

FOCUS



February 2021

**The local village magazine just for Us!
Eaton Bray, Edlesborough, Northall & Dagnall
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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
01525 222087 or email
eaton.bray@salvationarmy.org.uk**

**NORTHALL BAPTIST
CHAPEL**

Chapel Lane, Northall

(just beyond the 30 speed limit signs on
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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.

**The Focus Magazine
Committee**

Editor: Sally Siddons

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10th of the month

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accuracy or content of any advertising or articles
published in 'this' magazine, neither do they
reflect the opinion of members of the Committee.*

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reproduced without permission.*

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

Kindly Note

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

✍️ Editor

Focus is online at www.thefocusmagazine.co.uk

Village Diary



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 Primary Academy, 01525 220431, epamanager@epa-primary.org
- 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, 10-11 am, 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 jtptinfo@gmail.com
- Tuesdays Coffee Morning, Bring & Buy, Table Top Sale, 10-12noon, Salvation Army Hall, Booth Place, Eaton Bray
- Fortnightly Pilates, 8pm, Northall Village Hall, Lisa: 07832 230774
- Wednesdays Northall & District Age Concern Wednesday Club, 10am - 3pm, Northall Village Hall, Contact Anna on 07854 230243
- Wednesdays Caterpillars Baby and Toddler Group 10am to 11:30am, Grace Baptist Church, Moor End, Edlesborough, £1 per family unit, Contact Alister 07572 395687
- (term time) Pilates 6.45 & 7.45pm, Dagnall Village Hall, Andrea andrea@naturalpilates.co.uk or 07855 138005
- 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 jtptinfo@gmail.com
- Thursdays Eaton Bray Methodist Church Social Afternoons, 2 - 4pm, All Welcome

Please get in touch with the relevant organisation to check if sessions are running

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, (10½ to 14 years old), 7.00-8.30pm, 1st Eaton Bray & Edlesborough Scout Hut, High Street, Edlesborough. Contact Mark Owen, ebescoutleader@ebescouts.co.uk, 07899 892344
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

Please get in touch with the relevant organisation to check if sessions are running

Dear Focus Business Advertisers

Thank you for your support which enables us to deliver a full colour magazine to the four villages each month which keeps residents up to date with local information and, in 'non-covid' times, events in the villages.

Dear Readers

We hope that you enjoy your February edition of Focus.

When you are looking for businesses and services please check the advertisers in the magazine to support a local business whenever possible.

Sally Taylor and Angela Dunford
Advertising Managers

February Edition of Focus Online only

Covid 19 has affected us all in so many ways since last March. Due to government guidelines to stay at home we have sadly taken the decision not to print February's edition, and only provide an online version at **www.thefocusmagazine.co.uk**.

In order to maintain our 10 editions for 2021 we will print editions for August and September separately which normally we would combine together.

We really hope to move forward and print the March edition, but realistically it all depends on guidelines from the government.

Alan Brook

Pat, Robert and Simon Brook would like to say a big thank you for all the cards and kindness shown to us during the last two years of Alans life.

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: Bev Way 07875 462128 & 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...

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General Assistance (Recommended Number): 101 Emergency: 999

Bedfordshire Police (Eaton Bray)

Leighton Buzzard Police Station/Kathryn Horgan: 01582 473411

Typetalk: 18001 01582 473418

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

Thames Valley Police (Edlesborough, Dagnall & Northall)

PCSO Jackie Dodson

Email: greatbrickhillwingivinghoenhpt@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 & Munns Farm Shop

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)

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We help people of Eaton Bray and adjacent villages

Eaton Bray with Edlesborough

Parish News

Vicar: Rev'd Joy Cousans

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

February can seem like a dismal time of year as we are in the midst of the dark days of winter. This year in particular we are faced with the added challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic, another lockdown and all the stresses and difficulties associated with that. On February 2nd the church celebrates the festival of Candlemas which is considered to be one of the oldest Christian festivals. Candlemas celebrates the light that comes to banish the darkness.

As with many Christian festivals, Candlemas takes place at a time when ancient pre-Christian ceremonies occurred. 2nd February marks the mid-point between the shortest day of the year and the spring equinox, as it falls halfway through winter. Some traditions say that the weather on Candlemas day predicts the weather for the rest of the winter as this old rhyme outlines:

If Candlemas Day be dry and fair,
The half of winter's to come and mair.
If Candlemas day be wet and foul,
The half of winter's gone at Yule.

There was an old custom that on this day, hedgehogs would come out of hibernation to judge the quality of the weather. When the first settlers travelled to America, they took this custom with them, except there were no hedgehogs. Instead, there were groundhogs. So in the USA, 2nd February is known as 'Groundhog Day'.

Candlemas takes its name from the Festival day – or mass- of the candles. It was the day when people brought all the candles to be used throughout the year to church to be blessed. Some people thought that candles provided protection against plague, illness and famine. They were asking God's protection on their homes and families for the coming year. Clergy would bless the candles and give them to the people. In the middle of a cold, dark winter the lights of Candlemas were placed in every window to remind people of the light of Christ shining in the darkness, bringing hope in the midst of uncertain times.

There is a wonderful passage at the beginning of John's Gospel where he writes about how Jesus came to be a light in the darkness of this world and to shine out as a sign of God's presence among us. 'The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.' (John chapter 1 verse 9) You may recognise these words from the final reading in the Carol Service. At Candlemas, the lights which people were to use in their homes were blessed in church as a reminder of the light of Christ which would be with them at home as well as in church. Whether or not we associate light with anything or anyone in particular, we all need the hope of some light to come in our present situation. Some are dealing with difficult and painful issues, like the illness of a loved

one, a bereavement, mental health concerns or financial worries. The rollout of a vaccination programme offers hope that we may be able one day to return to our normal way of life. In the meantime, let us remember that there is light, there is hope and that God is with us.

Wishing you God's blessings

☞ Joy, Vicar of Eaton Bray with Edlesborough



Services at St Mary's Church

SUNDAYS : 10.00am PARISH HOLY COMMUNION

On Third Sunday of each month:

10.00am – WORSHIP FOR EVERYONE a shorter, less formal service. (For anyone wishing to attend a service of Holy Communion 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.

NO SERVICES AT PRESENT, PLEASE CHECK WEBSITE FOR UP TO DATE

DETAILS: www.stmaryseatonbray.org.uk

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 us at admin@stmaryseatonbray.org.uk in this regard.

Dagnall Church Services



The All Saint's Dagnall Sunday service is at 10.30am on the 3rd Sunday of each month only. All welcome.

No services at present, please check website for up to date details: www.stmaryseatonbray.org.uk

Any queries please contact Phillip Lee on
07977234453.

Dagnall Church, Ringshall Road HP4 1RL

St Mary's 100 Club

The lucky prize-winners are:

November 2020

1st prize – Rachel McVeigh

2nd prize – Greg Baker

3rd prize – Patricia Costin

December 2020

1st prize – Jennifer Maxwell

2nd prize – Geoffrey Wheeler

3rd prize – Jennifer Hewett

Iris Elizabeth Fountain

Iris Elizabeth Fountain died peacefully on 4th January 2021 aged 91. Iris had lived in Edlesborough since the 1950s and for all her married life. Happily married to Maurice (Mick) Fountain for 47 years she was a well known figure throughout Edlesborough and Eaton Bray and a long standing member of Edlesborough Methodist Chapel.

Iris will be sadly missed by her family and friends.

A small Covid secure service for immediate family only to be held at Edlesborough Methodist Chapel on 21.1.21 followed by burial at Edlesborough Church Yard. Any donations that anyone would care to make should be to the Keech Hospice via Neville Funeral Services web site.



Dunstable Foodbank
c/o Christ Church
West Street
Dunstable

Dunstable Foodbank

Dunstable foodbank is here to supply emergency food parcels to individuals and families who live in LU5 and LU6 postcodes who cannot afford food.

Conventionally clients are referred to us by a number of agencies, but many are not operating normally in the Covid crisis.

People needing our help can approach Dunstable Citizens Advice - telephone numbers:

01582 670003 or 07367 457834.

Alternatively, we can be contacted directly by email: info@dunstablefoodbank.org.uk or telephone:

07874 200056.

It can be difficult for clients living in the villages to collect food from one of our distribution centres in Dunstable or Houghton Regis. We do have a delivery service that currently operates on Wednesdays and Fridays, although if demand increases we will add extra days.

We remain very grateful for the continued support of our volunteers and donors in this increasingly busy time.

Mike Pittam

Operations Manager Dunstable foodbank



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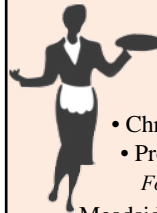
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St Mary's Village Carnival 2021

This is a letter that I didn't think I would be writing until next year but sadly my circumstances have changed and, as a result, I have found it necessary, after 31 years' service, to step down from the Carnival Committee.

It had been my intention that 2021 would be my last year as Chairman of the Carnival Committee but on 3 January I suffered a minor stroke that has enabled me to reacquaint myself with doctors for the first time in around 35 years. I am told that, fortunately, I should be safe once I have a stable medication plan and as long as I take things easy.

So I want to take this opportunity to say "Thank you" to everyone who has supported the Carnival (and me) over the years. And, most importantly, to introduce you to the next Carnival Chairman, Mark Kilfoyle (left), trusting that residents, businesses and organisations will give him plenty of help and support this year.



So, yes, It is our intention to hold a Carnival once again this summer, on 3rd July subject of course to the success of the vaccine roll-out. It may look a little different this year but hopefully we can all take advantage of a pleasant summer's afternoon and businesses can have a stall to help them reconnect with their customers.

✍ Gordon Gray



EDLESBOROUGH METHODIST CHURCH BRENDA SHIELDS AND IRIS FOUNTAIN

The church family are greatly saddened to have lost two of our longest serving members in a short space of time.

Brenda died suddenly just after Christmas and Iris just after New Year.

Brenda had worshipped at Edlesborough for over forty years and Iris for over sixty.

Brenda was Church Steward for more than thirty of those years and Iris will be remembered by many village families as Sunday School Superintendent for more than forty years. Iris also worked tirelessly as Cradle Roll Secretary and JMA secretary.

Brenda and Iris were known by many other churches and denominations throughout the villages and the wider church circuit.

