



focus

The local village magazine just for Us!
Eaton Bray, Edlesborough, Northall & Dagnall



April 2013

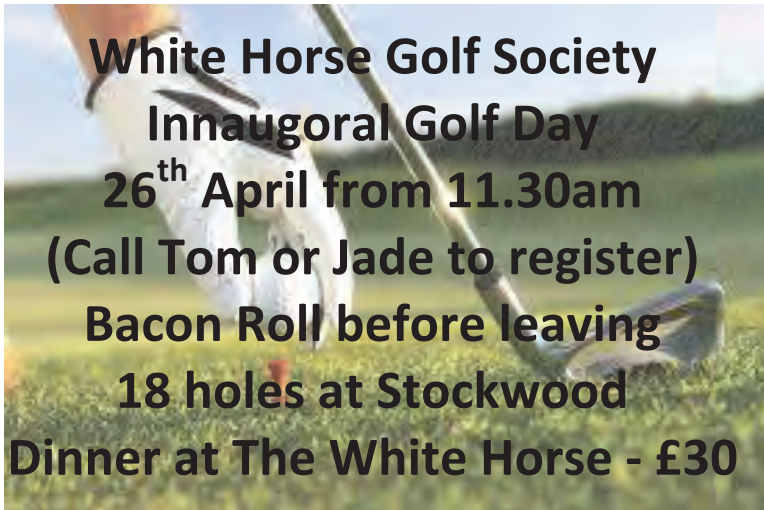
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**Look forward to Sunday Roast
Every Sunday – Roast Sirloin or
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Focus Magazine Committee

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

Kevin Cabbage

'Larums', Eaton Bray Road, Northall

Val Barrow

3 Chestnut Close, Dagnall

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

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

Kindly Note...

If the event you wish to advertise falls in the first week of the month, it is advisable to get the details into Focus a month earlier. The magazines are not delivered from the printers until the first of the month, therefore it takes a few days for them all to be circulated throughout the village.

✉ Editors

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

General Assistance (Recommended Number): 101 Emergency: 999

Leighton Buzzard Police Station/Kathryn Horgan: 01582 473418

Typetalk: 18001 01582 437418

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

Thames Valley Police (Edlesborough, Dagnall & Northall)

General Assistance: 101

PC Steve Brisley Mobile: 07817 817 562

PCSO Jackie Dodson Mobile: 07800 703 524

PCSO Natalie Hall Mobile: 07800 702 456

Email: WingSouthNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

Village Diary April 2013



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 Lower School, Ellie Deeley on 07913 529574
- Mondays Pilates, 10.45am, St.Giles Church Hall, Totternhoe, Lisa: 01582 412426
- Mondays (term time) 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, Dagnall Village Hall 6.30pm
- 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, Nadine Morgan 07823 447362
- 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 Fitness Class, 8.15-9.15pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Zoey 07595 986892
- Tuesdays Circuit Training Edlesborough - Edlesborough School Hall - 7-8pm - £5 per class
- 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
- Wednesdays 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
- Wednesdays Zumba Fitness Class, 9.30am, St Giles Church Hall, Totternhoe, Zoey 07595 986892
- 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 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 Central Bedfordshire Children's Centres' Toy Library, 9-9.45am, Eaton Bray (School Lane) Public Car Park
- Fortnightly Tap & Ballet Classes, JoAnn Latus School of Dance, 4-8pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall, 01582 620576
- Fridays

Village Diary April 2013



- Fridays Hartbeeps Multi-sensory pre-school play & music sessions, Northall Village Hall. Bookings and information: Gemma 01525 381196
- Fridays Zumba Fitness Class, 9.30am, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Zoey 07595 986892
- 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-poole.co.uk
- 1st Tuesday Bingo, 7pm, Dagnall Village Hall
- 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
- 1st Sunday May to September, Edlesborough Church Open, 2-5pm
- 2nd & 4th Tuesday TOTS, St Mary's, Eaton Bray, 2pm
- 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 St.Mary's Ladies Guild, 2pm, St.Mary's, Eaton Bray
- 2nd Wednesday Eaton Bray & Edlesborough Lions Club, 7.30pm, The Coffee Tavern
- 2nd Thursday CAMEO Coffee, tea & chat, 10am-12noon, Edlesborough Methodist Church
- 3rd Thursday Edlesborough Parish Council Meeting, 7.30pm, Memorial Hall
- 3rd Sunday Lunch club 11.30 to 2.00pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Chris Hewitt 222288

Other Regular Events

- 7th St. Mary's Eaton Bray Coffee Morning, 10am to noon
- 7th Beds Area Narrow Gauge Model Railway Club Meeting, 11.30am-4.30pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall
- 12th Leukemia Research Coffee Morning, 2 Dunstable Road, Dagnall 10.30 am.
- 13th Cafe Community, 11am - 1pm, Eaton Bray Methodist Church
- 16th Dagnall Over 60's. Visit to Green Man for Lunch + Poplars Garden Centre
- 21st Sale of Catering Equipment at 30 Dunstable Rd, 12-4pm
- 22nd ELF walk, 10am, Eaton Bray Church

One Off/Annual/Irregular Events

- 13th Quiz, 7pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall, £9, To book: 01525 221411
- 19th Appledown Spring Quiz, 7.30pm, Northall Village Hall, £5 To book: 01525 220383
- 20th St Mary's Ladies Guild Coffee Morning, 10-12 noon, St. Mary's Church, Eaton Bray
- 20th Spring Coffee Morning, 10:30am to 12:30pm, All Saints, Dagnall
- 21st Carnival Queen & Princess draw, 11:15, Eaton Bray Village Hall. Entries to be received by 14th April
- 27th Dagnall Under Fives Quiz Night, 7.30pm, The Red Lion, Dagnall, £5, tickets: 07885 682572

Village Notices

SALE

The Little Dagnall Catering Company has closed down. We are holding a sale of all its catering equipment including buffet tables, fridges, plates, glasses, cutlery for up to 120 guests, at 30 Dunstable Road, Dagnall, on Sunday the 21st of April, 12 till 4 pm. For more information, contact Pascale on 07900 498476.

Eaton Bray Village Hall 100 Club

Winners March 2013

4	Katrina Hurley	£100
38	Pru Hardy	£25
88	James Siddons	£25
15	Anna Cornwell	£25

Drawn on 7th March 2013 at Eaton Bray Academy. Please direct any correspondence to Ross Bagni 71 Bower Lane Eaton Bray, Bedfordshire LU6 1RB Telephone: 01525 221411.

Maundy Money

John Shadrack who lives in Tring Rd Edlesborough will be receiving Maundy money from the Queen when she visits Christchurch Cathedral Oxford on Maundy Thursday. He was nominated by Rev Tracy Doyle vicar of Ivinghoe. John has been a regular Focus distributor for many years (with his late wife). In recent years both worshipped at Ivinghoe.

FOR SALE

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station. Over 270 pieces
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Skull Island and pirate characters
£50

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Footjoy Junior Golf Shoes
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Tel 07734 111654

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:
Penny Pataky, Tel: 01525 229358



EDaN Community Transport

Peter Williams:
01442 842506

*Front cover photo:
Daffodils along Edlesborough
Green by Brian Russell*

Spring Coffee Morning

 **April 20th** 
10.30 – 12.30

All Saints Dagnall

Various Stalls

**In aid of 2013 Project
Leukaemia & Lymphoma Research**

St.Mary's Ladies Guild COFFEE MORNING

**Saturday 20th April
10am - 12 noon**

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

**in aid of the Royal National
Lifeboat Institute**

Cakes - Gifts

Bring and Buy

Raffle - Refreshments

Please come and Support us

Dagnall Under Fives

Quiz Night

The Red Lion, Dagnall

Saturday 27th April

7.30 pm

£5 per person to include food

Cash prize

Raffle

Teams of up to 6

Tickets available from the pub

or Toni 07885 682572

tonigodbold@hotmail.com

Quiz Village Hall

Saturday 13th APRIL

This fabulous quiz with quizmaster

Keith Blackburn

Will still include

a Free supper with the questions

Bring you own glasses and drink

7.00pm for 7.30pm

Just £9 per person

Teams of up to 8 people

Fabulous prizes!

This event is organised jointly by

Eaton Bray Village Hall

Fundraising Committee and

Eaton Bray Tennis Club

For bookings contact

Ross 221411

Katrina 07939 873317

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

Ashridge Estate Events

Nests and Eggs

Tuesday 09/04/2013 10:15am 11:15am
Natural History Museum Tring £3 per child. To book: 01442 851227 ashridge@nationaltrust.org.uk

Join us at the Natural History Museum Tring for a creative craft session using the Museum's collection of nests and eggs for inspiration.

