

FOCUS

February 2016

*Welcome to
our new all
colour Focus
magazine*

Focus is online at www.thefocusmagazine.co.uk

The local village magazine just for Us!

Eaton Bray, Edlesborough, Northall & Dagnall

The White Horse Inn At Eaton Bray



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Pay half price for a bottle of house
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courses from the main menu
Offer is available Tuesday to Thursday evenings



Valentine's weekend
From Friday 12th Feb
Chef Lee Mark will present his
Valentines Specials menu
Main Menu also available



Find us on Facebook and visit our new website to view our full range of offers and promotions

Offers cannot be used in conjunction with other offers

www.eatonbraypub.co.uk

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

(PREPARED BY THE WOMEN OF CUBA)

**EATON BRAY
METHODIST CHURCH
FRIDAY 4TH MARCH**

2PM

**SPEAKER:
ENVOY HILARY CHADWICK
FROM THE
SALVATION ARMY**

The Focus Magazine Committee

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Design and Layout: Tracey Moren

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Printed by: Priory Press

Dunstable 01582 699851

Copy for publication to the Editors by the

10th of the month

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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

Focus is online at www.thefocusmagazine.co.uk

invites you to

Café Community

Saturday February 13th

11.00am to 1.00pm

*Relax & chat with friends,
coffee/light lunch*

All ages welcome (inc. activity area).



Village Diary Feb 2016



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, Michelle Urbanowicz on 01582 668841
- Mondays Pilates, 10.45am, Totternhoe Memorial Hall, 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 KFPA 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 Buggy Push Fitness Class - Edlesborough Memorial Hall, 10:30 - 11:15am - www.
simplesfitness.com
- Tuesdays Coffee Morning, Bring & Buy, Table Top Sale, 10-12noon, Salvation Army Hall,
Booth Place, Eaton Bray
- Fortnightly
- 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 on 07854 230243
- Wednesdays Dynamic Yoga 6.30-7.30pm £5 Eaton Bray Coffee Tavern Keira 07936 693696
- Wednesdays (term time) Caterpillars preschool parent and child group 10 to 11:30am, Grace Baptist Church,
Moor End, Edlesborough £1 per family unit, Rebecca Dennis 07920 062248
- 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 KFPA Street dance classes 4+yrs 4pm, Edlesborough Memorial Hall, www.kfpa.co.uk
- Thursdays Box-Fit - 7:30 - 8:30pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall - www.simplesfitness.com
- Thursdays Tae Kwon-do, Dagnall Village Hall, 5.45-7.30pm 07813 755785
- 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 Feb 2016

Fridays (term time)	"Little Luvvies" baby ballet classes 10am-11.30am. Contact Emma Whittemore on 01525 376124
Fridays (term time)	Kids Club 6:00pm to 7:00pm Grace Baptist Church, Moor End, Edlesborough (across from the post office) Frances King 01525 229610
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	Sundays Worship at 10:30am and 6pm Grace Baptist Church, Moor End, Edlesborough (across from the post office). Barry King 01525 229610 or Peter Feben 01525 221048
Last Sunday	Messy Church, 3-5pm at The Salvation Army Booth Place
Monthly	
1st Monday	Eaton Bray Parish Council Meeting, 7.30pm, The Coffee Tavern (except January-2nd Monday)
1st Monday	Eaton Bray W.I. Meeting, 7.30pm. Eaton Bray Methodist Church Hall. Contact Margaret Jones on 01525 220991
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
Last Sunday	Messy Church, 3-5pm, Salvation Army, Booth Place, Eaton Bray, 07932 057490
Other Regular Events	
7th	Beds Area Narrow Gauge Model Railway Club Meeting, 11.30am-4.30pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall
12th	Leukaemia Research Coffee Morning, 2 Dunstable Road, Dagnall 10.30 am. All welcome.
13th	Cafe Community, Eaton Bray Methodist Church, 11am to 1pm
16th	Dagnall Over Sixties, Lunch at the Red Lion, Dagnall, 1pm.
One Off/Annual/Irregular Events	
13th	Valentines Disco, 7pm to Midnight, Eaton Bray Village Hall, £15 per person, 07894 532633
26th	Mammoth Quiz, 7.45pm, Dagnall Village Hall, Teams of 8, £10 per person

Please would people/societies check the diary details and let the editors know of any changes

Village Notices

Cover photo of St Mary's church
Edlesborough by John Hockey

Richard Clark

Feb 1954 – Nov 2015

Jane, Andrew and Kerry-Anne would like to thank All family, friends and even strangers for the kind messages, help and support on the sudden death of Richard. Also a big thank you to Rev'd Coralie McCluskey for all her support.

Many thanks
Jane Clark

St Mary's 100 Club

Congratulations to the following winners:

December 2015

1st Prize – Victor Courtice

2nd Prize – Teresa Ledger

3rd Prize – Robert Dickson

January 2016

1st prize – Barbara Illic

2nd prize – Rachel Mcveigh

3rd prize – Joan Horne

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



**EDaN Community
Transport**

Peter Williams:

01442 842506

**New Year - New Ideas. Could you be our roving reporter and write articles on events and people in our villages?
If you are interested please contact the 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...

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General Assistance (Recommended Number): 101 Emergency: 999

Bedfordshire Police (Eaton Bray)

Leighton Buzzard Police Station/Kathryn Horgan: 01582 473411

Typetalk: 18001 01582 473418

Email: LPT.LeightonBuzzardLinslade&Rural@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk

Thames Valley Police (Edlesborough, Dagnall & Northall)

PCSO Jackie Dodson Mobile: 07800 703 524

Email: NHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk



EATON BRAY PARISH COUNCIL



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



The Parish Council is nine members of the public

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

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

You can also view our website for more details



Heidi Head, Parish Clerk & RFO

Email: clerk@ebpc.co.uk - Telephone/Fax: 01525 221464 - Website: www.ebpc.co.uk

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



This is **Falyse**, she is a German Shepherd cross aged about 10 years. This poor girl was in quite a pickle when she was found and now needs a really loving home where she will get the care she so richly deserves. She is a very obedient and affectionate lady who would prefer to be an only pet. She would be ideal for a retired person or couple but is open to other suggestions!

If you feel you could offer Falyse or any of our other dogs a home, please call in at the kennels

Appledown's Rescue Dog of the Month

any day between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. We do have restrictions on rehoming dogs to families with children under 7 years. For full details of the rehoming process visit our website or call the kennels.

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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



St Mary's Village Carnival 2016

“Myths, Monsters and Magic”



It's time to start thinking about this year's Carnival on 2nd July 2016 with the theme 'Myths, Monsters and Magic'.

An Appeal to all Local Businesses

The ever increasing foot print of the Carnival with visitors from Aylesbury, Milton Keynes, Dunstable, Luton and Hemel Hempstead is an ideal vehicle for promoting your business. As an organising committee we can work with you to find the best means of advertising your businesses to the crowds who attend the Carnival if you give us a chance to do so.

How can you get involved?

Please consider one or more of the following, some of which may be tax deductible:

- Advertise in the Carnival Programme and / or the arena – contact Pauline Glen on 229400
- Donate a prize relating to your business to the Grand Draw
- Donate an item relating to your business for the Silent Auction
- Take part in the procession
- Make a cash donation to the Carnival
- Any other way you would like to be involved; let us know!



If you would like your business to be involved in the Carnival in any way please contact Gordon Gray on 220136 or via the carnival website - www.stmarysvillagecarnival.com.

A Letter from Rev'd Coralie



What are you going to do this Lent?

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday 10th February and the First Sunday of Lent is the 14th. It is early this year but that may be an advantage if you are still recovering from the excesses of Christmas. I will be on study leave but back on February 29th ready for Mothering Sunday on March 6th.

The gospel reading for the First Sunday of Lent is taken from St Luke chapter 4 verses 1-13 and begins, 'Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil'.

If you look in a Bible Dictionary a 40 day fast for Christians before Easter did not exist in the first three centuries following the death of Christ. A period of 2 or 3 days or possibly 40 hours between Good Friday and Easter was adopted. Why then the introduction of a 40 day fast? Barbara Brown Taylor an American Professor of Religion and Philosophy, suggests that early Christians became too comfortable, they were no longer arrested for championing the poor, they avoided extremes and decided it was easier to be nice rather than holy or possibly just blended in.

It was suggested by somebody, at some time, that Christians needed to get an improved hold on their faith, they needed to really face the reality of what it is to be a Christian and the church announced that there was to be a season of Lent, from the old English word Lenten, meaning "spring". This was not only a reference to the season before Easter but an invitation to 'a spring time for the soul', rather like spring cleaning. Forty days were allotted to remember what it is to live by the grace of God and not by what we can supply for ourselves. There were excellent examples in the Old Testament: Israel spent forty years in the wilderness learning to trust God, Elijah and Moses forty days listening to God. This year the North Chilterns Group of Parishes, that includes us, are running 5 Tuesday evening sessions beginning on Tuesday 23rd February 7.45 for 8pm.

- 23rd Holding the cross at Kenworth Church Hall, Clayhall Road*
- 1st March Opening our eyes at Dagnall church*
- 8th March Still Small voice at St Mary's, Studham*
- 15th March Walking with God at St Mary's, Eaton Bray*
- 22nd March Liquid worship at St Giles, Tolternhoe*

Coralie

Edlesborough School Contributions



During the Autumn term, Year 3/4 were practising extremely hard to learn many difficult songs and dances for their Christmas performance. As a combined year group, pupils kick-started the performance with an energetic rendition of 'Pumping Iron' from Starlight Express.



Each class then performed two songs each from a well-known musical; Mary Poppins, Oliver Twist and the popular musical Cats. The show ended with a moving Christmas song from The Muppets Christmas Carol. All the children were really enthusiastic about the production and the overall performance was enjoyed by all.