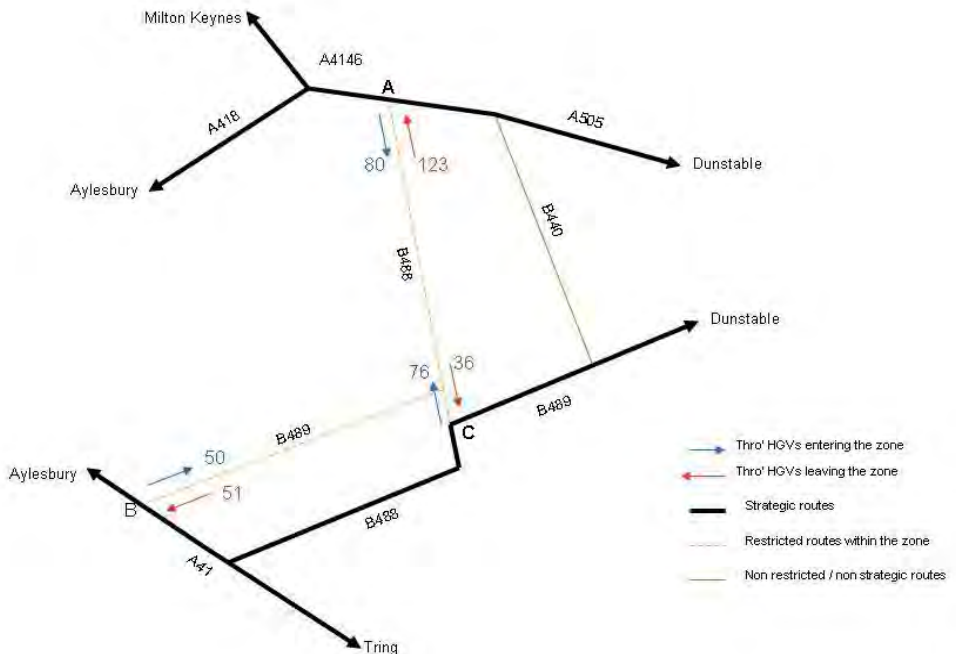
The absence of both from church life and family and friends lives will be felt keenly.



Edlesborough Parish Council

The Case Against the Proposed Ivinghoe Area Freight Zone

Buckinghamshire Council are proposing to introduce a freight zone excluding HGVs from using the roads within an area bounded by the A418, A41, B488 and the B440, unless they are delivering or collecting within the zone. This is to reduce the number of lorries rat running through the villages of Ivinghoe, Cheddington and Mentmore. Unfortunately this would result in an increase in the number of HGVs using the B440. The justification for the proposed freight zone is a traffic survey carried out in November 2019 which established the number of HGV vehicles passing through the proposed zone in a week, that were not stopping to collect or deliver within the zone itself. The study demonstrated that there are currently two main HGV routes through the proposed freight zone, and they are between points A & B and points A & C on the following sketch.



A total of 254 HGVs were recorded passing through the entire proposed freight zone of which 203 (80%) used the northern stretch of the B488 between Ivinghoe and Grove, entering or leaving at point A.

Of those 203 through vehicles, approximately half also used the western stretch of the B489 between Ivinghoe and Buckland, entering or leaving at point B and the remainder used the continuation of the B488 through Ivinghoe to enter or leave at point C.

It is very evident therefore that the principal beneficiary of the proposed freight zone

would be the northern stretch of the B488 (a reduction just over 200 vehicles), and to a lesser extent the western stretch of the B489 (a reduction of approximately 100 vehicles). The assumption being made by the proposers of the freight zone is that all the traffic between points A & C would use the A418 and A41 via Aylesbury, and all that between points A & B would use the A418, A41 and B488 again via Aylesbury. **THAT WILL JUST NOT HAPPEN.**

Traffic will always find the shortest route. The majority (if not all) of the traffic currently using the northern stretch of the B488 will simply divert to the A4146, B440 and the B489 to reach point C and to the A4146, B440, B489, B488 and A41 to reach point B. The distances between the points using the A418 route and the B440 route are shown in the following table:

	A418 Route	B440 Route
Between Points A & B	13.5 miles	12.8 miles
Between Points A & C	19.1 miles	8.4 miles

It is accepted that there is little difference between the two alternative routes between points A & B and that some vehicles may choose the slightly longer A418 route in preference to the B440 one, especially if they are travelling to or from the Milton Keynes direction. However, it is estimated that at least half would use the B440 route and probably more

It therefore follows that the introduction of the freight zone would simply transfer somewhere between 60% and 80% of the HGVs currently passing through the entire zone onto the B440. Whilst this would clearly benefit the B488 which is unsuitable as an HGV route, transferring that traffic onto the equally unsuitable B440 through the villages of Edlesborough, Northall and Billington is not an acceptable solution to the problem. Consideration needs to be given to including the B440 in the proposed freight zone.

Buckinghamshire Council has been notified of Edlesborough Parish Council's concerns regarding the impact of the proposed restriction zone on the B440, but after consideration, they advise that they will not be including it within the zone. They also advise that they intend progressing to the statutory public consultation, commencing mid to late February, prior to the introduction of the scheme. Residents are therefore encouraged to look out for the forthcoming consultation on the Buckinghamshire Council website and write in supporting Edlesborough Parish Council's proposal for the B440 to be included in the proposed freight zone.

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EATON BRAY PARISH COUNCIL



Focus Report October - December 2020

A full/detailed copy of the minutes for Eaton Bray Parish Council can be found on our website.
A hard copy of the minutes can also be viewed on the Parish Council's notice board at The Coffee Tavern.

TO ALLOTMENT HOLDERS:

REMINDER - ALLOTMENT RENEWAL 2020-2021

Final deadline for outstanding allotment payments is Monday 1st February 2021. Failure to forward payment by this date will result in the release of your allotment plot. Payment can be made by cheque (payable to Eaton Bray Parish Council) or cash to the parish office. Alternatively make payment through on-line banking - if this is your chosen method please email the Parish Clerk for further details.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS

Due to social distancing measures, until further notice, all Parish Council Meetings will be held remotely, all are invited to join the meeting through the ZOOM link provided on the EBPC website, www.ebpc.co.uk

ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON

Cllr Marie Brewer was elected as Chairperson and Cllr Mark Tomkins elected as vice-Chairperson of Eaton Bray Parish Council.

NEW PARISH COUNCILLOR

The Parish Council were pleased to co-opt and welcome Cllr James Melzack and Cllr Kathy Ellison onto Eaton Bray Parish Council.

CBC CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL (CBC)

Cllr Philip Spicer - email: Philip.Spicer@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

CBC Website: www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk CBC Customer Services: 0300 300 8301

CBC Email: customers@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

* Flooding – reminder for residents experiencing flooding in the parish to report to CBC any problems, to take photo of problem and giving details/location. CBC will then investigate the matter and action accordingly.

* Fix My Street – CBC are moving over to using this app. Once the app is up and running, full details/link will be put on website/Facebook.

SPEEDWATCH



A couple of sessions were held prior to the lockdown, several cars were found to be speeding. Traffic (cars) through the village during school/work run was 360 cars in one hour.

Due to Government guidelines, Speedwatch will not be carrying out sessions until able. If there are 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.

STREETWATCH

The Parish Council are looking into a new initiative which would involve residents working with local police. Teams of volunteers would patrol the village making notes of anything happening, be a visible presence in the community and forward details onto the police. This initiative is not replacing police by enhancing their work with data gathering. The Parish Council are looking into this further to assess suitable for this location.

EATON BRAY PARISH COUNCIL

CCTV

The Parish Council are looking into the installation of CCTV cameras in the village, to act as an aid to support police when investigating incidents in the village, plus a useful tool to use against fly tipping.

The Parish Council are to investigate the benefit of a CCTV system over potential cost.

SCHOOL LANE CAR PARK -Pedestrian walkway

Due to access concerns raised by the school (COVID guidelines), and children having to access the school via the car park, the Parish Council agreed to add a marked pedestrian walkway to ensure safety for all car park users.

VILLAGE YOUTH PROJECT

The Parish Council are looking into the possibility of a Village Youth project Group, i.e., Youth Council for the parish and are speaking with CBC to understand the options available.

PLAY EQUIPMENT

The Parish Council are looking at options available for replacing some of the old play equipment at School Lane Recreation Ground with new equipment and the installation of outdoor Gym/Exercise equipment at The Rye ground.

PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE

To keep up to date with what is happening in your parish, you can get all Parish Council news and updates from the Parish Council website. 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



Eaton Bray



EATON BRAY GOOD NEIGHBOURS

The Eaton Bray Good Neighbours scheme continues to provide help and support to our village. Our mobile phone which we operate on a daily basis, has been busy with requests for help in collecting medication and lifts to doctor's appointments. We will be helping with transport arrangements for the vaccine clinics.

Some of our volunteers continue to help with our "In Touch" programme. We aim to telephone anyone in our community who would like a friendly telephone call, especially during Lockdown 3. You can contact us by calling 07930 987064 when a friend will answer your call.

Keep strong, warm and safe.

Eaton Bray Good Neighbours



Edlesborough Parish Council News

Including Edlesborough, Dagnall and Northall

Ivinghoe & Wing Freight Strategy

Please see the separate article about the Ivinghoe and Wing Freight Strategy.

EPC urges parishioners to participate in the public consultation when it is announced.

Christmas in the Parish

Once again volunteers in the Parish were busy making the villages festive for Christmas. EPC would like to thank the following parishioners:

- Christmas Trees R Us (Cow Lane) for donating two wonderful trees.
- Cllr Alan Williams, Christine & Mick Yates for hanging the lights on Edlesborough Memorial Hall.
- Ken Holloway for enabling the hanging of lights on the Edlesborough Pavilion.
- Bas Westrope, Kai Brown & Matthew Caller for hanging the wreaths along the High Street.
- NMJ Service Centre, Freed Veneers, Naomi Star, Lynn Blair & Penny Pataky for sponsoring the wreaths.
- Christine & Mick Yates, Sharon & Bob Stilliard, Martyn Jones & Karine Daly for decorating the Christmas trees.
- Edlesborough Methodist Chapel for providing the power for the Cow Lane tree lights.
- Kevin & Lorna Cubbage for hanging the Christmas lights in Northall Village Hall and on the Northall Christmas Tree and village sign.
- Jane and Chris Woodcock for providing the power for the Northall Christmas tree and village sign lights.
- With thanks to Trish and Jay Owen for decorating the tree and DVH

Images can be viewed at <https://www.edlesborough-pc.gov.uk/media/2135/christmas-in-the-parish-2020.pdf>

New Pavilion

During December the Pavilion was decorated in Christmas lights and a Christmas Tree was

erected just outside the compound.

At the December Council meeting Cllr Cubbage informed the Council that good progress had been made in attaching the Cedar wood cladding to the outside of the building in addition to good progress inside the building. There is currently a slight delay on the floor screeding due to an issue with the sub-contractor. The current estimated completion date is the end of March 2021.



Children's Roundabout on Edlesborough Green

At the time of writing this report the children's roundabout is temporarily closed due to safety issues with the platform surface. A purchase order has been raised for repairs to be carried out.

At the December Council meeting Council agreed that this would be the last time that the Council would invest in repairing the roundabout and that if it fails again Council would look to removing and replacing the piece of equipment.

EPC Projects Update

Despite the ongoing challenges of the Coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic EPC continues to work to make improvements to the parish. Below is a brief summary of the Councils current projects.

Outdoor Gym Equipment – led by Cllr Mrs Owen

The Council contractor has taken delivery of the outdoor gym equipment for Dagnall and will arrange installation shortly.

Edlesborough Green Children's Play Area – led by Cllr Mrs Booth

The Edlesborough Play Area Village Questionnaire went live on the website on 30th November Hard copies were delivered to all

homes in Edlesborough.

Summary of the Response to the Edlesborough Green Play Area Village Questionnaire:

The Parish Council would like to thank all residents who took the time to complete the recent survey on a potential project to improve the provision of equipped play areas on the Green.

