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December/January 2009

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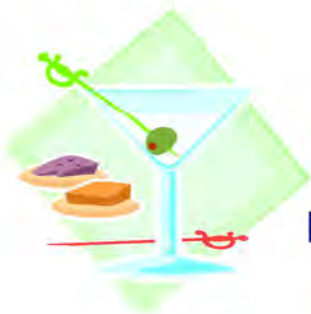
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Focus - The Four Village Magazine

Magazine Committee

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

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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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Focus would like to remind contributors that the deadline for articles is the 10th of the preceding month

Police Contact Numbers...making neighbourhoods safer together

Bedfordshire Police (Eaton Bray)

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P.C. Viv Dady Mobile 07908520148

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

Eaton Bray Cricket Club

100 Club Winners

November 2008

£100	James Flecknell	No. 87
£50	Marianne Nicholas	No. 25
£25	Barry Meakins	No. 57
£10	Margaret Jones	No. 109

Eaton Bray Cricket Club is kindly sponsored by F.A. Hawkins and M&M Properties

Village Diaries December/January 2009



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

Monthly

- 1st Monday Eaton Bray Parish Council Meeting, 7.30pm, 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

- 10th Dec Christmas Bingo, Dagnall Village Hall 8pm.
- 12th Dec Leukaemia Research Sherry & Mince Pies Morning, 2 Dunstable Road, Dagnall 10.30 am
- 16th Dec Dagnall Over 60's, Christmas Lunch 2pm Village Hall
- 7th & 21st Jan Bingo, Dagnall Village Hall 8pm
- 9th Jan Leukaemia Research Coffee Morning, 2 Dunstable Road, Dagnall 10.30 am
- 20th Jan Dagnall Over 60's, Birthday Party 2pm Village Hall

One Off/Annual/Irregular Events

- 3rd Dec Senora's Womenswear, stylish knitwear & separates for sale @ The Coffee Tavern, Eaton Bray 2.30-4pm Anthea 222011
- 5th Dec Edlesborough School Christmas Market, 5-7pm
- 6th Dec Eaton Bray Methodist Church Bazaar, 12 noon
- 6th Dec All Saints' Church, Dagnall, Christmas coffee morning, 10.30 am - 12.30 pm
- 21st-24th Jan Edlesbray Players "Starwreck" Pantomime, 7.30pm plus one matinee on 24th at 2pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall
- 22nd Jan Evening of light Christian Music & Buffet 7.45pm at All Saints Dagnall
- 30th Jan RNLI Soup Kitchen at 1, Chestnut Close, Dagnall. 12-2pm

Iain Rennie Tea@3

Val & Chris would like to thank everyone who helped raise £221 at the Tea@3 for the Iain Rennie Hospice at Home on November 6th.

Parish of St Mary's, Eaton Bray with Edlesborough

At the November meeting, our vicar, Malcolm Grant advised the Parochial Church Council of his decision to retire from full-time ministry and that he will therefore be leaving the parish in March 2009.

Malcolm's last service will be on Sunday 8th March and we will thereafter be without a vicar until the Diocesan authorities can recruit and appoint a replacement – although every effort will be made to ensure that services at St Mary's are interrupted as little as possible.

I am sure that I speak for many in the villages, members of the congregations at St Mary's and at All Saints, Dagnall as well as other parishioners when I say that Malcolm and his family will be greatly missed. Since his appointment in July 2002, the quiet support that he has given to many, especially the sick and the recently bereaved, has been an enormous source of comfort, as has his leadership and sense of purpose within the parish.

Chris Banks
Churchwarden

The Late Percy Moore

Edna and her loving family wish to thank Canon Malcolm Grant, Father John Heffer and Canon Mark Bonney. Also the wonderful work of the Paramedics, good friend Beryl Bishop and the Ambulance Team.

Especially not forgetting all their loving friends and neighbours for all their unfailing love, kindness and support they have given to us all.

The beautiful flowers, sympathy cards and especially the donations to MacIntyre Homes, 42a Haddon, where their handicapped daughter Sarah, and her friends live were very much appreciated. In memory of my dear husband Percy.

Thank you all.

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Whether you are ready to use your existing skills or learn new ones ring us at 01296 431911 Email acb@ageconcernbucks.org.uk.

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Edlesborough Under 5's

Halloween was celebrated in great style, as the children and staff dressed up for the whole week and became truly involved with this theme. The sessions were run with the normal educational areas with the added extra of the making of models, masks and spiders. The home corner was transformed into a fantastic cave for the children to explore and add their own ideas and creations. By the end of the week all the children were excited about their Halloween party which was organised by volunteer parents and the hall was completely transformed overnight. Friday was lots of fun and the work put into yet more activities for the party was fantastic. The children sat down to hot dogs and salad followed by decorated biscuits and fruit. The children then explored the activities and got stuck in, especially the jelly! The fun finished with party games and a dance around.

Mains Drainage for Postcodes LU6 2EE, 2EH, 2EJ & 2EQ. (Tring Road, Leighton Road, Pine Road - 38 households)

Progress Report 05/11/08.

‘Assessment for Public Sewage’ application forms were posted to Anglian Water Ltd. on 4th Nov. 2008. Thanks to residents who returned the Survey Forms and to Edlesborough Parish Council and Aylesbury Vale District Council for letters of support.

See your ‘FOCUS’ magazine for future progress reports.

Talbot Griffiths

Charity Christmas Puzzle 2008

It is nearly time for Gordon Gray, Reader at St Mary’s Eaton Bray, to distribute this year’s Charity Christmas Puzzle. The Puzzle, the 18th annual Puzzle that Gordon has set, has a theme designed to help completion and will appeal to people who enjoy doing Crossword puzzles, such as in the Daily Telegraph (though it is not a Crossword puzzle). Puzzlers have plenty of time to find the answers and Puzzles should be returned, with donation, by 25 January.

Four winners will each receive a £25 prize.

Everyone who enters will qualify for a £25 prize draw.

Gordon plans to post Puzzles on 7 December, so those already on the distribution list should receive their copies by 9 December. Anyone else who would like a copy of the Puzzle can access it from the web at www.christmaspuzzle.co.uk. You can register early to receive a copy on the issue date of 8 December.

Over £27,000 raised for charity

Over £3,000 donated in each of the last four years

This year’s puzzle will support six charities. If you want further details contact Gordon Gray on 01525 220136.

Beat the Housing Market – Build an Extension

The dark, cold days of winter are here. You'd like to move house but the market is at a standstill, and you can't get a mortgage for love or money. Perhaps the best course is to improve what you've got - convert the loft, build an extension, go in for some green energy generation or put up that summerhouse in the garden.

But aren't we talking serious hassle here? Wouldn't we need planning permission, and neighbours will probably object. The answer to which is POSSIBLY NOT. You can do a lot without planning permission. The limits are set out in the Government's snappily titled General Permitted Development Order. This has just been revised to "make it a whole lot easier to improve your home" (Caroline Flint – Housing and Planning Minister). But minister's claims are rarely matched by reality and Council planners are finding the new rules more difficult to interpret than the old ones. Previous limits for house extensions were 50m³ or 10% for terraces (70m³ or 15% for other houses), up to a maximum of 115m³. Now, if you want a rear or side extension the limit, in most cases, is 50% of the open land around the "original" house, i.e. the garden.

