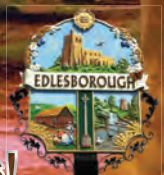




FOCUS

August/September 2014

*Festival & Carnival
photos inside*



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

BRAY-FEST

Eaton Bray's Festival of Beer, Wine and accompanying food!
at the White Horse Market Square from

Friday 22nd August

to
Monday 25th August

10 real ales

Worldwide wines

Sausages and cheeses

from around the world

Plus great entertainment

All weekend!

Watch out for more details coming soon

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

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 Aug/Sept 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
- Mondays Curtain Call Theatre Group - 7:30-10:30pm Eaton Bray Village Hall, Sheila -
sdtwinkletoes@yahoo.co.uk
- Mondays KFFPA ISTD Classical Ballet classes, 3+yrs, 4.15pm, Edlesbrough Memorial Hall,
www.kfpa.co.uk
- 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
- Weds Cheeky Monkeys Under 5's playtime, 1pm - 2.45pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall, contact
(term time) 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 KFFPA Street dance classes 4+yrs 4pm, Edlesborough Memorial Hall, www.kfpa.co.uk
- 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
Fortnightly Lane) Public Car Park
- 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

Village Diary Aug/Sept 2014



- Fridays (term time) 10am-11.30am "Little Luvvies" baby ballet classes. Contact Emma Whittemore on 01525 376124
- 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
- Saturdays KFPA Musical Theatre classes 4+yrs www.kfpa.co.uk, 10am, Edlesborough Memorial Hall
- 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 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

- 8th Aug Leukemia Research Coffee Morning, 2 Dunstable Road, Dagnall 10.30 am. All welcome.
- 19 Aug Dagnall Over 60's Speaker: John Tyler - 'The Ridgeway', 2pm Village Hall
- 25 Aug, 22 Sep ELF walk from Eaton Bray Church 10am
- 7 Sep Beds Area Narrow Gauge Model Railway Club Meeting, 11.30am-4.30pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall
- 17 Sep Dagnall Over 60's Coach trip to Oxford Car Museum with lunch out

One Off/Annual/Irregular Events

- 1, 13, 21 Aug Play Around the Parishes, Dagnall Recreation Ground, 1st & 13th 2-4pm, 21st 10-12 noon
- 4 Aug Not Forgotten ceremony, St Mary's Church, Edlesborough
- 16 Aug Music at St Mary's Eaton Bray - 'Buffalo', 7:30pm. Tickets £7.50, 01525 222283
- 2 Sep Operation Christmas Child Coffee Morning, 10-12noon, St Mary's Eaton Bray
- 6 Sep Quiz Night, 7pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Tickets £9, 07957 250682
- 11 Sep ELF Meeting, 10:30am, The Coffee Tavern
- 11-14 Sep Heritage Open Days, St Mary's church Edlesborough
- 13 Sep Appledown Open Day & Dog Show, 11am
- 19 Sep World's Biggest Coffee Morning, 9:30-12noon, St Mary's church Eaton Bray
- 19 Sep Northall & District Age Concern Harvest Auction, 7:30, The Swan, Northall
- 28 Sep Operation Christmas Child Shoebox packing party, 3-5pm, St Mary's church Eaton Bray

Eaton Bray Line Dancing Club

Our Line Dancing sessions begin again on Tuesday, 2nd September at 1.30 p.m. at Eaton Bray Village Hall.

We will be starting gently with some easier dances suitable for new dancers and those of us who need a refresher after the Summer break.

Line Dancing is excellent physical exercise, good for honing the memory and good fun (we don't take ourselves too seriously). The steps are set to a range of

popular music styles, so there is something for everyone to enjoy.

Please feel free to come along and try a free session. Classes cost £5.00 per week.

We are a friendly group and you would be very welcome to join us.

Maggie Stearn

Tel: 01525 220820

Lyn Stubbs

Tel: 01525 220731



Poppy Prom

Poppy Prom – Saturday 8th November

One of the musical highlights of the year for Music at St Mary's is the Poppy Prom, Concert, on 8th November at 7.30pm, in aid of St Mary's, Eaton Bray, and The Royal British Legion.

The evening combines the solemnity of words and music from The Festival of Remembrance with the joyful music of The Last Night of the Proms. This year's musicians will be the South Beds Concert Band, St Mary's Choir and Dagnall Community Choir along with soloists, Min-Min Peaker and Hayden Elves.

The programme includes St Mary's second World Premiere of the year, written by St Mary's Choirmaster, Stephen Axford, plus music by William Walton, Sir Arthur Sullivan and Albinoni as well as favourites from The Last Night of the Proms by

Elgar, Henry Wood, Arne and Parry.

It will be a wonderful evening of entertainment and is likely to attract a sell out audience. Hurry to get your tickets which go on sale at the Buffalo concert on 16th August and are available from that date, priced £12.50 and £10, from the Box Office, 01525 222283 and don't forget to bring your flags.

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.



EDaN Community
Transport
Peter Williams:
01442 842506

Cover photo: Ashridge by Phil Wood

One Hundred Years on from the Beginning of World War 1

The “Not Forgotten” Flower Laying Ceremony at Edlesborough War Memorial- August 4th 2014

By the 4th of August 1914, a little more than 5 weeks after the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand at Sarajevo, a large part of Europe was at war. Germany had, the day before, declared war on France and Belgium, following the latter’s refusal to allow German troops to cross its borders into France. On 4th August Britain declared war on Germany after an “unsatisfactory reply” from Germany to a British ultimatum that Belgium should be allowed to retain its neutrality.

Over the following 52 months almost 9 million servicemen and women on all sides of the conflict would be killed and

a further 7.8 million would be recorded as “missing in action”.

The Churches Conservation Trust are commemorating this event across the Country with a simple ceremony. On that day, at eleven o’clock in the morning, a single white lily will be placed at each of its Churches.

At Edlesborough the ceremony will be undertaken by the Friends of the Church on the Hill who will lay a lily at the war memorial at the foot of Church Hill at eleven o’clock. All are invited to witness this ceremony.

EDaN Community Transport Scheme



This service is available for residents in Edlesborough, Dagnall and Northall who are struggling with local public transport. We have a team of volunteer drivers from these 3 villages who are willing to give up their time to help others in need of this service. These drivers provide a door to door service, eg, they will take you to your appointment and then return you home.

We only charge the cost of the fuel and parking charges if applicable. The mileage rate we are using is 40p per mile and we have £1 admin fee to help with insurance etc. Some charges may be refunded for certain people, please enquire for further details if you need more information on this. Our drivers only receive this cost of their fuel, they give their time for free! Ideally we need 48hours notice of a trip, but there are emergency medical appointments that we may be able to do a shorter notice if required.

We can take you shopping, to visit friends, the trip doesn’t have to be medical, although this is our first priority if we were short of drivers.

There are some truly remarkable people living in our villages and we are very lucky to have them.

Over the summer period, many of our drivers will be taking their annual holiday, so if you have been thinking about volunteering to drive for us, now would be a very good time to offer your services. If you would like to know anymore about Community Transport or volunteer to be a driver for us, 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 be happy to arrange this for you.

✉ Kathy Bovington
EDaN Community Transport



Thank You

I would like to thank all my customers and friends, Graham and Lynn from the Swan pub, and Priscilla and Richard for organising a fantastic send off for me on my retirement. Also everybody involved in inviting me to open the carnival, I felt very honoured. It's been a pleasure serving you all for the past 40 years as milkman and postman. Once again thank you.

Alan

Eaton Bray Methodist Church

Our first June Sunday service Melvin Corby reminded us that in the week of Ascension Day we are remembering the departure of Christ and the arrival of the indwelling spirit. He used the metaphor of the trapeze artist to emphasise that, like the leaping acrobat, we can do nothing to affect our own salvation but must trust implicitly in the strength and care of God who 'catches' us and saves us from falling.

The following week, at our cafe worship we celebrated the birthday of the Church. Both children and adults were spell-bound as Steve Jones formed and lit a 'tissue' birthday cake that rose heavenwards as it burned; an analogy of the spiritual link between earth and heaven that was created at Pentecost.

On Sunday June 15th we joined our friends in Edlesborough to give a warm welcome to a much-loved former minister, Nicola Jones. The packed congregation enjoyed a characteristically challenging sermon and heard about her work with Christian families

in Palestine. A delicious buffet lunch was served after the service.

Our monthly communion service was well-attended and led by Rev Nigel Wright who gave us a moving and thought-provoking sermon on forgiveness, an act we often find difficult to do ourselves but are constantly grateful that God does readily all the time.

Date for your diary: Harvest Festival on 28th September. The service will be taken by Hyacinth Taylor. Packaged and tinned goods may be brought on the day to add to our harvest display.

