

FOCUS

December 2023/January 2024

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New Year from the Focus Committee***



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Printed by: Priory Press
Dunstable 01582 699851

Kindly Note

Articles and events for publication must be submitted to the Editor by the 10th of the preceding month. August/September and December/January are joint issues and articles must be submitted by 10th July and 10th November respectively. If an event falls in the first week of the month, it is advisable to submit the details into Focus a month earlier. The magazines are not delivered from the printers until the first of the month and it takes a few days for them all to be circulated throughout the villages by our volunteer distributors.

✍️ Editor

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

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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

Edlesborough Surgery

01525 221630 www.edlesboroughsurgery.co.uk



Weekly

Village Diary



Mon-Sun	St. Mary's Edlesborough opening times are currently very limited Please see notice board and website
Mon-Fri (term)	Eaton Bray Pre-school, Eaton Bray Lower School, 01525 220468, admin@eba.ec
Mon-Fri (term)	Dagnall Under 5's, Dagnall Village Hall, 9.15am - 12.15pm, Mrs Ann Tobin 07816 358342
Mon-Fri (term)	Edlesborough Primary Academy Pre-School, 01525 220431, epamanager@epa-primary.org
Mon-Fri (term)	Totternhoe Pre-school, Totternhoe CE Academy, 01582 662959, totternhoeoffice@tot.dsamat.co.uk
Mondays	Pilates, 10.45am, Totternhoe Memorial Hall, Lisa: 07832 230774
Mondays	Dagnall Community Choir, All Saints Church 7.45-9.45pm, w:dagnall-community-choir.co.uk
Mondays (term)	Movement and exercise classes with a dance flavour, Northhall VH 2-3.30. Jan 01442 864271.
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 1/2 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
Mondays	Eaton Bray Tennis Club - 4-7pm mini / junior tennis coaching
Mondays	Eaton Bray Tennis Club - 7-8pm Adult Coaching 'Get Back Into Tennis'
Tuesdays	Pilates, 10-11am, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Nicky Roussou 07861 162680
Tuesdays	Totternhoe Baby & Toddler Group, 9.30-11.15am, 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 VH, 07800 518654
Tuesdays	Coffee Morning, Bring & Buy, Table Top Sale, 10-11:30am, Salvation Army Hall, Booth Place, Eaton Bray
Fortnightly	
Tuesdays	Jazzercise 9:15-10am, Eaton Bray VH, Annis, annisjazzercise@gmail.com 07447 409666
Tuesdays	Eaton Bray Tennis Club - 6-7.30pm Social play for all adults
Tuesdays	Berkhamsted Taekwon-do Kids, 5.45pm-6.30pm, Dagnall Village Hall, 07813 755785
Tuesdays	Berkhamsted Taekwon-do Adults, 6.30pm, Dagnall Village Hall, 07813 755785
Tuesdays	Movement is Medicine Pilates, 1:30-2:30pm, Billington Hall, moira@stjudesclinic.com
Wednesdays	Pilates, 8pm, Northhall Village Hall, Lisa: 07832 230774
Wednesdays	Northhall & District Age Concern Wednesday Club, 10am - 3pm, Northhall Village Hall, Contact Dee on 07854 230243
Wednesdays	Art Course online 9.30 -11.30 am, contact Loma Moore 07896 619660
Wednesdays	Art Course, Bellows Mill Eaton Bray, 2-4.30pm, contact Loma Moore 07896 619660
Wednesdays	Jazzercise 7:30-8:30pm, Eaton Bray VH, Annis, annisjazzercise@gmail.com 07447 409666
Wednesdays	Eaton Bray Tennis Club - 5-6 pm 9-11 years old tennis coaching & U16 Beginners tennis
Wednesdays	Pilates 6-7pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Heather Holmes, 07305 023077 pilateswithheather@mail.com
Wednesdays	Movement is Medicine Pilates, 7-8pm, & 8:05-9:05pm, Billington Hall, moira@stjudesclinic.com
Wednesdays (term)	Stay & Play toddler group, 'Musical Monkeys' at the Eaton Bray Village Hall, 10am, £4.50 for one adult and child, £1 for extra children/adults, 0-6 months free
Wednesdays	Edlesborough Knit, Knatter & Crafting group, 11.30 - 1.30, Edlesborough Pavilion. Contact: e-mail pavilionknitters2023@gmail.com
Thursdays	KFPA Street dance classes, Edlesborough Memorial Hall 4.15pm-6.30pm (4 years+) Contact Kiri 07988161043 or visit Facebook page 'KF PerformingArts/ KFPA' for info
Thursdays	Berkhamsted Taekwon-do Adults 6.30pm, Dagnall Village Hall, 07813 755785
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	Eaton Bray Methodist Church Social Afternoons, 2 - 4pm, All Welcome

Village Diary

- Thursdays Explorers Scouts (14-18 years old), 8pm-9.30pm, 1st Eaton Bray & Edlesborough Scout Hut, High Street, Edlesborough. Contact Simon Betts, simon_betts@hotmail.com
- 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
- Fridays Tap & Ballet Classes, JoAnn Latus School of Dance, 4-8pm, Eaton Bray VH, 07800 518654
- Fridays Jazzercise 9:15-10am, Eaton Bray VH, Annis, annisjazzercise@gmail.com 07447 409666
- 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 "Little Luvvies" baby ballet classes, 10am-11.30am, Northall Village Hall. Contact Emma Whittemore on 01525 376124
- Fridays Movement is Medicine Pilates, 10-11am, Great Gaddesdon Parish Hall, moira@stjudesclinic.com
- Saturdays Jazzercise 9-10am, Eaton Bray VH, Annis, annisjazzercise@gmail.com 07447 409666
- Saturdays KFFPA Musical theatre classes, Edlesborough Memorial Hall 9.30-10.30am (4years+) Contact Kiri 07988161043 or visit Facebook page 'KF PerformingArts/ KFFPA' for info
- Sundays Sunday Worship at 11am, Edlesborough Baptist Church, Moor End, LU6 2FL. Contact: 01525 222064 or edlesboroughbaptistchurch@gmail.com
- Sundays Karate for kids & adults, 2:30-4pm & 4:30-6pm, Eaton Bray VH, Contact 07500 007779
- Sundays Eaton Bray Tennis Club - 10am -12pm Social play for all adults

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 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, 10:30am - 12 noon (July held on 2nd Saturday)
- 1st Saturday Book Swap at St Mary's Eaton Bray, 10:30am -12 noon (July held on 2nd Saturday)
- 2nd Monday Film Society, Sep to June, 2pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Graham Chappell 07980 321977
- 2nd Tuesday Dunstable & District Local History Society meeting, 7.45pm, Methodist Church Hall, Dunstable
- 2nd Tuesday Edlesborough W.I. Meeting, 7.30 pm, Edlesborough Memorial Hall. Contact Sue Bingham 01525 222522
- 3rd Thursday Edlesborough Parish Council Meeting, 7.30pm, Edlesborough Pavilion or as stated in Edlesborough Parish Council News
- 2nd Friday Leukaemia Research Coffee Morning 2, Dunstable Road, Dagnall 10.30 a.m. all welcome. No meeting in September, June plant bring and buy, December Sherry & mince pies
- 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

This Month's One Off/Annual/Irregular Events

- 3rd Dec Eaton Bray Academy Christmas Fair, 12-3pm
- 9th Dec A Festival for Christmas, 2pm, St. Mary's Church, Eaton Bray, Tickets £5 01525 222283
- 10th Dec Dagnall Community Choir Christmas Concert, Dagnall Village Hall, Tickets 01525 220189
- 16th Dec Christmas Coffee Morning, 10 - Noon, Dagnall Church
- 31st Dec Eaton Bray Village Hall New Years Eve Party, 7:30pm, Tickets: Adults £18, Under 18s £12, Under 5s free - www.ticketsource.co.uk/newyear & 07412 640936

For village Christmas church services please see the centre of this magazine

The paper used for this magazine is sourced from sustainable forests and can be recycled



Focus is online at www.thefocusmagazine.co.uk

Village Info



EDaN Community Transport
Peter Williams: 01442 842506

Police Contact Details

making neighbourhoods safer together

General Assistance (Recommended Number): 101 Emergency: 999

Bedfordshire Police (Eaton Bray)

T/Sgt 6268 Amy Ison, Leighton Buzzard Community Policing Team, Duncombe Drive, Leighton Buzzard, Telephone: 01582 473408

Thames Valley Police (Edlesborough, Dagnall & Northall)

PCSOs Tina Hobson & Megan Dean

Charlotte Cottage, 73 Leighton Road, Wing LU7 0RD

Email: greatbrickhillwingivinghoenhpt@thamesvalley.police.uk

To report non urgent crime: www.thamesvalley.police.uk

Village Hall Booking Contacts

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

Email: northallvhbookings@gmail.com

Eaton Bray: Norman Lee 07975 797202 & Jane Taylor 07852 586045

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

Coffee Tavern: 07836 240467

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

Edlesborough Pavilion: booking@edthepav.org

Parish Council Contacts

Eaton Bray Parish Council: 07931 479663

Email: clerk@ebpc.co.uk Website: www.ebpc.co.uk

Edlesborough Parish Council (including Dagnall & Northall): 01525 229358

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



Helpline: 07930 987064

Manned phone hours: 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday
(An answering service is available for out-of-hours calls)

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

We help people of Eaton Bray, Edlesborough, Northall and Totternhoe

Focus Magazine 2024 Advertising

First, we would like to thank all our advertisers who supported the magazine in 2023 by buying advertising space.

Focus Magazine has 10, printed, full colour, editions a year. There is a print run of 2,500 copies which are delivered to properties in the four villages. The magazine can be found online at www.thefocusmagazine.co.uk.

Current advertisers have been contacted regarding renewal of their advertising for the 2024 editions of the magazine.

If you would like to advertise in Focus in 2024 please contact advertising@thefocusmagazine.co.uk or ring Sally Taylor on 01525 221576 or Angela Dunford on 01525 221944.



a Festival for Christmas Featuring South Beds Concert Band

**On Saturday
9th December, 2pm at
St Mary's Church, Eaton Bray
Tickets £5
Accompanied children free
Box Office 01525 222283**



Eaton Bray with Edlesborough Parish News



Vicar: Rev'd Joy Cousins

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

Associate Priest: 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

Christmas is a time for giving. We celebrate God's generosity in giving his only Son who came to earth and lived a human life. That most precious gift is the reason why we give presents at Christmas. In a small way, we are reflecting the generosity of our Father in heaven. One of the ways we can give a gift to future generations is by our care for planet earth. As Churches Together in Eaton Bray and Edlesborough we want to encourage people to be more environmentally conscious. Below is an 'Eco Advent Calendar', with actions for each day of December up to Christmas. I hope you will find the ideas helpful as we seek to live more sustainably.

