

FOCUS

April 2008

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THE FOUR VILLAGES MAGAZINE

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Focus - The Four Village Magazine Magazine Committee

Joint Editors: George Crutcher - 7 Summerleys, Eaton Bray 221637

Email: george.crutcher@tiscali.co.uk

Sally Siddons - 34 Wallace Drive, Eaton Bray 221733

Email: sallysid@hotmail.com

Dagnall Representative: Sue Cawdell - 10 Deans Meadow, Dagnall 01442 842200

Northall Representative: Derrick Bonfield - 'Poppy'n', Eaton Bray Road 220013

Circulation Manager: John Plater - 41 Church Lane, Eaton Bray 221095

Treasurer: Ken Coates - 10 The Nurseries, Eaton Bray 220868

Advertising: Sally Siddons - 34 Wallace Drive, Eaton Bray 221733

Production Manager: Tracey Moren (Moren Associates Limited) 01525 229695

Copy for publication to the Editors or one of the following by the **10th of the month:**

Kevin Cabbage - 'Larums', Eaton Bray Road, Northall

Val Barrow - 3 Chestnut Close, Dagnall

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

Dagnall Under Fives Update

During March the playgroup introduced the Activate Fitness Programme, which is a short physical activity set to music each morning. The programme has many benefits for the children such as developing their attention, concentration and listening skills as well as increasing their balance and co-ordination. The children (and staff) have got to grips with the moves brilliantly!

We have also introduced a reading scheme where the children choose a book to take home each week to share with their family. The emphasis is on enjoyment of books and the children love having their very own book bags, especially those with older siblings at school!

Our topic before Easter was on the different jobs people do and how they help us. The children enjoyed lots of activities based on this theme but the highlights must have been the visits they received from a vet, policewoman and the firemen who brought their fire engine, complete with noisy sirens.



Village Diaries April 2008



Weekly

- Mon-Fri (term time) Eaton Bray Pre-school, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Cindy 07773 095624
- Mon-Fri (term time) Dagnall Under 5's, Dagnall Village Hall, 9.30-12 noon, Mrs Ann Tobin 07816 358342
- Mon-Fri (term time) Edlesborough Under 5's Pre-School, Edlesborough Memorial Hall, Sue 01525 222199
- Mon-Thu (term time) Totternhoe Pre-school, mornings, Totternhoe Memorial Hall, Kay 07803 925254
- Mondays Pilates, 10.45am, St.Giles Church Hall, Totternhoe, Lisa: 01582 412426
- Mondays (term time) Mums & Tots Group, 1-2.30pm, Grace Community Church
- Tuesdays Yoga Classes, Northall Village Hall, 1.45-3.15pm 01525 377542
- Tuesdays Line Dancing, 1.30-3p.m., Eaton Bray Village Hall, Lyn Stubbs 220731
- Tuesdays Baby Cafe (Support for Breastfeeding mums), 10.15 - 11.45 am, Pitstone Memorial Hall
- Tuesdays FITKID, 6-7pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Caroline 08445 606432
- Tuesdays Totternhoe Baby & Toddler Group, 9.30-11.30am, Totternhoe Village Hall, 07986 730922
- Tuesdays Northall Toddler Group, 10am - 12 noon, Northall Village Hall, Ellie 01525 222144
- Tuesdays Fortnightly Coffee Morning, Bring & Buy, Table Top Sale, 10-12noon, Salvation Army Hall, Booth Place, Eaton Bray
- Weds (term time) Eaton Bray Under 5's, 1.15-3pm Eaton Bray Village, Hall Cindy 01582 477568
- Wednesdays Chi Kung & Wu Chi classes, Coffee Tavern 11am - noon
- Wednesdays Pilates, 7.15pm, Northall Village Hall, Lisa: 01582 412426
- Thurs (term time) Baby & Toddlers Group, Dagnall Village Hall, 12:45 - 2:45pm (12:15 if bringing lunch) Contact Michelle Tel 01442 842 676
- Thursdays Yoga Classes, Northall Village Hall, 11.30am-1pm
- Thursdays Keep fit, 2pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Mrs Johnson 220304
- Thursdays Kfa Body Moves 40+, Fitness through movement, exercise & dance. 8-9pm, Edlesborough School, Pat 01582 668735
- Thursdays Baby & Toddler Group, Salvation Army Hall, Booth Place, Eaton Bray, 9.30-11.30am
- Fridays SOCATOTS,12:45, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Daniel Walker 07968 778681
- Fridays (term time) The Venue for 8-12s @ Grace Community Church, 7.00-8.45 pm, Bruce Moulding 01525 221601
- Saturdays Jazzercise, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Angela Veryard, 715208

Monthly

- 1st Monday Eaton Bray Parish Council Meeting, 7.30pm, The Coffee Tavern
1st Monday Eaton Bray W.I. Meeting, 7.30pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Contact Sheila Beal on 01525 221185
- 1st & 3rd Tuesday Dunstable & District Orbit Club meet at Dunstable Rugby Club at 8pm. For details contact 01525 222441 or 01582 755147
- 2nd Tuesday Toddlers' Church, St Mary's, Eaton Bray, 2.00pm
2nd Tuesday Dunstable & District Local History Society meeting, 7.45pm, Methodist Church Hall, Dunstable (opposite Wilkinson)
2nd Tuesday Edlesborough W.I. Meeting, 7.30 pm, Edlesborough Memorial Hall
- 2nd Wednesday 8.15pm Healing Service in St Mary's Church
2nd Thursday CAMEO Coffee, tea & chat, 10am-12noon, Edlesborough Methodist Church
- 3rd Thursday Edlesborough Parish Council Meeting, 7.30pm, Memorial Hall
3rd Sunday Grace Community Church Service, 11am, all welcome, Bruce Moulding 01525 221601
3rd Sunday Lunch club 11.30 to 2.00pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Chris Hewitt 222288

Other Regular Events

- 2nd, 16th & 30th Bingo, Dagnall Village Hall 8pm.
11th Leukaemia Research Coffee Morning, 2 Dunstable Road, 10.30 am
15th Over 60's, Dagnall Village Hall, 2pm, Talk by Sally Thorne

One Off/Annual/Irregular Events

- 5th Friends of St. Mary's Coffee Morning, 10.30-12 noon, St. Mary's Church, Eaton Bray
12th Eaton Bray Methodist Church Book Sale, Coffee Shop, Cake & Craft Stalls, 11am-2pm
16th Age Concern Coffee Morning, 10-12 noon, Northall Village Hall
17th, 18th, 19th Stepping Out, 8pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Box Office 221482
19th Coffee Morning at All Saints Church, 10.30am
26th Quiz, 7.30pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Ross 221411
27th Carnival Queen & Princess Selection, 11.15am, Eaton Bray Village Hall. See page 38 for details on how to enter
28th A Journey Through France and The Netherlands, 7pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall

Dunstable & District Orbit Club

Dunstable and District Orbit Club held their annual quiz on Saturday 8th March at Eaton Bray Village Hall. 19 teams took part and we raised £1,200 for BAAF, British Adoption and Fostering. It was a good night and everyone enjoyed themselves. Orbit is a social and charitable club and welcomes anyone in their 30's or older to come and join us. We meet at the Dunstable Rugby Club every 1st & 3rd Tuesday at 8pm. You will be very welcome or contact 01525 222441 or 01582 755147.



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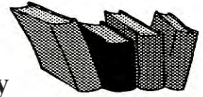
www.edlesboroughunder5s.org.uk



Edlesborough Book Group Review

A Thousands Splendid Suns

Khaled Hosseini - Published by Bloomsbury



"Kneel here, hamshira. And look down. One last time Mariam did as she was told.." As I write this "A Thousand Splendid Suns" is on top of the best seller charts and I am sure many of you remember this quotation, I know I will.

Mariam is an harami, an illegitimate child who only sees her adored father once a week. On those precious days they go fishing, he reads to her and gives her beautiful presents but she can never live with him. Her mother hangs herself, she, Mariam, has an arranged marriage and disappoints her husband, Rasheed by bearing a daughter. Rasheed takes another wife. Out of this unhappy household the two women form a strong bond which will endure beyond death.

Reading this novel we all felt how fortunate we were not to have been born in Afghanistan and endure life under Taliban rule. The book moved a few of us to tears and overall we concluded it was a wonderful novel, however one of us thought Afghanistan was not brought to life as they had hoped. There is much affection for the country among the characters, but you could feel a little cut off from the sights and smells and atmosphere.

