Focus May 2012

Envelope inside!



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THE FOUR VILLAGES MAGAZINE

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Focus - The Four Village Magazine

Magazine Committee

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Design and Layout: Tracey Moren (Moren Associates Limited) 01525 229695

Printed by: Priory Press, Dunstable 01582 699851

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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: 07506 745133 Typetalk: 18001 01582 437418

Email: LPT.LeightonRural@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk

Thames Valley Police (Edlesborough, Dagnall & Northall)

General Assistance: 101

PC Jared Levens Mobile: 07773 398 727 PCSO Jackie Dodson Mobile: 07800 703 524 PCSO Chris Baker Mobile: 07974 973 866

Email: WingSouthNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

Village Hall Bookings

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

Northall: Lorna Cubbage, Tel: 01525 220361 Eaton Bray: Norman Lee, Tel: 01525 222831 Dagnall: Elizabeth Coates, Tel: 01442 842550

Edlesborough Memorial Hall: Beverly Douglas, Tel: 01525 222049

EDaN Community Transport

Peter Williams: 01442 842506

Village Diaries May 2012

Weekly

Mon-Fri Eaton Bray Pre-school, Eaton Bray Lower School, 01525 220468

(term time)

Mon-Fri Dagnall Under 5's, Dagnall Village Hall, 9.15am - 12.15pm, Mrs Ann Tobin 07816

(term time) 358342

Edlesborough Under 5's Pre-School, Edlesborough Memorial Hall, Angela Paine. Mon-Fri

(term time) 01525 229529

Totternhoe Pre-school, mornings, Totternhoe Lower School, Ellie Deeley on 07913 Mon-Thu

(term time) 529574

Mondays Pilates, 10.45am, St. Giles Church Hall, Totternhoe, Lisa: 01582 412426

2nd Eaton Bray Brownies, girls 7-10 years, Edlesborough Memorial Hall, 6 -Mondays

(term time) 7.30pm, Sarah 01525 229194

Mondays Dagnall Community Choir, All Saints Church 7.45 – 9.45pm

Weight Watchers, 7pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall Mondays

Mondays Zumba Fitness Class, 9.30-10.30am, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Zoey 07595 986892

Mondays Zumba, Dagnall Village Hall 6.30pm

Tuesdays Line Dancing, 1.30-3p.m., Eaton Bray Village Hall, Lyn Stubbs 220731

Tuesdays Baby's First Cafe (Support for Breastfeeding mums), 9.30 - 11 am, Ivinghoe and

Pitstone Sure Start Children's Centre, Brookmead School, High Street, Ivinghoe Pilates, 10-11am, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Nicky Roussou 07861 162680

Tuesdays

Totternhoe Baby & Toddler Group, 9.30-11.30am, St. Giles Church Hall, Nadine Tuesdays

Morgan 07823 447362

Tuesdays Northall Baby & Toddler Group, 9:30-11:30am, (open in the Summer School

Holidays) Northall Village Hall, Andie 07966437673

Tap & Ballet Classes, JoAnn Latus School of Dance, 4-8pm, Eaton Bray Village Tuesdays

Hall, 01582 620576

Tuesdays Yoga, Dagnall Village Hall 7.45 – 9.15pm

Zumba Fitness Class, 8.15-9.15pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Zoey 07595 986892 Tuesdays

Tuesdays Circuit Training Edlesborough - Edlesborough School Hall - 7-8pm - £5 per class

Tuesdays Coffee Morning, Bring & Buy, Table Top Sale, 10-12noon, Salvation Army Hall,

Fortnightly Booth Place, Eaton Bray

Cheeky Monkeys Under 5's playtime, 1pm - 2.45pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Weds

contact Rachel on 07789 760007 (term time)

Pilates, 7.15pm, Northall Village Hall, Lisa: 01582 412426 Wednesdays

Wednesdays Egyptian Dance Class, 7.30-8.45pm at Eaton Bray Village Hall. Contact: Soraya on

07976 964316 for more details

Northall & District Age Concern Wednesday Club, 10am - 3pm, Northall Village Wednesdays

Hall, Contact Anna 221996 or Julie 220153

Thurs Baby & Toddlers Group, Dagnall Village Hall, 12:45-2:45pm (12:15 if bringing

(term time) lunch) £1 child 50p adult. Contact Faye 07746 120163 or Samantha 07882 903282

Yoga, Northall Village Hall, 11.30am-1pm 01525 377542 Thursdays

Kfa Body Moves 40+, Fitness through movement, exercise & dance. 8-9pm, Thursdays

Edlesborough School, Pat 01582 668735

Baby & Toddler Group, Salvation Army Hall, Booth Place, Eaton Bray, 9.30-11.30am Thursdays

Thursdays Keep Fit Edlesborough School, 8pm Tel: 01582 668735

Thursdays Jazzercise, 9.30-10.30am, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Angela Veryard, 01525 715208

Thursdays Grace Baptist Church (by the Post Office) Bible Study 7.30p.m.-9.00p.m. all

welcome, Peter Feben 01525 221048.

Thursdays Central Bedfordshire Children's Centres' Toy Library, 9-9.45am, Eaton Bray (School

Fortnightly Lane) Public Car Park

Village Diaries May 2012

Fridays Tap & Ballet Classes, JoAnn Latus School of Dance, 4-8pm, Eaton Bray Village

Hall, 01582 620576

Fridays Hartbeeps Multi-sensory pre-school play & music sessions, Northall Village

Hall. Bookings and information: Gemma 01525 381196

Saturdays Jazzercise, 9.30-10.30am, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Angela Veryard, 01525

715208

Saturdays Drama Class for Children, 10.35am-12.35pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Claire

Casev, 07792 508591

Last Saturday Coffee Morning, 10-12 noon, Edlesborough Methodist Church

Sundays Grace Baptist Church (by the Post Office) prayer time 9.30am, main meeting

11.00am-12.00pm. All welcome, Nathan 07794 615626, or Peter 01525 221048.

Monthly

1st Monday Eaton Bray Parish Council Meeting, 7.30pm, The Coffee Tavern

1st Monday Eaton Bray W.I. Meeting, 7.30pm. Eaton Bray Methodist Church Hall. Contact

Barbara Collier on 01525 221401

1st & 3rd Monday Knit n Stitch. 2pm-4pm. Edlesborough Memorial Hall, Eaton Bray. Knitting,

crochet & needlecraft. Tel Wendy 07908 828414. www.wendy-poole.co.uk

1st & 3rd Tuesday Dunstable & District Orbit (social and charitable) Club meet at Dunstable Rugby

Club at 8pm. For details contact 01525 222441 or 01582 755147

1st Sunday May to September, Edlesborough Church Open, 2-5pm

2nd & 4th Tuesday TOTS, St Mary's, Eaton Bray, 2pm

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 St.Mary's Ladies Guild, 2pm, St.Mary's, Eaton Bray

2nd Thursday CAMEO Coffee, tea & chat, 10am-12noon, Edlesborough Methodist Church

3rd Thursday Edlesborough Parish Council Meeting, 7.30pm, Memorial Hall

3rd Sunday Lunch club 11.30 to 2.00pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Chris Hewitt 222288

Other Regular Events

5th Coffee Morning, St Mary's Church, Eaton Bray, 10am - 12 noon

6th Beds Area Narrow Gauge Model Railway Club meeting, 11.30am-4.30pm,

Eaton Bray Village Hall

10th ELF Lunch out

11th Leukemia Research Coffee Morning, 2 Dunstable Road, Dagnall 10.30 am

13th Cafe Community, Eaton Bray Methodist Church, 11am to 1pm 15th Dagnall Over 60's. Ploughman's Lunch Village Hall 1.30pm

17th ELF visit to Stondon Motor Museum 28th ELF walk from Eaton Bray church 10am

One Off/Annual/Irregular Events

5th Coffee Morning, 10am - 1pm, 34 School Lane

5th May Day with Jubilympics, Edlesborough Green, 12-4pm

11th Appledown kennels Charity Dance 7.30-11.30 p.m. St John's Hall, 296 Sundon

Park Road, Luton LU3 3AL. Tickets £8 01525 220383

12th A Night at the Musicals, St Giles Church Hall, Totternhoe, 6.30pm, tickets:

