

FOCUS

November 2008



THE FOUR VILLAGES MAGAZINE

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DAGNALL



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Lamb Cutlets on Dauphinoise Potatoes with a Blueberry Sauce

(£2.50 supplement)

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Focus - The Four Village Magazine Magazine Committee

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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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December Focus will be a joint issue for December & January. Don't forget to send in your December & January entries by 10th November.

Police Contact Numbers...*making neighbourhoods safer together*

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Typetalk: 18001 01582 437418

Email: SNT.Leighton-Rural@Bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk

Thames Valley Police (Edlesborough, Dagnall & Northall)

0845 8505505

Village Hall Bookings

To book your local village hall for an event please contact the following:

Northall: Lorna Cabbage, Tel: 220361

Eaton Bray: Norman Lee, Tel: 222831

Dagnall: Elizabeth Coates, Tel: 01442 842550

Edlesborough Memorial Hall: Beverly Sage, Tel: 01525 229509



Iain Rennie Tea at Three

Val & Chris are hosting a Traditional Tea at Three on Thursday November 6th (3 pm) at 3, Chestnut Close Dagnall in aid of the Iain Rennie Hospice at Home. Suggested donation £3. Christmas cards for sale and raffle. All welcome.

Village Diaries November 2008



Weekly

- Mon-Fri (term time) Eaton Bray Pre-school, Eaton Bray Lower School, 01525 220468
- Mon-Fri (term time) Dagnall Under 5's, Dagnall Village Hall, 9.30-12 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, 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's First 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 Playtime, 1.15-3pm Eaton Bray Village, Hall Cindy 07734 320816
- 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, Northall Village Hall, 11.30am-1pm 01525 377542
- 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
- Thursdays Keep Fit Edlesborough School, 8pm Tel: 01582 668735
- 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

Cover Photograph: May 1942, a group of land girls from the Womens Land Army

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

- 12th & 26th Bingo, Dagnall Village Hall 8pm.
14th Leukaemia Research Coffee Morning, 2 Dunstable Road, 10.30 am. Chocaholics
18th Dagnall Over 60's, 2pm Village Hall, Presentation on Hearing Dogs for the Deaf

One Off/Annual/Irregular Events

- 1st Tea Dance, 3-5.30pm, Eaton Bray Hall, Tickets: 220731
1st Friends of St. Mary's Coffee Morning, 10.30-12 noon, St. Mary's Church
- 3rd Eucharist of Remembrance, 8pm, St. Mary's Church
6th Traditional Tea at Three in aid of Iain Rennie Hospice at Home, 3pm at 3 Chestnut Close
8th Floral art demonstration All Saints Church, Dagnall 2.30 to 4.30 (see separate advert)
9th Annual Service of Remembrance, 10.50am, Eaton Bray War Memorial
- 15th St. Mary's Church Christmas Fair, 12-2pm, Eaton Bray Hall
16th Eaton Bray Methodist Church, "The Christ we Share" presentation by the Church Mission Society, 12.30pm
22nd Dagnall School Christmas Fete, 12-2pm, Dagnall Village Hall
29th Eaton Bray Lower School Christmas Fayre, 12-2.30pm

MacMillan Coffee Morning

Sue and Chris would like to thank everyone who helped raise £150 for Macmillan Cancer Care at their coffee morning on September 26th.

St Mary's Church
Christmas Fair

Eaton Bray Hall

Saturday 15th November

Between 12.00 and 2.00 p.m.

You can enjoy a Ploughman's Lunch, buy a cake for tea, win a prize in the raffle and do some early Christmas shopping without leaving the village! This year we are again expecting a visit from Santa Claus so do bring the children along.

Any contributions for the chocolate tombola, cake stall, recycled presents stall or the raffle would be very welcome. Please contact one of the Churchwardens, Deirdrea Ellins 210426 or Chris Banks 221556.



**CHRISTMAS FLORAL
ART DEMONSTRATION**

Saturday 8 November 2008

2.30 – 4.30 pm

All Saints' Church, Dagnall

The Social Committee of All Saints' Church, Dagnall, would like to invite you to watch local Chelsea Flower Show gold medallist Carole Johnson demonstrate a Christmas floral art presentation.

Tickets are priced at £9.00 per person, payment is required in advance please to Kathryn Day (01442 843741). Early contact ensures your ticket which includes light refreshments, and a chance to take away with you one of the demonstration pieces.

All proceeds towards Crossroads International, our Church Project for 2008

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St Mary's Village Carnival 2008 - Distribution

The Organising Committee of St Mary's Village Carnival, held on 5 July, are pleased to announce that it has distributed some £11,750 among local organisations and good causes. As usual, the primary beneficiary of the Carnival has been St Mary's Fabric Fund, with a substantial donation made to East Anglian Air Ambulance. In addition, the following local organisations are among those who have received donations from the Carnival funds this year:

- Dagnall Under 5s
- Dagnall School
- Dagnall Village Hall
- Eaton Bray Lions AFC
- Eaton Bray Lower School
- Eaton Bray Methodist Church
- Eaton Bray Mothers Union
- Eaton Bray Parish Council
- Eaton Bray Parish Luncheon Club
- Eaton Bray Salvation Army
- Eaton Bray Tennis Club
- Eaton Bray Village Hall
- Eaton Bray and Edlesborough Brownies
- 1st Eaton Bray and Edlesborough Scouts
- EDaN Project
- Edlesborough Football Club
- Edlesborough Parish Council
- Edlesborough School
- Beds Wildlife Rescue

In addition, donations have been made to eight other organisations - a mix of organisations who provide invaluable support to the Carnival and national charities. Furthermore, many local organisations had stalls at the Carnival and it is estimated that, between them, they have raised at least as much again, so from the Carnival more than £30,000 will have flowed back to support the activities of our villages. My thanks to everyone who helped make this possible.

Peter Bennett

Carnival - with Special Thanks to Peter Bennett

You will have seen elsewhere in Focus that, as a result of this year's Carnival, a magnificent £11,750 has been distributed among a range of local good causes by the Organising Committee. In the July issue of Focus thanks were expressed to the Committee who helped organised the event but this did not adequately recognise the importance of the work done by the Committee's Chairman, Peter Bennett. Once again this year, Peter acted as a guiding light over the Carnival preparation and conduct, just as he has done for the previous four years.

After five years as Chairman, and 20 years altogether on the Carnival Committee, Peter is standing down, partly for health reasons, so it is fitting to record the thanks of the Committee and all who have benefited from his leadership role over this time. Peter, our thoughts and prayers are with you and Eileen and we anticipate that you will, as usual, exceed our expectations running the Silent Auction at next year's Carnival.

So who will Chair the Carnival Committee next year? Well, with apologies to those who thought they had seen the back of me five years ago, I have agreed to take on the challenge once again - and, given the current economic situation, I guess it will be a challenge this year. But with your support, whatever circumstances we find ourselves in, we will make the day an enjoyable one. Some decisions have been made - the event will be on Edlesborough Green on Saturday 4 July with a theme of 'Books' - so enormous scope for dressing up.

Already we are exploring some exciting new attractions, which you will hear more about next year; but at this stage I am keen to emphasise that the Carnival Committee never has been an exclusive group of people and to invite anyone who would like to help in any way, big or small, to get in touch with me. Perhaps you would like to serve on the Committee, or help on the day, maybe you can offer a prize that we could use in our Grand Draw or Silent Auction, perhaps you have ideas for or access to, new attractions, or have access to equipment that we could use – vehicles, marquees, walkie-talkies, disposables. If so, please phone me, Gordon Gray, on 220136. I am not known for turning offers of help away!

The success of the Carnival comes down to everyone in this community. Let's all help to make our Carnival a day to remember once again.

Wanted – Homes for Mary and Joseph

Many of you who have attended one of St Mary's popular Christmas Eve Candle Services will have witnessed the return to church of our Travelling Crib figures, Mary and Joseph, after they have spent December travelling from one home in the parish to another, symbolising Mary and Joseph's difficult journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem before the birth of Jesus.

After a blessing in church on Advent Sunday (on 30 November) they will journey around the parish staying one night in any house that will welcome them. You are encouraged to participate in this activity, which provides an opportunity for a short act of worship during which a candle is lit to signify that our travellers have a home for the night. This is often followed by the chance for the two families concerned to share glasses of wine and mince pies if they wish. Eventually the crib figures will be brought back to church on Christmas Eve for this year's 4.15pm Candle Service.

We hope that many households will participate in this lovely ritual – participation is not limited to those with young families – many older people take great pleasure from joining in and meeting people from the villages.

We do hope that St Mary's Travelling Crib will find a welcome in your house this Christmas. If you would like to have Mary and Joseph in your home for a night, or want more information, please ring Gordon Gray on 220136, or sign up on the Travelling Crib Form on the Notice Board in St Mary's Church.



Edlesborough Under 5's

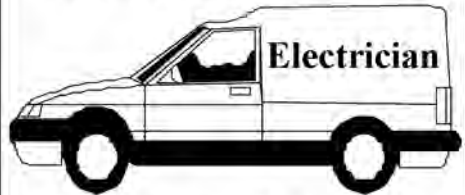
Edlesborough Under 5's would like say a big THANK YOU for all the support it had for its annual Autumn Bazaar held on the 1st October in the Memorial hall. We had a busy afternoon with stalls selling gorgeous jewellery and home gifts, Phoenix cards, Chocoholics chocolates, The Body Shop, Usbourne Books & Splat Gaming products as well as some yummy refreshments. Over £350 was raised for the pre-school. With these funds we will be able to buy new equipment which will undoubtedly help our children play and learn – thank you again and see you next year!