This seems clear but, as usual, the devil is in the detail. There are what Ms. Flint calls "carefully calculated size limits" to ensure what you can do "strikes the right balance between the interests of homeowners and their neighbours". So don't get too excited at the prospect of doubling the size of your house, there are many limitations. An extension may not:

- be higher than the existing house or extend more than 4 metres beyond the rear wall of a detached house (3 metres for others);
- exceed 4 metres in height if single storey (7 metres if more than 1 storey) or extend more than 3 metres beyond the rear wall if more than one storey high;
- come within 2 metres of the boundary of the "curtilage" of the house (usually taken to be the garden) where the height of the eaves exceeds 3 metres;
- extend beyond the side wall of the house if it is more than 4 metres high, more than one storey or is more than half as wide as the original dwelling house;
- involve or include a veranda, balcony or raised platform; etc, etc.

So it's dead easy to work out whether you need planning permission isn't it? Or perhaps not!

Lots of other changes and additions are also permitted. You can add a porch, microwave antenna, solar panels, ground source heat pumps; convert the loft; or build a greenhouse, detached garage, summerhouse, swimming pool, or tennis court in the garden, or anything else "incidental to the enjoyment of a dwelling house" without planning permission. But these are also subject to complex limitations.

The householder is on the horns of a dilemma. You want to do something to your house or in the garden, but don't want the expense and delay involved in getting planning permission. You need to be sure your proposal is "permitted" before you proceed. Get it wrong and the Council could take enforcement action for breach of planning control. You risk having to apply for retrospective permission. At worst you may have to take down what you put up. How can you find out if permission is needed? Your local council may offer advice but will often charge for this service. Or there is an "interactive" guide on the "planningportal" website under "houseguide", but it isn't easy. Best of luck!

George Crutcher. MRTPI

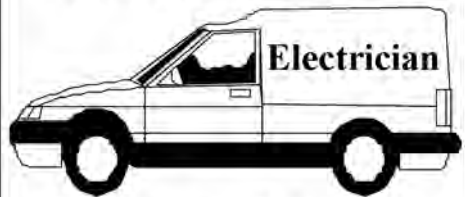
[This is the first of an occasional series on Town Planning. George Crutcher is a locally based Planning Consultant. He can be contacted on 07797 070992.]



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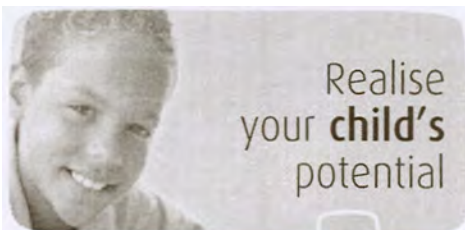
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Hon. Assistant Priest : The Revd John Heffer

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Several commentators have seen in the election of Barack Obama as the next President of the United States of America the fulfilment of Martin Luther King's famous "dream" in one of his Christmas sermons: "I have a dream that one day men will rise up and come to see that they are made to live together as brothers. I still have a dream this morning that one day every Negro in this country, every coloured person in the world, will be judged on the basis of the content of his character rather than the colour of his skin .." - words first spoken at the height of the racial conflict in the southern states. Those of us who remember those days may indeed feel that something of that dream has come true.

It is significant that these yearnings were first voiced in a Christmas sermon. At Christ's birth the angels sang of "peace on earth to men of goodwill", and the light of God's love pierced the dark night of human hatred and failure. Those details are integral to the real meaning of the story. God sends His Son into the world to make possible a new future for humanity, a future in which we are delivered from old hatreds and prejudices, and set free to find a new way of living together in harmony. It is too easy for us to sentimentalize the story and so miss the tough talk at its heart. The light of Christmas shows up all that is wrong in our world, and all that is wrong in our own lives – can we see our own greed spotlighted in the current financial crisis, our own hatreds and resentment mirrored in the conflicts and terrorism of today, our own undisciplined passions in the disorder of our society?

If so, then we can also see the only way to put things right. "Peace on earth" can be built only among people of goodwill, and goodwill means that we think of others before ourselves. In the Civil Rights struggle in the USA it was the work of people of goodwill that overcame the old order of deep hatred and division. Goodwill towards one another is God's way of re-ordering our fragmented world. Christmas brings us a message of reconciliation, and challenges each one of us to join the struggle to make the world a better place for all God's children to live in. The birth of Jesus heralds a new order of things, but He needs to enrol us all to achieve it. That's a real challenge as we approach 2009. The Christmas Gospel is that God can do it if we would only let Him.

Martin Luther King's sermon ended with these words: "I still have a dream that with this faith we will be able to adjourn the councils of despair and bring new light into the dark chambers of pessimism. With this faith we will be able to speed up the day when there will be peace on earth and goodwill toward men. It will be a glorious day, the morning stars will sing together, and the sons of God will shout for joy."

May you all enjoy a peaceful and joyful Christmas, and may the New Year be rich with blessings for us all.

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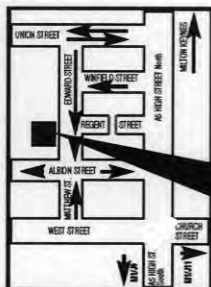


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Dagnall News

Over 60's

For our November meeting we welcomed a visit from Mrs Joan Harrington, who spoke on behalf of Hearing Dogs for the Deaf. The afternoon proved to be very interesting and all agreed it was fascinating to see what these dogs could achieve.

Our December meeting as usual will be devoted to Christmas lunch. We are anticipating a full house, with the members participating in carol singing and the Lucky Prize Draw. Bring a prize to win a prize – maximum £2 in value.

We will take this opportunity of extending the compliments of the season to our readers and to wish them good health and happiness in 2009.

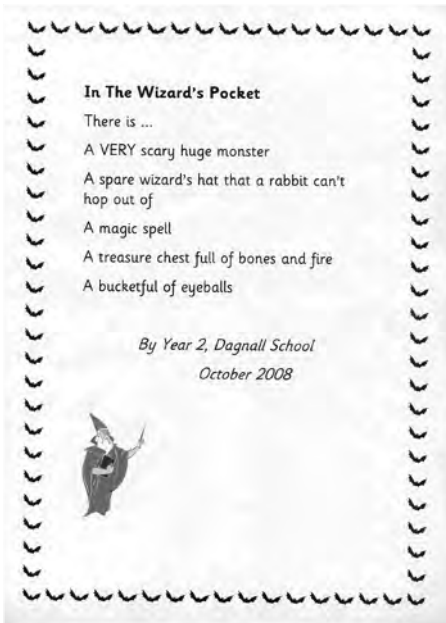
Dagnall Church

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.

It was regrettable that the floral art demonstration, due to be held on 8 November, had to be cancelled due to lack of interest.

Dagnall School

Congratulations to Dagnall school on its 100th birthday on January 11th.



Dagnall Under Fives

The children have been enjoying activities based around the theme of festivals. They had a spooky Halloween morning, danced to Indian music for Diwali, made a sukah for the Jewish Sukot festival and created some wonderfully sparkly pictures for Bonfire night. Our focus now will be on colours, day and night and of course Christmas.

Dagnall Under Fives would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas and New Year!

