

FOCUS

June 2014

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

The White Horse Inn At Eaton Bray



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19th June – England v Uruguay starts 8pm

24th June – England v Costa Rica starts 5pm

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Every day from Monday 23rd June

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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

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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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A REMINDER ABOUT THE DEADLINE FOR FOCUS ITEMS

This is to remind all contributors that the deadline date for Focus items is the 10th of the previous month. We can promise that acceptable items - by which we mean items free of libellous, racist, obscene or otherwise illegal content - which reach the editors on or before the 10th will be included in the next edition of the magazine. BUT! If your item does not reach the editors until after that date it will not normally be able to be included in the next edition. All items for publication must be sent to one of the editors. Items sent direct to Design and Layout will be returned to the sender. Thank you.

Sally and George.

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

Police Contact Numbers...

making neighbourhoods safer together

General Assistance (Recommended Number): 101 Emergency: 999

Bedfordshire Police (Eaton Bray)

Leighton Buzzard Police Station/Kathryn Horgan: 01582 473418

Typetalk: 18001 01582 473418

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

Thames Valley Police (Edlesborough, Dagnall & Northall)

PCSO Jackie Dodson Mobile: 07800 703 524

Email: NHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

Village Diary June 2014



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 Pre-School, Edlesborough School, 01525 220431 manager@edlesborough.bucks.sch.uk
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: 07799 893489
Mondays (term time)	2nd Eaton Bray Brownies, girls 7-10 years, Edlesborough Memorial Hall, 6 - 7.30pm, Contact Sandra Counsell 07979 521900
Mondays	Dagnall Community Choir, All Saints Church 7.45 – 9.45pm
Mondays	Weight Watchers, 7pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall
Mondays (term time)	Movement and exercise classes with a dance flavour, Northall Village hall 2-3.30. Contact Jan 01442 864271.
Mondays	Curtain Call Youth Theatre 5-7.30pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Gavyn 01525 220525
Tuesdays	Line Dancing, 1.30-3p.m., Eaton Bray Village Hall, Lyn Stubbs 220731
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, Ruth Allen, 01525 222468 or 07796 265174 or email ruthallen002@gmail.com
Tuesdays	Northall Baby & Toddler Group, 9:30-11:30am, (open in the Summer School Holidays) Northall Village Hall, Stacey Richmond 01525 222999/07957 607592
Tuesdays	Tap & Ballet Classes, JoAnn Latus School of Dance, 4-8pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall, 01582 620576
Tuesdays	Circuit Training - Edlesborough School Hall, 7-8pm - www.simplesfitness.com
Tuesdays	Coffee Morning, Bring & Buy, Table Top Sale, 10-12noon, Salvation Army Hall, Booth Place, Eaton Bray
Fortnightly	
Weds (term time)	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: 07799 893489
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
Wednesdays	Dynamic Yoga 6.30-7.30pm £5 Eaton Bray Coffee Tavern Keira 07936 693696
Thursdays	Yoga, Northall Village Hall, 11.30am-1pm 01525 377542
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 (term time)	Northall School of Dancing classes between 3.30pm and 6.30pm. Contact Nicola Bisson on 01525 406647
Thursdays	Central Bedfordshire Children's Centres' Toy Library, 9-9.45am, Eaton Bray (School Lane) Public Car Park
Fortnightly	
Fridays	Keep Fit class, Edlesborough Memorial Hall 10 - 11am
Fridays	Tap & Ballet Classes, JoAnn Latus School of Dance, 4-8pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall, 01582 620576
Fridays (term time)	10am-11.30am "Little Luvvies" baby ballet classes. Contact Emma Whittemore on 01525 376124
Saturdays	Drama Class for Children, 10.35am-12.35pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Claire Casey, 07792 508591
Saturdays	Jazzercise, 9.30-10.30am, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Angela Veryard, 01525 715208

Village Diary June 2014



Sundays

Grace Baptist Church (by the Post Office) Worship Service 11am-12pm. All welcome. Barry 01525 229610 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 & 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 Saturday

St. Mary's church, Eaton Bray Coffee Morning & Plant Sale, 10am - 12 noon

1st Sunday

May to September, St Mary's Church, Edlesborough Open Day, 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

2nd Saturday

Workshops Dynamic Yoga 9.30-11am £10 Eaton Bray Coffee Tavern Keira 07936 693696

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

Last Saturday

Coffee Morning, 10-12 noon, Edlesborough Methodist Church

Other Regular Events

1st

Beds Area Narrow Gauge Model Railway Club Meeting, 11.30am-4.30pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall

13th

Leukemia Research Coffee Morning, 2 Dunstable Road, Dagnall 10.30 am. All welcome.

24th

Dagnall Over 60's Windsor Boat Trip

23rd

ELF walk from Eaton Bray Church 10am

One Off/Annual/Irregular Events

7th

Eaton Bray Methodist Church Annual Garden Fete at Chestnut Lodge, Great Billington

8th

Open Gardens Sunday, 11:30-5pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall £5

12th

Coffee Morning, 10-12 noon, The Coffee Tavern

12th

Eaton Bray W.I. Coffee Morning, 10-12 noon, Eaton Bray Methodist Church Hall

14th

Eaton Bray Academy Summer Fayre, 12-3pm

15th

Marsworth Steam & Classic Vehicle Rally, 11-5pm, Startop Farm, Marsworth

20th - 22nd

Edlesborough Festival, St Mary's church, Edlesborough

21st

Community Choir participation in The Edlesborough Festival

21st

St Giles Medieval Fair, 11-3pm, Totternhoe Recreation Ground

21st

Music at St Mary's church, Eaton Bray, Luton Symphony Orchestra, 7.30pm

22nd

Ashridge Midsummer Fun Day, 11-4pm, The Lifestyle Centre, Ashridge Business School

27th

Dagnall School Summer Fete, 3-6pm



EDaN Community Transport

Peter Williams: 01442 842506

*Cover photo by
Andy Cross*

News from the Lions Den...

The Eaton Bray & Edlesborough Lions are about to embark on their biggest ever fundraising initiative to support local and national disability sport charities. On Saturday 14th June, we will be hosting a gala ball at the Doubletree by Hilton Milton Keynes. The evening will consist of a champagne and canapé reception, a 4 course dinner with table wines and liqueurs included. There will be a live group, a fun casino and much much more to entertain our guests.

The event is being widely endorsed by a number of high profile athletes from premiership footballers, Paralympics medal

winners and sporting commentators, many of which will be attending on the night.

Tickets are £100.00 per person and overnight accommodation is also available for anyone wanting to stay overnight. There is a specific website for this event www.galaball.org and a very active social media campaign is also underway – follow us on twitter @galaballmk

For more information on this event, please do get in touch by emailing Rachel.Addy@Hilton.com

✉ Rachel

*Ordinary people
doing amazing things*



Eaton Bray Methodist Church

On the second Sunday in April, in our Cafe Community Service, we benefited from the joint leadership of two ministers, the Rev Nigel Wright and the Rev Andy Melvin, who helped us to consider and formulate our mission for the future. We all participated in activities which enabled us to express our visions, identify dangers and threats and redefine our direction.

Our Easter Sunday Service was a very joyful occasion. The large congregation heard a moving and powerful sermon by Rev Jenny Spouge, followed by a lovely communion service.

There have been some very enjoyable social events: on Thursday 10th April, an enthusiastic audience relished an evening of music, with songs by Dunstable U3A Choir and two excellent sets by the Memory Lane Jazz Quintet. On the following Saturday our April Cafe Community was a very happy and well attended occasion, greatly enhanced by the great display of knitting and sewing, produced for sale by June Jarrett and Celia James.

Date for your Diary: The Annual Garden Fete at Chestnut Lodge, Great Billington on Saturday 7th June.

Do You Have the Skills to be a School Governor?

We have a vacancy for a Governor at Edlesborough School. This position is open to anyone with an interest in the school, as well as to parents and carers. We are particularly keen to attract governors with experience and skills in health and safety, building maintenance and computing.

The role of governor requires enthusiasm and

time, but no previous experience is necessary. There are ample opportunities for training and development. If you are interested or would like to have more information, please contact me via the school office: 01525 220431 or manager@edlesborough.bucks.sch.uk

✉ Priscilla Dorrance, Chair of Governors



Carnival is now only one month away! What the carnival needs is:

Helpers, Helpers, Helpers, Helpers!

If you would like to be involved in the organisation, before hand or on the day, now is the time to act. Helpers are needed in the weeks before carnival and particularly on the evening of Friday 4th July and during the event itself. Can you spare a few hours to help with transports the evening before the carnival when lorries are crisscrossing the villages delivering tables, chairs fridges and all that is needed for carnival.

Can you help with setting up on the day and clearing up at the end? Edlesborough Green starts being prepared from about 7am on the Saturday morning and a free egg and bacon roll is available for all helpers on the Green from about 7:30.

Here is a further reminder for local businesses, schools, youth groups, and organisations that might want to support the Carnival and have their organisation promoted during this event. Here's how:

- Advertising in the arena.
- Having a float in the Carnival procession.
- Having a stall at the Carnival.
- Donating a prize for the Grand Draw.
- Donating a prize for the Silent Auction.

