

FOCUS

March 2017



**The local village magazine just for Us!
Eaton Bray, Edlesborough, Northall & Dagnall
Focus is online at www.thefocusmagazine.co.uk**

The White Horse Inn
At Eaton Bray

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*Do you have a skill or hobby that you would like to
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*We want to expand the festival and want to hear about your ideas,
please contact Tom at the pub by phone or pop in.*

invites you to

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Saturday 11th March 2017

11.00am to 1.00pm

Charity of the month:
Church Action Against Poverty

Relax & chat with friends,
coffee/light lunch

All ages welcome (inc. activity area).



Eaton Bray
Methodist
Church

The Focus Magazine Committee

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

Kindly Note

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

✍️Editor

NORTHALL BAPTIST CHAPEL

Chapel Lane, Northall

(just beyond the 30 speed limit signs on
the road towards Leighton Buzzard)

Everyone is welcome to our Sunday
worship each week between 11am and
12.30pm including tea/coffee and time to
talk together.

For more information contact:

John Hazell 01525 218142

Email northallchapel@btinternet.com

There has been a Baptist Chapel in Northall
for more than 200 years. Today we continue
to seek to worship God, serve him in our
daily lives and support and encourage one
another in the difficult and the joyful times.

Focus is online at www.thefocusmagazine.co.uk

Village Diary March 2017



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	Dagnall Community Choir, All Saints Church 7.45 – 9.45pm
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, Sam George: 07748 152379, Tracy Bennett: 07803 123318
Tuesdays	Tap & Ballet Classes, JoAnn Latus School of Dance, 4-8pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall, 01582 620576
Tuesdays	Beginner's Boxercise, 6-7pm Dagnall Village Hall, Josh Thompson 07456 574405 or jtpinfo@gmail.com
Tuesdays Fortnightly	Coffee Morning, Bring & Buy, Table Top Sale, 10-12noon, Salvation Army Hall, Booth Place, Eaton Bray
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 Baby and Toddler Group 10am to 11:30am, Grace Baptist Church, Moor End, Edlesborough, £1 per family unit, Frances King 01525 229 610
Wednesdays	Pilates 6.45 & 7.45pm, Dagnall Village Hall, Andrea on 07855 138005 or andrea@naturalpilates.co.uk
Wednesdays	Art of Ju Jitsu martial arts class, Eaton Bray Village Hall, 7 -7.45pm ages 6-15yrs
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	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	Tae Kwon-do, Dagnall Village Hall, 5.45-7.30pm 07813 755785
Thursdays	Clubbercise 7.30 - 8.30pm. Eaton Bray Hall - Gina Flitton 07846421756
Thursdays	Intermediate Boxercise, 7.30-8.30pm, Dagnall Village Hall, Josh Thompson 07456 574405 or jtpinfo@gmail.com
Fridays	Tap & Ballet Classes, JoAnn Latus School of Dance, 4-8pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall, 01582 620576
Fridays	Keep Fit class, Edlesborough Mermorial Hall 10 - 11am

Village Diary March 2017

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
Fridays (term time)	“Little Luvvies” baby ballet classes 10am-11.30am. Contact Emma Whittemore on 01525 376124
Fridays	Stay & Play toddler group, ‘Musical Monkeys’ at the Eaton Bray Village Hall, 10-11.30am, £4.50 for one adult and child, £1 for extra children/adults, 0-6months free
Saturdays	Jazzercise, 9.30-10.30am, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Angela Veryard, 01525 715208
Saturdays	KFPA Musical Theatre classes 4+yrs www.kfpa.co.uk, 10am, Edlesborough Memorial Hall
Saturdays	Bootcamp Fitness, 9-10am, Dagnall Recreation Ground, Josh Thompson 07456 574405 or jtptinfo@gmail.com
Sundays	Sundays Worship at 10:30am and 6pm Grace Baptist Church, Moor End, Edlesborough (across from the post office). Barry King 01525 229610

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, 10:30am - 12 noon
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
4th Tuesday	The Filling Station, 7:30pm, Bellows Mill
Last Saturday	Coffee Morning, 10:30-12 noon, Edlesborough Methodist Church
Last Sunday	Messy Church, 3-5pm, Salvation Army, Booth Place, Eaton Bray, 07932 057490

Other Regular Events

5th	Beds Area Narrow Gauge Model Railway Club Meeting, 11.30am-4.30pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall
10th	Leukaemia Research Coffee Morning, 2 Dunstable Road, Dagnall 10.30am. All welcome.
11th	Cafe Community, 11am-1pm, Eaton Bray Methodist Church
14th	Dagnall and Kensworth Friendship Club, 2pm, Dagnall Village Hall with Bingo, tea and raffle

One Off/Annual/Irregular Events

3rd	Women’s World of Prayer, 2pm, Edlesborough Methodist Chapel
4th	Great British Spring Clean, 10am - 12 noon, Meet on Edlesborough Green by the Village Sign
10th	Age Concern Wednesday Club Quiz Night, 7:30pm, Northall Village Hall, Tickets £9 from Beryl 01525 220868
25th	Charity Quiz Night, 7pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Tickets £10 from John on 01582 617847

Village Info



EDaN Community Transport

Viv Hill: 01442 842623

Village Hall Bookings

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

Northall: Lorna Cabbage Tel: 07857 318696 Email: northallvhbookings@gmail.com

Eaton Bray: Norman Lee Tel: 01525 222831

Email: bookings@ebvh.co.uk Website www.ebvh.co.uk

Dagnall: Elizabeth Coates Tel: 01442 842550

Edlesborough Memorial Hall: Penny Pataky, Tel: 01525 229358

Email: manager@edlesborough-pc.gov.uk

Police Contact Numbers...

making neighbourhoods safer together

General Assistance (Recommended Number): 101 Emergency: 999

Bedfordshire Police (Eaton Bray)

Leighton Buzzard Police Station/Kathryn Horgan: 01582 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

Defibrillator Locations

These units are registered with the Ambulance Services. To access them, please phone 999. You will be given the access code and the location of the unit will be confirmed. The defibrillator is easy and safe to use. The units can be found on the outside walls of the following locations:

Dagnall: Red Lion Public House

Eaton Bray: The Coffee Tavern

Edlesborough: Edlesborough Memorial Hall

Northall: The Swan Public House



Helpline: 07930987064

**Manned phone hours: 9am to 5pm,
Monday to Friday**

(An answering service is available for out-of-hours calls)

Call us if you want help with getting to the surgery/hospital, collecting prescriptions, minor errands, form-filling, letter-writing, small d-i-y jobs, walking your pet or other small needs.

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RAFFLE/REFRESHMENTS**

Wednesday Club

Age Concern Northall

We require a volunteer driver and a conductor for our mini bus on one Wednesday each month to transport our members to and from Northall hall. It will require 2 hours in the morning to collect and again 2 hours in the afternoon to return members home.

Full support training will be give for both positions, which are both important to the running of the club.

Interested.... please call Peter Barrow on 01442 842364 or Ken Coates 01525 220868



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 six hours each month advising and helping to run our village. Being a Parish Councillor in Eaton Bray Parish gives you a real opportunity to make a difference to the community.



At present we have vacancies – will YOU come and join us?
If yes, please contact the Parish Clerk – contact details below.

You can also view our website for more details



Heidi Head, Parish Clerk & RFO

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

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



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



All Saints' Church, Dagnall

Services in March 2017

Sun. 5th Mar.	9.00 am	Eucharist
	10.30 am	Morning Service
Sun. 12th Mar.	10.30 pm	Morning Service
Sun. 19th Mar.	10.30 am	Family Communion
Sun. 26th Mar.	10.30 am	Family Service
Sun. 2nd April	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.

KEEP BRITAIN TIDY

“The Great British Spring Clean”

3rd - 5th March 2017



Let's join in and be proud of our Villages!

Join “The Big Litter Pick” on

Saturday 4th March 10am – 12 noon

Meet on Edlesborough Green by the Village sign

We'll cover as many areas as we can.

Or

Why not “do your own thing!” Have a street collection.

You'll need rubber gloves and stout shoes or boots.

Contact Lorna: 01525 220361 for more information.

Eaton Bray with Edlesborough Parish News

Church Warden & Pastoral Matters: Catherine Hayden (01525 220527)

Reader: Gordon Gray (01525 220136)

Website: www.stmaryseatonbray.org.uk

Facebook: St Mary's Eaton Bray

I was too young to be aware of the Cuban Missile Crisis so, perhaps for the first time in my life, it feels that world events are beginning to look scary. What a turbulent year 2017 has been already, we have a new president in the United States making and implementing radical decisions and picking fights with all and sundry whilst, here, steps are being taken to extricate this country from the European Union. Everything seems to be leading us away from stability and security; the lives with which we have become so familiar.

What is going on and how can we tell? We are told that we live in a post-truth world, that fake-news is rife. What, for goodness sake, is fake-news? Maybe it's another name for propaganda; maybe it's a new phenomenon, to distract us from truths the powerful would rather we didn't know about or think about. The media don't tell us – they seem to have their own agenda. It used to be that the fourth estate – the press and media – would report on events and expose crime and corruption among the powerful. Now the media shape opinions and tell governments what they should be doing; they have become all powerful.

For us ordinary folk, the people who are going to become the beneficiaries or victims of our new political world, things seem so distant; after all, what influence do any of us have? What can we do? Is there anything we can do? Well, I suspect the answer to that question is “on our own, probably nothing,” but we can work together as a community for the good of everyone.

One of the great strengths of the community here in our villages is the mutual support its people provide for one another. When I look at events like our Carnival, organisations like, for example, the Wednesday Club, St Mary's Parish Lunch, Salvation Army lunches, the work of our Parish Councils, the Good Neighbour Scheme, donations to the Foodbank, people who visit the sick and housebound there is so much going on here to provide mutual support. The people involved in those organisations may not know it but they are following an ancient truth known as the Golden Rule – the principle of treating others as one would wish to be treated oneself.

