

FOCUS

April 2024



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Northall & Dagnall



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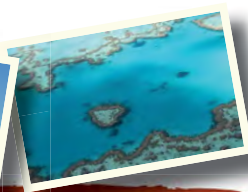
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Kindly Note

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

Village Diary



Weekly

- 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, Northall VH 2-3.30. Jan 01442 864271.
- Mondays KFFPA ISTD ballet classes, Edlesborough Memorial Hall 4pm-6.30pm (4years+)
Contact Kiri 07988161043 or visit Facebook page 'KF PerformingArts/KFFPA' for info
- Mondays Cubs (8-10 ½ years old), 6.30pm - 8pm, 1st Eaton Bray & Edlesborough Scout Hut, High Street, Edlesborough. Contact Liz Coates 01442 842550
- Mondays Yoga, 6:45pm, Edlesborough Memorial Hall, contact 07837 727302
- Mondays Barre, 8pm, Edlesborough Memorial Hall, contact 07837 727302
- 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 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, Northall Village Hall, Lisa: 07832 230774
- Wednesdays Northall & District Age Concern Wednesday Club, 10am - 3pm, Northall 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 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 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 KFFPA Street dance classes, Edlesborough Memorial Hall 4.15pm-6.30pm (4 years+)
Contact Kiri 07988161043 or visit Facebook page 'KF PerformingArts/ KFFPA' 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
- 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

Village Diary

- Thursdays Retro Line Dance Class. 11.15am to 12.45pm. Eaton Bray Village Hall. Beginners welcome. www.jukeboxjunction.co.uk info@jukeboxjunction.co.uk 07864212171
- 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 KFPA Musical theatre classes, Edlesborough Memorial Hall 9.30-10.30am (4years+)
Contact Kiri 07988161043 or visit Facebook page 'KF PerformingArts/ KFPA' 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 Jackie Flint 01525 221618
- 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**
- 13th Apr Cafe Community, 11am-1pm Eaton Bray Methodist Church
- 20th Apr Charity Quiz Night, 7pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall, £10pp including Ploughmans
- 21st Apr Cafe Church, 10am, St Mary's Church, Eaton Bray
- 27th Apr Repair Cafe, 9:30am-12:30pm, Pitstone Pavilion
- 27th Apr St Mary's Spring Fair, 12-3pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall

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, form-filling, walking your pet, on-line shopping support etc.

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

Home to music through the ages, and now to EdleFest – don't miss it!

I've seen a lot of music venues in my time. They've ranged from dingy basements beneath inner-city pubs, to repurposed cinemas and cavernous corporate arenas. But there's one venue that always stands out, both for me and many of the musicians who have graced it over the last few years, and it's right here in our own village.

It is, of course, our 'Church on the Hill'. If you've never been inside, it is a really special place to visit, and it never looks any finer than under the lights of our two-day music festival, this year on June 7th and 8th.



Chris Difford (of Squeeze), swaps the stage at the Roya Albert Hall for our Church on the Hill

An unusual feature of the church is its wall-paintings and, if you take a minute to look up at them, you will see that they are pictures of angelic figures – and they are all playing musical instruments! Clearly the artist had this festival in mind when painting them, and we thank them for their foresight (although a ramp to get the stage, lighting and PA up the hill would have been appreciated!).

This June, the angels will be able to enjoy an incredible line-up of blues, swing, americana, country, folk and indie-op, and so will you.

So, if you've never visited the church before, or even if you have, there isn't a better way to experience this very special venue, that's right on our doorstep.

This year our musical heritage will be upheld by Rob Heron and The Teapad Orchestra, Jaywalkers, Simeon Hammond Dallas, the Em Risley Band, Our Atlantic Roots and The Dicemen.

You can get tickets, and more information, at edlefest.site123.me, from Janes Flooring (cash only – from April 2nd), by calling 07974 921923, or by email to EdleFest@gmail.com. And you can get a further reduction by booking for both nights at the same time.

See you in the summer!



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

One of the good things about village ministry is being able to meet with people socially at various community events. There are the annual events like Edlefest in June, St Mary's Village Carnival in July and Heritage Open Days in September. And there are more regular times such as the Coffee mornings at St Mary's. We meet on the first Saturday of each month (except July when St Mary's Village Carnival takes place) for delicious home-made cakes and scones, coffee, tea and chat. The Book Swap is open for people to bring a book and exchange it for another one, to meet the Book Swap Team and to talk about books they've enjoyed or would recommend to others. And there is a raffle. It is a great way to catch up with friends and to make new ones and has become a real community event.

Continuing this theme of meeting, greeting and sharing, on 21st April at St Mary's we are launching an exciting new initiative on a Sunday morning called Café Church. This will combine coffee, croissants and chat with worship in a new way. The aim is to create a relaxed and welcoming space for all ages to meet. The worship element will be informal in a relaxed café style setting. There will be Bible readings, prayers, a couple of songs/hymns and the chance for reflection. Over coffee and croissants, we will have the opportunity to chat to each other.

After the first Easter, when Jesus had ascended to heaven to return to his Father, his followers continued to meet together for prayer and companionship. The followers of Jesus increased in number as more people heard the message and the word of God continued to spread. You can read all about this in the Acts of the Apostles written by Luke who also wrote one of the four gospels. At that time there were no church buildings. They didn't have a set form of worship and the early Christians met in houses, probably of those wealthy enough to have room to accommodate a number of people. Large groups may well have had to split up into different venues to enable everyone to fit in. In the early days, the Lord's Supper also known as Holy Communion took place in the course of a communal meal. Everyone brought what food they could and it was shared together. Meeting and eating, sharing food and sharing worship were at the heart of the early church. The Lord's Supper, or Holy Communion, is still central to the life of the church today, but it is a more formal and ritualised affair than in the early church.

The introduction of Café Church links back to those early days of meeting, eating and worshipping together in a less structured and formal way than most church services. It is an opportunity to come and explore, to find out more about Jesus in a relaxed setting. We hope you will come and join us for Café Church, which will take place on the third

Sunday of each month at 10am, starting on 21st April. As one advert for Café Church puts it, why don't you give it a shot?
With every blessing for Easter,
☞ 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
CAFE CHURCH at 10am, coffee, croissants, chat and worship*

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

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

Dagnall Church Services

Sun. 21st April 10.30 am Holy Communion

For any queries, please contact:

Philip Lee on 07977234453 or Dorothy Green on 01442 843237



Café Church



Come and join us for coffee, croissants,
and an informal service for all ages

St Mary's Eaton Bray

Sunday 10am

21st April, 19th May

16th June, 21st July

Relaxed - welcoming - refreshments

Eaton Bray Methodist Church

Invites you to

Café Community

Saturday 13th April 2024
11.00am - 1.00pm

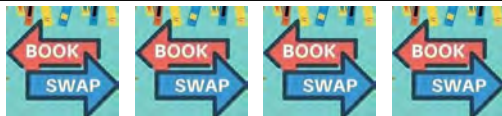
Donations shared with the Salvation Army

Relax & chat with friends, coffee, light lunch

All ages welcome (inc. activity area)



*Food For The Body...
Food For Thought...*



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 April 6th from 10.30 – 12.00 noon**



The team celebrating our 2nd birthday in March

What a fabulous 2 years it has been, the time has flown! The Book Swap has gone from strength to strength at the church coffee morning every month. It has been wonderful meeting so many old and new friends, come and join us to swap a book and enjoy coffee and lovely cakes. It's a great social gathering.

For more information about Book Swap please contact:
Chris Sanders Email: chris.sanders45@gmail.com
Jenifer MacKenzie Email: jenimackenzie@hotmail.com



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Free initial consultation

South Central Ambulance Service (SCAS)

Council thanks Tracy Mold from the South Central Ambulance Service for running three informative AED and CPR training sessions in March. Attendees were able to ask questions and have hands on experience giving CPR and using a training defibrillator. Tracy also spoke about the importance of Community First Responders and the vital role they play in communities. To find out more please visit www.scas.nhs.uk/what-we-do/community-first-responders/



Advertising in the Parish

Under Buckinghamshire Council's Devolved Services EPC is obliged to remove illegal fly posters from all street furniture. Anyone wishing to display Charity event signage should request permission from Edlesborough Parish Council via clerk@edlesborough-pc.gov.uk Please ensure you send a copy of the signage, the number of signs you wish to erect and the proposed locations. Buckinghamshire Council has set out rules for Charity Signage which includes:

1. Signs are not to be erected more than two weeks before the event and are to be taken down immediately after the event.
2. The signs should be at least 1 metre from any junction and not obstruct any visibility splay, footway, or vehicular access; nor shall they be placed in such a position as to contravene any traffic regulation order or impede fire hydrants, inspection covers or Statutory Undertakers' apparatus.
3. The maximum size of the signs is to be 1.0 square metre.
4. Any claim on the Local Council resulting from any incident involving the signs will be referred to the person/organisation that erected the signs. It is advisable that suitable cover against any such claim is provided by an appropriate insurance policy.

