

FOCUS

March 2023

Eaton Bray, Edlesborough, Northall & Dagnall
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Chapel Lane, Northall

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

For more information contact:

John Hazell 01525 218142

Email northallchapel@btinternet.com

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.

"EVERY MOMENT OF LIFE IS PRECIOUS AND CAN NEVER HAPPEN AGAIN."

- ZELIG PLISKIN



Routinely Nomadic

The paper used for this magazine is sourced from sustainable forests and can be recycled 

Focus is online at www.thefocusmagazine.co.uk

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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

Village Diary



Weekly

- Mon-Sun St. Mary's Edlesborough opening times are currently very limited
Please see notice board and website
- 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 KFFPA ISTD ballet classes, Edlesborough Memorial Hall 4pm-6.30pm (4years+)
Contact Kiri 07988161043 or visit Facebook page 'KF PerformingArts/KFFPA' 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
- Mondays Eaton Bray Tennis Club - 4-7pm mini / junior tennis coaching
- Mondays Eaton Bray Tennis Club - 7-8pm Adult Coaching 'Get Back Into Tennis'
- 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 Keep Fit class, Edlesborough Memorial Hall 11 - 12noon
- Tuesdays Jazzercise 9:15-10am, Eaton Bray VH, Annis, annisjazzercise@gmail.com 07447 409666
- Tuesdays 12-3pm, Chiltern Art Club, St Giles Church Hall, Tottemhoe, Contact 01582 607315/872115
- Tuesdays Eaton Bray Tennis Club - 6-7.30pm Social play for all adults
- Tuesdays Berkhamsted Taekwon-do Kids, 5.45pm-6.30pm, Dagnall Village Hall, 07813 755785
- Tuesdays Berkhamsted Taekwon-do Adults, 6.30pm, Dagnall Village Hall, 07813 755785
- Wednesdays Pilates, 8pm, Northall Village Hall, Lisa: 07832 230774
- Wednesdays Northall & District Age Concern Wednesday Club, 10am - 3pm, Northall Village Hall, Contact Dee 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
- Wednesdays Eaton Bray Tennis Club - 5-6 pm 9-11 years old tennis coaching & U16 Beginners tennis
- Wednesdays Pilates 6-7pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Heather Holmes, 07305 023077 pilateswithheather@mail.com
- Wednesdays Warm Hub, 10:45am-1pm, St Mary's Church Eaton Bray
- Thursdays KFFPA Street dance classes, Edlesborough Memorial Hall 4.15pm-6.30pm (4 years+)
Contact Kiri 07988161043 or visit Facebook page 'KF PerformingArts/ KFFPA' for info
- Thursdays Berkhamsted Taekwon-do Adults 6.30pm, Dagnall Village Hall, 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

Village Diary

- Thursdays Retro Line Dance Class. 11.15am to 12.45pm. Eaton Bray Village Hall. Beginners welcome. www.jukeboxjunction.co.uk info@jukeboxjunction.co.uk 07864212171
- Thursdays Warm Hub, 1:30am-3:30pm, Eaton Bray Methodist Church
- Fridays Tap & Ballet Classes, JoAnn Latus School of Dance, 4-8pm, Eaton Bray VH, 07800 518654
- Fridays Jazzercise 9:15-10am, Eaton Bray VH, Annis, annisjazzercise@gmail.com 07447 409666
- Fridays Stay & Play toddler group, 'Musical Monkeys' at the Eaton Bray Village Hall, 10-11.30am, £4.50 for one adult and child, £1 for extra children/adults, 0-6 months free
- Fridays Scouts, (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
- 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 Karate for kids & adults, 2:30-4pm & 4:30-6pm, Eaton Bray VH, Contact 07500 007779
- Sundays Eaton Bray Tennis Club - 10am -12pm Social play for all adults
- Monthly**
- 1st Monday Eaton Bray Parish Council Meeting, 7.30pm, The Coffee Tavern (except Jan-2nd Monday)
- 1st Monday Eaton Bray W.I. Meeting, 7.30pm. Eaton Bray Methodist Church Hall. Contact Margaret Jones on 01525 220991
- 1st & 3rd 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)
- 1st Saturday Book Swap at St Mary's Eaton Bray, 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
- 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
- This Month's One Off/Annual/Irregular Events**
- 25 Mch Ivinghoe & Pitstone Repair Cafe, 9am - 12 noon, Pitstone Pavilion

St Mary's 100 Club

The lucky prize-winners are:

January 2023

1st Prize - Victor Courtice

2nd Prize - Robert Dickson

3rd Prize - Sheila Banks

February 2023

1st Prize - Joan Fossey

2nd Prize - Iain Stubbs

3rd Prize - Robert Dickson

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wake up and there
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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

Email: northallvhbookings@gmail.com

Eaton Bray: Norman Lee Tel: 07975 797202

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

Dagnall: Bev Way 07875 462128 & Trish Owen 07762 151364

Email DVH_Bookings@outlook.com

Edlesborough Memorial Hall: Penny Pataky, Tel: 01525 229358

Email: manager@edlesborough-pc.gov.uk

Police Contact Numbers...

making neighbourhoods safer together

General Assistance (Recommended Number): 101 Emergency: 999

Bedfordshire Police (Eaton Bray)

Leighton Buzzard Police Station/Kathryn Horgan: 01582 473411

Typetalk: 18001 01582 473418

Thames Valley Police (Edlesborough, Dagnall & Northall)

PCSO Jackie Dodson

Email: 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



HANG UP



'No Hang Up' scams are a particularly worrying type of scam which are becoming more common as of late particularly with are elderly and vulnerable residents.

This is where the scammer will call the victim and tell them that there is a problem with their banking. The scammer will ask for the victim's PIN number and/or passwords. If the victim starts to become suspicious, the scammer will tell the victim that if they don't believe them, that they will hang up and that the victim then needs to call their bank or the Police immediately. They will do this with the intent of panicking the victim and making them feel flustered.

The scammer will then tell the victim that they are about to hang up and that that the victim must dial either 999 or their bank's telephone number (which is on the back of their bank card) straight away.

Because the victim is now feeling flustered, they don't always realise that the scammer has not hung up the call. The victim will then dial 999 or the telephone number for their bank. Due to them panicking, they do not realise that there is no dial tone before they dial.

The scammer will then "answer" the call pretending to be the Police or the bank.

The victim will then believe that they are now talking to the Police or their bank. The scammer will ask lots of questions, so all the financial information that the victim believes is going to the Police or the bank is in fact, going to the scammer.

The scammer's whole purpose is to cause the victim panic so they aren't 100% concentrating on what they are doing and miss the important element that they have not hung up the call and that the line is still open.

- **Always** check for a dial tone when phoning the police or bank if this happens to you.
- Use a different phone when making the second phone call.
- Always terminate the call even if they say they are going to.
- Allow yourself some time to compose yourself and think straight.
- Phone a trusted friend or family member.
- The most important point here is, the police will **never** ask you for any financial information and the bank will never ask you for your pin or password.

We have had increasing amounts of reports of this type of scam and it is very important that we spread this advice to as many people as possible. Please share this information on your social media and to any family and friends who you believe would benefit from reading this.

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 Facebook: St Mary's Eaton Bray

Recently there has been a lot of discussion about Sally Wainwright's brilliant police drama 'Happy Valley'. Starring Sarah Lancashire as Catherine Cawood, a no nonsense police officer, the series is set in Hebden Bridge and the surrounding area of West Yorkshire. I enjoyed it not just because of the absorbing story lines, but also because the area is familiar; my previous parish was in West Yorkshire. Part of the debate about 'Happy Valley' concerned the BBC's decision not to release the programmes on i-player until after their screening on TV. Western society encourages instant gratification and part of that trend is binge watching programmes. Some people were infuriated by the need to wait a whole week until the next episode! But this policy engendered debate and anticipation- in fact it was just like the old days, having to wait to find out what happens next. Called deferred gratification by sociologists, this is 'an ideological principle which encourages individuals and groups to postpone immediate consumption or pleasure in order to work, train, invest, or gain in some other way an enhanced return at a future date.' (*from A Dictionary of Sociology*)

The notion of deferred gratification is central to most world religions. The reward of the afterlife for a life spent well on earth is one example. Christianity also emphasises character development over a lifetime, growing more Christ like, embracing the values of the kingdom of God. At particular times in the Christian calendar, people are encouraged to take time to reflect on their growth in faith and holiness. Lent, the 40 day period between Ash Wednesday and Easter (excluding Sundays) is one such time. 40 is a significant number in the Bible. The 40 days of Lent reflect the 40 days which Jesus spent fasting in the wilderness at the start of his ministry. This was an important time for him when he was tested and tempted but the Gospel writers tell us he was 'without sin'. The church encourages Christians to mark Lent by making a 'line in the sand'. Isabelle Hamley writes: 'The fact that we do this together, rather than on our own, reminds us that it isn't just our personal lives that need transforming, but that of our communities, countries and entire world. On Ash Wednesday, and in Lent, we lament the brokenness of the whole world, its sin, its inequality and injustice, and we long for God's intervention to come and teach us what justice, peace and freedom truly look like,' (*From 'Live Lent Embracing Justice'*)

You would be most welcome to join us at St Mary's, Eaton Bray for any of our services on Ash Wednesday, and during Holy Week. Our Easter Day Communion will be a celebration service and everyone is invited to come along. There will be an Easter egg hunt for children in the churchyard after the service.