✍️ Written by pupils in 3/4B.

Edlesborough School Christmas market

On Friday the 4th of December a superb Christmas market was held at Edlesborough School. The children worked hard using their creative skills making various things to be sold.

The whole school were amazed by Santa's grotto, inside you could meet Santa, tell him what you would like for Christmas and you got a selection of chocolate.

KS1 worked tremendously hard on their presentation of their products, which were brilliant so well done KS1.

In 3/4 they made delicious treats including; fantastic fudge that tasted magnificent., tremendous snowman, rocky road by 3/4B and the scrumptious ice creams made by 3/4G.

5/6 worked equally hard in their groups using ideas to create many excellent stalls.

Congratulations on a fantastic afternoon and thank you to everybody who took part.

We hope to see you next year!

✍️ Alice Carillo, Josh Lane and Emma Skinner 3/4S

EDaN Community Transport



I hope you all had a pleasant Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

Many thanks to all our volunteer drivers already doing such a wonderful job for us and Thank You to Mr John Dilks who has just agreed to become a volunteer driver for the EDaN Community Transport Scheme!!!

If you have been considering joining our friendly team as a volunteer driver, please contact me, Kathy Bovington, on the number

below, or if you would like to book a journey please call Peter Williams on 01442 842506.

With very best wishes

✍️ Kathy Bovington

Community Transport Leader

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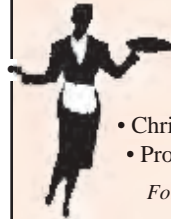
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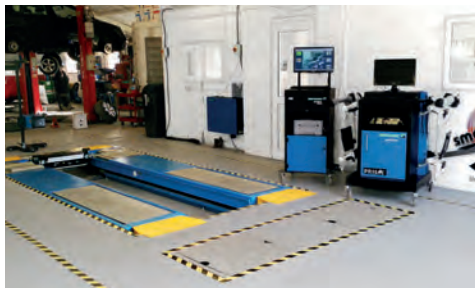
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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MINUTES

A full/detailed copy of the minutes for Eaton Bray Parish Council can be found on our website.
A hard copy of the minutes can also be viewed on the Parish Council's notice board at The Coffee Tavern.

Meeting of Eaton Bray Parish Council (PC) held on Monday 2nd November 2015 from 7:30pm at the Coffee Tavern

Central Beds Council (CBC) – Councillor Ken Janes

- There was no representative from CBC in attendance.

Bedfordshire Police:

- The PC is waiting for a copy of the Crime Report for October, once received will publish accordingly.

News from the team: If you wish to contact your Local Policing Team then please call 01582 473411 or email LPT.LeightonBuzzardLinslade&Rural@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk. **Non-emergency call 101 / All emergencies 999**

CCTV Cameras:

Due to an increase in ASB (anti-social behaviour) within the parish the Parish Council are looking into the installation of CCTV cameras at the Three Corners/bus stop and School lane/car park.

Village Hall/Cheeky Monkeys:

The Parish Council would like to apologise for any misunderstanding relating to the statement made in regards to the Cheeky Monkeys Group not being able to get a reduction in rental cost at the Village Hall. As a start-up group, a discounted rate has been offered to the organisers of Cheeky Monkeys which has been in place since July to assist in support of the local childcare group. The PC would like to thank the Village Hall for their support with this local group.

Speedwatch:



Speedwatch are looking for volunteers to help with the speed checks. If you would like to get involved in trying to slow down traffic in the village and are concerned about road safety please contact Cllr. Mark Tomkins, email councillormarktomkins@gmail.com expressing your interest.

Meeting of Eaton Bray Parish Council (PC) held on Monday 7th December 2015 from 7:30pm at the Coffee Tavern

Central Beds Council (CBC) – Councillor Ken Janes

Website: www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk - Customer Services: 0300 300 8302 /
Email: customers@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk.

- Cllr. Janes to look into the outstanding issues surrounding the re-location of the 30mph speed limit signs in Bower Lane/Harling Road and the improvements to



Heidi Head, Parish Clerk & RFO

Email: clerk@ebpc.co.uk - Telephone/Fax: 01525 221464 - Website: www.ebpc.co.uk

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

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EATON BRAY PARISH COUNCIL



the road/parking in Greenways/Knights Close.

Bedfordshire Police:

The Parish Council wished to note that year on year, there has generally been a downward trend for reported crime within the area.

CRIME REPORT – OCTOBER 2015

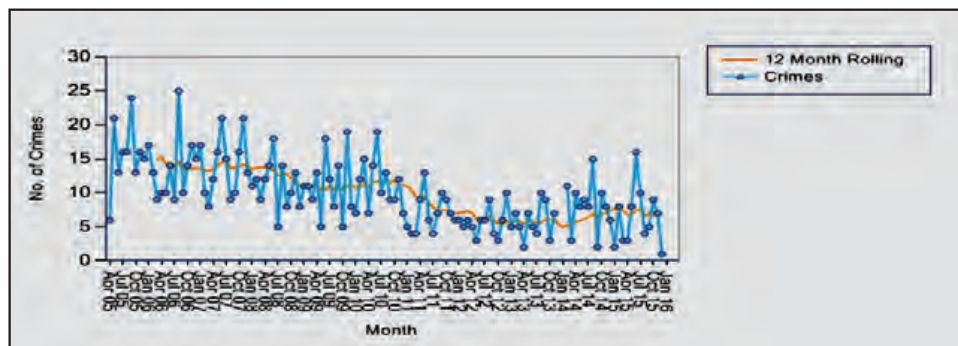
Recorded Crime	01/10/14 - 31/10/14	01/10/15 - 31/10/15
Violence against the Person	0	2
Sexual Offences	0	0
Robbery	0	0
Domestic Burglary	1	0
Burglary Other	2	1
Vehicle Crime	2	4
Other Theft	4	0
Criminal Damage	1	2
Drugs	0	0
Other Notifiable Offences	0	0
Total	10	9

Incidents: Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)	01/10/14 - 31/10/14	01/10/15 - 31/10/15
Street Drinking	0	0
Abandoned Vehicles (Not Stolen Or Causing Obstruction)	1	0
Vehicle Related Nuisance/Inappropriate Vehicle Use	1	1
Noise Nuisance	0	0
Rowdy/Nuisance - Nuisance Neighbours	0	1
Rowdy or Inconsiderate Behaviour	1	4
Rowdy/Nuisance - Littering / Drugs Paraphernalia	0	0
Animal Problems	1	1
Malicious/Nuisance Communications	0	0
Trespass	0	0
Inappropriate Sale/Use/Possession of Fireworks	0	1
Total	4	8

CRIME REPORT – NOVEMBER 2015

Recorded Crime	01/11/14 - 30/11/14	01/11/15 - 30/11/15
Violence against the Person	1	2
Sexual Offences	1	0
Robbery	0	1
Domestic Burglary	1	1
Burglary Other	0	0
Vehicle Crime	4	2
Other Theft	1	0
Criminal Damage	0	1
Drugs	0	0
Other Notifiable Offences	0	0
Total	8	7

Incidents: Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)	01/11/14 - 30/11/14	01/11/15 - 30/11/15
Street Drinking	0	0
Abandoned Vehicles (Not Stolen Or Causing Obstruction)	0	0
Vehicle Related Nuisance/Inappropriate Vehicle Use	0	0
Noise Nuisance	0	1
Rowdy/Nuisance - Nuisance Neighbours	0	0
Rowdy or Inconsiderate Behaviour	2	0
Rowdy/Nuisance - Littering / Drugs Paraphernalia	0	0
Animal Problems	3	3
Malicious/Nuisance Communications	0	0
Trespass	0	0
Inappropriate Sale/Use/Possession of Fireworks	0	0
Total	5	4



Vacancy - Parish Councillor:

There is a vacancy for a Parish Councillor on Eaton Bray Parish Council. If you are interested in joining the council please email the Parish Clerk or visit our website for more details.

Neighbourhood Plan (NP):

Please see the updated report on the NP at the end of the minutes and visit the Eaton Bray/PC website page for details/updates on the process, follow link: <http://www.eatonbray.com/news/tag/Neighbourhood-Plan>.



Heidi Head, Parish Clerk & RFO

Email: clerk@ebpc.co.uk - Telephone/Fax: 01525 221464 - Website: www.ebpc.co.uk

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EATON BRAY PARISH COUNCIL



Private Events within Parish

Due to concerns raised with the PC regarding a Christmas event organised at The Rye (cars parking, people walking in road, safety concerns), the PC wished to remind residents that residents must take into account health & safety issues when organising large events and ensure that the PC are made aware of the event and expected numbers.

Unauthorised Advertising

The PC wished to remind advertisers that the PC will remove any unauthorised advertising within the parish.

Future Eaton Bray Parish Council Meeting Dates

Currently the council meeting in January is usually the first Monday in the month. However due to the Christmas period and to allow for enough time after the holidays to put in/obtain required paperwork the council will be moving it to the second Monday in January. This change to take effect from January 2017.

Parish Council Meeting: Monday 1st February 2016; from 7:30pm at The Coffee Tavern (1st floor)

Parish Council Website: www.ebpc.co.uk

YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN

We have completed 3 months in the development of our Neighbourhood Plan (NP) and are now in the “Evidence gathering and Consultation” phase.

HELP NEEDED

We would like everybody in Eaton Bray to help decide the direction that our Neighbourhood Plan should take, please consider these 4 questions:-

1. What do you like about Eaton Bray?
2. What don't you like about Eaton Bray?
3. What do we want in Eaton Bray or What do we need to improve?
4. What do we want to preserve?

Please send your suggestions / comments regarding Planning Issues only to “The Clerk, Eaton Bray Parish Council, 20 Good Intent, Edlesborough, LU6 2RD.