Birdlife in Spring

Saturday 13/04/2013, 7-9am, Steps Hill car park Adults: £7, FOA: £6, Children: £5. To book: 01442 851227 ashridge@nationaltrust.org.uk

Join our Ashridge Ranger on this early morning walk to look and listen for birds on the Ashridge Estate. It's well worth the early start!

Gentle Stroll

Wednesday 17/04/2013 10:30am, Ashridge Estate Visitor Centre, £2.50

Brian and Siân Barton continue their ever-popular informal strolls at Ashridge. These provide a chance to discover the wildlife in different parts of the Estate and to look for animal tracks, deer sightings, birds and other items of interest. The strolls may take up to 2 hours. No need to book just turn up with sensible walking shoes and warm waterproof clothing just in case!

Discover Ashridge Walk

Saturday 20/4/2013, 10am to 1pm, Ashridge Estate Visitor Centre, £3

Join us on a walk of about 6 miles long each taking in a different area of the Estate. All walks start from the Ashridge Estate Visitor Centre and are led by Kath a keen walker who volunteers at Ashridge. Just turn up ready to go at 10am with sensible walking shoes, warm waterproof clothing and water. Dogs welcome but to be kept on leads please!

Berkhamsted Common Archaeology Walk

Thursday 25/04/2013, 6:30-8:30pm, Northchurch Common, Adults: £7, FOA: £6, Children: £5 To book: 01442 851227 ashridge@nationaltrust.org.uk

Join our regional archaeologist on a guided walk on Berkhamsted Common to look to look at archaeological remains.

Birdlife in Spring for Beginners

Saturday 27/04/2013, 6:30 - 8:30am, Steps Hill car park, Adults: £7, FOA: £6, Children: £5, To book: 01442 851227 ashridge@nationaltrust.org.uk

Join our Ashridge Ranger on this early morning walk to look and listen for birds on the Ashridge Estate. It's well worth the early start.

A Letter from Rev'd Coralie



Vicar: Coralie McCluskey
The Vicarage, 11 High Street, Eaton Bray - Tel: 01525 220261
Honorary Assistant Priest: Revd John Heffer
Reader: Gordon Gray (220136)
Church Warden: Catherine Hayden (220527)
Parish Administrator: Elisabeth Ryder (07890 718117)
Web contact: eatonbraychurch@aol.com

Easter is done and dusted, most of the chocolate has been consumed and the children will soon be back at school. I am fervently hoping that with the summer term just around the corner, the weather will now be warm and sunny by day with gentle rain falling overnight. This would really help those who are opening their gardens on Sunday 9th June.

In the Church, April offers us the opportunity to celebrate the lives of an interesting collection of saints, including Dietrich Bonhoeffer, who I mentioned last month (9th), Saint George the patron saint of England (23rd), Mark the Evangelist (25th) and the poet Christina Rossetti author of the beautiful words of the carol, *In the bleak mid-winter* (27th).

Every generation throws up both sinners and saints. *Celebrating the Saints*, compiled by Robert Atwell, suggests that St George was probably a soldier living in Palestine at the beginning of the fourth century, martyred at Lydda in about the year 304 and who became known throughout the East as, *The Great Martyr*. St George replaced Edward the Confessor as Patron Saint following the Crusades, when returning soldiers brought back with them a renewed cult of St George. Edward III made St George patron of the Order of the Garter, finally confirming his position in the Calendar of Saints.

What's the point of saints? In our increasingly secular world - who cares? What difference does a saint make in a society steeped in economics, politics, entertainment and sport? From a personal perspective the saints offer us exciting and contrasting models of how to follow Jesus. They teach us something profound about God's call to holiness, about being a Christian in the world today and about being a human being.

We live in a world that happily creates and elevates rock stars, charismatic politicians, media personalities, film stars and footballers because we are generally hero-making creatures. Why not therefore recognise those whose lives are dedicated to goodness, to good living and the presence of God? The majority will never make the calendar of saints but they surround us in our communities, tirelessly giving support to neighbours, donating generously to the Food Bank, volunteering for and running charitable events, visiting the lonely *Living Lord, you pour out your life for us, you pour out your life in us, you pour out your life through us.*

Help us to pass it on. The saints of today.

Coralie

Salvation Walkathon



On July 2011 the UK government gave a contract to The Salvation Army to manage support services for adult female and male victims of Human Trafficking.

Andy Peddle (aged 70) started a journey in May 2012 to walk, visiting every Salvation Army Hall in the British Isles, a distance of nearly 8000 miles.

He is, on the way, collecting donations for this cause believing folk will want to support it out of the kindness of their hearts, and their response to such an evil trade.

He is arriving in The Salvation Army Hall in BOOTH PLACE EATON BRAY on APRIL 16th at 9.30am.

He will be presented with any money that has been donated before calling for volunteers to walk with him a mile as he continues his journey.

If you would like to make a donation please make your cheques payable to "Salvation Army Walkathon" and hand in at The Salvation Army Hall in Booth Place on the 16th April.

Or go online to either of the following web sites and donate there.

<http://www.justgiving.com/Andy-Peddle>
or <http://www.virginmoneygiving.com/AndyPeddle1>

Edlesbray Leisure Fellowship (ELF)

Greetings to everyone.

The year is already flying by and the end of March will see British Summer Time starting over the Easter Period.

We hope that the very cold weather has gone. The bulbs, plants and shrubs have started to grow and our feathered friends have begun to stake out their domains ready for the breeding season. Unfortunately, the heavy snow-falls cancelled our proposed visit to Anglesey Abbey to see the snow-drops and enjoy a winter walk on February 14th.

We hope for better weather on Thursday March 14th, with the planned visit to Ascott House to enjoy all the spring bulbs. There is also a probability that we will have enjoyed afternoon tea at the end of the visit.

The walking group were lucky on February 25th and enjoyed a walk starting at The Bridgewater Arms. They walked to Ringshall then towards The Beacon, returning to the Monument, walking down to and across Berkhamsted Golf Course, and made their way back to

the Bridgewater Arms. The walk was approximately 5 miles. The group then enjoyed a well-earned lunch in the Bridgewater Arms. They hope for good weather on March 25th.

APRIL DATES

SUNDAY APRIL 14th

Outing to St. Albans for lunch & a visit to the organ museum

MONDAY APRIL 22nd

Walk Eaton Bray Church 10.00

THURSDAY APRIL 25th

Visit to Blenheim Palace

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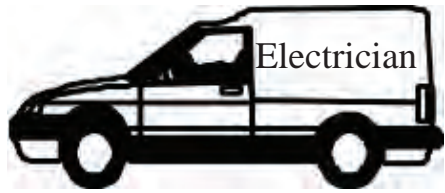


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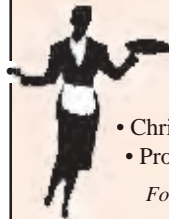
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**St Mary's Village
Carnival 2013**

Carnival ~ 6th July Science Fiction

Once again the Village Carnival is upon us, like an Asteroid plummeting towards Eaton Bray, Dagnall, Northall and Edlesborough with the sole alien intent of giving us all a day full of excitement. This cosmic event will be on the doorstep of the space craft that is planet earth here in Beds and Bucks. Oh for goodness sake beam me to middle England Scottie!

So, whether you have problems with your Klingons or wish to come first in the dog show with your well-manicured Red Dwarf, this year everyone in the villages can come out of themselves and be a legal alien. Decorate your houses and yourselves and "Go Boldly" (correct grammar) where no individual (man, woman, of any colour or creed) has gone before.

Put on those pointy ears. Got a big nose? Pretend you're a Dalek! The possibilities are endless and there will be many more suggestions right here in Focus in the next few months before the Carnival.

As all of us in the Villages begin to wind up to our Carnival remember that the only reason it happens is because we all make it happen. Can you help in any way and

would you like to get involved? Here are a few important issues for the early stages of our warp drive into Carnival:

- If you would like to place an advertisement in the Carnival program please contact Pauline Glenn on 01525 229408.
- Can you provide any prizes for the silent auction?
- Are you able to provide your time on the day to set up the Carnival tents and help with transporting items around the Green? A free breakfast is available to all early morning helpers.
- Look at the Carnival website for any further information you may require at www.stmarysvillagecarnival.com but don't just look at the Carnival in cyber space come and join in and become a Carnival cyberman.

For any general enquiries on how you can get involved with this year's "out of this world" Carnival contact:

Gordon Gray : 01525 220136 OR Richard Evans : 01525 222512

✉ Gordon Gray

**When you are on the Ferris Wheel ..
Nobody hears you scream!**



Eaton Bray's First Astronaut?