Failure to comply with any conditions specified in this permission will result in the removal of the signs and, in accordance with Section 149 of the Highways Act 1980, any costs incurred may be recovered from the promoting body.

Village Planters

The EDaN Beautification Team NEEDS more volunteers to help with the upkeep of the various planters in the Parish. Can you spare some time? If so, please contact Christine Yates, chris@brooklyns.org.uk or Lorna Cabbage, Lomamcabbage@hotmail.com to find out more.

NMJ Planning Applications

At the time of writing this report Council is aware that decisions on the two applications have been delayed again.

- 23/02966/APP Change of use to retail convenience store including associated external alterations, plant equipment, parking, and servicing area, 2 Pebblemoor Edlesborough Buckinghamshire LU6 2HZ – new agreed expiry date 12th April 2024
- 23/02884/APP Erection of a commercial building for MOT and Car Service Centre, under Class B2 use N M J Motorhouse Tring Road Edlesborough Buckinghamshire LU6 2EQ – new agreed expiry date 4th April 2024.

Council is monitoring the applications for any further updates. Should the Case Officer be minded to approve application 23/02966/APP it is highly likely that it will go to the Development Control Committee for determination, given the unprecedented number of objections to the application.

Grass & Hedge Cutting in the Villages

Now that the spring has arrived the cutting of the grass verges will resume. EPC requests that parishioners do not park on the grass verges as this causes damage to them and inconveniences the contractors. EPC reminds all parishioners whose hedges border the pavements that they are required to ensure that their hedges are kept well-trimmed, ensuring that the maximum pavement width is available for pedestrians, pushchair, and wheelchair users.



Traffic Calming in the Parish

The latest data collected by the Moveable Vehicle Activated Speed (MVAS) devices is available on the Traffic Calming page of the council's website www.edlesborough-pc.gov.uk/community-information/traffic-calming-in-the-parish/

EdleFest 2024

EdleFest 2024 will take place on 7th and 8th June. More information and tickets are available via the EdleFest website <https://edlefest.site123.me/>



EPC Small Grant Scheme

Is your organisation looking for money for a specific project? Have you heard of the EPC Small Grant scheme? The EPC Small Grant is a great opportunity for local groups, local charities, and local organisations to get a grant of up to £500 in this new scheme.

The main terms of the grant are very straightforward.

- The purpose for which the grant is made must be in the interest of Edlesborough Parish that covers the residents of Edlesborough, Dagnall and Northall.
- EPC will determine the size of the award up to a maximum of £500.
- We will not award funds for activities that have already taken place.
- Any publicity covering the activity funded must mention EPC's involvement.
- Following the award, recipients must make a short presentation at the Annual Parish Meeting.



Applications will be reviewed at any time during the year and awards to successful applications made in each quarter beginning in April of each year. The total funding available is limited. Full details of the terms of the scheme can be found here on the EPC website www.edlesborough-pc.gov.uk/community-information/epc-small-grant-scheme/

Save the Dates

The Annual Meeting of Edlesborough Parish Council will be held on the 16th May at 7.30pm. The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on 23rd May at 7.30pm – this meeting is an opportunity for organisations within the Parish to share information about themselves and/or a project they may have. For more information, please contact the Clerk via clerk@edlesborough-pc.gov.uk

Council Meetings

The next Edlesborough Parish Council Meetings will take place on:

- Thursday 18th April 2024 – in Edlesborough Pavilion
- Thursday 16th May 2024 – in Edlesborough Pavilion

The meetings will commence at 7:30pm. 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

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anyone else.
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a nervous
patient."
- M.B.



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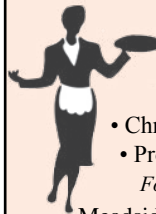
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EATON BRAY PARISH COUNCIL

Eaton Bray Parish Council Focus Report March 2024

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

Eaton Bray Facebook Page

Follow Eaton Bray Parish Council on Facebook, keep up to date with what is going on in the parish. <https://www.facebook.com/EatonBray>

Eaton Bray Parish Council Accounts

A copy of the Parish Council's Finance & Annual Reports can be viewed on the Parish Council Website.

Flooding Information

For whom to contact if you experience flooding in the parish, a list of flood support contacts is available on the Parish Council website. Visit it here: <https://www.ebpc.co.uk/flooding-information/>

[Anglian Water: 0800145145 - open 24 hours a day - to receive calls relating to the flooding - if effluent in-volved then they must be on site within 4 hours]

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/>

Eaton Bray Parish Council Meeting

Held on Monday 5th February 2024, from 7:30pm

(Minutes ratified at the Parish Council Meeting on Monday 4th March 2024)

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

- Cllr Spicer has been walking around the village, reporting issues regarding poor road surfaces to CBC. If residents spot any issues regarding road/footpath surfaces, please report this on FixMyStreet.
- Market Square Flooding: There is a large amount of debris/silt within the gulleys. The riverboard is investigating their section (stream) and CBC Highways are to investigate their section (under road). Cllr Spicer is waiting to hear when these investigations are to be conducted.

Bedfordshire Police

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

Planning Applications & Appeals – February/March 2024

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

- Seating - The Rye: Two new picnic tables are on order. Waiting confirmation of delivery.
- Damage to grass by pony & trap – The Rye: The Parish Council is aware of this matter and looking into suitable deterrents.
- Zip-Wire – School Lane: Since the removal of some of the links, the zip-wire is no longer dragging onto the ground.

Mill End Close/Waterside

The IDB [Internal Drainage Board] are proposing to start work at the end of February 2024.

*UPDATE (04/03/2024): Works have started and are progressing, however due to the bad weather this is delaying some of the emergency repair works and it is expected that IDB will be on site for another few weeks. Once work completed IDB will made good any damage caused to the footpaths in this location.

Freedom of Information Policy [FOI]

A copy of the Parish Council's Freedom of Information Policy can be viewed on the Parish Council website or obtained by applying to the Parish Clerk.

Monthly Payments, February 2024

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 8th April 2024, from 7:30pm
- Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Meeting of Eaton Bray Parish Council, Monday 20th May 2024 from 7:00pm
- Parish Council Meeting, Monday 3rd June 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 16th April 2024
- Tuesday 14th May 2024



Heidi Head, Parish Clerk

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

Parish Office: The Coffee Tavern, 18 High Street, Eaton Bray, Beds, LU6 2DP

Postal Address: 14 Pavilion Gardens, Aston Clinton, Bucks, HP22 5FG

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The Chirobody Home Visiting Practice logo is a purple square with white text and icons. It features a photo of feet, the name of the practice, the practitioner's name and qualifications, a list of services, contact information, and logos for The College of Podiatry and hpcp.



Saturday 27th

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Open Gardens 2024

Since 2006, one of the social highlights of the year in our villages has been our Open Gardens event. We have had some wonderful afternoons enjoying gardens that have been opened by willing gardeners; both gardeners and visitors enjoy the event which, this year will take place on Sunday 28th July so people who have previously opened their gardens in mid-June may wish to show off an entirely fresh colour scheme and others who have not opened their gardens before may feel their garden is beautiful in July. This is a really special event in our villages' calendar. We already have a few offers of gardens but we do need some more.

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

**Would you open your garden for a few hours
on a Sunday afternoon?
If so please contact Gordon Gray on 220136.**

Appledown Rescue Dog of the Month

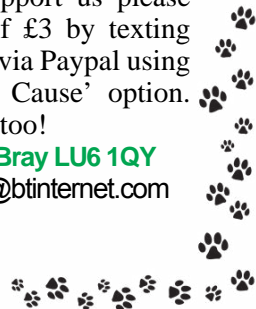


This handsome guy is Milo, aged 5. Like all huskies Milo has complex needs and requires an experienced and stable home where he will get quality exercise and ongoing training. He will need regular grooming and that beautiful coat does shed! Milo must be an only pet in a home where any children are 16+. For more information please see his album on our Facebook page or email the kennels. Visit our website for details adoption info and an application form. To support us 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

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NORTHALL & DISTRICT
WEDNESDAY CLUB



Charity No. 293080

Would you like to help in the community by joining our friendly volunteers. If you have a passion for lending a hand we have opportunities in the kitchen working as part of a team. This would be on a rota basis of every 4/5 weeks.



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FRIENDS OF THE CHURCH ON THE HILL

Good News and Bad News

The Churches Conservation Trust and the Friends Group apologise that the Church will be closed to visitors for a few weeks whilst various repairs are undertaken.

