

FOCUS July 2020

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



Photo by Kevin Alexander

The White Horse
Eaton Bray

Market Square
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LU6 2DG
01525 220 231
www.eatonbraypub.co.uk



Stay at home
Protect the NHS
Save lives



Thanks to all of the brave key workers

*Eat, Drink and relax
at The White Horse*

Due to the current situation re Coronavirus, this issue was unable to be printed and distributed and is only available online at www.thefocusmagazine.co.uk.

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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August Focus will be a joint issue for August & September. Don't forget to send in your August & September entries by 10th July

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

Web: www.northallbaptistchurch.org

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

After Lockdown Village Diary



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: 07832 230774
- 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
- Mondays Yoga, 6:45pm, Edlesborough Memorial Hall, contact 07837 727302
- Mondays Barre, 8pm, Edlesborough Memorial Hall, contact 07837 727302
- 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 Tap & Ballet Classes, JoAnn Latus School of Dance, 4-8pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall, 07800 518654
- 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 Fortnightly, Eaton Bray
- Wednesdays Pilates, 8pm, Northall Village Hall, Lisa: 07832 230774
- Wednesdays Northall & District Age Concern Wednesday Club, 10am - 3pm, Northall Village Hall, Contact Barbara on 07854 230243
- Wednesdays (term time) Caterpillars Baby and Toddler Group 10am to 11:30am, Grace Baptist Church, Moor End, Edlesborough, £1 per family unit, Contact Alister 07572 395687
- 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
- Wed (term time) Art Courses, Whipsnade Village Hall, 9.30am – 12.30pm. Lorna Moore 07896 619660
- Thursdays Yoga, Northall Village Hall, 11.30am-1pm 01525 377542
- 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
- Thursdays Eaton Bray Methodist Church Social Afternoons, 2 - 4pm, All Welcome

After Lockdown Village Diary

Thursdays	Retro Line Dance Class. 11.15am to 12.45pm. Eaton Bray Village Hall. Beginners welcome. www.jukeboxjunction.co.uk info@jukeboxjunction.co.uk 07864212171
Thursdays	Mixed Ability Yoga Class, 11.30am to 1.p.m. Northall Village Hall, Contact Dee Lock on 01525 377542
Fridays	Keep Fit class, Edlesborough Memorial Hall 10 - 11am
Fridays	Tap & Ballet Classes, JoAnn Latus School of Dance, 4-8pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall, 07800 518654
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	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 Whittemore on 01525 376124
Fri (term time)	Art Courses, Whipsnade Village Hall, 9.30am – 12.30pm. Lorna Moore 078 9661 9660
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 11am and 6pm Edlesborough Baptist Church, Moor End, LU6 2FL Contact Alister on 07572 395687
Sundays	Karate for kids & adults, 4-5:30pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Contact 07500 007779
Monthly	
1st Monday	Eaton Bray Parish Council Meeting, 7.30pm, The Coffee Tavern (except Jan-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 839083)
2nd Mon	Film Society, Sep to May, 2pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Graham Chappell 01525 220883
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 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 Monday	SilverLink, 2.30-4.00pm, Grace Baptist Chapel Edlesborough – activities, talks, friendship & refreshments for the over 60s
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. Contact Sue Bingham on 01525 222522
2nd & 4th Tues	Dagnall Church Welcome Club, 2-4pm, Dagnall Church. Contact Catherine Hayden 01525 220527
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, 10:00-12 noon, Edlesborough Methodist Church



EDLESBOROUGH SURGERY & PITSTONE VILLAGE HEALTH CENTRE 2020 FLU CAMPAIGN

This year, due to Covid 19 pandemic, we anticipate our Flu clinics to be looking very different.

We are hoping the flu clinics will still be run in October, assuming the delivery dates of our supplies are not affected.

Please keep an eye on our surgery website edlesboroughsurgery.co.uk and our Edlesborough Surgery Facebook page for up to date details.

We also ask that you please advise friends and neighbours if they don't have internet access.

We hope to able to give a more accurate update in the August/September copy of Focus once we have full information on the changes that need to be in place regarding the Covid 19 Pandemic.

Thank you for all your support during this difficult time.



Open Gardens 2020

Since 2006, one of the social highlights of the year in our villages has been our Open Gardens event. We have had some wonderful afternoons enjoying gardens that have been opened by willing gardeners; both gardeners and visitors enjoy the experience in equal measure.

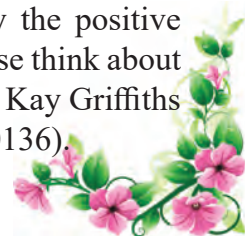
This year's event will on 23rd August so people who have previously opened their gardens in mid-June or July may wish to show off an entirely fresh colour scheme and others who have not opened their gardens before may feel their garden is more beautiful in August when we can expect a feast of dahlias, heleniums, rudbeckia, etc.. This is a really special event in our villages' calendar. We already have a few offers of gardens but we do need some more.

Now is the time to offer to open your garden. It can be large or small – all gardens have something to offer visitors and past experience suggests that those who open their gardens are delighted by the positive feedback they receive. Do please think about it, then get in touch with either Kay Griffiths (222849) or Gordon Gray (220136).

**Please would you
open your garden?**

Contact

**Kay - 222849 or
Gordon - 220136**



Village Info



EDaN Community Transport
Peter Williams: 01442 842506

Village Hall Booking Contacts

Northall: Lorna Cabbage Tel: 07857 318696 www.edlesborough-pc.gov.uk/nvh

Email: northallvhbookings@gmail.com

Eaton Bray: Norman Lee Tel: 07975 797202

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

Dagnall: Liz Coates 01442 842550 & Trish Owen 07762 151364

Email DVH_Bookings@outlook.com

Edlesborough Memorial Hall: Penny Pataky, Tel: 01525 229358

Email: manager@edlesborough-pc.gov.uk

Police Contact Numbers...

making neighbourhoods safer together

General Assistance (Recommended Number): 101 Emergency: 999

Bedfordshire Police (Eaton Bray)

Leighton Buzzard Police Station/Kathryn Horgan: 01582 473411

Typetalk: 18001 01582 473418

Email: LPT.LeightonBuzzardLinslade&Rural@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk

Thames Valley Police (Edlesborough, Dagnall & Northall)

PCSO Jackie Dodson

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

Northall: The Swan Public House

Edlesborough: Edlesborough Memorial Hall & Baptist Church, Summerleys



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, on-line shopping support etc. or if you would welcome our befriending service.

We help people of Eaton Bray and adjacent villages

Eaton Bray with Edlesborough

Parish News

Vicar: Rev'd Joy Cousins

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

Curate: Rev'd Stephen Burge

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

Reader: Gordon Gray (01525 220136)

Website: www.stmaryseatonbray.org.uk Facebook: St Mary's Eaton Bray

As I write this we are preparing to reopen St Mary's church for private prayer. It has been shut since the middle of March due to the Coronavirus pandemic. So it is not a simple matter of opening the doors again: there is much preparation for the building to be ready for visitors. First we have had to check that everything is in order from a health and safety perspective. Then the building has been thoroughly cleaned and aired. When you go into church you will see that it looks different inside due to the regulations around social distancing. Chairs are set apart from one another to enable people to sit without being in close proximity. All the books and children's toys have been removed. To enable cleaning, which will have to be done more frequently, part of the church is out of bounds. Also it will be open twice a week instead of daily. The opening hours are Wednesday 10am to 4pm and Sunday 11am to 4pm. Worship will continue to be accessed online through the church website <https://www.stmaryseatonbray.org.uk> or via the St Mary's Facebook page and on our YouTube channel. This reminds us that churches are more than buildings; the church is also a community of Christians who worship and pray and live out their faith in a particular place. But buildings are important as a visual reminder of the presence of God in our midst. They are a focal point for the community.

Despite the changes in the layout of the interior of St Mary's, those who have been into the church to get it ready for reopening have remarked on the sense of peace and calm within. Perhaps because a lot of the chairs have been moved and the books taken out the eye is focused on the stained glass windows, the beautiful reredos behind the altar and beauty of the building itself. Many people find that the church building is an important sacred space in which to come and take time out, pray or just to be still. It will now be possible to do that again and for individuals to use the building for private prayers.

St Mary's church usually hosts social events such as coffee mornings and Music at St Mary's. Sadly none of these can go ahead at the moment. We do however have a virtual coffee morning on the first Saturday in the month held on zoom. If you would like an invitation, please get in touch via the website. And there will be St Mary's Scarecrow Festival on the weekend of 3-5 July. Again, there is information on the website. We hope you will join in the fun and help raise funds for St Mary's and Dunstable Food Bank.

We are delighted that you will be able to visit the church again and hope you will find solace in being there. The following prayer is used regularly in our online worship and asks for God's presence in the midst of these difficult and challenging times.

A prayer for the coronavirus outbreak

Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy
in this time of uncertainty and distress.

Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may rejoice in your comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.
With every blessing,
✠Joy, Vicar of Eaton Bray with Edlesborough



A Message From Joy

Sunday services are available on the website www.stmaryseatonbray.org.uk from Sunday. It is very easy to use - simply press the button on the homepage. You can also access it via YouTube and the St Mary's Facebook page. Thank you to Eileen Bennett who has contributed this week's intercessions. As always, thanks to Stephen Axford for his wonderful music and to Stephen Burge for leading and producing the service.

It is always good to hear from you so do keep in touch.

With love and prayers,

✠Joy

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:

Wednesday: 10.00am Holy Communion
EVERYONE WELCOME AT THESE SERVICES

In light of the current Coronavirus situation the Pastoral Care Team at St. Mary's, Eaton Bray welcomes your assistance in identifying any of our parishioners who might be sick or otherwise benefit from their support during this challenging time. Please contact Gaye Soule on 07807924218 (m) or send an email to admin@stmaryseatonbray.org.uk in this regard.

