

FOCUS



May 2021

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Eaton Bray, Edlesborough, Northall & Dagnall
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Footprints (Sunday School) 9.45 - 10.45am
(Term time only)

Morning Worship 11am

Tuesday

Coffee Morning 10 - 11.30am
(Alternate weeks)

Wednesday

Home League 2.30 - 3.30pm
(Ladies meeting but all welcome)

Champion's Club (Term time only)
5.30-6.30pm (Ages 5 to Year 5)
6.45-7.45pm (Year 6 and above)

Thursday

Girls' Night Out
(1st Thursday of the month) 7.45pm

Ladies Fellowship
(Last Thursday of the month) 7.30pm

**For further details please contact us on
01525 222087 or email
eaton.bray@salvationarmy.org.uk**

**NORTHALL BAPTIST
CHAPEL**

Chapel Lane, Northall

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

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reproduced without permission.*

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

Kindly Note

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

≠ Editor

Focus is online at www.thefocusmagazine.co.uk

Village Diary



Weekly

- Mon-Fri (term time) Eaton Bray Pre-school, Eaton Bray Lower School, 01525 220468
- Mon-Fri (term time) Dagnall Under 5's, Dagnall Village Hall, 9.15am - 12.15pm, Mrs Ann Tobin 07816 358342
- Mon-Fri (term time) Edlesborough Pre-School, Edlesborough Primary Academy, 01525 220431, epamanager@epa-primary.org
- Mon-Thu (term time) Totternhoe Pre-school, mornings, Totternhoe Lower School, Michelle Urbanowicz on 01582 668841
- Mondays Pilates, 10.45am, Totternhoe Memorial Hall, Lisa: 07832 230774
- Mondays Dagnall Community Choir, All Saints Church 7.45 – 9.45pm
- Mondays (term time) Movement and exercise classes with a dance flavour, Northall Village hall 2-3.30. Contact Jan 01442 864271.
- Mondays Curtain Call Youth Theatre 5-7.30pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Gavyn 01525 220525
- Mondays Curtain Call Theatre Group - 7:30-10:30pm Eaton Bray Village Hall, Sheila - sdtwinkletoes@yahoo.co.uk
- Mondays KFPA ISTD ballet classes, Edlesborough Memorial Hall 4pm-6.30pm (4years+) Contact Kiri 07988161043 or visit Facebook page 'KF PerformingArts/KFPA' for info
- 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
- Wednesdays 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)
- Wednesdays 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, Edlesborough Memorial Hall 4.15pm-6.30pm (4years+) Contact Kiri 07988161043 or visit Facebook page 'KF PerformingArts/ KFPA' for info
- 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

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

Village Diary

Thursdays	Eaton Bray Methodist Church Social Afternoons, 2 - 4pm, All Welcome
Thursdays	Retro Line Dance Class. 11.15am to 12.45pm. Eaton Bray Village Hall. Beginners welcome. www.jukeboxjunction.co.uk info@jukeboxjunction.co.uk 07864212171
Thursdays	Mixed Ability Yoga Class, 11.30am to 1.p.m. Northall Village Hall, Contact Dee Lock on 01525 377542
Fridays	Keep Fit class, Edlesborough Mermorial 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, Edlesborough Memorial Hall 9.30-10.30am (4years+) Contact Kiri 07988161043 or visit Facebook page 'KF PerformingArts/ KFPA' for info
Saturdays	Bootcamp Fitness, 9-10am, Dagnall Recreation Ground, Josh Thompson 07456 574405 or jtpinfo@gmail.com
Sundays	Sunday Worship at 11am and 6pm Edlesborough Baptist Church, Moor End, LU6 2FL Contact Alister on 07572 395687
Sundays	Karate for kids & adults, 4-5:30pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Contact 07500 007779
Monthly	
1st Monday	Eaton Bray Parish Council Meeting, 7.30pm, The Coffee Tavern (except Jan-2nd Monday)
1st Monday	Eaton Bray W.I. Meeting, 7.30pm. Eaton Bray Methodist Church Hall. Contact Margaret Jones on 01525 220991
1st & 3rd Mon (ex. Bank Hols)	Knit 'n Stitch at Edlesborough Village Hall, 1:45pm to 3:45pm. Contact Heather Westwood (01525 839083)
2nd Mon	Film Society, Sep to May, 2pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Graham Chappell 01525 220883
1st & 3rd Tues	Dunstable & District Orbit (social and charitable) Club meet at Dunstable Rugby Club at 8pm. For details contact 01525 222441 or 01582 755147
1st Saturday	St. Mary's Church, Eaton Bray Coffee Morning & Plant Sale, 10:30am - 12 noon
1st Sunday	St. Mary's Edlesborough Open Days, 2-5pm, May to September inclusive
2nd Monday	SilverLink, 2.30-4.00pm, Grace Baptist Chapel Edlesborough – activities, talks, friendship & refreshments for the over 60s
2nd Tuesday	Dunstable & District Local History Society meeting, 7.45pm, Methodist Church Hall, Dunstable (opposite Wilkinson)
2nd Tuesday	Edlesborough W.I. Meeting, 7.30 pm, Edlesborough Memorial Hall. Contact Sue Bingham on 01525 222522
2nd & 4th Tues	Dagnall Church Welcome Club, 2-4pm, Dagnall Church. Contact Catherine Hayden 01525 220527
2nd Wednesday	St.Mary's Ladies Guild, 2pm, St.Mary's, Eaton Bray
2nd Wednesday	Eaton Bray & Edlesborough Lions Club, 7.30pm, The Coffee Tavern
2nd Thursday	CAMEO Coffee, tea & chat, 10am-12noon, Edlesborough Methodist Church
2nd Saturday	Workshops Dynamic Yoga 9.30-11am £10 Eaton Bray Coffee Tavern, Keira 07936 693696
3rd Thursday	Edlesborough Parish Council Meeting, 7.30pm, Memorial Hall
3rd Sunday	Lunch club 11.30 to 2.00pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Chris Hewitt 222288
Last Saturday	Coffee Morning, 10:00-12 noon, Edlesborough Methodist Church

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



St Mary's Village Carnival 2021

*In aid of St Mary's Church Eaton Bray Fabric Fund,
Dunstable Foodbank and other local charities & good causes*

This year the carnival will be held on Saturday the 3rd July 2021
with the theme of 'HEROES'.

JOIN THE CARNIVAL PROCESSION

If you fancy showing off your creative flair then why not get involved in decorating your car, van, bike, skateboard, scooter or even yourself and come and join in with the procession.

DECORATE YOUR HOUSE WITH A 'HEROES' RELATED THEME

Start designing, creating and painting so your house is ready for Carnival day. If you don't have the time but still want to get involved then why not decorate your house with some bunting or balloons.

THE CARNIVAL NEEDS YOUR HELP

The Carnival Committee is in need of people who can help in a variety of ways. If you can spare a couple of hours, or are even happy to help all day, your assistance will be gratefully received. You can help by:

- Deploying and collecting cones and road closure signage
- Assisting with bringing equipment to and from the Green, before and after the event.
- Helping on a stall
- To join our committee to help run our 2022 carnival

INFORMATION FOR LOCAL BUSINESSES

The carnival is the perfect opportunity for businesses and organisations to be part of a local community event which is attracting an ever-increasing number of visitors and gaining a reputation as one of the best rural carnivals around.

In order to make sure you have a presence at the carnival, the committee are urging local businesses, schools, youth groups and organisations to make contact and be part of this brilliant event. With visitors attending from all over, the carnival offers the perfect platform for businesses to gain new customers.

Just a few ways the carnival can help are:

- Advertising in the carnival arena, offering prime exposure within the heart of the carnival.
- Having a stall at the carnival. Prices unchanged from last year.
- Donating a prize towards either the grand draw or the silent auction.

To book a stall, arrange advertising, offer prizes or for a chat about how the carnival can work for your business or organisation, visit the carnival website:

www.stmarysvillagecarnival.com

Village Info



EDaN Community Transport
Peter Williams: 01442 842506

Village Hall Booking Contacts

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

Email: northallvhbookings@gmail.com

Eaton Bray: Norman Lee Tel: 07975 797202

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

Dagnall: Bev Way 07875 462128 & Trish Owen 07762 151364

Email DVH_Bookings@outlook.com

Edlesborough Memorial Hall: Penny Pataky, Tel: 01525 229358

Email: manager@edlesborough-pc.gov.uk

Police Contact Numbers...

making neighbourhoods safer together

General Assistance (Recommended Number): 101 Emergency: 999

Bedfordshire Police (Eaton Bray)

Leighton Buzzard Police Station/Kathryn Horgan: 01582 473411

Typetalk: 18001 01582 473418

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

Thames Valley Police (Edlesborough, Dagnall & Northall)

PCSO Jackie Dodson

Email: greatbrickhillwingivinghoenhpt@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

Defibrillator Locations

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



Dagnall: Red Lion Public House & Munns Farm Shop

Eaton Bray: The Coffee Tavern

Northall: The Swan Public House

Edlesborough: Edlesborough Memorial Hall & Baptist Church, Summerleys



Helpline: 07930987064

Manned phone hours:

9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday

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

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We help people of Eaton Bray and adjacent villages

Eaton Bray with Edlesborough Parish News

Vicar: Rev'd Joy Cousins

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

Curate: Rev'd Stephen Burge

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

Reader: Gordon Gray (01525 220136)

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

Over the past year many of us have had lots of time on our own due to the strictures of the Pandemic and various lockdowns. Some people have found this a positive experience. For others, it has been incredibly challenging and there has been a huge increase in loneliness.

Being forced to be alone is very different from choosing solitude. Throughout history, there have been those people who feel called by God to a life of solitude. On May 8th, we celebrate the life of Mother Julian of Norwich. She was born around 1342 and lived well into her 70s. She was a mystic who spent much of her life as a recluse, devoting herself to prayer and contemplation. Being a recluse, however, didn't mean that she kept herself apart from people. Julian was a wise woman, and many people came to seek her advice at her window which looked out from the church where she lived.

We would probably have known nothing of Julian, except that when she was 30 years old, she had a profound experience of God. During a serious illness, Julian experienced a series of 16 visions or 'showings' which she later wrote down. She was not an educated person and wrote with a simplicity which still resonates today. Her visions were tested by the church and found to have come from God.