It seems an age since Storm Doris in February 2017, when our beautiful West Window was so badly damaged that it had to be removed and the space has been boarded up ever since. So now, seven years later, we are finally at the scaffolding stage, signalling the return of the Window. Thanks to all those supporters who have come and enjoyed EdleFest and together with our generous donors have helped us raise nearly £14,000 to restore and protect the Window before it is installed in a few weeks time.

Work has also begun to repair loose tiles in the historic Chancel. At the moment this area is scheduled to be closed until at least April 19th, to give the lime mortar time to set. When renovations were taking place at Salisbury Cathedral, it was discovered that the stonemasons were eating oysters for lunch and then placing the shells in the slow setting lime mortar between the bricks. I wonder what our Contractor will have for lunch?

We offer a **BIG THANK YOU** to the Parish Council for our lovely new steps. We will brighten up the surroundings with bulbs and plants.

Progress on the work will be reported on:-

W: edlesboroughchurch.org.uk

FB: Friends of the Church on the Hill, Edlesborough



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Dagnall Community Choir



The choir has worked hard over the last few weeks learning and taking to performance level “Flying Free” and “And All That Jazz” which we are performing in competition at the Milton Keynes Festival of the Arts. We are hoping these two pieces will knock the adjudicator dead and award us first prize. We have previously won awards at this Music Festival and hope we can do so again this year. By the time you read these notes we will have found out if our plan worked.

We finished off last year with the Choir's, now annual, Christmas Concert in Dagnall Village Hall plus a Charity Christmas Concert at the Methodist Church, Dunstable in which we shared the stage with Vauxhall Male Voice Choir and Luton Brass Band. The afternoon was thoroughly enjoyed by not only the audience but by all the performers as well.

The choir is going from strength to strength and we have increased our membership over the last few months but as with all choirs we always want more, especially men. So please don't be shy. Come along on a Monday evening to All Saints Church , Dagnall and give us (and you) a try.

You are not required to audition. At best you can join us in singing and at worst you just get a cup of tea and a biscuit, so it really is a win win situation. For further information on the choir please visit our website, Dagnall Community Choir.

Our plans this year include appearances in Dagnall, Luton, Stanbridge and Eaton Bray and we will also be having a stall at the Carnival in July. Keep an eye out in Focus Magazine which will carry information for these concerts over the coming months.

April at the Grove

Popular Music

The Diana Ross Story - 4 Apr

Lipstick On Your Collar - 5 Apr

Re-Take That - 6 Apr

The Rocket Man: A Tribute to Elton John - 18 Apr

Mania: The Abba Tribute - 19 Apr

UK Pink Floyd Experience 2024 - 20 Apr

The Bon Jovi Experience - 21 Apr

Some Guys Have All The Luck - The Rod Stewart Story - 27 Apr

Tommy Blaize - 28 Apr

Comedy

Barnstormers Comedy Club - 25 Apr

Variety

Beauty & The Beast: Easter Family Show - 3 Apr

Thanks For The Memories - 17 Apr

Film

One Life - 8 Apr

The Boys in the Boat - 11 Apr

The Holdovers - 12 Apr

Wicked Little Letters - 22 Apr

Les Miserables - 26 Apr

The End We Start From - 29 Apr

Children's Shows

Fireman Sam The Great Camping Adventure - 7 Apr

Exciting Science - 13 Apr

Treasure Island - 14 Apr

Live Screening

Macmillan Celebrated: The Royal Ballet - 9 Apr

Nye: National Theatre Live - 23 Apr

Swan Lake: The Royal Ballet - 24 Apr



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.



Eaton Bray Good Neighbours is part of a network of similar groups operating under the umbrella of Bedfordshire Rural Charities. Our local group covers Eaton Bray, Edlesborough, Totternhoe and Northall. Our telephone number, 07930 987064, is with a volunteer

Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm with an answerphone available outside of these times. Volunteers support people who find it difficult to get out and about or to use public transport to do shopping, collect prescriptions or get to medical appointments. In the last year we carried out over 900 tasks.

With April here it is Spring with birds and flowers multiplying. Unfortunately our volunteer numbers have fallen by six as people retire or move away. This means we are in urgent need of volunteers, especially volunteer drivers. You can opt to do collection and delivery of prescription and shopping or you can opt into driving clients to medical appointments. It is a very flexible system with jobs texted out to volunteers who can opt into a job if it suits them and is convenient. Basic mileage is also paid. We are always looking for volunteers so if you would like to help do get in touch with the phone number above.

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Charity No. 293080

A Belated Happy Easter to everyone !
We had a bit of fun taking photos with our miniature bunting in time for this month's edition to find Easter falls before distribution ... how do the Focus team stay so organised? Thank you for the prompt and deadline extension for this month's submission Team Focus.

So, the highly successful Quiz Night way back in February has raised in excess of £600! Congratulations to all who put the night together, Gordon for the Quiz mastery (Excellent as always) and of course our supporters on the night for partaking of the food and raffle - we are hopeful to offer this event as an Annual fundraiser. We always have had great local community support with kind words, donations of time and goods that I feel we really should share some personal insights from my "fishing" about the Club:



"It's great to see what activities you've been up to and forthcoming Events to know whether when there's anything that the local community can help with i.e. donations etc and we always enjoy your write up in focus." LSP

"It's great to see what activities you've all been up to and what the forthcoming events are. That way I know whether there's anything I can help with i.e. donations, signing up to help etc. I must admit I don't (always) read focus - but knowing you do an article ... I'll do better next edition " EM

So having boosted the Focus readership by at least one more person ... all that remains to say is that we are currently running the minibus at capacity most Wednesdays and the chairs are nearly always taken by lunchtime - we do however operate a waiting list at such times for those wishing to join our merry group. Thank you.

APRIL - Tea/Coffee Afternoon TBC - Music Quiz Night III TBC

JUNE - Outdoor Fun & Games 26th Join us for Tea/Coffee, Cake & Raffle

OCTOBER - my Victor Meldrew moment - 4th ... Harvest Auction

Becoming a Club Member? 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 a date to visit, our availability or the option to join the waiting list.

Volunteering with us? 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.

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.

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

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 and see how successful our reels are. (TikTok mastery next)



Nigel's Thoughts

Dear Friends,

A very Happy Easter to you!

Just recently I have been dipping into a book by Helen Macdonald, entitled 'Vesper Flights'.

It is a gem of a book of snippets about nature that I would never have discovered had my late wife Elisabeth not treasured it, as she did all created things.

Macdonald writes about the release into the air of a Swift, rescued as a chick, but now ready to be set free.

"In the bright air the swift looks a weird, unearthly creature, a delicate construction of scalloped feathers and ungainly wings. Hunched into itself, its miniature claws grip my fingers, its deep eyes like reflective astronaut visors. ... what I am watching is a new thing making itself out of something else. There is no doubt in my mind that this is as much of a transformation as a dragonfly larva crawling from water and tearing itself out into a thing with wings. On my open palm a creature whose home has been paper towels and plastic boxes is turning into a different creature whose home is thousands of miles of air" (pages 229-230).

In the New Testament the apostle Paul writes "If anyone is in Christ, they become a new creation (a new person), everything old has passed away, a new life has begun. And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to himself through Christ" (2 Corinthians 5 v 17-18).

This is the message of Easter. That God was, in Jesus, reconciling the whole world to himself, and enabling each individual, together with all of nature to begin again.

In these most uncertain days, we should treasure the opportunity of a 'reset' in which we are personally given the opportunity to begin again, with God, with one another across the world, and with our fragile earth.

Christ is Risen! New Life is begun, and we shall never be the same again.

Thanks be to God.

Have a wonderful Easter. God bless,

✍️ Nigel

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Morning

Silver spun in the early morn
dew hung threads of silken wire
sway lightly in the breeze
All is silent
save for the spider
working away with velvet softness

Glistening drops hang as glass
magical in air-like suspension
dropping slowly one by one
All is bright
save for the trees
Still hidden in mid wood.

The suns rays flash as fire
melting sleep from warm eyes
Pillow soft bodies wake together
and all is gentle
save for the world
still tongue tied in its infancy



The heat of morning destroys its haze
shimmering with silver on its wings
lovers stray with hopeful hearts
wrapped in temporary emotions
and morning slips away
fo another day...

by the late John Hockey

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

Seasonal April Recipes

Roasted Cauliflower & Chickpea Coconut Curry

Ingredients

1 large cauliflower, cut into florets
4 tbsp sunflower oil
2 tbsp black mustard seeds
1 tbsp cumin seeds
6 cardamom pods, seeds only
400g can chickpeas, drained
2 onions, finely sliced
5 garlic cloves, finely grated
thumb-sized piece of ginger, finely grated
1 tsp ground cumin
1 tbsp ground coriander
2 tsp turmeric
½ tsp chilli powder (optional)
400g can coconut milk
300ml vegetable stock (vegan, if needed)
To serve
1 lime, juiced
handful of roughly chopped coriander
1 green chilli, sliced (optional)
cooked rice poppadums, naan or flatbreads

Method

Heat the oven to 200C/180C fan/gas 6. Tip the cauliflower, 1 tbsp of the oil, mustard seeds, cumin seeds, cardamom seeds and chickpeas into a large bowl, season generously and toss well. Spread over a roasting tray and roast for 20 mins, tossing halfway through, until the cauliflower is caramelised but retains a little bite. Meanwhile, heat the rest of the oil in a shallow saucepan or wok. Fry the onions with a little salt over a medium heat for 10-15 mins, until golden. Tip in the garlic, ginger and spices and cook for 3-4 mins. Pour in the coconut milk and stock, bring to a simmer, then tip in the roasted cauli and chickpeas. Simmer for 5 mins and add the lime juice. Top with the coriander and chilli, if using, and serve with your choice of sides.