We had a total of 140 responses, which is considered a very good response rate for a survey of this type, especially during the COVID restrictions at the time. The key finding is that 83% of all respondents said that they were supportive of a project to improve the provision of play equipment on the Green. It was also very pleasing that 29% expressed an interest in being involved in the project going forwards.

Given the level of support, this will now become a focus project for the Parish Council. The next step is to engage with those respondents who expressed an interest in being involved to form a “working party” to further develop the project into one or more firm proposals. Further, village-wide, consultation would then take place before submitting the plans for approval to the Planning Inspectorate, whose jurisdiction any built items on the Green comes under.



EMH Internal Redecoration – led by Cllr Mrs Thomas

At the time of writing this report the boxing in of pipework and repairs to the front door have been completed. The internal decorating has commenced and is well on its way to completion.

EMH Toilet Refurbishment – led by Cllr Mrs Thomas

This project is currently in its early stages. EPC are looking into the required number of toilets

needed and whether relocating the toilets is feasible.

Conservation Project - led by Cllrs Mrs Owen and Miss Wells.

Cllr Mrs Owen is discussing the project at the Ivinghoe and Wing Community Board hoping to establish links with other Councils carrying out similar projects. Cllr Miss Wells has joined a “Re Wilding Britain” group and is currently undertaking research for the project.

The Council will explore setting up “bug hotels” in specific wild areas of the Churchyard. The Council is also working with Dagnall School to repurpose a disused part of the Dagnall Allotment site to help them establish a Forest School.

Trees and Hedges in the Parish

Sadly the Christmas Tree on Edlesborough Green and the tree planted on the grass verge at the top of Cow Lane have died and been removed.

The Council is looking into applying to the Woodland Trust for free saplings to repair allotment hedges. If successful they will be available for planting in March 2021.

More information about the Woodland Trust’s for free saplings can be found at <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/schools-and-communities/>

Buckinghamshire Council

Buckinghamshire Cllr Anne Wight attended the December Council meeting and reported on the following items:

- Buckinghamshire Council Christmas Present Appeal
- A Warning Regarding Green Homes Grant Scammers
- A Guide to Buckinghamshire Waste Services
- Household Recycling Centres remain open across Buckinghamshire
- Garden Waste suspension for Aylesbury Vale areas
- Additional information for Buckinghamshire residents
- Business Grants Available to Help During

the Pandemic

The full report can be viewed on the EPC website <https://www.edlesborough-pc.gov.uk/media/2124/buckinghamshire-council-december-council-report-for-epc.pdf>

Fly-tipping, Potholes, Pavement & Road Issues

Should you notice or witness **fly-tipping** in Edlesborough, Dagnall or Northall please report this to Buckinghamshire Council using the following link <https://www.fixmystreet.buckscc.gov.uk/>

Issues with **roads & pavements** should be reported to Bucks CC using the following link <https://www.fixmystreet.buckscc.gov.uk/>

IMPORTANT: If you consider the issue to be dangerous or an emergency, please call Transport for Bucks on: 01296 382416 (09:00 – 17:30 Mon-Thurs, 09:00 – 17:00 Friday) or 01296 486630 (out of hours and weekends).

Posting about it on Facebook can be useful to Parishioners but this does not, however, lead to roads/pavements being repaired or fly-tipped items being removed.

Speedwatch & EDaN Traffic Management

The EDaN Traffic Management team needs more new members and volunteers to help with their new Sentinel device. A few parishioners have volunteered but we need more to set up training to operate the video speed camera. If you have an interest in traffic management in the villages or are concerned about Road Safety, please contact Cllr Alan Williams at Alan.williams@edlesborough-pc.gov.uk or 07828 398371



Allotments

Do you have a keen gardener in the family? We currently have plots available at our 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.

Salt Bins

The responsibility for filling these bins is with Transport for Buckinghamshire. When supplies are running low a refill request should be submitted via their website <https://www.fixmystreet.buckscc.gov.uk/> It is more appropriate if a parishioner living close to the salt bin makes the request but in practise anyone can make the request.



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.

Ordinary Council Meetings

EPC will continue to hold their Ordinary Council Meetings via the Social Media Platform, Zoom until it is deemed safe to resume holding physical public meetings.

Any parishioner wishing to attend the Ordinary Council meetings should visit EPC's website for more information.

The next Edlesborough Parish Council Meeting will take place on Thursday 18th February 2021 commencing at 7:30pm. Please check the Council 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.

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

All the hyperlinks in the information above can be accessed through the Edlesborough Parish website.

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

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Web: [@jolatusdance](http://www.jolatusdance.co.uk)

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Knowledge Schools Trust are pleased to Welcome Edlesborough Primary Academy to its Family of Schools

Edlesborough Primary Academy (formerly known as Edlesborough School), a one form entry primary school near Dunstable has joined the growing Knowledge Schools Trust. Ian Hunter the Trust's CEO says "we are absolutely delighted to welcome Edlesborough into our Trust, we currently have three OFSTED "Outstanding" schools in our trust and will work with the Edlesborough Primary Academy to build on the existing strengths of the school".

Knowledge Schools Trust have a rich knowledge based curriculum and are a DFE designated English Hub. Laura Lund the Executive Head of KST Primaries commented "over the years we have developed a first class curriculum offer that has driven up standards in the education we offer, improved the behaviour of children and we are very excited to bring our track record of school improvement to Edlesborough".

Jenny Peel, the headteacher of Edlesborough Primary Academy says "we welcome the fresh approach that the team at Knowledge Schools Trust are bringing to us, already we are seeing evidence of the improvements that being part of the trust will make to the lives of our children".

Knowledge Schools Trust is based in London where it currently operates four London schools with another school in development in Cambridge. Edlesborough Primary Academy joined the Trust on 1st November 2020.

Knowledge Schools Trust
241 King St
Hammersmith
London
W6 9LP
020 8600 0675



Laura Lund



Jenny Peel



Welcome to Thames Valley Alert: Community Messaging

Thames Valley Police are committed to involving the community in the policing of Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Milton Keynes. We believe that by improving the flow of information between the community and its police we can all make a greater impact in the prevention and detection of crime and anti-social behaviour.

This site provides an invitation for you to participate in the exchange of information with Thames Valley Police, Neighbourhood Watch and other community groups. As a registered recipient you will not only benefit from two way messaging but may also learn about those in your community subject of anti-social behaviour orders, help identify suspected or wanted criminals or learn about community groups, events or meetings in your area.

You are invited to become a registered recipient of messages of information, crime alerts or witness appeals local to the area in which you live or work by email, text or telephone by registering at <https://thamesvalleyalert.co.uk/>

There is now also a free smart-phone Alert app which provides the latest local policing news straight to your phone. The app can use GPS data to send you targeted messages according to your current geographical location and messaging preferences, sending you instant notifications to your mobile phone about specific information, warnings and advice relevant to that location.

Whether you live or work in Thames Valley, or are simply visiting the area, you can now receive alerts on the policing news you need to know about, locate your closest police station and view feeds via Twitter, so you'll never miss those important updates and breaking news.

To download the app, visit the Apple store or Google Play and search 'Thames Valley Alert'.



Salvation Army Christmas Present Appeal



We would like to take the opportunity to thank all who have supported Eaton Bray Salvation Army this year in the Christmas Present Appeal. What a year it has been! Because of your generosity, we were able to take many gifts to primary schools to distribute amongst needy children. The schools were delighted to receive the gifts.

Your support is never taken for granted and enables us to continue to support those in need in Eaton Bray and the surrounding villages.

We pray that you each will have a blessed New Year and that we will be able to meet up again in 2021.

God Bless

✉ Majors Allison & Andrew Gaudion.

Eaton Bray Village Hall Fundraising Update!

Time marches on and back in March 2020, we decided we must cancel the 29th Eaton Bray Hall Quiz and a bit later the 17th Annual Beer Festival went the same way. So what did we do? Well, what anybody else might do, we booked the 29th quiz for October and the Beer Festival for June 2021. The October quiz had to be cancelled and we booked this April, in November we thought that should be alright, but then..... Well you all know what happened.

So fast forward to January 2021 and the roll out of the vaccine. Would it be fast enough and in all honesty who would want to sit down with 149 other in the hall in April (assuming it would be allowed)? So, there goes the April Quiz and now with some confidence we have booked 27th November and are pretty hopeful we will be back to our old ways by then. If you require tickets they are £9 each and available from me. That leaves the Beer Festival booked for early June. Now the problem there is, that the upfront costs are large and it's dependent on people just turning up. So sadly after much thought, we have reluctantly decided to postpone it until 2022. We regret missing two years but as a charity, the Village Hall cannot make a loss at these events. That certainly has been the year that wasn't, in Fundraising terms.

✍️ Ross

Tel 07974715222 or email ross.bagni@btinternet.com

Appledown Rescue and Rehoming Kennels



Lovely lass Brina finds herself in rescue at the ripe old age of 12. She is a compact little Staffy, full of life and very affectionate. She enjoys her walks, is house-trained and travels well in a car. We would love to find this adorable girl a foster home where she will be loved and cherished for the rest of her days. Brina

would suit an older household where she would be the only pet. Appledown will meet any medical bills, so she needs foster folk who can take her to our vets in Leighton Buzzard. If you can offer Brina love and security please complete an adoption form from our website, or for more info please e-mail the kennels. All viewings are by appointment only.



Appledown Rescue and Rehoming Kennels Harling Road, Eaton Bray LU6 1QY
01525 220383 (10-12am & 2-4 pm) E-mail: appledown.kennels@btinternet.com
Website: www.appledownrescue.co.uk **Follow us on Facebook & Twitter!**





South Beds Dial-a-Ride Celebrates Receiving £10k from the National Lottery to Provide New Community Transport Services

South Beds Dial-a-Ride is celebrating after being awarded £10,000 from the National Lottery Community Fund to support a new transport service. The charity, based in West Street, Dunstable, will use the cash to provide a demand responsive COVID-19 safe minibus service for local residents with specific transport needs.

South Beds Dial-a-Ride was founded in 1986 by local haulage director, Bob Mumford, whose diabetes resulted in blindness, making it difficult for him to get around. Bob realized there must be other people in a similar position, and the charity was born. The original dial-a-ride service has expanded again in recent years employing 9 staff and 9 minibuses, to include the operation of a number of local bus routes for the general public via contracts with Central Bedfordshire Council. All the charity's services are available in Dunstable, Houghton Regis, Luton and surrounding villages.

This new funding is aimed at a number of users to provide opportunities not available elsewhere at reasonable cost. The criteria for accessing free hospital transport is tightening and distances travelled to hospitals for specialized treatment increasing. South Beds Dial-a-Ride always hates to say 'no' and has previously had to refuse requests which may now be satisfied. There is also some new demand for affordable transport from residents of the many new local housing developments prior to official bus routes becoming available.

It is understandable that many local residents have lost some confidence in going out during COVID lockdowns and are nervous about using public transport or taxis, as they can be perceived as 'too close for comfort' with not all guidance consistently followed. Further plans are to offer a 'safe ride out' just to help some people escape their four walls for an hour or so. South Beds Dial-a-Ride's minibus all have clear screens protecting passengers from the driver and vice versa, employ reduced capacity enabling proper social distancing, and are cleaned at least daily with a 99.9999% effective disinfectant.

