

# FOCUS

April 2021



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

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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**

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*Focus accepts no responsibility as to the  
accuracy or content of any advertising or articles  
published in 'this' magazine, neither do they  
reflect the opinion of members of the Committee.*

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

*Kindly Note*

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

*≠ Editor*

**Focus is online at [www.thefocusmagazine.co.uk](http://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](http://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 jtpinfo@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](http://www.kfpa.co.uk)
- Thursdays Tae Kwon-do, Dagnall Village Hall, 5.45-7.30pm 07813 755785
- Thursdays Clubbercise 7.30 - 8.30pm. Eaton Bray Hall - Gina Flitton 07846421756
- Thursdays Beavers (6 to 8 years old), 6.15-7.30pm, 1st Eaton Bray & Edlesborough Scout Hut, High Street, Edlesborough. Contact: ebebeaverleader@ebescouts.co.uk
- Thursdays Explorers Scouts (14-18 years old), 8pm-9.30pm, 1st Eaton Bray & Edlesborough Scout Hut, High Street, Edlesborough. Contact Simon Betts, lionheartesu@hotmail.co.uk
- Thursdays Intermediate Boxercise, 7.30-8.30pm, Dagnall Village Hall, Josh Thompson 07456 574405 or jtpinfo@gmail.com
- Thursdays Eaton Bray Methodist Church Social Afternoons, 2 - 4pm, All Welcome

**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. <a href="http://www.jukeboxjunction.co.uk">www.jukeboxjunction.co.uk</a> 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 <a href="http://www.kfpa.co.uk">www.kfpa.co.uk</a> , 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
<b>Monthly</b>	
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**

## Focus distribution

Do you fancy a walk round your village once a month to help us deliver the magazine? We urgently need help for Main Road South, Dagnall, Waterside, Mill End Close and Eatongate Close in Edlesborough and School Lane in Eaton Bray. If you can help, please contact Angela on 07464 621210 or 01525 221944.

## Easter Brownie Bites

By Lulu Grimes BBC goodfood

Tucked inside these scrumptious brownie bites are mini eggs - they're a perfectly sized sweet treat that's fun to make with the kids in the Easter holidays

### Ingredients

175g butter, chopped  
150g dark chocolate  
250g light brown soft sugar  
85g self-raising flour  
50g cocoa powder  
3 large eggs, beaten  
100g milk chocolate chips  
24 mini chocolate eggs, plus extra to decorate

### Method

#### STEP 1

Heat oven to 180C/160C fan/gas 4. Line 24 holes of a mini muffin tray with paper cases. Put the butter, dark chocolate and sugar in a pan and heat it very gently, stirring all the time until the butter and chocolate have melted. Remove from the heat and leave to cool for a few mins.

#### STEP 2

Meanwhile, sift the flour, cocoa and a good pinch of salt into a large bowl. Stir in the warm, melted chocolate mixture and the beaten eggs, then add half the chocolate chips and mix until just

combined.

#### STEP 3

Divide the mixture between the cases and place a mini egg into the middle of each muffin, pushing down gently. Bake for 12-15 mins until cooked but still gooey in the centre – they will continue cooking a little as they cool down. Leave to cool for 10 mins in the tin before transferring to a wire rack to cool completely.

#### STEP 4

Melt the rest of the chocolate chips in short bursts in the microwave, or in a bowl set over a pan of simmering water, stirring frequently. Leave to cool until it is quite thick, then dot a small amount on each cake and stick on some more mini eggs.



# 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](http://www.edlesborough-pc.gov.uk/nvh)

Email: [northallvhbookings@gmail.com](mailto:northallvhbookings@gmail.com)

**Eaton Bray:** Norman Lee Tel: 07975 797202

Email: [bookings@ebvh.co.uk](mailto:bookings@ebvh.co.uk) Website [www.ebvh.co.uk](http://www.ebvh.co.uk)

**Dagnall:** Bev Way 07875 462128 & Trish Owen 07762 151364

Email [DVH\\_Bookings@outlook.com](mailto:DVH_Bookings@outlook.com)

**Edlesborough Memorial Hall:** Penny Pataky, Tel: 01525 229358

Email: [manager@edlesborough-pc.gov.uk](mailto: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](mailto:LPT.LeightonBuzzardLinslade&Rural@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk)

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

PCSO Jackie Dodson

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

Call us if you want help with getting to the surgery/hospital, collecting prescriptions, minor errands or d-i-y jobs, form-filling, walking your pet, on-line shopping support etc. or if you would welcome our befriending service.

*We help people of Eaton Bray and adjacent villages*

# **Eaton Bray with Edlesborough Parish News**

**Vicar: Rev'd Joy Cousins**

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

**Curate: Rev'd Stephen Burge**

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

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

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

April traditionally begins with a day of jokes and pranks. The origins of April Fool's Day are uncertain. However, many different cultures have had days of foolishness around the start of April. The Romans had a festival named Hilaria on 25th March. The Hindu calendar has Holi and the Jews celebrate Purim. Perhaps there is something about the time of year, with the change from winter to spring, that lends itself to light-hearted celebrations. April Fool's Day is marked in some form or another throughout Europe. In France, 1st April is called 'Poisson d'Avril' or 'April Fish'. French children sometimes tape a picture of a fish on the back of their schoolmates crying 'Poisson d'Avril' when the prank is discovered.

The past twelve months have been very difficult for us all. Many people have suffered illness, hardship and bereavement. All of us have seen our way of life impacted by restrictions and lockdowns. In the midst of it all, it has sometimes seemed hard to find things to laugh about. But humour is an important aspect of our lives as human beings and finding ways to have fun can help to cheer us up in challenging times.

Some people think that Christianity is so serious and important that there can be no room for fun. Christians are caricatured as solemn and sombre people who frown on having a good time. Yet if we look at how Jesus is presented in the Gospels, we see a man who enjoys himself and who likes a good meal and a party. In fact, some of his contemporaries criticised him for socialising too much, particularly with unsavoury characters.

It is believed that some of Jesus' teaching was in the form of jokes, which admittedly get a bit lost in translation. For example, Jesus astonished his disciples by telling them that 'It is much harder for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of God than for a camel to go through the eye of a needle.' (Mark 10:25) The image of the camel, which was the largest animal found in Palestine, trying to get through the eye of a sewing needle is obviously ridiculous. Jesus goes on to say that 'This is impossible for human beings, but not for God; everything is possible for God.' (Mark 10:27)

So Jesus was a man who knew how to tell jokes and have a good time. In the church, the Christian year is punctuated by celebrations. All the major festivals are accompanied by feasting. Think of Christmas, Easter, Whitsuntide and Harvest. In the past, these were holidays and occasions when the whole community would come together to celebrate and have a party. Both the Christian calendar and the Bible show that being a Christian is not about being serious all the time. It is about enjoying life, celebrating all that is good and rejoicing in all God's gifts to us.

As we look forward, we hope for better times to come and for a return to meeting with



one another, to being able to celebrate significant events together and to having more fun.

Wishing you all a very happy Easter  
☺ 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](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.stmaryseatonbray.org.uk)**

Any queries please contact Phillip Lee on 07977234453.

Dagnall Church, Ringshall Road HP4 1RL

## Tony Ilic - Thank You

The family of the late Tony Ilic would like to thank everyone for their kind messages of condolence.

We would also like to express our gratitude to those who have made a donation to Alzheimer's Research in his memory.



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## April's Charms




When April scatters charms of primrose gold  
Among the copper leaves in thickets old,  
And singing skylarks from the meadows rise,  
To twinkle like black stars in sunny skies;

When I can hear the small woodpecker ring  
Time on a tree for all the birds that sing;  
And hear the pleasant cuckoo, loud and long --  
The simple bird that thinks two notes a song;

When I can hear the woodland brook, that could  
Not drown a babe, with all his threatening mood;  
Upon these banks the violets make their home,  
And let a few small strawberry blossoms come:

When I go forth on such a pleasant day,  
One breath outdoors takes all my cares away;  
It goes like heavy smoke, when flames take hold  
Of wood that's green and fill a grate with gold.

William Henry Davies





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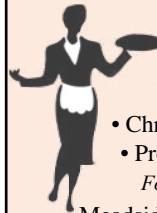
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# Litter Picking in the Villages



Spring is here and we are, hopefully, about to be let out of our Winter Lockdown. Being in lockdown, with McDonald's still very much open for take-aways, didn't deter the morons who think it is OK, or funny, to open their car and van windows and lob their refuse and cans into the hedges instead of taking it home and disposing of it in their bins and recycling. It also seemed to spawn a huge amount of fly tipping in the area – a great deal of it in Eaton Bray, especially in the Rye.

Anyone who has had to drive to Milton Keynes along the A4146 recently couldn't help noticing the continuous litter strewn on the verges and between the trees. The authorities go to a great deal of trouble and expense to plant the verges with attractive wildlife friendly plants and trees, but the effect is ruined by the presence of so much accumulated rubbish. It's such a pity!!

You might be forgiven for thinking that your local litter picking groups have not been much in evidence but how wrong you would be!! We haven't been able to organise any group litter picks, but many of our members have been out in force on a mission to keep the villages tidy, especially in Edlesborough, where several very enthusiastic members have made it their business during their "exercise time" to keep the Green, Cock's Close, the High Street and Cow Lane as free from litter as possible, removing it and binning it at home. A big thank you to everyone who has been helping in this way.

This year Bucks County Council won the "Great British September Clean Award" from the Keep Britain Tidy Network Awards 2021. The award recognises councils who helped promote and deliver the Great September Clean through supporting local communities, town and parish councils, environment groups and residents to take part. It won the award because of efforts in the south of the county where nearly 600 bags of refuse were collected. Our area was not mentioned as we did not officially take part. More importantly, our amazing "Men in Orange" at Streetscene, who turn out without fail when there is fly tipping reported in the area, did not get a mention either. I am sure that Central Beds also has its team of "Men in Orange" who must have been extremely busy recently! These people should be recognised for being there when we need them.

There are many who say that they shouldn't have to do litter picking. I agree, but unless there is a complete sea change, and folk start taking pride in their surroundings, clearing up the pavements around their properties, and taking their litter home when out and about, it will continue to be necessary. So be grateful to those who are prepared to give up their time on your behalf to keep our villages tidy. And next time you see someone out with a litter picker and black bag, don't just go past, say "thank you"!!!

