

FOCUS

A giraffe with a distinctive brown and white reticulated pattern stands in a zoo enclosure. The giraffe is the central focus, looking slightly to the right. The enclosure features a low stone wall in the foreground and several trees in the background. The sky is overcast.

July 2023

Eaton Bray, Edlesborough, Northall & Dagnall
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We help people of Eaton Bray and adjacent villages

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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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August Focus will be a joint issue for August & September. Don't forget to send in your August & September entries by 10th July

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

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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) Totternhoe Pre-school, Totternhoe CE Academy, 01582 662959, totternhoeoffice@tot.dsamat.co.uk
- Mondays Pilates, 10.45am, Totternhoe 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 KFPA ISTD ballet classes, Edlesborough Memorial Hall 4pm-6.30pm (4years+)
Contact Kiri 07988161043 or visit Facebook page 'KF PerformingArts/KFPA' for info
- Mondays Cubs (8-10 1/2 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 Totternhoe Baby & Toddler Group, 9.30-11.15am, St. Giles Church Hall, Ruth Allen, 01525 222468 or 07796 265174 or email ruthallen002@gmail.com
- Tuesdays Tap & Ballet Classes, JoAnn Latus School of Dance, 4-8pm, Eaton Bray VH, 07800 518654
- Tuesdays Coffee Morning, Bring & Buy, Table Top Sale, 10-11:30am, Salvation Army Hall, Booth Place, Eaton Bray
- Fortnightly
- Tuesdays Jazzercise 9:15-10am, Eaton Bray VH, Annis, annisjazzercise@gmail.com 07447 409666
- 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
- Tuesdays Movement is Medicine Pilates, 1:30-2:30pm, Billington Hall, moira@stjudesclinic.com
- 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 Movement is Medicine Pilates, 7-8pm, & 8:05-9:05pm, Billington Hall, moira@stjudesclinic.com
- Thursdays KFPA Street dance classes, Edlesborough Memorial Hall 4.15pm-6.30pm (4 years+)
Contact Kiri 07988161043 or visit Facebook page 'KF PerformingArts/ KFPA' 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
- 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

Village Diary

- 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 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 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
- Fridays Movement is Medicine Pilates, 10-11am, Great Gaddesdon Parish Hall, moira@stjudesclinic.com
- 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+)
- Sundays 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

- 1st July St Mary's Village Carnival, Edlesborough Green, from 11am
- 26th July Edlesborough Summer Play Event, 10am-12:30pm, Edlesborough Green
- 29th July Afternoon Team and Concert with Dagnall Community Choir, £10 per person or £30 for 4, Bookings 01525 220189



Birds of Bray
Newspapers wanted regularly
Please call Chris or Sue Mitchell
on 01525 221128 who can collect
Answer machine in use if unavailable

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



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Village Info



EDaN Community Transport
Peter Williams: 01442 842506

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

Police Contact Numbers...

making neighbourhoods safer together

General Assistance (Recommended Number): 101 Emergency: 999

Bedfordshire Police (Eaton Bray)

T/Sgt 6268 Amy Ison, Leighton Buzzard Community Policing Team, Duncombe Drive, Leighton Buzzard, Telephone: 01582 473408

Thames Valley Police (Edlesborough, Dagnall & Northall)

PCSOs Tina Hobson & Megan Dean

Charlotte Cottage, 73 Leighton Road, Wing LU7 0RD

Email: greatbrickhillwingivinghoenhpt@thamesvalley.police.uk

To report non urgent crime: www.thamesvalley.police.uk

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



**Open Gardens Event
16 July 2023
Event Cancelled**

I'm sorry to inform you that this summer's Open Gardens event has sadly been cancelled due to there being too few offers of gardens to visit. One explanation for this may be the serious damage done in December by 10 days of the temperature being 14 degrees below zero. This has been compounded by the subsequent wet spring followed by the current period of hot and dry weather. If you have a lovely garden and would like to help ensure the Open Garden event takes place next year please contact Gordon Gray on 220136.

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 I visited the National Gallery exhibition about St Francis of Assisi. It explores how he has been perceived and represented over the centuries, and how he still remains relevant today. Exhibits include paintings, sculptures, altarpieces, letters and his habit. There is even a Marvel comic book, 'Francis, brother of the universe' released in 1980. Francis was born in Assisi, central Italy in 1182, the son of a wealthy cloth merchant. During military service he was captured and imprisoned, a deeply affecting experience. He returned home with new priorities. Francis sold a bale of silk from his father's warehouse to pay for repairs to St Damian's, a semi derelict church. His father was outraged; there was a public confrontation and his father disowned and disinherited him. Legend has it that Francis took off his expensive clothes and walked away naked.

Having rejected his father's wealth, his consuming passion for Jesus led Francis to adopt a life of absolute poverty. Francis lodged with the priest of St Damian's church and scoured nearby fields for stones to make repairs. He worked as a day labourer in return for food. Soon a few companions joined him. He prepared a simple gospel-based rule for them to live by. In 1210 Pope Innocent III approved the Order of Friars Minor, known as the Franciscans. Francis and his companions had no money or property. They helped lepers and shared a life of deep devotion to Jesus through their preaching. Franciscans lived on alms or undertook simple labour in return for food and other essentials. The vows of poverty, chastity and obedience were at the core of the Franciscan way of life.

In 1219, Francis went to the Holy Land to meet soldiers on the fifth crusade. He also met with the Sultan of Egypt, Malek-al-Kamil who was deeply impressed by Francis' commitment to the Christian faith and the courtesy with which he treated Muslims. The result was that the Franciscans were given custody of the Christian shrines in the Holy Land.

On his return to Italy, Francis found the Franciscan order was becoming a victim of its own success. Many people were deeply attracted to Francis and his sense of joy, abandonment and freedom. What they overlooked was that this joyful freedom stemmed from his willingness to give up everything and accept total poverty. That included dirt, cold, hunger, and lepers with sores and a real danger of infection. In 1220 Francis resigned as minister-general of the Order and the rule was modified. The Franciscans eventually split into the Conventual Franciscans, who held a limited amount of property in common, and the Spiritual Franciscans, who had no property. The order today is called the Society of St Francis (SSF). Following St Francis, they have a commitment to issues of justice, peace and the integrity of creation and they

care for the poor and marginalised. When I was studying for the ministry, I had to spend a few days in London. With little money, I couldn't afford anywhere to stay. So a friend invited me to the House of the Divine Compassion in Plaistow, East London. There, the brothers welcomed everyone free of charge. My friend often stayed there in the holidays. But he did warn me that he sometimes came away with fleas!

St Francis is the patron saint of animals and ecology because of his care for creation and his love for all animals. In the exhibition, there are pictures by Giotto (c.1300) and Andrea Buttner (2010) of him preaching to the birds. His hymn 'Canticle of the Sun' is represented in painting and film. Pope Francis wrote in his second encyclical: 'In the words of this beautiful canticle, Saint Francis of Assisi reminds us that our common home is like a sister with whom we share our life and a beautiful mother who opens her arms to embrace us... This sister now cries out to us because of the harm we have inflicted on her by our irresponsible use and abuse of the goods with which God has endowed her. We have come to see ourselves as her lords and masters, entitled to plunder her at will.'

As we enjoy the summer, may we be mindful of our need to care for all creation.

With every blessing,

✠ Joy, Vicar of Eaton Bray with Edlesborough



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SUNDAYS: 10am PARISH HOLY COMMUNION

(apart from the third Sunday - see below)

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**WEEKDAYS: Wednesday at 10am HOLY COMMUNION
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Details and ONLINE WORSHIP: www.stmaryseatonbray.org.uk

Dagnall Church Services

Sun. 16th July 10.30 am Holy Communion

For any queries, please contact

Philip Lee on 07977234453 or Dorothy Green on 01442 843237





EDLESBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

Invites all Parishioners to this
Free Summer Play Event.

The Edlesborough Pavilion Serving Hatch will be
open from 10am for drinks and snacks.

The Clubroom will be open to members and their
guests from 11.30am onwards.

**Edlesborough Summer
Play Event**

Wednesday 26th July
10am - 12.30pm
Edlesborough Green, The Green,
Edlesborough, LU6 2JF

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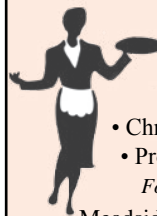
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The advertisement for ChiroPoddy Home Visiting Practice features a background image of hands being treated. It lists the practitioner's name, qualifications, and experience, along with a list of services offered. Contact information and professional affiliations are also provided.

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The advertisement for Anne Johnson Osteopath includes a small logo of a hand and lists the practitioner's name and address. It describes the types of pain and conditions treated and provides a phone number and website for booking.