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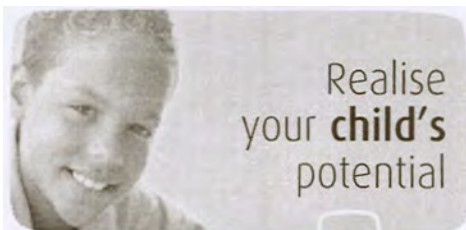
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Eaton Bray with Edlesborough Parish News

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

Hon. Assistant Priest : The Revd John Heffer

35 Peblemoor, Edlesborough - Tel: 01525 220618

I am conscious of how often over the years I have had to disappoint a couple who wanted to be married in our Parish Church because they did not fulfil the legal requirement that one or other of them must be resident in this parish or a regular worshipper in our Parish Church. The Church must act within the law of the land in arranging for people to wed, and there was no legal way round this obstacle. I am pleased to be able to announce that since 1 October this situation has been eased considerably by the Church of England Marriage Measure, 2008.

This new piece of legislation responds to the increasing mobility of our society today, and provides for couples to be married in a particular church if they can demonstrate a "Qualifying Connection" with that parish. None of the existing rights of parishioners to marry in their parish church is affected, but these rights may now be claimed by a wider group of people for whom that church has a special significance.

The key question now is "what is a Qualifying Connection"? In very general terms, if a person wishing to marry can show that he/she was baptized in the parish, has his/her confirmation entered in the registers of that parish, or has at any time either lived in the parish for a continuous period of at least six months, or habitually attended public worship in the parish church for at least six months, then that person has established a Qualifying Connection. They will be required, of course, to produce written evidence to substantiate the claim as well as the customary evidence to confirm their identity. In addition – and this is the area which will make the most significant change – if a parent of the person wishing to marry in a particular parish lives or has lived in the parish for at least six months, or has habitually attended public worship there for that period, or if that person's parent or grandparent was married in the parish, this also establishes a Qualifying Connection. All references to a church or to a church service in these conditions relate solely to the Church of England.

I am sure this is a change – in the opinion of many of us, one which is long overdue – which will be welcomed by many, and I am delighted that I will no longer have to say "sorry, it can't be done" to people who have been brought up in our villages and have moved away, but would like to come back to be married in a place which has great significance for them. So I look forward to meeting people who want to take advantage of this change in the law in due course.

May God bless your homes, deepen the bonds of marriage, and grant us all His peace and joy.

MALCOLM

From the Parish Registers

Baptisms – *"Brought to new birth in the family of the Church"*

28 September Finlay Christopher Ivers

Emma Louise Skinner

Funerals – *"Grant them, O Lord, eternal rest"*

7 October Margaret Ethel Bodsworth of Bower Lane, 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
 8.00pm (2nd Wednesday) – Healing Service

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

EVERYONE WELCOME AT THESE SERVICES

ANNUAL SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE FOR OUR VILLAGES

will be held at 10.50am
on Remembrance Sunday
(9 November) at
EATON BRAY WAR MEMORIAL

In the interests of safety
please assemble in the churchyard
not along the pavement.

St Mary's Parochial Church Council Meeting

REMEMBERING OUR LOVED ONES

There will be a special
EUCHARIST OF REMEMBRANCE
in St Mary's Church
at 8.00pm on Monday, 3 November,
All Souls' Day,
when prayers will be offered for our
loved ones who have died. If you wish to
have someone remembered, please write
their name on the list which will be in
church until 2 November.

The September meeting of the PCC at All Saints' Church, Dagnall followed a celebration of the Eucharist. The Parish Share has been increased by 4.7%. £48,800 for the year an increase of £180 extra on last year.

The Flag Pole: A list of dates has been issued when the flag will be flown.

New Chairs: The new chairs which have been donated to the church are now in place. They have proved a great success as they can be easily moved around to accommodate a friendlier environment for meetings and other social activities to be held in church.

Christmas Fair: 20th November. Plans are ongoing.

Carnival: Peter Bennett offered a list for PCC approval, of people who will benefit from the proceeds of the carnival. The list was approved. Peter announced that he is to resign as Chairman of the Carnival Committee. The PCC thanked him for his generous efforts and time. Gordon Gray has agreed to take over as Chairman. He did add that his aim was to recruit younger members of the community on to the committee to take over in the future.

The Monthly Coffee Mornings: held in the church are proving very successful, meeting with village people in a friendly atmosphere.

The Church Mouse.



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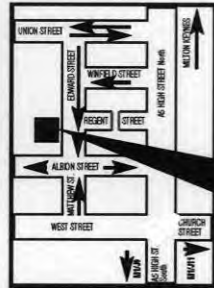


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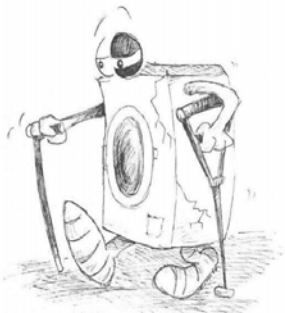


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Do you have a budding Billy Elliot or Darcey Bussell?

Then why not come along to Northall Village Hall?

Emma Whittemore, who has appeared in such West End shows as Cats, Beauty and the Beast, 42nd St. and Me and My Girl, founded Little Luvvies Dance and Drama school 6 years ago. As well as ballet classes for older children she also runs baby ballet classes for pre-school boys and girls aged 2-3yrs. The classes are relaxed with the emphasis on fun whilst learning the very basics of ballet. Ballet is a great way of introducing children to dance, developing poise and building confidence. The half hour classes are held every Friday morning at 10.30am and cost £3.00 per session. If you would like further information or would like to book a free taster session then please call Emma on 01525 234031.



Little Luvvies



BABY BALLET

Fun ballet classes for pre-school children.

Northall Village Hall !

Classes held every Friday during term time

For more details please phone Emma
01525 234031

Dagnall News

Over 60's

Following three months when we have been out and about, in October we returned to the Village Hall for our annual Sausage & Mash and Apple Pie Lunch. An event which always proves popular.

For our November meeting we welcome a visit from Mrs Joan Harrington, who will be speaking on behalf of Hearing Dogs for the Deaf, which should be very interesting.

Inevitably in December we will be enjoying a Christmas Lunch, but more about that next month!

Dagnall Church

All Saints' Church, Dagnall, Christmas coffee morning, Saturday 6 December, 10.30am - 12.30pm, cake stall, Christmas crafts, Fairtrade stall. Proceeds in aid of Crossroads International.

Dagnall School

All the new children have settled in well and all the children have all enjoyed being in their new classes.

We have welcomed three new members of staff. Mrs McAtamney is teaching the Blue-tits with Mrs Marriner-Kyle. Mrs Norris is teaching the Robins with Mrs Bolton. Ms Ludlow has joined us as a Midday Supervisor and Cleaner. Welcome to you all!

Mrs James has had a baby girl, Jemima and Mrs Perkins has had a baby boy, George. We wish them all well.

Dagnall School had a very successful Ofsted, graded as Good with Outstanding Personal Development and Well-being and for our work in partnership with others to promote learners' well-being. This reflects the hard work and dedication of all the staff and the support of the parents and Governors. In fact, a parent said "Dagnall School provides a happy and safe environment; the children are always involved in lots of activities that make learning interesting and enjoyable. My child is very happy here".

This was quoted at the beginning of the report. Thank you to everyone!

Next year, 2009 is our Centenary so look out for all the exciting events we have planned. The first one will be around the actual date in January 2009 to which all will be invited. Displays of the school throughout its one hundred years will be on show, courtesy of Mr Geoff Spencer. A drama workshop will be held during the morning of Friday 10th January for the children. Further details and exact dates will be published later.

I hope to meet you at one of our events or, if the dates are not convenient and you would like to come and see us, please telephone to make an appointment. You will be very welcome.

J Marriner-Kyle, Headteacher

Dagnall Under Fives Update

Over the last few weeks the children have been enjoying lots of activities based around autumn and harvest time. They have had fun collecting leaves to make pictures, conker counting, baking bread and making soup. A real highlight was a trip to our newly acquired patch of the local allotments. We are all really excited about the learning opportunities this will provide over the coming year. Maybe next year we will be making soup with our own vegetables!

Edlesborough Parish Council (including Edlesborough, Dagnall and Northall) News

Litter Picking

The Parish Council are desperately seeking volunteers for litter picking particularly in Edlesborough. If anyone has the odd half an hour or so a couple of times a week to tidy up The Green and empty the litter bins please contact the Clerk. Needless to say if the public were to use the litter bins provided, or to take their rubbish home to put in their own litter bins, this request would not be necessary.

Funding

The initial funding request for additional play equipment throughout the Parish has unfortunately not been forthcoming but other avenues are being explored.

Streetlighting repairs.

Various streetlights require urgent repair and the Contractors have been chased on numerous occasions to urgently get the lights working again The Parish Council are doing all they can to rectify the situation.