After the service we will be providing a 'thrift' lunch, i.e. soup and dessert, reflecting the situation of those in our society with very limited means. Donations will be welcomed and all received will be sent to the Dunstable Food Bank run by the Trussell Trust, to help the growing number of people who depend on their support. To book a place for your FREE meal, please contact Graham Carter on 01525-220742

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

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

Summertime and the livin' is easy, is an aria composed by George Gershwin for the 1935 opera, *Porgy and Bess*. The lyrics are by DuBose Heyward from the novel *Porgy* on which the opera was based. Gershwin's highly evocative music mixes elements of jazz and the song styles of Negroes in the southeast United States from the early twentieth century. *Summertime* is one of the most covered songs in the history of recorded music, with more than 33,000 covers by groups and solo performers.

We have enjoyed some lovely summertime weather recently and although it rained a bit on Carnival day it was glorious for the Open Gardens. Now the schools have broken up, some families will be enjoying holidays either in England or further afield. By the time you read this I will have had two weeks in Wales and being a positive person I anticipate wall to wall sunshine but will be taking my waterproofs and wellies, just in case.

I will be back for August and during the school holiday will be combining, at St Mary's, TOTS and Messy Church activities. On Tuesday 12th August and Tuesday 26th August we meet at St Mary's from 11am-1pm for games outside if the sun is shining and heaps of activities. Bring a picnic and I'll provide ice cream. I will email and text reminders to everybody on my lists. Please let me know if you are coming along, I'd hate to run out of ice cream!

Seasonal Services in August and September include Lammastide on August 3rd - 8am and 10am at St Mary's and 9am at All Saints Dagnall. Harvest Festival this year will be on September 28th - 8am and 10am at St Mary's and at 3pm there will be a shoebox packing party for Samaritans Purse. Look for the brightly coloured advertisement in this issue of Focus.

Finally, as many of us enjoy a break, let's not forget those who cannot have a holiday because of poor health, poverty or an inability to take time off work as well as those who live in areas of conflict, where survival, freedom and the hope of a safer, peaceful life are their priority.

A prayer for this Summer We pray for all those going on holiday this Summer and thank you for the refreshment which holidays bring to our lives, the excitement, the freedom from routine and new experiences and opportunities. We pray too for those who are less fortunate than ourselves; those who live in developing countries, in countries where there is very little stability or where there is drought and famine. Teach us to be mindful of those who are weary with the relentless struggle to keep alive; for those who can never look forward to a good meal and a comfortable bed, and those who barely have the necessities of life, much less its extras. Amen.

Coralie



Eaton Bray Academy

News Update!



Dell Farm

At the beginning of June, some of our Year 3, 4 and 5 children enjoyed a residential trip to Dell Farm, where they enjoyed taking part in archery, caving and survival skills.

Archery

On the way we were pretending to be Robin Hood and Little John, it was funny! When we got to archery field, we were put in groups, and we gave our group a name. Conor told us how to use a bow. We had a little tournament and Alfie hit the bull's eye! My team was not happy with that because he was not in our team. Alfie's team won the tournament.

Then Conor set us a challenge. He said the team that got the closest to the bull's eye wins and my team won. Someone nearly hit a sheep! Archery was great fun!

By Archie

Dell Farm - Yum!

The best part of Dell Farm was when we melted marshmallows and sandwiched

them with the chocolate cookies! Yum! I loved sitting round the campfire.

By Victoria

Eaton Bray Academy University Challenge!

Forget 'The University Challenge' on the television, we have had our own version of The University Challenge in school! The children in years 3, 4 and 5 had to get into teams and played rounds against each other. Our team, 'People in Black' made it to the finals which were held in assembly in front of the whole school. It was nerve racking but we were excited. The questions were tough, they ranged from entertainment to Science. We persevered but unfortunately we lost to the Fantastic Three! We were all awarded with certificates and book vouchers. It was a great experience and we are looking forward to next year!

By Demie and Diane

Photos on page 35

Appledown's Rescue Dog of the Month



Introducing Bing, a small crossbreed aged under one year. He is a very sociable and bright young man who is learning fast. He has been crate-trained and can be left for a couple of hours. Bing would suit an active home as he is a young dog who is full of fun and energy! He cannot be rehomed in Luton.

If you feel you could offer Bing, or any of our other dogs, a loving and secure home, please call in at the kennels any day between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Our staff will be happy to offer advice and information.

Please note that we have restrictions on rehoming dogs to families with children under 7 years of age, so please ask for details.

Date for your Diary! - Join us at Appledown on Saturday 13th September for our **Open Day & Fun Dog Show**. Registration is from 11a.m. Show commences at 12 noon.

Appledown Rescue and Rehoming Kennels, Harling Road, Eaton Bray, Beds LU6 1QY.

Call 01525 220383 or e-mail appledown.kennels@btinternet.com
(Reg Charity No. 1116848)



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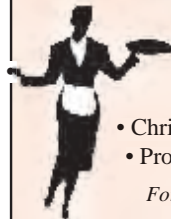
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Dagnall News

Over 60s

We enjoyed a lovely Garden Party at the home of John and Chris Yorke in July. The August meeting is in the village hall at 2pm on 19 August with our speaker John Tyler, who will talk on the subject of The Ridgeway, with slides to illustrate his talk. Tea and the raffle will follow and numbers and deposits taken for the September outing to the Oxford Car and Bus Museum with lunch out on the way.

Our June outing to Windsor was a lovely day, and we were delighted to have 18 members of Kensworth with us to fill the coach.

Anyone interested in our outing to Oxford Museum please contact Rosemary 01442 843202 by August 20th.

Community Choir

Sleazy Observed in West End

We are planning to include a selection of songs from "Miss Saigon" in our **AUTUMN CONCERT IN EATON BRAY VILLAGE HALL ON OCTOBER 11th**. So with this in mind, we ran a coach trip to Prince Edward Theatre in Soho to see the show.

It must be said that the sleazy nature of the early scenes caused some discomfort amongst our members. We witnessed certain "goings on" in Dreamland Nightclub and I tried not to stare, particularly at the activity on the 4th. and 5th. steps of the stairs on the right hand side of the stage, adjacent to the pole dancer. And the binoculars did not help - they kept steaming up.

Taking inspiration from what he had seen, our chairman, on the coach on the homeward journey, floated the idea that we might consider introducing some choreography to our concerts, but this was not generally received with overwhelming

enthusiasm.

However a member of our sopranos was enthused by one of the performers and suggested that a pole dance might not be inappropriate. Unfortunately, she subsequently e-mailed to let us know that she would not be able to attend our next Monday rehearsal because she had damaged her arm. The suspicions are that, when practising, the scaffolding collapsed as she threw herself at it. No names will be mentioned but, suffice it to say that, a British born member may not have demonstrated such dedication to the cause. We are also, at present in mid-summer, experiencing the strange feeling of working on Christmas music for a free concert at Dagnall Village Hall on Sunday afternoon, December 7th.

So, with this and our concert in Eaton Bray on October 11th, we hope that you will take the opportunity of coming along to hear for yourselves, the results of our efforts.

Dagnall School

On Friday 20th June the reception class invited their dads to come in and find out what we do in phonics. They had a range of lessons including some picture cards to say the words and write the sounds they can hear. This was followed by a formal phonics lesson playing with the oa sound, and ordering words into a sentence to make sense. The children then used their phonics in child initiated play with gold coins, painting, computer games, lotto, fishing, wall building and painting. Some of the dads shared the reading book and spotted sounds too. It was a great morning and the children thoroughly enjoyed showing off their decoding skills to their dads.

Photo on page 35



Edlesborough Festival? - Amazing!!

How did it go? Fantastic! After a slow start for some events LAST year, the 2014 Festival really hit the right note. The weather was kind and we felt we could do no wrong. We had so much support this year - THANK YOU! - our efforts were enjoyed by all who climbed the pathway to the beautiful setting of the 'Church on the Hill'.

We started the weekend with Megan Howell's Art Day - sitting in the sun, painting the glorious landscape, drink in hand - who could ask for more? Many brought flowers to decorate the ancient interior of the church, ably guided by WI President, Phrena Wilkinson. A beautiful sight and fragrance, candlelit in the evenings, to be enjoyed all weekend. Thanks to both these talented ladies for sharing their skills with us.

The Devine Family and Friends brought the church alive with Uilleann pipes, Irish whistle, saxophone, ballads - and Irish dancing from the youngest member of the family. They had recently performed at Buckingham Palace and kept everyone smiling with their variations on an Irish theme on that beautiful, 'balmy', Friday evening! Thanks to Janes of Edlesborough for being ticket agents for our evening events.