- Ash Wednesday 22 February 10am Holy Communion with ashing.
- Palm Sunday 2 April 8am Holy Communion; 10am Blessing of palms, Procession

- & Eucharist (assemble by the Village Hall behind the church)
- Wednesday 5 April 10am Holy Communion; 8pm Tenebrae Service
- Maundy Thursday 6 April 8pm Eucharist followed by Prayer Vigil
- Good Friday 7 April 11am – 1pm Messy Church in Eaton Bray Village Hall; 2pm ‘An hour at the Cross’ (Devotional Service)
- Easter Day 9 April 10am Sung Eucharist with Easter Egg Hunt



All Saints’, Dagnall

- Good Friday 7 April 3pm ‘The Way of the Cross’ (service of reflection)
- Easter Day 9 April 10.30am Family Communion Service

With all good wishes for a holy Lent and a happy Easter,
 ✠ Revd Joy Cousans

SERVICES AT ST. MARY'S CHURCH, EATON BRAY

SUNDAYS: 10am PARISH HOLY COMMUNION
(apart from the third Sunday – see below)

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 HOLY COMMUNION at 8am*

*On the Third Sunday of each month there is a
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WEEKDAYS: Wednesday at 10am HOLY COMMUNION
EVERYONE IS WELCOME AT THESE SERVICES

Details and ONLINE WORSHIP: www.stmaryseatonbray.org.uk

Dagnall Church Services

Sun. 19th Mch. 10.30 am Holy Communion



**For any queries please contact:
 Philip Lee on 07977234453 or Dorothy Green on 01442 843237**

Edlesborough Baptist Church

All are welcome to our 11am service every Sunday

Keep up to date by visiting:

www.edlesboroughbaptist.wix.com/home

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Warm Hub

**St Mary's Church
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Warm Hub

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The advertisement for Lee Hutt Heating & Plumbing Services is a blue square with white text and icons. It features a list of services including Bathrooms, Tiling, Heating, Taps, Leaks, and Call Outs, along with a 'Free Estimates' offer. At the bottom, there are two phone numbers with corresponding icons. A '25 Years' anniversary logo is in the top right corner.


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The advertisement for ChiroPoddy Home Visiting Practice features a background image of hands being examined. The text lists the practitioner's name, qualifications, and experience, followed by a list of services provided. Contact information and a logo for the Health Professions Council (hpcp) are also included.

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www.eatonbrayacademy.co.uk





Take a book you want to read - Leave a book you want to share

**The next Book Swap is at St Mary's Church
on Saturday March 4th from 10.30 – 12.00 am**

The Launch of the Book sharing scheme took place on Saturday 5th March 2022 from 10.30 – 12.00 to coincide with the Church Coffee Morning. The meeting on March 4th will mark our first anniversary. The year has seen us go from strength to strength and we are happy to see many regulars and newcomers swapping books in the convivial atmosphere of the church coffee morning. Chris and I would like to thank Janet, Ros and Rosie who have joined the team and provide valuable help and Sally and Margaret for being available if we need them.

Thank you to all of you who visit our book case and we look forward to more visitors participating in the book swap as the scheme continues.

Remember; please only bring with you as many novels as you wish to take away with you as we do not have the capacity to store more books than the bookcase will hold.

A presentation by outreach manager for Central Bedfordshire libraries on the extensive range of E-books, E-audio and magazines available free of charge from your local library via their website will take place at St Mary's in May (date to follow). Please let us know by contacting Jeni or Chris by email or at the next book swap, if you would be interested in attending.

For more information about Book Swap please contact:

Chris Sanders Email: chris.sanders45@gmail.com

Jenifer MacKenzie Email: jenimackenzie@hotmail.com

The Book Swap is free and open to all adults

Eaton Bray Poppy Appeal 2023 – New Organisers in Place



In the December issue of Focus I wrote that Helen, and I were standing down after eighteen years collecting and thirteen years organising the appeal in Eaton Bray. We thank everyone in the village who has contributed towards the amazing total of £39,226 that we have banked for the Royal British Legion during the last thirteen years. Most of all we thank the house to house collectors who have knocked on doors and the shops and businesses who have had a box on their counters.

Estelle and Paul Marshall live in the village and have come forward to become the new organisers – we wish them all the best. I have no doubt that they will make very good organisers and they will be in touch later in the year with the collectors and businesses that wish to continue taking part in the appeal.

✍️ Roger & Helen Wilkinson

Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal in Northall and Edlesborough

Congratulations to all you lovely people in Northall and Edlesborough who supported the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal so generously over the past couple of years. I am proud to announce that our area has been declared the 2022 winner of the Christine Rowley Trophy as the “District without an RBL Branch or Club with the Highest Increase”. This is particularly impressive as we are a comparatively small area, and it would not have been possible without the sustained support of Edlesborough School, Edlesborough Newsagents, “The Swan”, Northall, and, this year, Edlesborough Sports Pavilion. I have been presented with a certificate on your behalf and hope to be able to display it at both Northall Village Hall and Edlesborough Memorial Hall.

So well done everyone and many thanks for your continued generous support.

Just another reminder that the annual Service of Remembrance will be held at the War Memorial on the main road by Edlesborough Church this November (12th) and that the main road will be closed for the hour of the service.

✍️ Lorna Cabbage



Appledown Rescue Dog of the Month



This pretty little lass is Pocahontas, a compact sized crossbreed aged 2 years. Pocahontas walks well on the lead, has an affectionate nature and enjoys a cuddle. At the moment we are working on her over-excitability around other dogs and her new owners will need to carry on with her training. She will need lead only exercise initially and would prefer to be an only pet. Pocahontas cannot live in Dacorum.

If you are interested in offering a rescue dog a loving home please download an application form from our website where you will find information on the rehoming process. To support our work it's easy to make a one-off donation of £3 simply by texting APPLE to 70111, or donate via Paypal using the 'DONATE Support a Cause' option. Cheques are very welcome too!

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

01525 220383 (10am-1pm & 2-4 pm) E-mail: appledown.kennels@btinternet.com

Website: www.appledownrescue.co.uk **Viewings are by appointment only.**

Easter 2023 Tennis Camps



Week 1 - 9-11am Yellow Ball (11-18yrs)

Week 2 – 9-11am Mini Tennis (10 and under)

Our Camps combine fun and games with Tennis Coaching. Youngsters aged 10 years and under learn the basics while having lots of fun doing games and activities specifically designed to build co-ordination, balance and movement. The older age groups work on drills to embed good movement and build fitness, which lead onto appropriate technical aspects of Tennis being covered. They finish up with valuable Tournament and match play tuition and practice, and even rain doesn't always stop play. You don't have to be member of the Club to attend the Camps and all abilities are catered for.

	Junior Tennis Camp				
Week1:	Mon 3 rd April	Tues 4 th April	Weds 5 th April	Thurs 6 th April	
	Mini Tennis Camp				
Week2:		Tues 11 th April	Weds 12 th April	Thurs 13 th April	Fri 14 th April

Courses are run by Head Coach Sara Bamford (PTR Pro and LTA Level 4) with an LTA license, DBS and Emergency First Aid. All equipment is supplied but please wear sports clothing and suitable trainers. Ages 4-18 catered for. Please note all camp sessions will run inline with the LTA COVID Guidelines more information can be found at www.lta.org.uk

	Cost
Week (4 days)	£50
1 Day	£14

***10% sibling discount and 10% members discount available**

Mini Tennis Camp Age 4 – 10 years old this session will be aimed at mini tennis level

Junior Tennis Camp Age 11 years and up this session will be aimed at 11-18 year olds playing yellow ball tennis



If you have any questions or need any more information,

please call Sara Bamford on 07561-571578.

To book directly online please visit our website or scan the QR code

www.ebltc.org.uk

Book now and guarantee your place! Eaton Bray Tennis Club, School Lane, Eaton Bray, LU6 2DT



Edlesborough Parish Council News

Including Edlesborough, Dagnall and Northall

Christine Thomas

EPC is sad to announce the resignation of Mrs Christine Thomas from the Council. Christine had served on the Council for many years and will be greatly missed. EPC is sure parishioners will join them in thanking Christine for all her hard work and commitment to the role.



Parish Councillor Vacancy

Any parishioner interested in becoming a Parish Councillor should contact the Clerk for more information via clerk@edlesborough-pc.gov.uk

Buckinghamshire Council's LitterLotto Scheme

Buckinghamshire Council have launched a "LitterLotto" scheme. Residents can upload a photo of themselves picking up and correctly disposing of litter. They will then be entered in to a prize draw with the chance of winning £250. More information can be found at: <https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/news/litterlotto-local-launched-to-reward-buckinghamshire-residents-for-binning-litter/>



New Play Equipment for Edlesborough Green

EPC have now raised the purchase order for the new play equipment on Edlesborough Green. Unfortunately due to the long lead time for the supply of the products installation will not commence until August.

The Coronation of His Majesty The King and Her Majesty The Queen Consort

Parishioners will be aware as part of the celebrations for the Coronation of His Majesty The King and Her Majesty The Queen Consort. Neighbours and communities across the United Kingdom are being invited to share food and fun together at Coronation Big Lunches on Sunday 7th May

2023, in a nationwide act of celebration and friendship. From a cup of tea with a neighbour to a street party, a Coronation Big Lunch brings the celebrations to your neighbourhood and is a great way to get to know your community a little better.

EPC is asking parishioners how they would like to celebrate this event. EPC is open to ideas and volunteers who would like to organise a Parish or Village event.



EPC will consider making a financial contribution towards community events through their Small Grant Scheme. If you wish to volunteer or make suggestions, please contact the clerk. More information about organising your own BIG LUNCH can be obtained from <https://www.edenprojectcommunities.com/the-coronation-big-lunch-form>

EdleFest 2023

The EdleFest dates for 2023 have been confirmed as 9th and 10th June. More information and tickets are available via the EdleFest website <https://edlefest.site123.me/>

Ivinghoe Freight Strategy – Update

EPC have received the following update from Buckinghamshire Council:

"I am delighted to advise that the installation of the Ivinghoe Freight Strategy (Phase 1) is planned to start on the 13th February 2023 and is expected to take around a week to

complete. This of course is subject to all the current permissions and licences being in place and there being no unexpected circumstances that may delay the works.

Phase 1 covers the installation of signage around the zone making the 7.5 tonne environmental traffic regulation order restricting HGV traffic with exception for local access legal.

The purpose of the Freight Zone is to restrict HGV access to the area to those that have a business reason to be there. HGV traffic entering the area as a cut-through to somewhere else will be in breach of the order, this traffic should be encouraged to follow more suitable roads around the zone.

