

# FOCUS



**February 2022**

**Eaton Bray, Edlesborough, Northall & Dagnall**  
Focus is online at [www.thefocusmagazine.co.uk](http://www.thefocusmagazine.co.uk)

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**Sunday**

Footprints (Sunday School) 9.45 - 10.45am  
(Term time only)

Morning Worship 11am

**Tuesday**

Coffee Morning 10 - 11.30am  
(Alternate weeks)

**Wednesday**

Home League 2.30 - 3.30pm  
(Ladies meeting but all welcome)

Champion's Club (Term time only)  
5.30-6.30pm (Ages 5 to Year 5)  
6.45-7.45pm (Year 6 and above)

**Thursday**

Girls' Night Out  
(1st Thursday of the month) 7.45pm

Ladies Fellowship  
(Last Thursday of the month) 7.30pm

**For further details please contact us on  
01525 222087 or email  
eaton.bray@salvationarmy.org.uk**

**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  
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talk together.

For more information contact:  
John Hazell 01525 218142

Email northallchapel@btinternet.com

Web: www.northallbaptistchurch.org

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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*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](http://www.thefocusmagazine.co.uk)**



# Village Diary



## Weekly

- Mon-Sun St. Mary's Edlesborough is open most days 10am-4pm, sometimes longer.  
Look for the OPEN sign below the notice board
- Mon-Fri (term) Eaton Bray Pre-school, Eaton Bray Lower School, 01525 220468, admin@eba.ec
- Mon-Fri (term) Dagnall Under 5's, Dagnall Village Hall, 9.15am - 12.15pm, Mrs Ann Tobin 07816 358342
- Mon-Fri (term) Edlesborough Primary Academy Pre-School, 01525 220431, epamanager@epa-primary.org
- Mon-Fri (term) Tottemhoe Pre-school, Tottemhoe CE Academy, 01582 662959, tottemhoeoffice@tot.dsamat.co.uk
- Mondays Pilates, 10.45am, Tottemhoe Memorial Hall, Lisa: 07832 230774
- Mondays Dagnall Community Choir, All Saints Church 7.45-9.45pm, w:dagnall-community-choir.co.uk
- Mondays (term) Movement and exercise classes with a dance flavour, Northall VH 2-3.30. 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 VH, Sheila sdtwinkletoes@yahoo.co.uk
- Mondays KFFA ISTD ballet classes, Edlesborough Memorial Hall 4pm-6.30pm (4years+)  
Contact Kiri 07988161043 or visit Facebook page 'KF PerformingArts/KFFA' for info
- Mondays Cubs (8-10½ years old), 6.30pm - 8pm, 1st Eaton Bray & Edlesborough Scout Hut, High Street, Edlesborough. Contact Liz Coates 01442 842550
- Mondays Yoga, 6:45pm, Edlesborough Memorial Hall, contact 07837 727302
- Mondays Barre, 8pm, Edlesborough Memorial Hall, contact 07837 727302
- Tuesdays Pilates, 10-11am, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Nicky Roussou 07861 162680
- Tuesdays Tottemhoe Baby & Toddler Group, 9.30-11.15am, St. Giles Church Hall, Ruth Allen, 01525 222468 or 07796 265174 or email ruthallen002@gmail.com
- Tuesdays Tap & Ballet Classes, JoAnn Latus School of Dance, 4-8pm, Eaton Bray VH, 07800 518654
- Tuesdays Coffee Morning, Bring & Buy, Table Top Sale, 10-11:30am, Salvation Army Hall, Booth Place, Eaton Bray
- Fortnightly
- Tuesdays Keep Fit class, Edlesborough Memorial Hall 11 - 12noon
- Tuesdays Jazzercise 9:15-10am, Eaton Bray VH, Annis, annisjazzercise@gmail.com 07447 409666
- Wednesdays Pilates, 8pm, Northall Village Hall, Lisa: 07832 230774
- Wednesdays Northall & District Age Concern Wednesday Club, 10am - 3pm, Northall Village Hall, Contact Anna on 07854 230243
- Wednesdays Art Course online 9.30 -11.30 am, contact Loma Moore 07896 619660
- Wednesdays Art Course, Bellows Mill Eaton Bray, 2-4.30pm, contact Loma Moore 07896 619660
- Wednesdays Jazzercise 7:30-8:30pm, Eaton Bray VH, Annis, annisjazzercise@gmail.com 07447 409666
- Thursdays KFFA Street dance classes, Edlesborough Memorial Hall 4.15pm-6.30pm (4 years+)  
Contact Kiri 07988161043 or visit Facebook page 'KF PerformingArts/ KFFA' for info
- Thursdays Tae Kwon-do, Dagnall Village Hall, 5.45-7.30pm 07813 755785
- 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, simon\_betts@hotmail.com.
- Thursdays Eaton Bray Methodist Church Social Afternoons, 2 - 4pm, All Welcome
- Thursdays Retro Line Dance Class. 11.15am to 12.45pm. Eaton Bray Village Hall. Beginners welcome.  
[www.jukeboxjunction.co.uk](http://www.jukeboxjunction.co.uk) info@jukeboxjunction.co.uk 07864212171
- Fridays Tap & Ballet Classes, JoAnn Latus School of Dance, 4-8pm, Eaton Bray VH, 07800 518654
- 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 Jazzercise 9:15-10am, Eaton Bray VH, Annis, annisjazzercise@gmail.com 07447 409666
- Fridays Scouts, (10½ to 14 years old), 7.00-8.30pm, 1st Eaton Bray & Edlesborough Scout Hut, High Street, Edlesborough. Contact Mark Owen, ebescoutleader@ebescouts.co.uk, 07899 892344
- Fridays "Little Luvvies" baby ballet classes, 10am-11.30am, Northall Village Hall. Contact Emma Whittemore on 01525 376124
- Saturdays Jazzercise 9-10am, Eaton Bray VH, Annis, annisjazzercise@gmail.com 07447 409666



# Village Diary

Saturdays	KFPA Musical theatre classes, Edlesborough Memorial Hall 9.30-10.30am (4years+) Contact Kiri 07988161043 or visit Facebook page 'KF PerformingArts/ KFPA' for info
Sundays	Sunday Worship at 11am, Edlesborough Baptist Church, Moor End, LU6 2FL. Contact: 01525 222064 or edlesboroughbaptistchurch@gmail.com
Sundays	Yoga, 9:30am-10:30am, Edlesborough Memorial Hall, contact eleanorlangton@outlook.com or 07969315384
Sundays	Karate for kids & adults, 2:30-4pm & 4:30-6pm, Eaton Bray VH, Contact 07500 007779
<b>Monthly</b>	
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)
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 Saturday	St. Mary's Church, Eaton Bray Coffee Morning, 10:30am - 12 noon (July held on 2nd Saturday)
2nd Monday	Film Society, Sep to May, 2pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Graham Chappell 01525 220883
2nd Tuesday	Dunstable & District Local History Society meeting, 7.45pm, Methodist Church Hall, Dunstable
2nd Tuesday	Edlesborough W.I. Meeting, 7.30 pm, Edlesborough Memorial Hall. Contact Sue Bingham 01525 222522
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 Saturday	Workshops Dynamic Yoga 9.30-11am £10 Eaton Bray Coffee Tavern, Keira 07936 693696
2nd Saturday	Cafe Community, 11am-1pm, Eaton Bray Methodist Church,, October to May only
3rd Thursday	Edlesborough Parish Council Meeting, 7.30pm, Memorial Hall
2nd Friday	Leukaemia Research Coffee Morning 2, Dunstable Road, Dagnall 10.30 a.m. all welcome. No meeting in September, June plant bring and buy, December Sherry & mince pies
3rd Sunday	Lunch club 11.30 to 2.00pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Chris Hewitt 222288
Last Saturday	Coffee Morning, 10:00-12 noon, Edlesborough Methodist Church

Dear Focus Business Advertisers

Thank you for your support which enables us to deliver 10 editions a year of a full colour magazine to all the properties in the four villages The magazine can also be found on line at [www.thefocusmagazine.co.uk](http://www.thefocusmagazine.co.uk). Focus keeps residents up to date with local information and events.

Dear Readers

We hope that you enjoy your first 2022 edition of Focus.

When you are looking for businesses and services please check the advertisers in the magazine to support local businesses whenever possible.

Sally Taylor and Angela Dunford  
Advertising Managers



Eaton Bray Good Neighbours had a busy month in December. In the weeks before Christmas, a group of kind volunteers delivered a Christmas Gift to many in the village who had needed our help during the past year. This also gave us an opportunity to visit everybody who had been in touch with us.

Our mobile phone which we operate on a daily basis, has been busy with requests for help in collecting medication, lifts to doctor's and Hospital appointments. During the past month we have also received requests to help with the local Food Bank. We have delivered to those in our community who need this help. Until recently the Food Bank have delivered any requests directly, but now they need the help of services such as Good Neighbours, and we have been pleased to help with the driving.

Eaton Bray Good Neighbours drivers will help with requests for lifts to Hospitals, doctors Surgeries or any necessary journey. We make a small charge for the journeys, which is given direct to our drivers.

Some of our volunteers continue to help with our "In Touch" programme. We aim to telephone anyone in our community who would like a friendly telephone call. If you live on your own, having a chat on the telephone can make a lot of difference to your day.

You can contact us by calling 07930 987064 when a friend will answer your call. We are here if you need any help.

Eaton Bray Good Neighbours

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## **ALISON WHITE MEMORIAL FUND FOR LEUKAEMIA RESEARCH**

A big thankyou to everyone who has supported the coffee mornings. Thanks to your generosity, the total raised has already passed £20,000!

Covid permitting, coffee mornings will continue to be held from 10.30 a.m. on the second Friday of every month except September at 2, Dunstable Road, Dagnall, **EVERYONE WELCOME!!!**



May I say thank you from The Salvation Army (Eaton Bray) for all your generous donations in the form of non perishable food, toys and gifts that were given for our 'Be a Star' Campaign last year.

Over 200 Christmas presents were distributed this year and we were able to provide food parcels to families and vulnerable people who would otherwise have struggled last year over the Christmas period.

Thank you again

✉ Majors Allison & Andrew Gaudion, Corps Officers- Eaton Bray Salvation Army

# Village Info



**EDaN Community Transport**  
Peter Williams: 01442 842506

## Village Hall Booking Contacts

**Northall:** Lorna Cabbage Tel: 07857 318696 [www.edlesborough-pc.gov.uk/nvh](http://www.edlesborough-pc.gov.uk/nvh)

Email: [northallvhbookings@gmail.com](mailto:northallvhbookings@gmail.com)

**Eaton Bray:** Norman Lee Tel: 07975 797202

Email: [bookings@ebvh.co.uk](mailto:bookings@ebvh.co.uk) Website [www.ebvh.co.uk](http://www.ebvh.co.uk)

**Dagnall:** Bev Way 07875 462128 & Trish Owen 07762 151364

Email [DVH\\_Bookings@outlook.com](mailto:DVH_Bookings@outlook.com)

**Edlesborough Memorial Hall:** Penny Pataky, Tel: 01525 229358

Email: [manager@edlesborough-pc.gov.uk](mailto: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](mailto:LPT.LeightonBuzzardLinslade&Rural@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk)

### Thames Valley Police (Edlesborough, Dagnall & Northall)

PCSO Jackie Dodson

Email: [greatbrickhillwingivinghoenhpt@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:greatbrickhillwingivinghoenhpt@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 & Munns Farm Shop

**Eaton Bray:** The Coffee Tavern

**Northall:** The Swan Public House

**Edlesborough:** Edlesborough Memorial Hall & Baptist Church, Summerleys



## Helpline: 07930 987064

**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 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*



# **Eaton Bray with Edlesborough Parish News**

**Vicar: Rev'd Joy Cousins**

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

**Associate Priest: Rev'd Stephen Burge**

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

**Reader: Gordon Gray (01525 220136)**

**Website: [www.stmaryseatonbray.org.uk](http://www.stmaryseatonbray.org.uk) Facebook: St Mary's Eaton Bray**

On Sunday 6th February at 10am at St Mary's Eaton Bray, we will be marking Accession Day. This is not something we usually do, but this year is the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen. King George VI died on 6th February 1952 at Sandringham whilst Princess Elizabeth and her husband Philip were staying in Kenya. They returned home the following day and Elizabeth was proclaimed Queen aged 25. Her succession was proclaimed at an Accession



Council at St James' Palace attended by 175 Privy Council members in addition to the Lord Mayor and Aldermen of the City of London. One of the Queen's many roles is as Supreme Governor of the Church of England. As such, every Church of England clergyperson has to swear allegiance to the sovereign. The Queen is responsible for appointing bishops, archdeacons and deans of cathedrals.