Saturday afternoon's Choirfest, hosted by the Green Man (PC Chair, Alan Williams painted green!) and opened by John Bercow, our MP, saw a church bursting at the seams. Schools from Dagnall, Edlesborough, Eaton Bray and Linslade, plus Dagnall Community Choir, delighted the audience with a huge variety of melodies. The Midsummer Fairies' and Gallant Knights' fancy dress parade was well supported. Every entry received 'favors' and a medal from Mr. Speaker

and Sir Neal our "parfait, gentle knight". Gold medals were awarded to Tabitha Wright and Peter Metcalfe - winners in each section - well done both! Pimms and cream teas went down a storm, and the sun kept shining.

The 'Chill on the Hill' - orchestrated by Julia Childs - was warmly received by a full audience, enjoying a spectacular variety of entertainers. The RAF Halton Pipes and Drums blasted their way into the church, ancient beams resounding to renditions of familiar melodies, ending with Amazing Grace which WAS truly amazing! The 38's Ukulele Band carried on the familiar theme and then Jason McDermid with Dave Williams on Latin guitar and flugelhorn filled the church with wonderful sounds and made it a night to remember. Damian Clarke had travelled up from Dorset with his dulcimer and hurdy gurdy, and for us it was well worth the trip - a great entertainer, who relished playing to such an appreciative audience. Alex Miles, recently resident singer/pianist at the Ritz in London, rounded off the evening as the sun set, with old and new favourites. "Beautiful to look at and beautiful to listen to" was one villager's comment to me. We could have listened to her all night. Alex was kindly sponsored by Edlesborough Surgery.

On Sunday morning the sun rose to warm another joyful day - Heritage Day - organised by Vicky Johns. Talented local folk trudged up the hill with their displays of traditional crafts for the pleasure of interested visitors: Mel Grundy - with his beautiful wood carvings, including the 'lost' Edlesborough Rose; Mary Maine (with Peter's help) showed her exquisite quilts, lovingly worked over



many decades; Lorna Cabbage, Lesley Crutcher and June Black demonstrated and displayed exquisite bobbin lace; Barbara Morton brought along spectacular examples of stained glass workings; Catherine Hayden demonstrated how to take strands of fleece to yarn, with carding and spinning; Peter Ort and Julia Childs got everyone's ears ringing with the old church hand bells - was 'Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star' meant to sound like that? - Alan Ratheram, carressing the keys of the old church organ, produced a more melodious sound! Alan Williams fascinated many families with local history and events, tracing their connections with the aid of his laptop, whilst Chris Roddis and Vicky Johns displayed boards of photos of the village over the last 100 years, sourced by the EDaN Beautification Team who also ran the weekend's refreshments. Mike and Mick from Silver Arrow Archery had a great display of weaponry both old and new sharing their skills and knowledge. Our medieval knight (Neal Oughton) was with us all weekend – getting very hot under his chain mail and helmet – encouraging the children to get the feel of ancient weapons of destruction. There were photos, tools and examples of the local craft of straw plaiting, kindly loaned by Christine and John Horn - and you could even try your hand at brass rubbing. The winner of the Children's Photo Competition, kindly sponsored and judged by Ian Waldron Photography, was 12 year old Emily Janes from Edlesborough, who also won the Anne Thompson Trophy, presented by Cllr. Marilyn Prys Jones. Runners up were 6 year old Ella Betts, Katharine Walley, 12 yrs. and Neve Pritchard, 8 yrs. We received some lovely pictures of the church from these children – Ian will have to look to his laurels! Many cream teas and jugs of Pimms were

consumed in the sunshine on this perfect summer afternoon.

Mike Pearson and his team of ringers took over the bell tower to ring Songs of Praise, starring our own and much loved Rev'd Coralie McCluskey. Crispin Truman, Chief Executive of the Churches Conservation Trust which now owns the church, was with us for the whole afternoon, enjoying a cream tea with members of the Friends of the Church and hearing how we see the future of the Church on the Hill – and we think it looks BRIGHT! If we can attract the interest and support of local people as well as film-makers and other commercial users this magnificent landmark can continue to excite and impress for many more lifetimes.

Breaking news... just over £3000 was raised at the Festival which will help secure the future of the Church. Thanks to all those who contributed to the Festival's success - organisers, performers, exhibitors, refreshment helpers, 'lifters and shifters', raffle prize donators and enthusiastic audiences – BRILLIANT!

Visit our website to see how to continue supporting the Friends: www.edlesboroughchurch.org.uk or Facebook - Friends of the Church on the Hill, Edlesborough.

✍Christine Yates



Dunstable & District Local History Society

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Message from the Carnival Committee Chairman

Well, I'm terribly sorry, that wasn't the weather that I ordered, but unlike with internet shopping you can't send it back if you don't like it and we simply had to cope with a mainly wet day until about 3 o'clock in the afternoon. Fortunately the people in our villages have a good track record with respect to coping with wet weather on Carnival Day so, despite the rain, plenty of people followed the procession onto the Green and it was soon pretty full of folk, young and old, enjoying themselves. There was a lovely atmosphere even in the rain and especially when the sun eventually did come out

Everyone involved with the Carnival is very grateful for that public show of support for, in truth and behind the scenes this year, the delivery of the event has not been entirely easy with some significant crises having to be resolved in the weeks and days leading up to 5th July. So that's why this year I want to thank first and foremost the members of the Carnival organising committee who work so hard to put on a seamless show; all are volunteers, all give up their time freely. They are: Catherine Evans, Richard Evans, Pete Farrar, Pauline Glen, Brett Marsh, Rebecca Shaw, Bob Stilliard, Sharon Stilliard, Iain Stubbs, Peter Thomas and Andy Tournay, and with a slightly lower though nonetheless important profile: Chris Banks, Theo Gray, Heidi Head, Penny Pataky, Sally Taylor, Tanya Watkin, Roger Wilkinson.

But, of course, for a Carnival like ours there are many, many people who make a huge contribution including: St Mary's stall holders, the ladies and gentlemen in the Tea Tent, those who sold and bought Grand Draw tickets, the heavy

gang shifting equipment throughout the weekend, the halls and schools who loan equipment, the people who respond to last minute appeals for help, the road closure team, the individuals and businesses who are so generous with their donations (plus lots more).

And speaking of businesses what a magnificent example Janes gave to local traders on how to use the Carnival to promote what they do. They achieved several hours completely free advertising and had everyone talking; and I should reassure you that the quality of the goods they sell is rather better than the quality of their singing! – I hope we'll see more businesses using the Carnival in a similar way in future.

For me the run up to Carnival is quite a few weeks of intense activity and usually the first time I get a chance to look at the wider picture is midway through Saturday morning when the basic structures of the event have been erected and I gaze over a Green that is filling with people and activity. Then I ride through the village along the procession route and I have to admit that I shed a few tears at all the activity of erecting bunting and decorating gardens. And despite the rain we once again had wonderfully colourful displays for which, for the first time, we awarded gold, silver and bronze certificates.

The trophy winners were: 130 High Street Eaton Bray and 44-46 High Street Edlesborough.

Gold Medal Certificates were awarded to: The above two houses, 9 High Street Eaton Bray, Janes Ltd, 9 The Green and 30 Pebblemoor.

We had some superb floats in the procession; congratulation to everyone

who worked so hard to create these masterpieces and special thanks to Iain Stubbs, Will Pratt and TBA who all came to the rescue at very short notice. The role of honour for the procession was:

Schools:

1st - Totternhoe Lower School, 2nd - Eaton Bray Academy, 3rd - Edlesborough School

Youth Organisations:

1st - 1st Eaton Bray and Edlesborough Scouts, 2nd – GIFT, 3rd - Curtain Call

Businesses:

1st – Janes

Among other winners at the Carnival the weekend for 2 in Rome was won by T Jones, from Pitstone and the two items carved by our carver this year were both from Northall - Peter Le Roux and Mr Jones. These two were among many who gave me a wonderfully warm welcome during the two weeks leading up to the Carnival – my sincere thanks to all my neighbours who were so generous.

As I write this in the days after the event there is still plenty of clearing up to do and accounts to be finalised. The headline figure we finally declare will be lower

than last year, not just because of the weather but also because of a change in our accounting procedures. Even so, there will be a large sum to distribute to local good causes and, if your organisation would benefit from a donation then please get in touch, via the website www.stmarysvillagecarnival.com.

Looking to the future, next year's Carnival will be, as usual, on the first Saturday in July, that's Saturday 4 July 2015. There are spaces on the organising committee and if you feel you have the skills to help organise this tremendous community event then please get in touch with me. I would welcome suggestions for local charities that we could consider to be next year's principal beneficiary and also suggestions of someone to open the event – it was lovely to be able to give Postman Alan one final send off and we wish him a very happy retirement.

