Focus June 2012



THE FOUR VILLAGES MAGAZINE

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Focus - The Four Village Magazine

Magazine Committee

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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)

General Assistance (Recommended Number): 101 Leighton Buzzard Police Station/P.C.Viv Dady: 01582 473418

> 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 June 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

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

(term time) 01525 229529

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

(term time) 529574

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

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

(term time) 7.30pm, Sarah 01525 229194

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

Mondays Weight Watchers, 7pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall

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

Tuesdays 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

Morgan 07823 447362

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

Holidays) Northall Village Hall, Andie 07966437673

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

Hall, 01582 620576

Tuesdays Yoga, Dagnall Village Hall 7.45 – 9.15pm

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

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

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

(term time) contact Rachel on 07789 760007

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

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

07976 964316 for more details

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

Hall, Contact Anna 221996 or Julie 220153

Wednesdays Zumba Fitness Class, 9.30am, St Giles Church Hall, Totternhoe, Zoev 07595 986892

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

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

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

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 June 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

Fridays Zumba Fitness Class, 9.30am, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Zoey 07595 986892
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

3rd Beds Area Narrow Gauge Model Railway Club meeting, 11.30am-4.30pm,

Eaton Bray Village Hall

8th Leukemia Research Coffee Morning, 2 Dunstable Road, Dagnall 10.30 am.

Plant Sale

14th ELF Meeeting at Coffee tayern 10am

19th Dagnall Over 60's. Garden Party at 6 Dunstable Road, 2pm

25th ELF Walk from Eaton Bray Church 10am.

One Off/Annual/Irregular Events

5th Jubilee Tea Party 2pm-5pm. Deans Meadow. Everyone Welcome, bring food

and drink to share

9th Eaton Bray Methodist Church Lunch in the Garden, 12-4pm, Chestnut Lodge,

Leighton Road, Great Billington

10th Open Gardens, 12-5pm, Eaton Bray Billage Hall, £5
16th Eaton Bray Academy Royal Summer Fayre, 12-3.30pm

16th Edlesborough School Summer Fayre, 2-4pm

16th Dunstable NCT Nearly New Sale, 2-3.30pm, Watling Lower School, Bull Pond

Lane, Dunstable

17th A Grand Hog Roast, 12-6pm, 69 Bower Lane, Eaton Bray, tickets £15, 01525

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Village Diaries June 2012

One Off/Annual/Irregular Events cont'd

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19th	Northall & District	Age Concern AGM.	. 7.30pm. The	Cottee Tavern	. Eaton Brav

22nd Dagnall School Summer Fayre, 2.15pm

30th The Chiltern West Gallery Quire, St Mary's Church Edlesborough, 11am
30th Ploughman's Lunch & Pudding, Edlesborough Methodist Church, 12-2pm, £5

30th EDaN Concert at St Mary's Church, Edlesborough.7.30pm Tickets: 01525 221926

Appledown's Dog of the Month

Introducing Parker, a big handsome bull lurcher, who has been with us at Appledown Rescue and Rehoming Kennels in Eaton Bray for some time. He is a very sweet boy and a great favourite with staff and volunteers. We all feel he really deserves a loving home.

Parker is about three years old. He would live with another dog but not with cats. He is an active and affectionate dog who would thrive in a home where he gets plenty of exercise and human company. He has just started agility classes which he really enjoys. He would get on well with older children.

If you feel you could offer Parker, or any of our other dogs, a loving and secure home please call in at the kennels any day between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Our staff will be happy to offer advice and information. Before going to their new homes our dogs are neutered, vaccinated, microchipped, treated for worms and fleas and have 4 weeks free pet insurance. Please note that we do have restrictions on rehoming dogs to families with children under 7 years of age, so please ask for details. Appledown Rescue and Rehoming Kennels, Harling Road, Eaton Bray, Beds LU6 1QY. Call 01525 220383 or e-mail appledown.kennels@btinternet.com (Reg Charity No. 1116848)

NORTHALL & DISTRICT AGE CONCERN

The Annual General Meeting will be held on

Tuesday 19th June at 7.30pm at The Coffee Tavern, Eaton Bray Interested members of the public are very welcome to attend.

Vacancy for Cleaner for Memorial Hall & Pavilion

Unfortunately the Parish Council's current Cleaner is leaving the area. If anyone would like to apply for this position would they please contact the Clerk, Lin Sargeant on 01525 220859 or e-mail: parish.council.clerk@edlesborough.gov.uk for further details.

No 73 Bus

From 8th May, the No 73 bus to Leighton Buzzard will be running 1/2 hr later (starting from Totternhoe at 10am) but will be returning at the same time (12.10pm from outside the Oxfam shop).



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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 845 550

Dagnall Schools Summer Fayre

Friday 22nd of June from 2.15pm in Dagnall school.

Stalls to include, BBQ, live music, apple bobbing, Raffle and the very popular stocks and more.

Please come along and support your local school, and join in the fun, everyone is welcome.









Sat 16th June 2012

2 – 4pm

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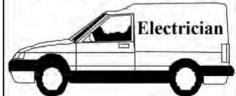
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A Letter from Rev'd Coralie

Vicar: Coralie McCluskey

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

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

June is busting out all over or so the song says. I really hope it does because June 2012 promises to be a busy and exciting month in our villages. Warm sunny days and refreshing showers overnight will help to ensure a glorious Open Gardens Sunday, three happy brides at St Mary's, a joyful Jubilee Tea Party, a successful Beer Festival, fun Jubilee family celebrations on Edlesborough Green, a great Dagnall Street Party and finally a Grand Hog Roast for the East Anglian Air Ambulance to name but a few of the events this month. What a social whir!



There is much to be thankful for in our own families and communities yet so much that we take for granted and especially when we take the time to think about the awful things happening in other parts of the world. Hunger, poverty, homelessness, conflict and corruption continue to blight many innocent lives. As I write this the news headlines highlight the dangerous escalation of violence in Syria with 55 people killed in an explosion in Damascus. The most difficult thing for me is trying to understand why people carry out these atrocities. In this instance, as always, one side blames the other.

The Syrian government condemned the blasts as the work of terrorists, painting opposition rebels as deliberate violators of the UN-brokered ceasefire. The principal target was the so-called "Palestine Military Branch" where many of the regime's enemies have allegedly been interrogated and tortured. On the other hand the Syrian opposition denied categorically that they were behind the blasts, accusing the regime instead of carrying them out on their own people in order to discredit the opposition and gain sympathy from the UN monitors now in town. Is there to be no end to the violence?

What can we do?

We can make the most of the events that are on during June and enjoy time with family, friends and neighbours.

We can smile at one another and say hello rather than avoiding eye contact.

We can pray for those who are having a difficult time, those who are ill, bereaved, lonely, hungry or homeless.

We can enjoy ourselves and all that is good in our communities and be thankful.

A Christian Aid Prayer

May the God who breathes life into the broken, who exposes our divisions and our pride, whose tenderness is the strength of the poor, bless us and charge us with power to live as community in our world in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.



From the Parish Registers

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

Revd Tom Heffer whose funeral was held at Norwich Cathedral on Wednesday 9th May

Services at St Mary's Church

SUNDAYS: 8.00am HOLY COMMUNIÓN

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

EDaN Buses & Transportation

Community Transport



If the lack of local public transport is causing you a problem, why not give Peter our Community Transport Co-ordinator a call on 01442 842506. We have a team of volunteer drivers who are willing to help you with transportation if you live in the villages of Edlesborough, Dagnall or Northall. We only charge for the fuel used for the journey

and £1 admin fee. If you team up with a neighbour/friend and share the journey you will also halve the cost thereby making it more affordable.