✍️ Lorna Cabbage

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



## The County Council Elections are due to be held on May 6th

If you are concerned about going to the polling station this year, did you know you can register for a postal vote? You can register here [www.gov.uk/register-to-vote](http://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote)

This year, each ward will be able to elect three councillors to the new Unitary Authority, now called Buckinghamshire Council. The Labour Party have three candidates standing in the Election. Parishioners will all have 3 votes each this year, and we hope you will trust Labour with your votes. Our lead candidate is Trish Owen.

### Trish Owen

I've lived in Bucks for 41 of my (very nearly) 53 years, we moved to Dagnall in 2013. I've been a member of Edlesborough Parish Council as Councillor for Dagnall ward since early 2014 and I've been chair of Dagnall Village Hall Committee (DVH) for the last 3 years. I've been an avid fundraiser for DVH, successful projects I've both fundraised for and managed can be seen below



#### **My achievements for the local area :-**

- Refurbishment of DVH toilets
- New playground equipment on Dagnall Rec
- Redecoration and floor refurbishment in DVH
- Set up the Dagnall Covid Mutual Aid group
- Led several 'Couch to 5K' groups & fun runs
- Sit on the Bucks Council Community Board

#### **Coming this Spring:-**

- Set up of new 'BANG!' environmental group
- Resurfacing of DVH car park
- Adult gym equipment on Dagnall Rec (with EPC)

I am deeply dismayed by the growing inequality I see in this country. The need for foodbanks is a national disgrace. Locally I'm concerned at the lack of affordable housing and the type of houses that are being built. I'm dismayed about the lack of public transport in our villages, and at the expensive and inadequate school bus services.

I'm appalled by the state of our roads and horrified to learn Bucks are planning on reducing the budget for road repair by 25% next year!

I am determined about installing traffic calming measures in the area, as well as campaigning for 20mph zones near our schools.

I'm maddened by the huge amount of littering and fly tipping we get in the area. We also desperately need to look at rural crimes - theft from vans, farms, hare coursing, livestock and pet theft. The repeated damage to farmers hedges, fences, livestock and crops can have crippling costs. The enormous amount of tool thefts from vans in our area is out of control, with self-employed people often being hit over and over again.

***I guess you could say "I like to get things done" - I'd like to see what I can 'get done' at a County level if I was lucky enough to win your vote in the upcoming election!***

### Clive Cohen



I have strong local connections having lived in Marsworth for 26 years and previously in Tring for 10 years. I believe strongly in the value of public services that bind us together both locally and nationally. That public services are far better provided by local and national authorities as demonstrated by the success of the NHS led vaccine roll-out in contrast to the fiasco of private led test, trace and isolate.

I am a very keen cyclist and runner and like to encourage healthier and environmentally friendly lifestyles. I am dismayed at the perilous condition of Buckinghamshire roads. Councils need to do a lot more to promote carbon neutral living.

I am blessed to be a Bikeability instructor and have taught many children in Ivinghoe and Edlesborough. Our area may on the surface seem affluent but if you are unfortunate enough to need public services then it's a very different story. There is a crisis in adult social care in Buckinghamshire. Construction of new social housing is almost zero.

If elected I would seek to ensure the council is held accountable for services that meet the needs of current and future generations.

### Catherine Hayden



I have been involved in community activities since 1983, when I moved to Edlesborough. When my children were small, I was chair of the playgroup and secretary of the Memorial Hall committee. Later, I taught at Edlesborough School for 14 years, and currently I am a governor of Dagnall CE School; I am also a member of the Friends group that supports Edlesborough's impressive 'Church on the Hill'. My main involvement in village life, however, has been through the parish church, St Mary's, Eaton Bray, of which I have been a member for 35 years and where I am currently churchwarden.

I believe politics is a Christian issue - we should strive for social justice and hold Government to account, both nationally and locally. We should be concerned about others and their welfare and put that concern into action. We should be concerned if those in power are more interested in what is advantageous for people like themselves, than for all the people, in particular those who are most disadvantaged.

- 📄 You can vote safely and securely from home using a postal vote. Visit [postalvote.labour.org.uk](https://postalvote.labour.org.uk) for more information.
- 📄 You have three votes for your local councillors—use all three for Labour's candidates.
- 📄 Whether you vote by post or in person, **polling day is on Thursday, May 6th**, and polls will be open from 7am to 10pm.
- 📄 If there is no time to post your ballot, it can be dropped off in person at your polling station on polling day.
- 📄 For any questions about your candidates or vote, please contact [www.facebook.com/LabourForIvinghoe](https://www.facebook.com/LabourForIvinghoe)

# Your Photos

*Right*  
*Cold morning at Ashridge*  
*by Richard Woodhead*



*Below:*  
*Ice on way to Ivinghoe Beacon*  
*by Andy Gibbons*





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# Edlesborough Parish Council News

Including Edlesborough, Dagnall and Northall

## Ivinghoe & Wing Freight Strategy

Graham Hillary CMILT. Transport Strategy Officer (Freight) for Buckinghamshire Council has informed EPC of the following:

*“As you may recall that due to the TRO audit and moratorium we had planned to start the Statutory Consultation phase of the Ivinghoe Area Freight Strategy mid-late February. I wanted to bring you up to speed on where we are.*

*Part of the identified freight zone covered an area that falls within the Hertfordshire County. During the project we, of course, kept officers from Herts CC engaged, taking time to consult with them in the ‘informal engagement’ phase and keeping them in the loop since. In planning the Statutory Consultation phase we are required to advertise in local press the Traffic Regulation Order that provides the 7.5 tonne weight restriction with access by exception. To be able to do this we needed legal authority from Herts CC, unfortunately this was not been given in time to allow us to move into the Statutory Consultation at this time. In normal circumstances this would not be a problem and the consultation would be simply delayed until the authority was given, this year we have to consider the planned local elections in May. We are not able to run the consultation for the minimum amount of time prior to Purdah which starts on March 22nd, and as you can appreciate it is not appropriate to conduct the consultation during the Purdah period.*

*However, had we been able to get the Statutory Consultation in prior to Purdah we would still have had to wait until after the election and for Cabinet Member approvals once the appointment of Cabinet*

*had taken place. This would have given a potential ‘green-light’ for implementation around the middle of June.*

*Not being able to start the Consultation until just after the election effectively means we would have this complete and be in a position to take the proposal to Cabinet Member for approval around mid-June and hopefully be able to look at implementation near the end of June / beginning of July, losing around 2-3 weeks only had we been able to get the Consultation started in February.*

*I appreciate that delays are not something any of us would like to see; that there is great support within the communities for the Freight Strategy to be implemented at the earliest opportunity; and to see unwanted Heavy Goods Vehicles taken out of the area. My colleagues and I will continue to strive to make this happen as soon as we possibly can, subject of course, to there being no insurmountable objections during the Statutory Consultation. I am aware that we have seen an increase in HGV movements around the area, these may have something to do with construction projects nearby however, once allowed, I will try and get out to investigate.”*

## Council Elections

Elections to Edlesborough Parish Council are due to take place on the 6th May. If you are interested in becoming a parish councillor, please contact the clerk for further information or visit [www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/candidate-or-agent/parish-council-elections-england](http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/candidate-or-agent/parish-council-elections-england)

## New Pavilion

Membership of the ECSC continues to grow, at the time of writing over 500 memberships have been created with more



to follow. It is hoped that the building will be ready to open very soon (provided Covid-19) restrictions are lifted.

### **EPC Projects Update**

Below is a brief summary of the Councils current projects.

#### ***Edlesborough Green Children's Play Area***

– led by Cllr Mrs Booth

Cllrs Mrs Booth has held an initial meeting with the residents who have expressed an interest in being involved in the project. She has met with three companies/suppliers who have been asked to submit three proposed site plans, suggested equipment and quotes for the working party to consider.

#### ***EMH Toilet Refurbishment***

– led by Cllr Mrs Thomas

EPC are currently working to establish who holds the lease to gain approval for the improvements to EMH. A consideration is the relatively short term of the lease. EPC representatives will hold talks with the local Parochial Church Council to establish the way forward before committing a substantial sum on the toilet refurbishment project.

#### ***Dagnall School Forest School***

At the February Council meeting EPC agreed to pay to clear the rubbish/fly tipping from the copse/wooded area at Dagnall Allotments in readiness for Dagnall School to use the area for a Forest School. The clearance work will take place in late March/early April.

### **Buckinghamshire Council**

Buckinghamshire Cllr Anne Wight and Cllr Chris Poll attended the February Council meeting and reported on the following items:

Buckinghamshire Cllr Anne Wight

- Local Area Flooding.
- Bucks Additional Restrictions Grants.
- The Helping Hand Service.

- Better Health in 2021.
- Bucks Business First Support for Local Businesses.
- Residents invited to online consultation event to comment on SEALR (South East Aylesbury Link Road) Phase 2.

A full copy of the report can be found at <https://www.edlesborough-pc.gov.uk/media/2172/buckinghamshire-council-february-2021-report-provided-by-cllr-anne-wight.pdf>

Cllr Wight additionally informed the Council that residents of Slapton were experiencing numerous issues with extra wide load vehicles travelling through the village. Most of these vehicles are delivering new caravans to one of the Travellers sites in Billington. The residents, Thames Valley Police and Buckinghamshire Council are working together on this matter. The Council are also looking to see if there is a link between this activity and the increase in fly tipping in the local area. Cllr Miss Wells offered to provide advice on the vehicle management issue if required.

Buckinghamshire Cllr Chris Poll

- Cabinet agrees actions to be carbon neutral by 2050.
- Shielding.
- Weekly Covid-19 Briefing.
- Upcoming Elections.

A full copy of the reports can be found at <https://www.edlesborough-pc.gov.uk/media/2173/buckinghamshire-cllr-chris-poll-report-to-epc-february-2021.pdf>

### **Community Board for Ivinghoe and Wing Ward**

Buckinghamshire Cllr Anne Wight reminds residents that they are welcome to Like and Follow the Wing and Ivinghoe Community Board Facebook page [www.facebook.com/Wing-and-Ivinghoe-Community-Board-104964671378244/](http://www.facebook.com/Wing-and-Ivinghoe-Community-Board-104964671378244/)

The next meeting will be scheduled for June after the elections. In the meantime residents can still become involved in the sub-committees. If you have expressed an interest and have not been contacted recently please let the clerk know.

