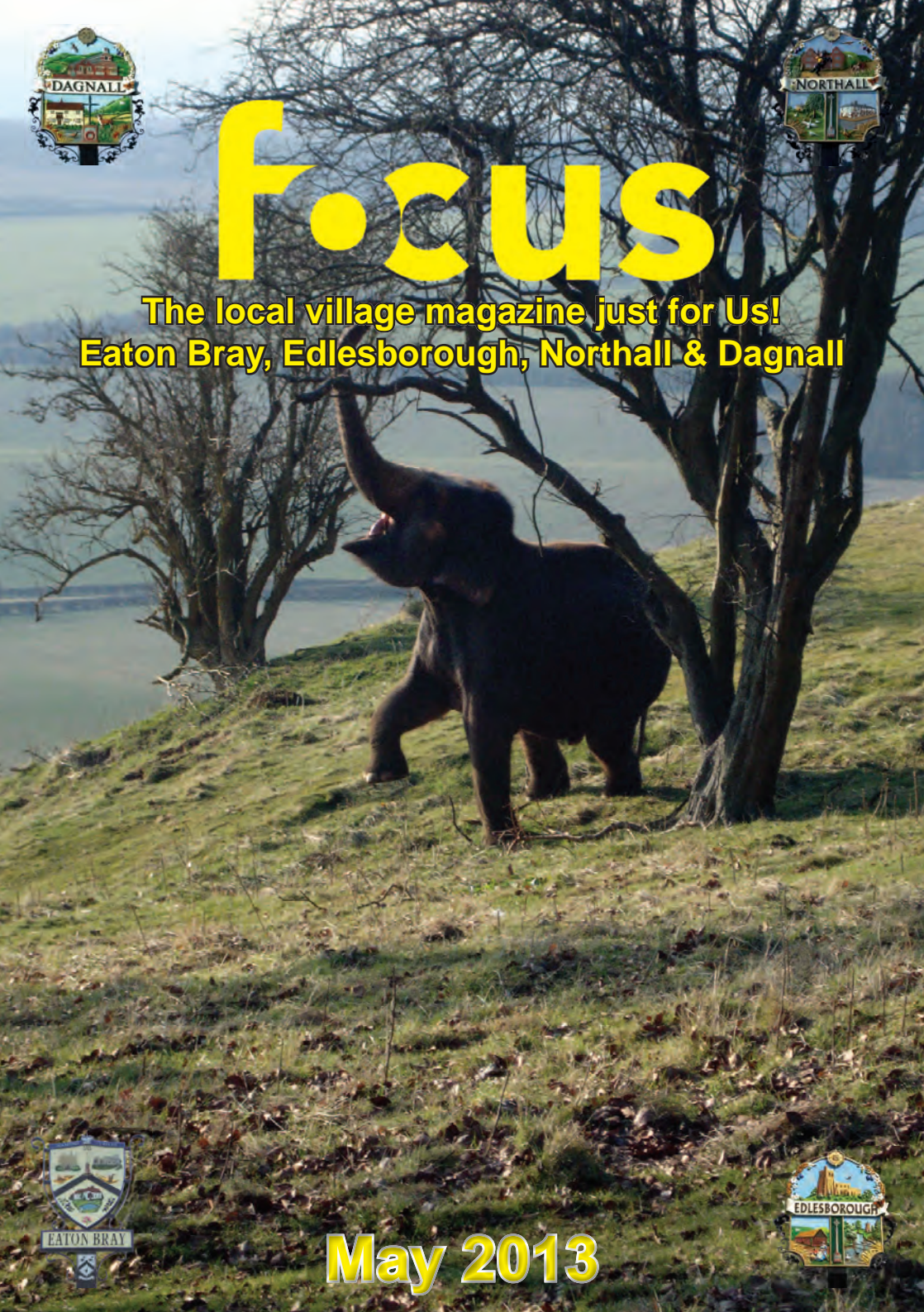




focus

The local village magazine just for Us!
Eaton Bray, Edlesborough, Northall & Dagnall



May 2013

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Focus Magazine Committee

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Kevin Cabbage

'Larums', Eaton Bray Road, Northall

Val Barrow

3 Chestnut Close, Dagnall

Focus accepts no responsibility as to the accuracy or content of any advertising or articles published in 'this' magazine neither do they reflect the opinion of members of the Committee.

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

Kindly Note...

If the event you wish to advertise falls in the first week of the month, it is advisable to get the details into Focus a month earlier. The magazines are not delivered from the printers until the first of the month, therefore it takes a few days for them all to be circulated throughout the village.

✉ Editors

Police Contact Numbers...making neighbourhoods safer together **Bedfordshire Police (Eaton Bray)**

General Assistance (Recommended Number): 101 Emergency: 999

Leighton Buzzard Police Station/Kathryn Horgan: 01582 473418

Typetalk: 18001 01582 437418

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

Thames Valley Police (Edlesborough, Dagnall & Northall)

General Assistance: 101

PC Steve Brisley Mobile: 07817 817 562

PCSO Jackie Dodson Mobile: 07800 703 524

PCSO Natalie Hall Mobile: 07800 702 456

Email: WingSouthNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

Village Diary May 2013



Weekly

- Mon-Fri (term time) Eaton Bray Pre-school, Eaton Bray Lower School, 01525 220468
- Mon-Fri (term time) Dagnall Under 5's, Dagnall Village Hall, 9.15am - 12.15pm, Mrs Ann Tobin 07816 358342
- Mon-Fri (term time) Edlesborough Under 5's Pre-School, Edlesborough Memorial Hall, Angela Paine, 01525 229529
- Mon-Thu (term time) Totternhoe Pre-school, mornings, Totternhoe Lower School, Ellie Deeley on 07913 529574
- Mondays Pilates, 10.45am, St.Giles Church Hall, Totternhoe, Lisa: 01582 412426
- Mondays (term time) 2nd Eaton Bray Brownies, girls 7-10 years, Edlesborough Memorial Hall, 6 - 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, Booth Place, Eaton Bray
- Fortnightly Cheeky Monkeys Under 5's playtime, 1pm - 2.45pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall, 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, Zoey 07595 986892
- Thurs Baby & Toddlers Group, Dagnall Village Hall, 12:45-2:45pm (12:15 if bringing 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 Central Bedfordshire Children's Centres' Toy Library, 9-9.45am, Eaton Bray (School Lane) Public Car Park
- Fortnightly Tap & Ballet Classes, JoAnn Latus School of Dance, 4-8pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall, 01582 620576
- Fridays

Village Diary May 2013



- 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 Casey, 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 Tuesday Bingo, 7pm, Dagnall Village Hall
- 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, St Mary's Church, Edlesborough Open Day, 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 Wednesday Eaton Bray & Edlesborough Lions Club, 7.30pm, The Coffee Tavern
- 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 Beds Area Narrow Gauge Model Railway Club Meeting, 11.30am-4.30pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall
- 10th Leukemia Research Coffee Morning, 2 Dunstable Road, Dagnall 10.30 am.
- 11th St. Mary's Eaton Bray Coffee Morning, 10am to noon
- 11th Cafe Community, 11am - 1pm, Eaton Bray Methodist Church
- 21st Dagnall Over 60's. Ploughmans Lunch 1.30pm. Visitors from Kensworth

One Off/Annual/Irregular Events

- 6th EDaN Car Boot Sale, Edlesborough Green, Sellers 8:30am £8, Buyers 9-12 noon
- 7th ELF visit to Milton Keynes Theatre
- 9th ELF meeting at Coffee Tavern 10.30
- 11th Cantata Ladies Choir, 7:30pm St Mary's Eaton Bray. Tickets: £7.50 01525 222283
- 12th Appledown Craft Fair & Fun Dog Show, 11am
- 12th-18th Christian Aid Week
- 14th Dagnall Village Hall AGM 6.30pm
- 16th ELF lunch out
- 18th Edlesborough School Barn Dance, 7:30pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall, £15 220431
- 22nd Age Concern Coffee Morning, 10-11:30am, Northall Village Hall
- 25th - 27th St Mary's Pitstone - Annual Festival of Art & Flowers, 25th 2-6pm. 26th 11am-5pm, 27th 11am-6pm
- 31st May & 1st June 10th Eaton Bray Village Hall Beer & Cider Festival, Midday to 11pm £3

Village Notices

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TP Trampoline, 12ft and has a cover.
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Village Hall Bookings

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

Northall: Lorna Cabbage
Tel: 01525 220361

Eaton Bray: Norman Lee
Tel: 01525 222831

Dagnall: Elizabeth Coates
Tel: 01442 842550

Edlesborough Memorial Hall:
Penny Pataky, Tel: 01525 229358



EDaN Community Transport

Peter Williams:
01442 842506

*Front cover photo:
One happy elephant by Sally Siddons*

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*St Mary's Church,
Edlesborough
will be open from May
until September on the
first Sunday in the month
from 2pm to 5pm*



EDaN Go To Westminster

At the invitation of our
MP, the Rt. Hon John
Bercow, 40 EDaN Team
members, friends and
family attended a private
tour of the Houses of
Parliament last month.
The splendour of the
Lords and the Queen's
robing room were
spectacular and our guide
divulged insights into

the workings of Parliament not commonly
known and the chequered history of the
Palace of Westminster. Our invitation
had included a visit to Speaker's House
State Rooms, but unfortunately unplanned
construction work was in progress, so
these were out of bounds.