Allotments

Allotment rents have now been collected and any vacant plots will be offered to those on the waiting list. There are several extremely overgrown plots both at Cow Lane and Dagnall and anyone wishing to take on one of these plots, which will require complete re-cultivation, will be able to do so free of charge for 2 years.

Edlesborough Church Bridleway

A Dog Bin has been installed at Edlesborough Church end of the bridleway and it is hoped that dog owners will make use of it. To install a Dog Bin costs the Parish Council £220.00 plus the cost of having it emptied twice a week during the summer months and once a week during winter months and the Parish Council would stress again the need for these bins to be utilised for dog fouling which is constantly being left on the verges and particularly over The Green. If dog fouling is not picked up the dog owner could face a fine of up to £1,000.00.

Cemetery Access

Further meetings are taking place to discuss a possible alternative suggestion for an access route.

Dagnall Allotments

The Parish Council have agreed to purchase 2 cups to be awarded annually at the Dagnall Produce Show, one for Best in Show and one for the Best Kept Allotment throughout the Parish.

Lin Sargeant – Clerk to Edlesborough Parish Council – Tel: 01525 220859

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

<p>Edlesborough Parish Council Meetings 3rd Thursday of every month 7.30pm Memorial Hall Next meeting: Thurs 20th Nov 08</p>

<p>As of Wednesday morning 15th October the grass cutting of The Green was stopped by the Clerk due to the fact that the grass was being cut far too low and damaging the surface. The Parish Council wish to apologise to the parishioners and sports clubs for this incident and trust that the grass will continue to grow for a while to bring The Green back to its normal condition.</p>
--

Edlesborough School

The children in Year 6 at Edlesborough School were asked to write about Harvest Time and Sophie McCloskey wrote:-

The sun rises, glinting on the jewelled grass.
Copper autumn leaves whirl in the fresh breeze.
Little eyes scampering in the corn fields.
The humming of the combine harvesters scything the crops.
The gentle autumn sun ripening the harvest fruits.
Rosy apples and velvet plums carpeting the ground.
Delicate wings and buzzing things collecting the sweet nectar.
The setting sun in the coral sky.
As the damp haze rises over the corn stubble.
Glimmering is the light of the harvest moon.



Titanic

Earlier this summer while clearing ivy and tidying the cemetery as part of his job as Village Handyperson for Eaton Bray, John noticed the name Titanic at the foot of a grave. The gravestone read as follows:

**Mary Jackson wife of Jeffery
Oct 1945 aged 82 years.
Cecil Jackson Titanic 1912
and Arthur Jackson Arras 1917.**

Wanting to know more, he then looked on the Eaton Bray website and at victims of the disaster...

It transpired that Cecil Jackson transferred to the Titanic from her sister ship the Olympic and was on board the Titanic for her delivery trip from Belfast to Southampton, and then on her maiden and only voyage. His job was 'Boots' to first class and his wage was £3.15 shillings or £3.75 per month. On that fateful night 1496 people, mostly men, (women and children first in those days) lost their lives in this terrible tragedy that is still remembered today.

Throughout Europe and America the shock of this unsinkable ship going down on her maiden voyage was tremendous and must have had its effect on this our landlocked English Village.

We can barely imagine the grief in the Jackson household, only to be repeated, as in so many homes, when that dreaded telegram announcing the death of another son, (see the Village War memorial) Arthur came some 5 years later.

Mary and Jeffrey Jackson lived at 155 The Rye and had 6 children, Arthur, Cecil, Elizabeth, Ethel, Gertrude and Henry. Poor Mrs Jackson lived on through a second World War and passed away at the end of it aged 82.

What of her husband or other relatives? Can any Focus readers add to this story?



**The National Trust
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Wednesday 5th November

A Touch of Glass:

A Victorian magic lantern show

Tony Brown and Gordon Casbeard

Magic Lantern Society members

7.45pm, Salvation Army Centre,

Bull Pond Lane, Dunstable

Visitors are welcome at £1

For further information

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Cecil Jackson



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It's Not Just Ping-Pong That's Coming Home Super-Santa Is As Well!

His long summer days relaxing on a beach in the Maldives – sipping cocktails and eating paw-paws – are coming to an end! The call has gone out from the bat-phone, Santaman and Rudolf are ready to swing into action - less than 60 days to Super-Christmas MMVIII!! Lot's to do but Santa has called in his helpers in the Four Villages and when the going gets tough Santa knows there is nothing better to cheer up all the super-good children on his super-good-children list than a letter from the most famous big fat bloke dressed in red in the world (and we don't mean Wayne Rooney!)

So if you want your kids, granny, uncle or neighbour to get a special letter from the big fella all you have to do is:

- 1) **Pick up one of the special super-Santa notes from the super-elves at 96a High Street, Eaton Bray (but please don't mention super-Santa the elves have little elves of their own – it's codeword "Village hall Project"!) – if you can't get to the elves safe-house than just drop a line to super.santa@talktalk.net**
- 2) Fill in the special super-Santa note with details of your loved ones (name, pets, siblings, chimney/no-chimney, the good things they've done this year, who will be with them at Christmas, where they will be on Christmas morning etc etc)
- 3) Return the super-note to Santa's super-Special super-safe super-postbox at 96a High Street, Eaton Bray by 15th December in an envelope marked "Village Hall" – with £2.00 (or 100 shares in HBoS whichever is worth less!)
- 4)then just sit back and wait and in the lead up to Christmas your loved one will get a special super-letter from Santa reassuring them that he has them PERSONALLY on his list and knows EXACTLY where they'll be on Christmas morning - that he'll come in the WINDOW if need be - that he definitely WON'T forget little sister or Rover the Dog - and that he's got a SPECIAL bottle of gin for Granny!

No two letters super-Santa sends are the same and Super-Santa always does his absolute best to make sure letters to the same house are as different as can be!!

**Dunstable & District
Local History Society**
Tuesday 11th November, 7.45pm
'Dunstable in the First World War'
How the conflict affected one small
market town by John Buckledee
Methodist Church Hall, Dunstable
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EDaN Project Action Teams are active!

In the last issue of Focus we predicted that more than half of the project action teams would be in progress. With the Edlesborough Post Office now saved and enlarged we are one down with 16 to go although some have been split into two but who's counting!

The current active list is as follows:

Beautifying the villages, Youth facilities, Footpaths and Pavements, Transportation, Luton Postcode impact (seeking fairer insurance rates etc), Traffic Management
We have mentors for the following projects that will be in progress or about to be at the time of this publication.

Cycleways, Street lighting, Drainage, Village Design Statement

Again if you want to be involved in any of these projects please contact Alan Williams 01525 221926 or Vicky Lee 01442 843361. We can be contacted on edanplan@yahoo.co.uk. We need more volunteers to help to complete these projects so please contact us. We are still looking for specific skills to complement the team. If you are interested in gaining experience in media publicity or have experience in fund raising please get in touch.

Many thanks, EDaN Steering Group

Beautifying The Edan Villages

The EDaN Project group set up to deal with 'Beautifying the Villages' (otherwise known as 'The Beautiful People') has commenced its work. Several meetings have already taken place to discuss how some of the comments made by you in the Parish Survey can be taken forward.



We, as always require **YOU** to be able to comment, offer help, feel you can be part of the action etc. Please feel free to get in touch via our email address:- edanplan@yahoo.co.uk.

- **Best kept village 2009.** This competition has been entered and judging will take place during the months of May – July 2009. For further information on how to help please take a look at the Edlesborough Parish Council website:- www.edlesborough.gov.uk.
- **Planters.** The feasibility and cost of placing substantial timber planters under the entrance signs to each village and other strategic positions is being carried out. Sponsorship from local businesses and grants available are all being looked at as possible solutions to the initial installation and on going costs. Please feel free to comment or get in touch if you would like further details of sponsorship opportunities.
- **Dagnall Roundabout.** Improving the visual appearance of Dagnall roundabout is being researched. Again sponsorship from local businesses may be a solution to the upkeep of any improvements made. I am sure many of you will have noticed roundabouts throughout the district with sponsorship signs erected. Please let us know if you have any comments or would like to see your business being promoted at this busy roundabout. A meeting with the Area Technician from Bucks CC has already taken place regarding the above two issues.
- **External Lighting of Edlesborough Church.** This issue has been discussed by local people many times. The Churches Conservation Trust have no objections in

principle, we are therefore undertaking a feasibility study of installation costs and ongoing cost.

- **Appropriate Trimming of Hedgerows.** From comments already received at the EDaN open days and from the Parish Survey we realise there are two very different thoughts on how hedgerows should be dealt with. Some parishioners wish hedgerows to be cut back and kept very neat and orderly and others believe that some of our banks and hedgerows should be allowed to flourish with wild flowers. This item is also on our agenda.
- **Village Signs.** Research is also being carried out in to the feasibility of erecting village signs. These signs would depict the heritage & history of the village. Each sign being unique to its respective village and erected on posts in central locations.
- **Daffodil Planting.** Hopefully by the time this article goes to press planting of daffodil bulbs will have commenced. We thank St. Mary's Carnival for a donation helping to fund this. We will only have to wait until spring to see some results of actions taken by the 'Beautiful People'.
- **Litter Picking.** Not sure how you can help beautify our villages? Volunteer litter pickers are always required, especially with the 'best kept village' competition approaching. Please get in touch if you can offer any help.