Jesus said, “Love your neighbour as yourself,” but the maxim was already 2000 years old in his day. People throughout history from Ancient Egypt, China, India, the Near East, Greece Persia and Rome have all lived by this maxim.

The Golden Rule is an eternal truth; it is found in the writing of every religious tradition. In a world of lies, half-truths, alternative facts, fake-news we can rely on such an eternal truth and try to live our lives in accordance with its message. Do to others, do for others, for your neighbours, what you would like for yourself.

Do! Do, it's an active verb – not something to be hidden behind the walls of our homes, our places of worship. Make the effort, get involved in making this an even better community in which to live. The world we have known may seem to be crumbling around us but if we all pull together, if we love one another, we can protect our own little bit of paradise.

✉ Gordon, Reader at St Mary's Eaton Bray



Transport St Mary's Village 1st July 2017 Carnival 2017

Carnival Queen 2017

This year's Carnival Queen and attendants will be chosen by draw on Sunday 9th April at 11:15am in Eaton Bray Village Hall. If you are aged between 8 and 12 years and live in Dagnall, Eaton Bray, Edlesborough or Northall you could be leading this year's procession in the Carnival Queen carriage. The contact for Carnival Queen is Marlene Bennett on 01525 221378; see separate page in this Focus for full details.

Information for local businesses

Once again this is an appeal to local businesses as well as schools, youth groups, and organisations to be involved in the Carnival and have your organisation promoted during this event. 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 will work with you to find the best means of advertising your businesses to the crowds who attend the Carnival. Here are a few ways that the Carnival could work for you:

- Advertising in the Carnival Programme – delivered to all the households in Dagnall, Eaton Bray, Edlesborough and Northall.
- Advertising in the arena.
- Have a float in the Carnival procession.
- Have a stall at the Carnival.
- Donating a prize for the Grand Draw.
- Donating a prize for the Silent Auction.

All details of Carnival 2017 including how to book a stall, arrange advertising, offer prizes and much more can be found on the Carnival website:

www.stmarysvillagecarnival.com

For any specific questions or if you would like to get involved with organisation of the Carnival either by helping for a few hours on the day or providing assistance in the months before July contact Gordon Gray on 01525 220136 or through the Carnival website.

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
Girls' Night Out	
<i>(1st Thursday of month)</i>	
	7.45pm
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*



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Edlesborough Community Sports Club C.I.O.

Buy a Brick



ECSC C.I.O are inviting community funding for the new pavilion to be built on Edlesborough Green.

All donations will be received with thanks and recorded in the Roll of Honour, but for a more visible tribute to your generosity why not ***Buy a Brick***. You can have your name dear to you

engraved on a brick which will form part of one of the walls of the pavilion and be a lasting testimony to your generosity to the Village. All **Buy a Brick** donations will be recorded and kept separately. Should the Pavilion not be built in a reasonable time they will be returned. **Engraving bricks** costs money so we have had to set a minimum donation. We have also taken the opportunity to allow the Parish to acknowledge larger donors and corporate sponsors on separate parts of the wall.

You can make your donation and reserve your brick (there will obviously be a finite number in the walls) through our BT crowd funding web site <https://mydonate.bt.com/events/ecscbuyabrick/> This also allows us to claim Gift Aid.

Donation levels are :

Bronze Friend	£50
Silver Friend	£100
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EATON BRAY PARISH COUNCIL



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 Held on

Monday 9th January 2017 from 7:30pm at the Coffee Tavern

Central Beds Council (CBC) – Councillor Ken Janes

CBC Website: www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk. CBC Customer Services: 0300 300 8302

CBC Email: customers@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Your CBC Council representative - Councillor Ken Janes: email kwjanes@hotmail.co.uk

Bedfordshire Police

Your Local Policing Team: Non-emergency call 101 / All emergencies 999

Vacancy - parish Councillors

There are vacancies for Parish Councillors on Eaton Bray Parish Council.

Being a Parish Councillor in Eaton Bray Parish gives you a real opportunity

to make a difference to the community. To find out more about joining Eaton Bray Parish Council, please email the Parish Clerk at clerk@ebpc.co.uk with a brief summary about you and your skills and why you would like to be a Parish Councillor. You CAN make a difference.

Eaton Bray – Neighbourhood Plan

UPDATE: Please see the Neighbourhood Plan report printed within the FOCUS magazine.

Church Lane: Planning Notice displayed

The notice and map posted on site are there to notify the public that the landowner owns the land outlined on the map and doesn't intend to create any additional rights of way over their land; current rights of way are unaffected. It does not require any action on behalf of the public but is simply for information purposes and to comply with the legislation set out by the government. You can find more information about the section 31 deposits at the following web page: www.defra.gov.uk/rural/protected/greens and www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1980/66/section/31 .

Traffic Calming: Road traffic accidents/incidents in parish

The Parish Council are looking into traffic calming measures for the parish. One area that

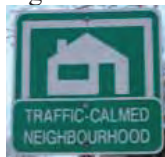
would assist the Council is data on the number of road traffic incidents, i.e. damage to parked cars by other road users, which occur on the parish main roads. If residents could report any damage to CBC, ensuring the matter is logged and obtain a log report number; this data would be of help to the Council when having to show a need to CBC for traffic calming measures within the parish. Thank you. Link: www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/transport/report/highways-fault.aspx .

Overgrown Trees/Bushes

Another reminder by the Parish Council that residents need to ensure their hedges/bushes/trees do not encroach onto the public footpath, or block streetlights; please cut back any overgrowth to your property boundary line, allowing free access/visibility for footpath users.

Next Parish Council Meeting: Held in The Coffee Tavern (1st floor)

Monday 3rd April 2017 from 7:30pm



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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Edlesborough Play Area

At the time of writing this report it is anticipated that the improvements to Edlesborough Green Play Area will be commencing in early March. Our contractor will be:

- Removing the central fence and bark chippings
- Laying new top soil to replace the bark chippings
- Installing RAPRA Approved safety matting and sowing grass seed.

When this work commences it will be necessary to temporarily close part of the play area for approximately six to eight weeks to allow the grass seed time to germinate. EPC ask that parishioners do not enter the area during this time. The main gate to the play area will also be replaced.

Neighbourhood Plan Pre-Submission Plan

The consultation period for the Pre-Submission Plan has now ended. EPC thanks parishioners for attending the meetings and their responses. EPC and the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group will now analyse all the responses, in addition to closely monitoring the situation with VALP and the CALA Homes planning application. Changes may be made to the plan where appropriate. It is imperative that EPC and the NP Steering Group follow due process, so as not to risk having the plan thrown out, which WOULD result in the villages having NO protection against even MORE and quite possibly even larger developments. EPC will then submit the Neighbourhood Plan to AVDC for approval.

If AVDC approve it an independent Government Inspector will examine it to see if it meets the requirements laid down for a Neighbourhood Plan. If so it may then be approved. Finally, the plan will be put to all parish residents on the Electoral Register to vote Yes or No. A simple majority of those who vote is needed to determine the result.

We have to have a plan that allows for the building of the minimum number of dwellings required by the Aylesbury Vale Local Plan. This should then give us protection from additional opportunistic developments until the next planning cycle in 2033.

If we fail to get an approved plan for our parish then AVDC and the developers will decide what, when and where to build for the next 15+ years.

Dog Bins

As many parishioners are aware there was an issue with the dog bins being emptied in January. It is the responsibility of AVDC to empty these bins for EPC. EPC reported the issue several times to AVDC but to date no explanation as to why the bins were not emptied has been received.

Should this issue occur again EPC reminds parishioners that poo bags may be placed in the green rubbish bins around the Parish. Poo bags are NOT placed in the Green bins on the village greens. Alternatively please take the poo bag home. Please do not dump it on or around the overflowing bins as this creates a health and safety hazard to other parishioners.

Siding Out and Parking in the Parish

As you will be aware Bucks CC has devolved many responsibilities to EPC, this includes the siding out of pavements within the 30mph limit. In addition to this EPC have put extra funding towards siding out other pavements in the parish, including the following pavements:

- From Pine Road to Ivinghoe Way
- From Sparrow Hall Farm to Northall





- The pavements surrounding the Travellers Rest roundabout. Our contractor has been working hard to restore many pavements to a minimum width of 1.1m. Unfortunately this is not possible in some locations due to the road layout. Despite previous requests from EPC some drivers continue to ignore the Highway Code and EPC's requests to refrain from parking on

the pavements and the grass verges in our parish. EPC will forward photographs, with times and dates of repeat offenders to Thames Valley Police. Parking in this way is an offence and obstructs and seriously inconvenience pedestrians, people in wheelchairs or with visual impairments and people with prams or pushchairs.

Edlesborough Memorial Hall Improvements

EPC are currently considering quotes for panels to be installed in EMH to improve the acoustics of the hall. In addition EPC are also giving consideration to quotes for the interior of the building to be redecorated.

Streetlights

Please report failed streetlights in Edlesborough, Dagnall and Northall to the Clerk for repair. When making a report please ensure you provide the Clerk with the information displayed on the lamp post.

Resurfacing of Edlesborough High Street

TfB have advised EPC that Edlesborough High Street has been scheduled for resurfacing and lining. If you notice any other road markings in need of repainting please report those to Bucks CC.

Allotments

Edlesborough Parish Council currently has vacant allotments. Anyone wishing to take on an allotment should contact the Clerk. Fees are £2 per pole and plots range in size from 10 – 20 poles.

Speedwatch

The EDaN Traffic Management team are looking for volunteers to help with their new 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 843123 or by email at louisefanthorpe@yahoo.co.uk



Edlesborough Parish Council Meetings

The next Edlesborough Parish Council Meetings will take place as follows

Edlesborough Memorial Hall, Thursday 16th March 2017

Edlesborough Memorial Hall, Thursday 20th April 2017 This evening will include the Annual Parish Meeting where the council will review the achievements of the past year and set out the plans for the future. Parishioners are invited to raise issues and debate them with the council.