Work on Phase 2 which covers the more bespoke advance notice signage on key routes around the zone, including Central Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire, to alert drivers and operators about the restriction enabling them to avoid breaching the order and follow the more appropriate routes is continuing and I will update when more concrete details are available.

www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/parking-roads-and-transport/road-freight-and-heavy-goods-vehicles-hgvs/ivinghoe-freight-zone/

Once the zone is in place parishioners should report breaches to www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/parking-roads-and-transport/road-freight-and-heavy-goods-vehicles-hgvs/report-an-hgv-using-a-road-that-has-a-weight-restriction/

EPC Precept Increase for 2023/24

At the January Council meeting councillors agreed the draft budget for 2023/24. In order to keep pace with the current rate of inflation, the Council agreed to a precept request of £173,720 to Buckinghamshire Council. This means that the Parish Council's element of the Band D rate will increase from £9.45 per month to £10.39.

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.



Council Meetings

The next Edlesborough Parish Council Meetings will take place on:

- Thursday 16th March 2023 – in Edlesborough Memorial Hall
- Thursday 20th April 2023 – 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.

Clerk: Miss Penny Pataky Office hours Mon – Fri 10am – 2pm (Excl. Wed)

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

Facebook: www.facebook.com/EDANParishCouncil

The Hill is Alive with the Sound of



We are in for a busy year!

Bookings for Champing, sleeping overnight in the Church, are already being made. 33 people have already booked for this year. Contact Champing.co.uk or The Churches Conservation Trust.

We are looking forward to hosting The Players Theatre Company Edlesborough for their first Shakespeare Festival, running from May 19th to 21st. The play is "A Midsummer Night's Dream, and most of the action will be outside. There will be a licensed bar, and on a fine early Summer's evening, a spectacular experience is assured. Tickets are on sale through "Ticket Source". For further details and interest in auditions see their Facebook page 'The Players Theatre Company Edlesborough.

An 18th Century Vicar of Edlesborough Church, George Burghope, created a Charitable Trust in 1723. It was for the benefit of needy parishioners, and details are on a Benefaction board in the Church Tower. The Trust is still viable today, and the Trustees will mark the creation of the Trust with an event for Edlesborough Primary Academy pupils towards the end of May. Burghope was also chaplain to the Earl of Bridgewater and preached the first sermon in the new Chapel at Ashridge, which was completed in 1699.

EdleFest 2023 is full steam ahead. Tring Brewery are busy brewing the ales and our wine supplier is busy tasting. All artists are contracted and tickets have been selling since early December through the online agency "Ticket Source". Tickets will also

Rusty Shackle - Blair Dunlop Band
Rosswell - Painted Sky
The Dicemen- Ellie Gowers

2023
EdleFest

June 9-10, Edlesborough
*The little music festival
with the big heart*

The poster features a photograph of a church interior during a performance. The stage is lit with warm, golden light, and a band is visible. The church's architecture, including its arches and stained glass windows, is visible in the background. The text is overlaid on the image in white and green.

be on sale at Janes from April or contact Wyn on 07974 921923. Proceeds will go towards the restoration and reinstallation of the West Window in the Tower.

In September, together with St. Mary's Eaton Bray, we will be taking part in England's largest grass roots heritage festival hosted by Heritage Open Days. This year the themes are Art, Culture, Music and Craft. Please contact us if you would like to perform, exhibit or share your skills.

W: heritageopendays.org.uk

November will see Edlesborough hosting the Remembrance ceremony, and in December we will hold the ever-popular Carols by Candlelight.

We can probably expect to see our friends from "This is my Theatre" through the year. We were nominated for Local Wildlife Site status last December and came through the process with flying colours so we can expect a higher profile and more visitors.

We have been very fortunate over the last few years to have had Simon and Ali arranging access to the Church on a daily basis. Unfortunately, they recently moved out of the area. So, until we can arrange alternatives, access is likely to be limited but notices will be posted.

We have had to deter access to the now dangerous wooden steps on the North side going down to the lower cemeteries, and we are currently looking at a repair programme.

Keep up to date: -

W: edlesboroughchurch.org.uk

W: edlefest.site123.me

Facebook: Friends of the Church on the Hill Edlesborough



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Litter in the Villages What Can We Do About This??

It has been very cold and frosty since Christmas and I expect that many of you, like me, have been enjoying a walk in the sunshine – but have been disturbed by the quantity of rubbish littering our pavements and verges. It seems to have been an especially untidy winter this year. Even the footpaths by the river are affected.

However, your stalwart Village litter picking group have been out in force since the New Year and have been making steady inroads on the debris, so much so that I have already had to call upon the services of our friends the “Men in Orange” from Streetscene who have removed 14 large bags of assorted litter, a hub cap, and a Deliveroo bag (don’t ask! Found in a ditch!!) We are still suffering from the person who loves Strongbow and Red Bull and leaves all their cans in the hedges down Eaton Bray Road in Northall. Also, the person who enjoys bottles of wine “out in the country” in Cock’s Close, throws the incriminating bottles in the hedgerow and then probably drives home....

The layby and verges at the Traveller’s Rest have been cleared of sacks of bottles and Amazon packaging, and one of our members has been a man on a mission and has been out daily clearing the Green, Cow Lane, the High Street and Cock’s Close. A very big thank you to everyone who has been hard at work. If you happen to see us in our hi-vis, hard at work, give us a wave of encouragement and drive past us with care.

We still have a lot to do. It is disappointing to see the rubbish return within days of our clearing it. Most of it consists of cans, bottles, and fast-food packaging. It’s difficult to understand the mentality of people who think that it’s OK to throw their rubbish out of their cars for others to clear up, but it happens. There is always debris after a visit from the “bin men”. If everyone made a point of clearing up afterwards and keeping their “patch “ tidy, it would go a long way towards keeping the Village tidy. Every little helps!

✍️ Lorna Cubbage.

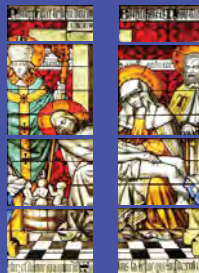


DANESBOROUGH CHORUS

Saturday 18th March 2023 at 7.30 pm
St Mary’s Parish Church, Woburn

Antonín Dvořák Stabat Mater

Elizabeth Bottone (*soprano*)
Lauren Easton (*mezzo*)
Justin Lavender (*tenor*)
Jonathan Gunthorpe (*bass*)



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Conducted by Ian Smith

Tickets: £20, £15, £10, under 18s £5 (all unreserved)
Available by phoning 01908 583460 or by post from 58 Church Road, Woburn Sands, MK17 8TA. Please send a stamped SAE together with a cheque made payable to ‘Danesborough Chorus’. Tickets are also available online from www.wegotickets.com.

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The Closure of Edlesborough Church 1975

Alone it stands, but there for all to see,
for years to come, when we have passed
the weathered stones will stand on high,
and sun will light the coloured glass
like stars which shine above its aging tower.
Let not the silent bells and empty pews
deter our thoughts from days of yore
when fire and tempest wrecked this sacred house—
yet still it stands in beauty as before.
The place of rest for those we loved is there,
in front the cross for those who died to keep us free.
Beyond – the chalk hills stand, matured by time—
wild birds their wings outstretched in flight we'll see.
And so before our eyes the clouds will pass,
like thoughts in life that we and others share.
Before we lose this theme of thought—
we'll stand and wonder there.
The winding paths will lead so many more
to gaze in rapture at its beauty still,
for all's not lost because the doors are closed,
its presence there will still our memories fill—
and those who worshipped there – may worship still.

✍️ Carrie Lovell



*Have you penned a verse with local interest that we could publish in Focus?
We would be happy to accommodate any budding poets.*

Past, Present & Future

I'm sure you'd agree that the ability to Time travel would be a marvellous superpower to possess ... Perhaps especially the Past & Present (travelling to the Future possibly reserved for Focus article writing only)

Our members often take us with them on a trip down memory lane, to tales of childhood, growing up, their families, holidays, travel and sometimes their time in employment ... numerous tales of bygone times which inspire others to share their past too. We compare notes on "in their day", "in my day" and present times with some knowledge gained and, more often than not, laughter shared. This year, Valentine's Day fell the day before our meeting so members marked the occasion on the 15th February, with some themed decorations, sweet treats & novelty prizes. Their tales of love, romance, happy memories were shared over refreshments with friends new & old.

Were I to time travel I would be able to give the upcoming Quiz Night on the 10th March way more than the Didn't they Do Well! Committee, Trustees, Volunteers & staff we thank you in advance for the evening planned to celebrate & support our group. The evening is to the best of my knowledge almost Sold Out. To all businesses & individuals for their donation of raffle prizes we Thank You for giving so generously. Looking to the Future we have many themed days in the pipeline - including of course The King's Coronation Day ... Patron Saints Days ... Easter ... Bring & Buy Coffee Morning(s)

More details for all these to follow, once the Calendar & Diaries are synchronised, but users of Northall Village Hall are able to see all the latest info on our regularly updated notice board within the Hall.

As always we are pleased to Welcome enquiries for:

Regular Rota Volunteers: Help in the Kitchen, Mini-Bus Drivers/ Conductors

One Off Volunteer Offers: to entertain, musical talent sharing ...

Donations: items for fundraising &



the sales table

Thanking You all in Advance

For joining us as a Member:

Phone 07854 230243 - please leave a message & contact details - our leader Dee shall get back to you ASAP

We're also on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/WednesdayClubNorthall/> for following and any last minute updates eg any errors I may make in dates published here in Focus



Dagnall Community Choir

The choir started the new year with a new musical team; we are pleased to be working with Helen Wingate as Musical Director and Joe Leslie as our accompanist in 2023. We would like to offer our grateful thanks to our outgoing musical team of Michelle Norton and James Banville for their hard work over the last nine years and wish them well for their future musical endeavours.

As we all get to know one another better we have been revisiting some old choir favourites from our repertoire, and the new musical team will be introducing new music for us to work in the coming weeks and months. We will also be organising our concert schedule for 2023 – watch this space for more information.