Please be aware of possible disruption to traffic and bus services on the day as the carnival procession makes its way from The Orchards in Eaton Bray to Edlesborough Green. Road closure requests have been placed with both Aylesbury Vale District Council and Central Bedfordshire Council. As a result roads on the procession route will be closed for a short time while the procession goes past. All the relevant authorities have been duly notified, including local bus companies. Bus

services may not run to time, and may not follow their usual routes.

All details of Carnival 2014 including how to book a stall, arrange advertising, offer prizes and much more can be found on the Carnival website:

www.stmarysvillagecarnival.com

In the May edition of Focus the names of the attendants in the Royal party were given incorrectly - the correct names should have been **Drew March** and **Charlotte Sellars**.

For any specific questions or if you would like to get involved with organisation of the carnival either by helping for a few hours on the day or providing assistance in the run-up to July contact:

Gordon Gray 01525 220136 or Richard Evans 01525 222512

Don't forget that there will be prizes for the best decorated floats when judged in The Orchards and for the best presented house on the procession route. Get your house decorated in tune with the musical theme for a memorable procession!

In the words of Anthony Storr;

“No culture so far discovered lacks music”.

There will be no lack of music on 5th July; come to carnival and listen to and provide as much music as you can!

St Mary's 100 Club

Congratulations to the winners of our
May draw:

Winner of £60 – No 11 Vic Courtice

Winner of £36 – No 42 Theo Gray

Winner of £24 – No 26 Joan Leader

If you would like to join the 100 Club please collect a form from www.stmaryseatonbray.org.uk/Groups/100-club or from St Mary's Church, Eaton Bray.

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

EDaN Community Transport Scheme



Peter Williams our community transport co-ordinator is now back from his well-earned holiday and therefore if you need to book a trip, please call Peter on: **01442 842506** I would like to thank Viv Hill who stood in during Peter's absence and did a sterling job.....Viv didn't refuse any trips during the 3 months that she was co-ordinating the scheme and was able to keep things running very smoothly during this period. Peter and Viv drive many of the passengers when things are running normally so it was a big loss to have Peter on holiday and Viv tied up with co-ordinating everything. Therefore our thanks must go to the drivers who all took on more journeys than normal during this period.

We are celebrating our 3rd birthday this year and will be holding our annual Thank You to our drivers at The Red Lion in Dagnall on Thursday 19th June @7.30pm. We would like to invite all our existing drivers and anyone else who might be thinking about joining as a volunteer driver – no pressure! Just come along and see what's involved and listen to some of our existing drivers experiences of being a volunteer for community transport.

If you need any more information just give me a call on 0779 0537032 or just turn up on the night, you will be made very welcome.

Please contact me, Kathy Bovington on 0779 0537032 or email kathybovington@hotmail.com for more information on anything to do with Community Transport. To book a trip please call Peter on 01442 842506



NORTHALL BAPTIST CHAPEL

Chapel Lane, Northall

(just beyond the 30 speed limit signs on the road towards 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.

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 (07799 494972)

Web contact: eatonbraychurch@aol.com



The dead and injured are carried out of a burning building; more bodies lying in the street; prolonged exchanges of fire as armoured carriers smash through barricades; there is violence, anger and calls for revenge.

Nearly 300 schoolgirls kidnapped in Nigeria.

The life and death of Ann Maguire: forty years of teaching brought to an end by a fatal stabbing.

These are just three of the tragic stories that hit the headlines in May. By the time this edition of FOCUS arrives on your doormat they will probably be forgotten and replaced by other violent acts.

I often find myself wondering why it seems that a constant stream of violence and bad news in the world is the only thing reported on the television and in the press. There must be good things happening that would help to balance our view of the world.

Where are they? A brief search of the web revealed *Positive News, inspiration for change* (<http://positivenews.org.uk>), a newspaper delivered to your door four times a year. It reports on positive developments from across the world and takes a solution-focused perspective on the challenges facing society. The aim is to inform, inspire and empower readers, while helping create a more balanced and constructive media. Flicking through the information on the web there were some really interesting articles and reports that were neither wildly political nor 'churchy'. It was refreshing.

Locally there are lots of good things going on and not everything costs a fortune. I scan Focus every month and although I fail to get to many of the events it's always interesting to read the reports as it helps me to stay in touch with the community. This June I look forward to visiting the Open Gardens on the 8th. I am also looking forward to the Edlesborough Festival on June 20th-22nd, at the Church on the Hill, particularly the Heritage Craft day on the Sunday.

Finally, we live in a lovely part of the world, surrounded by beautiful countryside. We have good schools for our children, opportunities to meet one another socially, access to good shopping, amazing bus services and many organisations offering support and help when needed.

It may just be that if we could encourage everyone to think more about the good things in life then fewer bad things would happen. Let's live in hope!

Coralie

Swan Northall F.C.

Winners of Jack Jones (League) Cup Final

The boys of Swan Northall F.C lifted yet another trophy on Sunday 4th May at Leighton Town's ground, winning the Jack Jones League Cup Final against Division 1 champions 'Go Bowling' of Houghton Regis. This trophy adds to Swan's previous Division 1 championship trophies for the seasons 2010/11 and 2011/12.

In a hard-fought match, Liam Addlesee was put through by Craig Edwards to put Swan 1-0 up. Go Bowling came back to lead 2-1. A fine solo effort by Gary Wright gave Swan the equaliser just before half-time, to make it 2-2.

In the second half, Go Bowling went 3-2 up before Swan hit back with the goal of the match - a fine team goal, involving 4 players before Chris Hosey slotted home to make it 3-3. There were no more goals in a hard-

fought extra time, so onto penalties.

Alec Morgan, Paul Fox and Chris Hosey slotted home their penalties, before Paul Dorman placed the 4th and cup-winning penalty past the Go Bowling keeper.



Back row from left to right: Jack Williams, Ryan Holden, Craig Edwards, Michael Pazik, Alec Morgan, Simon Ridgeway, Marc Addlesee, Paul Fox
Front row from left to right: Daniel Nutkins, Chris Hosey, Leigh Foley, Gary Wright, Lee Dorman, Paul Dorman, Liam Addlesee



EATON BRAY PARISH COUNCIL



Please come and help to run your village **BECOME A PARISH COUNCILLOR**

The Parish Council is nine members of the public

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

At present we have a vacancy – will YOU come and join us?
If yes, please contact the Parish Clerk

You can also view our website for more details



Heidi Head, Parish Clerk & RFO

Email: clerk@ebpc.co.uk - Telephone/Fax: 01525 221464 - Website: www.ebpc.co.uk
Office Hours: Tuesday/Thursday/Friday 09:30-13:30hrs [messages can be left on answerphone]



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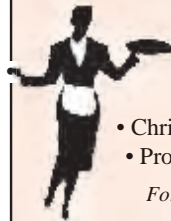
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Edlesborough Entertains with a Fabulous Festival!



brought to you by the friends of the church on the hill

Join us at the Festival on June 20th–22nd when the Church on the Hill will be showcasing the best of music, sharing a slice of history on Heritage Sunday and opening its doors to offer a three-day fun-packed programme for all to enjoy.

An exciting line is confirmed including: the **RAF Halton Pipes & Drums** band who have performed on the Jools Holland show; **Alex Miles**, resident pianist and singer at the Ritz Hotel in London; and the **Devine Family** - first ever musicians to perform traditional Irish music inside Buckingham Palace! Leighton Buzzard's ukulele band '**The 38s**' will be strumming and singing as part of Saturday night entertainment. At the '**Choirfest**' on Saturday afternoon local school choirs join **Dagnall Community Choir** in a celebration of choral music. This is a FREE event. Come and listen to the music – and enjoy a cream tea as you do so! But it's not just great music! There will be art and flower arranging workshops on Friday – please book to avoid disappointment, whilst Heritage Sunday will be packed with traditional craft displays and demonstrations including straw plaiting, lace making, quilting, spinning, woodcarving and stained glass work. You can try your hand at brass rubbing, have a go at hand bell ringing, delve into the fascinating history of the area and meet a medieval knight in full armour! Children not performing are invited to dress as Midsummer Fairies or Gallant Knights with prizes for the best; and there is a local Photo Competition for under 16s. – see website for details.

The Edlesborough Festival really does have something for everyone!

Cream teas will be available on Saturday and

Sunday afternoon; and the bar will be open all weekend serving beer, wine, Pimms and soft drinks to enhance the party atmosphere. So take refreshment or quench your thirst as you enjoy the events and take in the spectacular views.

'Friends of the Church on the Hill' want as many people as possible to come to Edlesborough to experience the spectacle of festival events and performances in a magnificent, mediaeval church setting. All funds raised from the festival will be used to improve facilities in the church and to encourage further community enjoyment of this wonderful Edlesborough landmark.

SO! - climb the steps to the Church on the Hill, step inside and enjoy the history, the surroundings, the music, the activities and the occasion! Everyone will be made very welcome.

Rt. Hon. John Bercow will be officially opening the festival on Saturday afternoon. Songs of Praise will close the festival on Sunday afternoon, hosted by Rev. Coralie McCluskey.

