

# FOCUS



**August/September 2015**

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

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# Focus Magazine Committee

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*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

## 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

## Police Contact Numbers...

*making neighbourhoods safer together*

**General Assistance (Recommended Number): 101      Emergency: 999**

**Bedfordshire Police (Eaton Bray)**

Leighton Buzzard Police Station/Kathryn Horgan: 01582 473418

Typetalk: 18001 01582 473418

Email: [LPT.LeightonBuzzardLinslade&Rural@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:LPT.LeightonBuzzardLinslade&Rural@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk)

**Thames Valley Police (Edlesborough, Dagnall & Northall)**

PCSO Jackie Dodson Mobile: 07800 703 524

Email: [NHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:NHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk)

# Village Diary Aug/Sept 2015



## 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 Pre-School, Edlesborough School, 01525 220431  
manager@edlesborough.bucks.sch.uk
- Mon-Thu (term time) Totternhoe Pre-school, mornings, Totternhoe Lower School, Michelle Urbanowicz on 01582 668841
- Mondays Pilates, 10.45am, St.Giles Church Hall, Totternhoe, Lisa: 07799 893489
- Mondays (term time) 2nd Eaton Bray Brownies, girls 7-10 years, Edlesborough Memorial Hall, 6 - 7.30pm,  
Contact Sandra Counsell 07979 521900
- Mondays Dagnall Community Choir, All Saints Church 7.45 – 9.45pm
- Mondays Weight Watchers, 7pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall
- Mondays (term time) Movement and exercise classes with a dance flavour, Northall Village hall 2-3.30.  
Contact Jan 01442 864271.
- Mondays Curtain Call Youth Theatre 5-7.30pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Gavyn 01525 220525
- Mondays Curtain Call Theatre Group - 7:30-10:30pm Eaton Bray Village Hall, Sheila -  
sdtwinkletoes@yahoo.co.uk
- Mondays KFFA ISTD Classical Ballet classes, 3+yrs, 4.15pm, Edlesbrough Memorial Hall,  
www.kfpa.co.uk
- Tuesdays Line Dancing, 1.30-3p.m., Eaton Bray Village Hall, Lyn Stubbs 220731
- 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, Ruth Allen,  
01525 222468 or 07796 265174 or email ruthallen002@gmail.com
- Tuesdays Northall Baby & Toddler Group, 9:30-11:30am, (open in the Summer School Holidays)  
Northall Village Hall, Stacey Richmond 01525 222999/07957 607592
- Tuesdays Tap & Ballet Classes, JoAnn Latus School of Dance, 4-8pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall,  
01582 620576
- Tuesdays Circuit Training - Edlesborough School Hall, 7-8pm - www.simplesfitness.com
- 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
- Weds (term time) Pilates, 7.15pm, Northall Village Hall, Lisa: 07799 893489
- 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 on 07854 230243
- Wednesdays Dynamic Yoga 6.30-7.30pm £5 Eaton Bray Coffee Tavern Keira 07936 693696
- Thursdays Yoga, Northall Village Hall, 11.30am-1pm 01525 377542
- 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 KFFA Street dance classes 4+yrs 4pm, Edlesborough Memorial Hall, www.kfpa.co.uk
- Thursdays Central Bedfordshire Children's Centres' Toy Library, 9-9.45am, Eaton Bray (School  
Lane) Public Car Park
- Fortnightly Keep Fit class, Edlesborough Mermorial Hall 10 - 11am
- Fridays Tap & Ballet Classes, JoAnn Latus School of Dance, 4-8pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall,  
01582 620576
- Fridays (term time) "Little Luvvies" baby ballet classes 10am-11.30am. Contact Emma Whittemore on  
01525 376124



# Village Diary Aug/Sept 2015



- Fridays (term time) Kids Club 6:00pm to 7:00pm Grace Baptist Church, Edlesborough (across from the post office)
- Fridays Crazy Abs abdominal workout - 6:30-7pm, Edlesborough Memorial Hall - [www.simplesfitness.com](http://www.simplesfitness.com)
- 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
- Saturdays KFPA Musical Theatre classes 4+yrs [www.kfpa.co.uk](http://www.kfpa.co.uk), 10am, Edlesborough Memorial Hall
- Sundays Sundays Worship at 11:00am and 6:30 pm Grace Baptist Church, Edlesborough (across from the post office) Barry 01525 229610 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 Tuesday Dunstable & District Orbit (social and charitable) Club meet at Dunstable Rugby Club at 8pm. For details contact 01525 222441 or 01582 755147
- 1st Saturday St. Mary's church, Eaton Bray Coffee Morning & Plant Sale, 10am - 12 noon
- 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
- 2nd Saturday Workshops Dynamic Yoga 9.30-11am £10 Eaton Bray Coffee Tavern Keira 07936 693696
- 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
- Last Saturday Coffee Morning, 10-12 noon, Edlesborough Methodist Church

## Other Regular Events

- 14th Aug Leukemia Research Coffee Morning, 2 Dunstable Road, Dagnall 10.30 am. All welcome.
- 18th Aug Dagnall Over Sixties, 2pm, Dagnall Village Hall
- 24th Aug ELF walk from Eaton Bray church, 9:30am
- 6th Sept Beds Area Narrow Gauge Model Railway Club Meeting, 11.30am-4.30pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall
- 15th Sept Dagnall Over Sixties outing leaving Dagnall Village Hall at 11:30am

## One Off/Annual/Irregular Events

- 15th Aug Music at St Mary's Eaton Bray, 'Motherhood and Music' 7:30pm, Tickets £7.50 Box Office: 01525 222283
- 20th Aug ELF lunch out
- 29th Aug Curtain Call Muder Mystery Dinner, 7:30pm £10, 07412 640936
- 4th Sept Live at St Mary's Eaton Bray, 7.15pm, Tickets £8, Box Office: 01525 222283
- 5th & 6th Sept Family Fun Days, St Mary's Eaton Bray, 5th from 10am, 6th from 12 noon
- 7th Sept Curtain Call Dick Whittington pantomine auditions 8pm, Eaton Bray village hall
- 10th Sept ELF visit to the Heritage Motor Centre Gaydon
- 10-13 Sept Heritage Open Days at Edlesborough church, 9am to 6pm
- 12th Sept Appldown Open Day and Fun Dog Show, 11am
- 12th Sept Studhambury, 2pm, The Red Lion, Studham

# Village Diary Aug/Sept 2015



18 Sept

Northall & District Age Concern Harvest Festival Auction, 7:30pm, The Swan, Northall

25th Sept

Macmillan Worlds Biggest Coffee Morning, 9:30am to 12 noon, St Mary's Eaton Bray

## Village Notices

### WANTED

Second hand fitted kitchen units in good condition. Fitting a new kitchen? Please would you donate your old units to Eaton Bray & Edlesborough Scout Group to refurbish their kitchen? We also need a replacement electric cooker. If you can help contact Liz Coates on 01442 842550

### FOR SALE

Vespa LX50 scooter - £650  
Cot Bed in Walnut - £30  
Take off pushchair - £30  
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## EATON BRAY PARISH COUNCIL



**Please come and help to run your village  
BECOME A PARISH COUNCILLOR**

The Parish Council is nine members of the public

We come to each Parish Council Meeting in the Coffee Tavern on the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of each month and spend on average around five hours each month advising and helping to run our village.

At present we have **two** vacancies – will **YOU** come and join us?

If yes, please contact the Parish Clerk

You can also view our website for more details



Heidi Head, Parish Clerk & RFO

Email: [clerk@ebpc.co.uk](mailto:clerk@ebpc.co.uk) - Telephone/Fax: 01525 221464 - Website: [www.ebpc.co.uk](http://www.ebpc.co.uk)  
Office Hours: Tuesday/Thursday/Friday 09:30-13:30hrs [messages can be left on answerphone]



# Letter to the Editor...



Dear Editors,

As had heard that discussions would take place on housing issues in and around the village, I attended the parish council meeting for July. This was the first time for many years that I have attended, and it all looked familiar.