Email: clerk@ebpc.co.uk - Website: www.ebpc.co.uk

The Steering Group will be reporting progress through the Focus Magazine so that residents can keep up to date. If you would like your voice to be heard, please feel free to attend the next Steering Group meeting. Meetings are generally planned for the last Monday of the month at 19.30 at the Coffee Tavern, Eaton Bray.



Heidi Head, Parish Clerk & RFO

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Edlesborough Parish Council News

Including Edlesborough, Dagnall and Northall

Streetlights in Edlesborough, Dagnall and Northall

The installation of the new LED lights throughout the Parish should now be complete. These new lights come with a 6 year warranty and are much more energy efficient than the old SOX (orange) lights.



In the event of a light malfunctioning please report the nature of the failure and the location of the light to the Parish Clerk.

Reporting Potholes & Fly Tipping

Please report any pavement issues, potholes and fly tipping to <http://www.transportforbucks.net/Tell-us.aspx>

If possible please take a photo of the problem and upload it when making the report.

Church Floodlights

The Friends of the Church raised £310.19 for Children In Need on the Floodlighting switch-on evening.

Thanks to everyone who attended.

Allotments

Edlesborough Parish Council currently has vacant allotments. Anyone wishing to take on an allotment should contact the Parish Clerk. Fees are £1:80 per pole and plots range in size from 5 – 20 poles.

Dogs on Dagnall Allotments

Following recent confusion over members of the public exercising their dogs on Dagnall Allotments the Council confirms that the Allotments are registered as common land under the Commons Registration Act 1965 and consequently the land is shown as such on the appropriate Countryside Agency maps. This would indicate that it is "open access land" and that the general public have a "right to roam" under the Countryside & Rights of Way Act 2000.

However, Schedule 1 of the Countryside & Rights of Way Act 2000 identifies certain

land where the "right to roam" is excluded. In total there are 13 categories of "Excepted Land" described in Schedule 1, one of which is parks and gardens. The description of the Allotments in the original common land registration (CL137) is "Allotment Gardens" and consequently the Council has determined that as a garden, it constitutes "Excepted Land" under Schedule 1. Furthermore, the access paths connecting the individual cultivated plots are considered to be part of that garden. This means that the general "right to roam" does not apply and public access is confined to the public footpath that runs from Chestnut Close to Studham Lane, identified as EDL/14/1 on the Bucks CC Public Rights of Way map. The following link to the GOV.UK website <https://www.gov.uk/right-of-way-open-access-land/use-your-right-to-roam> summarises the legal situation.

Therefore members of the general public wishing to walk between Main Road South and Studham Lane should use the footpath identified as EDL/15/1 on the Bucks CC Rights of Way map. The Council requests that when using the footpath dogs are kept on a short lead to prevent them from wandering onto the allotment plots.

Neighbourhood Plan

Public meetings took place in each village in January to share the requirements for a successful application to develop a Neighbourhood Plan. Once developed it will need a referendum of eligible parishioners and others to approve after submitting it for approval by a government inspector. If you were unable to attend and want to know more, please read the separate article in Focus from the Parish Council. Full details of the outcome of the meetings will appear on the parish website in February and a written

account in the March edition of Focus.

Speedwatch

The EDaN Traffic Management team are looking for volunteers to help man their Sentinel device. If you have an interest in slowing down traffic in the villages or are concerned about Road Safety please contact Louise Turner on 01442 834123 or by email at louisefanthorpe@yahoo.co.uk



Edlesborough Parish Council Meetings

The next Edlesborough Parish Council Meetings will take place in Edlesborough Memorial Hall on:

- Thursday 18th February 2016.
- Thursday 17th March 2016

The meetings will commence at 7:30pm.

All Parishioners are welcome to attend and may ask questions, raise issues and give suggestions during the Open Forum before the formal start of the meeting.

The full minutes of the Parish Council meetings are normally available to view on the website or from the Parish Clerk.

Contact Information

Clerk to Edlesborough Parish Council:

Clerk: Penny Pataky 01525 229358

Email: clerk@edlesborough-pc.gov.uk

Website: www.edlesborough-pc.gov.uk

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/EDANParishCouncil

Please note office hours are Monday – Friday 10.30am – 2.30pm. Messages may be left on an answer phone outside of these hours.



To the very generous community who donated pre-school toys to

Totternhoe Scout Group

Thank you so much for your well-loved toys that you gave to our Mum and Tots Play Group at Bury Park, Luton.

The children are really enjoying them and they are well used. I have attached some photo's to show you the children playing with them and one of the



team too. Again, thank you very much.

Kind regards,

from all the volunteers at Mum and Tots Play Group at Bury Park.



FLOODLIGHTING EDLESBOROUGH CHURCH : THE SAGA!

Long, long ago – in 2003 – Edlesborough Parish Council initiated a feasibility study to floodlight our medieval church of St. Mary the Virgin, up on the hill, where it has been keeping vigil for more than 800 years, overlooking our ancient village nestling at the foot of the Chiltern Hills. The floodlights would provide a warm welcome for the community and visitors alike, to be seen from miles around.

It seemed like a very good idea!

Unfortunately there were a great many obstacles put in the way over the years and the project was deferred, to be included in the proposed village plan, finally published in 2008. The EDaN Project was born, chaired by Alan Williams. Many volunteer groups were formed within the parish to work through ‘wish lists’ submitted in a questionnaire and at various public meetings. Amongst these groups was the Beautification Team, who adopted the floodlighting scheme, together with many other projects, including the three pictorial village signs, ten sponsored flower boxes and the planting of 10,000 daffodil bulbs.

Preliminary discussions took place between the Churches Conservation Trust (CCT), who own the church, the Parish Council and the Beautification Team. There were many bridges to cross, including local consultation, environmental issues, approvals from the Wildlife and Countryside Act, security, suitability and archaeology, all prior to submitting a planning application.

These issues were finally addressed, including three bat-watching stakeouts, with the Beautification Team joining forces with North Bucks Bat Group (NBBG). No more than six bats were observed roosting within and outside the church on these occasions – brown long-eared and pipistrelles. (Incidentally ... do you know that you can tell the difference between mouse and bat droppings by rubbing them between your fingers, if you feel so inclined? Bat droppings crumble, mouse poo doesn't!).

The Parish Council put aside £5000 towards the project and the Beautification Team added £2000 to this by organising a village Firewalk on the green. Villagers were keen to see the church lit and willing to burn their feet for the privilege! £1000 was also donated to Keech Cottage Children's Hospice from this event. By 2010 the team was ready to progress to the next stage – the application for planning.

However, we needed consent from the CCT to apply for planning permission ... this was not forthcoming.

The owners now wanted an organisation formed which would commit long-term to the church and confirm that the building would eventually be open all day, every day.

More volunteers came forward and the Friends of the Church on the Hill was formed in 2012 – introducing the Edlesborough Festival, heritage days and various other events, all supported by the Beautification Team.

During this time the Parish Council donated another £1000 towards the project - the cost of the floodlights had increased as we were now installing LED lighting, more expensive to purchase but far cheaper to run.

In 2014 a further survey by the NBBG and our own team of volunteers established that there had been no increase in the bat population but the outcome was that the whole of the chancel area must be protected with a dark envelope to prevent light spillage to the roost exit - hence the lack of floodlights at the north east end of the church facing the village centre.

A church plan has been submitted to the CCT for approval, detailing future projects for their consideration; this also prioritises conservation issues thought relevant by the Friends for possible inclusion in the CCT's budget.

The overgrown scrub in the churchyard is now being tackled – lately with considerable help from the Community Payback Workers. Future projects include improvement of sight-lines to the church so that its beauty can be appreciated from afar, as in days gone by, to attract more visitors to discover its hidden beauty within, also to provide public access to the top of the tower, offering spectacular views in every direction.

The Friends' team have established a website and facebook page and a regular cleaning programme is in operation.

All these new ventures satisfied the CCT and at long last they gave permission for the Parish Council to apply for planning permission.

We are lucky to have on board the Friends' team Doug Oughton and George Crutcher who, with their expertise, helped this stage to run smoothly and in April 2015 planning was finally approved - the only proviso being the presence of archaeologists on site during the trenching for cables and bases to support the lights, followed by their report of any findings.



In October volunteers, plus welcome manpower from the Community Payback Workers, installed the five concrete pads linked by underground cables and made good the site - completed during one amazingly hot and sunny weekend, so a very clean dig! We did unearth the remains of an elderly lady in her shallow, unmarked grave whilst trenching, who was reburied with due reverence. Following this, local contractor Tony Ambrose installed the floodlights, protective cages and metering. The lights operate from dusk until 10.30 every evening and the power for these will be paid for by Edlesborough Parish Council.

Finally.... on Saturday 14th November the floodlights were illuminated. The Parish Council, Beautification Team and Friends of the Church on the Hill braved the elements, together with an amazingly large turnout of local folk to celebrate the lighting of this magnificent building. Our MP, Rt. Hon. John Bercow, pulled 11-year old Rebecca Howells' winning ticket from the drum and she

had the honour of pushing the 'big red switch'. Over £300 was raised on the night for the BBC's Children in Need Appeal.

We have a majestic landmark of which to be proud, now bathed in light for all to enjoy.

Christine Yates

Project Leader

pp EDaN Beautification and

Friends of the Church on the Hill Teams



Rt. Hon. John Bercow & Rebecca Howells

Fourth festive Bingo in Memory of Basil Thorne

The bingo night in early December kicked off Christmas festivities in Dagnall with a really fun evening. There was a lovely buffet and lots of great raffle prizes. In total the event raised £70.10 for Dagnall Village Hall. About sixty people came along and all said what a wonderful time they had – a night we are sure Basil would have enjoyed. Many thanks to caller Claire who as always did a brilliant job and Dave and Carol and family for their help on the night.

