EBLTC. After 15 years (with a couple of short respites!) it's time to hand the reins over to someone who talks sense. We're hoping that he or she will come forward at our AGM in January, so if you're interested, please let me know! In the meantime, to misquote some popular phrases, it's Goodbye from me, but not Goodbye from them. So long readers, and thanks for all the fish. It's been real. Was Nice to see you, to see you Nice!!

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 please call Chairman Bernadette Hillman on 01525 222531, Coach Sara Leavy on 07561 571578, or if they're all out and I'm not writing for Edlesborough, then me, Andy Cross, on 01582 477114. And that was a joke!

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Edited by Sue King



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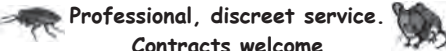
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A new School year at Eaton Bray Academy

Well, it started with a whole School trip to the seaside and it is going to end with a sleepover at the School! I think you can't get much more exciting than that.



“The seaside was the best fun I have had in years”

“I didn't want to go home from the beach”

The staff were equally enthusiastic with “A day I will never forget”

So now we are gearing ourselves for the last day of term December sleepover, or as the staff have renamed it the Wakeover! The children will be cooking their own dinner and then settling down to a bowl of popcorn and a DVD. We are all hoping that there will be a special visitor....Shhhh



Edlesborough School Contributions



Operation Christmas Child

This year, as in previous, the children of Edlesborough School have been thinking about other children around the world who are less fortunate than themselves, and have taken part in the Operation Christmas Child initiative run by the Samaritan's Purse.

The scheme involves the children filling an old shoe box with toys, stationery, toiletries

and clothing either for a boy or girl, and then wrapping it in Christmas paper. The boxes are then collected by volunteers and are distributed to the neediest children in Africa, Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

We have had an excellent response from our pupils this year, and many children will receive a much needed and appreciated gift this Christmas.



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YEAR 1

– keen boys and girls for our U6's. Just several places left.

YEAR 4

– 2 boys for our new U9 Reds team

YEAR 5 & 6 Girls

– 2 keen girls for our brilliant U11 girl's

YEAR 8 Girls

– Several Girls to complete our U13 girls squad

YEAR 3&4 Girls

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Laughter, gaiety, lots of mirth, BUT,
Does anyone think of the Saviour's birth?
In the bible, the stories of old, tell of a star,
Myrrh, frankincense and gold,
Of Mary and Joseph, and stable bare, BUT,
Does anyone listen, does anyone care?
Do you at this festive time of year, really listen with your inner ear?
To the message from above, that tells us all of God and His love.

When bells ring out this Christmas time, stop, listen and hear
of what they chime; and then as when men in times gone by
Told the world where Jesus did lie; Let each of us spread the message on,
For although two thousand years have passed and gone,
This is still the headline news; talk to your neighbour,
Tell him your views, that as we holiday and feast
We should think of Him who had the least, but gave so much,
His life in fact, so that we this scene could enact.

Do you, just once a year, give thanks, when you participate
in childish pranks, do you, just once in a while
put on your face a cherubic smile and walk along to sing His
praise as with your voice a carol raise?
When will you give your life to Him, the babe, the man,
who will save you from sin? for that is the reason why He came.
So that all men Gods blessings could claim.

When this year you gather around the tree, and on the top,
the shining star do see, remember, the ox, and ass, and wise men three,
The angels, and shepherds, who worshipped on bended knee,
Then voice a prayer, and to Him say,

THANK YOU, LORD, FOR CHRISTMAS DAY...

Happy Christmas Everyone and God bless
you MAUREEN

ELF GROUP DECEMBER DATES

- 2nd Visit to Waddesden Manor for
Christmas decorations
- 8th Christmas outing for lunch
- 15th The Coffee Tavern for
mince pies, sherry etc.



Eaton Bray Village Hall 100 Club Winners - November 2011

50	Frank Pell	£100
138	Frank Blundell	£25
24	P & J Hale	£25
183	H Abrams	£25

Drawn on 10th Nov 2011 at Eaton Bray Academy. Please direct any correspondence to Ross Bagni, 71 Bower Lane, Eaton Bray, Bedfordshire, LU6 1RB, Telephone: 01525 221411.