### **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 [www.fixmystreet.buckscc.gov.uk/](http://www.fixmystreet.buckscc.gov.uk/)

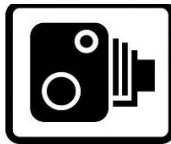
Issues with **roads & pavements** should be reported to Bucks CC using the following link [www.fixmystreet.buckscc.gov.uk/](http://www.fixmystreet.buckscc.gov.uk/)

**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 video camera speed recording 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](mailto:Alan.williams@edlesborough-pc.gov.uk) or 07828 398371



### **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 Meetings will take place on:

- Thursday 22nd April 2021
- Thursday 20th May 2021 - This will be preceded by the Annual Meeting of the Council that commences at 7.30pm. At the beginning of the meeting the Chair and Vice-Chair are elected and committee members and representatives to other bodies are appointed.

The meetings will commence at 7:30pm. All Parishioners are welcome to attend all Ordinary Parish Council meetings and may ask questions, raise issues and give suggestions during the Open Forum before the formal start of the meeting.

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

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

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## Edlesborough Cricket Club



With every chance of a splendid pavilion, and less chance of a girdle of praise, the new cricket season is almost upon us in Edlesborough.

There is a full fixture list of games on Saturdays throughout the summer, starting at the end of April, mostly against other village teams in the Four Counties (mostly Bucks) League.

New players are always welcome, and anybody interested in joining should contact **Ceri Davies** on **01525 221472** to book their debut.

This season we are again running the All Stars introductory programme for 5 to 8 year-olds on Sunday mornings. This is a national initiative devised by the England Cricket Board, but delivered through local clubs. The first three years of the programme have been very popular and great fun, and after last year's hiatus we are looking forward to more of the same this year. More details than you could possibly imagine are on the ECB website: just Google 'All Stars Cricket'. **WARNING** - willing parents may find themselves getting involved as well!

There is another national board initiative this year - Dynamos Cricket, aimed at 8 to 11 year-olds. Its aim is partly to build on the All Stars programme, but it is also an opportunity to welcome slightly older children who are new to cricket. Have a look on the internet under Dynamos Cricket, and if there is enough interest registered we will give it a go on weekday evenings.



# Edlesborough Primary Academy – Growing Together

## Your school, your community

Edlesborough Primary Academy (EPA and previously known as Edlesborough School) is very much a village school with strong links to the community and great support from the parental body. Knowledge Schools Trust (KST/The Trust) welcomed EPA into its growing family of schools in November 2020. The other three primary schools within the Trust are Ofsted judged ‘outstanding’.

The Trust has developed a unique Primary Knowledge Curriculum over the last eight years which is at the heart of each of its primary schools. The Executive Headteacher, Laura Lund explains: ‘We are committed to delivering the highest standard of teaching and learning for all our pupils. We have invested in a strong, supportive team led by EPA’s headteacher, Jenny Peel, to ensure that we deliver an outstanding educational provision that has strong appeal to both parents and children.’

### Confidence and success



The Trust provides a knowledge rich education that challenges pupils, no matter what their background, and are passionate about giving everyone the opportunity to grow as individuals, and together. Laura adds: ‘It’s so important that children develop the confidence that comes from possessing a store of essential knowledge and the skills to use it, through our education curriculum.’

### Access to excellence

Access to an outstanding education is paramount for our children, and the knowledge-rich curriculum, which the Trust have developed, aims to inspire its pupils.

Alex Pethick, the Trust’s Curriculum Director, says: ‘As parents you will be pleased to know that our curriculum is ambitious, fun, and carefully sequenced, enabling all children to construct firm foundations and build on their knowledge and skills over time. Our curriculum team are highly experienced with providing effective training and support, and have successfully led improvements in primary schools across the country.’

‘We are providing bespoke support to Edlesborough to enable staff to successfully embed the Primary Knowledge Curriculum, as well as developing subject leaders, and empowering teachers to use research-based practice to drive improvements in teaching and learning.’

### A love of learning

The Trust is committed to ensure that children develop a knowledge and love of subjects that plant the seeds for a lifetime of learning. One of the Trust’s primary schools was designated an ‘English Hub’ two years ago by the Department for Education. This Hub allows the Trust to provide training, support, and resources to Edlesborough Primary Academy that offers funding for books and staff development.

The Hub is led by a team of Literacy Specialists who provide in-depth support in the teaching of phonics and also all aspects of English provision. The aim is to enrich every child's learning experience during their educational journey. EPA Headteacher, Jenny Peel comments: 'The school has achieved great results in the classroom with the daily phonics programme, and the December phonics screen result was 96%. This exceeded the national average of 82% (DfE, 2019).'

### **The KST educational experience**

The educational experience at Edlesborough follows the Trust's school improvement methodology focussing on individual growth, transformation, collaboration and success through learning and knowledge.

Laura Lund adds: 'Of course, skills in English and Maths are extremely important, and we incorporate numeracy and literacy alongside exciting science, humanities, arts and music offerings within our Primary Knowledge Curriculum, giving children the bedrock of key knowledge to allow them to develop into successful learners.

'We have extremely high expectations of the children in their conduct and learning behaviours and we are very proud of how well they reach those high standards. In addition, our staff are dedicated professionals who are fully committed to the life of the school and the children.'

### **The Trust's vision**

The Trust's vision for Edlesborough Primary Academy is to swiftly transform it to an 'outstanding' school, renowned for academic excellence and for creating the desire to succeed in all its pupils, no matter what their background.

Laura Lund says: 'At the very heart of this are our values, which directly impact your child, your school, and your community.'



### **The Trust's aims are to:**

- Encourage all children to be confident, hard-working and ambitious.
- Teach a core body of knowledge to all pupils so that they can develop an ability to think for themselves.
- Instil a lifelong love of learning in our school community.
- Attract, develop and retain outstanding staff.

If you wish to read more about The Trust's values, goals, and to learn more about the curriculum then please take a look at these links:

KST: [www.knowledgeschoolstrust.org](http://www.knowledgeschoolstrust.org)

KST Primary Knowledge Curriculum: [www.primaryknowledgecurriculum.org](http://www.primaryknowledgecurriculum.org)

### **Get in touch**

We are always happy to answer questions from parents and visitors, and warmly welcome your comments and suggestions. You can contact the school via our website [www.epa-primary.org](http://www.epa-primary.org)

# Puppies, Puppies Everywhere

So, in case you have been on another planet, as well as there being a global pandemic, there has been a huge rise in people buying man's best friend: The Puppy! This in turn has led to puppy prices rising massively, intake of rescue dogs increasing hugely, and a disturbing rise in dog thefts and puppy farming.

For many people this has been perfect timing, with many of us working from home. This is great as I personally encourage new puppy owners to take a week off work to help puppy settle in. However, plans will need to be put in place when things return to 'normal' and this should start today.

I am fortunate in my profession as a Dog/Animal trainer, and have been very busy, helping owners, often first-time ones, give their puppy and their relationship the best start including juggling their training in their busy lives. So what I thought I would do is give you my top tips if you have recently got a puppy or are thinking of getting one:

## **1. Get your puppy used to being left alone gradually.**

I have seen so many puppies this year, and last, with severe Separation Anxiety. It is a form of panic attack and they don't just get over it. If you continue to leave them it will get worse. Start now; Leave them alone in a different room when you're working or take the whole family for a walk leaving puppy at home. Install a camera so you can check in or ask a neighbour to listen out for you.

## **2. The 'dreaded' first night**

Think of it this way. Puppy is dragged away from everything it has known (Mum, siblings, human family), taken in a scary, bumpy thing to meet strange new people (that's you!).

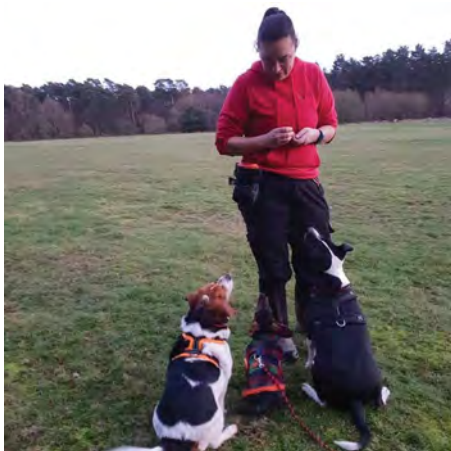
They are then given endless attention all day and then suddenly they are then shut in a cage and left all alone...scary!

I would recommend the first week someone sleeps downstairs with the puppy, so they are not alone. Alternatively, you can have the crate upstairs with you. Most people use crates mainly because puppies won't mess in them. However, this doesn't mean they don't need to go to the toilet. Set an alarm a few times during the night so a.) puppy

doesn't learn that crying makes humans come to me and b.) no accidents and your toilet training is on to a great start as they are always doing it in the right place every time...the garden. Also do not bother with puppy pads, it just teaches them going inside is OK. Don't assume they know the difference between the pad & your carpet.....

## **3. Ditch the Bowl**

Sometimes we forget that most breeds are working dogs. They have been selectively bred to have a job to do. Although being a pet dog looks like an easy life, they still feel these needs. Walks should take care of their physical needs (remember the exercise rule:



5mins per walk per month of age!) but what about their mental needs? Imagine having the same meal in the same place, at the same time everyday.... zzzzz! I have a solution for you & it is called 'ditch the bowl' Work out your dog's daily food allowance and split it into lots of smaller feeds. Save some for training (dogs learn whether you train them or not, the training makes sure they learn the RIGHT stuff!) and rest can be used in food toys such as Kongs (not just for peanut butter!), licki mats, snuffle mats, treat balls and scatter feeds in the garden. No set times and lots throughout the day to stop them finding their own entertainment, inhaling their food & perfect for zoom calls!



Check out [www.allaboutdogfood.co.uk](http://www.allaboutdogfood.co.uk) & see what your food scores?

#### **4. Socialisation**

So, this is definitely a Puppy owner's favourite word, but this doesn't necessarily just mean other dogs. If socialised properly it should be everything you want them comfortable with during their lives.....sheep, traffic, car journeys, high-vis wearing people etc.