I've no doubt that I've forgotten to mention someone important, and if I have then please accept my apologies. Thank you all for your support, your help, and for words of encouragement.

✍Gordon Gray.

All Saints' Church Dagnall

Services in August/September 2014

Sun. 3rd Aug.	9.00 am	Eucharist
	10.30 am	Morning Service
Sun. 10th Aug.	10.30 am	Morning Service
Sun. 17th Aug.	10.30 am	Family Communion
Sun. 24th Aug.	10.30 am	Family Service
Sun 31st Aug.	10.30 am	Informal Worship
Sun. 7th Sept.	9.00 am	Eucharist
	10.30 am	Morning Service
Sun. 14th Sept.	10.30 am	Morning Service
Sun. 21st Sept.	10.30 am	Family Communion
Sun. 28th Sept.	10.30 am	Family Harvest Festival Service
Sun.5th Oct.	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.



Howzat!



Edlesborough School Cricket Success!

On Friday 4th July, 32 Year 5/6 pupils from Edlesborough School participated in the Tring Park CC Kwik Cricket Tournament 2014 – and WON!

The annual tournament is organised by Six4Six Sports Coaching. This year saw 22 teams entered from primary schools across Tring, Edlesborough and Berkhamsted.

Edlesborough School entered 4 teams, comprising boys and girls from Years 5 and 6. Two of the teams ended up in the

semi finals, with one going through to win in the final and the other to come 4th.

The cricket all the children played was absolutely top class. We are incredibly proud of how they worked together as teams; supporting each other and being ably guided by their captains.

We would like to say a big “thank you and well done!” to all the children and to their parents for coming along giving their support.

✉Mrs.Kent

Photo on page 35

Big Science Event 2014 Finalists

Years 5 and 6 entered the Science Oxford, GE Healthcare Big Science Event 2014. In groups children planned their own Science Investigations and made posters to show what they did and what they found out. We were delighted to hear after the visit from an external judge that one team from each Year had been selected to go

forward to the Grand Final in Chalfont St Giles on 2nd July. It was a day full of fun Science activities and included a Science Magic Show. We were very proud of our finalists and children are already thinking about their investigations for next year!

Photo on page 35

National Sport Week

Children at Edlesborough School took part in many different activities during the week beginning 23rd June for National School sports week. The week started with our KS1 children experiencing long distance running where they had the chance to run around our large school field. Mrs Freed the KS1 team leader quoted that the children thoroughly enjoyed this experience, and were keen to do as many laps as they could to build a handsome total which was added to their house teams. Also throughout the week, KS1 children took part in Wake & Shake exercises every day to get them warmed up and ready for the day.

The day ended with a great cup final win in the Aylesbury Vale girls' football

league with seven Year 5/6 girls beating Roundwood School 4 – 2. This win caps a very successful season for the girls who also won their league division.

The following day on Tuesday it was KS2 children's turn to experience the long distance running and this was done on a slightly larger scale compared to the KS1 classes. The children walked across to Edlesborough village green to run as many laps as they could in half an hour. There was some impressive running on show, with many children clocking 4 to 5 miles in a short period of time.

Then on Wednesday each class had a chance to show their dance moves in a Zumba exercise class.

Thursday was the whole school sports

day. The children had the chance to take part in team games and traditional sports day games like hurdles, egg and spoon

race, sprints and relay races.

✉ Mrs Slatter

Photo on page 35

Free Tuition on Golf Croquet

Free tuition on the game and basic rules of Golf Croquet at Pages Park Leighton Buzzard

Hello, my name is Len Buckingham. I am Treasurer of Leighton Linslade Croquet Club, and a Croquet Association registered referee. The game of Golf Croquet is very popular today and is also an international sport. Whilst it is mainly played by persons of about forty years of age upwards, it is also very popular with younger members of society. The game involves considerable skill plus an agile and scheming mind, nevertheless it is also extremely sociable and relaxing when played socially, and is not so physically demanding as many other sports.

Meet at 10am in the car park of Page's Field on Sunday the 17th August 2014. Please telephone Len Buckingham on 01525 221079 to book a place as the class may have to be limited. Details of how to find the car park can be obtained by telephoning Len or email llcroquetclub@gmail.com. The instruction and a chance to play with one of the club members will last about two hours.



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A Letter from Envoy Hilary

Commanding Officer: Hilary Chadwick
The Salvation Army, Booth Place,
Eaton Bray, LU6 2DR

Tel: 01525 222087

Mobile: 07932 057490

Email:

hilary.chadwick@salvationarmy.org.uk

In July I was installed as the Commanding Officer of the Eaton Bray Corps of The Salvation Army. This will be my first appointment as a Territorial Envoy and I thank God for this opportunity to serve the communities of Eaton Bray, Edlesborough, Northall, Dagnall and surrounding villages. Like Captain Jenny Dibsall, my time will be split between two ministries.

About me

I have been married to Alan for 32 years and we have been blessed with two children, Rebecca and Graham. In more recent days our family has grown with the addition of a son and daughter in law, and in June this year we became grandparents to William (another exciting chapter in our lives). Alan and I live in Luton with my elderly mother so I will travel over on a daily basis and be based at The Salvation Army Hall in Booth Place.

I was born in Dunstable where I lived until I was seven and we moved to Luton. In the 1990's Alan and I served as Salvation Army Officers in Liverpool and in Wick in North Scotland before personal circumstances led us to resign and move back to Dunstable. Over the last 15 years I have worked for HSBC Bank PLC in Hemel Hempstead, The Salvation Army at the Divisional Headquarters in Uxbridge, and for the last four years I have worked as the Volunteer Services Manager for Keech Hospice Care.

I look forward to meeting you in future

days and have already felt very welcomed into the village.

The Salvation Army Big Collection

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If you would like to make a donation these are the drop off points in your village:

- Eaton Bray – The Nisa Local store
- Edlesborough – the Post Office/shop

THANK YOU in advance for your generosity. If you would like any more information please do not hesitate to contact me (see above for contact details)

✍ Hilary Chadwick (Territorial Envoy)

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— Christopher —
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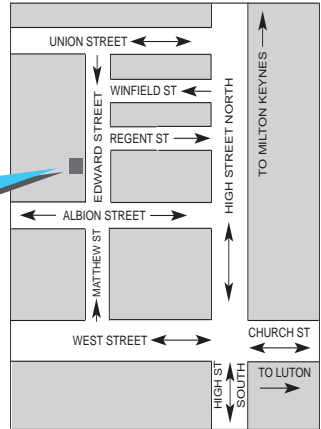


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Top left: Eaton Bray Academy children enjoying a residential trip to Dell Farm - page 10

Top right: University Challenge at Eaton Bray Academy - page 10

Right: Edlesborough School children at the Big Science Event final - page 24

Right: Dagnall School reception class and their dads learning phonics - page 19

Bottom right: Edlesborough School cricket teams

Below: Edlesborough School Sports week: long distance race in full flow & Zumba lesson with Mrs Hunt



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Edlesborough Festival



Clockwise from top left: Edlesborough bellringers, some of the Devine family - Friday night, photo competition, bobbin lacemakers, Phrena Wilkinson's Flower Arranging Workshop, Barbara Morton - stained glass, Sir Neal - Medieval Knight; middle: Mary Maine - quilting

Edlesborough Festival



Clockwise from top left: Dagnall School choir with John Bercow, Megan Howell's Art Day, Edlesborough School choir, Some of Saturday night's entertainers, Sir Neal's medieval knights display, Parade of Midsummer fairies and gallant knights, Dagnall Community choir with John Bercow, Eaton Bray Academy choir



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Quotes from children

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"Early Reading is good. I love doing my letter sounds!"

"We are all learning!"

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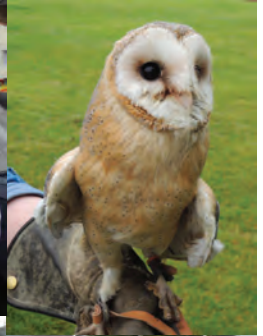


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For information about what is needed please see:

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Rotary - Antiques

The Rotary Club of Dunstable shares an international motto of "Service above Self". The Club members raise money during the year to put into their Benevolent Fund and once a year this money is distributed to good causes and charities local to Dunstable and the surrounding villages.

Each year three Antiques Fairs are held at the Dunstable Leisure Centre where all the profits go into the Benevolent Fund. The next Fair is on Bank Holiday Monday,

25th August 2014 and is open to the public between 10am and 4pm. Admission is a modest £2 per person.

How can you help?

- By having a stall at the event. Please contact Alan Tarsey on 01582 872673
- By attending the event
- By becoming a member of The Rotary Club and helping worthwhile causes in the community.

