

FOCUS

December / January 2013

EDLESBRAY PLAYERS PRESENTS

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SATURDAY MATINEE 26TH JANUARY STARTS 2PM

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THE FOUR VILLAGES MAGAZINE

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Christmas Menu 2012

(available from 1st December until Boxing Day excluding Christmas Day at £26.95 per person £5 per person deposit required on booking.)

(Two course option available at £21.95)

To Begin

Soup of the Season (V)

With Peppers, Butternut Squash, Courgette and Red Onion

Tian of Crab and Smoked Salmon

Served on leaf salad

Stuffed Mushrooms (V)

Filled with Stilton Rarebit

Mediterranean Salad (V)

A Bed of Mixed Leaves with Olives, Capers, Feta Cheese, Red Onion and Vine Tomatoes

Main Course

Roast Turkey (G)

Served with Roast Potatoes, Pigs in Blankets, Roast Parsnips, Brussels Sprouts and Cranberry Stuffing

Sirloin Steak (G)

with sautéed mushrooms, cherry tomatoes and triple cooked chips

Sauces to accompany your steak

Choose from: Garlic butter, Peppercorn, Cream and Stilton or Diane Sauce

Salmon Fillet Baby Spinach and Cream Cheese in Filo Pastry (V)

Served with Sautéed Potatoes and Seasonal Vegetables

Vegetable Tartlet (V)

Peppers, Courgette, Tomato and Goats Cheese on Puff Pastry

Served with Salad and New Potatoes

Dessert

Brandy Christmas Pudding (G)

Served with Brandy Sauce or Cream

White Chocolate Cheesecake

Served with Coulis

Eaton Mess (G)

Meringue, Cream and Strawberries

Seasonal Fruit Crumble

Served with Custard or Cream

Coffee or Tea

Served with White Chocolate Cherries

(V) Vegetarian – (G) Gluten Free

Focus - The Four Village Magazine

Magazine Committee

Joint Editors: George Crutcher - 7 Summerleys, Edlesborough 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): 101 Emergency: 999

Leighton Buzzard Police Station/Kathryn Horgan: 01582 473418

Typetalk: 18001 01582 437418

Email: LPT.LeightonRural@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk

Thames Valley Police (Edlesborough, Dagnall & Northall)

General Assistance: 101

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: Penny Pataky, Tel: 01525 229358

EDaN Community Transport

Peter Williams: 01442 842506

Village Diaries December 2012/January 2013



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, Angela Paine, 01525 229529
Mon-Thu (term time)	Totternhoe Pre-school, mornings, Totternhoe Lower School, 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
Mondays	Weight Watchers, 7pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall
Mondays	Zumba, Dagnall Village Hall 6.30pm
Tuesdays	Line Dancing, 1.30-3p.m., Eaton Bray Village Hall, Lyn Stubbs 220731
Tuesdays	Baby's First Cafe (Support for Breastfeeding mums), 9.30 - 11 am, Ivinghoe and Pitstone Sure Start Children's Centre, Brookmead School, High Street, Ivinghoe
Tuesdays	Pilates, 10-11am, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Nicky Roussou 07861 162680
Tuesdays	Totternhoe Baby & Toddler Group, 9.30-11.30am, St. Giles Church Hall, Nadine Morgan 07823 447362
Tuesdays	Northall Baby & Toddler Group, 9:30-11:30am, (open in the Summer School Holidays) Northall Village Hall, Andie 07966437673
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	Zumba Fitness Class, 8.15-9.15pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Zoey 07595 986892
Tuesdays	Circuit Training Edlesborough - Edlesborough School Hall - 7-8pm - £5 per class
Tuesdays	Coffee Morning, Bring & Buy, Table Top Sale, 10-12noon, Salvation Army Hall, Booth Place, Eaton Bray
Fortnightly	
Weds (term time)	Cheeky Monkeys Under 5's playtime, 1pm - 2.45pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall, contact Rachel on 07789 760007
Wednesdays	Pilates, 7.15pm, Northall Village Hall, Lisa: 01582 412426
Wednesdays	Egyptian Dance Class, 7.30-8.45pm at Eaton Bray Village Hall. Contact: Soraya on 07976 964316 for more details
Wednesdays	Northall & District Age Concern Wednesday Club, 10am - 3pm, Northall Village Hall, Contact Anna 221996 or Julie 220153
Wednesdays	Zumba Fitness Class, 9.30am, St Giles Church Hall, Totternhoe, Zoey 07595 986892
Thurs (term time)	Baby & Toddlers Group, Dagnall Village Hall, 12:45-2:45pm (12:15 if bringing lunch) £1 child 50p adult. Contact Faye 07746 120163 or Samantha 07882 903282
Thursdays	Yoga, Northall Village Hall, 11.30am-1pm 01525 377542
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	Central Bedfordshire Children's Centres' Toy Library, 9-9.45am, Eaton Bray (School Lane) Public Car Park
Fortnightly	
Fridays	Tap & Ballet Classes, JoAnn Latus School of Dance, 4-8pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall, 01582 620576