The new funding from The National Lottery Community Fund, which distributes money raised by National Lottery players for good causes and is the largest community funder in the UK, will see South Beds Dial-a-Ride widen availability of these services to non-members.

During the earlier stages of the pandemic in April, South Beds Dial-a-Ride became an emergency provider to a number of pharmacies in Luton, making over 3,100 deliveries in 4 months without any charge. "At that time it really was all hands to the pumps and we were really pleased to be asked to help those required to shield and self isolate", commented South Beds Dial-a-Ride General Manager, Dave Barratt. "Now we're delighted that The National Lottery Community Fund is supporting this opportunity to help our most vulnerable local residents by us providing as safe a form of transport as possible in which to undertake their essential journeys".



Mrs Muvirimi, the first passenger travelling on our new service to Hitchin Hospital for an appointment.

A group of people, many wearing red shirts with 'Pace' on the back, are walking along a path. The path is surrounded by trees and greenery. The scene is outdoors and appears to be a walking event.

Step up and make a difference

NEW ROUTE - NEW DATE 24 APRIL 2021

Walk for Pace and make a huge difference to our inspirational children, who face mobility challenges every single day.

Three routes: 18, 12 and 6 miles along the infamous Ridgeway.

Sign up today at thepacecentre.org/thebigwalk

Charity No. 1011133



The 2021 Big Walk routes take in the Ridgeway Trail between Watlington and Wendover.

There is a choice of three routes:

18m - Watlington to Wendover

12m - Chinnor to Wendover

6m - Princes Risborough to Wendover

Registration will take place at John Colet School, Wendover and parking will be available. After registration, walkers will be shuttled to their chosen starting point by coach.

£15 registration fee

For the children at Pace walking can be a big challenge, however taking a few tentative steps can lead to greater independence. You can help transform young lives by putting on your own walking shoes and joining us for the 2021 Big Walk.

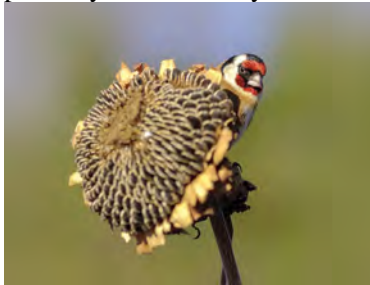
For more information, or to sign up contact:

Kelly on 01296 616973 or kelly.houghton@thepacecentre.org

Down the Lane

As I can't share my garden with visitors and friends at the moment I thought I would write about it.

On Boxing Day a charm of goldfinches flew into my garden to feast on the seeds of lavender and verbena bonariensis. These pretty birds are light enough to balance on the thin waving stems of these plants. I haven't seen them since so there probably weren't many seeds.



During the summer I found it easy to use plants to attract bees and insects but during the winter I have become much more aware of providing food for birds. I have a book called 'The Birdfeeder Garden' which I had never read properly so went back to it and it reminded me that not only do birds need food but also shelter and nesting places. We already have plenty of hedges and climbing plants on walls so there are plenty of nesting sites as well as shelter.

I try to provide plants with seed heads and leave them over the winter. The recent frosts have made them look more attractive. I don't have time to be a tidy gardener so lots of cutting back is left until the spring. I mulch the flower beds which the blackbirds love so there must be plenty of little creatures for them to feed on. I'm not so keen when they send the mulch all over the grass and I have to clear it up before mowing.



I keep adding more shrubs with berries and fruits. I love native spindle bushes which have beautiful red, heart-shaped berries for the birds to enjoy, and have planted two crab apples which I hope will fruit this year. Both have blossom and glorious autumn colour as well as berries. There are several cotoneasters growing against walls. These seed themselves so I move the seedlings to where I

would like them to grow. They are quite happy in dry conditions against a north facing wall and brighten up dull corners in the autumn.

I can't write about vegetable gardening as vegetables don't like being neglected, whereas flowers, or rather the ones I grow, can cope when I forget about them! I do grow a few vegetables but any crops are by good luck rather than good gardening or are fool proof like garlic.



✍️ Sally Taylor



Ashridge Decorative and Fine Arts Society invite you to join them to listen to interesting lectures that are being presented via Zoom.

On Wednesday 24th February 2021 at 10.30

Nigel Bates will present the lecture Tantrums and Tiaras.

Nigel is the Music Administrator of The Royal Ballet and he will talk about backstage life.

On Wednesday 31st March 2021 at 10.30

Timothy Walker will present The Subtle Science and Exact Art of Colour in English Garden Design.

The lecture looks at how to apply colour when designing a border and looks at the work of artists such as Monet, Rothko, David Hockney and others, evolved in parallel with ideas of what a garden should look like.

For further information please contact

Harriet Maisey Tel: 01442 825647

Each lecture will cost £5

The Gardens at Ashridge House Now Open for Local Walks Every Thursday-Sunday



The beautiful gardens at Ashridge House are now open every Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday for local walks for those wishing to exercise in the fresh air. The gardens open at 9am and last entry is at 2pm, with gates closing at 3pm. Tickets to the gardens are available to purchase on the day from The Courtyard Café at Ashridge House, open Thursday - Sunday from 9am-3pm. The Courtyard Café will be serving takeaway hot drinks and delicious

takeaway savouries and treats perfect for your winter walk.

Once a royal residence to King Henry VIII and home to his daughter, Princess Elizabeth I, Ashridge House is a hidden gem in leafy Berkhamsted and surrounded by 190 acres of quintessentially English grounds and gardens. For those who live locally, the gardens provide the perfect outdoor location to enjoy a walk in beautiful surroundings.

For more information, please visit our website <https://www.ashridgehouse.org.uk/the-courtyard-cafe>.

Wishing you all a safe and Happy 2021, Ashridge House

2020 Quiz of the Year: 40 Questions from Events in 2020

Courtesy of the Express Newspaper - Answers on page 76

News and Current Affairs

1. What date was the first lockdown announced by Boris Johnson?
2. In which Chinese city was Covid-19 first identified?
3. In what month did Meghan and Harry announce they were stepping down as 'senior' royals?
4. How much did Captain Tom Moore raise? (to the nearest million)
5. What day and time were the 10 'Claps for the NHS'?
6. What did protesters in Bristol throw into the harbour during protests for racial equality?
7. At the very start of the year, which country experienced devastating bushfires in every territory?
8. In April Boris Johnson's fiancé Carrie Symonds gave birth to a son, what did they name the child?
9. Where did Dominic Cummings drive to in order to test his eyesight?
10. Who gave the nation's PE lessons online during lockdown?

TV and Film

1. What was the name of Joe Exotic's rival in the hit Netflix series Tiger King?
2. Which star picked up the Best Actor award at the 2020 BAFTAS?
3. What was the most-watched documentary on Netflix this year?
4. How many Marvel films were released in 2020?
5. Gillian Anderson plays which former Prime Minister in The Crown?
6. Which James Bond film was delayed twice in 2020?
7. Which singer wrote, directed and executive produced Black Is King for Disney +?
8. Which foreign-language film won the Oscar for Best Picture at this year's Academy Awards?
9. Who nearly set fire to their kitchen on This Morning?
10. Tess Daly announced she was quitting which presenting job after 11 years?

Sport

1. Who won Sports Personality of the Year 2020?
2. Which basketball superstar died in a helicopter crash?
3. Where were the Olympics supposed to be held in 2020?
4. Who did Manchester City beat to claim the Carabao Cup at Wembley?
5. Why was Novak Djokovic disqualified from the US Open in New York?
6. World champion Lewis Hamilton won the Bahrain Grand Prix but the race had a horrendous crash for which French driver?
7. Who was the only Premier League manager to be sacked during the summer resumption of the 2019-20 season?
8. Who won the Super Bowl in Miami?
9. In which round did Tyson Fury knock out Deontay Wilder to become the WBC heavyweight world champion?
10. England were beaten at Wembley by Denmark in October. Which two players

were sent off during the game? (Half a point for each)

Celebrity

1. Which artist released the song WAP with Megan Thee Stallion?
2. Naturalist Sir David Attenborough briefly joined which social media platform?
3. Who won I'm a Celebrity...Get Me Out of Here this year?
4. Which American actor did singer Lily Allen secretly get married to?
5. Which Lord of the Rings and X-Men star posted a video of him receiving the coronavirus vaccine in December?
6. Which iconic singer-songwriter was credited with partially funding one of the successful Covid vaccines?
7. Tesla billionaire Elon Musk and singer Grimes welcomed a son this year. What's his name?
8. Chadwick Boseman died in August, but which iconic Marvel hero did he portray?
9. Keeping Up with the Kardashians has come to an end, but how many series of the show have there been?
10. Which body part did Simon Cowell injure after riding an electric trail bike?

Eaton Bray Methodist Church

Although some congregations had returned to their churches in December, we continued to host services with Zoom for many worshippers across the circuit. The first Sunday in December, Advent 2, brought us the inspiring



reflections of Rev Jenny Spouge. Drawing parallels with the crisis faced by the Israelites under the Persian King Cyrus, she reminded us that help comes from surprising quarters. Like the people of the New Testament, in dealing with current social upheavals, we need prophets who will 'speak truth to power' and enable us to decide which side we are on. On the third Sunday of Advent, our Minister, Rev Nigel Bibbings, addressed the issue of hope; John the Baptist, though a towering figure in the Gospels, had doubts as all humans do when things turned out differently from his expectations. God is always with us but may provide solutions in ways we had not anticipated. This theme was developed the following week when

Nigel led the 4th Advent service, focusing on the faith, strength and openness of Mary at the Annunciation. Her trust has a resonance for us in our current difficulties. We organised and celebrated our Christmas Day service

as a team with members giving readings, leading carols and reading prayers. Our final service in December was led by Tina Salmon who helped us think of the real meaning of Christmas, the beginning of the Jesus's life which culminates at Easter, the good news in light and darkness, giving us all hope in the long haul of existence.

A Warm Invitation

Our short online Zoom Sunday Service takes place at 10.30am. If you would like to join in, please contact our Zoom Service Host, Ed Syrett on 07814624628. You will be most welcome.

Photography in Focus

In this series, John Hockey shares some tips
PORTRAITS



With portraiture, you are really trying to capture the essence of the sitter. Their personality has to shine through and it is how successfully you interpret this that will determine the success of your portrait. There are of course some tips which I am happy to share here.

The best photos of people (or animals) are not posed, so either you must take a photograph when the sitter is unaware of you or get them to engage in some activity where they are not thinking of you. The first picture is what's called a 'full face' shot. We were on a visit to Rushmere Park near Leighton Buzzard and the subject had climbed up onto a larger than life chair in the wood and we were all asking him 'Now you're up

there, how on earth do you think you're going to get down?' I think you can see that this shot captures the humour of his reply!

Another technique is only to capture part of the face to bring out a particular feature. This lady was our guide in Copenhagen – she was very strict on timekeeping and her glasses, the red of her lipstick and coat all seemed to convey a certain personality which I hope is evident here. Naturally she did not know I was photographing her as I fear she would not have been best pleased!



Red in use again here and in this case, the subject knew that I was taking the picture but could do nothing about it as he was standing to attention at the Changing of the Guard in London. Here the tonality of the different colours in this very British ceremony and the fact that the sitter could not move were of interest – a very unusual full face situation.