One of the biggest mistake's puppy owners make is letting their dog say hello to everyone. I have lost count of the clients I have seen after their initial Puppy 121 whose dog will now run (usually 2 fields!) to see another dog. They don't know there are distance rules not that's what I've always been allowed to do? So, it is nice and simple and will make your lives so much easier; For every dog you see make sure your dog does a recall and comes back to you even if it's Fido from next door who they've played with 100s of times before. It is all about consistency. Once pup has come back then you can send them to say hello. Added bonus, you made the good thing happen therefore they are more likely to do it again.

If you are unsure if they will do this either give yourself more space & set your puppy up to succeed or use a longline (only ever on a harness for safety reasons) so they can't get it wrong. Then that day when there is a dog on lead who really doesn't want an 'it's OK he's friendly' puppy bouncing in his face because he has recently had an operation and the owners is trying to keep him calm, you can be the smug owner with the recall, lead on and strut away no drama!

I hope this has been useful. I'm always happy to help dog owners trying to do the best for their dogs. Dog training isn't easy. That's what we are for so if you are struggling, get a qualified professional to help you.

Remember they are part of the family so enjoy each other!

✍️ Lisa Edwards

IMDT Qualified Trainer

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This year's Pace BIG Walk routes will be circular routes taking in woodlands, parts of the Icknield Way and the Ridgeway Trail.

All routes start and finish in Wendover at the Wendover Memorial Hall.

There is a choice of 18m, 12m, 6m or The Superhero Mile routes.

There is something to suit all ages and abilities. This is a great opportunity to set yourself a challenge for 2021 and have some outdoor fun.

By taking part in the BIG Walk, you will not only have the opportunity to explore this beautiful countryside in a completely unique way, but you will also be helping us to provide life changing support to the children and young people who access Pace services.

To sign up visit <https://thepacecentre.enthuse.com/cf/bigwalk2021>



If the mountain seems too big today  
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and your plans feel like a curse  
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if a shower stings like needles  
and a bath feels like you'll drown  
if you haven't washed your hair for days  
don't throw away your crown  
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a rest is not defeat  
don't think of it as failure  
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the world will not stop turning  
while you get realigned  
the mountain will still be there  
when you want to try again  
you can climb it in your own time  
just love yourself til then

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- By Laura Ding-Edwards -

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# EATON BRAY PARISH COUNCIL

## **EATON BRAY PARISH COUNCIL FOCUS REPORT: FEBRUARY 2021**

*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.*

### **FixMyStreet**

Report and track roads and highways problems.

CBC have a new reporting system to make reporting road/street issues easier, quicker and more accurate. You can now report and track highways and environment problems online, via the FixMyStreet app:

<https://fixmystreet.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/>

### **VILLAGE FLOODING**

If you experience flooding and need help, the Parish Council has created a guide for whom to contact in an emergency depending on the type of flooding. Information can be found here:

<https://www.ebpc.co.uk/flooding-support/>

### **VILLAGE CALENDAR 2022**

Eaton Bray Parish Council are looking to produce a village calendar for 2022. The theme of the calendar will be **Historic Eaton Bray** and we are hoping to show our village from different points in history. If anyone has an old photograph of the village that you would like to be used in the calendar please contact us via our website <https://www.ebpc.co.uk/village-calendar-for-2022/>

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### **MEETING OF EATON BRAY PARISH COUNCIL**

#### **HELD ON MONDAY 8 FEBRUARY 2021, 7:30pm via REMOTE/ZOOM**

Due to social distancing measures, until further notice, all Parish Council Meetings are being held remotely, all are invited to join the meeting through the ZOOM link provided on the EBPC website, [www.ebpc.co.uk](http://www.ebpc.co.uk)

### **CBC CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL (CBC)**

**Cllr Philip Spicer** - email: [Philip.Spicer@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:Philip.Spicer@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)

**CBC Website:** [www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk) - CBC Email: [customers@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:customers@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk) -

**CBC Customer Services:** 0300 300 8301

### **PLAY EQUIPMENT**

The Parish Council have put in an application to CBC for S106 monies towards the purchase/installation of a Fitness Rig in The Rye recreation ground. They are also in talks with play equipment providers, on design ideas/costs for new equipment at School Lane Recreation Ground.

### **CORRESPONDENCE TO THE PARISH COUNCIL**

A reminder to residents that if sending in anonymous correspondence to the council, it may not be investigated unless there is a clear public interest in doing so and that a fair investigation can be carried out. The Parish Council wish to reassure residents that any correspondence of a sensitive nature received, personal details will be kept confidential and not made public (as outlined under the Data Privacy Law 2018).

### **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](http://www.ebpc.co.uk)



**Heidi Head, Parish Clerk**

Email: [clerk@ebpc.co.uk](mailto:clerk@ebpc.co.uk) – Telephone/Text: 07931 479663 – Website: [www.ebpc.co.uk](http://www.ebpc.co.uk)

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

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



# Friends of the Church on the Hill



When the Friends of the Church on the Hill first announced a Magical Midsummer Night on the Hill in 2014 we could never have imagined that only a few years later we would have to cancel two successive EdleFests due to a pandemic; a what? This is a subtle way of saying that at the Group “Zoom” Meeting on February 25th, it was decided that with the limitations that would be in force we would be physically unable to deliver safe and successful concerts this year. Chris Difford, Sam Kelly, The Dicemen, those were the days. We had to release “our” 2021 artists from their rollover contracts so that they could take advantage of opportunities that will arise for them, with the proviso that we will try and sign them up for 2022.

As EdleFest is our main source of funds, our plans for the repair and installation of the storm damaged West Window, like the window itself, were left in tatters. We are looking to raise funds to complete the work. Donations can be gift aided and with their permission, patrons will be acknowledged. Potential donors please contact [wyn.johns@gmail.com](mailto:wyn.johns@gmail.com)

Now we are picking up the pieces, but hang on this looks pretty good.....

The Church is currently open nearly every day, at present for “independent prayer”. We will soon be hearing about The Churches Conservation Trust (CCT) protocols for re-opening to visitors.

“This is my Theatre “are putting on eight performances through the summer, featuring The Tempest, Jane Eyre, Treasure Island and The Secret Garden, with more billed for the Autumn and Christmas. Have a look at [thisismytheatre.com](http://thisismytheatre.com)

In September the Friends will be part of Heritage Open Days. This is a national initiative and this year the theme is “Edible - England”. We hope that we may be able to augment this with cream teas perhaps running throughout the Summer, subject to.... We also have thoughts of putting on a concert in September, tailored to the prevailing conditions at the time, probably featuring local performers. We know that “staycation” will be the order of the day for a while, so.....Champing could be for you? You can spend the night in the





Church, I can assure you that a family very local to the Church loved it. Go to the CCT website or Google “Champing”, other servers are available. Bookings are already running at a high level, seven days a week. So, on a quiet Tuesday, not much on telly, lets go Champing on the Hill. Our Church is by far the most popular CCT Champing Church. We all know the views in the day but just imagine a balmy starry night on the hill? The Church is yours for the night!

We are very much open to ideas from the villagers for events on the Hill. Let us know what type of entertainment, interest, activity you would like to happen, based at the Church. The new Edlesborough Sports & Community Centre is going to be a great asset to our lovely village and we will be working very closely with Ken Holloway and his team, who already have some great ideas. Between us we can provide our

community with regular quality events within walking distance. Leave the car keys at home, let your hair down, Edlesborough will be where it’s at.

If you are a Facebook user please do visit our page ‘Friends of the Church on the Hill, Edlesborough’ and ‘Like’ it. We try to provide regular updates of our plans and activities and share year round pictures of the fascinating building and grounds.

Our website is [edlesboroughchurch.org.uk](http://edlesboroughchurch.org.uk)

*Wyn Johns*

---

## Appledown Rescue and Rehoming Kennels



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# **Musings from Focus 1984**

## **Who was Edwina Vole?**

### **THE SECRET (VILLAGE) DIARY OF EDWINA VOLE (Aged 37 and 3/4)**

[With apologies to all fans of Adrian Mole (my nephew), who, I'm happy to report is still holding his parents' marriage together and is at present studying 'O' Level Bike Maintenance and Chicken Farming.]

#### **SATURDAY**

A windy day and Smell Time is here again. It's always the same! Just as the first bulbs are breaking through the gently warming earth and Mother Nature begins to do her stuff - there it is! More than a hint of Spring in the village air! What can it be this time? It's hard to pin it down. Sheep? Drains? Chemical Warfare? Animal, Vegetable or Mineral? It must be all three. It's enough to make a chicken moult. Whatever it is, is strong enough to permeate cracks in the house. The windows are firmly closed. I think I've got it now - a subtle mixture of Pig Manure, Rotting Cabbages and Fetid Ditches with -let me see - just the merest hint of Burning Diesel Oil. (I'm getting good.) Nothing to worry about, however! "Doing the fields" I'm told. Some doings! Let's hope the wind changes direction soon.

#### **SUNDAY**

More 'doings'! This time horses - all over the road. Hi-Ho! Silver! The riding posse has hit Town again. It's funny - in my day, all the Dads in our road used to race each other to be first out there with bucket and shovel. All keen rose growers. We could certainly do with a few rose growers around here. Where are they? Too scared, I bet, to risk life and limb by stooping in the road with bucket poised. An all too easy target for the Speeding Village Wally. (More of these later.)

Yet, sadly, maybe the quality today simply isn't good enough - like everything else. This must be so, as I'm continually driving through its endless mushiness. Princess Anne doesn't have to put up with this sort of thing I'm sure. No doubt she has grooms and lesser orders of servants . rushing around clearing up afterwards.

With horse riding on the increase in all the villages, small matters like this, if left unattended, are bound to mount up ....

#### **MONDAY**

The Bus Shelter is an utter disgrace. How can the youth of the village be expected to sit there in comfort in its present state? It looks like some hideous creation from a nightmare version of BBC Playschool: The recent addition of a waste paper basket is futile. The only interesting thing you can do with it is tip the contents on the ground.

