

A close-up photograph of a grey eagle perched on a person's gloved hand. The eagle has a yellow beak and a yellow patch around its eye. It is looking towards the left. The background is a grassy area with trees.

FOCUS

August &
September
2017

The local village magazine just for Us!
Eaton Bray, Edlesborough, Northall & Dagnall
Focus is online at www.thefocusmagazine.co.uk

The White Horse Inn
At Eaton Bray

Market Square
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Beds
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www.eatonbraypub.co.uk



**There are
New Menu Items from
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call now for details of menus and offers!

*Front cover photo
Chilean Eagle by Chris Miller*



St Mary's Church, Edlesborough

*will be opening for visitors
from 2pm to 5pm on the
first Sunday of each month
from May until September
inclusive*

NORTHALL BAPTIST CHAPEL

Chapel Lane, Northall

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

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

For more information contact:

John Hazell 01525 218142

Email northallchapel@btinternet.com

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

The 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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reproduced without permission.*

**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.*

✍️Editor

Focus is online at www.thefocusmagazine.co.uk

Village Diary Aug/Sep 2017



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, Totternhoe Memorial Hall, Lisa: 07799 893489
- Mondays Dagnall Community Choir, All Saints Church 7.45 – 9.45pm
- 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 KFPA ISTD Classical Ballet classes, 3+yrs, 4.15pm, Edlesbrough Memorial Hall, www.kfpa.co.uk
- Mondays Cubs (8-10 ½ years old), 6.30pm - 8pm, 1st Eaton Bray & Edlesborough Scout Hut, High Street, Edlesborough. Contact Liz Coates 01442 842550
- 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, Sam George: 07748 152379, Tracy Bennett: 07803 123318
- Tuesdays Tap & Ballet Classes, JoAnn Latus School of Dance, 4-8pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall, 01582 620576
- Tuesdays Beginner's Boxercise, 6-7pm Dagnall Village Hall, Josh Thompson 07456 574405 or jtpinfo@gmail.com
- Tuesdays Coffee Morning, Bring & Buy, Table Top Sale, 10-12noon, Salvation Army Hall, Booth Place, Eaton Bray
- Fortnightly
- Wednesdays 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 Caterpillars Baby and Toddler Group 10am to 11:30am, Grace Baptist Church, Moor End, Edlesborough, £1 per family unit, Frances King 01582 475896
- (term time)
- Wednesdays Pilates 6.45 & 7.45pm, Dagnall Village Hall, Andrea on 07855 138005 or andrea@naturalpilates.co.uk
- Wednesdays Art of Ju Jitsu martial arts class, Eaton Bray Village Hall, 7 -7.45pm ages 6-15yrs
- 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 Jazzercise, 9.30-10.30am, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Angela Veryard, 01525 715208
- Thursdays KFPA Street dance classes 4+yrs 4pm, Edlesborough Memorial Hall, www.kfpa.co.uk
- Thursdays Tae Kwon-do, Dagnall Village Hall, 5.45-7.30pm 07813 755785
- Thursdays Clubbercise 7.30 - 8.30pm. Eaton Bray Hall - Gina Flitton 07846421756
- Thursdays Beavers (6 to 8 years old), 6.15-7.30pm, 1st Eaton Bray & Edlesborough Scout Hut, High Street, Edlesborough. Contact: ebebeaverleader@ebescouts.co.uk
- Thursdays Explorers Scouts (14-18 years old), 8pm-9.30pm, 1st Eaton Bray & Edlesborough Scout Hut, High Street, Edlesborough. Contact Simon Betts, lionheartesu@hotmail.co.uk

Village Diary Aug/Sep 2017

Thursdays	Intermediate Boxercise, 7.30-8.30pm, Dagnall Village Hall, Josh Thompson 07456 574405 or jtptinfo@gmail.com
Fridays	Tap & Ballet Classes, JoAnn Latus School of Dance, 4-8pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall, 01582 620576
Fridays	Stay & Play toddler group, 'Musical Monkeys' at the Eaton Bray Village Hall, 10-11.30am, £4.50 for one adult and child, £1 for extra children/adults, 0-6 months free
Fridays	Keep Fit class, Edlesborough Memorial Hall 10 - 11am
Fridays	Scouts, 10 ½ to 14 years old), 7.00-8.30pm, 1st Eaton Bray & Edlesborough Scout Hut, High Street, Edlesborough. Contact Mark Owen, 07899 892344, ebescoutleader@ebescouts.co.uk
Fridays (term time)	Kids Club 6:00pm to 7:00pm Grace Baptist Church, Moor End, Edlesborough (across from the post office) Frances King 01582 475896
Fridays (term time)	"Little Luvvies" baby ballet classes 10am-11.30am. Contact Emma Whittemore on 01525 376124
Saturdays	Jazzercise, 9.30-10.30am, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Angela Veryard, 01525 715208
Saturdays	KFPA Musical Theatre classes 4+yrs www.kfpa.co.uk, 10am, Edlesborough Memorial Hall
Saturdays	Bootcamp Fitness, 9-10am, Dagnall Recreation Ground, Josh Thompson 07456 574405 or jtptinfo@gmail.com
Sundays	Sunday Worship at 10:30am and 6pm Grace Baptist Church, Moor End, Edlesborough (across from the post office). Alister King 07572 395687

Monthly

1st Monday	Eaton Bray Parish Council Meeting, 7.30pm, The Coffee Tavern (except January-2nd Monday)
1st Monday	Eaton Bray W.I. Meeting, 7.30pm. Eaton Bray Methodist Church Hall. Contact Margaret Jones on 01525 220991
1st & 3rd Monday (excl. Bank Hols)	The Knit 'n Sew Group, Edlesborough Village Memorial Hall, 1:45pm to 3:45pm. Contact Heather Westwood 01525 839803
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, 10:30am - 12 noon
1st Sunday	St. Mary's Edlesborough Open Days, 2-5pm, May to September inclusive
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
4th Tuesday	The Filling Station, 7:30pm, Bellows Mill, Diane 07815 895501, Email: threecounties@thefillingstation.org.uk
Last Saturday	Coffee Morning, 10:30-12 noon, Edlesborough Methodist Church
Last Sunday	Messy Church, 3-5pm, Salvation Army, Booth Place, Eaton Bray, 07932 057490

Other Regular Events

11th Aug	Leukaemia Research Coffee Morning, 2 Dunstable Road, Dagnall 10.30am. All welcome.
15th Aug	Dagnall and Kensworth Friendship Club, Dagnall village hall for afternoon of music and tea.

Village Diary Aug/Sep 2017

Othe Regular Events Cont'd

- 3 Sep Beds Area Narrow Gauge Model Railway Club Meeting, 11.30am-4.30pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall
- 20 Sep Dagnall and Kensworth fFiendship Club outing to Windsor

One Off/Annual/Irregular Events

- 5 Aug Dagnall Village Fete, 12:30-4:30pm, Dagnall Recreation Ground
- 14-18 Aug Salvation Army Holiday Club, 10am-12noon, Salvation Army Hall, Booth Place, eaton Bray. For information: 01525 222087
- 7-10 Sep Edlesborough Church Heritage Open Days
- 9 Sep Appledown Open Day & Fun Dog Show, 11am
- 16 Sep Friends of Edlesborough School Open Air Cinema showing Top Gun, Tickets £10 07976 411007
- 22 Sep Northall & District Age Concern Harvest Festival Auction, 7:30pm, The Swan Northall
- 29 Sep Macmillan World's Biggest Coffee Morning, 9:30-12 noon, St. Mary's Eaton Bray
- 30 Sep Dagnall Community Choir in concert, 7:45, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Tickets £8, 01525 220189

EDLESBOROUGH SURGERY & THE VILLAGE HEALTH CENTRE, PITSTONE 2017 FLU CAMPAIGN



All dates are in September:

EDLESBOROUGH	PITSTONE
SATURDAY 16th 9am – 12.30 Surnames A - M	WEDNESDAY 20th 12.30 – 2pm Surnames A - M
Thursday 21st 12.30 – 2pm Surnames A - M	WEDNESDAY 27th 12.30 – 2pm Surnames N - Z
THURSDAY 28th 12.30 – 2pm Surnames N - Z	
SATURDAY 30th 9am – 12.30 Surnames N - Z	

We would appreciate it if you could come at these times in order to MINIMIZE YOUR waiting time. However, if you are unable to come at the allocated time for your surname, please feel free to attend any of the clinics above:

PLEASE CHECK ON OUR WEBSITE & POSTERS ON SURGERY AND PHARMACY DOORS NEARER THE TIME TO CONFIRM THESE DATES AND TIMES

Patients eligible for Flu vaccine are those who suffer from:

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COPD or severe Asthma * Stroke & Neurological disease**

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All children aged 2, 3 & 4 years (incl reception)

Children in school years 1, 2 & 3 will be vaccinated at school



Village Info



EDaN Community Transport
Peter Williams: 01442 842506

Village Hall Bookings

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

Northall: Lorna Cabbage Tel: 07857 318696 Email: northallvhbookings@gmail.com

Eaton Bray: Norman Lee Tel: 01525 222831

Email: bookings@ebvh.co.uk Website www.ebvh.co.uk

Dagnall: Elizabeth Coates Tel: 01442 842550

Edlesborough Memorial Hall: Penny Pataky, Tel: 01525 229358

Email: manager@edlesborough-pc.gov.uk

Police Contact Numbers...

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General Assistance (Recommended Number): 101 Emergency: 999

Bedfordshire Police (Eaton Bray)

Leighton Buzzard Police Station/Kathryn Horgan: 01582 473411

Typetalk: 18001 01582 473418

Email: 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

Defibrillator Locations

These units are registered with the Ambulance Services. To access them, please phone 999. You will be given the access code and the location of the unit will be confirmed. The defibrillator is easy and safe to use. The units can be found on the outside walls of the following locations:

Dagnall: Red Lion Public House

Eaton Bray: The Coffee Tavern

Edlesborough: Edlesborough Memorial Hall

Northall: The Swan Public House



Helpline: 07930987064

**Manned phone hours: 9am to 5pm,
Monday to Friday**

(An answering service is available for out-of-hours calls)

Call us if you want help with getting to the surgery/hospital, collecting prescriptions, minor errands, form-filling, letter-writing, small d-i-y jobs, walking your pet or other small needs.