Our volunteers nearly always wait for you if you have a medical appointment to take you straight home afterwards. What a service!! All our drivers are very friendly and reliable and are giving their time free of charge to help people in the local community. If you would like to find out more about the scheme please give Kathy Bovington a call on 01442 842796 or if you would like to book a journey please call Peter Williams on 01442 842506.

Bus Update

Many thanks to Brian Halt our Dagnall representative on EPC for getting the bus stop sign re-installed after it was taken down by British Telecom. The next challenge for B&T is to get the timetable information reinstated as well. Hopefully by the next issue of Focus!!

Kathy Bovington

On behalf of the EDaN Buses and Transport Team

Eaton Bray Village Hall 100 Club Winners May 2012

 186
 Les Jones
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 23
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 81
 Anne Worley
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 73
 Dave Fensome
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Drawn on 10th May 2012 at Eaton Bray Academy. Please direct any correspondence to Ross Bagni 71 Bower Lane Eaton Bray, Bedfordshire LU6 1RB Telephone: 01525 221411.

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News from the Lions Den

We have now reserved our spot at St Mary's carnival in July and are busy making plans and preparations for our stall. This year we have decided that we want to raise funds to support a local cause again. We have decided that we want to provide a service aimed

at keeping our local primary school children safe when they are out and about – on their bikes, walking to and from school etc. As such, the club has pledged to raise enough funds over the next couple of months to purchase a high visibility waistcoat for every primary school child in our villages. We have been speaking with the schools to ascertain the number of children this covers and realise this is no small task, however, our aim is to have these items in the schools by the time the children



return after the summer vacation! With that in mind, please come and see us at the carnival to find out how you can help and what other projects we are currently working on. Remember that every penny donated to Lions gets used to support our causes – we do not draw any administration charges from the club.

As always, we continue to look for new members. We will be out and about much more over the summer months so please do come over and say hello and find out a little more about your Lions club, how it can help your community and how you can get involved. In one of our earliest articles we wrote about the Lions message in a Bottle campaign. You may recall that his scheme is free to the user. Whilst it is focused on the more vulnerable people in our community, anyone can fall downstairs, so this scheme can benefit anyone, including you. As a minimum it will save the Emergency Services valuable time identifying you and your emergency contacts. By telling whether you have special medication or allergies or not, it is a potential lifesaver and provides peace of mind to users and their friends and families. We have secured a large batch of these bottles recently and are hoping to make them available within the community at places like the pharmacy. For more information, please do contact us by emailing president@ ebelionsorg.uk – if these little bottles make a difference to just one person we will have done something good for our community.

Tickets for Foulness Island are proving very popular so please do let us know if you are hoping to join the trip on 9th June as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

We are really looking forward to all of our events over the summer months and hope you will be able to share some of the enjoyment with us...

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Carnival 2012.. "Kings and Queens"

The Carnival is now only a month away! If you want to be involved now is the time to do it

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, Arthur... not to mention Freddie Mercury, Queen Bee, Sing-a-song of sixpence, 'hiking', 'checking' etc! 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.**

We hope 7 July will be a special day for this year's Royal party. The Queen, Princess and Attendants were selected on 15 April so no doubt, by now they will be very excited. We hope they all enjoy their special day. See photo on page 73.

Carnival Queen – Holly Watkin

Carnival Princess -Lily Walsh

Attendants - Heather Kerr & Bryony Sweeby

As usual there are plenty of new ideas and things to do at this year's Carnival including the introduction in Olympic year of Village Games. Do come along. There is free admission, free parking and free entertainment.

We hope this year's Carnival will be one to remember but we do need your help!

- <u>Transport</u>: 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.
 - Cakes for the Tea Tent and Cake Stall
 - Items for the silent auction.
- 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!

For any of the above please contact **Gordon Gray** on 01525 220136

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

NORTHALL BAPTIST CHAPEL

Chapel Lane, Northall

(just beyond the 30 speed limit signs on the road towards Leighton Buzzard)

Everyone is welcome to our Sunday worship each week between 11am and 12.30pm including tea/coffee and time to talk together.

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.



Eaton Bray Academy







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Join via the website, or call long McLean-Hall on 01525 220562 for details

ANNOUNCEMENT



Dagnall Under Five's would like to say a big **THANK YOU** to Sam Prendeville who has chaired the playgroup's committee, organised its events, run the group's library and instigated many social events for both the toddlers & mums.

We all wish you well in your future endeavours! from Ann, the staff, the mums & of course all the little 'uns!



Can we also take this opportunity to extend a warm WELCOME to Toni Godbold who will be our new Chairperson as Sam retires. Toni will help chair the playgroup through this year's exciting calendar of events.

All Saints' Church, Dagnall Services in June 2012					
Sun. 3rd June	9.00 am	Eucharist			
	10.30 am	Morning Service			
	6.00 pm	Evening Service with Holy Communion			
Sun. 10th June	10.30 am	Morning Service			
	6.00 pm	Eucharist			
Sun. 17th June	10.30 am	Family Communion			
Sun. 24th June	10.30 am	Family Service			
	6.00 pm	Eucharist			
Sun. 1st July	9.00 am	Eucharist			
	10.30 am	Morning Service			

Evening Service

6.00 pm

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

Eaton Bray Village Hall

Honestly, there I not much to say this month except to thank all of you who came to the quiz on the 21st April. This was a sell out and the Village Hall Fund Raising Committee and Tennis Club shared nearly £1200 between them, so again, we hope you had a good time and just to remind you that the next Quiz will be on **Saturday 17th November**, just give me a ring to book your tickets.

Just as Focus hits your doormat in late May or early June, we will be holding the **Beer Festival** (**Friday 1st and Saturday 2nd June**). I do hope that I will see some of you there and especially some of the younger folk who will be attending the Tea Party on the Saturday afternoon. This is a great way to bring all the families of Eaton Bray together to help celebrate the Diamond Jubilee.

I hope by next month to be able to fill you in on when the Hall's carpark is going to be resurfaced, we are meeting with contractors at the moment to put the finishing touches to our plans, so no more potholes, which I am sure will please us all!

For any further information, please call Ross on 221411

Chris, Ryan and Paul Ride to Paris...

Chris Rowson, Ryan Holden, Paul Dorman The three of us are riding from London to Paris to raise as much money as we can for the Institute of Cancer Research. Our reasons for doing this do differ, but one common theme is that our lives, and the people we love have all been affected in some way by this disease. Please take the time to read why we are doing this. Thank you.

Chris - Just over 3 and a half years ago my mom was diagnosed with Leukaemia. She started on a course of treatment, went into remission and started back at work. A few months after, the disease returned. She underwent treatment again, but the doctors could not cure her. My mom was so brave throughout, and showed amazing strength. Every time something gets difficult for me, thinking of what mom went through, gives me the strength to carry on. This is an opportunity for me, with your generous support, to raise money for aid the research into all types of Cancer so life saving treatments can continue to be developed. Thank you.