Tickets for Friday and Saturday night music events - £8 adults/£5 under 16's - available NOW from Janes of Edlesborough. Tickets on the door £10 - capacity allowing.

Further details of musical events from Alan: 07828 398371 or Julia: 07900 477793 and Art and Flower Arranging Workshops, the Choirfest and the Fancy Dress Competition from Christine on 01525 220739.

Details of the Photo Competition at: <http://www.edlesboroughchurch.org.uk> and Friends of the Church on the Hill Facebook page.

What's on at Edlesborough Festival?

Friday June 20th

- Art Class (10.30 – 3.00pm) Booking required - £20 - Class limited to 12
- Flower Arranging (3.30 – 5.00pm) Booking required - FREE OF CHARGE
- Music night with the Devine Family & Friends (7.30-9.30) - £8 adults/£5 under 16's Refreshments and bar available - doors open at 7.00 pm

Saturday June 21st

- Schools' and Community Choirfest (2.00-4.45) - FREE OF CHARGE
- official opening by John Bercow MP at 2.30pm
- Knights & Fairies fancy dress competition
- Meet a medieval knight
- Cream teas and bar
- Music night - 'Chill on the Hill' (7.30-9.30) - £8 adults/£5 under 16's
- 'Sparkling Sunset Party' at 9.30.....
- Refreshments and bar available – doors open at 7.00 pm

Sunday June 22nd Church doors open at 1.00pm

- Heritage Day – craft displays and demonstrations - £2 Adults/Children free
- Local and family history
- Meet a medieval knight
- Cream teas and bar
- Raffle draw
- Photo Competition exhibits with prize-giving
- 'The Bells' (4.30pm)
- Songs of Praise (5.30pm)

The Festival Performers

The Devine Family & Friends Friday 20th June Doors open 7pm



This talented family have made history this year by being the first musicians to perform traditional Irish music in Buckingham Palace. They have been taking their stirring sounds to countless arts centres, pubs, festivals and events in the UK, Europe and beyond and now bring Irish traditional songs, uilleann pipes, tin whistle, saxophone and Irish dancing to the Festival.

'Chill on the Hill' Saturday June 21st Doors open 7pm featuring The RAF Halton Pipes and Drums Band:



Nothing is more spectacular than the musical spirit of the lone piper followed by the explosive impact of drums and pipes. RAF Halton Pipes and Drum band have performed on the Jools Holland Show, Edinburgh tattoo and events worldwide. They bring the stirring sounds of bagpipes and drums as they open up the evening and entertain with their emotional performance.

Alex Miles:



and charming her audience with her huge repertoire of well known songs. Alex was resident musician at the Ritz, London and regularly records for TV and radio and

This talented singer and pianist has sung on world stages for more than two decades captivating

will be entertaining Edlesborough with a tailor made programme to suit our sunset summer solstice party.

The 38's:

From Cole Porter to the Pogues, this fun band from Leighton Buzzard will spread smiles in the aisles with their upbeat renditions on the ukulele !

Following the music, step outside the church and celebrate the sunset by enjoying the longest day of the year with a sparkling drink at the 'Sparkling Sunset Party'.

Northall Village BBQ 13th July

At the heart of Northall is an amazing village hall which is there for the community to use. People come from all over the area to enjoy the clubs, groups and activities that are held there and the feedback is always fantastic.

Every year, the hall combines an AGM with a community BBQ and this year looks to be the best ever!

On 13th July, the hall will be buzzing with the sounds of live music, children's entertainers, bouncy castles, face painters and a fantastic BBQ with everyone's favourite Bunker's Sausages from D E Hines!!!

It would be fabulous to see as many locals as possible at the BBQ and tickets are available at The Swan, from Marlene

Bennett at Edlesborough School or phone Sarah on 221186 or Rebecca on 221322.

Your first burger or hotdog is included in your ticket price of 3 for adults, 2 for kids and under 5's are free!

Fancy running a stall?

There's no charge for all stall holders wanting to support this event.

Visit our Facebook page for more info! (Northall Village Community)

PS If you want to know more about the village hall and meet the volunteers that keep it running, why not come to the AGM? There's a free glass of Pimms for all attendees (age restrictions apply)

Hope to see you on the 13th July from midday onwards!

All Saints' Church Dagnall

Services in June 2014

Sun. 1st June	9.00 am	Eucharist
	10.30 am	Morning Service
Sun. 8th June	10.30 am	Morning Service
Sun. 15th June	10.30 am	Family Communion
Sun. 22nd June	10.30 am	Family Service
Sun. 29th June	10.30 am	Informal Worship
Sun. 6th July	9.00 am	Eucharist
	10.30 am	Morning Service

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



My name is Gemma Johnson and I'm a 19 year old living in Eaton Bray. I've recently applied for and been selected as one of 300 volunteers to represent the UK at the 23rd World Scout Jamboree in Japan in 2015.

Thank you so much to everyone who has supported me so far by buying Easter bunnies, collecting clothes or coming to my treasure trail and car boot sales; it's been a great start to my fundraising but I still have a long way to go!

My next big fundraiser will be a quiz night on the 6th September in Eaton Bray Village Hall so please start to organise your teams for this and if you have anything suitable as a raffle prize it will be gratefully received. More details will follow in Focus.

We have sent off our first lot of clothing

and are starting our next collection. We can take clean wearable clothing, paired shoes and household textiles e.g. sheets, duvet covers, towels and curtains. If you have any that you could donate, please get in touch to arrange collection.

Finally, if you shop online would you consider helping me to raise funds by following the simple steps to sign up to easyfundraising. By doing this you'll earn a donation every time you shop and it won't cost you a penny! My link is: <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/matthewgemmajohnson/>

If you have any questions or can help in any other way please contact me: jamboree@centreboard.net

Thank you for your support,
✍Gemma Johnson

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Local Friends Attempt Golfing World Record for Charity

Andy Norris (of Leighton Buzzard) and Bob Warner (of Dunstable) who both play cricket for Eaton Bray CC are attempting a golfing marathon and unofficial world record at the end of June. Named the Five5s Golf Challenge.

The Five5s Golf Challenge is a golfing marathon playing 5 rounds of golf each day, for 5 days, on 5 courses, in 5 different countries and raising £5k each for the Seve Foundation. The challenge will start in Ireland on Monday 23rd of June and will continue through Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales and finishing in England on Friday 27th June. It will see us walking more than 125 miles and travelling over a thousand miles door to door whilst completing 450 holes of golf.

We have chosen to raise cash for the Seve Foundation, set up by the great Seve Ballesteros in 2009 for research into brain cancer. The foundation works with Cancer Research UK raising funds for vital research projects. For obvious reasons this charity fits our challenge particularly well but our real motivation is for the families that have been through or are going through the pain and suffering of seeing this disease affect their loved ones - just like my family has. So our efforts are dedicated to all those families out there and hopefully we can go some way to avoiding more people having to go through the same.

If having read this you're interested and want to know more then we'd encourage you to follow us on twitter at @Five5sgolf where we'll be posting our preparation progress, further blogs on how we're getting on and who's getting involved. Hopefully from there you may tweet us with handy tips and advice about our

preparation plans or retweet our posts to help us grow our following and raise the profile of our challenge and we'd like to hear from those who have been affected by brain cancer so we can dedicate our efforts to you. We hope that you may also find some useful advice from our followers to help your own game or inspire you to take on your own personal golfing challenge. We already have the support of Today's Golfer Magazine who are helping us arrange the venues and provide coverage on their website and magazine and we would welcome all the sponsorship, support and encouragement that anyone else is generous enough to provide.

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Ways to keep in touch and donate:

Donation Page: myprojects.cancerresearchuk.org/fundraise/fundraising-pages/five5s-golf-challenge

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Blog: <http://five5sgolf.blogspot.co.uk/2014/01/so-what-is-five5s-golf-challenge.html>

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Dagnall Village Hall 100 Club

Winners – May 2014

133 Lisa Thorne £50

99 Faye Salmon £25

111 Roger and Lorna Kingham £25

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Architectural Gem in Danger

Dunstable Borough Gazette Article 18th May 1932

Ravages of Wood Worm and Dry Rot at Edlesborough

REPAIR OF CHURCH TREASURES BEGUN

The Edlesborough Church, standing as a monument to the exquisite craftsmanship of the thirteenth century, is in imminent danger on account of the onslaughts of the death watch beetle, the wood worm and dry rot, and irreparable damage has already been done to some of its choicest treasures, for the church is exceedingly rich in examples of Early English work. While it was realised that the beautiful edifice was falling into decay, both externally and internally, the full extent of the damage was not wholly appreciated until quite recently, but when the havoc wrought by insect and elements was fully realised, immediate steps were taken to save the treasures.

Mr. Francis Kingaby, of Dunstable, has for the past three weeks been engaged in the work of restoring the worm-eaten and fast-rotting woodwork - an extremely delicate task - and is making very satisfactory progress, but whether the treasures of this grand old building will be saved in their entirety depends very largely upon the generosity and sympathy of those interested in architectural beauty.