My name is Adrian Roberts and I have lived in Eaton Bray / Edlesborough all my life, in fact I was actually born in Eaton Bray at Moat Hall in Moor End. I have a rather unusual request. I have entered a national competition with the Lynx Space Academy for the chance to go into space as an astronaut! This is not a gimmick, it is a genuine competition fully endorsed by Buzz Aldrin, the second man on the moon. I basically need as many people to vote for me as possible, and this can be done on the following link: https://www2.axeapollo.com/en_GB/20402/adrian-roberts

You only need provide an email address,

it will cost you nothing, and it only takes on average about one minute to vote. I need enough votes to be in the top 200 when the voting finishes on April 30th to advance to the next stage (I am 133rd at the time of writing with 685 votes but am sliding fast). To encourage people to vote and help me get there, I promise to donate 50 pence of my own money for EVERY vote I receive to Cancer Research.

Please help give me the chance to continue in this competition to become the first astronaut from Eaton Bray and Edlesborough.

Many thanks

✍️ Adrian Roberts

Gordon's Charity Christmas Puzzle

I am very grateful for the support of many local people and for their generosity – as a result of this year's Puzzle £5,000 will be donated, to be shared equally between five nominated charities: RNLI, Dacorum Emergency Night Shelter, Handstand Appeal, Organisation of Ruislip Churches Holidays for Youngsters with Disabilities (ORCHYD) and St Mary's, Eaton Bray. The total raised by the Puzzle is now £51,500 – my thanks to everyone who has helped to make this possible.

Entries came from as far away as New Zealand, Australia and Canada, plus there was one entry by a team of French people for whom English was a foreign language and scored a remarkable 108½ out of 120. Maybe the marking was tough this year as, only 8 entries achieved full marks.

A draw took place at St Mary's Church, Eaton Bray on 3rd February and four prize-winners were selected, each of whom receives a prize of £30: The Beaty

family, Sue Bradbury, Pam Grant, and Roger Robinson. None of these are local people. In addition, five entries were drawn at random from all the entries received up to the time of the draw. Each receives a cheque for £10: Pat Allen, Eileen Bennett, J Cutler, Gill Kenyon and Maureen Mahoney. Some of you will recognise at least one of these names!

You can register to receive a copy of next year's Puzzle at www.christmaspuzzle.co.uk. Next year's Puzzle will be issued on 8 December.

✍️ Gordon Gray

Eaton Bray Cricket Club 100 Club Winners March 2013

£25	Sarah Harris	No.5
£10	Mr S French	No. 77
Eaton Bray Cricket Club is kindly sponsored by F.A. Hawkins Transport Ltd & M&M Properties		

Cricket Back on The Green



2012 saw the reformation of Edlesborough Cricket Club after a three-year hiatus. The club joined Division 6 of the Four Counties Cricket League (FCCL) and performed very credibly - just missing out on promotion after finishing fourth out of sixteen teams.

The club is already growing, and is delighted to be able to field two league teams for forthcoming 2013 season, which will see plenty of cricket played on The Green throughout the summer, with pre-season friendlies beginning in mid-April.

History

The club had a long and proud history. Formed in 1887, it originally played at Cow Lane before moving to The Green where the old Axe and Compass pub served as the pavilion for some time - providing changing rooms, teas and (unsurprisingly) post-match beverages!

The club has enjoyed a particularly long connection with two local families, the Thornes and Rogers - sometimes fielding teams made up entirely of players from those two families. The re-formed club is delighted to have maintained that tradition, with a couple of Thornes amongst the current players.

And Edlesborough has been no stranger to success on the cricket field, having won both the Raven League (forerunner to the FCCL) and the prestigious Coronation Cup in the past.

Cricket for all ages and abilities

Of course the Australians will soon arrive on our shores for The Ashes, which will undoubtedly generate even greater enthusiasm for the game - and the cricket club is very keen to offer opportunities for those of all ages and abilities wishing to play some cricket. We are arranging a number of Sunday friendly games for

precisely that reason.

The club prides itself on its friendly and welcoming atmosphere, and we regard the after match socialising as every bit as important as the cricket itself. Our winter indoor nets have already started (Sunday afternoons at Dunstable Cricket Club from 3pm to 4pm) which provides the perfect opportunity for new players to have some fun and get to know us in a completely informal environment.

Great British Bake Off

Are you a fan? Well, we think we can offer you a great opportunity to show off your baking skills this summer, as we're looking for somebody lovely to make the teas for all of our home games (16 league games plus a number of friendlies - weather permitting). We can offer a £65 budget for each game and we're more than happy to be used as your culinary guinea pigs!

For further information about playing or making teas please contact either First XI captain Graham Simpson (07977 433153) or club stalwart Les Thorne (07778 033923).



Dunstable & District Local History Society

**Tuesday 9 April, 7.45pm
Bedfordshire's First VC**

The incredible bravery of Captain William Peel in the Crimean War is described by David Craddock.

**Methodist Church Hall, Dunstable
Visitors always welcome £2**

Letter to the Editors



The Public and the Parish Council

I read with interest the letter regarding the public attendees at the Parish Council meeting on 4th February. Whilst understanding the writer's frustration, I feel it only fair to put the other side, as a past member of our Parish Council and being present at that meeting, as a member of the public. Firstly, the Parish Council meetings are not a debating chamber and the right to speak is purely at the discretion of the PC. They allow a total of 10 minutes at each meeting for this to take place.

The Chair did not ask a member of the public to leave, he pointed out that if they kept speaking out, then they would be asked to leave. The person in question decided to leave, along with many others rather than waiting to see how their objections would be dealt with later in the meeting.

Please remember that Parish Councillors give their time for free and do what they feel is best for our community. We may not always agree with them, but at least try to respect them.

If you feel you can do better, may I suggest that at the next election you stand and ensure that we have more than 9 candidates, then, at least we can elect our councillors.

✍ Ross Bagni



Cryptic Clue:

Jack on the Grass in the Woods

2012 was wet, but even rain could not kill the fun and games at your local bowls club, **Cheddington Bowls Club**, the Recreation Ground in Cheddington High Street.

League and Cup success was on a par with last years. Celebrations included **Pete Rowling (Leighton Buzzard)** representing the County at the National Championships held in Worthing, and a great victory over the very strong Chesham Club. **Rosemarie Duke (Eaton Bray)** and **Dave Matthews (Totternhoe)** won Club singles championships. **Jacqui Coote (Edlesborough)** and **Tony Duke (Eaton Bray)** were runners up in the Mixed Pairs and **John Hill (Eaton Bray)** in the Men's singles.

2012 was fun. Ours is a friendly and social Club. FAD Friday evenings were a great success welcoming new comers to **GIVE BOWLS A GO** with a bite to eat and a drink from the bar. On Tuesday afternoons it was tea and biscuits. The famed Molnar BBQs, Race Night, Beetle Drive, Bingo, Christmas Party and Short Mat Monday

evening's tasty treats all went down well. We are forever in debt to the Club's dedicated DIY team of grounds men led by Green Keeper **Ken Eames (Dunstable)**. The team work through the year; mowing two or three times a week, top dressing to level, repairing boundary ditches etc. to produce a green that meets the highest standards and is a joy to the eye – you should come see.

2013 PROMISES MORE. Time for you to **GIVE BOWLS A GO?** A Tuesday afternoon or Friday evening in May would be an ideal time to start. Or come and enjoy a tea or drink from the bar and watch a game or two. Bowls is a truly great game to play. You will make new friends, be exercising without really noticing it and, importantly, you will be having fun in the fresh air. **I look forward to meeting you at the Club.**

✍ **Tony Duke: Chairman of Cheddington Bowls Club: Tel 220644**

Answer: Bowls: Aim your bowls (woods) over the grass to be nearest the jack (target ball)

World Book Day at Edlesborough School



On Thursday 28th February Edlesborough School celebrated World Book Day.

The day began with a very exciting Books for Breakfast. Children and parents were invited to come into school early to have breakfast and to share books before the start of the school day.

Children, parents and staff all dressed up as characters from their favourite books and then enjoyed a delicious spread of cereals, pastries, yoghurts, fresh fruit and drinks.

The children, staff and many parents all put an enormous effort into creating their wonderful costumes. Some of the characters who attended the Breakfast

included Mr Tickle, Winnie the Witch, Gangster Granny, Harry Potter, Snow White, Little Red Riding Hood, W i l b u r the Cat, Pinocchio and some Pirates in Underpants!

The school was also being inspected by Ofsted on the same day, who were thoroughly impressed by the enthusiasm of all who participated!

A big thank you to FOES (Friends of Edlesborough School) who organised this very successful event and to the parents for creating such an amazing array of book costumes!