More information can be obtained from Roger Sharp on 01582 606405

News from the Wednesday Club Northall

We have had a busy Spring and Summer, with our Coffee Morning at the end of April, Dave and his friends on the Ukelele to entertain us, a Coach Trip to the River Thames near Oxford for a great lunch with wonderful scenery, an Afternoon Tea Party hosted by our friends at Ashridge, a Cheese and Wine Tasting courtesy of Waitrose at Leighton Buzzard, Scrabble and Domino Competitions, a visit to see Dagnall School children showing us their country dancing, and then serving us tea and cakes and finally we will have hosted our own Afternoon Tea Party with Pimms for all our committee and volunteers who help run our Club every Wednesday at Northall Village Hall.

We would be unable to run the club without our valued Committee members and volunteer cooks, drivers and conductors and all the staff and members would like to say a big THANK YOU to those who help us.

If you are interested in joining the Club as a member, or as a volunteer, please get in touch with Anna on 07854 230243.

We shall be CLOSED for AUGUST but back to meet every Wednesday from

3rd September. Don't sit at home and be lonely - come and join us!

DONATIONS

We are seeking donations of wool for blanket knitting and any new unwanted gifts or toiletries (for our Carnival Tombola or Weekly Sale table).

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.

If you need to complain about Heathrow flight noise the number is 0800 344 844. Email: noise_complaints@heathrow.com



Eaton Bray Parish Council

Highlights of the Minutes

Meeting of Eaton Bray Parish Council

Held on Monday 2nd June 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:

News from the team

Crime Type	Recorded Crime		
	01/05/13 to 29/05/13	01/05/14 to 29/05/14	% Change
Domestic Burglary	1	0	-100.0%
Burglary Other	0	0	n/a
Vehicle Crime	1	2	+1
Other Theft	1	0	-100.0%
Criminal Damage	2	3	+1
Drugs	0	0	0
Other Notifiable Offences	0	0	0
Total	5	5	0

Comment: There has been 1x Anti-Social Behaviour incident relating to a drunk male walking around the village and park on School Lane, when an officer arrived there was no one there.

(2.1) Beds Police are looking at starting a SPEED WATCH in the village. They need a minimum of 4 members at any 1 time to go out and take number plates of speeding vehicles and pass over to your local police team. Correct training will be given to go out and do SPEED WATCH.

(2.2) Concerns were raised with regard to problem cars parking on verges, directly in front of driveways; a major cause for concern is around the junction with the High Street/Wallace Drive. BP agreed to speak to the local business asking them to remind their patrons to park their cars with due care and attention. All agreed.


(2.3) 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

(2.4) If you wish to contact your Local Policing Team then please call 01582 473411 or email LPT.LeightonBuzzardLinslade&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.

Amendment To Cemetery Regulations

The Parish Council agreed to the following addition to the Cemetery Regulations "... the displaying of mementos of any kind should be confined to the stated boundary of the burial/ashes plot and should not encroach on the surrounding area, i.e. fences, hedges etc." A copy of the regulations is available to view on the council website.



OVERGROWN TREES/HEDGING
Once again the Parish Council wishes to remind residents that they need to ensure their hedges/bushes/trees do not encroach onto the public footpath and are cut back to their property boundary line, allowing free access for footpath users. **CUT IT BACK!**

Next Eaton Bray Parish Council Meeting

Parish Council Meeting: Monday 1st September 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]

Dunstable & District Orbit Club

Cheque Presentation to Local Charities

Dunstable & District Orbit Club have been busy raising money for local charities for 27 years and have raised around £60,000 during that time! This year they raised £1,635, which was divided equally between their three nominated charities. At Orbit's club meeting on 1st July the charities were presented with their cheques.

Paul Bastiani (third from left) received a cheque on behalf of East Anglian Air Ambulance - a 365 day helicopter emergency medical service covering Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk.

Debbie La-Haye (fourth from left) received a cheque on behalf of Horses Helping People - a therapeutic horsemanship centre and care farm, where horses help children and adults with special needs and from disadvantaged backgrounds, to improve their mental and physical wellbeing.

Lynne Atkins (third from right) received

a cheque on behalf of Headway Luton - the charity that works to improve life after brain injury.

Dunstable and District Orbit Club is a social and fundraising group for people of all ages. Their membership is drawn from local towns and villages, including Luton, Dunstable and Leighton Buzzard. Whatever your skills, background and interests, there is something for everyone in Orbit.

The club is keen to expand its community, social and fundraising events and hopes that new members would bring fresh ideas along with them. In return they offer friendship and a sense of belonging as part of a team. You'll be given a warm welcome.

Orbit meets on the first and third Tuesday of the month at Dunstablians Rugby Club in Houghton Regis from 8 pm.

Visit www.orbitclub.org.uk/dunstable or contact 01525 222441.



Orbit members and charity representatives with their cheques

Edlesborough Parish Council News

Including Edlesborough, Dagnall and Northall

Parish Council meeting - dates and venues

18th September 2014 Parish Council Meeting commencing 7:30pm at Edlesborough Memorial Hall

On Thursday 19th June Edlesborough Parish Council held their AGM followed by the Ordinary Parish Meeting. Below is a summary of the meeting, the full minutes can be found at www.edlesborough-pc.gov.uk

Transport for Bucks

The condition of the roads and pavements around the Parish continue to be regularly reported to Transport for Bucks. The good news is that it has now been confirmed that parts of High Street and Pebblemoor, Edlesborough will be resurfaced this year. The Council encourages Parishioners to report issues directly to Transport for Bucks via the website www.buckscc.gov.uk/telltfb or by ringing the fault reporting line on 0845 230 2882.

Grass Cutting

Many Parishioners and the Parish Council continue to be disappointed with the grass cutting. This work is currently carried out by Transport for Bucks. Please report any missed or poorly cut areas to Transport for Bucks via the website www.buckscc.gov.uk/telltfb or by ringing 0845 230 2882 or 01296 382416.

The Parish Council thanks those Parishioners who are cutting grass outside their own properties.

The Green

Due to the kindness of a small group of Parishioners who came and helped water the new turf on the Green the repairs to the goal mouths have survived the glorious weather. The Manager of the Green thanks all those who helped her with this

immense task.

Pavilion Update

Edlesborough Parish Council supports fully the progress made and plans developed by the newly formed Edlesborough Community Sports Club (formerly the Edlesborough Pavilion Steering Group), together with the proposal to establish charitable status for the Club.

The Council is now preparing to have preliminary discussions with the AVDC Planning Officers for the replacement of the existing pavilion using the club's plans developed by the Club's architect. We encourage parishioners to find out more and show support for the initiative by contacting the Club through their website www.EdThePav.org

Streetlights

The fallen streetlight in Taskers Row now has the Parish's first LED light. The Council welcomes Parishioners' comments on this new light.

The fallen light in Studham Lane, Dagnall will not be replaced. A visit to the site demonstrated that the area is sufficiently illuminated.

Please remember to report any faulty streetlights to the Clerk (details below) NOT AVDC or Bucks CC.

Dog Fouling

Continued complaints about dog fouling were discussed, and a poster and leaflet campaign is currently being organised to combat this.

Please report any incidents to AVDC with as much information as possible (time, location, breed of dog, name of owner, if known).

The phone number is 01296 585605



Email:

envhealth@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk

The more incidents reported will highlight the need for the dog warden to patrol the area.

<http://www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/environment/noise-smells-and-smoke/dog-fouling/>

Defibrillator

Possible locations were discussed. More investigations will be carried out into the benefits of this. The Parish Council would like to know how many First Responders we have in the area and who they are. If you are able to help with this information please contact the Parish Clerk.

Finance

The Internal Audit of the accounts has been completed and approved by the Council and will now be sent to the External Auditors.

Gaddesden Walk, Dagnall

The status of the Gaddesden Walk footpath was discussed in detail. Community Service workers will clear part of the path to enable an assessment of the fencing and the path.

THE PARISH COUNCIL REQUESTS THAT ALL PARISHIONERS IMPRESS UPON THEIR CHILDREN THAT THE PATH IS **NOT OPEN** AND MUST NOT

BE USED.

Further discussions will take place at July's EPC meeting concerning the future of the footpath. The Council encourages Dagnall Parishioners to communicate their feelings about the opening of this footpath. This can be done via email or letter to the Parish Clerk or by coming to the next EPC meeting.

Facebook

Edlesborough Parish Council's Facebook Page is up and running and is already being used to answer Parishioners questions and to share information with the Parish.