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EATON BRAY PARISH COUNCIL

Eaton Bray Parish Council Focus Report May & June 2023

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 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 Councillor Vacancies

We have vacancies for Parish Councillors. If residents are interested in joining the Parish Council, please contact the Parish Clerk. More details at: <https://www.ebpc.co.uk/become-a-parish-councillor/>



EATON BRAY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Monday 17th April 2023, from 7:30pm

(Minutes ratified at the Parish Council Meeting, 15th May 2023)

Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC)

Your Ward Councillor: 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

Bedfordshire Police

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

Planning Applications & Appeals – March/April 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 – April 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.

Christmas 2023: The Parish Council has approved the purchase of two Christmas trees to be displayed at Market Square and Three Corners (Moor End/Bower Lane) during the festive period.

Highways matters:

- The Parish Council wrote to CBC expressing their concerns regarding the lack of response from CBC in getting the poor road surface at the entrance to Wallace Drive repaired, despite over 100 reports on FixMyStreet.
- VAS Signs: The Parish Council are still waiting for the missing parts to be able to fit the signs.

Mill End Close/Waterside: The Parish Council are waiting to hear back from the Bedford Group of Drainage Boards [IDB] regarding approved works.

School Lane Recreation Ground:

- The Parish Council are looking at the options available regarding additional lighting in the recreation ground. The council need to consider design/installation costs before a final decision is made.
- The Parish Council are looking into creating an additional footpath to the new side gate to the play area.

The Coffee Tavern: The Parish Council has approved the re-decoration of the ground floor committee room. Quotations are coming in for the refurbishment works to The Coffee Tavern kitchen and toilets. The Parish Council to meet up with contractors to go through the proposed works in more detail before a final decision is made.

Bower Lane Cemetery: The Parish Council are looking into having a small memorial garden in the cemetery for families wishing to lay a cross/plaque in remembrance of family members who are not buried (but were residents of Eaton Bray) within the cemetery. The council are looking at costs/fees before a final decision is made.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING &

ANNUAL MEETING OF EATON BRAY PARISH COUNCIL

Held on Monday 15th May 2023, from 7:00pm

(Minutes ratified at the Parish Council Meeting, Monday 5th June 2023)

Accounts For Year Ending, 31 March 2023

The final accounts were signed off by the Internal Auditor on the 11th May 2023. The accounts will be available for public inspection for a period of 30 working days from 8th June 2023 to 19th July 2023. Inspection notices displayed on the Parish Council website and the Parish Council noticeboard (Coffee Tavern) dated 7th June 2023.

Chairperson's Annual Report

A copy of the Chairperson's annual report can be seen on the Parish Council website or obtained by applying to the Parish Clerk.

Coffee Tavern Annual Report

A copy of the Chairperson's annual report can be seen on the Parish Council website or obtained by applying to the Parish Clerk.

Planning Applications & Appeals – April/May 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.

Mill End Close/Waterside

The Parish Council received reports of a major breach at the river/weir. Urgent repair works were carried out to the breach. The Parish Council are in communication with IDB [Bedford Group of Drainage Boards] with regards to carrying out improvement works in this location.

Allotment Inspection – May 2023

An allotment inspection was carried out on 16th May 2023, with the follow-up inspection due to be carried out September/October 2023. Date to be confirmed.



- If you are interested in taking out an allotment, we hold a waiting list for plots. Should you wish to be added to the list, please contact the Parish Clerk to register your interest.

Eaton Bray Parish Council Accounts

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

Year End Accounts, 31 March 2023

The clerk distributed the accounts for the Annual Return to all Parish Councillors. The Council signed-off Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2022-2023 and Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2022-2023.

- 7th June 2023: The Parish Council gives Notice of appointment of date for the exercise of public rights, for accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023. Any person interested has the right to inspect the accounts by contacting the Parish Clerk. The inspection period is 30 working days, commencing 8th June 2023 and ending 19th July 2023.

Monthly Payments, May 2023

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

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 3rd July 2023, from 7:30pm
- No meeting in August.
- Parish Council Meeting, Monday 4th September 2023, 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 4th July 2023
- Tuesday 8th August 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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Edlesborough Parish Council News

Including Edlesborough, Dagnall and Northall

Annual Meeting of Edlesborough Parish Council

At the Annual Meeting of EPC Council reviewed and agreed roles and responsibilities for a further year. Cllr Rosie Booth was elected as Chairperson and Cllr Trish Owen was elected as Vice-Chairperson.

Council thanked Cllr Alan Williams for all his hard work and leadership as Chairperson. He continues to be a Councillor for the Ward of Edlesborough.

The Council comprises of nine Councillors in total, five representing Edlesborough, two representing Dagnall and two representing Northall. Here is a reminder of who they are.

 <p>Cllr Rosie Booth EPC Chairperson. Represents the ward of Edlesborough.</p>	 <p>Cllr Trish Owen Vice-Chairperson Represents the ward of Dagnall</p>	 <p>Cllr John Wilkinson Represents the ward of Edlesborough.</p>	 <p>Cllr Lynne Wells Represents the ward of Dagnall</p>	 <p>Cllr Kevin Cabbage Represents the ward of Northall</p>
 <p>Cllr Chris Nevard Represents the ward of Edlesborough</p>	 <p>Cllr Alan Williams Represents the ward of Edlesborough.</p>	 <p>Cllr Richard Harpley Represents the ward of Northall</p>	 <p>Cllr Christine Hurst Represents the ward of Edlesborough</p>	 <p>Miss Penny Pataky Clerk to EPC</p>

The full minutes of the meeting can be viewed on the EPC website.

Annual Parish Meeting 2023

The Annual Parish Meeting was held on 25th May in Edlesborough Pavilion.

During the meeting the audience listened to presentations from:

- Cllr Williams about the Council's work over the past year and future.
- Tracey Mould about the South Central Ambulance Service and Community First Responder Service.
- Recipients of an EPC Small Grant
- The Edlesborough Shakespeare Theatre Group
- Dagnall Choir

Thames Valley Police PCSO's Tina Hobson and Megan Dean were also in attendance. They gave an update on the April crime figures and impressed upon all to ring 999 if they see a crime in progress or something of concern.

Residents can report non urgent crimes/events/suspicious activity either by ringing 101 or making an online report to 101.

The PCSO's asked that they be informed of anything that concerns parishioners. Reports can also be emailed to the team via greatbrickhillwingivinghoeNHPT@thamesvalley.police.uk PCSO Hobson explained that the Police do not monitor Facebook for reports but are happy to receive screenshots of comments/posts made that could be of interest

to them. The minutes of the meeting and copies of the presentations can be viewed on the Edlesborough Parish Council website.

Edlesborough Green Casual Use Policy

At the May Council meeting EPC adopted the Edlesborough Green Casual Use Policy, this includes clarification of the requirements for groups wishing to use the green, outside of the main sports clubs. The policy can be viewed on the EPC websites along with copies of the Edlesborough Green Byelaws and Edlesborough Green Sports Policy.

EPC Annual Charges Review

EPC carried out its Annual Charges Review at the May meeting. The agreed charges are available to view in the meeting minutes. These are available on the EPC website or by request from the Clerk.

Annual Return 2022/23

The internal Audit of the Accounts for the year 2022/23 has been completed. The Council approved the Annual Return for the year ending March 2023 at the June 2023 Council meeting. The Accounts have now been submitted to the external auditor PKF Littlejohn LLP.

EPC hereby gives Notice of Public Rights and Publication of Unaudited Annual Governance and Accountability Return for the Accounts for the year ended March 2023.

Any person interested has the right to inspect the accounting records for the financial year to which the audit relates. The documents will be available on reasonable notice by application to the Clerk. The inspection period is 30 working days, commencing 19 June 2023 and ending 28 July 2023.

Buckinghamshire Councillors

Copies of the latest reports from the Buckinghamshire Councillors can be viewed on the EPC website alongside the minutes of the EPC meetings.

Ivinghoe Freight Strategy

Parishioners wishing to report vehicles they believe are breaching the Ivinghoe Freight Strategy should use the following link to do so:

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/.

You will need to provide your name, contact details and the:

- date and time it occurred.
- location of the incident.
- direction of travel.
- registration, make and model of vehicle (if known).



Buckinghamshire Best Kept Village Competition

Edlesborough has once again entered the Buckinghamshire best Kept Village Competition. Judging will take place between the 1st June and 14th July.

Speedwatch & EDaN Traffic Management

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

Council Meetings

The next Edlesborough Parish Council Meetings will take place on:

- Thursday 20th July 2023 – in Edlesborough Pavilion
- Thursday 21st September 2023 – in Edlesborough Pavilion

The meetings will commence at 7:30pm.

Parishioners are welcome to attend all Ordinary Parish Council meetings and may ask questions, raise issues, and give suggestions during the Open Forum before the formal start of the meeting. Council requests that where possible questions, issues and suggestions are submitted in writing to the Clerk by the Tuesday preceding the meeting.

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

All the [hyperlinks](#) in the information above can be accessed through the Edlesborough Parish website.



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

Exciting Panto News!