01525 221572

13th Ashridge Plant Fair, 11am-4pm 15th Dagnall Village Hall AGM at 6.30pm

18th Fish & Chip Supper, 7pm, Edlesborough Memorial Hall, tickets: 01525 229656

19th All Saints Dagnall, Spring Coffee Morning 10.30 to 12.30

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Village Diaries May 2012

One Off/Annual/Irregular Events cont'd

19th Appledown Kennels Fun Dog Show, 11am-4pm, Enter on the day

19th Lions Paradox Concert, 7pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall, tickets: 01525 229656

19th Handel's Messiah. St Mary's Church Eaton Bray, 7.30pm, tickets: 01525 222283

20th Plant Sale at DGS Sales Hut in allotments. 10am – 12noon

20th Cheddington Bowls Open Day, 2pm, The Recreation Ground, High Street, Cheddington

24-26th Humble Boy by Little Gaddesden Drama Group, Little Gaddesden Village Hall, tickets

£10, 01442 842780

26th Eaton Bray Lawn Tennis Club Play Day, 1-4pm, School Lane

27th FODS Sponsored Wander in the Woods 2pm



FESTIVAL 2012

CALLING ALL LOCAL MUSICIANS!

We are looking for local acoustic musicians to take part in the Music Festival which is again to be a part of the St Mary's Open Gardens Day on Sunday 13 June 2012. There will be a pa system and keyboard provided if necessary. All music must be live – no backing tracks allowed! If you would like to be considered for a half hour slot, please contact:

barbara.morton1@gmail.com or telephone 01525 852368.



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The Parish Council is nine members of the public

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You can also look at our website for more details

Heidi Head, Parish Clerk & RFO

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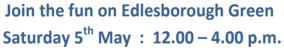
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- 12.30 Tugs-of-War: Under 5's, up to Ladies' and Gents'
- 1.30 Judging of Heroes and Heroines 8 vrs. & under
- 2.00 A musical selection : by Dagnall Community Choir
- 2.30 Our Diamond Jubilee Cream Teas will be served
- 2.30 Entertainment by the Great Horwood Silver Band
- 3.00 EDaN Mini-Olympics free entry to all children Gold, Silver and Bronze medals to be presented by Rt. Hon. John Bercow MP Speaker of the House
- 4.00 The Raffle Draw

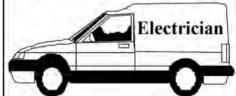
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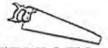
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Honorary Assistant Priest: Revd John Heffer, Reader: Gordon Gray (220136)

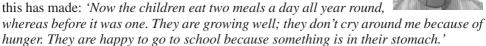
Church Warden: Catherine Hayden (220527) Parish Administrator: Elisabeth Ryder (07890 718117)

Web contact: eatonbraychurch@aol.com

Christian Aid Week: 13-19 May 2012

Let's give the tools to help people in poverty out of poverty

Christian Aid Week this year tells the story of a community in Sierra Leone that has seen remarkable change. Tenneh Keimbay's life turned around when the Methodist Church of Sierra Leone started to work in her town, distributing tools and teaching farmers simple food production techniques. She talks enthusiastically about the difference this has made: 'Now the children eat two meals a day all year round.



Thousands of churches will stand together this Christian Aid Week to speak out for change. Some 100,000 committed volunteers will go out and put their faith into action, raising funds to help some of the world's poorest and most vulnerable people. This includes Britain's largest house-to-house collection – an extraordinary act of witness, demonstrating to our communities that we care about poverty and justice. During Christian Aid Week, 15,000 churches across Britain and Ireland will organise house-to-house collections and events to raise funds. Look out for the distinctive envelope as it drops through your letterbox and remember that the annual Christian Aid Concert, featuring young people past and present from our communities is at 7pm on Wednesday June 13th in St Mary's Church Eaton Bray.

Something to think about: Sunday 13th is also Rogation Sunday in the Church Calendar and it is a good time to remember the farmers and producers of food in our country. We do not experience the same difficulties, shortages or hunger that is too familiar in other parts of the world but the low rainfall this spring is going to seriously affect the harvest for many English farmers this year.

Almighty God, whose will it is that the earth should bear its fruits in their seasons: direct the labours of those who work on the land, that they may employ the resources of nature to your glory, for our own well-being and for the relief of those in need; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Finally I'm looking forward to the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Planning is now well advanced for the Tea Party at St Mary's in Eaton Bray. Remember that the reply slip has to be returned to me before a ticket can be issued. Don't forget the special Jubilee service on Sunday 3rd June, 10am at St Mary's.

Services at St Mary's Church

SUNDAYS: 8 00am HOLY COMMUNION

> 10 00am PARISH SUNG HOLY COMMUNION

On Third Sunday of each month:

10.00am - WORSHIP FOR EVERYONE a shorter less formal service for families. (For anyone wishing to attend a service where Holy Communion is offered, there is a Family Communion at 10.30am at All Saints' Church, Dagnall, where visitors are assured of a warm welcome).

WEEK-DAYS.

Tuesday: 2.00pm TOTS (Tots on Tuesdays) (2nd & 4th Tuesdays)

Wednesday: 10.00am Holy Communion

EVERYONE WELCOME AT THESE SERVICES

Northall & District Age Concern Wednesday Club

We held a successful Coffee Morning in March which raised nearly £200 and would like to say thank you to all our friends who attended. We hope you all enjoyed the morning - the aroma of Roast Beef was so enticing, perhaps we should invite guests to stay to lunch too! Some of the members held a 'Name the Doll' competition and this lovely prize was won by Cynthia Henden. The doll's name was Elizabeth.

We are still collecting Target Stamps and Community Points tokens from the Leighton Buzzard Observer and the Dunstable Gazette, and would appreciate any contributions anyone is able to make. We have collection points in Eaton Bray Stores and Edlesborough Post Office, or drop in to us on a Wednesday at Northall Village Hall where you will be made most welcome!

We have lots of summer outings planned and a Jubilee Cream Tea so if you are interested in joining our happy Club and would benefit from some company and a home cooked meal every Wednesday, then please contact Anna on 221996 or Julie on 220153. We look forward to your calls!

Edlesborough W.I.

At our recent meeting we had a demonstration of the cooking of choux pastry by Pat Harris and her assistant. Pat is known to members, as she runs the local catering firm Patricia's Cuisine. We were shown how to prepare the pastry and how to pipe in the various fillings, both savoury and sweet. Pat brought some already-cooked savoury ones with her and passed them around for us to sample. This was a very popular part of the evening! Also, one or two members were keen to accept the invitation to practice piping some of the fillings. All the pastries looked really tasty, especially the profiteroles. Cookery evenings are always popular with the ladies, as was this occasion.

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No doubt many households later sampled choux pastry made from Pat's recipe.

Another W.I. event during the month was a coffee morning at Wendy Poole's lovely home. It was a beautiful day, and most people sat in the garden in the sunshine. We all had a really enjoyable morning. Thank you Wendy, for the use of your house. Val Harris

Eaton Bray Cricket Club 100 Club Winners April 2012

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Opportunity Knocks For Edlesborough Memorial Hall

Have you heard? An exciting new era begins at the end of October this year!

For over 40 years Edlesborough Memorial Hall has been used every day during term time as a playschool for our local children, and it has served them well, but at the end of October Edlesborough Under Fives will become part of Edlesborough School.

With all change comes opportunity and this is



where we need YOUR help. Now the hall has availability during the daytime we will be advertising our fantastic local facility to clubs and organisations and inviting them into our village. What clubs would you like to see using the hall? The more diverse the better maybe as it would ensure there is something for everyone! Book clubs? Diet clubs? Keep fit classes? Yoga? Dance classes? Music classes? The list could be endless but will be rewarding if we can encourage clubs such as these to use our hall as we in turn, can benefit from using the clubs that will be on offer to our community.

