

FOCUS

December/
January 2019



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

The White Horse Inn *Eaton Bray*

Market Square
Eaton Bray
Beds
LU6 2DG
01525 220 231
www.eatonbraypub.co.uk



Merry Christmas from the staff at The White Horse Our Seasonal menu Starts on 1st December

**Menus for Christmas Day and our Seasonal Menu
Can be seen on our website www.eatonbraypub.co.uk**

Christmas opening times

	Open	close	
Monday 24 th December	11:30	1:00am	(25 th December)
Tuesday 25 th December	12:00	2:00pm	
			(Pre booked food from 2:30pm)
Wednesday 26 th December	12:00	4:00pm	
Thursday 27 th December		Closed	
Friday 28 th December to Sunday 30 th December – usual opening			
Monday 31 st December	11:30	1:00am	(1 st January)
Tuesday 1 st January	12:00	3:00pm	
Wednesday 2 nd January		Closed	

*Eat, Drink and relax
at The White Horse*

invites you to

Café Community

Eaton Bray
Methodist
Church

Saturday 9th February 2019

11.00am to 1.00pm

Relax & chat with friends,
coffee/light lunch

All ages welcome (inc. activity area).



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.

The Focus Magazine Committee



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Printed by: Priory Press
Dunstable 01582 699851

Copy for publication to the Editor by the
10th of the month

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

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

Kindly Note

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

✍️ Editor

Focus is online at www.thefocusmagazine.co.uk

Village Diary Dec/Jan 2019



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: 07832 230774
- 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
- Mondays Cubs (8-10 ½ years old), 6.30pm - 8pm, 1st Eaton Bray & Edlesborough Scout Hut, High Street, Edlesborough. Contact Liz Coates 01442 842550
- 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, Sarah Cox: 07765 158182
- 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 jtptinfo@gmail.com
- Tuesdays Fortnightly Coffee Morning, Bring & Buy, Table Top Sale, 10-12noon, Salvation Army Hall, Booth Place, Eaton Bray
- Wednesdays Pilates, 8pm, Northall Village Hall, Lisa: 07832 230774
- Wednesdays Northall & District Age Concern Wednesday Club, 10am - 3pm, Northall Village Hall, Contact Barbara on 07854 230243
- Wednesdays (term time) Caterpillars Baby and Toddler Group 10am to 11:30am, Grace Baptist Church, Moor End, Edlesborough, £1 per family unit, Frances King 01582 475896
- 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 Beavers (6 to 8 years old), 6.15-7.30pm, 1st Eaton Bray & Edlesborough Scout Hut, High Street, Edlesborough. Contact: ebebeaverleader@ebescouts.co.uk
- Thursdays Explorers Scouts (14-18 years old), 8pm-9.30pm, 1st Eaton Bray & Edlesborough Scout Hut, High Street, Edlesborough. Contact Simon Betts, lionheartesu@hotmail.co.uk
- Thursdays Intermediate Boxercise, 7.30-8.30pm, Dagnall Village Hall, Josh Thompson 07456 574405 or jtptinfo@gmail.com
- Thursdays Eaton Bray Methodist Church Social Afternoons, 2 - 4pm, All Welcome

Village Diary Dec/Jan 2019

- Fridays Keep Fit class, Edlesborough Memorial Hall 10 - 11am
- Fridays Tap & Ballet Classes, JoAnn Latus School of Dance, 4-8pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall, 01582 620576
- Fridays 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, 0-6 months free
- Fridays Scouts, 10 ½ to 14 years old), 7.00-8.30pm, 1st Eaton Bray & Edlesborough Scout Hut, High Street, Edlesborough. Contact Mark Owen, 07899 892344, ebescoutleader@ebescouts.co.uk
- Fridays (term time) "Little Luvvies" baby ballet classes 10am-11.30am. Contact Emma Whittlemore on 01525 376124
- 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 jtpinfo@gmail.com
- Sundays Sunday Worship at 10:30am and 6pm Grace Baptist Church, Moor End, Edlesborough (across from the post office). Alister King 07572 395687
- Sundays Karate for kids & adults, 4-5:30pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Contact 07500 007779

Monthly

- 1st Monday Eaton Bray Parish Council Meeting, 7.30pm, The Coffee Tavern (except Jan-2nd Monday)
- 1st Monday Eaton Bray W.I. Meeting, 7.30pm. Eaton Bray Methodist Church Hall. Contact Margaret Jones on 01525 220991
- 1st & 3rd Mon (ex. Bank Hols) Knit 'n Stitch at Edlesborough Village Hall, 1:45pm to 3:45pm. Contact Heather Westwood (01525 839083)
- 2nd Mon Film Society, Sep to May, 2pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Graham Chappell 01525 220883
- 1st & 3rd Tues Dunstable & District Orbit (social and charitable) Club meet at Dunstable Rugby Club at 8pm. For details contact 01525 222441 or 01582 755147
- 1st & 3rd Tues TOTS, St Mary's, Eaton Bray, 1:30pm
- 1st Saturday St. Mary's Church, Eaton Bray Coffee Morning & Plant Sale, 10:30am - 12 noon
- 1st Sunday St. Mary's Edlesborough Open Days, 2-5pm, May to September inclusive
- 2nd Monday SilverLink, 2.30-4.00pm, Grace Baptist Chapel Edlesborough – activities, talks, friendship & refreshments for the over 60s
- 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 Thursday Sewing & Craft Bee, 7:30pm, Salvation Army, Booth Place, Eaton Bray
- 2nd Saturday Workshops Dynamic Yoga 9.30-11am £10 Eaton Bray Coffee Tavern, Keira 07936 693696
- 3rd Thursday Edlesborough Parish Council Meeting, 7.30pm, Memorial Hall
- 3rd Sunday Lunch club 11.30 to 2.00pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Chris Hewitt 222288
- Last Saturday Coffee Morning, 10:30-12 noon, Edlesborough Methodist Church

Other Regular Events

- 14th Dec Leukaemia Research Coffee Morning with sherry and mince pies, 2 Dunstable Road, Dagnall 10.30am. All welcome.
- 18th Dec Dagnall and Kensworth Friendship Club Christmas Lunch (Members only), 1:30pm
- 6th Jan Beds Area Narrow Gauge Model Railway Club Meeting, 10.30am-3.30pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall
- 11th Jan Leukaemia Research Coffee Morning, 2 Dunstable Road, Dagnall 10.30am. All welcome.
- 15th Jan Dagnall and Kensworth Friendship Club 48th birthday party with cake and fizz in the village hall at 2pm.

Village Diary Dec/Jan 2019

One Off/Annual/Irregular Events

1st Dec	Dagnall Christmas Fair, 1pm
2nd Dec	Salvation Army Christmas Carol Concert, 4pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall
4th Dec	Tots, 1:30-2:30pm, St. Mary's Eaton Bray
8th Dec	Christmas Coffee Morning, 10:30am-12:30pm, All Saints Church, Dagnall
9th Dec	Santa Dash around Dagnall village, 9:30am
15th Dec	Eaton Bray Parish Council Christmas Market, 11am-5pm, Market Square, Eaton Bray
15th Dec	Carols by Candlelight, 3pm, Church on the Hill, Edlesborough
16th Dec	Eaton Bray Methodist Church Carol Service, 10:30am
16th Dec	Dagnall Community Choir Christmas Carol Concert, 3pm, Dagnall Village Hall
16th Dec	Grace Baptist Church, Edlesborough Community Christmas Celebration 4pm Edlesborough Memorial Hall
22nd Dec	Eaton Bray Parish Council Christmas Carols & Brass Ensemble around the village, 7:30pm at Three Corners, Eaton Bray & 8:15pm Market Square, Eaton Bray
24th Dec	Christmas Eve Candle Services, 4:15pm and 6pm St Mary's Eaton Bray
8th Jan	Edlesborough School & Pre-School Open Morning
12th Jan	New Year Concert, 2pm St. Mary's Eaton Bray, Tickets £7.50 Box Office 01525 222283
25th, 26th, 27th Jan	The Wizard of Oz pantomime, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Tickets from £6 07412 640936

Benefit your Business

Time to renew your local business advert for next year. Most of the information has been sent out by email this year (if we have your email address!). If you are interested in becoming a new advertiser and need more details please contact Sally on 01525 221733 or email advertising@thefocusmagazine.co.uk



A McClelland Pest Control



I would like to thank all the people who have used my services throughout the year and would like to apologise for the poor phone coverage I get in Kensworth and I hope if you need my services next year you will persevere until you contact me. I wish all my customers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Mobile 07774 948415 Office 01582 872158
amcclellandpestcontrol33@gmail.com



wear it
pink

I would like to thank everyone who attended and donated to the "Wear it Pink" for Breast Cancer Now event at Heirloom Cafe on 19 October. We raised a fantastic amount - £1,615.20. We were amazed by the support for this fantastic cause. We met many local ladies and people affected by this horrid illness.