It was gratifying to hear that the local councillors are totally opposed to the planning of any large scale new housing on several possible sites, which would turn us into a town and not a village. I wonder however if the ultimate planning authority will listen to them. What concerned me however, no worse than that angered me, was a proposal put forward for a funfair to visit School Lane recreation park, particularly as I had just listened to the police representative give out the increased crime figures for this area; the use of drugs in the village being highlighted. "Children have to go out of the village for activities" was the reason put forward for the fair, AND THEN in the next item our representative Parish Council turn down the opportunity for the children to play football in the village on the grounds that it would interfere with people walking in the recreation park! This is the second time the Parish council have asked for village opinion on a football issue and totally ignored the feedback.

Admittedly the funfair would be only one week instead of a regular occurrence, but I know which I rather see my grandchildren attend. Is the way forward for our children and grandchildren in Eaton Bray to attend funfairs not football or other recreational activities.

Members of the public who attend Parish council meetings are not allowed to comment on the agenda topics, one can only sit in total frustration and listen to the committee pontificate, and then vote contrary to any mini referendum outcome.

Considering that a proposal was passed to spend a further £1000 on yet another questionnaire/information leaflet, I really wonder what is the point, when the views expressed in any responses seem to be completely ignored.



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## 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*

## BEAVERS\* cubs\* SCOUTS\*

### Pre-school toy collection We need unwanted pre-school toys

Totternhoe Scout Group is collecting toys for the Nehemiah Foundation, a local charity that run community based activities in diverse and deprived communities.

Some of the children who use the community groups don't have toys at home.

Please help give a local child the chance to play with some toys.

Contact Becky Garcia  
Group Scout Leader

[totternhoescouts@gmail.com](mailto:totternhoescouts@gmail.com) or 07598 330363



## Dagnall Over Sixties

Dagnall Over Sixties enjoyed their Garden Party in June. The weather was perfect, sunshine, blue skies and a little breeze to keep things cool. Approximately 30 attended.

In July we had a speaker from Sports Space to show us some armchair exercises

which we tried, and he talked to us about good nutrition and healthy eating.

In August (18th) we have a tea meeting with Bingo in the village hall.

We are happy to welcome new members. Phone Rosemary on 01442843202.



# 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)**

**Email: [admin@stmaryseatonbray.org.uk](mailto:admin@stmaryseatonbray.org.uk)**

**[www.stmaryseatonbray.org.uk](http://www.stmaryseatonbray.org.uk)**

It was a slow start to summer this year but the end of June and the beginning of July have made up for it. Carnival day was wonderful with glorious weather, crowds of people and smiling faces. I hope that the good weather will continue throughout the school holiday period with gentle rain overnight for our keen gardeners.

I'm holidaying at home this August, I don't want what looks like an excellent crop of tomatoes to wither and die. My greenhouse looks like something out of John Wyndham's 1951 novel *The Day of the Triffids*.

I am looking forward to some time off in September and have booked a five day Retreat. If you have not been on a Retreat it is exactly what it sounds like — the chance to step aside from life for a while, to rest and just 'be' in a welcoming, peaceful place. Retreats are for ordinary people at any time in their lives. There are no expectations on anyone going on retreat and you don't need to be a churchgoer. I'm going on a silent retreat, a new experience for me, a number of people including my family doubt whether I'll manage 5 days of silence!

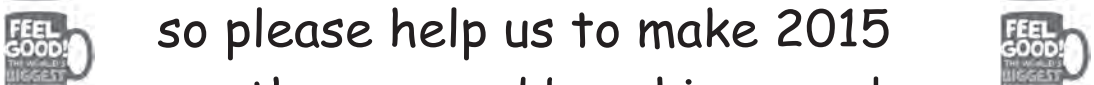
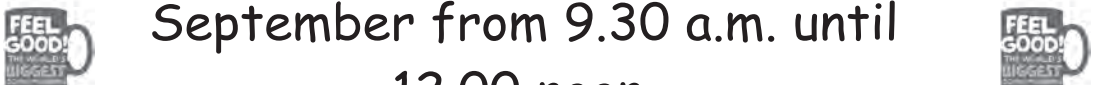
St Mary's TOTS and Messy Church will have joint activities in August on Tuesday 11th and Tuesday 25th beginning at 11am and finishing with a picnic at 1pm. Please bring along a picnic and I will provide the ice cream. If you have any dietary problems just let me know and I'll make sure that I have something for everyone. I will email and text, reminders to everybody on the TOTS and Messy Church lists.

In church we will be celebrating the rural seasonal services including Lammastide on August 2nd - 8am and 10am at St Mary's and 9am at All Saints Dagnall. Harvest Festival this year will be on September 20th at 8am and 10am. The first weekend in September we will be celebrating our Patronal Festival with all sorts of things happening for all ages. Finally, as many of us enjoy a break, let's not forget those who cannot have a holiday because of poor health, poverty, not able to take time off work or live in areas of conflict, where survival, freedom and the hope of a safer, peaceful life are their priority.

## **A prayer for children this Summer.**

As we give thanks for the good things in our lives and look forward to the summer months, we are grateful for the joy and the laughter of the children in our families, our schools and our parishes. Bless our children during these next months; may they grow in grace through play and picnics, camps and friendships, family visits and holidays.

*Coralie*



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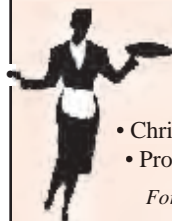
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# Edlesborough Festival

## 20th-21st JUNE, 2015 – HAPPY DAYS!!

The first event of this year's Festival at our church on the hill was opened by our MP, Rt. Hon. John Bercow. He was delighted to welcome Edlesborough, Eaton Bray, Dagnall and Linslade Schools, plus South Beds Youth Voices, to The Choirfest. This iconic medieval pile was bursting at the seams with excited youngsters and an enthusiastic audience, who were not disappointed, as individual as well as massed choirs treated family and friends to quality performances which both amused and enthralled. Congratulations to all the children, teachers and musicians for their hard work in producing such wonderful entertainment!

The church looked and smelled so inviting, with impressive flower arrangements produced by our volunteer team, again led by Phrena Wilkinson. We had brought many blooms from our gardens which Wendy from Edlesborough Flowers had generously supplemented, also providing many of the 'mechanics'. These arrangements were sold at the end of the Festival, to help cover the costs of staging the events. Many thanks to all involved with this.

'Chill on the Hill' was spectacular. Blasting off first were the Pipes and Drums from RAF Halton – dynamic! This prizewinning team will be appearing at the Edinburgh Military Tattoo this August. Talented locals, Dave Williams and friends, treated us to smooth, timeless jazz and rising soprano star Jess Bergman, with internationally acclaimed accompanist Vidas Vaitkus, rattled the ancient rafters with familiar melodies sung with such feeling and power we were all mesmerised. Back by popular demand, and hot from the piano bar at

the Dorchester, was sensational pianist and vocalist Alex Miles, who took the audience to piano heaven with a superb set of songs, a smile that lit up the church and a glow of professionalism that left her audiences stunned and calling for more.

Sunday saw a laid-back afternoon of indulgence with local acoustic musicians entertaining folk enjoying locally-brewed ales and cream teas. Mike Pearson and his team called all within earshot of the six-bell peals within the ancient tower to Songs of Praise, hosted by our Reverend Coralie McCloskey, to round off a weekend of joyful music and happy memories.

We would like to thank all who came to support this annual event, especially Edlesborough Surgery and J. Able Bathrooms for their donations. Our thanks to Janes Ltd. for being our ticket agents again, also to The Parish Council, The Burghope Trust and Messrs. John Pratt for facilitating the new car parking area this year. Many local businesses, including Edlesborough Post Office, Janes Ltd., The Travellers' Rest, Cafe Masala and Martini's of Leighton Buzzard provided substantial raffle prizes, which were much appreciated. The team are also very grateful to Mike Philliskirk for providing superb sound and lighting equipment and his valuable expertise - helping to make our events on Saturday such a success.