Julian's 'Revelations of Divine love' are still available to read. They demonstrate a God of love and compassion. As she says at the conclusion of her writings: 'So it was that I learned that love was our Lord's meaning'. Her main concern is with God and our relationship to him. God is Trinity, the three-in-one she calls 'life, love and light.' God is also sometimes Mother, a reflection of that tender maternal love which comes through strongly in her writings. She meditates on the crucifixion and on the creation which "exists, both now and for ever, because God loves it. In short, everything owes its existence to the love of God."

Despite the fact that she received her Revelations of Divine Love at a time when she was gravely ill, Julian's writings are always optimistic. And her ultimate trust is placed in God, who loves her and all that he has made. In the end, she concludes, "All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well." These words were given to Mother Julian at a time of great personal need. As we look to the future where so much is uncertain. I believe they can be words of hope for us too.

With every blessing,

✠ 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.

PLEASE WEAR A FACE COVERING

DETAILS: www.stmaryseatonbray.org.uk

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

Dagnall Church Services



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

All welcome. **Please wear a face covering.**

Any queries please contact Phillip Lee on 07977234453.

Dagnall Church, Ringshall Road HP4 1RL

Philip Gadd

Catherine, and the family of the late Philip Gadd would like to thank everyone for all the help, support and kind messages of condolence we've received from so many people and also the donations to Keech hospice for which we would like to express our gratitude.

Edlesborough Baptist Church

Pastor: Alister King

gbcepastor@gmail.com

All are welcome to our 11am service every Sunday

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www.edlesboroughbaptist.wix.com/home

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Ne'er Cast a Clout till May be Out – Old May Sayings

Ever heard the old saying ‘Ne’er cast a clout till May be out’ ? It’s a great old May saying, so I thought it might be interesting to look at what the old phrase actually means and what significance it has with us passing into the summer months now.

First, if we take the ‘clout’ part; since around the 15th century the word ‘clout’ has had a few possible meanings. It could mean either a knock on the head, a clump of earth or a part of clothing or clothing itself’. For this ‘ne’er cast a clout’ we assume it to mean clothing, so taken as a phrase would simply mean ‘don’t take off your winter clothing until the end of May’

Another possible interpretation of the ‘until May is out’ part is actually until the hawthorn tree is out in flower. The Hawthorn tree is unmissable in May, with its beautiful and delicate flowers, in this case the ‘May be out’ could very well be an allusion to the flowering on the synonymous Hawthorn Tree.

Whatever the actual reason, the basic meaning of this is fairly obvious – i.e. we are likely to experience bad weather (or at least assume that despite these few glorious days there WILL be showers and bad days too). This more often than not proves itself to be true – take for example this May, we’ve had it all here in Manchester; glorious near high summer days, extreme showers, weeks without a drop of rain, wind and even hail stones!

This good simple advice, whilst applicable to our clothing matters, also has its place when guiding us in how we care for our trees. May is a time when you need to be vigilant -you can’t be certain all that lovely weather is here to stay and its plain sailing into summer. Not enough rain and your trees and plants will suffer. Or the good weather will lull you into a false sense of security and suddenly a late frost scuppers your plans for the year ahead.

Courtesy of <https://tree2mydoor.com/>



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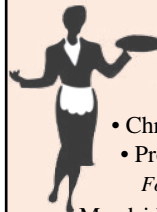
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Proposed radio mast for Good Intent/High Street Edlesborough

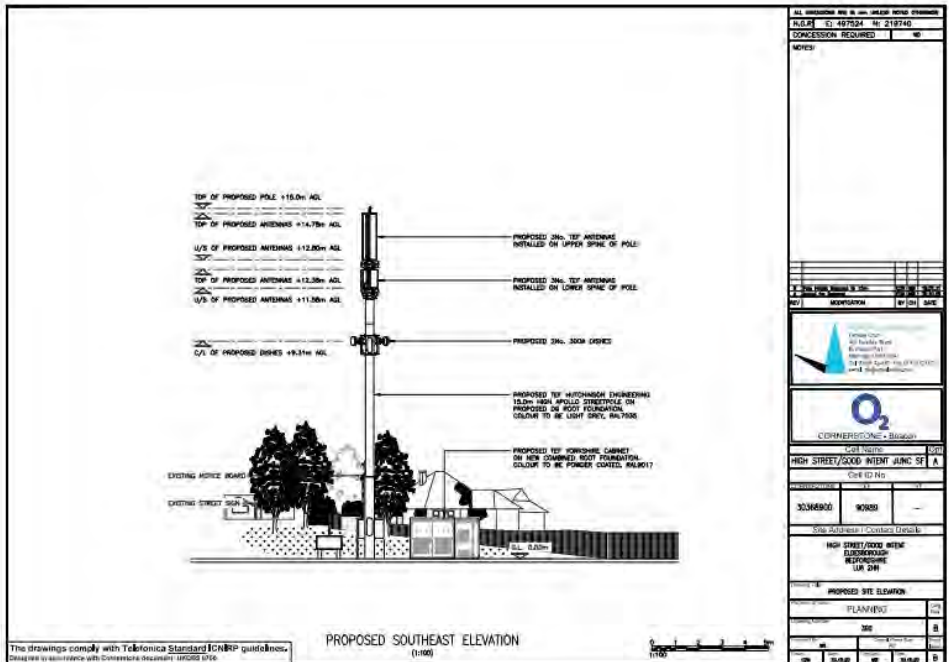
Edlesborough Parish Council (EPC) wishes to draw Parishioners attention to their response to a pre-application consultation letter from Clarke Telecom.

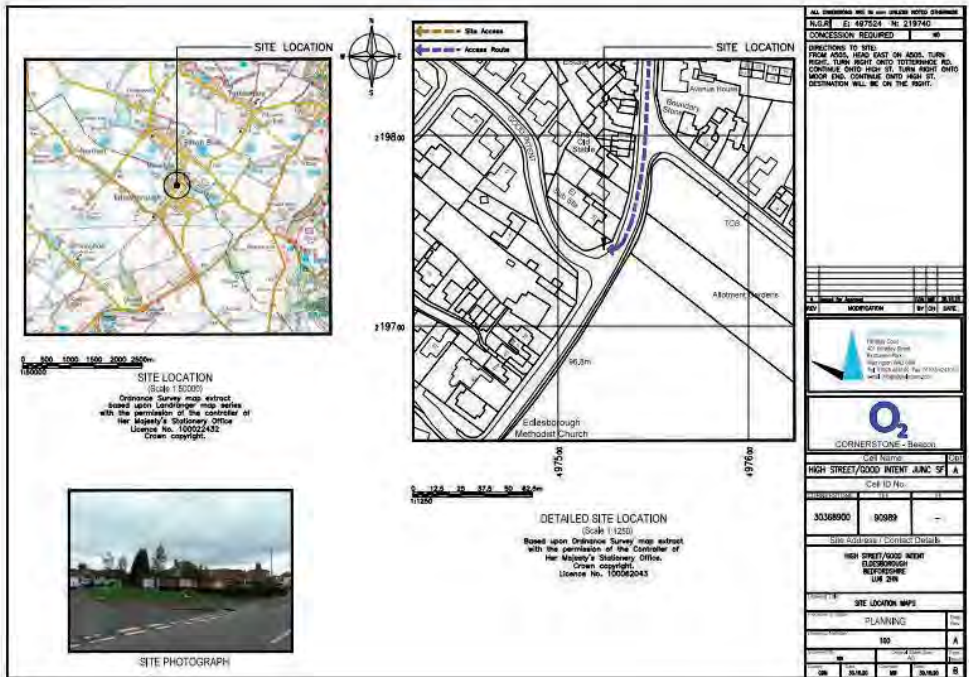
Clarke Telecom recently sent a pre application consultation letter to EPC asking for the Council's response to proposed plans for the installation of a 15m mast and cabinet at the junction of Good Intent and High Street, Edlesborough.

The communication stated that the mast and cabinet would enable smart metering to be installed in the Edlesborough area as well as high quality 2G, 3G and 4G telecommunications.

EPC were given 14 days to respond and given the nature of the proposal the Council worked quickly to agree and send the following response. The response was then ratified at the March EPC meeting.

EPC will continue to be vigilant for any further communications or developments in relation to this proposal.





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PLAN NO: 497924 N: 219740

CONCESSION REQUIRED: NO

NOTES:

DIRECTIONS TO SITE:
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NO	DATE	BY	REVISION
1	10/01/2018	MD	ISSUE FOR PERMIT

Name: Chris
 Address: 47, Redlands Road, Edlesborough, MK43 0JH
 Tel: 01493 400111
 Email: info@cornerstone-planning.co.uk

CORNERSTONE - Planning

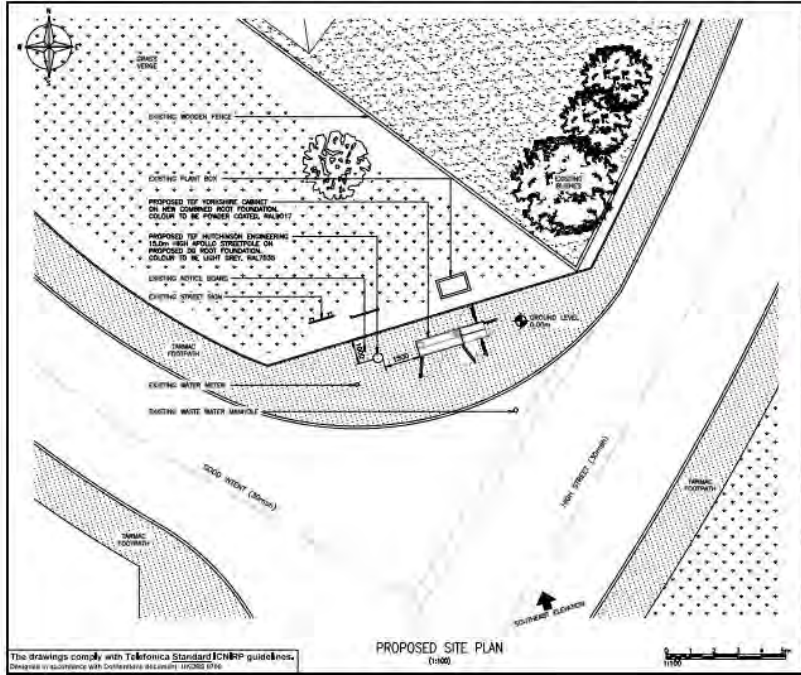
NO	DATE	BY	REVISION
1	10/01/2018	MD	ISSUE FOR PERMIT

HIGH STREET/GOOD WENT JUNC SF A
 CONE ID NO: 150
 PROPOSED: 2%
 3036800 9098H
 Site Address / Contact Details:
HIGH STREET/GOOD WENT JUNCTION
 EDLESBOROUGH
 MK43 0JH

SITE LOCATION MAPS

NO	DATE	BY	REVISION
1	10/01/2018	MD	ISSUE FOR PERMIT

PLANNING
 150
 2%
 3036800 9098H
 10/01/2018 MD



ALL INFORMATION HERE IS UNCLASSIFIED INFORMATION

PLAN NO: 497924 N: 219740

CONCESSION REQUIRED: NO

NOTES:

DIRECTIONS TO SITE:
FROM A10, HIGH STREET ON A105, TURN RIGHT, TURN RIGHT ONTO TOTTENHAM RD, CONTINUE ONTO HIGH ST, TURN RIGHT ONTO HIGH ST, CONTINUE ONTO HIGH ST, DESTINATION WILL BE ON THE RIGHT.