✍️ Carol Jackson



Village Info



EDaN Community Transport
Peter Williams: 01442 842506

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: 07975 797202

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...

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General Assistance (Recommended Number): 101 Emergency: 999

Bedfordshire Police (Eaton Bray)

Leighton Buzzard Police Station/Kathryn Horgan: 01582 473411

Typetalk: 18001 01582 473418

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

Thames Valley Police (Edlesborough, Dagnall & Northall)

PCSO Jackie Dodson Mobile: 07800 703 524

Email: NHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

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

Eaton Bray

**Good
Neighbours**



Helpline: 07930987064

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Call us if you want help with getting to the surgery/hospital, collecting prescriptions, minor errands or d-i-y jobs, form-filling, walking your pet, on-line shopping support etc. or if you would welcome our befriending service.

We help people of Eaton Bray and adjacent villages

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

EATON BRAY PANTO

It's that time of the year once again when we are inundated with all the festivities of the season, and a wealth of choice when it comes to the traditional pantomime, both professional and amateur.

This year's production from Eaton Bray's Curtain Call Theatre Group has a slightly less obvious production to tickle your funny bones, as they are showcasing an adaption of 'The Wizard of Oz' in true panto fashion!

This has the perfect blend of the popular story, mixed in with a large helping of silliness, slapstick and 'look behind you's' to give the audience the ultimate family treat.

Written by the group's founder member Gavyn Lugsden, it guarantees belly laughs throughout.

The Curtain Call Theatre Group (founded 2010) have already achieved 4 NODA awards for their pantomimes, and all the stops have been pulled out for this January's show, which will be their biggest to date!

Join Dorothy, Scarecrow, Tin-man and Lion (Not forgetting To-To) on their journey down the yellow brick road, but watch out, there's a witch about who intends to spoil their hopes and dreams!

The show contains many songs which will keep your hands clapping and toes tapping and even a small helping of 'Baby Shark' for those who haven't heard it yet!

This state-of-the-art show is being performed at the modern Eaton Bray Village Hall from Friday 25th to Sunday 27th Jan over 5 shows.

Tickets are on sale now and start from just £6.00 they are available via the website www.curtaincalltheatregroup.co.uk (Visa/Mastercard). The venue boasts ample free parking and a licensed bar. For further information call the box office on 07412 640936.

We have 2 family tickets to give away (2 adults + 2 Children)!

To be in with a chance, all you have to do is answer the following question and send your answer by text before Sunday 13th January.

How many NODA awards have the Curtain Call Theatre Group won for their Pantomimes?

Please start your text with the word 'Focus' followed by your answer and send to 07412 640936. Winners will be notified the day after the competition closes. .

Eaton Bray with Edlesborough Parish News

Vicar: Rev'd Joy Cousins

The Vicarage, 11 High Street, Eaton Bray - Tel: 01525 220261

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

Reader: Gordon Gray (01525 220136)

Website: www.stmaryseatonbray.org.uk Facebook: St Mary's Eaton Bray

Giving and receiving gifts is at the heart of our Christmas celebrations. Some suggest that this tradition reflects the gifts the Wise Men brought to the infant Jesus. The Christmas story talks of gold, frankincense and myrrh, gifts of great value- and also rather strange presents to bring to a child! There are so many considerations when purchasing a gift. It can be quite a challenge deciding what to give to our families, friends and work colleagues. Consideration may be given to the price and whether the recipient will like the present, but there are also deeper questions of environmental and ethical impact to ponder.

Stacey Dooley is currently famous for appearing on Strictly Come Dancing. Her 'day job' is as a documentary maker tackling difficult and sometimes dangerous subjects. Recently the BBC aired her documentary 'Fashion's dirty secrets' which examined the environmental impact of cotton production, focusing on the area around the Aral Sea. The Aral Sea lies between Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. Uzbekistan is the world's fifth biggest cotton exporter, and the process of irrigating the cotton and dyeing the cloth has had a huge impact on the local climate. The region has seen changing temperatures and rainfall as the Aral Sea has shrunk to one tenth of its original size and turned into a desert. As Stacey Dooley is driven across the sea bed now reduced entirely to dust, she comments: 'There used to be fish, now there's a camel.'

Besides thinking of environmental impact, there are also ethical issues to consider. Workers often receive low pay for their work, with the profits going elsewhere. One way of ensuring that workers are given a fair wage is to buy products which have the Fairtrade logo. According to the Fairtrade foundation, 'Fairtrade is about better prices, decent working conditions, local sustainability and fair terms of trade for farmers and workers in the developing world. It enables them to improve their position and have more control over their lives.' Fairtrade doesn't only ensure a fair wage to workers; it also gives them a Fairtrade premium to invest in their local communities. This can be spent on areas such as housing, schools or training.

The Wise Men may not have faced these environmental and ethical considerations, but they were presented with a challenge. What do you give to a baby born to be king? In his gospel, Matthew tells us that they sought the baby Jesus in Herod's palace, assuming that was where a new king would be born. Herod told them to search diligently for the new king and then return to tell him so that he could pay homage. His plan was to kill his rival. The Wise Men eventually found the infant Jesus and presented him with their prophetic gifts. Gold represented royalty and was a sign that Jesus was destined to become king. In Old Testament times it was also a sign of holiness. Worth its weight in gold, frankincense was burnt and used in religious rituals, representing the prayers of the people. It showed that Jesus was someone worthy to be worshipped. Myrrh is a resin from a bushy tree found in the Arabian Peninsula. It is used in medicine to reduce swelling and also for anointing the dead. Another rare and costly gift, myrrh looked forward to Jesus' destiny as the one who would die on the cross to bring salvation.

Wishing you a blessed Christmas,

✠ Joy, Vicar of Eaton Bray with Edlesborough



St. Mary's 800

2019 marks the 800th anniversary of the Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin, Eaton Bray. An 11th or 12th century church may have stood on the site, built of wood or wattle and daub, but for 800 years the church we recognise today has served as a focus for worship and prayer for the village of Eaton Bray and, since 1975 it has been the Parish Church of the newly created Parish of Eaton Bray with Edlesborough.

The eminent architectural historian Niklaus Pevsner says of the church, “Externally the church is not specially memorable – but its interior one will hardly forget. It is surprisingly splendid, thanks to the two arcades.” Sir John Betjeman went even further in his praise when he wrote that St Mary’s “has nave arches of absolute and quite unexpected magnificence.”

The Domesday Book records that the manor of Eitone was granted to Odo, Bishop of Bayeaux and half-brother to William the Conqueror. It passed to Henry II and Eleanor of Aquitaine after which the manor was granted to one of King John’s inner circle of advisors, William de Cantelupe and he began to build the church on a magnificent scale, although the church was completed on more modest lines. It is noted that in 1219 the vicarage was committed to the charge of Nicholas – the first known vicar of the parish.

In 1490 the Manor of Eaton was granted to Sir Reginald Bray, from whom the village takes its name. He is one of several men credited with finding the crown abandoned by the defeated Richard III after the Battle of Bosworth Field (1485) and placing it on the head of Henry Tudor. Bray rose to become High Treasurer and Chancellor of the Dutchy of Lancaster. He was an

accomplished engineer and architect and was closely involved in the building of St George’s Chapel, Windsor. Bray is responsible for the present appearance of the church (apart from the tower which was restored in the 19th century) – the chancel was rebuilt, the nave roof raised and the clerestory windows installed.

By the late 19th century the church was in a parlous state and from February 1875 services were held in the schoolroom across the road. It was the Revd Edwin Sutton who guided the parish through the restoration of the church. His entire incumbency (1890 – 1916) was dominated by the task, which was accomplished with the aid of generous benefaction from the Wallace family who built a nursery with acres of greenhouses in which choice carnations and roses were grown.

The building is a fine testament to previous generations but its real importance lies in being the focus of the life of a community of Christians today, who worship here, thus maintaining an unbroken tradition of prayer and praise over many hundreds of years, and who proclaim the faith of Jesus Christ and serve the community in his name and after his example. That is why the present generation works hard to preserve and improve it so that it may inspire future generations to continue the tradition of prayer and service.





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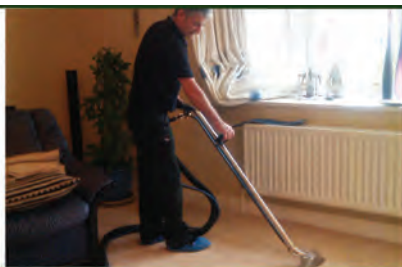


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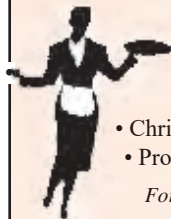
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Dagnall Community Choir

As we approach the end of 2018, we look back at what has been a busy year for the choir. By the end of December, we will have sung in a total of eight performances, which have taken place in Luton, Leighton Buzzard, Redbourn, Stanbridge, Little Gaddesden, Eaton Bray, Tilsworth, Stanbridge again and finally this month, Dagnall – it has felt like Dagnall Community Choir on tour at times!