To celebrate the Platinum Jubilee, there will be a number of events across the four nations of the United Kingdom. The Commonwealth Games will take place in Birmingham and there will be two additional bank holidays on 2nd and 3rd June for community celebrations. Another initiative for the Platinum Jubilee is the Queen's Green Canopy when people are encouraged to 'plant a tree for the jubilee.' The aim is to create a legacy in honour of the Queen's leadership of the Nation which will benefit future generations. We are all aware of the need to support the environment and this is one way of helping to do that. Throughout Bedfordshire the aim is to plant trees in every parish. That can be done by individuals as well as community groups. At St Mary's we will be planting a new hedge of native species on the boundary between the church yard and the village hall. We hope to involve people from the community in this initiative, so if you would be interested in helping please get in touch for more details. [admin@stmaryseatonbray.org.uk](mailto:admin@stmaryseatonbray.org.uk)

In addition to planting trees, the Queen's Green Canopy project will dedicate a network of 70 ancient woodland areas across the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland and also identify 70 ancient trees to celebrate Her Majesty's 70 years of service.

As we mark this important year in the life of our nation, we give thanks to God for the dedication, service and integrity of Her Majesty the Queen. Her life is underpinned by a deep faith which is evident in all that she does. Here is a prayer for the Queen.

God of time and eternity, whose Son reigns as servant, not master; we give you thanks and praise that you have blessed this Nation, the Realms and Territories with Elizabeth our beloved and glorious Queen.

In this year of Jubilee, grant her your gifts of love and joy and peace as she continues in faithful obedience to you, her Lord and God and in devoted service to her lands and peoples, and those of the Commonwealth, now and all the days of her life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

With every blessing,

✠ Joy, Vicar of Eaton Bray with Edlesborough

### Services at St Mary's Church

**SUNDAYS :** 10.00am PARISH HOLY COMMUNION

On Third Sunday of each month:

8.00am HOLY COMMUNION

10.00am WORSHIP FOR EVERYONE a shorter, less formal service.

**WEEK-DAYS:** Wednesday: 10.00am Holy Communion

*EVERYONE WELCOME AT THESE SERVICES.*

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***DETAILS AND ONLINE WORSHIP: [www.stmaryseatonbray.org.uk](http://www.stmaryseatonbray.org.uk)***

## Dagnall Church Services



The All Saint's Dagnall Sunday service is at 10.30am on the 3rd Sunday of each month.

All welcome.

**We encourage people to wear a face covering.**

Any queries please contact Phillip Lee on 07977234453.

Dagnall Church, Ringshall Road HP4 1RL

**In light of the current Coronavirus situation the Pastoral Care Team at St. Mary's, Eaton Bray welcomes your assistance in identifying any of our parishioners who might be sick or otherwise benefit from their support during this challenging time. Please contact us at [admin@stmaryseatonbray.org.uk](mailto:admin@stmaryseatonbray.org.uk) in this regard.**

### Bruce Rogers

Christine, Stephen and Gaye would like to thank everyone for their kind expressions of sympathy and support they have received on the death of Bruce.

# End of an Era and the Beginning of a New One!

On the 27th of November we held the 29th Eaton Bray Hall quiz. This was after the sad death of our quiz master, Keith Blackburn. My first thoughts were that we should cancel the event in respect of Keith, but then I remembered that Keith and I had agreed to get to 30 quizzes and then retire. After discussion with Keith's family, I was granted access to Keith's notes, questions and a lot else!!

So, we decided to go ahead with the quiz in memory of Keith. All the questions were Keith's, except the picture round. I had found a notebook full of questions written by Keith since the last one on November 2019.

120 folk sat down and I hope enjoyed the quiz, we raised nearly £850 and a third was donated to the RNIB, in memory of Keith, as agreed with his family.

I felt that this was also the perfect time for me to take a back seat after 29 quizzes that started in 2005 and have raised nearly £30k shared between the Hall Trustees and Eaton Bray Tennis Club. My recent, mild heart attack also had a bearing on my decision! At this point I must thank all those who have helped over the years, the fundraising group for the Village Hall plus all the helpers on the day, who help set up, prepare the food and clear up at the end. I may be the face, but without these people it just wouldn't happen.

But now for the new era. Robert Taylor who has been helping on the fundraising committee for many years is taking on the responsibility of organising the next quiz on **Saturday May 7th**. Robert knows all about organising them and I have promised to see him through his first one. So I hope all those who have been coming to the quizzes will support him and his team.

Perhaps, just as importantly, he needs one or two volunteers to help him. As I've said, it takes a team to put on a quiz or even more for a Beer Festival!! So, if you can help Robert and his team, that would be wonderful! It's very satisfying being part of the team and delivering fun events for everyone.

If you want to help and it's really worthwhile and fun and/or you want to provisionally book a table just give Robert a call or email.

Robert Taylor tel. 07497 514919 email: [mintyman1958@gmail.com](mailto:mintyman1958@gmail.com)

With many thanks for your support and as I've often said, we are volunteers and doing this is what we want to do.

See you at the next quiz

☞ Ross

**The Phrase**  
**“hindsight is 2020”**  
**may forever have**  
**new meaning.**

## St Mary's 100 Club

The lucky prize-winners are:

**November 2021**

1st prize – Jennifer Hewett

2nd prize – Teresa Ledger

3rd prize – Rachel Mc Veigh

**December 2021**

1st prize – Geoffrey Wheeler

2nd prize – Margaret Roberts

3rd prize – Abigail Newbiggin





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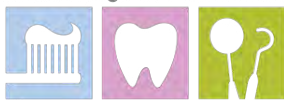
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- R.R



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## Edlesborough Dental Practice

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Details of our Club regarding what's on offer and membership rates are available on our club website ([ebtbc.org.uk](http://ebtbc.org.uk))

We offer a coaching programme for all ages and abilities and you don't even need a racket for these sessions to get you started or back into the game.

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**MONDAY 5:00pm - 6:00pm**

Under 16 Improvers (ages 11-16 years old)

**MONDAY 6:00pm - 7:00pm**

Under 18 Advanced (ages 16-18 years old)

**WEDNESDAY 5:00pm - 6:00pm**

Mini Green (ages 9-10 years old)

**WEDNESDAY 5:00pm - 6:00pm**

Under 14 Beginners (ages 11-14 years old)

These sessions CAN BE BOOKED online VIA  
OUR WEBSITE [www.ebtbc.org.uk](http://www.ebtbc.org.uk)

## ADULT COACHING

**MONDAY 7:00pm - 8:00pm**

Get Back Into Tennis

These sessions CAN BE BOOKED online VIA  
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# EATON BRAY PARISH COUNCIL

## EATON BRAY PARISH COUNCIL FOCUS REPORT

*A full copy of the minutes for Eaton Bray Parish Council can be found on our website: [www.ebpc.co.uk](http://www.ebpc.co.uk). A hard copy of the minutes can also be viewed on the Parish Council's notice board at The Coffee Tavern.*

### **FixMyStreet**

Please go to CBC's on-line reporting system for reporting road/street issues. You can report and track highways and environment problems online, via the FixMyStreet app: <https://fixmystreet.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/>

### **Village Flooding**

If you experience flooding and need help, the Parish Council has created a guide advising who to contact depending on the type of flooding: <https://www.ebpc.co.uk/flooding-support/>

### **FINAL REMINDER: Allotment Tenancy Renewals 2021-2022**

Allotment tenancy renewals are now due, payments to be made via one of the following two options:

1. Cash or cheque, posted to the parish office (cheques made payable to Eaton Bray Parish Council)
2. Bank transfer (if this is your chosen method, please email the Parish Clerk for details)

Should you wish to no longer have your allotment, please contact the Parish Clerk.

## **EATON BRAY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 1 NOVEMBER 2021, from 7:30pm**

*(Minutes ratified at PC Meeting, 10/01/2022)*

### **Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC)**

Cllr Philip Spicer - email: [Philip.Spicer@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Philip.Spicer@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)

CBC Website: [www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)

CBC Email: [customers@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:customers@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)

CBC Customer Services: 0300 300 8301

### **Planning Applications – Oct/Nov 2021**

A copy of the Parish Council's response to planning applications can be seen on the Parish Council website or obtained by applying to the Parish Clerk.

### **Monthly Payments, October 2021**

A copy of the Parish Council monthly payments can be seen on the Parish Council website or obtained by applying to the Parish Clerk.

### **Recreation Grounds**

- School Lane – play equipment: Due to supply issues, there has been a delay on the installation of the play equipment, with the planning date being mid-November.
- Lighting: The Parish Council are looking into the possibility of installing some low-level lighting and are in contact with CBC regarding suitable options/requirements.

### **Highways**

- Speedwatch: If you would like to get involved in trying to slow down traffic in the

village or are concerned about road safety, please contact the Parish Clerk.

- The parish SIDs (Speed Indicating Devices): The Parish Council have received three quotations and are looking at the suppliers literature/contracts before making a final decision.

### **Watercourse/Mill End Close**

- Benches: proposed bench costs/designs were put to the Parish Council and agreed to the purchase of two benches to be installed at Mill End Close.
- Litter Bin: CBC have agreed to fit a new litter bin in Mill End Close, at no cost to the parish, which will be added to their waste collection round.

### **Parish Trees**

- St. Mary's Church: The Parish Council are going out for quotes for the cutting back/removal of an Ash tree in the Churchyard which has been assessed and is suffering from Ash die back.
- Willow Tree (located at Eaton Park/High Street junction): Further to communication with CBC, CBC have now confirmed that they will take on the maintenance of this piece of land/trees.

## **EXTRA-ORDINARY MEETING OF EATON BRAY PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 6 DECEMBER 2021, from 7:30pm**

*(Minutes ratified at PC Meeting, 10/01/2022)*

### **Co-option of Parish Councillor**

The Parish Council were pleased to co-opt and welcome Cllr Jo O'Donohoe onto Eaton Bray Parish Council.

### **Planning Applications – Nov/Dec 2021**

A copy of the Parish Council's response to planning applications can be seen on the Parish Council website or obtained by applying to the Parish Clerk.