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

Dagnall Village Fete

Saturday 5th August

Dagnall Recreation Ground 12:30-4:30pm

Join us for:

- Silent Auction & raffle
- Burger & ice cream van
- Caricature drawing
- Tea & cake tent
- Face painting
- Bouncy castle
- Pub quiz & food in the evening at The Red Lion



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Free entry
Car parking available

Arena events include...

- Taekwon-do display
- Musical theatre performances
- Medical detection dog talk



For further information,
please contact **Sam Mead** on **07402 060150**
or scan the QR code to
link to our FB event

Karen, Julie and Sue would like to thank everyone who contributed their time, donated cakes and even those who visited us to buy refreshments from the Carnival Tea Tent this year. We were delighted in raising £1,300 which couldn't have been done without you all!!



Eaton Bray with Edlesborough Parish News

Church Warden & Pastoral Matters: Catherine Hayden (01525 220527)

Reader: Gordon Gray (01525 220136)

Website: www.stmaryseatonbray.org.uk

Facebook: St Mary's Eaton Bray



This year Harvest Festival will be celebrated at St Mary's on Sunday 17th September and at Dagnall Church the following Sunday. Over the centuries, celebrations of Harvest Festival have changed to reflect changing times. In the Middle Ages, the festival was at the beginning of the harvest gathering season on 1st August. Farmers

made loaves of bread from the new wheat crop and donated them to their local churches. These were used as communion bread in a service giving thanks to God for the harvest. The festival was known as Lammas or 'loaf mass'. Over time, the Lammas celebrations died out.

The tradition of celebrating Harvest Festival in churches was reintroduced by Reverend Robert Hawker in 1843. He was vicar of St Morwenna and St John the Baptist church in Morwenstow in Cornwall from 1834 until his death in 1875. When he arrived, there had not been a vicar in residence for over a century so he had much to do. On September 13th 1843, he put up a notice inviting his parishioners to a special thanksgiving service during which the old custom of making Eucharistic bread from the first corn would be revived. The notice read: 'Let us gather together in the chancel of our church, and there receive, in the bread of the new corn, that blessed sacrament which was ordained to strengthen and refresh our souls.'

The custom of gathering to give thanks for God's provision spread so that Harvest Festival celebrations became widespread. Victorian hymns such as 'Come ye thankful people come' became popular, as well as 'We plough the fields and scatter' which was translated from German. These all helped to make the Harvest Service a special occasion. Another custom which caught the public imagination was the idea of decorating churches with home grown produce from people's gardens and allotments.

Linked with thanksgiving for God's provision was the recognition that many people struggled to have enough to eat. School records of the Victorian era show numerous occasions on which children were absent because they were working to contribute to the family finances. Fortunately this no longer happens in the UK but in many other parts of the world, child labour is common.

This year at Harvest, St Mary's will be supporting the Bishop of St Alban's Harvest Appeal 'Full of Beans'. All money raised will go to a project in the Philippines where the lives of people in the remote rural villages in the Tinglayan Mountains are being transformed. They are being given the means by which to grow crops with plentiful harvests, especially beans which are well suited to their climate. Good crops of beans enable families to eat well and the surplus can be sold at market so that they have money to spend. This will provide basic household supplies such as soap, sugar and salt. It also means that children can have educational resources for their schooling.

The 'Full of Beans' appeal will enable more families to experience this transformational change, to become more self-reliant and hopeful for their futures. Churches and schools across the diocese will be participating in the appeal and there is a just giving page for those who want to give directly. I hope you will come along to our Harvest Festival celebrations and support the Bishop's Appeal to help transform the lives of some of the poorest communities in the world.

✠ Joy, (Vicar of Eaton Bray with Edlesborough)

SUMMER TENNIS CAMP 2017

EATON BRAY LAWN TENNIS CLUB



EATON BRAY SUMMER TENNIS CAMPS 2017

WEEK 1	Mon 31 st July	Tues 1 st Aug	Weds 2 nd Aug	Thurs 3 rd Aug	Fri 4 th Aug
WEEK 2	Mon 7 th Aug	Tues 8 th Aug	Weds 9 th Aug	Thurs 10 th Aug	Fri 11 th Aug
WEEK 3	Mon 14 th Aug	Tues 15 th Aug	Wed 16 th Aug	Thurs 17 th Aug	Friday 18 th Aug
WEEK 4	Mon 21 st Aug	Tues 22 nd Aug	Weds 23 rd Aug	Thurs 24 th Aug	Fri 25 th Aug

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Venue: Eaton Bray Tennis Club, School Lane, Eaton Bray LU6 2DT

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Book now and guarantee your place.

Please call Sara Leavy on **07561571578** for more information.

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Date of birth...../...../.....

Session#.....

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Mobile

Address:

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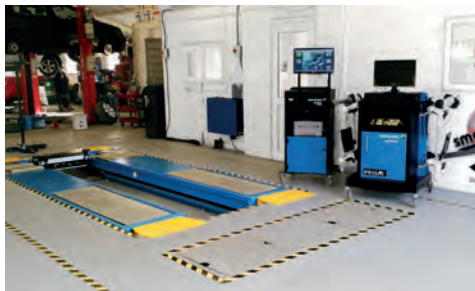
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Quaint, quirky, fun and fabulous – the fifth annual EdleFest proved to be a huge success as the stunning Church on the Hill opened its doors on June 16 and 17 for two nights of incredible music. The pews were packed and the bar was busy as the eager audience sat back to enjoy a musical menu of pure and polished performances. This year’s line-up included a Young Musician of the Year, Emily Noithip, leading sea shanty side from Yorkshire – Kimber’s Men, outstanding talented local duo - Holly and George Brandon, popular post punk indie band the Dicemen, a stirring opening of bagpipe melodies from piper Regina Whyatt, mellow cello from Glastonbury’s Mary Holland and a mesmerising intimate magic moment of music from singer/songwriter Sarah Munro. The ever changing musical moods, personalities and musical fusions filled the venue and the hearts of the audience with happiness and joy and gave the voluntary organisers – The Friends of the Church on the Hill, a true sense of community achievement.



Starlight Barking

It was impossible not to be stirred by the young Friday night stars of the show - the fifty plus children from Edlesborough School and Eaton Bray Academy who took to the stage to deliver songs, smiles and infectious joy. Dressed as pirates and sailors, together they sang songs of the sea with a backdrop of heavenly harmonies from Kimber’s Men. It was a treasured memory that is hoped will be etched in the hearts of all the young performers and their delighted family and friends.

Every stage moment during the two day event was a success. Every pint that was pulled and Pimms that was served from the EdleFest bar was savoured and every effort that went into the festival was worth the sweat and the toil of shifting equipment, stage, refreshments and

Kimber’s Men with Kimber’s Kids (Edlesborough School choir & Eaton Bray Academy choir)



more up and down the hill.

Thanks go to all the sponsors and the help that was given from community members who stepped up, volunteered and played their part in the event.

Special thanks go to:

- Town & Country and Giblins estate agents for local signage
- Kate of Edlesborough Flowers who donated flowers, time and expertise to our Flowerfest
- Janes Ltd Carpets/Flooring – our ticket agents
- Eaton Bray Academy for the loan of their staging - which made such a difference
- Edlesborough and Eaton Bray school choirs (Kimber's Kids) and their music teachers
- The Pratt family for the use of their field as our car park
- The Crutcher family for keeping us well oiled with their specialist beers
- EDaN Beautification Team – queens of 'Pimms' and other sustenance
- Edlesborough Parish Council for use of their gazebo and constant support over the years

And last but by no means least...

- Richard Brandon - for creating the EdleFest website, being our mentor plus sound and lighting engineer – also contributing to our wonderful line-up with his own and his family's outstanding talents.

Raffle prizes and contributions were gratefully received from: Heirloom Cafe, Cafe Masala, Oakman Inns and Restaurants Ltd., Eaton Bray Nurseries and Edlesborough Village Store – also many Friends of the Church on the Hill.

The EdleFest will be back in 2018. It plays its part in the heart of our community, attracts visitors to the church and leaves memories and smiles on hundreds of faces.

Thanks to all who gave their time or bought a ticket.

Thanks to all the performers for making this year's event so very special...

See you next year!

Photos by Vicky Johns and Jim Wright



Emily Noithip & Dad



Sarah Munro



The Dicemen



Transport St Mary's Village 1st July 2017 Carnival 2017

So how do you judge the success of the Carnival? I guess for many it will be the headline amount of money raised – at this stage I'm confident we will have done at least as well as last year and will let you know in the next edition of Focus. Perhaps the weather is a contributory factor in the success of the Carnival. Well, I pray for calm and overcast – so when we have calm and overcast we can hardly grumble!

Perhaps another measure of the success of the Carnival is the atmosphere on the Green. My thanks go to the Parish Council who allow us to use this beautiful location and to everyone on the Carnival Committee who work so hard to create that atmosphere, organising the site to meet the requirements of all the stallholders. Related to the atmosphere on the Green it is remarkable how little trouble we experience. Thank you to so many members of the community and stallholders who act as the eyes and ears of the Carnival nipping any nuisance behaviour in the bud. But thanks, too, to PCSO Jackie Dodson and the paramedics team from Pro Medicus for everything they do to keep us safe.