To this end, Edlesborough Parish Council has suggested that an Edlesborough Hall Committee be established and is looking for volunteers to make decisions regarding the changes over the coming months. One of the first tasks of the Committee will be selecting the new chairs that the Parish Council has set money aside to purchase. Maybe you are a member of one of the clubs that currently use the hall on a regular basis? (Brownies, the Women's Institute, Carpet Bowls, Street Dance classes) or one of the many organisations/individuals who just wish to use the space for fundraising activities, cream teas, drama rehearsals, quiz nights and parties etc. If so, you will

know that the hall is a great size and with a well equipped kitchen included in the hire fee it can cater for them all.

If you care about your community, would like to see this facility thrive and could spare an hour or two to meet once a month, please get in contact with Beverly Sage, Assistant Clerk on 01525 229358 or assistant.clerk@edlesborough.gov.uk.



All Saints' Church, Dagnall Services in May 2012

Sun. 6th May	9.00 pm	Eucharist
	10.30 am	Morning Service
	6.00 pm	Evening Service with Holy Communion
Sun. 13th May	10.30 am	Morning Service
Sun. 20th May	10.30 am	Family Communion
-	6.00 pm	Evening Service
Sun. 27th May	10.30 am	Family Service
•	6.00 pm	Eucharist



Sunday School meets each Sunday at 10.30 am except when there is a Family Service.

Concert at the Church on the Hill, Edlesborough



The newly formed Friends of the Church on the Hill, Edlesborough are please to announce that the Dagnall Community Choir will perform at the church at 7:30pm on the 30th June.

The choir last performed here in 2010. So popular was the performance then that extra chairs were needed in addition to the pews. That was one of the first concerts by the then newly formed choir. Since then the choir has performed a number of concerts both in the parish and outside the parish. The choir will perform a new repertoire of popular music from well known musicals together with songs from a variety of types of songs, old, new and classical. The evening will also include some soloists and instrumental music.

Ticket prices have not been confirmed yet, but as before there will be concessions for seniors and under 16s. To register your interest please contact Alan Williams telephone 01525 221926 or email ajrwilliams@hotmail.com.

To find out more about the newly formed Friends of the Church on the Hill, Edlesborough please contact Alan Williams using the contact information above.

More Music, Free! All are welcome



The Friends of the Church on the Hill, Edlesborough in conjunction with the Churches Conservation Trust are pleased to announce that The Chiltern West Gallery Quire, a costumed group including instrumentalists will visit the church and sing and play country church music of the 18C in St Mary's

Church on the Hill, Edlesborough on the morning of Sat. 30th June at approx 11am. for an hour or so.

During the past few years, a great deal of interest has developed in 'west gallery' music. West gallery music was an amazing, powerful form of traditional music found in English parish churches and non-conformist chapels in the 150 years or so between 1700 and 1850, until it was suppressed by the authorities and driven out of the churches. All are welcome to come and sing with the quire or just to look and listen to this wonderful lively music. There is no charge for this but we would be grateful to receive a donation at the performance to The Friends of the Church on the Hill, Edlesborough. Further details will appear in the June edition of Focus. In the meantime if you have any questions please contact Alan Williams Tel. 01525 221926 or email ajrwilliams@hotmail.com



Roger Pepworth produces a few edible surprises during his description of flora and fauna found at one of Dunstable's least known beauty spots.

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Dagnall Village Hall Committee AGM 2012

The Annual General Meeting of the Dagnall Village Hall Management Committee will take place on **Tuesday 15 MAY at 6.30pm**. All residents of Dagnall aged 18 and over are welcome to attend and eligible to vote. The following officers of the committee will be elected: Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, Bookings Officer

Anyone wishing to stand for election to one of the offices may obtain a nomination form from the secretary (telephone 842129).

Village organisations currently represented on the committee are Dagnall Under Fives and Dagnall Over 60's. These organisations are invited to appoint a person to the committee as their representative. Any village clubs or societies not currently represented on the committee, such as Dagnall Church and Dagnall Gardeners' Society are welcome to attend the meeting in order to seek the opportunity to appoint a person to the committee as their representative.

Please do make the effort to attend the AGM – it's your village hall and you have an opportunity to influence how it is managed.

Little Gaddesden Drama Club

Humble Boy, the Spring production for Little Gaddesden Drama Club is a classical comedy depicting the strained relationship between a mother and son following the death of the father, James Humble. The play is set in the Humble's Cotswold garden which is dominated by a large beehive, as bees are an integral part of the plot - so topical as we are daily being made aware of the importance of bees in our life. It is a fascinating and moving play, both funny and sad. The play was first produced at the National Theatre in 2001 where it won several awards, Simon Russell Beale and Diana Rigg taking the lead parts. Charlotte Jones, the authoress, also wrote the book for the musical Woman in White (music by Andrew Lloyd Webber). The six characters in the play are marvellously portrayed by some of the Club's best actors, so do make the journey up the hill to Little Gaddesden Village Hall on May 24th,25th or 26th. Tickets are £10.00, which includes the programme, and may be obtained from the L.G Village Shop or by telephone from Anne Isherwood (01442 842780). Doors open at 7.15 and there is a licensed bar. (The directors feel they should mention that the play does contain strong language).

News from the Lions Den

We have got a busy couple of months ahead of us with numerous events to organise and attend so we are looking forward to the opportunity to meet with lots of you over this time.

On Friday 18th May we are supporting the National Spinal Injury association (SIA) with a fish and chip super being held in Edlesborough village hall. One of our members will be delivering a talk on spinal injuries and the work the association do based on his own personal experience. Whilst Lions are often regarded as supporting worldwide causes, our primary focus is much closer to home and as this charity has helped one of our members significantly we feel we want to do something for them now. Every year in the UK over 1000 people experience a spinal cord injury. There are an estimated 40 000 spinal cord injured people in the UK alone!

Most spinal cord injuries result in paralysis and the impact of an injury can turn lives upside down. Injured people and their families are faced with the challenge of coming to terms with their injury and rebuilding their lives with a disability.

SIA offers support to individuals who become paralysed and their families from the moment the injury occurs and for the rest of their lives. Their members find this an invaluable service. So come along to support this worthy, national cause and find out more. Tickets are £12.50 which includes your fish and chips and a £5.00 donation per ticket to the charity. Tea and coffee will be available to purchase but please bring along your own soft and alcoholic beverages. Tickets for this event need to be purchased in advance so that we can order the fish and chips. Please book by no later than Tuesday 15th May. Call Rachel for more details on 01525 229 656.

On Saturday 19th May, **PARADOX** are coming to Eaton Bray. The cracking covers band will be recreating classic cuts like Clapton and The Culture Club through to contemporary contenders such as Coldplay, the Chilli Peppers and The Kaiser Chief's!!! Paradox is a 6-piece covers band based in Leighton Buzzard. Formed ten years ago, their mission is to get people rocking. To support this, we have a full bar license for the event to make your evening really go with a swing.

Tickets are on sale **NOW** and are already selling well. Priced at just £10.00 per person, bought in advance or £15.00 on the night. Doors open at 7pm. To make sure you don't miss your opportunity of a night to remember, get your tickets early by calling Rachel on 01525 229 656 or email president@ebelions.org.uk. For a sneak preview of their latest line up or for more details in general, please go to our website www.ebelions. org.uk

On Saturday 9th June we are running a unique day trip to Foulness island, off the coast of Essex. This island is probably more familiar to some of you as the proposed site for the third London airport during the early 1970's which was up against Wing, much closer to our homes. Thankfully talk of the airport has now ceased and in reality, Foulness island is a haven for wildlife. Situated off the east coast of Essex, separated from the mainland, Foulness reported 212 residents in the last census.

Foulness Island is predominantly farm land and is protected from the sea by a sea wall. The island's name is derived from the Old English for wild birds, and is an internationally important site for migrating and breeding birds, including avocets. During the North Sea floods of 1953, almost the entire island was flooded, and two people died.

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Prior to 1922, when the military road was built, access was only available across the Maplin Sands via the Broomway, a tidal path said to pre-date the Romans, or by boat. Although public rights of way exist, the island is run behalf of the Ministry of Defence and access to the island is only permitted on a limited basis.