Friday 1st December Buy Christmas cards which support an environmental charity

Saturday 2nd December Visit the book swap at St Mary's and exchange a book

Sunday 3rd December Make a card or present for someone for Christmas

Monday 4th December Have a 'landfill waste free week' by buying only goods with all recyclable or no packaging

Tuesday 5th December Walk, cycle or take the bus to somewhere you'd normally drive to

Wednesday 6th December Don't leave anything 'on standby' at home

Thursday 7th December Plant some garlic in a pot or bed before Christmas

Friday 8th December Choose a clear night and go star gazing

Saturday 9th December Save your used stamps & put them in the box in St Mary's to support Whippet Rescue

Sunday 10th December Take time to go for a nature walk

Monday 11th December Only buy in season produce this week

Tuesday 12th December Reuse an item for something else e.g. Use an old envelope for a shopping list

Wednesday 13th December Refill a bottle of washing up liquid, fabric conditioner or shampoo rather than buying new

Thursday 14th December Cook 2 days' meals at the same time

Friday 15th December Make some gift tags from old Christmas cards

Saturday 16th December Take something broken to a repair café

Sunday 17th December Write someone a letter instead of using electronic devices

Monday 18th December Buy loose fruit or veg

Tuesday 19th December Turn off your screens and read a book

Wednesday 20th December Plan a new plant-based meal

Thursday 21st December Buy supermarket herbs to keep on your window sill

Friday 22nd December Turn off the lights when you leave the room

Saturday 23rd December Plan how to use your leftover turkey



Sunday 24th December Go to church and save a bit on your heating!!

Monday 25th December Celebrate the birth of Jesus- who was laid in a repurposed feeding trough for animals feed.

Wishing you all God's blessings this Christmas.

☞ Joy. Vicar of Eaton Bray with Edlesborough



SERVICES AT ST. MARY'S CHURCH, EATON BRAY

SUNDAYS: 10am PARISH HOLY COMMUNION

(apart from the third Sunday - see below)

*On the First and Third Sundays of each month there is
HOLY COMMUNION at 8am*

*On the Third Sunday of each month there is a
WORSHIP SERVICE FOR EVERYONE at 10am, a shorter less formal service*

WEEKDAYS: Wednesday at 10am HOLY COMMUNION
EVERYONE IS WELCOME AT THESE SERVICES

Details and ONLINE WORSHIP: www.stmaryseatonbray.org.uk

Dagnall Church Services

Sat. 16th Dec. 10 am – 12 noon

Sun. 17th Dec. 10.30 am

Christmas Day 10.30 am

Sun. 31st Dec. 3.00 pm

Sun. 21st Jan. 10.30 am

Christmas Coffee Morning

Dagnall Village Carol Service

Family Communion

Informal Service with Carols

Holy Communion

For any queries, please contact:

Philip Lee on 07977234453 or

Dorothy Green on 01442 843237



CHARITY CHRISTMAS PUZZLE



This year sees the 32nd Anniversary of the annual Puzzle set by Gordon Gray. The Puzzle is rated by participants as one of the most enjoyable (and devious) they have tackled and, with a theme designed to help completion, it will appeal to people who enjoy doing word puzzles. Puzzlers have plenty of time to find the answers and entries should be returned, with a donation, by 29th January.

Three highest scorers will each receive a £50 prize.

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

Copies of the Puzzle can be accessed from the web at www.christmaspuzzle.co.uk.

You can register early to receive a copy on the issue date of 8 December.



£120,000 raised for charity

£10,200 donated last year



This year's puzzle will support five charities nominated by Puzzlers.



Dagnall Community Choir

would like to invite you to a

Christmas Concert

for all the family

Sunday 10th December, 3.30pm

Dagnall Village Hall
Dunstable Road
Dagnall, HP4 1RG


FREE Entry by ticket only

please call 01525 220189 for tickets

A collection will be made for ovarian cancer charities.

*****Refreshments and Mince Pies *****

***Father Christmas will be making an
appearance!***





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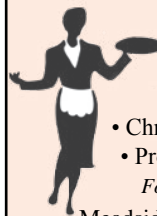
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The advertisement for Lee Hutt Heating & Plumbing Services is a blue square with white text and icons. It features a list of services including Bathrooms, Tiling, Heating, Taps, and Leaks. It also includes a '25 YEARS' anniversary logo and contact information for phone and mobile.

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The advertisement for ChiroPoddy Home Visiting Practice features a photograph of hands being examined. The text lists the practitioner's name, qualifications, and experience, along with a list of services provided. It includes a contact number and a note about making an appointment.

Anne Johnson Osteopath
6 Moor End, Eaton Bray

Back, neck and joint pain
Postural tension and headaches
Arthritic and other muscle and joint problems
07957 250682
Book by phone or online
www.anne-johnson.net

The advertisement for Anne Johnson Osteopath features a small logo of a hand and the text 'Anne Johnson Osteopath'. It lists the practice location and a range of services offered, including back, neck, and joint pain treatment. It includes a contact number and a website link.



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EATON BRAY PARISH COUNCIL

Eaton Bray Parish Council Focus Report November 2023

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.

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

FixMyStreet

CBC have a reporting system to make reporting easier, quicker and more accurate. To report and track highways and environment problems go online/use the FixMyStreet app: <https://fixmystreet.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/>

Notice of Works: Holman's Field

New fencing is being installed along the bank at Holman's Field. The work will take around two weeks/proposed start date w/c Monday 6th November 2023. For more information, please visit the Parish Council website.

*****REMINDER*** PARISH ALLOTMENTS: Allotment Tenancy Renewals 2023-2024**

Allotment tenancy renewals are now due, payments to be made via one of the following two options:

1. Bank transfer (if this is your chosen method, please email the Parish Clerk for details)
2. Cash or cheque (cheques made payable to Eaton Bray Parish Council): cheques can be posted to the Parish Clerk or hand delivered to the Parish Clerk at the Parish Council open office - for dates/times, please visit the Parish Council website <https://www.ebpc.co.uk/parish-council-surgery/>

Eaton Bray Parish Council Meeting

Held on Monday 2nd October 2023, from 7:30pm

(Minutes ratified at the Parish Council Meeting, Monday 6th November 2023)

Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC)

Your Ward Councillor: 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

- Potholes: Cllr Spicer has raised the matter regarding delays in getting repairs carried out and will be meeting with CBC highways regarding this and other highways issues.
- Match Funding: Cllr Spicer has some available funds for local groups. Interested parties to contact Cllr Spicer direct for more information/express an interest.

Bedfordshire Police

- For general Police contact/enquiries: non-emergency call **101**
- For emergencies: call **999**

Planning Applications & Appeals – September/October 2023

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.

Recreation Ground

- **Lighting:** The Parish Council are looking into the required process and associated costs for the installation of lighting in School Lane recreation grounds.
*UPDATE (06/11/23): An environmental survey is to be conducted in the proposed location.
- **Seating:** The Parish Council are considering design/costs for benches in the recreation grounds.
*UPDATE (06/11/23): The Rye – the installation of two benches has been approved.
- **Play Inspection Report:** An inspection was carried out to the play areas within the parish, the findings forwarded to the Parish Council for information. The Parish Council are looking into setting up a maintenance contract for regular inspections of the play equipment.
- **Noticeboard:** The Parish Council putting together costs for installing a noticeboard at The Rye.
*UPDATE (06/11/23): Costs for noticeboard presented to the Parish Council. Approved.

Mill End Close/Waterside

- New fencing and access gate has been installed.
- The Parish Council are waiting to hear from IDB (Internal Drainage Board) when they will be carrying out maintenance works to the river.
*UPDATE (23/11/23): The IDB are proposing to start work to the river end November/December. Exact dates to be confirmed.

The Comp

There have been reports of dog walkers letting dogs off the lead, running onto residents properties and fouling the area. The Parish Council to place relevant signage in this location.

War Memorial

The Parish Council are looking to install a bespoke fitting at the base of the memorial, a rail for the front and sides on which to display wreaths and ensure they stay in place.

Eaton Bray Parish Council Accounts

- A copy of the Parish Council's Finance & Annual Reports can be viewed on the Parish Council Website.
- Notice of conclusion of the audit: Annual Return y/e 31 March 2023. A copy of the annual return can be seen on the Parish Council website or obtained by applying to the Parish Clerk.

Monthly Payments, September/October 2023

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

Parish Council Meeting (1st Floor, The Coffee Tavern, Eaton Bray)

Details can be obtained from the EBPC website, www.ebpc.co.uk

*Parish Council Meeting, Monday 4th December 2023, from 7:30pm

*Parish Council Meeting, Monday 8th January 2024, from 7:30pm

Parish Council Open Office (Ground floor)

10am-12noon at The Coffee Tavern, High Street, Eaton Bray

(Dates/times subject to change, please check the EBPC Website for updates)

Tuesday 12th December 2023



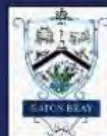
Heidi Head, Parish Clerk

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

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Thames Valley Police Report

PCSO Tina Hobson attended the October Council meeting and reported the following crime figures (up to 19th October 2023).

Edlesborough

- ASB – Criminal Damage
- ASB – Community
- ASB – One other
- ASB – Environmental
- Burglary – one
- One stolen car
- Criminal Damage
- Two suspicious vehicles
- One dangerous dog

Dagnall

- Two reports of suspicious persons
- One report of a public order offence

Northall

- Drug Offences
- Theft
- Persons on motor bikes with no helmets

PCSO Hobson explained that due to confidentiality and ongoing investigations she was unable to give any more information on any of the incidents/reports. PCSO Hobson advised that reports can be made via 101 or using the following email addresses GreatbrickhillwingivinghoeNHPT@thamesvalley.police.uk or tina.hobson@thamesvalley.police.uk

New Litter and Recycling Bins

Sadly, there has been a noticeable increase in litter on Edlesborough Green near the new play equipment. Two new bins have now been installed by the new play equipment; one for litter and one for waste that can be recycled. Please remind your children to use these bins for their waste/litter.