Another measure of success might be the attendance; there seemed to be more people on the Green than ever. One of the few down-sides of increased numbers is to maintain a balance between providing parking close to the Green and enabling traffic (especially emergency vehicles and buses) to progress along Edlesborough High Street. We write to all the households on the procession route requesting owner's vehicles to be parked off the road and, with the assistance of AVDC who loan us 100 cones, we try very hard to keep traffic flowing. Even so, there is little we can do when people fail to park sensibly. Fortunately the procession managed to navigate the procession route safely, though the mast of the Scouting Vikings' did have a battle with trees behind the pavilion. Congratulations to everyone who contributed to the procession, especially to Edlesborough School and the Scouts each of whom won their Class. My thanks and congratulations, too, to everyone who decorated their houses. I cannot remember a year when there was more colour via displays and bunting.

My next measure of success is the increasing number of shops, tradesmen etc. who use Carnival to promote their businesses. This does have a financial benefit for the Carnival but the Organising Committee try very hard to ensure that the businesses get a good return for their money through publicity and goodwill.

My two final measures of success that may not be on your list but are very close to the top of mine. They both relate to the massive force of volunteers without whom it would not be possible to run our Carnival, including those who mark out the Green, stall holders, car park attendants, people who close the roads and who try to maintain a smooth traffic flow, those who erect marquees and the 'heavy gang'. The first measure is the time at which everything has been put away for the year and the Green is locked up for the night. This year was close to being a record and I would highlight the efforts of those who turned out on Saturday night to help (quite a few of whom have been doing it for over two decades).

And that is why my final measure is the number of people who, during Carnival afternoon,

offered to help next year. For the past three years I have spend Carnival afternoon going round with a clipboard to try to capture contact details of such volunteers and this year I had a better response than ever before. My thanks to all of them – I'm sure you will enjoy being part of a highly inclusive team.

I've missed a measure of success for those of you who took part in the Grand Draw, Silent Auction, Chainsaw Carving or many of the other stalls involving draws. Maybe you are still waiting to hear whether or not you won the trip to Rome. Well, I'm sorry to say that if you haven't heard by the time you read this then you'll have to wait until next year. Thanks again to all those local businesses that were so generous in donations of prizes to these stalls and to those households throughout the villages who gave such a warm welcome to people selling Grand Draw tickets.

Already the Organising Committee is preparing for next year. Our first meeting will be on 5th September where one of our tasks will be to allocate money raised at this year's Carnival. If your organisation could benefit from a donation then please inform the Committee via the Carnival website (www.stmarysvillagecarnival.com). We will be choosing the theme for next year (which will be the 30th time the event has been held on Edlesborough Green) and would welcome suggestions and selecting one or more local good causes to be our principal charity in 2018. Again suggestions welcome.

If you would like to help or contribute in any way to the success of next year's carnival then please get in touch with me on 220136. As usual the event will take place on the first Saturday in July, 7th July 2018.

See you at the Carnival!

✉ Gordon Gray, Chairman, St Mary's Village Carnival

Photo by Cheryl Spratt



Dogs on Edlesborough Green

Edlesborough Parish Council and AVDC have both received complaints regarding dogs on Edlesborough Green.

EPC remind parishioners that the Byelaw No 4 states the following:

“A person shall not cause or suffer any dog belonging to him or in his charge to remain in the ground unless such dog be and continue to be under proper control and effectually restrained from causing annoyance to any person and from worrying or disturbing any animal.”



Some people interpret that to mean all dogs must be on a lead at all times, but what constitutes effective restraint depends to some extent on the dog and the owner. An unruly dog on a longish lead can cause problems, whereas a well-trained dog that responds immediately to its owner's commands can be effectively restrained without the use of a lead. The problem with any byelaw of course is enforcement. Thames Valley Police have provided the following information:

- The law states that dog on dog attacks are a civil matter, where owners should exchange details and the offending dog's owner should cover any vets costs; however they do not have to.
- If the injury is a serious one, people can call the police who would look at whether or not that dog is a danger and could oversee payment by liaising between parties.
- Dogs being a nuisance and not in proper control, is a dog Warden issue and should be reported to AVDC Environmental Health.
- Dogs that bite a person causing injury is a police matter and the police should be called every time.
- In addition if a dog is seen fouling and it is not being picked up and photographic evidence is presented the police can issue an on the spot fine as can a dog warden.

EPC reminds dog owners that:

- Not all users of the Green are “dog people” and an excited dog bounding up to say hello can be terrifying to adults, children and other dogs.
- Dogs must not enter the play area under any circumstances.
- EPC provides numerous dog bins around the edge of the green, all dog owners must clear up after their dogs.

If you think you witness any users of the Green breaching the Byelaws please report this to Thames Valley Police on 101. A full copy of the Byelaws is displayed on the Pavilion, parishioners can also request a copy from the Clerk.

Potholes, & other road issues & Rights of Way

It is possible to upload pictures of potholes and road surfaces directly to the BCC website. On the main webpage click “Tell Us About A Problem”, and then follow through to “Report a Pothole”, “Report a Right of Way”, or “Tell TfB” for any other highway issue. This allows BCC to log potholes and other issues and provide you with a tracking reference number so that you can see what progress is being made on the issue you reported. The website address for this is below:

www.buckscc.gov.uk/services/transport-and-roads/report-a-problem/tell-us-about-a-highways-problem/

Vision Splays – Under Bucks CC Devolution EPC are responsible for cutting the grass verges within the 30mph limit. Any vision splays outside the 30mph limit are the responsibility of Transport for Bucks and should also be reported to the website above.

Edlesborough Parish Neighbourhood Plan

The consultation period for the Edlesborough Parish Neighbourhood Plan closed on the 18th May 2017. The plan is now with the external examiner. If the plan is approved by the examiner AVDC will organise a referendum. All parishioners registered to vote can participate. You will be asked a simple question Yes or No to approving the Edlesborough Parish Neighbourhood Plan.

ABF - The Soldiers Charity Ride

On Sunday 3rd September cyclists aged from 8 – 80 years will be riding through our Parish taking part in the ABF - The Soldiers Charity Bike Ride.

Numerous signs will be displayed throughout the village directing the cyclist. Anyone wishing to know more about this event can contact Jacqui Sage-Passant on 01525 211498 or 07941 107699

Streetlights

Please report failed streetlights in Edlesborough, Dagnall and Northall to the Clerk for repair. When making a report please ensure you provide the Clerk with the information displayed on the lamp post.

Allotments

Edlesborough Parish Council currently has vacant allotments at the Cow Lane site. Anyone wishing to take on an allotment should contact the Clerk. Fees are £2 per pole and plots range in size from 10 – 20 poles.

Mr David Killick who has been the Warden at Dagnall allotments has tendered his resignation with affect from October 2017. The Council are looking for a volunteer to take on this role. Anyone interested should contact the Clerk.

Speedwatch

The EDaN Traffic Management team are looking for volunteers to help with their new 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 843123 or by email at louisefanthorpe@yahoo.co.uk



Edlesborough Parish Council Meetings

The next Edlesborough Parish Council Meetings will take place as follows:

- Edlesborough Memorial Hall, Thursday 21st September 2017.
- Northall Village Hall, Thursday 19th October 2017.

The meetings will commence at 7:30pm.

All Parishioners are welcome to attend all Ordinary Parish Council meetings and may ask questions, raise issues and give suggestions during the Open Forum before the formal start of the meeting. The full minutes of the Parish Council meetings are available to view on the website or from the Parish Clerk.

To keep up to date with the latest information on the Neighbourhood Plan, Planning Applications etc. please visit the Edlesborough Parish website and visit our Facebook page.

Edlesborough Parish Council Contact Information:

Clerk: Miss Penny Pataky Office hours Mon – Fri 11am – 3pm (Excl. Wed)

Email: clerk@edlesborough-pc.gov.uk 01525 229358 Website: www.edlesborough-pc.gov.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/EDANParishCouncil



EATON BRAY PARISH COUNCIL

Neighbourhood Development Plan



Hi again from the Parish Council Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.

We missed reporting the last two months as we were waiting for the release of Central Bedfordshire Council's (CBC) **draft Local Plan (LP)**. In law the Neighbourhood Plan cannot conflict with the LP.

The pre-draft Local Plan was issued on 20 June and the full draft LP formally released on 4th July. We have been very busy carefully reviewing CBC's intentions and plans along with the Green Belt Review which, for a village within the Green Belt, is key to future development. Housing within the Green Belt is only allowed under "**very special circumstances**" hence our desire to carefully review CBC's policies.

Following release of the LP on 4th July CBC commenced an 8 week consultation where we, the public, have an opportunity to comment and potentially alter the Plan. Should you like to attend one of CBC's "drop in" sessions the nearest is on 9th August at Caddington Sports and Social Club 2.00pm to 8.00pm.

The Steering Group have decided to hold two open public consultation meetings to inform and discuss our work so far and to give villagers an opportunity to have their say. Topics which we will present include:-

- The Green Belt
- CBC's proposals for development in Eaton Bray
- Sustainable housing
- Built heritage
- Biodiversity

We will also ask you questions:-

- What development would you like to see in Eaton Bray?
- How many houses would you like built?
- What would you like to see protected, landscape / village character/ Flora & Fauna etc.?
- **HAVE YOUR SAY!**

We plan to hold two consultation meetings so that if one date is inconvenient then hopefully you will be able to attend the other. These meetings are important as we very much wish to obtain a consensus of opinion across the village. Dates are:-

Monday 14th August from 6.30 pm to 9.00pm.

Saturday 16th September from 9.30 am to 12.00 noon.

Signs will be placed around Eaton Bray and advertisements on the Parish web site and Facebook.

Keep your eyes on the Parish Council web site and Facebook page for more information. If you feel you can offer any support please come along to our meetings. However support doesn't need to be attending monthly meetings, perhaps you have the time to help with data collection/research. Contact the Parish Clerk at www.ebpc.co.uk

Please feel free to attend the next Steering Group meeting which are planned for the last Monday of the month. 7:30pm at the Coffee Tavern, Eaton Bray. Please contact us on glennwigley@hotmail.com if you would like to come along.