Through some family connections we have been grated permission to run a one day trip to the island with a luxury coach departing from Eaton Bray. The coach will take you to the island where you will be met at the 'boarder control' and given access. From here, the coach will proceed onto the island and will use the Heritage centre as its base for the day. The package includes two separate wildlife tours, one is a walking tour, the other covers a wider area of the island via a tractor and trailor – both will have wildlife experts available to answer any questions and point out sites as you tour. The Heritage centre will be open all day and a light lunch is also included. Tickets are priced at £35.00 per person and spaces are limited to 60. The MOD require a list of names for everyone attending the trip one week in advance so tickets must be purchased no later than 1st June using the booking form in this magazine or by calling Rachel on 01525 229 656. Please note, access around the island is limited to the two organised tours. you will not be able to conduct any tours without approved island guides. This really is a unique offer and one we can't guarantee we will be able to run again in the future. Ordinary people doing amazing things

St Mary's Ladies Guild

A welcome was extended to members and a new member at the monthly meeting on Wednesday 11th April. There were birthday cards for Linda Potton, Peggy Beerton, Jean Thorne, Gillian Hunter and Celia French. Deirdrea commented on the excellent presentation given at last month's meeting by Maggie Lines on reflexology and gave details of forthcoming events which include a corporate Communion at 10.00am on the last Wednesday of every month in St.Mary's Church for those who wish to attend: Saturday 5th May Guild Coffee Morning at St.Mary's Church 10-12.

Wednesday 9th May 2pm – Guild Jubilee Street Party in Church with bring and share tea. Speaker Christine Farrington "Royal Reflections".

Thursday 7t h June 3.30pm Cream tea, at World's End.

Wednesday 22nd August – Guild outing to Henley, cost £16.

Devotions were led by Christine.

Deardrea introduced Hilary Percival who gave a very interesting talk on her Nursing

career. This covered her time as a Student nurse to her voluntary retirement as a Sister. This included some very humorous experiences together with the very tiring events on the wards and in clinics dealing with patients and sometimes irate Consultants.

June thanked Maggie on behalf of members.

After the closing prayer it was time for members to socialise and enjoy refreshments and the raffle was drawn.

Eaton Bray Village Hall 100 Club Winners April 2012

 151
 Theo Gray
 £100

 59
 Liz Warby
 £25

 82
 Nigel Hillier
 £25

 200
 Tanya Watkin
 £25

Drawn on 11th April 2012 at Hines the Butchers. Please direct any correspondence to Ross Bagni, 71 Bower Lane, Eaton Bray, Bedfordshire, LU6 1RB, Telephone: 01525 221411.

About Appledown - Your Local Rescue Kennels

At Appledown Rescue and Rehoming Kennels in Eaton Bray we have been finding new homes for abandoned and unwanted dogs since 1999. Our kennels are usually full which means that we have around 50 dogs awaiting new owners. Between January and November 2011 we took in 440 dogs that desperately needed our help.

We have a wide variety of breeds and cross breeds in all shapes and sizes! Like most rescue kennels we have quite a lot of Staffies and sadly they generally take longer to find homes than other breeds. This is a pity because they are friendly, loyal dogs that make excellent companions.

All the dogs we offer for rehoming have been assessed to ensure that they have a good temperament and we make every effort to match the right dog with the right owner. If you are able to offer a loving home to one of our dogs why not come along and have a look? We are open every day from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. and members of staff are always on hand to give advice and information. Please note that we do have restrictions on rehoming dogs to families with children less than 7 years of age, so please ask for details

If you are not able to take on a dog but would like to help the dogs in our care, then our Sponsor-a-Kennel scheme could be just right for you. For just £10 per month you will get a photo and a regular update on the dog currently in the kennel you have sponsored and you are welcome to visit. The regular income that we receive from this scheme is especially valuable and helps us to meet the many expenses involved in caring for so

many dogs.

Another way to help is to support our fundraising events. We are holding another of our popular Charity Dances on Friday 11th May, 7.30-11.30 p.m. at St. John's Hall, 296 Sundon Park Road, Luton LU3 3AL. Favourite dance numbers from the 60s,70s,80s, & 90s. Tickets are £8 and include refreshments. Come along to our Fun Dog Show at Appledown on Saturday 19th May, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Enter on the day. There will be lots of classes and lots of rosettes!

For more information about any of the above please call Appledown on 01525 220383 or e-mail appledown.kennels@btinternet.com. You can join our resident dog Mabel on the internet to find out all our latest news — mabelappledown@hotmail. co.uk — or add her as a friend on Facebook! Appledown Rescue and Rehoming Kennels, Harling Road, Eaton Bray, LU6 1OY (Reg. Charity No. 1116848)

The Salvation Army, Booth Place - Weekly Activities Sunday



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Songs of Praise 4.00pm
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Champions Challenge Club

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Tuesday

Coffee Morning

(alternate weeks) 10.00-11.30am Music practices (all welcome) 7.30-9.00pm

Wednesday

Home League

(Ladies Mtg but all welcome) 2.30-3.30pm

Thursday

Parent and Toddler Group

(Term time) 9.30-11.30am

Ladies Fellowship

(Last week of month) 7.45pm

For further details please contact Captain Jenny Dibsdall

T:01525 221156/07717 813682

E: jenny.dibsdall@salvationarmy.org.uk W: www.salvationarmy.org.uk/eatonbray

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Thanks

Doris Wells would like to thank most sincerely all her family and friends for all the get well cards and their prayers for her after her horrific accident. They were greatly appreciated. Also a big thank you to Wendy and Bill for looking after my house and my cat (Sophie) whilst I was in hospital.

Carnival 2012 .. "Kings and Queens"

Still the time cometh for Carnival.

The theme for Carnival 2012 is "Kings and Queens". We are not just talking Elizabeth, Edward, Victoria, George, Henry and Ethelred; there is Cleopatra, Martin Luther ... not to mention Freddie Mercury! Use your imagination for the theme; decorate your house on the Carnival route and join the procession in costume to make this a Carnival to remember in **Oueen Elizabeth's Diamond Jubilee year**.

The Carnival will also include some superb Olympic-themed events for children from 2 to 92 in the main arena on The Green.

Organisation for the Carnival is underway so is there any way you can help to make this a year to remember?

- Selection of the **Carnival Queen and Princess** will take place on 15th April. The names of the Queen, Princess and attendants will be given in next month's Focus. A photograph of the girls who enter the draw will also be sent to the local newspaper.
 - Dresses for the Queen and Princesses are very difficult to find this year. Can anyone help with any bridesmaid or similar "fancy" dresses that would be suitable for our stunning young ladies? All help or ideas would be greatly appreciated!
- **Transport**: Can you help with transport in any form; flatbed lorry, open truck or van or anything that could provide transport for the procession?
- URGENT Can YOU provide any help to the carnival?
 - Are you available to make the day a success by helping with moving equipment on the day and/or the evening before? The Carnival cannot operate without chairs, tables, tents and other equipment being delivered to and moved around the green and then removed at the end of the day. Can you lend a hand?
 - Can you provide help on the day of the carnival at any of the many charity stalls, even for a few hours?
 - Prizes, of any sort, for the various raffle and tombola stalls.
 - Items for the silent auction.

Contact Gordon Gray on 01525 220136

- Local Groups: Do you run any group in the Villages that would like to operate a float this year? Perhaps you do not live in the village but operate your events here and would like to take part? All floats are welcome!
- **Advertising**: Any business that would like to advertise in the Carnival program should have their requests in by mid-April. This is an event that draws thousands of people to the local area so don't miss out. Please contact **Pauline Glen** on 01525 229400.

My Lords and Ladies the time is coming; prepare yourselves for a "right Regal Carnival" in 2012.





Edlesbray Leisure Fellowship - ELF

Spring greetings to everyone. We hope that all of you are enjoying this spring-like weather with all the beautiful flowers and blossom. What a wonderful time of the year. Bluebells are now on show and surely will be wonderful. In spite of the lack of rainfall, we hope everyone is trying hard to preserve their precious plants, and conserve as much water as is possible.

The February meeting at the Coffee Tavern was enjoyed by all. Future outings were discussed and plans for several are well in hand. Details will be displayed in the North Porch of Eaton Bray Church when they are finalised.

March 8th saw members enjoying a very nice lunch out at The Plough public house at Wingfield. Everyone thought the Venue and Menu was very agreeable. Thanks to Val for the arrangements.