Edlesborough's grand old pile, a land mark for many miles round, and particularly noticeable from Dunstable Downs, stands upon an elevation overlooking a glorious expanse of chalk down-land. Its grandeur and dignity are the more prominent on closer inspection, but after ascending the winding path up the knoll to the main porch, one is at once confronted by a sight which



Situated on a hill, Edlesborough Church can be seen for some distance and is a well-known landmark.

saddens. Inside the entrance stands on end a huge piece of oak, obviously of great age, but its most prominent feature is that great holes have made their appearance, and form an illustrating example of the destructive work

of the wood worm, which bores myriads of holes in a considerable area, and ultimately the wood becomes so weakened that it breaks away at a touch.

It is mainly against the ravages of this insect that Mr. Kingaby and his assistants are waging a ruthless warfare, but they have also to contend with the effects of dry rot, which in many cases is due to the porous nature of the Totternhoe chalk-stone, of which the church is built, affecting the woodwork in such a manner that it becomes pulverised, and crumbles away.

HOW MONKS "STOOD"

Perhaps one of the most interesting relics of the monastic days thus affected is the group of miserere seats, but the wood-worm has also taken toll. It is from these seats that the great beam standing near the porch has been removed, but it is a fortunate feature that although the framework has been practically destroyed, the exquisite carvings between the partitions of the seats are practically untouched



The famous canopy over the pulpit

by the passage of time and the onslaughts of the destructive insect. The carvings include a representation of a monkey and the head of a winged sphinx. What is still more remarkable, however, is that the hinged seats have each a semi-circular projection at the opposite end to the swivel, so that when tipped up there was yet another seat for the repose of the monks, who, while conveying the impressions that they were standing, were not actually doing so. Beneath the "standing" seats are more delicate carvings. The rotted portions of the miserere seats have already been removed and replaced by oak timber three hundred years old.

EXQUISITE CARVING

One of the features of the church with which one cannot fail to be impressed is the wonderful old pulpit, of the "wine-glass" type, and the still more remarkable canopy above it, the purpose of which is as a sounding board. The latter, which represents some of the finest and most delicate carving of the thirteenth century, was found to be almost as badly damaged as the miserere seats, and has been taken down, cleaned and restored. It is now back in its former place, and the work performed in regard to this subject alone is considered an achievement, for it required very delicate handling.

The pulpit has also been taken down, and the section of the pedestal nearest the floor has been entirely re-modelled, for it was found



Restoring the Miserere seats in the chancel

that wood worm had made such inroads that within a few years the whole structure would have collapsed, bringing down with it the canopy.

"LIKE BIG MAGGOTS"

Another very impressive part of the church is the old rood screen, but it is also a standing example to the destructive ability of dry rot. The greater is the pity for the reason that its ornamentation and tracery are among the finest in the country. The fan-shaped tracery alone makes it unique, and although this part of the screen has not been minutely examined, there is sufficient evidence of dry rot in the base of the structure to show that its repair is going to be a very difficult matter. Higher up, the wood worm has again been at work, and by chopping away some of the badly infected woodwork, Mr. Kingaby recently had the rare experience of seeing the insect in the wood, and although working practically daily with timber thus affected, it is about five years since he actually saw a wood worm. "Just like big maggots," was the description of Mr. Kingaby's assistant in regard to the insect, and Mr. Kingaby added that some of the worms were one-eighth of an inch in diameter and five-eighths of an inch long.

An equally serious example of dry rot is provided in the choir stalls against the south wall, and this is considered to be due to lack of ventilation and their adjacency to the porous Totternhoe stone, for the stalls on the other side, which are not in contact with the wall, and have plenty of space all round them are unaffected.

REVERSED ROOD SCREEN

It is exceedingly interesting to note that near the rood screen there is a stone staircase which runs right through a pillar, its exit being close to the top of the screen, but without giving access to its wide, flat top. The explanation is that the screen has undoubtedly been reversed, but hitherto

the exit from the stairway led directly on to the top of the canopy, and it was from this elevated position that the words of the preacher were delivered. Surmounting the screen, at one time, was a wooden crucifix and other carved figures, but during the reign of Queen Elizabeth the figures were removed and the screen reversed so that it better adapted itself to decoration, for the beautiful paintings on the screen are truly Elizabethan.

Yet another glorious feature of the church is the wonderfully executed paintings on its walls, but the grandest sight of all is the richly coloured wall painting of Christ, represented in a sitting posture and with arms outstretched. This figure is above the arch dividing the choir from the aisle, and cannot fail to make an impression.

Much of the beauty of the church is in the sense of spaciousness it conveys on account of its width and height, and on looking upward the magnificent oak rafters at once impress on account of their obvious strength and proportion. These timbers convey an excellent idea of medieval craftsmanship. A further point of interest is the relieving arches in the aisle, which appear to have been added for structural reasons after the aisles were widened.

EXTERNAL DECAY

Outside the church, so stately and beautiful

when viewed from a distance, a disturbing feature is that the facing stone has crumbled very badly in places, and in other parts of the building repairs have been made by the strengthening of the stonework with cement, but, unfortunately, the colouring contrast detracts from its beauty. However, it is better that there should be a rather disconcerting contrast than that the lovely edifice should become a ruin, and thanks to the foresight of those solid builders of the thirteenth century, it will be a long time before so regrettable a state ensues, for the stout buttresses with which the church is surrounded are its source of strength.

Still further away will be the sad day when Edlesborough Church is in danger of destruction by time, wood worm and dry rot, if the residents and beauty lovers respond generously and with gladness of heart to an appeal which must, of necessity, be urgent, and, for a time, insistent.



An example of the fine carvings on the underside of the Miserere seats

Goodbye and Good Luck!



Edlesborough School said goodbye to their Headteacher Mrs Jane Foster at the end of last term. She was delighted to be presented with a photobook of comments from children and parents as well as photographs of everyone, plus some vouchers for her favourite clothes shop and a watercolour painting of the school from the Governing Body.

We held a special assembly when the choir sang a Michael Jackson song called Music

and Me rewritten by Henry and Izzy Dorrance - it brought a tear to many an eye. The assembly was followed by lunch with past and present staff and governors.



— Christopher —
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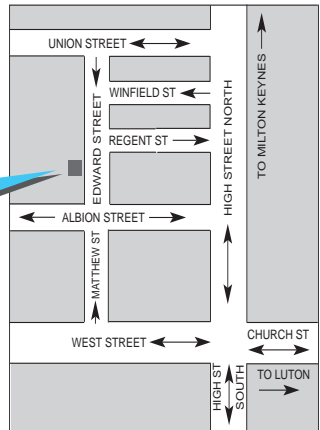
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Take a look at what we offer at www.bucksfamilyinfo.org
(Then search for Ivinghoe and Pitstone Children's Centre and you will find our timetable.)

Alternatively, give us a call on 01296 662363

Don't forget to look out for us in your local area, we don't just run sessions in Ivinghoe- all services are FREE!



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You can come to us if you are experiencing or need support with any of the following:-

- ❖ Childcare options & school application advice.
 - ❖ Relationship advice.
- ❖ Crisis support, (i.e. financial, emotional, addictions, mental health issues etc)
 - ❖ Implementing routines: e.g. mealtimes or bedtime.
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- ❖ Understanding child development, tips and advice for managing behaviour.
 - ❖ 1st Aid & home safety
 - ❖ Confidence building either parents/carer's or children.
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Quotes from children

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by Dafydd Billinghurst

St Mary's Church, Eaton Bray

Saturday 21st June at 7.30pm

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Sunday 8 June 11.30 – 5pm

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**Refreshments in the Hall and in gardens
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The poster features a green background with a white daisy border at the top and bottom. The text 'Eaton Bray Academy's' is written in a cursive font above the large, stylized words 'SUMMER' and 'FAYRE'. 'SUMMER' is in red and 'FAYRE' is in orange, both with white outlines and floral decorations. To the left of the text is a list of activities, and to the right is the date and time. At the bottom right, there is an illustration of a boy pushing a red wheelbarrow filled with plants. The overall theme is summer and gardening.

Eaton Bray Academy's

SUMMER FAYRE

- b.b.q.
- score a goal
- homemade cakes stall
- gift stalls
- adult tombola
- pocket money games
- balloon modelling
- bric-a-brac
- candy floss
- wellie toss
- sweet tombola
- bouncy castle
- face painting
- sponge splash
- raffle
- plant pot decorating
- plant sale

14th June 2014
12.00pm to 3.00pm

*lots more to see and do!
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reception class – aged 5 pre 31/8/2014)

year 1 – several players required complete our 3 teams



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Dagnall News

Over 60's

Dagnall Over Sixties went to the Green Man at Stanford for lunch in April, and then to Poplars Garden centre where purchases were made.

Our Ploughmans lunch in May was followed by a Quiz, and numbers were taken for our outing to Windsor in June where we are having a boat trip on the Thames, after lunch at a Toby Carvery.

In July the Yorkes welcome us to their lovely garden for tea.

Phone 01442843202 if you are over sixty and would like to join us.

Community Choir

Vietnamese Sleaze

Several Choir members have expressed an interest in us doing a selection from "Miss Saigon". So, always determined to maintain the happiness of our much valued members, we arranged to hire copies of the score.