Heidi Head, Parish Clerk & RFO

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

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Dagnall Community Choir



There's nothing more exciting for choir members on a Monday night, than when new music is handed out! A new song to learn – new lyrics to memorise,

new harmonies to explore, new rhythms to enjoy. Will this be one of those pieces that we master immediately and will be singing beautifully by the end of the evening? Or will it be one of the more “challenging” pieces that take a few weeks of hard work to get to grips with? Sometimes, it's a familiar piece of music, with a completely surprising arrangement that keeps us on our toes – we all thought we knew exactly how “Somewhere Over the Rainbow” goes for example!

One thing we can be sure of though, is that no matter how complicated a piece of music, or how unusual the arrangement, James, our accompanist will play it flawlessly, and Michelle, our conductor, will know exactly how the vocals should sound – we really are lucky to be in the hands of such an expert musical team.

There has been lots of new music handed out on a Monday night in the past few weeks and months. Exciting times indeed! Our repertoire is growing nicely. Among these new pieces that we will be

showcasing in our up and coming concerts are the rousing “American Trilogy”, made famous by Elvis Presley, extracts from Karl Jenkins' magnificent modern classical piece “The Armed Man – a Mass for Peace”, and “Irish Blessing,” a beautiful melody composed by Philip Stopford who originally hails from Leighton Buzzard. Oh and the aforementioned “Somewhere Over the Rainbow” of course!

If you would like to hear us sing any of these songs, as well as some of our old favourites, there's plenty of opportunity! We are appearing at Dagnall Village Fete on Saturday 5th August, then performing on Friday 1st September at Stanbridge Church - contact the Churchwarden for more information on this. Our main annual concert takes place on **Saturday 30th September** at Eaton Bray Village Hall; please see our poster for details. We will also be at the Poppy Prom once again, so don't miss that – it's always a great night of music.

Or, if you would like to **sing** these songs with us, then please do come along on to Dagnall Church on a Monday evening, 7.45pm. We always welcome new choir members; there are no auditions and no requirements to read music – just come along and join in! www.dagnall-community-choir.co.uk.

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HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MINUTES

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

A hard copy of the minutes can also be viewed on the Parish Council's notice board at The Coffee Tavern.

Meeting of Eaton Bray Parish Council

Held on Monday 5th June 2017 from 7:30pm at the Coffee Tavern

CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL (CBC)

Councillor Ken Janes email kwjanes@hotmail.co.uk / 07767-496823

CBC Website: www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

CBC Email: customers@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

CBC Customer Services: 0300 300 8302

BEDFORDSHIRE POLICE:

- PC Konopka is the new local area police representative, to contact PC Konopka please email Slav.Konopka2@Bedfordshire.pnn.Police.uk (all information is confidential and no names will be disclosed).
- For general Police contact/enquiries: **Non-emergency call 101 / All emergencies 999**

VACANCIES - PARISH COUNCILLORS

There is a vacancy for a Parish Councillor on Eaton Bray Parish Council.

Are you interested, then please email the Parish Clerk (see contact details below) with a brief summary about you, your skills and why you would like to be a Parish Councillor.

Visit the Parish Council website <http://www.eatonbray.com/parish-council/parish-councillor/> to find out more on becoming a Parish Councillor.

HGV 7.5T RESTRICTIONS

There are still a number of Lorries ignoring the restrictions, the Council ask residents to continue to record any lorries breaking the ban (ideally with photographic evidence) and forward details to CBC/Highways (copying in the Parish Council). There are exemptions to the enforcement: emergency services, in connection with any building operation, highways maintenance vehicles, agricultural purposes, public service vehicle purposes such as buses, in connection with professional driver training or testing, local delivery.



EATON BRAY – NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Keep your eyes on the Parish Council web site and Facebook page for more information. If you feel you can offer any support please come along to our meetings. However support doesn't need to be attending monthly meetings, perhaps you have the time to help with data collection/research. Contact the Parish Clerk at www.ebpc.co.uk - **please feel free to attend the next Steering Group meeting.** Meetings are planned for the last Monday of the month at 19.30hrs at the Coffee Tavern, Eaton Bray.

AMENDMENTS TO ADVERTISING BOARDS/SIGNAGE IN THE PARISH

The Council have reassessed their current policy and are making the following amendments:

“There is to be no advertising on Parish Council land without the prior consent from Eaton Bray Parish Council, the Council will remove any unauthorised advertising within the parish. Sponsored advertising boards must be able to clearly show the sponsored event and not be overshadowed by the organisation sponsoring the signage. Inappropriate signage will be removed or the organisation sponsoring the event will be asked to replace them with more suitable signage. Advertising boards (if approved) can be placed in the following locations and must be removed immediately after the event:

- (1) Entry to village (Harling Road): 1x sign*
- (2) Entry to village (The Rye triangle): 1x sign*
- (3) Three Corners: 1x sign*
- (4) Market Square: 1x sign”*

The Council’s current signage policy will remain for this year before being replaced with the new policy as of January 2018. All applications for advertising boards/signage on parish land must be applied for on an annual basis.

BUS ROUTE/TIMETABLE CHANGES

A communication was received by Transport/Central Bedfordshire Council with the following details:

“Over the coming months [CBC] will be liaising with the operator South Beds Dial a Ride to review their feedback and that of the drivers ... who have listened and taken on board comments raised by customers. Both the operator and [CBC] wished to allow the service to operate in its current form, to determine passenger numbers, movements, opinions and timetable schedules ... the 43 is an amalgamation of 2 areas, Studham to Dunstable service and the Dunstable to Leighton Buzzard, via Totternhoe and Eaton Bray service. Any amendment to one service will impact on the other ... the services have to interwork to ensure a service was provided to both areas, to separate them so they run independently would effectively double the cost of the contract ... this would also make both services inefficient and lead to the possibility of one being withdrawn completely and as Studham has no other service, the likelihood is that Eaton Bray with 2 other bus services serving the village would lose the 43 ... [CBC] will liaise with the operator to determine feedback and thoughts and any progress... please do however update us on any other comments or concerns that may have been raised, so that we can give them consideration when reviewing the service.”

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING DATES:

Held in The Coffee Tavern / 1st floor, from 7:30pm (unless otherwise notified)
Monday 4th September 2017 (there is no Council meeting in August)



Heidi Head, Parish Clerk & RFO

Email: clerk@ebpc.co.uk - Telephone/Fax: 01525 221464 - Website: 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



POPPY PROM

11 November, 7.30pm

St Mary's, Eaton Bray

A celebration of 'Remembrance' and 'The Last Night of the Proms' featuring: Dagnall Community Choir, South Beds Concert Band, plus soloists Emily Haig and Karen Hogan

Box Office: 01525 222283

Tickets (£12.50 & £10) will go fast so hurry to book your seats!

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All Saints' Church, Dagnall

Services in August and September 2017

Sun. 6th Aug.	9.00 am	Eucharist
	10.30 am	Morning Service
Sun. 13th Aug.	10.30 am	Morning Service
Sun. 20th Aug.	10.30 am	Family Communion
Sun. 27th Aug.	10.30 am	Family Service
Sun. 3rd Sept.	9.00 am	Eucharist
	10.30 am	Morning Service
Sun. 10th Sept.	10.30 am	Morning Service
Sun. 17th Sept.	10.30 am	Family Communion
Sun. 24th Sept.	10.30 am	Family Harvest Festival Service
Sun. 1st 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.



Dagnall Ploughman's Lunches

Thank you to all those who attended and those who generously helped at Dagnall Church with Ploughman's Lunches on Saturday 8th of July. We are still working on the final figure, but at present the event raised over £800, to be divided between Dagnall C of E School and All Saints Building Fund.

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Saturday 5th August
Saturday 2nd September

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Nigel's Thoughts

Methodist Minister



Dear Friends,

What a blessing these warm summer days are, especially when we remember how severe past winters have been. Of course, we 'brits' just love to have a moan about our climate and it really has been rather hot just recently! What amazes me though is that we are alive and able to experience the wonders of God's world at all.

A fitting prayer says:-

"Lord God, source of all life, we rejoice that through the power of your love we are alive; breathing, thinking, feeling creatures, made in your likeness and for your glory.

Lord God, source of life, recognising that our life exists through your desire, we thank and praise and glorify you."

Whatever you are doing this summer I hope that you will find time for refreshment and to centre your heart and mind again in the great love of God.

You are his precious treasure and his greatest desire is that knowing him, together with all his children, you may discover that wholeness which is his greatest gift.

He speaks to us in so many ways, in the beauty of the world around us (whatever the weather!) and he has spoken in Jesus, his absolute and final word of love.

May this time provide opportunity for us to fall in love again, with God our Father and Jesus our saviour, friend and brother.

God bless you,

✍️Nigel

Eaton Bray Village Hall Beer Festival

It does seem a while ago since the 9th and 10th of June but as you can see, when we had pulled the last pint, the deadline for Focus had passed. Well there may be another excuse, I went off for a motorcycling trip with a friend and by then it was certainly too late!

The weather prior to the Friday was cool and this allowed ALL 30 beers to settle and be served. Believe it or not in 14 Beer Festivals we had never had all beers in perfect condition on the day. That of course helped us to have plenty of different beers still available until closing time. It was a long time ago that we ran out of beer, which must mean that we have at last got the quantities right.

Jerome Chance and Tony O'Malley gave us a great time on Friday and Saturday evenings, it was the Dicemen, who on

Saturday afternoon did a set outside, much to the pleasure of the families and friends sitting outside in the sun but with a slightly chilly wind. This did cause most folk to return to the main hall rather earlier than usual, still the one thing we cannot control is the weather. It has only really rained seriously once in all these years.

We will be back next year with the 15th Beer Festival so look out for more information throughout the coming year.

Our next Quiz with super Quiz Master Keith Blackburn, is on October 21st and tickets are selling fast. To book a table (6-8 people) or just individual places just give me a ring on 01525 221411, or email, ross.bagni@btinternet.com

Enjoy the summer.

✍️Ross



Brass Band Concert

Saturday 7 October

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LOCAL HERALDRY

BY JOHN HOCKEY

In this series, we take a look around local towns and villages to find interesting and unusual heraldry.

