



Focus

October 2010

THE FOUR VILLAGES MAGAZINE

EATON BRAY

NORTHALL

EDLESBOROUGH

DAGNALL

The White Horse at Eaton Bray
Market Square
Eaton Bray
Beds LU6 2DG
Tel: 01525 220231
www.thewhitehorseeatonbray.co.uk



13th to 16th October



Italian Week

By popular demand for all our customers who love their Italian pastas and sauces, we will be cheering you up in the shortening autumnal days with a variety of sunshine foods from Italy.
Great wines as well!

Christmas Menu

- (G) Homemade Minted Pea Soup.
- (G) Tian of Crab & Smoked Salmon on a Bed of Cucumber Tagliatelle.
- (G) Mozzarella & Salami with a Basil Dressing.
- (V) Mushrooms & Spinach in a Creamy Garlic Sauce with a Parmesan Crust.



Roast Turkey with Sage & Onion Stuffing & Chipolata Sausage Wrapped in Bacon.
Honey Roast Ham with Parsley Sauce.

- (G) Braised Shoulder of Lamb in a Rosemary & Redcurrant Sauce.
- (G) Chargrilled Ribeye Steak with a Shallot, Cream, White Wine & Mushroom Sauce.
- (G) Sea Bass Fillet in Lemon Butter with Dauphinoise Potatoes & Green Beans.
- (V) Baked Leeks & Courgettes topped with a Cheese Crumble.



Christmas Pudding with Brandy Sauce.
Homemade Sticky Toffee Pudding.

- (G) Chocolate Baileys Torte.
- (G) Winter Fruits Meringue Nest.
- Rum & Raisin Ice Cream.
- Cheese & Biscuits.



Coffee & Mince Pies.

£26.95 per person

(V) Vegetarian (G) Gluten-Free

Focus - The Four Village Magazine

Magazine Committee

Joint Editors: George Crutcher - 7 Summerleys, Eaton Bray 221637

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Copy for publication to the Editors or one of the following by the **10th of the month:**

Kevin Cabbage - 'Larums', Eaton Bray Road, Northall

Val Barrow - 3 Chestnut Close, Dagnall

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

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

Police Contact Numbers...making neighbourhoods safer together

Bedfordshire Police (Eaton Bray)

General Assistance (Recommended Number) 01234 841212

Leighton Buzzard Police Station/P.C.Viv Dady 01582 473418

P.C. Viv Dady Mobile 07506 745133

Typetalk: 18001 01582 437418

Email: SNT.Leighton-Rural@Bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk

Thames Valley Police (Edlesborough, Dagnall & Northall)

General Assistance: 0845 8505505

PC Jared Levens Mobile 07773 398 727

PCSO Jackie Dodson Mobile 07800 703 524

PCSO Chris Baker Mobile 07974 973 866

Email: WingSouthNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

Village Hall Bookings

To book your local village hall for an event please contact the following:

Northall: Lorna Cabbage, Tel: 01525 220361

Eaton Bray: Norman Lee, Tel: 01525 222831

Dagnall: Elizabeth Coates, Tel: 01442 842550

Edlesborough Memorial Hall: Beverly Sage, Tel: 01525 229509

Village Diaries October 2010



Weekly

- Mon-Fri
(term time) Eaton Bray Pre-school, Eaton Bray Lower School, 01525 220468
- Mon-Fri
(term time) Dagnall Under 5's, Dagnall Village Hall, 9.15am - 12.15pm, Mrs Ann Tobin 07816 358342
- Mon-Fri
(term time) Edlesborough Under 5's Pre-School, Edlesborough Memorial Hall, Sue 01525 222199
- Mon-Thu
(term time) Totternhoe Pre-school, mornings, Totternhoe Memorial Hall, Ellie Deeley on 07913 529574
- Mondays Pilates, 10.45am, St.Giles Church Hall, Totternhoe, Lisa: 01582 412426
- Mondays
(term time) 2nd Eaton Bray Brownies, girls 7- 10 years, Edlesborough Memorial Hall, 6 - 7.30pm, Sarah 01525 229194
- Mondays Dagnall Community Choir, All Saints Church 7.45 – 9.45pm
- Tuesdays Line Dancing, 1.30-3p.m., Eaton Bray Village Hall, Lyn Stubbs 220731
- Tuesdays Baby's First Cafe (Support for Breastfeeding mums), 10.15 - 11.45 am, Pitstone Memorial Hall
- Tuesdays Pilates, 10-11am, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Nicky Roussou 07861 161680
- Tuesdays Totternhoe Baby & Toddler Group, 9.30-11.30am, Totternhoe Village Hall, 07986 730922
- Tuesdays Northall Toddler Group, 9.30am-11.30am (10am-12noon Summer School Holidays Only), Northall Village Hall, Naomi 01525 376575/07977 564449
- Tuesdays Tap & Ballet Classes, JoAnn Latus School of Dance, 4-8pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall, 01582 620576
- Tuesdays Yoga, Dagnall Village Hall 7.45 – 9.15pm
- Tuesdays Coffee Morning, Bring & Buy, Table Top Sale, 10-12noon, Salvation Army Hall, Booth Place, Eaton Bray
- Fortnightly Cheeky Monkeys Under 5's Playtime, 1:00pm - 2:45pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Contact Louise on 07784 165259
- Weds
(term time) Pilates, 7.15pm, Northall Village Hall, Lisa: 01582 412426
- Wednesdays Egyptian Dance Class, 7–8.30pm at Eaton Bray Village Hall. Contact: Soraya 01525 853360
- Wednesdays Northall & District Age Concern Wednesday Club, 10am - 3pm, Northall Village Hall, Contact Anna 221996 or Julie 220153
- Wednesdays Surestart Sensory Play for under 5s, 1.30-3pm, Edlesborough Memorial Hall
- Thurs
(term time) Baby & Toddlers Group, Dagnall Village Hall, 12:45-2:45pm (12:30 if bringing lunch) £1 adult 50p child. Contact Faye 07746 120163 or Samantha 07882 903282
- Thursdays Yoga, Northall Village Hall, 11.30am-1pm 01525 377542
- Thursdays Keep fit, 2-4pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Mrs Johnson 220304
- Thursdays Kfa Body Moves 40+, Fitness through movement, exercise & dance. 8-9pm, Edlesborough School, Pat 01582 668735
- Thursdays Baby & Toddler Group, Salvation Army Hall, Booth Place, Eaton Bray, 9.30-11.30am
- Thursdays Keep Fit Edlesborough School, 8pm Tel: 01582 668735
- Thursdays Jazzercise, 9.30-10.30am, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Angela Veryard, 01525 715208
- Thursdays Grace Baptist Church (by the Post Office) Bible Study 7.30p.m.-9.00p.m. all welcome, Antony Coles 07848007977 or Peter Feben 01525 221048.
- Thursdays Karate, 7-9pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Brian Bates 07958 348086
- Fridays Tap & Ballet Classes, JoAnn Latus School of Dance, 4-8pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall, 01582 620576

Village Diaries October 2010

- Saturdays Jazzercise, 9.30-10.30am, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Angela Veryard, 01525 715208
- Saturdays Drama Class for Children, 10.35am-12.35pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Claire Casey, 07792 508591
- Sundays Grace Baptist Church (by the Post Office) prayer time 9.30am, main meeting 11.00am-12.00pm. All welcome, Antony Coles 07848007977, or Peter Feben 01525 221048.

Monthly

- 1st Monday Eaton Bray Parish Council Meeting, 7.30pm, The Coffee Tavern
- 1st Monday Eaton Bray W.I. Meeting, 7.30pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Contact Sheila Beal on 01525 221185
- 1st & 3rd Monday Knit n Stitch. 2pm-3.30pm. Coffee Tavern. Eaton Bray. Knitting, crochet & needlecraft. Tel Wendy 07908 828414. www.wendy-poole.co.uk
- 1st & 3rd Tuesday Dunstable & District Orbit (social and charitable) Club meet at Dunstable Rugby Club at 8pm. For details contact 01525 222441 or 01582 755147
- 2nd Tuesday Toddlers' Church, St Mary's, Eaton Bray, 2.00pm
- 2nd Tuesday Dunstable & District Local History Society meeting, 7.45pm, Methodist Church Hall, Dunstable (opposite Wilkinson)
- 2nd Tuesday Edlesborough W.I. Meeting, 7.30 pm, Edlesborough Memorial Hall
- 2nd Wednesday 8.15pm Healing Service in St Mary's Church
- 2nd Thursday CAMEO Coffee, tea & chat, 10am-12noon, Edlesborough Methodist Church
- 3rd Thursday Edlesborough Parish Council Meeting, 7.30pm, Memorial Hall
- 3rd Sunday Lunch club 11.30 to 2.00pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Chris Hewitt 222288

Other Regular Events

- 3rd Beds Area Narrow Gauge Model Railway Club, 11.30am-5pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall. Visitors welcome
- 8th Leukemia Research Coffee Morning, 2 Dunstable Road, Dagnall 10.30am., Sale of Christmas cards. All Welcome
- 9th Cafe Community, 11am-1pm, Eaton Bray Methodist Church
- 13th, 27th Bingo, Dagnall Village Hall 8pm
- 16th Village Market with hot snacks, local crafts and handmade fare, Edlesborough Memorial Hall, 9am-1pm
- 19th Over 60's, Sausage & Mash lunch. 1.30pm. Venue to be announced

One Off/Annual/Irregular Events

- 9th An evening of Egyptian dance, 7.30pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall, box office: 01525 853360
- 13th Northall & District Age Concern Wednesday Club Coffee Morning, 10-11.30am, Northall Village Hall
- 13th Edlesborough School Open Day, 9.15-10.30am
- 16th Tea Dance, 3-5.30pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall, tickets £7.50, 01525 222726
- 16th Rotary Club Charity Quiz Night, 7.30pm, Edlesborough Memorial Hall, £9, tickets: 01525 220018
- 22nd Dagnall Under 5s present A Psychic Evening from 7pm at Dagnall Village Hall Contact Samantha 07882 903282 for info and tickets
- 25th ELF Group walk 10.00am by Eaton Bray Church
- 30th Organ Concert by Andrew Nix. 7.30pm at Dagnall Village Hall, All welcome

EATON BRAY PARISH COUNCIL

Please come and help to run your village

The Parish Council consists of nine members of the public

We come to each Parish Council Meeting in the Coffee Tavern on the 1st Monday of each month and spend on average around four hours each month advising and helping to run our village

At present we have two vacancies – will YOU come and join us?