The first batch turned out to be less enjoyable than we had hoped, so they have been returned and we have now rented a more singer friendly version.

All of this coincides nicely with the re-opening of "Miss Saigon" in The West End. The suggestion was made that it might be an idea to go to see it and this was received with much enthusiasm. So a coach load of us will be going in June. However we are advising members that it might be advisable to "take a powder" to help to come to terms with the sleazy nature of the story and the less savoury bits.

We plan to sing a self censored selection from the show as part of our new repertoire for concerts later in the year, so you will be able to judge for yourselves if it has been time well spent. If you can't hear the lyrics clearly it will be because we will be mumbling any offensive lyrics.

We are also working on songs from Abba, Mozart, Sting and others. If nothing else, we can certainly offer variety.

You can hear examples of our variety at The Edlesborough Festival on June 21st. Details elsewhere in this publication.

Dagnall School

This term Dagnall School children have started to work on the UNICEF Rights Respecting Award. The Convention outlines many things that all children should have to be healthy and have a decent quality of life. But before we could start looking at specific rights, we have had to consider the difference between WANTS and NEEDS.



"A want you want but don't need, but a need keeps you healthy."

Ralph

"A want is something you just want but a need will keep you healthy

and safe." Emma

"A need you might not want but you do actually need it." Alice

"We can't always have what we want."

Lucy

"Sometimes wants cost a lot of money."

Alfie

"If you say "I want" you don't get! You have to ask politely." Archie

It has been a challenge to think that we don't really need some of our favourite things even though we really like them, but there are also some things like mobile phones, which we only really need in an emergency (Malachy). We have watched a short film about a girl in Tanzania who has to work to provide food for herself and baby sister and that helped us to realise that our NEEDS = RIGHTS.

Eaton Bray Cricket Club



When this goes to print the season will have started and we'd have played a few games. We have an exciting season ahead, with 2 Saturday league teams in the Four Counties Cricket League, with our 2s playing Edlesborough already in the league on May 3rd (away) and with a home game to come on July 5th, as this year's 2s captain I'm looking forward to these local derbies.

We also have Sunday Development XI playing in the Bedfordshire Development league, this team consists of 4 adults and 7 U17 players. This is a great way to develop the next generation of players.

Centennial Year 2014

Bank holiday Monday 5th May saw the first event on the Cricket Clubs programme to celebrate 100 years of the Club.

A game was played between a Chairman's XI and a President's XI chosen from current members both young and old. Fortunately the weather was kind to us and enabled us to have a barbecue, a bouncy castle for the youngsters and plenty of socialising during the afternoon.

The game was played in a competitive spirit, whilst ensuring that everyone took part and enjoyed the game. The Chairman's XI scored 192 for 5 in their 40 overs. The President's XI, whilst always being in a winnable position just failed ending their allocated overs on 181.

Our remaining events are:

Sunday July 27th – Match v Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) – This is our main event of the Centennial year. An all day game starting at 11.30am against the MCC, who are also celebrating their 200th year at Lords'. We encourage all current and ex-players, tea ladies, volunteers and anyone who has been involved in the club to attend what will be a great day. We also invite any local MCC members to the match to support

their club (MCC ties are optional).

Sunday August 17th - Music Festival from 5pm– we will be hosting a music afternoon and evening. We will have a jazz band playing for a couple of hours and our very own trumpeter from Jools Holland's Big Band (Jason McDermid). We will also have a number of fun activities to keep the children (and some of the older ones) entertained. Everyone is welcome to attend. More details will follow when plans are finalised.

Junior Section

We are also running 4 junior sides this year, the u10s, U12s and u14s all playing in the Bedfordshire Youth League and our U8s playing some friendlies. The U10s and U12s play on Sunday morning and most Sundays see a home game for one of these teams.

Details of all fixtures can be found on our website which is quoted below.

Our junior section has training on Wednesday evenings, the 6 to 10 year olds from 6pm to 7pm and the 11 to 14 year olds from 6.30pm to 7.30pm.

We are actively seeking new players for our junior teams so please let them come and try our junior sessions out. We accept both boys and girls into our junior section.

Contact and Call for New Players

We are always looking for new players from 6 years old to 96 years old and offer a wide range of cricket for all abilities, from competitive cricket to social cricket and junior cricket. We are in the 21st Century and have several ways we can be followed or contacted. Junior email address: ebccenquiries@hotmail.com

Senior players and Centennial details: Ian Jones – ian_m_jones1000@hotmail.com or 07956 340888

Web Site: www.eatonbray.play-cricket.com

Twitter: @EatonBrayCC

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Work is good for us and we all thrive on a little stress but too much can result in real problems for our minds and bodies. Stress can leave us feeling tense, causing

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- Feel calmer by relaxing your breathing - take a few deep breaths.
- Go outside and have some fresh air during breaks and go for walks at lunchtime, or sign up for a class like aerobics, or Tai Chi
- Take regular, short breaks away from your desk and use them to be active - walk and stretch.
- Take the stairs instead of the lift and park at the opposite end of the car park.

- Rotate your tasks - alternate computer work with getting up to speak to people.
- Wear a light weight headset and stand up to make some of your phone calls - don't wedge the phone between your head and shoulder.
- Don't skip meals and do drink water regularly.

Be active daily - physiotherapists recommend 150 minutes of moderate to vigorous exercise each week, raising your heart rate, but not being so short of breath that you can't talk. It's OK to be active in 10 minute bouts.

For more information go to: www.csp.org.uk/moveforhealth or contact your local Chartered Physiotherapist:

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* (CIPD Absence management survey 2011)

Sun Shines on Little Gaddesden Bowls Club Open Day

Despite warnings of poor weather, the sun came out and stayed out as Little Gaddesden Bowls Club opened the doors to potential new players. "The day started slowly but then people started coming in and we soon had all four rinks on the go with our coaches kept busy all afternoon. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves, especially when we brought out tea, coffee and home made cake!" said Alun March, the club captain. "We still want to see more people and now the season has begun, we are open on Mondays 10-

12 noon and Thursdays 18-20:00. All ages are welcome. The target remains to recruit 50 new members. We have made a great start."



Edlesborough Parish Council News

Including Edlesborough, Dagnall and Northall

Parish Council meeting-dates and venues

19th June 2014 Ordinary Parish Council Meeting commencing 7:30pm at All Saints Church Hall, Dagnall

17th July 2014 Parish Council Meeting commencing 7.30pm at Edlesborough Memorial Hall

On Thursday 17th April Edlesborough Parish Council held their Annual Parish Meeting followed by the Ordinary Parish Meeting. Below is a summary of the two meetings, the full minutes can be found at www.edlesborough-pc.gov.uk

The Chairman gave a comprehensive report on the past year in the Parish of Edlesborough and copy can be found in this addition of FOCUS and on the Parish website www.edlesborough-pc.gov.uk

New Councillors

The Parish Council are pleased to announce the formal co-opting of two new councillors:

Mrs Trish Owen for Dagnall

Mrs Finola Woodhouse for Edlesborough

New Councillor

There continues to be a vacancy for a Councillor to represent the village of Northall. Please contact the Clerk, Penny Pataky, for further details.

Current allotment plots available:

Allotments are currently available at The Green and Cow Lane. Please contact the Clerk if you would like to take on an allotment.



Streetlights

The damaged streetlight in Taskers Row, Edlesborough is to be replaced. A new streetlight will be installed on Main Road North, Dagnall between the roundabout and the Public House.

Potholes and Fly Tipping

These continue as ongoing issues in the Parish.

Transport for Buckinghamshire (TfB) have recently launched a brand new fault reporting page. You can access it on iPad, iPhone and Android as well as traditional PC/laptop devices. Other new features include the ability to upload a photo of the issue (as long as it's safe to take one!) as well as the function to use GPS and wifi/3G to allow an exact location to be determined. Have a look if you've got a defect to report - www.buckscc.gov.uk/telltfb or if you prefer you can ring the fault reporting line on 0845 230 2882.

You can also report Fly Tipping in the same way by following the link <http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/fly>

The Green & Pavilion

The Council is saddened by the recent spate of graffiti on the benches around the Green and play equipment.

Despite new signs requesting no ball games to be played against the Pavilion this continues to be an ongoing problem resulting in additional repair costs.

The Council asks that parishioners please speak to their children about appropriate conduct on the Green.

Edlesborough Memorial Hall

The Memorial hall is gradually becoming a hive of activities including Ballet, Street Dance, Knit & Stitch, Carpet Bowls, Barre Class, Jo Jingles, Time to Shine, Brownies, Edlesborough WI, Kay's Exercise Class, Musical Theatre, Irish Stick Fighting and a new Yoga Class. For more information on any of these classes please see the Noticeboards or contact the Manager.

Even with all these activities there is

still plenty of availability for one-off or regular bookings; if you are interested in using the Memorial Hall please contact the manager.