NO	DATE	BY	REVISION
1	10/01/2018	MD	ISSUE FOR PERMIT

Name: Chris
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NO	DATE	BY	REVISION
1	10/01/2018	MD	ISSUE FOR PERMIT

HIGH STREET/GOOD WENT JUNC SF A
 CONE ID NO: 150
 PROPOSED: 2%
 3036800 9098H
 Site Address / Contact Details:
HIGH STREET/GOOD WENT JUNCTION
 EDLESBOROUGH
 MK43 0JH

PROPOSED SITE PLAN

NO	DATE	BY	REVISION
1	10/01/2018	MD	ISSUE FOR PERMIT

PLANNING
 2%
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 10/01/2018 MD

Proposed Radio Base Station Installation – High Street Edlesborough

Edlesborough Parish Council's Response

“Edlesborough Parish Council is OPPOSED to the proposal to install a 15 metre high mast and associated equipment cabinet at the junction of the High Street and Good Intent in Edlesborough. The reasons for objecting are as follows:

1. The Council questions the need for a mast within the adopted Neighbourhood Plan settlement boundary. The proposal states that such a site is required to provide the necessary connectivity for Smart energy meters and yet EE already provide perfectly adequate 2G, 3G and 4G coverage without the need for a mast within the settlement boundary.
2. If it can be demonstrated that a mast is essential within the settlement boundary, the site chosen must be discreet. The proposed location couldn't be in a more prominent and exposed location, right in the centre of the village.
3. The proposal states that the equipment cabinet would be similar to other utility company cabinets. Whilst that may be true, the location of the cabinet in such an open space would make it much more prominent than other such cabinets which are usually located next to hedges or boundary walls, making them far less intrusive in the street scene. Examples of such installations can be seen almost directly opposite the proposed location, where two utility cabinets are positioned just in front of the hedge bordering the allotments.
4. Furthermore, the proposed cabinet would be positioned immediately in front of an existing planter box, completely obscuring the planter from most vantage points in the High Street.

Whilst additional mobile telecoms provision is desirable, it is not essential. If it is to be provided, the site chosen must be in a discreet location, not in a residential area, and preferably outside the settlement boundary.

If Clarke Telecom can provide details of the range of the antennae being considered and whether they just need to cover the village of Edlesborough or the entire Edlesborough/Eaton Bray conurbation, the Parish Council would be prepared to use its local knowledge to help identify a more suitable location for the installation.

Please note the correct spelling of Edlesborough. It's not Eldesborough!

Edlesborough Parish Council”

EPC copied Buckinghamshire Councillors Anne Wight and Chris Poll, and Greg Smith MP into their response.

Clerk: Miss Penny Pataky, 15 Summerleys, EDLESBOROUGH, LU6 2HR

Email: clerk@edlesborough-pc.gov.uk

01525 229358

Website: www.edlesborough-pc.gov.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/EDANParishCouncil

What you Need to Know about the COVID-19 Vaccination

The Covid-19 vaccination programme is the largest in the history of the NHS. The vaccine is being offered to more and more people in our area every week.

Vaccines can reduce or even eliminate some diseases, if enough people are vaccinated.

Since vaccines were introduced, diseases like smallpox and polio that used to kill or disable millions of people are gone from the UK.

How do vaccines work?

Vaccines teach your immune system how to protect you from diseases. It's much safer for your immune system to learn this through vaccination than by catching the diseases and attempting to fight them.

Can I catch Covid-19 from the vaccine?

No. You cannot catch Covid-19 from taking the vaccine but having the vaccine could stop you from becoming seriously ill if you catch the infection.

Should I be concerned about the speed the vaccine was made available?

The speed in which the vaccines have been developed does not mean that they are unsafe. The technology used to develop the vaccine is not new. It's been tried and tested for decades. It is with this technology and massive global investment to develop a Covid-19 vaccine that has allowed it to be available so quickly.

Any coronavirus vaccine that is approved must go through lots of clinical trials and safety checks, like all other licensed medicines, before it is approved. The Covid-19 vaccines used in the UK have been declared as effective by the UK's independent Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulator (MHRA) after extensive trials.

When will I be able to get vaccinated?

The NHS will announce when different age groups can book their vaccination, you can check who is eligible at any time and book your appointment online at www.nhs.uk/covid-vaccination. You can also book appointments by calling 119. You may also receive an invitation to book your vaccination from your GP and you can book an appointment directly with them.

You can read more about the vaccination and common misconceptions at www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/vaccinations



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“Spring Cleaning” in the Villages



Hooray! Lockdown is easing and we are now able to go out and meet friends and family – weather permitting of course!! As I write, we are experiencing a rather nasty cold snap which is making outdoor gatherings rather less attractive. It hasn't stopped the intrepid band of village litter pickers, however, and they have been out in force in the past couple of weeks. The message is clear. If you are meeting friends or family on the Green for a picnic, please remove all your debris and **take it home**. There are litter bins around the Green, but they are not built for vast quantities of picnic debris. We are incredibly lucky to have our amazing Village Green. Please do everything you can to keep it clean and tidy and a joy for everyone to use.

Having said that, I am now going to make myself even more unpopular! I live in Northall on a road that is frequented by hoards of cycling groups, mainly at weekends. Clad in lycra, they zoom up and down the road. We are finding that much of the litter we find in the hedges and ditches of the rural areas of the road consists of half used bottles and cans of energy drinks such as Lucozade or Red Bull. It isn't hard to make the connection. I am aware that probably most of these cyclists come from the nearby towns and are not local, but if you are a cyclist and a member of a group, could you please pass the word around your group or cycling association and ask them to **take their bottles and cans home** – OK, I know it's extra weight and you want to go as fast as you can and beat your record – but it takes time to empty the bottles before we can bag them, and it would save us lots of time!! On 28th March, BBC “Countryfile” drew attention to the large numbers of small mammals in hedgerows, such as shrews, field mice and even hedgehogs, who were dying as a result of getting caught in discarded energy drinks cans and bottles as they go after the sweet liquids inside. If you love your wildlife, think about it before discarding your litter. The “Great British Spring Clean” is back this year, organised by Keep Britain Tidy. It happens between May 28th and June 13th. At the moment, I think all the local village Litter Picking groups are planning to take part. The new Bang! (Biodiversity and Nature Group) group are planning to have a “Litter Blitz” to coincide with the Spring Clean. So, keep your eyes open for posters and postings on Facebook for the latest information. If you are interested my contact details are below, but everyone can play a part, however small, by making an effort to keep the area surrounding their property free from litter, and by making sure to **take all litter home** to their bins and not just dumping it in the nearest hedgerow.

✉Lorna Cabbage
lornamcabbage@gmail.com

May Morning

I lie stretched out upon the window-seat
And doze, and read a page or two, and doze,
And feel the air like water on me close,
Great waves of sunny air that lip and beat
With a small noise, monotonous and sweet,
Against the window - and the scent of cool,
Frail flowers by some brown and dew-
drenched pool
Possesses me from drowsy head to feet.

This is the time of all-sufficing laughter
At idiotic things some one has done,
And there is neither past nor vague hereafter.
And all your body stretches in the sun
And drinks the light in like a liquid thing;
Filled with the divine languor of late spring.
Stephen Vincent Benet



Edlesborough Parish Council News

Including Edlesborough, Dagnall and Northall

Grass & Hedge Cutting in the Villages

Now that the spring time has arrived the cutting of the grass verges has resumed. EPC requests that parishioners do not park on the grass verges as this causes damage to them and inconveniences the contractors.

EPC asks all parishioners whose hedges border the pavements to ensure that their hedges are kept well-trimmed ensuring that the maximum pavement width is available for pedestrians, pushchair and wheelchair users.



Edlesborough Pavilion

At the time of writing this report it is anticipated that the hoarding surrounding Edlesborough Pavilion will be removed by mid May. The project is now in its final stages and the Council is working closely with ECSC to help ensure the building is ready to open to the parishioners and sports clubs shortly after the hoarding is removed (opening will need to be in line with any Covid-19 restrictions that may be in place).

EPC Projects Update

Below is a brief summary of the Council's current projects.

Edlesborough Green Children's Play Area

– led by Cllr Mrs Booth

Cllrs Mrs Booth and the working party are currently exploring proposed site plans, suggested equipment and quotes from a range of suppliers.

EMH Toilet Refurbishment

– led by Cllr Mrs Thomas

EPC representatives will be meeting with the local Parochial Church Council to establish the way forward before committing a substantial sum on the toilet refurbishment project.

Buckinghamshire Council

Buckinghamshire Cllr Anne Wight

EPC wishes to express its sincere thanks to Buckinghamshire Cllr Anne Wight for all the help and support she has given the Parish during her term as a Councillor, initially for Bucks County Council, then for the new Buckinghamshire Council. Cllr Wight has decided not to stand again as a Councillor. She has been a proactive councillor throughout her term in office and will be missed by all at EPC.



Buckinghamshire Cllr Chris Poll

Cllr Poll attended the March EPC meeting, a copy of his report can be found on the EPC website alongside the March minutes.