This book is an unforgettable portrait of a country in conflict and a deeply moving story of family and friendship.

Highly recommended.

Edlesborough Autos

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St Mary's Parochial Church Council Meeting

The PCC met in February at All Saints' Church, Dagnall, following a celebration of the Eucharist.

The contract to clean the Church has been let and cleaning is now taking place on a fortnightly basis. After investigating several venues for their meetings, the Mothers' Union has decided to meet in St Mary's Church, starting in September. A lengthy discussion was held about the new flag and on which days it should be flown. It was decided that when the current flag, St George's, needs replacing it will be with one incorporating the Diocesan crest, as had been originally agreed. A Flag Day timetable was distributed and it was decided to seek a volunteer who would raise and lower the flag for the appropriate days during the year. The consensus of the Council was that the new chairs for St Mary's should be upholstered in green. The windows in the Vicarage are being replaced with double-glazed units.

An anonymous benefactor has provided sufficient funds to enable all the repairs to the Church roof to be carried out as one project, thus making the overall cost less than originally thought as ancillary costs for scaffolding, cleaning etc will be incurred only once.

The possibility of reviving the Churches Together Open Air Service was discussed and it was agreed that it would be a welcome return, with the service taking place on Edlesborough Green in September. A meeting to investigate changes to the Worship for Everyone service, normally held on the second Sunday of the month, had been held a few days earlier. A report on that meeting was given, and the first changes will be introduced for the Mothering Day service on 2nd March.

Elections for members for the next PCC will take place at the Annual Parochial Church Meeting, to be held on Thursday, 24th April.

Following a short service of Holy Communion, St Mary's Church PCC met at the All Saints' Dagnall church hall on 13th March 2008.

The PCC was advised that agreement had been reached with the donors of the flag pole, that the flag of St George would henceforth be flown on specific dates, rather than continuously.

A report on the requirement for a Parish Administrator, commissioned by the PCC and written by Brian Wyke, was then discussed at length. There was clearly a heavy administrative burden, which fell disproportionately on the vicar and a small number of the congregation and, although there was a feeling that more members of the congregation would be prepared to carry out small, clearly defined administrative tasks, a considerable proportion of this workload could be transferred to a part-time administrator. Unfortunately, the PCC was unable to identify any facility where administration, such as photo copying, typing, telephoning and filing, could be carried out - regardless of whether this was by volunteers or by an administrator employed by the parish. It was agreed therefore that the Standing Committee would conduct further investigations in consultation with Brian Wyke.

Discussion then turned to the next tranche of repairs to the church roof, which involved renovation of those to the Chancel and North Aisle. As a result of a huge increase in the cost of lead, the builders had increased their estimate for this work by 30%. Furthermore, the insurance company will no longer insure the lead on a church roof when scaffolding is erected round the building. It would therefore be necessary to provide a security presence during the repairs, whenever workmen were not physically on site. The total cost of the repairs had therefore increased from £87,000 to £157,000, and this was beyond our means. The PCC was therefore forced to agree that work on the Chancel roof would continue as planned, but that to the North Aisle would be deferred until additional funds had been raised. Work was scheduled to start after Easter, and be completed by 31 May 2008.

Fund raising projects included the open gardens event on 8th June, when the proceeds will be split between the church roof and Macmillan Cancer Support (St Mary's charity for 2008), an old time music hall on 28th March, a review on 10th May, the carnival on 5th July and the flower festival from 19th to 21st September. The meeting was delighted to hear that eight young people from the North Chilterns Group were attending classes prior to confirmation on 22nd June, that All Saints' Dagnall had presented a cheque for over £2,500 to the Iain Rennie Hospice and that plans were underway to hold a parish picnic on Edlesborough Green on 10th August.

Lastly, as this was the final meeting before the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on 24th April, when a new PCC would be elected, retiring members were thanked for their contributions.

The Church Mouse



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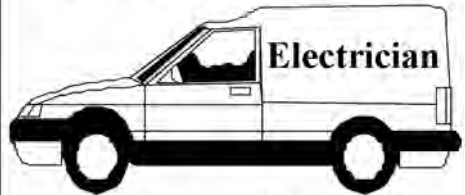
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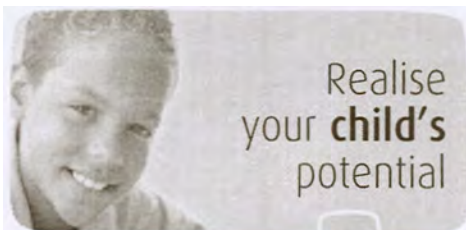
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Hon. Assistant Priest : The Revd John Heffer

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The Easter-story in the Gospels reveals a lot about the corruption of human motives. It is easy to focus on how Jesus's friends let Him down in His hour of need, when they all ran away. There is nothing complicated about their reaction to the crisis of Jesus's arrest and condemnation – they just ran away for fear of their own lives. They were on Jesus's side until cowardice destroyed their loyalty.

But what about Judas who betrayed Jesus? Did he do it just for the money? Was he trying to use his powerful contacts to force Jesus into decisive action? Had he become disillusioned with Jesus and was 'out to get Him'? We simply don't know. But whatever he was trying to do it all went terribly wrong, and he "went out and hanged himself". Judas was on his own side, pursuing his own agenda.

Look at Caiaphas the Jewish High-priest. His priority was the preservation of the uneasy compromise between the Jewish establishment and the occupying Roman forces, on which his own status and power and wealth depended. Any religious unrest would put all this in jeopardy. Jesus threatened it, and therefore Jesus had to be got rid off. "It is expedient that one man should die for the nation", Caiaphas said quite openly. It would be easy enough to have Him killed in some dark alley, but it would be better if He were disgraced – hence the collusion with the Romans to have Jesus crucified – so that no-one would ever take His teaching seriously, and it would soon be forgotten. Caiaphas wanted people to think that his concern was for the 'big picture', but it was really only a cloak to preserve his own influence and prestige. Caiaphas was on the side of power.

Or look at Pontius Pilate, the Roman Governor, the embodiment of Roman justice. He recognized that Jesus was an innocent man who was being framed by influential people. But he also recognized that if he tried to do what justice demanded he would probably have an uprising on his hands, and that would mark the end of his political career. What was one peasant religious teacher, after all? And all down the ages, the "little people" have been sacrificed because their rights prove too costly or inconvenient for the people in power. Pilate was on the side of taking the easy way out.

And the fickle crowd. One day they greeted Jesus as a hero; a few days later they were baying for His blood, whipped up by a few agitators in the pay of the religious authorities. Whose side were they on?

That's the question the story of Jesus's sufferings and death force us to face: whose side are we on? Do we have sound moral principles which we struggle to uphold even if it costs us dearly? Or are we concerned only for an easy life? Or are up for the highest bidder? The Easter story brings all our secrets out into the open. But

it doesn't stop there. After Easter the risen Jesus appeared again, alive, not to the people of power but to His own friends, and transformed their lives. The ones who ran away became the ones who travelled to distant lands to tell others about what Jesus had done for them, and almost to a man suffered cruel deaths rather than deny Him again. That is the wonder of Easter, the wonder of the new life which the resurrection of Jesus has released into our world.

But the question remains, "Whose side are you on?"