The funds raised over the weekend will help us implement some of the projects in the Church Plan ( details on our web site: [www.edlesboroughchurch.org.uk](http://www.edlesboroughchurch.org.uk) ) including floodlighting the Church and providing safe and secure access to the top of the tower to allow members of the public to enjoy the spectacular views from



this lofty viewpoint.

A big 'thank you!' to our great audiences, supporters and volunteers - who made the

whole weekend run so smoothly.

Friends of the Church on the Hill, Edlesborough

## Heritage Open days at Edlesborough Church - 10-13th September 2015

Heritage Open Days is a national celebration of England's architecture and historic places. Each year, in mid-September, hundreds of properties and sites which are not normally freely available to the public throw open their doors to visitors.

This year the Church of St Mary the Virgin, Edlesborough – the "Church on the Hill" – will be open to visitors from Thursday 10th to Sunday 13th of September from 09.00 to 18.00 each day. On Saturday and Sunday the Church will be manned and there will be displays on local and family history. This is an opportunity to view the interior of this magnificent, Grade I listed, medieval building with its host of historic artefacts and associations and experience the particular atmosphere of the interior of this ancient Church. Do make a visit and learn a little about the history of

the Church and its parish.

*Edlesborough Church was made redundant in 1975 and since that time its fabric has been maintained by the Churches*

*Conservation Trust. Until recently, although occasionally used for services, the Church has only been open to visitors on Sunday afternoons. The Friends of the Church on the Hill was formed in 2011 with the objective of increasing the use of the church for events and making it more readily available for people to visit. For more information about the Church, the Friends Group and how to become a friend go to: [www.edlesboroughchurch.org.uk](http://www.edlesboroughchurch.org.uk)*



## All Saints' Church, Dagnall

### Services in August/September 2015

- |                 |          |                                 |
|-----------------|----------|---------------------------------|
| Sun. 2nd Aug.   | 9.00 am  | Eucharist                       |
|                 | 10.30 am | Morning Service                 |
| Sun. 9th Aug.   | 10.30 am | Morning Service                 |
| Sun. 16th Aug.  | 10.30 am | Family Communion                |
| Sun. 23rd Aug.  | 10.30 am | Family Service                  |
| Sun 30th Aug.   | 10.30 am | Informal Worship                |
| Sun. 6th Sept.  | 9.00 am  | Eucharist                       |
|                 | 10.30 am | Morning Service                 |
| Sun. 13th Sept. | 10.30 am | Morning Service                 |
| Sun. 20th Sept. | 10.30 am | Family Communion                |
| Sun. 27th Sept. | 10.30 am | Family Harvest Festival Service |
| Sun. 4th Oct.   | 9.00 am  | Eucharist                       |
|                 | 10.30 am | Morning Service                 |

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



# A Reflection on Carnival 2015



The Sea  
4<sup>th</sup> July 2015

When I arrived home after Carnival Day I found the most delightful ‘thank you’ letter (which I have modified slightly to make it more readable).

“Our first time - our daughter works at Edlesborough school, we live in MK. We have a foster child and take him to as many events as we can. This carnival was by a long way the best. We loved the fact you let the carnival come into arena, the varied stalls, the lovely tea and cake tent, and the friendly helpers, the atmosphere was awesome. Lewis loved the classic cars; I did as well, telling him lots about the cars. There was the dog show and the red kite above in the sky. Well done to you all, we will be back. It's good to see village life working together, and to hear a prayer before the show began. Great job to you all.”

To everyone who contributed to the success of this year’s Carnival, from the youngest child in the procession (a little majorette called Molly on her 4th birthday) to the biggest business that supports our Carnival, this letter is for you.

Early in the afternoon I looked around – I was astonished at what has been created in our villages – not, of course, as the result of one year’s effort but through years of building, development and improvement. So the ‘thank you’ letter above is also dedicated to all those people (many now into their 80s, but still as supportive as ever) who, over the years, have grown the Carnival into what it is today.

My preferred weather for Carnival is calm and overcast - last year it rained all day until 3pm - but there could be no complaints about the weather this year; it was a lovely English summer’s day -

though I admit to having been worried when the days before had seen record high temperatures for July and violent thunderstorms around the country.

The ‘thank you’ letter says that our Carnival was “by a long way the best”. That is very flattering, but if it is true then it’s thanks to a very dedicated and talented team of organisers. But I would throw out a challenge to our community – the event could be even better. Here are just a few of the ways I think it could be improved:

- I’m baffled as to why more families or businesses don’t take part in the procession. Please don’t leave it to others – why not join in and have some fun?
- We had a serious congestion problem as a result of some very poor parking in Edlesborough High Street so we are going to have to implement even better Road Closure and parking protocols. We need a dedicated team to manage this before the authorities stop us from holding the event. (Does anyone have any contact with an organisation that could supply us with lots of cones?)
- Many businesses have realised that the Carnival is an important shop-window for their produce. However, in many cases great ideas came too late for us to promote them in the Carnival Programme. Please plan early and help us to help you promote your business.
- The success of the event depends on lots of volunteer helpers. I spent some of the afternoon collecting names of willing volunteers for next year, but the more help we have the easier it becomes to put on an even more pleasant day. Please offer your help!

I believe that our Carnival is one of the most important days in the calendar of our villages. It is an event that brings together both young and old, rich and poor for a common goal. But when I look around the country I see that such events are dying out, for a variety of reasons. If you share my belief that this event is of immense value to our community then I would love to hear from you – maybe you have good ideas, maybe you are an organiser, maybe you could give up a few hours as a volunteer (Email me at [gordon@gordongray.plus.com](mailto:gordon@gordongray.plus.com)).

There are so many people to thank – a magnificent organising team and those who are close to that team, Adam and Jimm, our parish and county councils who are so helpful to the organisation of the event, on-duty and off-duty police, everyone who manned stalls, those who made cakes, the logistics team and drivers, the Road Closure team, the marshals, the car park attendants, the ladies (and gentlemen) in the Tea Tent, individuals and businesses who were so generous in donations of money, prizes and goods, suppliers of lorries and other vehicles, local schools and other organisations who were in the procession, bucket collectors, those who marked out the Green, the Dog Show organisers, those who entertained us in the arena, those who advertised in the programme, the person who contacted advertisers for the programme, the people in the Registration tent, those on the sound system, those who picked up litter, those who provided storage facilities, those who went out selling Grand Draw tickets to friends and neighbours, our outside stall holders, the owners of the Classic vehicles, those who offered to help at next year's event, all who pray for us, everyone who came to the event, especially those who spent a few pounds (or more) on

one of the St Mary's Charity Stalls – and anyone else whom I have failed to thank.

Ah yes, that's the first mention of money and you will want to know how much has been raised this year. Well, I'm sorry to say that, two days after the event, I have no idea yet but it would be disappointing if, after an incredible day such as we have just had, we don't have 12 or 13 thousand pounds to distribute to local good causes. We know that  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the money will go to the principal charities (St Mary's, Medical Detection Dogs and Joss Searchlight) but that leaves a substantial sum to be distributed among local good causes; if your organisation could benefit from a donation that please let me know, via the Email above or via the Carnival website [www.stmarysvillagecarnival.com](http://www.stmarysvillagecarnival.com).

A final word of thanks to the people of Northall, for the warmth of their welcome and their generosity when I was collecting in the two weeks prior to Carnival. It was the village's most productive year ever; 8 households from the village won Grand Draw prizes, including the winner of the trip to Rome. I look forward to seeing you all again next year (God willing) when Carnival will be on 2nd July.