Dagnall Village Hall

DAGNALL DIP October 2008

The DAGNALL DIP is a regular raffle which raises money for the Dagnall Village hall. The money collected in ticket sales is shared equally by the hall funds and the winners through cash prizes. In the latest draw made at the committee meeting on the 21st October, we raised £88 for the hall funds and returned £85 in prizes.

The following local resident winners were:

- 1st prize Mrs Foster £30,
- 2nd prize Mrs Quinn £20,
- 3rd prize Mrs Coates £15,
- 4th prize Mr Guerneý £10,
- 5th prize Mrs Wallace £10.



The Festival Display at
Dagnall Under Fives

Have you told super-Santa just how good your child has been this year?

Are you hanging up your stockings on the wall? Are you hoping that the snow will start to fall? No? Well maybe it's a little early for all that but remember the last postings for Australia and New Zealand have already passed – and anything for Chile and Argentina has (literally) missed the boat! It isn't too late though to get THE most important Christmas letter of them all done! Your child's super-special letter from super-Santa is just three short steps away – and it will be just the thing in the week before Christmas to pump them up to super-excited Christmas overload!



Step 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 – the super-codeword is "Village Hall Project"! – if you can't get to the elves safe-house then just drop a line to the super-hub of the super-Santa interweb datacenter super.santa@talktalk.net.

Step 2 - Return the super-note to super-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 more of you like – after all super-Santa donates ALL the money to Eaton Bray Village Hall!)

Step 3 – Sit back and wait for your child's completely unique letter from super-Santa to drop through their letterbox!

No two letters from super-Santa 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!!

super-Santas super-Elves

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CUT YOUR CARBON



Cut Your Carbon will launch a second competition for funding on 11th October 2008 at an Academy event being held in The Moller Centre, Cambridge.

Cut your Carbon (CYC) is a community carbon reduction initiative in two stages. The Cut your Carbon Campaign is a call to action for communities to measure and reduce their carbon footprint through awareness raising, community action, and the CYC community carbon footprint calculator.

The Campaign will run continuously for three years. The CYC Competition is an opportunity for communities to win funding for community carbon reduction projects. The Competition will run as a series of rounds over a period of three years between dates set and published by the East of England Development Agency (EEDA).

Full details and check your carbon footprint on the CYC website:

www.cutyourcarbon.org.uk



What kind of projects?

Communities can seek between £5,000 and £200,000 for capital assets that will cut their carbon emissions. We are taking a broad approach as to what this could include, but some examples include:

- renewable / sustainable energy solutions
- reducing waste or water usage
- cutting carbon from transport

We welcome big ideas and creativity, but there doesn't necessarily have to be any sophisticated technology involved. We want to see projects that are inspiring and could be copied by others, or that tackle a familiar problem in an innovative way. It's up to you to tell us how you want to cut your carbon!

The term 'Community' is used here to mean any group with a geographic connection and / or shared interests.

A Community can include:

- an organisation that serves a specific community
- a group of individuals
- a group of individuals containing one or more suitable organisation
- a group of suitable organisations

The following are not considered to be eligible as a Community to apply to the competition or to receive funding:

- A single individual
- A single household
- A single organisation that aims to make a profit (groups of organisations are acceptable)

- Statutory bodies other than parish/town councils or schools

To find out more about the competition telephone Sue Norman on 01234 832614 or email suen@bedsrcc.org.uk

Eaton Bray Post Office Closure

The Sidhu family and Jennie would like to thank everybody for their support and custom in the Post Office. It is with regret we had to close. We know it is going to cause problems for a lot of our customers.

We would like to say a heartfelt thank you to everyone who contacted the consultation team, even though they took no notice.

You will still be able to pay some utility bills, council tax and rent or anything which can be paid at a payzone. Places to pay can be found on the back of the bills. Some budget cards, e.g. Electricity and Quantum Gas cards can be topped up. All this can be done at the shop counter.

We hope you will all continue to use the shop as we don't want to lose this as well.

P.S. from Jennie

I would like to thank everyone for the cards, presents and collection. It was very kind of everyone. I will miss everyone very much. Thank you once again.

Jennie

Letter to the Editor

Dear Sally,

I am contacting you about my concerns for the woeful lack of policing we receive from our local Neighbourhood Policing Team.

I have thought about this issue over the last year or so, in order to back up my suspicion that Eaton Bray receives little or no policing I applied under the Freedom of Information Act for crime figures for our Village. Last year we had 211 recorded crimes, but only about 5% of those crimes were detected. Last month I made a further application and find the crime figures for the twelve months up to October this year were 196 recorded crimes a fall of about 7%, but again a detection rate of about 5% (FOI Response from Bedfordshire Police attached).

I, for one, am getting fed up with the platitudes being offered by Bedfordshire Police such as 'we are doing all we can'. Clearly they are doing very little to fight crime in our village.

The County figures for crime fighting suggest a detection rate of 26%, if our local crime figures are so lamentable where are these detections coming from?

I am not intent on adding to the woes of the local police, but I do feel it is time they faced up to the fact we in Eaton Bray are not getting anywhere near the level of policing that we are paying for through our Council Tax.

Yours sincerely

Steve Girling

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Get Fit to Ski – Don't Ski to Get Fit!

With ski season coming up we have put together some useful pointers to help you have a safe and happy holiday.



- At least six weeks before you go, tailor your fitness regime towards skiing. Power, endurance, flexibility and agility are ALL important with skiing.
- For strength, try quarter squats or knee bends. (You should be cautious if you have any knee problems!) For abdominal strength, consider Pilates-style exercises to help improve your core stability.
- For endurance, try stepping up and down off the bottom stair whilst maintaining a good spinal posture, or simply take the stairs rather than the lift.
- For agility, try placing your feet together with your knees slightly bent as if skiing and now jump from side to side, keeping the knees “soft” (slightly bent.)
- For flexibility, the particular muscle groups you should pay attention to are: quadriceps (front of thigh) hamstrings (back of thigh) and calf muscles.
- Don't forget to break in any new ski boots before you go.

On the slopes

Help those muscles warm up before you ski. You can get cold waiting for chair lifts, so swing your arms and legs, jump up and down and generally move around before you start to ski.

- Fuel Stops - don't skip meals and ensure that you keep your energy up with a good carbohydrate intake. Take muesli bars for snacks in rest periods.
- Keep Hydrated - that's water, not alcohol!
- Finally - don't get in “just one last ski run” - fatigue, combined with cold, can lead to poor judgement and accidents.

In the unfortunate event that an injury does occur, don't attempt to continue skiing, follow the basic first aid guidelines of RICE (Rest, Ice, Compression and Elevation) and seek advice from a Chartered Physiotherapist.

A final note

If you are worried about your level of fitness, or are unsure of the exercises outlined in this article, consult a Chartered Physiotherapist. The team at St Judes are always happy to help.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



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EDaN Project – Youth Project Team

We have welcomed a resident of Northall to our project team but we still need more help, particularly from Edlesborough residents, if we are to cover the three villages effectively. Please contact us if you would like to join our team.

During our consultations with the youngsters it became clear that some of them were unaware of the range of facilities currently available to them in the villages. We are producing a directory

of “what’s on” which we hope to distribute with the first issue of Focus in 2009. If you run a sports club, dance class or other activity in the villages which caters for children or teenagers and you have not already been contacted by us then please get in touch so that we can include you in the directory.