We were delighted that John Bercow came
down instead to meet us in the Palace of
Westminster and spent half an hour with
us, including recounting fond memories of

the late Margaret Thatcher, who had sadly
died that morning. As a student he had
been encouraged by her to join the Young
Conservatives. Advice well taken. We
joined with him in a minutes silence. At
the base of her statue someone had placed
a single daffodil with a poignant note of
recognition of her inspiration to women.
We will all remember where we were the
day Margaret Thatcher died.

Mr. Speaker will formally open our first
Edlesborough Festival at 3.00 p.m. on
Saturday 8th June. Dagnall Community
Choir will lead us up to this and following
will be The Choirfest – six local school
choirs showcasing items from their
repertoires. Do come and join us at
this and other exciting events over the
weekend in our church on the hill. Details
elsewhere in Focus.

*Photo taken by Vicky Johns shows some
of the EDaN team at Westminster on 8th
April. The flags were flying at half mast.*

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

News from the Lions Den



It has been another busy month for the Eaton Bray & Edlesborough Lions. The Easter Eggs that we had distributed around the villages to be raffled were gratefully received by the winning ticket holders and the proceeds from these raffles raised just over £350.00 which will enable the club to purchase high viz waistcoats for Edlesborough primary school children. Thank you once again to everyone who supported us.

Our Lions Club received the opportunity to team up with the MK Dons Football club in recognition of their 'ability counts' day on Saturday 6th April. We took 85 individuals along with us to watch the match against Crawley Town. The group consisted of 10 Lions and 75 individuals with varying degrees of disability, both

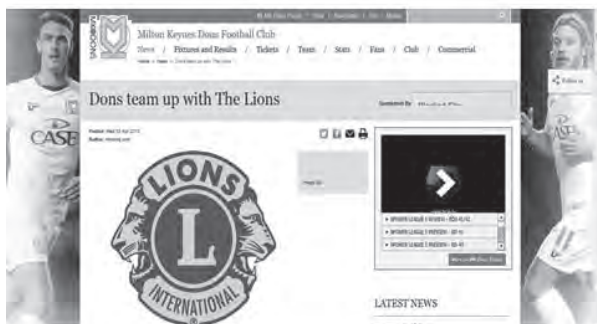
physical and mental.

The Dons were promoting their various disability teams and a parade from the athletes was enjoyed by all during the half time interval.

The day presented us with a number of wonderful opportunities. Initially, the ability to take these people, who would otherwise perhaps never get to see a live football game, to the match was priceless. In addition to this, being able to link up with a football team and to receive all of the subsequent promotion was an incredible boost for our organisation.

The Dons were equally delighted with the day, despite the nil nil draw, and we hope to be able to run similar events again in the future.

Our monthly free delivery service of fish and chips continues and we are delighted to report that we are picking up new recipients every month. It is wonderful to know that this small act of community service by our club is being enjoyed by so many of you by calling Rachel on 01525 229 656.



Ordinary people doing amazing things

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

There was a time when the seasons seemed to fly by. Winter, often dark and cheerless but lifted by the Christmas festivities is followed fairly quickly by spring, my favourite season. Spring usually provides at least a small bunch of daffodils ready for picking to celebrate St David's day on March 1st before we head towards summer and warmer temperatures. Today, April 9th, my first daffodils have only just come into bloom and the vegetable patch is a wasteland. Opening a glorious garden to the public at the beginning of June is a distant dream.

May is, however, just around the corner and as you read this the weather **will** have improved, the trees will be in blossom and the flowers blooming. I really hope so because the wedding season at St Mary's will be in full swing and my fervent prayer is that it will be warm and sunny for couples who have spent ages meticulously planning as they vow to commit themselves to one another for life.

May Day heralds the coming of summer, especially in rural towns and villages. In many parts of the country the village green is resplendent with Morris or Maypole dancing at the traditional *May Fayre*. Well Dressing, the art of decorating wells, springs or other water sources with growing things is very popular throughout Derbyshire and dates back to the Celts. It begins in May and continues through the summer months. Later on in the month the Chelsea Flower Show (21st – 25th) beckons those who do not mind wrestling with the crowds and who have their hay fever under control.

At St Mary's we celebrate the Festival of Pentecost on Sunday 19th May. Pentecost marked a turning point in God's dealings with the world as a once small, inward looking group of followers of Jesus became a movement that was on fire, sharing God's passion for mission throughout the world. Pentecost celebrates both the life giving fire of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the Christian Church. It really is the birthday of the Church. This year the North Chilterns Group will be celebrating its thirtieth anniversary with a Pentecost Praise service at St Mary's on the 19th at 4pm. There will be lots of singing and possibly standing room only.

God has made us one in Christ. He has set a seal upon us and, as a pledge of what is to come, has given the spirit to dwell in our hearts. Alleluia and the peace of the Lord be always with you.

Coralie

Music at St Mary's

What a season of music we have to offer you at St Mary's, Eaton Bray this summer. Starting in May we have one of the top ladies choirs in the region – **Cantata Ladies Choir**. On **11 May** they will be performing a very broad mix of songs from the shows, 'standards' and some popular classics. A splendid night is in prospect.

Then we have the thrilling prospect of a concert by the LSO – the **Luton Symphony Orchestra** on **22 June** – under their conductors Uwe Radok and Dafydd Billinghurst. (Both will be well known to those of you or your children who have been involved with Bedfordshire County Youth Music.) This will be the orchestra's first visit to St Mary's with a tremendous programme comprising: either Rossini's 'Il Signor Bruschino Overture' or Bizet's 'Carmen Suite No. 1' followed by Barber's 'Adagio for Strings', Gounod's 'Petite Symphony for Winds', Tchaikovsky's 'Swan Lake Suite' and, in the second

half, Schubert's Symphony No. 5 in B flat major – a delightful symphony.

One word of caution. I understand that on 21 & 22 June DAOS will be putting on a show in Eaton Bray Village Hall. If you want to support both events then please arrange to see DAOS on the Friday and Luton Symphony Orchestra on the Saturday.

A final date for your diary is **17 August**, when **Saxes en Q**, a saxophone quartet, will be entertaining us with a varied programme including jazz and music by George Gershwin. The concert will also feature the soprano Min-Min Peaker, whom many of you will remember from last year's Poppy Prom. Tickets for this year's Poppy Prom will go on sale during the Saxes en Q concert.

There will be a bar at each of the concerts and you can arrange tickets for all three concerts from the Box Office: 01525 222283 - free admission for Under 16s.

✍ Gordon Gray



Dagnall Village Hall Committee Annual General Meeting 2013

The Annual General Meeting of the Dagnall Village Hall Management Committee will take place on **Tuesday 14 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, Dagnall School, Gardeners' Society 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 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.

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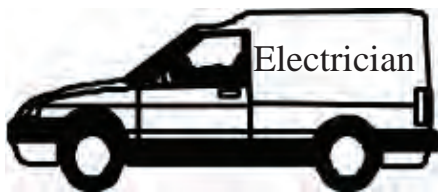


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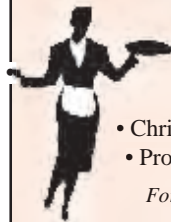
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Ashridge Estate Events



Gentle Stroll

7th May, 2:30pm, Ling Ride Car Park - off Beacon Road, £2.50. No need to book.

Bluebells at Ashridge

8th May, 7-9pm, Ashridge Estate Visitor Centre, Adults: £7, FoA £6, Children £5
Booking required: 01442 851227

Birdlife in Spring for Beginners

11th May, 6:30-8:30am, Steps Hill car park, Adults: £7, FoA £6, Children £5
Booking required: 01442 851227

Plant Fair

12th May, 11am - 4pm, Ashridge Estate Visitor Centre

Discover Ashridge Walk

18th May, 10am-1pm, Ashridge Estate Visitor Centre, £3.

Fossil Fabrication

28th May, 10:15 - 11:15am, Natural History Museum Tring, £3 per child
Booking required: 01442 851227
ashridge@nationaltrust.org.uk

Edlesbray Leisure Fellowship (ELF)

The very cold weather has not helped members to enjoy the pre-arranged events. The planned walk for March 25th was cancelled. Also, the visit to Ascott House to view the daffodils was cancelled as the daffodils had not blossomed.

Our next walk was scheduled for April 22nd and the walkers were hoping for a reasonable day.

There will be NO WALK on May 27th as it is a Bank Holiday. The walk will take place on Monday 3rd June.

Reports will be in the June edition of Focus re our visit to Blenheim Palace and our visit to St.Albans on April 14th for lunch and the Organ Museum.

On May 7th, Joan is hopefully able to organise a Matinee performance at The Milton Keynes Theatre for members. Details, as usual, will be posted in the North Porch of Eaton Bray Church.

Our next meeting is on May 9th in the Coffee Tavern for refreshments and a chat about future events. Please come along.

Val T. is organising our next lunch out on May 16th. Details will be posted in the North Porch of Eaton Bray Church.

MAY DATES

Tues 7th May Milton Keynes Theatre
Thurs 9th May Meeting at the Coffee Tavern 10.30am
Thurs 16th May Lunch out

Carnival 6th July - Science Fiction



It is now the beginning of May and our SCIENCE FICTION Carnival is only two months away. The Carnival only happens because people from the villages make it happen. On the morning of the Carnival and the evening before, you may well see lorries and vans crisscrossing the village transporting tables, chairs, fridges and freezers, barbeques, gazebos, stalls, tents, tea urns, cups and saucers, drinks, cutlery and all the equipment that is required to make the carnival happen. This is all undertaken by volunteers from the villages and without this effort there would be no Carnival. These lorries and vans are generously lent by local individuals and businesses however this year there is a shortage of transport. This is now a major issue for the Carnival both for transport of items and for providing local groups with a float for the main procession. So,

Transport, Transport, Transport, Transport!