We have a small band of loyal fans, who delight us by showing up at every performance, and who give us “honest” feedback by email after each show. Their comments have confirmed our own feelings, which are that the choir is going from strength to strength, and that our sound is improving all the time. The October concert in Little Gaddesden was a particular highlight of 2018, thoroughly enjoyed by both choir members and the audience:

“Just to say how much we enjoyed the concert on Saturday. The beautiful sound you make in harmony or unison was even better and more evenly balanced. The audience seemed very appreciative and there was a really good atmosphere. We never tire of listening to you and love to hear the way the items improve each time. Congratulations to all the soloists too”

If you have never been to one of our concerts, do put that on your New Year’s resolution list for 2019! They are fun occasions, with a variety of music to appeal to a range of different tastes, and much humour provided by Stephen Holder who usually acts as MC for our events, and Michelle Garrard, our Musical Director. Many of our concerts are also fundraisers for different charities, so come along and support a worthy cause.

We have welcomed a number of new faces to the choir this year, and sadly have had to

say farewell to others. New friendships have been made and existing ones strengthened - the social aspect of DCC is important to all of us. We support one another through sickness and hard times, and celebrate good times and happy occasions together. Birthdays are marked at our Monday night rehearsals with cake and a song (there seems to be one pretty much every week) and we like to make sure everyone who joins us feels welcomed and part of our warm and friendly group.

Christmas will be an opportunity for us to celebrate this friendship. Our Christmas concert that takes place on Sunday 16th December at Dagnall Village Hall will be an enjoyable event, with mulled wine and mince pies on offer, and a visit from Santa to delight the children in the audience. All are welcome – there are no tickets, but there will be a bucket collection in aid of Dagnall Village Hall, so please do come along and support this community event.

We look forward to another productive musical year in 2019, and would love to meet new choir members, or acquire new fans! For more information about what we do, or to get in touch, please visit our website at www.dagnall-community-choir.co.uk. We would love to hear from you.

In the meantime, we would like to wish everyone a wonderful Christmas, and a very happy New Year, from Dagnall Community Choir.

St Mary’s 100 Club

The lucky prize-winners are:

October 2018

1st prize – Victor Courtice

2nd prize – Reg Fossey

3rd prize – Roger Wilkinson

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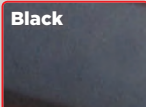
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*Edlesborough Parish Council
wishes all Parishioners a
Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year.*



Remembrance Day

Well done to the EDaN Beautification Team and other volunteers who worked so hard to create the wonderful display at Edlesborough War Memorial. Volunteers in Dagnall also worked hard to mark the special day.

Thames Valley Police

On 7th November PCSO's Harriett, Hobson & Hall from Thames Valley Police held a Crime Prevention evening in Edlesborough Memorial Hall.

18 parishioners attended the event and 4 tools were marked.

TVP will look to holding a further Crime Prevention evening in three months' time.

Whilst giving out lots of important advice the PCSO's also impressed on the parishioners that if you see suspicious activity this MUST be reported to Thames Valley Police. If you are not able to contact TVP using 101, please call 999.

Home to School Transport Consultation 2018

County Councillor Anne Wight would like to draw your attention to the school bus consultation on the BCC website went live on 31st October and runs until 4 January, 2019. Details of the consultation can be found on the BCC Website under the "Have your say" consultation link on the homepage.

Bucks CC have prepared a Draft Home to School Transport Policy to set out the proposed arrangements. This has been drafted in line with the Department for Education's statutory guidance.

There are three proposals they are seeking your views on:

- Changing how we provide school transport – greater integration of school bus services with public bus services
- Only providing free home to school transport to the nearest eligible school, withdrawing



historic, non-statutory transport arrangements in Ivinghoe and Evreham (Iver)

- Introducing transport charges for students with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) aged 16+

Full details of the consultation can be found on our website, there is also a questionnaire you can complete:

<https://democracy.buckscc.gov.uk/mgConsultationDisplay.aspx?ID=8420>

County Cllr Anne Wight

Cllr Wight attended the October EPC meeting and reported on the following matters, her full report can be found on the EPC Website:

- Brownlow Bridge closure dates and TfB Update
- Anglian Water Sewer Works in Pitstone
- Virtual Parking Permits
- Early Help Consultation
- Time to Change



Allotments

Do you have a keen gardener in the family? Are you looking for something different to give as a Christmas Gift? Whilst they are hard work allotments also give hours of pleasure, so why not consider this as a gift. Edlesborough Parish Council currently has vacant allotments at the Dagnall and Cow Lane sites. Anyone wishing to take on an allotment should contact the Clerk. Fees are £2 per pole and plots range in size from 5 – 10 poles.

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.

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 Cllr Alan Williams at Alan.williams@edlesborough-pc.gov.uk or 07828 398371

EPC Meetings

The next Edlesborough Parish Council Meetings will take place as follows:

- Edlesborough Memorial Hall, Thursday 20th December 2018
- Edlesborough Memorial Hall, Thursday 17th January 2019
- Edlesborough Memorial Hall, Thursday 21st February 2019

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 available to view on the website or from the Parish Clerk.

Edlesborough Parish Council Contact Information:

Clerk: Miss Penny Pataky *Office hours Mon – Fri 11am – 3pm (Excl. Wed)*

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

Facebook: www.facebook.com/EDANParishCouncil

Animal Advent-ures

Santa in residence at ZSL Whipsnade Zoo from 1 - 24 December 2018

Nothing signals the start of the festive season like a visit to meet Father Christmas himself, and the man in red will be setting up residence in a magical grotto at ZSL Whipsnade Zoo this December.

Every weekend from Saturday 1 December, and then each day from Tuesday 18 to Monday 24 December, young visitors to the Zoo can Meet Santa and share their Christmas wishes in an unforgettably enchanting encounter.

Every child will receive a special gift and families can buy a festive family portrait. Mrs Claus and her elves will also be on hand with Christmas arts and crafts to delight younger ones.



A VIP Meet Santa experience is also available in the run up to Christmas. On 16, 17, 21, 22, 23 and 24 December, lucky guests will get exclusive access to the Zoo before it opens, where they can see their favourite animals at first light.

Children will not only be able to meet Father Christmas and his elves but also catch sight of his reindeer as they graze in their paddock. Having enjoyed an extra special Reindeer Talk, guests will sit down to a delicious breakfast.

ZSL Whipsnade's Zoo's magical Meet Santa and

VIP Meet Santa experiences, which usually sell out fast, will give families yet another reason to enjoy a wonderful day with animals such as tiger cubs, elephants and hippos at the UK's largest Zoo.

Don't miss your chance to book your family's place at Meet Santa at www.zsl.org and line up the perfect festive family day out this Christmas. Advance booking is required.



Would you like to have a Befriender visit you during the winter months for a chat and a cup of tea? We have a friendly team who would be happy to pay you a visit.

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Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal Collection in Northall and Edlesborough

Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal
Collection in Northall and Edlesborough

This year the nation celebrated 100 years since the end of the First World War and I am proud to report that our villages have, as usual, risen to the occasion magnificently in their support of the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal, as well as in the wonderful decorations which have brightened up the War Memorial and the School grounds. Well done to everyone who took part and worked so hard.

As I write in November, the total raised so far in our villages is an amazing £967.11, and there is more to come, so our final total will be in the February edition, and will easily top £1,000! Edlesborough School have raised £264.67! Everyone there must have been wearing at least 6 poppy “snapbands” each and poppies as well!! The children have made clay poppies which are currently on display, but which will be sold to increase their super contribution to the Appeal.



Photos, supplied by Christine Yates, of the Edlesborough memorial with poppies crafted by local mothers

As far as “grown-ups” are concerned, you are an extremely generous lot in the villages! The staff and customers at Edlesborough Newsagents raised £455.58 in the two tins I gave them! They were so heavy that I couldn’t lift either of them easily!! The staff and patrons of “The Swan”, Northall raised a very generous £215.47 and Age Concern, Northall, helped swell the total by £31.39.

I would like to thank everyone in the villages who have contributed, and also thank the School, the “Swan”, Edlesborough

Newsagents, and Age Concern, Northall for their continuing generous support for the Poppy Appeal.

✍️ Lorna Cubbage.

Eaton Bray Poppy Appeal 2018

Many, many thanks to everyone in the village who put their money into the Poppy collection cans to show support in this amazing centenary year of the ending of WW1. The total amount came to £2828:68 and this is an incredible £350 more than last year.

The house to house collecting team has changed slightly, so big retirement thanks go to Pauline, Paul and Maggie for all the hard work that they have put in over the years, especially Pauline who used to do our organising job quite a few years ago. Margaret and Beryl are welcome additions to the team this year and if anyone living in Orchard Way, Moor End Lane or Mill End Close fancies becoming a collector next year then please contact us on 221137.