If yes, please contact the Parish Clerk

You can also look at our website for more details

Mrs Heidi Head, Clerk to Eaton Bray Parish Council

Parish Office: 20 Good Intent, Edlesborough, Dunstable, Beds, LU6 2RD

Email: clerk@ebpc.co.uk Telephone/Fax: 01525 221464 Website: www.ebpc.co.uk



*Edlesborough School
are holding an*

Open Day

*for prospective parents on
Wednesday 13th October
from 9.15 – 10.30 a.m.*

We look forward to seeing you

Edlesborough Post Office

Summerleys, Edlesborough, LU6 2HH

Opening Times

Monday	09:00 - 17:30
Tuesday	09:00 - 17:30
Wednesday	09:00 - 13:00
Thursday	09:00 - 17:30
Friday	09:00 - 17:30
Saturday	09:00 - 12:30

Closed for lunch 13.00 - 14.00

**Eaton Bray Village Hall
requires a**

Part time Caretaker

This is a paid position

For further details contact

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DAUGHTERS OF ISIS

Saturday
9th October
2010

7.30pm
at
Eaton Bray Village Hall,
Church Lane, Eaton Bray

An evening of Ancient and Modern Egyptian Dance -
performed by Wings of Isis and Eaton Bray
Egyptian Dance Class

Light refreshments
Raffle

Egyptian Bazaar



BOX ■ 01525 853360
OFFICE ■ 07976 964316

Eaton Bray
Methodist
Church
invites you to
**Café
Community**

Saturday 9th October 2010

11.00am to 1.00pm

Relax & chat with friends,
coffee/light lunch

Theme: "Are saints a trick or a treat?"
Charity of the month: Albatross protection.

All ages welcome
(activity inc. pumpkin lanterns)



Northall and District Age Concern

WEDNESDAY CLUB

COFFEE MORNING

Wed 13th October 2010
10am to 11.30am

Entrance 50p
(donation to include coffee)

Sale Table * Cake Table
Raffle

Please come and meet our lovely
members and support our local cause.
New members welcome - please speak
to Julie (220153) or Anna (221996)
We meet weekly from 10am to 3pm
at Northall Village Hall to enjoy home
cooked lunch.

THE BEDFORDSHIRE AREA GROUP
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10.00AM to 4.30PM - ADULTS £4.00
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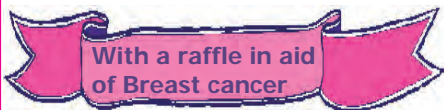
FOR FULL DETAILS SEE OUR WEB SITE
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DAGNALL UNDER 5'S
presents

PSYCHIC EVENING

Friday 22nd October
7pm onwards
Dagnall Village Hall

Contact Samantha
07882 903282
for information/tickets



Edlesborough Under 5's

AUTUMN BAZAAR

WEDNESDAY 3rd November
2-4pm

EDLESBOROUGH
MEMORIAL HALL

Entrance is Free
Everyone Welcome!
Great ideas for Christmas gifts
AND a great opportunity to have
your children photographed!
Refreshments and delicious
homemade cakes will be served

Vauxhall Male Voice Choir

"IN CONCERT"

With

Rachel Maloy - (Soprano)

at

Eaton Bray Church

on

Saturday 27th November 2010
at 7:30 pm

Admission:- £8-00

Licensed Bar will be available

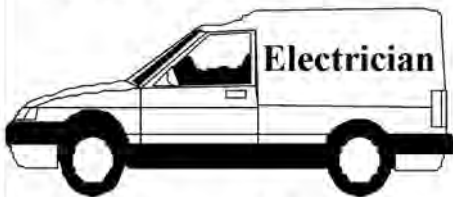
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The Charity Ball
In aid of Have a Heart
 Saturday 30th October 2010
 7pm to sit down for 7.30pm
 Eversholt Hall, Bedfordshire

*Tickets £50 each, tables of 10 available
 for £45 per person.
 Dress Code: Black Tie
 Champagne Reception, 3 Course Dinner,
 Auction, Raffle, DJ Matt King and
 The Hurricanes

To book tickets contact Sarah Molloy on 07900
 984561 or Maggie Higon on 07900 218209 or
 email sarahandmaggiehaveaheart@gmail.com
 Charity number 1091657

DAGNALL OVER 60'S CLUB
 PRESENT
 A Wonderful
 MUSICAL EVENING
 SATURDAY OCTOBER 30th 2010
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 7.30pm
 with a visit of
ANDREW NIX
 on Roland Atelier Organ
 TICKETS £7 *Including Refreshments*
RAFFLE
 All proceeds towards Dagnall Over 60's

Offenders

Have you seen people in your neighbourhood wearing bright orange bibs and cleaning up graffiti? They're part of a scheme called Community Payback which seeks to make offenders pay back the community for their crimes. They wear bright orange bibs so you can see that justice is being done. The scheme has been used in Prebendal Farm, Mandeville, and Elm Farm in Aylesbury following requests from residents for graffiti and litter to be cleaned up. This work benefits the community and means the offenders pay back the community for their crimes, something you have told us you want to see.

Projects can include removing graffiti, picking up litter, repairing and decorating community buildings, and working on environmental projects. Community Payback is a tough and visible consequence for people who have committed a crime. About 300'000 hours of community service, or approximately £1.5m of free labour is provided each year to communities across Thames Valley.

To nominate a project for the offenders to work on, email info@thamesvalley.probation.gsi.gov.uk or call 01869 328500.



TEA DANCE



*Put on your dancing shoes
for a fun afternoon
dancing to the music of yesterday
with a delicious
traditional afternoon tea*

It's all happening at
*Eaton Bray Village Hall
Saturday 16th October
from 3.00 - 5.30pm*



Tickets £7.50 from
Vivienne Grundy 01525 222726 and Sheila Banks 01525 221556

ROTARY CLUB OF
DUNSTABLE DOWNS

CHARITY QUIZ

SATURDAY 16 OCTOBER 2010
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7.15PM FOR 7.30PM START

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Edlesborough Village Market

16th October

Edlesborough

Memorial Hall

9am - 1pm

Hot snacks * Local crafts

Handmade fare

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Pet foods

This is going to be a regular event
with Christmas markets
in Nov and Dec



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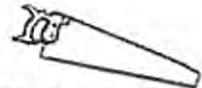
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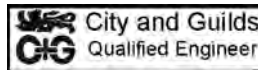
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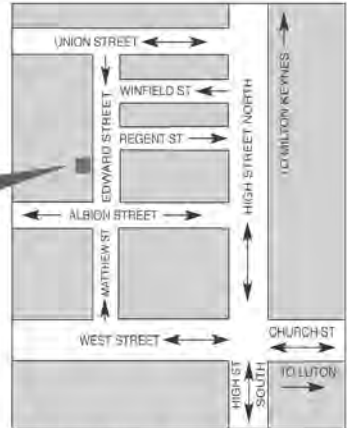
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Don't Fall Foul of the Law

Central Bedfordshire Council is asking dog owners to show consideration for other residents by using poop-scoops and dog waste bins when they are out walking their pets after receiving 268 complaints in the last year.



The council's dog wardens have the power to hand out fixed penalties of £75 to any dog owners caught failing to clear up after their pet when it's in a public place.

Cllr David McVicar, Portfolio Holder for Safer Communities and Healthier Lifestyles at Central Bedfordshire Council said: "With over 620 dog bins installed across Central Bedfordshire, there is no excuse for not doing the right thing. People take pride in their community but public areas are becoming blighted by dog mess.

"I would urge all dog owners to act responsibly or face receiving a fixed penalty if they fail to clear up after their pets. Dog mess is the public's most hated type of litter and it is dangerous.

"People may not realise that Toxocariasis - an infection of the round worm - is spread via dog faeces and young children are particularly at risk due to their weaker immune systems.

"The Council has already successfully prosecuted a resident for not cleaning up after his pet and I hope that all dog owners do their bit in keeping our pavements and parks mess-free."

Dog walkers must scoop their dog's mess up from all designated land to which the public have access. Designated land includes:

- Footways and paths, including public footpaths
- Play areas, picnic sites and outdoor eating places
- Sport playing pitches including 5 metre border
- Formal parks and land where the grass is cut
- Land outside schools and hospitals
- Car parks, public transport bays and surrounds
- Cycle ways and surfaced areas near to houses
- Shopping areas, markets and public circulation areas
- Cemeteries and war memorials
- Land surrounding toilets, recycling sites and public buildings

If you want to report a problem with dog mess, please call 0300 300 8631 (North)/8632 (South) or email customer.services@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

If you are a dog owner, here are some things you can do to help;

1. If you walk your dog always carry the means to clear up after them. A simple plastic bag will do the trick or buy a poop scoop from a local pet shop
2. You can also buy biodegradable plastic "Doggy Bags" from the a number of pet supply retailers
3. Every time your dog fouls, bag it and bin it. Take the poop scoop home and dispose of it there or use one of the bins if available. Remember rain does not wash the problem away.
4. Never let your dog out alone to "go to the loo".



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Childcare Sufficiency Assessment

Central Bedfordshire Council is currently conducting the statutory Childcare Sufficiency Assessment. On the Central Bedfordshire website, under quick links, questionnaires can be found in which parents, employers and childcare providers are asked to give their opinions on Childcare in their area. From this we hope to identify any gaps in the childcare market and any areas of improvement.

www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk



Dagnall Under Fives

Dagnall Under Fives would like to welcome back all our lovely children this term.

At the end of last term before all our “grown up” children left for school, we had an end of term outing to Grove PYO farm in Ivinghoe. Plenty of fruit and vegetables were picked and some even made it home! After a play in the playground area and a picnic lunch we said our goodbyes, a great day was had by all.

We hope all our “grown up” children are enjoying themselves at their new schools.

This term our topics are farms & people who help us. We are hoping to have another visit from the Fire Service which the children always thoroughly enjoy.

Our morning sessions run from 9.15am-12.15pm at Dagnall Village Hall.

If you would be interested in visiting to find out if your child would be happy here please contact Ann Tobin on 07816 358342.

On Thursdays straight after the session there is a Mums & Toddlers group for under 5s. £1 adult 50p per child.

There is a children’s library where children can borrow a book for 50p per week (all proceeds to Dagnall Under 5s). We eat our packed lunches from 12.30pm, then play until we stop for snack time and finish our afternoon fun with a story.

Please contact Faye on 0774 6120163 or Samantha on 07882 903282 for more information.

For fundraising this month, we present a psychic evening on Friday 22nd October from 7pm at Dagnall Village Hall. For more information/tickets please contact Samantha on 07882903282, there will also be a raffle in aid of breast cancer on the night.