Village Diaries December 2012/January 2013

Fridays	Hartbeeps Multi-sensory pre-school play & music sessions, Northall Village Hall. Bookings and information: Gemma 01525 381196
Fridays	Zumba Fitness Class, 9.30am, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Zoey 07595 986892
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
Last Saturday	Coffee Morning, 10-12 noon, Edlesborough Methodist Church
Sundays	Grace Baptist Church (by the Post Office) prayer time 9.30am, main meeting 11.00am-12.00pm. All welcome, Nathan 07794 615626, or Peter 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 Methodist Church Hall. Contact Barbara Collier on 01525 221401
1st & 3rd Monday	Knit n Stitch. 2pm-4pm. Edlesborough Memorial Hall, Eaton Bray. Knitting, crochet & needlecraft. Tel Wendy 07908 828414. www.wendy-poole.co.uk
1st Tuesday	Bingo, 7pm, Dagnall Village Hall
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
1st Sunday	May to September, Edlesborough Church Open, 2-5pm
2nd & 4th Tuesday	TOTS, St Mary's, Eaton Bray, 2pm
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	St.Mary's Ladies Guild, 2pm, St.Mary's, Eaton Bray
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

1st Dec	Steam in Beds Model Railway Show, 10am-4.30pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall. Adults £4, accompanied children free
14th Dec	Leukemia Research Sherry & Mince Pies Morning, 2 Dunstable Road, Dagnall 10.30 am.
18th Dec	Dagnall Over 60's. Christmas Lunch. 2pm in Village Hall. All over 60's members welcome. Bring a prize to win a prize, max £3

One Off/Annual/Irregular Events

1st Dec	Dagnall School Christmas Fayre 1pm -3pm Dagnall Village Hall
2nd Dec	Christmas Party for Dagnall Children. Various times, see separate advert.
3rd Dec	Eaton Bray Academy Open Day, 9:30-11:30am, 2-3pm & 7:30pm
5th Dec	Christmas Bingo in Memory of Basil Thorne. Dagnall Village Hall 7.30pm
7th Dec	Dagnall Extravaganza. Lights Switch on with Father Christmas 6.30 onwards
8th Dec	All Saints Dagnall Christmas Coffee Morning 10.30-12.30. Usual Stalls in aid of the 2012 project: Alzheimer's Society. Everyone welcome
8th Dec	Christmas Fayre, 10am - 4pm, Edlesborough Hall
8th Dec	Shopping & Pampering Event, 11am-5pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall
13th Dec	ELF Christmas lunch at the Cock Inn, Wing
16th Dec	Carol Singing around Dagnall village, 6.30 onwards. All welcome
18th Dec	ELF Christmas refreshments Coffee Tavern 10.30am
19th Dec	Create your own Christmas Wreath. Dagnall Village Hall 7.30pm. £15

Village Diaries December 2012/January 2013

One Off/Annual/Irregular Events Cont'd

20th Dec	Carol Singing Dagnall village outskirts. 6.30 onwards. All welcome
21st Dec	Christmas Carols and Brass Ensemble around Eaton Bray. 7.30pm
24th Dec	Christmas Eve Candle Service, 4.15pm & 6pm, St. Mary's Church, Eaton Bray
24th, 25th & 26th Jan	Panto, Eaton Bray Village Hall, 7.30pm plus 2pm matinee on 26th. Box Office open from 10th Dec 01525 220201 (6-9pm). Adults £6, Children £4
25th Jan	Dagnall Gardeners' Society AGM. Village Hall 7.30pm. All members welcome

Appledown's Dog of the Month



Meet Frank, he is a 7 year old Shar Pei.

He is extremely placid and well-mannered. Although we have no concerns about Frank being around children, we think a home with adults only would suit him best. Frank would live with a female dog and seems to be happy around cats. We think this calm, friendly dog will make a lovely companion.

If you feel you could offer Frank, or any of our other dogs, a loving and secure home please call in at the kennels any day between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Our staff will be happy to offer advice and information.

Please note that we have restrictions on rehoming dogs to families with children under 7 years of age, so please ask for details.

APPLEDOWN CRAFT FAIR - ARE YOU CRAFTY?! We will be holding a Craft Fair on 12th May 2013. If you would like to book a pitch (£15) to sell your craft items please e-mail: ilshad@live.co.uk

**Appledown Rescue and Rehoming Kennels,
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Call 01525 220383 or e-mail appledown.kennels@btinternet.com
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British Legion Poppy Collection in Northall and Edlesborough

Despite my having retired from "House to House" collecting this year, the people of Northall and Edlesborough have been as generous as ever. The pupils and staff at Edlesborough School raised the wonderful total of £94.40. I am told that it would have been higher had I supplied more wristbands.....so look out for lots next year!! The patrons and staff at the "Swan" in Northall were also extremely generous and their tin yielded the amazing amount of £102.50. Age Concern in Northall also supported the Appeal and raised £12.20. Including the donations from the Parish Council for Wreaths, the total amount sent from the villages this year to the British Legion was £324.10. Thank you all for supporting this very worthy cause. I know that it will be much appreciated and put to good use.

Next year the Remembrance Service will be held at Edlesborough War Memorial.

Lorna Cabbage





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Mobile: 07971 559185



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12 Days of Christmas in Dagnall

Dagnall invites you to join in our 12 days of Christmas. Please choose as many of these events as you wish to join and put them in your diary.

All invited, everyone welcome.