What is needed is proper stainless steel fitted shelf units for storing drinks cans, aerosol sprays, cosmetics and other doubtful substances - and proper electric light fittings (no need to waste all those matches!) - and also sliding doors to keep the rain out - and, whilst we're about it, a sink unit complete with large mirror (more artistic scope) - and what about proper toilet facilities? - and aerial sockets and points for T.V., Stereo, Video, electric razors, bread knives and other toys - and why not further installations of wider benches to accommodate sleeping bags? - thus, minimising the need even further for any of them to go home.

# Photography in Focus

In this series, John Hockey shares some tips

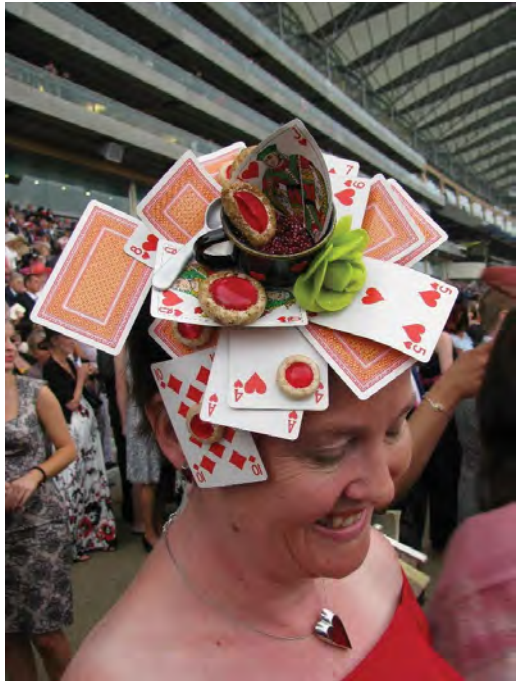
## QUIRKY PHOTOGRAPHS

Sometimes it is the unusual, the quirky, that gets your interest and just for fun, here are a few pictures that I thought amusing and well 'odd' over the years.



A few years ago we were on a cruise and returned to our cabin after dinner to be met by this apparition dangling from the curtains. Our cabin steward (or Stateroom steward if you travel by Cunard!) had cleverly fashioned this monkey from towels and had used sweets for his eyes before hanging him on the curtains. Sometimes you just have to record such creative surprises.

Another slightly quirky opportunity occurred when we visited Ascot races. This lady obliged me by tilting her head to display this magnificent hat based on the queen of hearts. So clever - complete with jam tarts and a heart-shaped necklace, she had obviously spent some time getting this creation perfect. It brought a little extra sparkle to a lovely day.





This is a well-known chandelier at Waddesdon. The house was open for Christmas and as usual the small dining room was full of Christmas trees and a decorated table. Each tree was covered in small lights and due to the low light in the room, they have all come out like stars in this photograph. To me this could be the moment of creation – a sort of ‘big bang’, in the crockery universe. I actually sent this photo in to the office at Waddesdon and was amused when the one word email came back – ‘Smashing’!



I probably don't need to say anything about this shot of cars at a classic automobile event at Halton House near Wendover. Ironic probably covers it.



My wife and I were at Waterperry Gardens near Thame last year and I looked down and saw this. I only had my phone with me but it struck me that even the smallest creatures were taking Covid-19 precautions seriously.



Well, that concludes this series on Photography for Focus magazine, but with the editor's permission, I will be continuing to send in articles taking a particular theme and trying to use some of the tips I have outlined.

As you can see from the picture above, I will be taking concrete steps to improve my photography!

Next time: Trees

## ZSL Whipsnade Zoo

**ZSL (Zoological Society of London)** is an international conservation charity working to create a world where wildlife thrives. From investigating the health threats facing animals to helping people and wildlife live alongside each other, ZSL is committed to bringing wildlife back from the brink of extinction. Our work is realised through our ground-breaking science, our field conservation around the world and engaging millions of people through our two zoos, ZSL London Zoo and ZSL Whipsnade Zoo. For more information, visit [www.zsl.org](http://www.zsl.org).

### Ensure ZSL's Zoos remain open

ZSL London and Whipsnade Zoos were closed for an unprecedented 18 weeks in 2020 due to coronavirus lockdowns and closed their doors again on Monday 4 January as part of the 2021 national lockdown. Reliant on income from ticket sales to care for the animals and fund their global conservation efforts, the enforced closures have put the charity zoos under huge financial pressure. Vets and zookeepers continue to provide the highest level of care for their animals, working throughout both lockdowns. ZSL, the international conservation charity behind the Zoos, is calling on the public to help ensure they remain open by becoming a member, or donating to ZSL at [www.zsl.org/donate](http://www.zsl.org/donate).



*Born as part of the European Breeding Programme (EEP) for the species, Zhiwa, is the 15th greater one-horned rhino to be born at ZSL Whipsnade Zoo, which was one of the first zoos in the world to breed the species in 1957*

## How Friendly is Your Letterbox?

If you would like to be able to answer the question, fold a sheet of A4 paper twice and place in a C6 envelope. Now go outside and see how easily you can post your envelope to yourself.

Having volunteered to help with a village mailing, I know that many letterboxes are challenging. It is great that there are lots of environmentally friendly designs with front and back plates and brushes in between – but they also make posting small items exceedingly difficult. Then there are the letterboxes at ankle height – even with dogs keeping guard on the other side. I just don't know how our brilliant posties manage. They have more than 400 to contend with each day.

I'm not writing on anyone else's behalf. I just think a lot more houses need external letterboxes to make life easier for all who use your letterbox. Please try the experiment in the first paragraph and decide how user friendly yours is.

✉ Elizabeth Braiden





# Northall Baptist Church

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A little Church with strong local links

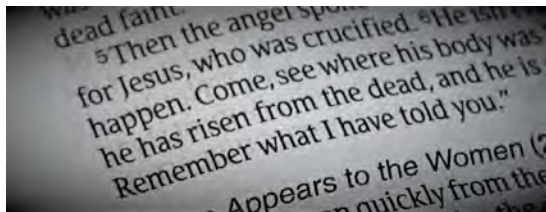
## He is risen, Hallelujah!

Easter is here. What do you celebrate at Easter?

Easter eggs, unlimited chocolate, school holidays, this year, a relaxation of Covid-19 restrictions? The last year has been very difficult for everyone. We have all faced things we have never had to before. Who would have thought at the beginning of last March that the government would have had to close down most of the enterprising businesses, shops and restaurants and even seeing our loved ones?

And most of all, who would have thought of so many deaths? Of the elderly, some young and fit. So much fear.

Easter is the time when Christians remember the specific events of 2,000 years ago. The real meaning of Easter. Jesus death was a triumph for some and a disaster for others. Some religious leaders at that time may have thought his presence and the effect of his teachings were now at an end! Jesus followers were perplexed, despite he'd tried to explain these things to them several times. In Mark 8 Jesus first began to explain to the disciples that he would be killed and after 3 days rise again. They didn't understand what he was trying to tell them and Peter tried to rebuke Jesus. We often blame Peter for his impetuous nature. But rebuking Jesus! – goodness me! But in our actions we probably do the same.



Only 3 days after the crucifixion on what we call 'Good Friday' Jesus did indeed rise from the dead. If that hadn't happened, the world would have no hope. This world has been lacking hope during the last 12 months but a hymn we regularly sing, written by Gloria and William Gaither has the chorus:-

'Because he lives, I can face tomorrow;  
Because he lives all fear is gone;  
because I know he holds the future,  
and life is worth the living just because he lives'

This is the hope we have and then all fear of the future has gone.

We are all human and it's so easy to be scared about what might happen. The constant reminders that we should be worried, don't help. Not seeing friends and relatives who might help soothe our worries, doesn't help. The one that does help, is the Jesus that died and rose again to secure our eternal futures. He is risen, hallelujah!

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/>

✉ Ruth Cox Tel: 07791 425625

# LOCAL HERALDRY BY JOHN HOCKEY

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

## A RECENT GRANT OF ARMS

The College of Arms, based in London, is the body in England that grants arms. Compared to early coats of arms, recent examples are quite complicated, but some are also intriguing. Here is a grant from 2010 for a Peter John Hocart Tooley, LL.M., M.B.B.S., M.R.C.G.P., D.M.J.



As yet, I have not been able to work out the reasoning for the incorporation of this beast, maybe he needed a thick skin in his job!. It reminds me that heraldry can be an amusing and entertaining discipline!

Next time: A Bridget Talbot Connection

The main shield looks for all the world like a strange combination of a set of rugby posts with some serpents – perhaps hinting at a medical association.

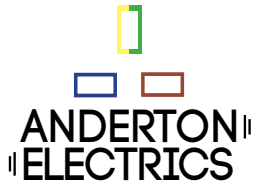
The description or blazon is as follows: Per pale Gules and Vert two Endorses Argent each Endorse environed by a Serpent head outwards Or langued counterchanged of the field.

That is just a complicated heraldic way of describing what you see here, the endorses and barrulet making up the ‘posts’ with the serpents winding around them. It all seems a little strange until you read that Doctor Tooley is a member of the Court of Assistants of the Worshipful Company of Apothecaries and was for thirty years a medical officer for rugby teams in Oxfordshire and London!

In addition to the grant of arms, he was also granted a *badge*:



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## Down the Lane

By the time you read this it will be April! As I write this at the beginning of March, there are so many enjoyable jobs to do in the garden. I'm sowing seeds indoors. The aubergines have germinated. I tried them last year for the first time but only picked 3 fruit before it was too cold for more to develop so I've started much earlier this year. I lost some of the sweet peas I started last autumn so I've germinated some more on damp kitchen paper. I then pot them up to plant out later.

A few days ago several large bumble bees, which I assume are queens, were flying around the garden and enjoying the few flowers in bloom, especially a mahonia, which was covered with flowers, and Christmas roses. Bumble bees make me smile; the way they move around, and their Latin name *Bombus*! It's important at this time of year to grow flowers for these early bees so I have Winter Aconites, Snowdrops and small irises. My violas flower all winter and have a real growing spurt in the spring. Christmas Roses are lovely for giving subtle spring colour. They grow happily in shade and seed themselves, even next to walls where I would never plant them. In January I remove all the leaves and I can then see the flowers. After they have finished flowering new leaves appear, which look attractive for the rest of the year and provide cover for wildlife.