Rhubarb & Custard Cake

Ingredients

Quantity Barney's roasted rhubarb (see recipe, below method)
250g pack butter, softened, plus extra for greasing
150g ready-made custard
250g self-raising flour
½ tsp baking powder
4 large eggs
1 tsp vanilla extract
250g golden caster sugar
icing sugar, for dusting

Method

Make the roasted rhubarb first, carefully draining off the juices before you let it cool. Butter and line a 23cm loose-bottomed or springform cake tin. Heat oven to 180C/fan 160C/gas 4. Reserve 3 tbsp of the custard in a bowl. Beat

the rest of the custard together with the butter, flour, baking powder, eggs, vanilla and sugar until creamy and smooth. Spoon one-third of the mix into the tin, add some of the rhubarb, then dot with one-third more cake mix and spread it out as well as you can. Top with some more rhubarb, then spoon over the remaining cake mix, leaving it in rough mounds and dips rather than being too neat about it. Scatter the rest of the rhubarb over the batter, then dot the remaining custard over. Bake for 40 mins until risen and golden, then cover with foil and bake for 15-20 mins more. It's ready when a skewer inserted into the middle comes out clean. Cool in the tin, then dredge with icing sugar when cool.



Totternhoe Garden Club

The programme for this year's talks and outings is almost complete and, if the weather plays ball, we look forward to visiting some good gardens.

This year we are going to some gardens that we have not seen for a long time and hopefully they will not disappoint. Our first trip is to an old favourite Coton Manor in Northamptonshire which is a joy at any time of the year. Following on, Sissinghurst Castle Garden in Kent was planted by Vita Sackville-West and we



Coton Manor



Sissinghurst Castle

canal and is a sight to behold. I expect the coach trunk will be well filled with plants returning to Totternhoe!

August sees us visiting Kew Gardens to see what is believed to be the longest herbaceous borders in the country – and possibly in the world. The Great Broad Walk Borders stretch out in a rainbow of colour for more than 320 metres. We finish off our trips in September with a relaxing day at Audley End in Essex. This historic Jacobean house and beautifully restored parterre garden plus the organic walled kitchen garden should keep us all amused in between eating and socialising.

Before all the trips we have our AGM on Thursday 18 April at 7.30pm held at St Giles Church Hall. This is free entry and we hope to have a small video display of last year's outings. For more information e-mail Joyce Murphy at tgc@mothermurphy.co.uk or telephone 01582 667085.

For membership queries contact Mary Payne-Cook on 01582 699485.

✉ Joyce Murphy

hope to see the roses in full bloom at the time of our visit. It was 2004 when we were last there, so I hope it is still as interesting now.

In July we are going to a garden centre with a difference – Ashwood Nurseries in Kingswinford, West Midlands. Apart from the unusual plants on offer of which many are grown by them, there is “John’s Garden” which is sited next to the



Kew Gardens



Charity Quiz Night



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Would you be willing to open your garden for the day to
help raise money for charity?
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Kay Griffiths on 222849 or Gordon Gray on 220136.

St Mary's Spring Fair

Saturday 27th April 2024
Eaton Bray Village Hall
12pm – 3pm

Come and enjoy a coffee and cake, or some delicious lunchtime refreshments including our legendary bacon butties!

Then browse the lovely craft stalls, plus jigsaws, raffle, chocolate tombola and plants for sale.

If you would like a stall for the event, please contact Barbara Morton on:

01525 852368, or

Email: Barbara.morton1@gmail.com



Down the Lane

I think this photo sums up my attempts to get out in the garden in February!

Not all was doom and gloom – so far this year the bulbs have been magnificent, snowdrops, daffodils, dazzlingly blue scilla and anemone blanda (wind flowers). There seem to be very few blind daffodil bulbs this year compared to last year. The weather since last spring must have suited them. As usual bulbs are flowering that I'd forgotten about. I dug a lot of tulips out of pots after they had flowered last year. I didn't get round to planting them in the borders so they have been added to the compost heap. Many tulips only flower well in the spring after they have been planted so I would probably have wasted my time anyway. I have some tulip sprengeri which flower every year and multiply from self-sown seed. They have smaller blooms, which



come out in May, but are very pretty. They are being slow to establish themselves so I shall have to be patient waiting for them to multiply.

It's time to cut back lavender bushes to keep their shape and not get leggy. Gardening advice tells you not to cut back into old wood which I find unhelpful and vague. You need to leave new shoots on each branch as I've shown in the photograph of a lavender bush which has been cut back.

In the first week of March while I was out in the garden I was accompanied by a murmur of starlings which was the most amazing sight. I have never seen such a big one in this area before. They are now a protected species as their numbers

have declined so much in the last few years.

The ground is still very wet so I shall have to leave some jobs and concentrate on essentials. My fig tree needs to be pruned before growth starts. I'm always amazed at its vigorous growth in such poor soil next to a wall. I have some acanthus (bears' britches) which I consider a thug! I shall have to tolerate it as it is impossible to dig out, and make sure I remove the flower stalks before they set seed. My other job is cutting back the raspberry canes so they produce a good crop again this year.

Now to start my seed sowing in my greenhouse and heated propagator.

✍️ Sally Taylor





Northall Baptist Church

200 years and still going

A little Church with strong local links

The song of the sea

Do you have a special song? Most of us have a love of music and enjoy singing. Many have a special song that they associate with a special occasion, like the first dance at their wedding or something that perhaps brought them together.

Hymns that have been sung at your wedding are particularly poignant and are remembered for a lifetime. They have special meaning for the commitment made.

The Bible has lots to say about music and its effect. One interesting reference in 1 Samuel 16 is David as a shepherd boy played the harp. King Saul, it says had an 'evil spirit' and was tormented, David was sent for and when he played, the evil spirit left the king. Music is often very soothing and relaxing. It can also be very unifying when a large crowd or congregation sing enthusiastically.

2024 is the 200th anniversary of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) and we have been reminded of the wonderful work that they have done with so many lives rescued through their courageous and brave actions to save those in peril on the seas.



Image by Andrew Martin from Pixabay

'Eternal Father strong to save, whose arm has bound the restless wave', The chorus of *Will your anchor hold* is

We have an anchor that keeps the soul, steadfast and sure while the billows role' and is a reassuring theme. The billows of life and the billows of the sea. 'Nearer my God to Thee' is very well known as it's now forever linked with the sinking of the Titanic.

One of the most poignant hymns for us is 'When peace like a river attends my way, when sorrows like sea billow's role, whatever my lot, you have taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul'. It was written by Horatio Spafford following the drowning of his 4 daughters on a transatlantic voyage on S.S. Ville du Havre in 1873. These life events bring us closer to our God.

As a young Christian teenager, my best friend died and around the same time another young 8-year-old Christian friend died. It was a difficult and trying time. A time of soul searching about what God might be doing. So much potential, particularly as my friend had won a scholarship to a highly respected fee-paying school. What could she have become? We do not know but comfort comes in knowing that there is a reason and as the last verse tells us, heaven is our goal and as long as we believe in Jesus' death and resurrection for us, 'it is well, it is well with my soul'. Each time we hear that hymn, memories come flooding back.

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

20 Facts About April

April is known for beautiful spring weather, the start of warmer weather. Learn all about the origins of this beautiful spring month and even some knowledgeable history facts!