✍ Gordon Gray

Chairman, St Mary's Village Carnival  
01525 220136

## St Mary's 100 Club

Congratulations to the following winners:

### July 2015

1st No. 59 Judith Venn (£62.00)

2nd No. 136 Robert Dickson (£37.20)

3rd No. 100 Rosemarie Allen (£24.80)

If you would like to join the 100 Club please collect a form from [www.stmaryseatonbray.org.uk/Groups/100-club](http://www.stmaryseatonbray.org.uk/Groups/100-club) or from St Mary's Church, Eaton Bray.

# Edlesborough Parish Council News

## Including Edlesborough, Dagnall and Northall

### New Trees

The Council agreed to the EDaN Beautification team's proposal for a tree planting program for the village of Edlesborough. It is hoped that planting will commence in November/December 2015. Any parishioner wishing to sponsor a tree should contact the Clerk to register their interest.



### Allotments

Rent collection will take place in Edlesborough Memorial Hall on Saturday 3rd October for Edlesborough & Northall Allotments and at Dagnall Allotments on Sunday 4th October. Rents Due: 20 pole plot £36:00, 10 pole plot £18:00

In order for the Parish Council to save on administration expenses it would be very much appreciated if tenants could pay their rent on the specified date or arrange for them to be sent to the Clerk at 15 Summerleys, Edlesborough, LU6 2HR (cheques payable to "Edlesborough Parish Council").

Due to the high clerical costs involved in collecting late allotment rents, the Parish Council have introduced a **£10** late payment fee to be charged if full payment is not received by the end of October 2015. Any parishioner interested in taking on an allotment should register their interest with the Clerk.

### Finance

The Internal Audit of the accounts for 2015/15 has been completed and approved by the Council and the accounts have been sent to the External Auditors.

### Grass Cutting

Following the Council's continued disappointment with the quality of grass cutting around the parish by Transport for



Bucks the Council have agreed to increase the number of additionally funded cuts on significant areas in the three villages.

In the first instance please report any missed or poorly cut areas to Transport for Bucks via the website [www.buckscc.gov.uk/telltfb](http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/telltfb) or by ringing 0845 230 2882 or 01296 382416.

*The Parish Council thanks those Parishioners who are cutting grass outside their own properties.*

### Street Lights

Please remember to report faulty streetlights to the Clerk.



The Council are pleased to announce that Phase One of the streetlight replacement program is scheduled to begin in early September. Please see the additional article in this edition of Focus for more information.

### Reporting potholes, overgrown hedges, fly tipping, etc.

Over the past month the Council have received a high level of reports/complaints about potholes, damaged pavements, overgrown verges, obstructed footpaths, fly tipping, etc. Please note that these issues need to be reported directly to Transport for Bucks this can be done via their website <http://www.transportforbucks.net/Tell-us.aspx> The website is easy to use, the exact location can be pinpointed on a map and a photo of the problem can be uploaded to help TFB prioritise the issues.

If you consider the problem to be dangerous or an emergency, please call 01296 382416 (9am-5.30pm Mon-Thurs, 9am-5pm Friday) or 01296 486630 (out of hours and weekends).

### Neighbourhood Plan

The Council have agreed to begin

the process to apply for a designated Neighbourhood Area. This is the first step on the way towards creating a Neighbourhood Plan. It is important to note that whilst a Neighbourhood Plan cannot prevent growth it can help to shape it and control where it happens. Full information on the plan process and community consultation will be shared in due course.

**Speedwatch**

The EDaN Traffic Management team are looking for volunteers to help man their Sentinel device. If you have an interest in slowing down traffic in the villages or are concerned about Road Safety please contact Louise Turner on 01442 834123 or by email at [louisefanthorpe@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:louisefanthorpe@yahoo.co.uk)



**Edlesborough Parish Council Meetings**

The next Edlesborough Parish Council Meeting will take place in Edlesborough Memorial Hall on Thursday 17th September 2015. The meeting will commence at 7:30pm.

All Parishioners are welcome to attend and may ask questions, raise issues and give suggestions during the Open Forum.

The full minutes of the Parish Council meetings are normally available to view on the website or from the Parish Clerk.

**Contact Information**

Clerk to Edlesborough Parish Council:  
 Clerk: Penny Pataky 01525 229358  
 Email: [clerk@edlesborough-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@edlesborough-pc.gov.uk)  
 Website: [www.edlesborough-pc.gov.uk](http://www.edlesborough-pc.gov.uk)  
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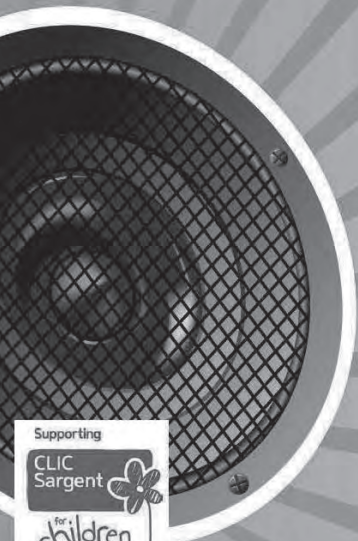
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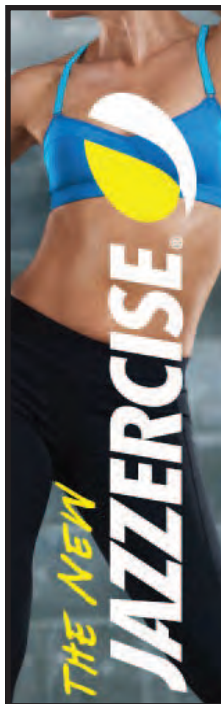
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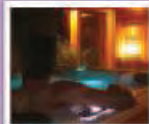
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# Eaton Bray Parish Council

## Highlights of the Meeting Minutes of the Eaton Bray Parish Council Held on Monday 1st June 2015 from 7:30pm at the Coffee Tavern

### Central Beds Council (CBC)

Website: [www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)

Customer Services: 0300 300 8302

Email:

[customers@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:customers@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)

### Greenways/Knights Close:

The matter with CBC regarding parking improvements to these areas within the parish is still ongoing. Cllr. Janes to obtain more details/plan regarding the proposals for this area and forward details to the Parish Council.

### Grass Cutting:

Due to a number of concerns raised by the Parish Council regarding the quality of the CBC contractors cutting on CBC land, Cllr. Janes confirmed he will chase up CBC regarding the quality of the cuts. In addition CBC is also in the process of contacting the local farmers requesting them to cut back their hedging along parish roads/pathways.

### **Bedfordshire Police:**

RECORDED CRIME		
Crime Type	01/05/14 to 31/05/14	01/05/15 to 31/05/15
Violence against the Person	3	4
Sexual Offences	0	0
Robbery	0	1
Domestic Burglary	0	0
Burglary Other	0	0
Vehicle Crime	2	1
Other Theft	0	0
Criminal Damage	3	2
Drugs	0	0
Other Notifiable Offences	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>

Anti-Social Behaviour	01/05/14 to 31/05/14	01/05/15 to 31/05/15
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>13</b>

contact your Local Policing Team then please call 01582 473411 or email LPT. LeightonBuzzardLinslade&Rural@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk.

**Non-emergency call 101**

**All emergencies 999**

### **Ban On HGV Vehicles Over 7.5 Tonnes Through Parish**

The HGV application has gone out to consultation, awaiting decision.

### **Speedwatch**

Speedwatch are to be carrying out more sessions in the near future. However they do have vacancies for volunteers to help with the speed checks. If you would like to get involved, please contact Cllr. Mark Tomkins, email [councillormarktomkins@gmail.com](mailto:councillormarktomkins@gmail.com) expressing your interest.

### **Neighbourhood Plan**

The application for Eaton Bray's Neighbourhood plan designation has gone out to consultation with CBC.

### **Football Pitches**

The Parish Council have agreed to the continued use by EB Lions at The Rye Ground and Holmans Field and the club have been advised accordingly. The council wrote to residents (owner/occupiers) of properties directly affected by the two mini pitches at School Lane to obtain their opinion on the use of these mini pitches, the deadline for responses was extended to 30th June 2015.