Contact Information

Clerk to Edlesborough Parish Council:

Penny Pataky

01525 229358

Email: clerk@edlesborough-pc.gov.uk

Manager of Edlesborough Memorial Hall, Pavilion, Playground & Green:

Penny Pataky 01525 229358

Email: manager@edlesborough-pc.gov.uk

Responsible Finance Officer/Planning to Edlesborough Parish Council:

Lin Sargeant: 01525 220859

Email: rfo@edlesborough-pc.gov.uk

Website: www.edlesborough-pc.gov.uk



New Trees at Good Intent, Edlesborough

Edlesborough Parish Council wishes to thank Barry and Andrea Cossins of Good Intent for their generous and substantial donation of the three trees semi-mature birch trees, newly planted at their expense to help improve the village environment, on the land at the corner of Good Intent. We are also grateful to them and others who have helped water the trees during the dry spells.





Eaton Bray Lawn Tennis Club

Hot on the heels of Wimbledon, EBLTC is now officially on the global tennis circuit! Clearly the name of our not so little club has spread far and wide, for last month we were asked if we could provide practice court time to three Greek junior players, who were participating in the Nike Junior International championships taking place at RAF Halton near Wendover, and who wanted somewhere not too far away to practice hitting a few balls. Of course we agreed; anything to promote both junior tennis and international 'entente cordial', and we wouldn't hear of accepting any payment for the use of our courts, despite the kind offer of their UK host, Lorna Browne. So Ionna Giannakou, Raz Haviv and Evangelos Kypriotis plus a few family members duly arrived for the tournament, and we were very proud to see them practicing their game on our courts. Their standard of play put us all to shame, perhaps with the exception of our coaching team, but even they raised their hats to the Greek youngsters (although I have never seen either Sara or Alison in a hat, but you get the point). In the tournament itself, Ioanna, in particular, did very well winning 2 matches before losing to the eventual runner-up. It was a great experience for our young European friends, and we were delighted to have been able to help in some small way.

Next year we'll be writing to Andy Murray to ask if he'd like to rent our courts for a week or two prior to Wimbledon to hone his skills with his new coach Amelie Mauresmo. We've got floodlights, so as long as they bought some tokens from us they could practice until 'lights out' at 10pm. They could kip in the clubhouse, where there's a fridge to keep their energy drinks nice and cool, and for a further

small fee they could borrow our BBQ to knock up a few sausages for breakfast, and maybe a burger or two for dinner. Anything to help our British sportsmen to improve their game. In fact, we also wrote to Roy Hodgson, the England football team manager, to see if they'd like to use our courts for some fitness training sessions. Unfortunately he said they couldn't, as he'd arranged a game for them against Iceland to try to boost the player's confidence. If they won that, then the following Wednesday they were going to play Tesco's, and then Asda on Saturday.

Our Play Tennis Day in June was a resounding success, and once again we signed up over a dozen new members to the club, further inching us towards that magical 200 member mark. The weather was kind in as much as it didn't tip it down, and over 50 people of all ages and abilities enjoyed some fun and games on the courts. Billy the Ball Machine was quite well behaved, having had his 'superspeed' button surgically removed with a screwdriver, so he was actually quite gentle, although that could have just been the after-effect of the anaesthetic. Sara's 'aerobic tennis' session was extremely well subscribed, with everyone running around so furiously it all became a bit of a blur from my position behind the barbecue. That might have been because of the smoke, though. I was using a new type of 'smokeless' charcoal, but if that was smokeless then my name is Roger Federer. Luton airport thought the ash cloud had returned, and all leave was cancelled at the fire station. However it did give the burgers a nice 'Louisiana Creole' flavouring and they were certainly well cooked, although I couldn't be sure at the time because I couldn't see them. Nobody has reported

any major health issues since, though, so I think I got away with it. Anyway, thanks to everyone who came along, especially to those new members, and we look forward to seeing you at the Chairman's barbecue. Apparently I'm not doing the cooking, well not any more.

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 returning several bags of ash to the 'ACME' charcoal company, then me, Andy Cross, on 07783 667338.

Eaton Bray Village Hall

2013/2014 and the Future

Below are the main points from the Chairman's Statement, Eaton Bray Village Hall Management Committee AGM held on June 17th 2014

"The last year, as most of the recent ones, has been one of managing our income and expenditure. It has been tough to get new hirers and our costs, like everybody's, continue to rise. But we have continued to develop the hall so ensuring it is kept in prime condition. This has remained the intention of the trustees after 10 years of fund raising and redeveloping the hall from its rather sad state at the turn of the century.

Letting income was down slightly, we kept our expenses in check whilst putting in new fire doors so improving the building. This has led to a lesser amount being transferred to the development fund, £3000, whilst the fund raising committee have generated a further £6500. Our main project for 2014 is to replace some, if not all, the chairs.

As usual I would like to thank all the trustees for their input and help over the last year

The one thing that strikes me is that each trustee brings something different to the committee, some are excellent at managing projects, other at technical points or general maintenance, whilst others are excellent at fundraising. It

is this diversity that make the trustees a success in having created a superb hall and maintaining it to the high standards we have set ourselves. Thank you all.

Overall we have had a successful year and again I feel the hall is continuing to improve both physically and financially".

✍ Ross Bagni, Chairman Eaton Bray Village Hall Management Committee

Whilst all the above is true and we continue to succeed in our efforts we are in need of **NEW TRUSTEES**. If you could spare **a few hours a year**, and that is all it is, to help in the continued success of what is, after all **YOUR** hall. We have no on-going grants from the Parish Council or anyone else so are dependent on our skills and efforts and there is huge satisfaction when people say how great the hall is, so why not come and be part of this?

Most of the present trustees have been involved in renovating and continuing to improve the hall for over 10 years and we feel that fresh thinking can only help the hall and allow one or two to take a bit of a back seat.

Please contact me and I will be only too pleased to discuss the role and answer any questions you have. Obviously there is no obligation at that stage so just ring me, Ross on 01525 221411

Go on, do it while you think about it!

Don't Get Burnt by Burglars This Summer

Advice to help secure your home - from the Aylesbury Vale Community Safety Partnership

Whilst Aylesbury Vale is a low crime area, there can be a risk of burglary to people's homes if they leave windows and/or doors open in the warmer weather and if their home looks unoccupied when they are on holiday. Sometimes the last thing we think about is home security when we're about to head off for the sun.

As a result, the partnership (comprising the police, local councils and other agencies) has prepared a pocket sized card containing a range of crime prevention tips to help stop residents of the Vale being victims of this crime and a handy holiday check list to assist people secure their home before going away and to ensure they don't leave signs they are not at home. The cards are available at animal kennels, camping equipment outlets,

coffee shops/cafes, doctor's surgeries, libraries, pharmacies and travel agents. Police Community Support Officers will also carry the cards with them.

Key messages to help prevent burglary include:

- Keep the boundaries to your property secure – such as by locking side gates.
- Make sure windows and doors are locked when going out and at night.
- Ensure front doors and windows are locked when you are out in the garden to stop 'sneak in' burglaries.
- Fully lock UPVC doors with a key – don't just lift the handle.
- Don't advertise on social networking sites that you are going on holiday.

If you would like a card sent to you, please contact the Aylesbury Vale District Council Community Safety Team on 01296-585005.'

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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

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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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17 Good Intent, Edlesborough

St Mary's Ladies Guild

Deirdrea welcomed members and gave out birthday cards for Thelma Bodsworth, June Howard, Marjorie Mann, Heather Munday and June Thorne.

Notices were read out. A box had been put on the entrance table for the envelopes for the Gloucester trip. A planted container was taken to Jenny Hewett, who is recovering from a shoulder operation. July's speaker will be Phil Baker from the Little Theatre Dunstable.

Suzanne Roberts was introduced and gave a presentation on WaterAid:-

WaterAid's vision is a world where everyone has access to safe water and sanitation. Every year 60 million children in the developing world are born into households without access to sanitation thereby water-related diseases kill 2,000 children every day. Water collection is almost exclusively the job of women and girls. Often young girls will walk miles

carrying their own body weight in water on their heads or backs; the water gives them diarrhoea and sickness they know this to be the case but what else can they do. There are no toilets and using latrines is a bad experience exposing women to sexual violence. Suzanne said this summer WaterAid is on a mission to raise £1million and to change the story for girls around the world. Until 9 September 2014 the UK Government will double donations as part of WaterAid's "To be a girl" campaign.

A cheque for £310 was presented to Suzanne who was thanked for a very informative presentation, the Guild will be forwarding a further cheque to WaterAid in December.

Social time followed with a very good selection of food to be enjoyed by all. The raffle was drawn before members made their way home.

Edlesbray Leisure Fellowship (ELF)

Hello Everyone,

At the moment, we hope that you are all enjoying the warmer weather and all that it brings. If you are taking holidays, enjoy them.