The meetings will commence at 7:30pm.

All Parishioners are welcome to attend all Ordinary Parish Council meetings 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.

Edlesborough Parish Council Contact Information:

Clerk: Miss Penny Pataky *Office hours Mon – Fri 10.30am – 2.30pm (Excl. Wed)*

Email: clerk@edlesborough-pc.gov.uk 01525 229358 Website: www.edlesborough-pc.gov.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/EDANParishCouncil

Edlesborough Community Sports Club C.I.O.

The new Pavilion – current situation



Summary

The project to replace the tired pavilion on Edlesborough Village Green with a new efficient building serving sport and community activities and enhancing the enjoyment of the Green has been active since 2013. In that time we have many new parishioners and perhaps some who have been in the parish longer have lost contact with the project. It is the object of this report to help understanding of what the project is for, and give an update on its progress.

Background

There has been increasing concern over many years, often voiced by Edlesborough Parish Council (EPC), about the cost of maintaining and the suitability for purpose of the existing pavilion on the village green. Whilst the current building was erected to further the enjoyment of the green by EPC many years ago, it would not now match even the basic requirements, legal and otherwise, of sporting and other bodies and current building regulations. It is also not energy efficient.

EPC faced a decision in 2013 on what to do next. Demolition was even considered.

A public parish meeting was called and attended by over 100 people in Edlesborough Village Hall. A “post-it” note poll taken halfway through the meeting showed that there was no appetite to demolish the building, but also suggested a wide range of ideas for its future. A steering group was elected by the meeting with the responsibility not only of rationalising those ideas but also collecting views across the Parish before presenting recommended ways forward to EPC, based on perceived needs.

The steering group collected data in several ways, including many public parish meetings, stalls at local events and circulated questionnaires. All results were recorded and the resulting documentation is still available.

In January 2014, the steering group presented a possible design solution with some variants to EPC, based on a realistic evaluation of current and future needs as voiced by parishioners.

What the Parish asked for.

It should perhaps be said that views and data were being collected at a time when there was a heightened perception that Edlesborough village was losing community facilities. The last remaining village pub had closed and further housing development was being discussed putting pressure on other resources. The consensus of parishioners by a large majority was that the existing pavilion should be demolished and replaced by a more attractive and cost effective building offering facilities for both sport and community activities. There was a general view that these facilities should be for local parish use and not available to the wider public. This fits well with the EPC objective of the building further enhancing the enjoyment of the village green. The recommended solution includes majority requests to includes changing rooms, accessible toilets, a general purpose or gym room, a cricketer teas/community café area and bar, a committee/card/meeting room and storage and support facilities. The combination is meant to encourage sustainable 7 day a week operation throughout the year.

Where is the design now?

The proposed scheme was put to three parish meetings and some modification made. The steering group agreed in general to continue their involvement in the project and became trustees of a newly formed charity, the Edlesborough Community Sports Club C.I.O (ECSC) which secured a grant from a Government body of £15,000 to further the design and legal processes required to prepare documentation and apply for planning permission. Having taken considerable advice from a London based legal firm, a local architect and quantity surveyor and following pre-application advice from AVDC, planning application was made in February 2015 and full permission granted in March 2015. The permission has a 3-year term. The project has been costed by several quantity surveyors, whose estimates vary according to finishes and local volunteer work. An average figure is £600,000, which compares with local housebuilding costs. It is the intention to use local tradesmen wherever possible and hopefully keep cost to a minimum.

How will it be paid for and where are we now?

A condition of the project is that it will not impact the public or local purse beyond the level currently spent in supporting the existing pavilion. This, then, supposes that grants or similar, charitable or local donations will be forthcoming. Major funders usually available to this type of project include the Big Lottery, sports funders such as the Football Association and Sport England, and local development levies, often know a Section 106 payments (S106).

- The Big Lottery will not under their present rules consider an application from Edlesborough as it is regarded as an “affluent area” and should be able to fund the project by local donation.
- The Football Foundation initially approached ECSC via EPC. They wanted to make the green part of their sports development programme, having identified it as an ideal location for a regional sports hub. As part of that development they would have invested in the new pavilion. Two meetings were held but it became obvious that their plan would have restricted use of a considerable part of the common land part of the green and hence it was mutually agreed that it was not viable or desirable. Unfortunately, this also means we are unlikely to see funding from them for the pavilion.
- Sport England have a substantial amount of project funding available (up to £150,000), particularly from a new scheme which opened in February 2017. They need us to show how our project will impact on sports and community development in the parish, relating to Government initiatives for sport across all age groups. Two of our trustees are working on an application but need further input from local sports clubs (whether they use the green or not), to show how sport can be developed in the parish with activities for young and old.
- With the amount of development proposed or already completed included in the Edlesborough Parish Neighbourhood Plan it is likely that significant sums will accrue from S106 allocations. This can only be spent on projects relating to sport and leisure and the new pavilion is currently the only applicable local project. EPC has identified this with AVDC and S106 is expected to make a major contribution to funding.

- There have been successful local fund raising events including quiz nights, wine tasting, Pilates taster sessions, a fete for the Queen's birthday etc. and more are planned, including a black tie Ball in a marquee on the Green in September. There is also a "buy a brick" campaign where donors can have a brick in the building engraved with their name or that of someone close to them. These events not only raise needed funds but further involve people in the project. As the current committee members have already been working for more than 3 years fresh younger help would be much appreciated.

Summating the funds from these and some other sources we believe we have identified at least 2/3rds of the required funding.

Who will own what?

EPC has offered a lease to ECSC C.I.O. to manage and operate the pavilion for 25 years as a sport and community club for parishioners and related sports organisations. EPC will own the building. ECSC are cooperating with EPC to find sources of funding and where necessary to assist in their administrative processes. Under the terms of their charitable trust ECSC C.I.O. cannot own property.

Conclusion

The project to replace the existing pavilion is progressing well, if perhaps more slowly than many would like. From public reaction, particularly in local fund raising events, it still maintains an excellent measure of local support. It is suffering from a lack of volunteers willing to spend some time working for the good of the village/parish, but never the less is expected to enter a building phase during 2017/18 and we hope to be able to show significant progress by the black tie event in September.

If you have some time or expertise that you can volunteer, and/or you wish to receive details of the 'buy a brick' initiative, and/or to express an interest in purchasing tickets for the proposed 'black tie' ball please email admin@EdthePav.org or phone the Chairman at the number below.

Thank you on behalf of ECSC C.I.O.

✉ Ken Holloway, Chairman, 01525 221417

Dagnall Over Sixties Dagnall & Kensworth Friendship Club

Dagnall Over Sixties will be changing the name of the club to Dagnall and Kensworth Friendship Club as we now have a contingent of 15 from Kensworth whose club closed last year. We invited them to come to our meetings and now they have decided to join us, so we will incorporate them in the name of the club. Hopefully it will encourage others to join. The March meeting will be on March 14th at 2pm in Dagnall Village Hall with Bingo and tea and raffle. Our April meeting is a

lunch out to the Crosskeys at Pulloxhill on April 18th. Pick up from Dagnall 11.30am, Edlesborough and Eaton Bray 11.40am and Kensworth 11.50 am. Lunch is booked for 1pm. The May meeting is our Ploughmans lunch followed by the Ukulele Ladies entertainment on May 16th at 1.30 pm in the village hall. If anyone is interested in becoming a member please contact Rosemary Holt 01442 843202.

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Quiz, Beer Festival and a new Entrance Lobby. Oh I forgot the WiFi!

So this is what is coming up in Eaton Bray Village Hall. Let's deal with them one at a time.

Quiz: The next quiz is on **Saturday 22nd April, 7pm for 7.30pm** start. £9 per person teams of up to 8.

As usual we have the master quizzier, Keith Blackburn setting the questions and after last October's quiz producing a very tight finish we are hopeful of a similar result this year. The price will of course include one of our very superior ploughman's platters for each table. There will also be a great raffle.

Beer Festival: Friday 9th and Saturday 10th June

The will be our 14th can you believe it. We certainly can't until it comes time to start clearing up and then the age does start to tell!!!

Our friends from CAMRA will be supplying the beer whilst we will have the same catering as last year, of which we only had good comments. The entertainment will also have a touch of the old favourites in Jerome Chance and a new name in Tony O'Malley. We are sure that a good time will be had by all. Don't forget that on Saturday afternoon we will have a children's entertainer for the younger ones. More details in next month's Focus.

Entrance Lobby: Well as you know from the above events, we try and raise money to improve the hall and so the trustees have drawn up plans for a completely new entrance lobby, this will include a small extension at the front of the building to allow two sets of doors to be installed, keeping everything warmer in the hall, electric doors, plus new lights and obviously it will need new paint. The total cost is in the region of £25,000 and will be a very visible sign of the care and improvements we are trying to bring to **your hall**.

WiFi: We have now installed WiFi in the hall and it is free to all users, the password is available in the hall. We believe that we are the first Village Hall in our area to have this facility which will be a great help to users (except on the night of the quizzes when I think I will turn it off!!).

Any queries or Quiz Bookings please contact Ross on 07974 715222 or ross.bagni@btinternet.com

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EATON BRAY PARISH COUNCIL



January Update from the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

Not just about housing!

EBPC' s Steering Group (made up of Parish Councillors and volunteer residents) are continuing to write the Neighbourhood Plan in order to protect our village from unwanted housing development.

We have been busy this month, the Environment Group continues their work collecting data on our bio diversity, reviewing green spaces, and identifying land that will prevent Eaton Bray growing into the next village. The Infrastructure Group has contacted utilities to investigate capacity (how can an overstretched drainage system cope with additional houses?) and by the time this is published a traffic survey will have been completed. Our third group is Housing, we have collected housing statistics and reviewed potential development sites in and around Eaton Bray.