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Eaton Bray Lawn Tennis Club

Well it's been an event packed summer at EBLTC so I've no time for idle banter this month. As if I'd ever do that. So let's start with our Summer League results, where we entered 5 teams competing against such mighty opposition as Luton & Vauxhall, Linslade and our local derby



opponents Edlesborough (although there's never any crowd trouble, and there's not a single vuvuzela to be heard thank goodness). In total our teams played 33 matches, winning 17 of them (over half!) with the stars of the show being our Men's C team who won 6 out of their 7 matches, just one more win than our Men's B team. In terms of overall scores, our teams achieved 369 points against the opposition's 311, so another 'victory'! It's possible that our C team may get promoted next season, although look what happens when West Brom and Burnley do that – usually straight back down again. So we may claim insanity and stay where we are – these things are all sorted out by people a lot further up the tennis hierarchy than me! But overall an excellent season's campaign, and congratulations to all the EBLTC players who took part and played so proudly for our club.

From Summer to Winter. It's still not too late to join our club if you'd like to try some tennis over the cooler months (at bargain discounted rates of course...) - committee member Glenn has once again brushed the mothballs off his ZX-81 and compiled a competition spreadsheet so hugely complicated that an Enigma operator would have been proud to crack it, and only a very brainy one at that. However once he explained it to the committee in a meeting that lasted several days, all eventually became clear, and the long and short of it is that we're running a winter league where you can play about once a month on a Sunday from October through to March; this is organised around our normal Sunday social sessions. Players are placed in a section according to their standard, so it's open to absolutely everyone, and should be a lot of fun. The winner is awarded the Mike Venn trophy in memory of one of our club's founding members. Last year over 30 members played in the league, with Kevin Todd coming out as overall winner, So please do call us if you'd like to take part; as I've said we're very cheap at this time of year ☺

What next...? Ah yes the Chairman's barbecue. I can report on a good sized gathering in early September comprising of members aged from 4 months to, well, a tad older. Chairman Bernadette Hillman once again hosted whilst husband Dave was put in charge of burning the steaks and spilling the wine (although Peter Hale was in charge of spilling the beer). In fact the steaks were huge and juicy, the chicken was cooked to perfection and the beer and wine flowed as freely as the Zambezi (mostly onto the Hillman's decking). Young Sophie Anne Booth, our newest recruit, was passed around for several members to coo at without once crying (Sophie, not the members), so we're sure she's made of stern enough stuff to lead our Ladies team one day. Maybe, Rosie and Jon, you can get her up to the courts on a Sunday morning? It's never too young to start, so they say, and we have some quite small racquets and can lower the net a bit. Oh gosh this is exhausting, so much news. I'm all worn out. So to our club Final's day which took place on 11th September. 'Focus' have very kindly 'held the front page' for

these results, and it was worth it! We saw two relatively new club members walk away (quite slowly) with championships. Stuart Adolph, with partner Jane Wigley, took the Mixed Doubles title in a tight match against Danielle Tansley and Martin Clarke. In the Ladies Doubles, Jan Hale and Judy Venn beat Carole Thorp and Des Antoniou in a game umpired by yours truly; I performed this task from ground level, due to the extremely small seat at the top of the steps not fitting my body shape. This was Judy's fourth title since the inception of the tournament in 1989, but Jan's first, so there was much celebration in the Hale household that evening. During a quiet moment in the scoring, I decided to add up the player's ages which, when added to mine, made a total of 307. I think that must be some sort of record for 5 people on a tennis court, unless of course Ilie Nastase and Billie Jean King made a comeback.

The Men's Doubles was another close contest with another recently-joined member taking the title; John Slater and partner Darren Kerins got the better of Nick Boys and Glenn Wigley, and Darren went one better in the Men's Singles beating an in-form Keith Hillman in another excellent contest. This was, believe it or not, Darren's 24th title, an average of 1.4 a year since his first back in 1993. Now that will take some beating, and I'm planning to start with my first next year; I reckon I can beat Darren by the time I'm 108. In the meantime, congratulations are due to Stuart Adolph and John Slater for making such a rapid rise up the club rankings and taking their first tournament titles, and most certainly not their last! Just wait until they meet me, though...

For any further information about the club, including when we get together for our social tennis sessions up at the School Lane courts, or our various activities, you can visit our website at www.ebltc.org.uk; Alternatively please call Chairman Bernadette Hillman on 01525 222531, Coach Sara Leavy on 07561 571578, or if they're all out and I'm not busy with some secret coaching, me, Andy Cross on 01582 477114.



Darren Kerins serving on his way to victory in the Men's Singles



Ladies' Doubles champions Jan Hale and Judy Venn on the left, with runner's up Carole Thorpe and Des Antoniou



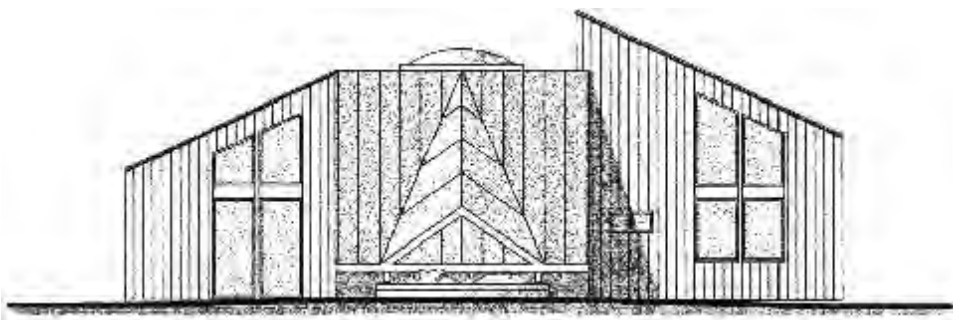
Eaton Bray Lower School

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EDaN Buses & Transportation

Just a little update to keep you all in the picture with what we have been up to recently. On July 8th members of the EDaN Action groups gave a presentation to Edlesborough Parish Council, Buses & Transportation being one of those groups. The evening was well attended and very informative for all.

It was lovely for all the groups to mingle over a glass of wine or cup of tea and enjoy those wonderful cakes made by the ladies of Edlesborough Parish Council. Thank you very much ladies, they were yummy!!

B&T have had a break over the Summer and we held our next meeting on Friday 24th September. We have invited a speaker from Bucks Community Action to come and talk to our group about "Community Transport" to help us understand how we might take this idea forward.

As usual we will keep you updated on our progress.

If any of you would like to join our group, please call Kathy Bovington on 01442 842796 or email kathybovington@hotmail.com



EDaN Beautification Team

BREAKING NEWS :

After 2 years' 'wrangling', the team have finally gained permission to site an octagonal flower planter in the middle of Dagnall roundabout. We have been looking to improve this eyesore in the village since the publication of the Parish Plan and are very pleased to at last have the opportunity to beautify this bland edifice.

Wheels are also in motion for a central village sign in Northall, similar to the stunning sign on Edlesborough green. Our team have been working to design a sign depicting areas of local interest and we are sure you will be delighted with the result.

Our flower planters throughout the 3 villages have been well looked-after during and summer; thank you to everyone who has been making sure they survived the hot, dry periods, they look beautiful. We shall shortly be replacing the summer bedding with autumn to spring colour from Garden Scene in Eaton Bray, who also supplied this year's lovely plants.

We have, unfortunately, had to cancel Halloween on the Green, owing to a clash of dates involving the younger families in the community. We will endeavour to ensure this does not happen in the future and apologise for any disappointment it may have caused. In the meantime, we are working even harder towards Mayday on Edlesborough Green, on Sunday 1st May 2011 and if anyone has any suggestions or offers of help in line with a traditional country fayre, please contact Christine – 220739 or chris@brooklyns.org.uk



NORTHALL BAPTIST CHAPEL

Chapel Lane, Northall

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

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

For more information contact: Steve and Helen Orchard 01525 373106

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

Eaton Bray with Edlesborough Parish News

Pastoral Matters: The Rev'd John Heffer, 35 Pebblemoor, Edlesborough (220618)

Associate Minister: Revd Canon Christine Farrington (01582 793409)

Reader: Gordon Gray (220136)

Church Wardens: Peter Bennett (221284) and Graham Mockett (01582 668210)

Parish Administrator: Elisabeth Ryder (07890 718117)

Web contact: eatonbraychurch@aol.com

As many of you will know our Vicar, Roger Chapman, has suffered a long period of illness since his licensing in November last year and, as a consequence, he has now decided to take early retirement from the end of August 2010. He, his wife Gill and their son John-Daniel left Eaton Bray at the end of that month and are now back in their home in Hertfordshire. Roger was only active as our Vicar for three weeks, but during that time many people met him and were kind enough to tell us of their high hopes for the future. Sadly it was a future that was not to be. Our love and prayers go with them and we pray especially for Roger's rapid return to good health. By the time you read this, the post of Vicar will have been advertised both in the Church Times and on the Diocesan and Church websites and we hope to be well into the process of selecting Roger's successor.

Despite the fact that we are without a Vicar, the Churchwardens would like to reassure everyone in the Parish that St Mary's Eaton Bray continues to fulfil its role in the Community. From the list above you will see that if you wish to speak to a **member of the Clergy** then Father John Heffer or Canon Christine Farrington will be happy to receive your call or visit you at home. Additionally, Gordon Gray, our Reader, is always a good Christian counsellor if you are in need of a chat. If you wish to discuss a **Christening or Baptism** then 'phone Elisabeth Ryder. If a **Wedding** is what you have in mind then call Jenny Hewett on 220295. If all else fails or if none of the above is quite what you want then the Churchwardens are always around to point you in the right direction or to offer advice.

But the involvement of St Marys with the Community is not just about Christenings, Weddings and Funerals. Did you know that the **Focus** Magazine started off life as the Church Magazine and that the **Annual Carnival** is not only the biggest event of its kind in the area but is also an event run under the care of St Mary's Church. Elsewhere in the magazine you will find mention of various Church activities but here is a rundown of what is going on over the next few months.

Sat Oct 16th

Tea Dance in Eaton Bray Village Hall

Sat Nov 20th

Christmas Fair in Eaton Bray Village Hall

Sat Nov 27th

Concert by The Vauxhall Choir in St Mary's Eaton Bray at 7.30 pm

Fri Dec 3rd to Sun Dec 5th

Christmas Tree Festival in St Mary's Eaton Bray

Sun Dec 12th

Carols at All Saints Dagnall at 4.00pm

Sat Dec 18th

Carols at St Mary's Edlesborough at 4.00pm

Sun Dec 19th

Carols at St Mary's Eaton Bray at 6.00pm

Sat Dec 24th

Candle Services in St Mary's Eaton Bray at 4.15pm & 6.00 pm

As you will see this is altogether a packed and exciting calendar of events showing that the Church of St Mary the Virgin in Eaton Bray is very much alive and well - do come along to see us. You will always be very **welcome**.