The group outing to the Olympic Park went very well on a fine day. Those taking part enjoyed all the venues they were taken to by a very informative guide. After the tour, the group met to enjoy a lunch together before making their way back home. The group used railways and the underground for their travel. Brian Wyke was the organiser of this trip and thanks go to him for this enjoyable day.

As there is no meeting in August, the next one at the Coffee Tavern is on **Thursday 11th of September**, for refreshments, discussions on future events etc. Please

come along to join in this friendly group. No details are available, as yet, for our next two lunches out. When the arrangements are made, the details will be displayed in the North Porch of Eaton Bray Church. The dates are Thursday July 31st and Thursday October 9th.

AUGUST DATES

Monday August 25th

Walk from Eaton Bray Church 10am (This may be altered as it is a Bank Holiday.)

SEPTEMBER DATES

Thursday Sept 11th

Meeting at the Coffee Tavern 10.30am

Monday Sept 22nd

Walk from Eaton Bray Church 10am

THE EDLESBOROUGH FILM SOCIETY

We start our tenth season on Monday 8th September. We meet in Eaton Bray Hall at 2.0pm on the second Monday of each month between September and the following May.

This season, members have chosen the following programme:

- Philomena
- Captain Phillips
- Emma
- The Butler
- Anna Karenina
- Saving Mr. Banks
- Gravity
- August: Osage County

• Quartet

New members are always welcome and can be assured of a warm welcome. If you think you might like to join us, you can come for a trial visit for £4 which will be deducted from your membership fee if you join us.

More information and a brochure can be obtained from Graham Chappell on 220883 or visit our website at:

<http://www.eatonbray.com/cinema/>

Or, just come along to one of our films. It makes a nice afternoon out and we serve Tea and Biscuits after the film with time for a chat.



Edlesborough W.I.

Before being introduced to the speaker at our last meeting, we were given details of the forthcoming Edlesborough Festival. Christine Yates outlined the events of the three days (June 20th – 22nd), and what a terrific weekend we could expect.

Our speaker, John Tyler, under the title Volcanoes and Dragons, told us of a trip he made to Indonesia some years ago. With the help of slides he described his journey from Sumatra to New Guinea. His aim was to see all the Komodo dragons, and en route he visited six of the thousands of islands which make up Indonesia. Many islands are volcanic – around 300 in all and some are active today. John found the islanders he met to be very hospitable. They are self-sufficient, living mainly by fishing. Each island has its own language or dialect. There are many forms of wildlife, particularly insects which are beautifully coloured and often have a similar appearance to their

surroundings. John's photos were examples of these creatures.

During his journey to see the Komodo dragon John learned that islanders leave out food for them, at the side of their houses standing on stilts. The dragon is, in fact, a huge lizard. It has teeth which are replaceable all its life and poisonous saliva which can kill other animals. In fact, Komodo dragons will kill and eat each other and, on occasions, do the same to human beings. There are fewer than 4,000 of them, although they are not considered an endangered species. They are valuable to the islanders in attracting tourists. What a fascinating journey this had proved for John, who had obviously loved every minute of it on his way to seeing the massive Komodo dragon.

Later in the month a number of members visited Kew Gardens, and spent a lovely day in the sunshine. They returned tired, but very happy, after such an enjoyable outing..

✍️ Val Harris

Know Your Wasps!!!

Vespula vulgaris (The Common Wasp)



This is the wasp which we mostly come into contact with depending upon where you live. In the picture above, the wasp on the left is the male, the one in the middle is the queen and on the right is the worker. Different species of wasp can be identified by their mask, (shown the queen in the picture above), and the markings on their abdomen. The face usually has an anchor mark and the malar space (the distance between the eye and the jaw) is very short. Antennae are black at the base. Thoracic stripes are parallel sided. Four yellow spots at the rear of the thorax. Nests in holes in the ground and in buildings. Nests are made by the wasps scratching

on wooden matter and mixing this with their saliva to form a paper yellowish shell on the outside and tiers of harder honeycomb type floors on the inside. Wasps build a new nest every summer, and only use the nest for one season. In late summer more male and queens are born, the males fertilise the queens and then the workers and the males die and the queens over winter in the old nest. (There can be up to 2000 queens in a large nest) The following spring the queens leave the old nest to build a new nest and the old nest is never used again. A pest control treatment for wasps is carried out by applying an insecticidal dust / powder to the nest/entry point, the wasps walk in/on the dust and carry it through to the nest where they proceed to lick it off of themselves and therefore die. The procedure is very quick but the wasps may take 24-48 hours to die off depending on the size of the nest. Please call Jane at JMC Pest Control for help, advice and treatment on-: 07973-407027

The Church on the Hill takes part in Heritage Open Days 2014

Every year, in the middle weekend of September, thousands of buildings and sites which are not usually accessible to the general public are opened specially to welcome visitors free of charge. This year, for the first time, the Friends of the Church on the Hill have arranged for Edlesborough Church to be open on each "heritage open day" from Friday 11th to Monday 14th so that visitors can see the magnificent interior of this grade 1 listed, mediaeval church. On Sunday afternoon there will be displays on Family and

Local history, and light refreshments will be available.

So don't miss this opportunity to visit the church and admire the craftsmanship and artistry of the mediaeval masons, wood carvers and craftsmen who built the church and created its remarkable choir stalls, rood screen and pulpit in the 14th and 15th centuries. Perhaps you will also discover something about your family and the history of this part of Buckinghamshire.



Edlesborough Book Group

The Northern Clemency by Philip Hensher

This month, we faced a mammoth task. Philip Hensher's novel *The Northern Clemency* is 700 pages long, covering twenty years from 1974 up to the 1990's. The narrative follows two middle class families who live opposite one another in a street in the leafier part of Sheffield. The book begins on the day that the Sellers family move in to their house because of Bernard Seller's new job with the Electricity Board. He, his wife Alice and their children Sandra and Francis, have moved north from South London and are finding their surroundings strange. On the day of their arrival, there is a crisis in the Glover household opposite; Malcolm, head of the house, has left home, leaving his wife Katherine and three children, Daniel, Jane and Tim, to cope with the debris of a failed 'welcome to the neighbourhood' party for the Sellers family. Malcolm mistakenly suspects his wife of having an affair; she has recently gone back to paid employment at a local florists and is obsessed with its owner. This sets up the framework of the book, as it covers the next twenty years of their everyday lives in Sheffield against the political backdrop of those times. The children grow up and find their separate ways in the world, Katherine and Malcolm struggle with their marriage and the two families' stories merge from time to time. Philip Hensher is a journalist and an English professor of Creative Writing. He moved to Sheffield from South London at the age of nine and we must presume that the character of Francis Sellers is based on himself and that the book is semi autobiographical.

Our book group found the book over long and tedious. The many characters

were sketchy and not fully drawn, with little description to help us fathom their part in the overall plot. Even the main characters of the two families were given very little physical identity. We found it very hard to become involved with them or their stories. There was a huge amount of unnecessary detail and plot lines that did not connect, which made it hard to know quite what Mr Hensher intended. Perhaps he was aiming at a Dickensian type of novel or a family saga, or indeed a political satire, we were puzzled. Even the title is puzzling. *Clemency*, meaning mercy and compassion, didn't seem to have any bearing on the book. The members of the group who had managed to finish the book, were disappointed.

The Salvation Army, Booth Place, Eaton Bray Weekly Activities



Sunday

Footprints (Sunday School) 9.45-10.45am
 Morning Worship 11am
 Songs of Praise 4pm
 (3rd Sunday of the month from May to Dec)

Tuesday

Coffee Morning
 (alternate weeks) 10-11.30am
 Music practices (all welcome) 7.30-9pm

Wednesday

Home League 2.30-3.30pm
 (Ladies Mtg but all welcome)
 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 call Envoy Hilary
 01525 222087 / 07932 057490*

*E: hilary.chadwick@salvationarmy.org.uk
 W: www.salvationarmy.org.uk/eatonbray*

Eaton Bray Cricket Club



When this goes to print the season will have three quarters of the way and we'll have a few games left to play. We've had an exciting season, with 2 Saturday league teams in the Four Counties Cricket League and our Sunday Development XI playing in the Bedfordshire Development league, this team consists of 4 adults and 7 U17 players. This has been a great way to develop the next generation of players.

We've also played in the inaugural Bedfordshire T20 Cup, reaching the southern area Semi Finals, beating Eggington in the 1st Round but losing to Dunstable Town in the semi finals.

Centennial Year 2014

We've had a number of events to help us celebrate our centennial year, these included a Chairman's v President's game in early May, an evening T20 v Caddington (our first opponents in 1914) in early June, having been postponed a couple of times due to the weather and a commitment to play in the Bedfordshire T20 Cup.