Brian led the walk on 26th March, in good weather, around the Marsworth Reservoirs and the Wendover Arm of the Grand Union Canal. Lunch was taken at The Half Moon public house at Wilstone. The walk was very much enjoyed.

March 29th saw a group of National Trust members visit, on a glorious sunny day, Ascot House Gardens, to admire the wonderful display of daffodils, tulips and flowers of every description and colour. The topiary, fountains, sculptures and ornamental flowering trees were admired and the vista superb. Thanks to Viv for the arrangements.

MAY DATES

THURSDAY 10th LUNCH OUT

THURSDAY 17th VISIT TO STONDON MOTOR MUSEUM MONDAY 28th WALK EATON BRAY CHURCH 10.00



Give Bowls a Go!

CHEDDINGTON BOWLS CLUB, your friendly local Club, is for everybody – all ages: beginners to experts.

Open for you from:

May to Sept on TUESDAYS (2pm) and FRIDAYS (6pm) OPEN DAY & BBQ is from 2pm on Sunday May 20th

Our Open sessions are an ideal opportunity to get to know bowls and make new friends. Just bring trainers or flat soled shoes. We will supply the rest, including a cuppa or something stronger from the bar.

www.cheddingtonbowls.org.uk / The Recreation Ground, High Street, Cheddington Contacts: Nigel on 01442 824 679 or Sue on 01296 668 772

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This year



Chestnut Close and Deans Meadow are organising a

STREET PARTY IN DAGNALL FOR



FOR

THE QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE

Please come and join us on the day itself, at Chestnut Close and Deans Meadow on Tuesday the 5th of June between 2 and 5 PM.

Bring party food, many friends, drinks, tables, chairs, games and all your jewels.

There will be music, bouncy castle etc.!

If you have any bunting we would also appreciate it as well as extra hands earlier on the day to hang it!

For more details, contact Liz on 01442 842 550



FRIENDS OF DAGNALL SCHOOL are organising a sponsored...

Wander in the Woods On Sunday 27th May at 2pm.

After a very cold few weeks, come and join US for a sponsored walk in Ashridge Woods with our very own intrepid explorer Tony Lumley. A fantastic opportunity to have a lovely guided wander, suitable for all age groups and abilities, and maybe spot a deer or two whilst raising money for our school!

Refreshments will be available free for all participants.

YOU can either raise sponsorship for your place or GIVE a donation (recommended min of £5 per walker).

Please phone DAGNALL SCHOOL on 01442 842 473 or PASCALE on 01442 842 857 for further information or to book a place.



Attention All Reception Boys and Girls

Calling all enthusiastic RECEPTION BOYS AND GIRLS - come and join your local village team and play exciting and fun competitive football with your friends. We already have had fantastic interest from players for this new squad but we are keen to attract a few more to ensure very healthy numbers for next season. Places are limited to just 25 and are filling up fast

Join us at our up and coming sessions – all Reception children very welcome. Sessions are Saturday mornings at 10am for one hour:-

MAY 5th, 12th, 19th

at Holmans Field, Eaton Bray This is the field behind Eaton Bray School, accessible from School Lane park car park and walk up past Eaton Bray Tennis Courts/club and over the bridge.

If you would like your son or daughter to play football, please email enquiries@eblions.co.uk
or ring Tim Sanders on 07507 702132

EB Lions are an FA Chartered Standard Community club.

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A NIGHT AT THE MUSICALS

An evening of entertainment including Broadway and West End classics!

7pm, Sat 12th May 2012

(Doors open 6.30pm)

The CAST



<u>Lewis Richardson</u> From Eaton Bray, Professional Actor and Vocalist Lewis trained at Mountview, London. He has played Stanley in a Streetcar Named Desire, and performed as The Phantom of the Opera at Alexandra Palace.



<u>Hayley Emma Otway</u> – West End performer Hayley Emma Otway trained at Mountview, London. She has played Polly in 'Crazy For You' at the London Palladium, and was nominated Best Actress in the Off West End Awards.



Rob Dowton – Professional Actor, Vocalist and Musician Rob Dowton trained at the Royal Academy of Music. He has appeared in the UK National Tour of 'Masterclass' which recently transferred to London.



Tickets and Enquiries
Eric Richardson 01525 221572
or Hayley Otway: heotway@yahoo.co.uk
07886 385799

Raffle * Non-alcoholic refreshments available * Bring your own alcohol



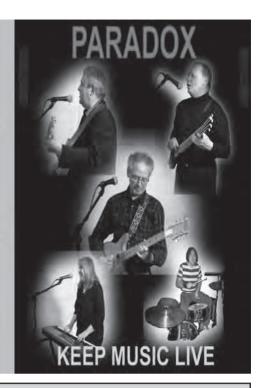
Saturday 19th May 2012 Eaton Bray Village Hall 7pm til midnight

Local group, Paradox, will be playing live at Eaton Bray Village Hall. You can expect a lively selection of music covering many genres including rock, soul and country from the 1960's up to the current day.

This group has a large fan base establisheddont miss the opportunity to see them live and support your local Lions club at the same time.

Entry tickets £10.00 bought in advance, £15.00 on the door

Please contact Rachel on 01525 229 656 or email <u>president@ebelions.org.uk</u> for more information







The Great British
FISH & CHIPS
Supper

Friday 18th May – 7pm Edlesborough Village Hall

Please bring along your own soft and alcoholic beverages
Tickets £12.50 per person including a £5.00 donation to SIA
Call 01525 229 656 or email president@ebelions.org.uk for tickets



George Frederick Handel's 'Messiah'

7.30pm, 19 May at St Mary's, Eaton Bray

August 22, 1741. An elderly stooped-shouldered man wanders the streets of London; his aimless wandering had become a familiar ritual. His angry mind raced back to memories of great adulation and then looked at a future of seemingly hopeless despair. For forty years the bachelor had written operatic music which was the rave of royalty in both England and the continent. But things had changed quickly and drastically. Members of the royal court reacted strongly to his abrasive manner. Fellow musicians became jealous and bitter and rivals gained success. Finally, a brain haemorrhage had paralyzed his right side. He could no longer write. Doctors gave little hope for his recovery.

The composer had travelled to France to soak in baths rumoured to have miraculous powers. Gradually his weakened muscles had begun to receive new life and, as his health improved, he once again began to write. Soon, his works were again being received with rapturous applause and life seemed good; but fate took a cruel turn. Queen Caroline, who had been a staunch supporter, died. England found itself on hard economic times and his shows were cancelled. Now he found himself wandering aimlessly through the streets.

Having wondered where in the world God was, he wandered back home. Opening his door, he found a wealthy gentleman waiting in his living room; the man was Charles Gibbon. Gibbon explained that he had just finished writing a text for a musical that covered the entire Old and New Testament. He believed that the gifted musician was the man to set it to music. He gave the manuscript to the composer and challenged him to write. As he walked out the door, Gibbon turned long enough to say, 'The Lord gave me those words.'

The great maestro scoffed at the audacity of the young man. No one had ever challenged George Frederick Handel to write something he had not thought of first. Handel's temper was violent and he was a dominating presence among his enemies. Why had Gibbon not brought an opera that was more to his liking?

Indifferently he began to read. Suddenly portions of the passage leaped from the page. His eyes fell on such words as 'He was despised, rejected of men...he looked for someone to have pity on him, but there was no man; neither found he any to comfort him.' His eyes raced ahead to 'He trusted in God...God did not leave his soul in hell... He will give you rest.' And finally the words stopped at 'I know that my redeemer liveth...rejoice...hallelujah.'

He picked up his pen and began to write. Music seemed to flow through his mind as though it had been penned up for years. Putting music to the script, he finished the first part in seven days. The second section was completed in six days and two days were given to fine-tuning the instrumentation. Thus, at the age of fifty seven, Handel completed the Messiah in a mere twenty-four days.