1. We know it is the fourth month of the year, but that's only by the Gregorian calendar that we adhere to now. It was previously the fifth month in the earlier Julian calendar.
2. April also only had 29 days, but a 30th day was added when Julius Caesar established the Julian calendar.
3. In the Southern Hemisphere, April is the seasonal equivalent of October.
4. No one is sure how the month ended up with its name, but we do know the Romans named it "Aprillis."
5. The etymology behind the word "April" comes from the verb "aperire," which means "to open." It's commonly believed that the word refers to the season of trees and flowers begin to "open" or bloom.
6. Those who were born in April have a diamond as their birthstone, which represents innocence. Their birth flower is either a Daisy or a Sweet Pea.
7. There are two zodiac signs in April. Aries, which is until April 19th, and Taurus, which is April 20th and onwards.
8. April is a great month for meteor showers. One of which is the Lyrids meteor shower, which appears from April 16th to April 26th each year. There's another one called the Eta Aquariids meteor shower that can be seen onwards from April 21st.
9. There are quite a few notable historical people born in April, such as Leonardo da Vinci, Shakespeare, and Queen Elizabeth II.
10. On April 14, 1912, the famous Titanic ship hit an iceberg and sank on her first and only voyage.
11. George Washington was inaugurated as the First President of the United States on April 30, 1789.
12. Back in the time of the Ancient Romans, April was sacred to the goddess Venus.
13. One of the most well-known dates of the month is April Fools' Day on the 1st of the month. No one is sure where this originated from, but some believe it to be inspired by Geoffrey Chaucer's story in "Canterbury Tales" called "Nun's Priest's Tale."
14. On April 11, 1970, Apollo 13 was launched and ran into difficulties about two days later. It was then that the famous line "Houston, we've had a problem here" was said, and is today usually misquoted.
15. After a 1,500-year break, the first Olympics of the modern era took place on April 6, 1896, in Athens.
16. The explosion of the Chernobyl nuclear plant in Ukraine occurred on April 26, 1986, which forced everyone within a 300-mile radius to be evacuated.
17. The smaller animals that hibernate for the winter in the Northern Hemisphere usually start coming out of their burrows in April.
18. April is also the month that the birds migrate north and settle down for the summer to mate.
19. For all the car enthusiasts out there, Ford unveiled their first Mustang on April 17, 1964, costing \$2,368.
20. The first battle of the Revolutionary War, Lexington, and Concord, broke out on April 19, 1775.

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Potholes

Central Beds - How they deal with them

When we receive a report of a pothole, or when our highways officer identify an issue on their inspection routes, we carefully examine the pothole to decide how urgently it needs repaired. We use our Network Maintenance Management Plan to do this. But, it does usually depend on the damage to the road, how busy the road is, and what is the best use of our resources. Other factors which contribute to the priority of making a repairs include the depth of the pothole, the size, the location, the volume of traffic and the speed of the road.



What are temporary repairs?

We use temporary repairs in wet or icy conditions as a permanent repair would not work in these conditions, the hot material would instantly cool before enough compaction could be achieved and the ice or water would prevent the repair bonding to the road. When the weather is better we do endeavour to make permanent repairs although this does take more time and resource to carry out. In some cases a series of pothole may be a sign that there's an underlying issue with the road surface and further treatment may be needed. In this instance we would use a temporary repair.

Why do we use the Jetpatcher?

After a period of bad weather when we need to repair a large number of potholes shortly we may use the Jetpatcher, also known as the Velocity Patcher. The Jetpatcher can make pothole repairs in just two minutes which allows our team to carry out repairs without closing the road, meaning less disruption to the public. The lifespan on the repair will depend on the location, the volume of traffic and the weather when repairs were made but studies show that some Jetpatcher repairs can last for up to five years.

There have been potholes on the road for a while, when will they get repaired?

If the reported pothole does need attention but does not pose an immediate danger to the driver, it may be cost effective to plan longer lasting repair work. This is the Asset Management approach we use to manage our road network. We may be planning further works in the area and the pothole in question will be fixed as part of an overall programme of work.

Through this approach we are able to stop roads getting into a condition where a more expensive preventative treatment is needed or where potholes or other defects might become more common.

This approach means that you could see us working on roads that are, on the face of it, in a better condition than others, however this is done to maximise the long term benefit for the money that we have.

How often do we check reported potholes?

We will monitor the state of current known potholes during monthly inspection routes of main roads to ensure that the pothole has not worsened. If it has then we will step in and carry out the repair which is best for the location.

In 2023 Central Beds repaired 159 potholes in Eaton Bray

Report a pothole via <https://fixmystreet.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/>

Buckinghamshire Council - Report a pothole on the road

We have adopted a risk based approach to determine whether to take action and what action to take.

The level of risk from a pothole depends on:

- its depth
- its surface area
- safety of road users
- location and usage of the road

What we need to know

Help us locate the problem quicker by providing:

- images (if safe to do so)
- your name and contact details
- approximate size of the pothole
- description of it's location, including any landmarks

Click the location of the pothole on the map to report it.

You must have an email address to use the online reporting system (FixMyStreet) <https://fixmystreet.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/>



Whats on at Leighton Buzzard Theatre

<https://centralbedfordshire.ticketsolve.com/ticketbooth/shows>

Film

Migration - 3 Apr
Wicked Little Letters - 4 Apr
Dune Part 2 - 5 Apr
Wicked Little Letters MMM - 24 Apr
Drive Away Dolls - 25 Apr

Comedy

Barnstormers Comedy Club - 6 Apr
Psychic Medium
Tony Stockwell - 30 Apr

Theatre

A Bunch of Amateurs - 11-13 Apr

Music

Brave Rival - 26 Apr

Event Cinema

The Royal Ballet: MacMillan Celebrated - 16 Apr
An American in Paris - 18 Apr
The Royal Ballet: Swan Lake - 24 Apr

Edlesborough Baptist Church

All are welcome to our 11am service every Sunday

Keep up to date by visiting:
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My teacher told me not to worry about spelling because in the future there will be autocorrect And for that I am eternally grapefruit.



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Our first meeting of the year struck a positive note with a talk by Jez Elkin from the Greatmoor Energy Waste facility for Buckinghamshire. He explained the process by which household waste which cannot be recycled is burnt in a way that recovers enough energy to power 40,000 homes. This waste processing also has the advantage of diverting household waste from landfill. Jez went on to give us some fascinating, and sometimes shocking, statistics about the amount of household waste we are all generating.

At our February meeting, members were asked to consider the four Resolutions which are being put forward as the next national Women's Institute campaign. They focus on the chronic shortage of NHS dentists, the impacts of poor housing, the effects of gambling advertising and improving outcomes for women in the criminal justice system. Members then voted on the Resolution they would like to be the focus of the next campaign.

After the serious part of the evening, we played Crazy Bag Whist and tried to outwit each other to secure what seemed the most desirable gifts donated by members.

In March we heard a talk on 'Decluttering' given by Angela Tarbox. Members were encouraged to close their eyes and mentally enter each room of their house to spot areas where possessions tend to accumulate over time and cause a problem. Angela offered practical suggestions for gradually bringing order to any cluttered areas and ideas for recycling unwanted items were discussed.

Eaton Bray WI meets at the Methodist Church Hall, Totternhoe 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.

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A Bright New Addition at Whipsnade Zoo

A little 'ray of sunshine' has been born at Whipsnade Zoo in Bedfordshire. An Endangered François' langur was born to mum Lulu and dad Wang in the early hours of Saturday 17 February. In contrast to the adult François' langurs monochromatic coats, infants are born with shocking orange hair. The flame-coloured monkey, which currently spends most of its time cuddling into Mum's dark black hair, was born as part of a European Endangered Species Breeding Programme (EEP) - an internationally coordinated conservation initiative which aims to boost the numbers of species that are threatened in the wild.



Whipsnade Zookeeper Amanda Robinson said the team were ecstatic when they saw Lulu cradling her bright orange baby at the weekend. Amanda explained: "It's believed the babies are born with bright orange locks so that parents can easily spot the youngster when they're being cared for by the troop. Over time this hair will fade to black. The bright orange hair certainly makes it easier for keepers and visitors to spot the new addition!"

François' langurs are listed as Endangered on the IUCN Red List of threatened species. Native to China and northern Vietnam, their numbers have continued to fall in the wild, making the birth internationally important. Amanda added: "Sadly, in the wild the number of François' langurs are plummeting, so this newborn really is a ray of sunshine and a sign of hope for the species."

Baby Porcupine 'Quill' Melt Your Heart

A porcupine family at the UK's largest zoo has grown from three to four, with a spiky new baby joining the prickle. Mum Kimya, gave birth to the baby, known as a porcupette, on February 13 at Whipsnade Zoo. Zookeepers won't know whether the porcupette is male or female until the tiny tots first health check, so in the meantime keepers have named the three-week-old Dakari, which is a Zimbabwean name meaning rejoice.

Porcupines are pregnant for 94 days, and this is Kimya's second baby to be born in six months, with her last infant Oti, arriving in August 2023. Keeper Felicity Ball said: "not only has Kimya been caring for her six-month-old Oti, but she also now has a tiny new baby to care for as well. Thankfully Dad, Winga, has been helping with the young".