As always more help is always appreciated, if you think this is an action group you would like to be involved with or you think you have a special talent that may be of help to us, even if it is just administrative help you would like to offer, we would love to hear from you. Email:- edanplan@yahoo.co.uk.



Buses & Transportation – EDaN Project Action Group

The Buses & Transportation Action Group, held its first meeting in September. It was wonderful to see so many people turn out to support the project.

The group are made up of parishioners from Edlesborough, Northall and Dagnall who expressed an interest in Buses and Transportation at the open days held by the EDaN Project.



We are looking at the results of the questionnaire that was completed by the 3 villages, connected with Buses and Transportation, to see what we as an Action Group might be able to achieve to improve the bus service in our area.

We would love to see some more people from Northall and Edlesborough join us for our next meeting to be held at All Saints Church Hall, Dagnall, on Friday 24th October @3pm.

If you would like to join our meeting but have difficulty getting to Dagnall, give Kathy a ring on the number below and we may be able to sort out some transportation to help you.

Please feel free to just turn up on the day or give Kathy a ring on 01442 842796 or email kathybovington@hotmail.com for more information.

Thank you to Janes!

I would like to say a big thank you to Martin and Louise at Janes in Edlesborough for the friendly family service they have given us. An excellent job has been made of our Karndean flooring. Why shop in the town when we have a fantastic shop on our doorstep?! Please support our local businesses.

World's Biggest Coffee Morning

The coffee morning held on September 26th raised an astounding £496.15 for Macmillan Cancer Support. Thank you to everyone who supported us, it was a very successful event, socially as well as financially. Thank you to all the team of helpers who made it happen and to everyone who baked cakes or donated other items.

Eaton Bray Methodist Church

Our Harvest Celebrations were a most joyous occasion. Our thanks to Vindra for her inspiring message to the young people for their "up-beat" drama item and to everyone who helped to make our chapel look so special. Following the service we were treated to a sumptuous hot lunch, which was a complete sell out. Our special thanks to Pearl and Helen and the team for all their hard work.

Our November lunches will be served on Saturday 8th from 12 noon until 1.30pm and a warm welcome awaits.

Our Christmas lunches and bazaar will be held on Saturday December 6th from 12 noon. Once again we are serving a full Christmas lunch and traditional pudding. Tickets will be timed as before with sittings at 12 noon, 12.30pm and 1.00pm, and will be available from Graham Carter on 01525 220742 from November 8th at a cost of £7.50.

There will also be a selection of stalls: cakes, Christmas cards and paper, and gifts. So pop along and enjoy a tasty lunch with friendly folk, or for a cup of coffee or tea, and do a little Christmas shopping without the crowds.



Edlesborough Under 5's

Monday - Friday **9.25 am - 12.00 noon**
Tuesday & Thursday **12.45 pm - 3.15 pm**

"The quality of teaching and learning is good. Children are actively involved in their learning, play independently and are assisted by staff to develop their confidence." "Group times at all sessions were very positive experiences for all the children and enjoyed by all present." "Children of all ages have the opportunity to develop their skills in all areas, supported by a dedicated staff team." "Children are encouraged to make choices and decisions throughout the day, supported by a staff team that know them well."

These are just a few of the comments made in our fifth OFSTED Report (March 2008 - available via our website). The report reflects the high quality of learning on offer to all children at Edlesborough Under 5's and highlighted the quality of teaching by the staff. We are currently operating a waiting list for 2½ to 4½ year olds. If you would like to pop in for a look around, please phone Tracey on 07854 939226 between 9am - 12 noon, to arrange an appointment. A warm welcome awaits you.

**For registration details or to place your child on the waiting list,
please phone Sue Pickering: Tel - 01525 222199.**

"We are an Equal Opportunities Employer" www.edlesboroughunder5s.org.uk



Pension Credit, Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit: Backdating Rule Changes

From 6 October, the time limit for a claimant aged 60 or over to make a backdated claim for pension credit, housing benefit or council tax benefit is reduced from twelve months to three months. The time limit for a claimant aged under 60 to make a backdated claim for housing benefit or council tax benefit is reduced from 52 weeks to six months.

Energy Package to Help with Fuel Bills

The government has announced a package of measures to help households save money on their energy bills.

The measures include:

- all households qualifying for at least 50 per cent off loft and cavity wall insulation. The elderly and low income households qualify at no cost
- an increase in cold weather payments from £8.50 to £25 per week if there is a severe winter
- more funds for the Warm Front home energy efficiency scheme in England, which provides grants to help cover the costs of home insulation and improving energy efficiency.

The government has set up a dedicated helpline which people can ring to find out more about the support available. The helpline number is 0800 512 012.

For more information contact the Citizens Advice Bureau, Grove House, High Street North, Dunstable. Tel: 01582 661384. Would you like to join our volunteers? Please contact the above number for more information on volunteering opportunities at Dunstable Bureau.

All Saints, Dagnall - Services and Meetings in November 2008

Sun. 2nd Nov.	10.30 am	Family Communion for the Festival of All Saints
	6.00 pm	Evening Service
Wed. 5th Nov.	7.45 pm	Quiz Evening led by Pat Kight
Sun. 9th Nov.	10.30 am	Morning Service
	6.00 pm	Sung Eucharist
Wed. 12th Nov.	7.45 pm	Mid-week Meeting led by Revd Peter Dudeney
Thu. 13th Nov.	7.30 pm	Eucharist
Sun. 16th Nov.	10.30 am	Family Communion
	6.00 pm	Evening Service with Holy Communion
Wed. 19th Nov.	7.45 pm	Mid-week Meeting - Speaker: Peter Shields from 'Signposts', a charity working with the homeless
Sun. 23rd Nov.	9.00 am	Eucharist
	10.30 am	Family Service
	6.00 pm	Evening Prayer
Sun. 30th Nov.	10.30 am	Informal Worship - Songs of Praise
	4.00 pm	North Chilterns Group Advent Service
Wed. 3rd Dec.	7.45 pm	Mid-week Meeting led by Revd Peter Dudeney
Sunday School meets each Sunday at 10.30 am.		





Eaton Bray Lower School Christmas Fayre

Saturday 29th November

12.00 – 2.30pm

Get in the Christmas spirit by coming along to our Christmas Fayre.

There's lots to keep all the family entertained including:

- Christmas gifts
- Tombola for adults and children
- Photo with Santa
- Face painting
- Lucky dip
- Refreshments including lovely homemade soup
- Cake stall
- plus loads more....

Everyone's welcome, we're looking forward to seeing you!

Friends of St Mary's

Coffee Morning

Saturday, November 1st



10.30 am - 12 noon

St Mary's Church

Bring and Buy, Raffle

Village Vegetables - we will supply a table for you to sell your produce.

EATON BRAY

METHODIST CHURCH

Invite you to a lunchtime presentation
by the Church Mission Society

"The Christ we Share"

**on Sunday, November 16th
at 12.30**

The subject reviews how different cultures picture Jesus through their art, and includes examples from Africa, Asia and Latin America.

All welcome, including children
Jacket potato lunch provided, with a donation of £3 per person appreciated to cover the cost of the speaker. If you would like to come, could you please let us know a.s.a.p.

Tel. Pauline Doody on 01525 220492



All Saints' Church, Dagnall



CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 6 December 2008

10.30 am – 12.30 pm

With cake stall, Christmas crafts,
Fairtrade stall.

All proceeds towards Crossroads
International, our Church Project for 2008

CHRISTMAS MARKET

Join us at our Christmas Market
on Friday 5th December from 5 - 7pm

Let our fabulous choir get you into the Christmas spirit!

Visit Santa, have a go on the tombola, enjoy mulled wine,
roasted chestnuts, hot dogs and candy floss

Lots of stalls full of perfect gifts for Christmas

We look forward to seeing you there!

Dagnall School

Christmas Fete

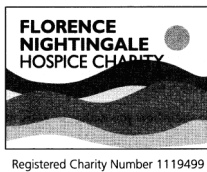
Saturday 22nd November

12.00 - 2.00 pm

Dagnall Village Hall



Santa's Grotto * Tombola * Adopt an animal * Craft Activities
Phoenix cards * Ladies Nightwear * Splat gaming *
Madeforhome * and more!



Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity Charity No. 1119499

Florence Nightingale Hospice offers care to those facing the challenge of cancer and other life-limiting illnesses. Through the inpatient unit, day hospice and specialist care at home, we can often improve quality of life and help people get the best from their time remaining — whether that be days, months or years.

To support this very special service for local people, the charity raises £450,000 every year from voluntary donations — fundraising events, legacies, collecting boxes, charity shops and the Hospice Lottery. Costs are kept to a minimum through the invaluable help of our volunteer service. To find out how you can help contact us on 01296 429975 or email: lindsey.fealey@buckspt.nhs.uk. www.fnhospice.org.uk

Could you give something back and be a volunteer?

2 hours a week can make a real difference to peoples' lives

DRIVING * GARDENING * HOSPICE HELPERS * CHARITY SHOPS
FUNDRAISING * CRAFT GROUP * IT

If you would like to volunteer but are not sure which area you would prefer, please call Sue Jenkins, Volunteer Services Manager for a chat on 01296 332600.