Not all portraits have to be of people. On a walk in the Lake district I came across this delightful cow near a footpath. It was a bit of a stand-off but I think the animal was confused as I took the picture – and so, thankfully, stayed still. The log to the side adds interest and these sort of props can be used to great effect when taking a picture of a person

– a glass or a book can give them something to play with and if it is relevant to their persona, so much the better.



Sometimes you see a shot and just know you have to take it. Strolling down a side street in Oporto my wife looked up and saw this delightful husky idling his time away looking at passers-by. Rather than shoot straight up I thought it better to turn the camera so the legs and window ledge made a diagonal, so adding some dynamism to the picture.



Humour in portraits is always a winning effect. Often (as in the first picture here) it is best not posed, but occasionally a situation presents itself where the sitter is compliant to your strange request. This was a spur of the moment photo in Bratislava, taken in black and white, which is a good technique to produce interesting shadows on the face. Here it's just a bit of fun.



Next time: Storytelling



Chinese New Year 2021

Usually Chinese New Year festival period lasts for 16 days, starting from Chinese New Year's eve to the Lantern Festival. In 2021, it is from February 11 to February 26th.

The standard public holiday for (Mainland) Chinese is the 7 days from Chinese New Year's Eve to day 6 of the lunar calendar new year:

February 11 – 17, 2021.

Chinese New Year is the most important holiday in China. In 2021, Chinese New Year will begin on February 12. Tied to the Chinese lunar calendar, the holiday was traditionally a time to honor household and heavenly deities as well as ancestors. It was also a time to bring family together for feasting. With the popular adoption of the Western calendar in 1912, the Chinese joined in celebrating January 1 as New Year's Day. China, however, continues to celebrate Chinese New Year with the traditional greeting, “Kung hei fat choi.”

Lunar New Year

The ancient Chinese lunar calendar, on which Chinese New Year is based, functioned as a religious, dynastic and social guide. Oracle bones inscribed with astronomical records indicate that the calendar existed as early as 14th century B.C., when the Shang Dynasty was in power.

The calendar's structure wasn't static: It was reset according to which emperor held power and varied from one region to another.

The Chinese calendar was a complex timepiece. Its parameters were set according to the lunar phases as well as the solar solstices and equinoxes. Yin and yang, the opposing but complementary principles that make up a harmonious world, also ruled the calendar. Chinese New Year typically begins with the new moon that occurs between the end of January and the end of February, and it lasts about 15 days, until the full moon arrives with the Festival of Lanterns.

Chinese New Year Animals

The Chinese calendar also included the Chinese zodiac, the cycle of twelve stations or “signs” along the apparent path of the sun through the cosmos.

Each new year was marked by the characteristics of one of the 12 zodiac animals: the rat, ox, tiger, rabbit, dragon, snake, horse, sheep, monkey, rooster, dog and pig.

Chinese New Year Traditions

The traditional Chinese New Year was the most important festival on the calendar. The entire attention of the household was fixed on the celebration. During this time, business life came nearly to a stop. Home and family were the principal focuses.

In preparation for the holiday, houses were thoroughly cleaned to rid them of “huiqi,” or inauspicious breaths, which might have collected during the old year. Cleaning was also meant to appease the gods who would be coming down from heaven to make inspections. Ritual sacrifices of food and paper icons were offered to gods and ancestors. People posted scrolls printed with lucky messages on household gates and set off firecrackers to frighten evil spirits. Elders gave out money to children.

In fact, many of the rites carried out during this period were meant to bring good luck to the household and long life to the family - particularly to the parents.

The Animals Went in Zoo by Zoo...

Zookeepers conduct first lockdown stocktake at ZSL Whipsnade Zoo



Thousands of animals stood up to be counted today (Thursday 7 January 2021) at ZSL Whipsnade Zoo as zookeepers kicked off the biggest task of the year behind closed doors – the first lockdown annual stocktake.

While the rest of the country is in lockdown, Whipsnade's dedicated keepers continue to care for the animals at the UK's largest zoo and this week began to take stock of each and every invertebrate, bird, fish, mammal,

reptile and amphibian – a compulsory task required as part of the Zoo's license.

Home to almost 4,000 animals and 280 species, ZSL Whipsnade Zoo saw many new arrivals in 2020 – boosting the numbers of threatened species, including some which are Extinct in the Wild. Despite being closed for a total of 18 weeks in 2020, the zoo's vital conservation work continued behind closed doors.

Nilo, an endangered red panda cub was born to mum Tashi, seven Chinese water deer increased the numbers of the herd at the Zoo, and 14 Pere David deer, a species which is extinct-in-the-wild, were born in the summer.

Chief Operating Officer Owen Craft said: "Despite everything that 2020 threw at us and the huge challenges we continue to face, it's so encouraging to take stock and highlight the positives in the last year.

"Our dedicated animal carers – zookeepers, vets, service teams – ensured our vital conservation work continued despite repeated closures and the financial pressures that created for us. As we now face another prolonged period of closure, we're asking for support once again – any donation makes a huge difference."

As part of the international conservation breeding programme, two new female Southern white rhinos – Jaseera and Fahari - were moved to the Zoo in Autumn and its hoped that their introduction to Whipsnade's male Sizzle will encourage a further increase





in the population's numbers. ZSL Animal Manager, Matthew Webb said; "As well as being a legal requirement for our zoo license, the stocktake gives us a chance to look back on the remarkable results of the past year. We're so proud to have played a part in many conservation breeding programmes and to have helped increase numbers of threatened species, and we've been able to add some wonderful animals to

the tally.

"The last year presented us all with so many challenges. Here at Whipsnade we had to get used to new ways of working and saw some of our plans altered or paused – we were not expecting to be counting the sea lions again this year but we're looking forward and determined to make 2021 another success for conservation."

A requirement of ZSL Whipsnade Zoo's license, the annual audit takes keepers almost a week to complete and the information is shared with other zoos around the world via a database called ZIMS, where it's used to help manage the worldwide conservation breeding programmes for endangered animals.

Reliant on income from ticket sales to care for the animals and fund their global conservation efforts, repeated enforced closures have put the charity zoo under huge financial pressure. Vets and zookeepers continue to provide the highest level of care for the animals, working throughout the lockdowns. ZSL, the international conservation charity behind the Zoos, is calling on the public to help ensure they remain open by donating to ZSL at www.zsl.org/donate



LOCAL HERALDRY

BY JOHN HOCKEY

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

CHURCH HERALDRY – DUNSTABLE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH



Dunstable Roman Catholic Church in West Street, commonly called ‘St Mary’s’ is a classic design of church for the 1960s. It was designed by Desmond Williams OBE and is Grade II listed ‘For its innovative circular form and layout’ and as ‘an important early work in the career of Desmond Williams’. Construction took place 1962 – 1964.

Above the main doorway is a coat of arms belonging to Pope Paul VI (1897 – 1978). His papacy began in 1963. Luckily for us he chose the name Paul to be known by, and as his

given name was Giovanni Battista Enrico Antonio Maria Montini, we should be thankful for that! The coat of arms shown on the church was chosen when he was made Archbishop of Milan in 1954.

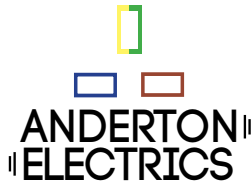
Each Pope places his arms on a shield ensigned by the papal tiara. Pope Paul VI magnanimously sold his for the benefit of the poor. Behind the shield are placed the keys of St Peter, a gold key points to dexter (left as we look at it) symbolising papal power extending up to heaven. A silver key points to sinister (on the right), symbolising power over the faithful on earth. Like many entitled to a coat of arms, Pope Paul embodied the practice of canting or punning on his shield. The sextuplet mount at the base of the coat of arms is a pun on his family name, Montini (little mountains). The use of fleur-de-lis is unusual in papal arms but the lily was the flower symbolising purity and the Virgin Mary.

The description or *blazon* is as follows:

Gules a collee Argent issuant from base beneath three fleurs-de-lis in chevron of the same.

Next time: Sixes and Sevens





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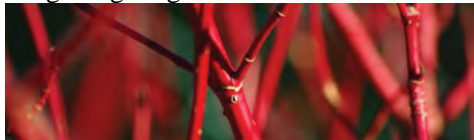
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What To Do in the Garden in February

February feels like a turning point in the garden. It's still cold outside, but there are signs of spring's imminent arrival everywhere you look. Bulbs are slowly emerging from the ground, and the days are getting longer at last.



With winter finally behind us, find out what to do in the garden in February. Image: Flojke

This month's garden jobs are mostly about getting things ready for the spring. But there are also some early sowing and growing tasks to do - if you want to get a head start.

Timely Tips

Use February to get yourself properly prepared for springtime. The following jobs will set you up for your best growing season yet:

1. Prepare your seed beds. As long as the ground isn't frozen, you can cultivate beds and start to warm up the soil, with fleece, polythene or cloches, in preparation for sowing in the coming months.
2. Organise this year's seeds by sowing date. Get hold of a box with dividers, and file your seed packets by the month they need to be sown in. You'll be so glad of this effort in the weeks to come.
3. Check your tools are sound and your garden machinery is working. Give your tools and equipment the once over and apply a little TLC to anything that needs it.
4. Blitz perennial weeds in your beds and kitchen garden. Dig them up, roots and all, to get a head start on the blighters before the weather warms up.



Clear your garden from perennial weeds, like dandelions. Image: David Prah

In the flower garden

Here are your main tasks in the flower garden this month:

Pruning and tidying

- Prune wisteria now, cutting back summer side-shoots to 2 or 3 buds. For advice on the best way to do it, check our wisteria pruning guide.
- Cut back shrubs, such as cornus and salix cultivars (grown for their colourful winter stems), down to their bases.
- Prune summer-flowering clematis towards the end of the month, before active growth begins. For advice on the best way to do it, check our clematis pruning guide.



- Cut back the old foliage from ornamental grasses before growth begins. Clip them to within a few centimetres of the ground.
- Prune overwintered fuchsias back to one or two buds on each shoot.
- Prune winter-flowering jasmine (*Jasminum nudiflorum*) after flowering, to encourage new growth for next year's blooms. Cut back the previous year's growth to 5cm from the old wood.
- Trim winter-flowering heathers as the flowers disappear, to prevent plants becoming leggy.

- Prune winter-flowering shrubs such as mahonia and viburnum x bodnantense once their colourful display has finished.
- Remove faded flowers from winter pansies to stop them setting seed. This will encourage a flush of new flowers when the weather warms up.

Other jobs in the flower garden



Image: Paul Maguire

- Lift and divide snowdrops still 'in the green', if you want to move them or create more plants.
- Move any deciduous trees or shrubs that need repositioning now, provided the soil is not frozen or waterlogged.
- Look out for hellebore leaf spot (rounded brown spots on the leaves) and remove any leaves that are affected.

In the vegetable garden

There are a few jobs to be done in the vegetable garden:



Image: J Davidson

- Start chitting early potatoes - stand them on end in a module tray or egg box and place them in a bright, cool, frost-free place.
- Mulch perennial vegetables such as asparagus and artichokes with well-rotted manure or garden compost.
- Build raised beds now, before the growing season gets underway. Raised beds allow you to make an early start in the garden; the soil warms up faster and raised beds drain quickly too, so they're a great way to deal with clay soils.