Paul - I've always wanted to do an event to raise money for charity and when this opportunity came around I couldn't refuse. Everyone has been affected by Cancer one way or another and it really hits home when it's someone close to you, in my case my Granddad and my good friend Ryan. To see people go through this ordeal really makes you want to do something about it. With everyone's help and generosity we can raise a large amount of money for such a worthy cause. Thank you.

Ryan - I'm doing this ride because when I was 15 I was diagnosed with Cancer. The youngest in Britain with my type. I fought this horrible disease for 2 years and was lucky enough to win my fight. I would ride to the moon and back if it saved just one more person going through what I did. So London to Paris to help towards saving millions of other is a walk in the park! Donating through the website is simple. Just click on the link: http://www.doitforcharity.com/chrisandryan

Our charity will receive your money quickly and easily and if you are a UK taxpayer, an extra 25% in tax will be added to your gift at no cost to you.

Many thanks for your support,

Chris Rowson, Ryan Holden and Paul Dorman

Want to know what's going on in the local area? Come to the

Edlesborough Area Open Day

Saturday, 15th September 2012, 10am - 1pm at Edlesborough School

Come find out about all the clubs, groups, classes and other activities happening in our villages.

This is your chance to meet the organisers and find out more information.

If you would like to have a (free) table to advertise your club or activity, please phone Marlene Bennett on (01525) 220431. We want to have a wide range of activities for people of all ages.

Edlesbray Leisure Fellowship - ELF

Hello everyone from the ELF Group.

April showers have been abundant but the Hose-pipe ban has not yet been lifted. No doubt all the plants have been enjoying the rain, also the farmers. It is good to see some local rivers and reservoirs also enjoying the rain. All the water birds must be happy again.

Our meal out on May 10th at The Village Swan, Ivinghoe Aston will be reported in the July Focus as will the visit to Stondon Motor Museum on 17th May.

Because of the bad weather, our trip to walk around College Lakes had to be cancelled. Hopefully there will be another time. Our annual bluebell walk in Ashridge went ahead on a rather nice April 30th day. Alan led the walk. This was followed by a nice lunch at The Bridgwater Arms. As usual, the food was very good.

The next meeting will be held on 14th June for tea, coffee biscuits and a chat. Update on future arrangements will be discussed. On November 22nd we hope to have a musical afternoon followed by tea, coffee and cakes. We look forward to that. Put it in your diaries. Our annual Christmas meeting is on Tuesday 18th December for sherry, tea, coffee and mince-pies etc.

All will be welcome

Details of activities will be in the North Porch of Eaton Bray Church.

JUNE DATES

THURSDAY 14th
Meeting at the Coffee Tavern 10.30
MONDAY 25th
Walk Eaton Bray Church 10.00

Eaton Bray Cricket Club 100 Club Winners May 2012

£25 Graham Coughtrey No.118 £10 John Jarret No.80 Eaton Bray Cricket Club is kindly sponsored by F.A. Hawkins, M&M Properties & Meadow Marquees

Dagnall News

Over 60's

Our May meeting is the Ploughman's Lunch to which we have invited Kensworth Over Sixties, who supported our April outing to Bicester village and Wyevale Garden Centre

There was a mixed response to the lunch at the Woolpack in Stoke Mandeville, but on the whole the day was a success.

I constantly remind myself that a certain American President said "you can please most of the people some of the time and some of the people most of the time, but not all of the people all of the time"!! Perhaps by the end of my year, I will have broken even! The June meeting is the Garden Party at 6, Dunstable Road at 2pm.

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 and tables, chairs, games and all your jewels! There will be music, bouncy castle etc. Please let Liz Coates know if you would like to join in, either by phone on 01442 842550, or email on lizcoates@btinternet.com.

Community Choir

EDaN SÚMMER CONCERT AT "THE CHURCH ON THE HILL" SATURDAY 30 TH. JUNE AT 7:30 pm.



We are practising hard for our Summer Concert to make sure that we have a varied programme of songs for you to enjoy, from Anthems through The Musicals to The Beatles and The Troggs. We are also pleased to include

singing solos, pieces played by James Burden, our much valued pianist and a session by "Memory Lane" an Instrumental Group playing nostalgic and well loved music.

Refreshments will be available during the interval. Tickets prices can be found elsewhere in Focus and any profits from the evening will go to local good causes.

We hope that as many Focus readers as possible will be able to come to "The Church on the Hill" on Saturday 30th. June to enjoy the efforts of your Community Choir and see how far our splendid leader, Stuart Harding has brought us in our two and a half years.

Tickets are available from any choir member or by contacting Alan Williams 01525 221926, Val Lumley 01442 842214 or Geoff Ward 01442 843515.

Although probably somewhat late for this concert, new members are always welcome as we work our way towards our Autumn Concert season. (See Val & Geoff 's numbers above).

Morris Men at the Red Lion

The St Albans Morris Men will be dancing in the garden at the Red Lion in Dagnall on the evening of Monday 9th July starting around 9pm. We hope you will come along and support them and also if any young people want to join they are looking for new recruits so you may be inspired to put on your dancing clogs!

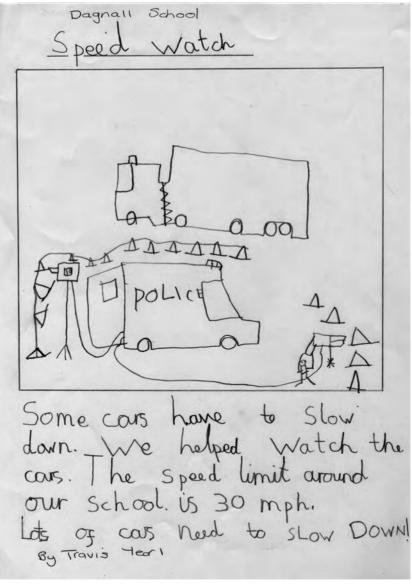
We also have other events coming up over the summer months including a 'Food from the Fields' night which is a 3 course dinner on Saturday 30th June including such

dishes as game pate, roasted partridge and casserole of rabbit. This is an evening which needs to be pre-booked.

In July we have a Tapas night with a variety of Spanish dishes including chorizo, prawns and paella washed down with a nice glass of Sangria. In August we will be having a music festival which we have named 'Dagstock' after the legendary event in the '60s and we will be having a day of live bands, music, face painting and fun.

We advertise around the pub, so do call in, and also on our facebook group RED LION Dagnall which you can join or give us a ring on 01442 843020 for any enquiries.

Dagnall School



Aylesbury Vale Community Safety Update



Aylesbury Vale is a low crime area and very few people are victims of burglary. To further reduce your chances of being a victim, here are some key tips:

Home Security:

- Make your house look and sound occupied when you are away- use timer switches on your lamp, TV, radio or other electrical items.
- When out in the evening keep your curtains/blinds closed.
- If you have a household alarm make sure it is set.
- Lock your doors and windows and if you have UPVC doors, make sure they're double locked.
- Keep all items of value out of sight (such as jewellery, cash, laptops, game consoles and mobile phones).
- Be cautious about advertising your whereabouts on social networking sites.
- Ensure tools and ladders are locked away and keep sheds/outbuildings locked.
- Postcode your property with a UV marking kit if you property mark, valuables are less desirable to thieves as items are harder to sell and may later incriminate them.
- Register your valuables on www.immobilise.com.

Vehicle security- Don't make it easy for thieves to make a quick getaway. Follow these tips to prevent the chances of your vehicle keys or belongings getting in the wrong hands.