Tree of Light 2008 to 'Light up a Life'

Wednesday 10 December 2008 at 7.30pm

A tree will be lit outside Florence Nightingale Hospice (in the grounds of Stoke Mandeville Hospital) during a short ceremony of dedication.

This is an opportunity to honour someone special to you by sponsoring a light which will shine out through Christmas and the New Year. Your dedication will be recorded in a Book of Honour. For every light you have shining, you will receive a personal card of acknowledgement. Special 2008 pin badges will be available for a donation in our shops, warehouse and the hospice.

We do hope that you will be able to join us at 7.15pm for 7.30pm. Mince pies will be served after the ceremony, and there will be an opportunity for you to view the Book of Honour. Please don't forget to bring a torch and wrap up warm!

Tree of Light donations go towards supporting the work of Florence Nightingale Hospice. Thank you.

If you wish to have a light shining, please contact us at: Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity, Unit 4 Aylesbury Business Centre, Chamberlain Road, Aylesbury, HP19 8DY
Telephone: 01296 429975



Diary Dates

Monday 3rd November - Christmas Flower Demonstration - 7.30pm at The Lecture Theatre, Aylesbury Grammar School

Friday 14th - Monday 17th November - Turkey & Tinsel Weekend at the Hotel Rex, Weymouth. £230 pp including bed, breakfast, evening meals and entertainment

Friday 21st November - Fashion Show at Aylesbury High School

Saturday 22nd November - Christmas Bazaar, Eskdale Community Centre, Aylesbury

Saturday 22nd November - Music Quiz at Hawkslade Community Centre

Monday 24th November - Supporters Christmas Lunch. Venue tbc.

Saturday 6th December - Wendover Christmas Stall at Wendover Market Square

Wednesday 10th December - Tree of Light — 'to light up a life'

Saturday 13th December - Christmas Fair at Bedgrove Community Centre

Saturday 20th December to Christmas Eve - Christmas Wrapping, Friars Square

Throughout December - Christmas Appeal with collections in Aylesbury, Wendover and Winslow

Eaton Bray

FORCES HOME-COMING FUND

1944—1945

A COMMITTEE was formed in October, 1944, for the purpose of organising a Fund, the proceeds of which have been given to Men and Women of the Forces, and Men directed to the Mines, who went from the Village in the Service of their Country.

Chairman—MR. ARTHUR R. ROBERTS

Vice-Chairman—The late MR. ERNEST GRAY, J.P.

Secretary—MR. LEONARD TEARLE

Treasurers—The Eaton Bray Parish Council

Hon. Auditors—Messrs. MANTZ & APPLEBY

Committee—

Mr. P. E. Medley	The Rev. D. Lawrence	Mr. H. Howlett
Mr. H. Fountain	Mr. U. F. Loughton	Mr. David Tompkins
Mr. E. Bilham	Mrs. S. Oates	Mr. H. Danvers
Mrs. Couchman	Mrs. W. G. Rollings	Mrs. French
Mrs. Loughton	Miss King	Captain—
Mrs. D. Tompkins	Miss B. A. Thorne	Salvation Army
Miss G. Bates	Mrs. W. Gadsden	Mr. Germany
Mrs. Medley	Mrs. Bilham	Mrs. M. Marks

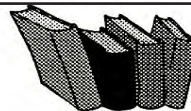
The sum of £12 each was paid to 122 Men and Women from Eaton Bray who entered the Forces or served in the Mines. In the case of those who fell, the amount was paid to the nearest relative.

Totternhoe Preschool

Just to remind everyone that Pre-School will be closed for half term for two weeks. School finishes on Thursday 16th October and re-opens again on Monday 3rd November. The children have had fun experimenting with colours this term – just what they needed to brighten up this dull autumn mornings. They've also had two dressing up days, which are always popular and very colourful this time to tie in with this term's theme. If you care for a child aged between 2 and school age and would like them to join in the fun, please call Kay on 07913 529 574. We run sessions Monday to Thursday in term time between 9.15 and 11.45 in Totternhoe Memorial Hall, Castle Hill Road. For more information please visit our web site – www.totternhoepreschool.co.uk



Edlesborough Book Group Review **Death at La Fenice by Donna Leon**



Death at La Fenice, is the first in a series of detective novels set in Venice. It introduces the reader to the character, Commissario Guido Brunetti and also to his family and colleagues.

The story begins with the dramatic discovery of the body of German maestro, Helmut Wellauer in his dressing room. It is during the intermission after the second act, during the performance of La Traviata. The maestro appears to have made many enemies during his career, all of whom appear to have good reasons to wish for his death. His homophobic views and murky past, which has included Nazi affiliations and serial womanising is all brought under the microscope. Commissario Brunetti refuses to opt for the obvious solutions and probes ever more deeply into the maestro's previous history and relationships painstakingly uncovering more and more relevant details about him and his life.

The novel is well constructed, but seems a little dated in its format, with not a lot of depth to its characters to interest the reader. Donna Leon obviously has a passionate love for Venice and sets the scene well, introducing us to the canals and alleyways of the city as well as to the Brunettis' domestic life.

The majority of the book group members found the book too lightweight, and the crime too easy to solve. But one member spoke passionately and very convincingly about the series as a whole, persuading us that it addressed serious issues in modern Italy under the guise of crime novels. Thus, we were persuaded to give Donna Leon another chance in the future.

Salvation Sound...November 2008

November - What can one say about this month? Nights come early - morning is late. The year is dying - colour is fading - gold, yellow, ochre, brown, dull green - summer is being swept away in heaps of dead leaves. The smells of burning bonfires fill the air - winter is coming, fast!

But - the starlings still call and the thrush sings his song over and over. There are still some flowers blooming, and although it is time to prune the roses, what a joy it is to see a late bud open on an unexpected mild day; gnats dance in the weak sunshine and sleepy bees visit the honeycups on the ivy. It can be cold, but children enjoy watching their breath as they talk; summer may be over but winter brings its joys too. One of the pleasures that I enjoy at "the back end of the year" is the acrid smell of

chrysanthemums.

It is said that deep in the heart of the Black Forest in Germany, there once lived a peasant called Hermann. One evening he was making his way home when he came upon a little boy lying in the snow. Hermann picked up the child and carried him to his wife and children. He was a kind man and together they shared all they had with the child. The boy stayed with them until Christmas morning, when he revealed to them that he was the Christ-Child. Then he vanished from Hermann and his family.

Hermann felt sad that the boy had had to go, but the next time that he passed the place where he had first found the boy, he saw some beautiful flowers growing through the snow. With great joy he gathered some of them and took them to his wife. She called them flowers of gold, which is what the word chrysanthemum means.

Scripture says,

“All mankind are like grass, and all their glory is like wild flowers. The grass withers, and the flowers fall, but the word of the Lord remains forever.”

1 Peter :24 -25.

As the year draws nearer to its close, many a flower fades and dies. Yet seeds are sown and bulbs wait below the soil to be summoned the following year.

“Dear Mother earth, who day by day

Unfoldest blessings on our way,

O praise him, alleluia!

The flowers and fruits that in thee grow,

Let them his glory also show.”

Francis of Assisi.

In China the chrysanthemum is a symbol of relaxation and ease. In Japan, it is the national emblem.

Chrysanthemums (Chrysos = golden. Anthos = flower), were not introduced successfully into Europe until the end of the 18th Century; although Chinese cultivation dates back to about 500.B.C.

They are a large group which contain many well known garden flowers, and even some wild ones.

Those referred to as Korean Chrysanthemums are the most hardy for your herbaceous borders. Wonderful plants which bring a plethora of colour to our autumn and early winter gardens.

“Thy word is like a garden, Lord,

With flowers bright and fair;

And everyone who seeks may pluck

A lovely garland there.”

“He gave us eyes to see them,

And lips that we might tell

How great is God Almighty,

Who has made all things well.”

THANK YOU....

We would like to extend our grateful thanks to all those who helped with our RED SHIELD collection during September. Those who gave so generously and those who gave their time to walk the streets.

“Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity; for God loveth a cheerful giver.”

11. Corinthians .9 .v7.

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

Monday

Junior Club (age 8+) 6.30-7.45pm

Wednesday

Home League (Ladies Meeting) 2.30pm

Thursday

Baby and Toddler Group 9.30-11.30am

Thursday Evening

Young Ladies Fellowship 7.45pm

(last Thursday in every month)

Stuart Ball

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Facilities include all mod cons including air-con, satellite TV, fully equipped kitchen, swimming pools, excellent clubhouse and tennis courts. Many golf courses and all weather bowling greens nearby. Climate makes this ideal for holidays throughout the year. Rates vary according to season (£300 - £750)

For a brochure and details call Peter or Celia on **01525 220173** or visit the website at www.479losnaranjos.co.uk.



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or Mobile 07773 230055**

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Eaton Bray Lawn Tennis Club

The nights are drawing in quickly now, meaning that any tennis played after 4pm has to be under floodlights, and the entrepreneurial players well insulated against the brisk North-Westerly's that zip across the Green at this time of year. So in order to cheer along our devoted players and supporters, I've devoted this month's article to a little song I've written, that all our members can sing as they battle against the elements. It's to the tune of 'Cool for Cats' and I send unreserved apologies to 'Squeeze' and all their band members for bringing their great work down to this level !!