The best dressed Scarecrow



Competition

As our Carnival has been cancelled this year a

Scarecrow Festival 3rd - 5th July

is being organised by St Mary's Church, Eaton Bray.
Instead of the Best Dressed House villagers are invited to
create a scarecrow or a scene of scarecrows,
dressed as heroes and the results will
be judged by a team on foot instead of the procession.
Full details on Facebook, our Website or call 07772901816



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- R.R*



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We are pleased to be reopening on 15th June, but there will be some necessary changes to our rehoming process. If you are interested in offering a dog a loving home please download an application to adopt form from our website. Please take time to read the information on the rehoming process, which will answer most questions.

Albums of photos and information on available dogs can be found on our Facebook page. Please bear in mind that not all the dogs have an album, so it is still

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For adoption information and application form visit our website www.appledownrescue.co.uk. Our experienced staff make every effort to match the right dog with the right owner. Viewings are by appointment only. We always do home checks and follow-up visits. There are restrictions on rehoming dogs to families with children less than 7 years of age.

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EATON BRAY PARISH COUNCIL

EATON BRAY PARISH COUNCIL

FOCUS REPORT: JUNE 2020

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Due to the Government's announcement of continuing to limit gatherings and encouraging social distancing to reduce the spread of Coronavirus, members of Eaton Bray Parish Council have concluded that Parish Council's Meetings are cancelled until further notice.

The Parish Council will still be actively acting on your behalf and should you have any concerns/issues you can contact:

- (1) Heidi Head, Parish Clerk, email clerk@ebpc.co.uk – tel/text 07931479663
- (2) Chairman of the Parish Council, Cllr Marie Brewer – tel 01525 222645

Thank you for your understanding in this matter.

PARISH COUNCILLOR VACANCY

The Parish Council has vacancies for Parish Councillors, if you are interested in joining please contact the Parish Clerk.

EB BLOOMERS

The Parish Council would like to thank Eaton Bray Bloomers who are planting and caring for the pots around the village. They look lovely. If anyone would like to help this group they would welcome more volunteers. If interested, please contact Christina on 01525 222154.

SPEEDWATCH

Speedwatch has been approved by Bedfordshire Police to resume monitoring sessions from July. However, only for those members who are under 70 at the moment – which reduces our numbers somewhat. We plan to restart fully in August, Government restrictions permitting, and so if there are any local residents who would like to join the group and actively participate in helping to reduce speeding through Eaton Bray, please contact Cllr Mark Tomkins councillormarktomkins@gmail.com or visit www.ebpc.co.uk for more details.

NEW PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE

Eaton Bray Parish Council recently undertook a project to rebuild the website in order to comply with the new regulations involving meeting accessibility guidelines (also known as WCAG 2.1AA compliance). This new website was launched at the end of February 2020 and is now the main and official place to get all Parish Council news and updates. The website has all Parish Council meeting agendas, minutes, financial documents and contact information as well as official sponsored events/initiatives and is the official council communications website.

Visit it here: www.ebpc.co.uk



Heidi Head, Parish Clerk

Email: clerk@ebpc.co.uk – Telephone/Text: 07931 479663 – Website: www.ebpc.co.uk

Office Hours: Tuesday/Thursday/Friday 09:30-13:30hrs

Follow Eaton Bray Parish Council on Facebook and Twitter

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





Edlesborough Parish Council News

Including Edlesborough, Dagnall and Northall

Corona Virus (Covid-19) & the Parish

At the time of writing this report the Government has relaxed some of the Coronavirus (Covid-19) guidance.

The Council wishes to remind parishioners that the:

- Eaton Bray Good Neighbours Scheme 07930 987064
- St Marys Church Pastoral Team 07807 924218 or admin@stmaryseatonbray.org.uk
- Dagnall Covid-19 Mutual Aid Group 07762 151364

Are all still available for any parishioner who may need assistance.

The Council will continue to use its website and Facebook page to share important information about the pandemic and precautions parishioners should be taking.

Please note: *Information in this report may have changed since the submission. Please check our website for the latest information.*

EPC reminds Parishioners that:

- The children's play equipment in Edlesborough, Dagnall and Northall **must not** be used until government guidelines change.
- Parishioners **must** maintain a two metre gap from anyone not in their household.
- Keep **dogs on leads** on Edlesborough Green to ensure there are no breaches in social distancing.

The Council asks that all parishioners continue to follow the Government guidelines.

Litter in the Villages



Currently the volunteer litter picking groups are suspended due to Coronavirus (Covid-19). The EPC is aware that some parishioners are still litter picking and thanks them for doing so.

With the relaxing of the Governments guidelines it is very disappointing to see a large increase in littering in our Parish.

EPC politely reminds parishioners to use the litter bins provided in and around Edlesborough Green and at other locations in the Parish.

If a litter bin is full or not available please act responsibly and take

your litter home.

Annual Meeting of edlesborough Parish Council

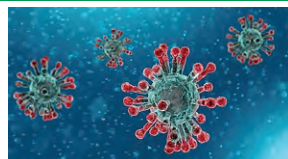
This meeting was held in May via the Social Media Platform Zoom. The draft minutes of the meeting can be viewed on the Council website.

Ordinary Council Meetings

EPC held their May Ordinary Council via the Social Media Platform, Zoom, once again this worked very successfully. The Council will continue to hold future Council meetings via Zoom until it is deemed safe to resume holding physical public meetings. Any parishioner wishing to attend the June Council meeting should contact the Clerk for the access information.

New Councillors

At the May EPC meeting the Council was very pleased to co-opt two new Cllrs onto Edlesborough Parish Council:



Rosie Ward to represent the Ward of Edlesborough
Lynne Wells to represent the Ward of Dagnall
New Pavilion – all phases funded to completion!
Work continues to progress on the New Pavilion and it is anticipated that the building will be weathertight by mid-August.



EPC continues to work very closely with the Edlesborough Community Sports Club (ECSC) charity who will manage this wonderful new facility. Full details of those eligible for membership will be published shortly by ECSC but certainly all Edlesborough parishioners will have free membership.

Buckinghamshire Council

At the May Council meeting Cllr Chris Poll gave a brief report on behalf of Buckinghamshire Council, this is included in the minutes of the May EPC meeting and can be found on the EPC website along with the Buckinghamshire Council report for Covid-19 Aylesbury Local Hub Bulletin.

Grass & Hedge Cutting in the Villages

EPC continues to receive complaints about parishioner's hedges and planting overhanging and blocking pavements. EPC reminds all parishioners whose hedges border the pavements to ensure that their hedges are kept well-trimmed ensuring that the maximum pavement width is available for pedestrians, pushchair and wheelchair users.



Allotments

EPC currently has plots available at the Dagnall site. 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.

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.

EPC Meetings

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

- Thursday 16th July 2020
- Thursday 17th September 2020

The meetings will commence at 7:30pm.

Please check our website for any changes in any of our current 'virtual' meeting plans via Zoom. 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. Any parishioner wishing to attend the Council meetings should contact the Clerk for the Zoom access information.

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

Edlesborough Parish Council Contact Information:

Clerk: Miss Penny Pataky *Office hours Mon – Fri 9am – 12pm (Excl. Wed)*

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

Facebook: www.facebook.com/EDANParishCouncil

From Farm Lad to Inspector

Retirement of Inspector Harlow

Thomas Octavius Harlow

Appointed P.c. 71 on 19th January 1882

Retired 15th June 1914

(Taken from the Bedfordshire Times and Independent - Friday June 12th, 1914)



Constable Thomas Octavius Harlow (standing fourth from left, behind the Sergeant centre) circa 1890 and (front) L to R Supt Shepherd, DCC., Insp. G. Smith, Sergeant Ogden and Sergeant Edwards.
(Leighton Division Bedfordshire Constabulary).



On June 15th (1914) Inspector Thomas O. Harlow retires from active service in the Beds. Constabulary. For the last five years he has been stationed at Woburn. He was born at Ravensden, 53 years ago, was one of the nine sons of Isaac Harlow, farm bailiff on Mr Sutherland's farm, and had one sister. His father was a strict disciplinarian, and until Inspector Harlow was 19 he followed agricultural work under him, and even now he can swing a scythe, hedge, ditch, thatch or do anything else connected with farm life.

At 19 he entered the Loco Department of the Midland Railway at Wellingborough and remained there for two years. When he was 21 he joined the Beds. Police Force at Bedford in the January (19th) of 1882. (His service record shows that he was posted to Luton 19th January 1882). Three other brothers also took to police service - 2 in the Beds. and one in the Manchester City Police, and Sergt. Harlow who retired 3 years ago and is now connected with the Beds. Egg and Game Preservation Society, is one of them, the others also having now retired.

His first station was at Upper Houghton Regis and there he remained 12 months. Passing on to Sharnbrook for 4 years, he was drafted to Toddington, and after 12 or 18 months, to Eversholt for 10 months, then to Ridgemont for 4 years, and went to **Eaton Bray** where nearly five years

were spent amid much trouble and excitement. Of this, however, more anon. From there he went to Hockliffe and after 2 years he was promoted to Sergeant, and transferred to Kensworth in the Luton Division. Later he returned to Toddington and after 4 years went to Leighton Buzzard for 2 years and, being promoted Inspector in 1905, he was removed to Biggleswade and 3½ years later transferred to Woburn. After 5 years there he is now retiring, having completed 32 years' service or 5 more than was necessary to entitle him to seek the rest he thoroughly deserves.

He has served under two Chief Constables - the late Col. Josselyn, and Major F.A.D. Stevens - and six Superintendents; Tydman, Carruthers, Shepherd, Anniwell, Baldwin and Woods.

