

# Focus

**December/January 2018**

**The local village magazine just for Us!  
Eaton Bray, Edlesborough, Northall & Dagnall  
Focus is online at [www.thefocusmagazine.co.uk](http://www.thefocusmagazine.co.uk)**

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*Saturday 11th February 2017*

*11.00am to 1.00pm*

*Charity of the month:*

*Save the Children - Yemen Appeal*

*Relax & chat with friends,  
coffee/light lunch*

*All ages welcome (inc. activity area).*



## The Focus Magazine Committee

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**10th of the month**

*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.*

*✍️Editor*

## 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](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.

**Focus is online at [www.thefocusmagazine.co.uk](http://www.thefocusmagazine.co.uk)**

# Village Diary Dec/Jan 2018



## 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, Sarah Cox: 07765 158182
- 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 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
- 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
- Thursdays Intermediate Boxercise, 7.30-8.30pm, Dagnall Village Hall, Josh Thompson 07456 574405 or jtpinfo@gmail.com

# Village Diary Dec/Jan 2018

- 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) "Little Luvvies" baby ballet classes 10am-11.30am. Contact Emma Whittlemore 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 jtpinfo@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 Mon (ex. Bank Hols) Knit 'n Stitch at Edlesborough Village Hall, 1:45pm to 3:45pm. Contact Heather Westwood (01525 839803)
- 1st & 3rd Tues Dunstable & District Orbit (social and charitable) Club meet at Dunstable Rugby Club at 8pm. For details contact 01525 222441 or 01582 755147
- 1st & 3rd Tues TOTS, St Mary's, Eaton Bray, 2pm
- 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 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, 10:30-12 noon, Edlesborough Methodist Church
- Last Sunday Messy Church, 3-5pm, Salvation Army, Booth Place, Eaton Bray, 07932 057490

## Other Regular Events

- 8th Dec Leukaemia Research Coffee Morning with sherry and mince pies, 2 Dunstable Road, Dagnall 10.30am. All welcome.
- 19th Dec Dagnall and Kensworth Friendship Club, 1:30pm, Xmas dinner, carols and secret Santa raffle. (Members only)
- 7th Jan Beds Area Narrow Gauge Model Railway Club Meeting, 11.30am-4.30pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall
- 12th Jan Leukaemia Research Coffee Morning, 2 Dunstable Road, Dagnall 10.30am. All welcome.
- 16th Jan Dagnall and Kensworth Friendship Club birthday party and AGM, 2pm in Dagnall village hall

# Village Diary Dec/Jan 2018

## One Off/Annual/Irregular Events

- 1st Dec Father Christmas around Dagnall village, 6:30pm, followed by switching on of lights at the village hall at 7:30pm
- 2nd Dec Dagnall Christmas Fair, 1pm
- 3rd Dec Dagnall Community Choir Christmas concert, 3pm, Dagnall village hall
- 3rd Dec Salvation Army Community Carol Concert, 4pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Tickets £1 from Hilary 07932 057490
- 3rd Dec This is my Theatre production of A Christmas Carol, 5pm, St Mary's Church, Edlesborough. Tickets: [www.thisismytheatre.com](http://www.thisismytheatre.com)
- 9th Dec Christmas Coffee Morning, 10:30am, All Saints church
- 9th Dec All Saints Carol Service 3pm
- 10th Dec Dagnall children's party, Dagnall children only
- 16th Dec Carols by Candlelight, 3pm, Church on the Hill, Edlesborough
- 17th Dec Santa Dash around Dagnall, 9:30am
- 17th Dec Carol singing around Dagnall village, 6pm
- 22 & 23 Dec Eaton Bray Parish Council Christmas Market, 11am - 9pm, Market Square Eaton Bray
- 22nd Dec Eaton Bray Parish Council Christmas Carols & Brass Ensemble around the village from 7:30pm
- 24th Dec Christmas Eve Candle Services, 4:15 & 6pm, St Mary's Eaton Bray
- 13th Jan New Year Concert, 2pm, St Mary's Church, Eaton Bray. Tickets £7.50 from Box Office 01525 222283

## Richard Evans

Catherine, Rachael, Jessica and Michael would like to thank everyone for their hugs, cards and kind messages of support. The sum of £450 which was donated at Richard's memorial service has been sent to Cancer Research UK.

## Joyce Castledine

Roy Castledine of Dagnall and his family wish to extend their sincere and grateful thanks for all the many messages of sympathy they received following the sad death of Joyce on October 28th.

She will sorely missed by them and by her friends who attended her funeral service on November 23rd.

## Advertise your Business Locally!

Focus magazine is distributed to 2500 homes each month, advertise your business here for local coverage. We are now in the process of organising the advertising for next year. Should you be interested, please contact Sally Siddons on 01525 221733.

# 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: 07975 7972202

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

Eaton Bray



# 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 or d-i-y jobs, form-filling, walking your pet etc. or if you would welcome our befriending service.

*We help people of Eaton Bray and adjacent villages*

## 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*

## Advent Carol Service

The North Chilterns Group Advent service will be held at St Mary's on Sunday 3rd December at 4pm. This is a wonderful opportunity to begin the four weeks of preparation for Christmas with this reflective service of readings, plainsong, hymns and carols. So often, Advent is a busy time getting ready for Christmas. We invite you to mark the start of the Advent season by joining us in our worship.



## All Saints' Church, Dagnall

### Services in December 2017 & January 2018

Sun. 3rd Dec.	9.00 am	Eucharist
	10.30 am	Morning Service
<b>Sat. 9th Dec.</b>	<b>3.00 pm</b>	<b>Dagnall Village Carol Service</b>
Sun. 10th. Dec.	10.30 am	Morning Service
Sun. 17th Dec.	10.30 am	Family Communion
Sun 24th Dec.	10.30 am	Morning Service
Christmas Day	10.30 am	Family Service
Sun. 31st Dec.	10.30 am	Carol Praise
Sun. 7th Jan.	10.30 am	Covenant Service
Sun. 14th Jan.	10.30 am	Morning Service
Sun. 21st Jan.	10.30 am	Family Communion
Sun 28th Jan.	10.30 am	Family Service
Sun. 4th Feb.	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.



# Eaton Bray with Edlesborough Parish News

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

**Reader: Gordon Gray (01525 220136)**

**Website: [www.stmaryseatonbray.org.uk](http://www.stmaryseatonbray.org.uk) Facebook: St Mary's Eaton Bray**

On Sunday 3rd December, we will be holding an Advent Carol Service at St Mary's Eaton Bray. This will include music specifically for Advent, not Christmas carols. Our Christmas carol service will be held at 6pm on Sunday 17th December. 'A carol is a joyful religious song created and sung by ordinary people,' says the writer of Bethlehem Carols Unpacked. It is thought that carols originated in France, and the word comes from the Old French carole which means 'a song to accompany dancing'. In the Middle Ages in England that's just what carols were: dances accompanied by singing. At one time, there were carols for many seasons of the church's year. In addition to Christmas and Advent, there were carols for Easter and Saints' days. Unlike in the church where everything was sung in Latin, carols were in the everyday language of the people. They included ordinary subjects like plants and animals, food and drink and were sung in the streets, in people's homes and in the inns- in fact everywhere except the church! So having carols in supermarkets is much closer to their origins than we might think.

Carol singing in the streets is one of the oldest customs in Britain. In the Middle Ages, beggars seeking food, money or drink would wander the streets singing carols. Christmas carols were traditionally confined to the period from St Thomas' Day on 21st December to the morning of Christmas Day.

During the seventeenth century, the Puritans introduced laws banning dancing and all religious feasts including Christmas. Carol singing declined and was almost forgotten until the Victorian era. The Victorians had already introduced Christmas trees and Christmas cards and in 1871, Revd H.R. Bramley and Dr John Stainer published a book called 'Christmas Carols old and new'. From that time, the popularity of carols grew and they came to be sung in church for the first time. The annual broadcast of the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols from King's College Cambridge has become a fixture on Christmas Eve and this too helped carols to gain a wider audience.