All Saints' Church Dagnall

Services in April 2013

- Sun. 7th April 9.00 am Eucharist
- 10.30 am Morning Service
- 6.00 pm Evening Service with Holy Communion
- Sun. 14th April 10.30 am Morning Service
- 6.00 pm Eucharist
- Sun 21st April 10.30 pm Family Communion
- Sun. 28th April 10.30 am Family Service
- 6.00 pm Eucharist
- Sun. 5th May 9.00 pm Eucharist
- 10.30 am Morning Service
- 6.00 pm Evening Service with Holy Communion

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



Council Tax Reduction in England

From 1 April the present system of council tax benefit in England is being replaced by localised support for council tax. This support will be known as Council Tax Reduction (CTR). Each local authority in England had to prepare its own CTR scheme by 31 January and, if an authority failed to do this, they must adopt a 'default' scheme prescribed by the Government. The default scheme is based on the current council tax benefit rules.

CTR will normally take the form of a discount on a person's normal council tax bill. For some people, this will be a 100 per cent discount.

Because each local authority will have its own scheme there will be differences between them. Pensioners are protected so, although they will receive CTR instead of council tax benefit, they must not receive less help than they would have received if council tax benefit had continued. However, people of working age may not get as much help, even if they previously received full council tax benefit because, for example, they are unemployed.

Someone who currently claims council tax benefit should be transferred to their local authority's Council Tax Reduction

scheme. Their current council tax benefit claim will then close. There are certain transitional provisions relating to council tax benefit claim backlogs and backdating. The government has published regulations which set out provisions that must be included in all schemes. These are provisions that deal, among other things, with:-

- what help pensioners are entitled to and how their income and capital is worked out
- how to apply for CTR
- how applications are decided
- what changes of circumstances need to be notified
- backdating of applications
- extended CTR in some cases.

An appeal about CTR must be made to a valuation tribunal.

For more information contact the Citizens Advice Bureau, Grove House, High Street North, Dunstable. Tel: 01582 670003

Would you like to join our volunteers? Please contact the above number for more information on volunteering opportunities at Dunstable Bureau

✍️Judy



Eaton Bray Methodist Church

Our Saturday Cafe Community will be held on April 13th. from 11-00am. until 1-00pm. when we serve Lite Bites: Jacket Potatoes, Toasted Sandwiches, Coffee, Tea and Homemade Biscuits. As always we are happy to provide the refreshments without charge. Should you wish, we are pleased to accept donations to the Chapel of the month Charity and for April and May this will be: M.A.S.K.S. (Make A Special Kid Smile.) The Charity was

chosen by one of our young people who is a member of our Sunday School Staff. M.A.S.K.S raises money for Booker Park and Stocklake Schools in Aylesbury to improve the lives of children aged 3 to 19 years who have special needs . Your Support would be most Welcome.

On Sunday April 14th our Cafe Worship Service at 10-30 am will be led by Belinda Freeman with the assistance of our Chapel musicians. Everyone is Welcome.



EDaN Beautification Team

Car Boot Sale - Monday 6th May

It's spring cleaning time ~

Sort out all that unwanted clutter and make money on it!

Your junk may well be someone else's treasured find. Have you got cash in YOUR attic?

Come along to our car boot sale on Edlesborough Green (car access in Pebblemoor) and have a fun morning sorting through everyone's castoffs – no need to book a space.

Also – summer bedding plants at bargain prices!

Don't bother with breakfast – we'll have plenty of bacon butties and hot dogs for everyone and hot and cold drinks.

So join us on the green – sellers 8.30 a.m., buyers 9.00 – 12.00.

SEE YOU THERE....

ALSO –

Our team are producing a pictorial journal of the EDaN villages covering over

100 years of change. We would like to include pictures and details of our local fallen heroes who are named on the War Memorials in both Edlesborough (also including Northall) and Dagnall. If you would like a picture to be included, please contact:

Kathy Bovington 01442842796
for Dagnall

Patricia Harrison 01525 220248
for Northall

Christine Yates 01525 220739
for Edlesborough

We will take great care of all photographs, scan and return them to you very quickly. Do you have an old local photograph you think may be of interest to put in our journal?

If anyone has an aerial photo of Dagnall School taken within the past 10 years, please contact Kathy.

Dagnall Village Hall

Waitrose Support

We are delighted to have been selected by Waitrose in Berkhamsted as one of the charities to receive help through their 'green token' scheme, in April.

From 1 April 2013 for the month, customers take a 'green token' from the till and select one of three charities to support by putting a token in one of three boxes. Please help Dagnall Village Hall funds by shopping in Waitrose, Berkhamsted in April and selecting our box. Waitrose were recently selected as Which best supermarket so that is another good reason to shop there!

Dagnall Village Hall is a registered charity, run by volunteers. We desperately need help to ensure that this old building can be maintained and developed and continue to provide much needed space for the Hall users – including our community groups of the Mothers and Toddlers Group, Under 5's and Over 60's.

The back hall is in dire need of repainting – it is peeling and covered in mildew meaning that the children cannot get the benefit of a bigger space in which to play and socialise. We are part of your community and really need your help.



Local Milkman's Epic Walk for Charity

My name is Alec Hawkes. I am currently the local milkman (Eggington Dairy) serving Edlesborough, Eaton Bray, Northall and Totternhoe. I have been doing the round for over five years now, though very shortly I will be leaving the job to concentrate on an extremely large walk that I have been planning for nearly a year. With my life long friend Lizzie, I will be walking from John O'Groats to Lands End to try and raise lots of money for four very fine charities. These are WHIZZ-KIDZ, WRVS, SENSE, and THE A21 CAMPAIGN. I have collection boxes in various local shops, etc - Edlesborough stores, The Swan, Hines Butchers. I also have an online donation page at just giving, which is www.justgiving.com/teams/milko-goes-walkabout which is both safe, and very easy to use. We are going to be travelling up to John O'Groats on Friday 10th of May, starting the walk on Monday 13th, and all being well we will stroll triumphantly to the finish at Lands End on Saturday July 13th. This is 54 days of walking, averaging around 18 miles a day, and also incorporating 8 rest days to put the feet up! Lizzie and I are both pretty fit, but at the tender age of 51 we decided against the idea of camping, and have booked bnb's for the whole route. The weather in Britain is also very unreliable, so the thought of getting wet all day and then having to pitch a tent in the rain was not an inviting one. So, over 60 nights of bed and breakfast, as well as many other expenses like food, bag transfer, maps, good waterproofs, boots, etc was going to leave us with a sizeable bill. I needed to find a way of covering our expenses, so I wrote a book. The

book is now published and is available from Amazon in both paperback, and ebook (Kindle), as well as directly from me. I have also set up a blog, which we will update regularly during the walk with pictures and reports of how we are getting on. The book is called 'COMMON SENSE WOULD BE GOOD', and it is a satirical look at the state of Britain in the wake of decades of mismanagement by politicians, and much conning of the general public by banks. I have been told that it is very funny in places, and with a straightforward message as well - stop conning us and stop wasting our taxes! A follow up second book is now completed, and will be available at the same places by late April/early May. The second book is called 'IF BRAINS WERE DYNAMITE' and follows a similar theme of ridiculing the politicians who control us, I personally think the second one is a little better than the first, though both are pretty good, very readable, and quite different. I lived in Eaton Bray for more than 20 years, so I know that many people will know me at least by name, or through me delivering their milk.

My contact details are; email - mashituptommy@hotmail.co.uk phone; 07914 276980 blog; www.alechawkes.blogspot.co.uk

The book is available direct from me for £7 + postage/packing where needed, or from Amazon for £3.86 (kindle) and £7.62 (paperback). As previously mentioned, all of the proceeds will be going to cover our walk expenses, then when they are covered, 10% of all further sales will be going directly to the charities.

✍️ Alec Hawkes



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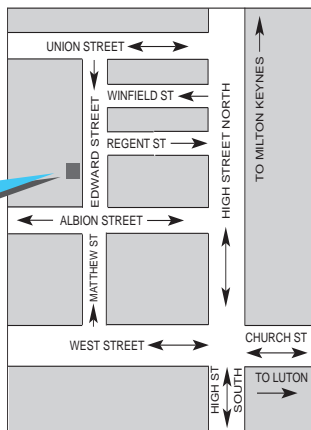
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Would you be willing to open your garden for the day to help raise money for charity?

For more information, please contact Kay Griffiths on 222849 or Gordon Gray on 220136.



The Festival is a new event for the villages. The programme will include music, dancing, entertainment, a social gathering, art and flower arranging classes (see details below*). The Festival will close with Songs of Praise and the Church Bells on Sunday afternoon. More events will be announced over the coming weeks – see posters, May Focus and local press.