Please contact: Liz Coates on 01442 842550 email lizcoates@btinternet.com or Vicky Lee on 01442 843661 email vickylee35@hotmail.com .

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)	

Age Concern...

are looking for a driver to help on a Wednesday (about once a month). It is a very rewarding and friendly atmosphere. Please contact John Plater on 01525 221095 if you are interested.

Eaton Bray Methodist Church

A reminder that our CHRISTMAS LUNCH and BAZAAR will be held on SATURDAY December 6th from 12 noon, tickets available from Graham Carter on 01525 220742. There will be various stalls selling Christmas Goodies, so if you dont want lunch just come along and do a little effortless shopping, have a cup of tea or coffee and meet up with friends.

Our Carol Service will be held on Sunday December 20th at 10.30am and will be led by our minister Rev. Peter Dudeney. This is always a special time when our young people give us food for thought with their own views of the Christmas Story.

On CHRISTMAS DAY we have a service at 10.30am which will be led by Mr Bob Harris. We do offer a warm welcome to you to join us for what is always a happy and special time.

January Lunches will be on Saturday 10th from 12.00 noon.



Mary Mayne
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The Mayne Event

On a beautiful October day we opened the doors of the Edlesborough Memorial Hall and the fundraising for Papworth Hospital began. The quilts had been hung, Danny's pin striping was neatly displayed, the raffle table prepared and the tea ladies ready to pour tea and slice cake. There was a buzz around the hall the whole day and everyone appeared to be enjoying the show and the teas. At 4pm, we drew the raffle and began to take the quilts down. It is amazing how quickly they come down in comparison to the time it takes to put them up! The chairs were set up for Peter's evening show and the projector and screen put in position. The doors opened again at 6-30pm. And more visitors arrived eager to see the slides of old Eaton Bray and Edlesborough and to hear the old tales that just have to be told! Again, teas were served and another raffle held. Maurice Sanders had produced a booklet on the Methodist Youth Clubs activities over the years and this was on sale, all proceeds to go to Papworth Hospital with his blessings. We would also like to thank the Carnival Committee for their very generous donation of £50, a very kind thought indeed. The Mayne Family would like to thank everyone for supporting such a worthy cause, especially Vicky, who has been in touch with her support team at the Hospital and told them that we have raised over £1600! They are thrilled with our efforts and also send a big thank you!

Funds are still being swelled with the sale of the books and a few donations being sent to us. Anyone wanting to buy Maurice's book can get it from us for the princely sum of a fiver!!!

Thank you once again.

Peter, Mary, Andy, and Danny Mayne and Vicky, Steve, Nell and Grace Blackmore

All Saints, Dagnall - Services and Meetings in December 2008 and January 2009

Wed. 3rd Dec.	7.45 pm	Mid-week Meeting led by Revd Peter Dudeney
Sat. 6th Dec.	10.30 am	Coffee Morning
Sun. 7th Dec.	9.00 am	Eucharist
	10.30 am	Morning Service
	6.00 pm	Evening Service with Holy Communion
Wed. 10th Dec.	7.45 pm	Mid-week Meeting - Speaker: Clare Robinson from Whipsnade Zoo
Thu. 11th Dec.	7.30 pm	Eucharist
Sun. 14th. Dec.	4.00 pm	Dagnall Village Carol Service
Tue. 16th Dec.	7.45 pm	Circuit Carol Service at the Methodist Church, The Square, Dunstable
Sun. 21st Dec.	10.30 am	Family Communion
	6.00 pm	Carol Singing
Tue. 23rd Dec.	7.00 pm	Carol Singing
Christmas Day	9.00 am	Eucharist
	10.30 am	Family Service
Sun. 28th Dec.	10.30 am	Carol Praise
Sun. 4th Jan.	10.30 am	Covenant Service
	6.00 pm	Evening Service
Wed. 7th Jan.	7.45 pm	Mid-week Meeting - Eileen Bennett speaks about Digital Photography
Thu. 8th Jan	7.30 pm	Eucharist
Sun. 11th Jan.	10.30 am	Morning Service
	6.00 pm	Sung Eucharist
Wed. 14th Jan.	7.45 pm	Mid-week Meeting led by Canon Malcolm Grant
Sun. 18th Jan.	10.30 am	Family Communion
Thu. 22nd Jan.	7.45 pm	An Evening with Christian Singing Duo - 'Light Touch'
Sun. 25th Jan.	9.00 pm	Eucharist
	10.30 pm	Family Service
	4.00 pm	United Service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity at Eaton Bray Methodist Church
Wed. 28th Jan.	7.45 pm	Mid-week Meeting led by Revd Vindra Maraj-Ogden
Sun 1st Feb.	9.00 am	Eucharist
	10.30 am	Morning Service
	6.00 pm	Evening Service with Holy Communion
Sunday School meets each Sunday at 10.30 am.		



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!

We would like to invite you to

An evening of light music with Christian singing duo

Light Touch

followed by a buffet supper

at All Saints' Church, Dagnall

on Thursday, 22nd January at 7.45 pm

*Donations on the evening to the Hospice of St. Francis,
Berkhamsted*

*For information contact: Chriss (01525 222288)
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Can you think as far ahead as 14th June 2009?

**It will be light. It will be warm.
We will all be enjoying our gardens.**

Time then for:



OPEN GARDENS 2009



To stage this successful event for a fourth year we will need some new gardens as well as revisiting favourites from previous years.

Can you help?

If you might be prepared to open your garden either as a newcomer or an old hand please contact Kay Griffiths 01525 22849. You will be contributing to a growing community event and raising money for charity.

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

Tea Dance

The Tea Dance held on November 1st in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support, this year's Parish Project, was a great success and raised £501 for Macmillan.

St Mary's would like to thank everyone who supported in any way, baking, helping in the kitchen, providing the music, setting up and clearing away or coming along and joining in. We have received many compliments on the delicious refreshments and setting.

By popular demand more Tea Dances will be organised in 2009 so look out for details in Focus or notices around the villages.

Sheila Banks, Kathy Fry, Lyn Stubbs

Salvation Sound...December 2008

SANTA'S REPLY.....

I wrote a letter to Santa Claus;
It took a long time, I had many a pause;
You see I really didn't know what to ask,
I found it a most difficult task.

For me, perhaps a nice new skirt,
For him, a plaid fleecy shirt.
For Gran, a shawl to keep her warm,
Her old one's a bit tattered and torn.

The little ones, now they needed toys,
Suitable for both girls and boys.
Some books and a comic or two;
Apples, oranges and nuts, just a few would do.



Well, I came down this morning, and under the tree
Divers parcels I did see.
I thought to have a weeny peep, one might be for me!
There was, sure enough, a little tin box,
And inside was horrible ginger SNUFF.

As it was only Christmas Eve, I hurried
To the Super Store, before Santa Claus did leave.
Excuse me Sir," I said, I was polite;
I think someone made an error last night."

"The delivery you made to me,
It was a gross mistake, d'you see.
I'm sure your little helper elf
Should have left this box up on the shelf."