- Prepare vegetable seed beds by removing all weeds and forking in plenty of compost. Cover prepared soil with sheets of black plastic to keep it drier and warmer in preparation for spring planting.

- Rake lime into acid soils.
- Continue controlling against slugs.
- Remove yellowing leaves from brassicas, including Brussels sprouts, to prevent brassica downy mildew and grey mould from spreading.
- Tidy up vegetable plots, removing any remaining plant debris.

In the fruit garden

Get into the fruit garden to protect and prune plants.

- Prune raspberry canes. It's your last chance to cut autumn-fruiting raspberry canes to the ground to stimulate new canes to fruit in the autumn. Cut the tips of summer-fruiting raspberry canes that have grown beyond the top of their supports; cut just above a bud. For more advice, check our raspberry pruning guide.
- Prune blackcurrant bushes, gooseberries and redcurrants to maintain a productive framework.
- Mulch fruit trees with well-rotted manure or garden compost, taking care not to mound mulch up around the trunk.
- Winter prune apple trees and pear trees while they're still dormant. This is your last chance to do so. For more advice, read our apple tree pruning guide.
- Leave plum trees, cherry trees and apricots until the summer as pruning these fruit trees now will make them susceptible to Silver Leaf disease.
- Protect blossoms on apricots, nectarines and peaches from frost, but make sure pollinating insects can still reach the flowers.



Protect the delicate peach blossom from February frost. Image: Adriana33

- Force rhubarb plants for an early crop.
- Cover outdoor strawberries with cloches to encourage an earlier crop.
- Top dress fruit bushes with a slow-release, potassium-rich fertiliser to feed plants for the forthcoming season.
- Check stored fruit and remove any rotten fruit.

Looking after your lawn

Remember to keep off the grass when there's a frost, as the blades are more susceptible to damage.

With spring on the way it's worth preparing your lawn for the season ahead. Try installing lawn edging, which gives a neat and tidy appearance and makes maintenance easier.

Other jobs about the garden

Here are some of the other jobs to do around the garden this February:

- Trim deciduous hedges before the birds start nesting.
- Cut back vines such as ivy, Virginia creeper and Boston ivy. Doing this now helps keep windows, gutters and roof tiles clear.
- Shred or chop any woody prunings before you add them to compost bins, as this will help speed up decomposition.
- Wash empty pots by scrubbing them with hot water and a mild detergent. Rinse them well afterwards.
- Keep feeding the birds. The weather is still cold this month so hang fat balls and keep bird feeders topped up.
- Install water butts now ready for the summer. Rainwater is particularly useful for watering acid-loving,

ericaceous plants (tap water is often slightly alkaline).

- Find out what type of soil you have. Invest in a soil testing kit to help you choose the right plants for your garden.



Keep your feathered friends in mind during the colder months. Image: taviphoto

From your armchair

- Plan your vegetable plot for this year to ensure good crop rotation and prevent pests and diseases building up in the soil.
- Order seeds and plug plants online now. Having a garden plan drawn up will help you decide the quantities you need.
- Buy onion sets and asparagus crowns ready for planting in the spring.
- Order flower bulbs for summer colour, such as lily-of-the-valley and gladioli, in preparation for spring planting.
- Choose fruit trees now for planting in early spring. If space is limited in your garden try growing dwarf fruit trees, or edging vegetable plots with stepover apple and pear trees.

**Information courtesy of
Thompson and Morgan
www.thompson-morgan.com**



Best Books of 2020: What the Critics Say

A look at the recommended reads from the past 12 months

Courtesy of The Week (www.theweek.co.uk)

The critics' top eight choices based on Christmas selections in national newspapers, the London Evening Standard, the TLS, The Spectator and the New Statesman.



Shuggie Bain by Douglas Stuart

The winner of this year's Booker Prize is a tale of poverty, addiction and abuse set in and around Glasgow in the 1980s. Shuggie Bain's mother is an alcoholic; his father, a violent, fitfully present taxi driver. As family members drift away, he becomes his mother's sole carer – and it is their relationship that forms the novel's emotional core. First-time author Douglas Stuart was praised for his poetic, slang-studded prose, and for his ability to find good in his characters, no matter how despicable their behaviour. Some critics, however, thought the book would have benefited from more rigorous editing.

House of Glass by Hadley Freeman

In this captivating family memoir, 20 years in the writing, Hadley Freeman describes the lives of her grandmother and three great-uncles – all of whom fled from a shtetl in Poland to Paris after the First World War. Settling into their new lives, they took French names – then followed their own paths: one married an American, and emigrated; another ran a hugely successful fashion salon; a third became a millionaire after inventing a microfilming machine. But inevitably the rise of fascism, and the Holocaust, shaped all of their destinies. Reviewers were unanimous in their praise for Freeman's precise and gripping account of lives upended by the vicissitudes of history.



Mayflies by Andrew O'Hagan

Jimmy and Tully are working-class lads from Ayrshire who become best friends in their teens. In the first half of Andrew O'Hagan's novel, set in 1986, the pair travel to Manchester for a weekend of music and drugs. In the second half, set 31 years later, Jimmy learns that Tully is dying of cancer, and his friend asks him to help arrange his death at a Dignitas clinic. The book is partly drawn from O'Hagan's own experience, and while some admired his emotional directness, others felt his portrayal of Tully slipped into sentimentality.

The Mirror and the Light by Hilary Mantel

The concluding volume of Mantel's Thomas Cromwell trilogy begins with the beheading of Anne Boleyn in 1536 and culminates, some 900 pages later, with the execution of Henry VIII's chief adviser. In between, we follow the self-made blacksmith's son as he grapples with a seemingly impossible list of tasks – including



overseeing the dissolution of the monasteries and brokering Henry's third and fourth marriages. Critics found the finale funnier than its predecessors, but a few said that the array of incident and detail made it a somewhat laborious read.

1,2,3,4 by Craig Brown



In his unconventional book about The Beatles, Craig Brown rejects a linear approach and instead traces the Fab Four's story in 150 brief and self-contained chapters that roam seemingly at random through their life and times, and vary widely in tone. One moment, he is recounting the fate of John Lennon's tooth (sold at auction to a Canadian dentist for £19,000 in 2011); the next, he is analysing the band's role in helping America recover from JFK's assassination. Critics found the book original, and immensely enjoyable, but some took exception to the portrayal of Ringo Starr as something of a joke figure.

Kiss Myself Goodbye by Ferdinand Mount

Growing up in the 1950s and 1960s, Ferdinand Mount spent many holidays with his uncle's wife. Aunt Munca owned a Rolls and kept a permanent suite at Claridge's – but he always sensed that something wasn't quite right. Years later, he investigated her history, and uncovered a shocking trail of lies, deceptions and broken promises. Kiss Myself Goodbye is his account of Aunt Munca's extraordinary life. Reviewers described it as a beautifully written, exquisitely crafted work that is as gripping as any good detective novel.

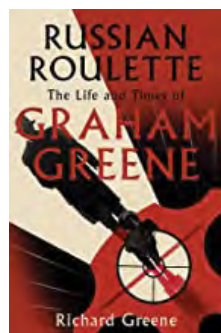


Hamnet by Maggie O'Farrell

In Maggie O'Farrell's novel about Shakespeare's family, the playwright himself is a peripheral figure, referred to only as the "Latin tutor", the "husband" or the "father". Instead, the focus is on his wife, Anne Hathaway (here called Agnes) and his son, Hamnet, who died of plague aged 11. Reviewers applauded O'Farrell's confident depiction of Elizabethan England and her sensitive portrayal of parental grief. But some felt that at times her concentration on her characters' inner lives came at the expense of narrative excitement.

Russian Roulette by Richard Greene

In his life of Graham Greene, Richard Greene (no relation) argues that the novelist was a courageous and decent man with a risk-taking nature. From the games of Russian Roulette he played in his teens to his trips to various war zones, he comes across as an inveterate thrill seeker, addicted to danger. Greene links this restlessness to the bullying he suffered at school and to his bipolar disorder. The book was compared favourably to earlier biographies, which depicted Greene as a rather seedier character, but some critics felt that in seeking to understand his subject, the author had played down his subject's flaws.





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Light in the Darkness

Over the Christmas and New Year we have had our attention drawn two or three times to the passage in John 1 v 4 & 5. 'In Him was life and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it'.

It was part of the message about Jesus birth – The Word became Flesh.

We are in the darkest part of the year – very late sunrise and very early sunset. Some people suffer from 'SAD', Seasonal Affective Disorder because of the dreary conditions. Jesus is the Light of the World and can change how we feel.

A poem written by Stephen S. a resident in a Christian drug and alcohol centre in 2020 had experienced a great change in his life, having put his trust in Jesus and wrote:

Out of the darkness and into the light, you are my guide, you are my sight
When I was down in the depths of despair, you never left me, you were always there.
You gave me rest underneath your wing, you gave my heart a new song to sing.
In my darkest hour you called my name, you gave me life, you took my shame.
You held me up when I was weak, Oh Lord my God, 'tis you I seek.
You are my rock, You are my shield, in your mighty name I gladly yield.
You placed your spirit inside my soul, by your righteous hand You made me whole.
You give me strength to face each day, you are my light, you are my way.

So Jesus can shine the light, his light to save you, just as Stephen found when he was rescued from the despair he speaks of. In these difficult times, a light at the end of the tunnel is a hope for a brighter future.

We are approaching Pancake Day (Shrove Tuesday) on Tuesday 16th February and Christians celebrate Lent beginning the following day, Wednesday 17th February leading up to Easter. We are hoping to run our Lent study sessions, usually shared with other Churches, on Zoom this year. Please let me know if you would like to join us.

We are continuing our Sunday services on Zoom for the foreseeable future at 11

am. If you would like to join in the worship, music and song, you'll get a very warm welcome. Please ring the number below or contact us via our website.

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/>

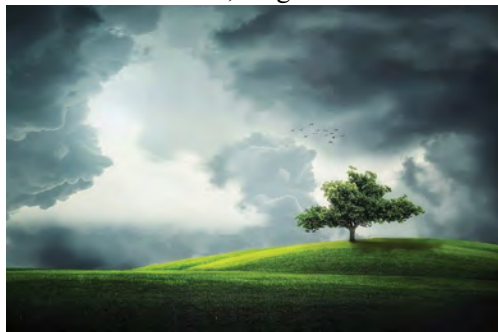


Image by Bessi from Pixabay

Lost Your Core Through COVID?



Lost your core through COVID-19? During the first lockdown exercise was one of the things we did to help us through, whether exercising online or getting out for a walk or a run. But maybe the novelty and motivation for online exercising has worn off, you've a niggling injury, or are stuck at your home desk for too long with a bad posture. You are not alone - recent statistics from the charity Versus Arthritis are alarming - 23% of home workers were said to be getting musculoskeletal pain most of the time and 40% were taking painkillers, with back pain being the most common complaint at 50% followed by neck 36% and shoulder pain 28%.

Prolonged sitting puts extra load on the spine and its discs. Continued or repetitive sitting, often puts the low and mid spine in a forward curve position, which is not good. Feedback from body to brain usually keeps our muscles protecting the spine, allowing the right amount of movement but this response can become ineffective, potentially harming your back. With prolonged sitting, weak core muscles and a general decreased level of activity, it is easy to see why we are developing problems reflected in the statistics above.