- Keep car keys away from view of windows and doors. In some instances cars have been stolen by accessing the driver's keys with hooks through the letterbox.
- Lock your car and close the windows.
- Park in a safe well lit place and don't leave expensive valuables on show.
- If you have a garage, park your vehicle inside.
- Remove your satellite navigation system, as well as the cradle and wipe away any suction mark left by the device.

Top tip: Joint Thames Valley Alert!

If you live in Buckinghamshire and other surrounding areas, you are invited to sign up the Thames Valley Alert. This enables subscribers to be sent messages of information, crime alerts and witness appeals local to the area in which you live. You can opt to

have the information sent by phone, email or text. Visit www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk to sign up and be in the know!

Eaton Bray Parish Council Meetings

1st Monday of each month 7:30pm The Coffee Tavern

Next Meeting: Mon 2nd July



Church Mouse

The P.C.C. regrouped on 10/5/12 for their first meeting following the 38th Annual Parish Church Meeting held on 19/4/12. Two new members were welcomed – John Palmer from Edlesborough and Valerie Lumley from Dagnall. P.C.C. committee memberships were reviewed and updated and opportunities for new committee members identified. The hope is to 'recruit' new members from the parish to fill these committee slots. Catherine Hayden, in her capacity as Church Warden, signed the form officially approving Coralie as the vicar of the parish. Formally she was priest in charge. Plans are well underway and were further discussed for Diamond Jubilee celebrations – the children's tea party to be held on 2/6/12 and the special 10 o'clock church service on 3/6/12. From a fundraising perspective there has been excellent attendance at the regularly-scheduled coffee mornings. Tickets for the upcoming performance of Handel's Messiah on 19/5/12 are currently

on sale. It was acknowledged that such support for these events is commendable given the current, difficult economic climate. Barbara Morton kindly volunteered to use her computer skills to generate a Facebook page. Thought is being given to possible avenues that may encourage young families to join the church and participate in parish activities. The P.C.C. will next meet on 14/6/12.





A day trip to Foulness Island, off the Essex coast

Public entry to this wildlife haven is normally forbidden but we have the opportunity to take a coach tour for one day only... 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 To 60. Payment in full required with booking send payment with 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:- 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.

book. please 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 vour 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





The Chiltern West Gallery Quire visits The Church on the Hill



The Friends of The Church on the Hill are please to welcome The Chiltern West Gallery Quire on the morning of 30th June at 11.00am. They are performing in a number of churches that day. They will be singing West Gallery music composed in the

country towns and villages of the 18C by the village musicians who made up the ""Church Quires" described in Thomas Hardy's Wessex Novels and poetry.

The majority of their music is set to the metrical psalms, written by wordsmiths such as Isaac and John Newton, Cooper, Samuel Wesley and many others. The tunes are lively, quite rustic, and often dance-like in their



rhythms and harmonies, as that was the world of their largely untutored composers. They are accompanied by instruments of the period on each part.

They will be singing from the Chiltern West Gallery Quire repertoire, including some local pieces. They are constantly researching this music, unearthing it in libraries, Record Offices, and from local people who occasionally, and very excitingly, show them battered but treasured manuscript books which may have been in their families for generations.

For any visitors who would like to sing with them, they will bring extra music so that you may join them in recreating the joyful sounds that would have been heard by the congregations over two hundred years ago. More information on The Chiltern West Quire can be found on their website. www.cwgq.co.uk

There is no charge for entry but donations to 'The Friends of the Church on the Hill' will be welcome. Refreshments will be available also.

Open Gardens Festival Sunday June 10th, 12 – 5pm

You may remember that last year's Open Gardens Festival took place on the wettest day of 2011 – a day of torrential rain. We can't promise a better forecast, but we certainly hope for a pleasant sunny afternoon this year. This is one of the social events of the year in our villages. Come and join other like minded people in a tour around the villages to see some beautiful gardens. As well as gardens from last year, which many people would have missed because of the rain we have at least four that have never been opened to the public before.

Roving tickets, providing access to all the gardens, can be obtained from Eaton Bray Village Hall from noon on 10th June, priced $\pounds 5$ – children go free. In the hall, as well as refreshments, toilets, and a substantial plant stall, you will find an exhibition of art by local artists and there will be musical entertainment, again by local musicians.

Given reasonable weather this is a great afternoon out. Do come and join us! If you are a local artist who would like to display your art please contact Kay Griffiths on 222849.

Edlesborough Methodist Church Saturday June 30th 12 noon - 2pm Ploughman's lunch and pudding Cake stall £5

nearly new Saturday 16th June 2012

2.00pm - 3.30pm

Admission at 1.30pm for NCT members (with

Watling Lower School

Bull Pond Lane. Dunstable. LU6 3BJ

Please note that there are no parking restrictions on the road outside the school at the weekend

Admission £1 per adult (in aid of NCT Charity)

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For more info or to register as a seller contact Nicola Higgins: nnsdunstable@gmail.com or 07904 315117 or 0844 243 6112

www.nct.org.uk/nns



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Edlesborough Parish Council Chairman's Report

Presented to Edlesborough Annual Parish Meeting on Thursday 19th April 2012

This is my second report as Chairman and covers the period April 2011 – March 2012. One of the features of the past year has been a significant increase in the number of parishioners who have attended Parish Council and General Purposes Committee meetings, and those who use the Council's website. All the Councillors have welcomed this increasing interest in – and better understanding of - the Council's work, and the consequent input towards helping to shape future policies and amenities.

In order to help widen this interest and communication even further, as part of the November 2011 Neighbourhood Plan questionnaire, the Council offered parishioners the opportunity to receive e-mail updates on substantive matters, as well as encouraging more use of the Parish Council's website (www.edlesborough.gov.uk).

The refurbishment, marking out, and provision of a pedestrian exit to the existing **car park** at the Pebblemoor end of Edlesborough Green was generally well received. However, the possibility of a major extension to the car park has generated a lot of interest – both in favour and against. This matter was, unfortunately, made somewhat more of an issue by the Council's perceived need to change the registration of the Pebblemoor end of the Green from Common Land to Village Green to bring it into line with the other half of the Green. In the event, Buckinghamshire County Council (BCC), who maintain the registers for village greens and common land, confirmed that the common land registration would have to stand even if the land was also registered as village green. The Council therefore decided, for the time being at least, not to proceed any further with its objective of bringing the whole of the Green under one village green registration.

However, this research also raised various queries on the original **1965 common land registration** of part of the Green, which at that time also included all the land now occupied by The Pastures, as well as all four allotments in Edlesborough, Dagnall and Northall. The Council is keen to resolve these matters before it proceeds any further with the possibility of the major extension to the car park. At that stage the Council will, if still appropriate, prepare detailed proposals for the car park extension and carry out a comprehensive consultation with all parishioners. If there is not sufficient general support for the proposals then the Council will not proceed with the project.

The Council is pleased that, after a great deal of discussion with BCC and the Police, white 'no parking' lines have recently been installed around the Pebblemoor/High Street junction, together with a white line 'refuge' bay in the High Street above the school. These should make it safer for pedestrians and more convenient for passing motorists. Similarly, the enlargement of the bus bay at the High Street/A4146 junction should help deter inconsiderate and illegal parking which otherwise makes it so hazardous for vehicles entering and leaving the High Street at this dangerous junction with the A4146.