We appreciate everyone's support and have again had lots of requests for another one this year!

✍️ The Thorne family

Dagnall Over Sixties

Dagnall Over Sixties had a lovely Birthday Party (45 years) with singing from Dagnall School, a beautiful cake, fizzy wine and the usual sumptuous tea. This was followed by a Quiz. The brief AGM at the beginning of the afternoon showed the club to be in a good financial state, however our numbers have declined over the past few years. We were delighted to welcome some new members

from Kensworth whose club closed at Christmas, and hope that more of their members will join us. Our February meeting will be held in the Red Lion in Dagnall. There will be a two course lunch for £9.95 in their newly refurbished function room, the date is Feb 16th at 1pm. March 15th at 2pm is in the Village hall and is tea with Bingo.

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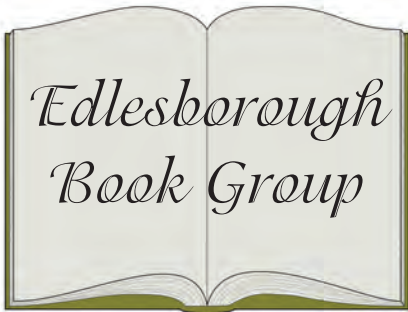
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Set in 1920's London, Sarah Waters's sixth novel, tells the story of Frances Wray. She lives with her mother in Champion Hill, a rather select area of South London. They live there in genteel poverty, their circumstances having

changed drastically, after losing Frances's two brothers in the war and her father having died, leaving them in debt. Frances has taken over the day to day running of the house with no domestic help and although she is strong and healthy, the drudgery is taking its toll and there is still not enough money to live comfortably. Mrs Wray agrees reluctantly to take in lodgers, although it is not something someone of her class would do normally. The arrival of Leonard and Lilian Barber changes their lives completely. Frances and her mother realise that their 'paying guests' invade their privacy,

that they are of a lower class and their way of living is completely different to the hidebound etiquette of the upper middle classes. Lilian is rather bohemian and exotic in her tastes and appearance, which Frances finds fascinating from the outset. Leonard, she finds rather different and finds his humour and double entendres off putting. The inevitable happens and soon Frances and Lilian are conducting a passionate but clandestine affair, the secrecy needed inflaming its intensity. The opinions of the day outlawed such liaisons, but the two women are swept along by their feelings for one another.

The first half of the novel is rather slow. Every detail of Frances's humdrum existence is noted and the tedium of keeping up appearances is described brilliantly. Then in complete contrast, the latter half of the book changes pace and becomes a thriller. Two rather shocking events occur, throwing Frances into a chain of events that spiral out of her control, and the reader is swept along with her, wanting to know how her problems are resolved.

This is a novel that portrays vividly, class divides and the struggle to preserve standards. Sarah Waters champions same sex partnerships and her novels set out to show the difficulties women have had to deal with historically.

This book was enjoyed by the majority of our group and provoked a very lively discussion. We would recommend it as a very good read.

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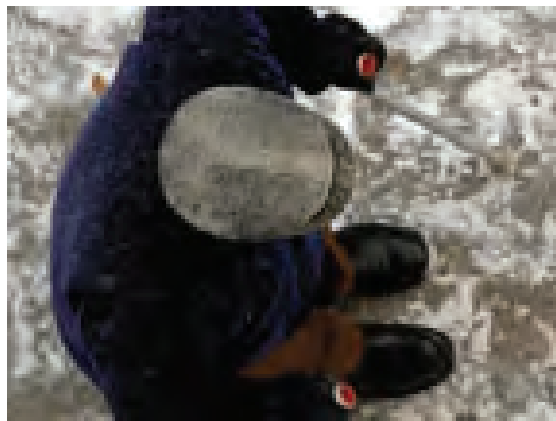


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SURVIVING THE WINTER WITH SOME TIPS FROM ST JUDES

- Avoid trips and slips – put rock salt on your steps and take extra care when walking - a pair of trekking over-shoes are useful for giving you the extra grip needed in the snow.
- Shovelling snow – watch that back! Keep the shovel close to your body and get your legs to do the work. Don't overload the shovel and take regular breaks.
- Don't be a couch potato – staying active boosts your mood and helps you to stay in shape. Exercise helps to increase your immune system and keep the colds and 'flu at bay. If you're running or doing sports outside in the winter:
- **Dress for the cold** – wear layers rather than heavy clothing. A light weight moisture wicking base layer and leggings or running tights underneath a pair of shorts will help you stay warm. Avoid losing heat from your hands and head by wearing gloves and a hat/fleece headband.
- **Stay safe – be seen.** Don't wear dark colours –choose clothes that are bright, white or fluorescent yellow and add a reflective bib or strap.
- **Warm up and cool down** - essential to avoid injury, start by walking for about 10 minutes and gradually increase your pace and maybe try some walking lunges or high knee skips. Cool down by running at a slow pace for 5 – 10 minutes and do some stretches inside so you don't get cold.
- **It's fine to exercise** with a bit of a



cold but listen to your body, and don't exercise if you have a fever.

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Cook One-Pot Salmon and Roast Asparagus for your Valentine

Prep: 20 mins, Cook: 50 min, Serves 2

Ingredients:

400g new potatoes, cut in half if large
2 tbsp olive oil
8 asparagus spears, trimmed and halved
2 handfuls cherry tomatoes
1 tbsp balsamic vinegar
2 salmon fillets, about 140g/5oz each
A handful basil leaves

Method:

1. Heat the oven to 220C/fan 200C/gas
2. Tip the potatoes and 1 tbsp of olive oil into an ovenproof dish, roast the potatoes for 20 mins until starting to brown.
3. Add the asparagus to the potatoes and return to the oven for 15 mins.
4. Add the cherry tomatoes and vinegar and place the salmon amongst the

vegetables. Drizzle with the remaining oil and return to the oven for 10-15 mins until the salmon is cooked.

5. Scatter the basil leaves over it and serve everything straight from the dish.



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Word List:

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ASH WEDNESDAY

BOOTS

FEBRUARY

CAMELLIA

CARDS

CHINESE NEW YEAR

COAT

COLD

CROCUS

CUPID

FROST

GLOVES

HEART

ICE

LEAP YEAR

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A Neighbourhood Plan for Edlesborough

At the April 2015 Parish Council Meeting, the Council agreed that it would once again look into the possibility of developing a Neighbourhood Plan (NP). When this issue was last discussed in 2011/12, a Neighbourhood Plan Survey was carried out to establish what the views of parishioners were with regard to future growth and development. This identified that most residents agreed that some very limited housing development would be needed over the next 20 years, but the total number considered appropriate by the majority was 10 or less in each of the three villages, with a maximum of 5 houses on a single development.

These findings were reviewed with the Local Planning Authority (AVDC), who advised that an NP was an instrument to manage growth and not to inhibit it. The very limited growth that the parishioners favoured was not considered appropriate for a Neighbourhood Plan. The Parish Council therefore decided not to proceed with an NP in the hope that the then emerging Vale of Aylesbury Plan (VAP), which was founded on the then new concept of localism, would provide the desired protection from large new housing developments. Unfortunately, Central Government's view of localism was far less "local" than we (and others) had hoped, and the VAP failed at the Planning Inspectorate examination stage.

So what's changed? Firstly, the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) introduced by the previous Coalition Government introduced the principle of "an assumption in favour of sustainable development". Central Government's definition of sustainable is fairly loose, resulting in many proposals on the edge of existing settlements that

would previously have been considered inappropriate, suddenly being judged to be "sustainable". This was compounded by a Central Government edict that the local policies that had previously limited new large housing developments on the edges of existing settlements were to be considered out of date unless the Local Planning Authority could demonstrate that it had an adequate 5-year housing supply. Authorities like AVDC that don't have an up to date local plan that has been rigorously scrutinized are not able to demonstrate a proven 5-year supply.

As a consequence of this assumption in favour of sustainable development and the lack of a proven 5-year housing supply, many villages in Aylesbury Vale are now being bombarded by opportunist applications for large edge of settlement housing developments that AVDC are apparently powerless to resist. When the new Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan (VALP) is introduced towards the end of 2017, it will hopefully introduce policies that will once again restrict some of the more extreme edge of settlement developments. Based on the current situation however, the Parish Council determined it should develop a Neighbourhood Plan. Six public meetings were held in January to explain the proposals and to seek participation in developing the plan. We believe that if we create an NP that embraces the amount of development imposed on us by VALP, it could enable us to resist any further unwanted developments from then on. We don't yet know how many new houses we will be obliged to accommodate under VALP, but it's likely to be of the order of at least 100 over the next 15 to 20 years. It is important to understand that unless we are prepared to develop a plan that includes

that number of new houses, the plan would never be successful at the examination stage. Without an NP, we would have no control over future development within the Parish. Applications would just be determined against the more general policies contained in the local plan (VALP), which we know from past experience are prone to very subjective interpretations.

An NP is not just about housing numbers, it can also specify the location of new developments and the type of housing, employment and retail development, community and leisure facilities, education and medical priorities etc. Whilst it must be led by the Parish Council, it has to involve the entire community. It needs to involve people from all walks of life within the community. It will cost money to develop. Estimates vary, but we believe we need to allow for something in the order of £15,000, although we should be eligible for a grant of up to £8,000.

An NP must be compliant with the District Council’s Local Plan – in other words it cannot override anything that is included in the Local Plan. It is however an opportunity to add additional policies and restrictions such as a defined settlement boundary and the retention of specific green spaces. Once an NP has been approved and adopted, it carries the same weight as the local plan and is the document against which planning applications must be made. This is very different from a Parish Plan which carries little or no weight in the determination of planning applications.