MALCOLM

From the Parish Registers

Baptisms – “Brought to new birth in the family of the Church”

February 24 Elizabeth Georgia Maddern

Funerals – “Grant them, O Lord, eternal rest”

February 21 Walter Frederick Galpin of Rivers Hospital, Sawbridgeworth

March 12 Charlotte Robertson Mellon of Northall Close, Eaton Bray

March 18 Percy Cecil Pitkin of Greenways, Eaton Bray



Services at St Mary's Church

SUNDAYS : **8.00am** – The Eucharist
10.00am – PARISH SUNG EUCHARIST (with Sunday School)

On Second Sunday of each month:

10.00am – WORSHIP FOR EVERYONE – a less formal service with Holy Communion

WEEK-DAYS : **Tuesday:** **7.30am** – Eucharist
2.00pm (2nd Tuesday) – Toddlers' Church

Wednesday: **9.30am** – Eucharist
8.15pm (2nd Wednesday) – Healing Service

Thursday: **7.30pm** – Eucharist
(on 2nd Thursday at All Saints', Dagnall)

EVERYONE WELCOME AT THESE SERVICES

All Saints' Church, Dagnall - Services in April 2008

- Sun. 6th April 9.00 am Eucharist
 10.30 am Morning Service
 6.00 pm Evening Service with Holy Communion
- Sun. 13th April 10.30 am Morning Service
 6.00 pm Circuit Service at the Methodist Church, The Square, Dunstable
- Sun. 20th April 10.30 pm Family Communion
 6.00 pm Evening Service
- Sun. 27th April 9.00 am Eucharist
 10.30 am Family Service
 6.00 pm Evening Prayer
- Sun. 4th May 9.00 pm Eucharist
 10.30 am Morning Service
 6.00 pm Evening Service with Holy Communion
- Sunday School meets each Sunday at 10.30 am



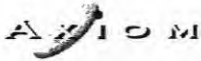
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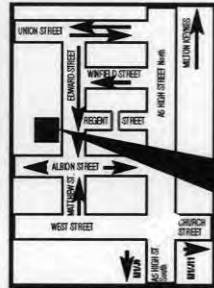
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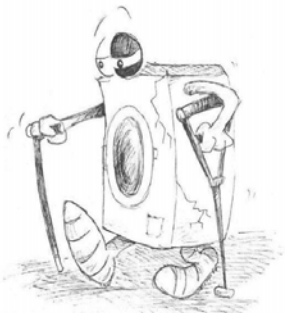


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EDaN (Edlesborough Dagnall and Northall) Parish Plan Survey Results

Last month the results of the survey conducted in Autumn were presented in a series of six meetings across the villages. 743 households completed the survey – something of a record- and we have shared the results with some of you through a number of meetings. However we want all residents of the parish to know about the progress we are making. Well here's another chance to find out the results. Go to the Edlesborough Parish Council website at www.edlesborough.gov.uk and click on Parish Plan (EDaN) Project and you'll find all the charts used in the presentation. Many of you expressed an interest in getting involved in various projects. The project areas are listed below. We already have some volunteers but need more to drive these projects forward.

- | | |
|--|---|
| -Buses and Community Transport | -Traffic Management –Speed etc |
| -Road Safety (Railings and Crossings) | -Parking |
| -Footpaths and Pavements | -Cycleways |
| -Housing Development | -Youth Facilities |
| -Street Lighting | -Drainage |
| -Beautify the Village | -Luton Postcode |
| -Police / Anti Vandalism /Cooperation between Bucks and Beds | -Post Office (May/ June announcement by Royal Mail management?) |
| -Village Shop Co-operatives (Dagnall and Northall) | -Village Hall improvements (Dagnall and Northall) |

Some of you indicated that you were willing to volunteer for some activities. As promised we didn't use the names, phone numbers and email addresses other than for the prize draw so we don't know who you are!

If you haven't already signed up at one of the meetings and want to make things happen please call Alan Williams on 01525 221926 or Vicky Lee on 01442 843361. Or you can email us at edanplan@yahoo.co.uk

If you would just like to keep up to date with what's going on please send us an email to the address above and we will create a mailing list. You won't need to look for information in the newspapers, Focus articles or the parish website: we'll send you an update every couple of months to keep you informed. As with the prize draw we will not share your details with anyone and the mailing list will be anonymous –your name will not appear in the distribution.

Stay up with the action by signing up now!

Thanks

EDaN Project Steering Group

<p>Edlesborough Parish Council Meetings 3rd Thursday of every month 7.30pm Memorial Hall Next meeting: Thurs 17th Apr 08</p>

Dagnall News

Over 60's

During the month of March our meeting on the 18th was the first luncheon trip of the year. A full coach visited The Plough at Wingfield for a much appreciated meal, followed by an afternoon tour with a visit to a garden centre, making a most enjoyable day.

In April we have a talk by Sally Thorne who will be describing her experiences when she took part in the Marathon Des Sables. Sally was born and bred in Dagnall and we are looking forward to her joining us on April 15th at 2pm.

Dagnall School



Dagnall Church

We hope you enjoyed the Beetle Drive on Saturday 8 March to raise funds for Crossroads International (our Church project for 2008). The amount raised is not available at present, but please read next month's issue of Focus for more information.

Fairtrade Fortnight has now ended – our support for Fairtrade producers does not stop with it. Out shopping in Wendover recently (primarily to buy chocolates from Rumsey's for Mother's Day), my family happened upon a shop (@stmarys.com) selling a wide variety of Fairtrade products including dishcloths, washing up liquid and toilet rolls. At All Saints' Church, we have pledged to commit to using Fairtrade tea and coffee for all meetings for which we have a responsibility and after services; to move forward on using other Fairtrade products, e.g. sugar and biscuits; and to continue to support Fairtrade through other activities whenever

possible. So not only will you be supporting our chosen charity (Crossroads International), you will also be supporting Fairtrade when you buy cakes from our cake stalls and partake of refreshments at other events being held during the year. Leading nicely on to our next social events: a spring coffee morning with cake stall and bring and buy, to be held on Saturday 19 April from 10.30 am at All Saints' Church, Dagnall.

As the days are getting lighter and warmer, our thoughts are turning towards ttitivating our gardens and planting the spuds on our allotments. Do you work on an empty stomach and have a brunch later on but don't want to make it? Why not come to All Saints' Church and have it made for you on Saturday 3 May from 9.30 – 11.30 am and enjoy a breakfast takeaway? Bacon roll with tea/coffee £3.00; croissant/Danish with tea/coffee £2.00.

Dagnall Village Hall

Dagnall Dip

Dagnall Dip is usually drawn in September & February. In April/May we will be selling the Fete tickets instead of Dagnall Dip. Number of prizes will vary depending on the amount collected.

Dip co-ordinator	Area Covered
Kathy Bovington	Deans Meadow (odds), Chestnut Cl & Huntsmans Cl
Sally Thorn	Nelson Road
Liz Coates	Deans Meadow (evens)
Richard Cutler	Dunstable Rd (evens) & Main Road North
Mandy Taylor	Dunstable Rd (odds)
Linda Ho	Main Road South & Maltings
	Studham Lane
Total collected for dip on 26/02/2008	
	£233.50
Total amount to village hall	
£123.50	Total amount in prizes
	£110.00

Winning Order	Winning Name	Winning Amount	Winning Ticket no.	Delivered by
1st	Jane Brand	£40	02166	Liz
2nd	Julie Jones	£30	02811	Richard
3rd	Colin Provis	£20	02779	Richard
4th	Mr Fenton	£10	02589	Kathy
5th	Beth Stokes	£10	02318	Mandy

Note: 1) Extra £7.50 tickets sold at meeting
 2) £5.00 extra funds found when cashing up.

Letter to the Editors

Dear Focus

We have noticed of late, the increase of owners letting their dogs foul on the pavements up and down the Summerleys.

This has become an increased problem round the hedge of 42 Summerleys and we would therefore be grateful if you could please clear up after your pet and become a responsible dog owner. It is not pleasant to be clearing up after you or after our children when they are merrily running along and happen to tread in it.

Many thanks

A second complaint has also been received concerning Church Lane, Eaton Bray

How to deal with dog fouling

1. Is dog fouling an offence?

There are approximately 7.4 million dogs in the UK. They produce 1,000 tonnes of excrement per day. This has to be cleaned up.

In England and Wales, the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996 says that local authorities can designate most public land as ‘poop scoop’ area, so if dog-owners use these public areas they must clear up after their dogs.

2. Who is responsible for clearing dog fouling?

Your local authority has a legal duty to keep highways clear of dog faeces in England, Wales and Scotland under the Environmental Protection Act 1990. This includes public walkways, recreational ground and any part of the sea shore frequently used by large numbers of people.

3. What can I do about a dog fouling offence?

Take details

If you wish to take action against a dog owner who has not cleaned up after their dog, you should immediately note details of:

- Date, time and place of offence
- The name and address of the person in charge of the dog if possible
- A description of the dog

Contact the local authority

Find out which department is responsible for dog fouling offences and clearly describe the place being fouled to find what regulations are in place for that area. Make sure you find out how the authority enforces the law on dog fouling.

Most of the time the offender will be given a warning before legal action is taken. This warning may be sufficient to deter further offences.

Dog wardens

If fouling occurs at regular times, it may be possible for a dog warden or officer to witness the fouling and take action.

Local authorities can use contractors such as dog wardens to enforce the fixed penalty scheme for dog fouling. They are regarded as an effective way of tackling dog fouling problems. Their job includes:

- Enforcing the law on dogs and dog fouling and local by-laws

- Promoting responsible attitudes to dog ownership
- Handling and securing stray dogs
- Dealing with problems relating to nuisance dogs



4. Penalties for dog owners who fail to clear up England and Wales

The penalty for not clearing up dog fouling is up to £1,000. There is also provision for a fixed penalty scheme with a fine of £50.