Nearly all of the fixed locations with a Poppy box excelled themselves again and special thanks go to Eaton Bray Academy, our NISA store and Mead Open Farm.

This has been a unique year for remembrance. The centenary events have been remarkable – not just the national ones but also the local ones. The silent soldiers in our village remind us all of the debt that we owe to the many who never came home.

✍️ Roger and Helen Wilkinson (Poppy Appeal Organisers – Eaton Bray)





Nigel's Thoughts Methodist Minister

Dear Friends,

As I am writing, all over the country churches and communities are getting ready to solemnly remember and pay tribute to those who made the ultimate sacrifice, in being prepared to offer their lives for the sake of others in time of conflict.

This year, of course, our remembering has given us even more reason for sober reflection as we have commemorated one hundred years since the end of the Great War, the 'war to end all wars' (except of course that it was not) and the signing of the Armistice.

What has our remembrance of these individual and most significant sacrifices to do with our looking forward to the coming celebrations of Christmas and New Year?

Simply this. Christians believe that in the infant Jesus God became one of us. He experienced what it is to be human and shared all of our hopes, fears, vulnerabilities and concerns - for ourselves, those we love and for our world with all its lack of peace. He did all this as God, so that we may know that

we have a heavenly Father who loves and cares, as only a parent who has known the pain of loss can.

Those of us who have been fortunate enough to have children know that they do not remain infants for very long. Is it really 23 years since our son was born? I regularly find myself offering the advice to "make the most of these years" to parents of young ones, for the years fly far too quickly.

In the same way Jesus grew to be a man and came to know that he too was to make the ultimate sacrifice. Taking upon his shoulders the cross, so symbolic of all the world's (and your and my) wrongdoing and selfishness, he died for each one of us, offering himself for us whether we know or care, or not.

Jesus came, God one of us, to enable us to know how much our heavenly father wants us to enjoy friendship with him, forever.

This time of year is about the gift, the birth that lightens our darkness and sets us all free.

A Very Happy Christmas to you and yours, and a peaceful New Year to all.

God bless,

✍️ Nigel

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Ian Smith and accompanied by John Witchell on the piano and organ, with perhaps a memorable reading to touch or amuse you, or even bring a nostalgic tear to your eye, capturing that special atmosphere that belongs only to Christmas.

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The Rotary Club of Dunstable

A recent article in the Daily Telegraph, written by Frank Field M.P. highlighted the rip-off prices of School Uniforms. He stated that paying at least £300 for uniforms and games kit was hard for parents with limited means and thought that VAT should be dropped from the cost.

VAT is only charged on clothing provided to teenagers and not for “young children” but what defines a young child is anybody’s guess. The explanation given is that VAT relief is given on the maximum size of an average child on their 14th birthday.

The Rotary Club of Dunstable has for some time now been providing uniforms free of charge obtained from lost property offices at most of the local schools. The success has been phenomenal.

We have had a stall on several occasions and been overwhelmed by how popular it has become. Our stall was held last Saturday the 10th November at the Quadrant Shopping Centre, and once again was very busy especially with winter coats.

The picture shows our stall erected in the Quadrant Shopping Centre, Dunstable, Bedfordshire.

✉ Chris Smith, Publicity, Rotary Club of Dunstable.

The Festive Season will soon be upon us so to get everyone off to a good start, Father Christmas will once again be touring the streets of Dunstable and surrounding villages between the 3rd-23rd December. During that period he will also be at some of the local supermarkets so please come and see him on his sleigh and give generously to the charities we support.

Last year we were able to support many charities with the help of local organisations and several PTA's so listen out for the music as it comes round your street.





Eaton Bray Methodist Church

Our first service in October was led by Rev Wallace Edwards, always much appreciated by our congregation. He spoke of John Wesley, our Methodist founder, who considered the world his parish and who held that every single person counted. Our Café Service, on the second Sunday, was in the capable hands of Richard Armiger, who used some interesting analogies from 'The Dragon's Den, to make us think about the characteristics of Christ that made him outstanding. He reminded us that, although God sees our failures, he still invests in us. We need to demonstrate the same love and acceptance that Jesus offered. On the third Sunday Peter Baker gave us an inspiring sermon, based on the brother disciples, James and John. Like them in the early years of discipleship, we often set our hearts on the wrong target. Like them we forget that greatness comes through sacrifice but, as they did in their ministry, we must do all we can to serve. Joan Gregory visited us

on our final October Sunday and, as usual, gave an interesting and uplifting message, talking of Jesus restoring sight to blind Bartimaeus and highlighting the healing in Jesus's ministry.

Dates for Your Diary

Carol Service with Junior Church led by Rev Nigel Bibbings

Sunday Dec 16th at 10.30am

Christmas Communion led by Rev Wallace Edwards

Sunday Dec 23rd at 10.30am

Christmas Day Service led by Elisabeth Bibbings

Tuesday Dec 25th at 10.30am

Café Community

Saturday Feb 9th 11.00am – 1.00pm

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

Social Afternoons

Weekly on Thursdays 1.30pm – 3.30pm

Chat, meeting friends, games, refreshments. All Welcome

Appledown's Rescue Dog of the Month



Stunning Sabine Wren is a husky who was born in November 2015. She needs an owner who understands her breed and all that she needs to keep her happy. She is a high energy, sociable girl who can be quite vocal. She will need someone at home to start with to help her slowly build up the time she is left alone. Sabine could possibly live with a male dog pending introductions. She will need a secure garden with sound fencing. She cannot live in the Dacorum area.

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

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

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Website: www.appledownrescue.co.uk

Follow us on Facebook, Twitter & Instagram!!

All Saints' Church, Dagnall

Services in December 2018 and January 2019



Sun. 2nd Dec.	9.00 am	Eucharist
	10.30 am	Morning Service
Sun. 9th Dec.	3.00 pm	Dagnall Village Carol Service
Sun. 16th Dec.	10.30 am	Family Communion
Sun. 23rd Dec.	10.30 am	Morning Service
Christmas Day	10.30 am	Family Service
Sun. 30th Dec.	10.30 am	Carol Praise
Sun. 6th Jan.	10.30 am	Covenant Service
Sun. 13th Jan.	10.30 am	Morning Service
Sun. 20th Jan.	10.30 am	Family Communion
	3.00 pm	United Service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
Sun. 27th Jan.	10.30 am	Family Service
Sun. 3rd Feb.	9.00 am	Eucharist
	10.30 am	Morning Service



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



*It's the day after Christmas, and my stomach hurts,
Nothing will fit me, not one of my skirts,
The cakes that I've nibbled, the fruit salad I'd taste,
All those darn parties have gone to my waist!
When I got on the scales, oh it showed such a number!
When I walked to the store - less a walk, more a lumber,
I'd remember the marvellous meals I'd prepared,
The gravies, the sauces, and try not to be scared!
The wine and the turkey, the bread and the cheese,
And the way I said "Thank you, I will have some please"
As I dressed myself up in my husband's old shirt,
And prepared once again to do battle with dirt.*



*I said to myself, as I set out my plan,
You can't spend all winter disguised as a man!
I'll not have a biscuit, not even a bit,
Just leave me to chew on a celery stick!*



*I won't have my breakfast, or that odd mince pie,
I'll munch on a carrot, and silently cry,
I'm hungry, and lonely, and life is a bore
But isn't that just what a Boxing day's for?*



*To make up for Christmas, and all over eating,
I shall walk till I drop, if my heart keeps on beating,
I can't even giggle, life's no longer a riot,
Here's to a Happy New Year, now I'll stick to a diet!
And a Happy New Year too, with all those Resolutions!*



Submitted by Norman Davies



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 1st October 2018 from 7:30pm at The Coffee Tavern

Vacancy – Parish Councillor



Are you concerned about traffic? Are you concerned about the place you live?

Eaton Bray is a great place to live and its residents have the opportunity to shape its development by contributing towards the ongoing activities overseen by the Parish Council. If you are able to contribute and have an interest in the parish (roads/speeding/Speedwatch), then please have a chat with any of the existing Councillors or contact

the Parish Clerk.

Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC)

Cllr Ken Janes, email kwjanes@hotmail.co.uk / 07767-496823

CBC Website: www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

CBC Email: customers@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

CBC Customer Services: 0300 300 8301

Councillor Ken Janes wanted to reiterate to the Parish Council that he is unable to pass a view on a planning application; he must remain neutral, and can only present statement of fact.

Bedfordshire police:

Eaton Bray Police contact: PC Edward Ruston - Email: Edward.Ruston@Bedfordshire.pnn.Police.uk. For general Police contact/enquiries: Non-emergency call 101 / All emergencies 999. For reporting a crime on-line: <https://www.bedfordshire.police.uk/report/Report-Shared/Report-a-crime>

CBC Draft Local Plan/Eaton Park:

The Parish Council have written to CBC to request, under the Freedom of Information Act, the following details:

1. Why the land adjacent to Eaton Park originally appeared on the CBC Central Plan and was then removed as not suitable for development, for it to reappear on the draft Local Plan.
2. To explain why Eaton Park status changed and the decision for that change.