BERKHAMSTED

This time we are going to look at another funeral hatchment. This one is part of a set of four found in St Peter's, Berkhamsted.

Normally, on a hatchment you will find a shield with two coats of arms side by side, one for the husband on the left or Dexter side, one for the wife on the right or Sinister side. Occasionally (as found in one of the other four hatchments here) the wife's coat is placed on a small shield in the middle of the husband's arms – this means she was an heiress in her own right. In either case the background colour to the hatchment explains who has died, black indicating dead, white meaning still living.

Looking at the fourth hatchment, shown here, we can see that the shield is divided into three parts, rather than two, so what is going on? This is a case where the man has married twice. His arms are shown in the middle strip, his first wife's on the left and his surviving wife on the right. We know she is still living as the background behind the shield on her side is white. You can see that the crest which lies above everything else in this hatchment is a silver lion with a golden crown and that is shown within the black part of the hatchment – confirming that it is the deceased man's crest. Note that it is the same as the four charges on the middle shield surrounding the silver (argent) cross. That cross has a ragged edge which is called 'engrailed'.



Turning to the surviving wife's arms on the right, this is unusual in that it uses a relatively



rare form of charge known as 'flanches'. Always shown as a pair, they are curved shapes on the side of the shield. In between is a stag's head face-on and the correct description or blazon is 'Sable a stag's head caboshed between a pair of flanches Argent'. The arms are for Parker. There is a monument to Elizabeth Parker in the church. The motto is 'Resurgam' meaning 'I will rise again' and is a message of hope rather than the family motto.

Next time: Wing



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Eaton Bray Methodist Church



John Enejo was our preacher on Pentecost Sunday, focusing on the power the Holy

Spirit gives to all followers of Christ. In our Cafe Service on the second Sunday, Rev Nigel Bibbings helped us think about the difficult concept of the Trinity. There was a lively discussion and some powerful and moving prayers and many of us left with a clearer grasp of the three-fold wonder of God. The following week, on the 3rd Sunday in June, Steve Rogers, a young preacher on trial, visited us for the first time. In the context of the recent terrible national events, he outlined occasions in the Bible when care and hospitality was offered to strangers and pointed out that meeting another's needs is the most practical way of obeying God. We found his message inspiring and look forward to welcoming him back. On the final Sunday in June we joined all the other churches in the South Beds Circuit for a wonderful Celebration Service on Dunstable Downs. Our Communion Service on the first Sunday in July was led by Rev Wallace Edwards who, as usual, gave a deeply meaningful sermon. His theme was **OUR** father, the emphasis being that the Lord is good to all. We are a praying fellowship, all engaged in the ministry of prayer, with a responsibility for each other. Our July Cafe Service was led by Tina Salmon. It centred on Ephesians Ch 2 v10 and prompted an interesting discussion on God's 'works of art', ie followers of Christ, and how they may be defined and recognised.

Shortly before sending this article to the editor, we heard the grievous news

of the death of our much-loved Chief Steward, Graham Carter, who has given long and devoted service in several key roles in our church. He will be sorely missed.

Dates for your Diary:

Harvest Festival Lunch

Sunday 24th September – after Harvest Festival Service

Cafe Community

Saturday 14th October 2017 11am – 1pm

We will be delighted to see you. Do come and join us for a cup of tea/coffee and/or a light lunch.

Social Afternoons

Weekly on **Thursdays** 2pm – 4pm
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St Mary's 100 Club

July 2017

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Messing About in Boats

Born in Hull, just a few miles from the river Humber, at the ripe old age of 17 my family moved to Liverpool as my father had a new job, with a salary of £1000 per year. Well £20 per week was not to be given up easily in those days! Once again living close to the river Mersey, I decided water must be in my DNA.

I took up boating at 22 when I first bought a boat called Tina 9, never knew what happened to Tina 1-8. She, (cos a boat is always female) had a 20 hp engine and was made from wood. At the weekends I would trundle up and down the Mersey with a total lack of knowledge and experience but soon learnt, when coming face to face with the Isle of Man Steamer for the first time.

Despite my low level of boating experience I always knew that as a Englishman, (sorry Yorkshireman) I must have a streak of maritime in me somewhere.

As you can imagine things alter when you get married and have a family of your own, as we then needed kids stuff and new furniture, so Tina 9 had to go.

The urge to return to the water never really went away so family holidays revolved around boating themes, Norfolk Broads, French rivers and of course our own canals, all very different experiences. Learning to park, oops sorry moor the boat is one thing, then there is reversing, well that's a trick in itself as it does not do what you expect! Plus how the devil do you flush the toilets?

The first lock you encounter is destined to send you into a frenzy, and why is it that at your first attempt a large crowd of people are watching hoping that you make a mess of everything, they are not to be disappointed. My desire not to embarrass myself soon came to a sticky end, it was

farical mixed with slapstick and, “OH NO, someone wants to moor alongside of me in the lock, what are they doing!!” In time this manoeuvre soon became perfection, well perhaps that's a bit strong. Wanting to progress, I decided to take a Skippers course at the age of 59 in sunny Devon. My second day was spent in a force 8 for many hours off the coast of Plymouth, sea sick, are you kidding! I was fortunate to work for a company who owned a 38 foot yacht in Lymington, so weekends and yes, some week days were spent on the boat. “But boss, can you not see I am entertaining important customers” I was heard to say.

Although we live in the Chilterns and many hours away from the coast, we are blessed with beautiful canals with lots of boating opportunities some as close as Leighton Buzzard, plus many other locations spread across the country.

One thing is for sure, you will relax, the pace is slow as the country side dashes past at 6 mph. It's easy to find a relaxing place to moor for lunch, honestly it's difficult not to find an unattractive place on the whole canal system, and in the evening enjoy the pub food on the canal side or eat on deck.

You can cycle along the footpath or watch a furry friend swim past you whilst you enjoy a coffee.

Once you master the locks, learn your knots and get the mooring right, and hey! how do you flush that flipping loo. You will be hooked.

✍️ Ken Coates



THE POSTCARD FROM HELL

BY PETER HALE (EATON BRAY RESIDENT)



Below and right is a postcard sent by Private Thomas

Hale to his wife from the First World War trenches

It shows the censored information that my grandfather was allowed to send from the battle front at Ypres.

The postmark bears the date 17 July 17

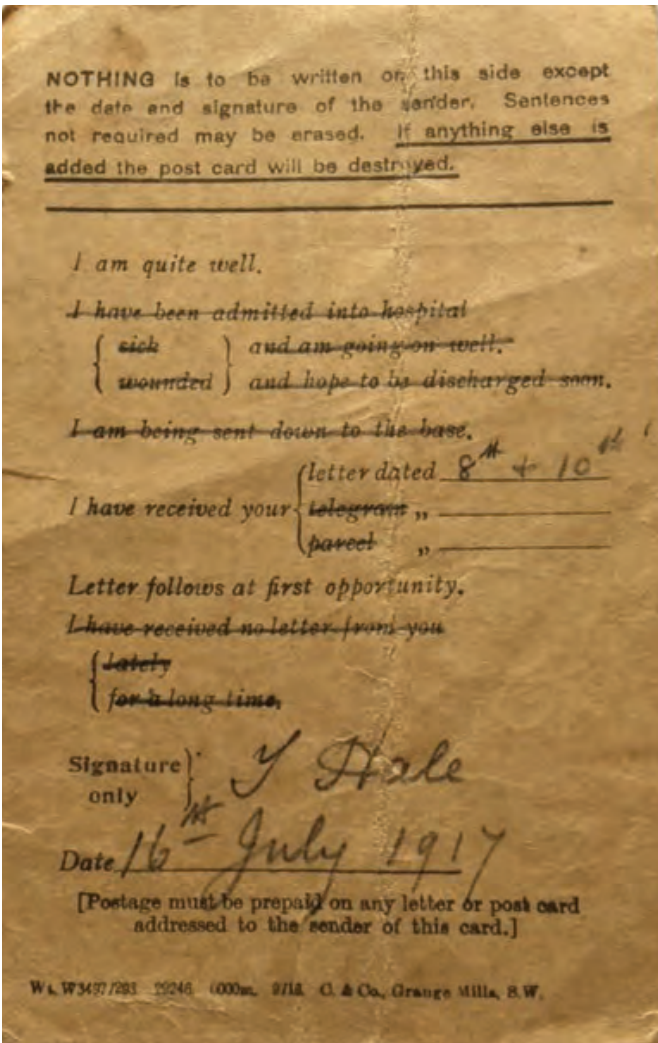
On that same date Thomas Hale was killed in action.

The picture above was taken on Palm Sunday 7 April 1968 being the very first time that any family member had seen the headstone for Thomas Hale

My diary entry for that day reads "Spent all day looking for Grandfathers grave in the area around Ypres. Absolutely dotted with graves of English, Australian and other soldiers, all kept as if they were a day old. We were successful after a very long search along dusty lanes and narrow footpaths. Photographs of the grave, cemetery and fields surrounding"

Three years later I took my father over to Belgium to see his fathers resting place.

Obviously I never knew my grandfather and sadly neither really



did my father as they only had a few hours together on a brief visit home from the Front when my father had recollections of a stranger, covered in mud, suddenly appearing in his home in Bath and being greeted lovingly by his mother.

To my knowledge Kate Alice Hale, widow of Thomas Hale, never left these shores and she brought up two



sons, three if the 1911 census of England and Wales is to be believed, on her own. She died in 1972 having been a widow for 55 years.

The ultimate sacrifice made by Thomas Hale and millions like him hopefully made the world a safer place, immediately post war.

The war to end all wars? Sadly it was not.



Now 100 years after the death of Thomas Hale, the photograph right, taken less than a month ago by a

lifelong friend, gives an indication of the continuing fantastic work carried out by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission in the upkeep of the memorial to the fallen.