Santa Said, "No, I think 'twas me,
I'm getting on in years, is my plea,
It takes so much longer I have found
To do the Christmas present round.--

So let us forget about the parcel please,
Forget about the tree,
Forget about the fairy lights,
And elves and reindeer and starry nights.

Because you see there's more meaning to Christmas,
Something that's really auspicious,
More important than Santa, more precious than gold,
Is JESUS, whose story I'm sure you've been told.

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY....

OUR COFFEE MORNING ON
DECEMBER 16th. WILL BE
HELD AT NIKKI'S BUNGALOW
IN BOWER LANE. NOT IN THE
S/A HALL.
BRING AND BUY, CAROLS
AND MINCE PIES: NOT TO BE
MISSED
ALL ARE WELCOME.

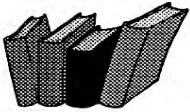
So let us put Christ back into Christmas,
And remember why He came.
It was to save a world from darkness,
A people lost in shame.
Let us hail our precious Saviour,
Alive in us today,
And thank Him on His birthday,
For coming here to stay.....

Maureen



"For unto you is born this day, in the city of David a saviour, which is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:11.

Wishing for you a Christmas blessed with hope, and joy, and love.



Edlesborough Book Group Review

The Uncommon Reader by Alan Bennett



The Uncommon Reader by Alan Bennett, at first glance seems a rather insubstantial book. A small volume, barely more than one hundred pages long, it doesn't qualify either as a short story or as a novella, but somewhere in between the two. But because of the literacy and observational skills of its author it becomes, in the end a very satisfying read. His ability to transfer the idiosyncrasies of British speech and manners to the written page is very entertaining and gives the book depth as well as being extremely amusing.

On the surface, it is a fairy tale concerning the Queen and her serendipitous discovery of literature and the joys of reading. But, as we read on, we hear a more subversive voice decrying the British class system, hypocrisy and lack of equality of opportunity. There are wonderfully sly portraits of the Royal family, Her Majesty's courtiers and politicians that portray a sharp but sympathetic view of a very limited life. As the Queen reads more and becomes more absorbed and knowledgeable, she tries to share her interest with her staff, family and cabinet, to hilarious effect.

Alan Bennett's satire of palace life and story of a personal journey through the vast treasury of world literature, by one of the most travelled women on the planet, is absorbing and very entertaining. He never fails to keep us turning the page, his views although somewhat cheeky are never cruel or disrespectful. But by the end of the story, one realises a lot of issues have been raised.

The group, in general, liked the book and was amused by it. The members appreciated the writing skill and the humour, but were uncertain into which category the book fell. It was, however, an excellent book to discuss as it dealt with so many social issues as well as literature.

We would all recommend it to reading groups.

Stuart Ball

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Eaton Bray Lawn Tennis Club

Once again, the sun shone brightly on our club Final's day, the culmination of several months of knock-out rounds, and the barbecue sizzled succulently as once more our 48 menu options were hungrily devoured by players and supporters alike. Michael Tatham took his second Men's Singles title as he beat last year's champion Darren Kerins. Darren struck back later in the afternoon though, partnering with Jane Wigley, both overcoming Jane Cross and Emlyn Morgan to win the Mixed Doubles. Incredibly, this victory retained his ranking as our most prolific Champion, making this his 21st title overall, his first being all the way back in 1993 when he won both the Singles and the Men's Doubles. That same year his sister Tracy also won the Ladies Doubles, so a good year for the Kerins family. Congratulations Darren, 21 titles will take some beating!

Jane Cross had earlier partnered Judy Venn in the Ladies Doubles, to beat Jane Wigley and Danielle Tansley, hence winning her 10th overall title. Judy's title is her 3rd, having won her first in the Mixed Doubles back in 1989 at the club's inaugural Championship, playing with husband Mike. Mike also partnered with Peter Hale that year to win the Men's Doubles (Peter also won the Men's Singles), the same year that a certain Boris Becker won the Men's title at Wimbledon with fellow German Steffi Graf winning the Ladies. Peter had to wait a further 14 years to win his next title, the Mixed Doubles with partner Olga Davison in 2003. He confidently expects to take his next title in 2017 !! At least Peter won again though; 1989 was to be Boris's last title at Wimbledon, whilst Steffi went on to take a further 5 Championships there.

To digress for a moment, 1989 was a year we shouldn't forget for many reasons. It was the year Tim Berners-Lee, a British scientist studying at a research facility in Switzerland, invented a method of organising information which he called the world-wide-web (www). Where would we be without that? A gallon of petrol cost £1.68 (that's 37p per litre), a Chinese protestor took on a tank in Tiananmen Square and a British Midland Boeing 737 crashed on the M1. In shipping, the Marchioness went down in the Thames, and the Exxon Valdez spilt 11 million gallons of oil after running aground. Then, of course, there was the terrible football disaster at Hillsborough. Happier events included the Berlin Wall coming down, the end of the Angolan civil war, the birth of British Olympic swimming heroine Rebecca Adlington, Sky TV was launched, and of course we held our first Club Championships. Sadly Sky declined our offer to come along and cover them! Mind you, they weren't at the Olympics either.

Back on the courts, Jenny Baines's Ladies Singles title went unchallenged this year due to the unavailability of players, but we enjoyed a very closely fought Men's Doubles match which went right to the wire with three sets and tiebreaks; Nick Boys and partner Glenn Wigley took to the floor, eventually running out winners against their dance-off opposition, Simon Jones and Mikey Daniels. We also savoured a keenly competitive Junior tournament. Mikey Daniels took the Under 16's title in a close match against runner-up Jamie Holt. In the Under 13's, Laura Baylis defeated Sophie Mitchener by

one point in another tight match to take the 2nd title that day for her family – Laura is the granddaughter of Ladies Doubles winner Judy Venn!

The most ‘decorated’ family in a single year, in the history of the club, are the Moores, who back in 1991 won between them 7 out of the 8 available Senior titles; Wayne in the Men’s Singles, Doubles and Mixed, Jennie in the same Ladies equivalents, and Craig in the Men’s Doubles with father Wayne. There are 5 families who have amassed Senior titles running into double figures. Tying at 10 titles are the Abercrombies (Mike, Val and Lisa) and the Cross’s (just Jane I’m afraid..!), in 3rd place with 11 titles are the Baines’s (all down to Jenny), then there’s a big gap to 2nd place where, with a whopping 27 titles, is the Moore family (Wayne, Jennie, Craig and Jon). But, just edging into 1st place with a magnificent 28 titles, are the Kerins, thanks to Darren, Craig, Tracy and father Don. That’s an average of 1.75 titles per year from 1993 to 2008. The Moore family however won their 27 titles over a period of 9 years from 1990 up to 1998, so that’s an average of 3 titles per year which may take some time to surpass!

Finally, we’d like to say a big ‘thank you’ to Peter Bennett of Burghope’s Charity Land, who have donated £200 to the club to help sponsor some additional Junior coaching. This is much appreciated, and will be used to help our especially talented youngsters to further improve their standards of play through specialised coaching, and travelling to local tournaments to take part in more competitive tennis.

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 putting up my Christmas tree, me, Andy Cross, on 01582 477114.