5. Health risks of dog fouling

A recent survey by Encams said up to 16,000 people are affected by toxocariasis every year. This is a disease contracted by contact with fouling or contaminated soil and which causes 50 cases of serious eye infection and even blindness every year.

Toxocara is a roundworm which lives in the faeces of dogs, foxes and cats. Their eggs are resistant to freezing and disinfectants and can survive for two years or more.

Solutions to the problem

Encams says every owner should treat their dog with a worming preparation. Their advice is to do it regularly. They also say dog owners should clean up after their dog, using a doggy bag, and leaving it in a designated dog bin. And if there isn't one around, they should put it in a normal litter bin.

Eaton Bray WI Report



At our March meeting the members were welcomed by Sheila our vice president, apologies were received from Deirdrea who isn't well. We welcomed two visitors Sue and Eileen. Business consisted of notices for

The Group Spring Meeting and choices to be considered for the summer outing. We had great pleasure in welcoming our guest speaker Mr Runnalls Davis who gave us a very interesting talk and slide show on the work carried out by women operating the narrow boats during the Second World War. Little is known of this branch of the 'war effort' in carrying out vital work, transporting essential supplies along the canal systems from 1939 until 1945.

On learning that many narrow boats had been 'tied up' because of the lack of men to operate them. A group of young ladies most of them from very affluent families, decided to man the boats. Volunteers were recruited mostly from their friends, and despite the lack of knowledge on how to do the work, received permission from 'the ministry' to operate the boats. The traditional canal boat families watched the volunteers many mistakes with much glee!

However by the end of the war the women had earned the respect of the boating families. There has never been any formal recognition of this work; all the women were ever issued with was a badge stating they were on National Service IW (inland waterways). But some wag had given them the name Idle Women, thus the title of the talk!

Our next meeting is on Monday 7th April at 7 30pm at Eaton Bray Village Hall. Friends and new members always welcome, call Sheila 221185.

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JGS Metalwork – A Quarter of a Century at Broomstick

May 2008 marks the 25th Anniversary of the founding of J.G.S. Metalwork.

In 1983 John Sayer was asked by a neighbour if he could manufacture a car component and was given a small order. So began a search for workshops and machinery which ended at Broomstick Yard off High Street, Edlesborough, and with the generous loan of some machinery from Mike Moore, the landlord, John took a huge gamble and left his fulltime employment to become self-employed.

John has run JGS since 1983, with his son joining him several years ago. In 2007 they formed a Partnership - JGS.Metalwork & Son, with John senior concentrating on quotations and artistic ironwork and John junior on the automation systems. The office is run by Carolyn, his wife, so this is a true “family business”.

Over the years, working many hours a week and weekends, John has expanded his business into more units, and added offices. Some may remember the huge crane that closed Summerleys for a while which lifted the portakabin over the roof of the Post Office, as the delivery lorry could not get through the narrow opening into the yard, then a smaller crane lifted the office into its permanent position.

Starting from the car component trade, John also made decorative ironwork, gates, railings, balconies, etc., and one day was asked to make a weathervane. This started JGS. Weathervanes which grew to over 300 designs. Weathervanes have been made for Battersea Park Children’s Zoo, the Metropolitan Police, Aylesbury Vale District Council, Pensthorpe Waterfowl Park, to name a few, but many hundreds have been sold at home and abroad. JGS have given short talks on local radio and had a trip to Japan to meet clients and attended most major County Shows, from Derbyshire to Somerset, the favourite being Hampton Court Palace Flower Show, however, the concentration is now on producing gates and installing gate automation.

JGS work mostly in the local area plus North London, and over the years have made useful contacts with the building trade and word-of-mouth recommendations. The

web site is www.jgsmetalwork.co.uk

We know that John’s personal attention is appreciated and prospective clients like being able to call into the office to discuss their ideas and plans, where John can superimpose gates and railings onto pictures of their property, showing how the finished job will look. His work has brought him into contact with people from many different walks of life, some famous. John has hundreds of examples of his excellent work over a large area of Herts, Beds, Bucks, and N. London, of which he should be rightly proud.

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For more information contact: Steve and Helen Orchard 01525 373106

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.

Sat 5th July



Fairy Tales

St Mary's Village Carnival

Sat. 5th July 2008

Edlesborough Green

www.stmarysvillagecarnival.com

Fairy Tales! – make them come true on Saturday 5th July!

Dressing up for the theme gives our carnival its special atmosphere. Remember the fancy dress float procession and make sure your group books for the parade - we can help you find a lorry for the parade – contact us on www.stmarysvillagecarnival.com for more information, and let's have more people in wonderful costumes on foot. Make sure you don't miss the best event of the year and help us raise funds for the Air Ambulance Service which provides a vital lifesaving service for our community.

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Our carnival programme is widely distributed and read by several thousand households and many local businesses advertise regularly in this publication. You can book adverts at a competitive price to reach your customers. Contact our website or Peter Bennett 01525 221284 for details.

Carnival Queen 2008!

The Carnival Queen, princess and attendants will be chosen at Eaton Bray Village hall on Sunday 27 April at 11.15am. Girls aged from 8 to 13 in the congregation of St Mary's Church or who live in Edlesborough, Eaton Bray, Dagnall or Northall may apply. Application forms are available from Yvonne Ranson 01525 220943. Completed forms to be returned by Sunday 20 April.

Wanted...Helpers to join our team!

Get into the great community spirit of our villages and help us have a fabulous carnival. If you've never experienced it, come and get involved- you'll get even more out of it and make new friends. Contact us on www.stmarysvillagecarnival.com or call Peter Bennett, 01525 221284. Help especially needed for Friday evening and clearing up on Saturday at 5pm.



In aid of St Mary's Church Fabric Fund, East Anglian Air Ambulance, and other local charities & good causes

In 2007, £11,000 was raised for local charities & good causes.

Dagnall Village Fete

on Saturday 10th May 2008
from 12.30 - 4.00pm

YOU can help us by

- **Donating goods** for our stalls
 - White Elephant (china, bric-a-brac, kitchenware)
 - Tombola (tins, jars, bottles and packets)
 - Raffle
 - Toys and Games
 - Children's clothes
 - Books
 - Sweets (for tombola and as prizes)
- Could you **help run a stall** for an hour during the Fete?
- **Buy prize draw tickets** at your door
- **Come and join us on the day**

Please **contact** one of the following fete committee members:

Vicky on 01442 843361, **Kathy** on 842796 or **Liz** on 842550 to book a stall

The Friends of Edlesborough School

Midsummer Ball

Dust off those dinner jackets - here's an excuse to dress up and have a great night on 28th June at the Midsummer Ball, to be held at Edlesborough School. This year's Ball includes:

- Dancing to Planet Funk
- Three course meal
- Bar and cocktails
- Auction



You can either make up your own table of ten or simply buy individual tickets at a cost of £55 per person. To reserve your tickets, please contact Alison Walley on 222873. We expect demand for this event to be very high so book now for a great night out!

**THE
EDLESBRAY PLAYERS**



Present:

CARRY ON LAUGHING!

A REVIEW

IN AID OF ST MARY'S CHURCH ROOF FUND

SATURDAY 10TH MAY 2008

AT 7.30PM

EATON BRAY VILLAGE HALL

Doors open 7.00pm

Tickets £7.50 including

Ploughman's Supper. Bar available.

**Box office opens Mon 7th April:
01525 22283**



Village Theatre Company

FRONT ROW

presents by kind permission of Samuel French Ltd

stepping Out

17th, 18th, 19th April - Eaton Bray Village Hall
Performances start at 8.00 pm

A warm, funny play about the lives, laughs and loves of a group of people attending a weekly tap-dance class in a dingy North London church hall. Will the class be transformed into triumphant tappers in time for a grand charity show performance? You'll have to see the show to find out!

Box Office: 01525 221482

Carnival Queen & Princess

St Mary's Village Carnival

Would you like to lead the Carnival Procession and open the Fete on Saturday 5th July?

Are you aged between 8 and 13 years?

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

To take part all you have to do is complete and return an entry form (details below) and come along to Eaton Bray Village Hall on

Sunday 27 April at 11.15am

when the Queen, Princess and two Attendants will be chosen.