### **Future Eaton Bray Parish Council Meeting Date**

Monday 7th September 2015 from 7:30pm at The Coffee Tavern (1st floor)

**Parish Council Website:** [www.ebpc.co.uk](http://www.ebpc.co.uk)

News from the team: If you wish to For full detailed copy of the minutes for

Eaton Bray Parish Council please visit the Parish Council website.

✉ Heidi Head, Parish Clerk & RFO

Email: [clerk@ebpc.co.uk](mailto:clerk@ebpc.co.uk)

Telephone/Fax: 01525 221464

Website: [www.ebpc.co.uk](http://www.ebpc.co.uk)

Office Hours: Tuesday/Thursday/Friday

09:30-13:30hrs [messages can be left on answerphone]

Follow Eaton Bray Parish Council on Facebook and Twitter

Keep up to date with what is going on in the parish



## Are Extended Warranties Worth the Money?



*Jonathan Vernon Smith is the Sony Award winning mid-morning show presenter for BBC Three Counties Radio. During his consumer hour he helps listeners with their consumer problems and now shares his advice with you.*

It doesn't seem to matter what product you're buying, there's now an extended warranty available for everything.

The question people often ask me on my radio show is whether it's a good idea to pay the extra and take one out?

My answer is generally a big, fat NO! Under your statutory rights you are protected for a 'reasonable' amount of time if a manufacturing defect occurs with a product. Depending on the item and the initial cost, this is generally as long as an extended warranty would last anyway. Remember when the retailer says that after 12 months there's nothing they can do, they're fobbing you off. The extended warranty is normally a way of charging you for something you really don't need. Sadly some consumers are so trusting of retailers that they believe the company's advice to be sound. I went to a well known shop once and bought a radio for £15.99. The retailer tried very hard to sell me a 3 year extended warranty for £20. I explained that if the radio failed after a

couple of years I would simply purchase a new one at another cost of £15.99. The shop assistant seemed amazed that I was so hostile to the idea. Sadly I would imagine many people go ahead and pay an additional £20 that's totally pointless.

You should however remember that often when claiming under your statutory rights that a battle will probably ensue. A battle that will require you to hold your nerve. For most things I would urge you to fight that battle (and call me if you need help), but for other essential products (stairlifts / electric wheelchairs etc) you may consider buying the extended warranty just to give you hassle free piece of mind, and you know what? I wouldn't blame you.

The rule of thumb is always think long and hard before you hand over your money for something you probably don't need.

It is also worth looking into the idea of purchasing insurance policies that cover all of your white goods for mechanical failure. For consumers looking for hassle free piece of mind at a lower cost these can be a good alternative to the 'extended warranty'. Please read the terms and conditions though beforehand and understand exactly what the policy will cover.





# Edlesborough School



## Award Winning Writer!

Kai Gregory, a current Year 6 pupil at Edlesborough School, has won an award in recognition of his outstanding writing.

Kai entered the National Young Writers competition, run by Explore Learning. He had to write a 500 word story about "Strange events and peculiar happenings". Kai chose to write about a Gran and a plumber being dragged into a painting by the "imperious forces" and then being trapped there!

It was his wide and varied use of vocabulary and great sentence starters that secured Kai as the regional winner

for the Luton and Dunstable area. He was also one of the overall national finalists.

Kai is clearly a talented writer. We are incredibly proud of him and his achievements and we look forward to hearing about his future successes!



## Keeping Backache at Bay for Kids

**Does your child ever complain of backache? Do you just put it down to growing pains or one of those things that will pass? There are numerous reasons why children may develop backache or pain but some of the causes could easily be avoided.**

Studies have shown that 30% of school age children get back and neck pain\*. Don't let your child be a statistic - here are some easy tips to help your child get into good habits for later life:

1. School bags - rucksacks are best or those with a wide adjustable strap worn across the body to distribute the weight better. Adjust straps so that they keep the bag close to the body and not hanging down the back of the legs. Packing – put the heaviest things at the bottom and closest to the spine to help the back muscles cope better with the weight.

Posture – get your child to stand tall

when carrying a bag and take care to lift their bag properly to avoid increasing strain on the back by bending their knees and lifting the bag close to them. Big is not necessary best – they should be right for your child's size and tell them to pack just what they need for that day only.

2. School lockers - are not always available but if they are, get your children to leave their heavy PE kits and cooking materials etc. in there instead of lugging around in their bag between lessons.

For advice/treatment speak to St Judes Clinic. \*Association of Paediatric Chartered Physiotherapists 2012.

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# Sea Lion Pup makes a Splash at ZSL Whipsnade Zoo



ZSL Whipsnade Zoo's keepers have an exciting new addition to care for, with the arrival of a tiny California sea lion pup.

Born to first-time parents Bailey and Dominic on Thursday, 18 June, the two-week-old male, named Oscar is the first baby to arrive at the Zoo since dad Dominic was born in 2007.

After giving birth outside on the edge of the sea lion's pool, Bailey has taken to motherhood swimmingly, and is already proving to be a doting mum to the

Zookeeper Alex Pinnell is overjoyed at the new arrival and said: "The new pup is a great addition to the colony here at ZSL Whipsnade Zoo and the European conservation breeding programme for this species, and it's brilliant for us to see Bailey being such a good mum.

"We've named the pup Oscar, which we think suits his personality, and as 'O' is the 15th letter in the alphabet, we'll always easily remember that he was born in 2015!

"A new infant is not only exciting for the zookeepers, but also for the other sea lions as it's something brand new for them and they all love the new addition to their group. We're staying hands off for now, to allow them all to get to know one another."

Originating from the rocky coastlines of the Pacific Ocean, all along the west coast of the USA, California sea lions live in large

colonies, led by a dominant male and his harem of female mates.

Perfectly adapted to life on land and underwater, California sea lions have smooth streamlined bodies, and strong flippers to power them through the water in pursuit of their prey. Able to rotate their rear flippers forward, the sea lions are able to move comfortably on land where they usually breed and give birth.

Visitors to ZSL Whipsnade Zoo will be able to see Oscar and mum Bailey splashing around with the rest of the sea lion clan, dad Dominic and 'aunt' Lara. Visit [www.zsl.org](http://www.zsl.org) to find out more.



incredibly lively pup.

Covered in a downy fur, Oscar will grow up to 7.5ft in length and is already showing similarities with dad Dominic - who was a notoriously cheeky pup - by demanding mum's attention at all times.



# Come and play

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**email enquiries@eblions.co.uk to sign up**

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Email [northallchapel@btinternet.com](mailto: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.

### **London Luton Airport**

With an increase in aircraft in the area and in particular when the wind is from the East, we are getting some aircraft flying directly over the village to join the flight path into the airport. If you are disturbed by the traffic flying over the village, there is a complaints hotline number: 01582395382. This is an airport number where you can register your concerns. It is important to do this if we are to reduce these disturbances over our village.

If you need to complain about Heathrow flight noise the number is 0800 344 844. Email: [noise\\_complaints@heathrow.com](mailto:noise_complaints@heathrow.com)





## The Curious Case of the 3 Legged Gazebo at Eaton Bray Beer Festival

I suppose it is not that curious, but I thought it might grab your attention. What actually happened was, that we were setting up on Saturday morning when a strong gust of wind started to topple the gazebo over. We all ran to grab it and in the ensuing melee one of the legs got very bent. Being very resourceful chaps we decided to tie it to the hall steps at the rear of the hall when another gust gave us a 3 legged gazebo. It was tied up and we resumed the second day with no further mishaps.

As to the main event, well AGAIN the sun shone and hundreds of folk turned up to enjoy the fabulous beers (30 in total) and ciders, memo to self, more cider next year, plus the food and entertainment on both Friday and Saturday. It is amazing that in 12 years we have had only 1 wettish day, someone must like us.