Peter Bennett & Graham Mockett
Churchwardens

From the Parish Registers

Baptisms – “Brought to new birth in the family of the Church”

30 May 2010 Grace Olivia Louise Dixon & Lewis William Dixon
25 July 2010 Ruby Helena Hollins & Brandon Thomas Hollins
22 August 2010 Jessica Louise Bideau & Polly Francis Lloyd

Weddings – “To love and to cherish till death us do part”

25 June 2010 Barry Lee Morrison & Hollie Michelle Cheesewright
14 August 2010 Mark Raymond Stanbridge & Felicity Anne French

Funerals – “Grant them, O Lord, eternal rest”

17 May 2010 Robert Colin Jones
8 June 2010 Pamela Ann Tickell
16 August 2010 Joan Elizabeth Willis

Parishioners may, if they wish, enter the names of loved ones who have died in the Years Mind book. The Book can be found on the Bookcase in Church. Names are read out at the 10 o'clock Sunday service that is immediately before the anniversary of their death.

Services at St Mary's Church

SUNDAYS :

8.00am HOLY COMMUNION
10.00am PARISH SUNG HOLY COMMUNION
On Third Sunday of each month:

10.00am – WORSHIP FOR EVERYONE a shorter, less formal service for families. (For anyone wishing to attend a service where Holy Communion is offered, there is a Family Communion at 10.30am at All Saints' Church, Dagnall, where visitors are assured of a warm welcome).

WEEK-DAYS :

Tuesday: **2.00pm** Toddlers' Church (2nd Tuesday)
Wednesday: **10.00am** Holy Communion

EVERYONE WELCOME AT THESE SERVICES

Dunstable & District Orbit Club

Dunstable & District Orbit Club recently had a speaker from Action for Children attend their meeting to receive a cheque for £817.17 which was raised from our quiz night back in April. She explained all about what they do, how they help young people and how young carers get support.

Orbit is a social and charitable club and meet every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at Dunstable Rugby Club. We welcome new faces. Please contact 01525 222441 for more information.

Highlights Of The Meeting For Eaton Bray Parish Council

Held in The Coffee Tavern on Monday 6th September 2010 at 7:30pm

CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE REPRESENTATIVE/S

Ward Cllr Ken Janes attended the meeting. He informed the meeting that there is to be a new application for development at the Five Bells site.

POLICE REPORT

There were 20 recorded crimes within Eaton Bray Parish for July/August.

Theft/Burglaries: There has been a rise in burglaries to sheds/garages. The police wished to remind all residents to ensure that they keep their shed/garages locked and secure at all times.

Speed Checks: The police carried out seven separate speed checks within the parish during June/July. From those checks 36 people have been dealt with for exceeding the speed limit.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

Recreation Ground Improvements: Due to enquiries with regards to the entrance into the School Lane car park/recreation ground the council are looking into the possibility of improving the entrance; e.g. the installation of a pedestrian access separate to car access and the costs involved.

Parish Notice Boards: Due to a poster/notice recently being stuck to the front panel of a notice board which requires removal, the council wish to remind people that should they wish to have a notice/poster displayed in a parish notice board to contact the clerk direct.

Additional Dog Bins: In response to a request for an additional dog bin it was felt as there are now 11 Dog Hygiene Bins situated around the parish there is no immediate need for an additional bin. However, the council will monitor this situation.

Parish Trees: The council are in the process of assessing parish trees and obtaining quotes for those that require pruning/cutting back.

Hedges: An increasing number of hedges are not being trimmed back by the property owners and are therefore encroaching onto public footpaths. The council will be writing to the owners concerned requesting them to cut back their hedges.

Cemetery: The new notice board has been fitted in the cemetery and the council are in the process of putting together relevant notices to be displayed.

PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE: www.ebpc.co.uk

A full copy of the minutes for Eaton Bray Parish Council can be found on our website.

CONTACT DETAILS FOR EATON BRAY PARISH COUNCIL/CLERK

Office Hours: Tuesday/Thursday/Friday 09:30-13:30hrs [messages can be left on answer phone]

Parish Office: 20 Good Intent, Edlesborough, LU6 2RD [Tel/Fax 01525 221464 & Email clerk@ebpc.co.uk]

Emergency contact only: Chairman of Parish Council 01525 220177

Eaton Bray Parish Council Meetings

1st Monday of each month

7:30pm The Coffee Tavern

Next Meetings: Mon 4th Oct

Mon 1st Nov

Dagnall News

Over 60's

During August we had a most enjoyable trip to Crich in Derbyshire to visit the Tram Museum. A day out which was appreciated by all members who were present.

In September we are lunching at one of our favourite venues, The Cock at Wing, a successful occasion always enjoyed by everyone.

In October we are planning our annual Sausage and Mash followed by Apple Pie. This should be in the Village Hall but at the present time it is doubtful due to the ongoing work in the kitchen. Should we have to change the venue, members will be advised.

On October 30th at 7.30 p.m we have our Musical evening in the village hall, with Andrew Nix at the organ. All proceeds will be for Over 60's Funds. Tickets are now on sale, priced £7 to include refreshments. For tickets please contact our Chairman Roy Castledine on 01 442 842048.

Dagnall Community Choir

WARNING OF DANGER OF SEDUCTION AT DAGNALL COMMUNITY CHOIR!

At one of our recent weekly practice sessions, Stuart Harding, our much enjoyed Choir Master, sat amongst our bass section and at the end of one of the songs he pointed out that some were actually singing the tune, normally a privilege only enjoyed by the jammy sopranos. In strident tones he said " Do not be seduced by seemingly easier notes".

Despite these and other distractions, we are working hard on preparations for our next concert at St. Marys Church, Edlesborough which will have been performed by the time that you read this. We hope that you enjoyed what you heard.

As well as the four Villages, we have members from as far afield as Hemel H., Luton, Houghton Regis, Caddington, etc. So if you would like to be part of the intercounty success story please phone either Geoff Ward (01442 843515) or Val Lumley (01442 842214) for details and you will be welcome to join in with our preparations for Christmas and beyond.

2010 British Legion Poppy Appeal – Eaton Bray

Keith and Jean Stanley have organised the annual Royal British Legion poppy appeal in Eaton Bray for the last ten years. Our thanks go to them for the superb job that they have done.



They have now handed the job of local poppy appeal organisers over to us and I sincerely hope that we will do justice to it. We will contact all the house to house collectors on Keith and Jean's list (apart from those that we know are standing down this year) closer to the time. We will also supply local shops and premises with poppies and collecting boxes as before.

If you could help the appeal by giving a few hours of your time to collect house to house from one or two roads in Eaton Bray then please contact us. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

Roger and Helen Wilkinson, Phone: 01525 221137

Edlesborough Parish Council News

(including Edlesborough, Dagnall and Northall)

Village Freighter

The dates will remain on the report as a reminder to enable parishioners to make use of the Freighter visits

Edlesborough Tues 23rd Nov 7.30am – 11.00am in the Memorial Hall car park

Dagnall Thurs 18th Nov 7.30am – 11.00am in Dagnall Village Hall car park

Northall Wed 24th Nov 12noon – 3.30pm in Northall Village Hall car park

Notice to residents of Edlesborough and Eaton Bray that Mink have been seen along the brook which runs between the two boundaries, traps have been laid. Mink are not a protected species and are known to attack any other animals therefore a close eye should be kept on all pets.

Memorial Hall

New boilers have been installed and redecoration taken place during the summer

Memorial Hall car park

Consideration is being given by the Parish Council with a view to extending the car park thereby doubling up the number of parking spaces to include pedestrian gateways.

Pavilion

The Parish Council would apologise for the recent unsightly appearance of the Pavilion. As what would hoped to have been a deterrent for footballs constantly being kicked against the Pavilion and damaging the guttering and roof tiles protective netting was put up but this was vandalised within a week. Other methods of endeavouring to protect the roof and guttering are being considered. 2 further seats are to be placed immediately outside the Pavilion.

Allotments

There is now a waiting list for allotments in Edlesborough and Dagnall. Allotment rents will be collected on Saturday 9th October at Edlesborough Memorial Hall 9.00am – 12noon and Sunday 10th October at Dagnall 10.30am-12noon. To avoid unnecessary administration it would be appreciated if tenants could arrange to pay rents on the given dates.

Road Safety

White lining should be taking place shortly outside Edlesborough School.

Litter Bins

Several new larger litter bins have now been around the perimeter of the Green which will be collected by the weekly Refuse Collection service. The yellow bins will be removed apart from the ones in the childrens' play area, adjoining the Tennis Courts and in the Pavilion car park.

Northall/Edlesborough

Some work has been carried out on the footpaths in Northall and towards Edlesborough, the remainder will be carried out in due course when Highways gangs are working in the area.

Best Kept Village Competition

Despite not winning this year Edlesborough village

**Edlesborough
Parish Council Meetings**
3rd Thursday monthly
7.30pm Memorial Hall
Next meeting: Thurs 21st Oct

received a Certificate of Merit

Thames Valley Police will be attending the Parish Council in October meeting, when parishioners are very welcome to attend to put any concerns they may have to the Police.

Lin Sargeant – Clerk to Edlesborough Parish Council – Tel: 01525 220859

E-mail: parish.council.clerk@edlesborough.gov.uk

Website: www.edlesborough.gov.uk

Edlesborough Memorial Hall Booking Secretary: Beverly Sage – Tel: 01525 229509

Energy Rebate Scheme

From June, the government is introducing the Energy Rebate Scheme. Under the scheme, electricity suppliers will be giving £80 off electricity bills to all eligible customers. This rebate is a one off for this year only.

Customers will be eligible if, on 26 March, they or their partners:

were aged 70 or over and were receiving the guarantee credit element of pension credit but not the savings credit element (those receiving both will not be eligible for the rebate) and were responsible for the electricity account where they live and were not on a discounted tariff. A discounted tariff includes energyplus care, Energy Assist, Essentials, Fresh Start, First Step Tariff, Price Promise, Spreading Warmth Tariff, StayWarm (and receiving a social discount), and WarmAssist.

A partner means a member of a couple who are married, civil partners or living together as if they were married or civil partners.

The rebate does not apply to those who, on 26 March:

were living permanently in a care home or were in hospital getting free in-patient treatment and had been doing so for more than 52 weeks.

All eligible customers will get a letter informing them about the scheme by the end of July. The rebate will be awarded automatically to those eligible customers and will appear on the next bill received after June. Those eligible customers on prepayment meters may get a post office voucher to cash in, a top-up to their card or a cheque. Their supplier will let them know how they can claim their rebate.