How to Enter

To find out more, please telephone Yvonne Ranson on 01525 220943 for an entry form, or call at 42 The Orchards, Eaton Bray.

Entry forms should be returned by 20 April.

Quiz

Village Hall

Saturday 26th April 2008 (N.B. Saturday!!)

This fabulous quiz with quizmaster Keith Blackburn

Will still include a free supper with the questions.

Bring you own glasses and drink.

7.30pm for 8pm

Just £8 per person. Teams of up to 8 people

Fabulous prizes!

This event is organised jointly by

Eaton Bray Village Hall Fundraising Committee

and Eaton Bray Tennis Club

For bookings contact:

Ross 221411, Jan 220191 or Katrina 01582 661279

AGE
Concern

NORTHALL &
DISTRICT

**COFFEE
MORNING**

WEDNESDAY NORTHALL

16th VILLAGE

APRIL HALL

10 ~ 12 noon

Bring & Buy Cakes

Bric-a-brac Raffle

ALL WELCOME

ENTRANCE 50p

The Inner Wheel Club of
Dunstable presents



*A Journey Through
France & the Netherlands*
with Demonstrations of Flower Arranging
by Lucida Sanderson &
Nicolette Bushchman

To be held at
Eaton Bray Village Hall
on Monday 28th April 2008
at 7 for 7.30pm

*in aid of the Charities' Childline
& Free4*

Cost: £8.50 (to include a glass
of wine and light refreshments)
Raffle

For tickets please send a cheque
made out to "Inner Wheel Club
of Dunstable" enclosing a SAE
To Mrs C Tarsey, 3 George Street,
Leighton Buzzard, LU7 3JX

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Spring Bank Holiday 25th May

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Bouncy Castles, and lots more...

Shop open 9am, Show from 12.00 noon

Entry only £5 per car

In Aid of Hearing Dogs for Deaf People



ROTARY CLUB OF DUNSTABLE DOWNS PRESENTS

AN EVENING OF JAZZ WITH 'GENTLE JAZZ'

SATURDAY 17 MAY 2008 AT 7.30PM

EATON BRAY VILLAGE HALL

TICKETS £12 TO INCLUDE PLOUGHMANS' SUPPER



- ◆ Bring your own drinks, glasses and nibbles
- ◆ Dancing area for the energetic
- ◆ Tables of 6 and 8 can be reserved
- ◆ Raffle with quality prizes

All proceeds to be donated to local charities

Tickets on sale from 12 March

Enquiries welcome tel: 07768 415605

Rotary Club of Dunstable Antiques Fair

The Rotary Club of Dunstable shares an international motto of "Service above Self". The Club members raise money during the year to put into their Benevolent Fund and once a year this money is distributed to charities local to Dunstable and the surrounding villages.

To this end an Antiques Fair is held three times a year at the Dunstable Leisure Centre where the majority of the income goes to the Benevolent Fund. The next Fair is on Bank Holiday Monday 5th May 2008 and is open to the public between 10am and 4pm. Admission is a modest £2 per person.

How can you help?

- By having a stall at the event. Please contact Alan Tarsey on 01582 872673
- By attending the event
- By becoming a member of The Rotary Club and helping worthwhile causes in the community.

More information can be obtained from Roger Sharp on 01582 606405

Friends of St Mary's Coffee Morning

Saturday, April 5th

10.30am - 12 noon

At St Mary's Church, Eaton Bray

Bring and Buy

Fair Trade Stall

Raffle

TOTTERNHOE FETE

on the Recreation Ground

ATTRACTIONS:

- Chiltern Radio
- Rodeo Bull
- Bouncy Castle
- Gold Cup Race
- Human Bungy Run
- Bowling & Golf Games
- Five-A-Side Football
- Tug of War
- Coconut Shy
- Milk the Cow
- Dog Show
- Bric-A-Brac Stalls

- All Day BBQ
- Bars & Food Stalls
- Real Ales
- Local Displays in Main Arena
- Drawing Competition Gallery
- Live Jazz Band 6pm till 9pm
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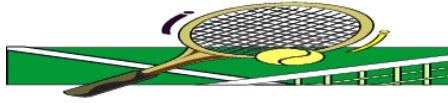
11am till late

Enquiries for Stalls

Tel: 01582 476887 or 07970 947146



SATURDAY 10TH MAY 2008



Eaton Bray Lawn Tennis Club

Dear Mr Chairman,

As requested, here is my weekly report from the Cayman Islands. As you'll remember, you sent me here last month 'for tax purposes' to await the arrival by air-mail of 7,000 Subbuteo pitches and around a hundred grand in used tenners. As I recline in the shade beneath a coconut tree on the white sandy beach sipping a rum and coke, I have to report that, to date, we are substantially short on the pitch front having received just two, one from my mother who found a reasonable second-hand one at a car boot sale in Solihull, and one from a Mr Robin Banks of London who included a ransom note demanding a million pounds or he'd 'spill the beans' about our builder's VAT situation. I've stitched the two pitches together (I could only get red cotton) and will send them to you, so if we don't get any more then just try to stretch them a bit over the courts. We'll just have to make do with a red half way line, but as Luton never get over it anyway, it shouldn't be a problem.

Money-wise, things aren't a lot better. Apart from trying to find a million quid to send to Mr Banks, I've received no tenners at all. Did you give everyone the right name? The big fat bloke in the next deckchair keeps getting loads of well-stuffed envelopes brought to him on silver platters by the waiting staff. I think his name's Max or something because the locals keep saying to him 'how are you Max, well?' Then he laughs, mutters something about a fake body near the Canaries, and raises his glass of champagne toasting some pension funds. All very strange, I think he's deluded. So please make sure some come to me because so far I'm spending all my own money, and it's not cheap being an excommunicated communications officer, this rum's pricey I can tell you.

Whilst I remember, please make sure that everyone knows about the Quiz Night on Saturday 26th April, which we're hosting with the Village Hall Fundraising Committee. I think you've still got some tickets available. Also there's the BBQ and social tennis up at the courts on Sunday 11th May morning where, again, everyone is invited to come along to see what we're all about. Finally please promote the infamous Gazebo construction demonstration during our Play Tennis Day on Saturday 21st June. Again with BBQ providing I get home in time. I still think it was a tad stingy of the club just to get that one-way ticket, and having to travel as hold luggage in that cage with the six amorous skunks wasn't the best way to start an assignment. Good job you got me a 'room' near the sea so I could bathe easily; so easily in fact I didn't even have to get out of bed, the tide just came in. Still it's a nice hole in the sand, and I'm thinking of making a roof out of palm tree leaves to keep the seagulls out.

Anyway I must sign off as 'Max' has just received another parcel and I'm going to ask him for a loan to pay off Mr Banks and secure another week's worth of rum and cokes. Then I've got to chop a palm tree down, post off the Subbuteo pitches and go for another swim to remove the latest seagull messages. After that I'll need a rest so if you need me I'll be in my hole, just ask for me at the hotel, most of the waiters know the hole because that's where they throw the kitchen leftovers. Speaking of which – lunch has arrived! I just need to scrape the wet sand and congealed gravy off last night's sea bass. Yummy!

Thank you again for the opportunity to serve you and the club so loyally, I remain,

Your obedient servant

Agent Andy

For any further information about the club, including when we get together for our social tennis sessions up at the School Lane courts, or our various activities, please call either Chairman Ross Bagni on 01525 221411, Coach Nick Boys on 07810 832774, or if they're all out and I've not been thrown into a Cayman jail for subversive money laundering, me, Andy Cross, on 01582 477114.

EATON BRAY METHODIST CHURCH.

BOOK SALE with; COFFEE SHOP, CAKE STALL + CRAFT STALL.

ON SATURDAY 12TH APRIL FROM 11.00am to 2.00pm.

PLOUGHMAN'S LUNCHESES SERVED FROM 12.00noon to 2.00pm.

All Proceeds in aid of SMILE INTERNATIONAL and TIGER CLUB.

BOOKS WANTED. Please ring Sandra on 01525 375229 or Alannah on 01525 221814 if you have books for collection.

The Tiger Club enable street children to realize their potential and discover their worth.

Smile International provide humanitarian aid and long term development projects in over 20 countries.

Eaton Bray Methodist Church

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY;

Sunday May 11th Sunday School Anniversary at 10.30am led by Mr. Roger Owers and our young people.

Saturday June 7th Strawberry Teas and fun and games afternoon.

Saturday October 11th Lunches from 12.00 noon until 1.30pm.