### **Monthly Payments, November 2021**

A copy of the Parish Council monthly payments can be seen on the Parish Council website or obtained by applying to the Parish Clerk

### **Next Meeting (The Coffee Tavern, Eaton Bray)**

Details can be obtained from the EBPC website, [www.ebpc.co.uk](http://www.ebpc.co.uk)

- Parish Council Meeting, Monday 7 February 2022 from 7:30pm
- Parish Council Meeting, Monday 7 March 2022 from 7:30pm

### **Parish Council Website**

To keep up to date with what is happening in your parish, you can get all Parish Council news and updates from the Parish Council website. The website has all Parish Council meeting agendas, minutes, financial documents and contact information as well as official sponsored events/initiatives and is the official council communications website. Visit it here: [www.ebpc.co.uk](http://www.ebpc.co.uk)



**Heidi Head, Parish Clerk**

Email: [clerk@ebpc.co.uk](mailto:clerk@ebpc.co.uk) – Telephone/Text: 07931 479663 – Website: [www.ebpc.co.uk](http://www.ebpc.co.uk)

Parish Office: 17 Hammond Street, Aston Clinton, HP22 0AJ

Office Hours: Tuesday/Thursday/Friday 09:30-13:30hrs

Follow Eaton Bray Parish Council on Facebook and Twitter

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







# Edlesborough Parish Council News

## Including Edlesborough, Dagnall and Northall

### Thank You's

Once again volunteers in the Parish were busy making the villages festive for Christmas. EPC would like to thank the following people and businesses:

- Christmas Trees R Us (Cow Lane) for donating two wonderful trees.
- Cllr Chris Nevard, Sharon & Bob Stilliard for hanging the lights on Edlesborough Memorial Hall and Mick Yates for ensuring the power supply was set up and working.
- Bas Westrope, Kai Brown & Penny Patakay for hanging the wreaths along the High Street.
- NMJ Service Centre, Marbled Meats, Freed Veneers, N & G Autos, Curryhills, Anthony Knight Recruitment, Westrope Butchery and residents of Summerleys for sponsoring the wreaths.
- Christine & Mick Yates, Sharon & Bob Stilliard, for decorating the Christmas trees.
- Edlesborough Methodist Chapel for providing the power for the Cow Lane tree lights.
- Kevin & Lorna Cabbage for hanging the Christmas lights in Northall Village Hall and on the Northall Christmas Tree and village sign.
- Jane & Chris Woodcock for providing the power for the Northall Christmas tree and village sign lights.
- With thanks to the Cllr Trish Owen, Izzy Lee, Stevie Copeland, Sophie Way & Ruth Ablett for decorating the tree and DVH.

### EdleFest 2022

The EdleFest dates for 2022 have been confirmed as 10th and 11th June. More information and tickets are available via the EdleFest website <https://edlefest.site123.me/>

### Buckinghamshire Councillors

Each month at least one of the following Buckinghamshire Councillors Chris Poll,

Peter Brazier and Derek Town attend the Edlesborough Parish Council meetings. They provide a detailed Buckinghamshire Council report to the EPC, a copy of which can be found on EPC's website along with the Council meeting minutes. Additionally they support, help and advise EPC Councillors with various Parish matters.

### Pebblemoor Car Park

#### Criminal Activity (Including Low Level Drug Dealing)

There has recently been an increase in the low level criminal activity in the Pebblemoor car park. This includes reports of young drivers' wheel spinning, suspected drug dealing and significant evidence of the car park being used for nitrous oxide inhalation.

**Edlesborough Parish Council strongly encourages parishioners to report any criminal activity directly to Thames Valley Police via 101 or their website. If you witness criminal activity taking place this can be reported by dialling 999.**

EPC thanks all the parishioners who regularly pick up the litter at this location.

### Edlesborough Green

The rocker elephant has been removed from the play area for assessment and hopefully repair.

Edlesborough Green continues to be widely used by parishioners for dog walks, exercise, and



carefully coordinated sports activities.

EPC reminds all parishioners to:

- **Keep dogs under control. If your dog does not have excellent recall it must be kept on lead** to ensure that it does not spoil the enjoyment of Edlesborough Green for other users.
- Use the litter bins provided or preferably take all rubbish and recycling home.
- Clean up after your dog!

### **EPC Precept Increase for 2022/23**

At the January Council meeting Councillors agreed the draft budget for 2022/23

Over the past few years the Council has allocated money to the Special Projects fund for various projects; predominantly the New Pavilion on Edlesborough Green. Now that this is complete the special Project Funds have been earmarked for other projects in the Parish. With this in mind the Council agreed to submit a precept request of £154,740 to Buckinghamshire Council. This means the Parish Council's element of Band D rate will increase from £9 per month to £9.45.

### **Salt Bins**

The responsibility for filling these bins is with Transport for Buckinghamshire.

When supplies are running low a refill request should be submitted via their website <https://www.fixmystreet.buckscc.gov.uk/> It is more appropriate if a parishioner living close to the salt bin makes the request but in practice anyone can make the request.



### **EDaN Community Car Share Scheme**

This is a group of local volunteers who support parishioners with journeys to hospital etc. The group which has been inactive due to Covid 19 has now resumed.

The group is in need of more volunteer drivers. Any parishioner interested in using the service or volunteering should contact the co-ordinator Peter Williams via email at

[peterw500@aol.com](mailto:peterw500@aol.com) or on 01442 842506.

### **EDaN Beautification Team**

The EDaN Beautification Team have now planted three Prunus 'Accolade' trees on Edlesborough Green as part of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebration 'Green Canopy' initiative.

More information about the "The Queen's Green Canopy: Plant a Tree for the Jubilee" can be found at:

[www.woodlandtrust.org.uk](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk)

The EDaN Beautification Team continue to work hard tending to the various planters in the villages of Edlesborough, Dagnall and Northall which are all looking lovely.

Do you enjoy gardening and have some time to spare?

The EDaN Beautification Team is running low on volunteers for the tidying and watering of these planters. Anyone interested in getting involved or helping out with the watering should contact Mrs Christine Yates on 01525 220739 or [chris@brooklyns.org.uk](mailto:chris@brooklyns.org.uk)

### **Streetlights**

Please report failed streetlights in Edlesborough, Dagnall and Northall to the Clerk for repair.

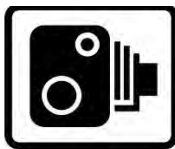
When making a report please ensure you provide the Clerk with the information displayed on the lamp post.



### **Speedwatch & EDaN Traffic Management Traffic Calming**

Buckinghamshire Council (BC) have for a long time refused to consider implementing 20mph speed limits. Buckinghamshire Cllr Peter Cooper has recently campaigned and with support from many Parish Councils successfully managed to change Buckinghamshire Council's policy on the introduction of 20mph zones.

At BC's meeting on 24th November 21 the



council agreed that Town and Parish Councils' sponsored 20mph schemes could now gain support from Buckinghamshire

Council. This gives councils the opportunity to improve the social environment of residential areas with lower speeds, safer pedestrian areas, lower pollution levels and enhanced possibilities for walking, cycling and enjoying your streets.

There will be criteria that must be followed for a scheme to be considered. These are likely to include:

- The scheme location should be in a residential area where the existing traffic constraints such as road width and layout, existing bollards, islands, parking or traffic volumes already restrict existing average traffic speeds to 24mph or less. It is hoped that in these circumstances sign only 20mph limits or zones can be installed at reasonable cost. Non-compliant schemes may need to include physical traffic calming, speed humps, pinch points etc. to help achieve the 24mph target.
- The scheme should be financed locally. Parish and Town Councils will be able to raise finance using a combination of their own reserves, S106 agreements from local development or by making an application for Community Board transport funds.
- It is clear that Thames Valley Police are currently unwilling to enforce speed limits, particularly 20mph speed limits.

Footage of the meeting can be viewed at [https://buckinghamshire.public-i.tv/core/portal/webcast\\_interactive/6179899](https://buckinghamshire.public-i.tv/core/portal/webcast_interactive/6179899) (the discussion commences at approximately 3hrs 14minutes into the meeting)

EPC is now waiting for confirmation of the application process so that it can consider if

and where to apply for 20mph zones.

Prior to the meeting Cllr Harpley proposed that EPC applies for a 20pmh zone on South End Lane, Northall near the children's play area and village hall once the application process has been confirmed and opened to Parish Councils.

Thames Valley Police have relaunched and restarted their Community Speedwatch – more information can be found at [Restart and relaunch for Community Speedwatch in 2021 · Thames Valley Police & Crime Commissioner \(thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk\)](https://www.thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk)

Any parishioner interested in becoming involved with the EDaN Community Speedwatch for Edlesborough Parish should contact Cllr Alan Williams via email at [alan.williams@edlesborough-pc.gov.uk](mailto:alan.williams@edlesborough-pc.gov.uk) or on 07828 398371

### Council Meetings

The next Edlesborough Parish Council Meetings will take place on:

- Thursday 16th February 2022 – in Edlesborough Memorial Hall
- Thursday 17th March 2022 – in Edlesborough Memorial Hall

The meetings will commence at 7:30pm.

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. Council requests that where possible questions, issues and suggestions are submitted in writing to the Clerk by the Tuesday preceding the meeting.

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

All the hyperlinks in the information above can be accessed through the Edlesborough Parish website.

### Edlesborough Parish Council Contact Information:

Clerk: Miss Penny Pataky *Office hours Mon – Fri 9am – 12pm (Excl. Wed)*

Email: [clerk@edlesborough-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@edlesborough-pc.gov.uk) 01525 229358 Website: [www.edlesborough-pc.gov.uk](http://www.edlesborough-pc.gov.uk)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/EDANParishCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/EDANParishCouncil)



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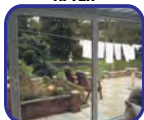
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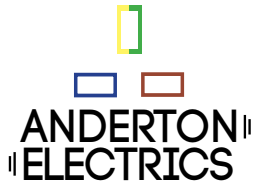
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# TAKE A BOOK LEAVE A BOOK

Share the joy of reading

## Free Book Sharing Scheme

We are excited to announce that we are launching our book swap scheme in March this year. The PCC of St Mary's Church, Eaton Bray have allowed us to use the church as a venue for this project, and, with the backing of Eaton Bray Good Neighbours we will be installing a bookcase in the Church. The launch will be on Saturday 5th March 2022 from 10.00 – 12.00 to coincide with the Church Coffee Morning.

The idea is to have bookshelves located in a central place in the community where anyone can take a book if they like and leave a book if they feel that others may like to read it. We will also have a comments book on the bookcase, where people can leave feedback on the books they have read and constructive ideas for enhancing the scheme. This service is free and we hope that people will use it and promote the sharing of books in the community.

The Book Swap will be stewarded and, to begin with will take place once a month to coincide with the Church coffee mornings.

We are hoping that if the book sharing scheme takes off in the community, it might expand into a social occasion on a regular weekly basis where people could discuss books over a cup of tea or coffee.

In the future we could expand the scheme further to include story times for children in the school holidays.

We would be interested to hear from anyone who can contribute their ideas and/or their time to this project.

For more information please contact:

Chris Sanders

Email: [chris.sanders45@gmail.com](mailto:chris.sanders45@gmail.com)

Jenifer MacKenzie

Email: [jenimackenzie@hotmail.com](mailto:jenimackenzie@hotmail.com)



## Edlesborough Cricket Club

The cricket season will be back at the end of April, and Edlesborough CC will be especially keen to get going from the superb new pavilion on the Green with its excellent viewing and social facilities.

Pre-season nets will begin in March, so if you fancy getting into it call Ceri Davies on 01525 221472 for more details.

We will also be running All Stars and Dynamos programmes for youngsters below the age of 11 from the end of May. To find out what they are about, Google "All Stars Cricket" or "Dynamos Cricket". All Stars has been great fun in previous years, and we are raring to go again.