Like many community groups and clubs, the choir experienced something of a decline in membership during the pandemic, and numbers have not really picked up since. We'd love to see our numbers return to what they were three years ago. There are spaces in all sections of the choir, particularly for alto, tenor and bass voices, so if you are considering joining a choir, this would be a good time and you would be made very welcome. Hopefully the warmer weather as we move into spring and then summer will tempt more potential chorists out on a Monday evening!

For more information about the choir or to get in touch, please visit our website www.dagnall-community-choir.co.uk. We meet every Monday from 7.45pm at Dagnall Church and look forward to meeting anyone who would like to give singing in our choir a try.



Eaton Bray Cricket Club (Est 1914)

2 Teams FCCL
1 Team Beds Sunday League
1 Team Village T20 League
1 Team Ladies Softball
6 Junior Teams U15 2xU13
2 x U11 U9

Good on & off field facilities
Come and join a progressive family friendly cricket club.

For more information contact us on Facebook & Twitter @EatonBrayCC



Beat Competition

Like many teenagers in the 1960s, I was obsessed with 'pop' music. The success of The Beatles inspired so many and we secretly dreamed of following in their footsteps. I knew I could sing, I had been a chorister at the local church and had won several singing competitions at school. I just had to learn to play guitar and I'd be made!

Starting with a little banjo inherited from a relative I managed to wheel and deal my way to a sparkly silver electric guitar – I just had to learn to play it. With the assistance of Bert Weedon's 'Play in a Day' book of instruction, I was on my way. With lots of practice I began to improve and eventually reached a level where I felt I could provide half decent entertainment.

Fate smiled upon me when making my way to a friend's house one day, guitar slung over my back, I bumped into an old schoolmate who asked if I could play the instrument I was carrying. He had just started a group and was looking for a rhythm guitarist. I jumped at the opportunity and was keen to show the group members what I could do. They liked what they heard and soon I was a fully fledged member.

We met for regular rehearsals and originally based ourselves upon The Shadows so no vocals were necessary. However, during one particular rehearsal in a local school hall, I took the opportunity of a spare moment to play my guitar solo and sing along to Walking the Dog. Unbeknown to me, the others were listening and when I reached the end of the song, gave me a rapturous round of applause. They said they had no idea I could sing and I was wasted playing guitar, by popular consensus I was appointed lead singer. My guitar still came out from time to time but my main role was as vocalist. Our style and direction changed and we started rehearsing rhythm and blues songs and soon felt we were ready to sing in public. Just one more thing, we had to decide upon a name. After much deliberation, The Effect was born.

We continued regular rehearsals and started to perform at local events, things were going really well, people seemed to like us. Bookings were now coming in for most weekends and as word went round, the area we covered expanded and we were travelling further to perform at various parties and weddings. Importantly, at this stage, we were approached by someone with experience in the music business who wanted to manage us, we gladly accepted and with Danny as our manager, things took off even more.

We were not alone in this venture, many groups were starting up all over the country and all with the same ambitions: success, fame and fortune! Due to the high competition, bookings started to decrease slightly and we were travelling further to get to them, all increasing our costs which was starting to dishearten us. Danny remained upbeat and had great faith in us then one day announced that he wanted us to enter a competition, playing against other bands in front of a judging panel. Who knows, this may have been the origin of Pop Idol/X Factor!

Before we knew it, we were at the first heat of the competition which we felt we easily won, the same for the second heat and we were through to the semi-final. Not such a walkover as we were now at a level of much higher talent but yes, we won our place in the final. We were to perform three songs, competing against two other groups a week later for the prize of a recording session in a London studio.

On arrival at the final, we unloaded our rather shabby speakers and other equipment then noticed to our dismay that one of our rivals had very high quality streamlined amplifiers. Undaunted, we finished our performance and felt we had done well then waited for the results. We felt the prize was anybody's but when the announcement was made, we had come second. We shouldn't blame our gear but we couldn't help feeling that if we had their equipment it may have been a different story.

Sadly we did not feel we could recover from getting so close and then losing the competition and after much consideration decided to call it a day. The winners however, carried on and did rather well for themselves even though we thought they would come to nothing with such a strange name as Pink Floyd.

Years have gone by and apart from the odd karaoke or singing at family parties, I did nothing to further my singing career until on holiday in the Canaries one year I was persuaded to sing in the hotel we were staying at. Despite my protest that I was there to relax on holiday, the staff were very insistent and had me singing each night. At the end of our holiday they wanted us to stay and offered me a job! I didn't take the offer too seriously and wasn't in a position to take it up anyway but it was very flattering.

When we got home, I started to think about how easy it would be to set up as a solo singer. With modern electronics a backing band wasn't necessary. Retirement was looming and I needed more hobbies so kitted myself out with everything I needed, soundproofed our garage and started rehearsing again! I now perform at local venues, The White Horse, Eaton Bray; The Swan, Northall; The Cross Keys, Totternhoe; the Wednesday Club, Northall and occasionally at parties. Come join me if you can but please don't mention Pink Floyd.

✍ Johnny Dee.



What Animal Do You Associate with March?

When you ask any country person what animal is associated with March, it is more likely than not that they will say the hare, and more than just a hare, the Mad March Hare. Hares are much loved animals but most of the time their nocturnal lifestyle and their normally secretive daytime behaviour makes them so difficult to find that many people have only seen them on a screen. If you want to see hares, March is definitely the month to do it.

This is because the increasing day length triggers their mating behaviour, (which to us seems mad) and in March many of the arable crops such as wheat are still short enough for us to see what is going on. Later in the year they may still be just as mad but they will be hidden by the growing crops.

The madness consists of pairs or groups of hares careering about, chasing each other at high speed, twisting and turning, with the leader stopping every now and again to stand on her hind legs and batter her followers with her front feet. We say her, for two reasons. First, it is the rural convention to refer to all hares as her or she, whatever their actual sex. Second, in this instance, the leading hare is female, in spite of normally being the largest animal in the group. Another oddity of brown hares is that females (called Jills) are usually bigger than males and often very aggressive towards the pursuing males (Jacks).

There are lots of odd facts about the hares you can see chasing each other through the corn in March. For instance they are, surprisingly, not native to the British Isles. When the last Ice-Age ended our hares ancestors survived in several thousand miles away near what is now the Caspian Sea. They spread slowly westward but did not arrive in time to reach us on dry land before the melting ice flooded what we call the Channel and made us an island. They were brought here by Gaulish tribes in pre-Roman times. Not only did the Gauls enjoy hunting them, they used them for divination and even worshipped a God called Eoster (the root of our Easter) who took the shape of a hare.

Another oddity is that hares spend all their lives above ground. Most small mammals will use holes for shelter or to protect their young, think of a badgers sett, a foxes earth, or a rabbits burrow. All a hare has is a form. A shallow scrape in the ground in which it lies, and in which its young are born. No matter the weather, the hare and its young (leverets)



just have to put up with it. On the plus side the leverets are born well developed compared to most mammals. Their eyes are open and they are fully furred and can eat solid food almost from birth, although their mother suckles them once a day (at evening) for a short time. Despite this they are extraordinarily vulnerable, to both weather and predation. Late snow or heavy, prolonged rain will kill them, and their only defence against predators such as foxes, crows, and stoats, is their camouflage, if they are discovered there is little hope of escape.



Hares are not evenly abundant across the UK. They are generally less common in the wetter, colder north and west, and more common in the drier south and east. They tend to be most abundant on the estates of East Anglia where farming makes habitat concessions to game management and gamekeepers carry out the legal control of common predators. Hares are grazing animals and need a variety of vegetation to ensure that they can find nutritious food at the right height for them to eat. These are the same conditions that favour game birds, and so the habitat management for them, coincidentally helps the hares.

Nationally the hare has suffered from farm specialisation, where, instead of the older systems of largely mixed farming, with each farm having livestock and arable crops, they are now all dairy or all arable. This means that whilst there is plenty of food for hares at certain times of the year, there may be none at critical periods. On arable farms, perhaps surprisingly, this can be in the summer, when you might think that there is lots of food, but if it is all tall, weed free wheat and barley, too tall for hares and leverets to graze, they can starve in the midst of apparent plenty.

The reduction in the numbers of full time game keepers has also had an effect. Research shows that a single fox family can eat the entire leveret production in their area. If you add to this the impact of crows and other predators, in simplified agricultural environments, hares can have a difficult time.

The Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust has done a great deal of research into the problems hares face in the modern rural landscape and has published much of it in peer reviewed scientific papers. As a result we know what needs to be done to conserve hares, and happily, it is not unachievable at reasonable cost and trouble. Several government funded 'agri-environment' options available to farmers, can make a huge difference. Planting wild bird seed mixes, cover crops, beetle banks, hedgerows and grass margins can be done by any farmer, not just those who run shoots. All will help create the habitat mosaic that suits hares. If these are combined with efficient and timely predator control the chances of conserving hares in sustainable numbers rise even further.

So there is still a good chance in many areas, if you walk quietly through the March countryside, that you may still see the Mad March hares doing what comes naturally.

✍ Ian Coghill

Courtesy of www.gamekeeperstrust.org.uk



In aid of St Mary's Church, 1st Eaton Bray & Edlesborough Scout Group and other local charities & good causes.

This year the carnival will be held on Saturday 1st July 2023 with the theme of "CHILDREN'S FILMS."

THE CARNIVAL NEEDS YOUR HELP

This year we are looking for a new committee member to create our annual programme. To find out more please contact Mark on 07720 741189.

The Carnival Committee needs people who can help in a variety of ways. If you can spare a couple of hours, or are even happy to help all day, your assistance will be gratefully received. You can help by:

- Deploying and collecting cones and road closure signage
- Assisting with bringing equipment to and from the Green, before and after the event
- Helping on a stall
- To join our committee to help run our 2023 carnival

INFORMATION FOR LOCAL BUSINESSES

The carnival is the perfect opportunity for businesses and organisations to be part of a local community event which is attracting an ever-increasing number of visitors and gaining a reputation as one of the best rural carnivals around.