Some of the oldest carols are still popular. Good King Wenceslas and The Holly and the Ivy can both be traced back to the Middle Ages and are amongst the oldest musical compositions still regularly sung. Many of our popular carols today are Victorian, such as Once in Royal David's City. And then there are new favourites like the Calypso Carol.

Carols help us to see religious significance in ordinary things. And that is the message of Christmas. Jesus, God's Son, was born as a baby and grew up in an ordinary family just like us. He lived as part of a community and shared in their joys and sorrows. Yet he was fully God as well as fully human, and through his life, death and resurrection he gave the promise of life in all its fullness to all who put their trust in him.

Wishing you a peaceful Advent and Christmas,



✠ Joy, Vicar of Eaton Bray with Edlesborough

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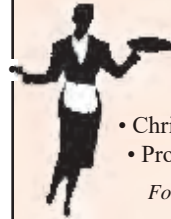
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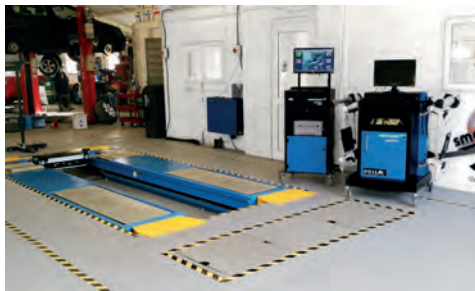
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**Christmas Carols &  
Brass Ensemble Around The Village**

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2017 From 7:30pm**



To help us all get in the Christmas spirit, the Parish Council have again arranged for the brass ensemble to play Christmas Carols around Eaton Bray on the evening of the 22nd December.

The evening commences from 7:30pm at Three Corners moving to Market Square/White Horse at 8:15 pm.

All adults & children are urged to come outside and have a good old Christmas sing-a-long.

*(song sheets will be available but please bring your own torch/lantern)*

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# **Dagnall Community Choir**

invite you to their annual

## **Christmas Carol Concert**

**at Dagnall Village Hall**

**Sunday 3rd December at 3pm**

This is a free concert and there will be a bucket collection with all proceeds donated to a designated charity

Punch and mince pies will be available  
Father Christmas will be putting  
in an appearance

Visit our website:  
[www.dagnall-community-choir.co.uk](http://www.dagnall-community-choir.co.uk)

*Edlesborough Parish Council wishes all Parishioners a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.*



### **Community First Responder**

During the October EPC meeting Councillors listened to a comprehensive presentation from Peter Cooper who is a coordinator for the South Central Ambulance Service Community First Responders.

Community First Responders are vital to ensuring help reaches life threatening emergencies as fast as possible. The responders aim to respond within 8 minutes. CFR's are only sent to life threatening calls.

Currently the initial training and purchase of the kit for a CFR costs in the region of £2,500 and this service operates purely on fund raising and donations.

During the presentation Peter introduced Mrs Nicola Lack an Edlesborough Parishioner who has recently completed her training and is now a Volunteer Community First Responder.

Following the presentation EPC Councillors voted unanimously to make an annual donation to the scheme.

In the event of an emergency requiring an ambulance or CFR please dial 999.

### **Dogs in Edlesborough Churchyard and Cemetery**

EPC reminds parishioners that dogs MUST be kept on the lead in Edlesborough Churchyard and Cemetery. Please ensure your clear up after your dog, a dog bin is sited on the bridle path near the entrance to the Church.

### **Parking Issues in the Parish**

Inconsiderate parking continues to be an issue in the village. Drivers continue to park on the white lines near the school and shops, park dangerously at junctions and park their vehicles on the pavements.

Unfortunately EPC has no jurisdiction over parking issues, vehicles which cause an obstruction should be reported to Thames Valley Police.

When parking your vehicle please remember the Highway Codes states:

**DO NOT park partially or wholly on the pavement unless signs permit it. Parking on the pavement can obstruct and seriously inconvenience pedestrians, people in wheelchairs, the visually impaired and people with prams or pushchairs.**

EPC is currently entering into a dialogue with EB Lions FC with the intention of helping to improve the parking issues around the Green on Saturdays.

### **Edlesborough Rocks**

Concerns have been raised to the Council about the hiding of decorated rocks on Edlesborough Green. EPC agreed that the hiding of decorated rocks for children to find is a lovely idea. However participants have been asked not to hide the rocks in the grass on the green and on the grass verges around the village. The reasons for this request being that the contractor's machines will "smash" the rocks to bits destroying the artist's work and can additionally create a hazard in these areas.





## 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

Do you have a keen gardener in the family? Are you looking for something different to give as a Christmas Gift? Whilst they are hard work allotments also give hours of pleasure, so why not consider this as a gift. Edlesborough Parish Council currently has vacant allotments at the Dagnall and Cow Lane sites. Anyone wishing to take on an allotment should contact the Clerk. Fees are £2 per pole and plots range in size from 5 – 10 poles.

## 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 Ivor Thorne on [ivorthorne25@gmail.com](mailto:ivorthorne25@gmail.com)



## Potholes, Road Issues & Rights of Way

EPC continue to press Bucks CC on the following issues within the parish:

- Leaning 30mph sign on Church End.
- Damaged lighting at Dagnall Roundabout.
- Travellers Rest Roundabout including lack of bollards and poor & hazardous condition of traffic islands. EPC have been informed that there are plans to remove existing bollards on the islands and to paint the islands white, and to clear the vegetation from the traffic islands.
- Travellers Rest Bus Stop – winter landscaping works will be raised to recover the kerbing and hard standing at this stop.

Should parishioners have concerns about any Highways issues these should be reported via the Bucks CC website.

[www.buckscc.gov.uk/services/transport-and-roads/report-a-problem/tell-us-about-a-highways-problem/](http://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.

## EPC Meetings

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

- [Edlesborough Memorial Hall, Thursday 21st December 2017](#)
- [Edlesborough Memorial Hall, Thursday 18th January 2018.](#)
- [Edlesborough Memorial Hall, Thursday 15th February 2018](#)

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](mailto:clerk@edlesborough-pc.gov.uk) 01525 229358 Website: [www.edlesborough-pc.gov.uk](http://www.edlesborough-pc.gov.uk)

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## Eaton Bray Methodist Church

Fiona Arscott-Smith, a welcome visitor to our pulpit, took our service on the second Sunday in October. Her sermon was drawn from Jesus' "parable of the evil farmers" and its warning to stay true to His teachings and not become prescriptive or presumptive in the manner we practise our faith. On the following Sunday our own Keith Blackburn led the Cafe Service and focused on the proposition that 'Every day is a gift from God'. The discussion was enlightening and we count ourselves well blessed to have such gifted members who can lead us in Local Arrangements. Tina Salmon, a familiar and well-loved preacher, visited us on the fourth Sunday. The theme for her sermon was from Matthew 22:17 "Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar?" It was a thought-provoking message about the choices we as Christians have to make. We have to decide sometimes between loyalty to God and loyalty to our nation state/government. The first November Sunday Service was a celebration of 'All Saints' which fell in the previous week. Our much-valued preacher, Elisabeth Bibbings, reminded us that we are all

special to God, that 'saints' are not only the high-profile specially-named early Christian martyrs but ordinary people like ourselves, children of God with faith in Jesus on a journey through life, dealing with our share of difficulties and sufferings. Jesus has been on the road before us, walks the road with us and at the end stands ready to welcome us in his glorious kingdom.

At our cafe lunches and several of our services we have had a craft stall loaded with an astonishing and ingenious array of beautifully crafted gifts made by June Jarrett and Celia James and these have raised a significant amount of money. We are indeed fortunate to have such skilled and generous members.