The Parish Council are awaiting a response.

Neighbourhood Plan:

Residents - keep your eyes on the Parish Council web site/facebook - for updates.

Parish Council website: <https://eatonbray.com/news/tag/Neighbourhood-Plan>

Parish Council Meeting Dates: Held in The Coffee Tavern / 1st floor, from 7:30pm (unless otherwise notified)

* Monday 3rd December 2018 *Monday 7th January 2019 *Monday 4th February 2019

Parish Council Website: www.ebpc.co.uk



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



Eaton Bray Cricket Club

All done and dusted for the year. Wicket prep for 2019 complete and club put to bed. We have

had better seasons but certainly worse ones as well.

The 1st X1 finished 6th in the FCCL Div 1 with only 5 wins from 18 games 3 of which were called off giving us a total of 234 points and although it went to the last game of the season we were well clear of relegation in the end.

The 2nd X1 had a poor year and finished second bottom in Division 6. Much of this was down to availability in the 1st X1. No news as yet as to relegation.

The Sunday team had a marked improvement with 7 wins from 14 in the Beds League and finishing 4th. It was also good to see some of the Colts coming through and at times showing the senior players how to perform.

Off field activity was again strong within the

club. Darts Race and Quiz Nights were all well attended and organised by Jaco Jacobs Promotions.

If you can't wait for the 2019 season there will be Winter Nets starting in January at Dunstable Town Cricket Club in Totternhoe. They were a great success last time with 5 new players joining the club.

As its the season to be jolly why not visit the Club Shop at romida.co.uk/eatonbray for a few Christmas pressies for the man in your life or indeed the lady. Maybe best to wait a month or two for the kids who grow a tad fast.

And on that note Eaton Bray Cricket Club would like to wish the people of the village, our sponsors; Meadow Marquees and Houghton Insurance, and the Focus magazine a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Dunstable & Houghton Regis District Scout Executive

We need you-whatever your age.

Dunstable has around a thousand youngsters who want to be Scouts, Cubs or Beavers but at present we can accommodate only around 750 of them.

We need people who can

- **Help run a scout group in any way** – occasionally or regularly
- **Be administrators** – secretaries, treasurers, chairmen
- **Give practical help** in any kind of property maintenance
- **Have life skills or sports skills** they can share and enthuse others with

Of course we need more adults who can help run meetings and manage the weekly

programmes but we also really need people who are willing to help just occasionally – perhaps those

who can offer skills like secretarial help, managing a group's accounts, mending the odd window, sorting out a scout hut's electrics ... all kind of practical help. In fact anything that is involved in keeping a group not only going but able to expand to meet the demand. Much of this kind of help would be ideal for those who have retired or simply feel they have skills they can contribute

Much of this kind of help would ideal for those who have retired or simply feel that they have skills which they contribute.

Many of the young people in Scouting give much and gain much from it. Can you help us to meet their needs?

Please ring Roger Pepworth (Chair – Dunstable & Houghton Regis District Scout Executive) for a chat and more information on 01582 538414 or e-mail him at roger.pepworth@hotmail.co.uk



Dagnall Community Choir

invite you to their annual

Christmas Carol Concert

at Dagnall Village Hall

Sunday 16th December at 3pm

This is a free concert and there will be a bucket collection with all proceeds donated to Dagnall Village Hall

Punch and mince pies will be available

Father Christmas will be putting in an appearance

Visit our website: www.dagnall-community-choir.co.uk

Christmas Coffee Morning

Saturday 8th

December

10.30am - 12.30pm

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Dagnall

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September 18th

October 2nd & 16th

November 6th & 20th

December 4th

For more information www.stmaryseatonbray.org.uk

Celebrate Christmas with
EATON BRAY PARISH COUNCIL

Enjoy ...

**Christmas Carols &
Brass Ensemble Around The Village**

Saturday 22nd December 2018 From 7:30pm

To help us all get in the Christmas spirit, the Parish Council have again arranged for the brass ensemble to play Christmas Carols around Eaton Bray on the evening of the 22nd December.

The evening commences from 7:30pm at Three Corners moving to Market Square/White Horse at 8:15 pm.

All adults & children are urged to come outside and have a good old Christmas sing-a-long.

(song sheets will be available but please bring your own torch/lantern)

CELEBRATE IN STYLE

Subject to weather conditions

EATON BRAY PARISH COUNCIL



CHRISTMAS MARKET

Saturday 15th December 2018, 11am–5pm

Market Square, Eaton Bray

(green outside The White Horse Public House)

Christmas 2018 in Dagnall

Christmas Fair, Saturday 1st December - 1pm

Christmas coffee morning at the Church

Saturday 8th December - 10.30am

Santa Dash around the Village

Sunday 9th December - 9.30am

Dagnall Church Carol Service Saturday 9th December - 3pm

Christmas Concert by Dagnall Community Choir

Sunday 16th December - 3pm

Dagnall Friendship Club Christmas Lunch (Members only)

Tuesday 18th December - 1.30pm



Christmas Eve Candle Services

4.15pm

& 6pm

St Mary's Church
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'Carols by Candlelight'



Saturday 15th December @ 3.00 p.m.

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'Lighter' Coq au Vin

Coq au vin is a traditional autumnal dish, slow cooked to get all the flavour out of the meat. That said, it can be a little heavy. This simple version, created by Andrei Lussman (owner of the Lussmans restaurants in Hertfordshire), is a lighter take on the French classic. Andrei is a fascinating and charming character, almost an old-school restaurateur and raconteur from a bygone age. This dish would grace a midweek family supper or a dinner party alike.



Serves 2

2 large free-range chicken legs
150g tomato wedges
400ml beef stock
Handful of fresh basil
150ml white wine
80g red onion, sliced
6g fresh red chilli, chopped
25ml oil
10g garlic, peeled and chopped
Salt and pepper to season

If you do not have an oven-proof dish which can also be used on the hob, do this first part of the recipe in a deep skillet or frying pan and then transfer to an oven-proof dish.

Pour the oil into your dish, put it on a medium heat on the hob and and pop your seasoned chicken legs in.

When these begin to become nice and golden, add the red onions.

Cook until the onions are caramelised, then add the basil, garlic and chilli.

Pour over your white wine, stir through and finish with the stock.

Cover the dish and place in a pre-heated oven (180C/ Gas Mark 4) for between one and one and a half hours. The dish is ready when the meat falls off the bone.

Season with salt and pepper to taste and serve, preferably with some lovely crusty bread.

Hear wonderful recipes on Nick Coffey's Weekend Kitchen every Sunday morning on BBC Three Counties radio at 11am. You can also join Nick every weekday afternoon at midday for brilliant local guests with great stories to tell and all the music you want for your early afternoon.



LOCAL HERALDRY

BY JOHN HOCKEY

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

ASHRIDGE

Inside the entrance hall at Ashridge House, the roof is supported by a number of corbels decorated with angelic winged figures each holding a coloured shield. The example shown is what is known as quartered, showing the Egerton arms (Argent a lion rampant Gules between three pheons Sable) in the 1st and 4th quarters and the Stanley arms (Argent on a bend Azure three stags heads caboshed* Or) in the 2nd and 3rd quarters. This is for John Egerton, 2nd Earl of Bridgewater, son of Lady Frances Stanley who married John Egerton the 1st Earl in 1602.

Now here's the thing. Both Egerton and Stanley arms are shown on this, the shield of her son because she was an heiress in her own right. To be an heiress you must have no living brothers and your father must no longer be living, for however old he was, if alive, technically he could marry again (assuming his wife had died) and produce a son who would inherit. Whilst her father was alive, Lady Frances would be known as an 'heiress presumptive'. If she was not an heiress, any sons would only bear the Egerton arms and the link to the Stanleys would not be obvious at all.

In fact there have been several instances of the Egertons marrying into important families such as Cavendish (later Dukes of Devonshire), Churchill (Dukes of Marlborough) and Russell (Dukes of Bedford) but this would not be known by looking at later shields because none of those daughters was an heiress.

If Ashridge House is ever open to the public, do linger in the entrance hall as in addition to the corbels there is a running frieze of the coats of arms of ancestors plus a stained glass window showing the coronets of viscounts, earls and dukes.

*Caboshed is a term used to describe an animal's head facing you which is cut off cleanly showing no neck.



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Edlesborough W.I.

At our November meeting we were very interested to learn about the role of women in the first World War. Prior to 1914 and the start of the war women were not considered able mentally or physically to do anything other than look after the home and the children, and those that did work were in domestic service which was poorly paid for very long hours.