To make sure you have a presence at the carnival, the committee are urging local businesses, schools, youth groups and organisations to make contact and be part of this brilliant event. With visitors attending from all over, the carnival offers the perfect platform for businesses to gain new customers.

Just a few ways the carnival can help are:

- Advertising in the carnival arena, offering prime exposure within the heart of the carnival.
- Having a stall at the carnival. Prices are unchanged from last year.
- Donating a prize towards either the grand draw or the silent auction.

To book a stall, arrange advertising, offer prizes or chat about how the carnival can work for your business or organisation, visit the carnival website:

www.stmarysvillagecarnival.com

Milo's Paws & Pals...Home from Home

Welcome to my new venture, Milo's Paws & Pals, Doggy Day Care & Overnight Boarding based in Eaton Bray. My name is Vicky and we have lived in the village of Eaton Bray for 8 years. We love the village life & the country walks. Our dog was called Milo, he was a beagle, we sadly lost him in November 2022 to cancer. (hence the name in memory)

We are a family of dog lovers & have always looked after friends & family's dogs. No more stress when you're on holiday, your dog will also have a holiday, home from home experience & treated as part of our family. (no Kennels) Lots of fun play, walks & cuddles in a secured house & garden. All I ask is that your dog is sociable around people & other dogs and has up to date vaccinations & you supply food & bed for their stay. (I am like a registered dog minder for your pets) ☺
Just like to say a big Thank you to everyone that has booked so far.

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www.christmaspuzzle.co.uk

GORDON'S CHRISTMAS PUZZLE 2022

It has been another remarkable year for the Christmas Puzzle.

353 entrants, 21 for the first time

Thanks to many locals for your continued support.

Overseas entries from Australia, Cyprus, France, Ireland and New Zealand.

£8,500 raised this year, so five charities will each receive £1,700.

This brings the total raised by the Puzzle in 32 years to over £127,000 and the number of different charities supported by the Puzzle to 92, of whom 62 have received £1,000 or more

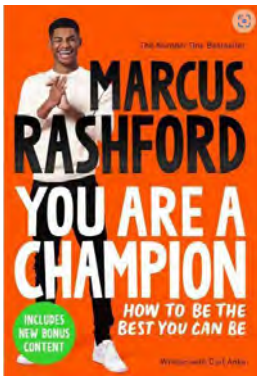
On behalf of the charities,

"Thank to supporters for your remarkable generosity."

Winners

I conducted a draw on 5 February at St Mary's Church, Eaton Bray with Edlesborough. The three people who scored full marks and will receive £50 were: Isabella Barnard (from Bedford), Dot Folwell (from Derby), and Gill Kenyon (from Milton Keynes). five further names, each receiving £10 were selected from those who submitted an entry. These were: Vera Carter (Shefford), Roy & Pam Evans (Leighton Buzzard), Isobel Goforth (York), Sally Kettle (Camberley) and R Whaley (Stevenage).

Book Review



Winner of the British Book Awards 2022 Marcus Rashford has proven himself to be a remarkable role model for the nation's children, and now he delivers an inspirational volume to help develop the game-changers and ethical crusaders of tomorrow.

What will this prodigy do next? Well, what he has done is the obvious next step for a celebrity. He's written a children's book, except this takes the form of a self-help book. It's the book he wishes he had had as a teenager, he says, though it's hard to think how his meteoric rise could have been any steeper. You Are a Champion is the title, and indeed the gist. The essential

formula is: "I want you to be you, and I want you to be the best version of you that you can be". This is a message we get in various forms throughout. And for younger readers it's not set out in boring old type: it's laid out to catch the eye, with bold type, big type, type circled repeatedly, text interspersed with bouncy footballs, all a bit like the kind of inspirational card you get at Paperchase. Even the most reluctant reader gets the message. The book is written with the help of journalist Carl Anka and a performance psychologist, Katie Warriner. What it amounts to is an enormous morale booster. Look at your hands... no one else has those fingerprints. Stick out your tongue... no one else has that tongue. So, to all the shy and awkward children out there, the message is a benign one: You are a Complete One-Off, so stop comparing yourself with other people. Or to put it another way – this emphasised with lightning flashes – You Are At your Most Powerful when You are Being You. This is a pep talk applicable to just anyone.

But besides the message that everyone is special, which is undeniably true, there's a useful moral here, which is that the harder you practice, the better you get. Marcus Rashford doesn't set out to be the Samuel Smiles of our era, but he points out that it was practice, practice, practice that helped him nail the really difficult trick of turning into a ball as it approaches. I'd never noticed this stuff but it's his trade, and he learned it from a textbook, did it endlessly and watched the best footballers do it to learn from them. The lesson is that "the longer you spend practising and working towards your goals, the luckier you'll end up being." That, folks, is a useful message. And coming from a football pin-up, the advice that "when you come up short in a challenge, it's important to not give up and just stop there, but to look at what happened and think about how you could overcome a similar problem in the future" is more telling. There is no human endeavour of which this isn't true.

The book has any number of take home messages: Build Your Confidence; Never Stop Learning, Find Your Team and... You Are a Champion. But you know what he doesn't say? It's that it helps being a football genius to begin with.

✍️Melanie McDonagh, Evening Standard

'Marcus Rashford wanted a book to inspire a generation of kids who are often hard to reach and for whom books might not have been a big part of their childhood. He and his publisher have succeeded spectacularly... You Are A Champion is wholesome and positive and another brilliant example of the legacy that Marcus is sure to leave behind when his playing days are long gone.' ✍️Gabby Logan, Book of the year judge



Eaton Bray Methodist Church

Our first service of 2023 fell on New Year's Day and was led in style by Roger Owers, a very gifted lay preacher, who encouraged us to look back and celebrate all that God has helped us to achieve, as well as looking forward and accepting the new challenges he brings us. On the second Sunday, our preacher, Colin Quine led our Café service with a similar focus on the future and on a cheerful note. He recognised that we can easily be daunted by the huge problems currently facing us but suggested that it is often valuable to concentrate on 'the little things' which can make such a difference when we are trying to help people. Our Covenant service took place on the 3rd Sunday and was led by our Minister, Rev Nigel Bibbings. This is the moment in the year when we rededicate ourselves to life with God and we were reminded that this only works if we have a relationship of love and trust in God. Tina Salmon made a welcome return to our church on the 4th Sunday; her sermon was about settling differences and getting on together – especially relevant as it was the Week of Christian Unity. We ended the month on a high note with a fine service led by Steve Rogers. He pointed out that Jesus was more than simply a fine teacher; his behaviour was often 'counter-cultural' and he requires his followers to be the same, questioning worldly values and upholding less fashionable qualities such as truth, patience and humility.

Date for your diary

Warm Hub/Social Afternoon Weekly on Thursdays 1.30pm – 5.30pm
Chat, meeting friends, games, refreshments. All Welcome.

A Warm Invitation

If you would like to join us in a Sunday service, you would be very welcome. Our Sunday worship takes place in the Eaton Bray Methodist Church on Totternhoe Rd and starts at 10.30am.

Eaton Bray Cricket Club



It won't be long now until the start of the 2023 season.

Winter Nets continue at Dunstable Town CC from 8-9 on Wednesdays.

The Club AGM will be held on Saturday 11th March at 2pm at the Rye Gardens.

Eaton Bray Cricket Club are always on the hunt for new players of any age or ability.

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

and also a Ladies Softball Team.

The club would like to thank our sponsors Meadow Marquees, Mlily Mattress, Fine & Country Estate Agents, Westrope Butchery, 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.

We hope you enjoy your cricket with Eaton Bray in 2023.



Shortbread Biscuits

By Sally Taylor

This is a gluten free recipe, suitable for coeliacs. You do need to check the ingredients to confirm that they are not packaged in an atmosphere where gluten is handled. I cannot buy ground rice which is guaranteed to be gluten free.

Ingredients – makes about 35 biscuits.

175g (6oz) butter
75g (3oz) caster sugar
grated rind of 3 lemons
175g (6oz) rice flour
75g (3oz) ground almonds

Method

Preheat the oven to 180°C/160°C fan/gas mark 4

Cream the butter until soft. Add the sugar and lemon rind and beat until light and fluffy. Add the rice flour and ground almonds and mix until combined.

Knead lightly on a rice floured surface until the dough is smooth (At this stage I roll the dough into several sausage shapes 4cm (1¼ in) in diameter rather than stamping into rounds later). Cover and refrigerate for about an hour, which will make the dough easier to handle.

If I have made sausage shapes I cut the biscuits into 5mm (1/4in) thick rounds. Alternatively, roll out the pastry between two sheets of parchment paper to a 5mm (1/4in) thickness and stamp out rounds using a 4cm cutter. Place on baking sheets and bake for 10 to 15 minutes until golden. Leave the biscuits to cool for a few minutes on the baking sheet before transferring to a cooling rack.

Sprinkle with caster sugar before serving.

No-Bake Raspberry Cheesecake

By Barney Desmazery Courtesy of BBCgoodfood

Customise this raspberry cheesecake by adding white chocolate, yogurt or mascarpone, or, for a richer base, swap the digestive biscuits for shortbread.

Ingredients

300g digestive biscuits
100g unsalted butter, melted
500g full-fat soft cheese
100g caster sugar, plus 2 tbsp
1 tsp vanilla extract
300ml double cream
300g raspberries
icing sugar, for dusting (optional)

Method

Blitz the biscuits in a food processor or tip into a food bag and bash to fine crumbs using a rolling pin. Transfer to a bowl and stir in the melted butter until the mixture looks



like damp sand. Tip the buttery crumbs into a 20cm springform tin and press into the base using the back of a spoon until you have a smooth, even layer. Chill until needed.

Tip the soft cheese, sugar, vanilla, and cream into a bowl and beat using an electric whisk until thick and creamy. Fold in about two-thirds of the raspberries, pressing the berries lightly against the side of the bowl as you do to squeeze out some of their juices and lightly ripple the cream.

Scrape the cheesecake mixture over the chilled base and smooth the top with a spatula. Chill for at least 6 hrs, or preferably overnight. Can be made up to two days ahead and chilled. To serve, carefully remove from the tin, scatter with the remaining raspberries and dust with icing sugar, if using.