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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 2nd October 2017 From 7:30pm at the Coffee Tavern**

**CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL (CBC)** – Councillor Ken Janes email [kwjanes@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:kwjanes@hotmail.co.uk) / 07767-496823. CBC Website: [www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk) / CBC Email: [customers@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:customers@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk) / CBC Customer Services: 0300 300 8302

#### **Bedfordshire Police:**

- Eaton Bray Police contact : PC Konopka - email [Slav.Konopka2@Bedfordshire.pnn.Police.uk](mailto: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**

#### **Neighbourhood Plan:**

The results of the recent Eaton Bray Neighbourhood Plan Questionnaire have now been published by the Eaton Bray Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.

You can view the full report on the Eaton Bray Website or request a copy from the Parish Clerk. Website link:

<https://eatonbray.com/parish-council/files/2017.10-EBNP-Q-Final-Report.pdf>

#### **Watercourse Maintenance/River Ouzel**

An assessment on a section of damaged river bank in Mill End Close has been carried out which shows there are three areas within the bank where water is leaking into the drainage ditch. The cause of the leak is from crayfish burrowing into the riverbank and damaging the structure. Work is planned to be carried out on this section of the bank within the next six months (weather dependent), the first stage will be to clear the riverbank of overgrown trees and shrubbery, and a general tidy of the area. The second stage will be the actual repair to the river bank. Once the Council has confirmed dates of work from the Drainage Board, notices will be put on parish notice boards, Facebook and Focus.

#### **Burial/Cemetery Land**

To all residents: within the parish there is a lack of available land for burials, the current land will be full/unavailable in a few years. The Council would like to gauge residents' opinions on the Council spending money to purchase additional burial land, allowing parish burials to continue for many more years to come. Please write/email the Parish Clerk with your comments/views. Thank you.

**PARISH COUNCIL MEETING DATES:** Held in The Coffee Tavern / 1st floor, from 7:30pm (unless otherwise notified)

- Monday 4th December 2017
- Monday 8th January 2017



**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

# EATON BRAY PARISH COUNCIL



## CHRISTMAS MARKET

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> & Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2017, 11am–9pm

Market Square, Eaton Bray

(green outside The White Horse Public House)



*Take part in this year's*



## CHARITY CHRISTMAS PUZZLE

This annual Puzzle, set by Gordon Gray, is rated by participants as one of the most enjoyable (and devious) they have tackled and, with a theme designed to help completion, it will appeal to people who enjoy doing word puzzles. Puzzlers have plenty of time to find the answers and Puzzles should be returned, with a donation, by 28th January.

**Four highest scorers will each receive a £30 prize.**

**Everyone who enters will qualify for one of five £10 prizes.**

Copies of the Puzzle can be accessed from the web at [www.christmaspuzzle.co.uk](http://www.christmaspuzzle.co.uk). You can register early to receive a copy on the issue date of 8 December.

**The Puzzle has raised £77,000 for charity so far**

This year's puzzle will support five nominated charities.

# 'Carols by Candlelight'



**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December @ 3.00 p.m.**

Join us for a feast of carols, mince pies and mulled wine at our magnificent  
**Church on the Hill, Edlesborough**

## Christmas Eve Candle Services

4.15pm  
& 6pm

St Mary's Church  
Eaton Bray





## Appledown's Rescue Dog of the Month



Beautiful Maxi is a large Pomeranian who was born in August 2016. This friendly boy is full of fun, energy and is quite vocal! He will need a very active home with experienced owners who can work with him to channel all that exuberance and help to socialise him with other dogs. His lovely coat will need proper care and maintenance. Maxi needs a home where he will have company for most of the day. Maxi cannot live in Luton.

If you can offer Maxi or any of our other dogs a forever home, please call in at the kennels any day between 10 am and 4 pm, or phone for more details. Please note that there are restrictions on rehoming dogs to families with children under seven years of age. Full details of the rehoming process can be found on our website. Join our Facebook Group to see more photos of Maxi and other dogs awaiting new homes.

**Appledown Rescue and Rehoming Kennels Harling Road, Eaton Bray LU6 1QY**

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# Christmas 2017 in Dagnall

**Friday 1st December**

**Father Christmas around the Village, 6.30pm**

**Father Christmas Switches on  
the Village Hall Lights, 7.30pm**



## Other Christmas Events in Dagnall

**Christmas Bingo, Weds 29th November - 7.30pm**

**Christmas Fair, Saturday 2nd December - 1pm**

**Christmas Concert by Dagnall Community Choir  
Sunday 3rd December - 3pm**

**Christmas coffee morning at the church  
Saturday 9th December - 10.30am**

**Carol Service at the Church Saturday 9th December - 3pm**

**Dagnall Children's Party  
Sunday 10th December (Dagnall children only)**

**Best decorated house competition  
Saturday 16th December - 6pm**

**Santa Dash around the Village Sunday 17th December - 9.30am**

**Carol singing around the Village Sunday 17th December - 6pm**

**Dagnall Over 60s Party (Members only)  
Tuesday 19th December - 1.30pm**

**Family Service at the Church Monday 25th December - 10.30am**

**Carol Praise at the Church Sunday 31st December - 10.30am**

Curtain Call Theatre Group & Youth Theatre Present...

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# Cinderella



**Eaton Bray Village Hall – This January!**

Fri 26<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm, Sat 27<sup>th</sup> 2.30pm & 7.30pm, Sun 28<sup>th</sup> 2.30pm & 6.30pm

Tickets from £6 via the website [www.curtaincalltheatregroup.co.uk](http://www.curtaincalltheatregroup.co.uk)

Or Call the Box Office on 07412 640936

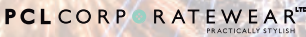


**MANY THANKS FROM** Friends Of Edlesborough School

TO EVERYONE WHO HELPED AND CONTRIBUTED

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# Come for Coffee at St Mary's

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a cheering cuppa  
each month in  
St Mary's Church  
Eaton Bray  
10.30am - midday

Next Coffee Mornings:  
Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December  
Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> January  
Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> February



## Caritas Harmony Choir Presents A CHRISTMAS GALA CONCERT

6pm Sunday 10 December  
St Mary's R.C. Church  
West Street, Dunstable,  
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This concert is given in support of  
The Dunstable Mayor's Charities  
for 2017-2018

Adults £10 at **GET TICKETS**

[www.caritasharmony.co.uk](http://www.caritasharmony.co.uk)  
or from Jackie Howe on  
01582 599520

Refreshments available from 5pm

## Christmas Coffee Morning

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup>  
December  
10.30am - 12.30pm

All Saints Church  
Dagnall

All Welcome to visit to  
buy cakes, cards and gifts  
and meet new people



# Celebrating Remembrance in Northall and Edlesborough

This year the Act of Remembrance was celebrated at Edlesborough War Memorial and an estimated 250 people gathered by the Memorial to take part in the two-minute silence. Once again, we were able to close the main road and the top end of Edlesborough High Street so that it was a peaceful service. We would like to thank all those who made this possible – Penny Pataki, the Parish Clerk, who has spent lots of time organising and contacting AVDC etc, Will Pratt, who very kindly helped



me (actually, he did most of it!) to distribute the signs and barriers around the diversion route, and then collect them again after the service, and all the people who manned the diversion barriers – Jim and Norma Wright, Bob Stilliard, Vincent Taylor, Alan Tipper and Mike Scott. This year, for the first time, we were not able to have a police presence during the service. Naturally, we had some concerns about this, so we had several more signs warning that the road was closed. Thank you to Sharon Stilliard and Christine Yates for agreeing to man these at the last minute.



Being a barrier steward is not an easy task. Apart from having to stand in the cold for over an hour and a half, this year some of our stewards unfortunately had to put up with some inconsiderate, rather abusive drivers who did not take kindly to the road being closed, despite the well signed short diversion in place for the hour. I hope that it was not local people, as signs had been in place for over two weeks beforehand warning of the closure and giving times.