Customers who are not automatically eligible may receive a letter asking them to contact the Energy Rebate Scheme Claims Helpline before 31 August in order to check whether they qualify for the rebate.

If customers were eligible on 26 March, but have subsequently died, their estate will still receive the rebate. A letter will be sent to the estate of the deceased informing them of how to claim the rebate.

More information about the Scheme can be found on the Directgov website at www.direct.gov.uk or by calling the Energy Rebate Scheme Helpline on 0845 600 033 (Monday to Friday 8am to 8pm).

Customers with speech or hearing difficulties can contact the Energy Rebate Scheme using the textphone on 0845 606 0285 and 0845 606 0295 (for the Welsh language).

For more information contact the Citizens Advice Bureau, Grove House, High Street North, Dunstable. Tel: 01582 661384.

Would you like to join our volunteers? Please contact the above number for more information on volunteering opportunities at Dunstable Bureau.



Jamie Clark

Richard, Jane, Andrew and Leanne would like to thank all those who attended Jamie's Memorial and made it such an amazing celebration. Also thank you to all at St Mary's Eaton Bray for their help and support on the day

We would also like to thank all of you, friends, family and even those people who we don't know for their kind messages and their support during these last few months.

Jamie would have been so touched to have known how many people cared about him.

St Mary's Ladies Guild Report

During the Summer months, the Guild members have been delighted to welcome their guest speakers and enjoy fellowship and teas together.

After devotions led by Deirdrea on Fellowship and Friendship, Bryan and Megan Daniels showed slides of a two week holiday on 'the Beauty of South Africa'.

Megan had prepared the commentary to accompany the wonderful pictures of the scenery, varied fauna, flora, animals and birds of South Africa. It was lovely to sit back and be transported to this wonderful country.

In September, after the devotions taken by Christine Hallaway, Lieutenant Colonel Brian Knightley and his wife Dorothy, told of their work within the Salvation Army. Its ministry is motivated by the love of God, with its mission being to preach the gospel and to meet human needs without discrimination.

Brian spoke of the background of William Booth who walked the streets of London to preach the gospel to the poor, the homeless, the hungry and the destitute. He then travelled throughout England conducting evangelical meetings, greatly assisted by his wife Catherine.

Dorothy showed us the elegant bonnet that used to be worn, plus the up to date replacement which was more practical.

They were fascinating to listen to and the sincerity of their work and service was obvious.

Next months meeting is on Wednesday 13th October at 2.00pm in the church, when Vivienne Grundy will be teaching crafts and the making of covered Christmas baubles. There will be a raffle and bring and buy stall towards the Mercy Ship and Smile Train project.

The Autumn Guild outing will be on Wednesday 20th October leaving the church at 9.30am to Bicester Avenue Garden Centre, which won the store 'Design of the Year' award in 2008, then onto Yarnton Antique and Garden Centre after lunch.

Please contact June Thorne on 220260 if you would like to join us. Cost £16.

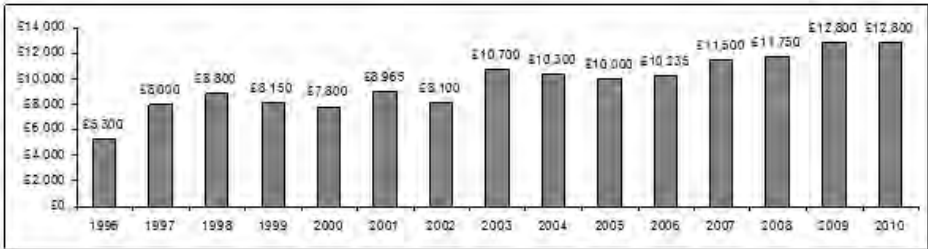
Any visitors would be welcome to join us to hear the speakers and enjoy sharing tea and fellowship together each month.

Deirdrea

St Mary's Village Carnival 2010

Now that the dust has settled from this year's Carnival we are able to let you know that the Organisers have been able to donate the magnificent sum of £12,800 – the same

total that was achieved in 2009 despite the more difficult economic climate. A massive 'THANK YOU' to everyone who has contributed to this total in any way.



As usual, half of the money is for St Mary's Fabric Fund, half of the remainder goes to our principle charity, the Keech Hospice care and the rest has been distributed among local (or locally connected) good causes, in line with commitments resulting from the Carnival or as requested by people in the villages, as follows:

St Mary's Fabric Fund	£6,400	Expedition - Gemma Johnson World Scout Jubilee	£75
Keech Hospice Care	£3,200	Expedition - Jack Blumsom	£75
1st E Bray & Edlesborough Scout Group	£100	Expedition - James Tate World Scout Jubilee	£75
Age Concern	£75	Expedition - Miguel Garcia World Scout Jubilee	£75
Appledown Rescue	£100	Expedition - Nick Marshall World Scout Jubilee	£75
Cystic Fibrosis	£100	Expedition - Sara Fisher World Scout Jubilee	£75
Dunstable Downs Rotary Club (Hospice at Home Volunteers)	£50	Expedition - Matthew Johnson World Scout Jubilee	£75
Dunstable & District Handicapped Typing Club	£50	Hospice of St Francis at Berkhamsted	£125
Dunstable Round Table	£50	Lionheart Explorer Group	£150
Eaton Bray Lions AFC	£125	Midshires	£50
Eaton Bray Lower School	£100	MK Macintyre Home	£125
Eaton Bray Methodist Church	£50	Orbit	£100
Eaton Bray Parish Council	£75	Police Charity Fund - Beds	£100
EB Village Hall	£125	Police Charity Fund - Thames Valley	£100
EDaN Project	£75	Salvation Army	£50
Edlesborough Parish Council	£75	St John's Ambulance	£300
Expedition - Amy Ryder	£225	Stray Cat Rescue	£50
Expedition - Cody Plaats World Scout Jubilee	£75	Taskers Row Sheltered Housing Scheme	£75

Over the past 15 years St Mary's Village Carnival has raised almost £150,000 for local good causes, with 124 organisations / good causes receiving money.

The Organising Committee have already started making preparations for next year's Carnival which, as usual, will take place on the first Saturday in July – 2 July 2011 – when the theme will be 'Pirates'.

If you would like to suggest a principle charity for next year or have ideas or offers for the event please ring Gordon Gray on 220136 or leave a message via the website – www.stmarysvillagecarnival.com

Hopefully we'll see you there.



Northall & District Age Concern Wednesday Club

A reflection on what the Wednesday club means to its members, written by a member who had missed a few weeks whilst poorly.

Thank you for your good wishes
And also your lovely card.
Not coming here on Wednesday
I've been finding it so hard.
How I've missed your first hellos
Then all your newsy chat
Not coming here on Wednesday
Makes the week so very flat.
I hear the sad announcements
Stating who will not be there
Never dreamt I would be one of them
But life's not all that fair.

A different luncheon every time
It is always such a treat,
But stuck at home on Wednesday
I am not so keen to eat.

Then the Raffle and the Bingo
And Enid shouting 'Line'

For more details about our Wednesday Club contact Julie 220153 and Anna 221996

We all know it has been taken
Still, yelling 'House' is fine.
Here the minutes go so quickly
And too soon its time to go
But being home on Wednesday
The time goes very slow.
Enjoy the break if you somehow can
And I hope to see you after.
Wednesdays will be great again
Our pains might go with laughter.

Ellen Lewis

P.S.

Maybe some bleak days are ahead
So what do you think you'll do?
Read a book or watch T.V.?
Or you could write a poem too

AGE
Concern

Help Needed for The Baby's First Café

The Baby's First Café is a drop in centre, based in Pitstone, offering help, information and support to breastfeeding and pregnant mums (and their supporters). It is open to all mums, wherever they live, and gives them a place to relax, talk and breastfeed in a friendly, calm and informal atmosphere. The café is staffed by trained volunteers and Health Professionals, who can provide one-to-one consultations if required.

We **urgently** need more volunteers of all ages and backgrounds to act as:

Peer Supporters: Mums who were successful at breastfeeding and can talk to other mums about what they will go through.
(Training will be provided)

Hostesses: To make teas/coffees etc., and help prepare the room and clear up.

If you have a couple of hours to spare on a Tuesday morning (as little or as often as you like), or simply wish to know more about the Baby's First Café, please contact your Health Visitor, or Jill Latch, Pitstone Surgery, Yardley Ave., Pitstone. LU7 9BE. 01296 663784

Fairway Travel
Taxi & Airport Services

Peter J Dixon

Chauffeur Service

7 days a week

Call for free quotation

Mobile: 07951 831905

Edlesborough W.I.

Kathie Froud was thanked at our latest meeting for arrangements she had made to enable members to go out for a very enjoyable pub meal.



A husband and wife team, June & Ken Brazier, gave a very instructive talk on 'Mercy Ships'. This is an international Christian charity which uses hospital ships and land based programmes to give health care, free of charge, to the world's forgotten poor. It began in 1978 when a wealthy American purchased a retired ocean liner and paid for it to be converted to a hospital ship. Since then a number of such ships have visited more than 150 ports in developing countries. All work is done voluntarily, from surgeons to gap year students, and all helpers will tackle any job they can. Not only do they receive no wages, but they pay for all their own food during the time they spend working for the charity.

Free surgery is carried out on board the hospital ships, and further health care is given locally. Help is given to thousands of people who normally would never receive such care. Surgery is performed for conditions such as cleft lip and palate, congenital abnormalities, burns, cataracts and dental procedures. On shore help is given for such projects as clean water, sanitation, agriculture and construction. Skills training and the provision of tools and resources are all part of the help given by Mercy Ships.

June and Ken (who is a Rotarian) signed up a few years ago for one of the visits to Sierra Leone and, whilst there, helped with the building of a clinic. They now help raise funds for the hospital ships.

Mercy Ships is a really caring concern, and brings hope and healing to thousands of poor people. Their helpers are all volunteers, but what rewards they must receive in doing such wonderful work.

Since our last meeting a group of members, family and friends went on a coach trip to Buckingham Palace. We toured both the state rooms and the gardens. It was a marvellous experience to see such splendour inside the Palace and to tour the beautiful gardens. In fact, the time spent there was too short to 'take in' the sight of so many lovely rooms and garden scenes.

What a contrast to the world of Mercy Ships!!

Val Harris

The Salvation Army, Booth Place Weekly Activities

Sunday

'Footprints' (Sunday School)	9.45-10.45am
Morning Worship	11.00am
Family Worship	
3rd Sunday in month	10.30am
Songs of Praise	
3rd Sunday in month	4pm



Monday

'Champion's Challenge' Club (Age 5 - 9 yrs)	5.30-6.30pm
Junior Club (age 9+) (Term time only)	6.45-7.45pm

Tuesday

Coffee Morning	
Once A Fortnight	10.00 - 12 Noon
Songster and band practice	7.30 - 9.00 p.m.