Jack and the Beanstalk Fri 8 - Sun 31 Dec 2023

The Grove Theatre are delighted to announce EastEnders Legend Steve McFadden will star in Jack and the Beanstalk this pantomime season.

Steve is famous for his role as Phil Mitchell in Britain's top soap, EastEnders (BBC). He has played the iconic character for 33 years, and has led numerous high profile storylines to great acclaim.

His other television credits include Minder; The Firm; Saracens; The Bill; Hard Cases and the Film Buster. Steve played the lead in the first episode of Murder in Mind for the BBC and hosted Britain's Hardest for Sky One. Steve is currently appearing in EastEnders, continuing his role as Phil Mitchell. We can't wait to welcome Steve to the Grove this Christmas.

Once again the show will be written by Paul Hendy and produced by Evolution, the same award winning team who brought you the sensational Cinderella. With stunning sets, hilarious comedy and breath-taking special effects, Jack and the Beanstalk promises to be our most spectacular pantomime ever!

With more exciting casting news coming soon, this fun-filled extravaganza is guaranteed to delight the whole family... so don't miss out on the Fe-Fi-Fo-Fun... Get your tickets early and book today!

Grove Theatre, Court Drive, Dunstable, Bedfordshire LU5 4GP

Box Office: 01582 60 20 80



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Call 07854 230243 if you can help.

Appledown Rescue Dog of the Month



Beautiful Velma Kelly is a German Shepherd who was born in March 2019. She is a happy girl who loves her walks and is very affectionate. She may need some help with house-training, but she is very eager to please and learns quickly. We think Velma has masses of potential and will thrive in a home with owners willing to give her the time, energy and love she so richly deserves. She could probably live with a male dog pending introductions, but not cats. Children 7 years upwards.

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
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Summer 2023 Tennis Camps



Week 1 - 9-11am Mini Tennis (10 and under)

Week 2 - 9-11am Junior Yellow Ball (11-18yrs)

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.

	Mini Tennis Camp =	Ages 4-10 years old	Red/Orange/Green Balls		
Week1:	Monday 31 st July	Tuesday 1 st August	Wednesday 2 nd August	Thursday 3 rd August	Friday 4 th August
	Junior Tennis Camp =	Ages 11-18 years old			
Week2:	Monday 14 th August	Tuesday 15 th August	Wednesday 16 th August	Thursday 17 th August	Friday 18 th August

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 (5 days)	£60
1 Day	£13



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If you have any questions or need any more information, please call Sara Bamford on 07561-571578.

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www.ebltc.org.uk

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Come and play tennis with us at our friendly club on The Green

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- Weekly club nights, with balls and floodlights provided

Contact us at: enquiries@etctennis.org or visit us at: www.etctennis.org

92 Years at the Zoo

Almost one hundred years ago a derelict farm on the Dunstable Downs was purchased by ZSL for £13,480 (12s 10d). A pair of pygmy hippos became an instant favourite when it first opened in 1931 and helped immediately attract thousands of visitors from across the country.

As Europe's first 'open zoo' to be easily accessible to the visiting public, it became a unique centre for bringing people closer to nature. Some of the earliest animals included wombats, wolves and American bison.

Today it continues to inspire a lifelong love of animals and remain the UK's largest Zoo. While from our aquarium to our rolling elephant paddocks, we're spearheading wildlife conservation to restore wildlife everywhere.



Dunstable Foodbank

Once again, the staff and volunteers at Dunstable Foodbank are incredibly grateful for the Eaton Bray Quiz organisers (and attendees!) for their generous support towards the work of the Foodbank in our community. £600 was raised and donated to the Foodbank, helping with the maintenance and running of our trusty Foodbank van which enables us to collect donations and deliver food parcels to our four Distribution Centres, 52 weeks a year, supporting people facing crisis or hardship. Thank you again to everyone involved.

For more information about how to support Dunstable Foodbank, please visit our website: <https://dunstable.foodbank.org.uk/give-help>.



Dagnall Community Choir



Our first concert of this year takes place on Saturday 29th July, 2.30pm at Dagnall Village Hall. We're doing something a little different this time, and hosting an Afternoon Tea Concert, so while listening to our music, guests will be able to enjoy tea and cake, scones with jam and cream, and hopefully a lovely relaxed atmosphere on a summer's afternoon!

We will be performing a selection of some new music, along with old favourites from our repertoire, which we have been working on with our new musical team since January, and are sounding pretty good!

Tickets are £10 each, or £30 for a table of four, available from choir members or by calling **01525 220189**. Alternatively for this concert we are trialling online tickets sales - tickets can be purchased from our online box office at www.ticketsource.co.uk/dagnall-community-choir or by scanning the QR code below.

Please note there is a small booking fee of 7%+VAT payable to Ticket Source if purchasing online (84p for individual tickets or £2.52 for a table).

We are still looking for new choir members, particularly altos and tenors. So please come along on one of our Monday night rehearsals if you'd like to give us a try. You won't be asked to audition, and it doesn't matter if you can't read music, a love of singing is all that you need!

We have recently reviewed our membership arrangements, and without increasing the cost, have switched from a pay-as-you-go model to a termly membership subscription. Choir members have commented that it is good not to have to scratch around for cash each week any more! Please see our website for details of membership costs and other information about the choir www.dagnall-community-choir.co.uk. We meet Monday evening at 7.45pm at Dagnall Church and a warm welcome awaits anyone who would like to come along and join us.



*Scan for online
ticket sales*



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 July 8th from 10.30 – 12. 00 am
One week later than normal due to the carnival**

If you like reading, please bring a book to swap and come and join us.

If you need help accessing the digital library, contact us and we will try to assist you.

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

Healthy Bones & Pilates



The best time to build healthy bones is when you are young – exercise such as jumping and skipping in you teenage years can help promote denser bones and prevent fractures when you are older. (So get your children/grandchildren off their PlayStations and get moving!)

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

The good news – although ideally we would have looked after our bones in our teenage years, we can make a change for the better:

- 1. Eat a varied diet rich in calcium** - dairy products, tofu and spinach are all good.
- 2. Reduce your caffeine and salt and stop smoking** as all of these can interfere with the absorption of calcium in our bodies.
- 3. Take up Pilates**, the mind-body conditioning programme, can be used to strengthen your core (back and tummy) muscles and can also be adapted to do in standing to help 'load' the bones. Pilates can also help with balance and transferring weight to help avoid falls and potential fractures.
- 4. Be active** – load bearing exercises such as walking, running, golf or tennis can help.

I'm both a fully qualified & registered Pilates Instructor & a Chartered Physiotherapist. I offer Rehab Pilates Classes. Before allowing participation in the class, a medical & Pilates assessment is completed, so that I can tailor exercises to individual & the classes' needs. Helping you to regain or maintain your health.

To speak to me about how Pilates might help you, please email:

moira@stjudesclinic.com

✉ Moira D'Arcy MCSP APPI

Charity No. 293080

Well May was another busy month ... we had a very successful inaugural Music Quiz Night on the 26th with 8 teams of 8 competing to win ... in all the excitement I didn't get the scores to report here! Suffice to say that Dee's Dream Team represented the club very well indeed & a grand night out was had by all. All genres and many decades were covered by our Quizmasters, the strategic playing of each teams Joker kept the scores battle lively. The combined efforts of a raffle, "Heads or Tails" activity, the Music Quiz & meal by the Catering Team(s) resulted in an Amazing £880 raised for Club funds. So a great big thank you for those in attendance, those behind the scenes, those manning the screens, those mystery donors of raffle prizes & Northall Village hall for the Technology upgrade adding a whole new dimension to the Quiz experience. Talking of Quizzes ... Our great friends at The Swan, Northall held a Quiz on the Coronation Weekend and donated the proceeds to us – What a lovely surprise & £57 has kickstarted our Autumn Trip fundraising pot.

Prior to Coronation I was laid up & whilst recovering made Coronation pins for members to purchase (& hopefully wear for Club's celebration) you guessed it ... The Swan kindly offered to have them For Sale on the bar that weekend & together we raised another £33 for Club funds.

Our Summer coach trip was on the 31st May - Steve & his Motts Coach expertly negotiated South End Lane at both ends of the day - our appreciation must be given to the local residents for accommodating & bearing with us as members, their various walkers, frames & wheelchairs are loaded on/off board. We acknowledge the disruption we sometimes cause our neighbours and greatly appreciate their support.

After a brief journey out Hemel way (Kings Langley) we arrived at our vessel the "Sheldrake III" supplied by Waterways Experiences and staffed by volunteers (who are all so experienced). Listening closely to the safety briefing meant that once we set off there was lots of chat to catch up on, things to see on the canal bank, in the water and of course other people's back gardens are always so admired. I pointed out a Kingfisher as we went past, avid photographers emerged within our fold and many types of birds were identified and recorded on camera. If wished and able we alighted at locks, wandered the



tow path and marvelled at the genius of the waterways, how for all these years many things have remained unchanged - the slower pace of life ... sigh. Before we knew it, it was time for a buffet style lunch with plenty of options to share around followed by choices of cupcakes. Thankfully we didn't quite drink enough tea to sink the boat ... maybe "Sheldrake" & "Sheldrake II" weren't so lucky? So upon the return journey we attempted to rectify the situation with yet another cuppa.