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Highlights of Minutes of the Eaton Bray Parish Council Meeting Held on 3rd March at 7.30 p.m.

PUBLIC OPEN FORUM

No members of public were present.

SIGNING OF MINUTES

It was agreed to accept the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on the 4th February 2008. The Chairperson signed the minutes.

DISTRICT AND COUNTY REPRESENTATIVES

District Cllr Janes reported that Bedfordshire is still waiting for a ministerial decision regarding the proposed administrative changes to the County, expecting a decision by the end of March 2008. Has dealt with many reports regarding rubbish/fly tipping. The Parish Council expressed their appreciation to the people who come on a regular basis to clear rubbish that has been dumped in the village.

POLICE REPRESENTATIVES

PC Viv Dady presented crime statistics for the month of January: 10 recorded crimes/incidents - 5 incidents on Chiltern View Caravan Site; Theft from motor vehicle, 2nd February 2008; Theft from motor vehicle, 19th-20th February 2008, Totternhoe Road; Criminal damage to motor vehicle, 13th-14th February 2008, Northall Road; Theft of copper cable and leads, Honeywick Lane.

PC Dady gave a copy of Police contacts for the area to be displayed on Parish Council noticeboards. PC Dady informed the Parish Council that the Police are dealing with issues regarding problem motorbikes asking the public to keep reporting these events and giving police as much detail/description of offenders (two bikes having already been confiscated).

GP REPORT AND SIGNING OF MINUTES

It was agreed to accept the minutes of the General Purposes Working Group held on the 21st February 2008. Cllr Marriage signed the minutes. The Parish Council have agreed to set up a Recreational Development Project Group looking at youth projects for the village; skateboarding, youth shelter, youngsters football.

STATE OF ROADS

The Parish Council expressed concern at the poor state of roads/footpaths in Eaton Bray and suggested the Parish Council invite John Shortland, Watchman in Chief, Highways, to the next Parish Council Meeting to discuss state of the roads/footpaths.

ALLOTMENTS

It was agreed to re-allocate two allotments which have not been cared for and to work with some other tenants to see if we could agree to divide the large plots into two, thus making them easier to tend and to offer plots to new tenants.

CEMETERY

It was agreed that the new section in the cemetery should start to be used and for it

to have defined areas for graves and the burial of ashes.

MILL END CLOSE

The Parish Council agreed that the area can be closed off with a fixed gate, with both the resident's and the Parish Council being key-holders.

CARNIVAL STALL

It was agreed that the Parish Council would have a stall at the Village Carnival on 5th July 2008.

EATON BRAY PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

1st Monday of every month, 7:30pm at The Coffee Tavern

Next meeting: Monday 7th April 2008

Items for the April agenda to be submitted no later than Thursday, 27th March 2008 to:

CLERK: Mrs Heidi Head, Eaton Bray Parish Council, 20 Good Intent, Edlesborough, Dunstable, Beds, LU6 2RD

Email: clerk@ebpc.co.uk (Parish Clerk contact times: Tuesday, Thursday, Friday – 9:30am-1:00pm)

Village Hall AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the Eaton Bray Village Hall is being held at 7.30pm on Monday 19th May. Members of the public are encouraged to attend this meeting.

Village Hall Update

I am sitting in my office looking at the daffodils coming into bloom and thinking what a great time of year it is. No, I had better start again, as actually, from my office all I can see is a tiny bit of the garden and not a single daffodil, but you get the gist of my thoughts? Spring is here and like the rest of us it is a pleasure to behold the spring flowers and the garden coming into bloom.

That has nothing to do with the Village Hall except we are getting closer to the building work which we hope to carry out in June, the refurbishment of the kitchen and meeting room plus creating a disabled toilet.

This is getting us even closer to my main point. It really is a very strange way my mind works but you may just be getting used to this old man's ramblings by now! Now where was I? Oh yes.... All these works cost lots of money so the old GI's

along with our friends from the ultra fit Tennis Club are going to remind you about the Quiz.

This will take place on Saturday 26th April in the Village Hall. 7.30pm start and with an excellent supper included in the minuscule price of just £8 each. Bring you own drinks and glasses.

With my usual generosity I am offering two free tickets to the quiz for the first person who tells me on what page the Quiz advert is on (subject to the very very kind editors putting it in!). The telephone number is on the advert.

We have run these quizzes over the last couple of years and they have been extremely popular. Do come along make up a team of 8 or if you cannot manage that, we can put smaller like minded groups together and create a super team! (Something like super food, sounds good but no one is sure if they really work).

I will babble on about **the 5th Beer Festival** in the next Focus but just to remind you the dates are **Friday 6th June and Saturday 7th June**. Make a note in your diary.

Don't forget to book your tickets for the Quiz and then keep reading those reference books so you can win a great prize and more importantly the pride of saying "We Won!"

Take from someone who has done just that.

For any information just call Ross 221411.

Edlesborough Parish Council

(including Edlesborough, Dagnall and Northall) News

Street Lighting

Due to unforeseen circumstances the Parish Council street lighting Contractors are unable to carry out repairs, the Parish Council organised for an alternative Contractor who unfortunately has had to delay repairs due to ill health but should be able to resume repairs to the street lights currently affected at the beginning of April. The Parish Council sincerely apologise to Parishioners who have reported faulty lights and to the Parishioners as a whole for this continued delay but are doing all they can to rectify the situation.

Grass Cutting

The County grass cutting commenced on 19th February and reached our Parish early March and will be carried out on a regular basis during the coming months.

Allotments

All allotments at The Green have now been taken but a few remain at Cow Lane. If anyone wishes to take on an allotment would they please contact the Clerk.

Waste Disposal Lorries/ A4146

Since the opening of the Stoke Hammond By-pass Northall, Edlesborough and Dagnall are experiencing major problems with extremely large lorries coming from London to deposit waste at the Bletchley Waste Disposal site whose entrance

is immediately at the end of the By-pass, together with a noticeable increase in traffic. The Parish Council have contacted Buckinghamshire County Council, John Bercow MP and our County Councillor, Avril Davies, and this matter is being looked into.

Flower Festivals

The Parish Council have made donations to both Edlesborough Methodist Church and St. Mary's Church, Eaton Bray towards flower arrangements.

London-Luton Airport

The Parish Council will be responding to the Consultation regarding proposed increased air traffic affecting the Parish.

Edlesborough Cemetery Access

Further meetings are being held to discuss alternative schemes.

Parish Meetings

The Annual Parish Meeting will take place on Thursday 17th April 2008 preceeding the Ordinary Parish meeting. The Annual General Meeting will take place on Thursday 15th May 2008 preceeding the Ordinary Parish meeting.

Edlesborough Memorial Hall Bookings can be made by telephoning Beverly Sage on 01525 229509

E-mail: parish.council.clerk@edlesborough.gov.uk Website: www.edlesborough.gov.uk



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Talks & Seminars



Do you have a local group that you would like St Judes to talk to? All we ask is a donation towards one of our sponsored charities.*

St Judes is a multi-disciplinary health team now located in Leighton Buzzard. We have Chartered Physiotherapists and Podiatrists. We also offer Nutritional Therapy, Acupuncture, Pilates, Reflexology, Women's Health Service and Ergonomic Advice.

Additionally, to in-house treatments, we can provide a range of talks from our Health & Lifestyle Professionals. These can be tailor-made to suit your needs.

Talks offered –

- Nutritional Therapy – varying topics:
 - Back to Basics – What is a healthy diet?
 - Feeling Frazzled? – Nutrition for Stress Management
 - Food for Life – Nutrition for Hearts, Bones and Joints
 - Mood Food – Nutrition for the Mind
 - Eat Smart – Nutrition for Weight Loss

- Workplace Ergonomics – Is your computer giving you a headache?!
- Top Tips for Back Care
- The Rise and Fall of the Pelvic Floor
- The Perils of Plantar Fasciitis – Your Feet and You

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Edlesborough Methodist Church 150th Anniversary Celebrations

May 17th & 18th	Flower Festival
June 28th	Ploughmans Lunch
September 21st	Harvest Festival
October 11th	Concert Wesley Singers
November 29th	Christmas Bazaar & Coffee Morning
December 14th	Candlelit Carol service

+ our monthly coffee mornings on the last Saturday of each month and our CAMEO coffee morning on the 2nd Thursday of each month.