Wednesday

Home League (Ladies Meeting)	2.30-3.30pm
Weekly Bible Study	7.30pm

Thursday

Parent and Toddler Group (Term time only)	9.30-11.30am
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Thursday Evening

Ladies Fellowship	
Last Thursday in every month	7.45pm
For further details please telephone Captains Linda and Ray Charlton 01525 221156	

ELF - Eaton Bray Leisure Group

Our trip to Dorney Wood was enjoyed by a small group. The gardens were very pleasant, plants were purchased and the weather was kind.

In July the walking group had a very nice walk around Wilston, Long Marston and Puttenham, returning along the Canal. Lunch was taken at the Half Moon public house. The weather was OK.

There was no walk in August and September will be past by the time you get this, but the October walk is on Monday 25th meeting at Eaton Bray Church at 10.00am. All are welcome.

On July 15th a large number of members enjoyed a lunch and an excellent slide show and lecture by a volunteer from the College Lakes. Thanks to the Volunteer and all the ladies and men of the ELF who arranged this meeting, and the preparation of lunch.

On August 12th intermittent rain did not deter a large group of members from enjoying an excellent cream tea in the garden of Val and Alan's home. Very many thanks to them and all the other helpers.

The next lunch out was Thursday September 16th at the Bridgewater Arms and the next meeting was on the morning of September 23rd in the Coffee Tavern at 10.30am, when we chatted about the future programme. Reports of the meetings will be in the November issue of Focus. Notices are placed in the NORTH PORCH OF EATON BRAY CHURCH.

The ELF GROUP would welcome any new members from around the area and also some new ideas. PLEASE come to the Coffee Tavern at Eaton Bray on a Thursday morning. There is a stair lift and transport can usually be arranged, if required, to and from any event.

If you are interested in joining ELF please contact Val or Alan on 01525 220972.

Bible and Breakfast

A few from the NCG parishes visited Spring Harvest earlier this year and were 'bowled over' by the main teaching each day by Danielle Strickland.

Danielle, a Salvation Army Officer, delivers the Bible message in a powerful, engaging and passionate way. Speaking from her profound experiences and from her love of Christ, Danielle will have you laughing and no doubt crying in places, but you cannot listen to her and not be moved!

As they say, we've been there, got the teeshirts *and* brought back the DVDs!

We would like you to join us over breakfast at the 'Old Hunters Lodge', Whipsnade on Saturday mornings starting October 2nd at 8.45am. Watch the DVDs of Danielle with us and chat over breakfast.

No charge but donations gratefully accepted

Contact Anne Spriggs 01582 873468



Danielle works with the Salvation Army and is passionate about the kingdom coming on earth. She's involved in many different initiatives from local justice campaigns to writing books, teaching courses and church-planting.

All Saints, Dagnall - Services & Meetings in October 2010

Sun. 3rd Oct.	9.00 am	Eucharist
	10.30 am	Morning Service
Wed. 6th Oct.	7.45 pm	Mid-week Meeting - Speaker: Revd Wyn Jones
Sun. 10th Oct.	10.30 am	Morning Service at Kensworth Methodist Church
	6.00 pm	Eucharist
Wed. 13th Oct.	7.45 pm	Mid-week Meeting
Sun. 17th Oct.	10.30 am	Family Communion
	6.00 pm	Evening Service
Wed. 20th Oct.	7.45 pm	Mid-week Meeting - Speaker: Dr Kay Griffiths
Sun. 24th Oct.	10.30 am	Family Service
	6.00 pm	Sung Eucharist
Wed. 27th Oct	7.45 pm	Mid-week Meeting - Speaker: David Tester from Mission Aviation Fellowship
Sun. 31st Oct	10.30 am	Family Communion for the Festival of All Saints
Wed. 4th Nov.	7.45 pm	Mid-week Meeting led by Revd Lucille Rogers

Sunday School meets each Sunday at 10.30 am.



Cheeky Monkeys Under Fives Playtime

Eaton Bray Village Hall, Wednesdays during term time.
1pm to 2.45pm.

Entrance fee £1.50 adults, £1 over one year and 50p for under one year.

www.cheekymonkeys.btik.com

Cheeky Monkeys is pleased to be welcoming a number of new parents to our friendly group. We hope that many more will become regular visitors. Our new craft activities for the coming weeks are "Autumn collages", "tree pictures", "halloween magnets" and "fireworks." Other toys and activities include a safe enclosed baby area, bricks, home corner, cars, brio train track, puzzles, colouring and junk modelling. We also have dressing up, chalk boards, painting and a workbench, as well as a new batch of home made playdough!

Over the last month we have been fortunate to receive sponsorship from Quality Villas, the French villa specialist. Quality Villas has kindly agreed to pay for the hall hire for the next three weeks in October, and this will enable us to use this extra money towards our Christmas party. Please take a look at their website: www.qualityvillas.com.

Don't forget we will be closed on 27th October due to half term, and re-open on 3rd November. For enquiries and further information, please see our website, (www.cheekymonkeys.btik.com) or contact either Sarah, on 07904 348113, Louise on 07784 165259 or Sue, 01525 222387.

Eaton Bray Cricket Club 100 Club Winners

July 2010

£100	M Flecknell
£25	G Ellerton
£10	L French

Aug 2010

£25	J Jarrett
£10	A French

Sept 2010

£25	G French
£10	P Hardy

Eaton Bray Cricket Club is kindly sponsored by F.A. Hawkins and M&M Properties

With winter just around the corner - its that time when temperatures begin dropping, and the weather becomes cool and crisp, it's time to prepare any outdoor taps or pipes for winter weather. So here are a few tips to follow to get you prepared.

Firstly, you should detach any garden hoses from outdoor taps, drain the hoses, and store them for winter. Then for those pipes that lead to outdoor taps, you should close the shut off valve. Once you've closed the shut off valve, turn your outdoor taps on so that any water remaining in them can be drained.



The next preventive measure you can take is to insulate your pipes. This is especially important for pipes that are located in cellars, garages, lofts, crawl spaces, and other areas of your home that don't receive much, if any, heat. The more insulation a pipe has, the less likely it is to freeze. In addition, you should take notice of any areas of your home near pipes where there may be cracks or gaps, in which cold air could get in.

Should you have plans to be away during the winter months, even for a few days, you need to make sure to leave your thermostat set to keep your house warm so the pipes don't freeze. When water freezes it expands by roughly 10%, so when the water has nowhere to go it just bursts the pipe. This is important, as just a 3mm crack in a pipe can spew over 900 litres of water per day, which is both inefficient and expensive.



If you have the unfortunate experience of waking up to frozen pipes you should turn on your taps, as this will relieve the pressure as the ice melts inside the pipes. You can use appliances such as a blow dryer or a heat lamp to defrost the pipe. Under no circumstances should you use a blow torch or candle. In addition, you can leave your water running a very small, slow trickle through the pipes to prevent them from freezing again.

If you have questions about how you should prepare your pipes for winter or would like professional insulation around your pipes, please feel free to give me a call.



Edlesborough Under 5's

Monday - Friday Morning **9.10 am - 12.10 pm**
Lunch Clubs **12.10 pm - 12.45 pm**
Tuesday & Thursday afternoon **12.45 pm - 3.15 pm**

"The quality of teaching and learning is good. Children are actively involved in their learning, play independently and are assisted by staff to develop their confidence." "Group times at all sessions were very positive experiences for all the children and enjoyed by all present." "Children of all ages have the opportunity to develop their skills in all areas, supported by a dedicated staff team." "Children are encouraged to make choices and decisions throughout the day, supported by a staff team that know them well."

These are just a few of the comments made in our fifth OFSTED Report (March 2008 - available via our website). The report reflects the high quality of learning on offer to all children at Edlesborough Under 5's and highlighted the quality of teaching by the staff. **If you would like to pop in for a look around, please phone Tina McKay on 07854 939226 between 9am - 12 noon, to arrange an appointment. A warm welcome awaits you.**

For registration details, please phone Sue Pickering on 01525 222199
"We are an Equal Opportunities Employer" www.edlesboroughunder5s.org.uk

Eaton Bray Village Hall

100 Club Winners

Aug 2010

48	Mike Martin	£100
4	Katrina Hurley	£25
98	Julie Shelton	£25
70	Barbara Collier	£25

Drawn on 13th Aug 2010 at Hines The Butchers.

September 2010

15	Anna Cornwall	£100
178	Alison Tigg	£25
67	Eileen Bennett	£25
181	Anne Moxey	£25

Drawn on 9th Sep 2010 at Hines The Butchers. Please direct any correspondence to Ross Bagni, 71 Bower Lane, Eaton Bray, Bedfordshire, LU6 1RB, Telephone: 01525 221411.

Wednesdays
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Come along, make new friends and join in the fun!

Vale Speakers Club Wins £500 from the Council

Vale Speakers Club was recently awarded £500 from the Council to obtain a projector and laptop that will directly support members' training in the area of visual (PowerPoint and Slide Show) presentations. "We are very excited to be able to support our members' development in this way, particularly now that most businesses require technologically savvy and well spoken employees", says President of Vale Speakers Club, Dominique Koubovec.

Vale Speakers is a small and friendly club located in Leighton Buzzard that is affiliated to Toastmasters International. The club holds formal meetings and encourages members to learn the art of delivering speeches and presentations to a variety of audiences, big or small. Members come from all walks of life, including professionals, business executives, students, stay-at-home parents or retirees. At the meetings, members follow a well written and organised set of manuals that can lead to awards that are recognised globally. Members also have the opportunity to obtain leadership training. Communications skills, public speaking and leadership training is an effective way to boost self-confidence, empowering members to improve performance at work and quality of relationships in life in general. If you want to learn more about speaking in public or giving presentations then please come along and see what we do. Alternatively visit our website at www.valespeakers.com

Vale Speakers meet every 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month at Delta House, 33 Hockliffe Street, Leighton Buzzard. Vale Speakers have an Open Meeting on the 20th October 2010 tailored towards welcoming new and interested persons.

Visitors and new members are always welcome.

Further information can be obtained from the President, Dominique Koubovec, on valespeakers@btinternet.com or telephone her on 07902 003441

Mobile Libraries

Central Bedfordshire Libraries

The mobile library visits Eaton Bray fortnightly on Tuesdays. The next visits are 5th & 19th October. **The timetables have recently been revised and new times are as follows:**

Eaton Bray	Arrival	Departure
Greenways	13:30	13:45
Cantilupe Close	13:50	14:05
Church Lane	14:10	14:35
Knights Close	14:40	14:55
Medley Close	15:00	15:15
Moor End	15:20	15:45

For further information call Biggleswade library on 0300 300 8055.