SAT 01 December - Dagnall School's Christmas Fete
Village Hall – Time: 1-3 pm



SUN 02 December – Christmas Party for Dagnall Children
Village Hall – Time: 11-1pm, babies to 7 years old; 2-4 pm, 8 to 11 years old

WED 05 December – Christmas Bingo in memory of Basil Thorne
Village Hall – Time: 7.30 pm



FRI 07 December - Christmas Extravaganza
See details in separate advert below



SAT 08 December: Christmas Coffee Morning
All Saints Church – Time: 10.30 - 12.30



SUN 09 December – Christmas Carol Service
All Saints Church – Time: 4.00 pm



SUN 16 December - CAROL Singing
Touring the Village – Time: 6.30 pm onwards
TUES 18 December – Over 60s Christmas Lunch
Dagnall Village Hall – Time: 1.30 pm
All Over 60's members welcome



WED 19 December – Craft evening: Create your own Christmas wreath
Dagnall Village Hall – Time: 7.30 pm Cost: £15.00



THU 20 December - CAROL Singing
Village outskirts – Time: 6.30 pm onwards



TUE 25 December – Christmas Services at All Saints Church
Time: 9.00 am, Communion Service
Time: 10.30 am, Family Service



SUN 30 December - Carol Praise Service
10.30 am: All Saints Church



Dagnall Christmas Extravaganza!

On Friday 7 December, there will be celebrations in Dagnall

At 6.30, Father Christmas will kick off the evening by touring the village with his pony and trap. Make sure all the good little boys and girls are in front of their houses to greet him.

At 8.00, Father Christmas will switch on the Dagnall Christmas lights at the Village Hall. An event not to be missed!

To celebrate the season, Dagnall Community Choir will treat us to our favourite carols. Mulled wine for the grown ups and food for all ages will also be served. Santa will have some soft drinks too. So come along for supper, a fun evening and an opportunity to meet new people and greet old friends. No need to book, just turn up.



*O! You better watch out! You better not cry
Better not pout, I'm telling you why
Santa Claus is coming to town*





The Sign Unveiled

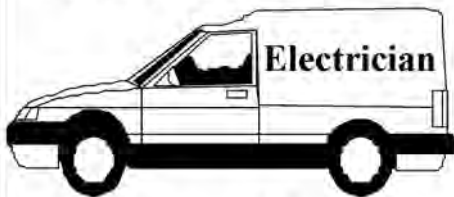
We achieved our objective to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee with our village sign which was unveiled by the Rt Hon Andrew Selous MP on 10th November. The sign was manufactured by Signs of the Times of Tebworth and the steel work by R.S.Components of Stanbridge. It traces the history of the village from the time of Sir Reginald Bray.





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BINGO

Dagnall Village Hall on the first Tuesday of every month

Starting Tuesday 6th November

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£1.00 per game

Free tea / coffee and half time



If you require transport, please call Rachel on 01525 229 656

Christmas Fayre
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Christmas Eve Candle Services

4.15pm & 6pm
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A Letter from Rev'd Coralie

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There are times in our lives when we struggle against the darkness. It may be the death of a partner, child, parent or good friend, or possibly depression as the result of overworking, illness, financial burden or redundancy. When the days are dark, the temperature plummets and everybody else is getting excited about Christmas or escaping to the sun, along comes Advent with the longest night of the year and the shortest darkest days. It's time to think about the saying: *"it's better to light a candle than curse the darkness"*.



Advent is about the coming of light in the form of Christ, the Light of the world, who comes to transform our darkest days by his presence. In the church we light a new candle every Sunday (beginning this year on December 2nd, Advent Sunday) to remember the patriarchs - people like Abraham, Moses and David, our ancestors in faith. The second week we light a new candle for the prophets - e.g. Elijah, Isaiah, Jeremiah - and for all people of vision throughout the ages. In the third week the new candle is for John the Baptist and for us to think about how we make ready for the coming of the Lord. The 4th candle is for the Virgin Mary, reminding us of those who have changed the world through dedication and self sacrifice. On Christmas Day we light the 5th candle as we rejoice that Christ is with us. After Christmas, on the 6th week, we light all the candles and give thanks that Christ has come as the Light of the World, to destroy the darkness, to open the way to eternal life for us and for all who are seeking the presence of Christ in their lives. I also light candles myself during Advent and if you wander up the vicarage drive in the evening you will see a candle burning in my office window.

Looking for a not too thought provoking book for Advent a few years ago I stumbled upon *Do Nothing, Christmas is Coming* by Stephen Cottrell the Bishop of Chelmsford. It's an Advent calendar with a difference, full of sound advice and short practical steps that you can take each day to slow down, take time out and enjoy getting ready for Christmas. e.g. *December 1st*

- *Prune your Christmas card list.*
- *At least make sure it's charity cards you buy.*
- *Help save the planet and send an email card with a note about which charity the money saved has been sent to.*
- *And with all the time you've saved, put your feet up for an hour! (© Stephen Cottrell)*

I pray that you will have a relaxing, peaceful and love filled Christmas.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Coralie". The signature is written in black ink on a white background. Below the signature is a long, horizontal, slightly wavy line that serves as a decorative flourish or underline.

Services at St Mary's Church

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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** TOTS (Tots on Tuesdays) (2nd & 4th Tuesdays)

Wednesday: **10.00am** Holy Communion

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Carnival 2013 – How you could help



**St Mary's Village
Carnival 2013**

The Carnival is run entirely by volunteers who need your help to keep our costs to a minimum. Here are some simple ways you may be able to help by

recycling things that are cluttering up your home.