Open Gardens –Sunday 8 June

Until now we have made a low key request for people who would be willing to open their gardens to the public for the afternoon of 8 June. At the time of going to press this has yielded eight offers and it would be a real help to have two or three more. Please, if you enjoy your garden and like to share it with others, consider taking part in this event, which has been incredibly popular for the past two years. Your garden can be large or small - it certainly doesn't have to be up to Chelsea Flower Show standards. And by opening your garden you will contribute to a major fund raising effort that will support the Macmillan Cancer Support and the repair of St Mary's roof.

If you can offer your garden please get in touch with Gordon Gray on 220136 or Kay Griffiths on 222849.



Wanted – Gardens



In Eaton Bray, Edlesborough and Northall

Following on the success of the 2006 and 2007 Open Gardens event we need volunteers to open their gardens on 8th June 2008. If you would be prepared to do this, or would like more information, please contact Gordon Gray on 220136.

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Dagnall Weather Station (AONB)

After a wet January, February was on the dry side with rain mainly at the beginning and the end of the month with a total of 25 mm =1in. Although we had the coldest temperature this winter on the 17th of -6.8°C when the temperature was below 0°C for 14.5 hours, for most of the month the barometer has been high and we have had good long sunny days. On these days the temperature rose dramatically by as much as 14.0c degrees in 7 hours to maximum 15°C (See plot below). There was a total of 95.5 hours during the month when the temperature was below zero

On a different subject I am sure you saw on the TV the earthquake magnitude 5.2 in Market Racen but we did have one much closer on the 5th February in Thame in Oxfordshire of 2.0 magnitude.

If anyone has a question, comment or wishes to contact me please email me: aonb-weather@tiscali.co.uk

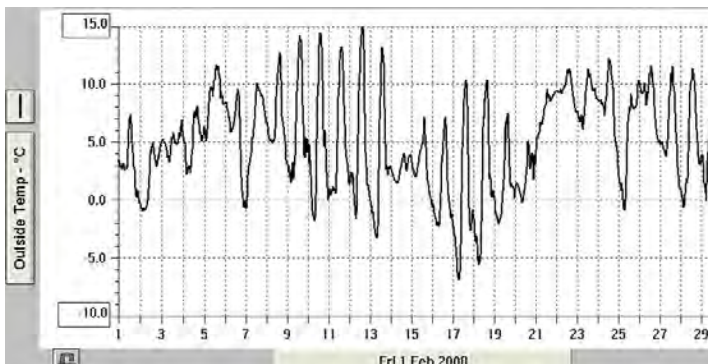
David G Killick Station Owner

Weather Conditions for February 2008

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

	High	Date/Time		Low	Date/Time
Temperature:	15.0°C	12 Feb 14.30		-6.8°C	17 Feb 06.30
Mean Temperature	5.0°C				
Dewpoint:	8.6°C	29 Feb 23.00		-8.1°C	17 Feb 06.30
Humidity:	100%	14 Feb 0.30		34%	17 Feb 15.30
Barometer:	1043.2	16 Feb 09.00		987.3	4 Feb 02.00
Wind Speed	25 mph	29 Feb 22.30		Average	34.2 mph
Wind Chill:	14.9°C	12 Feb 14.30		-6.8°C	17 Feb 06.30
Dominant Wind:	SW				
Rainfall					
Rain Days: 11	Wettest Day	Feb 5		6.4mm	0.25 ins
Monthly Rain:	Total	February		25.6mm	1.00ins
Yearly Rain:	Total	2 Months		118.2mm	4.65ins

The plot shows dramatic temperature rise & falls between day & night



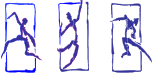


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Ofsted 2003

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Dagnall school offers

- small classes with high quality teaching
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Each child is encouraged to achieve to the best of their ability and to develop an eagerness to acquire knowledge and become lifelong learners.

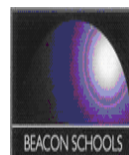
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'Pupils make very good progress'

'Pupils are very well behaved, want to learn and work hard to meet the many challenges they are given'

(OFSTED 2003)



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Eaton Bray Cricket Club

The Annual General Meeting of the club was held in February and was well attended by 20 members. It was lively and long. It lasted 4 hours during which time the members elected a management team of Lee Bearton and Martin Quinn as president and chairman, plus Ian Jones and Michael Jarrett as treasurer and secretary respectively.

The captaincy of all teams has changed hands. Andy Norris was elected as first team captain. Darren Kerins has dropped to the second team giving the 'twos' his tactical nous. An inexperienced combination of Ian Jones and Josh Peacock, his vice-captain, will lead the Sunday team.

The first match is on Saturday 19 April, but ahead of that there is much preparation. Naturally the players will continue to fine tune or indeed learn some of the more rudimentary skills. The off-field preparations are also underway. Nick Pearson is repairing the cladding to the outside of the pavilion, but the bulk of the work will be done, as usual by the Flecknells.

Whilst it is a cricket club, its social secretary Georgie Coughtrey does arrange other events. In February Brian Hing's team of masterminds won the quiz night and prior to that Lawrence Bunker's red-hot tip at Towcester, made a couple of pounds for the lucky few. On 12 April, an indoor race night is scheduled. It will be held at the Sports and Social Club. Tickets are available from Georgie on 01525 757756.

The club is always very encouraging of new members. This season, in particular, the club is promoting junior membership, as it will be running some junior matches, in conjunction with Edlesborough Cricket Club. If you'd like to join, please contact Martin Quinn 01525 385681

Eaton Bray under 5's Playtime - Parent/Carer & Toddler group

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We have a well equipped Baby area and a kitchen play area for the early walkers.

We have a fantastic creative table run by parents who come up with some really good ideas each week, so far this term we had Valentine's cards, mother's day cards and soon we'll be doing something for Easter.

We have drink and a biscuit time for the children and free access to kitchen hatch for parents/carers to get Tea/Coffee etc.

Tidy-time is 2.45p.m when we then have our sing/song time before home.

We charge £1.50 for adults, £1.00 for children, 50p for siblings

**Eaton Bray
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Next Meeting: Mon 7th Apr 08

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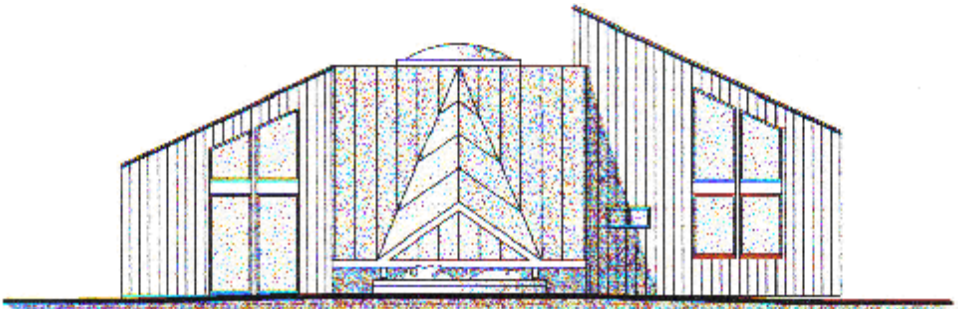
Eaton Bray Lower School

TOP MARKS!

The opening paragraph from the OfSTED inspection report, after their October 2007 visit, said this about EBLS:

"Eaton Bray Lower is an outstanding school. It modestly evaluates itself as good with some outstanding areas, but it is better than this. Its self-evaluation is correct in identifying strengths and areas for development. It provides an outstanding quality of education and care for its pupils and excellent value for money. Staff work exceptionally well in partnership with parents and the community for the benefit of all pupils. Pupils' enjoyment of school is impressive. The supportive parents are delighted with all aspects of its provision. Leadership and management are outstanding. The headteacher's vision for a school at the heart of its community is shared by the highly committed staff and excellent governors. This is set to become more firmly realised with the building of a new nursery with facilities for the local community and visiting professional from children's services."

Please come and visit our friendly village school. Phone 01525 220468 or email eaton@deal.bedfordshire.gov.uk



COMING SOON: EBLS Nursery with extended School provision and wrap-around care in a modern, light, environmentally-aware building - due to complete Spring 2008 - please call at the school (01525 220468) to find out more



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Mothers' Union - Eaton Bray with Edlesborough

'On the Buses' was not exactly the title the members might have expected for a talk by the Rev. John Heffer at their February meeting, but in the seventies John decided to take a 'working sabbatical' from the priesthood.

Having been brought up on a farm and driven tractors and lorries, he worked for Boss Trucks in Leighton Buzzard and became a fork lift truck driver. Having mastered that well enough to have been presented with a proficiency certificate, he then moved to something larger – a bus!