After many years the saga of the **Dagnall 'build-out'** has recently been brought to a conclusion, albeit not one that residents would have preferred. Owing to the bend in the road and insufficient road width near the junction of Dunstable Road and Studham Lane, BCC was unable to proceed with the build-out, traffic island or pedestrian crossing. However, it is hoped that the two new vehicle activated signs will help to

curb speeding and thereby make it safer for residents – especially children – to cross the Dunstable Road.

After 13 years of campaigning and lobbying, the Parish Council was astonished when BCC announced in June 2011 that it was going to postpone, or even cancel, its December 2010 **Speed Review** agreement for the imminent implementation of reduced speed limits in Northall, between Northall and Edlesborough, and the entry roads around the Travellers Rest roundabouts. Northall residents are to be congratulated for the magnificent way in which they successfully worked together to help reverse BCC's decision. The recent implementation of the new speed limits has immediately improved safety and improved the quality of life for parishioners. The EDaN Traffic Management Team and many other volunteers will be required to operate 'Speed Watch' to help ensure that motorists adhere to the new speed limits. Towards this end, the Council will shortly be distributing 30 and 40 mph dustbin stickers to residents in the reduced speed areas.

Whilst the Council has spent a lot of its time on traffic and parking matters during the year it has also successfully completed the following projects:

- Comprehensive cleaning, refurbishment and re-lettering of the Edlesborough and Dagnall war memorials, just in time for Remembrance Day. I am sure that parishioners will agree that the wonderful transformation was well worth the £3,665 cost. The A4146 road closure arrangements again worked very well and I am grateful to the volunteers who operated the barriers. The turnout of people at the Edlesborough service was probably the highest I can remember.
- The new **bridleway gate**, secure locking and signage for the A4146/church entrance to the bridleway to Ivinghoe Aston (cost £1.785).
- Housing Needs Survey which identified the need for up to eight affordable homes in Edlesborough. Accordingly, the Council is working with the Rural Housing Enabling Officer for Buckinghamshire to develop and agree the strict criteria for only parishioners to rent or part-own the houses, to obtain a suitable site and to progress to building in due course.
- Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire and analysis which had an overall 20% response, showed that the majority of residents only wanted up to ten new houses in each of our three villages over the next twenty years. The type of house was weighted towards smaller bungalows to help facilitate down-sizing so that older residents, who no longer require a large family home, could stay in the parish. Very importantly, this outcome will be used to feed into the new Vale of Aylesbury Plan, and with continuing determined endeavours by the Parish Council, should hopefully help avert larger allocations of house building. In view of the time required and the considerable potential cost of developing a formal Neighbourhood Plan, the Council has agreed to wait until the Vale of Aylesbury Plan is published before deciding whether or not to proceed with this option.

One Planning matter where the Council has - so far - been unsuccessful concerns 'The Bell'. The Council has strenuously supported the "Save The Bell" Group's attempts to thwart the various planning applications aimed at depriving Edlesborough Village

of its last remaining pub. The Council will continue to work with the Group and do everything possible to win this battle.

Another battle is looming regarding the recent proposals to expand operations at Luton Airport. These proposals would considerably worsen the noise disturbance experienced by parishioners, especially if the flight paths have to be modified to accommodate the additional traffic. The Council has already expressed its concerns to both London Luton Airport Ltd (LLAL) and London Luton Airport Operations Ltd (LLAOL) regarding the proposals and will continue to represent the interests of parishioners in this respect.

On behalf of the Council, and indeed all parishioners, I should like to place on record our very grateful thanks and appreciation for the splendid work being carried out by the Edlesborough, Dagnall and Northall Parish Plan (EDaN) Steering Group and all the other EDaN teams:

• the **Beautifying the Villages Team**, who in October managed to get John Bercow to unveil the lovely new village sign in Northall complete with a new planter and a swathe of wild flowers at the rear of the amenity land at Knolls View. Two months later John Bercow was back in the Parish again to unveil the lovely new village sign in Dagnall, complete with a special circular seat and bearing commemorative plaques for Anne Thompson and Mick Price.

The Team's tenacity finally succeeded last July when BCC eventually gave approval for an octagonal planter to be placed in the middle of the roundabout in Dagnall. Although the planter is smaller than the Team would have wished, it has nevertheless helped to brighten up an otherwise very boring road junction.

The Team's work on maintaining and improving all the other the planters and daffodils around all three villages continue to be much appreciated by parishioners, visitors and passing motorists.

Following on from the first May Day event in 2010, whose highlight was the unveiling of the Edlesborough village sign, the Team also organised another 'May Day' in 2011, this time incorporating a celebration of the Royal Wedding. This was a most successful event and parishioners appear to enjoy a village event which is aimed at local residents. This year the May Day 'Jubilympics' will be held on Saturday 5th May 2012.

- the Cycleways, Pavements and Footpaths Team, who have installed pairs of cycle racks outside the Surgery in Cow Lane, in Brook Street near the junction with the High Street and shops, and outside the Travellers Rest pub.
- the **Post Codes Team**, who brought their project to a successful conclusion enabling residents around the Moor End area of the Parish to use Edlesborough in their official postal address and in their Land registry documents etc.
- the **Transportation Team**, whose **Community Car Scheme** has gone from strength to strength in providing car lifts for residents on local journeys to shops, doctors' surgery etc.
- the **Traffic Management Team**, who continue to operate the 'Speed Watch' radar equipment and to pursue strategic matters concerning the inappropriate use of the A4146 by heavy goods vehicles, especially London waste lorries.
- EDaN has recently encouraged over 30 volunteers to set-up the new 'Friends of the Church on Edlesborough Hill' team, whose aim will be to make much more

community use of this wonderful part of our heritage and thereby help to safeguard it for centuries to come.

Turning now to **Edlesborough Memorial Hall** (EMH), which has been well used by the local community for many years, especially by Edlesborough Under 5s who have been the biggest user, accounting for over 60% of its annual income. The Parish Council has been very mindful of the Under 5s ongoing wish to move into Edlesborough School where dedicated facilities could be provided. So, the recent news that this move will be happening later on this year means that new users will have to



be found to help ensure the future financial viability of the Hall. Towards that end:

- the toilets were redecorated recently
- it is proposed to set-up a new Hall Management Committee made up of users and local volunteers who will work closely with Beverley Douglas our new Hall Manger
- an initial batch of new, more comfortable chairs will be purchased

In the meantime the Council congratulates the Under 5s on the outcome of their successful campaign and wishes them every success in their new home.

It was good to see **cricket** being played again on Edlesborough Green last Summer and the Council is pleased to report that this will be extended this coming year by the reformation and return of Edlesborough Cricket Club.

The Green also continues to be used by **footballers**, especially lots of enthusiastic young boys and girls. The Council is mindful of the need to try to strike the right balance between such organised sports, the surface condition of the ground, and parishioners wishing to use the Green for other recreational purposes. Accordingly, a comprehensive grass maintenance programme of aeration, weed killing and fertilising will be carried out in the coming year, along with the re-alignment of, and repairs to, the adult football pitch. The Council is grateful to EB Lions and The Swan football clubs for contributing both financially and time towards this work.

Those Parishioners who have attended Council meetings over the past year have realised the difficult task the Council has in trying to find the money to pay for all the day to day costs of street lighting, the Green, Pavilion, emptying of dog hygiene bins, maintaining the Cemetery, the old Churchyard etc as well as special projects for new facilities.