Two key issues Cllr Poll reported on were:

Don't bin your electricals, recycle them!

From Monday 22 March, Buckinghamshire Council will be supporting the national Recycle Your Electricals Campaign which will promote reusing and recycling old and unwanted electricals across Buckinghamshire. The eye-catching campaign has been successfully tried and tested across the country and Buckinghamshire Council will be supporting to deliver the campaign locally. A range of activities will encourage local residents to safely and responsibly dispose of unwanted electricals and all the activity

will direct people to the recycleyourelectricals.org.uk website which makes it easy to search for your nearest recycling point.



Funding secured for new rural local transport schemes.

After working closely with local operators Arriva and Carousel, the council has been successful in a bid for £1.85m from the Department for Transport’s Rural Mobility Fund over the next four years to introduce Demand Responsive Transport in and around Aylesbury and High Wycombe. Demand Responsive Transport can be effective where fixed route transport services don’t always meet local community needs. This could be due to distance from bus stops, frequency of buses, journey times and connectivity to areas other than the town centres. It offers greater flexibility, providing more tailored transport options closer to where people live and at a time that’s more convenient to them. Only 17 schemes across the country were successful with their bids, so having two schemes is a big boost for the county. If they prove to be a success, we will be looking to expand to other areas of the county in the future.

Pre App Consultation Letter re Installation of Mobile Phone Mast

Please see separate article in this magazine (page 19).

Litter in the Parish

Litter continues to be a problem in the villages. EPC has recently installed an additional bin on The Green opposite Good Intent.

Edlesborough Green currently has six bins located on the grass verges/pavement outside the Green plus an additional seven bins inside the Green. If one bin is full it is only a short walk to another bin which may have space in it. Remember if you can carry drinks and food containers to the Green you can also carry them home again!

Organised litter picks have not been able to take place throughout the Covid-19 Pandemic, however many parishioners do regularly litter pick in the villages and this is greatly appreciated by the Council. Anyone wishing to join the Litter Pickers should contact Mrs Lorna Cabbage via lornacabbage@btinternet.com

Allotments

All Allotments in the Parish are now let and the Council now holds a waiting list for anyone wanting an allotment plot.

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/

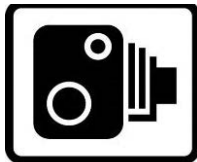
Issues with roads & pavements should be reported to Bucks CC using the following link www.fixmystreet.buckscc.gov.uk/



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



Thames Valley Police have relaunched and restarted their Community Speedwatch – more information can be found at [Restart and relaunch for Community Speedwatch in 2021 · Thames Valley Police & Crime Commissioner \(thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk\)](#) Any parishioner interested in becoming involved with the EDaN Community Speedwatch for Edlesborough Parish should contact

Cllr Alan Williams via email at alan.williams@edlesborough-pc.gov.uk or on 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 the latest information.

The next Edlesborough Parish Council Meetings will take place on:

- **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.

- **Thursday 17th June 2021**

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 01525 229358 Website: www.edlesborough-pc.gov.uk

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01525 220383 (10am-1pm & 2-4 pm) e-mail: appledown.kennels@btinternet.com

Website: www.appledownrescue.co.uk

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EATON BRAY PARISH COUNCIL

EATON BRAY PARISH COUNCIL FOCUS REPORT: MARCH 2021

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

FixMyStreet

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 advising who to contact depending on the type of flooding: <https://www.ebpc.co.uk/flooding-support/>

MEETING OF EATON BRAY PARISH COUNCIL

HELD ON MONDAY 8 MARCH 2021, 7:30pm via REMOTE/ZOOM

Due to social distancing measures, until further notice, attendance at 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

CBC CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL (CBC)

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

CBC Website: www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk - CBC Email: customers@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk -

CBC Customer Services: 0300 300 8301

PLAY EQUIPMENT

- The Parish Council have put in the order for a fitness rig to be located in The Rye recreation ground, they are awaiting confirmation of delivery/fitting.
- The Parish Council are obtaining designs/quotations for new play equipment at School Lane recreation ground play area.
- The Parish Council has agreed to a new path and repair to the skate park bowl.

SEWAGE PUMP STATION – THE RYE

Due to sewage backflowing into gardens, streams/ditches from the pump station, the Parish Council has asked CBC/Anglian Water to investigate these concerns further.

FLOODING

Further to the Parish Council writing to CBC regarding the flooding in January 2021, the council has received a reply. The report from CBC is available to view on the Parish Council website.

BLOCKED DRAINS

The Parish Council has raised concerns with CBC regarding blocked drains in the parish. The matter has also been reported on FixMyStreet.

TERRACYCLE

The Parish Council are looking into the possibility of introducing this scheme. TerraCycle is a recycling company that specialises in recycling hard-to-recycle materials.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS – FEBRUARY 2021

A copy of the Parish Council's response to planning applications can be seen on the Parish Council website or obtained by applying to the Parish Clerk.

MONTHLY PAYMENTS – FEBRUARY 2021

A copy of the Parish Council monthly accounts can be seen on the Parish Council website or obtained by applying to the Parish Clerk.

WATERCOURSE/MILL END CLOSE

The Parish Council are in communication with IDB regarding the proposed works for this location.

DEEP WATER SIGNS/FENCING

The Parish Council are to install deep water signs along the footpath adjacent to the watercourse. The Parish Council are obtaining quotations for a new fence to be fitted along the watercourse.

EATON BRAY PARISH COUNCIL

FLY-TIPPING

Due to the increase in fly-tipping in the parish, the Parish Council has written to the Chief Executive, CBC, to ask them to look into the options available to help improve this problem. Residents are reminded to report any incidents of fly-tipping to FixMyStreet. If residents engage with contractors for the removal of rubbish or other items that should check that the contractors are legally registered.

GARDEN WASTE

A large amount of garden waste was dumped by the recycling bins in School Lane. The Parish Council had to organise and pay for its removal. The council wished to remind residents that garden waste cannot be put in this location, it does not come under the CBC recycling bin collection and ask that this type of waster be taken to the local tip for disposal.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH TREES

The Parish Council are looking to carry out maintenance work to trees in the churchyard, including the removal of Leylandii trees which have become exceptionally large/unsightly. These will be replaced by a mix of native hedging.

PARISH ALLOTMENT

All plots are now currently let. The Parish Council does hold a waiting list. Should you wish to be added to the list, please contact the Parish Clerk to register your interest.

SPEEDWATCH

If you would like to get involved in trying to slow down traffic in the village or are concerned about road safety, please contact the Parish Clerk.

NEXT MEETING

Due to social distancing measures, members of the public are invited to join the meeting remotely through the ZOOM link provided on the EBPC website, www.ebpc.co.uk

- Parish Council Meeting - Monday 8 April 2021, from 7:30pm
- Annual Parish Meeting – Monday 10 May 2021, from 7:00pm
- Annual Meeting of Eaton Bray Parish Council – Monday 10 May 2021, from 7:30pm

PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE

To keep up to date with what is happening in your parish, you can get all Parish Council news and updates from the Parish Council website. The website has all Parish Council meeting agendas, minutes, financial documents and contact information as well as official sponsored events/initiatives and is the official council communications website. Visit it here: www.ebpc.co.uk



Heidi Head, Parish Clerk

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

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

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Life in the Hive - Swarming

The sound was extraordinary, a bit like a tractor approaching but from above. Instinctively I ducked as a huge swarm of bees passed overhead. I felt my heart beating faster and was both excited and a little stunned as I walked my dog on the nature reserve in Totternhoe. Quite an experience!

The swarming of bees has long fascinated people and is the means by which a colony of bees as a superorganism reproduces. It is an extremely complex process and still not fully understood. Entire books are written about swarming so this is just an outline of what happens.

There are a number of factors which are thought to trigger the colony to start swarming. These include the age of the queen, crowding in the brood nest, fine weather and good forage. When the worker bees decide that conditions are right they start to build queen cells. The cup shaped cells in which the queen lays eggs that are destined to become queens hang down from the comb usually round the edges of the frame. When the larvae hatch after three days they are constantly fed on a much richer diet of royal jelly than those which will become workers so they grow very quickly. The queen cell is built up around them as they get bigger and after five days they are sealed into their large cell to pupate.



Meanwhile things have been happening in the colony. Scout bees go out searching the district

for suitable cavities which may provide a potential home. The ideal capacity is about 40 litres, the size of a small swing bin. The queen is put on reduced rations to slim her down so she can fly with the swarm. Fewer bees leave the hive to go foraging and many of the workers fill up with nectar to make sure they have the energy to fly out and set up their new home.

The scout bees are critical to the whole process since they determine the departure time of the swarm once the first queen cell is sealed over. When conditions inside and outside the hive are suitable the scout bees rush about through the colony making a piping sound to excite the bees and signal them to warm up their flight muscles. During the commotion the queen is forced out of the hive and lands usually not too far away from the hive. The bees going with her, about half of those in the colony, spill out of the entrance and cluster around her, attracted by the queen's pheromones.



The bees stay in this cluster for a variable length of time and it is now, providing it's accessible, that the swarm can be collected by a knowledgeable beekeeper. Obviously at this point the bees are vulnerable and time is of the essence. When the new site has been selected the scout bees once again pipe and buzz about

through the swarm to warm them up and eventually it lifts off in dramatic fashion to fly to their new home. Apart from the scouts the bees have no idea where they are going and many of the younger ones have never been out of the hive before but they are kept together by the queen's pheromones and guided there by the scout bees. Once inside the new cavity they begin the hard work of building comb and collecting pollen and nectar to rear brood and build up stores for the winter.

Back in the parent colony the first of the new queens will emerge from her cell. She may stay and become the new queen or, if there is plenty of brood in the hive, she may leave the hive with a second smaller number of bees called a cast swarm. Then as more queens emerge one will eventually take over and kill the others. After a few days in the hive developing her pheromones so the workers get to know her the virgin queen

will go out on mating flights. She will mate with an average of 15 drones in places called drone congregation areas receiving enough sperm to fertilise over five million eggs. She then begins her job of laying eggs and unless the colony swarms again over the next two or three years the queen will not leave the hive for the rest of her life.