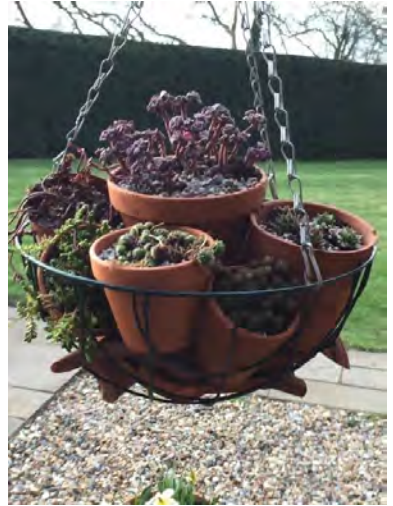
One of my favourite vegetables is purple sprouting broccoli which had a very good crop a year ago. According to the seed packet, if you sow the seeds in the spring and plant them out after the frosts you can have an autumn crop. I had some wonderful plants in the autumn, which became very top heavy, but no purple sprouting. I left the plants over the winter, by which time they were shrubs and too large to net, and as soon as the purple shoots appeared the pigeons devoured them. I shall just plant them out in the autumn this year and protect them from pigeons!

I have re-potted my houseleeks in fresh compost and rearranged the pots in their hanging basket as you can see from the photo. The plants will soon fill out and flower in the summer.

The frosts have damaged some plants. I'll wait until the weather warms up and then cut out the damage. At the moment that is protecting growth underneath. Most of my *verbena bonariensis* has succumbed to the cold. Although it's not fully hardy it usually survives the winter. It always seeds itself but the flowers may be later this year. Bees and butterflies love them. A garden between Good Intent and Edlesborough shops has a 'forest' of *verbena* during the summer.

Next month I will write about my attempts to grow a small flower meadow.

✍️ Sally Taylor



# Life in the Hive - The Colony

There are about 250 species of bees living in the UK. The vast majority of these are solitary bees that do not live in colonies but are extremely important as pollinators. We have about 24 species of the familiar bumblebee and one species of honey bee *Apis Mellifera*.

Honey bees live in colonies which are often termed superorganisms because the individuals work together to behave as a single very effective unit. A honey bee cannot survive alone and if it becomes separated from its parent colony it will try to join another by begging entrance to the hive usually with a gift of pollen or nectar.

The colony is made up of a queen, worker bees, drones and a nest of brood (eggs, larvae and pupae). The colony makes and lives on a structure made from beeswax which is secreted by glands on the workers abdomen to form an efficient strong arrangement of hexagonal cells that we call honeycomb.



Usually there is just one queen in a colony. She can live for up to five years and is the only female bee that can lay fertile eggs. So the queen is the mother of the colony and is a little

larger than the worker bees with a longer pointed abdomen and longer legs. Her job is to lay eggs, as many as 2000 in a day if conditions are favourable. She controls activities by producing pheromones which are chemical messages passed around by the worker bees touching each other.

The vast majority of bees in a colony are female workers produced from a fertilised egg laid by the queen. In the summer there may be as many as 60,000 workers in a strong colony but the individuals only live for about six weeks. This is perhaps not

surprising because, as their name suggests, they work hard all their lives carrying out the tasks necessary to maintain the colony.

After the worker emerges from her cell she generally progresses as she gets older through a series of jobs. To begin with she is a “house bee” or “nurse bee” cleaning the hive and polishing the cells, feeding the larvae and the queen, making wax, building honeycomb, receiving nectar from the foraging bees, converting it to honey and storing it in the cells. When she is about three weeks old she may spend some time as a “guard bee” defending the entrance to the hive from robber bees and wasps before starting the really hard work as a forager.

Before setting off to forage a bee makes special orientation flights around the hive so she can find her way home. Most people know that the bees collect pollen and nectar but they also collect water and propolis which is a resin from certain types of trees. This sticky substance has antiseptic properties and can be used to make natural health products. The bees use it to polish the cells prior to eggs being laid and for sealing up detritus and gaps in the hive.

Drones are male bees produced from an unfertilised egg. They are bulkier than the worker bees, have huge



compound eyes and no sting. They live for about 40 days and their primary job is to mate with queens. More drones in the hive suggests that the colony is about to swarm. They do not keep house, guard the hive entrance or do any foraging. So they are forcibly ejected from the hive in the autumn when their usefulness is over and die within a couple of days. There are no males in the hive over the winter eating up the stores.

The brood nest is at the heart of the colony where the temperature is kept constant at about 34°C and the humidity at around 40%. Here the queen lays single eggs in the base of each cell and the larvae develop being fed by the adult bees until they form a pupa. Queens, drones and workers all have slightly different development times before emerging as an adult. Mostly the brood nest has worker and drone cells but in the spring from April to June the colony may begin to make preparations to swarm and start to build queen cells which look quite different. If you see a swarm of bees in your garden this spring please call this number 01525 370550 to contact a swarm collector.



### Back Home

If I had the power to turn back the clock,  
Go back to that house at the end of the block  
The house that was 'home' when I was a kid,  
I know that I'd love it more now than I did.

If I could be back there at my mother's knee,  
And hear once again all the things she told me,  
I'd listen as I never listened before,  
For she knew so well just what life had in store.

And all the advice that my dad used to give  
His voice I'll remember as long as I live;  
But it didn't seem really important then;  
What I'd give to live it all over again.

And what I would give for the chance I once had  
To do so much more for my mother and dad,  
To give them more joy and a little less pain,  
A little more sunshine - a little less rain.

But the years roll on and we cannot go back,  
Whether we were born in a mansion or shack,  
But we can start right now - in the hour that's here,  
To do something more for the ones we hold dear.

And since time in its flight is travelling so fast,  
Let's not spend it regretting that which is past,  
But let's make tomorrow a happier day  
By doing our 'good unto others' - today.

*Author - Unknown*

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When the quarantine ends and you have to put on your work clothes again..



### Joke Time

A mate of mine recently admitted to being addicted to brake fluid. When I quizzed him on it he reckoned he could stop any time....

# Eaton Bray Methodist Church



It is so good to see the sun streaming in at the windows, even if it means shifting the laptop further away so that our Sunday service on Zoom is not bleached to invisibility! John Enejo was our first visiting preacher in February. In our current climate of fear, he asked us to remember Harriet Tubman, the great black abolitionist and activist, whose reliance on God was the mark of her faith in the face of great danger. On the second Sunday in February, our own Minister, Rev Nigel Bibbings, led the service. In reflection he recommended that, earthbound as we are, we should not settle for the safe and easy, steady plod, but should recognise the higher power, looking up and out and taking risks, for God will always catch us if we fail. Rev Wallace Edwards made a welcome return on the third Sunday. Basing his reflection on the account of Jesus's temptations in the wilderness, he showed how, from the first, Jesus followed a different path from

that expected by his Jewish compatriots, who assumed the Messiah would be a military leader who would free them from the Romans. His mission was that of teaching self-denial, love and forgiveness, defeating sin and death. In other words "You can crucify a man, but you cannot crucify a principle". On the fourth Sunday in February, our Minister led the service again, developing the theme of faith; we frail humans often fail, as the Apostle Peter did before Christ's death and Resurrection. Unlike the 1st century Christians, however, we can read the Gospels and follow the promises and examples that we are offered with God's free and unconditional support.

## **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.**

## **Nigel's Thoughts**

Dear Friends,

I am sure that you would agree with me that in the church we are in the business of Resurrection. The fact that we are advancing rapidly on our Easter celebrations, when we celebrate the fact that 'Christ is Risen', is surely evidence of our belief in New Life springing from what God, in Christ, has done for us.

But would you also agree with me that in the church we are also in the business of Death? For Christians it is unthinkable that the crucifixion of Christ led only to a grave, and not a victory won. We know that there can be no new life without the death of the old, and the beginning of something new.

A few years ago I came across a phrase introduced to me by a fellow Christian. It rather

startled me for it said

"What a caterpillar calls the end, the world calls a butterfly"

This metamorphosis, this unique and exquisite beauty can only be achieved by something that looks and feels like death.

Remember that in the days that are dark and difficult – we may each experience such times.

To live is to change, and to live for others, as Jesus did, is truly Christian.

It is only insofar as we 'die to ourselves' this Lent that we may be fully 'alive in Christ' and experience the power of His Resurrection.

A very Happy Easter to you all.

God bless,

☺ Love Nigel



## Edlesborough W.I.

Hello, Edlesborough ladies, this is just to let you know that we are still here keeping up with the paperwork (which still keeps coming) on your behalf. However, this is just to let any new ladies that have come to the area that our Institute meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at the Memorial Hall at 7.30pm. We try our hardest to provide a varied programme with interesting speakers, social events and outings. Our social events usually include eating and a glass of wine or two. We are a jolly and noisy lot on these occasions (it's the vino!)

This year, due to not meeting for what seems like months, our annual subscription due on April 2021 to March 2022 will be £30. A bargain I hear you say!

Covid permitting our first outing of the year to Bury St. Edmunds is on 21st June. We need, as you know, to have a full (or fullish) coach in order to keep the cost to you as low as possible. We are also currently saying that in the interests

of safety to all travellers on this trip it will only be open to those who have had a least one Covid vaccination. This, we believe to be reasonable in the circumstances.

The committee are also hoping (weather permitting) to have one or two "feed yourself and bring your own seat" picnics on the green, should Covid restrictions continue. These were enjoyed last year by members.

New ladies, if you think that you might like to join "our merry band" you can contact one of us for more details.

Sj 07913163557 Elizabeth 220077

Maggie 229109 Sue 221416

The committee ladies hope that you and your families have kept well throughout the lockdown. Yes it has been tough and VERY, VERY boring, but it does now look as if its coming to a end. (fingers crossed). What a joy it will be when the warmer weather arrives and we can get out into the garden. Bring it on!

✍️Sue Parker 221416



### Top 10 Advantages to Getting Older

10. Your clothes have come back in style...twice!
9. You can no longer be cut down in your prime.
8. There is nothing left to learn the hard way.
7. Plenty of time to catch up on reading...in the bathroom.
6. In any hostage situation, you'll probably be released first.
5. You repeat yourself without knowing it.
4. You're allowed to take a nap to get ready for bed.
3. You repeat yourself without knowing it
2. You've made a lot of good memories... even if you can't remember them.