Edlesborough Parish Council is working on their Neighbourhood Plan and issued their "Pre Submission Plan", below is an extract from our response to the consultation:

"Eaton Bray and Edlesborough are close neighbours and any future development will have an effect on each other, we have a shared doctors surgery in Cow Lane, similar traffic problems, we both suffer from poor drainage and flooding etc. We see the need to stand back and view future expansion across the two villages ... We would however welcome an increase in parking around the Cow Lane surgery."

We hope you found this update useful and in coming months we will provide information of the further work of the Steering Group. If you feel you can offer any support please come along to our meetings. However support doesn't need to be attending monthly meetings, perhaps you have the time to help with data collection/research.

Contact the Parish Clerk at www.ebpc.co.uk - **please feel free to attend the next Steering Group meeting.**

Meetings are planned for the last Monday of the month at 19.30 at the Coffee Tavern, Eaton Bray.



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]

Follow Eaton Bray Parish Council on Facebook and Twitter

Keep up to date with what is going on in the parish

Women's World Day of Prayer

Friday 3rd March sees the World Day of Prayer service being held at Edlesborough Methodist Chapel at 2.00pm. Everyone is welcome to attend the service and enjoy refreshments afterwards.

The Christian women of the Philippines wrote the service on the theme "Am I being unfair to you ?", and it has been translated into 1,000 different languages and dialects, to be used throughout the whole world, on this day.

Nigel's Thoughts

Methodist Minister



Dear Friends,

The first day of March this year is Ash Wednesday which marks the beginning of Lent. Lent has traditionally been observed as a solemn time of self examination and putting our lives right, in preparation for our Holy Week commemorations and Easter celebrations.

My feeling is that this year, many of us are looking at the state of our nation and the failure of politics, both at home and abroad, and are questioning what has gone wrong. We have seen and continue to see the rise of divisive attitudes increasingly strongly expressed on such subjects as Brexit and Immigration, covers surely for our own tendency to intolerance. Many of us feel that it is about time for change, about time for some Good News. Yet we need to set our concerns (serious though they are) against the context of the situations of those who find themselves in greatest need in our world. Our need of 'Good News' would seem hollow to any one of the millions of the world's refugees fleeing oppression, injustice or warfare. Even so we are often complicit in withholding the means to help them.

You will see what I am getting at. The things that we moan about (and folk will know that I'm not averse to a good moan myself) will nearly always pale into insignificance beside the troubles, struggles and disasters which many people have to face on a daily basis.

Quite a number of people have asked me recently "Where is God in all of this?" My reply is that the God I know may be found at the heart of each individual's brokenness and pain. He cries along with them and us. He understands our frailty for he has embraced our humanity, becoming one with us, his creatures, when he came in Jesus. Any lesser God, who did not enfold all his children (without distinction) with love, would not attract my interest, let alone my faith.

It is in the "suffering, dying Jesus" that we may discover the "Christ upon the throne", and know that as the old hymn puts it that "the travail of our spirit is the travail of his own" (Singing the Faith 188 v 2).

That hymn – "There's a light upon the mountains" by Henry Burton, has long been of comfort to me during Lent and at other times. Perhaps the conclusion to its first verse will answer our need of the Good News that it is "about time for"....

"Weary was our heart with waiting, and the night-watch seemed so long; But his triumph day is breaking, and we hail it with a song".

Just a little longer to wait now, though these days of Lent may seem so long. May God bless our waiting in hope, for our coming king and His coming kingdom.

✍️ Nigel

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Speakers:

28th March: Carolyn Bramhall, Heart for Truth. Helping equip the church to restore the emotionally wounded.

25th April: Ian McCormack, who was stung by lethal jelly fish and woke up in a hospital morgue. An atheist, his experiences at this time led him to become a Christian

18th March: Local Houses of Prayer Training. For more information contact Diane.

Local contact: Diane 07815 895501

To find out more visit www.thefillingstation.org.uk



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In Eaton Bray, Edlesborough or Northall

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

If so, or you would like more information, please contact Kay Griffiths on 222849 or Gordon Gray on 220136.



QUORUM

Saturday 8th April, 7.30pm

St Mary's, Eaton Bray

The Milton Keynes based choir, perform a concert of sacred music following the church calendar through Holy Week

Tickets priced £7.50 (children free) from the Box Office on 01525 222283

CHARITY QUIZ NIGHT

7pm SATURDAY 25TH MARCH 2017

Eaton Bray Village Hall

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Music@St Mary's – Quorum 7.30pm, Saturday 8th April

Music@St Mary's is delighted to welcome Quorum, a Milton Keynes based choir, to Eaton Bray Parish Church on Saturday April 8th, to perform a concert of sacred music for Holy Week. The choir was formed in 1984 by a group of enthusiastic individuals, and existed to provide services for local churches. Over the years the choir has grown in reputation, size and repertoire and now, under the directorship of Chris Williams, is 24 voices strong and, whilst still providing a limited number of services for local churches, also provides the weekend services at various Cathedrals, plus a limited number of concerts each year. Its repertoire is drawn from the less well-known composers of the Renaissance, such as de Morales, Mouton and Gombert, as well as continuing to enjoy the music of Tallis, Byrd and Weelkes. Most recently it has started to explore the current crop of contemporary composers, and has worked closely with Philip Stopford, and forged links with the American composer, Jake Runestad.

Highlights for the choir have been singing at Westminster Abbey in 2012, and in Salisbury Cathedral in 2014. In 2017 the choir has already sung at Leicester Cathedral, and is looking forward to a return visit to Coventry Cathedral, and then to Bristol Cathedral later in the year.

The programme of music for Eaton Bray will follow the church calendar through Holy Week and will include music by the Renaissance Master, Tomas Luis de Victoria, as well as introducing the audience to contemporary composers such as Rihards Dubra.

The choir currently has a waiting list for new members, and if you are interested, please speak to one of the choir at the concert and they will be happy to tell you that we have, in the past, spent more time in the pub than in a rehearsal on a Monday evening, and that Chris gives you a singing workout comparable to a boxing match, but that the end result is a very sociable choir that produces fantastic results. We all look forward to seeing you on Saturday April 8th.

Carnival Queen & Princess

St Mary's Village Carnival

Would you like to lead the Carnival Procession and help open the Carnival on Saturday 1st July?

Are you aged between 8 and 12 years?

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

To take part all you have to do is complete and return an entry form (details below) and come along to Eaton Bray Village Hall on **Sunday 9 April at 11.15am** when a draw to select the Queen, Princess and two Attendants will take place.

How to Enter

Please telephone Marlene Bennett on 01525 221378 for an entry form, or download a form from the Carnival website: www.stmarysvillagecarnival.com

Entry forms should be returned to Marlene by 5th April

Quarterly Report from Bucks County Council

Councillor Avril Davies - January 2017

Since September there has been progress on several of the issues I reported to you back then.

Planning for school places has been given a high priority, joint working between planners and education has started, and local headteachers have had a positive meeting with county officers.

At the annual Transport for Bucks conference a promise was made to begin work on an HGV strategy and I put my name forward for the working group which kicks off in February.

The local area forum has sent the proposed letter to the police and crime commissioner on the enforcement of speed limits in rural areas where significant breaches have been evidenced by the speed watch volunteers. After an exchange face to face in the County Council chamber, the Chief Constable has eventually responded on his behalf in writing, which will be put before the next LAF meeting in early February.

The proposals to change home to school transport policies for secondary school pupils have been abandoned, which is good news for the Division

The joint bid from Pitstone and Marsworth Parish Councils backed by the Local Area Forum to the New Homes Bonus fund has been successful and work is beginning on designing and building the footway to make walking between the two villages a much safer enterprise.

A new 'Active Bucks' County Council walk has been launched from College Lake, every Wednesday at 10.15am free to turn up and join, very much like the Monday walk from Ivinghoe Lawn, which is such a success that it will feature in a County Council video.

I visited the Greatmoor Energy from

Waste plant at Calvert which I know several Parish Councils have also done recently, and had a detailed look at a risk management group confidential briefing into how this can not only pay for itself, but generate revenue for the County Council. The financial success also depends on maximising recycling household waste, and there is still room for improvement on that score. There are also big gains for the environment in no longer sending waste to landfill, and in safely generating electricity with lower CO2 emissions than carbon fuels.

I attend the advisory board meetings for the Aylesbury cluster of children centres and I continue to be impressed not only by the good work they are doing in Wing and Ivinghoe but also by their wide reach out to and appreciation by all families with pre-school children. Where they have had to share sessions between centres they are hoping to facilitate more informal sessions on a voluntary basis.

However £500K of cuts for children's centres is proposed in the current budget. The County is yet again looking to reduce its spending by £46M in the next four years, 75% of which by 'efficiencies' and

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£25 Tina McKay

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only 6% by cuts, but where efficiencies are not achievable, cuts are the result. The County's total budget is about £340M, of which £58M is in ring fenced grants. The £23M general support grant will only continue for the next two years, and although due to be replaced by a share of the business rate going to central government council tax will inevitably increase as the £46M of savings still needs to be found.

A decision on whether local government will change in Bucks to one single tier authority, like Milton Keynes, more than one single tier authority, or no change at all, will be decided in the spring by the

Secretary of State.

It is going to be very difficult to deliver public services at a local government level in the foreseeable future. The opportunity for Parish Councils to take more responsibility for their own locality is an attractive proposition for some and a step too far for others. How this will turn out will depend not only on the Secretary of State and any future Council but also on how a local plan or lack of increases the pressures on the environment, our quality of life, and our roads, schools and other services in our communities.

✍️Avril Davies

Changes to Bucks CC Pothole Reporting

As from February 1, the County Council is encouraging all residents and Parish Councils to use its online reporting system to make them aware of potholes.

Significant improvements have been made to this tool which allows customers to receive updates direct to their inbox on how the council is resolving the issue. If a customer who phones in feels that a pothole or streetlight defect presents a risk of serious injury, they will be put through to the council's Emergency Team.

In addition, online 'contact us' forms have been created on the County Council's website, making it easier to deal with enquiries. These forms will direct people to the appropriate page to assist them, alternatively there is a general enquiry form to complete if they cannot find the answer or page they are looking for.