Swarming is clearly a risky business. Good homes are hard to find and many wild swarms will not survive. It happens early in the season from April through to June so that hopefully both colonies will have time to grow and collect sufficient stores to take them through the winter. If you spot a swarm in a cluster please call Jennie Tysom, one of the Bedfordshire Beekeepers Association local swarm collectors on 01525 370550.

My thanks go to fellow beekeeper Peter Corbett for the lovely photos of a queen cell and swarm.

EATING IN THE FIFTIES

Pasta had not been invented. It was macaroni or spaghetti.

Curry was a surname.

A take-away was a mathematical problem.

Pizza? Sounds like a leaning tower somewhere.

Bananas and oranges only appeared at Christmas time.

All chips were plain.

Oil was for lubricating, fat was for cooking.

Tea was made in a teapot using tea leaves and never green.

Cubed sugar was regarded as posh.

Chickens didn't have fingers in those days.

None of us had ever heard of yogurt.

Healthy food consisted of anything edible.

Cooking outside was called camping.

Seaweed was not a recognized food.

'Kebab' was not even a word, never mind a food.

Sugar enjoyed a good press in those days and was regarded as being white gold.

Prunes were medicinal.

Surprisingly muesli was readily available. It was called cattle feed.

Pineapples came in chunks in a tin: we had only ever seen a picture of a real one.

Water came out of the tap. If someone had suggested bottling it and charging more than gasoline for it, they would have become a laughing stock.

The one thing that we never ever had on/at our table in the fifties ... *was elbows, hats and cell phones.*



Eaton Bray Cricket Club

And we're off. The 2021 season gets underway on the 24th April with the 2s taking on Milton Bryan. It's been a long hard winter (harder for some than others) but all is now ready. Andy Norris will again skipper the 1s, Dave Emerson the 2s and Jaco Jacobs takes on the role as Sunday Captain.

We will be fielding 2 senior teams in the FCCL on a Saturday and 1 in the Bedfordshire League on a Sunday. The club have also entered the new 2020 Village league which will be played on a Thursday evening. So if you prefer a bit of "Hit & Giggle" pop down. All support is welcome. The junior section will again field 6 teams at age groups 1xU15 2xU13 2xU11 and 1xU9.

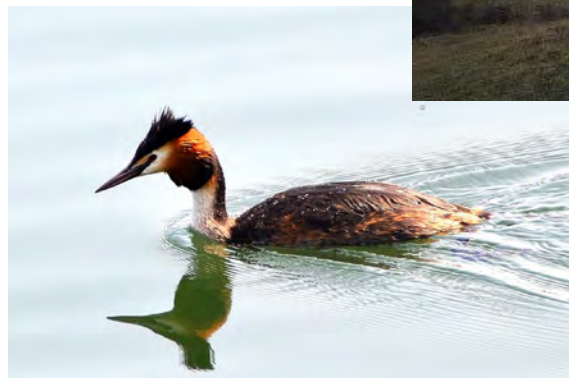
A word on covid. All nets are now pre bookings only which will follow the "Rule of 6" as per government guidelines. Social distancing will be in place around the ground and in the club house. Hand sanitizer will be available. If all are sensible we should be able to complete a full season.

A word of thanks to all who attended the works party in March and to all those who tend the facilities. A special thank you to James and Ozzy for prepping the wicket and outfield which again looks full of runs and will again be one of the best in the county. Eaton Bray Cricket Club are always on the look out for new players of any age ability or gender. For all information please follow and contact us via Facebook or Twitter @ EatonBrayCC.

Please enjoy your cricket with Eaton Bray in 2021.

Your Photos

*From Ivinghoe Beacon
looking towards Ivinghoe
by Shelagh Bagni*



*Great Crested Grebe
at Wilstone Reservoirs
by Richard Woodhead*

How and Why to Show Hedgehogs Some Springtime Love

Courtesy of PETAUK www.peta.org.uk



Spring is in the air, which means that all over the country, hedgehogs may be starting to blink in the sunlight and wake up from their winter hibernation.

You probably don't need much persuasion to let these adorable nocturnal animals into your heart. But to give you some extra motivation to love them, here are five of our favourite things about them – and five pieces of advice about how to help them out.

Five Reasons to Love Hedgehogs

Hedgehogs are unique. They're the only UK mammal with spines: each hedgehog has about 5,000 of them, which can grow up to 2.5cm long. Hedgehogs are sleepyheads. They're one of only three animals that hibernate in Britain (along with the bat and the dormouse), and during their winter snooze, their heartbeat drops dramatically from 190 to just 20 beats per minute.



Hedgehogs are more agile than they look. They can travel up to 4 km in one night and have even been known to scale walls and climb the branches of small trees.

Baby hedgehogs are called hoglets. They're born with soft spines under the skin to protect their mothers. A second set of spines emerges after a few days.

Hedgehogs need our help! Their numbers have dropped by at least a quarter in the UK in the last decade because of factors such as loss of habitat, increased pesticide use and tidier gardens.

Five Ways to Show Hedgehogs That You Care

Never feed hedgehogs milk! Most hedgehogs are dangerously lactose intolerant, so a saucer of milk is likely to make them ill. They are, however, partial to snacks such as chopped peanuts and muesli.

Avoid a tragic accident in your garden by checking long grass before you cut it in order to make sure that no hedgehogs are hiding there. In the autumn, watch out for hedgehogs in piles of dry leaves before starting a bonfire.

Spotted a hedgehog? Tell the Hedgehog Hibernation Survey about it. The information will be used to find better ways to protect hedgehogs.



Turn your garden into a hedgehog haven. Make small holes in the bottom of your fences or walls to allow them to pass through, leave a messy area where they can nest and don't use poisonous slug pellets.

If you find a sick or injured hedgehog staggering around during the day, contact the British Hedgehog Preservation Society on 01584 890 801. But as with all wild animals, it's best to leave healthy hedgehogs to their own devices.

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Photography in Focus

In this series, John Hockey shares some tips

TREES

Well, after finishing the photography tips, I thought I would look at a few subjects over the coming months to show how the themes might apply in practice.

I'm starting with trees. Trees are absolutely wonderful as far as photography is concerned. They can be majestic, colourful, moody or bright and the great thing is... they are everywhere (even in cities).

One of the first tips was about **light** and this picture of some conifers at Whipsnade Park Golf Course is an example of what can be achieved with side lighting. There are three main trees in the composition and the 'bookends' to each side focus your view on the central specimen. You can tell by looking at the middle distance it has been a misty morning. A few paces to the left and you would have been taking the shot into full sun. An hour or so later and the low angle of the light would have been lost. But here was a chance to grab a shot showing how light is (obviously) so important in photography.





The next point was **Shape and Composition**. This picture is of a wetland area in Jersey and the boardwalk makes a nice sweep taking your eye past all the trees and grasses. Ask any photography ‘expert’ and they might tell you that you need a small child in a red jacket at the intersection of thirds but in my view, this picture is all about nature, and the trees and limited colour palette should be sacrosanct.

Viewpoint – need I say more? This lovely silver birch demanded to fill the picture and the blue sky provided a nice contrast. Sometimes you just have to experiment to find the best angle, but looking up, whether at buildings or trees, usually pays dividends.





Colour was an important point covered in the tips and you will remember that orange and blue are complimentary. Really, the sky should be a darker blue, but this lovely maple tree, again at Whipsnade GC, showcases the beautiful colours that autumn never fails to display.



Quite a few of the images this month are from the golf course and this example of a sorbus called 'Pink Pagoda' was just made for **Cropping**. The original picture was a bit bigger but I found that when I zoomed in on the computer, the drops of overnight rain made the image come alive. It just goes to show that you can find a nice arrangement almost anywhere if you know where to look. It was important to get the focus on the berries and not the background and this was achieved just by putting the camera on 'auto-focus'!#

Texture is also to be found on trees, particularly on bark. Here, again in that wildlife park in Jersey, is a very unusual example, particularly where the side branches leave the main trunk.



I hope you can see how the different elements in photography can be used to make interesting pictures. I'll choose a different theme for next month – maybe churches.

Eaton Bray Methodist Church

On the first Sunday in March we had the pleasure of welcoming back Steve Rogers. Basing his Reflection on the time Jesus drove the money-lenders out of the temple, he challenged us to think carefully about the use of our church buildings when we are able to return to them. How can we best use the space for the multiple needs and activities of our fellow-human beings? On the second Sunday in March, Mother's Day, Peter Baker gave us a heart-warming Reflection on theme of parental love, its generosity and inclusiveness, reminding us that God, our Father and Mother, treasures each individual as important and precious. On the third March Sunday, Passion Sunday, Jacque Stamp, encouraged us to think about the meaning of Lent and what God wants us to do with our lives; in this

difficult time of pandemic, is our contribution such that people can see the love of God in us? Finally, on Palm Sunday we were delighted to welcome a new preacher to our Zoom Service: the Rev Ebute Obiabo gave us a powerful and moving sermon, outlining the painful journey to the Cross and Christ's great mission. He challenged us to do what Christ asks of us, reminding us that we do not walk alone for he is always with us.

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.





Big Adventures are Back as ZSL Whipsnade Zoo Reopens

Colossal family adventures are now just around the corner, as ZSL Whipsnade Zoo re-opens to the public. With 600 acres for visitors - young and old - to explore, the UK's largest Zoo has plenty to offer families looking to blow off the cobwebs of lockdown and discover the

world's most incredible animals.

Best known for its colossal beasts that graze enormous enclosures, like the Zoo's herd of endangered Asian elephants or its two species of rhinoceroses, ZSL Whipsnade Zoo is home to 3,500 amazing animals including brown bears, Amur tigers, reticulated giraffes, African lions, spritely squirrel monkeys and adorable otters. Guests can also enjoy spotting free-roaming animals, such as wallabies and Patagonian mara which bounce all over the Zoo's wide open spaces.

Families with young children can delight in an up-close experience with cuddlier critters such as bunnies, pygmy goats and donkeys at Hullabazoo Farm, as well as a new, giant outdoor play area which opened on 26 April.

There's plenty to look forward to later in the summer too, with the Zoo celebrating its 90th birthday during May half-term week, and the launch of a brand-new dinosaur experience at the start of the summer holidays. For no additional fee, visitors throughout the summer will be able to enter a prehistoric world where they come face to face with life-size, moving dinosaurs.