And the number one advantage to getting older... It beats the only alternative! Incredible

# April Showers Bring Forth May Flowers

By Derek Brockway [www.bbc.co.uk](http://www.bbc.co.uk)

People often talk about April showers and there's an old English folk rhyme that states: "March winds and April showers bring forth May flowers." Showers can occur at any time but there are specific reasons why April might be more associated with clear, sunny mornings and stormy afternoons.

During spring, the Azores high pressure system and the polar jet stream tends to move further north. However, as the jet stream moves away from the UK, it leaves the country more open to weaker bands of rain and more days when showers are likely to develop.

The sun is also higher in the sky at this time of year and therefore stronger. Consequently, temperatures rise and the ground heats up. As the warm air rises, it cools and condenses, forming clouds.

During April the air higher up in the atmosphere can be much colder than the air at ground level. This causes the air to be unstable and clouds soon start to bubble up after a fine and sunny start to the day. While these clouds may be nothing more than 'cotton wool' clouds, they can sometimes develop into large cauliflowers of cumulus and towering cumulonimbus clouds - capable of producing heavy showers, hail and even thunder. During an April shower, the temperature can also vary widely. When it's sunny, the temperature in the shade can easily reach a warm 20°C.

However, a heavy shower with hail can see the temperature drop sharply to around 10°C. As the sun sets the shower clouds will often fade away leaving a clear and chilly night.



*Cumulus clouds by Mike Davies.*

---

## Earthworms

Courtesy of RSPB [www.rspb.org.uk](http://www.rspb.org.uk)

Earthworms are made up of many ridged segments. They are covered in minute hairs, which allow them to grip the soil and move. They usually live in the soil's top few centimetres, but will burrow deeper to find essential moisture if the earth dries out or freezes. Worms are vital in maintaining soil structure and fertility as they aerate the soil, improve drainage and bring nutrients to the surface.

Although worms have both male and female reproductive organs (hermaphrodite), they still need to find a mate and exchange sperm before they can reproduce. They make a cocoon in which they deposit both eggs and their partner's sperm – live worms emerge later. Earthworms are an important source of food for plenty of creatures, including hedgehogs, foxes, moles, many birds, slow worms and amphibians.

It is a common misconception that if you cut a worm in half it makes two new worms. Although they can regenerate to a small degree, usually both halves die.

Earthworms eat decaying organic matter and measure up to 30 cm in length. Their natural habitat is the flower borders, herb gardens and lawns/grassy areas and can be found when digging soil and sometimes at night in damp weather they can be found on the surface of the lawn and borders.





# Don't be a Lockdown Statistic!

It's reported that we have been 40% less active during this last winter lockdown period. We are now seeing more neck and back injuries often associated with increased sitting. There is now no walking to the office, just to the kitchen instead! So, if you don't want to be a statistic, here a few tips from St Judes:

1. Take regular breaks, get up and move away from your desk. Do another task, rather than just waiting for the kettle to boil, load the dishwasher, the washing machine, fold up the washing. Move little and often.
2. Consider if you can work at different heights - think of your kitchen worktop or chest of drawers as your new standing desk.
3. Set your alarm on your phone to schedule regular breaks and move!
4. Try some simple stretches at your desk:
  - Sideways neck stretches.
  - Stretching up and lifting the breastbone up whilst bringing your arms out to your sides, bent at the elbows, palms facing forward to stretch across your chest muscles.
  - Twisting from the waist (NB never push into pain or pins and needles.)
5. Get up and walk around during a phone call.
6. Get out of the house - walking, running, even if it means wrapping up well, you will be pleased you did.
7. Consider some online fitness after work - yoga, Pilates or a more aerobic workout. (St Judes offer online rehab Pilates classes.)
8. Household tasks such as sweeping, mopping, dusting, all get the heart rate up too.

**Don't'**: Ignore this article! Don't put off till later what you need to now i.e. move, slouch or think I'm never going to be a statistic or forget what we have said!



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# Eaton Bray History

Courtesy of the Bedfordshire Archives

## The Bedford Arms Beerhouse: 57 High Street, Eaton Bray



*The Bedford Arms marked with a red dot in this postcard of 1915*

The countywide licensing register of 1876 states that this beerhouse was first licensed in 1859. The owner, like most of the owners of licensed premises in Eaton Bray not a Bedfordshire resident, was William Brown of Tring [Hertfordshire]. By 1891 the owner was James Batchelor of Dagnall [Buckinghamshire], who also owned the Labour in Vain Beerhouse on Eaton Green.

By 1903 Fuller, Smith & Company of Chiswick [Middlesex] was the owner. That year's countywide licensing register described the beerhouse as "clean and in good repair" and noted that it was 59 yards from nearest licensed property (The Fountain Beerhouse). The beerhouse had one front and three back doors.

The Rating and Valuation Act 1925 specified that every building and piece of land in the country was to be assessed to determine its rateable value. Like most parishes in the county Eaton Bray was assessed in 1927 and the valuer visiting the Bedford Arms [DV1/C202/108] found it was now owned by Ivinghoe [Buckinghamshire] brewers Roberts and Wilson Limited and their tenant, Alfred William Brooks, paid rent of £10 per annum, the rent before World War One having been £8.

The valuer summed the place up as: "unattractive". It comprised a bar ("poor"), a tap room ("rather small"), a smoke room ("small") and a cellar "not used" as well as a kitchen and three bedrooms. The valuer commented: "Rather neglected inside". Outside stood a brick and slate WC and urinal, an open trap-shed, and stable, a brick and corrugated iron coal shed, a weather-boarded, asbestos and corrugated iron wheelwright's shop and forge measuring 34 feet by 13 feet and, behind the property, a weather-boarded and corrugated iron open cart hovel, a two bay hovel and four bay part open hovel. All these outbuildings were described as "poor".

Trade was hardly brisk, half a barrel of beer a week or less, as well as half a dozen bottles of beer in the same period. In the same year as the valuation Roberts and Wilson was taken over by Benskin's Watford Brewery. Because all the brewing firms who owned the Bedford Arms were from outside the county Bedfordshire and Luton Archives and Records Service has no further records concerning the beerhouse, which was still in existence in 1956 but seems to have closed prior to 1974. The property was later demolished and replaced by a private house



*57 and 59 High Street July 2012*

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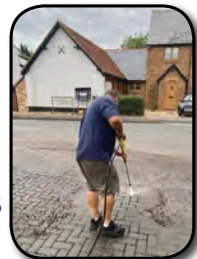
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# Eaton Bray Cricket Club

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## Fixtures

### 1st XI FCCL Division 2

24th April No Fixture  
1st May Old Bradwell Home  
8th May Printers Away  
15th May New City MK Home  
22nd May Luton Caribbean Home  
29th May Newport Pagnell Away  
5th June Aspley Guise Home  
12th June MK Warriors Away  
19th June Eggington Home  
26th June Cranfield Univ Away  
3rd July Old Bradwell Away  
10th July Printers Home  
17th July New City Away  
24th July Luton Caribbean Away  
31st July Newport Pagnell Home  
7th August Aspley Guise Away  
14th August MK Warriors Home  
21st August Eggington Away  
28th August Cranfield Univ Home

### Sunday Beds CCL Division 5

2nd May Great Brickhill 2s Home  
9th May Biggleswade 2s Home  
16th May Flitwick 3s Away  
23rd May Dunstable Town 3s Home  
30th May Bedford 2s Away  
6th June Biggleswade 2s Away  
13th June Great Brickhill 2s Away  
27th June Flitwick 3s Home  
4th July Harrold Home  
18th July Caddington Away  
1st August Dunstable Town 3s Away  
8th August Harrold Away  
22nd August Bedford 2s Home  
29th August Caddington Home

### 2nd XI FCCL Division 6

Milton Bryan Home  
Shenley Church End Away  
MK Stallions Home  
New City 2s Away  
Newport Pagnell 2s Away  
Westcroft 3s Home  
MK Warriors 2s Away  
North Crawley 3s Home  
Eggington 2s Away  
No Fixture  
Shenley Church End Home  
MK Stallions Away  
New City 2s Home  
Newport Pagnell 2s Home  
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## Edlesborough Baptist Church

**Pastor: Alister King**  
[gbcepastor@gmail.com](mailto:gbcepastor@gmail.com)

**All are welcome to our 11am  
service every Sunday**

**Keep up to date by visiting:**  
[www.edlesboroughbaptist.wix.com/home](http://www.edlesboroughbaptist.wix.com/home)

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All support is very welcome.

Please enjoy your cricket with Eaton Bray in 2021.

# What to do in your Garden in April

Courtesy of Suttons <https://hub.suttons.co.uk>

## Flowers

- Plant out your Autumn sown Sweet Pea seedlings or sow now direct in their final flowering position.
- Dependant on the variety hardy annuals can be sown either indoors or outdoors, following the instructions on the packet.
- Half-hardy flowers can be sown in trays and kept on a windowsill or in the greenhouse.
- This may be your last chance to order young flower plants as many will be delivered in May so have a look at your garden plan and check for gaps.
- Hanging baskets can be planted up and kept in the greenhouse while the plants grow on.



## Bulbs

- Remove any faded flowers from early-flowering bulbs, especially daffodils.
- If you want them to naturalise then leave flowers on snowdrops, crocus, muscari, scillas and other small bulbs.
- Begonia tubers can still be planted in pots and kept in the greenhouse – remember that the concave part of the tuber needs to be uppermost.
- In mild areas dahlia tubers can be planted outside towards the end of the month.
- Stagger the planting of your gladioli corms and you'll prolong the flowering period.
- For filling gaps in the garden plant lilies in pots so that you can move them around.



## Fruit

- Mulch around trees with well-rotted

manure.

- Keep an eye out for any pests and take corrective action.
- Apple trees, pear trees, plum trees and cherry trees will start flowering in April. If as few as 5 to 10% of the flowers set then you will have a good crop so don't worry too much about flowers dropping.
- If frost threatens then try to protect the flowers with fleece.
- Check tree ties to prevent rocking.
- In drying wind water all newly planted trees.
- Summer and autumn fruiting raspberries should be cut back to approximately 23cm from the base.
- To encourage early flowers cover strawberry plants with cloches.