Northall Baptist Church

200 years and still going

A little Church with strong local links

Did You Know that 13th March 2023 is National Good Samaritan Day?

We all know the story of the Good Samaritan. The National Good Samaritan Day is based on the story that Jesus told in Luke 10. The special day is an opportunity to show kindness and selflessness to everyone despite our differences.

The date is in memory of a lady called Catherine Genovase who on 13th March 1944 was killed in New York. It was reported that there were several witnesses, prompting inquiries at the time into the 'bystander effect'. In 1975 it was turned into a film entitled 'Death Screamer'. It is often said that 'the only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good people to do nothing'. Had someone intervened Catherine might have lived. The perpetrator was later caught for further offences and confessed to murdering Catherine.

In Luke 10 a lawyer asked Jesus what he needed to do to inherit eternal life! What a question! Lots of people today debate how to live longer or what happens after death. It was well discussed in Jesus' time as well.

Jesus gave the short answer to this question in that well known verse in John 3 v 16 'For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life'. All wrapped up in one sentence.

In the parable of the Good Samaritan Jesus gave some practical pointers about how to treat others and the lawyer at the end of the story answered his own question, concluding that the person who will have eternal life, is the person who has mercy on his suffering neighbour who had been attacked by robbers. Jesus' story showed that those who you would have expected to help, those in authority, the priest and then the Levite just passed by, even



crossing the road, but the one shunned by society, the Samaritan, did the right thing. He treated his wounds, bandaged him up, took him to safety and even paid for his care. Jesus told us in Matthew 22 that the first commandment is to 'Love the Lord Your God with all your heart' and the second commandment is to 'Love your neighbour as yourself'.

It seems a good opportunity on 13th March to show some special kindness to your neighbour or all those you meet that day. But not just that day why not continue to demonstrate the love of God to others. It'll make you feel better as well.

Our Sunday services are at 11 am. We'd love you 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



Nigel's Thoughts

Dear Friends,

Perhaps you will remember that last month I wrote about the possibility of their being approximately 72 seasons of the year.

Spring has certainly sprung since then, and by the time you read this we shall be in the season of the churches year which we call Lent.

Now before you switch off, because you think the 'preach' is coming. Let me say that for me, this year is going to be more about watching, waiting, noticing and listening, than about beating myself up!

We have all had more than enough of struggle in the recent past, and indeed in the present, to be desperate for some good news. So instead of focussing on our shortcomings I propose that we turn ourselves towards the growing and lengthening light of each new day.

Possible 'seasons' suggested for the month of March include 'Plants show their first buds'; 'Hibernating creatures open their doors'; 'The Magnolia blooms'; 'The sparrow builds her nest' and 'The first cherry blossoms'. I shall be keeping a look out for all of these and many more.

God's creation is able to teach us a very great deal as we watch, wait, notice and listen this month. My prayer is that we will feel closer to the creator, more grounded, and freed from so much that troubles and stops us from becoming the truly whole human beings we were created to be. Then we will be able to welcome him who is life and love himself into our lives.

Enjoy the seasons!

God bless,

✍️Nigel

March at the Grove



Film

Babylon - 1 Mar

Tar - 8 Mar

Till - 14 & 20 Mar

Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania - 20/24 Mar

Private Hire

DanceMania 2023 - 26 Mar

Coram Shakespeare Schools Foundation - 27 Mar

Drama

Teechers - 13 Mar

Musicals

Dreamcoat Stars - 12 Mar

Comedy

Father Ted - 15 Mar

Popular Music

Lost In Music - 4 Mar

Shape of You - 9 Mar

80's Mania - 11 Mar

UK Pink Floyd Experience - 16 Mar

Anything for Love-Meat Loaf Story - 17 Mar

That'll Be The Day 2023 - 25 Mar

Glenn Miller & Big Band Spectacular - 29 Mar

Total 90's - 30 Mar

The Elvis Years-The Story of the King - 31 Mar

Variety

Gordon Buchanan-30 Years in the Wild-21 Mar

Madama Butterfly - 22 Mar

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

Article from Focus 1964

Q.V.

How can you worship when you're cold?

Q. How do you expect anyone to attend a place of worship that is as cold as Eaton Bray Parish Church?

V. Well you know it's amazing what hardships people will endure when they are really determined to do something. Go and look at the Kenilworth Road area in Luton on many a bitter cold Saturday afternoon. Go into the football ground and you're likely to see several thousand people—mostly men—standing around and presumably enjoying themselves, even in a temperature around freezing point. All you need is warm clothing and a bit of enthusiasm and you don't mind the cold.

But going to church is different. It's indoors, so we tend to compare the temperature with that of our own fireside. And it isn't as exciting as football. So we can't work up the same self-forgetful enthusiasm.

But to be honest we are not very happy about our church heating system. It costs us about £7 a week to run and certainly it is not efficient. We hope to make improvements before next winter. You may not know it, but we keep the boiler going all through the week; and this gives us a temperature of between 15 and 20 degrees above the outside reading.

It does raise the whole question of whether we ought to go on maintaining our lovely but costly ancient building to worship in.

We are not as tough as our ancestors and we cannot stand the sort of conditions that they endured.

But I'd better get to the answer to your question. If you reckon you belong to the Church of England and you live in Eaton Bray, I think it's quite reasonable that I should expect you to come and join in the worship of the Church in spite of the cold. If your own home is too cold the best thing to do is to help make it warmer. The church is, or should be, your second home. And the more people who worship together the warmer it will be. It is **your** job to make it even more of a home for other people.

One of the reasons you sometimes feel cold at a football match is that there is nothing to get excited about, so that you can't really join in. If you can neither cheer nor groan, if you're just plain bored, you'll feel the cold a lot more.

That is true about worship in church as well. You have to join in. There should be no mere spectators, and certainly no bored spectators. To join as best you can is the best way to forget yourself and your troubles and become for a while what you are meant to be—a mirror that catches the light of the glory of God and so glows with His brightness and warmth.



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Edlesborough Primary Academy is part of the Knowledge Schools Trust.

Welcome to **Butterfly Funerals**

Butterfly Funerals are specialist funeral directors Luton and owned and operated by Teresa Stack-Murray & Peter Murray, residents of Eaton Bray. If you have experienced a recent bereavement and don't know where to start then please call us on 01582 968130. We will organise everything for you, compassionately, professionally and at a reasonable price. Butterfly Funerals provide everything that you will need at this time for funerals and cremations throughout Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire, Buckinghamshire and the rest of England. This will include advice surrounding administration as well as service provision from other providers such as florists and headstone masons.

For the last 3 years, we have been in the top 3 funeral directors in Luton.

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The Noise Next Door are thirteen time sell-out veterans of The Edinburgh Fringe and have appeared on 'The One Show' (BBC One) and 'Britain's Got Talent' (ITV1). They have also appeared alongside the likes of Michael McIntyre, Katherine Ryan, Romesh Ranganathan and Harry Hill.

Leighton Buzzard Theatre, Lake Street, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire, LU7 1RX
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30 Years in the Wild

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After a sell-out tour last year, Gordon Buchanan is going back on tour. One of the most prominent wildlife presenters and filmmakers working today, Gordon's journey is a remarkable story to tell.

Having produced some of the most popular wildlife programmes on the BBC, we have been able to see his incredible passion for the animal kingdom and the unique ability he has for presenting such hidden animal worlds to an audience.

Gordon will be taking a look back at his incredible 30 years working both behind and in front of the camera. This will be a rare opportunity to discover what has driven his career and what are his most favourite wildlife encounters.

"The wildlife film-maker has a rich reserve of stories from which to pick for his live tour" The Times

*Call the Box Office on 01582 60 20 80
or visit the website at www.grovetheatre.co.uk.*



What to do in the Garden in March



By mid-March, we're ready to welcome the start of spring — a hopeful, happy time for us gardeners.

There's lots to be done outside, now the slower winter months have passed.

Timely Tips

This month's timely tips are all about getting a head start in the garden.

- Fertilise your beds. Once your soil is workable, dig a 5cm (or more) layer of compost or well-rotted manure into your beds to prepare for the growing season ahead. You can also work in a general-purpose fertiliser, such as pelleted chicken manure, or fish, blood and bone.
- Put supports in. If any of your garden plants or climbers need supporting this year, put them in now, so plants can grow up through them. Adding supports afterwards is trickier and often looks unattractive.
- Move deciduous trees or shrubs. Now is the time to do this task, provided the soil isn't frozen or waterlogged.
- Resurface paths before plants start to grow and smother them.

In the flower garden

Here are your main tasks in the flower garden this month:

- Feed trees, shrubs and hedges with a slow-release fertiliser by lightly forking it into the soil surface.

- Feed roses with special rose feed or balanced fertiliser as they come into growth.
- Prune roses now to encourage strong new growth
- Prune clematis - prune early-flowering varieties once their flowers have finished and summer-flowering ones before they start into active growth.
- If you have a rhododendron that needs a new lease of life, choose a frost-free day this month to cut the branches hard.
- Finish cutting back cornus and salix cultivars, and other shrubs grown for their colourful winter stems. Cut them right back to their bases to encourage new stem growth for next winter.



- Cut out the top rosette of leaves from mahonia shrubs after they have flowered, to encourage branching.
- Finish cutting back dead foliage from perennials and ornamental grasses to make way for new growth.
- Prune overwintered fuchsias back to one or two buds on each shoot. This

will encourage a bushy growth habit.

- Prune winter-flowering jasmine after flowering, to encourage new growth for next year's blooms. Cut back the previous year's growth to 5cm from the old wood.
- Trim winter-flowering heathers as the flowers disappear, to prevent the plants becoming leggy.
- Keep an eye out for slugs as the weather warms. Pay special attention to soft, new growth, which slugs love. Use nematodes for an effective organic control.
- Cut the old leaves off hellebores to remove any foliar diseases and make spring flowers more visible.
- Continue to deadhead winter pansies to stop them setting seed. This will encourage flushes of new flowers throughout the spring.
- Deadhead daffodils as the flowers finish and let the foliage die back naturally.
- Deadhead hydrangeas before new growth appears. Cut to about one third of last season's growth.
- Plant native hedges to encourage wildlife.