After an emergency run to Leighton Buzzard Brewery (who kindly opened up at 8.30 pm) to get a further 3 barrels, we made it through to closing time. By this time, most of the beer had gone but we

had two days with beer available all the time! What a great weekend and again our thanks must go to Roy Chatto and his band of merry men who supply, set up, look after the ale and then serve it to our guests.

Also we really want to thank the folk of Eaton Bray, Edlesborough and surrounding areas who support our event. We were all ready for our beds (I had another expression in mind but felt Focus was not the right place to use it!) by Saturday night, but the many compliments make it all worthwhile, thank you all.

Next year we will carry on with our 13th. Don't worry I will continue to remind you. PS we really enjoy running the event but as we get a little (in my case a lot) older a few volunteers would be a great help, just 3 hours would be fine. Give me a ring if you feel you could be part of this great event. It really does give you a warm feeling during and after!

✍️ Ross 01525 221411

## Wednesday Club, Northall

Many thanks to everyone who supported us at The Carnival. We raised £433 on the stall and a further £35 on the 'Name the Dog' competition, which was won by Barbara Ilic. The dog's name was COOPER. Thanks to all the volunteers involved in running the stall for all their hard work in preparation before, and on the day!

We have a busy few weeks ahead with a visit to Dagnall School to see the children

sing and dance, and a Pimms Afternoon Tea at the end of July.

If you would like to join us, please contact Anna on 07854 230243. We are now operating a waiting list as we are currently full.

Please note we are closed for the month of August so the staff and volunteers who run the Club can enjoy a break. We open again on Wednesday 2nd September.



# Edlesborough Parish Council

## Progress Report on New LED Street Lights

Following the trials of the LED light on a new column in Main Road North, Dagnall, a comprehensive survey was carried out on Thursday 4th June 2015 of all the street lights in the Parish. Teams of two local Councillors and two representatives from the manufacturer and installer visited every street light and recorded the following actions to be taken:

- repairs to, or replacement of, the existing brackets and arms etc.
- rotating the arm/bracket where necessary to improve the spread of light on road junctions or cul de sac areas etc
- which type of lens to be used on the new light (“narrow” so as to throw as much light as possible along the pavement or, “broad” so as to throw more light onto the road junction or cul de sac area etc
- the angle of the lamp head so as to reduce light infiltration to bedrooms etc

Each new light will have a total of 12 LEDs and will be programmed as follows:



- the amount of light (lumens) will be just slightly more than that being emitted by the existing sodium lamps
- the colour of the light will be white, (whereas the existing sodium lights appear orange)
- practically all the light will be projected onto the ground rather than all around as now
- the combination of all of the above will make the new LED lights “appear” to be somewhat brighter

- as now, the lights will come on when it’s dark
- rather than turn the lights off completely at mid-night, the Council has decided to dim them by 50%, thereby still obtaining some savings in electricity but giving parishioners a continuity of lighting through out the hours of darkness

The next phase of the programme will be to carry out any necessary repairs and to replace all the 12 lights in Northall with the new LED lamps. The 5 lights in Edlesborough which are currently not working will also be replaced by the new LED lamps.

The existing light on the very dark bend in the road between Churchgate and No. 98 High Street will also be replaced by a new LED lamp. This stretch of pavement is well used by children going to and fro to school and by local residents. Accordingly, in view of the very dark location, and the fact that there are no bedroom windows etc opposite, the LEDs will be programmed to give two and a half times as much light as all the other new LED lights.

It is hoped that all these 18 new lights will be installed by early September. Feedback from parishioners will then be very much welcomed, following which a decision will be made for the next phase of the programme to be implemented (all the Dagnall lights and any lights in Edlesborough which may not be working at that time). The final phase will be to replace all the old sodium lamps in Edlesborough.

Please let Penny Pataky have any feedback on 01525 229358 or [clerk@edlesborough-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@edlesborough-pc.gov.uk)

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# Quiz



## Eaton Bray Village Hall Saturday 10th October

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7.00pm for 7.30pm

Just £9 per person. Teams of up to 8 people  
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This event is organised jointly by  
Eaton Bray Village Hall Fundraising Committee  
and Eaton Bray Tennis Club



For bookings contact Ross 221411  
[ross.bagni@btinternet.com](mailto:ross.bagni@btinternet.com)



## Edlesbray Leisure Fellowship (ELF)

Hello everyone,

Time passes very quickly and already the Summer Solstice has gone and we are experiencing some warmer weather. Summer blossoms are colourful with beautiful hanging baskets full of colour. During the last couple of months the E.L.F. group have experienced some disappointments regarding their planned outings owing to other personal commitments.

The walk scheduled for the 22nd June was cancelled, as was the canal trip on the 25th June. It is hoped that the canal trip will be organised on another date.

The Audley End visit which was also cancelled on May 14th was re-scheduled for Monday 20th July.

Our next meeting is a lunch out on the 20th August. No details are available yet. They will be placed in the North Porch

of Eaton Bray Church when known. Everyone is welcome to join. On 10th September a visit to The Heritage Motor Centre at Gaydon is planned.

Our next coffee morning at the Coffee Tavern is on Thursday 17th September when there will be the usual refreshments served and future planned events discussed. Notices will be displayed in the North Porch of The Eaton Bray Church. Our events are open to anyone who is interested and Val can always be contacted at 220972.

Reports on all our outings will be in a future edition of Focus.

### August/September Dates

Thurs 20th Aug Lunch Out

Mon 24th Aug Walk from Eaton Bray Church 9.30a.m.

Thurs 10th Sept. Visit to the Heritage Motor Centre Gaydon

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**What:** Fitness4Fun with Kay  
**Where:** Edlesborough Memorial Hall  
**When:** Every Friday, 10:00-11:00 am



# Edlesborough Book Group

## The Legacy of Elizabeth Pringle by Kirsty Wark

Kirsty Wark, the well known television presenter and journalist, has set her first published novel on the Isle of Arran. It tells the stories of two women, Elizabeth Pringle, a native of the island and Martha Morrison, who visited the island as a child with her mother. Elizabeth's death in 2006 brings Martha back to the island, because in her will she has bequeathed her beloved house, Holmlea to Anna Morrison, Martha's mother. Years ago, on a whim, Anna had written a note to Elizabeth saying that, if ever the house came onto the market, she would like to buy it. Unknown to her, Elizabeth had remembered Anna pushing her baby in her pram, singing to her and looking full of life and energy. Alas, now that Anna has fallen victim to dementia, Martha is left with the task of dealing with her mother's unexpected legacy.

Elizabeth and Anna's stories are told in alternate chapters throughout the book. Elizabeth's is rather sad and told as a

memoir, whilst Martha's deals with the present day and her experiences as she comes to know and love the island. Anna is changing before her eyes and Martha has to deal with the emotional and practical problems that are occurring, also the change in the relationship with her mother.

Kirsty Wark's descriptions of the island, which she obviously knows well, are vivid and paint an affectionate picture of Arran. However, the story is very predictable and the ending very contrived and a little too good to be true. The prose gets a little overblown and although the book is very easy to read, as soon as it is finished it is very easily forgotten. There are far better books I am sure that have been written by non celebrities, but they do not get published. I hope that one day soon the rash of "celebrity" authors will go out of fashion and we can look forward to books written by genuine writers.

## Eaton Bray Methodist Church

Our inspired June Cafe Worship, led as usual by Martin Wallis, helped us look afresh at the contrasting attitudes of Martha and Mary, focused on what it means to be a servant and encouraged us to use God's gifts to serve others. Father's Day Sunday was celebrated in a lovely service led by one of our own members, Keith Blackburn. The congregation very much appreciated the thoughtful and interesting approach which considered our Heavenly Father and the example he sets us. Our Communion Service on the last Sunday in the month was conducted by Rev Nigel Wright. He talked to us of the special gift of Christ, the gift of grace – the gift we don't deserve,

which is offered to us unconditionally and free of all charge. He asked us to be a channel for that grace, allowing it to flow through us to other people.