The forms are designed to gather the appropriate information required to answer enquiries at the first point of contact as they ensure all the necessary information has been logged right from the start. Currently many emails sent to the council contain incomplete information, causing delays in response.

From March 1, residents and parish councils will only be able to contact the council for Transport for Bucks-related queries via the Transport for Buckinghamshire online Contact us form, our Online Reporting System or telephone.

These upgrades are part of a wider plan to improve the customer experience for residents and parish councils.

John Chilver, Cabinet Member for Resources, said: "These new online forms will save residents and parish councils time, by preventing delays due to missing information, while also allowing them to track the progress of their report. They will also save the council thousands of pounds, as it is much cheaper to respond to web forms than emails or phone calls."

The Bucks CC website can be accessed at www.buckscc.gov.uk

LOCAL HERALDRY BY JOHN HOCKEY

In this series, we take a look around local villages to find interesting and unusual heraldry.

THE EGERTONS OF ASHRIDGE

If you have been to the Bridgewater Arms in Little Gaddesden then you will probably have seen the sign that abuts the car park. This shows the arms of the Dukes of Bridgewater, whose family name



Scroop Egerton (Egerton Impaling Russell)

was Egerton. It is a nice, simple arms, as were so many early heraldic shields. The description or blazon is ‘Argent a lion rampant Gules between three pheons Sable’. A pheon was a broad arrowhead, barbed on the inner edges – nasty.

There is much heraldry connected with the Ashridge estate and a number of Egerton monuments are to be found at nearby Little Gaddesden church, not far from the pub.

In Ashridge House itself you are spoilt for choice. Above the entrance to the current building is a coat of arms in stone, with the colours delineated by lines and dots, which is known as hatching. Inside the entrance hall is a large stained glass window full of

shields to earls, viscounts and dukes and supporting part of the roof are a number of corbels of figures holding coats of arms of families that were linked to the Egertons by marriage. One such is for the 1st Duke, Scroop, who married firstly the daughter of the Duke of Marlborough (Churchill) and secondly the daughter of the Duke of Bedford (Russell). Such families are keen to show their allegiances at every opportunity!

The heraldry does not stop there as the Monks’ Garden at the back is designed with formal beds showing the arms of the relevant families connected with Ashridge: Egerton, Brownlow



Monks Garden

(later owners), Cust (the Brownlow family name) and Compton (maiden name of Marion Alford, ref. the Alford Arms, Frithsden).

To obtain the first Earldom, granted in 1617, en-route to becoming Dukes, Sir John Egerton handed over a sum of £20,000 – worth more than £1M today.

Francis Egerton of Bridgewater Canal fame, was the 3rd Duke and is commemorated by the Ashridge Monument.

Next month: The Royal Coat of Arms – Whipsnade etc.



Suggested identification of the four armorial beds.



1. Egerton: Argent, a lion rampant gules, between three pheons sable.
2. Brownlow: Or, an inescutcheon within an oak of married sable.
3. Cust: Ermine, on a chevron sable 3 fontaines.
4. Compton: Sable, a lion passant or, between three esquires helms argent.

Plan for Monks Garden



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If you would like to find out if your child would be happy here, please phone our Playgroup Leader, Ann Tobin on 07816 358 342.

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Churches Together would like to invite you to an evening with International Singer/Comedian/Raconteur

Jonathan Veira

at St Mary's Church Eaton Bray
on Saturday 20th May 2017 at 7.30pm

The evening will include light refreshments and a retiring collection for Christian Aid

Please contact Chriss Hewitt on 01525 222288 or 07983153214 for tickets, priced at £10.00 each.

For further details, see posters which will be displayed around the villages in April.

Catch a glimpse of JV at www.jonathanveira.com
or <http://www.youtube.com/watch>

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Eaton Bray Methodist Church

Our first service in 2017 was a very optimistic cafe service on the second Sunday, led with his usual verve by Richard Armiger. We reflected on the legacy of 2016 and agreed to go forward in prayerful expectancy, asking God to step into difficult situations and turn evil into good. On the third Sunday we welcomed Roger Owers who took our annual Covenant Service. It was valuable to restate our commitment to God's project. We were reminded that God will always look after his people but we need to keep the promises we have made. In the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, we were delighted that the Rev Wallace Edwards made a return visit in order to hold our monthly Communion Service. He recalled

the divisions in the early church that St Paul had worked so hard to heal and left us in no doubt that, whatever denomination we belong to, we can still be in union with all other Christian believers and together grow in grace. On the last Sunday of January John Enejo came to preach. He focused on the theme of prayer as the master key to all problems in life; sin will be forgiven and people will be healed. Prayer is an appeal for help and an expression of thanks afterwards.

Date for your Diary:

Cafe Community

Saturday 11th March 2017 11am - 1pm

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

CHARITY CHRISTMAS PUZZLE

It is with great delight that I can report that the total donated for this year's Puzzle was a record £7,600, bringing the total sum donated to charities as a result of the Puzzle to £77,300. The five charities supported this year -- Leighton-Linslade Fundraising Group for Macmillan Cancer Support, Prostate Cancer Research Centre, Thames Valley Air Ambulance, Milton Keynes Community Action Volunteer Driver Scheme and St Mary's, Eaton Bray -- will each receive £1,520.

This year's Puzzle attracted 344 entries and a draw took place at St Mary's Church, Eaton Bray on Sunday 5th February. Three winners who each scored full marks each win £30; they were John & Di Borthwick, Mrs Debby Horsman, DL & FM Johnson. A further five entrants each receive £10, namely: Gill Kenyon, Frances & John Lankow (an entry from New Zealand), Pip & Richard Leese, Linda Press and Jayne Tyson.

A number of locals feature in the 20 Year Roll of Honour for the Puzzle.

Liz Constable leads the table having dropped just 5½ marks in 20 years.

Other locals include:

Roger & Helen Wilkinson in 7th place

Barbara Gillion in 13th place

Vivienne & Mel Grundy in 18th place

Rosemary Shackcloth in 21st place

Lorna Cabbage in 22nd place



My grandson and I came to support the local pantomime 'Aladdin' at

the village hall on the Saturday evening performance. Pantomime is my favourite form of Theatre, we try and see as many as possible during the season, both professional and amateur.

From the moment we entered the hall we felt transported, you forgot where you were, the ambiance felt professional and exciting. The use of clever lighting effects both within the hall and refreshments area were well thought out and effective. The seating was laid out well and comfy too!

We loved the gauze and the projected imagery during the performance, the background music and sound effects made the whole performance very professional, the attention to detail was inspiring.

The script was very well written, with all the aspects of a good pantomime. Some gags fell a little flat at times, but I feel that was down to the delivery rather than the script itself. It was wonderful to see the 'washing line gag' which I haven't seen for ages and also the 'sing-along' audience participation section with the 'Wishee Twanky' song was very entertaining, However,

the scenes that stole the show was the cave and the flying carpet. Both sections used the gauze to create an amazing feel. Together with the amazing vocals, clever lighting and video projection we felt we were at a professional theatre, rather than the village hall!

The principle characters

really stood out, Aladdin (Tiffany Campbell-Smith) and Jasmine (Kaytie Allen) both had amazing vocal skills with some lovely duets throughout the performance (you could tell they were trained)! This was a really big area which made Curtain Call stand out from other armature groups! Tiffany was strong throughout the performance with a great stage presence. Kaytie made the perfect princess and complimented Tiffany very well.

Malcolm Callaway gave us a sinister and truly entertaining portrayal of Abanazar. We particularly enjoyed the 'New lamps for old' scene and the moment he entered with the Frankenstein head with the googly eyes!

Widow Twanky was played by Gavyn Lugsden, and he didn't disappoint. Gavyn had the audience in hysterics throughout the show. From the moment Twanky came on the stage the energy was lifted. The jokes supplied laughter to children and adults alike with a perfect balance of silliness and innuendo.

Wishee Washee (Shauna Lugsden) played the part beautifully. She was clear with her delivery of lines and her comedy timing was spot-on..

The Genie of the Lamp (Reuben Womersley de Zaldua) looked the part. And although a little quiet at times, immersed himself into the part 100%.

Carole Pollard (Slave of the Ring), gave us a calm, controlled portrayal of this





it difficult to stay in character and not laugh during some of the scenes.

The comedy police really looked great in their glittery uniforms and blue flashing hats. Each of them bounced off each other to add a new dimension to the traditional story.

There were many younger children involved too, and it was good to see many of them taking speaking parts as stall holders or villagers. You could tell that they all loved being part of the show.

On the whole it was a great evening out; a cheerful pantomime with a wonderful community spirited feel to it. I look forward to next year's pantomime offering from the Curtain Call Theatre Group.

✍️Maureen

normally forgotten character. The costume was superb!

So-Shy (Jemma Sage) played the perfect servant to the Princess. Although Jemma was fairly young among the adult cast, she fitted in very well and gave us a truly convincing performance.

The King (Peter Hossack) again, looked the part with his Chinese emperor costume and long beard. Peter's role was not a comedy part and he must have found

Top Tips for Healthy Tendons

As we age it gets harder for our muscles and tendons to work efficiently and to absorb shock and load.

Here are some really simple ways we can help our tendons stay healthy at any age:

- If it hurts, stop, modify or reduce the exercise or sport you're performing. The old adage of 'no pain, no gain' does not apply to tendon injuries and the old fashioned approach of working into/through the pain has been found to increase pain and lengthen the duration of recovery. Exercise must be low impact and strengthening work should produce only the mildest level of pain.
- Work on the flexibility of your muscles without overstretching them. Self-release with a foam roller will relax and release muscle groups without applying any force or tension to the affected tendons. A long hold of a normal stretch may not actually reduce your pain, but increase it.