The **blue bins** are for:

- Paper & Cardboard
- Empty Plastic Bottles
- Empty Cans
- Waxed Cartons
- Please **do not** put any food or liquids into the bin as this will contaminate the waste and prevent it from being recycled.
- The **green bins** are for rubbish that cannot be recycled.
- Please **do not** put dog waste into either the green or blue litter bins.
- Dog waste **must** be disposed of in the **red** dog waste bins.



If you find that any of the bins are full, please take a short walk to the next bin or take your litter home with you. *Let's all work together to keep our villages tidy and litter free!*

EDaN Beautification Team

EPC thanks the EDaN Beautification Team who continue to work hard tending to the various planters in the villages of Edlesborough, Dagnall and Northall.

Do you enjoy gardening and have some time to spare?

The EDaN Beautification Team is running low on volunteers for the tidying and watering of the planters and their other activities. Anyone interested in getting involved or helping with the watering should contact Mrs Christine Yates on 01525 220739 or chris@brooklyns.org.uk

Traffic Calming in the Parish

EPC is frequently asked what it is doing about combatting speeding in the Parish.

Buckinghamshire Council is the Highways Authority and as such they have control over what traffic calming measures can be put in place on Buckinghamshire Roads. Buckinghamshire Council's policy is one of education opposed to punishment. More information can be viewed at www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/parking-roads-and-transport/road-safety/managing-speed/dealing-with-speeding/

How does EPC help combat speeding in the Parish?



MVAS Devices

The three Mobile Vehicle Activated Signs (MVAS) devices are now deployed around the Parish. There are 13 approved locations for these devices. The purpose of these signs is to remind drivers of the speed limit and to encourage them to reduce their speed through our villages. Data collected by the signs can also be used as evidence for other traffic calming measures.



WHEELIE BIN STICKERS

EPC has invested in new wheelie bin stickers which will be distributed to homes on roads where parishioners have raised concerns about speeding.

SPEEDWATCH

What is Speedwatch?

- Speedwatch is a scheme managed by Thames Valley Police (TVP), promoted by Buckinghamshire Council, supported by EPC, and delivered by volunteers.
- Locations for monitoring speed are selected from sites suggested by the community, based on where there is most local concern about speeding traffic, or the impact of speed. These locations must be approved by TVP.
- The location, date, time, speed and registration numbers of speeding vehicles are recorded. This information is shared with TVP.
- Speedwatch operates across the entire TVP area monitoring the speed of vehicles. This means that if a registration is regularly reported to TVP, the information is collated and TVP can then take the following actions:
- Warning letters are sent out by Thames Valley Police to the registered keepers stating that their vehicle has been reported as speeding.
- The first letter is a warning letter. The second is a stronger letter.
- If Speedwatch activity evidences a speed problem, this may result in enforcement by the Police.



For Speedwatch to be effective in our Parish we need more volunteers who are prepared to be trained and are available to spare some time to use the Speedwatch video capture device.

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.

Salt Bins

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

Streetlights

Please report failed streetlights in Edlesborough, Dagnall and Northall to the Clerk for repair. When making a report please ensure you provide the Clerk with the information displayed on the lamp post.

Council Meetings

The next Edlesborough Parish Council Meetings commence at 7:30pm on:

- Thursday 21st December 2023 – Edlesborough Pavilion
- Thursday 18th January 2024 – Edlesborough Pavilion



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. Council requests that where possible questions, issues and suggestions are submitted in writing to the Clerk by the Tuesday preceding the meeting. The agenda and full minutes of previous Parish Council meetings are available to view on the website or from the Parish Clerk.

Clerk: Miss Penny Pataky Office hours Mon – Fri 10am – 2pm (Excl. Wed)
Email: clerk@edlesborough-pc.gov.uk 01525 229358 Website: www.edlesborough-pc.gov.uk
Facebook: www.facebook.com/EDANParishCouncil

CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING




Dagnall Church
Saturday 16th December
10 to noon



Please come and join us for coffee, tea, mince pies and cake



St. Mary's Eaton Bray Needs You!

We need your technical skills and knowledge to help us update the equipment and systems in the church. At St Mary's we understand we're custodians of an historic and important building in the community. We're working hard to both maintain the medieval structure and to update its equipment and capability for the 21st century. That means embracing digital technology in all its forms.



The starting point for most of this was getting an internet connection into the building. That's not so easy when there isn't even a phone line. After exploring various options for mobile broadband, even a parabolic beam link, the village hall came to the rescue and we now have a cable connection to the hall's high speed router. This enabled the start of our tech revolution.

We now have a YouTube channel and we regularly live stream services. If you have an interest in live streaming we could use some help!

Another enabling tech is the remote control of smart devices and intelligent systems. Do you have an interest in the internet? We are planning to install a digital addressable lighting system. It will provide programable flexible lighting to suit all the different services and events in church. Could you help us spec and develop some of these smart systems?

We could use some help developing and augmenting our old analogue audio system.

We really need to add a digital input capability so that we can introduce pre-recorded music files directly to the audio system.

Maybe we should start thinking about other future tech capabilities. Heating a medieval building is always going to be a challenge, what happens after the gas boiler? Should we investigate ground source or air source heat pumps? Is there a case for solar, with or without battery and inverter?

If you have an interest in any of these emerging technologies, or just want to help us as custodians of an historic building, we would love to hear from you. I'm the treasurer and on the fabric committee, you can reach me on my church email address: treasurer@stmaryseatonbray.org.uk

✉ Martin Hayden

Eaton Bray Cricket Club 100 Club Winners

Sept

£25	Joe Braddon	No62
£10	Joan Hing	No89

Oct

£25	Richard Osborne	No 80
£10	Margaret Jones	No109

Nov

£100	Richard Chown	No82
£25	Julia Quinn	No75
£10	Jacko Jacobs	No130

Eaton Bray Cricket Club is kindly sponsored by Meadow Marquees, ECL Howard Watson Smith LLP, Tops Tiles and SMSS Ltd

The EdleFest Line-up is a Perfect Stocking-Filler



Wondering what to get for that musical Christmas gift? Well, tickets for our summer village festival are out just in time for the festive season. Santa is even offering you a discount if you buy in time for Christmas.

We've got another fabulous event lined-up for you, all in the unique medieval setting of our 'Church on the Hill' in Edlesborough. The bar will be serving real-ales, wine and Pimms all evening, so think past the dark winter nights and imagine yourself enjoying a summertime drink overlooking the spectacular views across Aylesbury Vale.

On Friday June 7th we've got headliners **Jaywalkers**, bringing us magnificent musicianship, gorgeous vocals and a lot of fun. British bluegrass at its best! *"Stunning three-part harmonies, soaring fiddles and fearless mandolins..."* - *Country Music Magazine*.

We'll also have a lively indie set from the **Em Risley Band**, *'Stunning... open and honest'* - *BBC's Christian Carlisle*, and the beautiful vocal harmonies of Americana duo **Our Atlantic Roots**, *"Unstoppable... When Our Atlantic Roots play, you listen"* - *BBC Radio Cornwall*.

And put your dancing shoes on for Saturday June 8th,



Jaywalkers



Rob Heron and the Teapad Orchestra

as we welcome back **Rob Heron and the Teapad Orchestra** for an evening of foot-tapping fun. *"That's one hot band right there!"* – *Huey Morgan, BBC Radio 2*.

We also host the incredibly talented **Simeon Hammond Dallas** (you'll be telling people that you saw her here first!). *"A star in the making... effervescent and raunchy country-blues... one to watch, if you weren't already"* - *Lonesome Highway Mag*.

And we'll open the night with resident favourites **The Dicemen**, who will feature their new single, Church on a Hill, written about our very own venue. *"Thought provoking... the Dicemen have taken their subject matter to a whole new level"* – *Les Ray, Cambridge 105 Radio*.

For those of you who have been to EdleFest before, you'll know how fortunate we are to host this fantastic event, right on our doorstep. For those of you who haven't – well, maybe this is the year to come and try it! Find out more by searching online for *EdleFest*, or visiting *edlefest.site123.me*, by calling 07974 921923, or by email to *EdleFest@gmail.com*.



Simeon Hammond Dallas

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Contact us at: enquiries@etctennis.org or visit us at: www.etctennis.org

A FESTIVAL FOR CHRISTMAS

2pm Saturday 9 December
St Mary's Church, Eaton Bray

Christmas - it's the most wonderful time of the year.

Looking back on the past few years I realise that, for one reason or another, it's a long time since I last went out for my own entertainment.

Perhaps the same is true for you but in the run up to Christmas Music@St Mary's is giving you the chance to get out and enjoy yourselves by coming to our 'FESTIVAL FOR CHRISTMAS.' We've done everything we can to make the event accessible:

- with a start time of 2pm there should be no problem getting home in the daylight,
- the show will be performed by some of the top local musicians – including South Beds Concert Band, Dunstable Amateur Operatic Society, Kate Banville and Stephen Axford
- Affordable tickets – Adults £5, children free
- Popular Christmas music.



Tickets available from the Box Office – please let us know that you are coming (Tel 01525 222283)

St Mary's 100 Club

The lucky prize winners are:

October Winners

1st prize – Robert Dickson

2nd prize – Yvonne Ranson

3rd prize – Estelle Marshall

November Winners

1st prize – Catherine Gadd

2nd prize – Wendy Watson

3rd prize – Victor Courtice

Edlesborough Baptist Church

All are welcome to our 11am
service every Sunday

Keep up to date by visiting:

www.edlesboroughbaptist.wix.com/home

Find us on Facebook @gbce2014

ECSC CIO is the organisation that operates Edlesborough Pavilion.

In November ECSC CIO celebrated two years of being open. After many, many years in the planning and thanks to all many volunteers led by Ken Holloway and Edlesborough Parish Council the wonderful facility is now available for the Community.

The old, not fit for purpose Pavilion

Edlesborough Pavilion today



Over the past year the Pavilion has held various events and has been open to its members thanks to all the hard work of the Trustees, Staff and Volunteers.

Trustees

The Trustees are all volunteers who deal with the charity's finances, policies, and running of the building. Currently they are Sue Brown, Nick Fox, Paul Hancock, Kate Meredith, Malcolm Plaats, Dave Roberts, Alan Williams, and Chris Walter.

Staff

Our team consists of -

- Ruth our hard-working cleaner.
- Charlie, Poppy, and Lydia our dedicated bar staff.
- Susan our amazing cook, ably assisted by her fabulous husband David. Susan came on board just over a year ago and has transformed the food service in the Pavilion and serving hatch.