As part of our concern for issues of justice across the world, we have been exploring the conflict between Israel and Palestine by studying the book 'Israeli apartheid' by Ben White, an independent professional journalist. At our October and November lunches we will be supporting the charity 'Medical Aid for Palestinians' and increasing our awareness of the problems in the region. We hope you can join us for our café lunch and quiz on Sat 10th Oct and Sat 14th Nov 11am to 1pm.



## Edlesborough W.I.

Our June meeting was held in the Memorial Hall on 9th June, when

our speaker, Chris Ward, accompanied by his wife Caroline, spoke on the subject, '101 Things You Never Knew About Garden Birds'.

A lively, entertaining evening was started by Chris showing photographs of garden birds and asking the audience to identify the creatures. The ladies were able to identify all the birds. Chris then proceeded to reflect his remarkable knowledge on the subject through his informative talk and amazing photography. We were surprised that £400 million a year is spent in the UK on wild bird food and the earliest record of a wild bird being tamed by a person was recorded in the 6th century, in Scotland. The bird was a robin and it was tamed by being fed worms. Robins have an average life span of 15 – 18 months, whereas, two years is the average age for small birds. Male robins can be very aggressive and have been known to attack anything red.

Although small in stature, wrens are remarkable in that their song can travel over a distance of between half a mile to one mile. The male is able to produce a sound of 92 decibels. All the more amazing when one realizes that a sound consisting of 85 decibels requires a health warning. Often regarded as our smallest bird, this is apparently not so. This particular fact belongs to the gold crest, which often appears in our gardens during the autumn and winter. Although tiny in both size and weight the gold crest is able to produce ten eggs in one clutch, with each egg weighing .8gr.

The song thrush remains a favourite with its beautiful song. Food becomes a competitive issue between the song

thrush and blackbird, with the song thrush stealing the blackbird's snails.

The finer points of distinguishing between male and female birds were pointed out to us, such as the great tit with the female having the narrow strip and the male the wider strip down their middles. The reason being the female tends to choose the male with the widest strip. The male blue tit also has the bluest cap, which under ultra violet light really glows. The male with the bluest cap is chosen very quickly by the female. The female is also attracted to the male with the yellowiest feathers. These fine yellow feathers are the result of the amount of food he has eaten. The more yellow the pigment the better he is at collecting food, in the form of caterpillars. Hence the female choosing him because he will be a good provider as a father.

Hearing about the different types of nest constructions was fascinating. For example the long tailed tit has a soft, elasticated nest which contains over 2,000 bird feathers, with each parent flying about 700 miles in order to collect the material. The nest is completely enclosed except for the entrance. House martins reuse their nests, which are constructed usually under door porches, with each parent participating in the construction, which comprises 1,000 pellets of soft mud. House sparrows nest within holes and are very faithful to each other with 90% paired for life. The female selects the male with the most red plumage. The red comes from food, so again the female is looking for the best male at collecting food for the offspring. The number of eggs produced is linked directly to the number of feathers collected (by the male) to line the nest. These feathers are

collected from moulting birds and pecked from live pigeons. The warmer the nest the more eggs produced. For one week the male sparrow looks after the young while the female prepares the nest for the next brood.

Another fascinating aspect of the talk was finding out how the birds were experts at adaptation. Swifts, swallows and house martins feed on midges, flies and insects. However, if their food supply is limited the birds can survive on their fat deposit. They can survive up to ten days without food. The swift, in particular, is extraordinary. After leaving the nest, the swift flies for four years, feeding and sleeping on the wing. The brain is divided in to two parts; half the brain remains awake while the other half of the brain sleeps.

Wrens, tits and finches have adapted in order to survive during the winter by huddling together in order to keep warm. An example of this was a single nesting box which contained 63 huddling wrens. Jays are very aware and have good memories. In order to protect the food supply of acorns from thieves the jay will routinely move the acorns.

The evening came to a close after Maureen, our secretary, gave the meeting a report of her attendance at the WI's special AGM at the Royal Albert Hall, which celebrated the WI's centenary. The Queen, the Princess Royal and Sophie, Countess of Wessex, were in attendance, all of whom are members of their local Womens Institute.

Contrary to popular belief, the WI is not all about jam, singing Jerusalem, wearing hats and confined to ladies of a certain age. Here is a brief outline.

The WI originated in Canada in 1897 and appeared in Britain in 1915, during the First World War, in order to encourage ladies living in rural areas to grow food.

One hundred years later the WI has become the UK's largest voluntary women's organisation; for all ages, based on the values of 'fellowship, truth, tolerance and justice'. The WI has charity status, is non-sectarian and non-party political. However, the WI is interested in matters of political and social importance, which include: public health, sustainability, the Sciences and the Arts (WI Constitution). Edlesborough WI meetings are held in the Memorial Hall, the second Tuesday of the month (except October) at 7.30pm. Ladies, if you are interested please do come. You will receive a warm welcome.

✍ Jackie Flint

<b>The Salvation Army, Booth Place, Eaton Bray Weekly Activities</b> 	
<b>Sunday</b>	
Footprints (Sunday School)	9.45-10.45am
Morning Worship	11am
Songs of Praise	4pm
(3rd Sunday of the month from May to Dec)	
<b>Tuesday</b>	
Coffee Morning (alternate weeks)	10-11.30am
Music practices (all welcome)	7.30-9pm
<b>Wednesday</b>	
Home League (Ladies Mtg but all welcome)	2.30-3.30pm
Champions Challenge Club (term time) (Ages 5-10 years)	5.45-6.45pm
<b>Thursday</b>	
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
<i>For further details please call Envoy Hilary 01525 222087 / 07932 057490 E: <a href="mailto:hilary.chadwick@salvationarmy.org.uk">hilary.chadwick@salvationarmy.org.uk</a> W: <a href="http://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/eatonbray">www.salvationarmy.org.uk/eatonbray</a></i>	

# Dagnall Weather Station (AONB)

## Weather Conditions for June 2015

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

June began unsettled with strong winds reaching 38 mph on the 1st. It was unseasonably cool for the next few days with night temperatures dropping to 4.2°C.

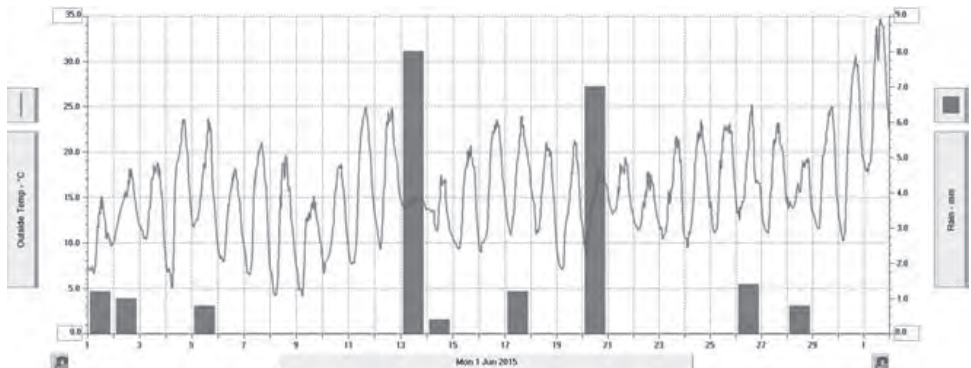
Through the middle of the month it was more settled but feeling cool for June by the end of the month the temperature rose to 30.6°C.