Our Little bit to Help fight the Flab

As I write this, it must be remembered that Christmas is approaching and I have to rush off soon to order the turkey, this then brings me on to New Year and that takes me in to 2009 and that is why I am writing this little bit.

The Village Hall is now looking rather splendid but we still have work to do, car park, furnish the meeting room and quite a few other things that the trustees need to decide on. So we are still in need of funds!

Following on from our great success from the last quiz with Eaton Bray Tennis Club, we have jointly decided to hold an evening of:

**Food, Humour and Dance.
On Saturday 28th February 2009
in the Village Hall.**

Our aim is to titillate your palates, make you laugh with our pair of comedians and finish off by getting rid of those extra calories with dancing to live music. A completely guilt free evening!! More information in the February Focus or contact me Ross on 01525 221411.

Whilst writing may I wish all villagers a very Happy and Peaceful Christmas and New Year

Rural Rhythms – Visit by the Masquerade String Quartet from The Orchestra of the Swan

Eaton Bray Lower School gave the orchestra's musicians a warm and friendly welcome when they met Explorchestra for the first time on 12th September.

The children's musical adventure was part of the orchestra's residency in South Bedfordshire which is supported by South Bedfordshire District Council and Orchestras Live. We gratefully acknowledge additional support from The Golsoncott Foundation, Houghton Regis Town Council and Bedfordshire Youth Opportunities Fund.

After initial discussion with Emma van Nieuwenburgh (Arts Development Officer, South Bedfordshire District Council) Headteacher Mrs Sue Hounslow invited OOTS' Masquerade String Quartet to work with Year three and four pupils on our **Between the Lines detective challenge**.

The children came well prepared, thanks to Mrs Aldridge's imaginative use of the orchestra's staff support notes. The children were full of questions which ranged from "What colour is your front door?" to "what size are your feet?" and "How do you do that plucking stuff?" The aim of the day was to equip the children with information to create biographies, programme notes and drawings for the audience to use at a public performance ten days later. Pupils also decided where individual pieces should be placed in the performance and considered what features made a good 'start' piece, how to use variety and contrast in planning a programme, and to think about mood.

Assisting the Badgers Class detectives with their enquiries were OOTS musicians Nick Stringfellow (cello), Mark Chivers (viola), Elizabeth Hodson and Simon Chalk (violin). Careful questioning led the pupils on a journey into the musicians' world, cast light on their enquiries, and helped to uncover the answers to some of the mysteries surrounding the (cello) case. The early assertion that it was a fridge for cold drinks was dispelled and Nick subsequently received a caution for wasting 'police' time.

Pupils were able to present their questions in interview style and to ask everything they'd ever wanted to know. The musicians answered freely and with humour, which was readily returned by the children's amusement when Simon was asked "What's your favourite joke?" Badgers Class now knows where you find a dog with no legs.

The school visit was linked to Masquerade's 'Swan Unbuttoned' public performance in the local community, part of the District Council's Rural Rhythms programme which features Orchestra of the Swan in many guises. The biographies, programme notes and pictures the children created after the visit were printed with pride and used with pleasure by the audience- which included children and parents as well as members of the public- at St Mary's Church in Eaton Bray.

Special thanks for a very enjoyable project go to Mrs Hounslow, Mrs Aldridge and support staff at Eaton Bray Lower School, and to St. Mary's Church for local support and promotion of the performance. And of course to Masquerade for their sparkling delivery and friendly presentation of a very fitting choice of music. Mark Chivers' stage and screen classics arrangements were especially enjoyable, with opportunities for audience participation too.

This is what the children said they liked:

“All of it was brilliant”

“I liked the music because it was a variety”

“When we did the drums in Twentieth Century Fox”

“You were really good and funny. Come again one day!”

And what they didn't like:

“They didn't stay long enough.”

Platinum Fitness – Pilates, Personal Training & Aerobics

We have been running Pilates, Aerobics Classes & Personal Training in the local area for 6 years and after a short break after giving birth to my first child this January we are running some new and exciting classes. My company specialises in Pilates for people with back problems, injuries & medical conditions such as Osteoporosis and Arthritis etc, but we also cater for those people who come for general toning & Fitness. We are also qualified in Ante/Post Natal Exercise and Pilates and have just started a new class called Peek-a-Boo Pilates for mums and babies which integrates Pilates and baby massage and it's a great way to tone up that post baby body without the stress of what to do with the baby. The Aerobic classes we run is Dance Aerobics, which is great for all fitness levels. The classes are run in Caddington on Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays, Tottenham on Mondays, Northall on Wednesday s, Flitton on Thursdays and from the new year will hope to be running sessions in Markeyate and/or Kensworth. We run Free Introductory Sessions throughout the year. Feel free to pop along to a class, for more information call me Lisa Burgess on 412426 or check out www.platinum-fitness.net

Peek-a-Boo Pilates

Let's face it, what we really want after giving birth is our old bodies back!! But it's not as easy as the celebs make it out (well they are helped with surgery after a C section and have personal trainers & nannies on hand)After all that toll on your body through pregnancy, childbirth & motherhood your body is going to need some help! Pilates is the best way to get to target the post pregnancy body, focusing on your 'powerhouse' which include the muscles your deep tummy, waist, pelvic floor, buttocks, hips, inner thighs and back. Your tummy muscles and ligaments would have been overstretched through the last stages of pregnancy and take time to tighten; with the help of Pilates the abdominal muscles will tighten to give you a smoother, flatter tummy. If you had a normal delivery your pelvic floor may be experiencing distress, if you are experiencing urinary incontinence this will be due to a weakened pelvic floor, all exercises in Pilates engage & strengthen the pelvic floor. If you had a C section then you've gone through major abdominal surgery and as a result would be left with extremely weakened tummy muscles. By engaging your 'powerhouse' you will help the muscles to strengthen and aid recovery. Being a new mum myself I know how hard it is to find time or a sitter to do something for yourself, so I designed a class which incorporates exercise & massage for you & your baby. Current classes held in Caddington & Markeyate, with more areas to follow in 2009.

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

Streetlighting repairs

After months of endeavouring to get all the streetlights back into working order the Parish Council have at long last been able to obtain the services of qualified repairers who inspected the lights in November, have repaired some and are having to order several parts for those which are faulty and dangerous due to the rain having got into the mechanism. It is sincerely hoped that by the time you read this report all lights will be working and a continued inspection will follow, repairing lights as and when reported. The Parish Council would like to thank parishioners for their patience.

Cemetery Access

The Parish Council hope to give a positive report early in the New Year.

Planning

Revised guidelines have been received from AVDC regarding the use of Section 106 Agreements in improving the amenities in Parishes.

Freedom of Information Act

The Parish Council will be conforming to the latest requirements of the Act by making available as much information as it can to parishioners via the website.

Traffic Calming

Talks are continuing with Buckinghamshire County Council, Bedfordshire County Council and Hertfordshire County Council regarding the continued used of the A4146 by the waste disposal lorries.

Following a recent accident in Northall details of the designated school bus stops have been requested and received from Buckinghamshire County Council. Pupils disembarking from the School buses must be aware of the traffic particularly on the A4146 and wait until the bus has moved off before crossing the road.

Speed checks are to be carried out on the new Leighton – Bletchley bypass once the necessary camera warning signs have been installed.