- Isometric exercises are often given to people after surgery as they place little strain on the joint, or in this case, tendons involved. Tense the muscle for 10 seconds, (whilst continuing to breathe,) and then relax for 10 seconds, usually this process is repeated up to 10 times. It's vital that these exercises aren't progressed to shortening and lengthening contractions (such as squats or calf raises) until they can be performed pain free.

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Eaton Bray W.I.

Our first meeting of the New Year 2017 in January, held in Eaton Bray Methodist Hall, was well attended.

During the report of our December meeting, members were thanked for their donation of toys to the Salvation Army; a letter of thanks had been received. The vote for WI Resolutions were taken. The majority agreement was for Alleviating Loneliness and it was agreed this should go forward to the main meeting to be held in Liverpool.

Our speaker for the evening was Victoria Poulton from Woburn Abbey. This was her second visit and her talk on the history of Woburn was delightful. During the winter months, restoration work is carried out, during the Abbey's closure. Tours for schools, give the children an opportunity to act as curators. There is a great effort being made to increase the interest of tours at Woburn to encourage visits.

The evening culminated in social time and refreshments.

Two new members attended our February meeting. Our speaker Colin Oakes was welcomed. It was a fitting evening for his talk on 'Coronations through the Ages' given the day was the 65th anniversary of our Queen's Ascension to the Throne. Since William the Conqueror, he reminded us that funny things can happen at Coronations. His talk was both informative and amusing.

Colin explained that at their Coronation, the Sovereign is first presented to the people in simple dress. After swearing an oath to uphold the law and the Church, the monarch is anointed with holy oil or chism, and invested with regalia, (riches) and then crowned. Mary Tudor was the first woman to be crowned in her own right in 1553, followed in 1559 by Queen Elizabeth I. Many coronations have been very elaborate and were not always held at Westminster Abbey. Colin explained the Stone of Scone, also known as the Stone of Destiny or the Coronation Stone, was used for centuries in the coronation of the

monarchs of Scotland and later the monarchs of England. We enjoyed hearing about the sandwiches that some of the Peers would keep hidden in their coronets, and even bats flying around at one Coronation. Vast sums of money were expended by some of the Kings for their Coronations. Colin was thanked for a very entertaining evening.

A letter of thanks had been received from Emmaus with regard to the recent Rucksack Project. Our W.I.s contribution had helped to fill 36 rucksacks with items that were kindly donated from other customers and supporters of Emmaus. Items that went into the rucksacks were warm clothes, hats, scarves, gloves and socks. A range of toiletries from toothpaste to wipes to deodorant. Sleeping bags were also included.

A WI coffee morning will be held at the Methodist Hall on 6th April. During the meeting in March requests will be made for cakes, and help on stalls.

Our President reminded members that the AGM would be held on 3rd April. She requested offers for help on the committee, and whether members would be willing to continue with their present support.

A questionnaire was distributed requesting feedback about speakers etc to help in planning the programme for 2017:

Dates for our diaries:

3rd March - World Day of Prayer at Edlesborough Methodist Church

3rd April - AGM Eaton Bray WI

6th April - WI Coffee Morning at Eaton Bray Methodist Hall

The March meeting of Eaton Bray WI will be held on Monday 6th March, when the talk will be: Collective Legal Solutions; Tax, Care and Toy Boys.

The enjoyable evening was followed by social time and refreshment.

Meetings are always the first Monday of the month (except Bank Holiday when it is the

second Monday). The Meetings commence at 7.30 pm and are held in Eaton Bray Methodist Hall. The contact for Eaton Bray WI is: Margaret Jones, on 01525 220991.

The Edlesborough Rose

If you are new to Edlesborough Parish or indeed even if you have lived here for some time, you may not know about the Edlesborough Rose. You will however, certainly have seen its image atop our lovely village signs and also part of the Edlesborough School logo which is emblazoned on the children's jumpers.

The Edlesborough Rose is a unique medieval memorial brass which has been associated with the history of Edlesborough Church for many centuries. It has travelled a bit in its time having had stays in both Pitstone Church and Ashridge House chapel during the 19th & early 20th centuries, and more recently it has languished for 33 years in a bank vault in Bedford where it was taken for safekeeping after the theft of another brass from the church.

As those 33 years ticked by, the memories of those who had placed the brass there or who had been active in the church at that time, grew dim, and when the newly reformed Friends group started to ask, there was no direct answer to the question of the Rose Brass's whereabouts; hence began a four year Quest to find this

precious artefact.

There were many twists and turns with hopes being raised and dashed in those four years. Numerous local people were quizzed and former employees of the Redundant Churches Fund, and current officers of the Churches

A warm and friendly welcome awaits new members. At each meeting there is an interesting speaker or demonstration, followed by social time and refreshments.

Conservation Trust that succeeded it, were minutely questioned. Many theories were put forward but one by one they were discounted or brought forth no success. Then, in the autumn of 2016 a new employee arrived at the CCT, a lovely lady called Rachel who, fascinated by ancient churches and always enjoying a good mystery, took it upon herself to delve the depths of the CCT's archives. Here, with great tenacity and the determination to succeed, she finally found the necessary documents to prove to the Bank that the brass had been lodged with them. Thereafter, it was not exactly plain-sailing but finally in January of this year she was able to reclaim the brass!

The long-term future of this precious item has not been decided, but the Friends of the Church on the Hill hope to bring it home at least for a temporary stay during the Heritage Open Days 7-10 September. More information about our plans and about the brass, its importance and significance, will be made available in Focus in the intervening months. In the meanwhile let's rejoice that this important part of our local heritage has been restored to us!

✍Catherine Hayden



Dunstable & District Local History Society

Tuesday 14 March, 7.45pm

A Barron Knight's Tale

Amusing showbiz anecdotes from Butch Baker, lead guitarist, song-writer and vocalist with the locally based group, the Barron Knights, whose record Call Up The Groups was a smash hit in 1964. His talk follows the society's annual meeting.

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Eaton Bray Lawn Tennis Club

Some things come back to haunt you. An evening out with the boys when you had that Vindaloo just to appear cool to your mates. The fierce argument with that other driver in the BMW who turns out to be the chap sitting in the chair when you walk in for your job interview later that morning. Or the time you said to your kids 'the day I start dribbling down my cheek when I'm asleep, then put me in a home'. I sometimes regret the latter, but then the staff here are very nice and the tea is hot. Unlike most of the other residents. So when, at the tennis club AGM last week (I was given an escorted evening visit out...) I was asked to make a return to my days of penning creative drivel on behalf of the club for Focus, I jumped at the chance, for it could now be me that did the haunting. I'm usually a very friendly ghost, except of course when it comes to quiz nights and my team don't win, but the quiz master's best mates do. But I don't hold grudges. Not for more than a couple of decades anyway.

So here I am, having agreed to accept the challenge, but forgetting that I was flying to Montreal the next week to visit my son, whilst he recuperates from a broken leg sustained after slipping on ice whilst walking his dog. My principal role here? To walk the dog. Great. It's minus 15 here today (that's without the wind chill factor...) and I'm just back from an hour and half's walk, and despite being wrapped up like an Eskimo who's suffering from a particularly nasty chill, I now have several less bodily extremities than I left with. One of the dog's boots came off, she tried to attack a postman, scared several young mothers with pushchairs, and presented me with my very first opportunity to use a 'pooper-scooper' which I did not master the art of as successfully as I would have liked. Despite this I'm being sent out again later. So I now have just ten minutes to complete this article.

What was it about again?

Oh yes, the tennis club. Sorry.

So quickly, the AGM went well, with a good 20 attendees. Well some of them were good. We could still do with a few more 'younger' folk to join our committee, so if you've still got most of your faculties and aren't addicted to Santogen, then please do get in touch, we'd love to hear from you. You certainly don't need to be good at tennis, very few of us are. In fact most of us just watch it on Eurosport and talk about it down the pub later. Our junior section is absolutely thriving though, with anything up to 15 teams (depending on who you talk to) due to compete in various league competitions this year. Senior social tennis continues on Tuesday evenings and Sunday mornings, and the Mike Venn Trophy is, as we speak, being played out over the winter period by our more hardy players. Hardy my hat, they should try playing here, I've just seen a snow plough the size of a jumbo jet thunder down Rue de Verdun spraying snow into a 40 tonne tipper truck alongside, both followed by a further 5 trucks awaiting their turn to run sidecar. It has to turn minus 30 here before they put their barbecues away.

Right I think that will have to do for now, the dog is looking anxious, but not as anxious as I am. More tennis news in next month's edition when I get back and find out what exactly has been going on. In the meantime, it's goodnight from the dog, and it's goodnight from me. Goodnight.

If you'd like any further information about the club, then please visit our website (I've no idea what the address is so you'll have to Google it), or call one of the committee members - I can't remember who they are but their names are on the website. Or if all else fails you can call me on 07783 667338. I've not been much help have I? Get down, Shep!!!

✍️ Andy J Cross

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

Traditional Sticky Toffee Pudding with Butterscotch Sauce



There was a time when no self-respecting restaurant or gastropub would dare to not have sticky toffee pudding on its menu. Luckily, this classic dessert has survived being so ubiquitous and remains one of my absolute personal favourites. This version has been created by chef Adam Whitlock, who holds two AA Rosettes at Gilbey's Restaurant in Amersham. His pudding is bouncy and fluffy and sits in the moreish butterscotch sauce. Plus with all those dates, surely it can count as one of our five-a-day? You can make everything in advance if you want and just give the pudding and sauce a quick blitz in the microwave before serving.

This will serve 4 and a few more so freeze any that you have left over.

Ingredients

225g butter

225g soft brown sugar

225g self-raising flour

225g pitted dates

4 eggs

290ml boiling water

2tsp bicarbonate of soda

Method

First, rehydrate the pitted dates in the boiling water. Once they have plumped up, pop them in a food processor to chop them up. Failing that, chop them finely with a sharp knife.

Melt the butter on a low heat in a pan or in a microwave and mix all the cake ingredients, including the dates.