It is with great delight that Handel's masterpiece will be performed at St Mary's Church, Eaton Bray, at 7.30pm on 19 May. The performers include one of the top local choirs, The Linsdale Singers, an orchestra of local musicians and some highly talented young soloists whose voices first developed under the guidance of the Bedfordshire Youth Opera. These soloists already have a wealth of singing experience – the soprano soloist, Hannah Bennett, is a specialist in 'Messiah', the alto soloist, Clare Watson,

46

has had major roles in 'DieFledermaus' and 'The Marriage of Figaro', the tenor soloist, Gordon Hodges, is studying at the Royal Northern College of Music under Peter Wilson and already has had many leading roles in opera and concert, and the bass soloist, Sam Morton, is a choral scholar at Leeds Cathedral and has singing appearances on BBC Radio 2 and 4 and recently sang at Jimmy Saville's funeral.

The performance promises great things. Please come along and enjoy what should be a fantastic evening. Tickets for allocated seats, priced at £7.50, £10 and £12, are available from the Box Office -0.01525 222283.

Eaton Bray WI

There was a welcome to the members plus Valerie who was a visitor. Birthday cards were presented to Linda, Joan Thorne, Margaret Jones and a special 90th card was sent to Marjorie Cook. The coffee morning held in March had been very successful due to the member's support and everyone who had contributed was thanked.

Deirdrea introduced the speaker Justin James, from Redbournbury Mill which is two miles north of St Albans. After a technical hitch, Justin showed slides of the history of the mill and the bakery.Redbournbury Watermill is a working mill producing a range of stoneground organic flours principally from locally grown grains. It is run by a team of dedicated volunteers and was extensively restored following a fire in 1987.

The Mill Bakery was built in 2005 within one of the barns in front of the mill. The bakery produces a wide range of breads baked from the mill's stoneground organic flour, which is available every Saturday 9am-1pm. It was suggested that the members visit the mill for a tour in September, finishing with a cream tea.

The visit to the Houses of Parliament in June, is fully booked.

There are still seats available for the outing to Stoneleigh Abbey in August.

Next month's meeting is on Monday 14th May when the speaker will be Dr Kay Elliott. There will be a short discussion of the Resolution which will be presented and voted on at the Annual General Meeting held at the Albert Hall in June.

The members meet on the first Monday of the month at Eaton Bray Methodist Chapel Hall at 7.30pm. At each meeting there is a guest speaker or demonstrator, covering a wide range of interesting subjects, followed by refreshments provided by the members on a rota basis and a raffle. Visitors are always welcome to our meetings.

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For more information contact: John Hazell 01525 218142

Email northallchapel@btinternet.com There has been a Baptist Chapel in Northall for more than 200 years. Today we continue to seek to worship God, serve him in our daily lives and support and encourage one another in the difficult and the joyful times.

Dagnall News

Over 60's

In March we were given an interesting talk by a local resident, Brian Smith, on the duties of a senior air traffic controller, primarily at Heathrow one of the busiest airports in the world

In April we are out for lunch to a new venue, The Woolpack at Stoke Mandeville, and then on to Bicester Garden centre and the outlets at Bicester Village.

The May meeting is our traditional Ploughman's lunch to which we have invited our friends from Kensworth Over 60's.

Dagnall Jubilee Celebrations

On Tuesday June 5th from 2pm to 5pm we would like to hold an informal Jubilee tea party at the lower end of Dean's Meadow, as that is the largest cul-de-sac available. Everyone is welcome to join in. Please bring food and drink contributions to be shared. Please let Liz Coates know by May 9th if you would like to join in, either by phone on 01442 842550, or email on lizcoates@btinternet.com.

Community Choir

Concert Concentration

Our first major concert of the year is now fast approaching.

We will be performing at the EDaN Summer Concert at St. Mary's, Edlesborough (The Church on the Hill) on Saturday 30th. June and rehearsals are well under way for a varied and entertaining programme from Classic Anthems through Musicals to The Beatles. More information on this Concert can be found elsewhere in this issue.

We will also be performing a short programme at the Edlesborough "Jubilympics" / Mayday celebrations on The Green on 5th. May.

As ever we are indebted to James Burden, our talented and creative accompanist, and our revered and accomplished conductor, Stuart Harding. We are fortunate indeed to have their services together with Stuart's largely enjoyed sense of humour. He recently praised a section of The Choir when practising their notes as being, "roughly in the right area"

This all makes for enjoyable Monday evenings for the 40 - 50 members filling Dagnall Church with music

Tickets for The EDaN Concert will be on sale shortly and we hope that as many Focus readers as possible will be able to enjoy the results of the efforts of YOUR Community Choir.

New members are always welcome. Please contact Val Lumley on 01442 842214 or Geoff Ward on 01442 843515 for more information.

Dagnall Gardeners' Society

The DGS sales hut is open every Sunday from 10am to 12 noon for garden supplies. Everyone welcome.

Dagnall Village Hall 100 Club Winners – April 2012

2 Shirley Nash £50
 67 Tracey Stokes £25
 59 David Tobin £25

Drawn on 8th April 2012 witnessed by Arthur and Adelaide Searle.

We have started a new year of Dagnall Dip and currently have 98 members. Please call Sharon Quinn on 01442 842129 if you would like to join and help the Village Hall Funds.

Dagnall School

The Robins and Blue-tits went to St. Alban's Cathedral. We had a fantastic day.





Eaton Bray Methodist Church

We welcome you to join us for our next Cafe Community on Saturday May 13th from 11-00am until 1-00pm, when we offer a selection of Hot Light Lunches, Real Coffee, a selection of Tea's and Biscuits. The Theme will be "How is water a good metaphor for life?" and our Charity will be the Canal's Chaplaincy.

Our Cafe Church the following day, Sunday May 14th, will be led by Greg Obong-Oshotse. Greg will continue the theme, "Celebrating Living Water and Blessings" and has requested that musicians take along their instruments to play during the Service. This promises to be a special Celebration Service.

Our Sunday School Anniversary on Sunday May 20th at 10-30am, led by Roger Owers and the members of our Junior Church, will be an All Age Worship Service to which we extend a warm invitation to you to join us.

Please book the date in you diary.

SATURDAY JUNE 9th. AT CHESTNUT LODGE. LEIGHTON ROAD. GREAT BILLINGTON. PLOUGHMAN'S LUNCHES WILL BE SERVED from 12 noon until 2-00 pm CREAM TEA'S from 2-00pm until 4-00pm.

The following day Sunday June 10th the gardens of Chestnut Lodge will again be open as part of the local Open Gardens Festival.



Some comments from our recent Ofsted report (Jan 09):

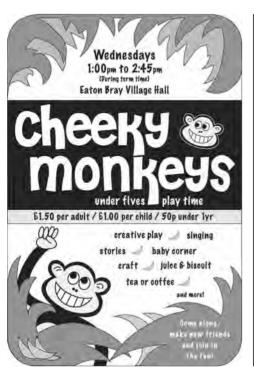
Children are consistently offered a stimulating range of activities and opportunities which enable them to make good progress towards the Early Learning Goals.

Staff have a good understanding of creating a safe and welcoming environment . . .

Staff support children well and encourage them to be active in their learning and to think critically.

We are a committee run playgroup operating five mornings a week 9:15 – 12:15 for children aged 2½ to school age.

If you would like to find out if your child would be happy here, please phone our Playgroup Leader, Ann Tobin on 07816 358 342.



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Friends of Ashridge

It's a glorious Spring day out there as I write this, making me want to fill in all the bare patches the winter's left in the garden - if this is you too, mark Sunday 13 May in your diary now: the Friends of Ashridge Spring Plant Fair is the place to find keenly-priced plants to fill those gaps. Every year, 1,000s of plants are offered from private gardens as well as commercial growers. The event is the Friends' biggest fundraiser of the year, last year contributing over $\pounds 6,000$ to the maintenance of the National Trust Ashridge Estate, helping it to remain the beautiful place it is for the enjoyment of all.

The Fair takes place on Monument Green by the NT Visitor Centre, Ringshall, starts promptly at 11am and closes at 4pm. Entry is free, as is parking. Come early to get the best bargains - there's always a queue! If you have well-rooted plants you'd like to donate, John Cartwright will be delighted to hear from you - give him a ring on 01442 864 984 any time before 6 May.

There are two series of walks in Ashridge through the Spring and Summer. Brian and Siân Barton lead the Gentle Strolls, up-to-2 hour informal walks observing the wildlife in different parts of the National Trust Ashridge Estate. Details in poster below.