# FAIRTRADE LEIGHTON LINSLADE

**Fairtrade Fortnight 21st February – 6th March 2022**

Climate concern is for everyone. Fairtrade farmers, and the communities they support, depend on the climate for their livelihoods but the climate emergency caused by centuries of exploitation of people and planet means those livelihoods are under serious and immediate threat. During Fairtrade Fortnight, two weeks each year at the end of February and start of March, thousands of individuals, companies and groups across the UK come together to share the stories of the people who grow our food and drinks. Fairtrade Fortnight 2022 will once again highlight the challenges farmers face due to the climate crisis. For COP26, Fairtrade farmers and workers came together to demand that politicians in the wealthiest nations, those most responsible for the climate crisis, start to take that responsibility seriously. The message is simple: Fairtrade farmers and workers are already pioneering solutions and politicians and business leaders need to invest in their expertise, and follow their lead in committing to a low-carbon future.

Amongst others, we were pleased to welcome Ghanaian cocoa farmers Bismark Kpabitey (left) and Fairtrade Africa Director, Kate Nkatha (right) pictured enjoying a Fairtrade coffee in Glasgow, as they prepare to take the Be Fair With Your Climate Promise message to COP26



Locally, following the success of our Fabulous Fairtrade Treasure Hunt in 2014 Fairtrade Leighton Linslade are planning to run another over Fairtrade Fortnight 21st February – 6th March 2022. The focus will be on a specific Fairtrade product (we're not sharing any clues yet!) and the Treasure hunt will be focussed in the Town Centre. Keep your eyes on our website and social media for news of this as we confirm our plans.

## Edlesborough W.I.

**theWI**  
INSPIRING WOMEN

Our first meeting of 2022 was on January 11th and we started splendidly with a talk on The Life and Times of Agatha Christie given by Anne Thomas.

Anne evidently has a passion for her topic. You couldn't hear a pin drop as she regaled us with fascinating facts about this prolific author of approximately 55 books, many featuring the famous Miss Marple and Hercule Poirot. She also wrote many plays including The Mousetrap, which ran continuously in London's West End from 1952 – 2020. Only discontinued during the pandemic! It also transpired during Anne's talk that the reason many of Agatha Christie's plots featured murder by poisoning was because of a lifelong interest in poisons sparked through her WW1 voluntary work in a hospital dispensary.

The evening concluded with coffee and biscuits and the first opportunity for many members to catch up with each other since our December meeting and Christmas Party.

The next WI Meeting is on February 8th when the talk is on Ladies of the Grand Tour – intrepid wives, widows and mistresses. Presented by Jean Yates.

Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month at the Memorial Hall at 7.30 pm. New ladies are always welcome.

✉ Caroline Colleran

# Eaton Bray Methodist Church



Our 1st Sunday in Advent was a local arrangement service led by the Bible Study Group. After lighting of the candle, the congregation joined in prayers and hymns and a reflection celebrating the joyful expectation of this special time of the year, the particular theme being that of hope warmth and openness to the Holy Spirit's guidance. The 2nd Advent Sunday brought

Colin Quine to our pulpit – a very welcome return. His challenging sermon reminded us that, although we live in a very different world to first century Christians, the difficulties and distractions are still the same; we too are surrounded by greed and untruth, we too have become deaf to the injustices. We need to question, to be alert and reach out to those in need. On the 3rd Advent Sunday our Minister generously stepped in to replace the scheduled preacher who suddenly had to self-isolate because of Covid. His sermon continued the theme of questioning and challenging and he reminded us that Christians are people who care. On the final Advent Sunday we were blessed with a visit by Roger Owers. His sermon focused on the light that Christ's birth brought to a darkened world and the promise that all his followers would never walk in darkness. Sadly, as Christmas approached and the Omicron infections rocketed, we once again reluctantly decided to close the church and meet on Zoom. Our short Christmas service, led by our Minister, Nigel, and his wife Elisabeth, was a joyful one, bringing people together from the safety and warmth of their own homes. We were reminded that Christmas is a time of present-giving and the greatest of all is God's gift of his son to mankind.

During Advent we participated in the 'Churches Together' Village Advent Trail which guided villagers and visitors with colourful and lively pictures displayed in shop and house windows. We are grateful to Helen Joels and all the leaders of the local churches for their great commitment to this project.

## A Warm Invitation

**We hope that we will it won't be too long before we can meet in church again. Whatever the venue, you would be very welcome to join us. To confirm the situation you can ring our Minister, Rev Nigel Bibbings, on 01525-872026**



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# New Year Resolutions

**After the Christmas festivities we can all feel a little stressed – use the New Year to take stock of your health and make some positive changes for your mind and body.**



Stress can leave us feeling tense, causing tight muscles in our back and neck but by making some simple changes, we can improve our stress levels and general health. Here are a few

tips to increase activity and reduce stress:

- Feel calmer by relaxing your breathing - take a few deep breaths.
- Go for a walk outside and get some fresh air.
- If you are working at a desk, take regular, short breaks and stretch.
- Take the stairs instead of the lift and park at the opposite end of the car park.
- Don't skip meals and do drink water regularly.

Physiotherapists recommend 150 minutes of moderate to vigorous exercise each week, raising your heart rate, but not being so short of breath that you can't talk. It's OK to be active in 10-minute bouts. Aiming to get fit and lose weight? We all have good intentions but the difficulty is in sustaining our efforts. The most

important factor to consider is to choose physical activity that you enjoy, exercise should not be seen as a chore but an uplifting experience. We are fortunate to live in an area full of exercise opportunities with local leisure centres, golf clubs and beautiful woodland such as Ashridge and Rushmere, to "forest bathe" (using all of your senses to soak up the atmosphere of the forest) or Nordic walk.

Set yourself realistic exercise goals and keep track with a mobile phone app. Get some family members or friends together to turn it into a social experience or join a local club – there are many to choose from: walking groups, running, rugby, football and tennis clubs, to name a few.

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*Do you live in the Orchards, Wallace Drive, Eaton Park or Yew Tree Close? Do you drive in your road at 40 to 50 miles an hour? Have you thought that roads like Moor End and the High Street are residential, with houses and families on both sides?*

*I am aware that most of the "speedsters" are perhaps not local and will not read this, BUT if you are guilty, please give consideration to people doing what you do in relative peace on your road, e.g. crossing the road to talk to friends, stopping - starting or leaving your driveway etc etc on 2 wheels, on foot or on four wheels.*

*Name supplied*



## What's the Point of Wasps?

You're having a few drinks in the garden with your friends, or a family BBQ, when a load of pesky wasps arrive to spoil the party. You haven't seen them all summer and then suddenly they're all over the place, annoying everybody, causing panic and helicopter hands. Sound familiar?

August is the time of year when people start to ask 'what's the point of wasps?' The answer may surprise you.

Did you know that there are approximately 9,000 species of wasp here in the UK? These include the parasitic wasps, some of which are so diminutive they are like pin heads. Of the 250 larger wasps which have a stinger, the majority are solitary and cause no upset to humans.

However, when we talk about wasps, we're almost certainly referring to our nation's nemesis, the Common wasp (*Vespula vulgaris*). To understand why these wasps become really annoying this time of year, you first need to understand their life cycle. Common wasps live socially like bees and are pollinators like bees but, unlike honey bees, they haven't evolved a way of storing food to allow the colony to survive the winter. In fact the only survivors are the young, fertilised queens who hibernate over winter. They emerge in the spring to build little walnut sized nests where they lay around 20 eggs.

The queen feeds the resulting larvae until around May, when they mature and become workers. Then she focuses on more egg-laying and the workers get on with feeding them, enlarging the nest as they go along. By this time of year the nest has grown to around 40cm in diameter, often larger, and that nest can contain up to 10,000 wasps! Then, in late August and September, a dramatic change takes place. The queen quits her egg laying (save a few that will go on to be future queens and males to fertilise them) and no longer releases the pheromone that causes the workers to work.

Basically these workers are made redundant and are left jobless and disorientated. And the problem for us is that, although adult wasps are insect predators, that meat is to feed the larvae not themselves. In their adult state wasps are not able to digest solid food and need sugary liquid to survive. Now, with fewer larvae to feed, they become uncontrollably and insatiably hungry.

Wasps love easy food such as over ripe fruit and your fizzy drinks. Towards the end of their brief lives, their hunger drives them to search for easy sugar at exactly the time when we are more likely to be using our gardens and outdoor spaces for eating sweet things. The timing couldn't be better for them or worse for us.

So why are those who panic and try to swat them away more likely to be stung than those who remain calm?

Well the problem is that these redundant workers have their own pheromone, which helps protect the nest from attack earlier in the year, and that's essentially a chemical rallying cry to other workers that the nest is under attack.

So when you swat that annoying wasp and it feels under attack, that rallying cry will go out. Suddenly it all kicks off, and loads more wasps will start arriving in aggressive 'red-mist' mode, fired up and ready to defend their nest. This is why the best advice is

to stay calm.

Think of it this way, from May that wasp has been working its socks off helping to keep things nice on planet earth. Now it's going to die. So why not give it a break, save your swats, put a bowl of sugary drink somewhere out of your way, and let it go out on a nice sugar rush. At the very least don't kill it.

What's the point of wasps? Without them it's unlikely human life would survive because, in the absence of their role as insect predators, our planet would be overrun by catastrophic numbers of much more damaging insects such as aphids, ants and caterpillars that would utterly decimate the crops that we depend upon.

# February's Trick

The little buds on the trees awakened,  
And shook their drowsy heads,  
The little buds pulled the covers down,  
And climbed out from their beds.

A soft breeze told them winter had gone  
Many long miles away,  
And the little buds were eager to see  
Their first bright springtime day.

But alas! In half an hour there came  
A wind so bitter cold!  
The little buds were terrified  
For they were just one day old!

They didn't know what in the world to do!  
Their little noses were red.  
Each bud with a cry turned swiftly back,  
And hopped into its bed.

You see it was not spring at all!  
February was there,  
And sometimes February slyly  
Lays a foxy snare.

He had sent this lovely springtime breeze  
To hang around and sing,  
And make the buds think that it was  
The first day of spring.

Then when the buds had all come out,  
He nipped each little nose,  
And sent the little buds back to bed,  
Each one red as a rose!

by Lenore Hetrick





The copies of the Minutes of the very first meetings of Eaton Bray WI came from Bedford County Archives and our thanks go to Ruth Gill from Bedford WI office for her research

*Report of First Meeting held on Monday 19th October 1921*

*A General Meeting was held in the National Schools with the view to forming a branch of the Women's Institute in the Village with the Vicar Rev. Parker in the Chair.*

*Miss Foster, the County Secretary addressed the Meeting and explained the aims of the movement and its benefits to the Community.*

*Miss Fenwick, President of the Tilsworth and Stranbridge Institute and Mrs Bennett gave an account of the successful running of their own branch.*

*Mrs Bennet also spoke about various handcrafts taught to members and showed specimens.*

*In the motion of Mrs Carter, seconded by Mrs Getcliffe. It was decided that an Institute be started in Eaton Bray.*

*The following Committee members were nominated.*

*Mrs Andrews, Mrs B Bunker, Mrs Carter, Mrs E Gray, Mrs Getcliffe, Mrs Munn, Miss Shardlow, Miss Turney, Miss Thorne, Mrs Wallace*

*The following officers were elected*

*President Mrs Wallace, Vice President Mrs Carter  
Secretary Miss Thorne, Treasurer Mrs Gray*



*Monday 14th November 1921*

*The Second Open Meeting of the Eaton Bray Womens Institute was held in the National Schools at 6.30 p..m.*

*The Chair was taken by the Vice President – Mrs Carter.*

*Mrs Benning, President of the Dunstable Institute, addressed the meeting and explained the wide scope of Institute work and its numerous educational and social activities*

*Light refreshments were served, followed by a sketch entitle “One Betty” in which the following took part*

*Mrs Gray, Mrs Getcliffe, Miss Maddock, Miss Shardlow, Miss Turner and Miss Wallace.*

*It was voted by a large majority that the first Monday in each month be the day fixed for future monthly meetings at 6.30 p.m. The enrolment of 58 members brought to a close a pleasant and very enthusiastic meeting.  
Signed B. Thorne and A. Wallace*

Did your Mum, Aunt or family member belong to the Eaton Bray WI or have any photos? It would be lovely to hear from you – please contact Margaret Jones 220991



# EATON BRAY - IN FABRICS

By Mary Mayne

## THE EATON BRAY VILLAGE QUILT - 1985 - 1986

This all started when the Quilters Guild of The British Isles asked its members to make quilts, have them displayed in the guilds various areas around the country, then a few were selected to go into an exhibition to be held at the Royal Institute of British Architects. This was in 1984 -85.