So, in addition to continuing inflation, it was a very difficult decision to hold the **Precept** (the money that Edlesborough Parish Council receives from the Parish's council tax payers), at £64,000 for the third year running. It should be noted that the Parish's 0.4% <u>increase</u> shown on AVDC's Council Tax bill for 2012/13 was due to a small increase in the number of vacant houses in the Parish, in much the same way as a 0.1% reduction was shown in 2011/12.

Some time after the Council had made its decision on the level of the Precept, AVDC announced that it would only be able to provide the 'village freighter' service in the future if parish councils paid for it. Previously, AVDC had covered this cost. Under the circumstances the Council, very reluctantly, had to advise AVDC that it could not afford to pay the proposed £1,200 p.a. cost.

As I mentioned in my Report last year, the Council is literally inundated on a weekly

basis with **policy and consultative papers** from AVDC, BCC and a myriad of other organisations which have, or could have, a bearing on the lives of parishioners. Much unseen work is therefore undertaken by Councillors in reviewing these documents and submitting the Council's views and comments. I am also very grateful for the tremendous time and input from Chris Poll, our new District Councillor who attends every Council meeting and who has kept it well informed of AVDC matters, and who is always on hand to offer advice and experience.

My thanks, those of the whole Council and, I am sure, of all Parishioners, also go to all the Wing South Neighbourhood team of **Thames Valley Police** whose work in the Parish has become so much more visible and effective over recent years.

In this report I have only had the space to comment on some of the key issues. However, much of the Council's work also concerns the daily grind through so many other matters which are, or could be, of concern to parishioners. For all of this unrelenting, steadfast commitment to duty I am most grateful to my fellow Councillors:

- **John Wilkinson**, who represents the Edlesborough Ward, who is our **Vice-Chairman**, Chair of our General Purposes Committee (GPC) and who also takes the lead role in assessing all planning applications for Council's decisions.
- Marilyn Prys-Jones (Edlesborough Ward), who is Vice Chairman of the GPC
- Alan Williams, (Edlesborough Ward), who is Chair of the EDaN Steering Group and a member of the GPC.
- Julie Ratheram (Edlesborough Ward).
- Mark Wilson (Northall Ward), who is a member of the GPC and also Leader for the new Friends of the Church on the Hill, Edlesborough Team.
- Brian Holt (Dagnall Ward)
- Chris Nevard (Edlesborough Ward)
- Unfortunately, we are still short of the second representative for Dagnall.

and to our Clerk, Lin Sargeant, Bev Sage our Assistant Clerk who began a jobshare with Lin last September, Beverley Douglas who took over the responsibilities for looking after EMH, the Pavilion and Green from Bev Sage in March and to **Yvonne Howard.** our tireless caretaker for EMH and the Pavilion.

Kevin Cubbage

<u>Chairman</u> and <u>Northall Ward Representative</u> <u>Edlesborough Parish Council</u>

19th April 2012

Eaton Bray Methodist Church

We invite you to join us on SATURDAY JUNE 9th at CHESTNUT LODGE Leighton Road Great Billington, the home of Jane and James McFarland. We will be serving PLOUGHMAN'S Lunches from 12 noon until 2-00pm and then TEA'S from 2-00pm until 4-00pm. An opportunity to sit and relax in beautiful surroundings, chat to friends old and new and to be fed too! Proceeds from the day will go to the "Canal's Chaplaincy".

Our Saturday Community Light Lunches Helpers will be taking a well earned break during July, August and September but we should be back on Saturday October 13th from 11-00am until 1-00pm, everyone is welcome. Our Cafe Worship services will continue on the 2nd Sundays in the month.

Eaton Bray Academy - Olympic Torch Relay

On Tuesday 17th April the whole school took part in a relay to carry the Olympic Torch from the summit of Totternhoe Knolls back to the School for an opening ceremony. The following reports of the event were written by children from Rabbit class:-

EBA going for Gold - by Carys

It was 17th April when EBA held their very own Olympic torch relay. At Totternhoe Knolls Badger class began the relay by taking the brightly lit torch down the Knolls to an excited Rabbits class. The Olympic Torch was then carried to the next field where Squirrels were waiting eagerly. Otters took over and finally Hedgehogs brought it into school. When we arrived back at school councillor Mustoe cut the ribbon to open the Olympics. We sang "What have you done today to make you proud" and Jason was playing the trumpet.

EBA's relay from Totternhoe Knolls - by Matthew

On 17th April we were all excited up Totternhoe Knolls. When we got there Badgers and Rabbits walked up the hill. Badgers went to the top and Rabbits stayed a few meters lower. Meanwhile, Squirrels waited in the field for the torch to arrive. Otters waited patiently for the torch to come to them and finally it came to Hedgehogs and they carried the torch to the school. Jason played the trumpet and we sang "What have you done today to make you proud". Councillor Mustoe cut the ribbon and our Olympics begins.



Councillor Mustoe cutting the ribbon Photo of the Olympic torch relay on page 73



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

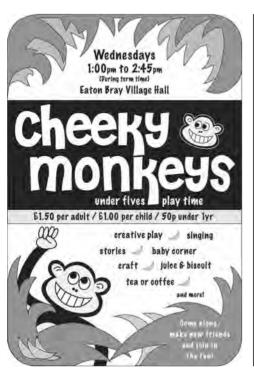
Children are consistently offered a stimulating range of activities and opportunities which enable them to make good progress towards the Early Learning Goals.

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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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St Mary's Ladies Guild

This meeting was based on a "Street Party" to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee and was well attended. Birthday cards were given to Wendy Watson, Sandra Watson, June Morton, Jean Bates, Pam Courtice, Barbara Ilic, Anne Hunt, Fay Smith, Deirdrea Ellins and Dorothy Bradbury for her special 90th birthday.

Devotions were led by the Revd.Christine Farrington, remembering at this time Tom Heffer whose funeral was taking place in Norwich on this day.

Deirdrea then read out the notices:

There will be a Memorial Service for Tom in St.Mary's Church (date to be confirmed) where refreshments will be prepared by the Ladies Guild if required.

The Coffee morning on 5th May raised an excellent £289.84 and special thanks were expressed for the help given by Gordon Gray.

Payment was requested to be made to Jenny for the afternoon tea at World's End - $\pounds 6.25$.

Outing to Henley 22nd August – payment to be made to Jenny by July meeting - £16. Next meeting 13th June the speaker will be Mrs. Leanne Walters on "History of Milton Keynes Theatre"

Notices were given out for members to choose which groups they would support financially as part of our outreach mission.

The Rev'd Christine Farrington was introduced to speak on "Royal Reflections". Christine said it had been a pleasure and privilege to have been invited to become a Chaplain to the Queen in 1998 and was presented to the Queen at a garden party in Buckingham Palace; all Chaplains wore bright red Cassocks. She was the only woman Chaplain at that time; currently there are 34/5 Chaplains 6 of whom are women. Christine shared some anecdotes with us which included her attendance at 14 or 15 garden parties. At the one on May 22nd Christine fulfilled her term of office as a Chaplain to the Queen and will be retiring.

Deirdrea thanked Christine for a very amusing, informative and interesting talk.