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Sunday

Footprints (Sunday School)	9.45-10.45am
Morning Worship	11am
Messy Church	3-5pm
<i>(Last Sunday of the month)</i>	
Songs of Praise	4pm
<i>(3rd Sunday of the month from May to Dec)</i>	

Tuesday

Coffee Morning	
<i>(Alternate weeks)</i>	
Music practices (all welcome)	10-11.30am
	7.30-9pm

Wednesday

Home League	2.30-3.30pm
<i>(Ladies Mtg but all welcome)</i>	
Champions Challenge Club <i>(term time)</i>	
<i>(Ages 5-10 years)</i>	5.45-6.45pm

Thursday

Parent and Toddler Group	
<i>(Term time)</i>	
Girls' Night Out	9.30-11.30am
<i>(1st Thursday of month)</i>	
	7.45pm
Sewing & Craft Bees	
<i>(2nd Thursday of month)</i>	
	7.45 pm
Ladies Fellowship	
<i>(Last week of month)</i>	
	7.45pm

*For further details please call Envoy Hilary Chadwick. T:01525 222087 / 07932 057490
E: hilary.chadwick@salvationarmy.org.uk
W: www.salvationarmy.org.uk/eaton-bray*



Eaton Bray Lawn Tennis Club

It's amazing just what writing a load of gibberish can achieve.

No sooner was last month's Focus magazine through the letterboxes, with my 'tennis-free' article detailing the electoral success of a certain Mr Ronnie Racquet, than I was inundated with texts, e-mails and phone calls, all from various members of the committee, offering closely held and previously unavailable information about what's going on in our little club! I've got the hint that they'd like to see at least something relating to tennis in this column, rather than the unsuccessful mating habits of the everyday plastic garden heron, or the manifesto pledge to vacuum motorways twice daily to avoid those irritating stone chips, so without further ado, here goes. I am a mere employee of the club after all, and I always do as I am bid (don't tell my wife; I'm still using the 'sore shoulder' story to get out of using the Dyson. It weighs a ton and has more knobs and buttons than the space shuttle. I pressed one once, a big purple one which I assumed adjusted something, and it literally fell into two pieces. I'm still not sure I put it back together correctly). Sorry, as I was saying....

Our 'Tennis for Kids' sessions, run by club coach Sara Leavy, continue to be hugely popular, with around 10 children attending every Saturday between 2-3pm. A second session will start in September on Mondays, from 4-5pm. Just call Sara if you'd like your children to go along. The under 14 Road to Wimbledon winner was Thomas Noithip, with Cameron Brown as the runner-up. Adult coaching is taking its summer vacation, and will start again week of 4th September. Again, let Sara know if you'd like to join in. Also worth of note this month is that the 2017 'Mike Venn Trophy' was won by Glenn Wigley; fittingly Glenn inaugurated this competition some years ago in memory of Mike, a founder member of the club back in 1988. He was 1989 Men's Doubles and Mixed

Doubles champion, ex committee member, chairman and all round good bloke. This month is the 10th anniversary of his passing.

Now here's a story that proves two things. First, tennis can be enjoyed at any age. Second, if you come from the Isle of Man, then you should be used to a little rain. Last week, septuagenarian member and keen player Peter Hale took a phone call from fellow member Roy Cook, of similar vintage, asking him if he'd like to partner Roy in the Bedfordshire County Over 65s team, to play their ancient counterparts from the Isle of Man. The venue for this prestigious match was supposed to be the Flitwick and Ampthill Tennis Club. However, with heavy rain forecast that day, indoor courts were urgently requisitioned by the county at the Towers Health & Racquet Club in Bedford. Very posh. They had three courts for three hours. Surely that would be sufficient.

It might have been, had the Islanders had the foresight not to travel on the morning of the match, requiring a flight to Gatwick, collection of a hire car, and a drive from there to Bedford with a SatNav that knew nothing about the recently opened Towers club; a journey of around 100 miles requiring at least three hours, M25 permitting. And on this day, it didn't permit. Play got underway just after 4pm, over an hour late. Peter and Roy won their first match two sets to love, whilst the other two Bedfordshire players won one singles and lost the other. By now, at was 5.40pm, and members of the Towers club were already waiting patiently courtside, ready to start their own games at 6pm, the cut-off time for our subjects. They had a 20 minute window to play two sets! By 6pm, Peter and Roy had reached 3-3 in their first set against the second Island pair, and the other Bedfordshire pair were 5-1 up. There was only one thing for it. The match would have to be concluded on two outside courts, which were available, but a little damp under

some lightly falling rain. Now a little rain has never dampened our spirits at EBLTC; our members are of the ‘all weather’ persuasion and regularly run around our courts under torrential downpours. However, the same can clearly not be said of the Isle of Man citizens, who were somewhat reluctant to venture outside. With 56mm of rain falling on the Isle of Man that day, one would have thought that they’d be used to getting wet, but not these water-averse individuals. In fact, such was their disdain of a spot of rain, they conceded the remaining sets,

giving Bedfordshire a four sets to one victory! Well that’s it for another month. 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 any committee member – names and numbers on the website - Coach Sara Leavy on 07561 571578, or if they’re all out and I’ve not been locked in the cupboard for breaking the Dyson again, then me, Andy Cross, on 07783 667338.

Summer Holiday Tips from St Judes

The summer holidays are just around the corner so follow a few tips for a happy, healthy summer:



Gardening – when faced with a mountainous backlog of jobs, don’t try to do everything in one go: break up tasks and take a rest. Tackle jobs like weeding at a low height and cutting back of plants at a higher height. Take regular breaks - your joints will thank you for it.



Happy Feet – we see a huge increase in foot pain and plantar fasciitis cases in the summer often due to poor footwear. Ordinary flip-flops give no support and little shock absorbency and affect the fascia under the foot (it’s a bit like a piece of gristle that acts like a bow-string to lift the arch of the foot). This feels like you’re walking on sharp stones and if not treated properly, can take ages to clear so try some supportive sandals instead. Feet looking a bit tired? - use a pumice stone to remove hard skin and then apply a specialist foot cream such as CCS Foot care cream which is recommended by Podiatrists to manage and help prevent dry and rough skin (available from St Judes)



Sunbathers back – too much of a good thing lazing around is not actually good for you.

Try to support your spine when sunbathing - if your back hollows when lying on the sunbed on your tummy, put a rolled towel or cushion under you to prevent backache. Look after your neck – it’s better to keep your neck straight and place your hands on a rolled towel under your forehead than turn your head to the side.



Wet walkies? If it’s raining cats and dogs avoid wearing your wellies as they don’t offer much support - you are far better off wearing some

walking boots.

Here’s to a super summer!

Tips by

Moira D’Arcy, Chartered Physiotherapist at St Judes



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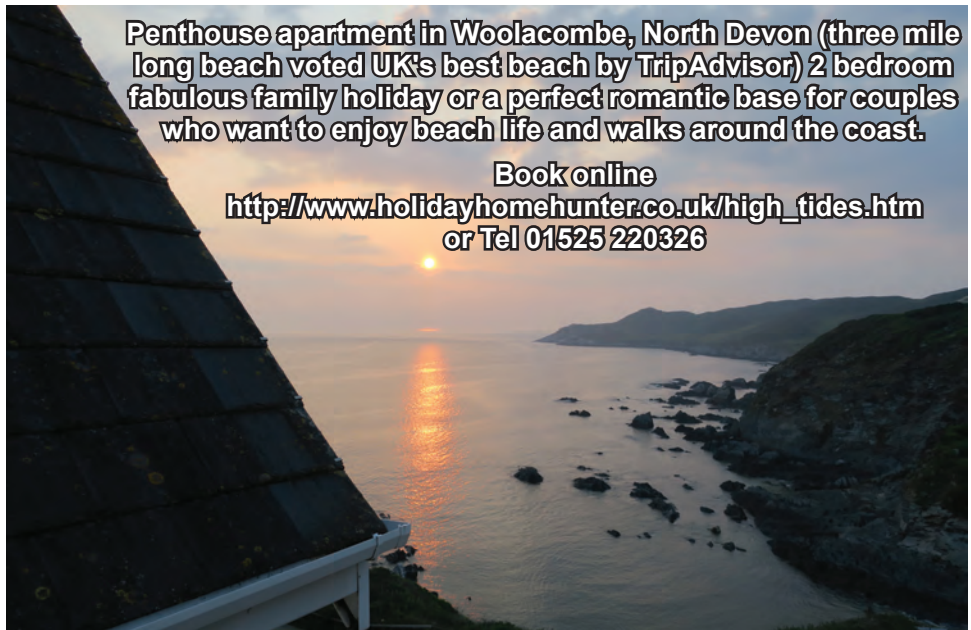
Heritage Open Days 2017

Thursday 7th September to Sunday 10th September

For the last three years, the Friends of the Church on the Hill, have participated in Heritage Open Days which is an international initiative aimed at encouraging people to visit and enjoy buildings which are part of our historical heritage but not regularly in use.

This year will be special because the famous **Edlesborough Rose Brass** will return to the village **for one day only** so that local people can enjoy seeing it again. It is not coming to stay, at least for the time being, as it requires some conservation work to be carried out. There will also be a talk about the Rose on the same day - further details will be available over the summer months.

The church will be open on all 4 days and there will be displays about the village and family history. On the Sunday we will have bell ringing at 3pm followed by Songs of Praise at 4pm.



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DAGNALL and Kensworth friendship club will meet in the village hall on August 15th for an afternoon of music and tea.

The outing on September 20th to Windsor leaves from Dagnall village hall at times to be arranged with the coach company.

Members of the club will be told the times in August.

The October meeting is in the village hall for sausage and mash lunch followed by The Jolly Jazzers from 1.30pm.