Edlesborough Festival 20th – 22nd June

The second Edlesborough Festival will take place this month for more information or tickets please contact Christine on chris@brooklyns.org.uk or 01525 220739 or visit the website www.edlesboroughchurch.org.uk

Thames Valley Police Report

Crime Figures Update The figures below have been taken from statistics for the year 2013/2014 compared to the same time period 2012/2013. The breakdown for Edlesborough Parish is as follows -

- Violence against the person has remained the same this year [3 reported offences]
- Burglary in a dwelling has decreased by 3 offences [6 reported offences this year]
- Burglary non dwelling [sheds/ outhouses] has remained as 1 reported offence - these offences relate to property being removed from an outbuilding.
- Theft from motor vehicle has decreased by 2 offences [6 offences for this year] – Arson – No reported offences.
- Criminal damage has decreased by 6 offences [6 in total for the year]
- Drug offences has increased by 2 (2 offences in total this year)

Thames Valley Alert: This remains a free service which provides information to subscribers about crime and police activity in their area via phone or email. It also includes information on what we and our partner services are doing to bring offenders to justice or combat anti-social behaviour. You can sign up by following this link: www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk

PSCSO Dodson also provided a list of

useful websites and email addresses:

- Thames Valley Police: www.thamesvalley.police.uk
- Have Your Say online: www.thamesvalley.police.uk/yournh/yournh-about-nh-pol/yournh-tvp-pol-area-n120-hys
- Crimestoppers newsletter: www.crimestoppers-uk.org/web-pilot-system-pages/sign-up-for-newsletter
- Crimestoppers for youth: www.fearless.org/about
- TVP Facebook: www.facebook.com/thamesvp
- TVP Twitter – @TVP_Aylesbury
- Trading Standards: www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk
- Scams: www.actionfraud.police.uk or 0300 123 2040
- Thames Valley Horsewatch: www.thamesvalleyhorsewatch.org.uk
- Thames Valley Countrywatch: www.thamesvalleycountrywatch.co.uk

Contact Information

Edlesborough Memorial Hall Bookings & Enquiries/concerns regarding the Memorial Hall, Pavilion, Playground and Green

Manager: Penny Pataky 01525 229358

e-mail: manager@edlesborough-pc.gov.uk

Clerk to Edlesborough Parish Council

Faulty Streetlights, Allotments, Burials,

etc. (The streetlights in Edlesborough,

Dagnall & Northall are not maintained by

Bucks CC or AVDC)

Clerk: Penny Pataky 01525 229358

mail: clerk@edlesborough-pc.gov.uk

Responsible Finance Officer/Planning to

Edlesborough Parish Council

Lin Sargeant: 01525 220859

e-mail: rfo@edlesborough-pc.gov.uk

Website: www.edlesborough-pc.gov.uk

Eaton Bray Lawn Tennis Club



'You didn't see Lefors out there, did you?'
'Lefors? No'.

'Oh, good. For a moment there I thought we were in trouble'.

So read the question at the Village Hall / Eaton Bray Tennis Club Quiz Night last month. From which film was this quote taken? The answer, provided by myself to our team - the Hillman Imps, so named after team members Dave and Bernie Imp - was Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid. I was very proud of this knowledge, principally because it was the only answer I got right all evening, and it helped propel the Imps to a healthy 6th place finish. Sadly we were well beaten into first place by the cast of Outnumbered, or at least they looked like them, so an appropriate team name. But the good news was that 'Keith's Best Mates' came second, despite their biannual efforts to get into the good books of quizmaster Keith Blackburn by claiming him as a close friend. I did actually ask Keith if he'd ever met them before, and he denied all knowledge of them. Then, over a couple of beers, he got out his holiday photos of them all together in Ibiza last summer drinking sangrias and doing the Macarena round the hotel pool. The 'Mates' have won a couple of times in the past though, so there must be some merit in it. Therefore, next year we've decided to call our team 'There's a tenner in it for you Keith if we win'. The cash for questions scandal has nothing in comparison with what goes on in the village hall twice a year !!

Please don't forget to wander along to our annual Play Day on Sunday 22nd June, in participation with the Great British Tennis Weekend. From around midday we will have all three courts available for anybody to come along, pick up a racquet - we have plenty we can lend to you if you don't

have one - and try your hand at the noble sport. Absolutely no experience is required, the aim is just to just to have some fun. Even if you just come up for our infamous barbecue, we'd be delighted to see you. The good news is that after last week's space walk by an astronaut from the International Space Station to repair the dent caused from last year when we let Billy our Ball Machine out for the day (and someone mistakenly pressed the 'Superspeed' button), the bill is not as bad as we had first feared. Only seven members of our committee need to sell our houses and cars in order to reimburse NASA, and with our clubhouse just having been completely re-furbished, twenty-one of us sleeping there for a few years until we all get back onto our feet won't be too much hardship. All for the good of the club. Could someone bring us up some milk please? And a couple of air fresheners wouldn't go amiss; it's a tad cosy in there.

Club members will have noticed the incredible changes that have occurred to our clubhouse over the last few weeks. Thanks to the generosity of a couple of club members, together with the time given up by many others, we once again have a clubhouse to be proud of. A new kitchen, recessed low energy lighting and more storage space, together with a brand new paint job make it look almost brand new! Next week we planned to fit the indoor pool, sauna and Michelin starred restaurant, but the latter three depended upon additional funding which, to date, has not been entirely secured, due to our Vietnamese Financier Phut Pholt having absconded to Panama by canoe. He claims he can't remember anything about it. A sub-committee has been sent to Panama

on club funds to find him and bring him to justice, but they went out four weeks ago and we haven't heard a thing, other than a postcard saying how hot it is and how cheap the beer is. The photo of them all on a pedalo was nice; they looked very tanned and quite merry, as did the five Panamanian policewomen they have obviously recruited to help them in their task. It must just have been their day off as they were out of uniform, and pretty much everything else.

Edlesbray Leisure Fellowship (ELF)

Hello Everyone,

Another month has passed very quickly with some reasonable weather at times, allowing us to enjoy some very beautiful blossoms and even a few hours in the garden to begin clearing up winter's remains, and start to plant any new shrubs. The lunch out in May was taken at the Swan, Northall and a report will be in the July issue of Focus.

We all hope that you enjoyed your Easter whatever you decided to do.

The walking group decided to cancel the walk on April 28th.

Our visit to Wrest Park on April 24th was a great success. The day was very good and all of those who came enjoyed the gardens, their lunch and the shop. Some members who are unable to walk far, took advantage of using the services of the buggy to enjoy seeing the gardens. Thanks go to Brian F. for making the arrangements.

April 10th saw a lively meeting at the Coffee Tavern when future events were discussed.

At the time of writing we are looking forward to our visit to the Chiltern Open Air Museum on May 22nd. Audrey is arranging this. A report will appear in the July Issue of Focus.

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 in hiding from a certain quiz team, then me, Andy Cross, on 07783 667338.

The arrangements for our visit to the Olympic Park are well under way for 12th June. Brian W is organising this. The details are in the north porch of Eaton Bray Church and a report will appear in the July issue of Focus.

JUNE DATES

Thurs 12th

Visit to the Olympic Park

Mon 23rd

Walk from Eaton Bray Church 10am

NORTHALL & DISTRICT AGE CONCERN

(The Wednesday Club)

Annual General Meeting

**Monday, 9th June 2014
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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 Dibsdall T:01525 221156/07717 813682
E: jemy.dibsdall@salvationarmy.org.uk
W: www.salvationarmy.org.uk/eatonbray

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Contact: eatonbraychurch@aol.com or telephone: 222691

Eaton Bray Academy

The staff work exceptionally well as a team to promote children's welfare, learning and development and to make sure everyone enjoys their time at the pre-school. Ofsted 2012



Children benefit from the abundant shared resources, access to school assemblies, the information technology suite and the extensive outdoor facilities. Ofsted 2012

Pre School



How many Pre Schools do you know that are part of the Main School? Well, EBA is *one* School!

All the children wear School uniform, have their own book bag, can attend clubs and even eat our delicious School dinners, cooked on the premises by our own School cooks.

.We believe that quality Early Years education is essential; it is on this that everything is built.

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Come and have a look!

Tel. 01525 220468 or email admin@eba.ec

Children clearly benefit and thrive as the accommodation, equipment and resources are well suited for their purpose and conducive to learning. Improvements to the premises and the outdoor area give children the confidence to explore and help all aspects of their development. Ofsted 2012

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www.dagnallunderfives.co.uk

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*Subject to duty commitments

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Avoid those Holiday Scams

Jonathan Vernon Smith is the Sony Award winning mid-morning show presenter for BBC Three Counties Radio. During his consumer hour he helps listeners with their consumer problems and now shares his advice with you.

With the holiday season almost upon us, I thought his month would be a good time for me to warn you about some of the most common holiday related scams that sadly people fall for year after year.

It's seems a basic start, but only book holidays with good reputable companies **THAT YOU'VE HEARD OF!** It never ceases to amaze me how many people simply google 'Cheap holiday' and then part with hundreds of pounds on some website that may or may not be genuine. Always do your research to make sure you are paying a proper UK based company with a good reputation. It's also advisable to use a company that is both a member of ABTA and ATOL for your protection.

Having booked your holiday with a genuine company, the next mistake some people make is to purchase their travel insurance from scamsters rather than a bona fide company. Again use a quality British insurer that will actually answer the phone if you find yourself in need of making a claim from the poolside in Faliraki.