1. We need to renovate / renew our collection of sign boards. These require sheets of ply wood (any thickness of ply) large enough to take A2 sized posters supported by batons. So, we need plywood sheets 48cm x 61cm (19" x 24") and 120cm (4ft) lengths of 5cm x 2.5cm (2" x 1") baton.
2. The frame tents we use at Carnival are getting rather long in the tooth. Do you have a frame tent that you are unlikely ever to use again, that you could donate or loan to the Carnival?

If you can help please give me, Gordon Gray, a call on 220136. The Carnival website will be updated throughout the year to provide a list of ways in which you could help the Carnival Organisers.

Eaton Bray Methodist Church

We invite you to join us for our next Cafe Worship on Sunday December 9th at 10-30am which will be led by our good friend the Revd. Andy Melvin. Our Cafe Services are an opportunity to worship in a relaxed and informal way and to discuss the Christian message amongst friends.

Our Sunday School continues to thrive with children aged 2 to 13 years. If you would like your child to learn more about Jesus and the Christian Faith through fun, games, crafts, drama and more then bring them along on Sundays at 10-30am or contact Paul Wright on 01525 222986 or Helen Joels on 01525 221584.

Come and join us for the Sunday School Christmas Service: "Sunday School presents..." at 10-30 am on December 16th when the young people and Revd. Nigel Wright will lead our worship.

There will be no Saturday Cafe Community during December and January and we re-start on Saturday February 9th 2013 serving Light Bites from 11-00am to 1-00pm. January's Cafe Worship on Sunday January 13th will be led by Richard Armiger and February's on Sunday February 10th by Fiona Arscott- Smith. Everyone is Welcome.

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Cub Leaders Needed



1st Eaton Bray & Edlesborough Scout Group Update

All of our three sections Beavers, Cubs and Scouts are bursting at the seams with all sections full and with waiting lists. We have fully trained and experienced leaders across each sections.

In addition we have Duke of Edinburgh volunteers helping at both Beavers & Cubs. The parent rota in each section is enthusiastically supported with 2 or 3 parents backing up the Leaders at each and every session. Exciting and varied programmes are in place for the term giving the children fun & challenging evenings.

The Scouts in particular have had a successful time in the various District events and were again winners of the 2011/12 District trophy. They have also won the first two events in the 2012/13 competition – the cooking event and the HAT challenge – a test of core scouting skills

The Leaders have the first class backing of a full Committee with Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary all in place and doing a grand job. We have applied for planning permission for a new hut front extension to help the overcrowding both by children and resulting equipment. The kitchen and toilets are 50 years old and sadly look like it. We are well funded and have money in the bank.

It was therefore with a heavy heart that I advised the Committee at the AGM that I would be retiring from both my Cub Leader and Group Scout Leaders roles at the end of the summer term 2013. In addition our Scout Troop assistant is also leaving. My co-cub leader is stepping up to Scouts to help the Scout Leader.

We are therefore in need of a whole new team of leaders for Cubs and for a new Group Scout Leader. The Cub Pack assistant has indicated she will continue which gives us the continuity and experience. **We are looking to recruit a new team now, so that we can ensure a seamless transition going forward.**

I won't try to con anyone into suggesting that its only 1 ½ hours per week – it's not – you get back what you put in. All we need are some "young at heart" people to step up to the plate so that the young people of Edlesborough and Eaton Bray can all experience a wonderful Scouting adventure, especially as we approach 100 years of Scouting in the villages next year (more details to follow)

Nick Evans

Group Scout Leader (01525 220040)

1st Eaton Bray & Edlesborough Scout Group



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16 Plus Buckinghamshire School Transport Update

Parents of schoolchildren in Buckinghamshire have once again had reason to make their voices heard.

After standing up for the right to continued access to free transport to get pupils to their secondary schools, it became clear that the fight for fairness had to carry on once the bills started arriving for placements on the school bus for the 16 years and over students. Parents from all of Buckinghamshire have been receiving invoices requiring them to pay amounts of up to **£1,100 per pupil**, per year in order to secure a discretionary place on the buses. Elsewhere in the UK, free transport is provided for 16+ students.

Letters of complaints were sent to the county council, asking for information as to how the charges were arrived at, why people living less than a mile apart received bills that varied by hundreds of pounds and why weren't we fully consulted about the proposed new charging regime in the first place?

Many parents weren't aware that this new financial burden was something that would be landing on their doorstep in the not too distant future, and are now faced with that fact that the decisions on where to send their children to continue their education could well be based primarily on whether you could afford the transport fees involved, rather than on education or merit.

A **petition** has been put in place, and a **Facebook** group formed, in order to give parents somewhere to register their dissatisfaction with how the process has been implemented and discuss how we can approach the Local Authority in order we safeguard the rights of our children to access the best education available, in the fairest ways possible.

From this group, the decision was made to take the complaint to the Council via the Overview & Scrutiny Committee hearings, stating the case that Buckinghamshire's approach to setting the rules and processes in place simply wasn't good enough and didn't meet with it being done fairly or with complete clarity. The Committee heard our submission on Tuesday, 23rd October at County Hall, and agreed with our argument that the whole issue of charging, banding and the inclusion of administration fees should be re-looked at and, without any dispute, the Council also agreed to implement a review.

The Cottesloe School as well as other schools in Buckinghamshire, have listened to the concerns of parents and included details on their websites and newsletters to help inform and pass on information about the situation, for which we would also like to thank them.

Join our efforts and keep up to date!