If you were unable to attend any of the meetings and would like to engage with us in the process please contact our clerk Penny Pataky, clerk@edlesborough-pc.gov.uk. A full report on the outcome of the January meetings will appear in the next edition of Focus in March.

✉Edlesborough Parish Council



All Saints' Church, Dagnall

Services in February 2016

Sun.6th Dec.	9.00 am	Eucharist
	10.30 am	Morning Service
Sun.13th. Dec.	10.30 am	Morning Service
Sun. 20th Dec.	3.00 pm	Dagnall Village Carol Service
Christmas Day	9.00 am	Eucharist
	10.30 am	Family Service
Sun. 27th Dec.	10.30 am	Carol Praise
Sun. 3rd Jan.	3.00 pm	Covenant Service
Sun. 10th Jan.	10.30 am	Morning Service
Sun. 17th Jan.	10.30 am	Family Communion
Sun. 24th Jan.	10.30 am	Family Service
	3.00 pm	United Service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity at St Mary's, Eaton Bray
Sun 31st Jan.	10.30 am	Morning Service
Sun. 7th Feb.	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.

Your Photos

*Right: A frosty morning
at the Ford, Eaton Bray
by Richard Woodhead*



*Below: Ashridge by Sally
Siddons*



*Middle right: Red Kite by
Phil Wood*

*Right: Winter morning in an
Eaton Bray field by Richard
Woodhead*



*Right: Wallaby
sunbathing near 17th
Whipsnade Park Golf
Club by John Hockey*



*Below: Stowe Gardens by
Richard Woodhead*



*Middle right: You
lookin' at me by Andy
Cross*

*Right: Ivinghoe by Phil
Wood*



SPRING FILM SEASON 2016



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With the 2015-16 film season well under way, the Golden Globe winners have just been announced and there is anticipation to see which nominees will be awarded a BAFTA in February, before the finale of the **88th Annual Academy Awards** on Sunday 28 February.



There looks to be particular success for British talent this year, so the **Grove Theatre, Dunstable** are proud to be showing a wide range of critically acclaimed films over the next few months, on one of the biggest screens in Europe.

Highlights include everybody's favourite secret agent James Bond, in the action-packed **Spectre (12A)**; **Dame Maggie Smith** portraying the true story of **The Lady in the Van (12A)**; and winner of a Best Actor award last year **Eddie Redmayne**, transforming himself to portray the transgender pioneer Lili Elbe in **The Danish Girl (15)**. Not to mention the return of Kate Winslet to tell the tale of a woman scorned in **The Dressmaker (12A)**, and the biggest film of the UK and Ireland 2015 box office, **Star Wars: Episode VII The Force Awakens (12A)**.



The action continues into amazing animation, perfect for our younger audience, including the story of Peter Pan before he reached Neverland in **Pan (PG)**, an unlikely but epic story of friendship between a dinosaur and a human in **The Good Dinosaur (PG)** and the continuing adventures of **Alvin, Simon and Theodore** in **Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Road Chip (PG)**.

For full listings of the Spring Film Season, contact the Box Office on **01582 60 20 80** or visit www.grovetheatre.co.uk.

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The A5-M1 Woodside Link road

My fellow Focus editor recently sent me the following item which she had “gleaned from the web” and thought might be of interest to our readers. She asked if I could “improve on it”! We do not know if it is from an authoritative source. BUT here goes. The text IS interesting and prompts the question, amongst many others: how will it affect our villages?

“The Link is a 2.9m two-lane dual carriageway. It will run between the A5 (at Thorn Turn, just north of its existing junction with the A505) and the M1 at a new Junction 11A (to the south of the existing Toddington Motorway Services Area).

The A5-M1 Link will increase accessibility between Milton Keynes and M1 Junction 9, making journey times shorter and more reliable for vehicles travelling a long distance. The A5 through Dunstable will be ‘detrunked’ to take heavy goods vehicles away from Houghton Regis and Dunstable, reducing congestion and improving air quality.

It will stimulate further economic investment and help provide much needed employment and job opportunities for residents throughout the area.

Dunstable will have space to thrive, improving opportunities and quality of life for people living and working there.

The Woodside Link will provide access to a new development area north of Houghton Regis, where 5,600 new homes are to be built and 30 hectares of employment land developed by 2031.

The Woodside Link is part of the Dunstable Town Centre Masterplan, which includes the Highways Agency’s A5-M1 Link (North Dunstable Bypass) and The Busway.

The Secretary of State for Transport approved the Woodside Link by granting a Development Consent Order on 30 September 2014.

It is expected to cost around £38.3m.”

It looks more like a press release than an informative web page, and seems to be aimed at confusing the reader rather than clarifying the purpose and function of the new highways. You, dear reader, will want to know:

- how will they increase accessibility between Milton Keynes and Junction 9 on the M1?;
- what evidence is there that the new routes will take HGVs away from Dunstable and Houghton Regis, reduce congestion and improve air quality?;
- how will they stimulate further economic investment and provide more employment opportunities in the area?; and
- how will they provide space for Dunstable “to thrive, improving opportunities and quality of life” etc.

I don’t have any answers to these questions. They are all very laudable aims of course. Nobody is going to object to them. But they offer the sort of vague benefits invariably trotted out to justify large scale infrastructure and other development projects. The

cynical amongst you will be thinking: “I’ll believe that when I see it.”

Of course the real justification for these two, new, related, highway schemes is to facilitate access to the extensive new urban growth areas north and north east of Houghton Regis which have already been granted outline planning permission for the construction of vast amounts of residential, industrial, commercial, retail, service and other development. Without these new highways access to the new growth areas would be indirect and congested making it difficult to successfully market the new properties. At the same time, if developers could be persuaded to help fund the new highway projects, it’s a win all round!

But this doesn’t make a very convincing case. In times of austerity the public will want to know how such heavy public expenditure on these massive new highways, carving their way through the South Bedfordshire green belt countryside, can possibly be justified - particularly when the new growth areas to be served by them have attracted widespread objections. So other more or less plausible benefits of the schemes have to be found. Hence the anodine bullet points above.

Dunstable residents are, however, likely to be sceptical of claims that this will bring an end to the chronic traffic congestion in the town centre, and bring about markedly better conditions for its users.

They will be aware that a very large proportion of the traffic on the A5 and the A505/B489 has its origin and/or destination in the area. They will also know that to avoid using the A5 through Dunstable, traffic between Milton Keynes and Junction 9 will have to use one of the most heavily congested and slowest moving parts of the motorway network – the section of the M1 between Junctions 9 and 11. How attractive will this be to the drivers of long haul HGVs and others?

Some Dunstable residents will know that what they would call a “proper by-pass for Dunstable” was on the cards for many years, running between the A5 at Thorn Turn and the A5 south of Caddington Turn, east of the town centre. Many think that such a by-pass is the only effective way of relieving Dunstable of its burden of traffic and enabling much needed improvements in the town centre to be carried out. But they also know that such a by-pass is never going to be acceptable because of its severe adverse impact on important and nationally designated landscapes and wildlife habitats.

So what we come down to is a new east-west route which purports to be a by-pass; and a quick way for heavy goods traffic to get to the M1 from the Woodside and Boscombe Road employment areas which avoids the existing road network through Dunstable and Houghton Regis Town Centres. Let us hope that they do have some appreciable benefits for those places.

But what about us? I hear you ask! Well, I suppose that if you want to go to Hitchin you will be able to do so without going through Dunstable and either Luton or Houghton Regis, so your journey time could be reduced. Of course you will have to negotiate the new Jcn 11A. This may be a daunting prospect as it will connect not just with the M1 but with the new Woodside Link and the local road network – Sundon Road, Luton Road Toddington, and any new link to the proposed Sundon Rail Freight Interchange and the new north of Luton growth areas. Could be fun!

On the other hand it is not impossible to imagine that traffic flows could increase through our villages as a result of the new road. Using village streets between Dagnall

and the A505 north of Eaton Bray will offer a potentially attractive way for traffic between the M1 and Hemel Hempstead to avoid both the slow moving, “detrunked” A5 through the centre of Dunstable, the congested and slow moving M1 between junctions 9 and 11, and the awkward negotiation of the A5120 through Toddington. Makes sense to me.

No doubt meticulous modelling has been used to forecast future, post scheme, traffic flows on the local road network which show that there will be no material increase. But traffic has a way of defying such predictions.

The text is very vague about the overall costs of the schemes. The £38.3 million figure is, I believe, the cost of the Woodside Link – the total cost of the two schemes being in the region of £120 million. This will no doubt provoke some to say such sums should never be spent on new road schemes – they only encourage more trips by car and lorry. More traffic creates more congestion, and more congestion leads to calls for the construction of yet more expensive roadworks to attempt to resolve the problem. Do they have a point? Will the new roads encourage you to pop over to Barton to see Fred and Mary more often? How much additional traffic will be “generated” by these new highways to take advantage of quicker journey times?

Of course this principle doesn’t bear the “*reductio ad absurdum*” test too well. If applied we would have had no canals, railways, or road improvements. But the general point is worth considering. What do you think?

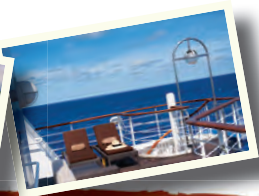
Let us have your views. Are the new roads a good thing? Or will they make things worse? How will they affect our villages? All thoughts gratefully received.