Dagnall Weather Station (AONB)

Weather Conditions for October 2011

The month began with a southerly airstream resulting in some exceptionally high temperatures, reaching 27.7 °C on the 1st October. The Met Office states that the mean temperature in the U.K. was 2.0°C above the 1971–2000 average. After the first 3 days, despite a few periods of cooler weather, the majority of the month has seen mild days and night-time temperatures. Again it was a dry month only 26.6mm of rain this was only 50% of the 5 year average here in Dagnall and the year so far is down 21%

Mean Temperature over the last 4 years October 2011 over 2°c above average

Year	Oct	Sept	August	July	June	May
2011	12.2	14.9	15.4	15.3	14.2	12.3
2010	9.8	13.4	15.2	17.7	15.9	10.9
2009	10.7	14.1	16.8	16.2	15.2	12.5
2008	9.1	12.9	15.9	16.5	14.7	13.6

The Dagnall weather station can now bring you weather data 24 hours a day, updated every 15 mins via the web: <http://myweb.tiscali.co.uk/dagnallweather> and http://bit.ly/weather_dagnall. If anyone has a question, comment or wishes to contact me please email: davidgkillick@tiscali.co.uk or 01442 843883

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

	High	Date/Time	Low	Date/Time
Temperature:	27.7°C	1 Oct 15.00	0.2°C	16 Oct 07.30
Mean Temperature	12.2°C			
Dewpoint:	16.7°C	Oct 11.30	□ 2.3°C	20 Oct 01.00
Humidity:	97%	16 - 28 - 25 Oct	44%	2 Oct 15.30
Barometer:	1031.2 hPa	14 Oct 10.00	991.1 hPa	25 Oct 00.00
Wind Speed	35 mph NW	6 Oct 03.00	Months avg.	7.1 mph
Wind Chill:	27.5°C	1 Oct 15.00	□ 0.5°C	20 Oct 02.30
Dominant Wind:	S			
Rainfall *T= total rain days and moisture, R= Actual rain				
*Rain Days: 16 (T), 14(R)	Wettest Day 17 Oct		5.21 mm	0.205 ins
Monthly Rain:	Total	Oct	26.6 mm	1.047 ins
Yearly Rain:	Total	10 Months	481.0 mm	18.937 ins

Housing Benefit Changes if you are under 35



From 1 January 2012, if you are a single person aged 25-34, have no dependent children and rent accommodation from a private landlord, you will normally only be entitled to the shared accommodation rate of Housing Benefit. People in this position were previously entitled to the rate for self-contained one-bedroom accommodation.

If you are already getting Housing Benefit on 1 January, the change may not affect you immediately – your local council will tell you when the change will take effect. If you make a new claim from 1 January, the change will affect you straightaway.

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) has produced a fact sheet explaining the changes for claimants. It is available on the DWP website at www.dwp.gov.uk.



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- Friendly village with excellent community support
- Wide range of extra-curricular opportunities
- Admits children from surrounding villages in Herts and Bucks

Ofsted April 2009

- Childrens' behaviour is good, they are confident, polite and considerate to others and they enjoy school
- Staff know the childrens' personal needs and their families very well
- Sport and music are prominent in the provision
- Pupils' personal development is a strength of the school

Our focus continues to be on high standards and rates of progress



Wondering about which school for 2012? Come and let us show you around.

Please call Kathy Little (Head Teacher) Tel: 01442 851240, Fax: 01442 851181

EXCEL 2000

Excel 2000 is not a computer programme – but an exercise programme accompanied with music! This programme is designed to benefit both young and older people in all stages of health and ill health. People who will particularly benefit are those with dementia, strokes, parkinsons and fibromyalgia and many other related conditions.

Doing exercise with other people makes it more fun and a sociable activity. Exercises can be carried out both seated, standing and may also be done whilst lying in bed. It has been well documented that regular exercise can help;

- in the prevention of falls
- relieve stress
- increase mobility, strength and energy
- increase good feelings
- increase blood flow to the brain thus helping thinking and memory processes
- strengthen the heart muscles and lungs.
- encourage laughter and a sense of fun, so developing a sense of well being.

Each class will last for 45 minutes including a 'tea and chat' break and will be held locally. If you, or anyone you know, might wish to join an Excel 2000 class please contact Pat Quartermaine on: 07801754602

I look forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes

Pat Quartermaine, Director of Training, Qualified Excel 2000 Instructor



Edlesborough Under 5's

Monday - Friday Morning	9.10 am - 12.10 pm
Lunch Clubs	12.10 pm - 12.45 pm
Tuesday & Thursday afternoon	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. **If you would like to pop in for a look around, please phone Tina McKay on 07854 939226 between 9am - 12 noon, to arrange an appointment. A warm welcome awaits you.**

For registration details, please phone Angela Paine on 01525 229529

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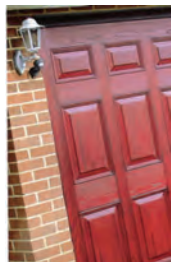


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