The club members send signals from the courts up on the Green
The opponents run to hide and now are nowhere to be seen
The Chairman's in the Clubhouse he is tied against a chair
He doesn't mind the tactics just so long the result's fair
He lets loose all the rope knots when their Captain is asleep
Who wakes to find they've lost the match and has a little weep
And our winning team they run around and sing 'It's Ross for hats'
It's Ross for hats – Ross for hats

The First team's doing thirty 'cause they've got the word to go
But that's the limit 'innit and they're very good you know
They're needed on the courts now 'cus the other team's arrived
In and out of School Lane with their game plan now derived
It's funny how their misses always look just so contrived
And meanwhile at the clubhouse there's a couple of little brats
Who swear they're doing no harm and they're singing 'Ross for hats'
It's Ross for hats – Ross for hats

To celebrate our winning we've been chilling down the pub
On seeing my reflection I'm a bad ad for the club
I sink that pint I gorge on chips I'll never lose those pounds
And all I get is fatter and some very funny frowns
The Treasurer and Chairman keep on buying me more rounds
And by the time it's closing I've forgotten that I'm fat
I'm singing all the way home that it's cool to wear a hat
It's cool in hats - Cool in hats

Re-match at the courts now and I need a point to win
He asks me lots of questions 'are you sure that lob was in'
I win it for the first time and then I take off home
The wife says 'want a coffee?' and I give my hair a comb
Then I do the other one it's never on it's own
I said I'll see you later and I go up for a bath
And lie there singing loudly that it's cool to wear a hat
It's Ross for hats – Ross for hats

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'm not rehearsing my latest musical extravaganza, me, Andy Cross, on 01582 477114.

Highlights of the Minutes of the Eaton Bray Parish Council Meeting Held in The Coffee Tavern on Monday 6th October 2008 at 7:30pm

Public Open Forum

A resident commented favourably on the improvements made to the Parish Council website; with the inclusion of the Parish Council monthly meeting agenda.

Visit From Chairman Of South Bedfordshire District Council

The Parish Council welcomed the Chair of South Bedfordshire District Council to their meeting. She explained her interested in Parish Councils, having previously been a Parish Councillor herself and understanding what that role involves and is very interested in rural areas; fully understanding how Parish Councils can feel isolated from the larger Councils.

Correspondence Received

A letter was read out to the Parish Council from the Family and Staff at Eaton Bray Post Office who have sadly been informed that Eaton Bray Post Office is to close. They wished to thank the Parish Council for their support and help in trying to prevent the closure and throughout the public consultation. They also wished to thank all the customers who have used the Post Office over the years, and the support received in the campaign to prevent the closure. They are sorry for the inconvenience the closure of the post office will cause, but it is totally out of their hands. The Post Office offered a vital service to the community and they are looking into ways of providing alternative services in the shop that may be of help to the community.

Eaton Bray Village Hall

The Parish Council was informed that Phase 3 of the Village Hall refurbishment has been completed and the Village Hall Committee is very pleased with the final result. Comments have been received on the refurbishment; on how good the hall looks. The flowerbeds outside the hall are in the process of being tidied up.

Parish Council Annual Return/Audit; Year Ending 31st March 2008

The clerk distributed the completed annual return/audit for the year ending 31st March 2008. It was unanimously agreed to approve and accept the final audit.

Clerk Report

The Clerk requested any items for the next Parish Council Meeting by Wed 22nd October 2008.

A full copy of the minutes of the Eaton Bray Parish Council can be found on our website.

Eaton Bray Parish Council Meeting

Parish Clerk Details: Mrs Heidi Head, 20 Good Intent, Edlesborough, LU6 2RD; Email clerk@ebpc.co.uk

Parish Council Website: www.ebpc.co.uk

<p>Eaton Bray Parish Council Meetings 1st Monday of every month 7.30pm The Coffee Tavern Next Meeting: Mon 3rd Nov 08</p>
--

Mothers Union Report Eaton Bray with Edlesborough

In October the M.U. held a 'Mothers' Union Celebration' in St. Mary's Church, conducted by the Rev. Malcolm Grant, with a special commemoration to honour two of the members, Celia French and Dorothy Bradbury who served in the Women's Land Army during the war.

In January of this year, the Government announced that a special badge was being

issued to all former members of the Land Army, and both these ladies have applied for their badges. In the meantime, and much to their surprise, the M.U. held its own celebration.

Celia French was born and brought up near Newcastle. Sadly both her parents died when she was only a child, and she feels that her experiences in the Land Army changed her life – that is particularly true, because she met, fell in love, and married her husband Edwin, and became a farmer’s wife until Edwin’s death, although she still lives at their farm. She was ‘posted’ to Silsoe, and became resident at Wrest Park where 36 girls were housed. They worked in ‘gangs’ of twelve and were taken – by some form of transport – to any farm in quite a large area where help was needed, and if their farm was ‘nearby’ – they walked!

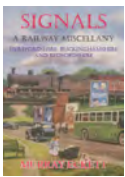
Both ladies recalled how hard the work was, the hours were long winter and summer, hot summers were difficult in heavy clothes – and no sun cream – and winter mornings dark and cold. Celia had particularly horrifying tales of mice and threshing machines, with mice which ran up trouser legs.....

Dorothy had quite different experiences to Celia. She originated in Cavendish, and was posted to a village near Bury St. Edmonds. Her father’s family originated in Devon and she had many family holidays in the country with them, but that didn’t prepare her very well for actually working on the land. She worked for one farmer on a permanent basis with another Land Army Girl, and they were the only two in the village. They did not live at the farm - Dorothy lived at the butcher’s house and her friend lived at the baker’s house. (Unfortunately there was no one to live with the candlestick maker!) They had to deal with the animals as well, and she has memories of being knocked over in the pigsty; lost her two big toe nails on about four occasions and learned very quickly not to stand or walk behind a horse!

It was an honour just to hear these two elegant, lovely, cheerful ladies talk about their past.

See below, new book about the Womens Land Army in Bedfordshire, out now.

Keep Local History Alive!



For those interested in local history, there are three new books out for Xmas. The first entitled “**Signals A Railway Miscellany: Hertfordshire Buckinghamshire and Bedfordshire**” by Murray Eckett, an enthusiast who has researched the railway system, railway walks and the preservation. In Bedfordshire, he covers the Marston Vale Line and describes walks along the Leighton Buzzard to Dunstable line, Luton Parkway to Harpenden East, Bedford to Hitchin, Bedford to Cambridge and Bedford to Northampton.

The second book is called “**We wouldn’t have missed it for the world**” **The Women’s Land Army in Bedfordshire 1939-1950** by Stuart Antrobus. Based on extensive research and numerous interviews with former land girls, this book takes us back to the days of wartime activity, of military airfields and the presence of American GIs. A definitive alphabetical list of almost 3500 maiden names will enable family historians to find if their forebears served as land girls in Bedfordshire.

The final book is more light hearted. It is the story of Russ Sainty, a performer at the legendary California Ballroom in Dunstable. Russ and his group, The Nu-Notes performed no less than 338 sessions up



to the mid-sixties, including the opening night of March 12th 1960. During over 50 years in show business he has met and performed with so many famous stars. Russ's story, entitled "**King of the Cali' A Lifetime in Rock n' Roll**" is a roller coaster ride of triumph and disappointment, but is told with truth and integrity.

So if nostalgia is your forte... all these books are available through your local bookshops.

The Road to Banjul



A former Focus contributor has recently published a book about a journey he undertook last year to raise funds for charity. You may remember Keith Pugsley, author of "Village People", a series of vignettes about local Eaton Bray heroes and notables which appeared in this publication during 2000. Keith lived in Totternhoe Road, Eaton Bray, until February 2001 when he and his wife Gilly ("Mistress of Black Pig Farm"-see Focus October 2000) and their 50 pet animals relocated to North Devon. In 2007 Keith undertook an adventurous mission to drive a twenty-year old Cherokee Jeep from the UK to The Gambia. His 320-page paperback "The Road to Banjul" is in two parts – the first part describes the meticulous preparation for the mission and the second part gives a day by day commentary of events and characters encountered on the way.

With co-driver Graham De Meur (also a former resident of Eaton Bray, see Focus March 2000) Black Betty the Jeep travelled from Plymouth through France, Spain, Gibraltar, Morocco, Western Sahara, Mauritania, and Senegal before arriving in Banjul – capital of The Gambia. On the near 4000 mile three-week journey they experienced desert conditions, unmade roads, bureaucracy, corrupt officials, border delays, sub-standard plumbing, and met some friendly and helpful people – and a few who won't be making it onto Keith and Graham's Christmas card lists. On arrival in Banjul the car was offered for auction which, together with sponsorship raised before and during the mission, netted a five-figure sum for Keith's chosen charity the North Devon Animal Ambulance, as well as money for children's charities in The Gambia.

Written in an easy-reading style with large helpings of typical Keith Pugsley humour "The Road to Banjul" can be ordered from www.authorhouse.co.uk priced at £14.99 plus postage and packing. It can also be ordered through Amazon or any good bookseller. Royalties go to North Devon Animal Ambulance.

The Rotary Club of Dunstable

The club 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.

Each year three Antiques Fairs are held at the Dunstable Leisure Centre where all the profits go into the Benevolent Fund. The next Fair is on New Year Bank Holiday, Thursday 1st January, 2009 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

Aladdin

It's Panto time once again for Leighton Buzzard Drama Group and this year they will be presenting the all time family favourite Aladdin.