Volunteers

ECSC CIO is extremely fortunate to have the support of many wonderful volunteers, they carry out tasks that range from serving behind the bar, front of house for the kitchen team, opening & closing the building, generating the newsletter, organising & running events, membership, and much more. Without this amazing team of volunteers ECSC CIO would not be able to operate the Pavilion. *So here is a huge thank you to everyone who does their bit no matter how small.*

All residents of Edlesborough, Dagnall and Northall are entitled to free membership of ECSC C.I.O. Residents of Eaton Bray and other neighbouring villages may apply for membership for a small annual fee. More information can be viewed at MemberRegister (escomembers.azurewebsites.net)

Useful contact information:

- Membership enquiries and fingerprinting: membership@edthepav.org
- Gym enquiries: gym@edthepav.org
- Pavilion and volunteer enquiries: pav.manager@edthepav.org




- Booking enquiries: booking@edthepav.org

Please view the Pavilion Facebook page for more photos and information about future events. The link to follow Edlesborough Pavilion on Facebook is www.facebook.com/edthepav/

The link to follow ECSC CIO on Facebook is www.facebook.com/ecscchio/

Profits from the activities of Edlesborough Pavilion support the charitable objectives of ECSC CIO. The objectives and activities that take place in the pavilion are only part of the charity's purpose. These may be viewed in full on the website of the Charities Commission charitycommission.gov.uk

Here are some Pavilion highlights of the past few months

<p><i>Monthly Bingo Nights</i></p> 	<p><i>Quiz Nights</i></p> 	<p><i>Games Club</i></p> 
<p><i>Here is a selection of some of the amazing food that is now served on Wednesday & Thursday lunchtimes and Friday Nights!</i></p>		
		
<p><i>Halloween Weekend</i></p> 	<p><i>Craft Fayres</i></p> 	<p><i>Music Night</i></p> 
<p><i>Carnival Day</i></p> 	<p><i>Food Hatch</i></p>  <p><i>The hatch is open when football matches take place on the Green</i></p>	<p><i>CPR & AED Course</i></p> 

Edlesborough Pavilion is also home to three local sports clubs

EB Lions FC



Edlesborough Cricket Club



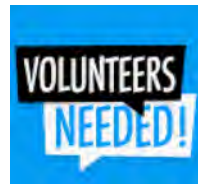
Edlesborough Tennis Club



The facility also has a modern gym. Anyone wishing to join/use this facility should contactgym@edthepav.org



ECSC CIO always welcomes new volunteers. Whether you want to get involved in a one-off event or volunteer on a regular basis please get in touch via pav.manager@edthepav.org



Appledown Rescue Dog of the Month



Handsome Gaylord Ravenal is a lurcher who was born in 2021. This sweet-natured lad can be a little shy at first and needs patient owners who will help him gain confidence. Like all sighthounds, he needs a secure garden and on-lead walks. We think he would benefit from living with another dog pending introductions, but not cats. Children 7+. To offer a rescue dog a loving home you can find an application form on our website and details of the rehoming process. Viewings by appointment only. To support our work please make a one-off donation of £3 by texting APPLE to 70111, or donate via Paypal using the

'DONATE Support a Cause' option. Cheques are very welcome too.

Appledown Rescue & Rehoming Kennels Harling Road, Eaton Bray LU6 1QY
01525 220383 (10am-1pm & 2-4 pm) E-mail: appledown.kennels@btinternet.com
Website: www.appledownrescue.co.uk **Viewings are by appointment only.**

Registered Charity Number 1116848



Dagnall Community Choir



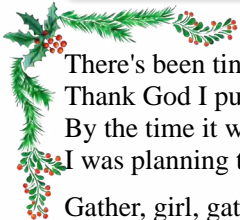
Happy Christmas from Dagnall Community Choir!

We are looking forward to our Christmas Concert, which takes place on **Sunday 10th December**, 3.30pm, at Dagnall Village Hall. The afternoon will feature traditional carols and festive music, a bit of a sing-along for the audience, and a visit from Father Christmas! This is a free concert, with a charity collection being made in aid of ovarian cancer charities, but tickets will be needed for entry. Please call 01525 220189 for tickets, or email dagnallcc@gmail.com.

We will also be joining Luton Brass Band and the Vauxhall Luton Male Voice Choir for a concert which takes place at Dunstable Methodist Church on **Saturday 16th December** at 2.30pm. This promises to be a fantastic occasion with some excellent musicianship, with all proceeds being split between causes supported by the church, and CHUMS, the child emotional health charity.

And if you can't make it to either of these events, we will also be singing carols at the Five Bells Pub in Stanbridge at their tree lighting event on Friday 2nd December from 5.00pm. All are welcome to come along and enjoy some festive cheer!

If you would like more information about the choir, please visit our website www.dagnall-community-choir.co.uk. We're always on the look out for new members, so if you think you'd like to come along and sing with us, we meet weekly on a Monday evening at Dagnall Church, 7.45 – 9.45pm. We're a very relaxed and friendly group and you will receive the warmest of welcomes.



Last Christmas

There's been tinsel in the shops since April
Thank God I put the sprouts on low
By the time it was stir-up Sunday
I was planning to start a go slow

Gather, girl, gather -
It won't be all that bad
Only fifteen for dinner-
When they leave won't I be glad

Last year was quite eventful
The turkey was almost cooked through
The mince pies were hard as iron
And even my hat was askew

We started with Prosecco
Then on to a Chablis or two
Main course had red (and more red)
And somehow the time just flew

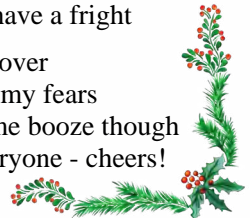
✍️ by the late John Hockey



Sadly the pud caught fire
I told him the brandy was rough
But on and on he kept pouring
Till the whole thing went up in a puff

I'm hoping one year that someone
Might just bring themselves to invite
Myself and my hard working hubby
My goodness I would have a fright

But that's another year over
Not too bad despite all my fears
We did get through some booze though
Which reminds me everyone - cheers!



*Have you penned a verse with local interest that we could publish in Focus?
We would be happy to accommodate any budding poets.*

Christmas Eve Candle Services

4.15 pm
& 6 pm

St Mary's Church
Eaton Bray



Care for those you know and love

Give the Gift of Time this Christmas

Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity is launching a Christmas Appeal called 'Give the Gift of Time this Christmas' to ensure that local people with life-limiting illnesses, and their families, get the help and support they need this Christmas and beyond.

A key message from the appeal is to explain that just £25 will pay for an hour of a nurse's time to provide care and reassurance to a patient and their loved ones at Christmas time. The Charity is asking people living in Buckinghamshire and its borders to consider making a one-off donation or becoming a regular monthly giver by visiting <https://fnhospice.org.uk/christmasappeal>



A relative of a patient recently said, "When we, as a family, heard the word 'Hospice', it scared us. We thought that's it then, this is the end, what a sad, depressing place it will be."

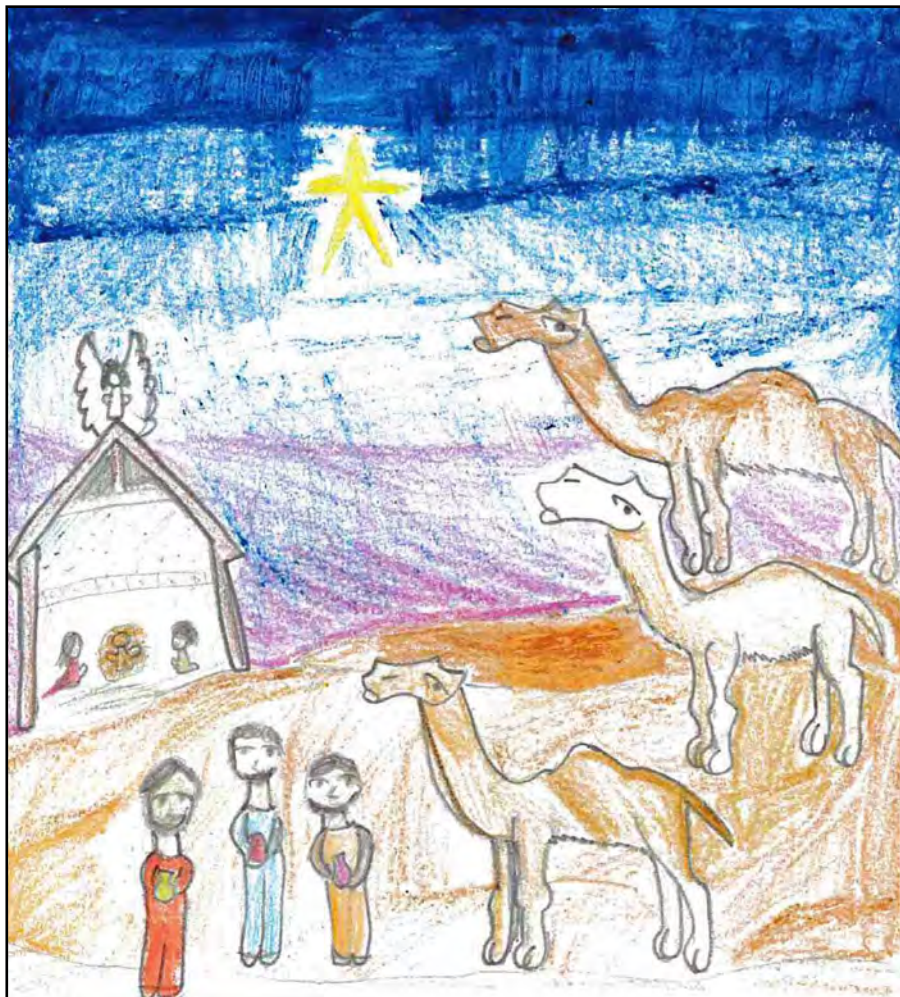
"But we couldn't have been more wrong. From the moment we stepped through those doors, a beautiful and calm sense of relief enveloped us. The kind, friendly, reassuring, happy, smiling nurses and doctors just put us at ease straight away."

Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity would like to thank all its supporters for any help they can give during this season of goodwill.

Christmas Services 2023

The pupils of Dagnall VA Church of England School were invited to draw a design showing the Good News of Jesus' Birth which would feature in the Christmas 'Pull Out'.