Buckinghamshire Libraries

The mobile library visits Dagnall and Northall on Tuesdays. The times are as follows:

Dagnall School
2.00pm – 2.15pm
Nelson Road, Dagnall
2.20pm – 2.40pm
Chapel Lane, Northall
3.00pm – 3.15pm



For further information call:

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Web-site:

www.buckscc.gov.uk/libraries



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Golf Injuries

Golf injuries are reported to affect 15-20% of golfers each year. They are mostly due to overuse, although some can be traumatic injuries. Golf requires explosive power when driving off tees and the repetitive swing action can put stress on muscles and joints, causing injuries.

The 3 main causes of golf injuries are:-

1. Incorrect golf club grip.
2. Poor swing technique, including over-swinging, twisting the spine during the swing or hitting the ground during the swing.
3. Not warming up correctly.



Low back pain is the most common injury and accounts for 20%. Other common areas affected include elbow, shoulder and knee, which we will discuss in more detail.

Low Back Pain

The repetitive action of the golf swing is the number one cause of low back pain, making the importance of correct technique essential. The discs, ligaments, muscles and facet joints can all be affected. To help prevent this, correct any swing faults with Maurice and perform core stability exercises to improve strength and posture.

Golfer's Elbow

This is inflammation of the tendons of the forearm, where they insert into the bone on the inner side of the elbow. The inflammation is caused by forceful gripping activities such as gripping the club. To help prevent this, do a regular stretching and strengthening programme, select larger club grips and also select irons with large heads and “sweet spots” to lessen vibration. Also, graphite shafts produce less vibration.

Knee Pain

The weight bearing and rotational forces during the swing, plus prolonged walking, can lead to knee problems. To help reduce this, try strengthening the muscles around the knee.

Shoulder Pain

The repeated stresses of the golf swing especially if performed incorrectly can lead to damage of the Rotator Cuff (the muscles around the shoulder joint)

To help prevent this developing, check your swing with a golf professional and perform a regular exercise programme to maintain flexibility and strength around the shoulder. If you are suffering with an injury, or pain is affecting your performance, then please do not hesitate to contact St Judes Clinic on 01525 377751, or email us on enquiries@stjudesclinic.com for further advice and treatment.

Top tips for injury prevention in golfers

1. Perform a proper warm up. To include stretching the muscles of your shoulder, neck and back.
2. Perform regular core conditioning exercises. To improve your core strength in your back and shoulders.
3. Ensure you are using the correct equipment including having the correct club grip. To help prevent development of wrist and elbow injuries.
4. Ensure you have a good swing technique. Poor swing mechanics and over-swinging can all lead to injury. Swing faults can be addressed by a Professional.
5. Listen to your body. To avoid overuse injuries, decrease your play time at the first sign of aches and pains.

Dagnall Gardeners' Society Annual Show

On Saturday 4th September, Dagnall Gardeners' Society held its annual show in the village hall. It has been a difficult year for growers, with four months of exceptionally dry weather making it difficult for many to grow flowers and vegetables. Therefore, there were fewer exhibits this year.

Nevertheless, there were a good range of entries, including flowers, vegetables, domestic classes and children's sections. Pictures by the children of Dagnall School were displayed for all to see on stage.

The winners in each section, with the most points in the their class, were: -

RESIDENTS

Founders Cup for vegetables - Brian Westwood
Nash Cup for flowers - Don Moseley
Wells Cup (most points by a resident) - Val Barrow

OPEN CLASS

Society Cup for Vegetables - David Elkins
Society Cup For Flowers - R Ralph Skingle
A M Fehr Rose Bowl for pot plants - Jeff Norwood
Clark Cup for domestic classes - Wendy Pattison
Society Cup for Children - Joshua Thorne (1st)



BEST IN SHOW

Society Cup Best exhibit domestic - Lemon Drizzle cake by Val Barrow
Edlesborough Parish Cup "Best in Show by Parish resident" - David & Eileen Killick
Best exhibit Flowers - "White Dahlia" £5 voucher Ralph Skingle
Best exhibit Vegetables - "Cauliflower" £5 voucher David & Eileen Killick
Best Residents exhibit - "3 Potatoes" £5 voucher David & Eileen Killick
Exhibitor prize draw - £3 voucher D J Winfield

SCHOOL PICTURE COMPETITION

Reception: 1st Annabel Carillo; 2nd Ruby Harris; 3rd Toby Bennett
Year One: 1st Georgia; 2nd Matthew; 3rd Charlie
Year Two: 1st Sammy; 2nd Bruce; 3rd Matthew

PRETTIEST FRONT GARDEN

The Dick Johnston Memorial Shield went to Mr & Mrs White of Deans Meadow.

However, they declined the prize as this was the fourth year in a row they had won and asked for the trophy to be presented to Ann Thompson.

The organisers would like to thank members of the Gardeners' Society, their families, helpers and exhibitors for their support and work in running another successful show. With a special thank you for all those who made and provided cakes.



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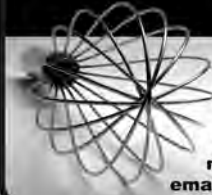
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Some comments from our recent Ofsted report (Jan 09):

Children are consistently offered a stimulating range of activities and opportunities which enable them to make good progress towards the Early Learning Goals.

Staff have a good understanding of creating a safe and welcoming environment . . .

Staff support children well and encourage them to be active in their learning and to think critically.

We are a committee run playgroup operating five mornings a week 9:15 – 12:15 for children aged 2½ to school age.

If you would like to find out if your child would be happy here, please phone our Playgroup Leader, Ann Tobin on 07816 358 342.

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The Sirena Olympia complex is within easy access to all that Kato Paphos has to offer by way of museums, a Heritage archaeological site (tomb of the kings), restaurants, water sports, harbour trips, bars and nightlife, yet it still remains peaceful. Outside the town there are a number of excellent golf courses.

Rental rates £225 low season - £375 high season. 20% off bookings for 2010. Cheap flights can be found

at Easy jet direct from Luton to Paphos. **Contact**

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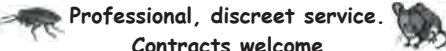
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Edlesborough School Contributions



Welcome to the new school year from the children at Edlesborough School Reception Class.

After visiting the children at home the staff were very excited to be receiving the class of 2010 into our large spacious and newly decorated reception unit. We have an abundance of space for the children to grow and learn in offering 3 learning areas, two indoor and one outdoor classroom. The classrooms offer a lively, bright, positive environment for inquisitive minds. The rooms have been themed, one being creative, where children can engage in role play, I.C.T., stage performing, music, design and craft, enabling the other room to be a quieter area for Literacy and Mathematics activities to be carried out in relative calm!

The outdoor classroom is an extension of the learning environment offering activities on a bigger scale; a sand pit you can climb into, a construction area where the keenest of builders achieve huge results using the simplest of equipment, all it needs is a little imagination! An outdoor role play area currently houses Edlesborough Hospital.

For the first time this year we also offered full time places, from September, to all the children. This was in consultation with the parents, who had the choice of taking full time or part time sessions, giving a more flexible approach to ensure every child's needs are catered for.

We look forward to an exciting year with our new pupils as they become part of the Edlesborough School family, and wish them a long and happy time with us.



What a Bright Idea

Here's a bright idea... leave a light on! As the clocks go back and the nights draw in, Aylesbury Vale residents are being asked to use light timer switches.

In a response to the traditional rise in burglaries after the clocks go back, Aylesbury Vale Community Safety Partnership are working on an initiative which targets residents who get home after dark in the winter months, such as commuters and late night shoppers.

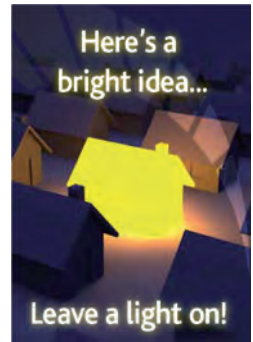
Residents are being asked to consider using their timer light switch to leave a light on if they plan to return home after dark. Other advice is to regularly vary the times they

set timer switches to turn on and off. Over the last few years the community safety partnership have given out over 5000 light timers and energy efficient light bulbs. AVDC have a limited supply this year but residents can pick one up in local stores and supermarkets for about £2

From October staff from Thames Valley Police and the District Council Community Safety Team will be at locations across the Vale handing out information about how to secure homes effectively against burglaries.

“A home in darkness between 4pm and 9pm tells potential burglars that nobody’s home. By using timer light switches, preferably fitted with a low energy bulb, residents can protect their property by creating the impression that someone’s home” said Kama Wager, Crime reduction officer. “We want to make residents who return home after dark aware of simple steps they can take to make their home more secure.”

More advice can be found at www.thamesvalley.police.uk/crprev or please contact your local Community Safety Team on 01296 585858.



1st Eaton Bray and Edlesborough Scout Group

The summer break didn’t deter two local Cub Scouts from 1st Eaton Bray and Edlesborough Cub Pack from doing their bit to help others. Sam Carter and George Pratt raised over a hundred pounds to help flood victims in Pakistan, by making and selling cakes.



As part of their Cub Scout community challenge, the boys designed and distributed fliers to drum up trade and then made and sold cakes and cookies to friends, relatives and willing customers at Sparrow Hall Business Park in Edlesborough.

The boys would like to say a huge THANK YOU to everyone who contributed through generous donations because they have proudly handed over £114.01 to the charity CAFOD to help people suffering because of flooding in Pakistan.

For more information about all sections contact the Group Scout Leader, ng.evans@btconnect.com



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Sure Start Children's Centres

Buttercup Children's Centre is located in the Pre School building in the grounds of Eaton Bray Lower School.

The Children's Centre offers a wide range of **FREE** activities for children aged 0-5 years. You can enjoy fun cookery sessions, dancing and music making with Jo Jingles, getting to know other new mums at the Bumps and Babes session plus special school holiday sessions!

Through the year we also run courses for parents and carers including, One Stop Parent Shop, a fun and informal parenting session and First Aid courses. We offer support and advice for family issues linking with the local Health Team, Job Centre Plus, Local Schools plus many more.

For further information please call 01582 881054 or drop in to a session, we look forward to seeing you soon!

Buttercup Children's Centre Timetable 13th September - 17th December 2010

Tuesdays



Buttercup Childminders Group 9:15am-11:30am (Term Time Only)

For childminders and children in their care.

Supported by the NCMA. **Drop-in**

Wednesdays

Bumps 'n' Babes 2:00pm – 3:30pm

For expectant parents and parents with children under 1 year. **Drop-in**



Thursdays



Mini Chefs 10:45am – 11:30am

A three week course for children aged 2-5 years old and their parents/carers.