To join the Facebook group, search for "16 plus School Transport Group" on the Facebook website,



sign the petition go to <http://www.petitionbuzz.com/petitions/16pluschooltransport>

Complaints in writing can be sent to your local MPs, or to Peter Hardy, Cabinet Minister for Planning and Transport, Buckinghamshire County Council, County Hall, Walton Street, Aylesbury, HP20 1UA.



Eaton Bray Academy



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Old Bikes Wanted

The Rotary Club of Dunstable is collecting adult bikes from the community, which are sent to the Bikes 4 Africa hub in Swindon.

The bikes are then sent on to UK prisons for refurbishment and ultimately to the Gambia in containers of 300 at a time. Once in the Gambia they are allocated to schools who lend them to students that may have as much as ten miles to commute daily to their lessons.

The cost of transporting the bikes to the Gambia is met by Rotary. But we need bikes please! So now is the chance to clear out your garage / shed.

If you can help please call Tony Denson of The Rotary Club of Dunstable on 01525 221313



All Saints' Church, Dagnall - Services and Meetings

December 2012 and January 2013

- | | | |
|----------------|----------|---|
| Sun.2nd Dec. | 9.00 am | Eucharist |
| | 10.30 am | Morning Service |
| | 6.00 pm | Evening Service with Holy Communion |
| Wed.5th Dec. | 7.45 pm | Wednesday Get-together, Speaker: Revd Coralie McCluskey |
| Sun.9th. Dec. | 4.00 pm | Dagnall Village Carol Service |
| Wed.12th Dec. | 7.45 pm | Quiz Evening |
| Sun.16th Dec. | 10.30 am | Family Communion |
| | 6.00 pm | Evening Service |
| Sun. 23rd Dec. | 10.30 am | Family Service |
| Christmas Day | 9.00 am | Eucharist |
| | 10.30 am | Family Service |
| Sun. 30th Dec. | 10.30 am | Carol Praise |
| Wed. 2nd Jan. | 7.45 pm | Wednesday Get-together |
| Sun. 6th Jan. | 4.00 pm | Covenant Service |
| Wed. 9th Jan. | 7.45 pm | Wednesday Get-together - Speaker: Revd Neil Drayton |
| Sun. 13th Jan. | 10.30 am | Morning Service |
| | 6.00 pm | Eucharist |
| Wed 16th Jan. | 7.45 pm | Wednesday Get-together |
| Sun. 20th Jan. | 10.30 pm | Family Communion |
| | 4.00 pm | United Service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity at <u>Eaton Bray Methodist Church</u> |
| Wed. 23rd Jan. | 7.45 pm | Wednesday Get-together - Speaker: Revd Peter Dudeney |
| Sun. 27th Jan. | 10.30 am | Family Service |
| | 6.00 pm | Eucharist |
| Wed. 30th Jan. | 7.45 pm | Wednesday Get-together |
| Sun. 3rd Feb. | 9.00 am | Eucharist |
| | 10.30 am | Morning Service |
| | 6.00 pm | Evening Service with Holy Communion |

Sunday School meets each Sunday at 10.30 am except when there is a Family Service.



Popular Clarinettist, Emma Johnson, Recital at Beechwood Park

Tickets are now on sale for Emma Johnson's clarinet recital on Friday, February 1st 2013 at 7pm at Beechwood Park School, Pickford Road, Markyate, Hertfordshire AL3 8AW.

Headmaster, Patrick Atkinson notes "It is wonderful that such a leading performer, and winner of awards, including BBC Young Musician of the Year, who has been described by The Times as 'Britain's favourite clarinettist' is coming to perform at Beechwood Park."

Emma will be accompanied by pianist John Lenehan in an enticing programme which will include works by Mozart, Weber, Schumann and Paul Reade's award-winning Suite for clarinet and piano from The Victorian Kitchen Garden.

Emma Johnson is one of few clarinettists to have established a busy solo career which has taken her to major venues around the world.

Tickets for the concert at Beechwood Park cost £15 and £7 (under 18s and full-time students) and parking at Beechwood Park, which is stunningly located just outside Markyate, 1½ miles along the Pickford Road, is free and plentiful.

The concert is expected to sell out, so to avoid disappointment, please email: l.peck@beechwoodpark.herts.sch.uk or phone 01582 840333 ext. 4.

Edlesborough School Celebrates Harvest Time

On Friday 12th October, the children of Edlesborough School celebrated Harvest with a special assembly, which all of the children took part in and which was hosted by our Head boy and girl, Josh and Maddie.

The assembly started with the whole school singing 'Conkers', which was followed by year 2 singing their own Harvest based song. Year 1 then recited in unison a poem which they had written themselves. The whole of key stage 1 then sang 'The sun came shining down' to the rest of the school.

Years 3 / 4 then performed as a year group a thought provoking presentation based on the word Harvest, whilst years 5 / 6 shared their research on the wider issues around the world about food shortages.

The morning concluded with our Year 6 and a small team of mums, delivering food brought into school to the elderly community of Edlesborough and neighbouring villages.



Edlesbray Leisure Fellowship (ELF)

Greetings to everyone.

How time flies. Halloween and Guy Fawkes will have been a memory when you read this report and Christmas is just in sight. We hope everyone enjoyed any plans they had for those occasions.

Autumn has arrived and the trees are showing some of their beautiful colours. We are lucky to live where we do and be able to enjoy them.