In the wild Cape porcupines often live solitarily, before coming together to breed and rear their young, remaining monogamous for life. While porcupettes do have quills when they're born, they're soft at birth, but become hard and prickly a couple of hours after the baby is born. Felicity added: "It was an incredible surprise for the team to see Dakari curled up next to Mum, Dad and their older sibling Oti the next day."

"Dakari is very confident, pottering around the family's cosy indoor den following Mum everywhere she goes. They've been trying out new things each day, like nibbling on a bit of sweetcorn, one of the family's favourite snacks. While visitors may see the group having their 'breakfast' in our afternoon, they're most active at night".

Cape porcupines are nocturnal rodents, native to central and southern Africa. They usually venture out when the sun starts to set, but thankfully our night vision cameras help us to monitor the prickle - which is a group of porcupines - when we're not on the ground," she said.





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What to do in the Garden in April



April's here and spring has sprung at last! As the weather warms up and early flowers start to bloom, all of a sudden there's a load of jobs to do outside.

This month, there's plenty to sow and grow in your garden and greenhouse. But there's lots more to do besides sowing and planting out. Here are your main garden jobs this April:

Timely Tips



Start with these four garden tasks this month:

1. Order annual plants like geraniums, begonias and petunias online now for summer bedding and hanging basket displays - it's your last chance!
2. Give your greenhouse a thorough scrub (if you haven't already) with hot soapy water. This will get rid of pests and diseases and let in more light.
3. Prepare beds for the growing season. Dig in a 5cm (or more) layer of compost or well-rotted manure. You can also work in a general-purpose fertiliser, such as pelleted chicken manure, or fish, blood and bone.
4. Check your patio plants aren't drying out. The warmer weather will quickly affect soil moisture levels - try mixing water storing granules with compost to improve water retention

in containers.

In the flower garden



Here's what to be getting on with in the flower garden this month:

- Lift and divide established border perennial plants now, like Hostas, to improve vigour and create new plants for your garden.
- Pinch out the tips of fuchsia plants and sweet pea plant shoots, to encourage bushy growth this summer.
- Divide primroses once they have finished flowering.
- Plant rhododendron bushes once the threat of frost has passed, and the ground is moist.
- Move evergreen trees and shrubs now, provided the soil isn't frozen or waterlogged.
- Feed trees, shrubs and hedges with a balanced, slow-release fertiliser, by lightly forking it into the soil surface. Roses, in particular, are greedy plants and will greatly benefit from feeding as they come into growth.
- Tie in climbing roses.
- Check any tree stakes and ties to make sure they're not cutting into the trunk. Loosen any that are tight, to allow the trunk some room to expand.
- Prune your penstemons now — cut back all the old shoots to the base, provided there is new growth at the bottom of the plant. If there are no new shoots at the base, cut just above the lowest set of leaves.
- Finish cutting back any dead foliage

on perennials and ornamental grass plants (if you haven't done so already), to make way for new growth.

- Prune Forsythia as soon as they have finished flowering, cutting back to strong, young shoots.
- Trim winter-flowering heathers as the flowers disappear, to prevent plants becoming leggy.
- Tie in new honeysuckle and clematis stems. These plants will be putting on growth now, and you'll need to train them along their supports.
- Continue to remove faded flowers from winter pansies to stop them setting seed. This will encourage flushes of new flowers throughout the spring.
- Deadhead daffodils and tulips as the flowers finish, but leave foliage intact, allowing it to die back naturally.
- Apply a layer of mulch around your perennials and biennial plants, trees and shrubs before the hot weather arrives. Use organic matter such as well-rotted manure.

In the vegetable garden



Get busy with these vegetable garden tasks this April:

- Prepare vegetable seed beds by removing all weeds.
- Dig a 5-cm (or more) layer of compost, well-rotted manure or green waste into beds.
- Cover prepared soil with sheets of black plastic to keep it drier and warmer in preparation for planting.
- Build raised beds to take the bending out of growing vegetables.
- Harvest asparagus spears when

they're no more than 18 cm tall.

- Support pea and bean plants now. For quick and easy pea supports, push some twiggy sticks around your plants.
- Thin carrot seedlings to achieve good-sized carrots; do this in the evening when fewer carrot flies are around.

In the fruit garden



Here's what to do in the fruit garden this month:

- Protect fruit blossom from late frosts by covering them with horticultural fleece on cold nights.
- Spray the emerging leaves of peach and nectarine trees to prevent peach leaf curl. Sheltering your plants from the rain will also help reduce the risk of peach leaf curl.
- Mulch fruit trees with well-rotted manure or garden compost, taking care not to mound mulch up around the trunk.
- Top-dress patio fruit-trees with fresh compost and a slow-release fertiliser.
- Feed raspberry canes, fruit bushes and fruit trees to encourage good crops this season. Apply a slow-release fertiliser around their base.
- Try hand pollinating peaches and nectarines with a soft-bristled paint brush for better crops this year.

Obtain more tips from:
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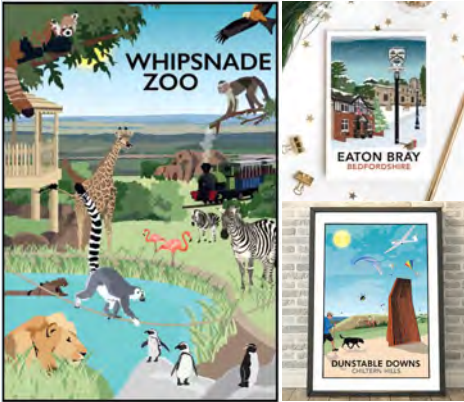


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Eaton Bray History

The Chequers Public House, Moor End Eaton Bray

(courtesy of the Bedfordshire Archives)



*The Chequers - Courtesy of the Millenium Book
Pater & Mary Mayne*

John Fountain was a wealthy cordwainer (shoemaker) in Eaton Bray in whose house was to be found “my large oval table, one chest with drawers” besides beds and bedding and at least one pewter dish in 1780. He must have been a man of standing in the village, for he held the office of overseer of the poor in 1757 .

It was probably his son, another John Fountain who combined the job of cordwainer with being the

innkeeper at The Chequers and apparently very profitably. Most of his property was left to his son, another John, in his will of January 1815. This will is the first document to mention The Chequers and states that his son John was to let the testator’s widow Mary live with him in the “dwelling house called The Chequer” for two months after the testator’s death without paying rent. John Fountain senior’s will was proved on 26th August 1816.

By 1840 The Chequers appears to have belonged to a family named Mawley. An abstract of a mortgage tells us that in April that year Henry Mawley, esquire and Anna Maria Mawley, spinster joined Mary Burr and James Horseman in conveying a



The Chequers on a map 1880

cottage at Moor End, Eaton Bray called The Chequers, amongst many other licensed properties, to Edward Burr and his trustee William Senhouse Gaitskell. Edward Burr was a Dunstable brewer and mortgaged all these premises in 1841.

In 1843 Dunstable Brewery was put up for sale by auction and The Chequers was Lot 40. It comprised a tap room, a parlour, a washhouse, a small cellar, three bedrooms and an apple room. Outside were: “A good Yard and Barn (used as a Cow-house and Stable), Garden, Well of Water and small orchard containing together about Half an Acre”. The owner also had two common rights for one cow each or one horse together. The annual rent was £12.

Sadly the sale particulars are not annotated with the names of the buyers. We know that in 1849 the licensee was Jabez Thorne as his wife Caroline gave evidence against someone passing forged currency. Apparently Joseph Janes came to her and told her a man named Rollins had been passed a bad half crown, and that if the same men were to offer her money, she should take it. John Deeley came in soon after and asked

her for gin, of which she had none. He then asked for ale and paid with half a crown. Janes duly came in and examined the half crown and detained Deeley until Constable Thorogood arrived.

The countywide licensing register of 1876 states that Jabez Thorne was still the owner of The Chequers, but he now lived at Albury. By the time of the countywide register of 1891 the owner was William Mead of Luton and he leased the house to the Dunstable Brewery run by the executors of Benjamin Bennett. The countywide register of 1903 gives Dunstable Brewery as the owners and states that The Chequers was in fairly good repair but was “rather untidy”. It was 154 yards from nearest licensed house (The Victoria Arms) and had one front, one side and one back door.

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. Eaton Bray, like much of the county, was assessed in 1927 and the valuer visiting The Chequers found it still owned by Dunstable Brewery, who had charged a rent of £20 per annum since 1920. The premises comprised a bar, a tap room, a parlour, a cellar, a kitchen and four bedrooms. Outside stood a brick and tiled store; a slaughterhouse measuring 16 feet 6 inches by 11 feet, a brick and tiled copper house (for boiling water), a loose box, a workshop and a garage. Jabez Thorne had been a butcher as well as a publican; it was not unusual for a licensee to have another source of income besides their licensed trade.