If anyone attending this session has food allergies or intolerances please advise the centre in advance **Booking required**

Jo Jingles 1:00pm – 2:00pm at Eaton Bray Village hall

(Term time only)

For Children who are mobile. **Drop-in**



*** For more information and to book a sessions, please ring 01582 881054 or email dominic.woods@actionforchildren.org.uk**

YOUR VILLAGE PHOTOS



Ivinghoe Beacon from the Mill & Sunset from Dunstable Downs by Adrian



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Dagnall Weather Station (AONB)

July: For the fourth month running we had very little rain, with only 27.8mm in July, 14.2mm of that was on one single day. The total for April-July was 107.4mm (4.23 ins). It was a hot month. There were only three days when the temperature did not reach 20°C and eight when the temperature went above 25°C.

Weather Conditions for July 2010



	High	Date/Time	Low	Date/Time
Temperature	30.2°C	9 July 17.00	7.4°C	6 July 5.00
Mean Temp	17.7°C	Dominant Wind:	SW	
Humidity:	95%	on 6 separate days	37%	11 July 17.00
Barometer:	1025.9 hPa	6 July 09.00	997.8 hPa	15 July 02.00
Wind Speed	36 mph W	15 July 16.30	Months avg.	5.3 mph
Wettest Day	16 July		14.2 mm	0.56 ins
Monthly Rain:	Total	July	27.8	1.09 ins

August: Typical holiday weather! August was very wet with 146.3mm of rain - 36% more than the preceding four months. On the 23rd, 23.8mm rain fell - which was more than total for the whole month of April. Towards the end of August, cold nights had started to set in, with a low of 4.5°C, almost enough to cause a ground frost.

August 2010

	High	Date/Time	Low	Date/Time
Temperature	25.2°C	16 August 16.30	4.5°C	31 August 06.00
Mean Temp	15.2°C	Dominant Wind:	NW	
Humidity:	97%	on 3 separate days	42%	5 August 15.00
Barometer:	1026.6 hPa	31 August 10.00	994.0 hPa	23 August 06.30
Wind Speed	34 mph SSW	24 August 16.00	Months avg.	5.6 mph
Wettest Day	23 August		23.8 mm	0.94 ins
Monthly Rain:	Total	August	146.3 mm	5.76 ins

Yearly Rain:	Total	8 Months	426.4 mm	16.79 ins
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The Dagnall weather station is now live on the web with 15 minute updates 0800-2200 (approx) each day: <http://myweb.tiscali.co.uk/dagnallweather>.

If anyone has a question, comment or wishes to contact me, please email: davidgkillick@tiscali.co.uk

Face2Face Concert/Churches Together Event

The concert held earlier this year by the very talented Christian Musicians F2F (who gave their time for free) at Eaton Bray Village Hall was a wonderful success.

Thank you to all who came to support the event and to those who helped plan and organise it.

With your support we were able to give £600 to the charity that F2F support in Russia. We were also able to give a donation to Cancer Research in memory of Phyllis Maynard, Churches Together secretary, who died recently.

Lots of people have asked Face2Face will return, we are hoping this will be possible some time in the future. Watch this Space!!!!

Chriss Hewitt, Churches Together

Edlesborough Book Group

The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society

A very different book this month. Already a cult fiction read in America with many US citizens travelling to Guernsey, to follow in the footsteps of the fictional heroine and to visit the places mentioned in the story, it is gradually gaining a following in Great Britain. We were intrigued by the title and were curious to find out more about Guernsey and its eponymous literary society.

The book takes the form of letters and gradually, the reader is introduced to characters in London and their extreme opposites in Guernsey. The story begins in post war London: Juliet Ashton is an author struggling to find inspiration for a new novel and is also at a crossroads in her personal life. Quite out of the blue, she receives a letter from a young farmer living in Guernsey, who has found her name in a second hand book of essays by Charles Lamb. Fascinated by his interest and comments, she replies and begins a correspondence, which draws her into the world of Dawsey Adams and his friends, all members of the Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society.

As they exchange their views and personal stories, Juliet learns more about life on Guernsey during the German occupation and the struggle to survive. Inevitably, Juliet realises that this is the book that she would like to write and visits Guernsey to meet the characters behind the letters.

This is a charming book. It is very easy to read, the letters gradually unfolding the plot and the characters' letters revealing their personalities. It was well received by our members. Most people enjoyed the book and the criticisms were mild, mainly concerning a weakness in the plot.

The Island and The Return by Victoria Hislop

Victoria Hislop achieved phenomenal success with her first novel, 'The Island' and has recently had a second book published. Our book group thought it might be a good exercise to read the two books between us and then discuss them. We wanted to see if the first deserved its acclaim and if the second book was as good, or better than the first.

The Island is the title and also the dominant character of the first book. It is named Spinalonga and is a real island off the mainland of Crete, which until 1957 housed a leper colony.

Victoria Hislop has woven a fictional family story around the island and its inhabitants; and in so doing tells us how leprosy and its victims were perceived before modern medicine discovered successful treatments.

The story begins when Alexis Fielding decides to explore her Cretan ancestry and why her mother is so secretive about her childhood. She travels to Crete, where an old childhood friend of her mother's reveals a turbulent family story covering three generations. Alexis learns of her great grandparents, her grandparents, her great aunt and her mother and of their connection with the island of Spinalonga.

We all enjoyed reading the book although there were reservations about its pacing. We thought the ending was rather hurried in proportion to the detail of the rest of the story. The Return, is set in Granada and starts with another modern protagonist, Sonia, who is on holiday and is keen to dance flamenco. By chance she wanders into a little

café owned by the Ramirez family and uncovers an account of their involvement in the Spanish Civil War. The family consists of Concha and Pablo and their children, Emilio, a musician, Antonio, a teacher, Ignacio, a matador and Mercedes who loves to dance flamenco. In 1936 peace is shattered by revolution and the family is torn apart by its separate beliefs.

The novel is in part the love story between Mercedes and Javier Montero, a talented guitarist, and an account of the war in Spain. The historical detail is very thorough and a lot of research must have been done to achieve this. However, our members thought that the factual accounts overshadowed the story. Nevertheless, we thought that the two books gave us an insight into two subjects which we had neglected and we felt that now we know a lot more about them.

Table Corner & Comfort Food!

With the shorter evenings upon us I thought that I would write about our favourite topic: comfort food! No not chocolate, let us be sensible here, but risotto. It is a quick, full of flavour, and satisfying meal that is easy to cook providing you follow a few basic steps:

1. Use the right rice. This is paramount as a short round-grained rice with a high level of starch is the only one that will give you that velvety consistency. Arborio is good but Carnaroli is even better.
2. Enhance the flavour by using good pre-heated stock
3. Sweat the onion in rapeseed or good quality olive oil
4. Make sure you roll the rice in the onion before adding any liquid
5. GRADUALLY add the stock to the rice whilst stirring GENTLY
6. NEVER leave it unattended... stir every minute or so

For 4 persons here are the ingredients and the method:

900 ml stock (either vegetable or chicken)

1 onion, peeled and chopped

3 tbsp rapeseed oil

200g Carnaroli rice

25g butter

75g freshly grated parmesan

Cooked green vegetables, seafood or chicken

In a large frying pan, heat the oil and add the onion. Cook for a few minutes until it has softened and is translucent but not brown. Add the rice and cook for about 2 minutes. Again do not allow the rice to become brown. Gradually add the stock to the rice 3 – 4 tbsp at a time, stirring gently. When this has been absorbed by the rice, add the next 3 – 4 tbsp. Repeat this until the rice is tender, you might not need all the stock. Season. Finally add the butter, let it melt and stir gently so as to not break up the rice grains. Finish by adding half your parmesan and either vegetables, chicken or fish. Serve with adding the remaining parmesan.

The result: a perfect, creamy and velvety risotto!

Bon appétit!

Pascale, The Little Dagnall Catering Company, www.dagnallcatering.co.uk

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Salvation Sound - October 2010

THE FIVE SENSES.

Sight; Hearing; Smell; Taste; Touch; but there is a sixth sense - intuition; the power of apprehension without reasoning; that special insight' which most of us seem to have.

Let us take each one and put a valuation upon it. What pleasure is there in sight? To be able to see colours, flowers, trees, grass, sun, moon, stars, sky, clouds, the wonderful scenery in the places we visit and where we live, to be able to read books, Oh, the list could go on and on.

Hearing, well, there is bird song in the early morning, church bells, peoples voices, music, the radio, a clock ticking.

Smell, - perfume, the scent of old fashioned roses, lavender, mint, pine needles, wet earth after rain, freshly baked bread.

Taste, - roast beef with horseradish, the first English strawberries, chocolate, crackling from roast pork, in fact, food in general, for eating is a favourite pastime of mine.

Touch - the feel of a cat's fur, silk, velvet, pussy willow buds, someones hand, real leather, the rough bark of a tree.

We can derive such pleasure from all of these simple things; things that perhaps we take for granted, not realising their worth until we lose one or two of our senses. How fortunate then are we to have that sixth sense, the insight, the imagination with which to conjure up any of these wonderful experiences.

Yes; we have the mental faculty which apprehends that although we cannot by using any of the five major senses know God, we do know that He is with us at all times, that we can trust Him implicitly.

“Many things about tomorrow
I don't seem to understand;
But I know who holds tomorrow
And I know who holds my hand.”

Benjamin Franklin said, “In this world nothing is certain but death and taxes.” James 4: 14, states “You do not know what will happen tomorrow.”

None of us know when we will die, but we can all hope for a place in heaven; Jesus paid for our sins on Calvary's cross and rose again to provide eternal life for us.

Let that sixth sense take you to a better place, one where hunger, brutality and pain, cruelty and evil just don't exist any more; the place of supreme happiness:

God's heaven.

Patience Strong wrote:

“When sorrow knocks upon the door
companied by dread fears - and we are
blinded by our doubts, our agonies and
tears...

What is this faint dim light that flickers in
a darkened place - Can this be God ? - we
know we cannot see Him face to face - Yet
through lifes calamities, with feeble hands
we grope - Something divine is breathed
into our hearts - and this is Hope.”

“THINK ON THESE THINGS”.



Dunstable & District Local History Society

Tuesday 12th October, 7.45pm

Local Archaeology

Tim Vickers, field archaeologist at Luton
Museum, describes recent excavations in
this area.

Methodist Church Hall, Dunstable

Visitors always welcome

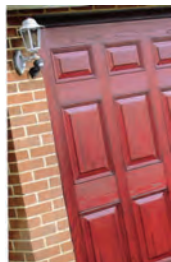


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