When everyone needs refueling, the Zoo's restaurants and cafes will be on-hand with take-away treats including delicious BBQ, fish and chips, River Cottage deli, hot drinks, pastries and more. When indoor restaurants are allowed to reopen (currently set for 17 May), visitors can indulge again in family fare at The Basecamp Restaurant or truly special, locally-sourced cuisine at The River Cottage Restaurant, which overlooks the stunning Dunstable Downs.

With exclusive offers and events, there's never been a better time to become a ZSL member and enjoy free entry to both Whipsnade and London Zoos, while supporting the vital work of international conservation charity ZSL (Zoological Society of London).

Families, animal lovers and those looking for a new adventure can book advance tickets for the whole summer now at www.zsl.org



First Big Adventure for a Little Giraffe

A giraffe calf takes her first steps outside as UK families head back to ZSL Whipsnade Zoo for the first time in months

A giraffe calf at ZSL Whipsnade Zoo has taken her first steps outside, just in time to greet visitors returning to the UK's largest Zoo after it re-opened.

While many people in the UK left their homes for their first family days-out of 2021, four-month-old reticulated giraffe (*Giraffa camelopardalis reticulata*) Margaret had her own first adventure outdoors this week.

Born at ZSL Whipsnade Zoo on 8 December at the same time as the world's first Covid-19 vaccination was being administered – the reticulated giraffe calf was named Margaret by keepers, after the first recipient Margaret Keenan. Until April, the baby giraffe has stayed inside the warmth and familiarity of the Zoo's giraffe house with mum Luna and their close-knit family.



However, the young giraffe was filmed by zoo staff venturing outdoors for the first time and exploring the herd's spacious enclosure at the 600-acre Zoo. In the footage, Margaret can be seen tentatively following her mother and other members of the herd past a lake, before striding off to explore her environment alone, 'checking in' with mum Luna from time-to-time.

Team leader Mark Holden said: "Once again, Margaret seems to be capturing the mood of the nation. First, she was born – a huge boost for the population of her Endangered species - on the same day that the first Covid-19 vaccine was administered, and now, here she is, taking her first steps outside just as the rest of the UK is venturing back out on family adventures, like coming here to ZSL Whipsnade Zoo.

"With 600 acres to explore, we are the perfect place for anyone looking to blow off the cobwebs of lockdown and head into the countryside, where Margaret and the world's most incredible animals wait to be discovered."

Sleeping Bear-uty Wakes Up to Greet her Fans

Brown bear Sleeping Beauty and her sister Cinderella come out of winter hibernation just in time for the reopening of ZSL Whipsnade Zoo

A brown bear named Sleeping Beauty and her sister have yawned and stretched their way out of their winter hibernation, just in time to greet visitors at ZSL Whipsnade Zoo, when it reopened on Monday 12 April after months of forced closure.

Keepers spotted aptly-named Sleeping Beauty and her five-year-old sister Cinderella emerging from the den where they snooze their way through the colder months of the year, on Wednesday 7 April, while the Zoo's third brown bear, Snow White, decided to stay in bed a little longer.

Staff at the UK's largest Zoo caught the special moment on camera when Sleeping Beauty and her sister came outside and took time re-acquainting themselves with the sights and smells of their large, woodland enclosure, before having some breakfast and even a bath.



Team leader Graeme Williamson said: "It's such perfect timing that Sleeping Beauty and Cinders have made their appearance just ahead of our re-opening on 12 April, as I know they are such a favourite of visitors to ZSL Whipsnade Zoo.

Families and animal lovers can book tickets for ZSL Whipsnade Zoo at www.zsl.org

LOCAL HERALDRY

BY JOHN HOCKEY

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

A BRIDGET TALBOT CONNECTION

What connects Ashridge and Kiplin Hall in Yorkshire? Some of you may say 'Bridget Talbot' and you would be right, for, as her memorial seat attests she is 'of Little Gaddesden and Kiplin Hall' and as well as saving Ashridge for the National Trust, she was owner of Kiplin Hall when she died in 1971.

The connection goes further – the 'Canal Duke' Francis Egerton's father, was called Scroop Egerton and his unusual first name came from his grandmother Mary le Scrope (there were various spellings) who married Charles Paulet, 1st Duke of Bolton in Wensleydale in 1655. A hundred years earlier Henry VIII gave land to Lord Scrope of Bolton and on this land Kiplin Hall was built.

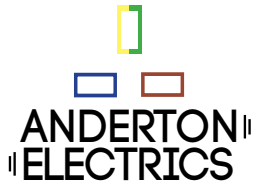
So Bridget Talbot was instrumental in saving Ashridge, seat of Francis Egerton and his father Scroop, and she later inherited Kiplin Hall, built on land given to Lord Scrope, a distant relative of the Canal Duke!

Actually, Scrope had a nice simple coat of arms seen here – *Azure a bend Or* (blue with a gold diagonal stripe).



This formed the basis of the most important court case ever considered by the Court of Chivalry, for in 1385 Richard II invaded Scotland and it was found that two knights had the same arms, which is forbidden. One knight was Richard Scrope and the other was Sir Robert Grosvenor. Unusually considering the Grosvenor family became dukes of Westminster and arguably the wealthiest family in England, the case was settled in favour of Scrope and the Grosvenors had to 'lose' their 'bend Or' and it was replaced by a golden wheat sheaf which exists to this day. To say they were miffed is an understatement, as 500 years later they entered a winning horse in the 1880 Derby called...**Bend Or**. Not content with that, they chose to have **Bendor** as a family first name as evidenced by Bendor Grosvenor who you may know from helping with research in the art programme Fake or Fortune who went on to have his own programme.

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Down the Lane



I'm always thinking of more ways to provide plants which are attractive to bees and butterflies. Several years ago I became interested in wild flower meadows and thought it would be wonderful to create a small one. Wild flowers thrive in poor soil, where the competing grass won't dominate the flowers, so I would have to remove the top soil to create a meadow. Even then it is difficult to establish the flowers so I decided that was a non-starter! I was looking for a low-maintenance area with plenty of flowers and we have enough grass already. Then I read an article about perennial meadows and planting. This was used on a large scale at the Olympic Park which is beautiful.

In the autumn of 2019, with a lot of help, I cleared the area to be planted and then covered it with a thick mulch of shreddings to suppress the weeds. I was going to seed it in the autumn but it was too wet. I ordered the seed in March 2020 and planted it just before lockdown. Unfortunately we then had no rain for weeks so nothing germinated, not even any weeds. In July some germination took place. The seed is sold as a perennial mix with a few of the flowers listed but not all, something to do with trade secrets. I had to wait until the plants flowered to

identify them or decide that they were weeds which had seeded themselves! The joy of this type of planting is that it suppresses the weeds and only needs cutting down once a year. This spring there are more plants appearing so the area should be completely covered by summer. The bees and butterflies loved the flowers and for a short time a hare visited the area. It was beautifully camouflaged against the mulch and hidden by a few plants.

This spring an area of the lawn is not being mown so it will be interesting to see which wild flowers grow. There are definitely, red and white clover, buttercups, daisies and thistles already.

My seeds and cuttings are coming on apace. This year I'm growing much smaller quantities of seeds so there isn't so much pricking out. I thought that I would take some delphinium cuttings. They started quite well but one day, when I examined them the tops looked deformed. Further investigation revealed that bright green caterpillars were feasting on the foliage. Their eggs must have hatched in the warmth of the propagator or the caterpillars had hibernated for the winter.

✍️Sally Taylor

Edlesborough W.I.

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

Dear WI Friends, when I last wrote in Focus, I wished you, on behalf of the committee, a jolly Christmas and a better New Year – I doubt anyone's Christmas was jolly and a better New Year doesn't look likely either at the moment – we can but hope! However, I hope you had a "reasonable Christmas" and that you were able to see some of your family and special friends. I'm writing this on behalf of the committee, but have absolutely no idea what to write, since absolutely nothing is happening. We will let you know if anything does.

Thank you and well done Elizabeth for being our President for the last two years and thank

you and welcome S.J. for being our new President. The annual meeting happened via zoom and was conducted as BFWI instructed, so we're ready to roll again once we are permitted to do so.

Let's be hopeful and look ahead now Spring is here and longer, warmer days with some sunshine. Hopefully, too, you and your family have managed to stay COVID free and remain so. Keep in touch with each other – a good chat and a laugh works wonders even over the phone, makes you feel so much better. WE WILL SURVIVE, WE ARE AFTER ALL W.I.

✍️Sue Parker 221416

Eaton Bray History

Courtesy of the Bedfordshire Archives Early Education in Eaton Bray



The church from the south-east August 2007

The earliest reference to a schoolmaster in Eaton Bray is in 1578. The third surviving archdeaconry court book states that: “John Buckmaster did mysuse the scholemaster in the Church for beateing of the children of the sayd John”. The Buckmaster family were owners of Doolittle Mill. The parish registers list the baptisms of following Buckmaster children in this period: Agnes 1564; Dorothy 1565; Alice 1566; Andrew 1567; Edmund and Elizabeth 1570; William

1571 and Elizabeth 1572. John’s wife Ann died in 1596 and John himself in 1601. Ironically a later Buckmaster was a schoolmaster himself - see below.

In 1654 Thomas Herbert, the schoolmaster, made his will, which was proved in 1668. There is an interesting note on this man in late 19th century minute book used by the church restoration committee. It reads: “Thomas Herbert who calls himself “Philo-Mathematicus” and “Student in Astrologie” compiled almanacs during the Protectorate. That for 1652, entitled *Speculum Anni* printed at London by Gartrude Dawson for the Company of Stationers has an Appendix dated “From Eaton Bray in Bedfordshire June the 17, 1651”.

The parish register reveals that in 1733 Ann, daughter of the schoolmaster John Cook was baptised. A will survives for John Fountain, schoolmaster, which was proved in 1765 and an administration of the goods of John Buckmaster, schoolmaster, from 1750. Volume 81 published by Bedfordshire Historical Records Society (2002) is a series of episcopal visitations undertaken in the first twenty years of the 18th century, edited by former County Archivist Patricia Bell. At each visitation a list of questions was sent out in advance, one of which enquired about the provision of schools in each parish. Responses were as follows:

1709: “No Public or Charity Schole”.

1717: “No Publick pr Private School”.

1720: “There is no Publick, or Charity-School, endowd or otherwise maintained in my Parish”.