In the vegetable garden

Here are your vegetable garden jobs for this month:

- Dig in green manures grown over the winter. Do this while stems are still soft.
- Dig compost, well-rotted manure or green waste into your vegetable beds to prepare for the growing season ahead. Dig in a 5cm (or more) layer when the soil becomes workable. Weed vegetable seed beds before adding the layer.
- Cover prepared soil with sheets of black plastic to keep it drier and warmer in preparation for planting.

- Weed and mulch asparagus beds. Asparagus has shallow roots so weed by hand to prevent damage.

In the fruit garden

Trim, feed and protect plants in the fruit garden:

- Cut autumn-fruiting raspberry canes to the ground to stimulate new canes, which will fruit in the autumn. Cut the tips of summer-fruiting raspberry canes that have grown beyond the top of their supports; cut just above a bud.
- Feed blueberry plants with ericaceous plant fertiliser.
- Protect the blossoms of apricots, peaches and nectarines from frost with a screen or horticultural fleece.
- Mulch fruit trees with well-rotted manure or garden compost. Take care not to mound mulch up around tree trunks.
- Cover strawberries with a cloche to encourage earlier fruiting.
- Mulch rhubarb with a thick layer of well-rotted manure to keep it healthy and reduce moisture loss through the soil. Take care not to cover the crown, as this is where the growth happens.

Looking after your lawn

Here's how to look after your lawn this March:

- Recut any lawn edges if necessary.
- Install lawn edging to make future maintenance easier.



- Mow your lawn if it needs it. Choose a dry day and set your blades higher than usual.
- Lay new turf if the ground isn't frozen or waterlogged.
- Prepare soil for growing new lawn

from seed. Doing this now allows it time to settle before sowing.

Other jobs about the garden

Here are the other jobs to be getting on with this month:

- Install a new pond or water feature.
- Remove any pond netting left over from the autumn/winter.
- Get rid of slimy patches on patios and paving by scrubbing with a broom or blasting with a pressure washer.
- Install water butts for the season ahead. Position them under a downpipe to make the most of rainfall.
- Scrub watering cans with hot soapy water to prevent fungal diseases.
- Build a compost bin before the growing season gets underway. If you already have one, check to see if there is any compost ready to use on vegetable beds. Move bags of compost into the greenhouse to warm up for a week or two before using for sowing.
- Create a comfrey bed to make your own organic fertiliser. Sow into a seedbed in an unused corner of the garden.
- Invest in a soil-testing kit if you don't already know what type of soil you have. It will help you choose the right plants for your garden.
- Top up veg planters and raised beds with compost and good quality topsoil.
- Begin weeding as the weather warms — it's easier to control weeds if you remove them while they're still young.
- Check containers to ensure the soil hasn't dried out.
- Top-dress containers by removing the top 2.5cm (1") of soil, and replacing it with fresh compost.
- Start ventilating greenhouses and

cold frames on warm sunny days. Don't forget to move plants from the greenhouse to a cold frame for at least 7 days before planting out into the garden. This allows them to harden off.

- Give your wooden shed a spring clean before the sowing season really kicks off - you won't regret it!

From your armchair

- Order annual bedding plants now, ready for beautiful containers and hanging baskets this year.
- Order fruit trees for planting this spring. If space is limited in your garden try growing dwarf fruit trees.



- Buy vegetable plants for a hassle-free start to your vegetable garden.
- Sort your seeds by sowing date, month by month. Start a sowing and growing diary to keep track of which seeds you are sowing and when they were sown — it really helps later in the year.
- Consider using green waste to improve your soil; visit your local council's website for information.

**Information courtesy of
Thompson and Morgan
www.thompson-morgan.com**



Eaton Bray History

Church Lane Cottages, Eaton Bray (courtesy of the Bedfordshire Archives)



2 to 6 Church Lane about 1920



Church Lane Cottages March 2012

A row of three cottages stand opposite the south front of the church in Church Lane. At a quick glance they all look old, but a closer inspection will reveal that only the westernmost, Number 2 is truly ancient, as its warped timbers testify. The property was listed by the former Department of Environment in September 1980 as Grade II, of special interest. The department dated the cottage to the 17th century. It is timber-framed with colour-washed plaster infill and comprises two storeys under a modern tiled roof.

The cottage formed part of the Manor of Eaton Bray and was sold at auction with the rest of the Eaton Bray property (known as the Pedley Settled Estates) in 1915 by the executors of Arthur Macnamara. The sale catalogue describes the cottage as follows:

LOT 16

A Range of Three Freehold Two-storied Cottages

Brick and half timber-built, with tiled roofs, and situate in Church lane opposite the Church, one containing Four Rooms up and Two down, and the others Two Rooms up and One down each, with Coal Barns and GOOD GARDENS, in all about

1 rood, 24 poles

Let to Ernest Brandon, William Proctor and Edward Groom on Monthly Tenancies, at Rents aggregating to
£20 8s. per annum.

At the back is a note that the cottage was sold to H. Sear for £150. 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. Like most of the county, Eaton Bray was assessed in 1927. The valuer visiting Church Lane found that the row of three cottages now belonged to J. Gadsden – possibly the James Gadsden who was a shopkeeper at 34 High Street.

Next door was occupied by Mrs. L. Procter who paid rent of 14/8½ per month; it had been 10/- before the Great War. The end cottage was in the occupation of A. E. Parsons whose rent was 6/- per week, a massive increase on the pre-war rent of 2/6. Both these two cottages had the same accommodation – a living room, a scullery and two bedrooms with a brick and tiled barn and a weather-boarded and slated earth closet outside. The valuer commented: “Poor places. Low eaves”.

Saving Money by Making Lifestyle Changes

Money saving tips courtesy of www.raisin.co.uk

Use pre-owned clothing apps

Rather than splashing the cash on an entirely new wardrobe, you can shop in a more sustainable way (and for a lot less) by using apps such as Vinted and Depop.

Organise your wardrobe

Having a good clothing reorganisation could mean you find items you've forgotten you have. It could also mean that you have lots of pieces to either sell or donate, earning yourself some extra cash in the process.

Rent outfits for special occasions

Rather than buying a new dress or suit for every wedding or special event you attend, renting can often be cheaper. You'll just need to weigh this up against the number of events you'll be attending and how often you'll be renting, as opposed to buying outright.

Share clothes with friends and family

Even better than renting, you can borrow clothes from a friend or family member who is a similar size. This also applies to shoes, which could cut both your and their costs right down.

Weigh in on clothing donations

A lot of companies provide cash in return for clothes, which increases in amount based on how much it weighs. This is great news for those large winter coats you don't want anymore, along with heavy denim and thick wool items.

Shop second hand

Charity shops are a great place to shop for clothes and household items. As well as being incredibly cheap, they often offer a quirk you can't find anywhere else.

Free/cheap parking apps

Parking can be an expensive necessity, especially if you live or work in a city centre. However, there are several apps available that can help you cut costs without compromising the safety of your car.

Use hostels/farm stays when travelling

Travel is a luxury that many people can't live without, especially after the restrictions created by the pandemic. However, you can cut the cost of travelling by choosing to holiday with a host family, participate in a house swap or look for bunkhouses and farm stays during your travels. This way, you might even enjoy a more authentic experience and make friends for life.

If you're more of a luxury traveller, sign up to hotel/accommodation newsletters

If you're more into five stars than freebies, the only way you can save money is by signing up to hotel newsletters and hoping for a last-minute cancellation or discount code. Collecting hotel points and air miles will also save you some cash.

See if tourist attractions near you offer 'locals rates'

Many tourist attractions offer discounted rates for people who live within a certain catchment area or share the same postcode. If you're looking to stay savings savvy on your next day out, get in touch with an attraction near you to find out.

Cycle rather than drive

While you might have to initially invest in a bike for this one, you'll soon start reaping

the rewards in terms of road tax, fuel, insurance and upkeep. You'll also enjoy the fitness benefits and improve your health.

Shop around for the best providers

Everything from your internet to your energy could be cheaper elsewhere. That's why it's essential to use comparison sites and contact different companies for quotes. While it may be time consuming, it saves you money in the long run.

Before making improvements in your home, check for government grants

Lining your loft with new insulation? Installing new windows throughout your home? There might well be a government grant that can help you with the cost. A good example of this is the Green Homes Grant.

Seen something you want to buy? Sleep on it

When it comes to online shopping, things can easily spiral out of control due to the ease, accessibility and convenience. Instead of hitting purchase straight away, a good trick is to try sleeping on it. If you're still thinking about it around a week later, buy it. If not, you never really needed it.

Check your workplace benefits & perks

Many workplace schemes offer convenient and cost-cutting services that you might not know about. Have a chat with your employer to see what you might be missing, or what they might be able to help you with.

Switch suppliers

By remaining loyal to your suppliers, whether that's energy, broadband or your mobile phone, you might be missing some good deals. It's worthwhile shaking things up every now and then to see where you could be saving money, or use a competitor quote to haggle with your existing supplier.

Shop around for your insurance

As well as providers of utilities and phone networks, insurance policies and breakdown cover might be more reasonable elsewhere. See if you could save money by using a price comparison website.

Give more meaningful gifts

Birthdays and special occasions can drain your bank account when it comes to gifts. If you're trying to save money, you could try something original and authentic from the heart, rather than trying to impress with a big price tag.

Charge interest on late payments

If you freelance or are self employed, chasing up invoices can be time-consuming and frustrating. A good way to make some extra money out of negligent clients is to implement an interest charge on any late payments. That way, your clients will be more inclined to pay you on time and if not, they'll have to pay extra.

Remortgage to avoid 'loyalty' penalties

Many banks and mortgage lenders charge a 'loyalty penalty' to people who stick with the same deal after their fixed term expires, making it essential to shop around for a cheaper deal based on your term. You can find out more about the loyalty penalty charge here.