## Vegetables

- Now is the time to sow direct carrots, peas, beetroot, winter cabbages, broccoli, salad crops and much more.
- Marrows, courgettes, pumpkins, squashes and tomatoes can all be sown in a heated greenhouse or propagator.
- If frost threatens then pull some fleece over your potato foliage.
- Plant onion sets when the soil is dry.
- Make sure you've ordered your tomato plants.
- If any rhubarb flowers appear then cut them out near the base as otherwise they will steal food and energy from the plant.
- If your asparagus beds are at least 2-years old then any spears can be cut using a sharp knife or better still, a made-for-purpose asparagus knife.



## Lawn Care

- Rake out any dead moss with a scarifier and then fork over to improve drainage.
- Apply lawn fertiliser.
- Mow growing grass but keep the blades fairly high still.
- Dig out any perennial weeds.
- April is a great time for sowing new lawns and repairing bare patches. Rapid Green 2 Self-Repairing Lawn Seed is the All-in-one solution to achieving the perfect lawn!



## General

- Early sowings outside may prove difficult due to the cold and wet soil at this time, therefore, by warming up the soil of prepared areas with cloches it will protect from frost and rain.
- It is ideal to leave the cloches in place for at least two or three weeks when the soil can be raked prior to seed sowing and planting out of young



seedlings. Replace the cloches giving the young plants a good start.

- Keep an eye out for slugs and snails with the use of slug pellets if needed, of course, following directions on box.
- Slug Gone pellets - get rid of slugs and snails without killing them

## Herbs

- Sowings can be made of dill, fennel, hyssop, parsley and thyme.
- Any sowings made in March may need careful thinning.
- If you have an established thyme plant then have a go at layering some creeping stems by covering them with fine soil. Once they've rooted you can separate them and plant them elsewhere. It won't take long – thyme waits for no man (sorry!).



## The Rotary Club of Dunstable

The Club began 2020's Christmas Santa Sleigh on the 2nd December but had to stop, on the 20th December, due to this current lockdown. We still managed to tour the streets of Dunstable, and surrounding villages, in between, so that the children could see Santa during these difficult times. This year's fund raising was slightly different as we didn't have local groups helping, with the collection of monies, because of social distancing. Instead we had a donations page through Virgin and we feel sure that this method of payment will continue next year, along with the support of various groups. Since the first lockdown period in March

2020, our club decided, through the contribution of its members, to donate some of each person's unspent weekly lunch money, to Dunstable Food Bank who desperately need food and money to buy extra provisions to distribute to the less fortunate in our society. Through members' generosity we have given to date £5240, which is a magnificent amount.

Like most clubs at the moment we meet via zoom each Tuesday at 12 noon and have speakers either from our own members or guests from outside the club.

✍Chris Smith

# Dagnall Weather Station (AONB)

## Weather Conditions for February 2021

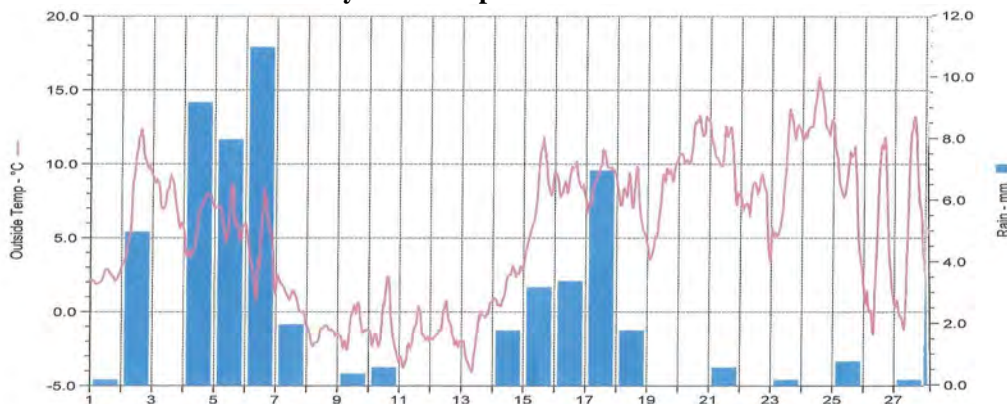
Elevation: 450 ft - Latitude: 51° 50' 13" North - Longitude: 0° 33' 34" West



February started off on the milder side, but it wasn't long before it became wet. By the 6th, the temperature dropped; bringing snow over the weekend. We woke up on Monday morning to frost and a blanket of crispy snow which stayed for a couple of days. We had frost almost day and night for the next six days, with a low of 4.1°C on the 13th. On the 14th, the temperature rose to bring drizzly rain and fog for a few days. On the 19th, it became warmer and settled with these conditions lasting to the end of the month. This led to a false spring with sun and temperatures reaching 16.2°C, which made a welcome change from the dull and cloudy days we'd had so far this year. I was almost tempted to get out my shorts! Slightly windier this month and much drier than January with 90% of the February average rainfall.

	High	Date/Time	Low	Date/Time
Temperature:	16.2°C	24 Feb 12.00	- 4.1°C	13 Feb 08.00
Mean Temperature	5.2°C			
Dewpoint:	11.1c	24Feb 12.30	- 8.2°C	13 Feb 14.00
Humidity:	99%	1 Feb 14.00	55%	13 Feb 15.30
Barometer:	1041.5mb	27 Feb 10.30	990.5 mb	1 Feb 00.00
Wind Speed	40mph SSE	14 Feb 15.00	Months avg.	7.1mph
Wind Chill:	13.9°C	24 Feb 12.30	- 10.9°C	13 Feb 07.30
Dominant Wind:	SSE			
<b>Rainfall</b> * <i>T</i> = total rain days and moisture. <i>R</i> = Actual rain				
*Rain Days:	17(T), 15(R)	Wettest Day 6 Feb	11.00 mm	0.433ins
Monthly Rain:	Total	February 2021	55.40 mm	2.181 ins
Yearly Rain:	Total	2 Months	179.40 mm	7.063ins

### February 2021 Temperatures and Rain Fall



For weather data 24 hours a day, updated every 15mins, this site forecast and much more, visit: [www.dagnallweather.co.uk](http://www.dagnallweather.co.uk) and [http://bit.ly/weather\\_dagnall](http://bit.ly/weather_dagnall). If anyone has a question, comment or wishes to contact me please email: [david@dagnallweather.co.uk](mailto:david@dagnallweather.co.uk) or telephone: 01442 843883. Dagnall weather now has an app for your iPad & iPhone! Just go to the apple store, search for Wunderstation and follow the instructions to Dagnall Weather Station. Now updated every minute.



# Jewish Chicken Soup

In these times of lockdown, let me tell you about my go-to pick-me-up. There is literally nothing better than a bowl of Jewish chicken soup. It's hard to explain why. It just wraps you up in the biggest cuddle imaginable. Or maybe it just takes me back to days at my grandma's. She could feed a family of 20 for less than a tenner, with chicken soup at the heart of it. It's such a simple soup to make - it just needs a little TLC and love. Trust me, it will reward you with every sip. When I made this, I served it with kneidlach - the Jewish dumplings. Recipes are easy to find online but space precludes me from giving you my recipe here. Replace them with vermicelli crushed into shorter strands - my other favourite way of eating this soup.

This serves... a lot

One large chicken. If your butcher has "boiler" chickens, all the better, as they are more flavoursome

A good handful of chicken bones from the butcher (optional, but worth seeking out)

2 large onions, peeled and sliced in half

4 celery sticks, sliced into 1cm pieces

3 carrots, cut in half

One bay leaf

A handful of black peppercorns

You'll need a large, deep saucepan.

Put the chicken (and bones, if using), into the saucepan.

Chuck in all the vegetables and the aromatics.

Cover with water and bring to the boil.

You may get a frothy scum at this point. Simply spoon it off and discard.

Turn the heat down to a simmer, loosely cover the pan and cook for a further 2 and a half hours.

Carefully lift the chicken out of the pan. It will fall apart and will be fully of boiling water. Shred the remaining chicken, separating it from the bone and cartilage.

Fish out the carrots and as much of the celery as you can. Pour the remaining broth through a sieve and discard any remaining vegetables and aromatics.

Slice the carrot up and put it back in the broth with the celery and all the chicken.

Chill the broth overnight. In the morning, pull off the layer of fat which will have formed (although my gran always left it, she said it added to the flavour).

Another day in the fridge will only serve to enhance the flavours. When you reheat it, season with salt if needed and serve with cooked vermicelli.

*BBC Three Counties Radio presenter and cook, Nick Coffey*





# Salvation Sound

## Eaton Bray Salvation Army



This will date me but do you remember watching Blue Peter avidly each week and seeing the creations that some of the presenters were able to make with just pieces of scraps found in the house! One of the phrases I remember that was something that became synonymous with the show was the phrase, "Here's something that I made earlier", and out would come the masterpiece that the presenters were going to show us how to make.



Recently on a television game show, the question came up about Blue Peter and to name several of the presenters that used to be on the show. The people answering the questions confessed that they had never watched the show. Although the show has been on our television screens for over fifty years, it had always been a great favourite with children up and down the country, but sadly is not on our screens today. If I had been on the show I would have been able to name at least four or five presenters, but that is just showing my age.

I remember when a presenter made a Tracy Island from the show Thunderbirds. Both myself and my sister were inspired to make one from items that were in the house. This was to be for my brother who was an avid follower of Thunderbirds.

Our Tracy Island was not mass produced, it was a one-off and our brother played for hours with his models of Thunderbirds and the makeshift Tracy Island.

We were all made by God! We are one-offs! We are designed perfectly and are a unique expression of God's love. God never makes a mistake nor does he make anything out of junk. He does not mass produce and He never says, "Here's one that I made earlier".

We are all unique. We are all different, some of us maybe noisy, others shy- but each person is wonderfully made and wonderfully complex and exclusively made.

God knew us before anyone knew that you were there. God had plans for us before anyone planned our arrival in this world. We were carefully shaped by God- we are His craftsmanship. In The Bible the book of Ephesians 2: 10 tells us:-

*For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.'*

*'For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.'* Psalm 139: 13-14.

*And when God looked over everything he had made; it was good, so very good.'* Genesis 1:31

May God bless you.

✍ Major Allison Gaudion (The Salvation Army)

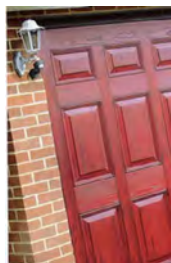


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