Congratulations to Zuzana our winner



Zuzana Age: 9

The churches in the four villages join together in wishing you joy and peace this Christmas and invite you to join them at their Christmas Services

St Mary's Church, Eaton Bray (Anglican)

Sunday 17th December	10.00am	Children's Nativity
	6.00pm	Carol Service <i>(followed by mulled wine and mince pies)</i>
Sunday 24th December	10.00am	Parish Eucharist
	4.15pm	Candle Services - for all ages, especially children <i>(The earlier service is attended by younger children and is usually busy)</i>
	&	
	6.00pm	
	11.30pm	Midnight Mass. Blessing of the Crib and First Communion of Christmas
Christmas Day	10.00am	Christmas Family Communion Service
Sunday 31st December	10.00am	Messy Church Family Communion

St Mary's Church, Edlesborough (Anglican)

(by permission of Churches Conservation Trust)

Saturday 16th December	3.00pm	Carols by candlelight followed by mulled wine
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All Saints' Church, Dagnall (Anglican)

Sunday 17th December	10.30am	Village Carol Service with the Bishop of St Albans
Christmas Day	10.30am	Family Service with Communion
Sunday 31st December	3.00pm	Carol Praise

Edlesborough Methodist

Sunday 17th December	10.30am	United Family Carol Service
Christmas Day		No Service
Sunday 31st December	11.00am	United Worship for the turn of the year at Eaton Bray Salvation Army

Eaton Bray Methodist

Sunday 24th December	10.30am	Family Carol Service
Christmas Day	10.30am	United Family Worship
Sunday 31st December	11.00am	United Worship for the turn of the year at Eaton Bray Salvation Army

Northall Baptist Church, Chapel Lane, Northall

Thursday 14th December	8.00pm	Carols at The Swan, Northall
Sunday 17th December	4.30pm	Carols by Candlelight
Sunday 24th December	11.00am	Service "for the Season"
Christmas Day		No Service

The Salvation Army, Booth Place, Eaton Bray

Sunday 24th December	11.00am	Carol Service with mince pies
Christmas Day		No Service
Sunday December 31st	11.00am	United Service with Methodist Churches

St Mary's Church, West Street, Dunstable (Roman Catholic)

For services at St Mary's, please contact the church for information

Website: <https://www.stmarys-dunstable.org>

Sacred Heart, Church, Beaudesert, Leighton Buzzard (Roman Catholic)

For services at Sacred Heart, please contact the church for information

Website: www.sacredheartlb.org.uk

**I bring you good news...of great joy...a Saviour
has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord.
*Luke chapter 2***

Congratulations to our
3 joint runners up!

Olivia
Age:10

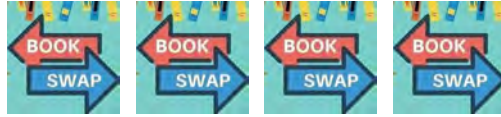


Reggie
Age:4



Octavia
Age:11





Take a book you want to read - Leave a book you want to share

**The next Book Swap is at St Mary's Church
on Saturday December 2nd from 10.30 – 12.00 noon**

Our November Book Swap was very busy, which is just as we like it, we look forward to seeing you all again in December. Come for coffee and cake, choose a book, and enjoy a chat with other book lovers.

Several people have mentioned that they would like to join a book group or, if one is not available, start one.

If you are an existing book group and would welcome new members please email me or Chris on the email addresses below with details of your group and a contact number or email and we will advertise this for you on our notice board at the church coffee mornings on the first Saturday of the month and on our Face Book page.

If you want to start or join a new group, please get in touch and we will advertise this information for you as well. Please come along to the Book Swap at the coffee mornings to see what we do and discuss how we can help you with your plans.

We look forward to seeing all our regular readers and welcoming any newcomers.

The Book Swap is free and open to all adults.

For more information about Book Swap please contact:

Chris Sanders Email: chris.sanders45@gmail.com

Jenifer MacKenzie Email: jenimackenzie@hotmail.com



During the last month we have held our AGM. It was good to meet up with some of our volunteers who attended. We recorded 1,147 jobs up until September this year. Grateful thanks were extended to all our very kind and helpful volunteers.

We always welcome new volunteers to help with collecting prescriptions or shopping and also as a driver. During the winter months, we continue to have many requests for help.

Some of our volunteers help with our "In Touch" programme. We aim to telephone anyone in our community who would like a friendly telephone call. If you would like to volunteer to befriend someone by phone in the village, please let us know. Our kind team of drivers help with request for lifts. We would also always welcome more drivers.

Please contact us on the telephone number listed below, if you are interested in helping Eaton Bray Good Neighbours.

You can contact us by calling 07930 987064 when a friend will answer your call. We are here if you need any help.

Seasonal Greetings to you All from The Wednesday Club, Northall

I shall endeavour to keep this brief as we're already gearing up for a hectic end to our 2023. We've had a fantastic 2023 as a Club, with a generous helping of support from many individuals and organisations within this community, for which we are very grateful. Thank You All for playing your part in this - If your 2024 New Year Resolution happens to be getting more involved in the community perhaps our footnote(s) will make an inspiring read?

Members Christmas Lunch - 13th December

Hopefully all invitations have by now been RSVP'd and the preparations shall all be in the hands of our trusty team of cooks and volunteers. It's a hectic day but one that is always well received and appreciated by those that attend. Our last session for 2023 follows on the 20th December. This must be the only year on record where we've actually held 2 Christmas Lunches in the same Year! Fingers crossed ...

Dagnall School Visit

Mid October we welcomed a group of accompanied children with their array of beautiful Harvest Festival boxes. It was a great opportunity for chat, conversations spanning generations with smiles and laughter (and a few treats too.) The members really appreciated the time, effort and thought that went into the generous hampers, and wish to pass their gratitude to all involved - the children are a real delight to host. We so look forward to our catching up again in December.

Music Quiz II ... thank you to the Quiz Masters, Catering Team, supporters and donors of prizes. A thoroughly enjoyable night was had by all, tickets SOLD out in record time – so be sure to note the next date ASAP once advertised. I can report the final figure raised in the next article. I propose “Heads or Tails” becomes our trademark Ice Breaker for such occasions, plus it's such a fun game to watch!

Share Your Wares Way back in October, Gay of Carol Gaynor Designs joined us for the afternoon. It was a lovely chance for our members to browse the beautiful array of her handmade gifts and jewellery. It was lovely to see the members interactions and to host such an event, strengthening our community links and supporting local businesses. Jo from Outside In Floral Creations will have showcased her artistic floristry, skills and knowledge just in time for some Seasonal Inspiration. Write up in the Next Issue. If you'd like to embrace the opportunity to showcase and sell your creations during a club session in 2024 please message Jane to join the waiting list for future slots.

For Next Month ...

Christmas Trip Report

Tea/Coffee Afternoon Report

Members Christmas Lunch

Joining us as a Member Is easy: Simply contact us on 07854 230243, leave a text or message including your contact details, and our leader Dee will get back to you ASAP with availability or the option to join the waiting list.

Getting Involved with The Wednesday Club, we're always delighted to welcome inquiries and offers of support from our community. Whether a regular commitment, a one-time contribution, there are various ways to get involved:

Donations: Your donations of goods can go a long way to support our activities. We gladly accept and appreciate gifting and items for fundraising, plus those seasonal fruits and vegetables enhance our homemade meals.

One-Off Volunteer Offers: Entertain us with your talent for singing or playing music... want to practice in front of an appreciative audience to brighten their day?

Regular Rota Volunteers: If you have a passion for lending a hand, we have opportunities in the kitchen or as minibus drivers/conductors. Your consistent support working as part of a team keeps our activities running smoothly.

For the latest updates, information, and any last minute announcements, be sure to follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/WednesdayClubNorthall/> It's a great way to stay connected with our wider community.



AGE CONCERN NORTHALL & DISTRICT WEDNESDAY CLUB



(Charity No. 293080)

We are looking for volunteer drivers and conductors to help with transporting the members to and from their homes on our minibus. This would be on a rota system, depending on the number of volunteers. Call 07854 230243 if you can help.



Nigel's Thoughts

Dear Friends,

The start of December sees in the season of Advent.

This is a time of preparation, but not only for Christmas. It focuses our thoughts on the coming of Jesus in three ways.

His first coming was into the world, as a helpless infant, yet God made man. This we heartily celebrate at Christmas.

Jesus comes to us also in the everyday, he is 'God with us' now and always, in all the rough and tumble, joy and pain of our living. There is no experience that he does not share with us, and he is never absent, though in times of great struggle or sadness we may feel that we experience this.

Our faith also tells us that 'Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again'. This is referring to his final Advent coming at the last day, the day of judgement.

Lament and joy are therefore interwoven in this season of Advent, they are inseparable in our experience as individuals and in the life of the church.

Human wrongdoing continues to estrange us from one another and from God. The present global situation, especially in Israel-Palestine, and in the Ukraine, together with Afghanistan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (among others) seems beyond our understanding, and we feel powerless. As nations and as human beings we find it hard to learn the lessons which history would teach us (I'm writing this just after our solemn observance of Remembrance Sunday).

As Christians, we live out our Advent hope as we face the reality of our human predicament. We anticipate the joy of God 'in our community' – the living presence of Jesus, God's greatest gift of love. I wish you joy and gladness, and warm greetings for a Very Happy Christmas.

✍️ Nigel

Royal British Legion Remembrance Service at Edlesborough

This year the Act of Remembrance was celebrated at the War Memorial at the top of the hill by Edlesborough Church. Unfortunately, the weather was not kind this year and it was a cold damp morning with umbrellas much in evidence, but that didn't deter the approximately 200 people who braved the weather to attend the service.

Once again, we were able to close the Main Road and the stretch of Edlesborough High Street from the Memorial Hall to the Church, which meant that the service took place in peace and quiet and people were able to stand in the road around the Memorial, and the Cubs and Scouts – and there were a lot of them!! – were able to march up the hill and back again in safety.

We couldn't do this without the people who gladly give up their time to help with the road closure and diversion. This year, we are very grateful to Rob Pratt and his Young Farmers, Joe, and Rob who, having had a very late night on Saturday, cheerfully and efficiently helped distribute the closure and diversion signs early on Sunday morning, and then went around and collected them again after the service. Thank you, gentlemen, – your help was very much appreciated by everyone!

Being a barrier steward is not an easy task, as apart from having to stand in the cold and wet for an hour and a half, they often have to deal with unkindness from thoughtless people who don't like having to drive the short diversion while the road is closed for the service. So, a very big thank you to Bob Stilliard, John Horn, Alan Tipper, Garth Borrowdale, Alan Williams, Sian Feben, Jay Harker, and Christine Yates for giving up their time to stand in the cold and wet. This year, due to the advance warning signs, which were out for three weeks before the service, and messages on Facebook and in "Focus", we didn't have any serious issues with cars trying to access the junction during the service so thanks to all the local residents for their patience and understanding.