He holds what few, if any, other members of the Force can show, a certificate of the National Health Society, 53, Berners Street W., stating that "Thos. O. Harlow has attended the Elementary Course of Lectures on First Aid at Toddington, Beds., and has successfully passed a viva voce (*by word of mouth*) examination therein." It is dated December 12th, 1901 and is signed by M Dunbar, Examiner. He also possesses the white metal badge of the St. John Ambulance Society, a certificate gained in May 1896, at the Bedford Centre, and the Medallions of the Society, from 1905 to 1913, consecutively, of which he has made an artistic watch chain. In all he has passed twelve examinations in First Aid. He is an excellent writer and his office work has been exceptionally good.

In carrying out his varied duties he has had one maxim. "*if you want good behaviour you must set an example - instil the instruction by your example as well as by your precept,*" and his one endeavour in every place has been to leave it better than he found it. It is not always easy to accomplish this, but the result of his work speaks for itself.

Eaton Bray was his worst task. When he went there it was going into the wilds - the conditions were, to use a mild term, barbarous.

One of his first cases was one of drink and assault and the evidence showed that, but for his presence of mind, P.c. Harlow as he then was, would have been slipped into the pond and probably killed while trying to stop the fighting going on.

On another occasion when dealing with a disorderly couple, 20 or 30 assembled and abetted assaults on the constable, while from the following remarks from the Chairman of the Bench in the subsequent police proceedings an idea of some of the conditions can be formed. The Chairman said:

*"The defendants were two of the worst characters that could be found at large in any parish in England. The list of their offences was unequalled at the Leighton Bench. Finding that a new policeman was stationed in the village - and it took a brave man to wear the Queen's uniform in **Eaton Bray** - surrounded by roughs and scoundrels, these two vagabonds of the first water, had plotted together to injure him. The constable cautioned them, and requested them to go home, and led ----- down the road. His companion endeavoured to carry out the plan they had formed, and called for a stick and a pickaxe, interfered with the policeman while on duty. And aided and abetted by some 20 to 30 people, some of the worst scum of **Eaton Bray** - and it could be imagined what the scum of **Eaton Bray** was like - from that den of iniquity, Bedford Square, it was only a mercy the policeman was present and able to give evidence."*

On another occasion the defendant was proved to have bitten his (Mr Harlow's) wrist and thumb, bolted with the handcuffs on, and on being caught again, to have bitten and kicked him, while out of a hundred or so assembled, only one would go to help the constable. Several culprits were involved in a series of charges and the Chairman of the Bench on this occasion expressed surprise

that a man could be got to go to **Eaton Bray** as a police constable without assistance and gave it as his opinion that the best plan would be to establish a lock-up, and station two constables there. It was at **Eaton Bray** also he had another experience before which many would have quailed. A certain man, a butcher became “mad drunk.” At first at the constable’s request he went home to bed but got up in his shirt and went onto the shop, “wanting a knife,” to make someone “sit up.” P.c. Harlow went in and was met with a blow from a saw, which happily missed his head, but gashed his arm. He had to leave to get the wound dressed and tied up. On coming back, he saw the man running about the road with a 16 in. knife, and realising the danger shouted to him, “drop that knife, or I’ll drop you.” It had the desired effect and at the Police Court it was pointed out that but for the constable’s plucky act, murder would most probably have been done. For this he was publicly presented with a “Merit Badge,” and his conduct highly and eulogised, by the Chairman of the Bench (Mr. A. M. Macnamara), saying “it was a badge every constable should be proud to wear, and it was a distinction he felt sure Harlow had thoroughly earned. He had known him personally for some time and he did not believe there was a better servant in the whole force than P.c. Harlow. He was cool and collected in face of danger, and men were only really brave when in such a position they were cool and collected.”

These were the sort of conditions he found at **Eaton Bray**, and during his time there he was heartily assisted by the then Vicar, the Rev. Sutton – the best friend he ever had – and the Schoolmaster (Mr. A. Richardson), and at political meetings they were the only three who could get any semblance of continued order. When he was leaving, the inhabitants expressed their regret at his going and the great improvement in the district must be attributed largely to the five years Mr. Harlow spent there.

At other places and times, high commendation had come to him, at Biggleswade in many larceny cases, at Leighton time after time, and also since he has been at Woburn. The usual run of “captures” naturally came his way. On one occasion at Toddington he found a deserter in bed, whom no one else had been able to locate, but his find made the constables dress him before he would move out. On another, while at Leighton, he had a woman and a 13 months’ old baby to take to Northampton Gaol. The baby was refused admission and was handed back to him. He had to journey back to Leighton Workhouse with it and, being young and then rather “bashful,” it was a most trying journey, but the baby slept all the way.

Those who know him well recognise in his maxim given above the very essence of his dealings. He has never faltered in doing his duty, but kindness and common sense have always been seen in his sternest actions, and wherever he has been he has left many friends and, to his knowledge, no enemies.

The shortest case in his record was at Woburn in 1912. He apprehended a hawker without a licence. A magistrate was passing. They went into the Magistrate’s Clerk’s office, the case was heard, and the man fined £1, all in 7 minutes from arrest to fine – a record surely.

His connection with police service will not be entirely severed. He has a stalwart son, 6 ft. 3 in. in height and 25 years old, in the Northampton County Borough Force. Of his family of 5, only two others remain, but his wife will accompany him in his retirement, and they will live at Ampthill, for many years we trust, and have the best of health and happiness in their well-earned repose.

Foot note: Thomas Octavius Harlow died 15th December 1942.

Gloucester Echo August 25th, 1947: Thomas’ wife, Eleanor Mary Harlow, died aged 86 years on Saturday, August 23rd, 1947, at 43 Beechurst Avenue, Gloucestershire).

Article published by Andy Stephenson

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Methodist Lay Worker's Letter

Dear Friends,

“When can we get back to normal?”

These words must have been on many people's lips this year so far. My son, a sports fanatic, has been bewailing the loss of the Tour de France, the Euro 2020 football tournament, the Formula 1 season so far and the Wimbledon Championship. Others are missing the chance to go to a summer music festival, or family celebrations, or even away on a holiday.

It has been obvious that when “normality” resumes, it will be much changed from the old ways. We have seen how flying wherever we want whenever we want, has polluted our skies and our atmosphere. I have revelled in the clear blue of the May skies over our house, which is normally under Luton Airport approach. We have seen how nature has thrived in having less humanity about, and how the quiet roads have meant more people actually taking note of birdsong for the first time. Do we want to go back to “normal” now we have seen what an alternative looks like? I wonder.

Of course, we are glad to see shops re-opening, Whipsnade Zoo and other places able to welcome visitors again, though under altered circumstances. It is time though, to think about what life could look like in the near future.

What about our neighbourhoods? Are we going to stop smiling at people in the street or

helping the housebound or shielding elderly, when we “get back to normal”? Are we going to keep silent about injustices like racism or environmental abuse?

The Christian church (of any denomination) has also been thinking about what “getting back to normal” might look like. I noticed a poster outside the Dunstable Community Church – **“The Church hasn't closed – it's just changed!”** (i.e. gone online).

The Church has not closed. We may not be there every Sunday morning with the doors open and the sound of organ or worship band able to be heard, but we are there on YouTube or Zoom, we are still praying – and a lot of people are finding that sitting in your lounge with a coffee and listening to what your local minister (or one from a church you've never been to, in a different part of the country or the world) has to say, is actually comforting and supportive in these strange days. The Church has been growing nationally in terms of people “attending” worship virtually.

If you would like to join with us on Zoom at 10.30am each Sunday please email us (at revdngigel@gmail.com) and we will arrange for the appropriate link to be sent to you.

Keep safe and keep well,

God bless,

Elizabeth Bibbings

Black Squirrels the Result of 'Interbreeding' Grey Squirrels, Study Finds

Courtesy of BBC News Website



Photo by Philip Meyers

Black squirrels are the result of "interbreeding" between their grey cousins and the North American fox squirrel, a study has concluded.

Research published in **BMC Evolutionary Biology** found the black fur emerged from a faulty pigment gene.

The study by Anglia Ruskin University (ARU) in Cambridge say the difference between black and grey squirrels is simply the colour of their fur.

Author Dr Helen McRobie said grey and fox squirrels share the "same root".

There are thought to be around 25,000 black squirrels in the UK, with numbers largely concentrated in Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire and Cambridgeshire.

The first wild black squirrel was recorded in Woburn in 1912, and was believed to have escaped from a private zoo having been imported from the United States.

The new findings build on **earlier work by Dr McRobie** which found that the black fur in grey squirrels is caused by a missing piece of DNA in its pigment gene.

Squirrels take part in "mating chases" and a male black fox squirrel "most likely" mated with a female grey, Dr McRobie said.

Dr McRobie, a senior lecturer in biomedical science, collaborated with researchers from the University of Cambridge and the Virginia Museum of Natural History in the United States.

She said people have mixed feelings about black squirrels with some regarding them as a "menace". "The most likely explanation for the black version of the gene being found

in the grey squirrel is that a male black fox squirrel mated with a female grey squirrel," she said. "The fact black grey squirrels have become so common right across North America is possibly because black fur offers a thermal advantage, helping them inhabit regions with extremely cold winters.

"This may have contributed to the expansion of the grey squirrel's range during the past 11,000 years, following the end of the most recent ice age, helping them spread further north into Canada."



*The black squirrel is known as melanic
by Amanda K Ciurej*

Advice from a Singer Sewing Machine Manual from 1949

Prepare yourself mentally for sewing. Think about what you are going to do. Never approach sewing with a sigh or lackadaisically. Good results are difficult when indifference dominates. Never try to sew with a sink full of dirty dishes or beds unmade.