Our luncheon date at The Bridgwater Arms was as good as ever, with tasty dishes, good happy company. Thanks to Val for making the arrangements.

Val has also now made arrangements for our Christmas Lunch which is to be at The Cock Inn at Wing on December 13th. It is sure to be a happy occasion. We all look forward to that.

Unfortunately, the walking group were again thwarted by the weather and had to cancel the walk arranged for October 22nd.

On December 18th at the Coffee Tavern, Coffee, Tea, Sherry and Mince Pies will be served. All are welcome.

Have a GOOD, PEACEFUL CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR.

DECEMBER DATES

Thursday 13th Christmas lunch at the Cock Inn, Wing

Tuesday 18th Christmas refreshments Coffee Tavern 10.30am

Dunstable & District Orbit Club

Dunstable and District Orbit Club held their quiz night on 13th October at Dunstable Rugby Club, Houghton Regis. 12 Teams took part and £677.39 was raised for local charities. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves, another great quiz!

We meet on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday at the Rugby Club at 8pm. For more information about Orbit phone 01525 222441 or visit www.orbitclub.org.uk/dunstable or pop along to a meeting, you will receive a warm welcome.

Jill Richards, Publicity Officer, Dunstable District Orbit Club

Edlesborough W.I.

What a lovely time we had on the occasion of our birthday dinner. Once again, we celebrated our anniversary at Dunstable Downs Golf Club. The evening started with our being served a really enjoyable meal, and this was followed by entertainment from It Takes Two. This duo comprises of a married couple, Martin & Lynne Smith. Martin plays the keyboard and the guitar, and both he and Lynne sing to this accompaniment. Their music was from the popular 1960s and 1970s era, and what a great time we had listening (and joining in) to the old favourites from these days. They covered so many well-loved songs, which must have brought back good memories to everyone. Numbers such as Top of the World, Annie's Song, Tie a Yellow Ribbon, Don't Go Breaking my Heart, Sweet Caroline were typical of their repertoire. Martin and Lynne ended with the popular Is This The Way to Amarillo?, accompanied by our "energetic" singing. What a way to end a really happy evening! Thank you, Martin, Lynne and the staff of the Dunstable Downs Golf Club for making our birthday so enjoyable.

Dagnall News

Over 60's

The Over Sixties will be celebrating Christmas on 18th Dec. with the usual sumptuous Christmas meal followed by Carols, accompanied by our faithful organist Roy Hand. All members of the Over Sixties are welcome.

In January, at our AGM, we will celebrate our Birthday with songs from the school children and a Birthday tea with a quiz to follow.

The Programme for next year will be distributed at the Xmas lunch.

Dagnall Gardeners' Society

The trading Hut closed on 25th November 2012 and will re-open on 10th February 2013.

The society's AGM will take place on 25th January 2013 in Dagnall Village Hall 7.30pm. All members welcome.

Community Choir

CONCERT SEASON - SO FAR - SO GOOD

We have certainly had a very busy period with your community Choir performing in various Concerts.

The first was at Eaton Bray village Hall where we were pleasantly surprised when more people than expected came to hear us sing. Amongst other items, we tackled Zadok The Priest and, whilst not scoring a resounding victory we, at least, gave him a fright and a bloody nose. However the concert was much enjoyed by both audience and choir with good feed-back. We would like to thank all those who came out to support us.

We then took part in The Poppy Prom. which now seems to have established itself as a popular fixture in November.

This was followed by an appearance at The Grove Theatre in the "Dunstable Sings" Concert.

As you will see elsewhere in this edition, we will be singing at several Charity Christmas events in the area and hope that we see some of you there.

We would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to our long suffering conductor, Stuart Harding, and offer our apologies for the occasions when we do not attain his high standards but we'll keep working at it. Thanks also go to Joe Leslie, our accompanist, for his patience and support. This is also a good opportunity to thank all Choir Members for their good humoured enthusiasm and for regularly turning up every Monday evening in such numbers and filling Dagnall Church with beautiful music.

In January we enter our 4th. year and will be working on new additions to our repertoire. So if you would like to come along, now would be a good time, because we will all be in the same boat. We should be able to squeeze in a few more. Please contact VAL LUMLEY 01442 842214 or GEOFF WARD 01442 843515.

Red Lion News

A Year at the Red Lion

We have now been at the Red Lion for a year and are looking forward to our second Christmas at the pub. The year has really flown by and we have enjoyed meeting new

people and living in Dagnall. Over the year we have had various events such as our monthly themed food nights which have been popular - we have more to come in the New Year with a Burns Night Supper and a Ghanaian meal cooked by a chef from the Novelli Academy. We also had our summer Family Fun Day and hog roast, which was a great day for the village, and have held quizzes raising money for local charities and the playgroup and school. Over Christmas we will be having carol singing by the Morris Men and lighting the fire and serving mulled wine.

We would like to thank all our customers for their support over the last year and especially those coming from the surrounding villages.

Dagnall School

REMEMBER, REMEMBER THE 5TH OF NOVEMBER!

The Year 2 children at Dagnall School collected a bank of words to describe fireworks and then put them into their own poems.

Fireworks

Fireworks fizz.

Fireworks bang.

Fireworks zoom.

Fireworks crash.

Fireworks whoosh in to the sky
and then they bang.

By Jamie

Fireworks explode like stars.

Fireworks whoosh and go way up high.

Fireworks pop and crackle.