✉ George Crutcher

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Eaton Bray Methodist Church

The Christmas season brought us a run of joyful services. Cafe Worship on the third Advent Sunday, led with characteristic vitality by Belinda Freeman, gave us a chance to consider different attitudes to Christmas and the message of the humble stable where Jesus was born and 'the Word became Flesh'. Our Carol Service on Sunday 20th December was sheer delight. Dr Roger Owers led the service, which was designed and performed by our Sunday School with zest and humour and great sincerity. Our own Keith Blackburn led the lovely Christmas Day service and the large congregation had a feast of beautiful carols and memorable readings. Our Communion Service on the last December Sunday was led by Rev Nigel Wright with a thought-

provoking sermon on the gifts of the Magi. We began the New Year with a happy service of praise created by our own members; a celebration of God, our Sovereign Lord, His Glorious Creation and Christ, Our Redeemer.

The Craft Stall was full of beautiful handwork and very active in November and December, including the Coffee Morning and Craft Sale on Dec 5th. In all an amazing total of £700 was taken and we are immensely grateful to June Jarrett and Celia James for the generous commitment of their time, energy and skill.

Date for your Diary:

Café Community

Saturday 13th February 2016, 11am -1pm

We will be delighted to see you if you come to join us for a cup of tea or coffee and/or a light lunch.

CHEDDINGTON BOWLS CLUB WINTER FUN

Our bowlers and their partners have just returned from a 4 day treat at Potters Leisure Resort (Hopton on Sea), tired, but full of the joys of 'winter'. Potters is the home of the World Bowls Championships; shown each January on BBC.

Potters is perhaps better known for its leisure facilities, its theatre school and West End quality shows, good food and dance and big band weekends. Potters' is a favourite with many Club members, so Potters all - inclusive holidays come highly recommend. We have already booked again for next year!!

Join us for WINTER FUN at Cheddington Bowls Club - you and any friends you bring will receive a warm welcome. Arrive for 7pm for a 7.30 start

BEETLE DRIVE: Saturday January 23th

BINGO February 20th

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More info? Club Sec. Tony Duke 01525 220644/ Web. cheddingtonbowls.org.uk

THE HISTORY OF DAGNALL VILLAGE AND 'WAR TIME MEMOIRS' BY GEOFF SPENCER

'The History of Dagnall' and Geoff's 'War Time Memoirs' are available on Amazon written by our own village historian Geoff Spencer. They are each only 99p and if you go onto the Amazon web site and type Geoff

Spencer into the search box the titles will come up in the results area.

If anybody would like further information, please contact Geoff Spencer on 01442 843557

who would be more than happy to help you.

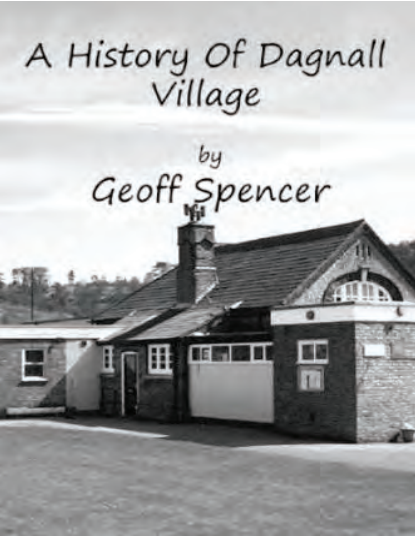
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A History of Dagnall
Village

by
Geoff Spencer



Right: Dagnall
Church School,
built 1863



Striker Sam Gallagher has returned to his parent club Southampton

The 20-year-old joined the Dons on a season-long deal in July and made 15 appearances, six of which were starts.

Manager Karl Robinson told mkdons.com: "Sam's attitude has been spot on and he's always given everything - it's unfortunate that things

haven't worked out.

"He's found opportunities limited and it's vital, at his age, that he is playing games on a regular basis and we never want to stand in the way of a young player doing that."

Robinson added: "We are thankful to Southampton for their help and co-operation. I have no doubts that Sam will be a top, top player in the future and we wish him all the best."

The Club would like to thank Sam for his efforts during his time at *stadiummk* wish him all the success in the future.

Meanwhile, Giorgio Rasulo and Kabongo Tshimanga have returned to *stadiummk* following the expiration of their loan deals at Oldham Athletic and Nuneaton Town respectively.



Grove Production Project Auditions: Disney's Beauty and the Beast JR



Date: Sunday 7 February 10am and Thursday 11 February 4.30pm

Calling all aspiring performers, crew members and musicians: your theatre needs to share your talents!

The **Grove Theatre's** annual summer musical project has turned things up a notch or two, incorporating more energy, experience and collaboration into a year set to be bigger and better than ever. Now under the name of **Grove Production Project**, the theatre is offering up to 100 young people **aged 7-19**, the opportunity to experience the making of a musical production and needs actors, musicians, singers and dancers, as well as those wishing to have a go at set building, lighting, sound, props and wardrobe. There are also opportunities for those **aged 14-21** who wish to work backstage.

This exciting project gives young people the opportunity to work with a professional artistic, creative and technical team to stage a musical production on a West End sized stage at the **Grove Theatre, Dunstable**, as well as building confidence and making new friends through the thrill of theatre.

The 2016 **Grove Production Project** will be **Disney's Beauty and the Beast JR**, so be our guest and fill in an application form!

Auditions will be held on **Sunday 7 February** with **registration at 10am** and **Thursday 11 February** with **registration at 4.30pm**. For an application pack please visit the **Take Part** section of the website at www.grovetheatre.co.uk or email groveducation@1Life.co.uk.



Rotary Club of Dunstable Antiques Fairs

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, 2nd May 2016 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.

50 Years of Hospital Radio 1965 – 2015



L&D Radio (registered charity No. 282934) seeks to broadcast a broad mix of music, chat programmes, entertainment, news and weather with priority

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The team visit wards and chat to patients and transform that experience into a community service radio station. We believe that we bring a modern, professional and fun attitude and we always need more volunteers to join us to help sustain this valuable service for the future.

Our broadcasting schedule includes request programmes and specialist shows featuring a wide range of music. We also broadcast local, national and internationally produced programmes for our listener's entertainment which include Richards Todd's Classic Retro countdown, Mellow Moments Andy Saunders, Gary Jackson's My Generation show and from down under, Mr D's Hits and Memories and many more. From time-to-time we also relay outside broadcasts.

Visitors to our studio have included well known personalities such as Chris Tarrant, Esther Rantzen, David Pleat, Marty Wilde, and many more. To top all that we bring our listeners the very latest national and international news on the hour every hour. When we are not live, our computer system plays music throughout the day and night.

Would you like to work as a volunteer at radio?

Many skills are required to run a station such as broadcasting, technical, administration, communications, fund raising, ward visiting and many more. Training is given.

If you feel you would like to help your local community, over 18 years of age and be part of a fun team giving some of your time to work in a professional and fun environment, please contact us on membership@ldhr.co.uk or follow the membership link on our website.

London Luton Airport

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



Tortoise & the Hare



Date: Friday 12 February 12pm, 2pm & 4pm

Tickets: £6

Box Office: 01582 60 20 80 (opt 7)

Book Online: www.grovetheatre.co.uk

Ready, set, RACE to the **Grove Theatre, Dunstable** on **Friday 12 February** at **12pm, 2pm or 4pm** to catch the children's ballet **Tortoise & the Hare** while it's here!

Many children may know of the Hare who never stopped talking about how fast he could run. That was until Tortoise came along, tired of being teased for his slowness, and challenged him to a race. No one thought Tortoise could win but life is full of surprises; and this show could surprise your children with a wildly energetic performance of the story right before their eyes!



Tortoise & the Hare, a much loved Aesop's fable, has been brought to life by **Northern Ballet** so that children and young families can continue to enjoy traditional stories, with the added excitement of immersing themselves into a world of live ballet, music and theatre.

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Tortoise & the Hare is the latest in the company's award-winning series of short ballets for children, following on from the sell-out successes of **Ugly Duckling**, **Three Little Pigs** and **Elves & the Shoemaker**. And so, the **Grove Theatre** is thrilled to welcome them to Dunstable this **February**.

Fancy treating your little ones to a lively and magical experience at one of three shows at the **Grove Theatre**? **Tickets are just £6** and can be purchased from the Box Office on **01582 60 20 80** or online at www.grovetheatre.co.uk.



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Aladdin



Date: Friday 9 December 2016 – Sunday 1 January 2017

Tickets start from £12.50

Box Office: 01582 60 20 80 (opt 7)

Book Online: www.grovetheatre.co.uk

With over 20,000 tickets sold, the **Grove Theatre's** 2015 pantomime of Cinderella is the theatre's best-selling panto to date. Celebrating the success of the show, excitement surrounding the theatre is flying high and preparation has begun to bring you the next story.

Your wish will be granted if you are looking for spectacular adventure that will take you to a whole new world. **Aladdin** will be this year's pantomime at the **Grove Theatre, Dunstable**, and is set to be a soaring success.

Will Aladdin be able to find love and fortune outside of his mother's laundrette in little

Old Peking? And is he ready for the challenges that stand in his way? With big dreams and ambition, **Aladdin's** tale will follow the lives of the rich and poor, the good and the evil, and most importantly, the magic of pantomime where the Genie of the lamp arrives to grant those Christmas wishes.

Comedy will be rife as your favourite characters appear before your eyes in an all star cast; soon to be announced. Oh yes it will!

This captivating production opens on **Friday 9 December 2016** and runs until **Sunday 1 January 2017**. To keep the spirit of giving alive, if you book before **Sunday 31 January 2016**, you can get your tickets at last year's genie-us prices. **Tickets start from just £12.50** and can be purchased from the Box Office on **01582 60 20 80** or online at **www.grovetheatre.co.uk**.



Knowing when to go to Court!



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.

Thankfully most consumer disputes can be settled through effective and firm dialogue. If not, there are programmes such as mine that offer additional assistance for people who are finding it difficult to resolve their consumer complaint.

However, some cases just cannot be resolved, no matter how hard one or both parties try. It is for these cases that the small claims court can be very helpful.

This month, I will outline how to use the small claims court system to obtain the best results.