Prepare a large square baking tin by lining it with greaseproof paper, pour in the cake mix and bake in a pre-heated oven at 150C/ Gas Mark 3 for around 35-30 minutes. You'll know it's ready when it is nice and golden, risen and a skewer comes out of it clean.

To make the butterscotch sauce, mix together 1 tablespoon of black treacle, 1 pint of double cream and 55g light brown sugar. Bring to a gentle boil and leave it to simmer until it starts to thicken. When the right consistency is reached, pass it through a sieve to take out any impurities. Cut the sponge into rectangles and serve them on top of a really good drizzle of the sauce in deep bowls.

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Eaton Bray Cricket Club

Eaton Bray CC begin their defense of the Four Counties Cricket League on April 29th, against Milton Keynes City CC at the Rye Gardens. Expectations are again high that we can repeat the success of 2016. The club, will again, be fielding two teams on a Saturday with the 1st X1 competing in Division one and the 2nd X1 in Division five, after gaining promotion last season. Winter nets have already started and take place on Thursday nights at Dunstable Town CC between 8-9pm.

The AGM will be held at the club on Saturday March 11th at 1pm where the election of officers will take place. A decision will likely be made upon fielding two teams for a Sunday as, like last season, we expect to enter the Beds Sunday League and also the Village Cup. The Sunday league team was a great success helping to bring through some of the younger members of the club into a competitive atmosphere. Friendly matches will be arranged in the early months of the season.

Our four qualified coaches will be running the Youth Section which was a great success last season with many children at U8 U10 U12 and U14 signing up to play for the club. Last season Wednesday evenings, during the Summer months, were awash with children and parents enjoying the club facilities.

We are again on the lookout for new players of all ages and abilities. For more information please follow us on Twitter and Facebook @EatonBrayCC or our web site <http://eatonbray.play-cricket.com/>



Eaton Bray Cricket Club Fixtures 2017

	1st X1	2nd X1
April 29th	Milton Keynes City H	Great Brickhill 3rds A
May 6th	Printers H	Milton Bryan 2nds A
May 13th	Elstow A	Buckland and Aston Clinton 2nds H
May 20th	New Bradwell H	New Bradwell 2nds A
May 27th	North Crawley A	Drayton Parslow 1sts H
June 3rd	Milton Keynes H	Stewkley Vicarage A
June 10th	Thurleigh A	Lidlington H
June 17th	New City H	Milton Keynes 2nds A
July 1st	Biddenham A	St Andrews H
July 8th	Printers A	Milton Bryan 2nds H
July 15th	Elstow H	Buckland and Aston Clinton 2nds A
July 22nd	New Bradwell A	New Bradwell 2nds H
July 29th	North Crawley H	Drayton Parslow 1sts A
Aug 5th	Milton Keynes A	Stewkley Vicarage H
Aug 12th	Thurleigh H	Lidlington A
Aug 19th	New City A	Milton Keynes 2nds H
Aug 26th	Milton Keynes City A	Great Brickhill 3rds H
Sept 2nd	Biddenham H	St Andrews A

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March at the Grove



Film



LA LA LAND (12A)

10th & 27th March 7.30pm, 15th & 26th March 2.30pm & 7.30pm

BILLY LYNN'S LONG HALFTIME WALK (15)

1st March 2.30pm & 7.30pm, 2nd March 7.30pm



COLLATERAL BEAUTY (12A)

6th March 2.30pm, 7th March 7.30pm



Stand Up Comedy

Omid Djalili brings you, **Schmuck for a Night**. Make sure you are free on **Saturday 11 March at 8pm**. Award-winning comedian and actor from **Hollywood** to television and live on the **West End**, Omid brings you a hugely energetic and captivating comedy masterclass that is intelligent, sometimes provocative and definitely entertaining!

Al Murray is back! **The Pub Landlord**, will put the world to rights. He's acting publican, politician and philosopher, creating a hilarious common sense crusade to re-Great Britain in **Let's Go Backwards Together** on **Friday 17 March at 7.30pm**.

Be prepared to be spoilt by five top TV comedians in one show, with **Live at the Grove** on **Friday 3 March at 8pm**. Or for a more regular fix of rib-tickling comedy, join a new line-up of comedians from the London circuit each month with **Barnstormers Stand Up Comedy**. The next fabulously amusing night out is **Thursday 23 March at 8pm**.

Live Music

Macca: The Concert celebrates the music and life of the legend that is **Paul McCartney** on **Thursday 9 March at 7.30pm**. West End leading man **Emanuele Angeletti (Let It Be)** is uncanny in his resemblance and concert persona to the **Live and Let Die** singer, using state of the art video projection to bring you all the best of **Paul McCartney** hits from his solo career to a selection of **Beatles** favourites.

Winners of the National Tribute Awards 2016, **Paul Bacon** and the **Ultimate Elton band** deliver a truly wonderful celebration of the music of **Elton John** in **I'm Still Standing: The Elton John Songbook**, on **Friday 10 March at 7.30pm**.

Join crowds for **The Matt Monro Story** on **Saturday 18 March at 7.30pm**. This is an inspired and unforgettable show that celebrates the life and music of the legendary 'singer's singer', **Matt Monro**, in an evening of music, warmth and love, keeping the memory of his music alive.

The UK's original **ABBA** tribute, brings you **Abbamania** in a sensational live concert on **Saturday 25 March at 7.30pm**.

You Win Again is coming to the **Grove Theatre**, ready to tell you the incredible story of **The Bee Gees** on **Saturday 1 April at 7.30pm**.

Ticket prices vary; for more information or to book, call the Box Office on 01582 60 20 80 or visit the website at www.grovetheatre.co.uk.

Jumbo joy for elephants moving into new £2 million home

Centre for Elephant Care to open at ZSL Whipsnade Zoo this Easter



The biggest residents at the UK's largest Zoo are set to move into a brand new home this Easter, with the unveiling of a brand new £2m Centre for Elephant Care at ZSL Whipsnade Zoo.

The Zoo's nine-strong herd of Asian elephants will be packing their trunks and moving into their new home this April; a luxurious new barn set amidst 20 acres of rolling paddocks.

With ZSL Whipsnade Zoo leading the way in elephant care, the new centre provides more than 700m² of indoor space for the elephant herd, including eight-month-old calf Elizabeth.

Visitors to the Centre for Elephant Care will be able to witness from a balconied viewing platform the strong bond among the herd as they socialise together and also get a unique insight into the daily attention lavished on the pampered pachyderms by their zookeepers. Custom-designed by award-winning architects, the Centre for Elephant Care will comprise a host of elephant-friendly features such as one-metre deep soft sand flooring to provide maximum comfort and dimming lights to mimic night-time conditions.

Other exciting details include timed feeding pods, which release food regularly during the night and six giant oak trees for the elephants to use as scratching posts.

The Centre for Elephant Care will provide the perfect complement to the herd's seven grass paddocks, plus the picturesque Chiltern Hills the elephants enjoy exploring during their daily 2.5-mile walk around the 600-acre zoo.

The whole family can also attend several intriguing talks to learn about Asian elephants' fascinating biology and behaviour, as well as the amazing conservation work carried out by ZSL (Zoological Society of London) to protect the species in the wild.

Asian elephants (*Elephas maximus*) are classified as endangered on the IUCN's Red List of Threatened Species, and due to habitat loss, human conflict and poaching their wild populations are in decline.

The charismatic mammals are also listed on ZSL's EDGE (Evolutionarily Distinct and Globally Endangered) list, meaning the species is in particularly urgent need of conservation action.

Charity ZSL runs more than 50 conservation programmes worldwide, and is working in Thailand – a major stronghold for Asian elephants – to reduce human-wildlife conflict and ensure the peaceful coexistence of elephants and humans.

To find out more about the brand new Centre for Elephant Care, and to be among the first to see the elephants in their new home, please visit www.zsl.org to book tickets for ZSL Whipsnade Zoo.



Edlesborough W.I.

Our meeting was held in the Memorial Hall on 10th January. We had a local speaker, Paul Heley, who spoke on the

subject, 'Highwaymen and Highwaywomen'. Paul gave an informative and illustrated talk to the WI ladies, starting off with a rendition of a poem entitled, 'A Bedfordshire Farmer', which settled his audience into an interesting evening. Mention the word 'Highwaymen' today and for many people a romantic image often appears. During the seventeenth century, which was when these 'characters' began to appear; the word affected the general population in a similar manner. Wealthy young ladies apparently swooned over these polite, well-spoken, young sons of the landed gentry during the 1640's. These young men had been former Royalist officers, during the English Civil War. Before joining the army to support the king, there had been no need for them to learn a trade and as a consequence of losing the war; and their inheritance, the only thing that they were able to do in order to obtain money was by stealing it.

However, not all highwaymen at that time were English. A famous highwayman in England during the seventeenth century was the Frenchman, Claude Duval. While he was a youth in France, he met the exiled members of the English aristocracy and returned with them to England; probably as a page to one of the families. This employment did not last long and he was soon working as a highwayman, where he showed great charm, was adored by all who met him and had the ladies swooning over him. Apparently he was supposed to have stolen £400 from a gentleman but returned £300 after dancing with the gentleman's wife. After a ten year robbery spree, the young Claude Duval was captured, tried and hanged aged twenty six years. The most famous of all the highwaymen must be Dick Turpin, who was born in 1705, the son of a prosperous, decent innkeeper, in Essex. He was sent to school, apprenticed to a butcher and

bought a butchery business. However, the life of smuggling, deer poaching and robbery seemed much more appealing.

Dick Turpin became an extremely violent and sadistic villain. An example of this occurred when he tried to elicit from an old woman the whereabouts of her money. In order to make the old woman talk he forced her onto the fire. £100 was put on his head which later was raised to £200. Having escaped to Lincolnshire and Yorkshire from Essex, he was captured and hanged.

Dunstable and the surrounding areas were not exempt from those villains. One such villain was known as Gentleman Harry, who was born in 1717 and brought up by his grandmother. Having escaped London for Ireland, on route stopped at The Bull in Dunstable and then at The Star in Hockliffe, before falling asleep only to be woken by the Hue and Cry. He was sent to Bedford Gaol and from there was hanged in 1747 at Holborn, London aged thirty years.