June was also very dry with only 30% of the 6 year average rainfall

I am still having problems with one of the web sites ([www.dagnallweather.co.uk](http://www.dagnallweather.co.uk)) this stopped working on the 6th April and so far I have not been able to fix it. For now on please use ([http://bit.ly/weather\\_dagnall](http://bit.ly/weather_dagnall)) this will give you more information and is updated every minute

	High	Date/Time	Low	Date/Time
<b>Temperature:</b>	<b>30.6°C</b>	<b>30 June 16.30</b>	<b>4.2°C</b>	<b>8-9 June 05.00</b>
<b>Mean Temperature</b>	<b>15.1°C</b>			
<b>Dewpoint:</b>	<b>17.9°C</b>	<b>June 14.30</b>	<b>2.6°C</b>	<b>8 June 04.00</b>
<b>Humidity:</b>	<b>96%</b>	<b>13 June 08.00</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>30 June 16.00</b>
<b>Barometer:</b>	<b>1034.0 mb</b>	<b>9 June 00.30</b>	<b>988.6 mb</b>	<b>2 June 04.30</b>
<b>Wind Speed</b>	<b>38 mph SW</b>	<b>1 June 23.00</b>	<b>Months avg.</b>	<b>5.6 mph</b>
<b>Wind Chill:</b>	<b>30.4°C</b>	<b>30 June 16.30</b>	<b>2.6°C</b>	<b>9 June 05.30</b>
<b>Dominant Wind:</b>	<b>w</b>			
<b>Rainfall *T= total rain days and moisture. R= Actual rain</b>				
<b>*Rain Days:9(T), 9(R)</b>	<b>Wettest Day 13 June</b>		<b>8.00 mm</b>	<b>0.315ins</b>
<b>Monthly Rain:</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>June 2015</b>	<b>21.8 mm</b>	<b>0.858ins</b>
<b>Yearly Rain:</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>5 Month</b>	<b>268.2 mm</b>	<b>10.559ins</b>

### Chart shows the lack of rain and the low night temperatures



For weather data 24 hours a day, updated every 1 mins, visit: [http://bit.ly/weather\\_dagnall](http://bit.ly/weather_dagnall) this site forecast and much more. If anyone has a question, comment or wishes to contact me please email: [david@dagnallweather.co.uk](mailto:david@dagnallweather.co.uk) or telephone: 01442 843883 Dagnall weather now has an app for your ipad & iphone! Just go to the apple store, search for Wunderstation and follow the instructions to Dagnall Weather Station. Now updated every minute.

## Eaton Bray W.I.

After the welcome, Birthday cards were handed out to Meg Hall and Pat Carter. Goodbyes were said to Gladys Deamer who is moving to Cornwall shortly. Deirdrea informed the members that the coffee morning raised £178.90 plus a donation of £10, less the cost of the hall. A letter from the National W.I. informed that this year's resolution was not passed at the A.G.M in June.

Susan had attended the Buckingham Palace garden Party representing Eaton Bray W.I. Photos of Susan and her outfit were passed round and she told the members that it was a thoroughly enjoyable day and she had been lucky enough to see the royals close up.

Dorothy and Deirdrea attended Houghton Regis Birthday Party and were welcomed warmly by the members. The entertainment was a teacher of Arabic dancing. Outfits were handed out and all were encouraged to participate. It was chaos and was more like Double Dutch dancing than Arabic!

There is a group outing on 11th August to Cambridge, leaving Lowther Rd shops in Dunstable at 9.20am, stopping at Newmarket on the way home for a cream tea which will cost £5.

To celebrate the 100 years of W.I., a Vintage Garden Party is being held on Monday 3rd August at the home of Jill Wilkinson, 1 Yew Tree Close. Further celebrations will be the September meeting when Patricia's Cuisine will provide a finger buffet and the we have a speaker on 100 years of W.I.

Priory Church in Dunstable is hosting a Flower Festival on 11th to 13th September, this is also to celebrate 100 years of W.I.

Deirdrea will be presiding over the Autumn Group meeting on 28th September at St.Giles hall in Totternhoe, 7.30pm. The cost is £3.50 and as Eaton Bray are the hosts, it would be appreciated if as many members as

possible can attend to give help and support. Homemade cakes would be most welcome please. The speaker is the "Pearl Lady" who will be showing many kinds of pearls and taking us through the history of it. There will be a sales table of her jewellery.

Following all the announcements, Carolyn Stroud gave a very interesting talk on the Cinnamon Trust. Cinnamon Trust is the only specialist national charity which seeks to relieve the anxieties, problems, and sometimes injustices, faced by elderly and terminally ill people and their pets, thereby saving a great deal of human sadness and animal suffering. The Trust was founded in 1985 by Mrs Averil Jarvis whose determination and dedication has ensured that the manifest need is fully addressed. The Cinnamon Trust also provides long term care for pets whose owners have died or moved to residential accommodation which will not accept pets. Arrangements are made between owners and the Trust well in advance, so owners do have peace of mind in the knowledge that their beloved companion will have a safe and happy future.

Social time with refreshments concluded the evening and the raffle was won by Meg and Marian.

For outings etc please contact Deirdrea on 210426.



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# Salvation Sound



## Tempus Fugit - Time Flies!!

August. The Romans called this month "Sextilis" - the sixth month. It changed its position in the calendar and became the eighth month and not satisfied with the name they changed it to Augustus, after their Emperor Augustus Caesar. Originally only 30 days long, an extra day was added so that Augustus would not be inferior to Julius Caesar!!

Anglo Saxons called it "Woed-Monath", the month of weeds, because it seemed to them that more weeds were in bloom then than at any other time of year. (But they never saw my garden!!)

There are two special days in August - Lammas and St Bartholomew's day; 1st and 24th.

Lammas was always a quarter day in England when rents or interest were paid. It was a religious festival which probably originates from pagan customs. Some believe that it relates to "Lamb Mass", referring to the newborn lambs which were presented to the church as "Peter's Pence" on the day dedicated to St. Peter ad Vincula (St. Peter in fetters or chains), on Hlaf-masse or Hoof-mass; which springs from the Bible, Deuteronomy ch.26 v1 and 2, because Lammas was the festival of the first fruits, when our forefathers cut the first ripe corn, ground it into flour, made it into cakes and presented it to the priest.

St Bartholomew is the patron saint of bee-keepers and honey-makers. He was the son of Tolmai and was one of the twelve disciples (Matt. 10 v3) and always seemed to be in the company of Philip. Our Lord appeared to him after his resurrection (John 21 v2) he also witnessed the Ascension (Acts 1 v4,12,13).

When we read the Bible we are reading about local happenings, about rural people, village people, each of their feast days had to be a feast of gratitude to the giver of all good things. Time has changed the way we live, the way we work and the way we eat. In 1796 Anne Hughes, a farmers wife wrote these recipes down for "A Satday Dinner" - A "Jinnie Jones" to start, *"It be made this way - chop up a big sliver of boiled ham with 3 egges boiled verrie hard, a cup of bread crumbs, pepper and salt, some sage and onion, all chopt verrie fine. Then mix all together with 3 egges beatan to a froth, so that it all do stick together, then put to bake to 20 minutes of the clock. This be verrie good when eatan with potatoes baked in the oven in their skins and eatan with plentie of butter. Followed by a good Honnie Pie - it be verrie nice and simple to make - put plentie of fat on the sides and bottom of a dish, then put in a goode layer of crumbs and cover very thick with honnie and swete plums, then more crumbs, cover all with 4 egges beatan up with a measure of cream. Then put swete plums in divers ways all over the toppe and cook in the over for 10 minutes of the clock. They do go down well with sum cider or primyrose wine."* (Bang goes the diet.)

For most people days of the week pass by all too quickly and our special days are those we celebrate with family and friends like birthdays and anniversaries or Christmastime - but I do feel that the real reason behind the celebration is often forgotten - in a world where profit and loss, modern technology and "keeping up with the Jones's" seem to be the most important things of daily life, sometimes I wish we could 'stop the clock' and let good old fashioned values catch us up but I'm rambling, so I'll end with a lesson in mathematics - from someone named J.M. Robertson.

Add - A little kindness to your living day by day.

Subtract - The kind of worry, that can constitute dismay.

Divide - Your time by turning each frown into a smile.

Multiply - Your efforts for a total that's worthwhile.

✍Maureen



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