Next year the service will be held at Eaton Bray War Memorial. British Legion Poppy Collection in Northall and Edlesborough.

This year you have beaten all the records with your generosity. I am proud to announce that so far, the total amount collected for the Poppy Appeal in Edlesborough and Northall stands at **£997.93**. This is an amazing amount! It comprises: -

Edlesborough Newsagents: -	£383.01
Edlesborough School: -	£359.65
The Swan, Northall: -	£112.02
Age Concern Northall: -	£13.25
Parish Council and W.I. wreaths: -	£130.00



(I have no idea how the children and staff at Edlesborough school managed to sell so many wrist bands and bracelets – I think you must all be wearing at least a dozen each!!) Thank you everyone for your continuing support and for raising such a fantastic amount for such a good cause.

✍️ Lorna Cabbage

## South Central Ambulance Service have appointed a New Community First Responder to serve Edlesborough and local villages



Nicola Lack from Edlesborough is the new Ambulance Service, Community First Responder for the Edlesborough area. Nicky served in HM Forces where one of her roles was in medical support. When she found out about the local first responder scheme she was really pleased to be able to give something back to her community and become part of something so vital. Nicky was trained for the first responder role by South Central Ambulance Service and has gained experience observing on front line emergency ambulances and the local community response vehicle.

Nicky said “The training is fantastic, it covers a range of scenarios, including Basic Life Support, Defibrillation, Oxygen therapy, Paediatrics, Strokes, and the whole range of serious medical conditions. It is a voluntary position and one to which I am very committed. I have already given over 50 hours of cover. I respond to 999 calls from the local villages and endeavour to be at the patients side in less than 8 minutes. The job is to stabilise and care for patients ahead of the arrival of the ambulance. Being able to provide additional, often life saving care to our local community is an absolute privilege and I am very grateful for the opportunity South Central Ambulance has given me.”

In much the same way as the Air Ambulance, Community First Responders are funded by public donation via the South Central Ambulance Charity. Local support is vital, so please support Nicky in her future fund raising activities. To kick start the Local scheme Edlesborough Parish Council have kindly funded the initial set up costs for Nicky’s response kit and communications equipment.



*Dear Editor,  
Before the E.B.Lions could play their football match on Holman’s Field on one of their regular Saturday morning games, my son had to pick up at least six dog Pooh’s. Despite this at least three of the players fell into some excrement during the course of the game. I hope the proud owners of their respective pets feel a sense of guilt.  
✍️ Angry granny*

### Eaton Bray Cricket Club 100 Club Winners

#### November 2017

<b>£100</b>	<b>John Saving</b>	<b>No.116</b>
<b>£25</b>	<b>Frank Pell</b>	<b>No.93</b>
<b>£20</b>	<b>Richard Constable</b>	<b>No.101</b>
<b>£10</b>	<b>Jamie Osborne</b>	<b>No.13</b>

#### December 2017

<b>£25</b>	<b>Steve Bradley</b>	<b>No.72</b>
<b>£10</b>	<b>Ian Jones</b>	<b>No.56</b>

Eaton Bray Cricket Club is kindly sponsored by Meadow Marquees and Houghton Insurance.

# LOCAL HERALDRY

## BY JOHN HOCKEY

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

### EDLESBOROUGH RE-VISITED

This month I return to Edlesborough to look again at interesting heraldry in St Mary's – The 'church on the hill'.

There is an ancient ledger slab on the floor of the church with an inscription and a coat of arms. The inscription reads:

HERE LYETH THE BODY OF ELIZABETH  
HVTCHINSON DAUGHTER TO HENRY  
BRVGIS GENT AND WIFE OF RAPH  
HVTCHINSON CITIZEN AND VYNTNER  
OF LONDON DECEASED THE 28TH OF  
SEPTEMBER 1636

The date of Elizabeth's death is relevant as a quick trawl of the British History Online web site for Edlesborough (which has the Victoria County



*Hutchinson impaling Brugis - 1636  
Ledger Slab*



*Brugis coat of arms*

History volumes digitised) tells us that the church plate includes a large cup and stand paten with inscription, given to the church in 1636 by Raph Hutchinson, complete with shield of arms, Hutchinson impaling Bridges. The ledger slab has those same arms, Hutchinson on the left (dexter) for the man, Brugis (or Bridges) on the right (sinister) for the woman. The plate is no longer kept at Edlesborough but is in safe keeping in St Albans Abbey and I can verify that the silver shield still shines out clearly after some 380 years! By chance, if you visit Canons Ashby up the A5, you can see a stained glass



*Dryden impaling Hutchinson,  
Canons Ashby*

window with the Hutchinson arms on the right, so we know what the colours on the shield should look like. The Brugis family also have a distinguished history as in 1415 William Bruges was the first officer appointed as Garter King of Arms, the principal Herald in the body that grants all coats of arms. On the Brugis coat of arms we see a cheeky leopard's face right at the centre of the cross and in heraldry this depiction is referred to as a 'mask'.

NEXT MONTH: DUNSTABLE (MARSHE FAMILY)





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# **New Local Book**

## **Luton & Its People in the Great War**

### **1914-1919**

**by Stuart Smith**



The author, Stuart Smith, a well known local historian, has already published three books dealing with aspects of Luton history.

His other great passion is the First World War and this new book, coinciding with the centenary of the war, combines both of these interests and focuses on Luton and its people and their role during the Great War 1914-18.

Drawn from the local papers, from personal accounts of living relatives and from historical accounts of the war, it details the exploits of Luton men and women who volunteered for war service.

There are chapters dealing with all the major land, sea and air campaigns that featured local men; from the outbreak of war and the rush of men of all ages to join the colours. One aspect of the book is the publication of the many letters sent home from soldiers at the front telling of experiences gained during the various battles, large and small, which told of amusing and more often than not, tragic circumstances that the writer had faced.

In excess of 350 men from Luton and its close environs are mentioned by name, whether killed, wounded, missing in action or as a prisoner of war.

The hat industry, the VAD Hospital at Wardown, the manufacturing of munitions and the task of the Luton Fire Brigade fighting major fires at factories engaged in war work are all mentioned.

Also documented is the part played by the Luton Town Football Club and those players who went off to fight, some never to return; the issues surrounding billeting, especially in the early months of the war and criminal activities.

The final chapter follows through to the early post-war days and the rise of feelings of consciences with the establishment of many Rolls of Honour, placed within the factories, schools and in some cases on the walls of houses in humble town centre streets from where men had left to do their duty. The accumulation of all of this grief and mourning came on 10th December 1922 when Lady Ludlow of Luton Hoo unveiled and dedicated a memorial in remembrance of her fallen son, followed later in the day by the unveiling and dedication of the town memorial in George Street.

This 700 page book is profusely illustrated with over 250 photographs, many being of Luton men who had either paid the ultimate price for peace or had been discharged from the forces as no longer fit for service due to illness or wounds received.

To order contact Stuart Smith: 22 Homerton Rd, Luton, Beds LU3 2UL

Tel: 01582 584367. Email: [spk122@btinternet.com](mailto:spk122@btinternet.com) providing name, address, phone and payment by cheque. Purchase price £17.99 each with postage Hermes £6 extra.

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# Dagnall Community Choir

♪ *“It’s the most wonderful time of the year”* ♪

For music lovers, Christmas really is a wonderful time of the year. Whether your enjoyment is gained from listening to music, making music, dancing to music, there are plenty of opportunities to indulge over the festive period!

Dagnall Community Choir’s Christmas entertainment offering takes place on Sunday 3rd December, 3.00pm at Dagnall Village Hall. This is a concert that choir members particularly look forward to, as it is a lovely celebration of Christmas, with a variety of different music, plenty of sing-along carols for everyone to join in with, and a visit from Father Christmas to delight the younger members of the audience! It is also an opportunity to raise money for a worthwhile cause, and this year’s collection is for MNDA, the Motor Neurone Disease Association. We are very pleased to be able to support the wonderful work they do.