I would also like to add a word of thanks to the three intrepid litter pickers who took advantage of the absence of traffic and cleared the stretch of the main road which is normally inaccessible due to lack of footpaths and speed of traffic. Thank you, Sharon, Tessa and Steve.

Finally, a word of thanks to our indefatigable Parish Clerk Penny Pataki who has spent a lot of time organising and liaising with AVDC to make sure that everything ran smoothly.

Next year the service will be held at Eaton Bray War Memorial.



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on the B4506 between Ringshall & Dagnall.

British Legion Poppy Appeal Collection in Northall and Edlesborough

Earlier this year we were awarded the Christine Rowley Trophy by the Buckinghamshire branch of the RBL for being the District with the Highest Increase last year without an RBL branch or club.

This year I have a feeling that we have certainly kept up the pressure on the other branches!! Yet again you have all been incredibly generous and between you have raised a wonderful interim total of £1002.10. The pupils and staff of Edlesborough School raised an amazing £292.59 – mainly in wristbands and snap bands!! I'm not sure how many children there are but they must have had at least half a dozen each!! The customers at Edlesborough Newsagents raised the grand total of £361.59 which is impressive, especially when you consider that many of them were also buying snap bands!...

Many thanks to “The Swan” at Northall, who raised a generous £228.24, Edlesborough Pavilion who donated £103.54, and also to Northall Wednesday Club who contributed £16.10 to the final amount.

We trialled the new QR codes this year so that people could make donations by phone, but of course we won't know how much that has raised for the district until around February next year when we will be told our final total for the year. I will let you know the final total then.

Thank you so much to everyone who has contributed so generously and for your continuing support for this worthy cause.



NORTHALL BAPTIST CHAPEL

Chapel Lane, Northall

(just beyond the 30 speed limit signs on the road towards Leighton Buzzard)

Everyone is welcome to our Sunday worship each week between 11am and 12.30pm including tea/coffee and time to talk together.

For more information contact:

John Hazell 01525 218142

Email northallchapel@btinternet.com

Web: www.northallbaptistchurch.org

There has been a Baptist Chapel in Northall for more than 200 years. Today we continue to seek to worship God, serve him in our daily lives and support and encourage one another in the difficult and the joyful times.



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Good

Edlesborough Primary Academy was labelled as "solidly good" by a trained HMI as part of a self-commissioned external review in November 2021.

"The school is going from strength to strength. The school is focused on outcomes, the curriculum is now scaffolded and pupils want to learn."

Trained Ofsted Inspector



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Christmas Buns

By Paul Hollywood



Wake up on Christmas morning to the smell of freshly baked cinnamon buns with Paul Hollywood's wholesome festive recipe. Bake these Christmas buns for the family and freeze them until needed, then defrost and warm through in the oven before generously drizzling with zesty lemon icing.

Serves 9

Ingredients

500g strong white flour, plus extra for dusting

7g sachet fast-action dried yeast

300ml milk

40g unsalted butter, softened at room temperature

1 egg

vegetable oil, for greasing

For the filling

25g unsalted butter, melted

75g soft brown sugar

2 tsp ground cinnamon

100g dried cranberries

100g chopped dried apricot

For the glaze

50g caster sugar

For the lemon icing

zest 1 lemon

200g icing sugar

Method

STEP 1 - Put the flour and 1 tsp salt into a large bowl. Make a well in the centre and add the yeast. Meanwhile, warm the milk and butter in a pan until the butter melts and the mixture is lukewarm. Add the milk mixture and egg to the flour mixture and stir until the contents come together as a soft dough (add extra flour if you need to).

STEP 2 - Tip the dough onto a well-floured surface. Knead for 5 mins, adding more flour if necessary, until the dough is smooth, elastic and no longer sticky.

STEP 3 - Lightly oil a bowl with the

vegetable oil. Place the dough in the bowl and turn until covered in oil. Cover the bowl with cling film and set aside in a warm place for 1 hr or until doubled in size. Lightly grease a baking sheet and set aside.

STEP 4 - For the filling, knock the dough back to its original size and turn out onto a lightly floured surface. Roll it into a 1cm-thick rectangle. Brush all over with the melted butter, then sprinkle over the sugar, cinnamon and fruit.

STEP 5 - Roll up the dough into a tight cylinder, cut into 9 x 4cm slices and position on the prepared baking sheet, leaving a little space between. Cover with a tea towel and set aside to rise for 30 mins.

STEP 6 - Heat oven to 190C/170C fan/gas 5. Bake the buns for 20-25 mins or until risen and golden brown. Meanwhile, melt the glaze sugar with 4 tbsp water until syrupy.

STEP 7 - Remove from oven and glaze. Set aside to cool on a wire rack. Once cool, mix the zest and icing sugar with about 2 tbsp water to drizzle over the buns. Serve.



Courtesy of the BBCgoodfood team

EB Village October Hall Quiz

We had a Hall nigh on full of you lovely Quizzers and we raised a magnificent sum of £1,300.00 to share with our two nominated Charities, Appledown Rehoming & Dunstable foodbank!

A big THANK YOU for our EB Quiz Elves, and a grateful thanks from our Sponsors for the evening P&R Mechanical Services who supplied us with the Raffle Prizes!

All 19 teams on the night were competing for the Bragging rights of winning the Keith Blackburn Winners Shield. Big thanks to Geoff our Quiz Master for again supplying the questions and picture rounds. And The Winery for winning by a clear margin on the night avoiding the two way tie like last time.



So until the next quiz, booked for 20th April 2024, my end of year Christmas Quiz for fun, is on the next page.

Christmas TV Quiz

1. In what year did Raymond Briggs' classic The Snowman first air on TV in the UK?
2. How many Christmas specials has Call the Midwife aired to date?
3. What big news does Gavin have for his family in the 2008 Gavin & Stacey special?
4. What was the first Julia Donaldson book to be adapted for a BBC Christmas day special?
5. In the Peep Show episode Seasonal Beatings, what food item does Mark think Jez has forgotten?
6. Which member of The Simpsons family delivered Channel 4's alternative Christmas message in 2004?
7. On Christmas Day 2003, the final Christmas special of which show was aired, called Sleepless in Peckham?
8. In Friends, what character does Ross invent to entertain his son Ben when he's unable to get his hands on a Santa outfit?
9. The first dedicated Doctor Who Christmas special was broadcast in 2005, featuring which actor as the Doctor?
10. Over 30 million people watched EastEnders on Christmas Day 1986 in an episode that culminated in Dirty Den handing Angie Watts what?

Answers on page 64

WINTER WOES

The freezing of pipes will stop your boiler working. You may hear a gurgling noise from the boiler or the boiler may come up with a fault code or flashing reset light.

The first thing to do is locate the condensate pipe on the outside of the house. This is a plastic pipe (usually white sometimes black) about 1" (25mm) or 2.5" (65mm) diameter approximately. The pipe will usually run from the boiler position to a drain or sometimes just into the ground.

To clear, use a hairdryer or pour very hot water on it to defrost it. It may take a couple of goes if it is very cold.

As a caution, if going away during the winter months, the best way to prevent pipes freezing / bursting inside the property is to leave the heating on a constant setting and turn the room thermostat to around 5 or 10 degrees. if it's on constant with the temperature set low it will only come on when necessary, if the temperature doesn't drop too much it won't come on at all.





Northall Baptist Church

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A little Church with strong local links

Christmas Again!

Why is Christmas such an important time? What does Christmas mean to you?

Is it just time off with the family? A time for loads of presents? Expense that you can't afford?

Why do we have presents? Jesus, born in Bethlehem to a young teenager, turned out to be God's gift to mankind. He in turn was given gifts of gold (for a King), frankincense (used in worship in the Temple) and myrrh (a perfume symbolising Jesus death). Symbolic gifts from the Wise Men from the East who had followed a new star realising a King had been born.

The Holy Land was in turmoil and under the occupation of the Roman Empire at that time. The Bible tells us that Mary and Joseph, Jesus' earthly parents had to travel from Nazareth to Bethlehem. The Roman Emperor said that everyone must register in their ancestor's town. The Emperor wanted to count his people so that they could pay him the appropriate taxes. It was a command that couldn't be avoided even for someone who was heavily pregnant.

The journey was about 90 miles and would have taken about 4 days, travelling for 8 hours a day! Quite an undertaking. The tradition is that Mary rode on a donkey although that isn't mentioned in the Bible. Joseph's ancestor was King David so they had to go to Bethlehem.

We learn from the book of Micah, a prophet in the Old Testament, that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem. It was a small village at that time. Bethlehem today is a busy town in the West Bank where again there is turmoil. Things are very tense there now, as in Jesus' time. The Wise Men when they brought the gifts, knew the verse in Micah and quoted it to King Herod.

Power hungry King Herod didn't want another King to challenge the authority, given him by the Roman occupiers. To keep the baby Jesus safe from Herod's jealousy, the little family became refugees in Egypt. Same as today also, there are many refugees displaced due to wars.

Enjoy your Christmas presents, Christmas Turkey and Pudding, but remember that the difficult conditions you are seeing in the news at the moment, are nothing new. Jesus foretold that there would be wars between nations (Matthew 24). Jesus will return and make all things new. He will right the wrongs of this world. We all have to answer for our actions.

I hope you enjoy a peaceful Christmas and are able to share with those in need.

Our Sunday services are in the Church at 11 am. We'd love you to join us for our worship and song. You will get a warm welcome. For those unable to attend in person we also stream our services.

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



*Taken in the Chapel of
the Shepherds' Field
near Bethlehem 2019*

On 6th November we were delighted to welcome Kate and Keith to our WI Meeting for a talk about Mary's Meals.

The history of Mary's Meals

Mary's Meals grew out of a charity called Scottish International Relief (SIR), which was set up after Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow and his brother Fergus took aid from their home in Argyll, Scotland, to Medjugorje, Bosnia-Herzegovina, during the conflict in 1992.

Over the next 10 years, SIR expanded. It began building homes for abandoned children in Romania, helped returning refugees in Liberia by setting up mobile clinics, and continued to deliver material aid to Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina as well as funding many additional projects.

SIR relied heavily on the generosity of local people in the village of Dalmally in Argyll, Scotland, who diligently donated food, blankets and other items of aid, which were then stored in the family shed. That same shed still serves as the global headquarters of Mary's Meals to this day.