I had already started to take photographs around the village of buildings I might want to put into a village quilt so decided this would be my effort for the Guilds request.

The photographs were enlarged to the sizes I needed and from these I made tracings and patterns. I worked one panel at a time, making sure that each piece in the design was as accurate as possible, not always easy if the piece is very small!

I gradually worked my way through the variety of pictures, chose the border fabric of carnation style flowers to represent the Wallace Carnations (always worn by Royalty), plus burgundy fabric for the sashings around each picture. Once the panels and borders were sewn in place I then hand quilted the leaf design in the sashing areas and bound the quilt edges. This doesn't sound much, but there were times when I thought it would never be finished!

The quilt was hung with quite a few quilts from other Guild members in the Guilds Region 7 - Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Northamptonshire and Hertfordshire. A small team from the Guild Committee then selected quilts from this exhibition to go





to London, Eaton Bray Village Quilt was one of a very few selected. Needless to say, I was thrilled! It hung in the RSBA for 2 months and was very much admired.

THE BLOCKS FROM TOP TO BOTTOM ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- The Village Hall
- St Marys Church
- Moor End Farm
- The Sports Club
- Poplar Farm
- Coffee Tavern
- Bower Lane Cottages



- Northal Road Cottages
  - Thornes Farm (from the school playground)
  - Post Office
  - Eaton Bray School (note the swimming pool in the playground)
  - The Chequers Pub
  - The White Horse
  - 10 Medley Close!
- Al the blocks are machine appliued and the quilt is hand quilted. You may be surprised at how much has changed since this quilt was made, some of you won't recall many of the things in the quilt, the old

school, the out buildings at Thornes Farm, the Post office as it was in 1980s.

I am so pleased that this quilt was made and displayed in such a prestigious building, it also won an award at The National Patchwork Championships in 1986 and was featured in the television programme Pieced Pictures, again in the 1980s.

This quilt needs to stay in the village and if anyone feels they can give it a home and assure me it will stay, then do get in touch.



# Nigel's Thoughts



'Attitude is everything', as someone once said. Surely it must be true that the spirit with which we embrace life is going to make a difference to how we live out our days, interpret the world around us, and relate to others.

Maybe, like me, you have allowed yourself to become dispirited by so much that happening in our world. Distress and a feeling of hopelessness can certainly be real for us as we scroll through the headlines.

There is tension and upheaval between and within nations, the harm being done through environmental degradation, the loss of species and climate change, the unjust and discriminatory regimes in many places, and all that before we even think of the terrible effects of health problems and the pandemic.

We will soon be entering the period of time that the church calls 'Lent'. It is a time for growing as individuals and together in the life of our community, as we seek to learn how best to orientate our lives.

We often need to start again. 'Attitude is everything'.

I am finding the following extract, from Athenagoras, Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople from 1948-1972, really helpful and maybe you will too....

"I have waged this war against myself for many years.

It was terrible,

But now I am disarmed.

I am no longer frightened of anything

because love banishes fear.

I am disarmed of the need to be right

and to justify myself by disqualifying others.

I am no longer on the defensive,

holding onto my riches.

I just want to welcome and to share.

I don't hold onto my ideas and projects.

If someone shows me something better –

no, I shouldn't say better but good –

I accept them without regrets.

I no longer seek to compare.

What is good, true and real is always for me the best.

That is why I have no fear.

When we are disarmed and dis-possessed of self,

when we open our hearts to the God-Man

who makes all things new

then he takes away past hurts

and reveals a new time

where everything is possible".

May you be filled with God's peace as you journey this Lent.

Every blessing,

✍️Nigel

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# One, Zoo, Three...

## Zookeepers complete the annual stocktake at Whipsnade Zoo

Whipsnade Zoo's keepers have begun the mammoth task of counting every animal for their annual stocktake.

Home to more than 9,500 animals, zookeepers at the UK's largest Zoo gathered their clipboards and calculators, to take stock of each invertebrate, bird, fish, mammal, reptile and amphibian.

Keepers have to count every single animal in the Zoo; from three, boisterous, Amur tiger brothers, to hundreds of fragile butterflies. The Zoo's group (also

known as a 'conspiracy') of ring-tailed lemurs were curious about the activity, while its 'waddle' of penguins happily got in line to be counted in exchange for their favourite fishy treats.

2021 saw the conservation Zoo celebrate the birth of rhinoceros calf Nandi, who was counted alongside her "crash" of Southern white rhinos. Several, recently-hatched, baby chameleons, had to be added to the Zoo's official records, as well as hundreds of Critically Endangered and Extinct-in-the-Wild freshwater fish, bred at the Zoo's Aquarium and freshwater conservation breeding centre.

ZSL Whipsnade Zoo's animal manager, Matthew Webb said: "January marked the start of the annual stocktake, where we make sure every animal is recorded as part of our official zoo license requirements.

"We'll also share the information with other zoos around the world, as the numbers are used to plan the conservation breeding programmes for endangered species.

"Some species are easy to count, but others can be tricky: our Aquarium keepers sometimes take still images of the tanks so they don't count the same fish twice, while our almost 200 deer have to be counted with a lot of stealth and a lot of patience!"



The information is shared with other zoos around the world via a database called ZIMS (Zoological Information Management System), where it's used to help manage the worldwide conservation breeding programmes for endangered animals.

Families can spot the Zoo's 9500 animals for themselves by booking a wintery wildlife adventure at [zsl.org](http://zsl.org)

# Northall Baptist Church

200 years and still going

*A little Church with strong local links*



**Derrick Bonfield  
1924 – 2021:**

**Was he the oldest man/oldest person in Northall?**

I wrote in the November 2018 about Derrick who was a long term resident of Northall, along with his wife Dill who died in 2004. Dill had attended Northall Baptist Church for many years and during this time continued to encourage Derrick who was always helpful in giving her a lift to Church and their three children to Sunday School. Although it took some time for him to fully commit himself, Dill was delighted to see the rewards of her gentle encouragement when Derrick started actually attending with her and was later baptised on 8th October 2000 at age 75. Dill was assured that they would meet again in their Heavenly home.

From then, Derrick has faithfully attended the services at Northall Baptist Church and was really keen to return to our in-Church services as soon as possible after Lockdown. However, Derrick had mastered joining our Zoom services on the telephone in the intervening 18 months, managing to unmute himself to read the scripture occasionally. The chat before and after the Zoom services helped us all to remain united as a church family. Derrick had a beautiful reading and singing voice which rang out with all the familiar hymns. We will really miss him. Derrick was taken to be with the Lord on 22nd December after a couple of weeks in the L&D. He was aged 97 and was last in Church a couple of days after his 97th birthday.

Derrick loved going to Northall Baptist Church. He came on his electric mobility scooter and took some secateurs in his basket to clip the thorns from the hedge that often impeded his way along the main road. And solid tyres had also to be fitted to combat the frequent flat tyres caused by these thorns. Nothing deterred him. Rain or shine His favourite passage in the Bible was Psalm 23:

The Lord is my shepherd,  
I will not want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures,  
He leads me beside quiet waters,  
He restores my soul.

He guides me in paths of righteousness for  
his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the valley of  
death,

I will fear no evil, for you are with me.

Of this Derrick was confident. This passage was read at his Funeral Service on 17th January 2022 in St. Mary's Church, Eaton Bray, borrowed for the occasion for its size and convenience for parking.



*Derrick reading in  
Northall church*

Our Sunday services, are now back in Church 11 am. Feel free to join us for our worship and song. You will get a warm welcome. For those unable to attend in person we also stream our services.

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/>

✉ Ruth Cox Tel: 07791 425625

## Down the Lane

It's a year since I wrote my first article for Focus. I think that gardening has kept me sane: there's always something to look forward to in the garden. As I write this in January, so many bulbs are already growing, and the clumps expanding, many surprising me because I didn't remember planting some of them or what they are! In the last few years bulbs like snowdrops and hyacinths have definitely started growing earlier – I don't remember them appearing before the New Year 20 years ago. I have a small clump of primroses which started flowering in November. Are they confusing the days shortening with the days lengthening because our autumns are milder?

One of my jobs at present, is cutting off all the old leaves of the hellebores (commonly known as Christmas roses or Lenten roses) so that the flowers can be seen as they open and new leaves get some light. These days hellebores come in a wide range of colours and forms. They like shade and tolerate dry conditions as well as being evergreen. The one in the photo has more upright flowers than some varieties. If you grow two or more of different colours and they cross fertilise the seedlings can produce different shades – design your own!



This photo shows a rampant ornamental vine, which has grown over a weeping pear tree. Its autumn colours lasted for several weeks. I shall have to cut the vine out of the tree because it will get too heavy but it will grow back again during the summer. Really it is too vigorous for the wooden pergola it grows over but this year I will keep it under control while still allowing it over the tree.

When I can't get outside, I enjoy looking through seed catalogues and thinking about what to grow next. I love the

Chilterns catalogue as it is full of witty cartoons and amusing descriptions of plants as well as words of caution. I have learnt to plant only as many seeds of a variety as I can use for the flower beds or as many vegetables as we can sensibly eat and enjoy. I'm getting better at succession sowing for lettuce and radishes. I planted garlic and echalion shallots in November and they are growing well. I like echalion shallots as they have a lovely flavour, and are easy to peel as they are large.

Everything seems to have continued growing since the autumn, grass that needs cutting, new growth on shrubs, herbaceous plants that have kept going; not to mention the weeds!

✍️ Sally Taylor



# LOCAL HERALDRY

## BY JOHN HOCKEY

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

### TOTTERNHOE MEMORIAL TO THE BROWNLOWS

I am grateful to a fellow heraldry enthusiast for alerting me to a memorial I had not noticed before – that given in memory of earl Brownlow which is to be found tucked away in St Giles Church Hall, Totternhoe.

The tablet has the coat of arms of Cust quartered with Egerton, two families strongly connected with Ashridge House. There is an earl's coronet above and the motto *Esse Quam Videri* ('to be rather than to seem to be') at the top of the monument and an inscription below which reads 'Erected in memory of John William earl Brownlow by his mother 1867'.

John William was the 2nd earl Brownlow, the youngest son of Lady Marion Alford who looked after both Ashridge and Belton House until her sons were of the age to take over the reins of the huge estates. Unfortunately John William was a sickly child and died aged just twenty-five in 1867, the date on the tablet.

Marion Alford was a remarkable lady who achieved much in her life including designing buildings including her London residence in South Kensington and helping set up the Royal School of Needlework.

Next time: More local heraldry





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## Russ Sainty (1936-2021) "King of the Cali"

Sixty years have flown by for some of us since those distant memories. Carnaby Street, Mary Quant, the Mini Skirt, Mods and Rockers, the Moon Landing, Twiggy, Woodstock, England's World Cup, Hippies, the First Heart Transplant, Mods and Rockers, the Mini Cooper and so much more. Musically, the revolutionary Swinging Sixties brought the country noisily out of its sombre post-war mood and ushered in the era of pop music. And Russ Sainty was one of rock 'n roll's founding fathers, officially commemorated as such in 2006 at the unveiling of a plaque on the site of the 2i's coffee bar in London which also launched careers such as Cliff Richard's, Wee Willie Harris's, Vince Eager's and so many others from 1956 to 1970.