Save the dates! Tickets on sale early May

*Art tuition class by local artist Megan Howells. Come and paint a picture of the church in acrylics on Friday 7th June 10 a.m.-3 p.m. (Paint and brushes supplied, cost £20.) OR join a flower arranging workshop with Edlesborough Flowers from 3p.m. to 5p.m. Interested? Contact Christine - 01525 220739 or email chris@brooklyns.org.uk Places limited.

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Contact Alan Williams to join us at this event:
01525 221926 email: ajrwilliams@hotmail.com



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Quotes from children

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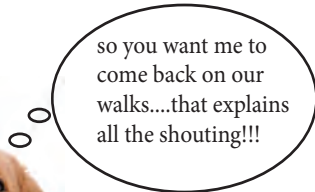
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Better Backs for Gardeners

Spring has finally sprung and the sunshine has sent us into our gardens in droves. Although gardening can be good for the mind, it can pay havoc with your body. Follow our tips for better backs and don't let an injury spoil your fun.

- Before doing any physical exercise, warm up first with a walk and some gentle stretching.
- Take regular breaks and change position between jobs to avoid tiredness, overuse and injury.
- Keep your back straight when lifting and use your knees, thighs and arms to help. Don't try to lift too much at one time – particularly those bags of compost!
- When digging, avoid twisting and straining and don't forget to take regular breaks.
- Use kneeler seats or mats when planting

and don't overstretch by working too far in front of you.

- Mow a little at a time, keeping upright.
- Avoid overstretching when pruning by using long-handled shears and use secateurs with a cut and hold action.
- If using electric hedge trimmers don't hold them too far in front of you.
- Consider the planning of your garden – raised flower beds may save you twinges in the long run.

If you have any aches or pains consult a Chartered Physiotherapist

for treatment and advice.

Happy Gardening!

Tips by St Judes Clinic,
26 Lake Street
Leighton Buzzard LU7
1RX

☎ 01525 377751

🌐 www.stjudesclinic.com



Dagnall Village Hall Committee Annual General Meeting 2013

The Annual General Meeting of the Dagnall Village Hall Management Committee will take place on **Tuesday 14 MAY at 6.30pm.**

All residents of Dagnall aged 18 and over are welcome to attend and eligible to vote. The following officers of the committee will be elected:

Chairperson

Secretary

Treasurer

Bookings Officer

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

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

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

Dagnall News

Over 60's

The Over Sixties enjoyed a delicious lunch at the Red Lion in Dagnall for the February meeting, followed by a quiz on Catchwords from radio and TV programmes. We were delighted to welcome two new members to our numbers. 42 members attended the lunch. In March we had a speaker John Phipps, to talk to us about his experiences in the second World War as a schoolboy. A Wartime tea and a sing song of Wartime favourites followed.

In April we have our first outing of the year to the Green Man for lunch and to Poplars Garden centre afterwards for a little retail therapy! (and a cuppa no doubt).

We need a caller for our Bingo in May, so if anyone can volunteer to do this for us please contact ROSEMARY on 01442 843202.

May is our Ploughmans lunch and we welcome some members from Kensworth Over Sixties to join us. We make a return visit to Kensworth in September.

Community Choir

Castration Helps Priest!

There is a piece of music that many choirs, including your Community Choir, struggle to master. It was written by George Frideric Handel in 1727 for the Coronation of George 2nd. and is affectionately known as "The Coronation Anthem". It is actually called "Zadok The Priest", a name that strikes terror into the hearts of many aspiring choristers. It is about "that priest" and his mate Nathan The Prophet and their "goings on" with Solomon. We have been wrestling with them for quite some time and we are pleased to observe that there is no longer the collective groan when Stuart Harding, our revered conductor, asks us to get it

out of our folders. Indeed many of us are actually pleased to have the opportunity of taking up cudgels with them again. However there is still the feeling that, whilst we are generally slightly ahead at half time they still have the edge in the second half and we end up with a sort of honourable draw at full time.

It was during the half time tea break at one of our recent Monday evening practices that we stumbled across a possible solution to our problem. Stuart had always emphasised that some of Zadok is sung with choristers at full stretch and even the best of choirs sound a little "strained" and this was probably intentional on Handel's part. However Joe Leslie, our much valued accompanist mentioned that he thought that some of the male parts were written for those without male parts. In other words they were written for "castratos". Doubtless our sound will benefit from such an addition with the required subtraction, and free tissues will be provided for eye wiping.

We are still waiting for our first volunteer! We are determined to master this piece of music because it is so wonderfully joyous and uplifting both to sing and to hear and it will be featured in our concerts later in the year, starting at the Edlesborough Festival on June 7th. to 9th. assuming that our volunteers have recovered sufficiently by then to be able to manage the climb up to Edlesborough Church. There will also be many new songs which we are presently adding to our repertoire.

We hope that many of you will enjoy the results of our efforts

Dagnall School

This week we have read the story 'My Mum' (by Anthony Browne) which has led us to thinking about our own Mums. We

have been busy learning songs ready for our Mothering Sunday Assembly which took place in the Church. We thought very carefully about what we wanted to say when we showed our paintings to our Mummies.

- Jake said “My Mummy works really hard”
- Emma said “My Mummy is very fair because she shares the biscuits so Aimee and I have the same amount”
- Cody said “My Mummy is very kind and she’s a good baker and made me two cakes for my birthday”
- Alfie said “My Mummy is a really good cook. She makes my favourite dinners,

pasta and pizza”

- Erin said “My Mummy is like a rock star. She is a really good dancer”
- Charles said “My Mummy is fantastic and bakes lovely cakes”
- Dylan said “My Mummy is really clever and she can juggle”
- Alex said “My Mummy is kind and makes the best dinners”
- Ash said “My Mummy is kind and helps me”

I love my Mummy.

And you know what?

SHE LOVES ME!

(And she always will.)

✍️The Chaffinches at Dagnall School

Edlesborough W.I.



Wendy Poole stood in for Phrena, our president, at our recent meeting, and when she presented birthday cards and plants, we all wished Pauline Hellard a happy ‘special’ birthday. Our speaker was Patricia Pearce, M.B.E., whose talk, My Dream Flights, is also the title of her book. Patricia began by telling about her career as an air hostess with several airlines, the last one being British Airways. It was here that the charity Dream Flights was set up by Patricia and other employees of British Airways, and where she has been involved ever since. The charity has had many sponsors, past and present. These include Princess Diana, Bobby Moore (the late England football captain), Cliff Richard and Ian Poulter (present-day golf professional). The purpose of Dream Flights is to take terminally ill and severely handicapped children on dream holidays. Qualified doctors and nurses travel with them, as well as many other volunteers, and all this help is provided day and night.

With the help of slides Patricia described a holiday in Orlando, Florida, where they experienced many of the fantastic pleasures on offer.

After a marvellous send off from the airport, they arrived in Florida to an equally fantastic welcome. They were taken to famous spots in Orlando such as Disneyworld and Swimming with Dolphins. Judging from the photos, the children had a terrific time, and you cannot fail to be moved by seeing their happy faces. Patricia loves being able to provide such wonderful experiences for these children, and is so grateful for all the help provided. She received an M.B.E. from the Queen for her work with Dream Flights, and how well earned it was.

What a lovely holiday for many children who suffer so much in other ways. Listening to Patricia made us realise there are some really caring people who are prepared to help these young people have such a wonderful time. What a great group they are.

✍️Val.Harris

Edlesborough Parish Council News

including Edlesborough, Dagnall and Northall

Police Report

As ongoing thefts of jewellery and electrical items are still occurring the Police advise that jewellery is protected from being stolen by:

Esuring your home looks occupied when you are out – use a timer switch to set a radio and/or lamp to come on and ensure that jewellery is not left on display.

Ensure that your home has good window and door security, double lock uPVC doors even if going out briefly.

Always activate an alarm system at night and when you leave the property.

Photograph your jewellery. By doing this the police will have a clear description of the items if they are stolen.

Use forensic marking to identify your jewellery. Further information can be found at www.securebydesign.com

Ensure that all of your jewellery is adequately covered by your insurance.

Memorial Hall

To reduce costs the gas supply to the Memorial Hall is being changed from British Gas to E-on.

Cemetery/Churchyard

The new 'No Parking access required at all times' has been installed on the bridleway gate.

Dagnall

A survey is being carried out when children have to cross Dunstable Road to get to Dagnall School with a comparison of the numbers and type of vehicles travelling in Dunstable Road at the same time. When completed this will be forwarded onto Bucks CC to ascertain whether a patrol crossing can be justified.

Pot Holes

Several pot holes have been attended to and the Parish Council are currently in

discussion with Bucks CC as to when the remainder will be dealt with.