Helpers, Helpers, Helpers, Helpers!

Do you have or know of anyone who has a lorry, trailer, horse box or van that could be used to help with the Carnival? This is now a critical item, please help in any way that you can.

Here are some important bullet points if you would like to be involved with or provide items for the Carnival:

- If you would like to place an advertisement in the Carnival program please contact Pauline Glenn on 01525 229408.
- Would your Business, Charity or Local Organisation like to book a stall location on the Green for the day? Contact Bob

- Stilliard on 01525 222283.
- Can you provide any prizes for the silent auction? Contact Gordon Gray 01525 220136.
- Do you have items for any of the many charity stalls? For example: book stall, white elephant, plant stall, adult and childrens tombola. Contact Sharon Stilliard on 01525 222283.
- **Are you able to provide your time on the day or the evening before to transport materials or set up the Carnival tents and help with moving items around the Green? A free breakfast is available to all early morning helpers. Contact Gordon Gray on 01525 220136.**
- As above; can you provide the Carnival with some urgently needed transport? Contact Andy Tourney on 01525 210584.
- Finally take a look at the Carnival website for any further information you may require at www.stmarysvillagecarnival.com.

Can't focus on a science fiction possibility for decorating your house or as a personal costume on the day? Here are a few suggestions from the first half of the alphabet.

Alien, Andromeda, Atom Ant, The Avengers, Babylon 5, Batman, Battlestar Galactica, Biker Mice from Mars, Captain Scarlet, Day of the Triffids, Dr. Who, The Fantastic Four, Fireball XL5 (who remembers Robbie the Robot?), Flash Gordon, Futurama, GI Joe, Ghost Busters, Godzilla, Gulliver's Travels, Hancock, He-Man, Highlander, The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Universe, Incredible Hulk, Inspector Gadget, Invisible Man, Iron Man, Jekyll and Hyde, Joe 90, Knight Rider, Lost in Space, The Lost Planet

(Monsters of the Id), Man from Atlantis, Man from U.N.C.L.E, Marine Boy, Metal Mickey, Mighty Mouse, My Favourite Martian and a personal favourite of mine... My Goldfish is Evil!
More to come in June Focus, watch this

space!

For any general enquiries on how you can get involved with this year's "out of this world" Carnival or anything else contact:
Gordon (Flash) Gray : 01525 220136 OR
Richard Evans : 01525 222512

Front Row

Front Row started 12 years ago. A group of six people came together and decided they would like to put on productions in the village. Five of the six, Barbara, Bob, Bernie, Donna and Malcolm, came from Eaton Bray and Edlesborough and the sixth, Chris, from Dunstable. I was asked to be involved at the beginning as Stage Manager. This in turn led to me dragging my husband in as he has an amazing talent for building sets and props from nothing. Although the base group was six, it then grew to nine which additions being moi, Richard (also our sound man as well as our set builder/designer) and our lighting guru, Graham. When putting on plays usually one of the team directs and then very amicably we work out who would like which part. Sometimes one of the group takes a break in which case we invite other people to join us if needed. We are very fortunate to have a vast bank of talented people to call on to help either with the acting, directing or building and setting up the sets, providing props and even our own dedicated and incredibly talented hair stylist when required.

The first production we put on was Abigail's Party. One of the most amusing things about this was how much of the furniture and props etc. came from our homes. The play is set in the 70's and this was 2001! It was very successful and led Front Row on to producing a further show in the Autumn 'Out of Focus' and continuing on into this year with our 15th production being 'Steel Magnolias'. The

play was set in a beauty salon in the 80's in the southern states of America. It was a very moving story about a group of women who come together on a Saturday morning at Truvie's hair salon and their challenging and emotional journey over two years, through marriage, birth and death. One of the main challenges was finding an old hairdryer, amazingly Malcolm had one in his garage! and providing running water on stage. This is where Richard comes in – He sorted it out for us and we had warm running water on stage.

Our next production is Alan Ayckbourn's 'Absurd Person Singular' which is a superb comedy set over three Christmas's in the kitchens of three couples. So interesting challenges as we need to build three different kitchens and change them for each act. This production will be on from 14th to 16th November. Tickets will be available for sale nearer the date.

We were very fortunate to have Roy Hall who is a well known local theatre critic, visit us for this production he was very complimentary and awarded the show 3*.

Some of his comments are below:-
'Front Row Theatre Group may be a small village company but, on this showing, they have some serious actresses.'

'Eaton Bray are blessed to have such a good acting company in their small village'

For the full review please visit Roy's blog at <http://royhalltheatre.blogspot.co.uk/>

We hope you will join us for our November production.



E B Lions AFC

Club News Spring 2013

U5 – Season 2013-14

We are now collecting interest from parents of boys and girls in pre-reception who would like to put their child s' name down for Football training sessions, starting this coming September. This is for all children in Reception year starting in September (school year 2013-14) when they start school.

This exciting new U5 squad will be part of our successful CHILDRENS FOOTBALL club, based in and around Eaton Bray, Edlesborough, Dagnall, Kensworth, Totternhoe and the surrounding villages. They will be involved in fun training session, which are designed and structured to develop their skills and confidence.

Please email to register your interest to enquiries@eblions.co.uk.

All Weather Pitch Development

The club continues to work with the Parish Council on progressing the development of all-weather training facilities within Eaton Bray. There have been some truly inspiring fundraising efforts with all the teams rising to the challenge and some exceptionally generous donations, including BP Oil. Steve Ambrose for U10's Whites ran the Berkhamstead half marathon, raising an impressive £490, whilst Zoey and her Zumba ladies added

a further £200 to the team total. U14 girls ran a dinner and magic evening at The Swan in Northall to boost funds further and tickets for the "Big Ball" in October are selling fast.

The much needed training facility represents a massive £240k investment in Eaton Bray, with a large part of the project funding provided by a grant from the Football Foundation, which supports development of football for youngsters in their local communities. It's also been identified as one of the top three projects this year for Beds FA.

More details about the project can be found on the club website, where there's also an excellent short video explaining the benefits for club and community.<http://www.pitchero.com/clubs/eblionsafc/>.

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EDaN Community Transport provides a service to the people of Edlesborough,

Dagnall and Northall who are disadvantaged by local public transport. The service is made up of volunteers who give their time to help others in need of this service. We only charge for the fuel we use and £1 admin fee to cover admin costs etc.

Community Transport carried its first passenger on 23rd March 2011 and so we celebrated our 2nd birthday on 23rd March 2013.

At our initial meeting to sign up drivers we had 28 people who showed an interest. Of those 16 returned their application form along with insurance documents etc. Unfortunately we lost a few drivers because they had problems with their insurance company when they contacted them to tell them they were involved with Community Transport.

The majority of insurance companies do not make a charge for you to take part in driving for Community Transport. If you do experience a problem with your insurance company please let me know as at the moment we have a small amount of money to re-imburse you. If you make the change at renewal time for your policy there should be no charges.

At the moment we have 16 drivers on our books. They are made up as follows: 12 Dagnall, 3 Edlesborough, 1 Eaton Bray. If you know of anyone you think would like to join the scheme, particularly from Northall, please give me their details and I will get in touch with them.

We welcome all drivers, please do let us know if you would prefer only to do short trips and equally it is helpful to us if

we know that you are happy to do longer trips. We are also very grateful if you can only drive occasionally, this is still a big help to us. Please don't be put off because you think you can't drive very often.

We have 43 registered passengers, and we have made 424 trips since we first started in March 2011. In January 2013 we made 43 trips, a record month!

In January 75% of trips made were for medical appointments. Trips have been made to the following hospitals, Stoke Mandeville, L&D, High Wycombe, Hemel Hempstead, Mount Vernon, Spire Harpenden, John Radcliff and Churchill in Oxford.

We are getting very good feedback from our passengers who have remarked "How did we ever manage before we had Community Transport". We continue to provide essential transport within the villages of Edlesborough, Dagnall & Northall.

If you would like any further information on Community Transport please contact:- Kathy Bovington Tel 01442 842796 or Mob 0779 0537032

Email kathybovington@hotmail.com

To book a trip:- Community Transporter Co-ordinator Peter Williams 01442 842506.

Dagnall Village Hall 100 Club Winners – April 2013

56	Kelly Pritchard	£50
6	Tony O'Connor	£25
74	Stella Rose	£25

Drawn on 7th April 2013 witnessed by Louise Swaby and Xanthe Glaysher. Please call Sharon Quinn on 01442 842129 if you would like to join and help the Village Hall Funds



Appledown Dog of the Month

This is Scooby! He is a 2-year-old Dogue de Bordeaux Cross.

Scooby is a gentle giant. He is fantastic with people and mixes well with other dogs. He is so happy that unfortunately he damaged his tail when wagging it and has had to have it amputated. He came to us as a stray but we understand that he has lived in a house.

Scooby has good manners and has learned to walk nicely with a head collar. He travels in a car very well.

We are looking for a home with some experience of giant breeds and where Scooby will not be left for more than 2-3 hours at a time. He is good around children but is very large and still young and playful so we will not place him in a home with children under 10 years.