When there are urgent housekeeping chores, do these first so that your mind is free to enjoy your sewing. When you sew, make yourself as attractive as possible. Put on a clean dress. Keep a little bag of French chalk near your sewing machine to dust your fingers at intervals. Have your hair in order, powder and lipstick put on. If you are constantly fearful that a visitor might drop in or your husband will come home, and you will not look neatly put together, you will not enjoy your sewing.



silversurfers.com

The Hidden Wonders of England's Most 'Boring' County

By Sarah Baxter, Courtesy of The Telegraph



Dunstable Downs by Phil Wood

When holiday-hungry Britons get permission for staycations, many will make a beeline for the coast. Beautiful Cornwall, Cumbria, the Isle of Wight – all besieged! Well, no thanks. Crowds aren't for everyone, especially now. Now is the time to seek out lesser-lauded spots, where you can happily keep your social distance. Now is the time to hail the unsexy interiors.

Unsexiest of all? Bedfordshire. A 2018 YouGov poll of 42,000 people found this small tract of eastern England to be the least popular of the 47 counties. Disparagers say it's too flat and boring; lacking poster-able landmarks; not London enough; too much Luton. A county people hurry through, thanks to its big, fat trunk roads and mainline rail. There seems to be limited affection for – or knowledge of – its hills and ridges, its market towns and zoological prowess (ZSL Whipsnade and Woburn Safari Park are both here), its Great Ouse and greater Bunyan.

“One reason for Bedfordshire's low score is the fact that it doesn't exist,” believes Sarah Mortimer, Chair of Experience Bedfordshire. Though a ceremonial county, Bedfordshire was split into three unitary authorities in 2009: Bedfordshire Borough, Central Bedfordshire and Luton Borough. “This means you can't find a cohesive area,” she claims. So, lacking a truly resonant symbol to rally behind – Bedford suspension bridge? The pasty-like Bedfordshire clanger? – the county-formerly-known-as-Bedfordshire is experiencing something of an identity crisis.

The (short) Bedfordshire chapter in my mid-century edition of *Lovely Britain* puts it thus: “Though there is little to excite the imagination into flights of ecstasy, there is always something in the changing scene to make one wish for a more intimate knowledge of the fields, the hedgerows and the streams.” In short, it's a quiet place suited to Covid-19 times.

The byline of the Bedfordshire Area Ramblers nods to this, bidding walkers welcome to “our surprising little county”. Barry Ingram, organiser of the annual Bedfordshire

Walking Festival (due to be held in September) moved to the county in 1962 and was initially unimpressed. “But as I explored I realised how varied and interesting it was,” he says. “It’s a great county for walks: many miles of public rights of way, generally well maintained; lovely villages; hills in the south; open spaces and wolds-like terrain in the north; the wooded centre.”

Indeed, there’s fine rambling all around, from Bedford’s Victorian embankment to the chalk escarpment of Dunstable Downs and the Sharpenhoe Clappers; the Greensand Ridge Path goes east-west right across the county’s middle. “But if I wanted to walk for hours and probably not see anyone, I would head into the north, between the A6 and A1,” adds Ingram. “Or, for a long-distance hike, I’d follow the Bunyan Trail.”

The name refers to puritan evangelist John Bunyan who was born in Elstow, just outside Bedford, in 1628, and imprisoned in Bedford jail for 12 years, where he penned *Pilgrim’s Progress*. “For over 300 years, that book was only out-sold by the Bible,” says Clive Arnold, Chair of the Bunyan Round Table Group. “We’ve been working to get Bedford branded as the home of John Bunyan in the same way that Stratford-upon-Avon is with that other writer chap.” Just before lockdown, Bedford Borough Council finally added ‘John Bunyan Country’ panels to signs leading into the town.

Arnold, also curator of the Moot Hall Museum in Elstow, is a Bedfordian through and through. “I’m proud such a tiny county has such a rich history. Bedfordshire has never been good at selling itself, thus people think it lacks defining characteristics. But that isn’t true. This is where the R101 Airship was built, so it has the biggest airship sheds in the world – now film studios, used to make major movies. We have the finest collection of vintage aircraft at Shuttleworth and many modern aircraft were developed at RAE Bedford. And during the war, the county was home to secret operations units doing all sorts of sneaky things!”

It was also, adds Arnold, the first part of the UK to become multicultural. “Thousands of Italians, then Asians, were brought over to work at the London Brick Company, and were integrated into Bedfordshire culture.”

Local-born B&B owner David Blakeman appreciates this legacy. “Bedford has that rare thing in the UK – decent Italian restaurants!” But he believes the county’s Englishness is its main appeal. “Its identity as a fertile agricultural area has been somewhat lost,” he says. “But the villages often have attractive churches and half-timbered buildings. It’s a gentle prettiness, incapable of rivalling Northumberland or Cornwall – but it’s quintessentially English.”

Blakeman retired here after buying 14th-century Harlington Manor – “a bit of a dream home, relatively competitively priced” – and opening it as a B&B. The manor sits on the edge of the Chilterns AONB, with National Trust land all around. Bunyan was once interrogated in its wood-panelled parlour where guests now tuck into excellent breakfasts. In the 1670s King Charles II stayed upstairs; the room still retains its period



Puritan evangelist John Bunyan was born in Elstow, just outside Bedford. Pencil drawing in British Museum

style, festooned in crimson damask. It's one of the best (and best value) B&Bs I've stayed in, picked for its convenient location – midway between my parents and me – but turning out to be quite the destination. A bit like Bedfordshire itself.

At the end of the day, even if outsiders aren't kind to Bedfordshire, the county is kind to others. In another poll, this time by JustGiving, Bedford was named the most generous town for charitable donations. This is exemplified by its newest celebrity: Captain Tom Moore, who raised millions walking laps of his garden in Bedfordshire's Marston Moreteyne. "Captain Tom proved exactly what Bedfordshire and its people stand for," says Susan Lousada, incumbent High Sheriff of Bedfordshire. "Bedfordshire lies centrally, conveniently close to London, but mainly it's a lovely place to live."

Not a lot of People Know That!

RAF Edlesborough (Ex Dagnall) Some Background History



The Admin Block at RAF Edlesborough

Prior to WWII the powerful transmitter stations in use by May 1939 were WT stations at Leighton Buzzard and Dunstable. Control of the Dunstable transmitters was required at the Leighton Buzzard control centre to serve HQ Bomber Command and HQ Coastal command communications. This was achieved by hiring remote control lines from the GPO. Leighton Buzzard was the central control point and it

was from here the traffic channels would be switched to control the transmitter or transmitters as required via a switchboard at Leighton Buzzard.

The limitations at the Dunstable transmitter site caused a search to be made for a new site and Dagnall was found to be an ideal location. Treasury approval for acquiring the land was obtained and tests on the site began in June 1937. Early plans for the new transmitting station at Dagnall were based on the simple reprovision of the existing services, but in 1937 the scheme had to be very considerably extended.

In addition to the commitments arising from the expansion, RAF experience during the Abyssinian campaign when operational messages were taking as much as five days to handle, had underlined the need for high speed transmitters on certain routes. Revised estimates for the wireless telegraphy building and masts, for roads, water, drainage and electrical services and the barracks, quarters, accommodation and stores were approved by the treasury in April 1938. Work started on erecting 6 x 120 foot, 7 x 180 foot, and 5 x 230 foot masts and the transmitters installed included the SWB8B, SWB11 and the M15 besides the lower power T1087 and T77, together with various amplifiers. It had been anticipated that the more concentrated radiation arising from

the greater length materials possible that Dagnall would overcome any interference, but the trials proved that to overcome intentional jamming and to ensure clear and continued reception by stations abroad it was necessary to increase the strength of the transmitters. So a three phase 40KW amplifier was provided to boost the power of any transmitter who signals were affected thus increasing the overall power requirements. In order to meet commitments in the post European war period, and to provide increased power on existing circuits a number of high powered transmitters and amplifiers were provisioned in 1944. Accommodation for these additional transmitters had to be found and it was decided that this could best be found by altering existing accommodation at Dagnall and providing additional accommodation and Greatworth. These two stations were expected to remain the main transmitting stations as a long- term policy (which was in fact what happened). The target date for the completion of the Works Services and the installation of some 40 additional transmitters was February 1945. To satisfy post-war long distance communications requirements tentative plans were drawn up in July 1945. Inter-command communications would be provided by the main signal centre at Leighton Buzzard (which later became RAF Stanbridge), with receiving stations at Stoke Hammond and Chicksands (Chicksands was later replaced by RAF Bampton Castle near RAF Brize Norton in Oxfordshire). The main transmitting stations would then be at Greatworth and Dagnall (soon to be renamed RAF Edlesborough) and by August 1945 the majority of the actions required had it being taken. Dagnall was eventually to house some 12 x SWB8, 6 of which would drive SWB10 amplifiers, 5 x SWB11 and a small number of RCA transmitters of varying power. Greatworth was to have 17 x SW8, four of which would drive SWB10 amplifiers, 13 x SWB11 and a small number of RCA type ET 4332 transmitters.



Eaton Bray Methodist Church

Our Zoom services have gone from strength to strength – apart from Sunday 17th May when the Zoom platform crashed because of the numbers attempting to join services online. Since then, however, the Zoom provision has been fortified to cope with demand and our services have resumed and blossomed. On the first Sunday in May our Minister, Rev Nigel Bibbings, gave a reassuring reflection on ‘Christ, the Gatekeeper’, who offers the secure way through the perils of life, including pandemics. The following Sunday we were fortunate to have Roger Owers leading our worship. Citing the selfless example of our NHS workers who have been at the forefront of our struggle against Covid-19, he reminded us that serving God and humanity is a life’s work. On our fourth Sunday, Ascension Sunday, Rev Nigel Bibbings, reflected on the feelings of the disciples adjusting to life without Jesus and the hope that kept them motivated and secure; a time similar to our own when we, separated from our loved family members and friends, need to live in hope and trust. The Whitsunday service brought refreshing leadership by our Circuit lay worker, Elisabeth Bibbings. Her sermon focused on the arrival of the Holy Spirit and drew on a passage from the Gospel of John which describes the ‘rivers of living water’ that can enable us to change direction and rethink our lives when we have to adjust to new situations and the ‘new normal’ of life after the pandemic.