With the start of the war and with much propaganda the men were vigorously encouraged to enlist in the forces and they did so with great alacrity and in vast numbers.

The Government at the time, had overlooked the fact that the country imported much of its food stuffs and that we were only producing enough food for 36 days each year. The women of the country therefore had to be the ones to improve on this. There was also work to be done in the forests felling timber etc. for the war effort. Our armies too, didn't have enough shells so again this fell to the women of the country to rectify the situation and munitions factories sprang up all over the place (it was a rotten and dangerous job). All the other work that had once been the bastions of the men had to be taken on by the women too, for example, driving buses and trams, shipbuilding etc etc., and "horror of horrors" the ladies ditched their long baggy skirts and started to wear trousers. Lots of useful groups, societies and organisations were born during the duration of this dreadful war (including W.I.), which the women could attend. Prior to this they couldn't go anywhere without being chaperoned. The "bosses" were not too upset about the working women as they

were doing a man's job for half the pay. What's changed?

It wasn't considered appropriate for nurses to actually go out to the front, however they were eventually, from necessity, permitted to drive the ambulances. Towards the end of the war, women over 30 years of age and provided they owned their own home, were allowed to vote. It was obvious that the 14-18 war brought about a lot of changes for women, and all for the better.

Colin Oakes, our speaker for the evening, gave an informative and thought-provoking talk and although not fun, it was useful and enjoyable. "He did us girls proud".

✍️ Sue Parker

Community Christmas Celebration

16 December 4.00pm
at Edlesborough Memorial Hall

Join us for a festive evening to sing carols, accompanied by the Salvation Army Band, hear a Christmas message, and enjoy seasonal refreshments.

We will be collecting donations of gifts for the Salvation Army Christmas Present Appeal. For further details, please go to their website www.salvationarmy.org.uk/christmas-present-appeal

Other Christmas Events at

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10 Dec 2.30pm SilverLink (for 60+)

19 Dec 10.00am Caterpillars Toddler Group

25 Dec 10.30am Christmas Day Service

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Eaton Bray Lawn Tennis Club

It being a 'low news month' on the tennis club front, and with us just having passed the 30th anniversary of that first ball being struck across the net (good job it wasn't me or it'd have gone into the net – what a hapless start that would have been to our illustrious history...) I got to thinking about what life was like on the small patch of recreation land where our courts now stand, in the days of old. So I've done some research, and I'd like to share with you, dear readers, a wonderful true story about a quite amazing event that took place on the very spot where we now ply our trade on those three magnificent courts.

Many many years ago, in days of yore, the 'rec' as we now know it, was a farmer's field. Mr Pocklington (known locally as Farmer Po) kept several animals in that field, including a very small horse. Now in those days, a horse was a horse. They didn't have fancy names for all the different types and sizes. There weren't Shires, Shetlands or Clydesdales. They were all Horses. In fact, this was evidenced in an episode of that popular comedy series 'Allo Allo', when Monsieur Alfonse, in his efforts to woo Madame Edith, describes his assets as 'a big hearse with a big horse, and a little hearse with a little horse'. Now this particular little horse, living in its field in Eaton Bray, was a few IQ ahead of the average horse, in as much as it could do basic arithmetic. You've probably seen similar since on TV, where a dog barks four times when it's proud (and fame-hungry) owner asks it what two plus two is. But back in the day, this was quite a big thing, especially for a horse. Particularly for a very small horse. People would come from miles around; from Edlesborough, Dagnall, even as far as Northall, to watch this small horse perform his calculations. Someone would shout across the fence 'what's four minus one?', and the little animal would rear up onto its hind legs, and knock its front knees together three times'. 'Five plus two?', and up it would

rear again, to knock its little knees together seven times, all without falling over. Quite a feat as you can imagine. This little horse's fame rapidly spread far and wide, until one day its reputation reached Fleet Street, London, home of the country's top newspapers, and also the Guinness Book of Records.

So out came the journalists in their hundreds, arriving on their own horses, of all shapes and sizes (the horses, not the journalists), all wanting a slice of the story of the famous counting horse, and with them came a representative from that famous book, to establish whether this small horse could be included as the world's first mathematically inclined equine. The little horse didn't disappoint, and gave the assembled through a perfect display of its calculating capabilities. 'Hurrah' they all shouted, wrote their stories, and galloped back to London to write them up.

But the man from the Guinness Book of Records was more circumspect. 'I accept, Farmer Po', he voiced, 'that this small horse is indeed extremely talented, and is well worthy of inclusion in our famous volume, but we already have a horse in the book for having the loudest 'neigh'. I therefore propose that in order to give this small horse the recognition it deserves, we give it another name, to distinguish it from the average horse'. So another man was invited along to the farmer's field, this time from the Oxford English Dictionary. Together, the three men discussed potential alternative names for this small horse. Then the man from the OED had a brainwave. 'I know!' he exclaimed. 'Let us call it partly after you, Farmer Po, and partly after the sections of its body that it uses to announce its mathematical results, which are, of course, its knees'. The three men were unanimously agreed. The small horse was to be called a Po-knee, which, over the many years which have passed since, has become, in modern English, the Pony.

And that, dear readers again, is the true story of how that very clever small horse from Eaton

Bray, with the help of the newspapers, the Guinness Book of Records, and the Oxford English Dictionary, became re-nouned in its field.

I thank you.

Well that's it for another month. For any further information about the club, including when we get together for our social tennis sessions up at

the School Lane courts, or our various activities, you can visit our website at www.ebltc.org.uk; Alternatively please call any committee member – names and numbers on the website - Coach Sara Bamford on 07561 571578, or if they're all out and I've not been removed from my position, then me, Andy Cross, on 07783 667338.

Edlesborough School News



Since our return from the half-term break, most of our learning has centred around the centenary of the end of World War 1. The children spent a week learning about what life was like in the early parts of the 1900's, finding out about the animals who played a part in the war effort as well as about the lives of soldiers. Children also made, cooked and ate trench cake to mixed reviews!



As part of our commemoration, each pupil made their own ceramic poppy which was displayed outside the front of the school and which played a central part of our Remembrance assembly. A huge thanks must go to both Mr Bush and Mr Binks, who put a huge amount of effort and time into making our ceramic poppy display possible.

Senior Citizens Afternoon Tea Party

After our successful afternoon tea party last year, we will be holding another for the senior citizens of Edlesborough and its neighbouring villages on Monday 17th December from 2:30pm-3:15pm. Tea and cake will be served by our Year 6 children, whilst our choir will sing an array of festive songs. If you are able to attend, can you please notify the school office (01525) 220431 by Wednesday 12th December.

Best wishes,

✉ Mrs J Peel

Interim Co-Headteacher



Merry Christmas & Happy New Year from Travel Impressions

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Peace? What Peace?



This month Christians celebrate the birth of the Prince of Peace. Carols and Christmas cards will trumpet the words angels spoke when announcing the birth of Jesus: *Peace on earth!* You could be forgiven for thinking they're empty words. Last month saw the 100th anniversary of the armistice that ended fighting in the First World War. Harrowing, heroic and heart-wrenching stories were told of the war and its aftermath. We were reminded that the armistice did not bring peace.

Lives were shattered, communities torn apart, nations in upheaval. Villages and towns had been obliterated. Scenes of apocalyptic devastation in France and Belgium mirrored the devastation in the hearts, minds and bodies of those who bore the scars all their lives. Within a generation the world was at war again.

Mankind longs for peace but cannot find it. Outward calm hides inner turmoil. What peace we have doesn't last. Some people do not even want peace. Often we cannot keep the peace in our own homes. That's who we are. That's the world we live in.

That's the world into which God sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to bring the peace we can never achieve. Jesus came to deal with the heart of the problem, where all anger and fighting begin: the human heart. How did Jesus do that?

Jesus lived a perfect life—the only man who never quarrelled, stole or lied—then willingly submitted to crucifixion, taking on himself all God's anger with our sin. He died taking our punishment in full, before rising from the dead and returning to heaven.

Now all who believe in Jesus as Lord and Saviour are forgiven and have peace with God. He is no longer angry with them. He changes their hearts so they want what pleases him. This peace with God is permanent; it

means we can begin to live at peace with others. It means we can find inner peace, no longer at war with our Maker. That's the peace the angels announced:

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased! God is pleased with those who confess their failure and ask for forgiveness through Jesus Christ. They can look forward to the perfect peace of God's worldwide rule when Jesus returns.

Will you find God's peace this Christmas? Come and hear more with us as we celebrate Christmas together.