Implement a no-spend day

In an age where we have our digital cash at our fingertips, it's very easy to spend every day and go over budget. However, if you implement a strict no-spend day once a week, you'll soon stack up savings.

Your Photos



Fungi by Richard Woodhead

Tulips by Sally Siddons

*Eaton Bray Church in the snow
by Jane Jones*





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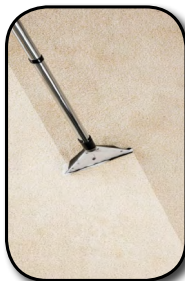
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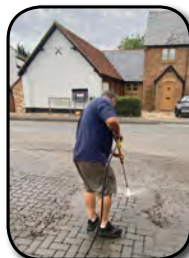
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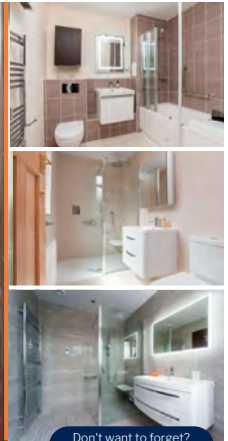
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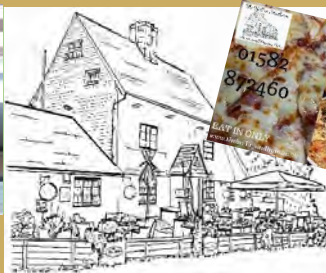


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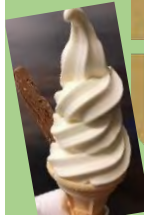


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EATON BRAY PARISH COUNCIL

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. A hard copy of the minutes can also be viewed on the Parish Council's notice board at The Coffee Tavern.

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

FixMyStreet

CBC have a reporting system to make reporting road/street issues easier, quicker and more accurate. To report and track highways and environment problems go online/use the FixMyStreet app: <https://fixmystreet.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/>

Parish Council Open Office/Surgery

If you need to speak to the Parish Council Clerk about local matters, you can visit the Parish Council Office at the Coffee Tavern on the second Tuesday after the monthly parish council meeting each month. For further information/dates, please contact the Parish Clerk or visit <https://www.ebpc.co.uk/parish-council-surgery/>

EATON BRAY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Held on Monday 9th January 2023, from 7:30pm
(Minutes ratified at PC Meeting, 13/02/2023)

Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC)

Cllr Philip Spicer - email: Philip.Spicer@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

CBC Website: www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

CBC Email: customers@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

CBC Customer Services: 0300 300 8301

- Drains: High Street/Woodside cleaned, there has been an improvement in this location, will be monitored.
- Pavements: Cllr Spicer wished to remind residents to keep reporting pavement issues to CBC on FixMyStreet.
- Tree Planting: The new trees planted in the parish will be maintained by CBC for a few years till established.
- Potholes: Cllr Spicer wished to remind residents to keep reporting highways issues to CBC on FixMyStreet.

Bedfordshire Police

- For general Police contact/enquiries: **non-emergency call 101**
- For emergencies: **call 999**

Planning Applications & Appeals – December 2022/January 2023

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.

Eaton Bray Parish Council Accounts

- A copy of the Parish Council's Finance & Annual Reports can be viewed on the

Parish Council Website.

- Monthly Payments – January 2023: A copy of the Parish Council monthly accounts can be seen on the Parish Council website or obtained by applying to the Parish Clerk.

Recreation Grounds

- School Lane: Groundworks –there was a delay on the completion of the groundworks. *Update (13/02/2023): There are a small number of snagging issues regarding the groundworks, planned to be completed by contractor by March 2023.
- School Lane: Play area fencing – final repairs to the play area fencing to be carried out upon full completion of groundworks.
- School Lane: Lighting – the design/style of the proposed lighting for the recreation ground has been agreed. The council now waiting for the full detailed cost of lights/installation before final decision made.

Queens Canopy

The Queen’s Green Canopy was a tree planting initiative created to mark HM Queen Elizabeth’s Platinum Jubilee in 2022. Eaton Bray Parish Council planted a Cherry Tree in School Lane Recreation Ground to commemorate the reign of HM Queen Elizabeth II. The link to the tree can be found by visiting ‘The Queen’s Canopy’ website: <https://queensgreencanopy.org/>



Village Signs: Once confirmation of delivery of signs, they will be fitted in place. *Update (13/02/2023): The new village signs have now been fitted in agreed location.

Ground Maintenance Contract 2023-3026: The Parish Council has gone out to tender for the contract. *Update (13/02/2023): Quotations were presented to the council, MWAgri Ltd was the chosen contractor.

Parish Council Meeting (1st Floor, The Coffee Tavern, Eaton Bray)

Details can be obtained from the EBPC website, www.ebpc.co.uk

- Parish Council Meeting, Monday 6th March 2023, from 7:30pm
- Parish Council Meeting, Monday 3rd April 2023, from 7:30pm
- Annual Parish Meeting, Monday 15th May 2023, from 7:00pm
- Annual Meeting of Eaton Bray Parish Council, Monday 15th May, from 7:30pm

Parish Council Open Office (Ground floor)

10am-12noon at The Coffee Tavern, High Street, Eaton Bray

(Dates/times subject to change, please check the EBPC Website for updates)

- Tuesday 14th March 2023
- Tuesday 11th April 2023



Heidi Head, Parish Clerk

Email: clerk@ebpc.co.uk – Telephone/Text: 07931 479663 – Website: www.ebpc.co.uk

Parish Office: The Coffee Tavern, 18 High Street, Eaton Bray, Beds, LU6 2DP

Postal Address: 17 Hammond Street, Aston Clinton, Bucks, HP22 0AJ

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Dagnall Weather Station (AONB)

Weather Conditions for January 2023

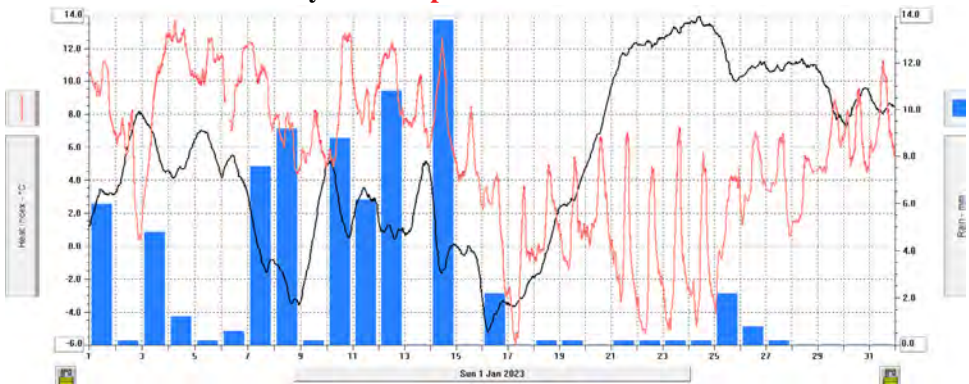
Elevation: 450 ft - Latitude: 51° 50' 13" North - Longitude: 0° 33' 34" West



January was a month of two halves, with the first two weeks mild, followed by much drier, sunnier and colder weather. When the temperature reached 13.7°C in the first half of the month, it was way higher than the monthly average. South Westerly winds brought a string of low pressure troughs which gave us rain for 14 of the first 16 days. This resulted in rainfall of 71.8mm, which is 95% of the monthly total (illustrated by the black line depicting pressure in the plot below). On the 17th, the temperature dropped to -6.0°C as high pressure brought sunny days and cold nights. At the end of the month, the wind turned westerly and temperatures rose, but this time it remained dry.

	High	Date/Time	Low	Date/Time
Temperature:	13.7°C	4 Jan 06.00	- 6.0°C	17 Jan 07.00
Mean Temperature	5.3°C			
Dewpoint:	12.3c	4 Jan 06.30	- 6.8°C	17 Jan 06.30
Humidity:	100%	25 Jan 11.30	65%	31 Jan 14.30
Barometer:	1039.9mb	24 Jan 09.00	982.5 mb	16 Jan 05.30
Wind Speed	38 mph S	7 Jan 06.00	Months avg.	6.4mph
Wind Chill:	11.7°C	5 Jan 15.00	- 7.3°C	23 Jan 07.30
Dominant Wind:	W			
Rainfall * T = total rain days and moisture. R = Actual rain				
* Rain Days: 23(T), 19(R)		Wettest Day 2 Jan	13.8 mm	0.543ins
Monthly Rain:	Total	January 2023	76.2 mm	3.000 ins
Yearly Rain:	Total	1 Month	76.2 mm	3.000 ins

January 2023 **Temperatures** and **Low Rain Fall**



For weather data 24 hours a day, updated every 15mins, this site forecast and much more, visit: www.dagnallweather.co.uk and http://bit.ly/weather_dagnall. If anyone has a question, comment or wishes to contact me please email: david@dagnallweather.co.uk or telephone: 01442 843883. Dagnall weather now has an app for your iPad & iPhone!

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When I watched the earlier series, I thought of them as historical (although fictional) inspired by Jennifer Worth's experience as a midwife. Set in the late 1950's early 1960's, but I must admit, I was upset when they reached the year I was born. Now it was no longer just 'history', for it was in my own lifetime.

We are in Lent, a time when Christians remember how Jesus was tempted by the devil, followed by events of Holy Week when Jesus was welcomed by the crowds on that first Palm Sunday, then on the Friday, crucified for our sin, followed by Easter Sunday, when Jesus conquered death.

The word 'history' made me think about Easter as 'His'-story. I want my life to show His story, by the way I live. What about you?

✉ Sarah Murray



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Champions Club	Wednesday 6.15-7.15pm
Girls Night Out (1st Thurs of the month)	Thursdays 7.30 pm

For further information please contact:

Majors David and Sarah Murray
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eaton.bray@salvationarmy.org.uk

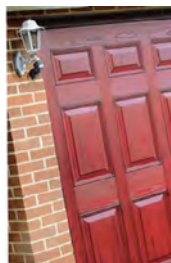


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