Other points of interest were spotted on our return journey, herons on nests, cygnets in canal and (my personal favourite) kingfisher on wall! A tired club of members, staff, volunteers and committee alighted back at the Wharf with "thank you" galore we headed our way home quite quiet for us all! Back at the Hall members departed by car or minibus and an impromptu



but well deserved refreshment stop to debrief at The Swan finished our day beautifully. We'd all like to thank Dee, the staff, the committee and all extra volunteers that helped in any way to make the whole day a success – the organisation prior and execution of a day out like this takes much thought & care to ensure success.

With the Carnival due to take place prior to the next Focus deadline we wish you all a great day, we hope you'll find our stall and strike it lucky on the tombola. We hope the weather is kind and that support for the event is generous in spirit too.

On the 19th July, there will be afternoon tea at club, 1.30 till 3pm, including a cake sale and table raffle. All welcome.

We're closed in August for some well deserved R&R all round so you'll also have a break from my ramblings too ... but please don't forget to save the popular Harvest Auction date of 6th October.

We are always 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**

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.

Countdown is on for Year 6 Children at Dagnall Church of England School!

At Dagnall School, we are saying goodbye to our first ever class of Year 6 children this summer. As the time gets closer for them to move on to Secondary School, the children have been recalling some of their best moments during their time at Dagnall. These include all of our amazing trips to the Pantomime, tag rugby, frisby tournaments, wheelchair basketball, residential trips to Phasels Wood and having the brilliant Mr Brill as their teacher.



We know that they feel sweet and sour about their next move and we wish them all luck in their next step as they go from the oldest in the school to the youngest! Dagnall School is now a full Primary School with spaces from Nursery to Year 6. Contact office@dagnall.bucks.sch.uk or call 01442 842473 to arrange a tour.

Shakespeare at the Church on the Hill

Those who climbed the hill to Edlesborough's ancient Church of St Mary the Virgin the Virgin for a promenade performance of Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream" were richly rewarded. Who could possibly have imagined that its beautiful interior and the steep grassy slopes around it could work as a setting for live performances of the Bard's famous comedy set in Athens – with the church's interior transformed to a Duke's palace and with all the rest of the action moving about the grounds, scene by scene – the audience following. Well Sarah Jones did – with tremendous flair and imagination. Sarah's professional experience and love of Shakespeare drew on the talents of local performers and came up with a gem of a production. She had been working with her cast in rehearsal at Edlesborough Pavilion since last October – in a leap of faith that, come May 19-21st the weather would be fine. Well the gods were with her and her company did her proud. The performances were polished, confident and didn't flag for a moment as we the audience followed them scene by scene, totally absorbed. All praise to the cast - it would be unfair to highlight individual performances since they were all so confident and convincing. A special mention though for the flock of lively fairies who escorted us from scene to scene, always with a smile and never missing a beat.

Sarah plans to make this an annual event – so watch out for the advertisements next year!

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All abilities welcome

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FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE EMAIL: chair@eblions.co.uk



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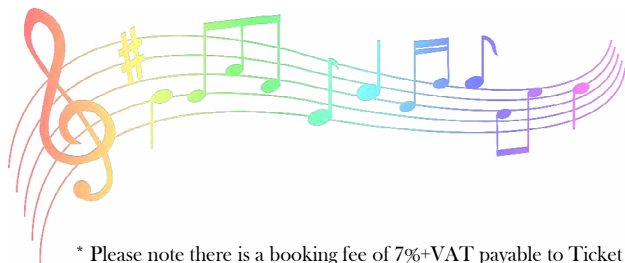
Afternoon Tea & Concert with Dagnall Community Choir



Come and join us for an afternoon of music while relaxing with tea and cake.

Tickets £10 each or £30 for a table of four

Available by calling 01525 220189, or online* at www.ticketsource.co.uk/dagnall-community-choir



Scan to book

* Please note there is a booking fee of 7%+VAT payable to Ticket Source if purchasing online

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Northall Baptist Church

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A little Church with strong local links



Hidden in Plain Sight

We had a funny experience in December. You will remember the snow that settled and stayed frozen for at least 10 days. The view over the fields and the distant hillside from our bedroom window was amazing. Hidden was all the landscape apart from the shapes. We could see the trains moving on the distant railway, everything else was still and white. Then when, the snow and ice eventually melted a large white patch remained. At first, we thought it was just the shade but it didn't disappear. A search with binoculars suggested a large white horticultural greenhouse had been erected. Further investigation was needed as whatever was there, was still growing. We could see more "greenhouses", funny pointed roofs and places where scaffolding was going up. This continued for the next couple of months and there are now about 10 or 12 cranes all at work daily, often with suspended bright lights. Closer site inspection and online searches since has established they had built a temporary film lot and are now in the process making 2 new episodes of the film – "Wicked". These, a prequel to the "The Wizard of Oz", included the "Yellow Brick Road", a quaint medieval village and a huge palace. It will be interesting to see the completed result. This got me thinking, though it may be right under our nose, we may not always see. Do we only believe when we see for ourselves? Thomas has been called Doubting Thomas as, after Jesus' death, he couldn't believe what the excited disciples were telling him – that Jesus was alive. Jesus had explained it all to them but the expression 'seeing is believing' made it all seem true. Jesus had told the disciples, that the 'secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you but not to them'.



What is this appearing in the distant farm field?

Jesus quoted Isaiah 'Go and tell this people: Be ever hearing, but never understanding; be ever seeing, but never perceiving.'

The same message was given to Ezekiel and by the Apostle Paul in Acts 28.

Why don't we know and understand the message that comes from God, via Jesus, the prophets and the Apostles? It takes faith to believe what you don't see. Just as the real explanation was growing before our eyes, we needed to do some further investigations to make sense of what was going on across the fields. Our reading last Sunday was from Zechariah 4 'not by might, not by power but by my Spirit says the Lord Almighty'. God's Spirit is here with us, we just need to look and see and understand. Jesus is alive, loves us and wants us to love him too.

Our Sunday services, in our Chapel Lane Church start 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



EDLESBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

Policy statement regarding casual use of Edlesborough Green by parishioners

In order to protect and preserve Edlesborough Green (the Green) for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future parishioners, Edlesborough Parish Council (the Council) has adopted the following policy regarding casual use of the Green by parishioners.

The Green is owned and managed by the Council. The Council is therefore the final arbiter of what can and cannot take place on the Green.

All parishioners are entitled to free use of the Green for leisure and recreation purposes with the exception of the tennis courts and the Pavilion as noted below.

Exclusive leases

The tennis courts are exclusively leased by Edlesborough Tennis Club (the Tennis Club), but all parishioners are eligible to join the Tennis Club. The Pavilion together with its environs is exclusively leased by Edlesborough Community Sports Club (ECSC), and all parishioners over the age of 18 are eligible for free membership of ECSC.

Use by Sports Clubs

The Council authorise various local sports clubs to hold competitive games on the Green. Those clubs are required to make a financial contribution towards the upkeep of the Green and their use is governed by a separate policy statement which can be seen on the Council website. The clubs are entitled to exclusive use of whichever pitch or pitches that they require for the duration of the game(s) and training sessions. The pitches are accessible by parishioners except when a games or training sessions are in progress.

Casual Use by Parishioners

Whilst the Green is available to all parishioners for leisure purposes except as described above, they are required to avoid any activities that might damage the surface of the Green or might compromise other peoples' enjoyment of the Green. In particular the surface of the various sports pitches must be respected, especially the cricket wicket and football goal mouths. A copy of the Bylaws is available on the Council website. Dogs must be kept under control, preferably on a lead, to avoid them interfering with other users of the Green. Dog owners must clear up any mess made by their pets. Dog bins are provided on the Green for that purpose.

Group Activities

Any group activities on the Green must have the prior written consent of the Clerk. A fee may be payable for any group activities if it is considered that the organiser may have a commercial interest. Where there is any doubt whether or not an activity is pe

Adopted by Edlesborough Parish Council
May 2023

A History of Ashridge House

Our History

Ashridge House's history dates back over 700 years with significant residents such as King Henry VIII, and a storied journey as a wartime hospital and most recently, a world-renowned business school.

1283 – Monastery

The College of Bonhommes monastery is founded by Edmund, Earl of Cornwall in 1283 and flourished as a seat of learning and debate.

1539 – Royal Residence

With the dissolution of monasteries in 1539, Ashridge fell under the ownership of King Henry VIII, who called the Ashridge House home for 11 years. Princess Elizabeth was raised at Ashridge



House during her youth.