Whilst you're organising your health protection for your holiday, you should be aware that applying for your EHIC European health insurance card (which provides you with free or reduced health care in European countries) **SHOULD** be **FREE!** There are lots of websites out there that will charge you a fee for applying for the card on your behalf. Apply directly with the NHS or the post office and avoid be being ripped off!

If you're like me, you'll probably hire a car while away. There are of course various scams to watch out for with hire cars. Only ever use good, recommended firms, avoid the dodgy little backstreet hire car company that charges half the price of anyone else. You'll probably find out why they're so cheap when the wheels fall off.

One very important thing to watch out for when hiring a car abroad is that you ensure you have signed paperwork from the hire car company to confirm the condition of the car. Very often people drop off their hire car in a rush to get their flight home and don't insist on this. It is imperative! I have known several people (sometimes using well-known companies) who have returned to the UK, checked their credit card, only to find a £500 charge for 'damage' to the car. Trying to prove that you didn't cause it, when you're no longer in the country and with no paperwork to support your argument, will be a nightmare.

The final holiday scams you **MUST** be aware of regard the dreaded 'Timeshares' or 'Holiday Clubs'. I lose track of the number of times I've dealt with complaints from consumers on my radio programme about these.

Picture the scene: You're strolling down the seafront, all bronzed and relaxed when a lovely, attractive (probably British) person approaches you and offers you either an invitation to an event or a scratch card that will provide you with the invite. Your guard is down as you're on holiday so you agree. You'll then be whisked off to a luxury venue, plied with pinot grigio and then forced to endure a hard sell on the advantages of joining their club. Sadly I have known even the most forceful, confident, savvy consumers get caught like this and the results have been awful. Very

often timeshare and holiday club contracts are difficult (and in some cases impossible) to get out of. What many people also fail to recognise is that these holiday club memberships are sometimes to be passed down to your children, meaning many years of misery not only for you, but for your family when you've died!

My advice is that when approached by anyone offering you something 'for free', particularly when your guard is down on holiday – KEEP WALKING!



Edlesborough W.I.



We began our monthly meeting by expressing our warm wishes to Doreen Dean, who was celebrating her Diamond Wedding Anniversary that month. Congratulations from us all to Doreen and husband Roy.

After the usual notices etc., Brenda Shields and her helpers continued to run the rest of the evening. It was Members' Night, when the committee take a rest from arranging the programme. Brenda thanked them all for their past year's work, and each committee member received a box of chocolates.

Mr Harry Sear was our speaker that night, and kept us all very amused by the country reminiscences of an elderly ex-farm worker. Harry took on the role of the old gentleman, who was sitting on a seat near the John Lewis store in Milton Keynes, chatting about village life in days gone by. His tales went from working with Shire horses, the arrival of tractors on farms, and eventually seeing the plans for the proposed new town of Milton Keynes. Harry has written a book entitled "Horse Tales" and finished his talk with stories from this. They were all very funny and, once again, we all enjoyed laughing with our speaker. The evening finished with tea and lovely home-made cakes. Our thanks to Brenda, her helpers, and also Harry, for such an enjoyable evening.

It was Edlesborough W.I.'s turn to host the Beacon Group Spring Meeting this year, and this took place at the end of the month.

We heard reports from Cheddington, Long Marston and Edlesborough on their activities during the past year. These reports always prove what a variety of interesting events there are for W.I. members.

On this occasion our speaker was Captain William Wells, on the subject of "The Life and Times of a Ship's Pilot". Captain Wells came to England from New Zealand and trained for his nautical career, which lasted for almost 49 years. He has been a ship's captain, a Trinity House licensed pilot on the River Thames and, finally, Senior River Pilot in the Port of London. Now retired, Captain Wells is well known for his public speaking and his book "A Sailor's Tales". We learned that a ship's pilot is the person who is responsible for the manoeuvring of a ship (whatever size) in and out of harbour. At that time he takes precedence over the ship's captain. Over 5,000 different sized ships have been piloted by Captain Wells, and he has travelled to a vast number of countries.

On his retirement from Senior River Pilot he took up a new career in the form of public speaking. In this way he is able to describe his extremely interesting life to many people. It was a fascinating talk by a man who had obviously loved his chosen career.

Once again, our very enjoyable evening ended with tea and lovely home-made cakes.

✍️ Val Harris



Edlesborough Book Group

Slipstream by Elizabeth Jane Howard

Our interest in the life of Elizabeth Jane Howard was sparked by her death last January, aged 90. As we were familiar with her "Cazalet Chronicles" we thought that her memoir "Slipstream" would be interesting to read. Published in 2002, when she was almost eighty years of age, the book reveals her to be a character full of flaws and self doubt. The memoir seems to divide into three distinct sections, the first is of her early life, born into an upper middle class Edwardian family in 1923. Her grandfather was a famous composer and her mother an ex ballerina in the Ballets Russes. Jane experienced a privileged childhood of nannies and home education, but lacked the maternal affection that she craved, her mother appearing to prefer Jane's two brothers.

She adored her handsome, fun loving father, but was dismayed when, as she blossomed into maturity, his interest became more physical and so she was forced to distance herself from him. This longing for admiration and attention seemed to continue for most of her life and she appears to be a very needy personality often confusing physical love with true commitment. In 1940 she persuades her family to let her train as an actress and secures a place in a repertory company, straight from drama school. During her time there, she meets and marries Peter Scott, the famous wild life artist and founder of The Wildfowl Trust at Slimbridge. Fourteen years her senior and a man of the world, the marriage was unhappy from the start, made even more difficult by his interfering mother, who made no secret of her dislike of Jane. A daughter, Nicola, was born in 1943 but this did not help the failing marriage to

survive and soon afterwards Jane left her husband to try to live independently.

Fortunately, she appears to have had many useful contacts in the literary world and gradually, by means of a job as a literary editor, she begins to write. Her first novel "The Beautiful Visit" won the John Llewellyn Rhys memorial prize in 1950, but that didn't seem to boost her self esteem. In fact as she continues her rather racketsy existence in London, she always seems to be plagued by self doubt. She is very beautiful at this time and takes many lovers, who are mostly married and is constantly made miserable by failed affairs.

The second part of the book begins in 1962, when she is asked to organise the first literary festival in Cheltenham, during the course of which she meets Kingsley Amis.

They begin an affair, which culminates in their marriage, they are very happy at first, but Jane is soon overwhelmed by the demands of step motherhood and entertaining the constant hordes of visitors. Kingsley Amis's drinking takes a severe toll on their relationship and the marriage breaks down. The good thing that Jane takes from the marriage is the example of the strict discipline Amis applied to his writing. Up to this point, Jane has been very easily distracted from her work but, newly single, she concentrates more seriously.

The final section of the memoir, becomes the most interesting, being more about Jane as she learns to understand herself and to live without a man in her life. She begins to like herself a little more and finally bonds with her much neglected daughter, who has been mainly brought

up by Peter Scott and his second wife. This is a rather lengthy memoir of a long life but, the lists of famous people with whom she mixes, sometimes get in the way of an interesting narrative. As one would expect, it is well written, and the

insights into an author's life are very revealing.

Elizabeth Jane Howard seemed to find contentment at the end of her life, living peacefully in Suffolk, enjoying her garden, her family and friends.

Eaton Bray W.I.



Deirdrea welcomed the members to the meeting, when birthday cards and greetings were either given or had been sent to Ros, Deirdrea, Dorothy, Barbara Ilic, Anne Hunt and Wendy Watson. Margaret read out the minutes of the previous meeting.

Matters arising were that an orchid and card had been taken to Barbara Ilic on her return from hospital. There was a poor response to the two outings suggested so new venues were needed. Bicester and Yarnnton were now being suggested.

Details of the new members had been sent to Bedford by Deirdrea.

Correspondence from Bedford was a 'Beautiful Clothes' leaflet advertising a clothes sale at Flitwick. Details of a Petanque match at Shillington and an Italian Wine Tasting evening at Westoning. There will be a Coffee Morning to be held at EB Methodist Hall on Thursday 12th June from 10-12. Deirdrea had printed slips of paper to go through local doors to advertise this. There will be cakes, bring and buy, raffle and refreshments. Support is needed from the members for the stalls and refreshments.

Every year WI members have the chance to put forward issues as 'resolutions' that they want to see the national body of WI campaign on. The WI is an entirely member led organisation and the resolution process ensures that every member has the opportunity to set the direction of National Federation campaigns and policies from the grassroots up.

This year the resolution is asking to promote

and encourage people to sign the NHS Organ Register. LIVE LIFE

THEN GIVE LIFE. Organ transplantation is the moving and replacing of a failing or diseased organ with a healthy one, giving someone the gift of a new chance of life.

Discussion followed and various aspects were considered. Members may feel uncomfortable campaigning on an issue that many take as a 'matter of conscience'.

Ways to promote Organ Donation and Transplantation were to sign the NHS Register discussing wishes with the family.

Offer an organ to someone in the family (if medically compatible). Engage with schools to teach young people about organ donation. Include details about donation on the application form for a driving licence.