Community Christmas Celebration

4pm 16th December at Edlesborough Memorial Hall

Christmas Day Service

10.30am at the chapel

✉ Timothy Reynolds (pastor)

Grace Baptist Church Edlesborough

Pastor: Timothy Reynolds

gbcepastor@gmail.com

Secretary: Alister King

gbcesecretary@gmail.com

Weekly Activities

Sunday Services

10.30am Morning Worship

6.00pm Evening Worship

2nd Monday

2.30pm SilverLink for over 60s

Wednesday

10.00am Caterpillars Toddler Group

7.30pm Bible Study & Prayer Meeting

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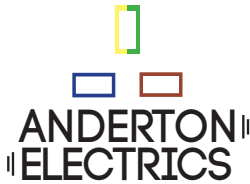
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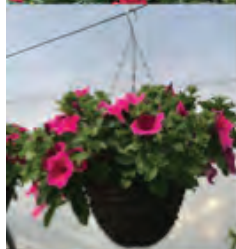
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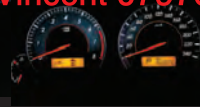
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Northall Baptist Church

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IT'S CHRISTMAS

Most of us love Christmas as it changes a normal time of year into a special time of year.

What is it we love? The brightness in the dull winter months! The familiar Christmas music playing in the shops! The high streets all lit up! The Christmas pudding! The sprouts! A few days of holiday!

Whatever it is it's a time celebration and of sharing with family and friends. Although it can be a very difficult time for those who are lonely and away from family and friends. Jesus is always there to comfort those in need – just ask Him. In the very last verse of the Gospel of Matthew Jesus says 'And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age'. So Jesus is always there to give comfort to the lonely – do you believe he can?

During December each Sunday, we light a red candle representing different gifts from Jesus with the final white candle lit on Christmas morning. The 1st one represents HOPE prophesying the coming of Christ. The 2nd is PEACE (sometimes called the Bethlehem candle) reminding us of the coming Christ child. The 3rd is JOY or Shepherd's candle – joy at the coming birth of Jesus. The 4th is LOVE, the love of God who sent His son into the world to die for our redemption. The Christmas Day candle is celebrating the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

We have a lovely service 'CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT', this year on Sunday 23rd December at 4.30 pm. The Church is always beautifully decorated with many candles. Why not come and join us to celebrate the whole story through familiar carols and share Christmas refreshments afterwards. It makes a great start to the festive period with the real

reason for celebration.

Look out for the banner on the main road and put the date in your diary. We'd love to see you.

Our Sunday morning service is at 11am. Come and join us, you'll get a warm welcome.

For those interested in the history of Northall Baptist Church, a free copy of the booklet, *Rebels in Green Pastures* can be supplied or downloaded from our website: <http://northallbaptistchurch.org/>

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Early Edlesborough History Courtesy of Friends of the Church on the Hill

Church and Tithes

Gilbert of Ghent gave the parish church of St Mary in Edlesborough to the monks in Bardney Abbey, Lincolnshire. This was probably built of wood and might have been on the same sight as the present church. Work began on the present church at the beginning of the 13th century. The first Rector was Simon de Belecampo in 1199, and the first vicar was John Moget in July 1396.



A Rector held the office of presiding over an ecclesiastical institution such as a church or parish. He might appoint someone to perform the duties of his office, ie to act for him “vicariously”, that person was termed his “vicar”. Church and clergy were supported by tithes, traditionally 10%, levied on the personal and agricultural output of the village and they were the legal property of the person who held the office of Rector, not the vicar, who was his employee.

Tithes were classified as “great” and “small”, the great tithes were usually corn, hay and wood; small tithes were all other produce including produce from stock and industry such as mills.

Parishes with rectors often had glebe lands attached to the parish. The rector was then responsible for the repair of the chancel of the church whilst the rest of the building was the responsibility of the parish.

The size of the 16th century tithe barn gives some indication of the parish’s wealth at this time. When the Barn was built, the parish of Edlesborough was considerably larger than now so the large amount of tithe collected need a lot of storage room.



The construction was of oak and brick set on plinths of Totternhoe stone and originally it was thatched. It was tiled in the early 1900's.

Ownership of the lands passed through many hands and by the 16th century the Earl of Bridgewater owned half the village as well

Luton Man Owns Largest Barn in England

Mr. George Lake, of Chapel-street, Luton, is the owner of Edlesborough Tithe Barn, which is the largest in England, and one of the oldest. Experts give the date of its erection as 1496, or perhaps earlier. It is 180 ft. long and 30 ft. wide, with timber framework. Rock quarried at Totternhoe forms the foundations. An offer of £2,000 from America for the oak beams and rafters for the purpose of building a similar barn was refused some years ago.



as the rights to the great tithes of Edlesborough. The Bridgewaters lived at nearby Ashridge, which had been a monastery before the dissolution. After the end of the 1914-18 war a Committee was formed to raise funds to erect a Memorial to those who had lost their lives. On an autumn afternoon in



1920 a large crowd came to witness Lord Brownlow unveil the memorial. This was his last public engagement, he died 17th March 1921. The church was closed for regular Sunday services on 10th May 1971.

Eaton Bray W.I.

On Bonfire Night, we commenced our November meeting with a Getting to

Know you game, where members had to find a partner with similar horse names, and introduce themselves. Our President welcomed our speakers for the evening, Karen Gosen and Margaret Keith from the Gaddesden Place Riding for the Disabled.

We all enjoyed an interesting talk on the Centre. With only 4 paid members, 8 instructors and 9 Trustees, they rely very much on the excellent group of 70 volunteers. These range from aged 14 to 80. With 6 carefully selected ponies, trained to cope with the disabled, they have up to 100 riders a week. They explained how the horse riding helps improve the balance and core muscle strength, stimulating circulation and muscle tone. This also builds confidence and self esteem and gives a sense of achievement to the disabled riders.

A member agreed to lay the Eaton Bray WI wreath at the memorial service the following Sunday.

Thanks were extended to all members who had brought along gifts for distribution to the BWI Shoe Box Appeal and other charities.

An afternoon with Dame Stella Rimington will be held next year.

Our Subscription envelopes will be distributed at our meeting next month.

Our meeting continued with social time along with tea and biscuits.

The next meeting of Eaton Bray WI will be on Monday 3rd December at 7.30 pm when we will have our Christmas evening and invite other WIs in our Group. This will be a musical evening with Christmas refreshments and a special raffle.

Meetings are always on the first Monday of the month (except Bank Holiday when it is the second Monday). Meetings are held in Eaton Bray Methodist Hall. The contact for Eaton Bray WI is: Margaret Jones, on 01525 220991. A warm and friendly welcome awaits new members. At each meeting there is an interesting speaker or demonstration, followed by social time and refreshments.

CHRISTMAS PUZZLE

Gordon Gray has been setting Christmas Puzzles each year since 1991. So far the Puzzles have raised over £84,000. This year his Puzzle will be raising money for five charities including St Mary's, Eaton Bray. The Puzzle will appeal to those who enjoy broadsheet crosswords and is designed to help you finish it. Download a copy of the Puzzle from www.christmaspuzzle.co.uk (available from 8 December)



Healthy Bones & Pilates

Our bone density continues to grow until our mid 20's, however, after the age of 35, and following the menopause in women, the pattern changes. 1 in 3 women and 1 in 5 men over the age of 50 will develop osteopenic (loss of bone) fractures.

We can make a change for the better - weight-bearing exercises 3-5 times per week, and resistance/strength exercise 2-3 times a week, have been shown to increase bone mass density (BMD) by stimulating bone growth.

Balance-focused exercise have been shown to reduce a person's risk of falls by 25%. Pilates can offer all the above benefits to people with osteopenia (low BMD but not as low as osteoporosis.) A 2015 study (E Angin) showed that people who participated in Pilates saw an increase in their BMD as well as improvements in their physical performance and quality of life.

Pilates, the mind-body conditioning programme, can be used to strengthen your core (back and tummy) muscles and can also be adapted to do in standing to help 'load' the

bones.

Choose a fully qualified and registered Pilates instructor – the APPI Pilates instructors at St Judes are also Chartered Physiotherapists who carry out clinical rehab Pilates – participants in our small group classes and 1:1 sessions are fully assessed before starting an exercise programme specific to their needs.

Other ways you can help yourself include:

1. **Eat a varied diet rich in calcium** - dairy products, tofu and spinach are all good.
2. **Reduce your caffeine and salt and stop smoking** as all of these can interfere with the absorption of calcium in our bodies.

If you are worried about your bone density speak to your GP. If you would like further details on Clinical Pilates, please call St Judes on: 01525 377751 or go to: <https://www.stjudesclinic.com/treatments/pilates/>



St Judes Clinic
26 Lake Street
Leighton Buzzard
LU7 1RX

01525 377751

www.stjudesclinic.com
enquiries@stjudesclinic.com



Find a Stick and Flick

Dedicated to the Holman's field dog walkers who left at least 5 poos on the football pitch last week for youngsters to slip on during their game.

If your dog should do a plop, take a while and make a stop, just find a stick and flick it wide into the undergrowth at the side.

If your dog should do a do, you don't want it on your shoe, find a stick, pick a spot, flick into the bushes so it can rot.

If your dog should do a poo, this is what you should do, just find a stick and flick it wide the undergrowth at the side.