1550 – Royal Residence

Ownership of Ashridge is formally transferred to Princess Elizabeth as stipulated in her father's (King Henry VIII's) will. Princess Elizabeth lived here until she was arrested by her sister by Mary in 1554.

1604 – Private House

Sir Thomas Egerton (Queen Elizabeth I's Lord Keeper) buys Ashridge. It becomes home to the Dukes and Earls of Bridgewater for 245 years.

1808 – Private House

The house is almost completely rebuilt by James Wyatt and, following his death, his son Benjamin and nephew Sir Jeffry Wyattville.



Sir Thomas Egerton



1914 – WWI Hospital

Ashridge remained under the ownership of the Bridgewater family during the First World War, when it transformed into a rehabilitation center for St. Albans Hospital.

1929 – Training Centre for the Conservative Party

The house was bought by Urban Hanlon Broughton.

It was used as a training centre for Conservative Party workers to commemorate Andrew Bonar Law, the Prime Minister.

1939 – WWII Hospital

With the start of World War II, the castle became a hospital once again, this time as an extension of the emergency wing of the Charing Cross Road Hospital. Starting in 1940, the hospital treated over 20,000



patients and saw the birth of 2,700 babies in its maternity ward. The concrete overspill wards remain Crown property until 1983 for use as a Public Records Office.

1949 – Ladies Finishing School

Ashridge was converted into a finishing school for ladies called the House of Citizenship. For almost a decade, the school offered four term courses to young women where they learned proper social etiquette and the ins and outs of upper class culture.

1959 — Ashridge Executive Education

Ashridge Management College is established with the support of leading companies including Guinness, Shell and Unilever, and is ranked as one of the best business schools in the world.

2015 — Hult International Business School

Ashridge formed an alliance with the Hult International Business School, combining Ashridge’s expertise in executive research and development with Hult’s global reach, innovation and scale.

Today

Ashridge House is an award-winning venue for conferences, weddings, and events, and continues to operate as the main campus for Hult International Business School executive education programs.



Wellingtonia Avenue & Rhododendron Walk

The avenue of Wellingtonias was planted in 1858 on the axis with the house and has as its focal point the prospect mound believed to date from Tudor times.



Nigel's Thoughts



Dear Friends,


At last, the settled better weather seems to be with us. I wonder whether you have plans for getting away this summer. I'm looking forward to a week this month, on the Isle of Wight. A change of scenery, and some fresh air can be very good for us.

The bible says that all the beauty that we see around us, both when we are at home and away – wherever we may go, is held in being and sustained by Jesus, in whom we see exactly what God is like.

In His world, all of God's goodness and grace may be traced, and in Jesus, God has also provided for the healing and restoration of all that has been broken, and for all those who feel far from happy within themselves.

May we know His healing peace coming to us through our Lord Jesus Christ, and through his wonderful creation. In him we find life and wholeness and peace.

I hope that you will be able to take a break this summer and find refreshment and reinvigoration in Him as you do so.

God bless,  Nigel

Hunting Orchids

One glorious summer evening in early June, Paul Wright led a small group of us to look for orchids at Totternhoe. We started in the knolls area and spent some time hunting Kidney Vetch and the minute, fragile Small Blue butterflies which feed on it and lay their eggs within the flowers. Later we walked to the damp meadows at the foot of Castle Hill and found healthy colonies of Yellow Rattle which reduces grass growth



and allows orchids to thrive. Sure enough, among meadow foliage we found the gem-like orchids, not only Common Spotted ones and Pyramidal Orchids but also the much rarer Man Orchids which resemble tiny hooded figures, the rather similar Common Twayblade Orchids and the utterly charming Bee Orchids

If you are interested in joining EB Methodist Church nature discovery walks, you would be very welcome. Please contact Shirley on 01525-229356.

Dunstable Probus Club

Dunstable PROBUS Club meets on the second Monday of the month at Tilsworth Golf Centre and membership is open to retired or semi-retired professional and business people. The Club's main purpose is the promotion of good fellowship. Members enjoy some social activities and the occasional organised visit throughout the year and after their regular monthly lunch meetings are entertained by speakers who give talks on a wide range of topics. If you are interested in joining the Club, please contact the Secretary, Philip Savage on 01582 662462.

St. Mary's Wildlife Garden

A corner of the churchyard, next to the Village Hall, in Eaton Bray has been set aside as a wildlife area. The grass will not be cut until August to allow wild flowers to grow and give cover for wildlife. The habitat to encourage wildlife includes bird boxes, bat boxes, a hedgehog house, insect hotel, logs and a Dead Hedge. The Dead Hedge has been completed with the enthusiastic help of the Beavers. The Beavers also helped to create the wood chipping pathways which are wide enough for people to walk 2 abreast and give access to wheelchair users. The area includes a patch of nettles. Some Butterflies, including red Admirals, Peacocks, Painted Ladies and Commas lay their eggs on nettle leaves.

The native hedge planted last year, donated by the Woodland Trust, between the Churchyard and the entrance to the Village Hall, is growing well and has been underplanted with comfrey, feverfew and daffodils. Some of the small wildflowers which are growing there have been left to spread.

St Mary's has already achieved an Eco Church Bronze Award and we are now working towards a Silver Award. One part of the award is for managing the closed Churchyard. The Churchyard was closed for new burials many years ago and is maintained by the Parish Council. The Church and the Parish Council are working together to create an area which is attractive to wild life but safe and accessible for people to use and maintain.



NORTHALL BAPTIST CHAPEL

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Web: www.northallbaptistchurch.org

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to seek to worship God, serve him in our
daily lives and support and encourage one
another in the difficult and the joyful times.

Edlesborough Baptist Church

**All are welcome to our 11am
service every Sunday**

Keep up to date by visiting:

www.edlesboroughbaptist.wix.com/home

Find us on Facebook @gbce2014

Down the Lane

2023 will be remembered as the year of an abundance of roses. Driving round the country, I have been amazed at the displays in people's gardens. I didn't manage to prune some of my roses but they are covered in buds and just beginning to bloom. Now the dog roses in the hedgerows are taking their turn!

All my bulbs seem to have done well this year and especially the alliums which are gradually seeding themselves.



Allium Christophii

These include *Allium Christophii*, known as the Star of Persia, and *Nectaroscordum*, also called honey bells, which this year hasn't needed staking. The bees absolutely adore it! I also have photos of golden garlic and one leaf onion. I have pruned the lower leaves of some of my shrubs to let light reach the plants, including small species of alliums, below. The other plants which have done amazingly well are clematises. My *Clematis Montana*, the rampant clematis, was badly frosted but there is a lot of new growth from the bottom which I can tie in and cut out all the dead wood. It had got top heavy so will look much tidier next year and will flower again.



Standard gooseberry bush

These include *Allium Christophii*, known as the Star of Persia, and *Nectaroscordum*, also called honey bells, which this year hasn't needed staking. The bees absolutely adore it! I also have photos of golden garlic and one leaf onion. I have pruned the lower leaves of some of my shrubs to let light reach the plants, including small species of alliums, below.

The other plants which have done amazingly well are clematises. My *Clematis Montana*, the rampant clematis, was badly frosted



Yellow alliums



Honey Bells

It is going to be a good year for soft fruits. I grow red and black currants, summer and autumn raspberries and I have a standard gooseberry bush.

The gooseberries are much easier to pick than from a traditional bush as I don't have to bend down and get tangled in all the vicious thorns. I think that was an idea I picked up from Monty Don. You can also buy standard versions of currant bushes. They have the advantage of taking up less space in the garden. I'm now waiting for some rain to plant some annuals and perennials. They are much easier to look after in their pots and trays than in the flower beds!

✍️ Sally Taylor



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Coconut & Squash Dhansak

By Cassie Best, courtesy of bbcgoodfood.com

Ingredients

1 tbsp vegetable oil
500g butternut squash (about 1 small squash), peeled and chopped into bite-sized chunks (or buy a pack of ready-prepared to save time)
100g frozen chopped onions
4 heaped tbsp mild curry paste (we used korma)
400g can chopped tomatoes
400g can light coconut milk
mini naan bread, to serve
400g can lentils, drained
200g bag baby spinach
150ml coconut yogurt (we used Rachel's Organic), plus extra to serve

Method

Step 1 - Heat the oil in a large pan. Put the



squash in a bowl with a splash of water. Cover with cling film and microwave on High for 10 mins or until tender. Meanwhile, add the onions to the hot oil and cook for a few mins until soft. Add the curry paste, tomatoes and coconut milk,

and simmer for 10 mins until thickened to a rich sauce.

Step 2 - Warm the naan breads in a low oven or in the toaster. Drain any liquid from the squash, then add to the sauce with the lentils, spinach and some seasoning. Simmer for a further 2-3 mins to wilt the spinach, then stir in the coconut yogurt. Serve with the warm naan and a dollop of extra yogurt.