Your Photos



Eaton Bray Church Choir circa 1990

A cheeky squirrel by Brian Dumpleton



Edlesborough Church by Amanda Aiken





*Redkite, Woodpecker, Robin and Blue Tit
by Brian Dumpleton*



What to Do in the Garden in July

July can be a busy time in the garden and time may determine what gets done. The garden is in full swing, and many gardens are at their peak in July and the veg plot is full of produce; and the weeds are growing as quickly as everything else.

At their best in July are Delphiniums, Agapanthus, Lavender, various Clematis, Achillea, Dahlias, Nepeta, Thalictrum late flowering Peonies, Day Lily, Roses, Sweet peas, Honeysuckle; it's all blooming and the garden is full of beautiful scents.

One of the main gardening tasks in July is dead heading the various flowering plants. For most plants this just means snipping off the spent flowers but for some plants it's a little different. Also, it is important not to dead head any plant which you want to display berries or hips later in the year, such as Rosa rugosa or Honeysuckle.

Keep on deadheading

Time is well spent dead heading. To keep summer plants and bedding at its best and to prolong flowering, it is essential to dead head. The purpose of dead heading is to encourage more flowering. Once the plant has flowered and set seed, so it can reproduce, plants are often reluctant to flower again, or continuously. Dead heading, which is cutting off the spent flower head, forces the plant back into the cycle to produce flower and seeds again. Some plants need a lot of attention and constant dead heading.

With some plants they need so much dead heading, it can be easier to take the shears to the top growth and very often a second growth and flush will follow, as with Alchemilla mollis, common name Lady's Mantle and hardy geraniums (not Pelargoniums) Chives and Nepeta can also be cut back.

How to dead head roses

In July, Roses are looking at their best and it is just as important to keep dead heading to get as many blooms as possible. With Roses when you dead head, it is best to snap off, not prune away, the spent flower and it will break just below the flower bud. An equally well respected way to dead head roses is to prune back from the dead flower to the next leaf joint.



How to dead head Delphinium, Foxgloves and Verbascum

When the flower spike has faded and gone over, cut it back by removing the flower head only, as in just the flower spike, not the whole stem and where there are side shoots surround the flower head, these may produce a second flush.

What are rose suckers

Suckers can be a real problem with Roses, and arise from how Roses are cultivated which is a form of grafting. A sucker is unwanted growth from the root stock and it is often vigorous growth and can over-take the Rose. The sucker foliage is a lighter in colour, the leaves are similar but a different shape and it is much more vigorous. If you have a rose bush which is showing one or two shoots which are growing much more strongly examine it to check it is not a sucker.

Suckers really do sucker the life out of the rose and need to be removed. Using thick gloves go to the base of the plant where the sucker is exiting the soil, scrape away the soil and if the sucker is not too established it should be possible to pull it away

below the rose graft at the base. It is best not to prune it away if you can help it, but if the sucker is well established, it maybe impossible to pull away the sucker without damaging the plant in which case you will have to prune it away.

Cut back early perennials

Early flowering perennials can begin to look a bit tired by July and their foliage is becoming tatty and brown. If these plants are cut back now, many will produce fresh green growth to liven up the border and sometimes even a second flush of flowers. Good candidates for this treatment are Oriental poppies, Alchemilla mollis, hardy Geraniums, Nepeta. Cut back close to the ground, feed and wait a couple of weeks. It can look a bit bare when you first do this and if you don't like the sight of too much earth, cut back just before you go on holiday. It seems a bit drastic to razor over Alchemilla mollis, but in a couple of weeks time you will be rewarded with a fresh green mound of new leaves.

Summer Prune Wisteria



July or early August is the time to prune Wisteria for the second time in the year. Twice yearly pruning is essential to keep Wisteria flowering each year. If you grow Wisteria, prune now otherwise you may jeopardise next year's flowers. To maintain a flowering Wisteria it is essential it is pruned in July/August and Jan/February, which makes it time consuming to grow as Wisteria can get very large requiring ladders to get to the upper reaches of the plant for pruning.

Prune back the whippy summer growth to contain the plant. Wisteria is vigorous and needs harsh treatment. Cut the whippy tendrils which have grown over summer back to about 15cm (6") long. If the main stems are growing out of their allotted space, cut back now to restrict the plant. This is a good time to feed Wisteria and Tomato feed is suitable.

Tips on growing Sweet peas

Sweet peas are lovely but at this time of year to keep them at their best Sweet peas need regular attention. To keep Sweet Peas flowering it is essential to pick, pick and pick the flowers. Don't worry that by doing this you will remove all the flowers; it has the opposite effect of making the plant produce more and more flowers. If any flowers have gone over and left a seed head behind, remove it. By doing this you will keep the plant flowering and in a good summer the last of the Sweet Peas can be picked in October.



Sweet Peas look best in vases if they have straight stems and to get those lovely straight stems you need to remove the thin tendrils which the plant produces which they use to cling onto the support. If the tendrils are left on the plant the tendrils twine around other parts of the sweet pea plant stopping its growth, and pulling bits of the plants down causing it to become tangled. The plant becomes a tangled mess and this prevents the flowers having those lovely straight stems which look so lovely when displayed as cut flowers.

Take Clematis cuttings

If you want to try your hand at propagating Clematis July is a good time. Cut off a

length of new growth maybe 500 cms and then snip it into bits each about 8-10cms with a pair of leaves. It is important to have the node (knobbly bit on the cutting) in the middle of the stem that you are going to use. Discard the very top of the cutting which will be too soft. Fill a pot with seed compost, make a few holes and tuck the cutting in with hormone rooting powder if you have it but by no means essential. The trick and why it works sometimes and not others, is the cutting must not dry out, but not too wet or it will damp/rot off. Try placing in propagator or put a poly bag over the pot and seal tightly with elastic band or string and ensure place warm but out of sunlight. Check weekly for signs of growth, and to ensure its not dried out when water gently.

Glis Glis - Edible Dormouse



In appearance, the glis glis is like a small version of the grey squirrel. The head and body are about 150mm (6") long and the bushy tail is about 125mm (5") long. The fur is silvery grey, shading to a light colour underneath and there is a ring of black hair around each eye.

The animal is common in Europe, but is not native to Britain. It was deliberately introduced into Tring Park in 1902 and has spread into the

surrounding area. The extent of the spread is not fully known, but is thought to be no more than about a 30 mile circle from Tring, although there have been unconfirmed reports of sightings at much greater distances. Today, the introduction of new, wild, species is prohibited by environmental laws, but at that time no one had any concern for the long term implications of releasing what is, in effect, a pest into the UK. Glis Glis cause considerable damage to trees and crops, and from the mid 1920's onwards were causing damage in houses, particularly by gnawing woodwork and electric cables.

The common name "edible dormouse" dates from Roman times. The Romans farmed them by keeping them confined and fed a diet to encourage them to become fat. They were then served as an exotic delicacy at banquets. Like many small animals, Glis Glis can appear to be attractive and entertaining. However, they are definitely not to be regarded as a pet or a cuddly toy. They have been described as sulky, standoffish and at times bad tempered. Once fully emerged from hibernation they are very nimble and fast on their feet.

Glis Glis are nocturnal and in houses the first signs of infestation will either be noises heard in the loft at night, or signs of damage in the loft or outbuildings. The animals hibernate for long periods (the German common name for them is "Seven months" because they hibernate for the 7 months October - April) Only limited research has been done on the



life cycle of the UK population. It is thought that Glis Glis emerge from hibernation in May and that a litter of 2 - 5 young are produced in July - August. It is possible that there may be more than one litter each year, but precise information is lacking. By the standards of small rodents, Glis Glis have fairly long lives. It is known that animals in the wild live for 3 - 5 years and there is a record of a Glis Glis in captivity surviving for 8 years. They are rarely found outside the Luton, Beaconsfield and Aylesbury triangle, where they are fairly common.

The small litter size and the small number of litters per year, together with action of natural predators mean that Glis Glis do not multiply out of control the way that rats and mice do. However, they are slowly extending the infested area and this will be aided if there is a tendency to warmer spring and summer weather.

As Glis Glis are regarded as pests, it is illegal for householders to release them back into the wild.

There are very strict laws about how Glis Glis must be caught and dispatched, everyone involved must work under strict Government license terms. Do not be tempted to control Glis Glis without recourse to a licence or a company working under such licence terms. Otherwise you may commit a criminal offence.

Please note that the terms of the licence is to kill the animals caught by specific means - it is illegal to remove them and release them alive in another area. It is thought that some of the spread of Glis Glis to other areas has been caused by well-meaning householders who have trapped Glis Glis and then, out of a mistaken sense of humane disposal have released them. Not only is this illegal but all this does is present the problem to someone else.

For advice from the regulatory body on edible dormice contact Natural England on 0854 6003078, or at www.naturalengland.org.uk. They will either assist you directly or put you in touch with your local Wildlife Management Adviser. Advisers can offer guidance to you over the telephone to ensure you do not contravene any legal methods of control.

Courtesy of www.dialapest.co.uk

MEETING PLACE AVAILABLE

Does your leisure group/voluntary organisation need premises for your regular meetings?

Edlesborough Methodist Church, centrally located on the corner of Cow Lane opposite The Green, has accommodation that might suit your purpose.

Please contact 01525 223093 for further details.