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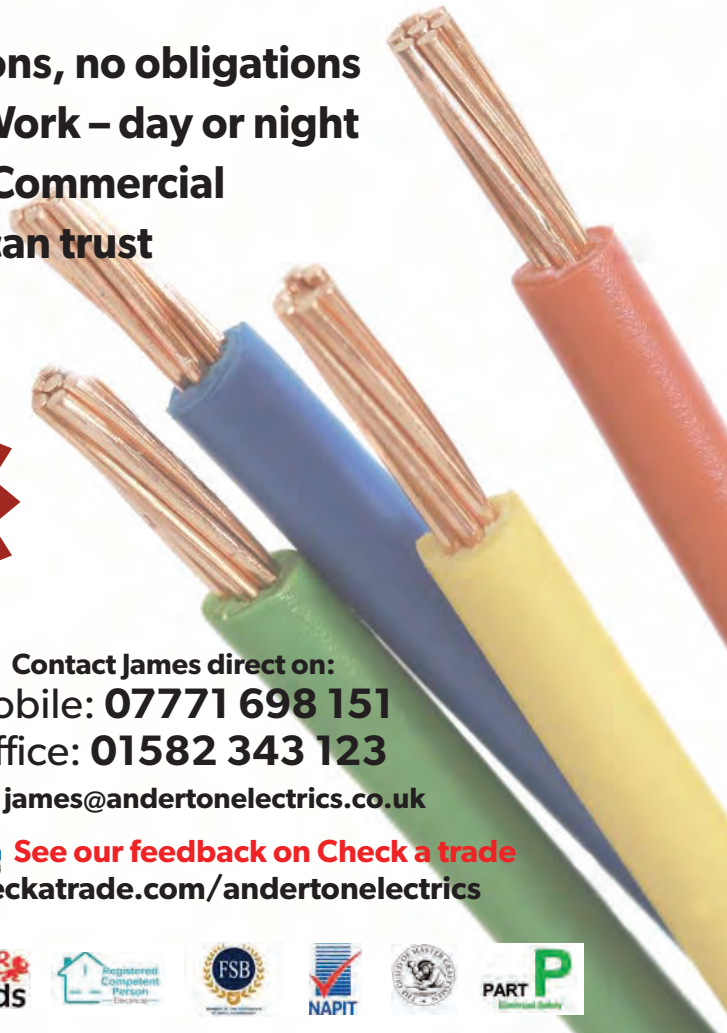


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Rose to Swim the English Channel

At the end of August an Eaton Bray resident Rose Hawkins, aged 24, will be attempting to swim the English Channel! Rose has always loved swimming, having swam for the county and club whilst growing up. When Rose said she wanted to take on the huge challenge of swimming the channel, we knew her determination and positive attitude was going to benefit her. Not only in the commitment to a gruelling training regime but the actual swim ahead of her. As part of her training Rose will attend Swim camps at Lake Windermere, Dover and Bournemouth. Her six hour qualifying swim was achieved on the 3rd June 2017 in Bournemouth. On 2nd July 2017 Rose swam the length and back of Lake Windermere, allowing for crossing etc. the distance travelled was 24 miles. Rose entered the water at 4.30am and swam continuously for 13 hours. She was accompanied by two men in a small boat guiding her and feeding her every hour. This was a huge challenge in itself and a big incentive towards her final Challenge.



Rose is combining indoor pool swimming with open water sessions. Tiddenfoot Leisure Centre have been very supportive allowing her to have a lane allocated for endurance swims to just her.

The Channel swim is 21 miles (shortest distance from Dover to Cap Gris-Nez) but there is a big chance she will swim much further (up to 35 miles) than that depending on the tides and shipping lanes. Rose's expectation is to complete the swim between 12 - 16 hours. A pilot boat will accompany her, with her parents, sister and cousin on to supply her with food, support and sustenance via a pole and net as no contact with the boat is allowed. The swim will be attempted wearing just a costume, goggles, grease, and swim hat. A wetsuit is considered a buoyancy aid so is not permitted. Some of the hazards Rose may encounter are jelly fish stings, sharks, tankers, ferries in the shipping lanes, sewage, hyperthermia, tide changes every six hours and weather changes. The psychological effect is every bit as challenging as the physical.

Rose is training every day despite holding down a full time job as a financial advisor in Milton Keynes. The commitment and determination she is showing is making us all extremely proud.

Although this is a personal challenge for Rose she is hoping to raise money for 4 charities close to her heart; Marie Curie, British Heart Foundation, Willen Hospice and Medical Detection Dogs. If you would like to find out more about her challenge or sponsor her please use the link below:

bit.ly/RoseChannelSwim



Our meeting was held in the Memorial Hall on 13th June when our speaker, Colin Oakes, spoke on the subject of: 'Allotments and the Strange People Who Serve in Them'. Colin introduced his subject by explaining that he would be looking at the matter from a personal perspective and that working on allotments was a lovely occupation which involved fresh air, hard work and exercise. There followed a brief history of some of the different types of vegetables, for example carrots were originally purple. Apparently, the Dutch were the first to crop the orange carrots that we recognise today and there are also brown and yellow versions. Not only did Colin provide a history of the vegetables but he also gave an outline of the history of the allotment: which originated with the Normans, who 'allotted' land to the villeins; hence the name 'allotment', through the Tudor period; with the Poor Law and Land Enclosure Acts, the Victorian period; when in the 1840's, land was allotted with the aim to keep down crime and to the present; with the role of the parish councils. Working on an allotment provides one with the opportunity of growing many different types of vegetables and accompanying the growing of one's own food supply is the source of an enormous sense of satisfaction. However, allotments are not confined to the sole purpose of growing vegetables. Colin pointed out that it was fascinating to see how allotments were used as areas of relaxation, where people grew numerous varieties of flowers and constructed interesting sheds; many of which had interiors with curtains at the windows and the walls were book lined. Colin's love of allotments was first 'planted' as a young child when his grandfather introduced him to the strange and wonderful world of keeping an allotment. As a student of Archaeology at Leicester University, Colin was reintroduced to the world of allotments but this time it was through necessity. Colin's grant took many

months to materialise and in the mean time he had to eat. He applied for an allotment and while Colin waited for the land to produce, he survived on mince, oval, melts (the lining of an animal's chest cavity), rabbit, hare, hedgehog and road kill. Road kill is not a straight forward matter. For instance, if a pheasant is killed by a car, the driver is not allowed by law to take that bird. If however, a pheasant is killed by a car and that driver leaves the body, anyone else who passes by is allowed to take the body for food.

After what seemed a long time, Colin's hard efforts in preparing the allotment began to pay off and he began to reap his harvest. All this time Colin was asking his fellow allotment holders questions such as: what is this vegetable called and are you growing that for the show? Apparently he asked so many questions that he became known as, 'Nosey Colin'. At the same time he began to notice that his fellow allotment comrades were rather strange characters. Homemade rhubarb wine was a favourite tippie on the site and tobacco was grown – for one's own use, to name a couple of enterprises. Allotment keepers are not allowed to sell their produce but there is nothing to stop them exchanging produce.

As a student of Archaeology, Colin was very interested to note that the manure pile was a good source of seventeenth century smoking pipes and glassware. He made a great fuss of this fact only to discover that the source was not the actual allotment site but that the manure had been brought in from several sources and dumped at the allotments. As a result of his fanatical interest he was asked to go to another allotment site.

Colin's interest in keeping an allotment was obvious but he ended his talk with a warning that pilfering can be a problem. However, this state of affairs does not hamper the enthusiasm allotment holders have towards the love they have for their 'hobby'.

✍ Jackie Flint

I am sure most of you will have noticed the building work being carried out at the garage in Edlesborough, with cranes, lorries, diggers and workmen in hi-vis jackets and hard hats. What used to be Edlesborough Autos is now in the safe hands of the new owners and has for some time now been known as NMJ Service Centre.



Despite the changes you can be assured that you will be dealing with familiar faces as all the old staff are still onboard and hopefully you will soon start to see the benefits of all the new building work and equipment upgrades.

The first phase of work we have undertaken is the steel framed building extension which backs on to the Scout Hut and Memorial Hall. This building now houses our new state of the art MOT bay which enables us to carry out one man MOT testing and with the aid of cameras and computers you, the customer, can sit in the reception and watch your MOT test being carried out on the TV monitor whilst enjoying a nice cup of tea or coffee.

We have also started the process of upgrading the rest of the workshops with several new vehicle lifts already installed and several more on order awaiting delivery. We will eventually have seven vehicle lift work stations, a great improvement on the four we used to have, and two diagnostic bays. We will complete the workshop upgrades with new lighting, tiled floors throughout and new workbenches and equipment to further enhance our already excellent service.

From the outside you will soon see the arrival of a new sign appearing over the front of the building, and finally the reception and office area will be refurbished.

Many of you will have bought cars from NMJ Motorhouse and will be aware of what a smart and professional business it is. All of us at NMJ Service Centre will be following that ethos and hope as a result your motoring experience will only be enhanced by dealing with us.

If you need to make a booking or to discuss any issues please call 01525 222224 and speak to Ben or Bobby.

Take on Nature's Assault Course in UK first at ZSL Whipsnade Zoo this Summer

**Brand new Bear Grylls Wild Survival Academy launches at ZSL Whipsnade Zoo
From Saturday 29 July to 3 September, 2017**

Adventurers searching for a wild summer experience should look no further than ZSL Whipsnade Zoo as it debuts the brand new Bear Grylls Wild Survival Academy this summer. From 29 July to 3 September, visitors to the UK's largest Zoo will become real wildlife explorers and can put their Bear Grylls-inspired survival skills to the test with a host of invigorating challenges and exciting activities.

The interactive experience promises to be the wildest event of the summer with visitors taking part in a thrilling assault course, learning how to build shelters and testing their knowledge in a wildlife ID quiz.

Intrepid adventurers can also try a selection of wild foods, including fruit, herbs and even mealworms, to gain a sense of how foraging for sustainable and nutritional food sources in the wild could be crucial to survival.

Budding conservationists and youngsters aspiring to be the next Bear Grylls can learn how to track and study animal behaviour, just like ZSL's very own conservationists, at the Observation Station. A number of fascinating live talks and shows from Bear Grylls Survival Academy instructors will take place daily for visitors to find out how animals, and humans, can survive in the harshest conditions in the wild – with live challenges for the most brazen



Zoo guests to get involved in.