In 1818 a Select Committee was established to enquire into educational provision for the poor. This was no doubt prompted, in part, by the recent foundation of two societies promoting education and specifically the building of schools. The Society for Promoting the Lancasterian System for the Education of the Poor was established in 1808 promoting schools run along the lines pioneered by Joseph Lancaster, who had himself copied those of Dr. Andrew Bell, in which older children taught their younger fellows. The Society was renamed the British and Foreign School Society in 1814.,

It was supported by a number of prominent nonconformists, Lancaster himself was a Quaker, and sought to teach a non-sectarian curriculum. In answer to this perceived nonconformist takeover of local education the National Society was formed in 1811 to encourage the teaching of poor children along Anglican lines, including the catechism. The Select Committee sent a questionnaire to all parishes in the country asking for: particulars relating to endowments for the education of children; other educational institutions; observations of parish needs etc. There was no school of any kind in Eaton Bray and the curate wrote: "The poor are desirous of having the means of education". In the country generally the number of schools built continued to grow over the next fifteen years so that by 1833 the government agreed to supplement the work of the two societies, and local benefactors, by making £20,000 per annum available in grants to help build schools. It also prompted another questionnaire to be sent to each parish in England asking for details of local educational provision. Things had obviously moved forward in Eaton Bray as the return stated: "One Daily School, containing 5 to 10 males; supported by payments from the parents; and Two Sunday Schools, one of the Established Church, consisting of 36 children, partly supported by voluntary contributions, and partly from the parish rates; the other, in which are from 40 to 100 of both sexes, supported by collections among the Wesleyan Methodists". In those days a Sunday School was just that, a school which met on a Sunday, usually in the church or nonconformist chapel or other similar building, teaching more than the religious topics with which they are associated today. The stage was set for Eaton Bray to have two schools, Anglican and Methodist for the next half century or so.

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Miraculous Healing

Over the last year we have seen so many examples of those who have recovered from Covid-19. Some of those have seemed miraculous. I have just seen the story of a 104 year old Colombian woman who has recovered from Coronavirus twice! We hear regularly about those who have died from the virus but very little about those who have recovered. Those leaving hospital after a long illness and recovery period are often clapped on their way out of the hospital, back towards their home and their loving family. Who has healed them? What do you think? Was it just chance? Was it the doctors and nurses? Was it the medication? There's no doubt that the loving care and expertise of the medical staff all help but life and death is in the hand of a higher power. There are many stories of the healing that Jesus did when here on earth. There were blind people, lepers, lame people, the woman with a blood disease, mental illness and other examples. Some healing was done by Jesus touch, some by his command, some at a distance and some by the touch of his clothes.



*Modern day
leprosy*

We have been hearing about the healing work of the Leprosy Mission in Mozambique. What, these days, is so curable is often still causing so many disabilities and death. Listening to accounts of the current suffering from leprosy is distressing and unnecessary. Those bringing hope to leprosy sufferers today are doing God's work.

I was brought up with the Bible story in 2 Kings 5 of Naaman, a Syrian Commander in the army, but had leprosy. The Syrians had invaded Israel and Naaman had taken a young Israelite girl captive. A young girl, but we do not know her name, got a mention in our Bibles because she knew that Naaman could be cured by a prophet, Elisha in Samaria. Naaman wasn't keen on this but after some persuasion from others, gave it a go. Elisha was none too pleased either to be visited by a leper. Elisha didn't even come out to see Naaman but passed a message telling Naaman to wash seven times in the river Jordan. Naaman was again unimpressed by this but eventually gave it a go. He was healed. Was it the water? Was it Elisha? Was it God's healing. Well Naaman thought so, accepting the God of Israel as the one true God. Give it some thought. 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



Better Backs for Golfers

With the golf courses now allowed to open it's a great time to get back to golf - 18 holes of golf amount to 6 - 8 km of walking and burns around 1,500 calories! However, it requires strength, endurance, power, flexibility and repetitive action. It can generate large forces in the body and so we see injuries; commonly affecting the wrists, elbows, shoulders and back.

Back pain accounts for roughly 30% of all golfing injuries.* Poor technique and inflexibility in the spine and hips can be contributing factors, as is the repetitive nature of the golf swing, making technique very important. Core stability exercises, specific to golf, can help improve strength and posture. Massaging affected muscles and electrotherapy may also be beneficial as well as expert advice and guidance from a Physiotherapist.

Sometimes we see clients who may not be in pain but are aware of a stiff back and poor mobility affecting their swing. It's good to take action at this time before there is a problem as prevention is better than cure. Here are a few tips to help prevent injuries:

1. Do a proper warm up - include stretching the muscles of your shoulder, neck and

- back.
- 2. Perform regular core conditioning exercises - to improve your core strength in your back and shoulders.
- 3. Ensure you are using the correct equipment including the right club grip - to help prevent development of wrist and elbow injuries.
- 4. Watch your swing technique - poor swing mechanics and over-swinging can all lead to injury. (These can be addressed by a golf Professional.)
- 5. Listen to your body - decrease your play time at the first sign of aches and pains.

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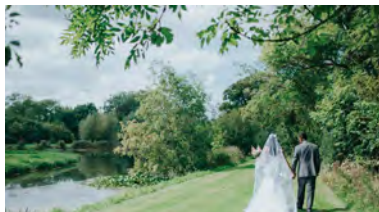


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Green Woodpecker

livingwithbirds.com

The green woodpecker is the largest of the three species of woodpeckers that occur in the British Isles. Though widespread throughout much of lowland England, it is scarce in West Wales and absent from much of Scotland, where it only bred for the first time in 1951. It doesn't occur in Ireland, though three individuals were reputedly shot there in the 19th century. The range of this species extends north into Scandinavia and as far west as Turkey and Northern Iran. A very similar woodpecker is found in Spain and Portugal. This is now regarded as a separate species, Sharpe's woodpecker.

In the last 30 years this essentially parkland bird has been seen increasingly in gardens. Green woodpeckers are often found in pairs or family groups. They communicate with each other by calling frequently. The best-known call is the is the far-carrying, descending territorial song which gives the old name of yaffle. Rain bird is another name, as the birds are reputed to call more when rain is imminent.



Unlike the great spotted woodpecker, the green rarely drums. Of our three woodpeckers, the green spends the least amount of time in trees, and can often be seen feeding on the ground. Here it is likely to be digging for ants, its favourite food. It eats both the adults and their eggs, catching them with its exceptionally long and sticky tongue. Other food taken includes a variety of insects, and on rare occasions, reptiles such as small lizards. It's rare for a green woodpecker to visit a feeder or bird table, but a mown lawn will attract them.

Green woodpeckers like to excavate their own nest holes, a process that takes them from two to four weeks. The usual clutch size is between five and eight unmarked white eggs. The pair takes it in turn to incubate the eggs, with the male sitting at night. The young hatch after 14 to 17 days, but stay with their parents for some weeks after fledging. The nestlings are vulnerable to predators such as stoats, which may be attracted by the young birds calling for food. Because they spend so much time feeding on the ground, prolonged spells of snow cover can be fatal. These woodpeckers are highly sedentary, seldom moving far from where they were hatched.

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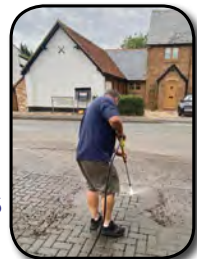
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What to do in the Garden in May

Courtesy of www.thompson-morgan.com



May has arrived and the days are getting warmer and longer. Summer is on its way and it's time to tidy up spring plants, plant out summer flowers and get planning for autumn.

There are plenty of flowers and vegetables to sow and grow in May. Or read on for a comprehensive list of other garden jobs to get on with this month:

Timely Tips for May

1. Start planting out summer bedding plants towards the end of this month in warmer parts of the country.
2. Look after your finished spring bulbs for next year. Once they've gone over, resist the temptation to cut back the foliage. Instead, let it die and break down on its own and add liquid fertiliser all around the clumps. This will give you an even better display next spring.
3. Remember to open greenhouse vents and doors on warm days. You can also damp down your greenhouse on hot days to increase humidity and deter red spider mites.
4. Optimise your watering regime — watering early and late to get the most out of your water — and start collecting and recycling water whenever possible.

In the flower garden in May



- Thin out drifts of hardy annuals.

- Harden off half-hardy plants by leaving them outside during the day and bringing them back under cover at night for 7 to 10 days before planting outdoors.
- Plant summer hanging baskets, adding good-quality compost, slow-release fertiliser and water-retaining crystals, to keep them in top condition. Protect them from late frost under cover. Try planting petunia 'Pegasus Wine Splash' for cascading stems of brightly spotted blooms.
- Harden off dahlias and tender exotics such as canna 'Tropicanna' lilies for planting as soon as the risk of frost has passed.
- Continue dividing herbaceous border perennials to improve vigour and create new plants.
- Divide established clumps of hostas as they come into growth.
- Trim back spreading plants such as aubrieta, alyssum and candytuft (*Iberis* sp.) after they've flowered, to encourage fresh new growth and more blooms.
- Lift forget-me-nots to prevent heavy self-seeding and reduce spreading.
- Prune penstemons now — cut all the old shoots back to the base, providing there is new growth at the bottom of the plant. If there are no new shoots at the base, cut just above the lowest set of leaves.
- Take cuttings of tender perennials, such as fuchsia and pelargoniums (tender geraniums). The new shoots of hardy perennials can also be used for cuttings.
- Take softwood cuttings of shrubby herbs (such as sage and lemon verbena).

- Prune out overcrowded and dead stems of early-flowering clematis (*C. alpina*, *C. cirrhosa*, *C. macropetala*, *C. armandii*, and their cultivars) after flowering.
- Tie in rambling and climbing roses. Laying the stems horizontally will help to produce more flowers.
- Tie in sweet pea plants with sweet pea support rings to encourage them to climb.
- Prune spring-flowering shrubs after flowering.
- Cut back flowered shoots of choisya to promote a second flush of flowers in autumn.
- Trim lavender plants, cutting off old flower heads and about 2.5 cm (1 inch) of the current year's growth.
- Feed and water container plants.
- Top-dress permanent pot plants to refresh the compost.
- Supplement container plants with balanced liquid feed every 2-4 weeks to promote healthy growth.
- Closely inspect plants for pests and diseases — early prevention is much easier than curing an infestation.
- Pick off any larvae or lily beetle from rosemary or viburnum plants as soon as you spot them to prevent an infestation.
- Look out for signs of blackspot on roses. If discovered, treat it with a systemic fungicide.
- Continue to weed beds and borders. This reduces your plants' competition for water and nutrients.
- Lift and divide overcrowded clumps of daffodils and other spring-flowering bulbs.