But by 1960 Russ had moved on to the location for which he will always be remembered - Dunstable's iconic California Ballroom. The founder Edwin Green's granddaughter Diane Ilka's meticulous history, The 'Cali' Album, still the Book Castle's most cherished publication, contains hundreds of photographs of virtually every musical act of the time because they all performed there. The Rolling Stones, the Bee Gees, the Hollies, the Dave Clark Five, the Who, the Kinks, the Animals, the Walker Brothers, the Searchers, Lulu, Kathy Kirby, Brenda Lee, Sandie Shaw, Dusty Springfield, Tom Jones, Craig Douglas, Marty Wilde, Billy Fury, Gerry and the Pacemakers, the list goes on and on. Many a local person met their 'squeeze' of the day in that heady atmosphere, and hundreds of them subsequently married. And all those famous performers shared the bill with the Cali's resident singer, Russ Sainty, and his supporting group, the Nu-Notes (whose Rhet Stoller composed, wrote and performed the Match of the Day theme!). Incredibly popular, Russ starred there no less than 338 times...why, oh why, did he never have a giant number one hit record, despite releasing dozens for EMI, plus 'cover' albums, and appearing on all the popular TV (Six Five Special etc) and radio programmes. He subsequently starred in musicals, cabaret, even pantomime, enjoying a solo music career ever after, right up to his death on November 29th 2021.

The excitement is all covered in another lavishly illustrated Book Castle title, King of the Cali, recounting his roller-coaster life. Born in the East End of London, he was evacuated in wartime with his parents to Woughton on the Green, to a cottage later taken over by Bletchley Park decoders. Little knowing that his fame and fortune would be made just ten miles or so down the road in Dunstable. A lovely, happy, fulfilled and generous man, he was proud to return there in 2008 to launch the autobiography with an evening performing dozens of his favourite numbers at the United Services Club for those of us privileged to hear once again the voice of a consummate professional. Many pop stars were one hit wonders. Russ was the opposite. Send me the Pillow that you Dream on was the nearest he got to that pinnacle, but he was admired for decades by all his fellow artists and gave so much pleasure to so many for so long. Dunstable can be proud to have embraced and enjoyed him as an adopted 'son' in his heyday.

# Eaton Bray History

## Doolittle Mill, Eaton Bray

(courtesy of the Bedfordshire Archives)

Doolittle Mill was in the civil parish of Totternhoe until 1985 when it was transferred to Eaton Bray. Four mills were recorded in Totternhoe in 1086 and it seems reasonable to assume that one of them may have stood at or near the later Doolittle Mill.



*Doolittle Mill about 1950*

In September 1980 the

former Department of Environment listed Doolittle Mill as Grade II, in the highest group of buildings of special interest. The house dates from the 18th century and is built of red brick and has two storeys with an old clay tiled roof. The Bedfordshire Historic Environment Record contains information on the county's historic buildings and landscapes and summaries of each entry can now be found online as part of the Heritage Gateway website. Entry 1457 notes that a gallows stood next to Doolittle Mill as described in the inclosure award.

In 1931 J. Steele Elliott, in Volume XIV published by Bedfordshire Historical Record Society, wrote the following: "1826 'Doolittle Windmill' is first mapped at its present site in this year. In 1841 'Windmill Field' was one of the big Open Fields that lay between Church End, Doolittle Mill and 'Well Head'. Remotely situated in the valley of this Chiltern country stands one of the most remarkable mills in England, a combination building for both water and wind power, yet each working independently of the other, and latterly with steam power in addition. The water-mill is worked by an overshot wheel within the mill building, and occupies

the two lower stories at two different levels; the windmill works the machinery in the upper two floors. There is a communicating way between one of the windmill floors and the attic floor of the house. It is upwards of 50 years since the wind power was last used; a westerly

gale terminated its days by blowing off the complete mill head, with sails, far into the mill pond below. The sails were two of double and two of single shutter form. The windmill ran originally two pairs of four foot stones. The tower at the present time is shorn of its cap and several courses of brickwork; but has an elevation of 46 feet. Not only is this mill of unique interest in itself, apart from its being, too, a delightful picture of this countryside, but it carries a history that is indeed remarkable. In 1539 Richard Buckmaster of Eaton Bray appears in a Deposition of a Chancery Suit. Richard Buckmaster held a mill at Totternhoe in 1610, and it continued in the family from that time. Thomas was Constable on the Jury List at Totternhoe in 1780 and recorded as a miller there in 1791. Christopher Buckmaster was a miller there with freehold in 1820 and at least until 1830. The descendants of this family, represented by three grand-daughters of John Buckmaster, who was a son of a Christopher Buckmaster, remain the owners at the present day. An Alfred Buckmaster owned Beaudesert windmill at Leighton [Buzzard]; and Miss. S. Buckmaster, the present owner of Stanbridge Mill, is also a

relative”.

Two wills survive of people, other than Buckmasters, who both devised the mill. In 1708 Richard Gadbury the elder of Totternhoe, yeoman’s will read as follows: “I doe give will devise and bequeath unto Richard Gadbury my sonne his heires and assignes for ever All that my Windmill with all the running Geares furniture and implements whatsoever thereunto belonging and also all that my peece or parcel of ground upon part whereof the said Windmill now standeth containeing three poles and eleaven foote of Square measure ground situate and being within the Parish of Totternhoe aforesaid and lyeing next Warehill Balke on the west part. Item I doe give Will devise and bequeath unto the said Richard Gadbury my sonn his Executors Administrators and Assigns All that my Millhouse and Watermill wherein the said Richard Gadbury my sonne now doth dwell together with all the running Geares and implements whatsoever to the same watermill belonging”. The will goes on: “To have and to hold my said millhouse and watermill closes and pightles of pasture ground with all and singular their and every of their appurtenances unto the said Richard Gadbury my sonn his Executors Administrators and Assignes for and during all the rest residue and remainder of such terme and termes number and numbers of yeares as shall (at my decease) be then to come and unexpired”. This latter clause seems to make it quite clear that Gadbury only held the mill by lease, presumably from the Buckmasters

Similarly in 1769 Henry Pearson of Eaton Bray miller devised to “Ann my Loving Wife All that Messuage Cottage or Tenement called or known by the Name or Names of Horsamills (otherwise Do-Little Mills) wherein Joseph Bly now Doth Inhabit and Dwell Situate and Standing in the Parish of Totternhoe in the said County of Bedford”.

He goes on: “To Hold the same unto the said Ann my Loving Wife her Executors Administrators and Assigns for and during all the rest residue and remainder of the Term or Terms of Years that are to come and Unexpired in the Lease or Leases thereof and Subject to the Outgoings and Payments mentioned in the same Lease or Leases”. Clearly Pearson leased the mill from someone, probably a Buckmaster and then sub-let to Joseph Bly.



*“The bridge before Mr. Pierson’s Mill”  
about 1820*

There is a painting by Thomas Fisher of about 1820 which shows “The bridge before Mr. Pierson’s Mill”. This appears above but looks nothing like the current premises. This gives rise to the suspicion that, provided the attribution is correct, there was no windmill attached to the mill house at this time. At first sight this seems to contradict the evidence of Richard Gadbury’s will. However, the document does not say that the two mills were joined and, in fact, rather gives the impression that they were not because they are mentioned in different clauses. The answer seems to be that the windmill stood further off in the 18th and early 19th century. Steele Elliott notes in the Bedfordshire Historical Record Society volume: “1765. A windmill earlier than the one now in evidence is figured about 60 yards distant to the north of ‘Doe Little Mill’; the latter mill was then solely run by the stream. The mill-stump was still to be seen there up to about twenty years

ago". His source is a map of Bedfordshire of 1765 by Thomas Jefferys

Two detailed maps showing the Bridgewater, later Brownlow Estate survive for the early 19th century. The map of 1829 has a reference book detailing all the land holdings on the estate. Each house in the village is marked, together with a description of the area of the property and the name of the person who inhabited it, whether or not the property was owned by the Estate. The 1840 map also has a similar reference book.



*Doolittle Mill in 1829*

In 1829 Doolittle Mill was number 7 on the map. It was described as “House, mill and garden; owned by C. Buckmaster; occupied by C. Buckmaster; 10 poles.”



*Doolittle Mill in 1840*

In 1840 the mill was shown as three separate properties, with entries as follows:

- 7. Mill, meadow and stream; 1 acre, 1 road, 10 poles; owned by Christopher Buckmaster; occupied by Christopher Buckmaster;
- 8. House, mill and garden; 10 poles; owned by Christopher Buckmaster; occupied by Christopher Buckmaster;

- 9. Barn and yard in front; 10 poles; owned by Christopher Buckmaster; occupied by Christopher Buckmaster.

The Rating and Valuation Act 1925 specified that every building and piece of land in the country was to be assessed to determine its rateable value. The valuer visiting Doolittle Mill, on 26th October 1926, found it was owned and occupied by the Misses Buckmaster and that it included land comprising twenty six acres. The valuer commented: Also rent 17½ acres (Eaton Bray). Mill been in family 400 years. Last used four years ago. Was wind and water at one time. Water wheel out of order. Engine no good. Buildings appalling”.

The miller’s house comprised three reception rooms, a kitchen and a pantry downstairs with five bedrooms above. The valuer noted: “Water from stream”. The brick and tiled mill comprised five floors and two stones of three feet diameter; “sacks stored on ground floor”. The farm homestead comprised the following buildings: a weather-boarded and corrugated iron lean-to cart shed (“old steam engine in”); a shed; a weather-boarded and tiled loose box (“very bad”); a weather-boarded and corrugated iron pigsty, open-fronted cart shed and three further pigsties; six weather-boarded and thatched calf boxes (“part in Eaton Bray neglect”); three weather-boarded and corrugated iron loose boxes and a large flint and thatched store shed (“roof falling off”).





# All The Quesadillas

Time to talk about one of the staples in my house. We are a bit quesadilla “crazy”. They are so versatile, so quick and so cheap that I just keep serving them up in different ways to my children. They are also a brilliant way of using up leftovers and, perhaps surprisingly, hold up pretty well in a packed lunch box too to be eaten cold at school.

Once you have got the basics mastered, there is no looking back.

For each quesadilla, you’ll need two large flour tortillas, the filling, a hot large pan and some olive oil.

The fillings will usually always need something melty, just to glue it all together - not to mention that the translation of quesadilla is apparently “Cheesy-Dude”!

Simply build the quesadilla by placing one tortilla on your worktop, cover it with your choice of filling and leave a border of a couple of centimetres.



Top the filling with the other tortilla and heat up your pan to a medium-high temperature.

Pour in a good glug of oil.

Carefully slide the quesadilla in and let the base crisp up nicely. Using a flat spatula, gently turn the quesadilla over and crisp up the other tortilla. Serve immediately, cut into segments like a pizza.

There are no limits to the filling combinations you can use. Here are some of the ones I use at home:

- Leftover chilli con carne and cheddar
- Leftover bolognese sauce and parmesan
- Leftover Sunday roast and veg, topped with a little cheese (I love using brie with chicken)
- Thinly spread tomato puree and grated mozzarella
- Grated cheddar, sweetcorn and cherry tomatoes
- Sliced cooked chorizo and feta
- Lightly mashed butternut squash or sweet potato with feta
- French mustard, crispy bacon and grated Emmental cheese
- Camembert with red onion chutney

*BBC Three  
Counties Radio  
presenter and cook,  
Nick Coffer*



# **Eaton Bray/Edlesborough House Prices - The Effect of Rising Inflation**

House prices tend to rise with inflation, so with UK annual inflation hitting 4.2% last week, that's good news, isn't it? Yes and no – let me explain what it means for village homeowners.