Streetlights

There has been a large increase in the number of streetlights malfunctioning during the winter months and these are or have been attended to. In order to reduce the call out charges it has always been the Parish Council's decision to wait until there are at least 2 or 3 lights not working before calling out the contractors and parishioners are requested to be patient as the lights will be attended to within a reasonable period of time. Anyone wishing to report a faulty streetlight should contact the Clerk, details below.

Allotments

A few allotments around the parish have been re-let and there are a few others still available. Please contact the Assistant Clerk if you are interested in taking on an allotment.

Vale of Aylesbury Plan

The South East Plan was due to be revoked on 25th March. The Aylesbury Vale Plan will then go out for consultation.

Recycling

The introduction of a new recycling and food waste scheme has led to a dramatic increase in recycling rates and a huge saving in landfill tax costs. AVDC are extremely grateful to the parishioners in the district for helping to make this successful.

Residents who find their recycling bin filling up too quickly can apply for a larger, or additional recycling bin and an extra food waste bin too. It also helps if non-recyclable items such as plastic bags, plant pots and polystyrene food trays are not put in the blue lidded recycling bin but put in the ordinary green waste bin.

Residents interested in applying for a larger or additional recycling or food waste bin should go to the AVDC website www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk and click on '@apply for it'. New garden waste customers can sign up online in the same way.

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

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

Penny Pataky – Manager/Assistant Clerk – contact number 01525 229358

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

Edlesborough Memorial Hall Booking Secretary: Penny Pataky: Tel: 01525 229358

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

Website: www.edlesborough.gov.uk

Edlesborough Parish Council Meeting Dates & Venues

18th April 7.30p.m Annual Parish Meeting followed by Parish Meeting at Edlesborough Memorial Hall

16th May 7.30p.m Annual General Meeting followed by Parish Meeting at Edlesborough Memorial Hall

20th June 7.30p.m at All Saints Church Hall, Dagnall

18th July 7.30p.m at Edlesborough Memorial Hall



EDaN Community Transport

Drivers urgently needed from Northall

At the present time we have no drivers from the Northall area on Community Transport. We do try to get drivers from every village where we offer the service.

Community Transport is a very rewarding thing to do for your community and if any villagers in Northall could spare a small amount of time to contribute to this very worthwhile cause it would be very much appreciated.

We presently have 16 drivers on our books, made up as follows, 12 from Dagnall, 3 from Edlesborough and 1 from Eaton Bray.

If you prefer to drive only local journeys, that's fine, Peter our co-ordinator will log this on our system and

you won't be called if we need a driver for a longer journey. Don't be put off if you can only drive once in a while, any amount of time you can give to the service is very valuable to us.

Please try and help if you can, this service is a lifeline to such a lot of people, the more drivers we have the better service we can provide.

Community Transport continues to provide essential transport within the villages of Edlesborough, Dagnall & Northall.

For more information on becoming a driver for Community Transport, please give me a call, Kathy Bovington on 01442 842796 or 0779 0537032. Alternatively, if you would like to book a trip, please call Peter Williams our co-ordinator on 01442 842506 who will arrange this for you.

✍️ Kathy Bovington & The Team
EDaN Buses and Transportation Team



Eaton Bray Parish Council

Highlights from the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 4 March 2013 from 7:30pm at the Coffee Tavern

Central Beds Representative (CBC)

- To find updates on the Gypsy & Traveller Plan visit CBC website - <http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/planning/strategic-planning/gypsy-and-traveller-plan.aspx>
- Local streetlights: work is underway to replace streetlights across the area with new, more efficient and longer-lasting lights.
- To report faulty lights, details can be found on CBC website - <http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/travelling/roads-safety-and-highways/road-and-pavement-maintenance/street-lights.aspx>
- There is no rise in CBC's council tax for this year; see table.

Police

- PCSO Laura Wilson is the new PCSO for this area.
- The Clerk read the crime report forwarded from Leighton Buzzard Police: 7 reported crimes; 3x burglary, 3x attempted burglary, 1x theft. In addition there were 2 reported incidents of anti-social behaviour/vehicle nuisance.

Election – Parish Councillor

Due to CBC receiving a request for an election by members of the parish and two applicants having come forward, there will now be an election for the vacancy on the Parish Council. **The election is to take place on Thursday 4 April 2013 in Eaton Bray Village Hall. Please come and give your vote.**

(A called/contested election means a cost to the parish/Parish Council of c£3,000)

Dog Fouling

ONCE AGAIN THIS IS BECOMING

BAND	AMOUNT
A	£1,073.99
B	£1,252.99
C	£1,431.99
D	£1,610.99
E	£1,968.99
F	£2,326.99
G	£2,684.98
H	£3,221.98

A PROBLEM IN THE PARISH - It is an offence to allow a dog, which you are responsible for, to foul and not clear it up immediately when in a public place. There are a number of dog hygiene bins situated around the parish for dog walkers to use.

Allowing dogs to foul and not clean up after them is illegal as well as being anti-social. Offenders can expect a fixed penalty notice of £75 or prosecution in some cases.

If you want to report a problem with dog mess or to report dog fouling, please call or email Central Beds Council Customer Services on - Tel: 0300 300 8302 or Email: customers@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Eaton Bray Parish Council – Next Meeting Date/Venue

Parish Council Meeting: Monday 8th April 2013; 7:30pm at The Coffee Tavern (1st floor)

Parish Council Website:

www.ebpc.co.uk

For full detailed copy of the minutes for Eaton Bray Parish Council please visit the Parish Council website.

A hard copy of minutes can also be viewed on the Parish Council's notice board at

The Coffee Tavern.
Parish Clerk: Heidi Head, Parish Clerk &
RFO. Email: clerk@ebpc.co.uk
Telephone/Fax: 01525 221464

Office Hours: Tuesday/Thursday/Friday
09:30-13:30hrs [message can be left on
answerphone]

Eaton Bray Village Hall

All seems fairly quite at the hall at the moment. As you all no doubt know, we have at last finished all the major renovations that we committed to back some 10 years ago and can look back in some contentment at what has been achieved in that time.

STILL we are really not the sort of people who do that very well. So our ongoing commitment to continue improving the hall continues. This way we can keep the hall in the excellent condition it is now from regular fundraising events (see below) and the income generated by hiring the facility out.

We are now looking at changing the fire doors, so they shut properly and do not let in too many draughts. Some of the hall's kitchen equipment is of a certain age and will need replacing over the next few years, plus repainting and other general maintenance. So as you can see we will not just be sitting back and admiring the carpark!!

As usual at this time of year, we have two events coming up;

Firstly the **Quiz on Saturday April 13th**. We have just a few places left and anyone wants to come to what must be the best quiz in the hall on the 13th April, then just give me ring. For further details see our advert elsewhere in Focus.

The Beer Festival Friday May 31st and Saturday June 1st 2013

This year we are hoping to open at lunchtime on Friday 31st May and along with live music on **Friday** night we will be having **Super Saturday** when, as well as our usual Children's Entertainer and

late evening live music we are adding a further surprise band for your enjoyment in between, giving everyone a very pleasant day.

We are delighted to let you know Eaton Bray and Edlesborough Lions will be assisting the usual motley crew over the two days and we thank them for supporting one of our village's most enjoyable annual events

We will be giving you full information next month.

For tickets for the Quiz or for any further information just call Ross on 01525 221411

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A Listening Ear

I was once the chairman of what was known in those days as A Brains Trust. On the panel was a very erudite learned gentleman. What he said was more brilliant than anything that the rest of us could have said. We felt very humbled and insignificant beside him, but although he was forceful, he never really seemed to listen to the questions from the audience. A bit like a politician we may think! I sensed a growing impatience of the audience, this man had the qualifications of a first rate speaker, but he didn't listen.

Listening is a great art with which most of us are born. Babies use their ears to distinguish sounds to learn in their environment. Some will listen to a friend's experience with half an ear because they are just waiting to relate their own thoughts, thinking of what they are going to say next.

The pulpit is traditionally six feet above contradiction. Will we preachers never learn? The best preachers are those who have learnt to listen so they may give out.

Dale Carnegie's renowned book "How to Make Friends and Influence People" has at its basis - listening. Everybody likes to be liked (even loved). So if we are listening rather than talking, we are encouraging others to like us, (even love us). In his book he relates someone meeting an author friend at the station. After the greeting, the author said "I haven't seen you for ages, tell me all about yourself" Then, after a pause, "What did you think of my latest book?"

Many think of prayer as speaking to God, but it is just as important to listen. How? This simply means opening the door to all kinds of rambling thoughts rushing into our consciousness. But we can prepare the way by reading something from an inspiring book, not least, The Bible. In the silence, rambling thoughts may come tumbling in, but if we persist, other ideas may give us rebuke, encouragement, guidance or the answer to some problem that has been troubling us.