If you feel you could offer Scooby, 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. (Please note that we have restrictions on

rehoming dogs to families with children under 7 years of age, so please ask for details).

Give a Dog a Walk!

We need experienced dog walkers (over 16) who can regularly spare some time on week-days to help exercise our rescue dogs. We would also love to hear from anyone willing to help with our fund-raising events. For further details please contact the kennels.

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)

Craft Fair and Fun Dog Show Sunday 12th May

Join us for a fun day for all the family and the dog! Show opens at 11 a.m.

Show classes commence at noon.

Enter on the day.

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

Parish Council meeting - dates and venues

16th May 7.30p.m Annual General Meeting followed by Parish Council Meeting at Edlesborough Memorial Hall

20th June 7.30p.m at All Saints Church Hall, Dagnall

18th July 7.30p.m at Edlesborough Memorial Hall

Sports Clubs

Joint meetings are taking place with all the Sports Clubs to discuss the future of the Pavilion.

Allotments

A new gate has been erected at the entrance to Dagnall Allotments. There are still one or two allotments available in Edlesborough and Northall

Street Lighting

Council to consider the cost and benefits of more modern replacement lamp fittings.

Bus Shelter

Work is required to repair the bus shelter in High Street, Edlesborough

Recycling

Information regarding all aspects of

Recycling and Waste collections etc.is regularly printed in Aylesbury Vale Times magazine. The Garden Waste collection for the May Bank Holiday 6th May will take place on Saturday 11th May and for the Bank Holiday Monday 27th May the collection will take place on Saturday 1st June.

Carnival

Edlesborough Parish Council will not be having a stall this year.

The Anne Thompson Cup for Excellence for 2013 will be presented to a member of the local Cub/Scout group.

Best Kept Village Competition

Having been very successful in winning the Cup in 2012 Edlesborough will be entering the Tindall Cup in 2013 which is a category for past winners so please continue to keep your gardens looking their best and **refrain from allowing dog fouling.**

Northall

Anglian Water are in communication with Bucks Highways regarding the flooding of Chapel Lane

Dagnall

No further information regarding 'Gadesden Walk'

Thames Valley Police

If you wish to receive messages via the Thames Valley Alert system to see what is happening in your area you can join online at Thames Valley Alert. This is a free service and gives the option of receiving messages by email, telephone or text and you can receive information for different areas within Thames Valley.

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

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

Penny Pataky – Manager/Assistant Clerk – contact number 01525 229358

e-mail: assistant.clerk@edlesborough.gov.uk

Edlesborough Memorial Hall Booking Secretary: Penny Pataky: Tel: 01525 229358

e-mail: assistant.clerk@edlesborough.gov.uk

Website: www.edlesborough.gov.uk

Eaton Bray Methodist Church

Our next Cafe Community will be held on Saturday May 11th from 11-00am until 1-00pm when we invite you to join us for Coffee and biscuits and/or a Lite Bite for Lunch. An opportunity to relax amongst friends and let someone else do the cooking (and washing-up!). Our Charity for the month is M.A.S.K.S. Make A Special Child Smile. They raise money for Booker Park and Stocklake Schools in Aylesbury to improve the lives of children aged 3 to 19 years who have special needs. This Charity was chosen by one of our young people and your support would be most welcome.

The following day, Sunday May 12th at 10-30 am, our Cafe Worship will be led

by Mr Martin Wallis from Harlington.

The Sunday School Anniversary will be held on Sunday May 19th at 10-30am .

This is always a special time in our Church Family when our young people take part in our Worship and this year Mr Melvyn Corby will be joining them. Everyone is Welcome.

Eaton Bray Cricket Club

100 Club Winners

April 2013

£25	Tabitha Spence	No.34
£10	Peggy Bearton	No 107

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



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and give it a try?

We are a friendly, riding school with a desire to develop the skills of both the capable rider and the enthusiastic novice. Riders who simply ride to have fun and relax are as important to us as those determined to improve and compete. This group activity is also a fun way to socialize and make new friends from all walks of life, with one thing in common - a love of horses and riding.

Our horses and ponies, all blessed with their own particular talents have been chosen for their safe temperament and rideability, so if you are looking for local horse riding then contact us today and come and meet the team!

Hope to see you soon.

Nic

07985579715 / 01525 222221

http://icknieldlivery.co.uk/Icknield_Way_Livery/Home.html

Put Your Best Foot Forward

It doesn't matter how old you are - everyone benefits from good foot care.

Cracked heels or fissures are caused by dry skin, prolonged standing or mal-alignment of the foot or walking pattern. Use a pumice stone to reduce the hard skin and massage in a suitable foot cream. Avoid wearing thin soled or open backed shoes and choose shoes with a good shock absorbing sole.

Corns are caused by localised thickening of the skin often on top of the toes caused by pressure of the shoe, but also on the sole of the feet and even between the toes. These may be swollen and painful to direct pressure. Often caused by ill-fitting shoes, you should avoid tight shoes and hosiery. Use a pumice stone to remove

excess skin and moisturise with a good foot cream. Don't use corn plasters as these can destroy healthy skin.

Sweaty and smelly feet can be caused by hormonal changes such as hyperhidrosis (excessive sweating) and being on your feet all day. Wear cotton socks and rotate your shoe usage. Wash and dry your feet carefully every day. Surgical spirit or witch hazel between the toes may help.

For further information on foot care or any alignment issues, contact your local HPC registered Podiatrist:

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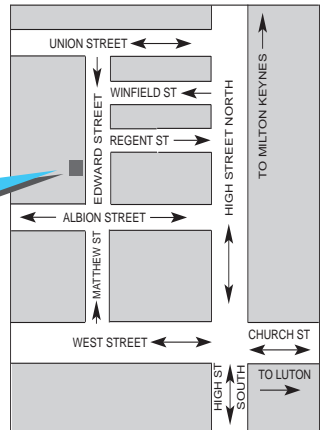
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Saturday 11th May
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(No need to book a space - just arrive)
- Buyers 9.00 a.m. till 12.00 noon
- Refreshments will be available in the Memorial hall all morning - including great bacon butties!

Tel: Christine 01525 220739 - chris@brooklyns.org.uk

RESIDENTS of NORTHALL

Save The Date!

Sunday 14th July 2013

Northall Village Trust

(Northall Village Hall)

AGM 2013

Starting at Noon and followed by

BBQ/BYO Picnic

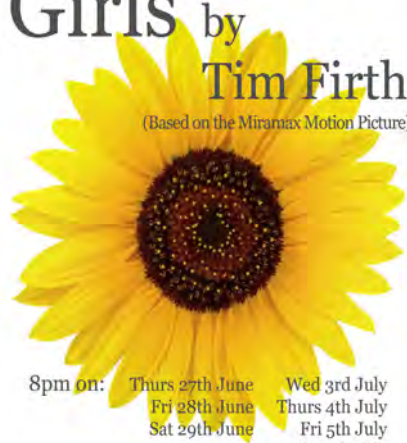
Flyer with further information to follow



Northall Village Trust - Registered Charity No. 1117673

Calendar Girls by Tim Firth

(Based on the Miramax Motion Picture)



8pm on: Thurs 27th June Wed 3rd July
Fri 28th June Thurs 4th July
Sat 29th June Fri 5th July
Sat 6th July

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In St Mary's Church, Eaton Bray
10.00am - midday

Next
Coffee
Morning

11th May



Future
dates

June 1st
July 13th
August 3rd



**We believe in life
before death!**

Christian Aid week 12/18 May

All are welcome to our joint service at St Mary's, Eaton Bray, on Sunday 12th May at 3pm – our guest speaker is Jeremy Wyman who is the CEO for Christian Aid South.



Zibusio Sibanda from the Northern region of Zimbabwe is very happy! In her area there is a vibrant example of Christian Aid's work - now there is food for all and good health for all her family



CA Concert

17 June!!

Farming for Kenyan farmer Justin, has been revolutionised by simple, targeted weather forecasts by text message - more accurate than ours!!

“When we see a plan coming to fulfilment it brings us joy; we can watch our children grow.”



Eaton Bray Academy

*What makes Eaton Bray Academy
a wonderful place to be?*



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EBA Enterprise – Dragons' Den



Music Lessons



Holiday Club Fun



Extra-Curricular Clubs



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Pre-School Playground



Key Stage Two Pantomime



Breakfast Club



Curriculum Days

Quotes from parents

"The school has already exceeded our expectations as a nurturing, encouraging and holistic educational establishment."

"I cannot think of any better environment for children to be nurtured in!"

"We like learning French!"

Quotes from children

"I like it when we do our work."

"Early Reading is good. I love doing my letter sounds!"

"We are all learning!"