If you are recovering from COVID-19, this can also lead to a poor core and conditioning generally. Everyone's experience is different, from the person who has found that just walking short distances are a problem, to someone who has bounced back to near pre-infection fitness levels, but is still struggling to regain full fitness. Since lockdown we have treated home workers' backs and helped clients return to fitness for a variety of reasons including rehabilitation following coronavirus.

If you have an injury but are trying to improve your fitness, or are worried about starting to exercise for fear of injury, why not see a Physiotherapist? They can help you get back on track and back to what you enjoy doing - our friendly team at St Judes will be happy to help you.

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Nigel's Thoughts

Methodist Minister



Dear Friends,

At the beginning of February the church celebrates the feast of Candlemas, a threshold moment that officially marks the end of Christmastide – when the Christmas crib, if it's still out, must be finally stowed away until next year!

Also known as the Feast of the Presentation in the Temple, Candlemas comes exactly forty days after Christmas, and commemorates the occasion when Mary and Joseph 'presented' Jesus in the Temple in accordance with Jewish Law.

The end of those forty days after a birth was an important marker for a Jewish family, when the Law required parents to offer their first-born son to the Lord as a way of acknowledging God as the source of all life – and not least the life of their new baby boy. It must have been a real threshold moment for Jesus's family, just as early February can be something of a threshold for us too, as we notice the days slowly lengthening, with the promise of spring and new life on the horizon. February is a good time to look forward with hope to new beginnings – though even as we do that, it's important that we don't lose sight of those forty days of Christmastide behind us.

The joyous message of Christmas needs to

travel with us right through the year: the good news that Jesus was born into this world as the unquenchable light shining in the darkness.

That Christ, the one who became a little child for us, is always present among us as our light, travelling with us whatever the season, in the happiest and the bleakest of times, and everything in between. What's more, Candlemas, this ancient feast of light, isn't just a symbol of God's love and compassion for us, but also a great encouragement to us as we ourselves try to bring a little light to those around us, in whatever way we can. God bless you in all your threshold moments, and in every part of every day.

✍️Nigel



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Chuck-in-the-Oven Baby Back Ribs

I recently made the mistake of posting a similar recipe to this one on a local Facebook group. I wanted to publicise the fact that I'd used ribs from our local butcher and was proud of these deliciously tender and ribs. As well as the praise, the comment section was filled with "Rib Kings" who were seemingly furious at the recipe's simplicity. I know there are 12, 24 and 36 hour versions for ribs, but these are truly the "chuck-in-the-oven" easy version. And they are absolutely wonderful.

Serves 2

You'll need one full rack of baby back ribs, preferably with back membrane removed

Store-cupboard marinade:

4 squirts ketchup
3 squirts honey
Really good glug dark soy sauce
Drizzle of oyster sauce
Drizzle of sesame oil
1 tsp garlic powder
2 tbsp xiao xing wine

Mix all the marinade ingredients together. You can be pretty relaxed about the exact quantities. Save a little for later and rub the rest all over the ribs.

Pop them in a non-stick baking dish, add a little water to the base and cover with foil.

Bake at 130C for 4 hours, basting both sides every hour or so. You can always add a little water as you go to get the best bits off the bottom.



Uncover for the last 20 minutes and baste with the leftover sauce from earlier.

Carefully remove them from the pan and leave them to rest, wrapped in foil, for 15 minutes.

Cut them up and serve them immediately. The meat will be literally falling off the bone.

BBC Three Counties Radio presenter and cook, Nick Coffey



Answers to 2020 Quiz of the Year (Page 42)

News and Current Affairs answers

1. March 23,
2. Wuhan
3. January
4. £32,795,065 - to the nearest million would be £33million
5. Thursday at 8pm
6. A statue of slave trader Edward Colston
7. Australia
8. Wilfred Lawrie Nicholas
9. Barnard Castle
10. Joe Wickes

TV and Film answers

1. Carole Baskin
2. Joaquin Phoenix
3. Tiger King
4. None
5. Margaret Thatcher
6. No Time To Die
7. Beyonce
8. Parasite
9. John Torode
10. Children in Need

Sport answers

1. Lewis Hamilton
2. Kobe Bryant
3. Tokyo
4. Aston Villa
5. He accidentally hit a line judge with a ball in the throat
6. Romain Grosjean
7. Nigel Pearson
8. Kansas City Chiefs
9. Seventh round
10. Harry Maguire and Reece James

Celebrity Answers

1. Cardi B
2. Instagram
3. Giovanna Fletcher
4. David Harbour
5. Sir Ian McKellen
6. Dolly Parton
7. X Æ A-12
8. Black Panther
9. 20
10. His back

Vintage picture of an old tradition of people eating cake after someone blows air from their mouth onto it

Circa: 2019 B.C. (Before Coronavirus)



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.

Aylesbury Duck

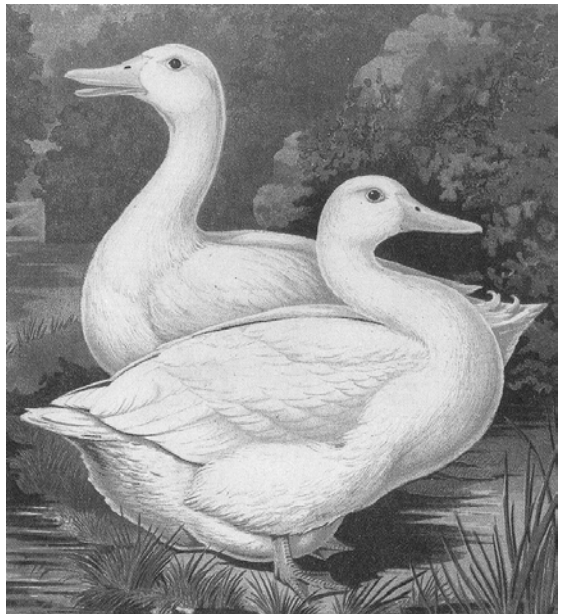
Courtesy of Wikipedia

The Aylesbury duck is a breed of domesticated duck, bred mainly for its meat and appearance. It is a large duck with pure white plumage, a pink bill, orange legs and feet, an unusually large keel, and a horizontal stance with its body parallel to the ground. The precise origins of the breed are unclear, but raising white ducks became popular in Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, England, in the 18th century owing to the demand for white feathers as a filler for quilts. Over the 19th century selective breeding for size, shape and colour led to the Aylesbury duck.

Duck rearing became a major industry in Aylesbury in the 19th century. The ducks were bred on farms in the surrounding countryside. Fertilised eggs were brought into the town's "Duck End", where local residents would rear the ducklings in their homes. The opening of a railway to Aylesbury in 1839 enabled cheap and quick transport to the markets of London, and duck rearing became highly profitable. By the 1860s the duck rearing industry began to move out of Aylesbury into the surrounding towns and villages, and the industry in Aylesbury itself began to decline.

In 1873 the Pekin duck was introduced to the United Kingdom. Although its meat was thought to have a poorer flavour than that of the Aylesbury duck, the Pekin was hardier and cheaper to raise. Many breeders switched to the Pekin duck or to Aylesbury-Pekin crosses. By the beginning of the 20th century competition from the Pekin duck, inbreeding, and disease in the pure-bred Aylesbury strain and the rising cost of duck food meant the Aylesbury duck industry was in decline.

The First World War badly damaged the remaining duck industry in Buckinghamshire, wiping out the small scale producers and leaving only a few large farms. Disruption caused by the Second World War further damaged the industry. By the 1950s only one significant flock of Aylesbury ducks remained in Buckinghamshire, and by 1966 there were no duck-breeding or -rearing businesses of any size remaining in Aylesbury itself. Although there is only one surviving flock of pure Aylesbury ducks in the United Kingdom and the breed is critically endangered in the United States, the Aylesbury duck remains a symbol of the town of Aylesbury, and appears on the coat of arms of Aylesbury and on the club badge of Aylesbury United.



Prize winning Aylesbury Duck 1873

Edlesborough, Northall and Ivinghoe Aston Walk

By Steve Davison, courtesy of Berks and Bucks Life (April 2018)

This walk is based in Edlesborough, which was known as Eddinberge in the Domesday Book, we follow the river Ouzel, which is little more than a stream at this point, for a while to reach Eaton Bridge; the river forms part of the boundary between Buckinghamshire and neighbouring Bedfordshire.

We then head through Northall, home to the Swan Inn, before heading south-west past Butler's Manor, where you can still see the remains of a moat, to reach Ivinghoe Aston. A quick walk along the village street takes us past the aptly named Village Swan pub, saved by local residents from property developers.

The final leg of the walk heads north-east, with views of the Dunstable Downs ahead.



On the way, keep a lookout for a memorial to Bridget Elizabeth Talbot – a woman of many achievements – who was born at Little Gaddesden. During the First World War, she served with the Anglo-Italian Red Cross and in 1920 she received an OBE for her work

with the Red Cross; she remained an active supporter of the organisation all her life. She invented a water-proof torch for lifebelts and was instrumental in getting this made compulsory, thereby saving the lives of many seamen. She also helped save a large swathe of the Chiltern Hills by heading a national campaign to secure the Ashridge Estate for the National Trust following the death of Earl Brownlow in 1921. We soon pass the Church of St Mary the Virgin which stands on a small hill to the south-west of the village, affording a great view. The church, which is now cared for by the Churches Conservation Trust, dates back to the 13th century. Although it is normally locked, the key is available from the village shop and post office, and is usually open on the first Sunday of each month between May and September, between 2 and 4 pm. If you get the chance to see inside it is well worth the effort; there is some fine medieval woodwork including the chancel screen and some lovely Victorian wall paintings and stained glass.

From the church it's a short walk back through the village, passing the former 16th century brick and timber barn on the way.

Information

- Start/finish: car park at the recreation ground in Edlesborough (SP973194) at the junction of the High Street and Peblemoor
- Map: OS Explorer 181
- Distance: 4.5 miles (7.3km)

- Terrain: Gates and stiles, fairly level paths and tracks, sections of country road/pavement
- Time: 2 hours
- Refreshments: Edlesborough – Heirloom Cafe (01525 229565); Northall – The Swan Inn (01525 220444); Ivinghoe Aston – The Village Swan (01525 223555)

The walk

1 (SP973194) - Exit the car park, turn right and then turn right along the High Street for 200m, with the park on the right and turn left across the road into Cow Lane; you can also reach this point by walking through the park, then exiting on the left and crossing the High Street. Some 200m further along the High Street is the Heirloom Cafe, with the post office a village shop a further 60m. Follow Cow Lane north-westwards for 600m, cross stile beside gate and keep ahead through the field staying beside the right-hand hedge following it as it swings right to a path junction at the field corner. Stay in the field and turn left, with a ditch – the river Ouzel – on the right. Cross the footbridge and follow the right-hand margin through the next field to join Eaton Bray Road beside Eaton Bridge.