Set in Peking, China, this timeless classic follows the story of a poor washer woman's son who comes across a magic lamp.

The story is told in traditional pantomime style and includes all the well loved characters such as Widow Twankey, Wishee Washee and the Princess. Come along and cheer for Aladdin and boo the much hated, Evil Abanazar!

This is a hilarious Panto with an amazing cast, and lots of opportunity for audience participation and of course the traditional soaking (watch out for the Emu!).

The show is packed with fabulous songs and dance routines and the music is performed by professional live musicians



with songs to please everybody, from Frank Sinatra to the Sugar Babes.

Aladdin is full of the feel-good factor and is just what you need to brighten a dull winter's day.

Performances run from 7th to 24th January 2009 at the Leighton Buzzard Theatre. Tickets are available from the box office on 01582 818801. On sale NOW!

Another Night Not Just Another Quiz!

Well actually it had been 6 months since the last one but it was great to see a lot of familiar faces and many new ones in the Village Hall on the 11th October in another joint venture with the V.H. and the Tennis Club.

Being a modest man and having a foot in both camps, it was nice that a team captained by a tennis club member picked up the first prize.

Every quiz we have held has our team of ladies, who come along and have a great time but always seem to come last. Is it something to do with the chocolates that we give to the losers? I have a sneaky suspicion that they do it deliberately.

We made a staggering £1350 from the night which will be distributed equally between the two organisations. Thank you all for your support and particularly those who get the teams together and make it such a pleasant event to organise.

Obviously as I have said before it is the kindness and hard work of Keith Blackburn that make it all possible.

Our next Quiz will be on Saturday April 18th. Hope to see you all then.

A very happy Old GI



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Alex joins us as our new and experienced Nail Technician to keep your hands and nails young and beautiful by offering the latest developments in; Acrylic Nails, Tip & Dip, Silk Wraps, and Designer Nail Art.

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In time for Christmas Trading Faces is pleased to offer not only some innovative new treatments but some special offers that will ensure you are looking good for the festive season.

- **'A FEET FIRST'** – For all those ladies just back from holiday or who have spent the Summer in high-heels and flip-flops, Trading Faces is pleased to be the first in the area to offer a revolutionary, brand new, pain-free treatment for cracked and neglected heels – restore your feet to their former glory and try this amazing new treatment for just £10!
- **'PARTY HAIR & NAILS'** – Are you looking forward to all those Christmas Parties? Trading Faces is offering you the chance to ensure you look good on the dance floor! Book for a Wash & Blo Dry and get your nails filed and polished for FREE! This offer even includes a chance to try the latest in Nail Art!
- **WOW – CHRISTMAS PARTY PACKAGE** – From now until Christmas you can book for a special make-over to ensure you stand out in the crowd! Wash& Blo-Dry, Nails filed and polished, Eyebrow Shape and Full Make-Up for just £30!

All of these offers are valid from now until 20th December.

As if all of that wasn't enough, Trading Faces will also have a **December Special** – All customers who spend over £30 in December will qualify for a **'FREE GIFT'** from our Christmas Tree – so if you've been good all year, come and see what Santa's got in store for you – Don't delay – Book today!

Call us on 01525 229111 to make an appointment or just drop in and see us for a consultation and a coffee. We look forward to seeing you.

Trading Faces is at Wallace Drive Eaton Bray, (next to Threshers Off-Licence).



Can you spare 2 -3 hours per week to support your Local youth football club in a practical way?

EB Lions AFC are looking for a volunteer to help our grounds-man mark out the football pitches during the season, which runs from September to May. The club provides competitive football to over 150 boys and girls and has 13 teams this season so we need extra help to mark out the additional pitches required. Pitches are at Holman's Field in Eaton Bray, on the Green at Edlesborough and at the recreation ground in Dagnall. No previous experience necessary.

If you feel that you might be able to help us out, or would like additional information, we would love to hear from you. Please contact Liz Coates on 01442 842550 or email at lizcoates@btinternet.com.

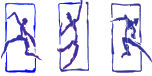


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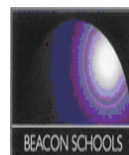
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Edlesborough Tennis Club Finals Day 2008

The rain stopped, the wind died down, the clouds cleared, the sun came out and the Edlesborough Tennis Club Finals began. The scene was set with the arrival of the LTA umpires making the event so much more special. There were some very competitive closely fought matches. While the spectators were enjoying their ploughman's lunch, the eagerly awaited Men's Singles was taking place featuring the much improved junior James Kight and Head Coach and defending Champion Leon Leenders. This was a fantastic display of speed, anticipation and hard hitting tennis with Leon taking the honours for the third consecutive year. The longest match was the Veteran Men's Singles which started with both competitors displaying remarkable speed and agility around the court but after 2 hours 39 minutes, both slightly worse for wear, David Kight edged a victory over last year's champion Andy Everson. The Under 10 Boy's Singles proved to be the most sporting match of the day, played in a wonderful spirit, with both Huw and Stephen smiling the whole way through, a nail biting very close contest which could have gone either way.

During a period of high tension, the crowd whilst transfixed on the quality of tennis were nearly decapitated when a freak gust of wind turned the spectators' marquee into a flying missile. We will try using tent pegs next year.

The BBQ and trophy presentation took place in the evening. Many thanks to everybody who helped to make it a very successful day. Congratulations to all our winners and runners up.

Results in Full

Mens Singles	Leon Leenders	bt	James Kight	6-3 7-6
Mens Doubles	Ziggy Bis + Bruce Thomson	bt	Rhys Dalkin + James Kight	6-4 4-6 6-3
Ladies Doubles	Margaret Bis + Kimberly Squire	bt	Jackie Hodson + Hilary McCloskey	6-0 6-1
Mixed Doubles	Ziggy Bis + Margaret Bis	bt	David Kight + Carolyn Kight	6-1 6-3
Veteran Mens Singles	David Kight	bt	Andy Everson	7-6 2-6 6-4
U16 Boys Singles	James Kight	bt	Rhys Dalkin	6-0 6-4
U16 Girls Singles	Abigail Kight	bt	Eve Greenow	6-2 6-2
U16 Mixed Doubles	James Kight + Abigail Kight	bt	Huw Dalkin + Charlotte Meredith	6-0 6-3
U14 Boys Singles	Jack Coates	bt	Will Sanders	6-4 6-0
U12 Boys Singles	Will Sanders	bt	Scott Mercer	6-3 6-2
U12 Girls Singles	Charlotte Meredith	bt	Molly Blumson	7-6 6-3
U10 Boys Singles	Huw Dalkin	bt	Stephen Tomlinson	7-6
U10 Girls Singles	Anna Henderson	bt	Georgia Rigby	6-1

Thank You

“Thank you to everyone who attended my Macmillan Worlds Biggest Coffee Morning on 26th September. As promised I have given a percentage of my Phoenix Trading sales/orders on the day and with the help of - MadeforHome, Crockadoodledo, Cafe Masala, Splat Gaming, Buds of May, Amanda Wright (Forever), Cakes by Shelly, Bliss

Beauty and Infinite You Limited - we have raised just over £600! A special thanks also to Maggie Kerr who made endless cups of tea and coffee, baked cakes and washed it all up afterwards! Consider yourself booked for next year”
Beverly Sage, Phoenix Trading

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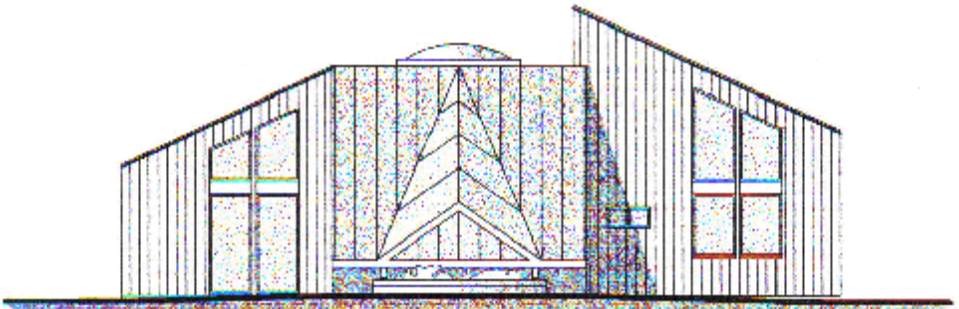
Eaton Bray Lower School

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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Dagnall Weather Station (AONB)

September started off wet and windy, 10 out of the first days wet and on the 9th between 14.00 14.30 hours the heavens opened and it rained for a few minutes at a rate of 205.8 mm (8 ins) an hour. In the middle of the month we had a dry period with the temperatures reaching the low 20's, but the late summer that we were all hoping for never materialised.

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

David G Killick, Station Owner

Andy's Amazing Cycle Ride

Andy Gibbons set off on his 2,000 mile cycle ride in June and completed it in under three weeks. A truly amazing achievement. Andy was cycling to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support, the chosen charity of St Mary's Church for 2008. Donations and sponsorship have raised £1093.74 for the charity and we would like to thank everyone who has contributed in any way. This has given a real boost to our fund raising. We must express our particular gratitude to Andy and his family for their exceptional support. Well done everyone!



Eaton Bray Taverners Bridge Club

Like to play bridge?