The valuer commented: “Dirty place but Buses stop here”. Another hand has written: “Not a bad looking house outside but filthy inside. Better tenant could evidently do a greater trade. Lack of personality here. Dunstable buses pass”. The tenant, William Tompkins, said takings were £10 per week. Trade was six barrels of beer per month, six dozen “bottled stuff” per fortnight and ten gallons of spirits per year. The valuer observed: “[Takings] Probably more as tenant said at first one barrel a week and takings £5 only”. Obviously the tenant did not want to be thought to be doing too good a business as that would affect his rates.

A number of farm buildings lay nearby including a brick, weather-boarded and tiled four stall stable, two weather-boarded and corrugated iron piggeries and a store shed and a weather-boarded and slated pig sty in an orchard along with two weather-boarded and corrugated iron hovels. The orchard itself measured just under a third of an acre and had a “few old trees”. Most likely these were plums for making prunes, seemingly common crop in Eaton Bray.

Mann, Crossman and Paulin Limited of Whitechapel took over Dunstable Brewery in 1938. The public house closed in 1989 and was later demolished, modern housing now occupying the site. At least, however, one of Eaton Bray’s earliest known pubs is remembered in the new development’s name: “The Chequers”.



The Chequers development in 1999



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Baby Rhino Charges into the World

A giant bundle of joy has been born in Bedfordshire at Whipsnade Zoo. The southern white rhino calf, tipping the scales at 45kgs, was born on March 7, to mum Jaseera and dad Sizzle at the UK's largest zoo. The baby boy was born after a very quick four-minute labour to 13-year-old Jaseera - who was pregnant for 16 months with the calf.

Rhino keeper Mark Holden said: "This is Jaseera's first baby, and it's been great to see her maternal instinct kick in. Jaseera has been nursing the calf and has been very protective of him. All the signs of a perfect rhino mum." Within two hours of being born, the tiny rhino started to take his first wobbly steps with Mum close to his side.

"Southern white rhinos are born with over-sized, rubbery feet, which they 'grow into', so the calf was understandably quite wobbly when he first started to walk. But he's a fast learner and a week later he was zooming around, exploring his cosy indoor den."

Mark added that the new calf was extremely precious: "Sadly, these magnificent creatures are still being hunted in the wild. The poached horns are primarily used for traditional medicine in Asia, due to mistaken beliefs that the horns have healing powers. Last year in South Africa alone around 500 white rhinos were killed for their horn, that's more than one a day."

According to the IUCN, there are 10,000 mature southern white rhinos left in the wild, with numbers continuing to fall. ZSL, the conservation charity behind Whipsnade Zoo, estimates the illegal wildlife trade is worth US\$23 billion a year. ZSL is working around the world to stop the illegal trade through pioneering border detection in epicentres of illegal wildlife networks, establishing anti-poaching patrols and working closely with governments around the world.

The new calf was born as part of the European Endangered Species Programme (EEP), to help create a genetically diverse and healthy back up population in conservation zoos like Whipsnade. Mark added that dad Sizzle, has been a vital member of the EEP. "Sizzle has had 15 calves at Whipsnade Zoo, and those calves have gone on to produce 37 grandchildren around Europe and he's also got 13 great grandchildren. He's an incredible bull."

And the little one, will hopefully follow in his dad's footsteps. Visitors will be able to visit the calf and Mum in the indoor dens at the White Rhino house, at Whipsnade Zoo. The calf remains inside for two weeks while the pair bond, before the little boy is introduced to the 'crash' (a pack of rhinos). To find out more or to buy tickets, visit: <https://www.whipsnadezoo.org/>





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U15 and a Ladies Softball team. If you would like to join a progressive family friendly club pop down to the Rye Gardens or get in touch via Facebook or X @EatonBrayCC

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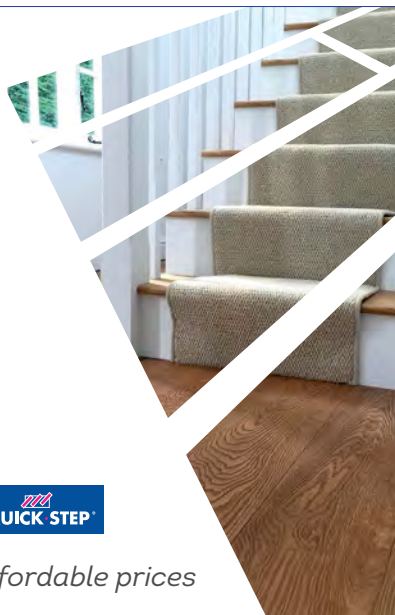


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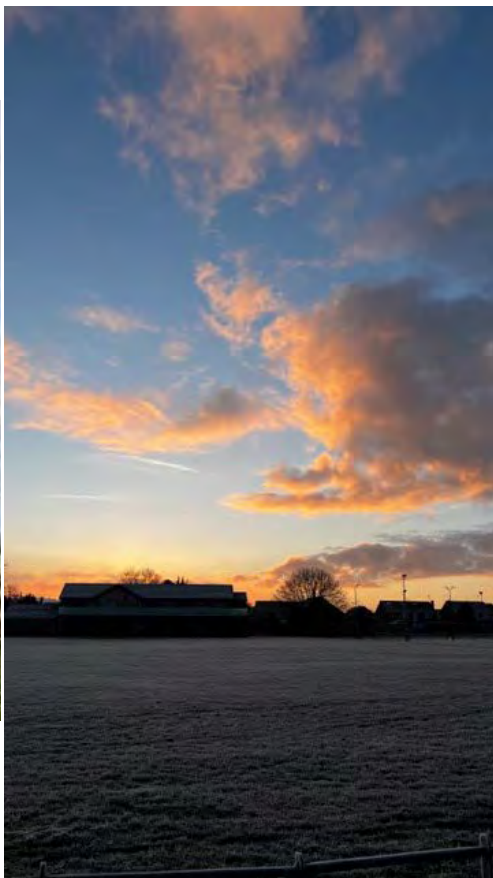
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Holman's field by Matthew Gray

Edlesborough Pavilion by Jane Jones

Water Lily by Richard Woodhead



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Lane in the snow
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The Eaton Bray Village Quilt

Made by Mary Mayne

Displayed in the Lady Chapel, St. Mary's Church, Eaton Bray

In 1983/4 The Quilters Guild of The British Isles challenged their members to make quilts for possible selection to be hung in the Royal Institute of British Architects. This would have approximately 30 quilts selected from around the country. As a member of The Guild (now an Honorary Member), I decided to have a go as I love a good challenge!

My first thought was to go around the village and take photographs of buildings and shops etc. that I felt would tell the story of our village.

Once I had chosen which pictures I wanted to make, I enlarged them up to the sizes I needed and used these as my templates. Working on one photo at a time, I traced each element i.e. the roof, walls, windows etc. and cut out the shapes from fabrics that matched the most with the said pieces. The backgrounds were sewn down onto a linen backing first, sky, trees; foreground etc. then the buildings were pinned in place one by one and sewn around with the sewing machine.

I started making the pictorial blocks using my sewing machine place on the top of a chest of drawers in my bedroom! I had no other space at the time. This meant that I sat sideways to sew, sitting on the corner of my bed! Half of the blocks were made this way, then to celebrate our 25th wedding anniversary my husband transformed the back half of the garage into a sewing room. This made a huge difference and the rest of the quilt was made and put together. The fabric used on the border of the quilt was chosen to represent Wallace's Carnations, once a huge nursery in the village.

The quilt is machined together but all the quilting is done by hand.

Once it was finished it was hung in the Luton Museum, Wardown Park along with about 30 other entries. Judging was done by Quilters Guild Committee members (I think) and two quilts were chosen, I was thrilled when one of the chosen was my quilt.

It was then hung in the Royal Institute of British Architects in London for 2 or 3 months.

It was also my first entry in The Great British Quilt Show and won a Merit award, and from there it was featured in a BBC2 programme, Pieced Pictures.

To now have the quilt hanging in Eaton Bray's St. Mary's Church is an honour and something I have hoped for many years.

✍️ Mary Mayne



Stanbridgeford Station

Courtesy of <http://www.disused-stations.org.uk/>

Stanbridgeford was the only intermediate station on the LNWR line from Leighton Buzzard to Dunstable. It was built just north of where the Eaton Bray junction of the A505 bypass is now.