If you are reading this too late to attend the above concert, don’t worry, you can still catch us on Saturday 9th December, when we will be singing carols at the Five Bells in Stanbridge, from 5.30pm.

We have been delighted to welcome some new faces to our Monday evening rehearsals over the last few weeks. It’s great to see that the choir is growing and thriving, and going from strength to strength. Feedback from our recent performances in Stanbridge, Eaton Bray and at the Poppy Prom has been overwhelmingly positive, and we are happy that our singing brings joy to many people in the community. Our schedule of concerts for 2018 is filling up, with performances in Luton, Leighton Buzzard, Redbourn, Stanbridge and Little Gaddesden to look forward to in the coming months.

In addition to all the singing, we have some great social events planned for choir members, friends and families, including our Christmas dinner this month and a weekend away to Norfolk in the spring. We are also hosting another barn dance in March at Dagnall Village Hall, following the great success of last year’s event. Tickets will be on sale for this in the New Year.

If you enjoy singing and socialising, and would like to become part of all of this, please come along and join us on a Monday evening, 7.45pm at Dagnall Church. New members are always made very welcome. For more information about the choir, or to get in touch, please visit our website at [www.dagnall-community-choir.co.uk](http://www.dagnall-community-choir.co.uk).

**Dagnall Community Choir would like**

**to wish you all**

♪ *“A Wonderful  
Christmastime”* ♪



**Dunstable & District  
Local History Society**

**9 January, 7.45pm**

**First Citizen**

John Chatterley screens some of the numerous photos he has taken of Dunstable events, and talks about the town's Mayors and the work they do. He was himself Mayor in 2013-14

**Methodist Church Hall, Dunstable**  
**Visitors always welcome £2**

# Edlesborough School News



## Harvest

On Friday 13th October, we held our annual Harvest assembly. Many parents and children had kindly donated a huge variety of food, which our Year 6 delivered around the local villages with a small army of parent volunteers. Special thanks must also go to Mr Youngs, who created, baked and donated an amazing wheat sheaf which took pride of place on our Harvest display and was happily consumed by all of our children!

## Happy 25th Anniversary Mr Bush!



Mr Bush, our longstanding caretaker, has reached this milestone anniversary. Little did he know, walking through our school doors back in 1992, that a quarter of a century later he would still be working with us as a much valued member of staff.

## Fireworks Extravaganza!

A massive thank you must go to our school PTA (FOES) who spent many hours planning, organising and delivering an amazing fireworks evening on the 3rd November. Much fun was had by all who attended and we managed to raise over £4500 for our school!

## Can you help?

Do you have green-fingers and a free hour each week? Our gardening club, which is attended by some Year 5 and 6 volunteers, are desperately looking for a keen gardener who can help bring our vegetable plot back to life! If you are a parent or a village resident who thinks they could spare an hour a week to help resurrect our club, could you please contact us (01525) 220431.

Best wishes for a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

✉ Mrs J Peel, Interim Co-Headteacher

## Eaton Bray W.I.



Eaton Bray WI had their usual monthly meeting on 6th November

Members had been asked to produce a handmade Christmas Tree decoration. The winner of the competition was a lovely red knitted father Christmas, which will be sent to WI House in Bedford to decorate their Christmas Tree. The other delightful decorations, together with our donations of suitable toys for the under 16s, will be donated to the Salvation Army to be distributed to needy families in Dunstable. Rehearsals are under way for our mini

Pantomime "Alice in Winter Wonderland" to be performed at our Christmas Group Meeting on 8th December in Caddington!

Our speaker this month was Hugh Granger on "I'm not really old, It's those tablets" who entertained with a series of jokes and anecdotes.

Eaton Bray WI meets at the Methodist Church Hall, Totternhoe Road, Eaton Bray on the first Monday of each month and ladies of all ages are most welcome. If you are interested in coming along please contact Margaret Jones on 01525 220991



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2018

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Helpful information about starting school for the first time is in the 'Starting School and Moving to Junior School' guide for parents which will be available on the web from the end of October.

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# Eaton Bray Lawn Tennis Club

Well that seemed to work. A few paragraphs on the planned airport expansion programme for Eaton Bray, and I'm suddenly inundated with e-mails, texts, phone calls, whatsapps (whatever they are) and tweets (your guess is as good as mine...) about what's going on in our little club. I now know absolutely everything, from what the Chairman had for breakfast last Tuesday, to where and when our Secretary is going on holiday next year (I have the dates their house will be empty if anyone's interested – for a small fee of course). I feel like Wikileaks, I have so much knowledge. And with knowledge comes power. With power comes money. Unfortunately, with money comes a lot of people who don't like you very much, and as I don't really want to be living in the Ecuadorian embassy with just a box of playing cards and a bunsen burner for company, I shall of course be very discreet with my missives. Trust me I'm a salesman.

First – in these times of austerity (unless you've got your tax-free billions stashed overseas) and Donald Trump, some happy news. Our club coach, Sara Leavy, is a Leavy no more. She became a Bamford on 7th October when she tied the knot with Adam, and we all send our congratulations to them as they begin their married life together. Not just that, she only went and won the Bedfordshire Tennis Coach of the Year award as part of this year's British Tennis awards! There was some tough competition out there, so we can be very proud to say that we have the best coach in the county! Well done Sara Bamford!

Things are hotting up with the Parish council too, as we near the completion of negotiations over extending the lease on the land upon which sit our tennis courts and clubhouse. When the first ball was hit over the net on the then brand new courts back in late August 1988, we hardly thought that our 30 year lease would one day need renewing. Now, after the building of our

Clubhouse ten years later in 1998 (with the aid of a £26.3K National Lottery grant), the erection of our floodlights in 2003 (£23K all self-financed...) and the resurfacing of all the courts in 2006/7 at a further cost of £48K, we find ourselves 30 years later at a crucial point in our history. We desperately want to continue to invest in our club and its infrastructure as well as its members. The Parish Council have proved themselves invaluable in the help and support they have offered our club over the last 30 years, and we very much look forward to continuing that close relationship with a new lease, enabling our 150-ish members the opportunity to continue to enjoy their tennis and the great facilities offered by our club. Members come and go, but several members who were at that first game back in 1988 are still playing regularly today (Ok maybe not quite as fast as they once did...!) but they can still manage to put me to shame on the courts! That's what it's all about at EBLTC; fun, friendship, learning, healthy competition, and a little exercise, and if we can achieve that for everyone, young and not so young, then we can all sleep happily.

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](http://www.ebltc.org.uk)**; Alternatively please call any committee member – names and numbers on the website - Coach Sara Bamford on 07561 571578, or if they're all out and I'm not having tea with the Ecuadorian ambassador, then me, Andy Cross, on 07783 667338.

!! STOP PRESS !! As Focus goes to print, we are delighted to confirm that a new 30 year lease was signed at this week's Parish Council meeting!! It now commences it's long and arduous journey to the council's solicitor; and then onwards to our solicitor and then eventually back to us. Like buying a house, it can take

a few weeks to 'dot the eyes' and 'cross the teas', but in essence we have another 30 years minimum to continue to enjoy playing tennis on our excellent courts, under magnificent

floodlights, with a refreshing cuppa afterwards in our recently refurbished clubhouse! And of course another 30 years of Focus articles to come! No, no, come back, come back... !!!

## Nigel's Thoughts Methodist Minister



Dear Friends,

Before long we shall be thinking of decorating our homes for Christmas. Most people will be celebrating with a decorated tree, either real or artificial, but why Christmas trees?

The story of Prince Albert who brought this German custom to Britain when he married Queen Victoria is well known, but where did the idea come from?