2 (SP964203) - Turn left along the road towards the village; take care as there is no pavement for part of the way. At the T-junction turn right alongside the B440 to a junction just before The Swan Inn and turn left along South End Lane for 850m; later the Two Ridges Link path joins from the right. Just before the cattle grid go through a kissing gate on the right and follow the right-hand fence, ahead through the field, soon passing Butler's Manor (moat) on the left. Go through the gate and continue through field. Go through a gate, cross the footbridge and then through another gate. Keep ahead across field to the opposite side, passing under the power lines.

3 (SP952187) – Go through into next field and follow left-hand edge. Cross a stile at the corner and keep ahead, cross the footbridge and bear diagonally left to a track at Vine Farm. Keep ahead with a pond over to the right to join a road in Ivinghoe Aston. Cross over and turn left along the pavement for half a mile, passing The Village Swan pub on the way. After the last house, continue alongside road for 100m to a crossing track and turn left.



4 (SP956178) – Follow the track for half a mile, pass the memorial stone, and keep ahead to cross the footbridge in the bushes. Go straight on alongside the left-hand fence with Edlesborough church visible ahead, later passing under the power lines. Continue along the track (church on the left) to a road junction at Church End. Cross straight over and follow the High Street for 500m, passing the brick and timber barn on the way to

arrive back at the junction with Pebblemoor on the right.

<https://www.berksandbuckslife.co.uk/out-about/walks/buckinghamshire-walk-around-edlesborough-1-5469421>

Dagnall Weather Station (AONB)

Weather Conditions for November & December 2020

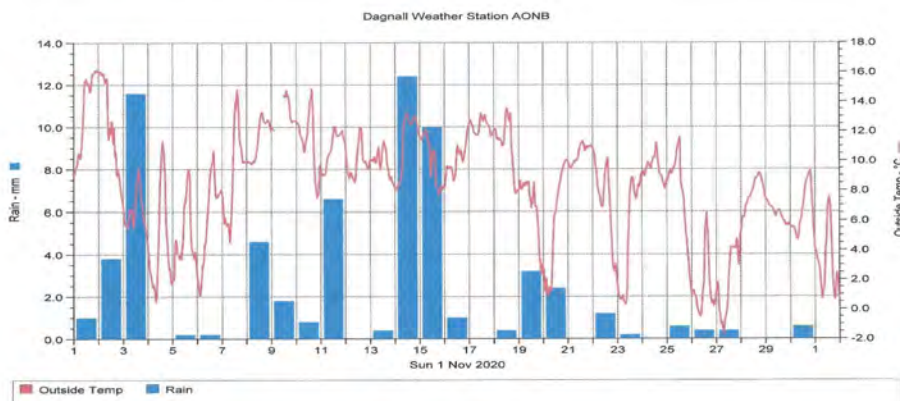
Elevation: 450 ft - Latitude: 51° 50' 13" North - Longitude: 0° 33' 34" West



November 2020

	High	Date/Time	Low	Date/Time
Temperature	16.2°C	1 Nov 21.00	-1.8°C	27 Nov 07.30
Mean Temp	8.5°C	Dominant Wind:		SSE
Humidity:	96%	6 days in Nov	69%	2 Nov 15.00
Barometer:	1039.7 hPa	5 Nov 09.30	990.7 hPa	15 Nov 09.30
Wind Speed	39 mph SSE	11 Nov 20.30	Months avg.	5.9 mph SSE
Wettest Day	12.40 mm	14 Nov	12.40 mm	0.488 ins
Monthly Rain:	Total	Nov	63.8mm	2.512 ins

November started on the milder side with temperatures reaching 16.2°C, the highest recorded this month. The 3rd was a wet day with 11.6mm of rain and falling temperatures so, by the 4th, it was down to 0.7°C. We soon returned to milder and showery weather which lasted for the next two weeks. As the month ended, it became colder with more settled weather which brought foggy mornings. We only recorded the temperature dropping below zero on two days, the lowest being -1.8°C. November's rainfall was 72% of the 13-year average.

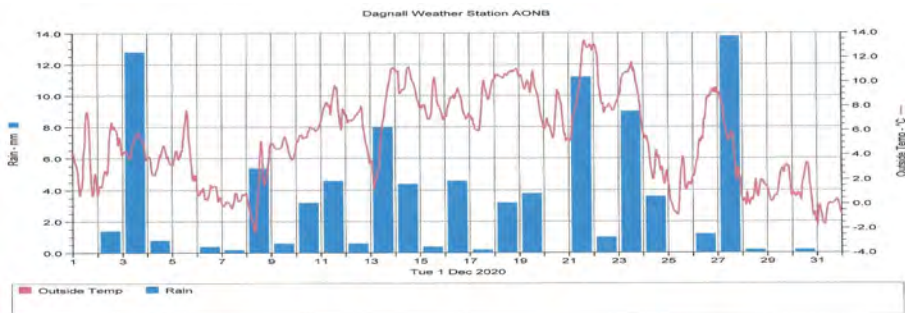


December 2020

	High	Date/Time	Low	Date/Time
Temperature	13.5°C	21 Dec 15.00	-2.4°C	8 Dec 08.30
Mean Temp	5.3°C	Dominant Wind:		SSE
Humidity:	96%	5 Days in Dec	74%	25 Dec 14.30
Barometer:	1032.0 hPa	25 Dec 11.00	969.9 hPa	28 Dec 04.30
Wind Speed	41 mph WSW	22 Dec 22.00	Months avg.	6.0 mph SSE
Wettest Day		27 Dec	13.79mm	0.543 ins
Monthly Rain:	Total	Dec	94.8 mm	3.732 ins

December was a mild and wet month. It started on the cooler side with a temperature of -2.4°C, but after a few days, it rose to reach 13.5°C on the 21st and remained mild until the 24th. December ended cold and settled with sunny periods and some fog. The station recorded rain on 25 days for a total of 94.8mm, which is 124% of the 13-year average.

Dagnall Weather Station (AONB)

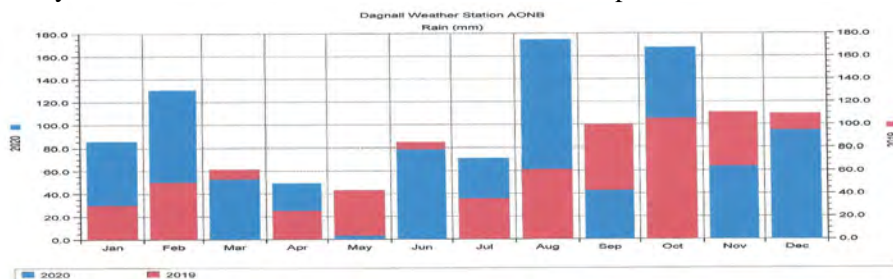


Annual Climatological Summary for 2020+

Temperature (°C) Precipitation (mm) Wind Speed (mph)

	High Temp	Date	Low Temp	Date	Mean Temp	Rain Day Max	Date	Month Total	Hi Wind	Date	Avg	Dom Dir
Jan	12.7°	14 th	-3.1°	19 th	6.4°	11.0mm	14 th	85.6 mm	37.0	16 th	3.5	W
Feb	12.9°	9 th	-2.4°	6 th	6.6°	21.6mm	16 th	130.6 mm	40.0	24 th	4.4	WSW
Mar	16.0°	24 th	-2.2°	25 th	6.7°	10.6mm	9 th	53.0 mm	42.0	10 th	6.9	W
Apr	23.9°	23 th	-3.0°	1 st	11.0°	18.6mm	18 th	49.4mm	31.0	5 th	4.2	SSE
May	27.7°	20 th	-1.7°	12 th	13.5°	2.0mm	1 st	3.4 mm	36.0	23 rd	4.9	SSE
Jun	31.4°	25 th	5.9°	6 th	15.8°	41.2mm	18 th	79.0 mm	32.0	27 th	5.4	SSE
July	35.6°	31 st	6.3°	12 th	16.5°	21.8mm	16 th	71.2 mm	39.0	30 th	4.2	NW
Aug	34.7°	12 th	7.2°	31 st	18.1°	32.6mm	13 th	174.6 mm	42.0	25 th	5.4	SSW
Sep	29.7°	15 th	4.4°	26 th	14.5°	24.8mm	23 rd	42.6 mm	39.0	25 th	5.0	W
Oct	16.9°	8 th	4.2°	9 th	10.5°	33.4mm	2 nd	167.6 mm	37.0	31 st	6.1	W
Nov	16.2°	1 st	-1.8°	27 th	8.5°	12.4mm	14 th	63.8 mm	39.0	11 th	5.9	SSE
Dec	13.5°	21 th	-2.4°	8 th	5.3°	13.8mm	27 th	94.8 mm	41.0	22 nd	6.0	SSE
	YEAR	TOTALS										
Lows /Max	35.6°	July	-3.1°	Jan	Year Avg 11.1°	Total Rain	Year	1015.6mm 39.984ins	Wind 42.0 mph	March	Wind 5.1 mph	Year avg W

2020 Highlights: the year started wet and February recorded 130.6mm of rain, which was more than 200% of the month's average. May was very dry with only 3.4mm. We had high temperatures in June, July, August and September reaching into the mid-30s and, unusually, there were long spells of hot weather as opposed to the norm of the occasional scorching day. August started warm with the second highest temperature of the year, 34.7°, and the highest monthly rainfall of 174.6mm. Overall, 2020 was a warmer and wetter year with 1015.6mm of rain, equating to 138% of the average yearly rainfall for the past thirteen years. To show how much rain we had, below is the comparison for 2019 and 2020.



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

Salvation Sound

Eaton Bray Salvation Army



Happy New Year!! I am sure that you have heard this a great deal over the last days and we think, Happy New Year???? What is happy about it?

The year 2020 was not a good year for anyone with the virus, the lockdowns and the restrictions and the many people who have lost their lives and have had to suffer this virus for themselves. It has touched everyone in this nation and throughout the world. No one has not been affected in some way and that seems mind boggling.

Today, in 2021, we are still faced with another lockdown bringing restrictions

for each one of us which are frustrating and disappointing. Children cannot attend school because of the fear of the virus spreading. People cannot work as they should do; many businesses and people have lost their jobs or are unable to work because of the COVID19 restrictions. Perhaps to you reading this it may seem hopeless, but I want to reassure you that there is hope.

Someone over the Christmas period sent me this post which I wanted to share with everyone stating, *'Even after the longest darkest nights, there comes a new day, Even after the saddest, hardest year, comes a fresh start.'*

Although I have not seen this film, the quote reassured me and reassured me that although life may seem hard and bleak, that we are unable to do the things we want to do like visiting family, socialising, there is always a new day, a fresh start.

In the Bible, God reassures us that there is always a fresh start.

'See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not see it.' Isaiah 43: 19

These words were written thousand of years before Jesus Christ ever came to earth but are still true for us today. There is hope- found in the vaccinations, there is hope because we have our families and friends and neighbours who care about us. We can also have hope and a fresh start because God is with us every day.

'Great is thy faithfulness, great is thy faithfulness.

Morning by morning new mercies I see;

All I have needed thy hand hath provided;

Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

✍ Major Allison Gaudion (The Salvation Army)



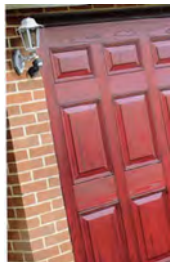


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