Quick Cheat's Strawberry Mousse

By Liberty Mendez courtesy of bbcgoodfood.com

Ingredients

500g strawberries, hulled and halved, any larger ones quartered
1 lemon, zested and juiced
100g caster sugar
150ml mascarpone
300ml double cream
1 tbsp vanilla bean paste
To serve
4 gingernut biscuits, crushed
small handful of pistachios, roughly chopped (optional)
freeze-dried strawberries, crushed (optional)

Method

Step 1 - Put the strawberries, lemon juice, sugar and 2 tbsp water in a large pan over a medium heat and cook for 5 mins until the fruit has softened. Scrape into a bowl leave to cool. Tip 300g of the mixture into a blender (reserve the rest for later), blitz until



smooth and sieve into a jug.

Step 2 - Whisk the mascarpone in a large bowl to soften, then add the double cream, vanilla bean paste and lemon zest, and whisk again until just starting to thicken. Fold in the blitzed,

sieved strawberry purée to combine – it will thicken a bit more. Alternatively, swirl it through so you have layers of compote going through the mousse. Will keep chilled for up to a day.

Step 3 - Spoon or pipe the mousse into glass tumblers and top with the reserved strawberry compote, the gingernut crumbs, pistachios and dried strawberries, if you like.

Eaton Bray Cricket Club



Weather has cleared nicely but results a bit up and down.

Results

May 11th Pitstone & Ivinghoe v Eaton Bray Outlaws. Abandoned rain.

May 13th New Bradwell 164 a/o Nick Pearson 4-18. Eaton Bray 1st XI 54 a/o. New Bradwell won by 110 runs.

May 13th Caddington v Eaton Bray 2nd XI Cancelled wet wicket.

May 14th Markyate 189 a/o. Adam Raspass 5-34. Eaton Bray Sunday XI 190-8. Paul Harris 106 n/o. Eaton Bray Sunday XI won by 2 wickets.

May 18th Eaton Bray Outlaws 135-4. Joe Braddon 46. Studham 134 a/o. Jamie Osborne 4-23. Eaton Bray Outlaws won by 1 run.

May 20th North Crawley 183-3. Ollie Harris 3-26. Eaton Bray 1st XI 187-8. Eaton Bray 1st XI won by 2 wickets.

May 20th Drayton Parslow 108 a/o. Syed Shah 6-44. Eaton Bray 2nd XI 112-3. Eaton Bray 2nd XI won by 7 wickets.

May 21st. Eaton Bray Sunday XI 196-8. Quinn Wardle 87 Junaid Ashiq 53. Olney Town 169 a/o. Quinn Wardle 4-23. Eaton Bray Sunday XI won by 27 runs.

May 27th Eaton Bray 1st XI 176-4. Paul Harris 71 n/o. Olney Town 177-9. Paul Harris 3-7. Olney Town won by 1 wicket.

May 28th Biggleswade 151-8. Quinn Wardle 4-25. Eaton Bray Sunday XI 154-4 Quinn Wardle 74 n/o. Eaton Bray Sunday XI won by 6 wickets.

June 1st Eggington 84 a/o Quinn Wardle 3-29. Eaton Bray Outlaws 85-4. Eaton Bray Outlaws won by 6 wickets.

June 3rd Eaton Bray 1st XI 134 a/o. Ollie Harris 57. Thurleigh 137-3. Thurleigh won by 7 wickets.

June 3rd. Thurleigh 171 a/o. Eaton Bray 2nd XI 160 a/o. Thurleigh won by 11 runs.

June 4th Bletchley Town 148 a/o. Eaton Bray Sunday XI 152-3. Richard Osborne 80 n/o. Eaton Bray Sunday XI won by 7 wickets.

June 8th Eaton Bray Outlaws 150-4. Leighton Buzzard Town 146-9. Eaton Bray Outlaws won by 4 runs.

We are a family friendly club situated in the Rye Eaton Bray. New players of any age and ability are always welcome. The club run 2 senior sides in the FCCL on Saturdays and a senior side in the Beds League on Sundays plus a midweek T20 team. We also run 5 junior teams from ages 8-15 and a newly formed ladies team.

We would like to thank our sponsors Meadow Marquees, Mlilys Matress, Fine & Country Estate Agents, The Westrope Butchery, Topps Tiles, SMSS Ltd and the Focus Magazine for their continued support. Drop in and have a look.

Enjoy you cricket with Eaton Bray in 2023.



Cecilia Payne-Gaposchkin



The Wendover born lady who discovered what the universe is made of

Cecilia Payne was born in Wendover in 1900. Her father died when she was 4 and the family moved to London when she was 12. Cecilia attended St Mary's College, Paddington, where she was unable to study much mathematics or science, but in 1918 changed schools for St Paul's Girls' School where she chose to focus on science. The following year she won a scholarship at Newnham College, Cambridge University. Her interest in astronomy began after she attended a lecture by Arthur Eddington on his 1919 expedition to the island of Príncipe in the Gulf of Guinea off the west coast of Africa to observe and photograph the stars near a solar eclipse as a test of Albert Einstein's general theory of relativity. Cambridge University would not give her a degree because she was a woman, so she moved to the United States to work on a graduate program in astronomy at Harvard.

Cecilia Payne was the first person ever to earn a Ph.D. in astronomy from Radcliffe College, with what Otto Strauve called "the most brilliant Ph.D. thesis ever written in astronomy."

Not only did Cecilia Payne discover what the universe is made of, she also discovered what the sun is made of (Henry Norris Russell, a fellow astronomer, is usually given credit for discovering that the sun's composition is different from the Earth's, but he came to his conclusions four years later than Payne).

Cecilia Payne is the reason we know anything about variable stars (stars whose brightness as seen from earth fluctuates). Literally every other study on variable stars is based on her work. Cecilia Payne was the first woman to be promoted to full professor from within Harvard, and is often credited with breaking the glass ceiling for women in the Harvard science department and in astronomy, as well as inspiring entire generations of women to take up science.

Cecilia Payne became a US citizen in 1931, married Russian-born astrophysicist Sergei I. Gaposchkin in 1934, had three children and died in 1979.



July at the Grove

Film

Allelujah - 10 & 12 Jul
Guardians of the Galaxy Vol.3 - 11 Jul
The Flash - 13 Jul
Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse 24/25 Jul
Transformers: Rise of the Beasts 24/26 Jul
Elemental - 24 - 26 Jul
The Little Mermaid - 24 - 31 Jul
Puss In Boots: The Last Wish - 26 Jul
Living - 31 Jul
Renfield - 31 Jul

Popular Music

Whitney - Queen of the Night 2023 - 21 Jul
Rock For Heroes Presents Time of Our Lives - 22 Jul

Variety

Forbidden Nights 2023 - 14 Jul

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Comedy

Gary Delaney: Gary In Punderland - 29 Jul

Children's Shows

Milkshake! Live 2023 - 28 Jul

Dance

Coppelia - 7 Jul



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.

What to do in the Garden in July

July brings long, warm days that continue late into the evening — perfect for pottering in the garden after work, hosting barbecues, and enjoying your beds and borders as they reach their peak.

Timely tips

1. Summer can still throw out a few surprises - make sure tall plants and climbers are well supported in case of bad weather.
2. Water at dusk to reduce evaporation and use mulch to retain moisture around plants.
3. Terracotta pots are prone to evaporation so dampen the pot down to keep roots inside cool and damp.
4. Regularly deadhead bedding and perennial plants to encourage new blooms for as long as possible.

In the flower garden

- Cut back faded perennial plants to keep borders tidy.
- As your penstemon flowers fade, cut them back to just above a bud to encourage more flowers.
- Cutting back growth in hanging baskets can encourage new flowers and foliage and will revive the display. Make sure you feed your baskets well after doing this.
- Cut back hardy geraniums and delphiniums after the first flush of flowers to encourage new growth and further blooms.
- Keep an eye on your newly-bloomed hydrangeas for hydrangea scale - a sap-sucking insect that can affect growth. Read our dedicated scale insects pest & diseases page to learn more.
- Continue to tie in and train new growth on climbing plants.

- Prune wisteria now. Just remove the whippy side-shoots from the main branch framework to about 20cm from their base (about five leaves from the main stem).
- Prune lupins to encourage more flowers.
- If you need to prune your deciduous magnolia, now's the best time to do it.
- Divide clumps of bearded Iris so they have time to form roots and flower buds for next year before the cold weather arrives.
- Take cuttings from your favourite tender plants for overwintering indoors. Cuttings can also still be taken from shrubs and border perennials.
- Deadhead bedding plants and perennial plants to stop them self-seeding and to encourage further flowering.
- Deadhead your roses to keep them looking tidy. Leave the flowers in place if your rose produces attractive hips (seed pods).
- Deadhead sweet peas regularly to keep them blooming. Water daily in dry weather.
- Capture seed heads from dandelions and other weeds. Collect them before they get a chance to release their seeds and spread throughout your garden.
- Keep an eye out for pests on plants, early treatment is best.
- Stop rust damaging hollyhock foliage by pruning out affected leaves and/or spraying with a fungicide.
- Look out for clematis wilt. Symptoms include wilting leaves and black discolouration on the leaves and stems. Cut out all affected material and dispose of it in your household waste.