Kath Hardy leads longer walks on the following Saturdays: 12th May, 16th June, 14th July, 8th September, 13th October. All start from the Visitor Centre at 10am and are about 5-6 miles. There's a charge of £3 on the day, no need to book. There's an extra walk of Monday 4th June, the Jubilee Bank Holiday. This walk starts from the Beacon car park at 6.30pm, will be about 5 miles and gets back to the car park in time for people to go up and see the beacon lit if they want to. Again £3 and no need to book, just turn up - and bring a torch!





Brian and Siân Barton lead these up-to-2 hours, informal walks observing the wildlife in different parts of the National Trust Ashridge Estate:

Wednesday 18 April 10.30am Meet Visitor Centre, on Monument Green Map ref SP 971 131

Tuesday 8 May 2.30pm Meet Ling Ride car park, off Beacon Road Map ref SP 982 143

Friday 15 June 10.30am Meet Visitor Centre, on Monument Green Map ref SP 971 131

Thursday 12 July 2.30pm
Large car park opposite Northchurch Common
Map ref SP 977 115

Monday 20 August 2.30pm Steps Hill grass car park off Beacon Road Map ref SP 963 159

Wednesday 19 September 10.30am Meet B4506 road end of Monument Drive Map ref SP 979 127

Tuesday 16 October 10.30am Meet B4506 road end of Monument Drive Map ref SP 979 127

Stout waterproof footwear recommended All welcome - no booking required £2 per person on the day More information: 01442 823 727

www.friendsofashridge.org.uk

Friends of Ashridge 💥 Spring Plant Fair



1,000s of plants for sale

from private gardens and commercial nurseries

Sunday 13th May

11am - 4pm . Free entry

NT Ashridge Estate Visitor Centre Monument Drive, Ringshall, HP4 1LX More info and plant offers: John Cartwright 01442 864 984

www.friendsofashridge.org.uk

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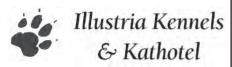




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Highlights of the Meeting for Eaton Bray Parish Council

Held in The Coffee Tavern on Monday 2nd April 2012 at 7:30pm SPEED LIMIT CHANGE

The new 20mph signs have now been fitted in School Lane, the Parish Council ask all residents to be aware of the new speed restrictions within this section of the parish.

POLICE REPRESENTATIVE

The police wish to remind residents of the number of ways to contact them, to air local concerns or give specific information. In an emergency always dial 999. In the event of a non-emergency please call using the new non-emergency number of 101. If you wish to contact by e-mail please go to the Bedfordshire Police website [www.bedfordshire.police.uk/local_policing/central_bedfordshire.aspx].

CENTRAL BEDS REPRESENTATIVE

Cllr Marion Mustoe wished to remind all about the proposed new local lettings policy for social housing. There is a proposal that social housing priority be given to local people before going outside of area. Cllr. Mustoe asked Parish Councillors and residents to go to the Central Bedfordshire Council's website and view the local lettings section [www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/surveys/LLP/rural_exception_sites. htm], where there is an on-line questionnaire obtaining people's views on the proposals. The deadline for response/comments is the 9th May 2012. Please do take a look and complete the questionnaire.

HOUSING NEEDS SURVEY

From the recent questionnaires that were sent out to all residents within the parish, there was a 20% response and from that there was a 61% support towards some form of affordable housing, i.e. homes for single adults, properties for elderly, those wishing to downsize, those with disabilities. The Parish Council are to look at the findings in conjunction with a Neighbourhood Plan, looking at issues surrounding housing within the parish.

VILLAGE CARNIVAL

The Parish Council wished to remind all residents of their presence at the St. Mary's Village Carnival on Saturday 7th July 2012. *Please do take the time to visit us*.

PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE: www.ebpc.co.uk

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

Parish Clerk & RFO: Heidi Head.

Parish Office: 20 Good Intent, Edlesborough, LU6 2RD

Email: clerk@ebpc.co.uk - Telephone/Fax: 01525 221464 - Website: www.ebpc.co.uk Office Hours: Tuesday/Thursday/Friday 09:30-13:30hrs [message can be left on answerphone] [emergency contact only: Cllr. R. Windmill - Tel 01525 222154 - Email richard.windmill@aecom.com}

Edlesborough Parish Council Meetings

3rd Thursday monthly 7.30pm Memorial Hall Next Meetings: 17th May

21st June

Eaton Bray Parish Council Meetings

1st Monday of each month
7:30pm The Coffee Tavern
Eaton Bray Parish Council Annual Parish
Meeting & Annual Meeting Mon 14th May
Next Monthly Meeting: Mon 2nd July

Eaton Bray's 9th Beer Festival

Friday 1st June and Saturday 2nd June

Actually that is probably all I need to say, as according to the number of visitors we had last year, nearly 20% of the population of the Village came to the 8th Beer Festival! Alright, I might be exaggerating as I am fully aware that a lot of folk from Edlesborough venture over the county line to get their hands round one of our specially designed glasses and sup one of the 25 real ales or some of the ciders or perrys.

Once again, we want to thank Roy Chatto and his many helpers who make this possible by organising and serving the beer throughout the weekend.

We will be open from **6pm on Friday until 11pm** with live music from about 8.30.

On Saturday we are under way again at 12pm and close some 11 hours later, with sore feet and in my case, not wanting to look another burger or sausage in the face for a good few weeks!

This year, as the Beer Festival has coincided with the Diamond Jubilee weekend, along with the good people of St Mary's, there will be a children's party. This is strictly by invitation (as numbers, unfortunately, have to be limited) all the information regarding this was in Coralie's piece in the April issue. Prior to this, there will be a Children's entertainer for all and in the evening we again have more live music.

We do look forward to seeing you all and thank you in advance, for your support. For any further information just contact me: Ross tel. 221411 or e-mail ross.bagni@btinternet.com. Just as a footnote, the Quiz on 21st April will have been held by now but was sold out at the time of writing, again thank you all for your support.

Edlesborough Book Group

A Handful of Dust by Evelyn Waugh

Evelyn Waugh is widely acclaimed not only as a master of English prose, but also for a rather jaundiced view of his fellow human beings. This is brought into sharp focus in his satire, A Handful of Dust. The writing flows effortlessly, making it a pleasure to read, but the underlying emphasis of the story is to point out the idleness and useless lives of the privileged classes in the 1930's, and their hangers on. Two of these parasites are John Beaver and his mother. Mrs Beaver specialises in persuading very rich women to redesign their houses and to buy outrageously expensive artefacts that she, of course, will supply. Her son is something of a lounge lizard, his speciality being the ability to make up the number at luncheons, dinners and house parties. In this way his path crosses that of Brenda Last. Brenda is beautiful and bored after seven years of marriage. Her husband has inherited Hetton Abbey, a gothic monstrosity, which he is obsessed with and is determined restore to its former glory. Although he adores Brenda and their small son, his concentration on the house causes him to be neglectful of his marital duties. Brenda and John Beaver drift into an affair; his mother, seeing it as a career opportunity, encourages them. Neither is particularly enamoured at first, but gradually Brenda spends more time with the Belgravia set and less with Tony and their son, with tragic consequences.

The book is very well written, with Waugh's love of language very discernible. It is a comedy of manners with a host of characters, very much of its time, but it resonates with us today as modern attitudes are again focussed on self gratification, sometimes missing the importance of appreciating what one already has.

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Eaton Bray & Edlesborough Lions are offering you a unique opportunity to visit this private island on Saturday 9th June 2012. Numbers are limited to 60 so please book early to avoid disappointment. £35.00 per person.