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Saturday afternoon Family Magic Show

Saturday 6pm till 8pm Acoustic STUFF

Saturday evening - Bob Thomson

Fri - mid-day till 11pm, Saturday mid-day till 11pm

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EDLESBOROUGH

FESTIVAL 7th - 9th JUNE

PROGRAMME ANNOUNCED

All the events at the church brought to you by
The Friends of the Church on the Hill
www.edlesboroughchurch.org.uk

- Fri 7th** 10am-3pm ART WORKSHOP: Local artist Megan Howells (*)
3-5pm Flower Arranging Workshop - Edlesboro' Flowers (*)
7pm Regina Whyatt, BAGPIPER playing at the war memorial
7.30pm-9.30pm SOUTH BEDS CONCERT BAND - £8 & £6 (#)
- Sat 8th** 2.30-3.00pm: Warm up with DAGNALL COMMUNITY CHOIR
3.00pm Festival opening by the RT HON JOHN BERCOW M.P
followed by THE CHOIRFEST, featuring 6 local school choirs
7.00pm: "A BIT OF A DO!" starring TINLIN – think Simon &
Garfunkel: UNSAFE SAX-saxophone quartet: JESS BERGMAN
mezzo soprano opera singer. Links to artists on our website
Tickets (evening event) including food & wine - £10.00. (#)
- Sun 9th** 2.-3 pm CHILTERN WEST GALLERY CHOIR – music & dancing
3pm-4.30 music by THE DICEMEN and STARLIGHT BARKING
Local vocalists- Folk & traditional - guitar, fiddle, mandolin
5.30pm: THE BELLS, THE BELLS!
6pm-7pm SONGS OF PRAISE– Grand finale with Rev.Coralie
- (*) Places limited, booking required. Contact Christine - 01525 220739
or email chris@brooklyns.org.uk (#) Ticketed events

For further information and tickets see the Friends website or contact Alan
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Save the Date!

SATURDAY 22nd JUNE 2013

12.00pm to 3.00pm

Eaton Bray Academy's
Family Fun Day / Summer Fayre

To be held at the school, School Lane, Eaton Bray.

Lot's of fun to be had by all! More details to follow...

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7.30pm Saturday 11 May
St Mary's, Eaton Bray

The choir will perform a varied programme, including songs from West End musicals, light pop songs and spiritual songs. Many of the members of the Luton Girls Choir joined Cantata when it was formed so expect singing of a very high quality.

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Eaton Bray Village Hall
18th May 2013 at 7:30pm- late

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Age Concern
Wednesday Club
would like to invite you to their

Coffee Morning

Wednesday 22nd May
10am-11:30am
Northall Village Hall

Bring & Buy, homemade cakes,
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Entrance- 50p
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- Toddlers' tricycle, children's relay

Also Enter our 6 category family bake off :-

- Children's best decorated 6 small cakes
- Men only cake of choice
- Victoria sponge
- 6 scones - savoury or sweet
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- Bread of choice
- Children 50p. Adults £1.00 . family £5.00 for all 6 categories
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Edlesborough Pavilion, Sports & Social Facilities

THE FUTURE

All Parishioners are invited to a Public Meeting
to be held in Edlesborough Memorial Hall on
Thursday 13th June 2013 at 7.45pm

The Meeting will be hosted by representatives of the Parish Council,
existing Sports Clubs and those interested in improving the sports
and social facilities in the village.

**YOUR opportunity to help shape and influence
the future - and in particular -
the future of Edlesborough Pavilion.**



Should we keep the Pavilion as it is?

Should we “Beautify” the outside; change the shutters, coat of paint, etc?

**Should we “Beautify” the Pavilion and add an extension creating a
purpose built store etc?**

**Should we form an ‘Edlesborough Sports & Social Club’ and
develop/build a completely new facility?**

If you are unable to attend the meeting, we would still very much like to have your views. Please
contact Penny Pataky (Manager of EMH, Pavilion & Green)

e-mail: assistant.clerk@edlesborough.gov.uk or Tel: 01525 229358



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Ofsted March 2011

This is a good school. It has several outstanding features, particularly the pastoral care, guidance and support it offers its pupils and the excellent links it has with the community.

Pupils are confident, very happy at school and curious to learn.

Consistently good teaching and a well planned curriculum, enriched with a wide range of extra-curricular activities, contribute to pupils' good achievement. Behaviour is impeccable.

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YEAR 1 – boys and girls, for our U6's squad.

YEAR 4 – boys and girls to strengthen our U9 Reds squad.

YEAR 7 – to add to our U12 boys team.

Come and play fun team football within our village community, please get in touch if you want to play even if your son/daughter isn't in the above, we have teams at virtually every age group.

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Eaton Bray Parish Council

Information/Contacts - April 2013

To keep residents up to date with useful contacts/information relating to issues in the parish please keep a record of the following for future reference.

Eaton Bray Parish Council

Parish Council website:

www.ebpc.co.uk

• **Parish Council Contacts**

Parish Clerk: Telephone/Fax: 01525

221464 – email: clerk@ebpc.co.uk

For full details visit the Eaton Bray Parish Council website.

• **Parish Council Minutes**

For full detailed copy of minutes for Eaton Bray Parish Council, please visit the Parish Council website. A hard copy of the most recent minutes can also be viewed on the Parish Council's notice board at The Coffee Tavern.

• **Parish Council Annual Return**

A summary of the council's Annual Returns from 2007 onwards are available on the Parish Council website.

Parish Council Business Matters can be viewed on the Parish Council website.

Bedfordshire Police

General Assistance/recommended number: 101

Emergency: 999

Leighton Buzzard Police Station: PCSO

Laura Wilson – 01582 473434

Email: Laura.Wilson@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk

Central Bedfordshire Council

• **Customer Services**

Phone lines are open Monday to Thursday 0830-1730 and Friday 0830-1630: 0300 300 8302

The best times to contact by telephone is between 0900-1200 and 1400-1600

Email: customers@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

• **Planning Applications**

There is a searchable planning application list on the Central Bedfordshire Council website:

www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

Recommendations by the Parish Council on monthly applications can be viewed on the full detailed minutes of Parish Council Meetings.

• **Bin Collections & Recycling**

Please visit the Central Bedfordshire Council website: <http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/environment/recycling-rubbish-and-waste/default.aspx>

Email: customers@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk or call 0300 300 8302

• **Fly Tipping/Street Care/Cleaning & Littering Services**

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• **Highways & Roads**

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Pot Holes/Broken Street Light/Faulty Traffic Signals: Please report using the link above, however if you believe the problem is dangerous and could cause an emergency situation, please telephone the 24 hour phone line (0300 300 8049) to report the fault instead.

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Dunstable Downs Events

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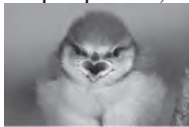
Website: www.nationaltrust.org.uk/dunstabledowns, Twitter: @DunstableDwnsNT

Car parking charge of £2 applies

Dawn Chorus Guided Walk

Sunday 5 May 2013, 4.30 to 6am

£2 per person, booking essential



Listen to the Songbirds singing at the start of a new day. International Dawn Chorus Day is an

annual celebration of the world's oldest wake-up call - the dawn chorus- and the beauty of bird song. Join us on the Dunstable Downs and listen to the song birds singing at the start of a new day. You could enjoy a breakfast bap and coffee or tea in the cafe as well after the walk. Meet at the Chiltern Gateway Centre.

Butterfly Walks

Saturdays 18th & 25th May, 11am - 1pm.

£2 per person, booking advisable

Discover something amazing. Join us on this fun, informative guided walk to look for the butterflies that thrive on the rare

chalk grassland of Dunstable Downs and Whipsnade. We might be lucky enough to see the beautiful Chalkhill Blue butterfly flying in the spectacular setting of the Downs. Meet at the Chiltern Gateway Centre.



STACK UK Kite competition

Saturday 18th May and Sunday 19th May

10:30am - 5pm. To book: 01582 500920

Come along and watch this fantastic Kite Competition taking place over two days.

Numerous teams pitted against each other in this spectacular display.

The competition takes place each morning with the afternoons set aside for the public to have a go and receive advice and coaching.

A Family Fun weekend with craft stalls, fun fair and much, much more.

All Saints' Church Dagnall

Services in May 2013

Sun. 5th May	9.00 pm	Eucharist
	10.30 am	Morning Service
	6.00 pm	Evening Service with Holy Communion
Sun. 12th May	10.30 am	Morning Service
Sun. 19th May	10.30 am	Family Communion
Sun. 26th 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.





Eaton Bray Lawn Tennis Club

Well who'd have thought it? I've just put together our quarterly club newsletter, and there's so much occurring, it went on for 8 pages, and I think I'm going to need an assistant! The Chairman still hasn't sorted out my £250K a week contract though so I'll leave it a week or two before I mention the extra £10 a week I need for a secretary. Might be the straw that breaks the camel's back. But just look ... there are Round Robins throughout the Spring and Summer, our infamous Play Day on Sunday 23rd June to which everyone is welcome (and including my modest but scrumptious BBQ), the even more infamous Chairman's BBQ in July (where he normally asks me to cook everything); there's our Junior's Tournament (with BBQ), quickly followed by our Summer Tennis Camps, and then to top it all off, our Senior's Final's Day on Saturday 14th September (plus guess what? Yes, another BBQ). Pauses to take breath. And that doesn't include the Quiz Nights, social tennis sessions, regular coaching, or whatever we get up to on Carnival Day. Or our 68 matches against other clubs' teams over the summer! If you want to join a club where nothing really happens - or you don't like BBQs - then other listings are available!

It is with regret however that I'm unable to report on the Quiz Night held jointly with the Village Hall committee on Saturday 13th April. That's mainly because as I write this on 10th, it hasn't happened yet, due to the Focus deadline being three days beforehand. As such, I shall congratulate in advance Keith's Best Mates who, as usual, are bound to win (being the quizmaster's best mates and all that), and commiserate with that devious

team of chocolate hoarding ladies who always come last, but change their team name every six months to try to avoid shouts of 'fix' and 'we want our chocolate back'. I wouldn't dare ask them for any chocolate back, least not without a group of heavily armed mercenaries behind me, or preferably in front of me. So bad luck ladies, looks like it'll be two Easters for you this year! Of course if you read this knowing that someone different won or came last, then you won't hear from me again as I'll be living in a tent on the Downs, having bet my house, car and job with the local bookie that the above scenario occurs. If I'm right of course then I win 10 million pounds and I'll be in Barbados. So it's win-win for you all either way!