Mary's Meals was founded in 2002

The Mary's Meals campaign was born in 2002 when Magnus visited Malawi during a famine and met a mother dying from AIDS. When Magnus asked her eldest son Edward what his dreams were in life, he replied simply: "I want to have enough food to eat and to go to school one day."

That moment was a key part of the inspiration which led to the founding of Mary's Meals, which began by feeding just 200 children in Malawi in 2002. Today, the charity feeds 2,429,182 hungry children every school day across 18 countries.

The charity is named in honour of Mary, the mother of Jesus, who brought up her own child in poverty.

Kate explained that it costs just £19.15 to feed a child for a whole year and any donations would be most welcome.

Our birthday lunch was on Thursday 16th November at the Swan, in Northall and we had a day out at Poplars Nursery for "Coffee, and Christmas shopping" on Monday 27th November.

Our Christmas Meeting will be on 1st December when we will welcome Jason McDermid, who plays with the Jules Holland band, for an evening of fun, music and carols.

Eaton Bray WI meets at the Methodist Church Hall, Totterhoe Road, Eaton Bray at 7.30 p.m. on the first Monday of each Month and ladies of all ages are most welcome. If you are interested in joining our WI please contact Margaret Jones on 01525 220991



Our Birthday evening in October, commemorating the formation of Edlesborough WI, always starts a little earlier so business can be attended to first before celebrations can begin. Minutes of the September meeting were duly read and signed, items of interest shared and birthday cards and plants distributed to the lucky ladies.

For our Birthday Supper the Committee not only spoiled us with a delicious cold platter of salad, cheeses, pate, cold meat and chunky French loaf but very generously supplied us with wine or soft drinks of choice all finished off with chocolate fudge dessert.

Replete with good food, wine and great company we were entertained by KenSal. A trio comprising Ken on guitar and vocals, Sally on vocals and June who regaled us with anecdotes and jokes. We were also provided with a printed songsheet so that we could join in with some of the popular songs. A very successful evening enjoyed by all. Our next meeting was held on November 14th when the talk was given by Paul Rabbitts on Dunstable Buildings.

Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month in the Memorial Hall at 7.30 pm. New ladies are always welcome.

✍️ Caroline Colleran

Eaton Bray Cricket Club

Another season over and done. Its been far from our most successful but all involved have done the club proud. The future looks bright with many of our young players coming through and holding their own in senior cricket.

Indoor nets will start in the New Year at Dunstable Town CC which were very popular last time out.

We will be leaving the FCCL and joining the Herts League which will mean going South rather than North and should cut some traveling time.

All that's left is to wish players, members, supporters, sponsors and the villages a very Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

The club would like to thank our sponsors Meadow Marquees, Mlily Matress, Fine and Country Estate Agents, The Westrope Butchery, Tipps Tiles, SMSS Ltd and the Focus Magazine for their continued support.

We hope you will enjoy your cricket in 2024.



Christmas TV Quiz Answers

1. 1982
2. 10
3. He's got a job in Cardiff
4. The Gruffalo
5. The turkey
6. Marge Simpson
7. Only Fools and Horses
8. The Holiday Armadillo
9. David Tennant
10. Divorce papers



Totterhoe Garden Club

The last three garden visits this year!

Sussex Prairie Garden - 17th August

Situated near Henfield in West Sussex, we had a long drive to visit the Prairie Gardens, but the sun shone and we were soon enjoying the delicious curry which they provided for lunch.

Surrounded by mature oak trees the eight acre garden consists of a series of interlocking arcs of large planted borders. Walking through the grasses and beautiful perennials was a delight. It is worth noting that the Gardens are only open during the summer months

Hidcote Manor - 21 September near Chipping Campden, Gloucs.

This was such an interesting place to visit that I thought it worthwhile giving a little of the history of the Manor.

Historic England records that Hidcote Manor was owned by Bradenstoke Priory in Wiltshire until the Priory was disbanded by Henry VIII in around 1539. In the 17th century, the Manor was turned into a farmhouse. It exchanged hands several times before local farm worker John Tucker inherited it from the Freeman family in early 1907.

In July 1907 Lawrence Johnston, acting on behalf of his socialite mother Gertrude Winthrop, agreed to purchase the estate for £7,200. He moved into Hidcote in October 1907 and his mother arrived from America in June 1908. The house was extensively remodelled and work began on creating a series of intimate garden rooms around the house. Work stopped during the War.

In 1919, Gertrude bought the farm at the end of the village road, enabling the garden to be extended to its current boundaries. This period saw the extension of the Long Walk, along with the creation of the Wilderness, Mrs Winthrop's Garden, the Pillar Garden and the Rock Bank.

In the 1940s, Lawrence, by now in his 70s, began to think about the long-term future of the garden and Hidcote was transferred to the National Trust in 1948.

Despite the rain in the afternoon, we had a lovely day enjoying the delicious food in the café and walking around the Garden. Definitely worth a visit.

Westonbirt Arboretum - 3rd October

Another coachload of members set off for another interesting visit. Coffee was high on our priority list when we arrived. The weather was kind, although a little chilly, and we enjoyed walking through the trees, across the elevated walkway and inspecting the carvings dotted around.

The National Arboretum is an arboretum in Gloucestershire, England, about 3 miles southwest of the town of Tetbury. Managed by Forestry England, it is perhaps the most important and widely known arboretum in the United Kingdom.

Westonbirt Arboretum's story begins with the wealthy Victorian landowner, Robert Holford; an ambitious man with a passion for the natural world! Holford financed plant collecting expeditions all over the world, on a quest to find the rare, the beautiful and the extraordinary, and the arboretum still contains many of the original plants brought back from these trips. In 1956 the entire 600 acres (240 hectares) were handed over to Forestry England, who had the huge task of making it openly available to everyone who wished to see it for the very first time!



Eaton Bray History

The Labour in Vain Beerhouse: 66 Totternhoe Road (formerly Westcott Square), Eaton Bray (courtesy of the Bedfordshire Archives)



*Drawing of the Labour in Vain in 1900
from the Eaton Bray Millenium Book,
courtesy of by Peter & Mary Mayne*



66 Totternhoe Road 2012

The countywide licensing register of 1876 states that the Labour in Vain beerhouse opened in 1852. The owner in 1876 was John Batchelor of Dagnall. He was still the owner at the time of the countywide licensing register of 1891.

By the time of the countywide register of 1903 the owners were Fuller, Smith & Company of Chiswick [Middlesex]. The property was: “clean and in good repair” and was 560 yards from the nearest licensed premises. The beerhouse had one back, one side and one front door. The beerhouse closed in 1914.

The Rating and Valuation Act 1925 specified that every building and piece of land in the country was to be assessed to determine its rateable value. The valuer visiting 66 Totternhoe Road found that it was owned and occupied as a small farm by A. Pryer.

The brick and slate, detached premises comprised three living rooms, a kitchen and a dairy on the ground floor with four bedrooms above. A later hand has noted that the dairy became an office and that one of the bedrooms was replaced by a bathroom and WC. A brick and slate coal shed and a brick and corrugated iron earth closet stood outside. The valuer commented: “Double front, big square type”.

The farm buildings comprised a north and a south block. The north block included: a brick, weather-boarded and tiled cow house for six, an old brick, weather-boarded and corrugated iron cow house used as an open shed (a later hand has noted that this later became used as a garage), a brick, weather-boarded and tiled barn, store shed (later used as a meal house) and a cooling place. At the rear stood a weather-boarded and corrugated iron hen house and four piggeries. The south block comprised a weather-boarded and slated open trap shed. Pryer had two grass fields measuring 1.246 acres and 3.757 acres respectively and an orchard (“poor”) measuring 1.103 acres.

Licenses: note that this is not a complete list and that dates in italics are not necessarily beginning or end dates, merely the first/last date which can be confirmed from sources such as directories and deeds: 1876-1904: Richard Gadsden; 1904-1906: John Facer; 1906: David Andrews; 1906-1911: Mark Overington; 1911-1914: Arthur Eastaff.

The Beerhouse licence was not renewed 3rd February 1914.



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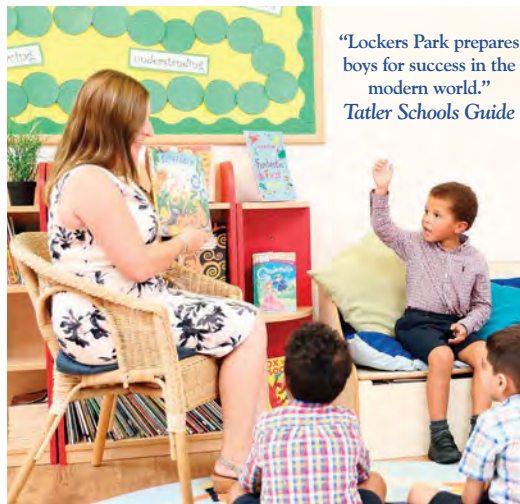
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Colin Holmes
07883 471560
raceenginedev@gmail.com
Eaton Bray, Bedfordshire

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If you need help and advice planning your next holiday, we will be extending our opening hours in January to include every Saturday from 9am-1pm.

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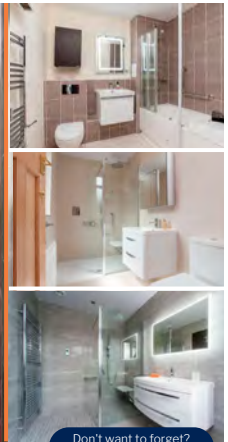
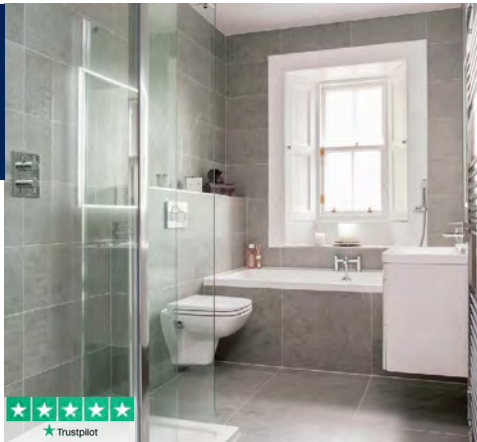
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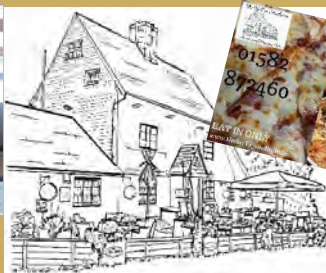
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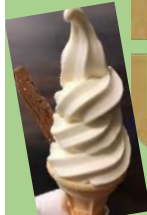


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All I Want for Christmas... is a Trip to the Zoo

Celebrate Christmas at Whipsnade Zoo - Saturday 25 November – Sunday 24 December

For a Christmas day out like no other, look no further than Whipsnade Zoo – where the wonders of the animal kingdom are guaranteed to give your family magical memories they'll treasure forever.