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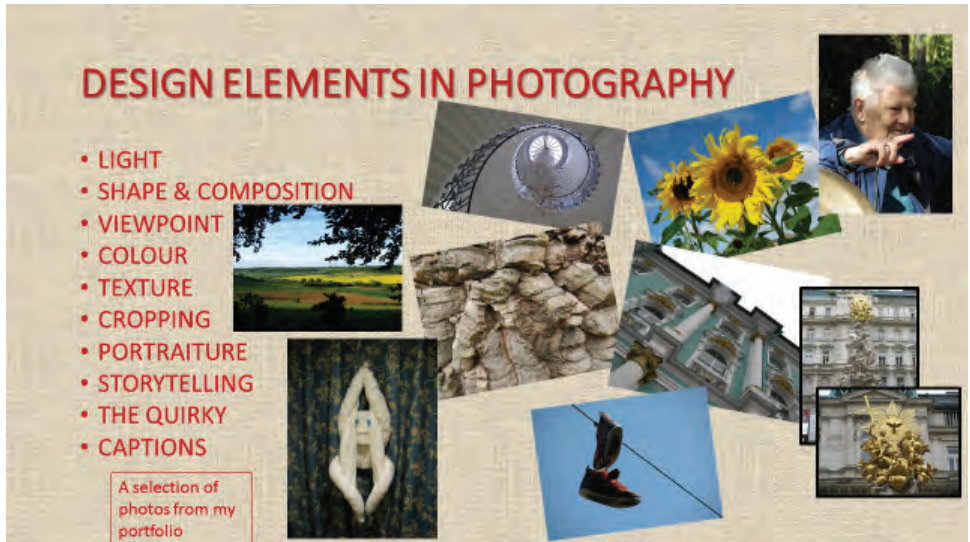
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Photography in Focus

John Hockey shares some tips

In this short series, I will attempt to share some tips which may make your photographs more interesting, fun and pleasing to the eye.

I intend to cover some of the topics shown below:



I am just an amateur photographer and I don't have any special equipment. Some of what I have learned is to do with creativity and some to do with basic 'rules' that seem to give a good result – though as we all know, rules are meant to be if not broken at least bent a little!

Most of us can and do take pictures - maybe on our phone, tablet or with a traditional camera and it really doesn't matter too much how sophisticated your equipment is. I once went to a brilliant presentation by a professional nature photographer and at the end someone asked him "What camera do you have?" His answer has stayed with me – he said "That is like going to your friend for a meal and saying, 'That meal was lovely – what cooker do you have?'" It is so much more about the ingredients and how you put them together, so maybe this 'photographic cookbook' will help!

LIGHT

The worst time to take a photograph is arguably when most people do – in the middle of the day. The best is probably early morning or evening time. Even so, sometimes the light can be attractive when it comes from the side. Here is an example of a garden in the Cotswolds (Bourton House) and the topiary is so



much more interesting when the picture has raking light because it makes the shadows much more intense.

Similarly, they say you should never take a photograph into the sun, but if you have the light source behind say the trunk of a tree, you can still get an interesting effect. This is the 8th hole at Whipsnade Park Golf Course.

You do not have to stray far from home to get interesting effects with light, interspersing an object between you and the light source. This is a patch of rhubarb on our allotment on the green, Edlesborough. OK, I did have to get down on the ground to get it, but I think the result is so much more interesting than a straight shot of a rhubarb leaf from above:



As I said, one of the best times to make good use of light can be in the evening and I was lucky enough to be moored up opposite the Parliament Building in Budapest a few years ago. We were at dinner, when they suddenly put the lights on the building, illuminating the lovely limestone façade of this impressive structure.

There was nothing else for it, I had to excuse myself from dinner, grab my camera and take the photograph – before dinner it was too bright, after dinner it would have been too dark. Sometimes you have to put yourself out a little to get a good shot and I hope you will agree it was worth it:

Next time: Shape and Composition



LOCAL HERALDRY

BY JOHN HOCKEY

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

BACK TO BASICS 2



Continuing to look at the full heraldic achievement for William, 1st Duke of Bedford, we now turn to the other important components, which are underlined:

Crest: On a wreath of the colours, a goat statant Argent armed, unguled and tufted Or

Meaning: A wreath or *torse* is a plait of (typically) two strands, interwoven to show the main metal and colour(s) used in the shield (here Argent and Gules). It rests on top of the helm, often securing the *mantling* in place (see below)

A goat *statant* is one simply standing on all fours

Armed means in this case the horns, *Unguled* means the hooves and *Tufted* refers to the 'beard'. They are all 'Or' or gold, always shown printed yellow

N.B. the crest is the device that sits on a wreath above the helmet. You should never refer to the whole shield or achievement as 'a family crest', this is quite wrong!

Mantling: Gules and Argent

Meaning: *Mantling* refers to the fabric waving about behind the helmet (sometimes irreverently called seaweed!) and the main colour and metal are described, sometimes blazoned (e.g.) Gules *doubled* Argent

Supporters: Dexter, a lion rampant Gules gorged with a collar Argent charged with three escallops Sable

Sinister, a goat salient Argent armed, unguled and tufted Or

Meaning: *gorged* simply means a collar.

Salient means similar to rampant but with both back feet on the ground, rather than just one.

The grass that the supporters are standing on is termed a *compartment*

Motto: Che Sara Sara

Meaning: Often (if used) a scroll upon which is written a saying chosen by the family – in this case it means 'What will be will be'

A motto is not included in the Grant of Arms given by the College of Arms, but is often used by family members to indicate some key maxim or family quality they are happy to subscribe to.

This concludes the look at some specific terms associated with coats of arms.

Next time: Sir Giles Argentinein – Dunstable tournament Warrior!

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Otters: Watch Your Ponds!

Information Courtesy of The Mammal Society

An otter can be recognised by its brown fur, often pale on underside; long slender body; small ears; long thick tail; webbed feet; swims very low in the water, head and back barely showing. They can live to be up to ten years old, though few survive more than five years.



The otter is a secretive semi-aquatic species which was once widespread in Britain. By the 1970s, otters were restricted mainly to Scotland, especially the islands and the north-west coast, western Wales, parts of East Anglia and the West Country (though they remained common and widespread also in Ireland). This decline was caused by organo-chlorine pesticides. Since these were withdrawn from use, otters have been spreading back into many areas, especially in northern and western England.



Otter distribution (in green), taken from 'Britain's Mammals 2018: The Mammal Society's Guide to their Population and Conservation Status.

Otters can travel over large areas. Some are known to use 20 kilometres or more of river habitat. Otters deposit faeces (known as spraints, with a characteristic sweet musky odour) in prominent places around their ranges. These serve to mark an otter's range, defending its territory but also helping neighbours keep in social contact with one another. Females with cubs reduce sprainting to avoid detection.

They feed on fish, especially eels and salmonids are eaten, and crayfish at certain times of the year. Coastal otters in Shetland eat bottom-living species such as eelpout, rockling and butterfish. Otters occasionally take water birds such as coots, moorhens and ducks. In the spring, frogs are an important food item.

In England and Wales otter cubs, usually in litters of two or three, can be born at any time of the year. In Shetland and North-west Scotland most births occur in summer. Cubs are normally born in dens, called holts, which can be in a tree root system, a hole in a bank or under a pile of rocks. About 10 weeks elapse before cubs venture out of the holt with their mother, who raises the cubs without help from the male.

Otters are strictly protected by the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) and cannot be killed, kept or sold (even stuffed specimens) except under licence. In the late 1950s and early 1960s otters underwent a sudden and catastrophic decline throughout much of Britain and Europe. The cause was probably the combined effects of pollution and habitat destruction,



Otter footprints (5-7cm in width, 6-9cm in length)

particularly the drainage of wet areas. Otters require clean rivers with an abundant, varied supply of food and plenty of bank-side vegetation offering secluded sites for their holts. Riversides often lack the appropriate cover for otters to lie up during the day. Such areas can be made more attractive to otters by establishing "otter havens", where river banks are planted-up and kept free from human disturbance. Marshes may also be very important habitat, for raising young and as a source of frogs.



Otter droppings

While otters completely disappeared from the rivers of most of central and southern England in just 50 years, their future now looks much brighter. There is evidence that in certain parts of the UK the otter is extending its range and may be increasing locally. Otter populations in England are very fragmented and the animals breed only slowly. Attempts have been made to reintroduce otters to their former haunts, by reintroducing captive bred and rehabilitated animals, with some attempts proving very successful.

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 and your plans feel like a curse
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 and a bath feels like you'll drown
 if you haven't washed your hair for days
 don't throw away your crown
 a day is not a lifetime
 a rest is not defeat
 don't think of it as failure
 just a quiet, kind retreat
 it's ok to take a moment
 from an anxious, fractured mind
 the world will not stop turning
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 you can climb it in your own time
 just love yourself til then

By Laura Ding-Edwards
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We Give Thanks

Over the last 3 to 4 months we have spent a lot of time, thought and discussion about the deadly Coronavirus, named Covid-19. A real concern of course with so many world-wide deaths.



For us the ability of the NHS to cope has been at the forefront of our minds and as we recover slowly from the pandemic, back to some sort of 'normality' I began to think about all the Bible has to say about doctors and healing.

Many of the references acknowledge that it's not just physical suffering that needs healing. Proverbs 17 verse 22 says 'A joyful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones.' And referring to sickness Mark 1: verse 29 records Jesus himself healing Simon's mother-in-law of a high fever.

Luke, who wrote a history of Jesus life and teaching in his Gospel, as well as the Acts of the Apostles, was believed to be a Physician or Doctor. These are some of the most informative writings in the Bible, detailing both Jesus healing but also the healing gifts passed on to the disciples and how they healed the sick through the power of the Holy Spirit.



Soon after Jesus death, resurrection and ascension, Peter and John were going to the temple to pray and met a crippled beggar. He asked Peter and John for money. He was told to look at Peter and John, so it's probable that he was hanging his head in shame. He did as he was told, giving them his full attention, expecting to get something. Many would have passed

him by, as he had experienced many times having been taken there daily. Peter said that he had no money but gave him complete healing in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth. So overcome he was that went into the Temple, probably for the first time, thanking and praising God.