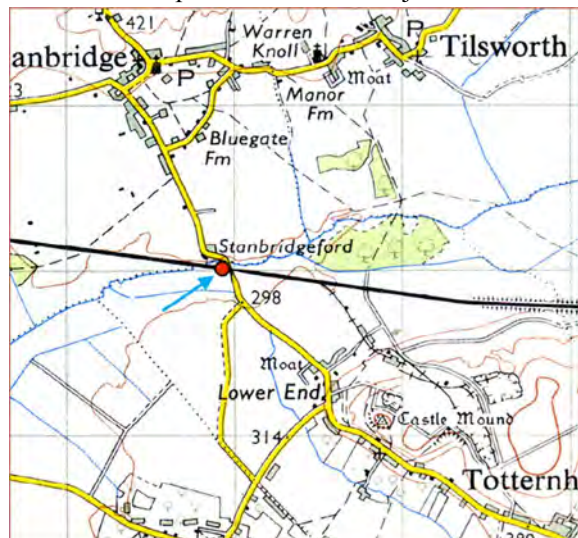
The line opened on 1st June 1848. Stanbridgeford first appeared in the company timetable in October 1860 when it opened to both passenger and goods traffic, although some revenue is shown in the company record

for the station from October 1849 indicating that it was an unofficial stopping place before the station was built. The station was used by visitors to the Tottemhoe Knolls, a popular tourist attraction with its 11th-century Norman motte and triple bailey castle. It was especially popular with Leighton Buzzard residents who took to the countryside in great numbers, so much so that in 1919, when 700 people arrived to take the train back from Stanbridgeford, the stationmaster had to call for extra coaches from Leighton Buzzard. The station served the villages of Stanbridgeford (now known as Stambridge), Tottemhoe, Eaton Bray and Tilsworth.

The station had a substantial two-storey house which incorporated the booking office on the up side of the line adjacent to the level crossing. There were two short



A Dunstable train at Stanbridgeford station c1910



slightly staggered platforms laid with small square stone blocks. The platforms had conventional ramps at the east end and steps at the west end. Both platforms had small timber waiting rooms, each with a canopy. There were two other timber buildings on the down platform adjacent to the waiting room. An 8-lever ground frame adjacent to the crossing on the down side controlled the crossing and access to the small good yard. The yard was on the up side of the line and accessed to the west of the station. It comprised two sidings, one located along the

back of the up platform running diagonally across the goods yard serving a coal yard. There was a brick weigh office and weighbridge at the entrance to the goods yards and cattle pens at the west end of the yard. The goods yard handled mainly coal, livestock, agricultural products and market garden produce including strawberries and carnations from



A Dunstable train at Stanbridgeford station April 1962

Wallace's at Eaton Bray. In a good year it was reported that 10,000 dozen blooms a day were dispatched from the Wallace Nurseries to all over the UK, via Stanbridgeford station. Ducks are also known to have been transported from Stanbridgeford by Eaton Bray breeders.

To the west of the station private sidings served Forder & Son's Sewell Lime Works and the Tottemhoe Lime & Stone Company at Totternhoe Quarries. Increased traffic led to new sidings and a crossover being installed in 1916.

After closure to passengers in 1962 the station remained open for goods traffic until 1st June 1964 with a private siding remaining in use after that date. The track through the station remained in use until 15th April 1965 serving the adjacent Totternhoe quarries.

In 1968 the station was used as a set for the opening sequence of an episode called Noon Doomsday of The Avengers TV series starring Patrick Macnee and Linda Thorson. A forty-strong film crew worked at the station for two days. The buildings were demolished shortly afterwards in October 1968, and the track was lifted at the station in February 1970.



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Woodlice

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Woodlice are terrestrial crustaceans belonging to the order Isopoda, there are 30 species in Britain five of which are often found in garden. They are oval shaped with light grey dimpled exoskeletons with a length of 1.5cm. Their bodies are made of seven segments with a pair of legs per segment. The young are small and white. Female woodlice carry their eggs on their underside. When the eggs hatch, the juveniles stay with their mother for a few months until they mature. Each female can have up to three clutches of between 12 and 36 eggs per year.

Woodlice, also known as slaters and pillbugs, are abundant animals in most healthy gardens and greenhouses. They are largely beneficial and cause little or no damage to healthy plants.

Woodlice don't wee, they release ammonia gas instead. This means they can smell quite bad in groups, earning them local names like 'stinky pigs'.

Woodlice eat deadwood, leaf litter, dead animals, fungi, fruit and even its own faeces. As they feed largely on damp decomposing plant material they are therefore part of the biodiversity that helps nutrient recycling in the garden. They look for food at night and hide in rotting wood and under rocks during the day. Gently lift stones in woods and gardens to see if there are any woodlice hiding underneath. They stay in cool places because they are very prone to drying out. Large numbers often occur in compost heaps, where they help break down plant material.

Woodlice do not usually damage healthy plants, they can however become associated with damage which has other causes such as slug damage or plants that have died and begun to rot. Woodlice occasionally damage very soft plant tissues, such as seedlings and sometimes strawberry fruits. Holes in older, tougher plant material will have been caused by something else, such as slugs or caterpillars. The common rough woodlouse is not currently considered under threat in the UK.

Information courtesy of
www.woodlandtrust.org.uk
and www.rhs.org.uk

The Salvation Army
Booth Place, Eaton Bray



Programme

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

For more information please call into the hall,
telephone: 01525 222087 or
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Dagnall Weather Station (AONB)

Weather Conditions for February 2024

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



February was a wet, mild and overall dull month. It started dry and mild for the first five days, then the pressure dropped, leading to our wettest day on the 8th with 22.81mm of rain. On the 9th, the pressure started to rise again, along with the temperature, to reach 17.4°C on the 15th – an unbelievable temperature for February. The mild temperatures and rainy days continued to the end of the month. The mean temperature was 8.6°C and it only dropped below zero over the 24th and 25th for a short period of time. It felt like the rain never stopped with 118mm (over 4½ inches), which is 212% of the 17-year average. That is a lot! Although, looking back over 17 years of data, I discovered that February in both 2014 and 2020, we had more than 130mm of rain. The Met Office has confirmed that it was the warmest February since records began.

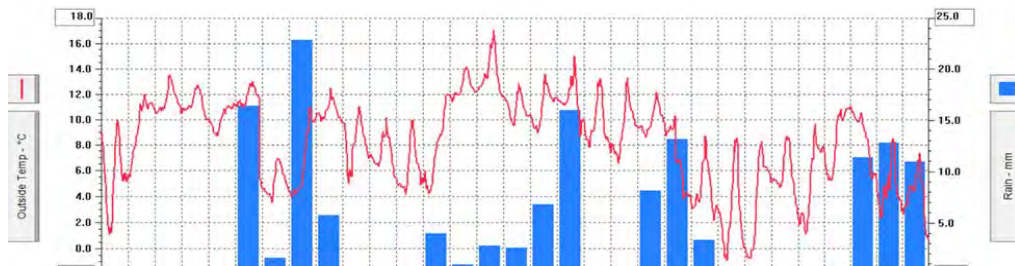
For weather data 24 hours a day, updated every 15mins, this site forecast and much more, visit: www.dagnallweather.co.uk and http://bit.ly/weather_dagnall. If anyone has a question, comment or wishes to contact me please email: david@dagnallweather.co.uk or telephone: 01442 843883. Dagnall weather now 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.

Are winters getting wetter?
Comparison of 17 Years of Winter Rainfall. (December-February)

Dec - Jan - Feb	Totals
2007/08	191.3mm
2008/09	170.2mm
2009/10	241.4mm
2010/11	156.9mm
2011/12	157.9mm
2012/13	215.7mm
2013/14	403.2mm
2014/15	179.1mm
2015/16	216.7mm
2016/17	145.1mm
2017/18	199.2mm
2018/19	151.5mm
2019/20	327.6mm
2020/21	274.2mm
2021/22	182.0mm
2022/23	170.0mm
2023/24	303.0mm
Total	3684.2mm
17 Yearly average	217mm

	High	Date/Time	Low	Date/Time
Temperature:	17.4°C	15 Feb 15.00	-1.0°C	24 Feb 08.00
Mean Temperature	8.6°C			
Dewpoint:	12.7c	15 Feb 07.30	-0.7°C	24 Feb 08.30
Humidity:	97%	8-10-25 Feb	60%	12 Feb 15.00
Barometer:	1034.2 mb	1 Feb 12.00	974.1mb	9 Feb 07.00
Wind Speed	38 mph NNE	26 Feb 11.00	Months avg.	6.8 mph
Wind Chill:	16.6°C	15 Feb 15.30	-3.6°C	24 Feb 07.30
Dominant Wind:	W			
Rainfall * T= total rain days and moisture. R= Actual rain				
*Rain Days: (20T), 19(R)	Wettest Day 8 Feb		22.81 mm	0.898ins
Monthly Rain:	Total	February 2024	118.0 mm	4.646ins
Yearly Rain:	Total	2 Month	187.2 mm	7.370 ins

February 2024 Mild Temperatures and High Rain Fall





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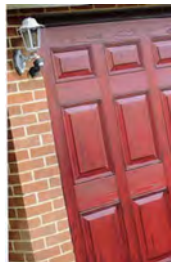


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