Join us for duplicate bridge at the Methodist Church Schoolroom, Totternhoe Road, Eaton Bray each Friday 7.30 p.m. to 10.30 p.m. The lesson and practise sessions are held at the Northall Village Hall on Friday afternoons from 2.00 — 5.00 p.m. from September 26th 2008 to May 22nd 2009. If you would like more details or would like to be found a partner please contact the club secretary on 01525 221779.

Improving the chances

These are the hands of the N/S players:

♠ Q J 7
♥ 9 8 6 2
♦ K 8 5 3
♣ J 7

♠
♥
♦
♣

♠
♥
♦
♣

♠ A K 10 8 6 3
♥ A Q
♦ Q 6
♣ Q 10 6

South as dealer opens with 1♠, North responds 1NT, South jumps to 3♠ and an optimistic North bids the spade game. West leads A♣. How do you make the contract? Answer on the website: www.watson-eaton-bray.freeserve.co.uk

Bridge courses

Courses for absolute beginners, novices and improvers are scheduled to start in January 2009. Please phone 01525 221779 for more information.



News from Terry Jones, AVDC Councillor for Ivinghoe Aston, Edlesborough, Northall & Dagnall

The Aylesbury Waterside Theatre

The building of the new theatre, now named The Aylesbury Waterside Theatre, continues at a good pace and the differences are highly visible from day to day and certainly week to week. Anybody who has not visited the site recently will notice a considerable difference with the building rising high above the hoardings. The build cost is £35 million which provides a 1,200 seat theatre and a smaller 220 seater venue. At today's prices it compares very well with the £52 million for the Leicester Arts Centre (760 seats) and Milton Keynes at £49.84 million (1,336 seats). The project has never been over spent in that the Council has always adjusted its capital expenditure to cover any increase in costs. In order to maintain the costs at a lower level there have been changes to the specification but none that will directly affect the public. The next significant stage will be reached in the Spring when the topping out ceremony is due to take place and we remain optimistic that the whole building will finish at around Christmas 2009. Our biggest fear has to be a severe Winter which will inevitably slow building.

Theatre in the Villages

Theatre in the Villages season started this September with 11 shows taking place in Aylesbury Vale. These shows are dependent upon the commitment and hard work of local promoters in the villages who liaise between the Theatre in the Villages coordinator to choose the show that might be right for their particular community and for drumming up enthusiasm within the village to attend the show, to meet the artists and to run the box office etc. The project has been running for over ten years now and has shown to be a very popular means of providing a community event and generating income within a village. If you would like to know more, contact Dan Clucas, Arts Development Manager, AVDC dclucas@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk 01296 585206

For a pdf copy of this years programme go to <http://www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/leisure-culture/arts-culture/theatre-villages/>

New Shopping Area in Aylesbury

The building of the new Waterside Shopping area draws closer. Warner Estates are still very much committed to the scheme and a Head Lease and Development Agreement was signed back in August. Debenhams signed up as the anchor store and the food store operator will be announced very shortly now. A planning application should be received by the end of the year which will be the last major step before building work commences.

Get on the housing ladder

Young people wishing to get on the housing ladder may wish to go to the Home Buy Show at Aston Hall in the Civic Centre in Aylesbury from 11am to 4pm on Saturday 8th November. Here you can find out about affordable ways of part buying and part renting a newly built home. You could also receive up to 50% of government funding towards your new home. You can phone 0845 601 7729 or register on line at www.catalysthomebuy.org.uk Entry is free so why not check it out.

Refuse collections in bad weather

Can you help spread the word? Aylesbury Vale District Council are currently looking at how they communicate with residents when they have to cancel or delay refuse and

recycling collections because of bad weather. Although they put information on their website, and issue news releases to local radio stations, not everyone has access to these points of information. They would like to develop a network of people in the parishes to whom they could quickly email a poster if refuse collections are cancelled. What they would like them to do is print out a few copies of the A4 poster and get them put up in high visibility sites in their village, such as the local pub, library, shop, school or other local notice boards.

If you find someone, please send their name, email address and postal address to Carole Wright at cwright@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk or call her on (01296) 585026.

Community Chest Grants are available to villages

At their September Meeting, the Community Chest Grants Panel awarded £86,200 in Project Grants to a number of organisations including: Aylesbury Vale Dial-A-Ride, Buckingham Chantry Chapel and Low Impact Living Initiative at Winslow.

So far in 2008/9, Project grants of £162,000 have been awarded to thirteen organisations. The next closing date for Project Grants (up to £25,000) is 5th December 2008

Also, £21,000 of Microgrants (up to £1,000) have been awarded since April 2008. Recent recipients include: Ready4Change, a new counselling service for children and their families struggling at the time of transition from Primary to Secondary School, Buckingham Camera Club and Quainton Railway Society.

Microgrants (up to £1,000) continue to be reviewed monthly. Please encourage clubs, societies, charities and voluntary organisations in your areas to apply.

For more details, please contact the Community Chest Grants Officer, Mrs Sarah Rothwell, 01296 585634, email communitychest@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk, or information can be downloaded from the Grants section of the website, www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk

Support for talented sports people

Aylesbury Vale District Council, Bucks Sport and Bucks Sports Aid Foundation are supporting local sporting talent to achieve its potential.

Aylesbury Vale Joint Sports Council administers the 'Talented Sports Person Grant'. The grant is available to any sports person who lives within the district and has been selected to represent the County, or equivalent level, within their chosen sport. The support of the Aylesbury Vale Olympic Action Plan has allowed further grants to be awarded at a higher level to those sports people who are representing their Country within their chosen sport. To date there have been eight local athletes supported who are competing at a national level. For further information on the grants please contact Chris Bolton, Sports Development Manager, on 01296 585221.

Also, the 'Bucks Sport Talent Passport' aims to assist talented athletes through free or reduced rate access to sports facilities. The Bucks Sport Talent Passport aims to provide national level sports people with free access to a number of the county's sports facilities for training and development at designated off peak times. In future the aim is to expand the programme of support and widen the passport to regional and county level athletes. At present the facilities within Aylesbury Vale that are participating are Aqua Vale, Swan Pool and Leisure Centre and Stoke Mandeville Stadium. For further information please contact Bucks Sport on 01296 585215

Car Parking in Aylesbury

A decision has been made that will mean there is no free parking this year in Aylesbury

for the Christmas period. It costs a large sum of money to make worthwhile concessions at any time and the Council's overall financial position is being pressurised day by day by the current economic situation. Sadly, therefore, it has not been able to repeat previous years concessions.

The new town car park based in Walton Street was opened last month and provides approximately 500 extra spaces and 25 disabled spaces. It is constructed to the very latest specifications for safer car parks, is monitored throughout by CCTV and does away with the pillars that are so dreaded by most users of multi-storey car parks. It will provide the first of the new car parks in Aylesbury which will serve both the town centre and the new theatre.



Edlesborough W.I.

At our recent meeting Mr. Smallwood, a glass blower by trade, gave an interesting talk on the production of glass. He told us that glass is made up as follows:- G-gas, L-lime, A-aluminium or arsenic, S-sand (86%), S-soda. It was discovered thousands of years ago, and the method of heating sand to a molten mass is still used today as it was all those years ago.

Each form of glass is made in a different way. For instance, hollow glass is blown and revolved on the end of a pontil. Moulds used to be used to make bottles, etc., and the ends of the neck of the bottle would be chipped off. Mr. Smallwood had examples of some old bottles, including the green and blue ridged ones used for containing poisons. Flat glass, made by machine nowadays, was made by heating it to a 30lb ball - a gob - on the pontil. The end would be cut off and the remainder heated again & again until flat. Afterwards, it was cut into shapes for such things as small windows.

Glass is a poor conductor of heat, but a good conductor of light. It can be toughened for products such as windscreens which are extremely strong. Coloured glass is produced by adding metal oxide, and beautiful crystal glass is made by the addition of lead.

Mr. Smallwood had a display of many forms of glass products. Very popular with the ladies were a number of attractive items of glass jewellery! It was certainly a very popular talk and display of so many different ways of using glass.

Edlesborough W.I. is 80 years old this year, and we celebrated by holding our Birthday Dinner at Dunstable Downs Golf Club. As in previous years, we were served an excellent meal by the friendly staff, and our thanks go to Ann Brinklow for making the arrangements. Mary Forlenza was our after-dinner speaker on the subject of "Women".

Her talk was both humorous and serious.

Mary compared her life of wife and mother to that of women who have made an impact on people worldwide. She shared with us amusing memories of her family life. On the serious aspect of her talk, she spoke of her admiration for women such as Anne Frank. Who could fail to be moved when reading the wartime diaries of this young girl? It was a really thought-provoking talk, and very well received. Thank you, Mary.

Val Harris

Eaton Bray Cricket Club

100 Club Winners

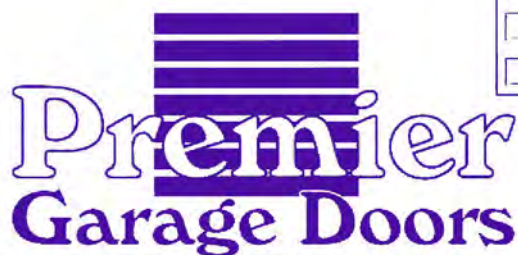
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October 2008

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