If your dog should make a mess there really is no need to stress.

Find a stick, pick a spot, flick into the bushes so it can rot.

Dagnall Weather Station (AONB)

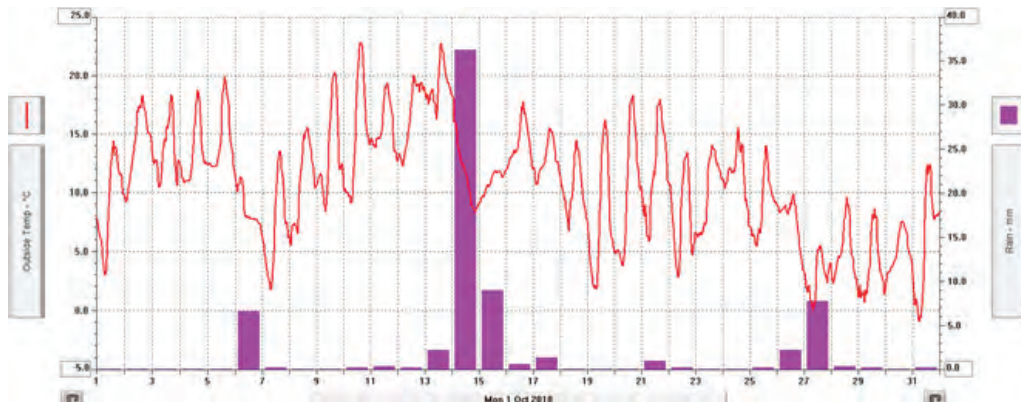
Weather Conditions for October 2018

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

October started with high pressure giving us dry and sunny weather. On the 6th it rained followed by a week of exceptional warm weather for this time of the year, peaking at 22.9°C on the 10th. The 14th was the wettest day of the month with a total of 36.19mm which continued into the next day with a further 9mm of rain. Those two days were 75% of the total rain for the month. From the 16th to the 26th, the temperatures dropped to more like the normal levels for October. At the end of the month, the weather became more like winter, with frosty mornings reaching a low of 1.1°C on the 31st. The month's rain was 115% of the 10 year average.

	High	Date/Time	Low	Date/Time
Temperature:	22.9°C	10 Oct 14.30	-1.1°C	31 Oct 06.00
Mean Temperature	10.7°C			
Dewpoint:	17.0°C	13 Oct 14.30	-1.8°C	31 Oct 06.00
Humidity:	97%	16 Oct 06.00	50%	1 Oct 14.30
Barometer:	1037.2 mb	22 Oct 11.30	993.9 mb	30 Oct 09.30
Wind Speed	42 mph S	12 Oct 15.00	Months avg.	5.5 mph
Wind Chill:	21.1°C	10 Oct 15.30	-3.8°C	31 Oct 06.00
Dominant Wind:	NW			
*Rain Days: 18 (T), 18(R)				
Wettest Day 14th Oct		36.19 mm	1.307 ins	
Monthly Rain:	Total	Oct 2018	69.2 mm	2.724 ins
Yearly Rain:	Total	10 Months	587.1 mm	23.114 ins

October 2018 Temperature and Rain

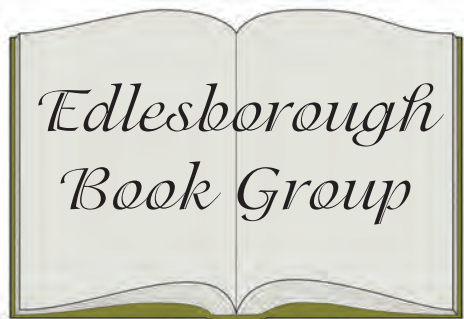


For weather data 24 hours a day, updated every 15 mins, visit: www.dagnallweather.co.uk and http://bit.ly/weather_dagnall for this site forecast and much more.

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

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





Tiny Sunbirds Far Away by Christie Watson

Tiny Sunbirds Far Away, published in 2011, was Christie Watson's debut novel. Formerly a nurse, winning the Malcolm Bradbury bursary enabled her to take an MA in creative writing at the University of East Anglia. After graduating in 2009 she became a full time author, since then having had three books published.

Tiny Sunbirds Far Away is the coming of age story of Blessing, who lives a privileged life with her parents and brother Ezikiel in Lagos, Nigeria. When her parents' marriage breaks down due to her father's infidelity Blessing and her mother and brother are forced to leave the city to live with her maternal grandparents in a native compound in the Niger Delta.

At first the shock of facing life without all the comforts that she has taken for granted, is very hard for Blessing, but she gradually comes to appreciate that not everything about the native way of life is bad and that not all of her old way of life was good. She and her grandmother become very close, with the old woman showing Blessing the traditional way of life in the compound. Grandma is the local midwife and begins to take her along to confinements as an assistant. This is fascinating to the young girl and, much to her mother's disapproval, she becomes more and more involved with her grandmother's work. Although the adjustment to native life is difficult for Blessing and her mother,

Ezikiel, who is asthmatic and has serious food allergies, finds it hardest of all. A good student, he misses his studies and coping with the new diet is very difficult for him and he becomes withdrawn and rebellious. When her mother finds work at an oil company and acquires a white American boyfriend, things ease financially, but other problems present themselves.

This is a very thought-provoking book. It is written in the voice of a twelve year old and about the things that she observes and doesn't quite understand. The reader however, is aware of the problems in Africa and this story probes quite a number of them. There is widespread political corruption and the oil companies are criticised for their stranglehold on many of the African communities. Modern life, colliding with the old traditions and ceremonies, causes resentment and rebellion in many of the townships and Blessing also learns of the difficulties caused by female circumcision during childbirth and of the beliefs of the women who practise it.

In consequence it is a very good choice for a book group to read and discuss. Our group enjoyed it and would recommend it very highly.



Dunstable & District Local History Society 8 January, 7.45pm

Bedfordshire's Garden History

A lavishly illustrated miscellany of the county's garden heritage ranging from the Waldon Pear mentioned by Shakespeare to the gardens at Stockwood Park. Felicity Brimblecombe uses paintings, postcards, diaries and maps in a talk ranging from walled gardens to sun dials.

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



The Gift Beyond Words

When it comes to writing Christmas cards, procrastination is my middle name. If this is you then you will sympathise with the woman who rushed into a card shop just before Christmas, snapped up a packet of 50 identical cards, signed 49 of them, ran into the post office, and managed to get them into the last mail. It was only as she returned home that she looked more closely at the one remaining card. To her horror she discovered that the text read:

A gift is on the way! There were 49 disappointed people that Christmas! Long before the first Christmas, God, through the prophets, sent out a message: **‘A gift is on the way!’**

‘The virgin will be with child,’ they proclaimed, ‘and will give birth to a son, and will call him Emmanuel’ (Isaiah 7:14) – God with us! ‘For to us a child is born,’ they said, ‘to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace’ (Isaiah 9:6). Rejoice! A gift is on the way!

And at the first Christmas there was no disappointment. As the day dawned, the gift arrived and to those with eyes of faith this gift exceeded all expectation. Although the prophets foretold of great things, they never in their wildest dreams thought that the promises would be fulfilled as they were.

I can still remember the joy, as an eight-year-old receiving a cassette recorder which I didn’t think my parents could afford; or the Willow Tree figure my son and daughter in law bought me – the Grandma and Child – to announce that they were expecting their first child, my first grandchild! These gifts far exceeded my greatest expectations!

It was just like that on the first Christmas morning when the gift of God to the world was revealed. Through their words, the prophets had built up immense anticipation but God’s gift to the world, his one and only Son, exceeded all expectation. The angels went wild with joy. ‘Glory to God in the highest’, they sang. The shepherds glorified and praised God. And the world rejoiced. For the gift was literally ‘Emmanuel – God with us!’

The Apostle Paul when reflecting on the events of the first Christmas exclaimed: *‘Thanks be to God for his gift beyond words!’* (2 Corinthians 9:15). This Christmas may we rejoice at God’s indescribable gift - Jesus – a gift that exceeded all expectation!



**The Salvation Army,
Booth Place - Weekly Activities**

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

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

Wednesday
Home League 2.30-3.30pm
(Ladies meeting but all welcome)
Champions Challenge Club *(term time)*
(Ages 5+ years) 5.30-6.30pm
6.45-7.45pm

Thursday
Parent and Toddler Group
(Term time) 9.30-11.30am
Girls’ Night Out
(1st Thursday of month) 7.45-9.45pm
Ladies Fellowship
(Last week of month) 7.30pm

*For further details please call Envoy Hilary
Chadwick. T:01525 222087 / 07932 057490
E: hilary.chadwick@salvationarmy.org.uk*

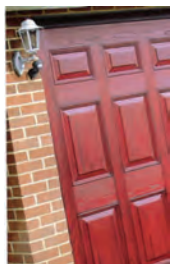


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