The raffle was drawn and closing prayer said before the social time began, our "Street Party" tea. A long table had been erected in front of the pews; there was an abundance of food provided by members and a celebration cake made by June Thorn. The tables were decorated with flags, colourful table cloths, plates and serviettes all in the Jubilee theme, Christine proposed a toast to The Queen and a good time was had by all.

New Bedford Rotaract Members Wanted!!!

Are you aged 18 – 30? Would you like to make a difference to your community?

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If you would like more information about Bedford Rotaract and the work that we do, please visit our website: http://www.bedfordrotaract.org.uk. If you are interested in becoming a member, you can email our president, Tom, at: president@bedfordrotaract.org.uk.



Edlesborough Under 5's

Monday - Friday Morning 9.10 am - 12.10 pm Lunch Clubs 12.10 pm - 12.45 pm Tuesday & Thursday afternoon 12.45 pm - 3.15 pm

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

These are just a few of the comments made in our fifth OFSTED Report (March 2008 - available via our website). The report reflects the high quality of learning on offer to all children at Edlesborough Under 5's and highlighted the quality of teaching by the staff. 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

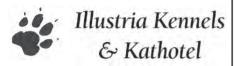
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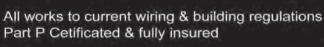
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Edlesborough Parish Council News

including Edlesborough, Dagnall and Northall

Bus Stop in Edlesborough High Street

Within a few weeks Bucks CC have agreed to install a white line from the end of the Bus Stop cage to the junction with the A4146 to alleviate the constant problem of vehicles parking in this extremely dangerous area.

Luton Airport proposed expansion

The Council have submitted responses to both the LLAL and LLAOL consultation documents setting out it's concerns regarding possible increased air traffic over the Parish

Vale of Aylesbury Neighbourhood Plan

The Parish Council have agreed to defer any further action until the draft of Aylesbury Vale development Plan is published. Information would be sent to parishioners who gave their e-mail addresses on the recent Questionnaires and will be available on the Parish website.

Speed Limit Review

All new signs have been erected throughout the villages, the VAS in Northall is temporarily out of service until work is carried out to revert this from 40mph to 30mph and the road roundels will be painted when weather improves.

Surface water on A4146 through Northall

Bucks CC will be dealing with this problem as soon as their Jetting machine has been repaired.

The Green

Due to considerable wear and tear over the Autumn/Winter period the surface of the Green suffered severe damage. This has now been treated with monetary contributions being made by EB Lions and The Swan Football Club. Restrictions of use have been made to allow time for the Green to recover.

Would Parishioners please note the change in contact details which are slightly difference from those published in the April issue of Focus

Updated Information as to who to contact at Edlesborough Parish Council

Edlesborough Memorial Hall Bookings Beverley Douglas 01525 222049

e-mail: bluebellbev@gmail.com
Enquires/concerns regarding the Memorial Beverley Douglas 01525 222049
Hall Pavilion Playground and Green a mail: bluebellbev@gmail.com

Hall, Pavilion, Playground and Green e-mail: bluebellbev@gmail.com Faulty streetlights clerk: Lin Sargeant 01525 220859

e-mail: parish.council.clerk@edlesborough.gov.uk

Allotments Clerk: Lin Sargeant 01525 220859

 $e\hbox{-mail: parish.council.clerk@edlesborough.gov.uk}\\$

Burials and Cemetery enquiries Clerk: Lin Sargeant 01525 220859

e-mail: parish.council.clerk@edlesborough.gov.uk

All other enquiries to be addressed to the Lin Sargeant 01525 220859

Clerk e-mail: parish.council.clerk@edlesborough.gov.uk

Full details of all General Purpose Committee Meeting and Parish Council Meeting minutes are available on the parish website www.edlesborough.gov.uk after they have been approved and signed at the following meeting.

Lin Sargeant – Clerk to Edlesborough Parish Council - Tel. 01525 220859

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

Beverley Douglas – Assistant Clerk to Edlesborough Parish Council – 01525 222049

E-mail: bluebellbev@gmail.com

Edlesborough Memorial Hall Booking Secretary: Beverley Douglas – Tel. 01525 222049. E-mail: bluebellbev@gmail.com.

Website: www.edlesborough.gov.uk

Edlesborough Parish Council Meetings

3rd Thursday monthly 7.30pm Memorial Hall Next Meetings: 21st June

19th July

The Swan Northall FC

Division 1 - Leighton & District League Champions 2011/2012

The Swan Northall clinched the Division 1 title for the second year in succession, the only club to have done this since the league's formation.

Pictured below is the title-winning side.



Back row, left to right: John Dorman, Michael Pazek, Lewis Aslam, Craig Edwards, Leigh Foley, Chris Hosey, Jake Steward, Simon Davies. Front row, left to right: Daniel Sunderland, Adam Price, Paul Dorman, Lee Dorman, Chris Rowson, Ryan Holden, Gary Wright.

Best wishes and get well soon from the lads goes to Paul Dorman, who broke his ankle in the last game of the season. Hope you make a speedy recovery Paul, as you've got a charity bike ride from London to Paris to do in July.

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Ofsted March 2011

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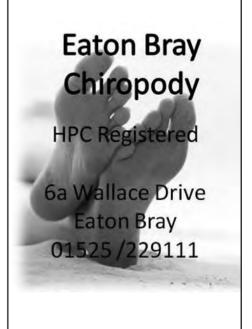


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Above & Right: Carnival 1993 Photo by Mel Grundy



Eaton Bray Academy Olympic torch relay. See article on page 49





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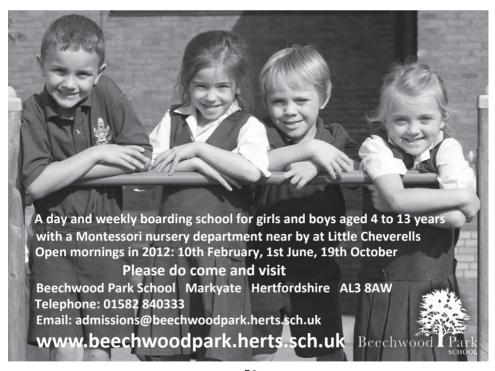
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OPEN DAY DATES:

3rd March 2012 12th May 2012 31st May 2012

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Edlesborough W.I.

At our recent annual members' night Brenda Shields and her helpers arranged the evening. The committee, and also June and Jill (who set out the Memorial Hall each month), were thanked for their work during the past year. They each received an Easter egg, and Phrena, our president, was given flowers.

Our speaker was Bob Keating, a guide at Waddesden Manor for a number of years. He gave an interesting talk on Waddesden Manor and its connection to the Rothschild family, bankers of German Jewish origin. They became involved in English financial circles after Nathan Rothschild arrived to work in a London counting house. The Rothschild Bank set up then still exists today. Examples of some of their financial help were Wellington's army in Napoleonic times, the Bank of England and Suez Canal. It was reported at one time that they controlled gold prices throughout the world. Another member of the family, Lionel, was elected to be the first Jewish M.P. to serve this country. When Ferdinand Rothschild came here in 1865 he brought his French collection with him to furnish Waddesden Manor which he had built to the design of a French chateau. Waddesden Manor became well known for its lavish house & garden parties. In fact, Oueen Victoria and the Prince of Wales were believed to be visitors on some occasions. Ferdinand was widowed early in his marriage, and his sister, Alice, acted as hostess until her marriage. Ferdinand carried out a great deal of charitable work. One such example in a children's hospital which now stands at one end of St. Thomas's Hospital in London. Waddesden Manor is a beautiful building, and each year one or two items of furnishings

are changed. The lovely gardens display plants for each season, which are grown in Cornwall. They are used partly in arrangements displaying the family emblem of five arrows. Flower displays in the shape of crowns were planted for the Queen's Coronation, and it is hoped that there will be special ones for the Diamond Jubilee. The slides we saw during Bob's talk made it more interesting to see what a lovely place Waddesden Manor is. It is now National Trust property, but still managed by Jacob Rothschild who lives nearly.