Many thanks have rightly been given to the Carers, Doctors and Nurses. Have we forgotten to give thanks to God for the healing of so many?

Our Sunday services, are now also on Zoom at 11 am. If you come and join in the worship, music and song, you'll get a very warm welcome. Just contact us through the website (details below) for instructions on how to join us or ring the number below. If you don't have a

computer with video and sound, you can still listen in and speak using a landline or mobile. For those interested in the history of Northall Baptist Church, a free copy of the booklet, Rebels in Green Pastures can be supplied or downloaded from our website: <http://northallbaptistchurch.org/>

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Bed, Bucks & Herts Women's Adventure Group (Love Her Wild)



We are a private Facebook group numbering in excess of 200 women who either live, work or adventure within the 3 Counties of Beds, Bucks or Herts.

We've been operating for approx 18 months & now have a number of successful events, missions & adventures under our belts - all events are Free to attend or a donation to charity has been suggested.

The aim of the group is to inspire & extend opportunities for like minded, curious, adventure seeking women to be inspired, feel supported & celebrate achievements.

We're not after insta perfect content (though we'd appreciate & applaud you none the less) it's more about sharing info, ideas, places & things to do.

Epic adventures are not a condition of membership either - let's face it just venturing beyond our own properties has been a challenge we're all facing.

Recently we've extended our Beds coverage to include Bucks & Herts, as you'll know, geographically we are ideally based for easy access to all 3 counties.

Currently our events are on a mini scale (strictly following social distancing guidelines) we've been scouting new routes. I'm privileged to have been invited to back mark future walks led by my fellow members - navigation workshop anyone?

By the time this gets to print Alison & I shall have lots of ideas to hopefully inspire other local women to get connected. So women of all abilities, experience, fitness level & age why not join our group? Become inspired, feel supported, sign up for events, ask questions, suggest places to explore & share your stories & experiences. We'd love to welcome you outside ... from a distance (for now)



Like to find out more? Inspired to join us?

Please be sure to read the details below - if you have any further questions please feel free to message us via <https://www.facebook.com/groups/300766337442426/?ref=share> We operate independently as local group within Love Her Wild (UK) adventure community providing inspiration and opportunities to help ordinary women lead extraordinary lives. You can find out more about what we do and the adventures we have coming up on - www.LoveHerWild.com

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/404494083232320/?ref=share>

A few important notices about the group:

Love Her Wild is a supportive and non judgemental environment so please keep posts friendly and non-offensive

Advertisements or links to blogs or fundraising pages are not allowed. We want this space to be kept for sharing your adventures, asking for advice or organising meet ups. By attending get togethers organised by local groups, you are responsible for your own safety and agree to the below Disclaimer.

DISCLAIMER

It is very important that you recognise that these local get togethers are put together by volunteers and are not official Love Her Wild events which can be found on the 'adventures' page on our website - www.loveherwild.com. Therefore before attending a Love Her Wild local meet up organised via this group or it's corresponding WhatsApp group, you are required to read the following and are immediately agreeing to the terms and conditions in this disclaimer:

1. Participating in a Love Her Wild local meet up is entirely at your own risk
2. Participants must be 18 years or over to attend
3. It is the participants responsibility to ensure that their fitness level is within their capabilities, accounting for any medical conditions
4. Love Her Wild is not responsible for any loss or damage of items brought to a Love Her Wild meet up
5. Love Her Wild meet ups are free to attend and are run by volunteers. There should be no exchange or services or payment for participating in these activities.
6. If participants feel there the groups are being abused this should be reported immediately to - bex@loveherwild.com
7. Love Her Wild and it's volunteers will not be liable for (i) indirect or consequential loss or damage suffered by participants (ii) loss or damage of property (iii) for loss or damage of any kind, however arising and whether caused by tort (including negligence), breach of contract, misrepresentation or otherwise.

Note that your organisers or professional photographers may take photos and films during your activity to share on Love Her Wild's website and wider social media groups. By attending you agree to being photographed or filmed and for the images to be used, published and/or made the subject of property rights by Love Her Wild or third parties.



Councillors Now Have Extra Cash to Help their Communities

Councillors at Central Bedfordshire Council are to be given extra funding so that they help local groups in their area affected by the impact of COVID-19.

Each year, as part of the Ward Councillor Grant Scheme, Councillors are given £2000 which they can allocate to groups in their area which aim to improve the lives of local people.

At a meeting on Tuesday 16 June the Council's Executive agreed a proposal to extend the existing Ward Councillor Grant Scheme and allocate an additional £1000 to each Ward Councillor. This is to enable them to support local groups that are dealing with the direct consequences of the current public health emergency. Unlike the existing scheme, bids for the additional funds do not require match funding.

Executive Member with responsibility for Communities, Cllr Tracey Stock explains: "Many local voluntary and community groups, both new and well established, have stepped up to help as part

of their response to the pandemic, playing a phenomenal role in their parishes, villages and towns. This will undoubtedly have put pressure on their resources which is why we want to help them.

“Local councillors know their area best and are well placed to spend the money where it will make the most difference.

“For some groups a small grant can make a big difference to how they make it through this pandemic.”

If you run a local group in your community and want to approach your local ward councillor, you can find details on the council’s website centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/grants

Help keep our pathways clear across Central Bedfordshire

We must all continue to control the spread of coronavirus by washing our hands, wearing masks on public transport, and of course, observing social distancing.

The easing of the lockdown restrictions continues but the need to maintain social distancing presents challenges. Central Bedfordshire Council have been working with schools to re-open safely, preparing for non-essential shops to re-open, and keeping pathways clear to help provide more space, to ensure a 2-metre distance, where possible.

To help with this the council has been placing social distancing signs in town centres and outside schools, removing excess street furniture including bollards, bins and benches and cutting back vegetation to make pathways wider and clear of any obstructions. If residents see somewhere on the public highway that needs some urgent attention they can report it by emailing traffic.consultation@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk.

Residents can help too, by removing bins from outside their property as soon as possible after they have been emptied. By cutting back any bushes or hedges on their property growing over public pathways and to always park their vehicle considerately.

There are likely to be areas where it may be difficult for residents to pass each other or queue taking account of social distancing, local authorities have been given emergency powers to help address this. These powers mean that the council can make changes to the highway or a public space to support local businesses to open and to protect customer safety.

An example of this has been established in Leighton Buzzard High Street, where a temporary closure has been put in place to pedestrianise the High Street to aid social distancing and safety. The council will be monitoring social distancing in town centres over the next few weeks to see if changes are needed elsewhere.

Councillor Ian Dalgarno, Central Bedfordshire Council Executive Member for Community Services, said: “We are doing everything we can to support our residents to social distance and ensure they can move around safely.

“We would like encourage the public to help with this by making sure our pavements are fully usable. This could mean cutting back overhanging vegetation, avoiding inconsiderate parking and keeping bins off the footpaths as soon as possible after being emptied. We would like to remind residents to check for any active birds’ nests before undertaking any bush or hedge trimming.”

“We are already seeing a lot of residents being considerate and helping to achieve this goal, but there is more that we can all do to continue to keep ourselves and others safe.”





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Where: Edlesborough Memorial Hall

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

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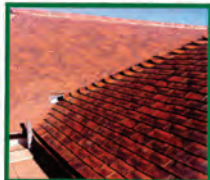
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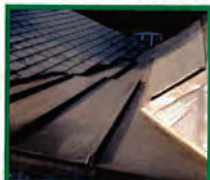
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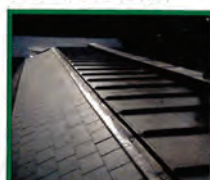
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Ofsted Comments

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Edlesborough Baptist Church

Pastor: Alister King
gbcepastor@gmail.com
07572 395687

Weekly Activities

Sunday Services

11am Morning Worship
6.00pm Evening Worship

2nd Monday

2.30pm SilverLink for over 60s

Wednesday

10am (term time) Caterpillars Toddler Group
7.30pm LIFE Groups
(ring for details and to confirm venue)

Find us on Facebook @gbce2014

The Salvation Army Booth Place



Sunday

Footprints (Sunday School) 9.45 - 10.45am
(Term time only)
Morning Worship 11am

Tuesday

Coffee Morning 10 - 11.30am
(Alternate weeks)

Wednesday

Home League 2.30 - 3.30pm
(Ladies meeting but all welcome)
Champion's Club (Term time only)
5.30-6.30pm (Ages 5 to Year 5)
6.45-7.45pm (Year 6 and above)

Thursday

Girls' Night Out
(1st Thursday of the month) 7.45pm
Ladies Fellowship
(Last Thursday of the month) 7.30pm

**For further details please contact us on
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eaton.bray@salvationarmy.org.uk**



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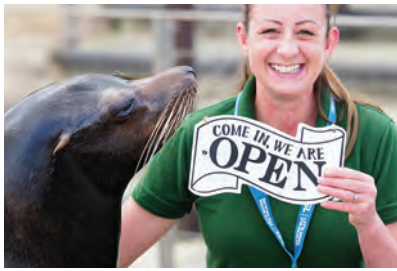


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ZSL Whipsnade Zoo's Sea Lions Celebrate Reopening

The sealions at ZSL Whipsnade Zoo have been making sure everyone knows the UK's largest zoo is now open. Zookeepers bought a special sign to make it clear for all that the 600-acre Zoo is open once again.

The famous Bedfordshire zoo has been closed since March 21 due to COVID-19 but is ready and raring to safely welcome

people back on site, following the government's announcement on Wednesday 10 June.

Whipsnade's sealions have starred in Facebook Live broadcasts hosted by zookeeper Alex Pinnell, as part of a series of virtual events to fundraise for the zoo during closure and keep the Zoo's members and supporters up to date.