The year-on-year cost of living rose by 4.2% in October, its highest rate in almost a decade. This jump in prices (inflation), pushed mainly by increasing fuel and energy costs, places further pressure on Eaton Bray/Edlesborough household budgets.

So, what will this rise in inflation mean to village house prices?

Let me look at the downsides first. The first is the effect inflation has on the true spending power or value of your hard-earned money.

The mid-1970s to mid-1980s was a time of high inflation in the UK, so I think that is an excellent place to start.

**The average house in LU6 in 1974 was worth £14,651,  
and by 1984 it had risen to £44,524**

So, property prices in LU6 had risen by 203.9% in the decade 1974 to 1984.

Good news for everyone, then? Well, as always, the devil is in the detail.

Inflation over the same decade rose by 224.2%, meaning your village house was worth less in real terms (i.e., spending power terms).

**If that same Eaton Bray/Edlesborough home had gone up by the inflation rate seen between 1974 and 1984, the house would have been worth £47,505 in 1984**

That doesn't sound a lot (the difference between £44,524 and £47,505), until you apply that difference to today's prices; that's a loss of £21,899 in today's money.

The second is the effect of interest rates.

When inflation rises, the usual weapon of choice to reduce inflation is to increase interest rates. Homebuyers tend not to borrow as much on their mortgage when borrowing money becomes more expensive due to higher interest rates.

When interest rates get high (they were over 15% in 1992) Eaton Bray/Edlesborough homebuyers may not even want to borrow any money at all (staying put in their existing home). This would mean fewer home buyers wanting to buy (decreased demand). However, at the same time, more village houses would be coming onto the market (because existing local homeowners would want to sell and downsize because they have high mortgage payments), meaning higher supply... low demand and high supply does drive house prices in a downward direction.

**So, does that mean you should hold off buying a Eaton Bray/Edlesborough home?**

Although house prices in LU6 did not keep up fully with inflation in the late 1970s and early 1980s, they did a pretty good job (and much better than keeping money in a savings account). You must remember your house is not a pure investment, it's a place you and your family live in. It's a place you call home. So don't worry if it doesn't keep up with inflation in the medium term as your four walls offer a lot more than just a simple investment.

Ok, so let's look at what does happen when inflation affects property.

When your Eaton Bray/Edlesborough house price rises because of inflation, it increases

the value of your house, not by the cost/value of your deposit. So, if inflation increases the value of your home by, say half (50%), it may triple, quadruple, or even quintuple the value of your deposit/equity.

For example, if you buy a Eaton Bray/Edlesborough property for £500,000 with a £50,000 deposit and inflation increases the price/value by 50% to £750,000, that means your equity in the property quintuples from £50,000 to £300,000. It also means you go from (in this scenario) owning 10% equity (£50k of £500k) in your home to 40% after inflation (£300k of £750k).

Even better if you take out a fixed-rate mortgage because you would be making a fixed monthly mortgage payment that dropped in real spending power 'inflation adjusted' pounds over the time of the fixed rate. You might ask why? Well, you are paying less for the mortgage than you did when you took it out (i.e. inflation erodes the actual value of money, meaning your mortgage debt diminishes in real value terms in line with inflation).

So, holding off moving home could cost you a lot of money.

### **What does this all mean for existing Eaton Bray/Edlesborough homeowners?**

It's challenging to forecast with any certainty what will happen with UK inflation and interest rates. I believe we will see inflation hover between 3% and 5% in 2022, with it returning to more normal levels of around 2% in 2023 (although I am no economist!). We know the Bank of England base rate is just 0.1%, meaning it's unlikely to get any lower. I have spoken about this in previous articles on the local property market and said the money markets have already priced in an interest rate rise to 0.75% to 1% by the summer of 2022.

So, if you haven't already, you need to seriously consider taking advantage of these low mortgage rates (can you believe 21% of local homeowners aren't on a fixed-rate mortgage). The bottom line is, irrespective of what is happening to inflation and house prices in LU6, being able to afford the monthly payments on your village home is what counts for everyone.

One final thought for any Eaton Bray/Edlesborough homeowners thinking of selling and not buying another home, inflation could eat into the real spending power terms of the equity of your home – so now might be the best time to sell to get maximum bang for your bucks. Then invest the money in other pure investments that consistently tend to beat inflation, such as gold, commodities, or Real Estate Investment Trusts? Again, I am giving you my opinion here, not financial advice. You must take independent advice from someone qualified in these matters and make your own decisions.

If you would like a chat about anything in this article, do drop me a line.

✉ Claire Giblin

Local estate and letting agent





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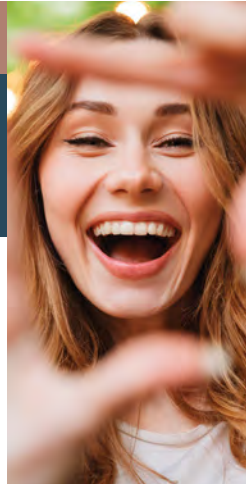
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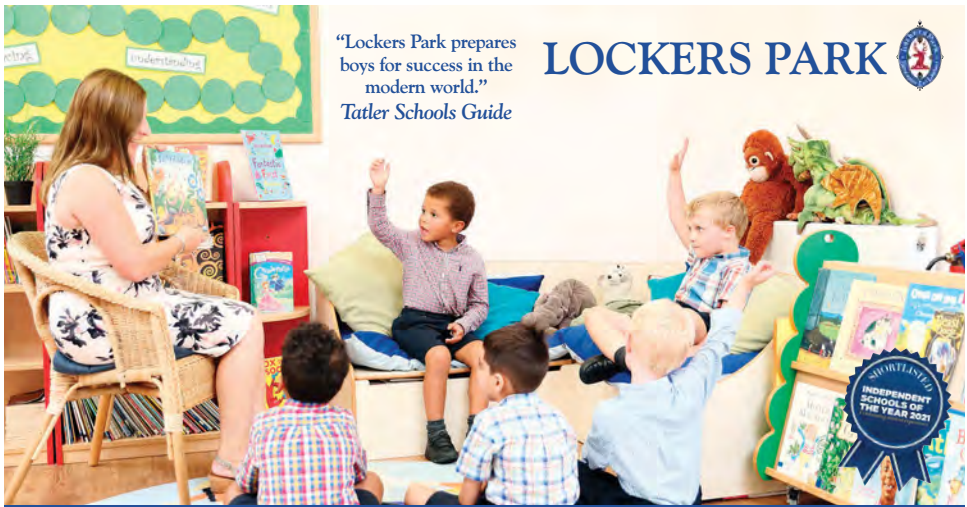
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# Eaton Bray Cricket Club



Another New Year and prepping for the 2022 season has already begun. Winter Nets started on 5th of January at Dunstable Town Cricket Club and will continue going into March.

Our planning application for two new outdoor net lanes is now on the Central Bedfordshire web site and our contractors are ready to start when we hopefully get the green light.

As Covid restrictions seem to be easing we can look forward to using the Club House more with plans for social events back on the calendar.

Eaton Bray Cricket Club are always on the hunt for new players of any age ability or gender. We run 2 senior teams in the FCCL on Saturdays and 1 in the Beds Sunday League. We also have a side in the newly formed Village T20 League played midweek. The club have a very good junior section with 6 teams at age group U9 2xU11 2xU13 and u15.

The club would like to thank our sponsors Meadow Marquees, ECL Howard Watson Smith LLP, Topps Tiles, SMSS Ltd and the Focus Magazine for their continued support. If you would like to be part of a progressive family friendly club please contact us via Facebook or Twitter @EatonBrayCC.

Please enjoy your cricket with Eaton Bray in 2022.



## Village Photo

*Looking towards Edlesborough from Ivinghoe Beacon by Andy Gibbons*

# What to Sow and Grow in February



February might be the cold, tail end of winter, but springtime is only around the corner. There are plenty of flowers, fruits and vegetables to sow and grow this month. Here are our top picks:

## **Flowers to sow and grow**

### **In the greenhouse/indoors**

- Sow lobelia in a heated propagator.
- Plant begonia tubers (hollow side up) in pots of moist compost and cover with a little more compost. Keep them in a bright, frost-free position.
- Sow your last lot of begonia seeds under glass or in a propagator for beautiful blooms throughout the summer. Keep them at a constant temperature of around 24-27 degrees celsius.
- Sow antirrhinums (snapdragons) and laurentia now to ensure early flowering.
- Start dahlia tubers into growth by planting them in pots of compost, maintaining a minimum temperature of 10 degrees celsius.
- Sow certain varieties of value annual flower seeds & value perennial & biennial seeds, such as hollyhocks or stock, in a propagator or inside a polythene bag. Read the individual growing instructions on your seed packet to learn more, and check out our dedicated biennials and perennials sowing guide.
- Sow sweet peas in a glasshouse, cold frame or a cool place indoors. Soak sweet pea seeds in tepid water overnight before planting them, to speed up germination.
- Grow your own chrysanthemum plants

from seed - start them off now in the greenhouse for the earliest blooms.

- Sow geraniums (pelargoniums) indoors now for earlier flowers.
- Plant or pot on hardwood cuttings taken last year.
- Pot on rooted cuttings of tender perennial plants taken last summer.

### **Plant outdoors**

- Plant lily bulbs and allium bulbs. Although best done in autumn, you can get away with planting lilies and alliums until spring.
- Plant bare root roses in a sunny position for spectacular summer colour.
- Plant fragrant winter-flowering shrubs to add interest to borders, such as daphne, viburnum x bodnantense 'Dawn', witch hazel (hamamelis x intermedia) and wintersweet (chimonanthus praecox).

## **Vegetables and herbs to sow and grow**

### **In the greenhouse/indoors**

- Start growing (chitting) early potatoes on a windowsill indoors.
- Start sowing cucumber and tomato seeds for the greenhouse, in warm conditions.
- Sow peas - try sowing them in upcycled guttering with drainage holes drilled in the bottom.
- Start asparagus pea seeds under cover for planting out in late spring.
- Sow aubergine seeds now for indoor crops this summer.
- Grow your own basil on the windowsill to flavour your favourite Italian dishes and fill your kitchen with heady Mediterranean aromas.
- Start early sowings of brassicas under cover. Try Brussels sprouts, summer cabbage, cauliflower 'All the Year Round', and calabrese 'Aquiles'.



- Start slow-growing celeriac seeds now under cover.
- Try bolt-resistant varieties of celery, such as 'Lathom Self Blanching', for early sowings.
- Sow leeks under cover - these vegetables need a long growing season.
- Try growing really large onions this year - sow 'Bunton's Showstopper' and 'Ailsa Craig' indoors now.
- Sow sweet peppers for growing on in a heated greenhouse. Always provide plenty of warmth.

### **In the cold frame/under cloches**

- Sow broad beans, carrots, parsnips, early beetroot, salad onions, lettuces, radish, peas, spinach and summer cabbages outside under cloches, if you have light (sandy) soil and live in a mild part of the UK. Otherwise it's best to wait until the soil has begun to warm up in March or April.
- Grow chicory under cloches, for early summer harvesting.

### **Direct sow outdoors**

- Direct sow hardy broad beans, such as 'Aquadulce Claudia', if the soil isn't frozen.

### **Plant outdoors**

- Plant out garlic and shallots in light soils only; heavy soils still need longer to warm up.
- Plant Jerusalem artichoke tubers.