But above all, spend a time each day to listen - to friends - to God. Then you will have a listening ear. Didn't our Lord say "You will not be heard for you much speaking"?

✍️ John Heffer

Carnival Queen & Princess

St Mary's Village Carnival

Would you like to lead the Carnival Procession and help open the Carnival on Saturday 6th July?

Are you aged between 8 and 12 years?

If so you could be the Carnival Queen or Princess we are looking for.

To take part all you have to do is complete and return an entry form (details below) and come along to Eaton Bray Village Hall on **Sunday 21 April at 11.15am** when a draw to select the Queen, Princess and two Attendants will take place.

How to Enter

Please telephone Tania Watkin on 01525 222582 for an entry form, or download a form from the Carnival website:

www.stmarysvillagecarnival.com

Entry forms should be returned to Tania by 14th April

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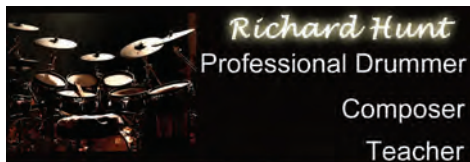
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Some comments from our recent Ofsted report:

Children are consistently offered a stimulating range of activities and opportunities which enable them to make good progress towards the Early Learning Goals.

Staff have a good understanding of creating a safe and welcoming environment . . .

Staff support children well and encourage them to be active in their learning and to think critically.

We are a committee run playgroup operating five mornings a week 9:15 – 12:15 for children aged 2 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.

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Eaton Bray Lawn Tennis Club

Just when you thought it was safe to sit down and open Focus for a nice, sensible read without frivolity, gibberish or downright balderdash, think again. Thanks to Mr Chairman plying my palm with copious notes of the realm (it was actually a knitting pattern from Women's Realm) I have, like Paul Scholes, come boldly out of retirement to once again regale you lucky readers with tales of the trials and tribulations of life in our small but perfectly formed tennis club. I'm not sure how long this will last, but my current contract runs until December; I'm pushing for a 5 year deal at £250,000 a week (well if Wayne Rooney can do it...) but the Chairman said he'd have to speak to the Treasurer about that, so I'm doing it for nothing in the meantime.

I've come back to find the club thriving under its newly elected committee, which is basically the old one with me on it as well. We've getting on for 150 members, 50 of which are Juniors of a whole range of standards, from very beginners to a couple who have frequently represented our Ladies A team! This summer we're entering no less than 12 teams in the South Beds league, 7 of them Junior teams. This follows a very successful 2012 summer season, including our Men's B and Ladies teams winning their divisions and securing promotions (but without the associated pay rises). This success is in no small part due to some excellent individual and group coaching sessions from our club coach Sara Leavy, who offers no less than 5 Junior sessions on Saturday mornings followed by 2 further sessions on Wednesday evenings. The Seniors are also well catered for with coaching later on the same days, again all standards are

covered from 'Rusty Racquets' to Team Players. My racquet isn't so much rusty as disintegrated, but I can't find a coaching session for that. Maybe I'll start my own, only people with racquets over 50 years old are allowed, and then only if they're made from solid oak with rope for strings. We're also dragging ourselves into the 21st century with a brand new website (coming soon) where members will be able to book courts, lessons and coaching, buy merchandise and view the latest club photos, newsletters and other articles. We're even getting a Facebook page (whatever that is). Committee member Steve Macintosh is our IT guru; at our first committee meeting last week he used words like 'transformational' and 'bounce the server'. I thought the server bounced the ball, but there you are. And what actually is a 'cloud' if it's not a fluffy white thing that blocks the sun out from time to time? Apparently we might put stuff up there. Someone should tell him that clouds are just water vapour and anything put on one will fall through, hit the ground and break. It's a good job I'm back on the committee to bring some good old common sense to all this new-fangled baloney.

Finally, there are some great social events coming up as well, including quiz nights, round robins, the Chairman's BBQ (always fun especially when it doesn't rain) and tennis camps. I'm not sure how they'll work – ever tried playing tennis in a tent? Surely the poles would get in the way of a good swing. Anyway someone's come up with the idea and I'm not going to knock it – I might even sign up; I'd enjoy singing a few infamous tennis songs around a camp fire; Hit Me With Your Best Shot by Pat Benatar, Billy Jean by Michael Jackson,

and my personal favourite, Chalk Dust - The Umpire Strikes Back by The Brat. No prizes for guessing who inspired that one! 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 Stuart Adolph on 07773 816320, Coach Sara Leavy on 07561 571578, or if they're all out and I'm not knitting myself a new scarf, then me, Andy Cross, on 07783 667338.

✉ Andy Cross

News from the Lions Den...

I must begin by thanking all of you who purchased a raffle ticket for one of our giant Easter Eggs. I wonder how many of you managed to find them all? I am also keen to publically express my sincere thanks to the venues that permitted us to leave an egg to be raffled, namely

Cafe Masala in Eaton Bray

The Travellers Rest in Edlesborough

The Red Lion in Dagnall

At the time of writing this article, the winning tickets have yet to be drawn so I will let you know who the lucky winners are (subject to their approval) in next month's article.

I have been wondering what to write about this month when a happy opportunity came my way just last night. I was invited to an evening hosted by the International Vice President of Lions, an Australian gentleman called Barry Palmer. This was actually quite an honour when you consider there are about 16 000 Lions in the UK alone. It was very much a question and answer session for a small group of hand selected guests.

The topic of membership was addressed and what, if anything, can clubs do to encourage more people to join the organisation. The answer we received was simple and straight forward'find out what people want from a club. What

interests them, what skills do they have to help Lions better serve those less fortunate than ourselves and how can we make it enjoyable for people who do join us'. So, with this in mind, I would like to put this question out to the readers of Focus. We have previously communicated that the club welcomes anyone over the age of 18, males and females are equally welcome. If we can realistically shape the club to make it more attractive to new members, what would your requirements be? I can't promise to fix everything but as a club who is keen to welcome new members, we are willing to listen to your comments and try and adapt to them as we are best able.

If you are interested in coming along to find out a little more about the organisation, with no obligations, then please do feel free to come along to one of our monthly meetings. We only 'officially' meet once a month but we usually have at least one social event per month too that can take a variety of different forms.

Any comments and feedback would be gratefully received. Please contact me in the usual way, by calling 01525 229 656 or by emailing me at president@belions.org.uk. I sincerely look forward to hearing from you

✉ Rachel



Ordinary people doing amazing things



Salvation Sound

Do you keep a diary?



Not the sort that just gives you appointment times for dentists or doctors or hospital appointments, but one of interesting things. Having just read a book called Alice's Diary (The memoirs of a cat') and really enjoyed it, I started to think of other people's writings - for instance, "The Edwardian Lady" by Edith Holden, Miss Read's Christmas Book; Sarah Hollis; Country Diary; and wondered if Jesus ever kept a record of the things He did. What would He have written? "Went to Jerusalem today, it was passover. Spent time in the temple. Mum was cross! Worked in Dads shop, made a ladder! Learnt how to make a dovetail joint." Yes, my imagination runs away with me sometimes.

William Blake wrote, "And did those feet in ancient time, walk upon Englands mountains green? And was the Holy Lamb of God on Englands pleasant pastures seen?"

He thought it was a possibility. What did happen to Jesus between the ages of twelve and round about thirty? I wonder! If you go to Place Manor in Cornwall, there are those there who will tell you that, "Yes, Jesus did come to England". Legend has it that He came with his uncle, Joseph of Arimathea. Joseph, being a merchant, travelled widely; indeed when he went to Glastonbury in Somerset he thrust his staff into the ground, and there it budded; so when you next see Glastonbury Tor as you travel in that lovely part of the West Country, you will be looking at a spot that is sacred to Gods heart. Well I like to think that!, But does it really matter one way or the other? What does matter is that Jesus

Christ is present with us today in every part of the world; not only in the West Country or Palestine or Jerusalem; but that He is with us today in whatever part of the world we happen to be in. You may think that to believe such a thing is a little odd, but I do not. In a world so obsessed with material things, somebody has got to have visions! "Can dreams be nothing more than a confusion of the mind? A no mans land of nonsense when we leave the world behind! And dreams the crazy images of blurred and senseless thought? Sometimes if we could lie down at night, untroubled and serene, we could escape our restless minds and rise on wings to the world that lies beyond material things!