If you think you have what it takes to survive in the wild why not put a visit to the Bear Grylls Wild Survival Academy at ZSL Whipsnade Zoo on the top of your summer to-do list? Find out more and book tickets at www.zsl.org.

Sleep under the Stars at ZSL Whipsnade Zoo

**Adventurous campers can pitch their tents at the UK's largest zoo this summer
Nature Night Camping – Saturday 5, 12 and 19 August and Saturday 2 September, 2017**

Lovers of the great outdoors can pitch up their tents and sleep under the stars at ZSL Whipsnade Zoo this summer with a brand new wild camping experience. Running on selected dates during August and September, Nature Night Camping invites visitors to sleepover at the UK's largest Zoo alongside its 3,500 animals.

Once the Zoo gates have shut for the day, lucky campers will pitch their tents and be treated to a fascinating talk on how best to spot the Zoo's animals at night-time. As darkness falls on the 600-acre Zoo, campers will have a chance to put their newly-learned wildlife-watching tips to the test and head out for a torch-lit expedition to discover which animals are still awake. Guests will then return to camp to settle down for a peaceful night's sleep. With no need to set an alarm, the roars of lions, squawks of parrots and trumpeting of elephants will ring around at first light. Breakfast will be served at the Zoo's Wildbite Café before campers enjoy an exclusive morning tour of Whipsnade before the Zoo opens to the public. Overnight guests are then free to enjoy the rest of their day at the Zoo, as entry is included in the camping price. Limited spaces are available for this wild sleepover; to find out more and book your tent pitch visit www.zsl.org.



Dagnall Weather Station (AONB)

Weather Conditions for June 2017



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

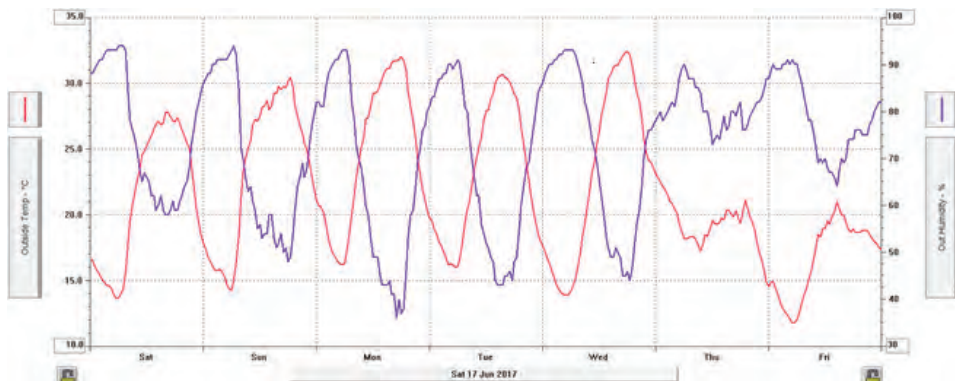


2017 is becoming a year of records. April was very dry, May's rain was well above average, June temperatures reached 30°C plus on consecutive days. The month started unsettled with showers on the 5th, with the 6th being the wettest day in June. From the 12th we didn't have any rain for 15 days, the total month's rainfall was 38.8mm that's only 70% of the 10 year average. On the 17th the temperature started to climb to 28°C and for the next 4 days we were in the 30s with a maximum temperature 32.6°C, night temperatures above 15°C and humidity climbing above 90% which made it difficult to sleep.

In the plot below I have tried to show the rise and fall of the temperature and humidity over the week when the temperature was above 30 degrees.

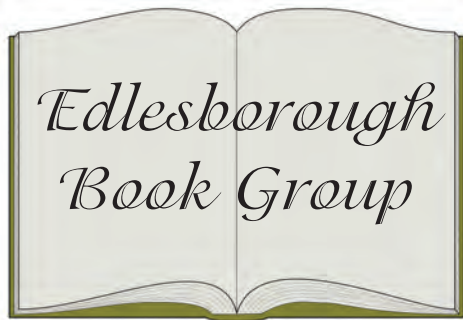
	High	Date/Time	Low	Date/Time
Temperature:	32.6°C	21 June 17.30	8.6°C	26 June 05.30
Mean Temperature	17.1°C			
Dewpoint:	20.1°C	18 June 20.00	7.1°C	4 June 05.00
Humidity:	96%	28 June 06.00	36%	6 June 06.00
Barometer:	1026.5 mb	17 June 09.00	985.2 mb	11-12 June
Wind Speed	42mph SSW	5 June 22.30	Months avg.	5.6 mph
Wind Chill:	32.4°C	21 June 18.00	5.3°C	6 June 09.00
Dominant Wind:	W			
*Rain Days: 10 (T), 10(R)		Wettest Day 6th June	14.20 mm	0.559 ins
Monthly Rain:	Total	June 2017	38.8mm	1.527 ins
Yearly Rain:	Total	6 Months	289.4 mm	11.393 ins

Temperature **Red** Humidity **Purple**



For weather data 24 hours a day, updated every 15 mins, visit: www.dagnallweather.co.uk and http://bit.ly/weather_dagnall for this site forecast and much more. If anyone has a question, comment or wishes to contact me please email: 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.



The Gustav Sonata by Rose Thomain

The book group welcomed the choice of Rose Tremain's latest novel. We were all familiar with her work and have read and enjoyed several of her books in the past. She is a well respected author, having won many awards for her writing and is now Chancellor of the University of East Anglia, and has also been made a CBE.

The Gustav Sonata, although a relatively small book, tells an immense story. It manages, succinctly to relate the stories of two central characters, their backgrounds and their lives over the course of sixty years: whilst also filling in historical detail, making the book feel more rounded. Rose Tremain does not deal in superfluity, every word she writes, counts.

The book is set in Switzerland. Its neutrality during World War Two and its post war difficulties makes for a very different and thought provoking setting. The story's main protagonists are Gustav Perle and Anton Zwiebel, who meet as little boys at kindergarten. Gustav is a lonely child, whose father died when he was a baby, and Emilie his mother, seems unable to give Gustav the emotional warmth and love he craves. Life is a struggle for Emilie. When she married, her husband was the Chief of Police, but when

he helped Jewish people to cross the border to Switzerland illegally, he lost his position and her life changed radically. His early death has made her life even more difficult and she has remained embittered. She finds it hard to accept Gustav's new friend, who is Jewish and whose parents are wealthy. Anton is a very nervous little boy, who Gustav is encouraged to take under his wing at school. He is also a very talented pianist and his parents have great ambition for him. Because of his nervousness he is totally unable to perform on stage and every competition he enters brings more disappointment. Over the years, helped by Gustav's encouragement, he finds a solution and is able for a time to have career in music.

Gustav however, never leaves his hometown of Matzlingen. He is devoted to his mother despite her coldness and neglect and looks after her until the end of her life. His circumstances have changed and he is a wealthy, well respected citizen, but is still a very repressed, uptight individual.

The middle section of the book tells the story of Gustav's parents and this, together with the childhood of Anton and Gustav, gives the book depth and more information about the characters. It was astounding, how much the book managed to achieve in only 240 pages and left me with much to think about. I felt the book was about

the innocence of childhood, the effect of events outside on that innocence and the waste of life when bitterness and acrimony take hold.

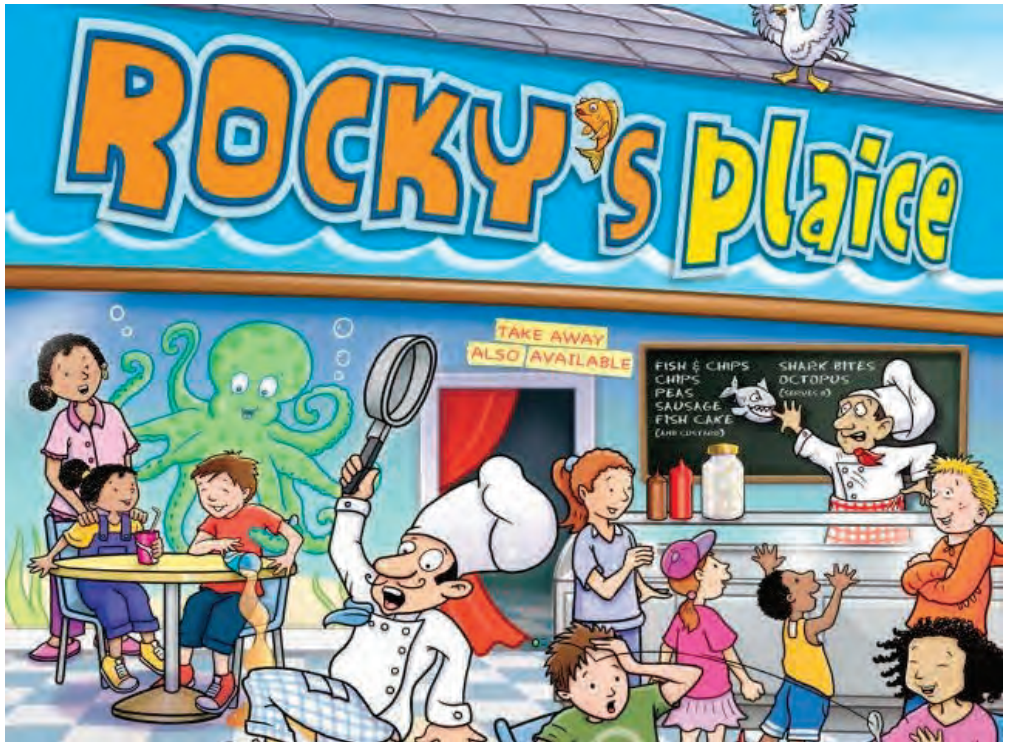
The members of the book group all enjoyed the book and thought the characterisation excellent. We would recommend it as a very good read.



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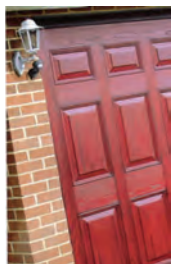


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