### **Fruit to sow and grow**



- Plant raspberry canes and blackberries provided the soil isn't frozen or waterlogged.
- Plant currant plants, such as redcurrants, whitecurrants, blackcurrants and

- gooseberries if soil conditions are right.
- Plant bare-root strawberry plants outside now. Replace plants that are 3 years old or more, as they will have lost much of their vigour.
- Plant stone fruit trees, such as apricots, peaches and nectarines.
- Plant rhubarb crowns in a sunny position in well drained soil.

### **Keep one step ahead - what to order this month:**



- Order sweet pea seeds to sow under cloches, in a cold frame, or in a cool room.
- Buy perennial plants like foxgloves.
- Order summer bedding plug plants.

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# Dagnall Weather Station (AONB)

## Weather Conditions for November & December 2021

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

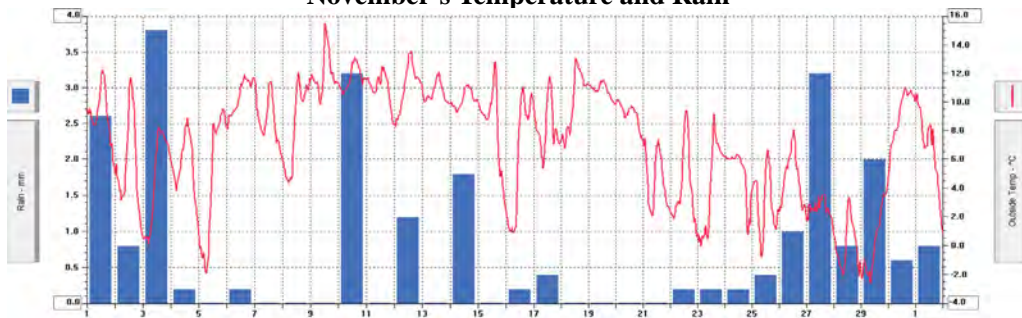


### November 2021

	High	Date/Time	Low	Date/Time
Temperature	15.7°C	9 Nov 12.30	-2.6°C	29 Nov 08.00
Mean Temp	7.2°C	Dominant Wind:		NNW
Humidity:	96%	16 Nov 10.00	67%	28 Nov 13.00
Barometer:	1033.8 hPa	22 Nov 11.30	980.4 hPa	27 Nov 01.30
Wind Speed	40 mph NNW	27 Nov 15.30	Months avg.	4.9 mph NNW
Wettest Day	3.80 mm	3 Nov	3.8mm	0.149 ins
Monthly Rain:	Total	Nov	23.0mm	0.906 ins

**November:** most of the month was mild and dry. It started with rain for the first few days and became cooler with temperatures dropping below zero on the 5th. This was followed by a mild period with the month's highest temperature of 15.7°C on the 9th. There were also nine consecutive days where low night temperatures averaged 10°C. It remained mild until the 20th when it became unsettled and the temperature started to drop to reach a low of -1.5°C on the 29th. November's rainfall of 23mm was only 22% of the 13 year average.

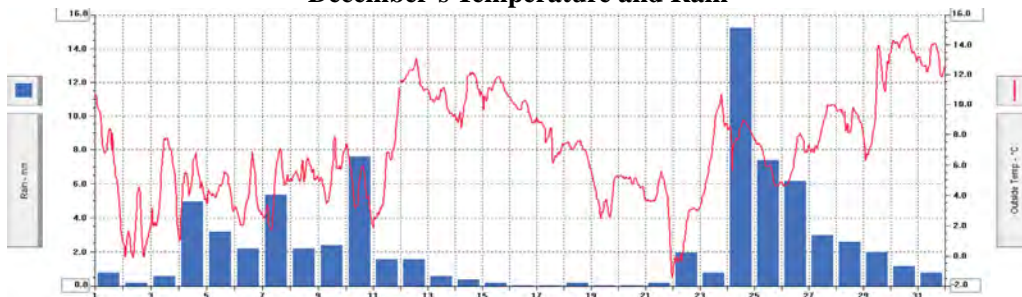
### November's Temperature and Rain



### December 2021

	High	Date/Time	Low	Date/Time
Temperature	14.8°C	30 Dec 15.00	-1.5°C	21 Dec 23.30
Mean Temp	7.0°C	Dominant Wind:		SSE
Humidity:	100%	20 Dec 05.00	72%	9 Dec 13.30
Barometer:	1049.0 hPa	17 Dec 10.00	982.8 hPa	Dec 14.00
Wind Speed	39 mph SSE	7 Dec 13.30	Months avg.	6.05mph SSE
Wettest Day		24 Dec	15.2mm	0.598 ins
Monthly Rain:	Total	Dec	75.6 mm	2.976 ins

### December's Temperature and Rain



# Dagnall Weather Station (AONB)

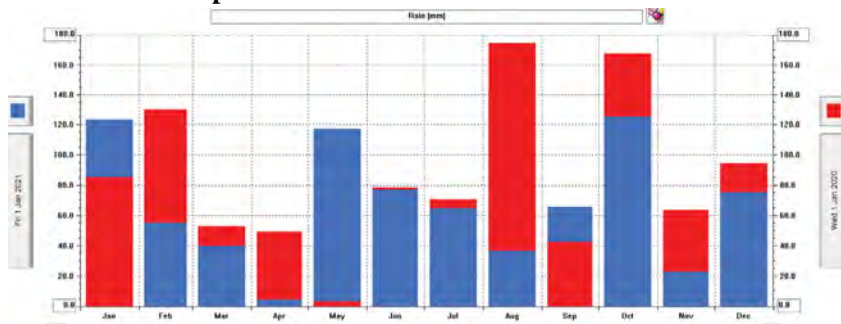
**December:** started cold with temperatures just below zero. Then it turn unsettled with windy conditions on the 7th and 8th. On the 11th, temperatures rose and it became milder and drier. On the 21st, the temperature dropped to -1.5°C, but the following day we returned to mild and unsettled weather. This took us to the end of the month and the wettest day on Boxing Day when we had 15.2mm of rain along with December's highest temperature of 14.8°C. We recorded rain on 27 days, but the total of 75.6mm was below the average. December was a dull month with little sunshine but warmer than normal, particularly the night time temperatures.

## Annual Climatological Summary for 2021

Temperature					Precipitation				Wind Speed			
	High Temp	Date	Low Temp	Date	Mean Temp	Rain Day Max	Date	Month Total	Hi Wind	Date	Avg	Dom Dir
Jan	11.8°	28 <sup>th</sup>	-5.9°	25 <sup>th</sup>	3.6°	20.8mm	14 <sup>th</sup>	124.0 mm	38.0	120 <sup>h</sup>	5.8	W
Feb	16.2°	24 <sup>th</sup>	-4.1°	13 <sup>th</sup>	5.2°	11.0mm	6 <sup>th</sup>	55.4 mm	40.0	14 <sup>th</sup>	7.1	SSE
Mar	23.3°	30 <sup>th</sup>	-1.9°	6 <sup>th</sup>	7.1°	8.6mm	26 <sup>th</sup>	40.2 mm	45.0	11 <sup>th</sup>	6.0	W
Apr	18.9°	20 <sup>th</sup>	-3.3°	7 <sup>th</sup>	6.8°	1.6mm	9 <sup>th</sup>	4.4mm	33.0	5 <sup>th</sup>	4.8	NNE
May	24.1°	31 <sup>st</sup>	0.4°	1 <sup>st</sup>	10.5°	15.4mm	3 <sup>rd</sup>	117.6mm	42.0	3 <sup>rd</sup>	6.0	SSW
Jun	27.6°	2 <sup>nd</sup>	4.3°	23 <sup>rd</sup>	16.4°	50.1mm	18 <sup>th</sup>	77.4 mm	25	18 <sup>th</sup>	4.1	NNE
July	31.4°	18 <sup>th</sup>	8.7°	16 <sup>th</sup>	16.5°	19.4mm	30 <sup>th</sup>	65.0 mm	31.0	30 <sup>th</sup>	4.2	SSE
Aug	24.7°	4 <sup>th</sup>	7.4°	29 <sup>th</sup>	16.1°	17.4mm	13 <sup>th</sup>	36.8 mm	31.0	6 <sup>th</sup>	5.1	NNE
Sep	29.9°	7 <sup>th</sup>	6.8°	30 <sup>th</sup>	16.0°	26.4mm	28 <sup>th</sup>	66.0 mm	33.0	27 <sup>th</sup>	4.3	S
Oct	19.3°	19 <sup>th</sup>	4.5°	21 <sup>st</sup>	12.0°	36.4mm	16 <sup>th</sup>	125.7 mm	42.0	31 <sup>st</sup>	6.1	SSE
Nov	15.7°	9 <sup>th</sup>	-2.6°	29 <sup>th</sup>	7.2°	3.8mm	3 <sup>rd</sup>	23.0 mm	40.0	27 <sup>th</sup>	4.9	NNW
Dec	14.8°	30 <sup>th</sup>	-1.5°	21 <sup>st</sup>	7.0°	15.2mm	24 <sup>th</sup>	75.6 mm	39.0	7 <sup>th</sup>	6.5	SSE
	YEAR	TOTALS										
Lows /Max	31.4°	July	-5.4°	Jan	Year Avg 10.5°	Total Rain	Year	811.1mm (31.933ins)	Wind 45.0 mph	March	Wind 5.4 mph	Year avg

**2021 Highlights:** the year started with a very wet and cold January when rain was at 167% of the average (124mm) and the temperature dropped to -5.9°C. April was the driest month with only 4.4mm of rain, which is 10% of the monthly average, followed by November with 23mm. There was a hot spell in July where the temperatures were above 30°C degrees on five consecutive days and **included the highest temperature for the year of 31.4°C**. August temperatures and sunshine were down and reached a high of 27.4°C. Autumn-like conditions continued into winter to give a mild end to the year. We had 206 days of rain, giving a total of 811.1mm rainfall, which is 107% of the average.

## Rain Comparison for 2020 - 2021 - Blue 2021 Red 2020



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# Salvation Sound

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It was with sadness that last month Desmond Mpilo Tutu was a South African Anglican Bishop and theologian passed away at the age of 91.

During most of Desmond Tutu's life the laws in South Africa segregated people according to their race. Schools, homes and jobs were separated- life was much more difficult for those who were not white. Desmond Tutu was often treated unkindly by other South Africans- he was beaten and even put in prison, simply because of the colour of his skin.

When he was a young boy, out walking with his mother, he was surprised to see a white man, a priest, take off his hat as a sign of respect to his mother, a black woman. That sign of peace, friendship, and dignity had a big impact on young Desmond. It showed him that he did not have to behave like everyone else.

These small examples of Jesus' kindness were

a powerful way to fight the hatred and inequality he experienced during his lifetime.

When Desmond Tutu was a teenager he was sick with tuberculosis and in hospital for over a year. A priest visited him and showed the love and care of Jesus. It was during this time that he decided to give his life in helping others.

These moments shaped his life, and he was well known to the world as a religious and political leader. He was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his leadership in the ending of apartheid. After apartheid ended, he chaired the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. He heard many terrible stories of injustice and pain but was most overcome by the courage of others to say 'I'm sorry', and the power of 'I forgive you'. Desmond Tutu was a beautiful example of someone who chose to forgive rather than get revenge.

This year, 2022, the words from Desmond Tutu will echo in my mind.

*'We are family..... made for togetherness, goodness, compassion.... Little bits of good that overwhelm the world.'* Perhaps, the shared dreams of this new year and all that it means to us can be pointers to the hope that we share; 'Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all the darkness' (Desmond Tutu)

'May the God of all hope fill you all with joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit'. (Romans 15:13)

May God bless you all this year.

✍️Allison Gaudion (Major)



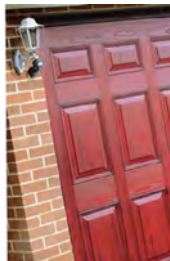


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