Three other highlights to note this month. First, Sara, our dedicated club coach, has started her new coaching programme, and now offers no less than 5 Junior sessions on Saturday mornings followed by 2 further sessions on Wednesday evenings. The Seniors are also well catered for with coaching later on the same days, so do talk to us if you'd like to start, or indeed improve your tennis; she also offers private lessons individually or in groups. Second, we're planning a Family Doubles Tournament on Sunday 9th June where any youngster can pair up with an elder family member, parent, grandparent, second cousin twice removed etc, and take on another pair over a few games, which promises to be a lot of fun! I can see this getting very competitive, especially amongst the grown-ups! Do let us know if you'd like to take part, and we can do a spectacular joining deal for you at the same time! And third, we've got a new kettle in our clubhouse which we call

Kevin. 'Kev the Kettle' is a lovely slim, cordless, stainless steel number with a little orange light, and makes a smashing cuppa. He'll be working hard at all our events this year, so even if you don't fancy one of the best burgers in Bedfordshire, do pop up and enjoy a hot mug of your favourite brew. We even keep fresh milk in our fridge, Freda, who always looks up to Kevin because he's on the shelf above her. I think there might be a romance developing, we'll have to keep an eye on them; we've enough hot points in our club

already.... ☺

For any further information about the club, including when we get together for our social tennis sessions up at the School Lane courts, or our various activities, you can visit our website at www.ebltc.org.uk; Alternatively please call Chairman Stuart Adolph on 07773 816320, Coach Sara Leavy on 07561 571578, or if they're all out and I'm not queuing up at William Hill (other betting outlets are available...) then me, Andy Cross, on 07783 667338.



10th Eaton Bray Village Hall Beer Festival

Yes we know we have been going on about it for some time but finally it is nearly here. On

Friday 31st May and Saturday 1st June we will be holding the 10th Eaton Bray Village Hall Beer Festival.

Last year was the best ever, with over 500 people attending and we would say that over 80% came from the local villages, this is truly your event and we thank you for making it such a success.

So what are we doing to make our 10th so special?

Well we have been asked to extend the hours slightly so we will be opening at **12 noon** on Friday so come along for a quiet drink and something to eat over lunchtime or perhaps during the afternoon, what better way to start the weekend? During the evening there will be live music from **Jerome Chance**, Saturday again we will be open at 12 noon and after a great family entertainer, **Smartie Artie**, which we know all the youngsters will remember from last year. We then have an extra live set from **Acoustic STUFF**, followed by **Bob Thompson** in the evening.

On top of that we have food at all times including all your favourites from burgers, hot dogs and of course chips, jacket potatoes and lost of other delights for the kitchen area.

Now we get to the serious part, BEER! We, well our friends from CAMRA are putting an extra 5 barrels of beer, hopefully including our own special 10th anniversary brew. Plus the ciders and perrys. If none of those are to your taste we will have wine and lager available, plus of course soft drinks for those under 18 and non drinkers. All these drinks can be consumed from our 10th anniversary pint mugs (perhaps not the wine), you'll love the design!

We have spent a lot of time trying to make the event better than ever but all that will be to no avail if we don't have anybody there, so please come along, have a great time and help us celebrate a truly village event.

For further information see our advert elsewhere in Focus, our posters around the village or call Ross on 01525 221411. See you there.

1st Eaton Bray & Edlesborough Scout Troop

100 years of Scouting in the Villages



1st Eaton Bray & Edlesborough Scout group is celebrating the little known fact that Scouting has been in the Villages for 100 years. Our records show that the original group – then called 1st Eaton Bray 27th Beds Scout Group was formed in 1913 by Mrs Wallace of Poplar Farm.

- By 1915 the troop boasted its own band and held their first camp on the recreation ground in the Rye.



- In 1924 Mrs Wallace led a contingent of Scouts from Beds (including some from 27th Beds) to a world Jamboree in Denmark. Little more is known of the group after 1930 (but we would welcome any input to fill in our gaps in information).
- In 1946 the Group was restarted as 1st Edlesborough & Eaton Bray Scouts by Percy Pitkin, operating from Edlesborough village hall and a stable at the Old Vicarage.
- The Group was re-registered in 1952 as 1st Eaton Bray & Edlesborough – changing the order of the villages as the then Aylesbury District team refused to travel from Aylesbury to Edlesborough and the Beds District would only come if the name changed because Eaton Bray was in Beds!!!

- In 1954 a trust was set up to purchase the land next to the Village Hall and to raise funds to build the current Scout Hut.
- The hut was finally finished and opened in 1959 by Lord Baden Powell's son Peter. To commemorate the opening Peter planted the tree in front of the hut – which is now the subject of a tree preservation order.



- The Group flourished in the fifties and sixties and with much assistance from personnel from RAF Edlesborough, maintained this strength into the seventies.

Our Group has continued to enjoy success to this day and we have been able to source the list of many past and present village residents who have in some way made a fantastic contribution to keep our Scouting adventure going for the benefit of the village youth – we would like to thank you all!

Today, in 2013, we are able to report to District that all our sections Beavers, Cubs & Scouts are full, with waiting lists and that we have an excellent crop of trained leaders who enjoy fantastic support from the Committee and the parents. We are

planning our Centenary Camp in July and so far we will be a group in excess of 75!!! – should keep the catering team busy. 2013 has also brought us planning permission; granted to extend the hut forward by some 3 meters. This means we hope to finally modernise the toilets and kitchen and improve storage facilities,

St Mary's Ladies Guild

Quite a chilly afternoon to start the Guild meeting but on arrival, everyone was soon chatting.

Deirdrea welcomed the members and two visitors, Janet and Terry. There were birthday cards for Celia, Gillian Hunter and Joan Thorne along with good wishes. Carol Jones, who is a member of the Sugar Craft Guild was the speaker, demonstrating various forms of cake icing.

Cupcakes are now very trendy (as well as tasty), for weddings and children's parties. Carol showed various types of icing and ways of decorating them with feather icing, printed sugar paste disks, handmade rosebuds, two coloured icing and lots of handmade toppings and sprinkles. She then went on to decorate one of her twin granddaughter's second birthday cake. This cake was Olivia's and was decorated with a plaque saying Happy Birthday and her name in pink icing, then came the handmade teddy bears, an absolute delight to look at, finishing the cake except for the piping.

Boards were passed around showing various forms of piped decorations and flowers, examples of icing plaques with hand painting, there was also a table of Carol's work, which showed great patience and precision. A special, relaxing afternoon full of inspiring ideas and many handy tips. June Thorne gave the vote of thanks. Devotions followed led by

freeing up valuable space in the main hall. Fund raising has already commenced and although some grants have been sourced, if anyone is able to offer any assistance or has any suggestions please contact our current Group Scout Leader Nick Evans. Our Scouting adventure continues, we will keep you posted on our progress!

Thelma.

Notices

The annual outing is to Stratford on Avon on Tuesday 13th August, please contact either June Thorne (220260) or Jenny Hewett (220295) if you would like to come.

There are future plans for a cream tea, outing to Bicester Village and other ideas. The speaker next month is Paul Heley "Through the Himalayas"-on a motorcycle I believe!.

Tea followed, enjoyed as always by everyone. The raffle consisted of six small individual boxes of cupcakes and some handmade roses, made by Carol.

Visitors are always welcome to any of our meetings with a happy atmosphere, fun, food and fellowship. These take place on the second Wednesday of the month, 2.00pm at St Mary's.

Why not come and try.

Eaton Bray Village Hall 100 Club Winners April 2013

47	Heather Martin	£100
87	Danny Kerr	£25
140	Mel Grundy	£25
119	Dave Proven	£25

Drawn on 8th April 2013 at Hines the Butchers. Please direct any correspondence to Ross Bagni 71 Bower Lane Eaton Bray, Bedfordshire LU6 1RB Telephone: 01525 221411.

The Royal Maundy



On Maundy Thursday I was honoured and privileged to receive the traditional Maundy Money from Her Majesty the Queen in

an impressive service and ceremony at Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford.

It was an early start, 8.30 am at Redbridge Park and Ride and a special bus into Oxford. Coffee and biscuits in St. Aldates Church and introductory talks by various officials. By 10.30 all the recipients were seated in the Cathedral.

The formal proceedings began with the choir procession followed by the Diocesan and Ecumenical Processions. At 11am, Her Majesty the Queen, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, were welcomed at the west door by a fanfare and the service began with the first hymn. Her Majesty was then conducted in procession to her seat near to the High Altar. This was followed by the Royal Almonry Procession consisting of

the Yeomen of the Guard, some carrying the alms, and the dignitaries of the Royal Almonry.

The service (or office) follows a traditional pattern and it is within this service that the alms, consisting of the Maundy Coins and other coins in two leather purses, are distributed. The Queen accompanied by the Lord High Almoner and the Yeomen of the Guard, bearing the alms on large gold plates, came down into the body of the Cathedral to personally present the monies to each recipient in turn. The service ended with processions similar to the others.

After the ceremony the recipients and their companions were entertained to lunch by the kind invitation of the Dean and

Chapter of Christ Church.