2013 saw the highest number of people in the UK donating their organs after death.

The resolution discussion by each WI, has to be voted on at the AGM at the Albert Hall in June. This discussion by our WI took the place of a speaker this month.

Social time with various refreshments followed, with a birthday cake made and iced by Deirdrea to celebrate Dorothy's 92nd birthday cut and shared. The raffle prizes were travel toiletry sets. 2nd June meeting with the speaker Lawrence Rubenstein on "The Rag Trade-A Tailor's Son". Teas are Judy and Sally.

There is a Group outing to Oxford on 11th August, the cost is £11.

There being no other business, the meeting closed.

Peter Impey

Hazel Impey and family would like to say a very big thank you for all the cards and messages of sympathy shown to them on the passing of Peter. It is very much appreciated. The sum of £450 was collected and has been sent to Cancer Research.

Dagnall Weather Station (AONB)

Weather Conditions for April 2014

The calm and settled weather we had in March carried through to April. Just below the average rain for the month but more noticeable was the dry spell during the middle of the month with 12 consecutive days having no rain recorded. On only 1 day did the temperature drop below zero the rest of the temperature pattern was stable

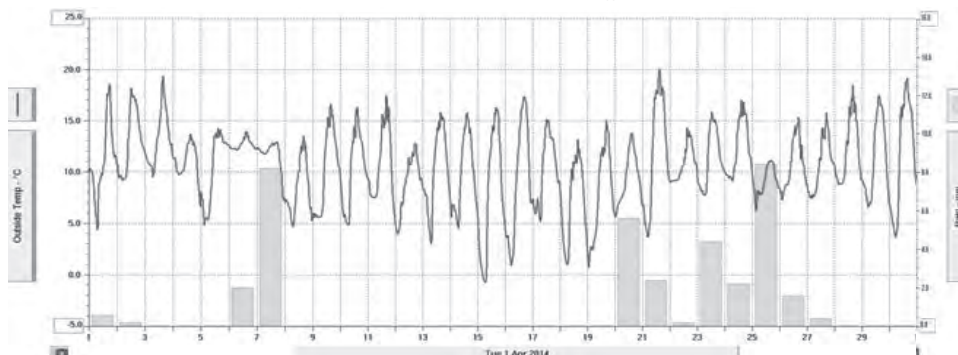
For the second month running our web site http://bit.ly/weather_dagnall has

been upgraded and is easier to use: just click on any of the blue text and it will give you more information, weekly, daily and hourly forecast. For weather data 24 hours a day, updated every 15 mins, visit: www.dagnallweather.co.uk and http://bit.ly/weather_dagnall. 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:	20.3°C	21 April 15.00	-0.7°C	15 April 06.30
Mean Temperature	10.6°C			
Dewpoint:	13.7°C	21 April 14.00	-1.9°C	15 April 06.00
Humidity:	98%	25 - 31 April	42%	15 - 16 April
Barometer:	1030.2 mb	15 April 12.30	998.1 mb	3 April 16.30
Wind Speed	30 mph S	6 April 14.30	Months avg.	5.2 mph
Wind Chill:	20.1°C SE	21 April 15.00	-0.7°C N	15 April 06.30
Dominant Wind:	WNW			
Rainfall * T= total rain days and moisture. R= Actual rain				
*Rain Days: 12 (T), 12(R)	Wettest Day 25 April		8.41 mm	0.332 ins
Monthly Rain:	Total	April 2012	36.20 mm	1.425 ins
Yearly Rain:	Total	4 Month	359.20 mm	14.141 ins

Stable Weather Patten for April 2014



Eaton Bray Parish Council

Highlights of the Minutes Meeting of Eaton Bray Parish Council Held on Monday 7th April 2014 from 7:30pm at the Coffee Tavern

Central Beds Council (CBC)

Website: www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk
Customer Services: 0300 300 8302 / Email: customers@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk
A detailed list of services provided by CBC can be found by visiting:

<http://www.eatonbray.com/parish-council/files/central-beds-a-to-z-of-services-2014.pdf>

Bedfordshire Police:

Crime Type	Recorded Crime		
	01/03/13 to 31/03/13	01/03/14 to 31/03/14	% Change
Domestic Burglary	0	0	n/a
Burglary Other	0	0	n/a
Vehicle Crime	2	0	-100.0%
Other Theft	2	0	-100.0%
Criminal Damage	1	1	0.0%
Drugs	0	0	n/a
Other Notifiable Offences	0	0	n/a
Total	5	1	-80.0%

Comment:

1 x Criminal Damage was a case of mistaken identity and the male has had a window smashed on his car.

News from the team

(2.1) Vehicle crime, visit the following link where you can find some crime prevention advice- http://www.bedfordshire.police.uk/pdf/advice_vehicle_crime_cro2012.pdf

(2.2) If you wish to contact your Local Policing Team then please call 01582 473411 or email *LPT.LeightonBuzardLinslade&Rural@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk*

All information is confidential and no names will be disclosed. Please remember if you need to contact the Police: **Non-emergency call 101 / All emergencies 999**

Affordable Housing

The Parish Council welcomed Mr. Dave Lakin from Grand Union Housing to the meeting. Mr. Lakin went through the procedures/steps that would have to be

taken should the council consider the proposal of affordable housing within the parish. Members of the public were also invited to comment. The Parish Council agreed, in principle, for Grand Union Housing to investigate/put forward sites for possible development.

Bus Shelters

The Parish Council are looking into the repair/refurbishment of bus shelters within the parish; the Three Corners and the White House.

Standing Orders/Financial Regulations/ Risk Assessment

The Parish Council reviewed and approved to accept the Standing Orders, Financial Regulations and Risk Assessment for 2014. The documents will be signed off at the Parish Council Meeting in May 2014 and available to view on the council website after that date.

Future Eaton Bray Parish Council Meeting Dates

Parish Council Meeting: Monday 2nd June 2014; 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.

Heidi Head, Parish Clerk & RFO

Email: clerk@ebpc.co.uk

Telephone/Fax: 01525 221464

Website: www.ebpc.co.uk

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

Salvation Sound



Matthew Arnold described this time of year like this:

*“Soon will be the high midsummer pomps come on,
Soon will the musk carnations break and swell,
Soon we shall have gold dusted snapdragon,
Sweet william with its homely cottage smell
And stocks in fragrant blow”*

Well I like June too, “when the bee is on the wing and on the clustering hazel boughs, the linnets sit and sing!”

Hmm! Roses, garden fetes and barbecues; long sunny days and warm evenings. It’s the month when we think of St. Barnabas. Long ago in 1752 “they” changed our calendar in Britain. Before that June 11th was called the longest day of the year, and the saying was “Barnaby bright, all day and no night”; and an old motto advised, “By St. Barnabas, put scythe to grass”. So haymaking then began. That is why in old picture books St. Barnabas is often shown carrying a hay rake.

Now the summer solstice takes place on the 21st of June. Another country saying is that “mist in May and heat in June, brings all things into tune”. A lovely month, when wild flowers fill the hedgerows, honeysuckle scents the air, gardens come into midsummer glory, the cuckoo changes his tune and we all think of taking our ease, sitting in the sunshine, enjoying our surroundings, and counting our blessings. A wise old gardener once said, “some folk grumble because God put thorns on roses, but I think it’s better to thank him for putting roses on the thorns.” My garden is a place of memories for a number of the plants are from the gardens of friends and some are the “offspring” of those brought many years ago from my fathers garden. As I behold the beauty of these plants and contemplate their growth I am amazed that after such a wet winter, most had bravely struggled through the

heavy soil and defied the elements, and now are strong and secure.

Isaiah 40:8 “yes, grass withers and flowers fade, but the word of our God endures forever.”

Ah! Now that makes me think of my patch of grass or daisy spangled lawn as I like to call it. Daisies symbolise innocence and fidelity. Medicinally the juice of daisy leaves was used in medieval times as a remedy for gout and rheumatism, and it was believed that if heated and inhaled it would cure migraine.

I thought you would like this poem by J M Robertson called,

The Gardeners Nightmare

The azaleas are all failures, and the dahlias are the same,

Each lily’s willy nilly, looking silly, such a shame.

Each asters a disaster, the cotoneaster too.

Morning glory tells a story that’s so moribund and blue.

Each poppy is so sloppy in the floppiest display.

Each lupin has been droopin’, in the most stupendous way.

The escallonia and begonia look forlorn and very drear.

The camellia and lobelia just cant conceal a tear..

The gardener wakened with a start, then assessed his nightmare viewing: “it serves me right for dozing off, when I should be up and doing!

Cpt. Jenny Dibsall, our officer, will be retiring at the end of this month. Just to say, Jenny, you will be sadly missed but when your working days are over you can rise when you want, do as you please, work in the garden, or just sit at ease, your options are many, every day will inspire, for a new life begins, on the day you retire! God bless always.

✍Maureen





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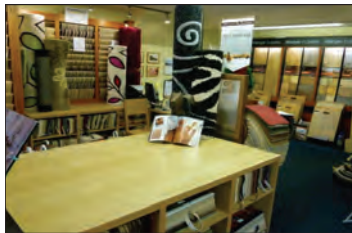
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