Other characters Paul mentioned were: Henry Claydon who hid out in Flitwick, Jack the Lather of Edlesborough (surname was Leather) but was given that name because he was a highwayman and was caught at Church Farm, hiding in the stables with the horses he had been exercising, with their mouths foaming. His ghost is said to be roaming the area. Lastly, there was a highwayman known as Robert Snoaks, who lived at Boxmoor and was hanged for his crimes on 11th March, 1802.

Finally, Paul told the ladies about two highwaywomen in particular; although there were a number he referred to. The first was known as the 'Roaring Girl' who was very disrespectful and renowned for cutting off purses from their owners' clothing or body and also for receiving stolen property and then selling it back to the owners. Eventually she bribed herself out of being executed, which cost her £200 but she went on to lead a normal life until she died in 1659, aged 75 years, of dropsy.

Last but not least, Paul spoke about Lady Catherine Ferrers, otherwise known as the Wicked Lady. Born in 1634, Catherine was married when she was thirteen to Thomas Fanshaw, who was sixteen. Both families were Royalists. The story has it that Catherine was bored with her marriage and met Ralph, a farmer come highwayman. She was supposed to have dressed as a highwayman and together they were said to have robbed travellers between Markyate and Wheathampstead. One night however, Catherine was shot and fatally wounded. She

died on 13th June, 1660 aged twenty six years. She was buried quietly in the evening and the reason given for that was supposedly owing to her being a highwaywoman. It was not until work was carried out on her home, Markyate Cell, during the nineteenth century that a secret passage way was discovered.

On that exciting note, the talk came to an end. All the more interesting because a large amount of information was of local interest.

✍️ Jackie Flint

Rotary Club Antiques Fair

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 charities local to Dunstable and the surrounding villages.

To this end an Antiques Fair is held three times a year at the Dunstable Leisure Centre where the majority of the income goes to the Benevolent Fund. The next Fair is on Bank Holiday Monday 1st May 2017 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

Appledown's Rescue Dog of the Month

This lovely lass is Jodie a terrier cross born 2006/7. She may be a more mature lady, but she still has a spring in her step and a lot of love to give! Jodie still enjoys her walks and would be ideal for an active retired person/couple. She could probably live with another dog pending introductions. Jodie cannot live in Luton.

If you can offer Jodie or any of our other dogs a loving and secure home, please call in at the kennels any day between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. or phone us for more details. Please note that there are restrictions on rehoming dogs to families with children under seven years of age. Full details of the rehoming process can be found on our website, or please contact the kennels.



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Dagnall Weather Station (AONB)

Weather Conditions for January 2017

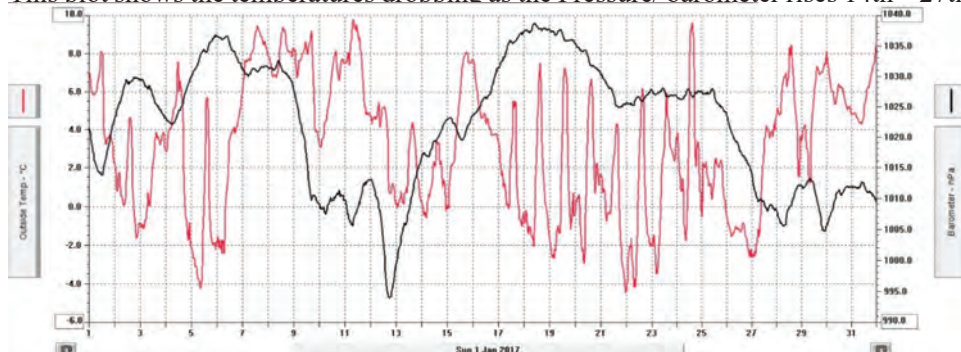


Elevation: 450 ft - Latitude: 51° 50' 13" North - Longitude: 0° 33' 34" West
January 2017

The year started wet 12.8mm of rain on the 1st followed by a few cold days, by the second week it was slightly warmer bringing rain. In the middle of the month high pressure moved over us and stayed until the 27th. This gave us clear days and nights which brought cold nights and frosty mornings, it felt more like a proper winter. I recorded below zero temperatures on 18 days during the month which equalled 169.5 hours but there were many more hours of frost, as frost starts to form around 2°C. You can see clearly in the plot below. Over all we had average temperature and rain for the month.

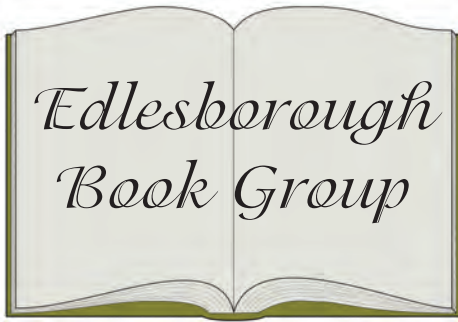
	High	Date/Time	Low	Date/Time
Temperature:	9.9°C	11 Jan 08.00	-4.6°C	21 Jan 23.30
Mean Temperature	3.2°C			
Dewpoint:		7 Jan 14.00	-5.5°C	21 Jan 23.30
Humidity:	100%	7 Jan 03.30	56%	18 Jan 14.30
Barometer:	1038.6 mb	23 Jan 12.00	994.0 mb	12 Jan 17.30
Wind Speed	36mph NW	11 Jan 13.00	Months avg.	4.9 mph
Wind Chill:	9.6°C	21 Jan 15.00	-8.0°C	26 Jan 21.00
Dominant Wind:	SSE			
Rainfall *T= total rain days and moisture. R= Actual rain				
*Rain Days: 26 (T), 26 (R)	Wettest Day 1 Jan		12.80 mm	0.504 ins
Monthly Rain:	Total	January 2017	75.5 mm	2.972 ins
Yearly Rain:	Total	1 Month	75.5 mm	2.972 ins

This plot shows the temperatures dropping as the Pressure/ barometer rises 14th – 27th



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St Mary's 100 Club
February 2017
 The lucky prize-winners are:
 1st prize - Anne Hendrickson
 2nd prize - John Plater
 3rd prize - Maureen Cecil



Summer in February by Jonathan Smith

The book is set in Cornwall in the years just before the First World War. In West Cornwall, a group of artists are working together at Boskenna and become known as the Lamorna group, three of whom are destined to become famous Royal Academicians, namely Dame Laura Knight, her husband Harold and Alfred Munnings who was the Academy's president in later life.

At the start of the book Munnings was at the start of his distinguished career and was seeking recognition, sponsors and commissions. His character appears mercurial and driven, totally self absorbed and devoted to his art. Into this bohemian group comes a catalyst in the person of Florence Carter Wood, whose beauty has an effect on both the Knights, Alfred Munnings and a young land agent, Gilbert Evans whom the group has befriended. The artists want to paint her, Munnings falls in love and Gilbert Evans is fascinated from afar. Florence, with her brother as chaperone, has been sent by her parents to learn to paint. They come from a rather more privileged background than the artists and the dynamic of the group changes. Gilbert is the outsider, watching the group, observing their tempestuous lives and becoming more friendly with Munnings. When Florence announces that she and Munnings are to be married,

Gilbert's hopes are dashed. However the marriage does not prove to be successful. Munnings neglects Florence, leaving her in Cornwall whilst taking extended trips to London. Inevitably, she turns to Gilbert Evans for comfort and the scene is set for a tragic love triangle. The book creates a great sense of place and time and the atmosphere of creativity. The artists are drawn accurately from a great deal of research done by the author, although many of the more intimate details cannot be checked. The reader's interest is stirred by knowing that the main characters were real and the events written about did happen. Their works and lives can be researched further, giving the book an extra dimension. The book group enjoyed the novel, although we were all puzzled as to why Florence embarked on such an unsuitable marriage. A film has been made from the book and is recommended, as the photography of Cornwall and the images of the paintings also add to the overall enjoyment of the book.

London Luton Airport

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

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



Salvation Sound

The Salvation Army is 130

The Salvation Army in Eaton Bray will be 130 years old in April and we aren't looking too bad on it!

In March 1887 before the Salvation Army Corps (church) was officially opened Captain Annie Laurence wrote:

'We can praise God for the victories over sin and the devil we have seen during the past three months. When we first came things did not look very bright....

... (we) praise God, our number have steadily increasing. The bright testimonies of our converts are doing much to convince people the people around that there is nothing like Salvation. One says he has never missed a meeting since he was saved, and does not intend to so long as God gives him health and strength. Another felt so happy one morning that he went to his work forgetting to get his breakfast. Even the policemen say it is a good thing some have got saved. Great victories in store.'

130 years later The Salvation Army is still very much alive and kicking. We meet weekly for worship on Sundays at 11am; have a thriving coffee morning and toddler group; monthly Messy Church, ladies fellowship, sewing and craft bees, girls' night out; and weekly Champion's (children) Club; home league meeting and a Sunday School.

Watch out for the photographs in the next edition of Focus!

We need your help!

If you have any stories or photographs of The Salvation Army in Eaton Bray over the years we would be delighted to hear from you. Please contact: Envoy Hilary Chadwick on 07932 057490; Email: hilary.chadwick@salvationarmy.org.uk



Praying

for our community & world.

This Easter come and join us at

**The Salvation Army in praying for our
community and world.**

**Holy Week Prayer Stations (10—14 April)
at our Hall in Booth Place, Eaton Bray**

10am—7pm

Tuesday eve — Film 'Risen'

Thursday evening — Maundy Thursday

Reflections

For more information contact Hilary Chadwick on 07932057490;
email: hilary.chadwick@salvationarmy.org.uk



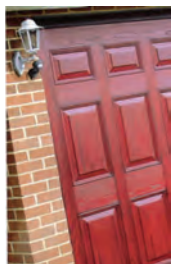


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