In the vegetable garden

- Pepper plants will benefit from being potted on into progressively larger pots.
- Train cucumber stems upwards to make the most of the space available. Simply tie in their long stems to vertical wires or use cane supports to create a wigwam of poles.
- If you're growing aubergines, pinch out the growing tip once they have 5 or 6 fruits. Pick fruits while they are young. You can expect to start harvesting mid to late summer.
- Nip off the growing tips of squash and courgette plants to encourage branching.
- Pinch out tomato side shoots each week. Cut off any leaves growing below the lowest ripening fruit trusses to improve air circulation and prevent diseases.
- Boost your tomato crop by regularly feeding plants with dilute tomato fertiliser once a week. If leaves look pale and yellow, feed more regularly.
- Feed crops with a general purpose fertiliser.
- Apply a high-potash fertiliser once fruits start to form on peppers, cucumber and tomatoes. You can use this on sunflowers too.
- Harvest garlic when the tops start to bend over and yellow.
- Pick your courgettes while they're young. Regular picking encourages more fruit.
- Encourage more marrows by harvesting regularly. Marrows that form in July and August should reach a good size by autumn. Let their skins harden in the sun before cutting them later in September or October. They can be stored into winter.
- Pick, dry and freeze herbs for using later in the year.
- Pick runner beans regularly to prevent them becoming stringy and to make room for developing pods. Leaving mature pods on the plant can prevent further flowers forming and reduce your crop.
- Harvest beetroot, peas, carrots, chard, potatoes, salad leaves, lettuce, and tomatoes this month.
- Resist the temptation to harvest more rhubarb stems. Leave the stems in place; this will allow the plant to build up reserves for next year.
- Water your fruit and vegetable crops daily in warm weather. Try to ensure that they're consistently moist.
- Use grass clippings as a mulch around potato plants to stop tubers near the surface from turning green. Alternatively earth up your potato plants as they grow. If you're growing potatoes in bags, gradually add more compost until the bag is full.
- Control slugs to prevent them damaging your crops. Try using a natural pest control to reduce numbers.
- Tackle blackfly on broad beans by pinching off any affected growing tips.
- Check for cabbage white butterfly eggs under brassica leaves and squash any that you find.
- Clear away any diseased and spent foliage on and around your vegetable plants to keep them healthy.
- Clear weeds regularly, as they compete with your crops for nutrients and water.

For more tips visit the website:

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

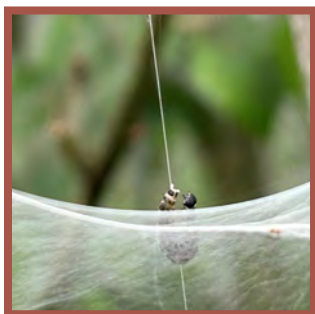


Your Photos

*Caterpillar infestation
by Sally Siddons*

*Bee pollinating
by Sally Siddons*

*Summer Roses
by Adrian Welch*



Repair Cafe

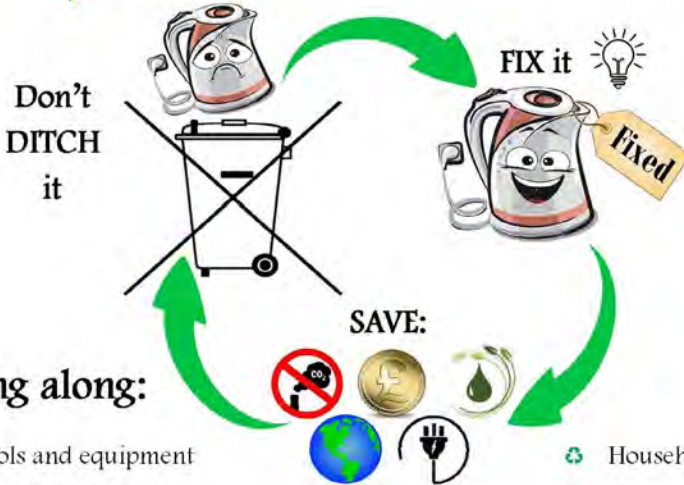
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Eaton Bray History

The Victoria Arms Beerhouse Eaton Bray (courtesy of the Bedfordshire Archives)



25 Bower Lane July 2012

The Victoria Arms Beerhouse (also the Victoria and the Victory) 25 Bower Lane, Eaton Bray

The countywide licensing register of 1876 states that the Victoria Arms was first licensed in 1867. In 1876 the beerhouse owner was Isaac Edwards of Saint Albans [Hertfordshire] who leased the property to John Edwards of Redborn [Hertfordshire]. John may, in fact, have been Isaac's manager as the Edwards family had had a brewery in Redborn since at least 1866. The brewery was taken over by Dunstable brewer Benjamin Bennett in 1882.

The countywide register of 1891 states that Jabez Fountain was the owner and that he leased the property to Benjamin Bennett. Fountain was a former publican himself (The Hope and Anchor from 1884 to 1886) and seems to have taken over behind the bar at the Victory (as it is called in petty sessional licensing registers, though not the countywide registers, from 1877 onwards) or Victoria Arms in 1894 and 1895. Perhaps he bought the property from Isaac Edwards about the time Edwards' brewery was sold to Benjamin Bennett and decided to lease the property to the new owner.

The countywide licensing register of 1903 gives a new owner - J. Pearce, and a new tenant Adey & White of Saint Albans. The beerhouse is described as: "clean and in good repair, sanitary arrangements not satisfactory". The nearest licensed premises was 154 yards away (The Chequers) and the property had two front doors and one at that back.

The beerhouse was one of a number in the south of the county to be closed during World War One. The license was not renewed in February 1916. 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. Eaton Bray, like most of the county, was assessed in 1927. The valuer visiting the former beerhouse, now called Victoria House, found it owned by H. Sharratt and occupied by William Nicholls.

The beerhouse had become a general shop and the tenant paid rent of 7/6 per week. The building comprised two living rooms, of which one was used as the shop, and a cellar ("neglect no window"). Three bedrooms lay above. The valuer noted: "Roof slopes at back" and queried: "Was pub?". Outside stood a brick and slate store with a loft over, the loft being used by the landlord.



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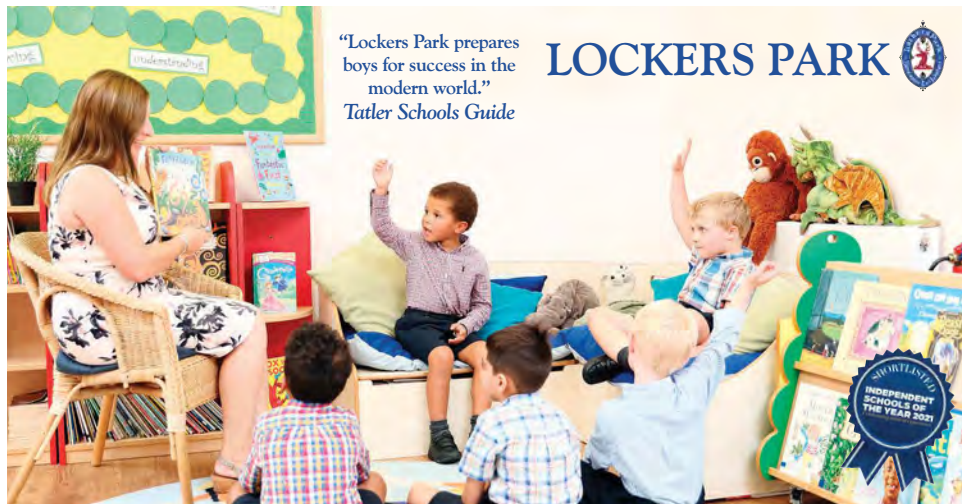
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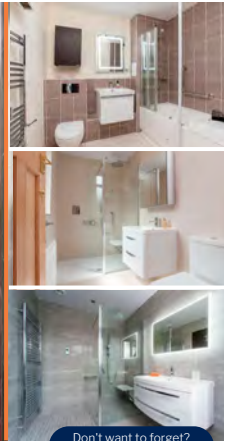
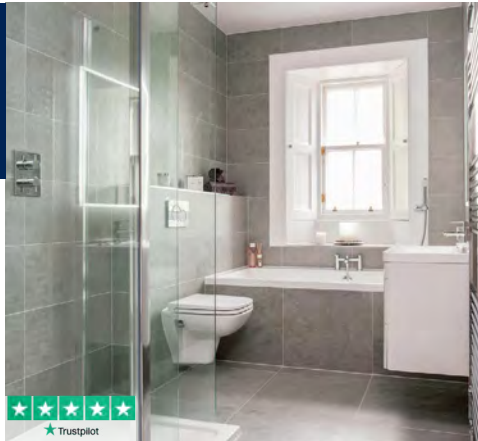
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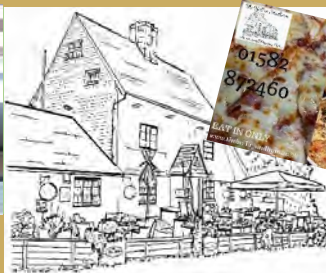
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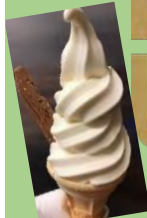