In the vegetable garden in May

- Continue earthing up potatoes. Read our potato growing guide for detailed advice on how best to do this.



- Harvest asparagus spears when they are no more than 18 cm tall.
- Thin out direct-sown vegetables such as spinach, carrot and lettuce seedlings, then water the rows well.
- Harden off outdoor tomatoes, courgettes and pumpkins for planting early next month.
- Protect carrots from carrot fly by covering with horticultural fleece or enviromesh.
- Pinch out the growing points of broad beans as soon as beans start to appear at the base of the plant to reduce the risk of blackfly attack.
- Weed around your onions and garlic to reduce competition for nutrients and water. Apply an onion fertiliser to boost growth.
- Make supports for your runner beans, using 8 ft (2.4 m) bamboo canes.
- Support pea plants with twiggy sticks or pea netting.
- Keep on top of weeding — weeds will compete with your vegetables for precious water, light and nutrients.

In the fruit garden in May



- Protect strawberry plants with straw (to control weeds and lift the berries off the ground) and netting (to keep birds off the fruit).
- Harvest rhubarb, picking only one-third of the total amount of stems.
- Hang pheromone traps in stone fruit trees from May to August to monitor

plum-fruit-moth activity.

- Hang pheromone traps in apple trees to reduce codling moth.
- Keep young fruit trees well watered while they are putting on rapid growth.
- Remove blossom and fruits from newly planted fruit trees to help them establish properly during their first year.
- Regularly check the centre of gooseberry bushes for green gooseberry sawfly caterpillars — they will quickly skeletonize leaves if not removed.
- Erect garden netting around soft fruit plants to prevent birds eating your crop.

Looking after your lawn in May

- Apply lawn weedkiller to your lawn this month.
- Feed your lawn with a high-nitrogen fertiliser to encourage healthy green growth.
- Water the grass during hot weather — that's particularly important for newly seeded or turfed lawns. Never allow new lawns to dry out.
- Lower mower blades to their regular summer-cut height.
- Continue sowing lawn seed and repairing bare patches in the early part of the month.
- Postpone mowing newly sown grass until it reaches 3 inches in height and make sure the mower blades are on a high setting.
- Install lawn edging to keep edges tidy and smarten up beds and borders.

Other jobs about the garden in May

- Feed pond fish little and often.
- Remove duckweed and blanket weed from ponds, and thin out submerged oxygenating pond plants. Leave any removed weed beside your pond

overnight to allow insects, snails and other pondlife to escape back into the water.

- Clip evergreen hedges now.
- Control the heat in your greenhouse with blinds or shade paint.
- Hang fly traps throughout the greenhouse to monitor levels of whitefly, thrips and other pests.

From your armchair in May



- Keep a diary of which seeds you're sowing and planting to help you stay on top of things throughout the year.
- Take time out from all your hard work to relax and enjoy the garden now that the warmer weather has arrived

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



Your life is a reflection of your thoughts, if you change your thinking you change your life. Small acts when multiplied by millions of people can transform the world. One random act of kindness can change another person's whole day, we rise by lifting others. Our days are better if we give people a bit of our hearts instead of giving them a piece of our minds. Have a beautiful day!

unknown
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Dagnall Weather Station (AONB)

Weather Conditions for March 2021

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

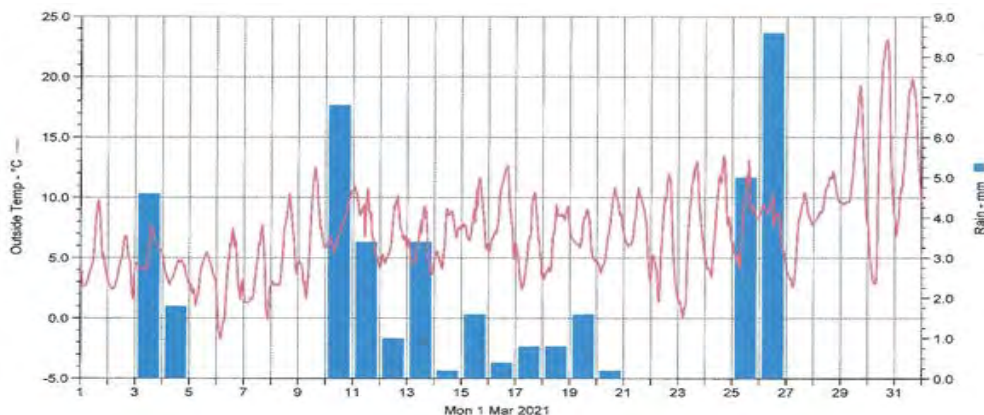


March started mostly settled and a bit a on the cold side. By the 9th, the temperature had risen slightly to bring rain on the 10th and it remained unsettled for the next ten days. Between the 21st and 24th, we had a short fine period which ended with two days of rain. It was a complete change for the end of the month with sunny, warm weather and a high of 23.3°C.

Overall, March was a cloudy and dull month with temperatures staying in single figures for most of time. Rain was 80% of the monthly average and, although it felt like a cold month, the temperature only dropped below zero for eight hours, which is unusual for March.

	High	Date/Time	Low	Date/Time
Temperature:	23.3°C	30 March 17.5	-1.9°C	6 March 03.30
Mean Temperature	7.1°C			
Dewpoint:	12.2c	29 March 16.00	-3.1°C	7 March 09.00
Humidity:	95%	2 -3-19 March	29%	30 March 17.30
Barometer:	1035.0 mb	6 March 08.30	987.2 mb	11 March 06.00
Wind Speed	45mph W	11 March 06.00	Months avg.	6.0mph
Wind Chill:	23.0°C	30 March 16.00	-1.7°C	6 March 03.30
Dominant Wind:	W			
<u>Rainfall</u> * T= total rain days and moisture. R= Actual rain				
*Rain Days: 15(T), 15(R)	Wettest Day 26 March		8.61 mm	0.339ins
Monthly Rain:	Total	March 2021	40.20 mm	1.583 ins
Yearly Rain:	Total	3 Months	219.70 mm	8.659ins

March 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 and http://bit.ly/weather_dagnall. If anyone has a question, comment or wishes to contact me please email: david@dagnallweather.co.uk or telephone: 01442 843883. Dagnall weather now has an app for your iPad & iPhone! Just go to the apple store, search for Wunderstation and follow the instructions to Dagnall Weather Station. Now updated every minute.

Simple Thin Apple Tart

I do love a pretty desert - but I'm also a rubbish pastry maker! So I'm all for a desert which has the wow factor, without needing Great British Bake Off level skills. This simplified version of the classic French "Tarte Fine aux Pommes" is not only delicious, it's also easy to make. Above all, it looks beautiful.

You'll need:

1 roll of store-bought puff pastry (all butter is best)

3-4 (depending on size) sharp flavoured apples like a Braeburn or Granny Smith

A knob of butter

Caster sugar

1 tbsp apricot jam

Hunt around in your kitchen cupboards for two round shapes, one of which needs to be 1cm narrower than the other. The larger round needs to fit on your unrolled puff pastry. I used a dinner plate and the base of a cake tin.

Unroll the pastry. Use the larger round shape to cut out a circle, using a sharp knife. Place the smaller round on the pastry and gently score the pastry around it. You just need a slight indentation - don't cut the pastry. Place the round on a non-stick baking tray.

Carefully peel the apples, trying to keep their round shape. Cut them into quarters and slice out the cores in a curved line.

Slice the quarters into thin slices, 2-3mm in thickness. Try to keep them of equal size by always cutting down towards the point of the quarter where the core was, slightly rotating the quarter as you go.

Starting on the outside, arrange the apple slices in a circular fan pattern on the pastry base (see photo). Place them inside the circular border you marked out.

Once you have completed the outside ring, do the same for the inside.

Melt a knob of butter in the microwave and



carefully brush it onto the tart. Dust the tart quite generously with sugar.

Bake in an oven pre-heated to 220C/ Gas Mark 6 for around 20 minutes, or until the pastry is golden around the edges and the apples caramelised.

Take the tart out of the oven. While it is cooling, melt the apricot jam in a saucepan and thin it out with a few drops of water. Glaze the top of the tart with the apricot jam using a pastry brush. Leave to set and serve once the tart is cool. Serve with a scoop of vanilla ice cream.

**for a slight variation, you can also make an apple compote base. Cook down a cooking apple with some caster sugar until you have a smooth purée.

Cover the base with this compote in a thin layer before placing the apples on top.

BBC Three Counties Radio presenter and cook, Nick Coffey





Salvation Sound

Eaton Bray Salvation Army



We have a three year old grand daughter called Ella- Mae and in her possessions she has a treasure box. In this box she keeps different things including stones that she has picked up on her walks with her parents during the lockdown period.

These rocks are very precious to her and in conversation with her on WhatsApp, Ella Mae was telling me all about her treasures particularly about her stones she had collected.

To us stones are perhaps not the things that we would categorize under the name of 'treasures' but to Ella-Mae they were extremely important to her. Thinking about her 'treasures' and realising that very soon there will be lambs in the fields heralding the coming of spring drew me to the tender words of the Shepherd Psalm 23 that paints a beautiful picture of seeking out and finding a lost lamb, one he cares for and loves.

God seeks us out as well. Not only for salvation - though that is the most important reason but also to care for us.

God searches the areas of our lives where we may be distant from him - the areas of pain that we fear to show him- so he can protect us from danger and heal our wounds.

Luke 12: 14 'Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.'

When we feel lost or afraid, or alone, God is right there for us. He rejoices when we call on His name and come to Him. We are very special to Him because we are His treasure and we are truly valuable and greatly loved.

Dear God, today thank you that you love me so much and I am treasured by you. Amen

✍ Major Allison Gaudion

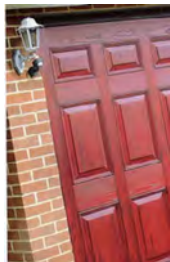


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