The Salvation Army, Booth Place - Weekly Activities



Sunday

Footprints (Sunday School) 9.45-10.45am

Morning Worship 11.00am

Songs of Praise 4.00pm

3rd Sunday of the month May to December

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

Champions Challenge Club (term time)
(Ages 5-10 years) 5.45-6.45pm

Thursday

Parent and Toddler Group
(Term time) 9.30-11.30am

Haberdashers' night
2nd Thursday of month 7.45 pm

Ladies Fellowship
(Last week of month) 7.45pm

*For further details please contact Captain
Jenny Dibsall T:01525 221156/07717 813682*

E: jenny.dibsall@salvationarmy.org.uk

W: www.salvationarmy.org.uk/eatonbray



Room by Emma Donoghue

"Room," is the seventh novel by the Irish born novelist Emma Donoghue and recently reached the long list of the Man Booker awards. Its subject is dark and repugnant and at first glance a puzzling choice for a well respected literary novelist. How would a storyline dealing with kidnap, rape, incarceration and mental torture appeal to her readership? But from the first few pages our narrator, Jack, engages us and captures our hearts and we want to know how his story will unfold. We gradually learn that Jack is five years of age and his entire world consists of "Ma" and "Room" and most chillingly "Old Nick", who visits Ma at night, whilst Jack hides in "Wardrobe"

As Jack describes in his simple but perceptive way the pattern of his days, we begin to understand the horror of his mother's experience and how she is trying to normalise this for Jack. We learn that she was kidnapped from off the street by a complete stranger and imprisoned in

an outbuilding twelve feet square. Old Nick, as she calls him, provides the bare minimum for survival; but withdraws this if she is not compliant. She has given birth to two children since her imprisonment but only Jack has survived. She has devoted all her energy into protecting him and nurturing him; devising all sorts of schemes and games to help him develop and to not feel frightened. Room is Jack's world; the only thing he has ever known. It is his normality. Outside, is only glimpsed through a skylight or on T.V.. but to him that is unreal and intangible.

Overall this is an inspiring story of fierce mother love, endurance and the triumph of the human spirit over extreme evil. The social issues it raises for discussion are numerous and made a lively evening for our book group. We rated the novel very highly. It made a distasteful subject approachable and feasible. We found it a fascinating read and recommend it highly.

London Luton Airport

With an increase in aircraft in the area and in particular when the wind is from the East, we are getting some aircraft flying directly over the village to join the flight path into the airport. If you are disturbed by the traffic flying over the village, there is a complaints hotline number: 01582395382. This is an airport number where you can register your concerns. It is important to do this if we are to reduce these disturbances over our village.



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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.



Dagnall Weather Station (AONB)

Weather Conditions for February 2013



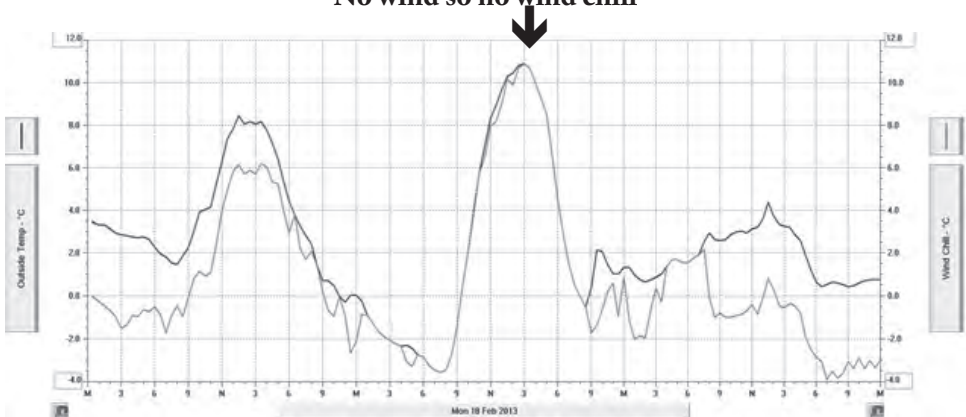
February was a dull month and in parts cold, particularly when the wind was coming from the SSE bringing the cold air from the continent. Although the temperature gauges recorded 0.2°C the wind was making it feel much colder with a wind chill of -5.6°C. The cloud held the night temperature up and the day temperature down. On the 19th February when the night was clear and the day was sunny we recorded the coldest night temperature of the month -3.7°C and the warmest day temperature 11.0°C with no wind – this shows the power of the sun in February.

For weather data 24 hours a day, updated every 15 mins, visit: www.dagnallweather.co.uk If anyone has a question, comment or wishes to contact me please email: david@dagnallweather.co.uk or telephone: 01442 843883

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

	High	Date/Time	Low	Date/Time
Temperature:	11.0°C	19 Feb 15.00	-3.7°C	19 Feb 07.30
Mean Temperature	2.7°C			
Dewpoint:	7.9°C	4 Feb 05.00	-5.8°C	2 Feb 20.00
Humidity:	100%	11 Feb 11.30	58%	16 Feb 14.30
Barometer:	1035.2hPa	27 Feb 01.00	990.5 hPa	10 Feb 22.30
Wind Speed	35 mph W	4 Feb 13.00	Months avg.	6.2 mph
Wind Chill:	10.4°C	19 Feb 15.00	-5.6°C	13 Feb 18.30
Dominant Wind:	NW			
Rainfall *T= total rain days and moisture. R= Actual rain				
*Rain Days: 19 (T), 00(R)	Wettest Day 10 Feb		13.2 mm	0.519 ins
Monthly Rain:	Total	February 2012	52.0 mm	2.47 ins
Yearly Rain:	Total	Months	107.2 mm	4.220 ins

Plots shows the rise of temperature on the 19th
No wind so no wind chill



St Mary's Ladies Guild, Eaton Bray

At our March meeting Deirdrea gave a warm welcome to all members to this Easter themed meeting, and especially to Joan Fossey who had returned several weeks after undergoing surgery. Joan thanked members for the good wishes and cards received. Birthday cards were handed out to Joan and Christina Driscoll. Devotions were led by Judy Venn.

Notices followed and Deirdrea was amazed that only 6 people out of 30 handed back "ideas for outings lists" so a decision has been made that there will be an outing to Stratford-on-Avon on Tuesday 13th August. She reminded members of the Guild's coffee morning in aid of the RNLI to be held at St.Mary's Church on Saturday 30th April.

Deirdrea introduced Jean Yates who gave a presentation on Beds Secret War - Dunstable and District At War. This

consisted of an excellent slide show and a very informative narration on 100 peoples' stories and eye witness accounts on their experiences during WW2 in and around the villages in Bedfordshire.

Jean explained that National Lottery funding had enabled her to research all this information and together with Sue King had compiled a book "Dunstable & District At War" published around 6 years ago.

On behalf of all members Jenny thanked Joan for this excellent presentation. After refreshments the raffle was drawn and each member was given an Easter Egg, with a reminder that the next meeting is on 10th April when the speaker will be Carol Jones on Cake Icing. New members are very welcome.

Copies of the book are available, please phone 01525221733.

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When: Every Friday, 10:00-11:00 am





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Quiz Time! Friday 19th April, 7.30 p.m. – Join us for our Spring Quiz at Northall Village Hall. Tickets cost £5 and are available from the kennels. Bring your own drinks and nibbles!

Sponsored 100 Mile Bike Ride, Sunday 28th April - There has been a change to this event. Our team will now cycle five circuits of 20 miles from Appledown. There are still a couple of spaces on the team so please contact us if you would like to take part. To sponsor the team please contact the kennels or find us on www.justgiving.com

Craft Fair and May Dog Show, Sunday 12th May – This year we are holding a Craft Fair to run alongside our popular Dog Show. If you would like a stall please contact the kennels or e-mail ilshad@live.co.uk To take part in our fun Dog Show just come along and enter on the day. Show opens at 11 a.m. and classes commence at 12 noon.

If you feel you can offer a loving forever home to one of our dogs why not visit the kennels? We are open every day from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and members of our staff are always on hand to offer advice.

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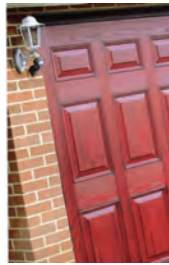


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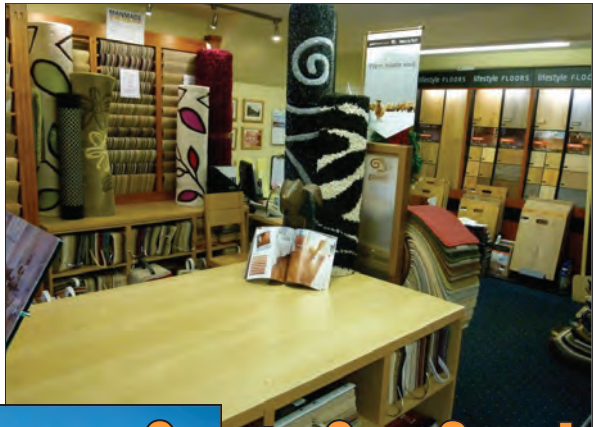
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