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Dagnall Weather Station (AONB)

Weather Conditions for May 2023



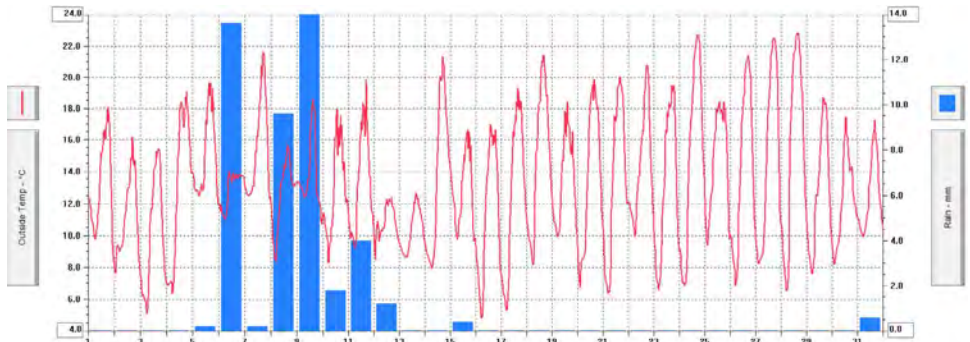
Elevation: 450 ft - Latitude: 51° 50' 13" North - Longitude: 0° 33' 34" West

For the first few days of May it was fine and settled, but by the 6th rain was with us. With low pressure over us, the rain continued until the 12th. As the high pressure started to build, we moved onto a settled period that lasted through to the end of the month. Although the temperatures were above average, with no late frost, the mornings did feel chilly with that cutting wind. This was because of wind direction. There were 21 days this month when the dominant wind was a northerly or easterly direction. Monthly Stats: Wettest day: 8th; with 14.0mm rain, 80% of the monthly average. Warmest day: 28th at 23.1°C. Lowest temperature: 4.6°C

	High	Date/Time	Low	Date/Time
Temperature:	23.1°C	28 May 16.00	4.6°C	16 May 05.30
Mean Temperature	13.3°C			
Dewpoint:	13.7c	9 May 14.30	3.6°C	3 May 06.00
Humidity:	97%	10 May 05.30	42%	26 May 16.00
Barometer:	1031.8 mb	26 May 08.00	1007.5 mb	9 May 16.30
Wind Speed	31 mph NNE	12 May 18.00	Month avg	5.0mph
Wind Chill:	22.7°C	28 May 14.30	3.3°C	3 May 05.00
Dominant Wind:	NNE			
Rainfall * T= total rain days and moisture. R= Actual rain				
*Rain Days: T(T), 10(R)	Wettest Day 8 May		14.0 mm	0.551 ins
Monthly Rain:	Total	May 2023	45.6mm	1.795 ins
Yearly Rain:	Total	5 Month	325.5mm	12.814 ins

May 2023

Temperatures and Rain Fall



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New Era for Whipsnade Lions

Whipsnade Zoo has welcomed two young lionesses, Waka and Winta, who moved from Antwerp Zoo earlier this month to their new 'queendom' at the conservation zoo.

The arrival of the 23-month-old African lionesses marks a whole new era for the conservation zoo, as they'll soon be joined by young male Malik to form a new pride for the first time in decades.

Zookeeper Sarah McGregor

said: "The team are excited to have welcomed such young and energetic sisters in Waka and Winta, and are preparing to complete the new pride when 18-month-old male, Malik, joins them next month from Neuwied Zoo in Germany."

"Lions are known as the king and queens of the animal kingdom, and we're sure Waka, Winta and Malik will fast become the king and queens of Whipsnade Zoo – not only will they help educate and inspire our visitors, but we're excited to play such an important part in helping to conserve this important species globally."

Waka, Winta and Malik are part of the European Endangered Breeding Programme (EEP) for the Vulnerable African lion, which ensures there are strong and genetically diverse back up populations of the species in conservation zoos across Europe.

Three quarters of African lion populations are sadly declining in the wild, driven by large-scale habitat conversion, the loss of prey through unsustainable hunting, as well as human/wildlife conflict.

ZSL, the international conservation charity behind Whipsnade Zoo, is working across Africa to save animals on the brink of extinction - as well as those threatened species that could be next.

The team are hoping the new pride's formation will help boost numbers of the iconic species. "It's been 17 years since Whipsnade Zoo last had African lion cubs, so fingers crossed we won't have too long to wait," Sarah added.

Over the next few weeks, zookeepers will get to know Waka and Winta - and their likes and dislikes - while preparing for Malik's arrival.

"We can already see that Waka is very confident and has led the way in investigating their new home in the Dunstable Downs, while her sister Winta is little bit more cautious and has sometimes needed an extra push from her sister to explore everything Whipsnade has to offer," explained Sarah. "The girls have a very strong relationship and love playing in the long grass together - we can't wait to get to know them more as time goes by."

Visitors can see Waka and Winta as they explore their new home at Whipsnade Zoo alongside 10,000 other animals, many of which are threatened in the wild and part of important global breeding programmes. To find out more about the conservation zoo's vital work protecting species including the African lion, head to www.whipsnadezoo.org.



Whipsnade Zoo's Oldest Primate Turns 50



Koko the chimpanzee has celebrated reaching the milestone age of 50 at Whipsnade Zoo.

The conservation zoo's oldest mammal marked her incredible half-century on Sunday 4 June while tucking into a smorgasbord of her favourite foods - including gem lettuces and cherry tomatoes - before playing in the spring sunshine with younger chimps Phil, Grant and Elvis.

Whipsnade Zoo primate keeper Grant Timberlake said Koko still has the energy of a young chimpanzee, despite outliving the average chimp by more than a decade: "Koko might have just turned 50 but she's still in brilliant health, thanks to the dedicated care

of our zookeepers and veterinary team.

"Particularly when she sees her favourite food, it's like she's 20 years young again - climbing and swinging as fast as she can through the trees to reach it," Grant said.

Born at Dudley Zoo, Koko moved to London Zoo when she was nine, before heading to the UK's largest zoo aged 33. 17 years later, Koko has joined the 'Golden Club' at the conservation zoo, alongside Gladys the flamingo - the zoo's oldest animal - who will turn 53 in July.

Grant added that chimpanzees have incredible memories and explained that Koko had lived through some major wildlife milestones while living at ZSL's two conservation Zoos - as well as contributing to an important conservation project for her species.

"In the past 50 years, Extinct-in-the-Wild Pere David's deer from Whipsnade Zoo were successfully reintroduced back to China, the late Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip opened the Centre for Elephant Care at Whipsnade and ZSL camera-traps captured the first ever photos of chimpanzees at Douala-Edea National Park in Cameroon," he said.

"Koko herself has voluntarily contributed to several important conservation project for her species, helping to improve and protect the health of chimpanzees around the world: our veterinary team work closely with the chimpanzees at Whipsnade Zoo, training them to use finger monitors so the team can gather ECG readings, as well as allowing vets to conduct ultrasound examinations on their hearts."

This critically important data is shared with the International Primate Heart Project (IPHP), as well as the Great Ape Heart Project. GAHP is an international organisation working to investigate and understand the issue of cardiovascular disease in great apes. The project works to create a centralised database on great ape heart health, fuelling important research projects, as well as ensuring the primates receive the best possible care at conservation centres around the world.

"Like a lot of humans when they get older, Koko has developed mild arthritis in her hands, but thanks to the care she receives, it hasn't slowed her down at all," Grant added. "Our vet team treat the inflammation with soothing, low level laser treatments - a simple but effective way to help her remain pain-free and fully mobile. We hope to celebrate many more birthdays with Koko at Whipsnade Zoo."

Visitors can see Koko and the rest of the chimpanzee family, as well as 10,000 other animals at Whipsnade Zoo this June. To book a ticket today visit www.whipsnadezoo.org.



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Girls’ Night Out (1 st Thurs of the month)	Thurs 7:30pm

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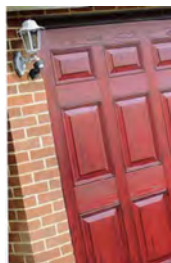


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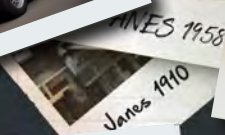
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