Firstly, **DO NOT RUSH TO COURT.** In my experience, judges often look unfavourably at customers who are seen to take a company to court too quickly. It makes the consumer look unreasonable which never bodes well. Therefore always try as hard as you can to resolve the complaint between yourselves first. Consider the small claims court your last resort and it is essential that you have kept a record of your conversations and correspondence.

When you reach the conclusion that (within 6 years of the dispute and for amounts up to £10,000) the company or tradesman is not prepared to resolve the problem, you must write a letter of intention. Make it clear in the letter that you have tried hard to offer them opportunities to resolve the problem and that you would like to offer them one final opportunity. Allow them one month from receipt of the letter to

respond, and make it clear that if you do not hear from them, you will lodge papers with the small claims court. Send the letter recorded delivery and ensure they have received it and signed for it.

If they still show no interest in resolving the dispute, then you have an important decision to make. Will you go through with your threat of court action or not? If you decide on the former, you must go into it with your eyes open. You can always lose as well as win, however it may not cost you as much as you may think. The fee is dependent on how much you are suing for, but this will be outlined when you proceed with the action. If you are successful, the defendant will have to pay your costs as well as the amount you are claiming for.

It is also worth noting that you do not need a lawyer to take someone to the small claims court. It's relatively straight forward, and as long as you've been reasonable and sensible in your dealings with the company or tradesman, you stand a good chance of getting a favourable judgement.

In many cases, mediation is offered as a way of agreeing a course of action. The result of this is not legally binding, and most often I would advise you to proceed with this where offered. It doesn't prevent you progressing a case to a judge if unsuccessful. However, turning it down can make you look unreasonable.

If things go your way, the judge will award in your favour and will request that the defendant pays you a sum of money (either the whole of the amount you're seeking, or a proportion of it). They will be given instructions as to how to pay it, and if they fail to do so, you can instruct county court bailiffs to recover the money.

You can also escalate the case to the high court for a further fee and instruct the high court enforcement officers to chase your money.

Taking a company to court can be a

daunting prospect, and I would always suggest obtaining advice from your local citizen's advice bureau who will give you tailor-made advice on your specific case.

Good luck!

For Goodness Sake - PAY BY CREDIT CARD!

I've been fighting for consumer rights on my radio programme for many years now, and there's one message I have been repeating constantly - PAY BY CREDIT CARD!

Whenever I repeat this mantra, I receive so many calls and emails of complaint from people saying that I'm encouraging debt, I lose the will to live. However, I simply refuse to be silenced.

But why do I get on my high horse? I'll tell you why. If you pay for goods or services by credit card you are protected in so many ways. The woman who paid £1,000 by cheque for a bed that never turned up because the company went bust, the young man who put down a £500 deposit in cash for a new car only to find the dealer had misrepresented the kind of vehicle it was. These consumers could have received all of their money back with one phone call if only they'd paid by credit card. You see under the Consumer credit act of 1974, the credit card company is equally liable for "for any breach of contract or misrepresentation by a supplier of goods or services on credit". As long as the product or service costs between £100 and £30,000, you are covered for most unfortunate events.

There's also absolutely no need to get into debt when paying by credit card. If you were proposing to pay by cheque, cash or debit card then simply pay by credit card instead and pay the bill off in full the very next day.

So next time you plan to buy that new sofa, car, holiday or conservatory, FOR GOODNESS SAKE – PAY BY CREDIT CARD!



**The Salvation Army,
Booth Place, Eaton Bray**

Weekly Activities

Sunday

Footprints (Sunday School)	9.45-10.45am
Morning Worship	11am
Messy Church	3-5pm
<i>(Last Sunday of the month)</i>	
Songs of Praise	4pm
<i>(3rd Sunday of the month from May to Dec)</i>	
Tuesday	
Coffee Morning	
<i>(Alternate weeks)</i>	10-11.30am
Music practices (all welcome)	7.30-9pm
Wednesday	
Home League	2.30-3.30pm
<i>(Ladies Mtg but all welcome)</i>	
Champions Challenge Club <i>(term time)</i>	
<i>(Ages 5-10 years)</i>	5.45-6.45pm
Thursday	
Parent and Toddler Group	
<i>(Term time)</i>	9.30-11.30am
Sewing & Craft Bees	
<i>(2nd Thursday of month)</i>	7.45 pm
Ladies Fellowship	
<i>(Last week of month)</i>	7.45pm

For further details please call Envoy Hilary Chadwick. T:01525 222087 / 07932 057490

E: hilary.chadwick@salvationarmy.org.uk

W: www.salvationarmy.org.uk/eaton-bray

Edlesborough W.I.

Our November and December meetings were held in the Memorial Hall. The first meeting took place on 10th November, when our speaker, Martin Sirot – Smith, spoke on the subject of ‘Daily Life in Tudor Times’.

Martin addressed his audience in the guise of Lawrence Washington, Lord of the Manor of Sulgrave and Stuchbury and dressed appropriately in the attire of a wealthy, middle class wool merchant, which clearly showed the difference between rich and poor during the Tudor period. Being the owner of two whole villages meant that ‘Lawrence’ owned all the properties, all the people and a total of 3,400 acres which totalled £324. 14. 10.

During Tudor times less than 6% of the population were considered to be civilised and educated. The remaining 94% were considered poor, ignorant peasants, who lived in hovels and were completely beholden to the lord of the manor. For the poor, life was a daily struggle. Infant mortality was extremely high; six out of ten babies did not survive and women fared poorly too. Two women out of five died during childbirth and one out of five burnt to death because of their clothes catching alight. One last sobering thought, if a child survived and then lived to forty years that was regarded as old age.

One’s position in Tudor life was regarded like a ladder. On the top rung were God and the angels. On the next rung sat the monarchs, the rulers and lords of the manor and at the bottom of the ladder were placed the peasants. The consensus was that they were kept there by God in order to control them.

Having provided us with a broad outline of what life was like during the Tudor period the ‘Lord of the Manor of Sulgrave and Stuchbury’ proceeded to explain his life

in more detail. He began by explaining the significance of different colours. Only the king was allowed to wear the colour purple. If anyone else should dare to do such a thing, that person would be arrested for treason. Rich reds and blues belonged to the aristocracy along with silks and highly decorated robes and clothes. The rich middle class members, of whom our speaker belonged, were only allowed to wear English materials; wool and linen. However, the linen was decorated with black embroidery.

Moving on from discussing the significance of the various colours, our speaker proudly showed the audience his cloak, which touched the ground and was edged all the way down the front, round the neck and the sleeves with fur. Yet another sign reflecting his wealth and power. The long cloak also came in useful for keeping him warm; the stone floors were extremely cold and the long cloak trapped the air and warmed it. Velvet caps were always worn, for two reasons: to keep the head warm and control infestations of lice.

The lord’s complete wardrobe was exposed and explained, which proved to be a fascinating subject, with many apparently small items revealing the lord’s power and wealth. Two such examples were: a) the garters at his knees, if these were crossed over behind his knees he was extremely rich and powerful and b) the size of feather in his cap.

Not only were we shown the importance of the lord’s clothes but we also heard about table etiquette, the different types of diets between the rich and poor, the general health of the population, the amounts of alcohol consumed and the dangers involved when paying a visit to the dentist, which often led to the unfortunate visitor bleeding to death.

The evening concluded with an insight

into what was considered the worst aspects of life in Tudor times: the dirt and stench. What caused such a state of affairs? Rats and mice were very much in attendance in both rich and poor households, leaving their nightly deposits all over the homes. Dogs roamed freely inside without being house trained. As fire was the only means of provision of heat for warmth and cooking, there was constant smoke throughout the homes. For instance, the lord's manor house had fourteen fireplaces. Candles were made from tallow – animal fat that produced a very unpleasant odour. Bats and birds lived in the ceilings and therefore plenty of evidence was deposited everywhere. Of course there were no proper toilets and people seldom washed either their bodies or their clothing, which added to the stench. In fact one was thought mad if one wanted to have a bath.

I shall leave you with the words of Lawrence Washington, Lord of the Manor of Sulgrave and Stuchbury. "It was better to live in Elizabeth 11's reign than Elizabeth 1's."

December Meeting

Our second meeting took place on 8th December. We had no speaker but instead had an extremely good time enjoying our Christmas meal and party. Our President welcomed our guest, Jenny Street, who is Buckinghamshire's WI Federation Chairman and visitors from our fellow Beacon Group to our 'Christmas Do', which was made extra special by the dressing of the tables in red and cream. What a spectacular sight greeted us as we entered the room. Well done to all the ladies who worked so hard in preparing the hall.

As well as the delight of having a Secret Santa – with the help of our secretary, Maureen and her suitably decorated wheelbarrow, the evening consisted of a very enjoyable meal provided by Jane and her 'Dynamic Team'. Well Done Jane, for all your hard work. The WI ladies were entertained

by fellow members who gave renditions of their poems. Those who were brave enough to perform were: Brenda who read, 'Differences Between Men and Women' and told a very funny joke by Joan Rivers. Jacky, who gave credit to her husband for writing her funny poem, 'A Christmas Cheer' about Christmas Day activities and a piece entitled, 'Each Christmas'. Sue's poem was also highly amusing, entitled, 'I like to Meet an Old Dog I Can Teach New Tricks'. Diane's poem in contrast was very sombre and certainly made us think entitled, 'Turkey'. Phrena concluded the recital with her poem, 'Retirement', which compared the Princess Cruise Liner with a nursing home!

Our entertainment also included a selection of songs and music provided by our guest trio consisting of singer, Barbara Morton, her son Ashley, who played guitar and Hannah, who played keyboard. Their programme was entitled, 'Winter Wonderland' and included gems such as: Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas and I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas. The finale to their programme included all of us singing the first verse of a selection of traditional carols. It was a lovely performance by the trio.