After thanking Bob for all the interesting information regarding Waddesden Manor, Brenda treated us to a poem, a monologue entitled "Caught Red Handed". As always – very well done!

We ended the evening with a choice of delicious home-made cakes to go with our cuppas. We thank Brenda and her team for a very enjoyable evening.

Val. Harris

The Salvation Army, Booth Place - Weekly Activities Sunday



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3rd Sunday of the month May to December **Monday (term time)**

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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

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E: jenny. dibs dall @salvation army. or g.uk

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Salvation Sound - June 2012

Modern Technology... Not My Scene...

In the newspaper today I read an article that stated "The days of letter writing are over". Well, with postage stamps at such a high price that's a "may be", but, oh, there is a great joy to be had by some of us when the postman delivers a handwritten letter from an old friend, or a postcard from an exotic country, that I in my "old age" will never visit; or perhaps a birthday or congratulatory card; along with the mountains of junk mail that I seem to get.

W.H.Auden wrote the poem, The Night Mail, which makes the claim, "And none will hear the postman's knock without a quickening of the heart, for who can bear to feel himself forgotten?"

So many of my generation do not have access to the internet, do not send or receive E-Mails, cannot send text messages, and really do not want to become addicted to the small screens. Things like Kindles and I-Pods etc. are like a foreign language to me; I like to read with a proper book in my hands.

One of the leasures of belonging to the older generation is that the need for speed is not a necessity.

Ecclesiastes chapter 7 is headed in my Good News bible, "thoughts about life." Verse 29 says: "This is all that I have learnt. God made us plain and simple, but we have made ourselves very complicated"

To get back to the mail; if letter writing is to be a thing of the past tell all the philatelists to hold on to their collections; soon they will be worth a small fortune - especially if they have a unique stamp, such as a 1 cent black-on-magenta British Guiana (now Guyana) printed in the capital, Georgetown in 1856. One was sold in 1873 for the equivalent of 30p. In 1934 it was resold for £7.500. in 1979 it was valued at £350.000. Today who knows?

Letters written in a bygone age, peoples' signatures become collectors' items. These are not things to be discarded, destroyed, or thrown out willy-nilly. They are treasures and will become our heritage.

"Some give thanks for a day that is done,

I give thanks for one begun;

For the chance to live as I feel I should,

And with good grace as I know I could.

I'm glad of the chance to do or say

A kindly thing in a kindly way;

And of bringing, if but for a little while,

To the face of another, a happy smile."

Letters do that, write one today.

These are an example of letters written by children to God.

"I sorry did not write before but I only learned how this week. Martha. I am five."

"Dear God, If we had fur like animals we wouldnt have to wear clothes. Did you ever think of that. Walter."

"Dear God Last week it rained for 3 days. We thought it would be like Noahs Ark but it wasnt. Im glad because you could only take two of things, remember. And we have 3 cats. love from Donna."

"Dear God Why do I have to pray when you know anyway that I want? But if it makes you feel better, Ill do it. Sue."

Letters like this always reach there destination, no cost involved!

Dagnall Weather Station (AONB) Weather Conditions for April 2012

What a contrast to last month! 142.2mm of rain fell in April — more than five times that of March (27.2 mm). The temperatures were also lower than the previous month, the lowest being -4.4°c. The sharp frost caught out some gardeners, although the dominant weather pattern for the month was April showers.

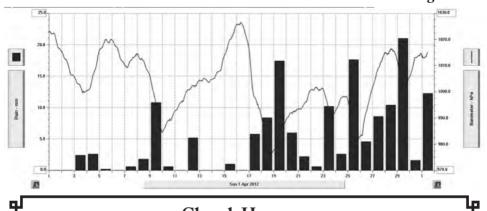
The Dagnall weather station can now bring you weather data 24 hours a day, updated every 15 mins via the web: http://myweb.tiscali.co.uk/dagnallweather and http://bit.ly/weather_dagnall

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:	18.7°c	30 April 14.00	-4.4°c	6 April 05.30
Mean Temperature	7.2°c			
Dewpoint:	10.4°c	30 April 18.00	- 7.6°c	6April 05.30
Humidity:	78%	1-6 April	40%	16 April 15.30
Barometer:	1026.5 hPa	16 April 8.00	975.5 hPa	18 April 17.30
Wind Speed	35 mph W	25 April 19.00	Months avg.	6.1 mph
Wind Chill:	16.9 ℃	30 April 15.30	−5.1°c	6 April 06.30
Dominant Wind:	NW			
Rainfall * T= total rain days and moisture. R= Actual rain				
*Rain Days: 23 (T),	22(R) Wet	test Day 29 April	21.01 mm	0.830 ins
Monthly Rain:	Total	April 2012	142.2 mm	5.598 ins
Yearly Rain:	Total	3 Months	237.5 mm	9.350 ins

April 2012 Plots shows the rain for the month with the barometer reading



Church Humour

The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new campaign slogan last Sunday: 'I Upped My Pledge - Up Yours.'



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 10 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.

Edlesborough Book Group

The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo by Stieg Larsson

The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo is the first book of the Millennium trilogy written by Stieg Larsson and published after his untimely death in 2004. He was a political iournalist and Mikael Blomkvist, the hero of his book, is the part owner of Millennium. a magazine specialising in political disclosure. We are introduced to Blomkvist as he emerges in disgrace from a court case in which he has been found guilty of libelling Wennerstrom, a powerful industrialist and now faces a prison sentence. Blomkvist is approached by Henrik Vanger, head of the multi-national Vanger Corporation. He offers to help Blomkvist prove his case against Wennerstrom in exchange for help in solving the mystery of his granddaughter Harriet's disappearance thirty years ago. This work is to be conducted in secret under cover of pretending to write a biography of Henrik Vanger. Blomkvist agrees and soon becomes immersed in what appears to be a much more complicated case than just the disappearance of Harriet Vanger. He realises quite soon that he needs administrative help and he is introduced to a researcher working for a security company. She is Lisbeth Salander, the eponymous girl with the dragon tattoo, who is a very intriguing character. She is enigmatic, unforthcoming, seemingly completely self sufficient and independent. She is also an expert computer hacker with a photographic memory and Blomkvist, soon becomes both reliant upon her skills and fascinated by her as a woman, despite quite a significant age difference.

This unlikely pairing, together with a tortuous plot involving many intriguing storylines, keeps us turning the pages of an exceptionally well written and executed novel. The subject matter is sometimes very dark, but nothing is written gratuitously or salaciously. The plot remains believable and the twists and surprises are well thought through. Many of our reading group had seen the film before reading the book and they, without exception, said how much better the book was and how much more they gained from reading it; we all declared it to be an excellent book and would recommend it highly. Many of us will go on to read the other parts of the trilogy.



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