Fireworks fizz and whizz.

A firework rocket whooshes into the sky
like a shooting star.

By Max

Fireworks bang.

Fireworks zoom in the sky.

Fireworks are pink, red and white.

Fireworks pop.

Fireworks scream.

Fireworks whizz.

Fireworks whoosh.

Fireworks crash.

By Lacey

Fireworks can be orange, red and pink.

Fireworks zoom, crackle and bang!

Fireworks explode in to tiny little pises
like sparckling stars.

By Tegan

The Travelling Crib 2012

St Mary's sent out its first Travelling Crib during Advent 2004. Now the Travelling Crib is an established feature of December in the villages with our Mary and Joseph crib figures travelling from one house to another until they arrive back in church for our popular Candle Services on Christmas Eve.

Each day the family with whom the figures spent the previous night deliver them to the next recipients. It is an opportunity for two families to conduct a brief act of worship together and, in many cases, share some simple seasonal refreshments. As such it is a way of bringing a little religious focus to the run up to Christmas and an opportunity to get to know some other people in the villages a little better.

If you would like to take part in this delightful custom please sign up on the notice board in St Mary's church – the church is open every day so you can call in any time. For more information please contact Gordon Gray – 220136.



Edlesborough Parish Council News

Including Edlesborough, Dagnall and Northall

Parish Council meetings

The Parish Council have set a new precedent of combining the General Purpose Committee meeting with the Parish Council meeting and arranging meetings throughout the parish, the first of which took place in Northall Village Hall on 18th October which was very successful with 11 parishioners in attendance. Due to elections to appoint the new Police & Crime Commissioner on 15th November the second Parish Council meeting took place at Dagnall Church. Unfortunately due to a hurried change of venue this was too late to be put into the November issue of Focus but notices were placed on the village notice boards. The Parish Council Meeting on Thursday 20th December will be held in Edlesborough Memorial Hall.

Reports given at the Parish Council meeting by County Councillor Avril Davies and District Councillor Chris Poll are contained in the October minutes which will be available on the parish website.

Allotments

There are now currently available a few whole or half allotment plots at The Green, Cow Lane, Northall and Dagnall. If anyone is interested in taking on an allotment would they please contact the Assistant Clerk – Penny Pataky on 01525 220358 or e-mail: assistant.clerk@edlesborough.gov.uk

Litter Bin Stickers

A further supply of litter bin stickers are being distributed to houses in the new 30mph and 40mph speed limits to be used on the new blue lid bins.

Public litter bins

Due to complaints that the litter bins around the perimeter of the Green and by the bus shelter in Moor End and in Dagnall were overflowing it has now been agreed with AVDC that these will be emptied on a weekly basis.

Best Kept Village award

The Parish Council are extremely grateful to the Janes family for having very kindly exhibited the Cup and Award Certificate in their shop window thus giving the parishioners a chance to view them and to also look at the pictures of Edlesborough both old and new. The cup will be retained by the Parish Council for one year and the Award Certificate will be put on the wall in the Memorial Hall.

Memorial Hall

With grateful thanks to the Burghope Trust charity, who have agreed to give a large donation to the Parish Council, new chairs will be purchased for the Hall.

Planning

The retrospective planning application for the building erected in the front garden of 20 Pebblemoor has been refused.

Northall VAS

After considerable delay it is anticipated that repairs to the VAS will have been carried out by the time this report is read. The road roundels have now been painted and it is expected that the redundant poles etc. left by the change in speed limit locations throughout Northall, Dagnall and Edlesborough will be removed shortly.

Thames Valley Police

Parishioners are requested to be very vigilant particularly with the onset of the darker evenings as there has been an increase in the number of burglaries throughout the parish. If anyone witnesses anything suspicious please immediately phone the police on the 101 number and by pressing the number 2 option you will be put straight through to Thames Valley Police as it is highly possible that the Police are patrolling nearby and able to attend quickly.

Don't give thieves a chance this Christmas (Advice from Community Safety AVDC)

- Assess the security of your home like a burglar would, Christmas is the only time of year when we advertise all the goods in our house to such an extent.
- Make your home appear occupied when you're out at Christmas parties and don't leave your home vulnerable – leave a light on, securely lock doors, windows and gates and use your household alarm if you have one. If you return late to your property on a regular basis use a light timer switch so your home lights up automatically.
- Don't leave gifts/boxes on show in your car. It's an advertisement of quick money and quick getaway and is all too tempting for an opportunist thief.
- Before wrapping presents jot down model and serial numbers. Keep receipts separate so you have a record and thieves can't return your items to the shop.
- Don't hide your presents in obvious places like under the bed or in the wardrobe. Thieves are less likely to get into the attic.
- Don't put gifts under the tree until Christmas day or make sure you pull your blinds or nets so presents aren't on show. After opening presents put your postcode on with a permanent marker to make them harder to sell on and therefore less attractive to thieves - they are also more likely to be returned to you by police if found.
- Rip up present boxes, making sure not to leave them in view outside. Empty boxes advertise that a house has brand new and valuable contents.
- Secure your garage or shed as well as your home - they contain the tools a burglar requires to gain access to your property. For a copy of our new leaflet on Shed and garage security please call 01296 585061.

The Annual Thames Valley Police Award. The Parish Council were delighted to be informed that our own PCSO Jackie Dodson has received this award for her services to the Police and the public as a whole, a well deserved honour as she is a great asset to our parish.