Christmas at Whipsnade Zoo has something to make everyone merry - from meeting Santa at his cosy lodge, decked to the halls with decorations, to helping the elves prepare Christmas treats for the 11,000 that call the UK's largest zoo home.



On select dates from Saturday 25 November - Sunday 24 December, families can book to Meet Santa as he heads to the conservation zoo to visit his animal friends. Little ones can enjoy festive crafts with the elves before sharing Christmas wishes with Santa in his magical grotto, with every child receiving a special gift to take home.

Early birds can start their festive day out at Whipsnade with a Breakfast Storytime with Santa, enjoy extra craft activities, followed by a festive storytelling session with Father Christmas.

As Christmas inches closer why not count down to the big day with Whipsnade Zoo's 12 days of Christmas, where every day visitors can learn about a different amazing threatened species and what ZSL, the conservation charity behind Whipsnade Zoo, is doing to help protect animals in the wild.

Elsewhere, included in zoo entry, at daily Reindeer Talks, families can find out why reindeer are the best choice to pull Santa's sleigh, and how the antlered animals prepare for Christmas Eve. Meet Santa's trusty reindeer friends, Solen and Regnar - who have been cared for by dedicated zookeepers throughout the year – and learn what Whipsnade's spirited duo most enjoy as a tasty snack.

For the perfect Christmas day out this December, plan a magical visit to Whipsnade Zoo to celebrate the season surrounded by 11,000 animals. Every festive visit will help to support ZSL's vital science and conservation work around the globe. To find out more and book, visit: www.whipsnadezoo.org/MeetSanta

Fantastic Baby Beasts and Where to Find Them!

Two baby yaks named Tonks and Cedric have been captured on camera jumping for joy and bucking around the Dunstable Downs at Whipsnade Zoo - the magical new arrivals were given the monikers by zookeepers following their tradition of naming the yak family after characters from the beloved Harry Potter books. Zookeeper George Spooner said the first new woolly addition was female Tonks, born on Wednesday 20 September, followed by male Cedric on Saturday 7 October.

“Tonks was born to first time mum Pandora and dad Draco, while Cedric was born to female Petunia a few weeks later,” he said. “The two yaks are fast becoming the best of friends - just like we imagine their namesakes would have been had they met at Hogwarts - playing in the long grasses of their paddock, as their mothers look on and try to grab some rest.”

Yaks are extremely social animals living in herds of 10 to 20 individuals and use vocalisations to communicate. Yaks cannot moo like other cattle but will grunt instead. Their Latin name ‘bos grunniens’ translates to ‘grunting ox.’ Baby yaks weigh around 20kg when they're born and both youngsters were up on their feet within 20 minutes of being born, after a gentle nudge from their mothers.



While Whipsnade Zoo has a healthy herd of domestic yaks sadly their counterparts, the wild yak (*Bos mutus*) is facing a myriad of problems in the wild. “The domestic yak herd at our conservation zoo act as ambassadors for the wild yak, which are classed as Vulnerable by the IUCN Red List,” George added.

Dagnall Weather Station (AONB)



Weather Conditions for October 2023

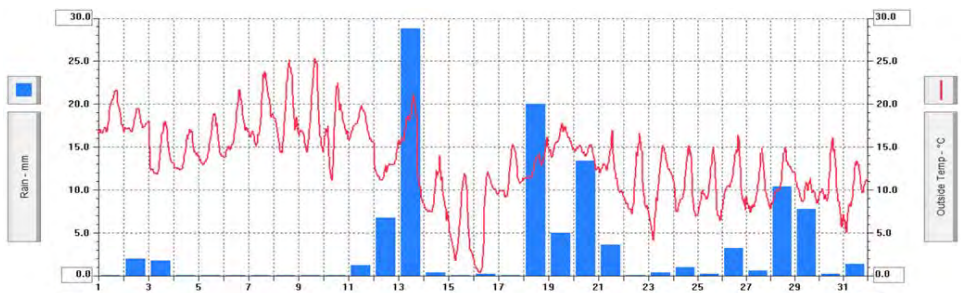
Elevation: 450 ft - Latitude: 51° 50' 13" North - Longitude: 0° 33' 34" West

For the first half of October, our weather was being controlled by high pressure. It extended the late summer with higher than average temperatures which reached 25.5°C on the 9th. The second half of the month was unsettled, summer had ended and autumn had arrived, along with storms. The pressure started to drop on the 12th, bringing cooler and wetter weather. The 13th was the wettest day with 28.8mm of rain. For the rest of the month, the storms continued to come from the west, bringing more rain and winds. By the end of October, we had had 108.8 mm of rain (4.3 inches), which is 140% of the monthly average. However, this was a lot less than other parts of the country.

	High	Date/Time	Low	Date/Time
Temperature:	25.5°C	9 Oct 16.00	0.3°C	16 Oct 06.00
Mean Temperature	15.1°C			
Dewpoint:	17.6°C	9 Oct 16.00	-0.5°C	16 Oct 06.00
Humidity:	99%	23 Oct 06.30	51%	8 Oct 14.30
Barometer:	1026.1 mb	15 Oct 11.00	973.0 mb	20 Oct 06.00
Wind Speed	30 mph SW	23 Oct 06.30	Months avg.	4.9 mph
Wind Chill:	25.3°C	9 Oct 15.30	0.4°C	16 Oct 06.00
Dominant Wind:	SSE			
Rainfall * T= total rain days and moisture. R= Actual rain				
*Rain Days: 20 (T), 20 (R)	Wettest Day 13 Oct		28.8 mm	1.134 ins
Monthly Rain:	Total	October	108.4 mm	4.268 ins
Yearly Rain:	Total	9 Months	736.2 mm	28.984 ins

October 2023

Temperatures and 20 Rain days made a wet month



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.



Whatever you do, don't miss this year's GIANT family pantomime Jack and the Beanstalk at The Grove Theatre, Dunstable.

This year's spectacular pantomime will star Steve McFadden (EastEnders), alongside Jaymi Hensley (Union J), and Dunstable favourite Will Kenning is back! They will be joined by Nikita Johal, George Hutton, and back by popular demand Oliver Scott (Cinderella at The Grove)! With stunning sets, hilarious comedy, and breath-taking special effects, Jack and the Beanstalk promises to be the ultimate pantomime adventure that you and your family will remember for years to come! So don't miss out on the Fe-Fi-Fo-Fun... Performances - 8th - 31st December. Tickets still available.

Box Office: 01582 60 20 80 Website at www.grovetheatre.co.uk

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- Morning Worship** Sun 11am – 12pm
- Coffee Morning** Tues 10am – 12pm
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- Home League** Weds 2:30pm – 3:30pm
- Champion's Club** Weds 6:15pm – 7:15pm
Age 5+ (term time only)
- Girls' Night Out** Thurs 7:30pm
(1st Thurs of the month)

For more information please call into the hall,
telephone: 01525 222087 or
contact us by email:
eaton.bray@salvationarmy.org.uk

Dec/Jan at the Grove



Panto

Jack & The Beanstalk - 8-31 Dec

Popular Music

A Tribute to The Carpenters - 11 Jan

Big Girls Don't Cry 2024 - 13 Jan

UB40 The Legacy - 19 Jan

Country Roads: One Night of Country Classics
20 Jan

80's Live 2024 - 26 Jan

Legend: The Music of Bob Marley - 27 Jan

The Simon and Garfunkel Story - 29 Jan

Variety

The Dazzling Diamonds - Comedy Drag Show
12 Jan

An Evening of Burlesque 2024 - 18 Jan

Film

Napoleon - 8 Jan

Typist Artist Pirate King - 9 Jan

Bolan's Shoes - 10 Jan

Killers Of The Flower Moon - 16 Jan

Priscilla - 17 Jan

Wonka - 23 Jan

Comedy

Barnstormers Comedy Club - 25 Jan

Dirty Dusting '24 - 30 Jan

Encore Screening

Dear England - 25 Jan

Rusalka: The Royal Opera - 31 Jan

Dance

On Pointe Dance Academy: Peter Pan - 28 Jan

Ticket prices vary; for more information or to book, call the Box Office on 01582 60 20 80 or visit the website at www.grovetheatre.co.uk.



Salvation Sound

Booth Place, Eaton Bray, LU6 2DR
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eaton.bray@salvationarmy.org.uk



A Christmas Bauble

I began life as a bauble in a foreign factory.
I was wrapped in tissue paper and dispatched across the sea.
To a house upon an island, to the home of royalty,
To hang upon a Christmas tree would be my destiny.

I'd never heard of Christmas, but the children's faces glowed.
As in the grate, fire crackled and, outside, the heavens snowed.
Across the plaster ceilings gay festoons of paper flowed,
And the Christmas tree bore easily its bright and shining load.

The years went by, my fellow baubles shattered on the grate.
And I expected annually, to share their awful fate.
And then, one day, a tiny hand detached my little weight,
And gave me to a beggar child, who stood outside the gate.

He ran home to his family. No tree could they afford,
But just a piece of fir branch picked up from the sward.
He hung me up so carefully. I met with great accord.
And in the midst of poverty, he knelt to praise the Lord.

I'd never heard of Jesus, but their laughter warmed me through.
The fire was small and meager, but it's embers had to do.
And through the generations I brought happiness anew.
As, outside, the snowflakes settled and the chill of winter blew.

And then one day near Christmas, I was taken from the box.
No more the sounds of families, the hanging of the socks,
Or the giggle of excitement when the carol choir knocks,
But a giant congregation, dressed in their best Sunday frocks.

The tree that I now hang on is as grand as you could find,
And stands in a cathedral with a pulpit placed behind.
And in my clear reflection I can see, in the crib reclined,
The tiny figure of the Saviour of Mankind.

He was born inside a stable and for Him 'twas only this.
There are no creature comforts, there is just His mothers kiss.
And yet there is no story that is quite as great as His,
And now, at last, I understand the blessing that Christmas really is.



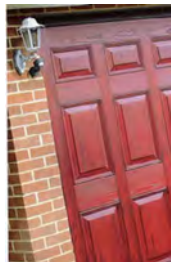


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