Alex Pinnell said: "The sealions have played a huge part in keeping our members and supporters close to us while we've been closed, and we're all so excited to finally see them all in person.

"The sign we shared with the sealions' exhibit today is something new for them to investigate, and a fun way for us to say loud and clear – we're open!

"I love ZSL Whipsnade Zoo, and have never been more proud to work here than I have in recent months; it's been a worrying time for us all but we've all come together and worked so hard to adapt the zoo experience; making sure everything is safe for our visitors so they can enjoy a wonderful day out with our animals.

"The support has been amazing and there was a huge demand for tickets when they first went on sale - the website was a bit overwhelmed by the traffic; but it's up and running again now, so please do visit www.zsl.org"

Regular visitors will notice some changes to their usual Zoo visit, including a one-way route around the zoo, extra hand sanitiser stations, contactless entry points and takeaway-only service from the zoo's restaurants. Floor markings will clearly indicate two-metre distancing, while indoor exhibits including the Butterfly House and Aquarium will remain closed in order to comply with guidelines.

The Zoo will be releasing 3,000 tickets per day for visitors, and tickets must be pre-booked. Find out more and book tickets online at www.zsl.org



ZSL Whipsnade Zoo Reopened on Monday 15 June

UK's largest zoo releases 3,000 'social distancing' tickets per day for visitors

ZSL Whipsnade Zoo's resident animals are fluffing up their feathers and stretching their legs as they prepare to swing open the gates on Monday 15 June and welcome visitors back after three months of closure.

The UK's largest Zoo is now set to welcome up to 3,000 pre-booked ticket holders per day via www.zsl.org, and let visitors reconnect with the wonders of wildlife and nature after lockdown.

Run by international conservation charity ZSL, Whipsnade Zoo is home to hundreds of threatened species, many of which are part of international conservation breeding programmes including Asian elephants, white rhinos, sloth bears and Amur tigers.

Visitors will be able to get their first glimpse of the adorable new-borns that the Zoo welcomed during

lockdown, including 14 extinct-in-the-wild Pere David Deer fawns, a Yak calf named Ginny, five wild boar piglets and a newly-hatched wattled crane.

ZSL Whipsnade Zoo Chief Operating Officer, Owen Craft said; “We are so excited to welcome visitors back to ZSL Whipsnade Zoo, and see people interacting with our animals once again.

“We know that people have missed us, and we’ve certainly missed them. We are looking forward to welcoming our members, neighbours and wildlife-lovers alike back to our nature haven. Families will be able to explore our vast park, breathe in fresh air and let the kids explore nature safely.”

HM Lord-Lieutenant of Bedfordshire Helen Nellis said; “I am so delighted to hear that Whipsnade Zoo, a jewel in the crown of Bedfordshire, will open its doors once again to the public. It makes me smile to think of families wandering through the vast acres of Whipsnade and enjoying engaging with the splendid animals that live there.

“The Elephant House, opened by HM The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh, not so long ago, is just one of my personal favourites. My own family have spent many happy days over the years in this remarkable place and I wish you well as you welcome everyone back to enjoy this special treat”.

Situated on the Chiltern Hills, ZSL Whipsnade Zoo is a vast 600-acres nature haven, while visitors can enjoy their day on foot the Zoo, they can also drive across visiting the resident animals along the way.

Regular visitors will notice some changes to their usual Zoo visit, as the Zoo has worked hard to ensure its visitors can maintain social distancing and enjoy a safe day out, including using contactless entry points and takeaway service only from the zoo’s popular restaurants.

Mr Craft added: “We’ve been working hard on adaptations across the 600-acre site to ensure all our visitors can enjoy their day safely. We’ve added floor markings to clearly indicate two metres and will be allowing entry only to those who have pre-booked so that we can manage numbers.”

Indoor exhibits including the Butterfly House and Aquarium will remain closed in order to comply with social distancing guidelines, and visitors will be encouraged to maintain the recommended space from other guests while visiting the Zoo. There will be increased handwashing facilities restrooms will be open with a new queuing system, while picnic benches will be cleaned regularly to ensure visitors can enjoy a relaxing picnic during their visit.

Mr Craft continued: “Although we are able to allow limited visitors back to our Zoo we are still working hard to recover the income lost during the closure.

“We’ve been overawed by the loyalty and support shown to us during lockdown, and we ask that



people continue to help us once we reopen – be that by purchasing an annual membership, doing their own fundraising challenge or making a donation, it all helps fund our science and conservation work and ensures our remarkable Zoo continues to preserve and care for precious wildlife.”

The Zoo will be releasing 3000 tickets per day for visitors. To learn more or to book tickets online to visit ZSL Whipsnade Zoo from Monday 15 June visit www.zsl.org

Dagnall Weather Station (AONB)

Weather Conditions for May 2020

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

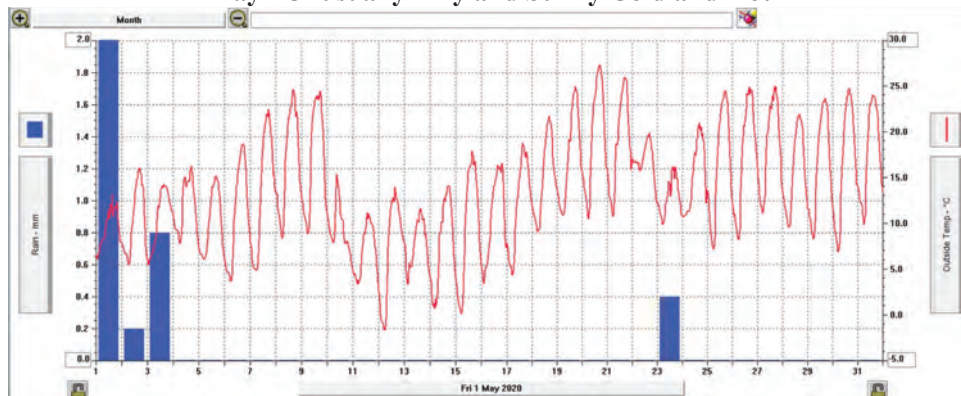


May started off with sunshine and light showers. But, by the 4th, we were into dry weather as high pressure arrived and the temperature rose. This lasted until the 9th when, by 6am, it had dropped to -1.7°C , which is very unusual for May and caused much damage to plants in the garden. We often get frost in May – when the temperature drops as dawn breaks – but this was unusual because it was cold enough for frost at midnight and didn't warm up until 7.30am. The month continued to be cool until the 15th when hot conditions zoomed in and the thermometer hit 27.7°C on the 20th. It stayed extra warm and sunny until the end of the month.

May certainly experienced some extremes of temperatures, but perhaps the most notable aspect was how dry it was. We only had 3.4mm ($\frac{1}{8}$ inch) of rain, which is 5% of the May average for the last twelve years. Even then, it was so hot that all of the moisture evaporated. Our wettest day was the 1st of May with only 2mm. All of which made for an exciting month for weather watchers like me.

	High	Date/Time	Low	Date/Time
Temperature:	27.7°C	20 May 17.00	- 1.7°C	12 May 05.30
Mean Temperature	13.5°C			
Dewpoint:	14.7 c	27 May 16.30	-3.0°C	12 May 5.30
Humidity:	94%	7 May 07.00	27%	29 May 17.00
Barometer:	1035.5mb	26 May 08.30	994.7 mb	1 May 02.00
Wind Speed	36 mph W	23 May 14.00	Months avg.	4.9 mph
Wind Chill:	27.2°C SW	20 May 16.00	- 1.7°C	12 May 05.30
Dominant Wind:	SSE			
Rainfall *T= total rain days and moisture. R= Actual rain				
*Rain Days: 4(T), 4(R)		Wettest Day 1st	2.0 mm	0.078ins
Monthly Rain:	Total	May 2020	3.4 mm	0.133 ins
Yearly Rain:	Total	3 Month	321.6 mm	12.661ins

May - Unusually Dry and Sunny Cold and Hot



For weather data 24 hours a day, updated every 15mins, visit: www.dagnallweather.co.uk. If anyone has a question, comment or wishes to contact me please email: david@dagnallweather.co.uk or telephone: 01442 843883. 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.

If I had only known
in March it would
have been my last
time in a restaurant,
I would have
ordered dessert



Im sooo bored? I
went outside and
knocked on my
own door, then
came back in and
said who is it 🤪🤪

**Never in my whole
life would
I imagine my hands
would consume
more alcohol than
my mouth!!**



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There is a gap in your resume...
What were you doing in 2020?

I was washing my hands...

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Dear Reader

I expect you have had all sorts of experiences during these 'shutdown months. One of the programs on the TV I have watched with interest is 'The Repair Shop'. It's about deciding to do something about a precious but broken article that you feel must be repaired. Having left it with the experts they return later and are bowled over emotionally by the result. Some with tears in their eyes try to explain the love which was shown to them by love-ones.

Have you ever stopped to think how God loves you? It sounds quite incredible, and yet its true. Nothing on this earth or in the heavens above is as sure and certain as Gods love.

O it's as high as the sky and its as deep as the sea, and it's as wide as the world, God's love for you and me. We can't escape his love, or take ourselves out of his care, so where could we hide from his love? His love is everywhere. Everything is changing in the world today, there's one thing reliable in every way, other things may alter but its' clear and plain that the love of God is just the same.

Wider than the human mind can realise, his love is unlimited and never dies; Though we don't deserve it, every day its new; That's the love of God for me and you.

Salvation Army Song Book No.29

Have you grown away from God? You have now the time to think about it. Let him come close to you.

Bob.

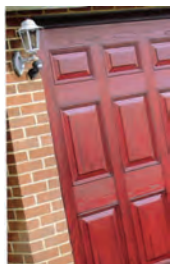


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