So ended a very exciting, memorable and colourful day and I feel honoured, privileged and somewhat humble to have been chosen.

✍️ John Shadrack.



EDaN Beautification Team



Car Boot Sale

Bank Holiday Monday – 6th May is the morning to arise from your nice warm beds

and get yourself down to Edlesborough Green to see what bargains there are to be had at our Car Boot Sale. ‘Booters’ can come down to park and set up from 8.30 a.m. for the ‘punters’ to arrive at 9.00 for a good old rummage.

Get your breakfast on the hoof from our BBQ’s outside the Memorial Hall then pick up some real deals from our bedding

plant stall to start off your spectacular summer displays.

Pictorial Journal

Don’t forget we’re still looking for old pictures of the EDaN villages, also our dear boys lost in the wars. Details in last month’s Focus.

Painting and Flower Arranging Workshops – Friday 7th June

Still a few places left on both of these at the Edlesborough Festival.

Contact Christine – 01525 220739 / chris@brooklyns.org.uk

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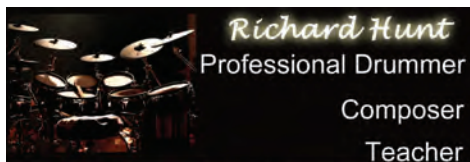
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Some comments from our recent Ofsted report:

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 2 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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Leighton Linlade Cancer Support Group

Hi to you all

I do realise that not everyone wants to talk about cancer let alone read about it in their village magazine. But if you can spare me a couple of minutes of your very valuable time I would be grateful.

Just to set the scene; our group meets on Friday mornings at the Salvation Army Hall in Lammas Walk Leighton Buzzard, we open at 10.30am and finish at 12.30pm. To continue with scene setting – the group is for cancer survivors, for those recently diagnosed members and those in the midst of their treatment.

During the six years since the group began we have supported each other with laughter, heartfelt hugs and shared tears. Our common ground brings us a greater understanding of the complexities of this dreadful disease but also fills us with admiration as to the strength of all our members, in turn this adds greatly to the growth of the group.

On Fridays we offer a space to share a cancer journey (if it is wished) or a place to put cancer on the back burner for a couple of hours and have a laugh and a free cuppa.

Our group does not expect members to be sat down by 10.30 am or to come every week – members use it as they wish. Attendance can be fitted around personal

commitments, treatments, holidays etc., our understanding stretches to the use of ‘if you get a better offer - go for it’. Friday mornings are a major part of our group but throughout the year we do fund raise, we then have to spend it on something nice; like - meals out, barge trips, Xmas Extravaganzas and attending quiz nights. These have been on the programme for the past couple of years, sadly the latter never gets us near the prizes but they are great fun.

I feel I have taken up enough of your time so at this point I would like to say thank you on behalf of the group for taking time to peruse this. Should you know of someone who might benefit from our group, please forward our contact details onto them.

It doesn't matter where they live.

Again thank you for your time.

Kind regards

✍️Pat Armstrong

www.e-voice.org.uk/leightoncancersupport

E-mail leightonlinladedcsg@yahoo.co.uk

For personal contact please ring:

Mary Edwards 01525 377761

Pat Armstrong 01525 378750, 07711 552190

LLCSG is established for charitable purposes with the HMRC.

Dagnall News

Over 60's

The Over Sixties had quite a surprise when they arrived at the village hall for their March meeting! The Hall was decorated with Union Jack bunting (courtesy of Brian Holt, who also put it up around the beams) . The Committee all joined in with

the Wartime theme and wore clothes to fit the 40s. Val Pratt won the prize for the best outfit. She came as a G I with homemade gas mask in a box! We had an amusing talk from our speaker John Phipps, describing his experiences as a boy in WW 2, and this prompted some of our members to relate

their own memories as young people. Later we served a Wartime tea and sang to a CD of Wartime songs

In April we went out to lunch at the Green Man and afterwards to the Poplars Garden Centre. In May we have our Ploughmans lunch and play host to Kensworth Over Sixties, followed by Bingo

In June we have a day out to Wrest Park.

Community Choir

Tight Underwear Worth A Try

We regret to report a spectacular lack of success in our recent drive to find men willing to undergo the procedure which would enable them to reach the higher notes that Stuart Harding, our conductor, seems determined to inflict on us particularly in "Zadok the Priest".

The suggestion by Joe Leslie, our accompanist, seems not to have gone down too well with basses and tenors, who are keen to point out that we are already well endowed (no pun intended) in the soprano and alto sections should the surgeon overdo it.

Unfortunately most of our male members prefer to retain their masculinity and seem reluctant to accept that fresh fatherhood might be a thing of the past.

For our concerts in early summer, if it ever arrives, we are considering experimenting with the deployment of undersize underpants in an effort to improve performance in the upper range. The lower range will have to take care of itself.

You can see the results of our efforts on Saturday June 8th. as part of the Edlesborough Festival and again at Dagnall Fun Day on Saturday 15th June. There are also several Autumn Concerts in the pipeline and more details of these will appear in future editions of Focus. If you think that an appearance by your Community Choir might be beneficial to any event that you may be planning or if you would like to join us in our learning process on Monday evenings, (Castratos particularly welcome), please contact Geoff Ward 01442 843515 or Val Lumley 01442 842214 who will be pleased to give details.

Dagnall School

The Great Fire of London





Salvation Sound



As I write this I am thinking of the Korean people, North and South, and the threat of nuclear war.

We live in an age that has sought to reduce space and time to a minimum. We have travelled faster, gone further and ventured higher than people of any other time in our history. But we still have been unable to reduce friction and tension in the world, which we have brought together as our neighbours. We still see the same old hatreds, the animosities, the prejudices. We still find, not only abroad but also at home, the seeds which will bring forth destruction, and unrest and unhappiness.

We are sadly aware of the differences which divide segments of our country and the people of our nation into differing factions and groups. Why is it that we seem to have such an inability to live together in harmony?

There is a saying that "Revenge is sweet". NOT SO! Revenge is a cancer that corrupts our way of life. The way of Jesus Christ is that of forgiveness and understanding. Reconciliation must begin here with us if it is to spread. It is like throwing a pebble into a pond and watching the ripples go until they reach the far shore. It requires not only courage and humility to do this, but it is the only way to establish the understanding that is needed to be able to live in peace with those beyond our own borders.

In a cathedral is a figure of Christ holding a child by the hand. The child holds, in his right hand, a round ball. The sculptor had placed the sphere of the world in the hand of the child. Imagination comes into play once more! This seemed prophetic to me; the world does belong to the coming generations. Sadly all children are not willing to go the Way of the Lord, they

withdraw their hands. What then? God does not force anyone to accept His way, guidance, or love. He cannot help us unless we want Him to. We must stretch out our hands to Him. The burden is placed on us to teach our young people their responsibility for future mankind. They can only know what is right if they are held securely by the hand of Christ.

There are, many ways that lead our stumbling footsteps through the world's bewildering maze - until we find that perfect Way to which all paths must lead - through many phases of belief, of form and sect and creed.

A prayer: Lord, when people make huge mistakes, redeem those moments. May distress be a teacher, rather than a destroyer of hope. Amen.

The Salvation Army,
Booth Place - Weekly Activities

Sunday
Footprints (Sunday School) 9.45-10.45am
Morning Worship 11.00am
Songs of Praise 4.00pm
3rd Sunday of the month May to December

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
Champions Challenge Club (term time)
(Ages 5-10 years) 5.45-6.45pm

Thursday
Parent and Toddler Group
(Term time) 9.30-11.30am
Haberdashers' night
2nd Thursday of month 7.45 pm
Ladies Fellowship
(Last week of month) 7.45pm

*For further details please contact Captain
Jenny Dibsall T:01525 221156/07717 813682
E: jenny.dibsall@salvationarmy.org.uk
W: www.salvationarmy.org.uk/eatonbray*

A Ghostly Tale

Have you ever noticed the impressive mansion on the hill as you drive towards Markyate, known as Markyate Cell.

It is best known for its notorious inhabitant, Lady Katherine Ferrers. This wayward, spirited female, famously known as "The Wicked Lady", inhabited the mansion of Markyate Cell by day but after dark she would secretly don the cloak and mask of a highway robber and thus disguised as a man, mounted on a coal black horse, would rob travellers on the treacherous roads of Hertfordshire. Katherine, Lady Fanshawe, nee Ferrers, maintained this double life for some time, undiscovered until a fateful encounter near Nomansland at Wheathamstead, where she was shot and fatally wounded. Her horse managed to take her back to the secret doorway leading to her chamber, where she was found lying dead on the stairway. The doorway was subsequently bricked up and remained so until after a fire in 1840 when a hired gang of labourers from London broke it down. It was these workmen who claimed to have seen the ghost of Lady Ferrers swinging herself on a branch of a large sycamore tree standing near the house. A substantial amount of treasure is fabled to be buried under the said sycamore tree, immortalised in a local rhyme.


Near the Cell there is a Well
Near the Well there is a Tree
And 'neath the Tree
The Treasure be.

Lady Ferrers was also seen near the kitchen chimney of the Cell and in recent times, a cloaked figure on horseback has been glimpsed pelting across the barren Normansland Common, near Wheathamstead, and surrounding countryside on moonlit nights. It appears builders are a very psychic bunch. In the

late 1850s, more builders were working at Markyate Cell, this time repairing a wall, when they saw the figure of a nun walking in the direction of a gate in the wall. She then disappeared. Knowing that this gate had not been in use for years, the men made an inspection and found that the gate had not been opened for a long time. However, the nun was seen frequently after this at the Cell and walking in the avenue in the grounds near St.John's church.