The very successful evening concluded with our guest, Jenny Street, giving a vote of thanks.

✍️ Jackie Flint



Dunstable & District Local History Society

**Tuesday 9 February, 7.45pm
Songs of World War One**

The songs sung by soldiers in the trenches poked fun at the generals or summoned up images of home. *Mike Ruff* accompanies himself on an accordion in this evocative presentation

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



Dagnall Weather Station (AONNB)

Weather Conditions for November & December 2015



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

November 2015

	High	Date/Time	Low	Date/Time
Temperature	19.3°C (16.3°C)	1 Nov 12.00	-3.4°C	22 Nov 02.30
Mean Temp	9.8°C (8.3°C)	Dominant Wind:	W	
Humidity:	97%	3 days during Nov	66%	13 Nov 15.30
Barometer:	1028.6 hPa	9 Nov 10.00	998.2 hPa	17 Nov 15.30
Wind Speed	50 mph W	17 Nov 19.00	Months avg.	8.1 mph
Wettest Day	4 Nov	4 Nov	10.01 mm	3.0398 ins
Monthly Rain:	Total	Nov	75.6 mm	2.98 ins

December 2015

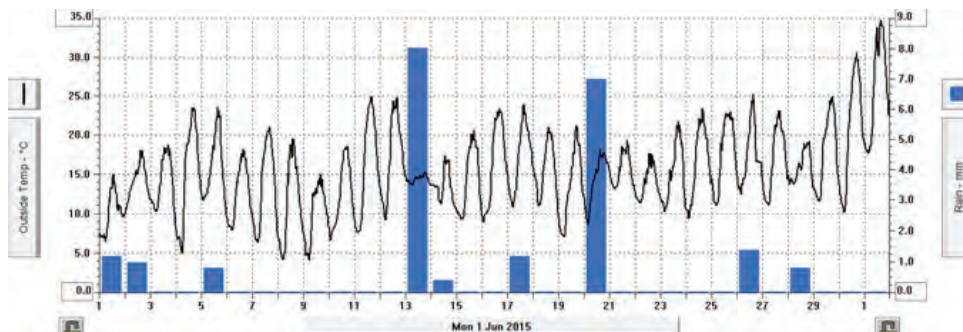
	High	Date/Time	Low	Date/Time
Temperature	15.1°C (12.7°C)	19 Dec 13.30	2.6°C (-3.8°C)	25 Dec 06.30
Mean Temp	10.5°C (5.2°C)	Dominant Wind:	SW	
Humidity:	97%	3 days during Dec	66%	18 Dec 6.3
Barometer:	1033.2 hPa	9 Dec 10.00	1002.1 hPa	12 Dec 06.00
Wind Speed	50 mph SW	30 Dec 11.30	Months avg.	9.5 mph
Wettest Day	12.19mm	30 Dec	12.19 mm	0.480 ins
Monthly Rain:	Total	Dec	79.00 mm	3.100 ins

November was a mild dull month starting with a temperature of 19.3°C on the 1st. Daytime temperatures continued around 15°C until the 21st when we had a short cold snap. There were only 3 nights when temperatures dropped below zero. In the middle of the month we had a windy spell with max 50mph. Although we recorded rain on 24 days the amount was less than the 8 year average unlike the northern parts of the country.



December was a very unusual month temperatures well above normal breaking records all-over the UK. For us in the Dagnall area mild does not cover it, it was almost warm. We recorded 21 days where the daytime temperature reached 12°C and above, 16 nights remained above 8°C. A December without any frost and the lowest temperature was 2.6°C unbelievable. There was average rainfall for the month only 79.00mm (3.1inches) but in Cumbria in just 48 hours they had 300 -400 mm (11.8 – 15.75) how lucky we are.

This shows the High Temperatures and Rain for December



To show how warm it was in December I show night temperature for the first week in June and December.



Date	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th	7 th
June	6.6°C	10.1°C	8.1°C	4.9°C	9.6°C	7.9°C	6.4°C
December	7.8°C	10.5°C	10.9°C	5.6°C	10.4°C	11.6°C	10.2°C

For weather data 24 hours a day, updated every 1 mins, visit: http://bit.ly/weather_dagnall this site forecast and much more and the original site www.dagnallweather.co.uk

Annual Climatological Summary for 2015

Temperature

Precipitation

Wind Speed

	Hi Temp	Date	Low Temp	Date	Mean Temp	Day Max	Date	Month Total	Hi	Date	Avg	Dom Dir
Jan	13.5°	9 th	-6.2°	23 th	4.5°	17.0	3 rd	70.2mm	46.0	10 nd	7.8	W
Feb	12.4	25 th	-4.2°	2 nd	3.7°	11.4	16 th	60.2mm	46.0	22 nd	5.9	NW
Mar	15.8°	7 th	-1.6°	25 th	6.6°	7.8	26 nd	20.8mm	49.0	31 nd	7.4	W
Apr	23.6°	15 th	-1.5°	27 th	9.9°	10.6	3 rd	33.8mm	33.0	12 th	5.2	E
May	21.7°	22 nd	-3.3°	2 nd	11.6°	13	14 th	61.4mm	40.0	5 th	6.8	W
Jun	30.6°	30 th	4.2°	9 th	15.1°	8.0	13 th	21.8mm	38.0	1 st	5.6	W
July	34.9°	1 st	4.1°	31 th	16.8°	34.0	24 th	74.0mm	33.0	1 st	6.0	W
Aug	29.8°	22 th	7.7°	1 st	16.5°	23.2	24 th	72.2mm	30.0	25 th	4.8	SW
Sep	22.3°	10 th	2.8°	6 th	12.7°	15.4	16 th	66.4mm	27.0	14 th	4.2	E
Oct	20.1°	2 nd	1.4°	25 th	10.9°	9.8	28 th	44.7mm	50.0	30 th	4.6	SSE
4.6	19.4°	1 st	-3.4°	22 nd	9.8°	10.0	4 th	75.6mm	50.0	17 th	8.1	SSW
8.1	15.1°	19 th	2.6°	25 th	10.5°	12.2	30 th	79.0mm	40.0	30 th	9.5	SW
	YEAR	TOTALS										
Lows /Max	34.9°	July	-6.2	Year	Avg 10.8°	Total	Year	679.9mm 26.77in	50.0	Nov	6.3	Year avg W

If anyone has a question, comment or wishes to contact me please email: david@dagnallweather.co.uk or telephone: 01442 843883.

Dagnall weather now has an app for your ipad & iphone! Just go to the apple store, search for Wunderstation and follow the instructions to Dagnall Weather Station. Now updated every minute.



PITSTONE GREEN MUSEUM

A rural museum housed in the buildings of an 1831 farm



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11am -5pm

Admission: Adults £6.00 Children £2.00

The museum is run by volunteers and we open to the general public on the following days only although group visits can be arranged at other times.

Easter Monday - 28th March

Sunday 10th April

May Day Bank Holiday Monday 2nd May

Bank Holiday Monday 30th May

Sunday 12th June

Sunday 10th July

Sunday 14th August

Summer Bank Holiday - 29th August

Sunday 11th September

Sunday 9th October

11am -5pm

Adults £6.00. Children £2.00



Salvation Sound



What is the worth of a word?

Love An old lady had died - the church was packed with people for her funeral service.

She had been a friend to everyone - nothing was too much trouble for her. Friends remembered how they had never turned to her in vain for help or comfort.

None of this will be recorded on her gravestone, she left no vast fortune, but her priceless legacy to the many who mourn her is simply the gift of having known her and felt her love.

St. Paul wrote that "Love is patient, love is kind, it does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs".

Quite a lot to try to live up to!

How would you define love? Not the hearts and cards, flowers and chocolates kind, that is banded about on Valentine's Day, but real, deep, love?

Mother Teresa never regarded herself as a philosopher, but these are a few of her sayings.

"Let us always meet each other with a smile, for a smile is the beginning of love."

"Spread love everywhere you go; first of all in your own home."

"For being unwanted and unloved there is no cure, unless there are willing hands to serve and a loving heart to love."

"Money is very necessary, but we must take care to increase its value by seasoning it with love."

Our Lord Jesus Christ commanded His disciples to "love one another", because, "By this all will know you are my disciples."

Lord, teach us the secret of loving,

The love you are asking today;

Then help us to love one another;

For this we most earnestly pray.

Friendship A man, serving a prison sentence, alone in a cell, said that the hardest part about being isolated was "not being able to communicate, to touch, to hug, to feel loved; I'm so lonely. This is not the way life should be!"

In Genesis we read that after God created man, he recognised Adam's loneliness and said, "I will make him a helper comparable to him." Whatever the cause of loneliness, confinement, loss, sickness, sin, shame, depression - God knows this is not good. Reach out, be a friend.

Father, help me live today

With thoughtfulness in what I say,

Confronting wrong with truth and fact

Expressing gentleness and tact.

Gardening How strange that two words, love and friendship, could lead my thoughts to gardening; well to florography, that is flower symbolism, a message said with flowers instead of words. Almond blossom, for example, says, "I am beginning to enjoy your friendship," Rosemary says "Your memory will never fade", while Japonica states "love comes at first sight."

Caring for a garden is like a parable of a gentle life, for he who sows courtesy, reaps friendship, and he who plants kindness, gathers love."

So a mixed bouquet can speak volumes; Friendship is love with understanding, Love accomplishes all things; But love without deeds is useless - both must be expressed or they are no better than a myth, as it says in the Bible (Lev.19v18) "You shall love your neighbour (friend) as yourself."

✍Maureen

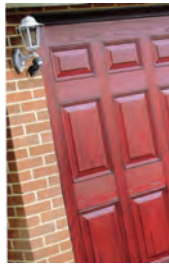


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