When he first started with the bus company, he drove the bus and the conductor took care of the passengers, but when the Company introduced 'one-man' buses, he became the front man and indeed the only man, subject to the whims and vagaries of the general public, which changed his working life considerably. Not only was he now 'in charge' he had to do everything himself – sell tickets: deal with the public: change the direction boards: remember the route: drive the bus and keep to the timetable! This was quite difficult for John, as being a punctual person, he was invariably early at each stop.

His work colleagues were fully aware of his background, but still made him 'one of them' although if a certain Inspector ever had cause to comment on something to John he always started with - "as a Christian, John....." even for the smallest misdemeanour. However his popularity was proven when John gave up the buses and became the Vicar of All Saints, Leighton Buzzard and a large number of the Bus Company staff, all in their uniforms, attended his Induction Service.



Edlesborough School

To celebrate Mothers' Day the year 3 children at Edlesborough School were asked to write poems describing what they would give to their mum in a 'magic box'. They used their imaginations to come up with some lovely ideas and descriptions.

My Magical Box

In my box I would put the first ever female tiger.
In my box I would put the first pattern ever made.
In my box I would put a unicorn's horn, just for you.
In my magic box I would put the cry of a dolphin.
My magic box is made of love, happiness and laughter,
and studded with diamonds, rubies and emeralds.

By Ollie Mulcahy

My Magic Box

In my magic box I will place the smell of fresh air.
In my magic box I will put the sight of a shiny ruby.
In my magic box I will place the sound of golden bells ringing.
My magic box is made from emeralds.

By Joseph Adolph.

Salvation Sound...April 2008

Tuesday is market day - I love to see the stalls all laid up with fruit and vegetables - but the traders of today don't like to see you touch their wares. Years ago barrow-boys used to shout, "If you don't want the goods, don't muck. 'em about." This was often addressed to a really thrifty shopper who would pick up and examine everything really carefully before deciding on making a purchase. No bruised or blemished fruit for her, nothing from the back of the stall, and it had to be weighed before being placed in the bag. She took no notice of the signs saying "Don't touch me til I'm yours."

There are times when touching is appropriate, and times when it isn't. A hand on the shoulder may seem a very little thing but it can mean so much, or to hold the hand of someone who is really ill. It is a comfort to that person to know that someone is physically present and that they are not alone in whatever it is that they are facing. They may not be able to speak but just a squeeze of the hand can say far more than words. Words are sometimes very limiting. The gentle touch speaks volumes.

However there are people who cannot bear being touched, and we must respect their feelings. Is it I wonder because for some reason we British are too reserved? Perhaps that reserve is beginning to break down, for many people now greet one another with a hug or a kiss, instead of the rather nervous handshake of years ago; so maybe we are becoming less restrained.

Mary Magdalene was one of the 'touchers'. She was the first one to see Jesus after He had risen from the dead on Easter morning - she thought He was a gardener until He called her by name. Straight away she reached out for Him, but He said, "No". Instead He told her to go and tell the disciples that she had seen the risen Lord. Now hard that must have been for Mary not to have touched Jesus, and how hard it must have been for Him to forbid her. Then there was Thomas, he couldn't believe what the disciples said to him.. That is until a week later when Jesus appeared and said, "Put your finger here, and look at my hands; stretch out your hand and touch my side." (John 20:27).

Jesus knew the great value of touch and through this power helped and cured many people. If you are someone who puts God on the margins of your life try letting Him touch you, it won't be easy, but it will be so rewarding...

"And besought him that they might only touch the hem of his garment: and as many as touched were made perfectly whole." Matthew 14: 36.

When we part company with friends or acquaintances we often say "keep in touch." - I believe that there are some people who have a special awareness; who seem to be "in touch" with the whole of God's world. They have a kind of sensitivity that enables them to approach life in a different way; - I keep 'in touch' with God through prayer, that way I can seek His guidance.

Just think of all the people you will meet as you go about your business today. How will meeting you touch their lives?? Perhaps they will need a helping hand, or a listening ear, maybe you will bring laughter into their day; use that God given gift, reach out and touch a hurting world with the love of God.



Love Your Post Office

The Government and Post Office Ltd are pushing ahead with planned closures of 2500 Post Offices across the country. Your local Post Office could be one of them. The Countryside Alliance believes that Post Offices play an important social and economic role in communities. This value, often unseen, goes beyond the doorstep of the Post Office.

We believe that the Government has ignored the concerns of thousands of people following its sham consultation on the Future of the Post Office Network. Many people like you are simply worried about the local impact of losing their Post Office.

To their own cost, and to the cost of many other well used viable Post Offices throughout the UK, local action groups are finding that no matter how watertight a case they put forward it is ignored and their branch is closed. This fight cannot be won on a local level!

Local groups are now getting together to get the true message out to the nation and to stop the closure of well used viable Post Office Branches.

Please take a look at the website <http://www.postofficeclosures.org.uk/> which is the home of CAPOC (Communities Against Post Office Closures).

You can help by registering your own Local Action Group – even if your Post Office has already been closed -, <http://www.postofficeclosures.org.uk/RegisterGroup.php>, or even just contribute to the forum.

We hope you agree that the battle is not over yet. If you would like any further information or some campaign materials (posters, stickers, flyers) please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sarah Lee

Head of Policy, Countryside Alliance

T: 020 78409253, M: 07803 002352

Dunstable & District

Local History Society

Tuesday 8th April, 7.45pm

‘Journeys around the Priory’

by Tony Woodhouse

Methodist Church Hall, Dunstable

The Salvation Army, Booth Place Weekly Activities

Sunday

Sunday School	9.45-10.45am
Morning Service	11.00am
Evening Service	6.00pm

Sunday Evening (1st and 3rd each month)

Youth Group (age 12+)	7.45-9.00pm
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Monday

Junior Club (age 8+)	6.30-7.45pm
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Wednesday

Home League (Ladies Meeting)	2.30pm
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Thursday

Baby and Toddler Group	9.30-11.30am
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Thursday Evening

Young Ladies Fellowship	7.45pm
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(last Thursday in every month)



Edlesborough W.I.

At our last meeting we used our new and very clear 'Jerusalem' screen printed by A.C.T. Signs of Eaton Bray. Our thanks to Vivienne Grundy for arranging this with the company. A letter from the National Federation of

Womens Institutes was read to the meeting, which thanked us for the loan of two exhibits displayed at the recent national show of W.I. needlecraft.

Peter Unsworth was our speaker on: News Reporter - 48 years in the Wrong Job. At an early age Peter had no intention of becoming a journalist. However, in 1956 he started employment with a local paper - Battley News. His work involved proof reading and some reporting. In those days reporters did not use telephones but spoke face-to-face with people. Whilst some interviews were very amusing, others were extremely heart-rending, and Peter recalled having to talk to a mother whose three children had drowned. An experienced reporter would find this almost impossible, but he was still in his teens!

Whilst in the army, during his National Service two years. Peter considered training for the Church. However, he did not continue with the idea and, on leaving the army, he went to work for the Coal Board in London. During his time with them he spent three weeks in the tragic village at the time of the Aberfan disaster.

Since then Peter has worked as a reporter in a number of towns, and has helped to train young people starting in this type of career. Before retirement he started a 'Cabbages and Kings' column in a local paper, and still continues with it today. These articles are all about people, and he much prefers to write about their good points rather than the bad. He considers people to be wonderful and the finest spectator sport.

Considering he had no idea what career to embark on originally, Peter had a great time carrying out his work as a local reporter. He would not enjoy it as much today, as he considers it to be mainly an office job.

Our coffee morning proved very successful, as well as enjoyable, and we raised over £183 towards the new cemetery improved access. Thanks to Maureen Shipway for housing the event. Thanks also to Linda Green for arranging a visit to Milton Keynes Theatre to see 'South Pacific', a show very much enjoyed by all concerned.

Val Harris

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100 Club Winners

March 2008

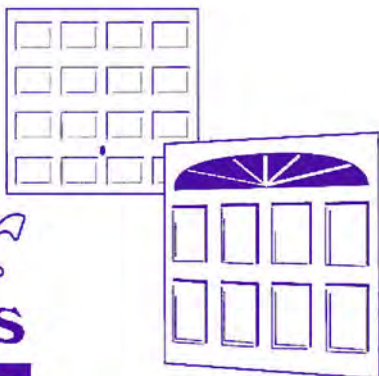
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