The Cell stands on the site which was once the Priory of Benedictine nuns, founded in 1145 and dissolved in 1537. Much alteration has taken place to this manor house over the years, but the original building dates from around 1539. Perhaps the nun that was seen by the builders has been walking for nearly a thousand years!

A report in a scrapbook of local newspaper cuttings claims that a baronet staying at the Cell fell asleep one evening, only to be rudely awoken feeling that someone had placed their hands on his shoulders and was trying to force him from his chair. Angrily resenting the intrusion, he swung his arm round to push the hands away but to his amazement encountered nothing. The grip on him released and he stood up and looked around. There was nobody in the room. The report ends with the statement: 'What better evidence of ghosts can be needed?' What indeed...

	<p>Bucks DA of the National Vegetable Society Talk Tuesday 7th May 7.30 p.m. Pitstone Memorial Hall A talk by Mick Poultney on Composting "My Way" and the No-Dig' method of cultivation. Guests very welcome at just £3. Further details from David G Elkins, on 01296 630659 or www.nvsuk.org.uk</p>
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Dagnall Weather Station (AONB)

Weather Conditions for March 2013

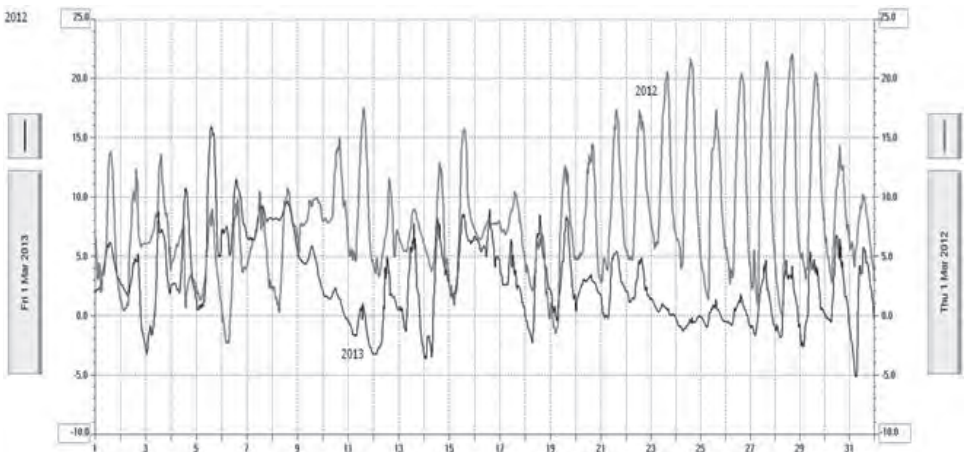


March was dominated by the low temperatures, making it one of the coldest Marchs on record with a mean/average temperature of only 2.8°C. With wind blowing for most of the month from the east brought the cold air from north Europe and Russia, making it feel much colder. We recorded temperatures below zero on 19 days of the month, only the 6th 7th 8th were slightly warmer, the rest hovered just above the zero mark. It was also a wet month with 70.6mm of rain/snow. Snowing on the 23rd -24th on cold ground resulted in this laying there for the rest of the month. Comparing March 2013 with 2012 it seemed it was a different world. I have tried to show this in the figures below and on the plot. For weather data 24 hours a day, updated every 15 mins, visit: www.dagnallweather.co.uk. If anyone has a question, comment or wishes to contact me please email: david@dagnallweather.co.uk or telephone: 01442 843883

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

	High	Date/Time	Low	Date/Time
Temperature:	16.6°C 2012 22.1°C	5 March 14.00	- 5.2°C 2012 - 2.4°C	31 March 07.00
Mean Temperature	2.8°C	2012 7.8°C		
Dewpoint:	9.2°C	8 March 14.30	- 7.3°C	12 March 07.30
Humidity:	100%	5 & 14 March	47%	14 March 15.00
Barometer:	1029.4hPa	1 March 21.30	987.0 hPa	17 March 14.30
Wind Speed	38 mph W	16 March 08.00	Months avg.	5.7 mph
Wind Chill:	15.9°C	5 March 14.00	-8.9°C	11 March 23.30
Dominant Wind:	E			
Rainfall *T= total rain days and moisture. R= Actual rain				
*Rain Days: 20 (T), 16(R)	Wettest Day 16 Mch		12.4 mm	0.488 ins
Monthly Rain:	Total	March 2013	70.6 mm	2.79 ins
Yearly Rain:	Total	3 Months	177.8 mm	7.00 ins

Plots below show the March comparisons of temperature between 2012 and 2013



When we last met we had to say goodbye to Mavis Purcell, who was soon to move to Eastbourne. Mavis has done a large amount of work for our institute since 1969, and we shall miss her. She was presented with a card, signed by everyone, to remind her of the happy times spent with us. We were reminded by Christine Yates that the EDaN Beautification Team are to hold a car boot sale on Edlesborough Green on 6th May (May Day). When the birthday cards and plants were presented, Margaret Hacking received 'special' birthday good wishes.

Jean Yates, the Dunstable historian, was our speaker. Her talk was on the subject of Medieval Dunstable, and she had an amazing amount of facts to relate. This year is the 800th anniversary of the dedication of Priory Church, and Jean and more than 100 unpaid volunteers have set up the Medieval Dunstable Project. As many medieval events will be taking place in Dunstable this year, the project team are working on research about these times. They have been successful in obtaining money from the lottery to help their work. Also, they have made contact with a translator of medieval diaries, who lives in the near area. Archaeologists are working in Priory Gardens every Sunday and, from drawings made, it appears that the Priory is now only one third of its original size.

The Priory, we learned, owned churches and land in Bedfordshire and some other local areas. Some property was owned in Leicestershire, and land and sheep in Derbyshire were given to Dunstable in 1205. It is believed that Priory House was probably built with the profits from this. At that time, wool was England's big export,

and merchants came to Dunstable from abroad to buy it. Priory Church supported many travellers and the poor of the day. During medieval times many tournaments took place in Dunstable. Hundreds of people came to watch the entertainment such as jousting, acrobats, dancers, etc.

Research is still going on for this project, and all the information will help in the summer of medieval events this year. Dunstable Heritage Centre is to hold a new exhibition, and there will be battle re-enactments, organ recitals, guided tours around the Priory, etc. Jean told us that a book about this research is to be published at a later date. Judging by the interest shown at our meeting, this book will be very popular.

As well as hearing all the facts about medieval Dunstable, we had three outings. Firstly, we had a really enjoyable coffee morning at Caroline Colleran's home, and thank Caroline for acting as hostess. As well as this, we have had our annual pub lunch - this time at the Bridgewater Arms, and a committee lunch at Chez Jerome. As always, these were very popular events. Quite a busy month!

✍️ Val Harris



Dunstable & District Local History Society

Tuesday 14 May, 7.45pm

The Annals of Dunstable

A new translation of the yearly record kept in medieval times by the canons of Dunstable Priory will be published soon. Stephen Williams speaks about the background to this significant event.

Methodist Church Hall, Dunstable
Visitors always welcome £2

Look Good, Feel Well and Get the Best Out of Life!

Trading Faces has been established in Eaton Bray for 16 years and is owned by long term village resident Linda.

Linda and her team offer a wide range of hair and beauty treatments including the latest gel manicure the perfect solution to glamorous nails for the busy woman.

Now open for the gentlemen of the village is the Barber Shop, staffed by an experienced barber operating in his own room. Andrew works Tuesday to Saturday and welcomes drop-ins.

Linda is also expanding and has brought onboard experienced practitioners to provide holistic experience. On offer will be a range of treatments and therapies aimed at improving wellbeing and quality of life.

Coming soon...

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This is a non-intrusive complementary therapy. The theory is that this therapy can help the body to restore its balance naturally.

Sports Therapy Massage

For those who take their exercise seriously.

Why not take leisurely stroll to the salon and drop in for a chat.

Take Care

An elderly gentleman was visiting his friend. When he was leaving his host, in saying goodbye, added "Take care!" "Don't tell me to take care" the visitor smilingly replied "tell me to take risks".

There are so many jobs where others risk their lives for our sake. For example, The Mission to Sea Farers exists to try and help those who bring so much of our food and many essential of our goods across treacherous seas, run the gauntlet to avoid modern day pirates. To be a seafarer is a risky job.

A recent report from the Mission (which incidentally is supported by our church of St.Mary's, strongly by the Ladies Guild) tells of how a cargo ship sailing from Belgium to Finland was involved in thick fog and hit the bow of a passing container. Sadly, eleven young men lost their lives.

Thanks to the support of the Mission, its

centre in Rotterdam was able to give help to the thirteen surviving crew, although six of the rest were never found.

TAKE CARE is an injunction that can readily come from our lips, and it is meant well, though often just casually said, but perhaps the Christian should be looking for opportunities to take risks for the sake of others. We don't ordinarily take risks for the sake of it, but I am reminded of a saying of the great late 20th century Japanese Christian Kagawa who said "I read in a book that a man called Christ went about doing good. It is very dconcerting to me that I am so easily satisfied with just going about!" If telling someone to take care is merely an act of dismissal, then it COULD mean that we don't really care after all!

✍️ John Heffer



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