The answer is no-one knows for certain, but there is a legend about St. Boniface, about 700 A.D., who with a group of Christians, felled a mighty oak tree which was being worshipped by a group of Druids. Boniface noticed as the tree fell, that a little fir sapling was left behind, growing among the roots. He turned to the Druids and said, *"This little tree shall be your Holy Tree tonight. It is a wood of peace, for your houses are built of fir. It's the sign of an endless life, for its leaves are evergreen. See how it points toward the heavens? Let this be called the tree of the Christ Child. Gather about it, not in the wilderness, but in your homes. There it will be surrounded with loving gifts and rites of kindness."*

Legend also tells us that Martin Luther, German priest and reformer, was the first to put candles on a Christmas tree, saying "God's light shines through the darkest night for everyone, but sometimes we have to look up to see it".

Are they only stories? Perhaps, but we know the real Christmas story of the Baby in the Manger – 'God with Us' is true, because we have experienced Jesus' love for ourselves.

May you know Him very close to you this Christmas, worship him and carry his love with you into the coming New Year.

Happy Christmas!

✍️ Love Nigel

## Eaton Bray Poppy Appeal 2017

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A very sincere thank you to everyone who put hard-earned money into the collecting cans for the 2017 Eaton Bray Poppy Appeal, whether it was when you answered the door or when you went into one of the local businesses and saw the box on the counter. The pupils and staff of Eaton Bray Academy deserve a special mention for their generosity in donating. The total from the house to house collections and the boxes on the counters in the village came to £2,478:25 and this is very slightly up compared to last year. There are 22 collectors in our team who knock on your doors and ask you if you would like to donate to the Appeal. Some of the reasons for not making a donation are obviously very genuine, but 'we don't have (or use) cash any more' is certainly unusual. Perhaps having no cash means also that they can't even spend a penny!

Our house to house collectors are the backbone of what happens in Eaton Bray, so a huge thank you to all the team.

✍️ Roger and Helen Wilkinson (Poppy Appeal Organisers – Eaton Bray)



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Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2018

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# Litter Picking in Northall and Edlesborough During 2017



Another year is coming to an end, and the indefatigable Edlesborough and Northall Litter pickers have been hard at work trying to keep the Villages tidy despite a never-ending flow of litter on the verges and hedgerows in the area. We have been out eight times officially, including joining in “The Great British Litter Pick” in March. Our approximate haul of 62 black bags during the year, plus numerous items such as a strip light, a sandbag, a road sign, several pieces of car, and various “unmentionables, was mostly made up of wine bottles, cans, plastic bottles, and fast food debris, especially from the verges along Cock’s Close, the Main Road, the lay-by at Traveller’s Rest, Eaton Bray Road, Northall, and car parks on the Green. There have also been numerous “private” litter picks where community- minded residents have picked up litter from their local areas or on dog-walks and taken it home to dispose of in their dustbins.

Litter Picking is like housework – it keeps returning to spoil our lovely area. We find it difficult to do in the high summer when the verges and hedgerows are high, but that doesn’t stop the litter louts, and once it has all died down it is there for all to see. You wonder why they don’t just take it home to put in their bins! It must cost some effort to open the car window and aim at the back of the hedgerow!! Perhaps the person who leaves the wine bottles all along Cock’s Close (and then, presumably drives away!!) doesn’t want people to know about their habit....

We are fortunate to live in beautiful villages. Every year, the Parish Council enter us for the Bucks Best Kept Village Competition in July. One of the judging criteria is the presence of litter, and thanks to our band of helpers, we passed that part with flying colours (this got a mention this year!!) although other things were marked down. (The Beautification Team are addressing that one!) It doesn’t take a lot of time to pop out and keep your own front area clear. We try to do the parts of the villages where there are no properties and where misguided people think it is OK to throw litter because there is no one around to see them.

So many thanks to all the wonderful volunteers who turned out this year, come rain or shine (mostly rain -it seems that regardless of all the lovely weather, I always manage to choose the one wet day in months...) They are doing their best to keep our villages tidy. So slow down for us if we are on the road as you drive by and if you have time to help us we would love to meet you in 2018.

✉ Lorna Cabbage.

[lornacabbage@btinternet.com](mailto:lornacabbage@btinternet.com)



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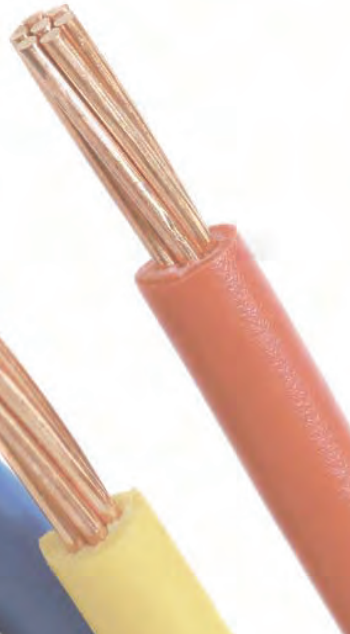
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# December & January at the Grove



## Panto

Sleeping Beauty - 8 December - 2 January



## Live & Encore Screenings

Follies – Encore Screening 10 Jan

Rigoletto – Live Screening 16 Jan

Young Marx - Encore Screening 25 Jan

## Dance

The Snow Queen 20 Jan

## Live Music

Real Diamond by Request - 26 Jan

Go West - 27 Jan

## Film

The Glass Castle (12a) 11 Jan

Blade Runner 2049 (15) 12 Jan

The Lego Ninjago Movie (u) 13 Jan

Paddington 2 13 Jan

The Mountain Between Us (12a) 13 Jan

Loving Vincent (12a) Mon 15 Jan 2.30pm

Murder on the Orient Express (12a) 17 Jan

The Snowman (15) 19 Jan - 19 Jan

Film Stars Don't Die in Liverpool (15) 22 Jan

Thor: Ragnarok (12a) 23 Jan

Breathe (12a) 24 Jan

The Death of Stalin (15) 29 Jan

*Ticket prices vary; for more information or to book, call the Box Office on 01582 60 20 80 or visit the website at [www.grovetheatre.co.uk](http://www.grovetheatre.co.uk).*

## 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)



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No need to book – just show up.

What: Fitness4Fun with Kay

Where: Edlesborough Memorial Hall

When: Every Friday, 10:00-11:00 am

## Surviving the Winter with some Tips from St Judes

- **Avoid trips and slips** – put rock salt on your steps and take extra care when walking - a pair of trekking over-shoes are useful for giving you the extra grip needed in the snow.
- **Shovelling snow** – watch that back! Keep the shovel close to your body and get your legs to do the work. Don't overload the shovel and take regular breaks.
- **Don't be a couch potato** – staying active boosts your mood and helps you to stay in shape. Exercise helps to increase your immune system and keep the colds and 'flu at bay. If you're running or doing sports outside in the winter:
  - **Dress for the cold** – wear layers rather than heavy clothing. A light weight moisture wicking base layer and leggings or running tights underneath a pair of shorts will help you stay warm. Avoid losing heat from your hands and head by wearing gloves and a hat/fleece headband.
  - **Stay safe – be seen.** Don't wear



dark colours – choose clothes that are bright, white or fluorescent yellow and add a reflective bib or strap.

- **Warm up and cool down** - essential to avoid injury, start by walking for about 10 minutes and gradually increase your pace and maybe try some walking lunges or high knee skips. Cool down by running at a slow pace for 5 – 10 minutes and do some stretches inside so you don't get cold.
    - **It's fine to exercise** with a bit of a cold but listen to your body, and don't exercise if you have a fever.
- For professional treatment and advice, contact your local Chartered Physiotherapist:



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## Edlesborough W.I.



Our October meeting which was held in the Memorial Hall on 10th October was a special occasion because we celebrated our 'Birthday Dinner' with delicious food and were entertained by the Cheddy Boys.