Our main event of the year a game v the MCC (the owners of Lord's) was also held on Sunday 27th July. A full match report will appear in September's issue of Focus.

Our remaining events are:

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, so please come down for a fun filled day.

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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7.30pm Edlesborough memorial hall*

Dagnall Weather Station (AONB)

Weather Conditions for June 2014

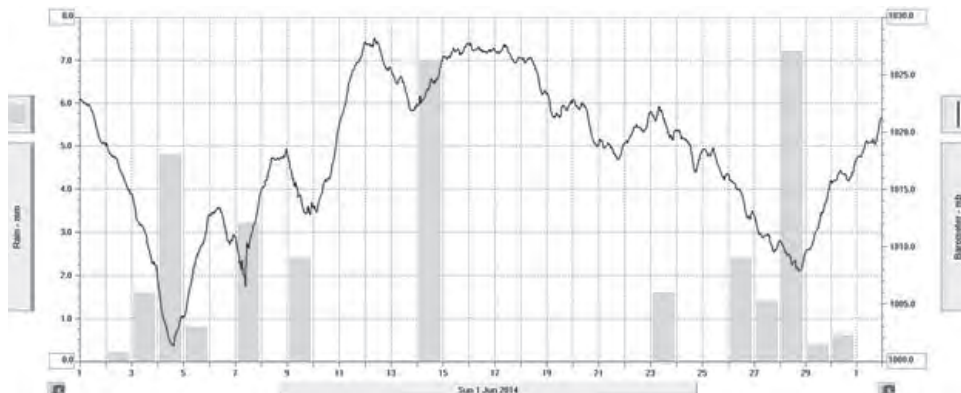
Temperatures for June were above average, with warm days and mild nights, although there were no spells of exceptional warmth. 22 days the night temperature above 9°C and 15 nights it was in to double figures. The mean temperature of 16°C which was above average is 5.7°C more than June 2013. It was rather unsettled early and late in the month, with localised thundery downpours on several days, but there was a period of fine anticyclonic (High Pressure) weather around the

middle of the month, bringing plenty of warm, dry, sunny weather. Although we only had 33.6mm of rain it was almost twice the 6 year average. For weather data 24 hours a day, updated every 15 mins, visit: www.dagnallweather.co.uk and http://bit.ly/weather_dagnall this site forecast and much more. 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:	26.8°C	13 June 16.30	5.8°C	6 June 05.00
Mean Temperature	16°C			
Dewpoint:	17.8°C	9 June 13.00	4.8°C	6 June 05.00
Humidity:	97%	1,12,19,24 June	42%	1,22,25 June
Barometer:	1028.2 mb	12 June 08.30	1001.4 mb	4 June 15.00
Wind Speed	27 mph S	24 June 18.30	Months avg.	3.8 mph
Wind Chill:	23.6°C SE	13 June 18.00	5.6°C N	6 June 05.00
Dominant Wind:	W			
Rainfall *T= total rain days and moisture. R= Actual rain				
*Rain Days: 13 (T), 13(R)	Wettest Day 28 June		7.19 mm	0.311 ins
Monthly Rain:	Total	June 2012	33.6 mm	1.323 ins
Yearly Rain:	Total	6 Month	509.8 mm	20.070 ins

This shows the high pressure in the middle of the month giving us a dry, warm sunny period



How to Deal with Debt



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.

It is a sad reality that most of us are in debt these days. With the high cost of housing, it's perhaps unsurprising that people are having to borrow more money than they really should. For many, this debt is perfectly manageable. However, it only takes a problem like losing your job, or ill health to suddenly turn manageable debt into an utter nightmare.

If you are having financial difficulty and realise that you are unable to meet your debt responsibilities, the most important thing to do is to face up to the reality. As tempting as it may be to bury your head in the sand and ignore the demand letters, it is simply going to make the problem much much worse.

When you have accepted the situation, you need to sit down and look openly and honestly at the money you have coming in, and the money going out. Even if the prospect is thoroughly depressing, you need to understand exactly what the numbers are before you go any further.

At this point, I would advise contacting the companies you owe money to and explaining the situation. They may be able to give you a 'payment holiday' until you get yourself back on your feet again. They are also much more likely to be helpful if you've been open and honest with them rather than ignoring them and hoping they will simply go away. Remember, they want their money, so it's in their interest to

work with you as opposed to against you. When you've worked out how much money you can put towards your debts, you then need to prioritise them. The most important debts are: mortgage or rent arrears, gas and electricity arrears, council tax arrears, court fines, income tax or VAT arrears and TV licence arrears. If you fail to pay these, you could lose your home, and in the most extreme circumstances, could end up in prison.

The less urgent debts include: benefits overpayments, credit cards and loans, water and sewerage bills (you can't be cut off for water debts), student loans, loans from family and friends and parking penalties from local authorities. That's not to say that you shouldn't bother trying to pay them, but these should be at the bottom of the list.

Hopefully, with careful budgeting, balancing and communication, you'll be able to manage your debts until you get back on your feet. However, if you simply cannot pay what you owe, then there are some options for you. However, be aware they do not come without costs.

Solutions such as debt consolidation, or even bankruptcy can be the only way out for some people but please look at the pros and cons before committing.

I would always advise that you contact your local citizens advice bureau or the debt charity 'Step Change' on 0800 138 1111 before making any further decisions about the management of your debt.



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Age...

In the 17th. century the mother superior of a religious order wrote the following prayer:

“Lord, thou knowest better than I know myself that I am growing older, and will someday be old. Keep me from getting talkative, and particularly from the fatal habit of thinking I must say something on every subject on every occasion. Release me from craving to try to straighten out everybody’s affairs. Keep my mind free from the recital of endless details - give me wings to get to the point. I ask for grace enough to listen to the tales of others pains. Help me to endure them with patience. Seal my lips to my own aches and pains: they are increasing and my love of rehearsing them is becoming sweeter as the years go by. Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally it is possible that I may be mistaken. Keep me reasonably sweet. I do not want to be a saint, some of them are so hard to live with, but a sour old woman is one of the crowning works of the devil. Make me thoughtful, but not moody; helpful but not bossy. With my vast store of wisdom, it seems a pity not to use it all, but thou knowest, Lord, that I want a few friends at the end. Give me the ability to see good things in unexpected places, and talents in unexpected people, and give me, O Lord, the grace to tell them so. Amen.”

All of us who are beginning to feel the weight of passing years will I am sure echo the “Amen” to that!

On the occasion of her 100th birthday, Catherine Bramwell Booth, the granddaughter of salvation army founder, William Booth, had this to say: “I’m in love with life, and life is loving. If you haven’t learned to love someone else better than yourself, you haven’t begun to live.”

There is I think a message there for both old and young people. How to stay young (author unknown): “Nobody grows old by living a number of years. People grow old by deserting their ideals. Years wrinkle the skin, but to give up enthusiasm wrinkles the soul. You are as young as your faith, as old as your doubt; as young as your self confidence, as old as your fear, as young as your hope, as old as

your despair. Youth is not a time of life, it is a state of mind. It is not a matter of rosy cheeks, red lips and supple knees, it is a temper of the will, a quality of the imagination, a vigour of the emotions. It is a freshness of the deep springs of life.”

You don’t have to be in the youthful bloom of life to be admired...mature years bring with them a different beauty and a wealth of experiences to share.

*“As a white candle in a holy place
So is the beauty of an aged face”.*

Growing old is not something that we look forward to, but as long as we retain a sense of humour, and can laugh at ourselves and with others we are young at heart.

*“When people’s cars get old and worn,
and they begin to toddle,*

*They go somewhere and trade them in, and
get the latest model.*

*Now I have very often thought that when
my joints get achesy,*

*And when my hair has all turned grey, and
knees are very shaky,*

*And when the onward march of time has
left me rather feeble,*

*How nice t’would be to find a firm that
deals in worn out people.*

*And when my form is bent with age and
gets to looking shoddy,*

*How great it would be, to turn it in, and get
a brand new body!*

Good health is a wonderful advantage of course, but it is not essential. Consider some of the famous writers. Robert Louis Stevenson was a chronic invalid for most of his life. Charles Dickens was plagued with illness, and the Bronte sisters were delicate from birth. It is the spirit that counts. It can rise above all adversity. It did for them. It can do it for you.

“So if with passing years our senses dim, Lord let us keep our memories true and clear, that in the quiet of evening time, we may relive the joys of yesteryear.”

✍Maureen



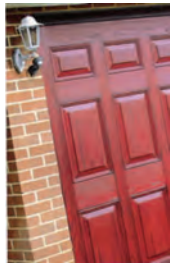


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