Bucks Fire & Rescue will carry out free home fire safety checks –contact: Community Safety on 01296 744477

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

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

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

Edlesborough

Parish Council Meetings

3rd Thursday of every month

7.30pm Memorial Hall

Next meeting: Thurs 19th Dec 08

Dunstable & District Local History Society

Tuesday 9th December, 7.45pm

‘Dunstable History Pageant’

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Edlesborough School

Remembrance Day 2008

Edlesborough School had a special assembly with a minute's silence on Tuesday November 11th, and Year 6 have also been studying the significance of Remembrance Day and afterwards Jessica Campbell wrote this poem about Remembrance.

If you take yourself back 90 years, to the 11th November 1918
England had signed some boring paperwork, to agree we weren't Germany's bait.
In the trenches that we fought in, were thousands of poppies so red,
That were growing quite randomly, in amongst the blood stained flower bed.
So every year in November, we wear a poppy in respect.
For the soldiers who fought for us in the weather dry and wet.
So on the 11th November every year, we stand in silence for 2 minutes exactly,
To remember those who fought for us in wars long gone by..

Year 4 have been practising writing interesting description.

Lee Saunders wrote this exciting piece

Dragon's Den

A dragon's den is a dark and sinister place with burning evil eyes. Whenever they catch sight of you there's no point running, there's no point screaming for help because ... SNAP! they've already got you. A dragon's den is a creepy wild place with bright red sparks. Anyone who's dared to trespass has never been heard from again. No-one knows why or what actually happened to them or if they died or not. A dragon's den is a frightening and peculiar place with glowing chilling lights. The misty sky around them even frightened the evening lights. A dragon's den is a menacing odd place with little creatures looking at their dinner which is YOU!



Shepherd's Farm Woodpecker!

Daily a woodpecker comes for a feed,
A handsome bird is he!
He has made a groove where he rest his nut
Which he pecks away with glee.
No other bird gets in his way,
Bless him, he does not stay..
So the Tits enjoy a peaceful feed
When he has gone on his way

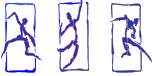


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'Pupils make very good progress'

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(OFSTED 2003)



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Royal British Legion Collection in Northall.

Once again the generous residents of Northall have come up trumps. They have opened their doors to me on cold, dark wet nights, welcomed me in with wet feet, and filled my collecting tin with a smile. Thank you to everyone who contributed. We were slightly down on last year (not surprising considering the awful weather, Halloween etc, not to mention the current national financial situation, but we still managed to raise the impressive sum of £338.14. My thanks go as usual to the customers and staff at “The Swan”, who returned a very heavy tin this year (£73.91), and to the staff and pupils of Edlesborough School, who only had the second week to collect as it was half term, yet still contributed a generous £38.96 .

The trophy which you won last year had to be returned this month. As it was collected, the gentleman from the Bucks British Legion told me that in many places the House to House collection is a thing of the past. “Not in Northall”, I told him! A special thank you to all the people who “waited for me because they knew I would be coming”. I am sorry if I didn’t reach you this year. There seem to be more houses without doorbells, and large locked gates, especially at the far end of the village and it has seemed very dark on the main road this year, so I stopped collecting at 7.30pm each night, which made things take a little longer. If there is an intrepid soul, who would not mind the cold and dark and who would be able to give me a hand next year, I would love to hear from them. You must be able to collect between 5pm and 7.30pm as that is when most people are in.

I would also put out a plea to anyone in Edlesborough, who feels that they might be able to start a House to House collection, even if it is just in their street. I am afraid that I don’t have time to collect in Edlesborough too, but I have spare collecting tins etc and if you let me know before next summer, I can order extra poppies etc for you and we could record the Edlesborough total separately so that you would know how much you raised.

A good piece of news for those people who attend the memorial service at Edlesborough is that, with a lot of help from the Parish council, we have managed to arrange for the main road to be closed for the duration of the service, with the traffic diverted, which will make it much safer and more comfortable for those involved. So thank you again to everyone who contributed to our total in Northall. See you all next year!

Lorna Cubbage. E.B.220361

Lorna Cubbage, “Larums”, Eaton Bray Road, Northall, Nr. Dunstable, Beds. LU6 2EU. Tel: 01525 220361.

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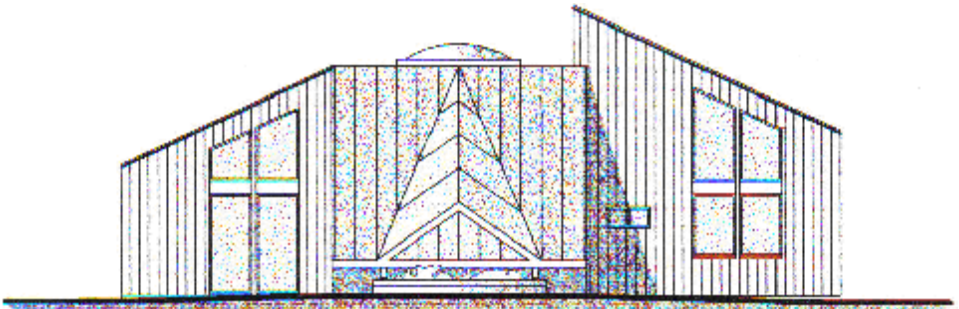
Eaton Bray Lower School

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)

October was an unusual month; we do expect a little bit of late summer and in the last years flowers bloom late into the autumn. Although we had a high temperature of 21.5°C on the 12th it was a shock to the system on the 29th when it dropped to -4.0°C, It was below 0°C for 8.5 hours, clear skies and no wind. The temperature remained around 0°C for 4 days

I have been having problems with e-mail please now use davidgkillick@tiscali.co.uk if anyone has a question, or would like last month's details

David G Killick, Station Owner

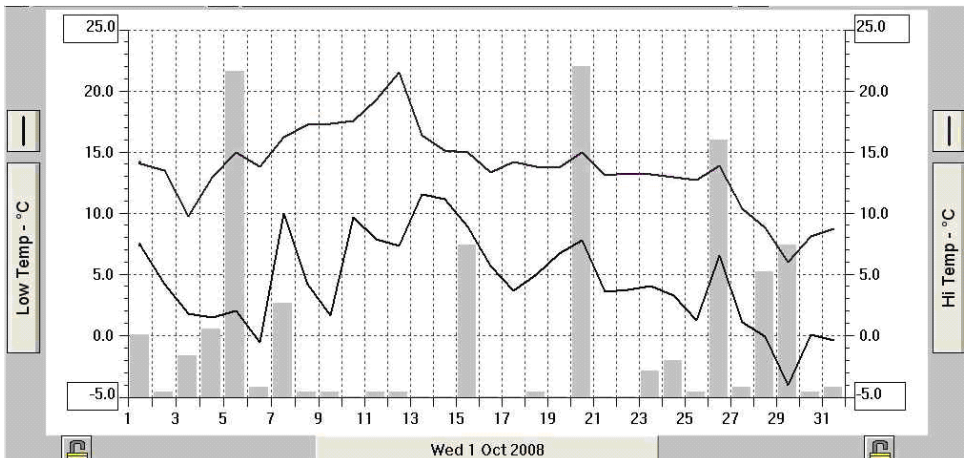


Weather Conditions for October 2008

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

	High	Date/Time	Low	Date/Time
Temperature:	21.5°C	12 Oct 15.30	-4.0°C	29 Oct 07.30
Mean Temperature	9.1°C			
Dewpoint:	15.2°C	12 Oct 13.00	-5.0°C	29 Oct 07.30
Humidity:	98%	7 Oct 09.00	49%	11 Oct 15.30
Barometer:	1031.7 hPa	9 Oct 23.30	993.9 hPa	5 Oct 12.00
Wind Speed	34 mph	25 Oct 22.30	Mths Avg.	6.3 mph
Wind Chill:	21.4°C	12 Oct 15.30	-4.0°C	29 Oct 07.30
Dominant Wind:	W			
Rainfall				
Rain Days: 16	Wettest Day	20 Oct	12.6 mm	0.50 ins
Monthly Rain:	Total	Oct	66.6 mm	2.62 ins
Yearly Rain:	Total	10 Months	719.3mm	28.32 ins