The Memorial Hall looked amazing with the yellow and green colour scheme of the tables and chairs and the finishing touches were the lovely table decorations made by Pauline. The evening's entertainment was provided by the Cheddy Boys, a duet who were dressed as Pearly Kings, played the banjo and sang a medley of songs which included: What a Picture, Down to Margate, Give Me a London Girl and Baby Face. Their hard work was greatly appreciated by

the audience.

A thoroughly enjoyable evening was had by all, the food was superb and the entertainment was excellent. A raffle was held and a total of one hundred pounds was raised with the proceeds going to the Florence Nightingale Hospice.

✍ Jackie Flint

### St Mary's 100 Club

The lucky prize-winners are:

**November 2017**

1st prize – Teresa Ledger

2nd prize – Robert Feaviour

3rd prize – Patricia Quartermaine

# Beef Gulasz with Cracked Barley Groats, Sour Cream and Dill

We are lucky in the Three Counties to have a wonderful variety of food available and I love featuring different cuisines on the Weekend Kitchen. Back in 2010, I welcomed Ren Behan from St Albans on to the show. She had given up a career as a lawyer and was looking to build a new career as a food stylist and writer. I

strongly encouraged her to write a book on Polish food and, 7 years later, she fulfilled her dream and her book was published. Ren is passionate about her Polish roots and is keen to show that Polish food is imaginative, vibrant and delicious. This gorgeous and simple recipe comes from her book, *Wild Honey and Rye*, and is a perfect winter warmer.

## Ingredients

2 tbsp vegetable oil  
2 onions, peeled, chopped  
1 stick celery, washed, chopped  
2 carrots, peeled, chopped  
2 tbsp plain flour  
500g beef braising steak or feather steak, cubed  
Sea salt and freshly ground black pepper  
250g mixed or chestnut mushrooms  
2 ripe tomatoes, peeled, de-seeded and chopped  
2 tbsp tomato puree  
500ml beef stock, made up  
1 bay leaf

## To serve:

200g crushed barley groats/pearl barley or buckwheat cooked according to the packed instructions – at the Polish shop this is called *Kasza Jęczmienna*.



Fresh dill  
Sour cream

Heat the oil in a large cast-iron pan, add the onions and cook for 10 minutes on a low heat until golden and soft. Add the celery and carrots and continue to cook for 5 minutes.

In a large bowl, coat the beef in the flour, season well with salt and pepper. Add a drop more

oil to the pan with the onions, turn up the heat and brown the meat all over. Add the mushrooms, tomatoes, tomato puree, stir and then pour in the beef stock, add the bay leaf and stir again.

Cover the pan with a lid and simmer for 1 ½-2 hours over a low heat, stirring occasionally. Or, transfer to a slow cooker and cook for 4-5 hours.

Cook the barley or buckwheat according to the instructions on the packet. Serve the barley with the beef gulasz, drizzle over the sour cream and garnish with fresh dill.

*Hear wonderful recipes on Nick Coffer's Weekend Kitchen every Sunday morning on BBC Three Counties radio at 11am. You can also join Nick every weekday afternoon at midday for brilliant local guests with great stories to tell and all the music you want for your early afternoon.*



# Animal Advert-ures

ZSL | WHIPSNADÉ ZOO

## Santa in residence at ZSL Whipsnade Zoo from 2 - 24 December 2017

Christmas is coming early at ZSL Whipsnade Zoo, as the Zoo's magical Christmas grotto opens on Saturday 2 December. Every weekend from Saturday 2 December, and then each day from Saturday 16 to Saturday 24 December, young visitors to the Zoo can **Meet Santa** and share their Christmas wishes in an unforgettably enchanting encounter.

Every child will receive a special gift and families can take away a festive family portrait. Mrs Clause will also be on hand with Christmas arts and crafts to keep younger ones entertained.

A **VIP Meet Santa** experience is also available in the run up to Christmas. On 16, 17, 21, 22, 23 and 24 December, lucky guests will get exclusive access to the Zoo before it opens, where they can see their favourite animals at first light. Children will not only be able to meet Father Christmas and his elves but also catch sight of his reindeer as they graze in their paddock. Having enjoyed an extra special Reindeer Talk, guests will sit down to a delicious breakfast. Advance booking is required.

**Meet Santa experience prices:** £27.40 children (combined entry & Meet Santa ticket), £12 for under 3s, £12 for ZSL child members. Accompanying adults go free (but normal entry charges to ZSL Whipsnade Zoo apply to them). ZSL members only need to **book tickets for children**.

**VIP Meet Santa runs** 16 & 17 December, 21 & 22 December, and 23 & 24 December, 8am – approximately 10am. **Prices:** Children £55.40 (combined entry & VIP breakfast ticket), Adults £39.15 (combined entry & VIP breakfast ticket), ZSL Members £40, Under 3s £40, ZSL Member adults £19.50.

There is **free car parking**, immediately outside of the entrance gates.

Entry tickets can be bought online at <http://www.zsl.org/zsl-whipsnade-zoo>

For more visitor information about ZSL Whipsnade Zoo, please visit [www.zsl.org/whipsnade](http://www.zsl.org/whipsnade)

## Wild Lights at ZSL Whipsnade Zoo

Friday 1 and Saturday 2 December 2017, Friday 8 and Saturday 9 December 2017

Whether it's for a date-with-a-difference, or a fun family treat, those looking for a really special way to experience some winter magic should head to **ZSL Whipsnade Zoo's** brand new event, **Wild Lights**.

For two weekends in December, visitors will be allowed access to the hilltop Zoo after normal opening hours, where they can wrap up warm and dive into the darkness to discover the wonder of the Zoo's dazzling, **winter light trail**. **Giant animal lanterns**, **towering flowers** and **twinkling fairy lights** will illuminate a path around the Zoo grounds that will guide guests through a magical journey of winter delights. Guests will head along the shimmering **glitter ball path**, past the **glowing fire garden** towards the enchanting **tree lit avenue**, looking out along the way for **shining stilt-walkers** and **colourful characters**. Visitors can re-fuel at the trail rest-stop, where **delicious, warming food**, **mulled wine** and other **seasonal hot drinks** will be available to give guests a cosy glow. A range of **animal-themed gifts** will also be on hand for those who want to find a stocking-filler or two, and selfie-lovers can fully immerse themselves in the celebration of colour and light by showing off their own **glittery face-paint design**. For winter nights and glowing delights, don't miss **Wild Lights at ZSL Whipsnade Zoo**. Book your ticket now at [zsl.org/wildlights](http://zsl.org/wildlights)



## 'Tis the Season to be...a Zoo Keeper!

ZSL's 2018 experiences are on sale now

We have now released the highly anticipated and limited run of 2018 tickets to roar-some animal experiences at ZSL London Zoo and ZSL Whipsnade Zoo. With a wide variety of experiences starting from just £54 available at either ZSL London or Whipsnade Zoos, top Christmas gifts include: Meet the animals, Keeper for a day, Photography workshops, Overnight lodge experiences, Memberships, Experience gift vouchers. Tickets or vouchers can be bought at [zsl.org](http://zsl.org).