Terms & Conditions: Spaces are limited to 60. Payment in full required with booking form to secure your seats. The island has a strict non smoking policy. Photography is prohibited in certain locations on the island. People with mobility problems are advised that this trip may not be suitable

Your ticket price includes the following:-Return coach trip from Eaton Bray, a wildlife walking tour, a tractor and trailer wildlife tour, local tour guides throughout, designated time in the island heritage centre, plated lunch, a small donation to Foulness Island Heritage Centre. Additional refreshments available for purchase from the heritage centre. To book, please send payment with a letter detailing the name, address and telephone

number of the lead booker, the number of tickets required and the FULL names of all the people in your group. Please make cheques payable to Lions Club of Eaton Bray & Edlesborough (£35 per person) and send to Lion Rachel Arnold, 9 Eaton Park, Eaton Bray, LU6 2SP







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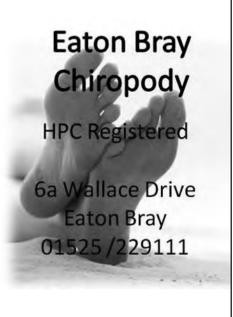


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- BBQ for mums, dads, & those who remember the 1950s
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- Prizes awarded on the day for fancy dress parade & best decorated cake

To avoid disappointment, please pre-book your tickets:-

Early bird ticket price before 19th May: £6 adult or £4 child (up to 10 years of age)

20th May onwards & on the day: £8 adult & £5 children

Reductions for family tickets (2 adults & 2 children) of £15 pre-booked / £20 19th May onwards Ticket price includes food & activities, & drinks for the children

Volunteers welcome to join our Jubilee team!

Please contact Sue on 07710 577608 / <u>sue@highfiveevents.co.uk</u> until 19th May or Nicola on 07796 956075 / Nicola Mitcham <u>nicola mitcham@hotmail.com</u> after 19th May

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History Festival

Monday 4 June, 11am – 10pm
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and you'll get a chance to watch a
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Why not enter the children into the 'dress like a Viking competition' for the day and celebrate the history of England, culminating with the lighting of the beacons at 10pm.

Jubilee Family Fun Day Tuesday 5 June, 11am – 5pm

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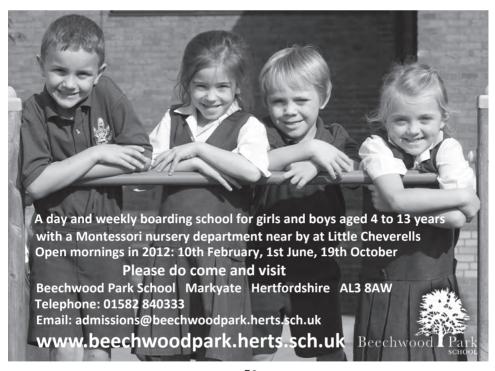
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These are just a few of the comments made in our fifth OFSTED Report (March 2008 - available via our website). The report reflects the high quality of learning on offer to all children at Edlesborough Under 5's and highlighted the quality of teaching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

For registration details, please phone Angela Paine on 01525 229529 "We are an Equal Opportunities Employer" www.edlesboroughunder5s.org.uk

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Salvation Sound - May 2012

April brought with it the hosepipe ban and the slogan "Don't waste water." Did it bring enough water with its April showers... were we singing in the rain? Are you now looking at the May flowers?

"While earth herself is adorning this sweet May morning,

And the children are culling on every side

In a thousand valleys far and wide, fresh flowers;

While the sun shines warm and the babe leaps up on its mother's arm

Then sing ye birds, sing, sing a joyous song

And let the young lambs bound as to the tabour's sound

We in thought will join your throng ye that pipe and ye that play

Ye that through your hearts today feel the gladness of the May."

Ode, W Wordsworth.

We have had the experience of river beds drying and reservoirs emptying, yet still we turn on our taps and expect an endless supply of water. It is all so easy, so hygienic, so convenient. We have become so accustomed to sophisticated refinements today that we take these blessings for granted. Yet in the year "dot and carry one" the communal tap and the bucket privy were facts of life. In some villages the only water supply was the village pump; and it was a real meeting place, a gossip spot, where one met ones neighbours each armed with zinc buckets or enamel pails, there to collect the daily water supply. Even the large houses and farms often only had one tap by their back door as a main water supply; unless you were fortunate enough to have a private bore, then there was a hand pump in the kitchen or wash house.

The majority of us bathed in a tub by the kitchen fire and that was only once a week! with the eldest first in and the youngest last!!! If you lived near to a stream fortune favoured you, as not a drop of water was ever wasted and it became everyones job, as soon as you were able, to be a water carrier. Every house or cottage had water butts to collect any rain water and that water was always recycled. It was used for washing your hair, floor cleaning, and rinsing the household washing, swill the yard, clean the wellies, or water the veggies, never thrown down the drain. Hot water was available only if you lit the boiler fire in the wash house, or boiled a kettle full on the kitchen range. Eventually we had mains water, efficient hot and cold water systems, hand basins in bathrooms, baths, showers, wet rooms. Such a difference, such luxury. Now we see on our television screens victims of water shortage, people dying through the lack of clean water; they have suffered from drought for years. Could it, will it, happen here?

I remember again the lessons of yesteryear. Water is precious; we must conserve it wherever and whenever we can. This is the time of growth, we know that sunshine and showers of rain are needed to assist all produce to grow...but so must we people, at least our souls must grow towards the Light, that part of us which is unseen yet real, is growing and one day it will be revealed when finally we reach eternity.

"A man went by... a man of earth... bronzed by the sun's deep stain He touched his cap and smiled, and said, "a lovely drop o rain! This be a godsend for us folks; this be just what we need. It's good for man, and good for beast, and good for soil and seed." And I, stood beneath a dripping tree, remembered that, some, in towns, greet the gift of God's good showers, with fretful words and frowns. But wise and patient 'people' don't grumble or complain....

They say a courteous Thank you, for a lovely drop o'rain'

Dagnall Weather Station (AONB)

Weather Conditions for March 2012

Spring is a season of contrasts and March has proven that yet again with slightly above normal temperatures during the first part of the month, rising to almost summer days at the end. The daily contrast was great as well, with some morning temperatures at 07.00 hrs 0.1°c; reaching highs of 22.1°c only 9 hours later. The lack of rain continues with only 21.4 mm of rain this month. So far this year we have only had 56% of the average rainfall.

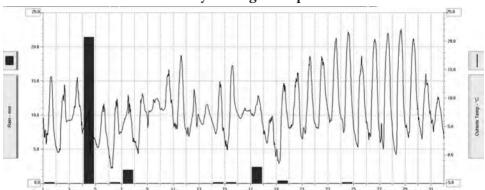
The Dagnall weather station can now bring you weather data 24 hours a day, updated every 15 mins via the web: http://myweb.tiscali.co.uk/dagnallweather and http://bit.ly/weather_dagnall

If anyone has a question, comment or wishes to contact me please email: davidgkillick@ tiscali.co.uk or 01442 843883

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

	High	Date/Time	Low	Date/Time
Temperature:	22.1°c	28 March 16.30	−2.4°c	6 March 14.00
Mean Temperature	7.8°c			
Dewpoint:	10.8°c	23 March 12.00	-°c 4.6	11 March 07.00
Humidity:	87%	1-2-3 March	37%	27 March 16.00
Barometer:	1037.0 hPa	11 March 8.00	1009.4 hPa	17 March 17.00
Wind Speed	37 mph W	7 March 13.00	Months avg.	4.6 mph
Wind Chill:	22.1 °c	28 March 16.30	-4.1°c	5 March 03.30
Dominant Wind:	NW			
Rainfall * T = total rain days and moisture. R = Actual rain				
*Rain Days: 4 (T), 3(R) Wet		test Day 4 March	21.4 mm	0.842 ins
Monthly Rain:	Total	March 2012	27.2 mm	1.070 ins
Yearly Rain:	Total	3 Months	95.4 mm	3.756 ins

March 2012 - Plots shows the lack of rain and the contrast in difference between day and night temperatures



Dagnall Gardeners' Society



May 20th 10am To 12noon

at the Society Sales Hut in the Allotments

Donations of unwanted plants gratefully received Everyone Welcome

Edlesborough Church

From May till September, Edlesborough church will be open on the first Sunday in the month from 2pm till 5pm.



Spring Coffee Morning

May 19th 10.30 - 12.30 All Saints Dagnall

Various Stalls

In aid of 2012 Project Alzheimer's Society

COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 5th May 2012 10am-1pm

@ Dawn's - 34 School Lane

with bacon rolls, hot dogs, cakes etc.

Bring and Buy Stall and Raffle
In aid of Medical Detection Dogs

All welcome Please come and support



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