Rain, High & Low Temperature October 2008



Highlights of the Minutes of the Eaton Bray Parish Council Meeting Held in The Coffee Tavern on Monday 3rd November 2008 at 7:30pm

PARISH COUNCIL CONDOLENCES

Eaton Bray Parish Council would like to express their deepest sympathy to family and friends of Edlesborough Parish Councillor, Mr Phil Conacher (Northall Ward) who recently passed away. Our thoughts are with you.

CAR PARKING

The Parish Council would like to ask all parishioners to please park sensibly within the parish, taking care not to park on the pavements as this causes problems and distress to pedestrians; those with buggies/young children, disabled and the elderly, who find they have to walk on the road when unable to walk on the pavement due to cars improperly parked.

POLICING WITHIN THE PARISH

The Parish Council raised their concerns with PC Viv Dady on the lack of police presence within the parish and concerns raised to the Parish Council from local residents. The Parish Council were not happy with how incidents being reported to the police are not acted upon and the little feedback to relevant parties. The Parish Council felt that a letter should be sent to the Chair of the Police Authority, raising their concerns. The Parish Council are continuing to look into the options of bringing in additional policing within the parish.

PC Viv Dady wanted to remind all residents the importance of reporting any incidents they see occurring in the parish, however minor, direct to the local police and obtain a URN number.

TREAT FOR TROOPS/SHOE BOX PARCELS

Further to enquiries to the Parish Council regarding recent reports on sending treats to troops, the Parish Council would like to confirm that all parcels are sent through the Royal Air Force Association to named persons. The list of names, held by the RAFA, are of a number of personnel who act as receivers for the boxes. The RAFA address the boxes and forwards them to the receivers who distribute the parcels among the troops. PLEASE KEEP HANDING YOUR SHOE BOX PARCELS IN, some have already arrived and the thank you letters are coming back!

EATON BRAY PARISH HOUSING NEEDS

The Parish Council would like to get residents views on the housing needs within the parish and have therefore put together a questionnaire which they would like parishioners to complete and return to the Parish Clerk with their views. Please see questionnaire.

CLERK REPORT

The Clerk informed the Parish Council of the additional costs to be incurred for the weekly emptying of the proposed five new dog bins within the parish. It was agreed that the Clerk organise the ordering of the additional dog bins and to agree to the payment of the additional costs to South Beds District Council.

EATON BRAY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

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

website.

Parish Clerk Details: Mrs Heidi Head, 20 Good Intent, Edlesborough, LU6 2RD

Telephone: 01525 222601, Email clerk@ebpc.co.uk, Parish Council Website: www.ebpc.co.uk

**Eaton Bray
Parish Council Meetings
1st Monday of every month
7.30pm The Coffee Tavern
Next Meeting: Mon 1st Dec 08**

EATON BRAY PARISH QUESTIONNAIRE

EATON BRAY PARISH COUNCIL

HOUSING NEEDS WITHIN EATON BRAY PARISH

Eaton Bray Parish Council is looking at identifying the key issues/needs relating to local housing within the parish. Please could you take a moment of your time to complete the questionnaire giving your opinions. Your support with this is greatly appreciated and we hope that by working together we can really help to improve the needs of people living within this parish.

What style of housing do you feel is needed in the parish? (i.e. bungalows, flats, family houses, etc.)	
Do you feel there is need for a small development of affordable housing for local people in the parish?	
What concerns do you have with providing exception site housing within the parish?	
How many dwellings do you feel would be needed/suitable?	
What additional comments would you like to make on housing in the parish?	

Once completed, please cut out the questionnaire and return it to the postal address below, or alternatively email the Parish Clerk on clerk@ebpc.co.uk to request an electronic version of this form which can be completed online and returned.

Postal address: The Parish Clerk, 20 Good Intent, Edlesborough, LU6 2RD

Thank you for comments they are greatly appreciated



Edlesborough W.I.

At our monthly meeting we had a further celebration of our 80th Anniversary.

Prior to this, Ann Brinklow and Kathie Froud were thanked for their help in arranging our very successful Birthday dinner, and we extended our best wishes to Eileen Williams, a long standing member, who is moving to Wiltshire.

We continued with an enjoyable 'chat amongst yourselves' type evening, having no speaker on that occasion. Kathie Froud had baked and decorated a beautiful cake, which went down well with a glass of Buck's Fizz. Andrea Burke from Eaton Bray brought along a range of clothing, and we all had a grand time browsing and buying - typical of women! It was an informal occasion, thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. Our thanks go to Elizabeth Braiden who recorded the Anniversary by acting as our photographer.

Two further events were attended by a number of members during the month. The first was the half-yearly Council Meeting of the Bucks. Federation held in Aylesbury, when we were privileged to hear a fascinating talk by Kate Adie, O.B.E. The well-known B.B.C. reporter spoke on risks many people endure in carrying out their work, and her curiosity as to what leads them to life-endangering careers. What a thought-provoking talk it was by a remarkable lady. On the second occasion we were entertained by "Gabriella" at the Beacon Group meeting held in Pitstone. "Gabriella" is a talented comedienne/singer/ukelele player, and she certainly made our evening a really happy one.

Finally, we are sad to report the death of Vi Read at the grand age of 98. Vi was always a keen member of our Institute over a great many years.

Val Harris

Eaton Bray Village Hall 100 Club Winners October 2008

58	Margaret Bashford	£100
73	Dave Fensome	£25
4	Katrina Hurley	£25
95	Hawtin French	£25
108	P Fletcher	£25

Drawn on 20th October 2008 at Eaton Bray Lower School. Please direct any correspondence to Ross Bagni, 71 Bower Lane, Eaton Bray, Bedfordshire, LU6 1RB, Telephone: 01525 221411.



Dunstable & District Orbit Club

Working for the Community

Dunstable & District Orbit Club ran a race night on 18th October at Dunstable Rugby Club. It was a great success and the evening raised £2,400. The money will be split between Luton & Dunstable Neonatal Care Unit, Alzheimers Society and the Rugby Club.

Orbit is a social and charitable club for people in their 30s, 40s onwards and meet every 1st & 3rd Tuesday at Dunstable Rugby

Club at 8pm. We are having an open evening in 20th January 2009, so do come along and bring a friend. You will be very welcome.

Jill Richards

Publicity Officer.



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