# Dagnall Weather Station (AONB)

## Weather Conditions for October 2017

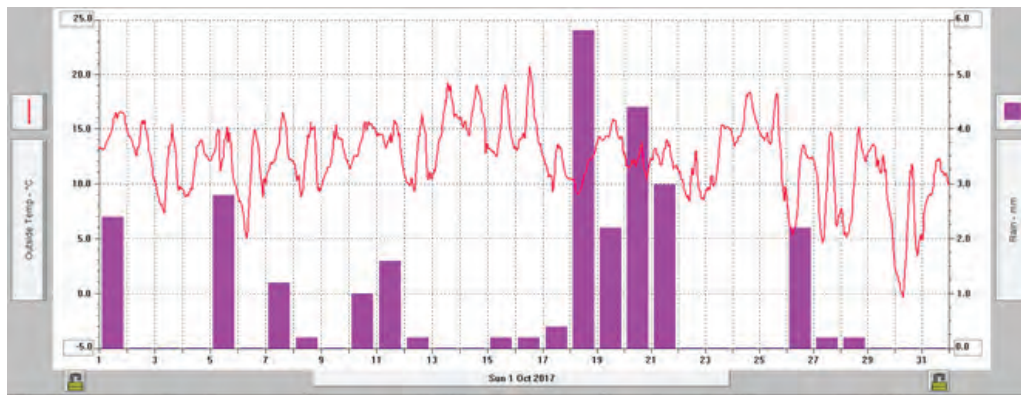


Elevation: 450 ft - Latitude: 51° 50' 13" North - Longitude: 0° 33' 34" West

October was a much better month than September dry and mild. For the first 3½ weeks the weather was stable with sunny spells and the odd shower. Although we recorded rain on 17 days 6 of which were only 0.2mm if you blinked you would have missed it. The total months rain was only 28mm that's just 25% of the average for October. The temperature was above average and as you can see from the plot below fairly constant until the 26th when the temperature dropped and on 30th giving us the first frosty morning of the winter.

	High	Date/Time	Low	Date/Time
Temperature:	20.8°C	16 Oct 12.00	-0.4°C	30 Oct 07.00
Mean Temperature	12.3°C			
Dewpoint:	16.5°C	16 Oct 12.00	-0.7°C	30 Oct 05.30
Humidity:	97%	19 Oct 01.00	59%	3 Oct 15.00
Barometer:	1032.2 mb	2 Oct 00.00	994.9 mb	20 Oct 05.50
Wind Speed	38 mph SSE	19 Oct 21.30	Months avg.	6.3 mph
Wind Chill:	21.4°C	4 Oct 16.30	-0.3°C	30 Oct 07.00
Dominant Wind:	SW			
*Rain Days: 17 (T), 77(R)				
Wettest Day 18 <sup>th</sup> Oct		5.79 mm	0.227 ins	
Monthly Rain:	Total	Oct 2017	28.2 mm	1.110 ins
Yearly Rain:	Total	9 Months	557.6 mm	21.952 ins

### Temperature and Rain

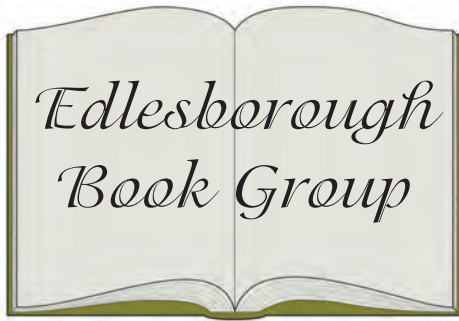


For weather data 24 hours a day, updated every 15 mins, visit: [www.dagnallweather.co.uk](http://www.dagnallweather.co.uk) and [http://bit.ly/weather\\_dagnall](http://bit.ly/weather_dagnall) including this site forecast and much more.

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.





### **A Man called Ove by Fredrik Backman**

When we first meet Ove, he is fifty nine years of age, recently widowed and has just been given early retirement. A man of principle, diligent and hard working, his love of routine has been disrupted by these two major changes to his life. He lives on a small estate and is the self styled caretaker of his local area, making sure that his neighbours adhere to the standards and rules that he holds dear. Since his wife Sonia's death six month ago, he has become more and more lonely and depressed and has decided to commit suicide. Being Ove, this entails elaborate preparation, but whatever method he tries, somehow fate steps in and contrives to thwart him. In between these failed attempts, Ove reflects on his life and we begin to understand what lies behind his curmudgeonly exterior and how events in his past have influenced him.

Life has not been kind to Ove. When he was six his mother died and he was brought up by his father, who instilled in him his love of engines and taught him practical skills. Ove's wife, Sonia, understood him and brought great joy to their marriage, but their life together had to withstand many setbacks. Gradually as we understand more about him we become fond of Ove and are pleased when his attempts at suicide fail. We are introduced to his new neighbours, Parveneh, her husband Patrick and their two little girls. Parveneh



chooses to ignore Ove's grumpiness and manoeuvres him into helping her and gives him gifts of Iranian food, which she has cooked. Somehow helping her and her family helps him to re-engage with life. He also re-kindles friendships and helps others in the neighbourhood, making him feel valued and part of the community once more. As one of our reading group commented, it is an adult fairy tale and we all enjoyed Ove's story, it seemed simple, but there was an underlying depth that opened up many points for discussion. Originally written in Swedish, we commented on the brilliant translation by Henning Koch. The English was excellent and the narrative flowed. A book that we would all recommend.



## **The National Trust South Beds Assn**

**Monday 4th Dec 2:30pm**

**History of Pinewood Studios**

*A fascinating look into the origins of one of Buckinghamshire's famous sites and its development over the last 80 years.*

**Monday 8th Jan 2:20pm**

**History of Dunstable Priory  
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*Hugh Garrod*

*Many of you will know Hugh. This is the first talk on the Priory and local history.*

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# Peace on Earth, Goodwill to Men

More than ever this world needs the message given to the shepherds on a hillside that first Christmas: 'Peace on earth, good will towards men.' By proclaiming peace the angels were announcing God's desire for all people on earth to live in harmony and to enjoy peace in their everyday lives. Yet as we look around we see that peace is lacking in so many people's lives.

Many see and hear the sights and sounds of Christmas but despair that peace seems out of reach. During the American Civil War, Henry W. Longfellow wrote the lyrics of a carol, 'I heard the Bells on Christmas Day.' It's an old carol which you probably have not heard, but it has some poignant words. With heartfelt sincerity, he wrote, "For hate is strong and mocks the song, of peace on earth, good will to men."

The news headlines are discouraging. The reality of war and hatred among nations is too close to home and it is sometimes hard to know what to say to those enduring this season without their loved ones for the first time.

Although a century has passed since Henry W. Longfellow struggled writing the lyrics to his carol, we understand every word. Like so many at this time of year, his heart hurt with the despair, hatred, and horrors of war he saw. However something unseen nudged his writing: "And the bells are ringing... Peace on earth... like a choir, they're singing... Peace on earth... in my heart I hear them... Peace on earth..."

The Bible shows that Jesus came to earth to bring peace. Ephesians 2:14 states, 'For Christ himself has brought peace to us. He united Jews and Gentiles into one people when, in his own body on the cross, he broke down the wall of hostility that separated us.' And Jesus said of Himself, "Peace I leave with you, My Peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid" (John 14:27). As the angels' message rang through the air to the shepherds, so it rang out in Longfellow's heart. He was right; tragedies constantly bombard our doorsteps, yet there is an echo ringing through

the air. If we listen with our hearts we can hear it too. We hear God's message of peace to a hurting world: *Peace on earth and good will towards men.*

Despite the news and our sense of loss, peace within is possible when we know Jesus. My prayer for you is that you may know that peace which is beyond our understanding this Christmas and always. 'May the Lord of Peace Himself give you peace always in every way. The Lord be with you all' (2 Thessalonians 3:16).

If you would like to know more about peace and friendship with Jesus why not join our Alpha Course, which explores the basics of Christianity, in the New Year. For more details please contact Hilary Chadwick on 07932 057490; email: [hilary.chadwick@salvationarmy.org.uk](mailto:hilary.chadwick@salvationarmy.org.uk)  
✉ Hilary Chadwick (Envoy)

**The Salvation Army,  
Booth Place - Weekly Activities**

**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>	
Sewing & Craft Bees	
<i>(2nd Thursday of month)</i>	
Ladies Fellowship	7.45pm
<i>(Last week of month)</i>	

*For further details please call Envoy Hilary Chadwick. T:01525 222087 / 07932 057490  
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