Lin Sargeant – Clerk to Edlesborough Parish Council - Tel. 01525 220859

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

Penny Pataký – Manager/Assistant Clerk – contact number 01525 229358

e-mail: assistant.clerk@edlesborough.gov.uk

Edlesborough Memorial Hall Booking

Secretary: Penny Pataký: Tel: 01525 229358

e-mail: assistant.clerk@edlesborough.gov.uk

Website: www.edlesborough.gov.uk

Edlesborough Parish Council Meetings

3rd Thursday monthly

7.30pm Memorial Hall

Next Meeting: 20th Dec



Edlesbray Players

present

Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Missing Panto

at

Eaton Bray Village Hall, LU6 2DJ

on

**Thursday 24th, Friday 25th and Saturday 26th
January at 7.30 p.m.**

and on

Saturday 26th January at 2.00 p.m.

Tickets prices: £6 for adults, £4 for children

There'll be a bar available in the evenings, and refreshments at the matinee.

The Box Office is at 96A High Street, Eaton Bray, LU6 2DP
and opens on **10th December.**

Phone 01525 220201 (6-9pm) or text 07985 936994 or email
panto.tickets@sky.com.



Eaton Bray Methodist Church

**COFFEE,
CRAFTS, &
CHRISTMAS
GIFTS
MORNING**

**SATURDAY DECEMBER 1st
10 am to 12 noon**

All Saints Dagnall

**Christmas
Coffee
Morning**

**Saturday 8th December
10.30 – 12.30**

**Bring & Buy, Cake Stall,
Guess the weight of the cake
Greetings Cards, Jewellery,
Traidcraft**

**In aid of 2012 Project
Alzheimer's Society**

**GORDON'S
CHARITY CHRISTMAS
PUZZLE**

Now in its 22 year

**Download this year's
puzzle free from**

www.christmaspuzzle.co.uk

Charities supported this year:

RNLI

Handstand Appeal

Dacorum Emergency Night Shelter

Organisation of Ruislip Churches

**Holidays for Youngsters with
Disabilities**

& St Mary's Church, Eaton Bray

**Dagnall School &
Dagnall Under Fives**

**Christmas
Faire**

**Saturday 1st December
1pm - 3pm**

**Father Christmas
Hand crafted gifts
Books
Raffle**

**Chocolate tombola
Mulled wine & mince pies
brik-a-brac**

Eaton Bray Parish Council

Highlights of the Meeting Minutes of Eaton Bray Parish Council Held on Monday 5 November 2012, from 7:30pm at the Coffee Tavern

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

Central Beds Representative

Cllr. Mustoe forwarded the following information:

The two planning applications for the land behind the White Horse Public House have been refused, awaiting a decision on the appeal.

Following public consultation and a decision of the council's Executive in August 2011, the entitlement for children post 16 has changed. The Council will provide transport for students from families with low income, those with special educational needs, medical needs and looked after children. At statutory school age, 5-16, there is a statutory requirement for the Council to provide transport based on distance/road safety criteria. However there is no statutory entitlement to transport post 16 for those who do not meet the new eligibility criteria. Full details can be found on CBC's website:http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/Images/School%20Transport%20Post%2016%20Policy_tcm6-27756.pdf

Please note Central Bedfordshire Council's Christmas & New Year Opening Hours:

CBC offices and services will be open to the public on Monday 24 December, Thursday 27 December, Friday 28 December and Monday 31 December. Normal working hours will be in place on all of these days (9:00am – 5:30pm)

Inconsiderate Parking – School Lane

Residents are experiencing problems with parents dropping off/collecting their children from Eaton Bray Lower School. Inconsiderate parking has caused many residents to have their driveways blocked and unable to leave their properties. When you are taking/collecting children to/from school please consider the residents who live in School Lane.

Village Sign

The Parish Council wished to thank all those involved in this project, for the time and effort put into fundraising and the very generous donations; which has allowed this lovely village sign to be erected in Eaton Bray parish. *Well done to all.*

EB Lions/The Rye Ground

As of the Parish Council Meeting on Monday 5th November, no decision has been made relating to Planning Application CB/12/01812, The Rye Ground/erection of all-weather training pitch/fencing & floodlighting. Full details of this application are found on the CBC website: <http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/PLANTECH/DCWebPages/acolnetcgi.gov?ACTION=UNWRAP&RIPNAME=Root.PgeResultDetail&TheSystemkey=578093>.

Bulb Planting

The Parish Council would like to thank all the 'Eaton Bray Bloomers' who gave up their time to plant bulbs around the parish, we look forward to a wonderful display in the Spring.

Parish Council Website: www.ebpc.co.uk

Eaton Bray Parish Council Meetings

1st Monday of each month
7:30pm The Coffee Tavern

Next Meetings: Mon 5th Nov
Mon 7th Jan

A full copy of the minutes for Eaton Bray Parish Council can be found on our website.
Heidi Head, Parish Clerk & RFO
Email: clerk@ebpc.co.uk - Telephone/Fax: 01525 221464 - Website: www.ebpc.co.uk
Office Hours: Tuesday/Thursday/Friday 09:30-13:30hrs [message can be left on answerphone

News from the Lions Den ...

Sometimes, its the small gestures that have the biggest impact !

The Lions of Eaton Bray & Edlesborough came to realise this when they presented 150 high viz waistcoats to Eaton Bray Academy just before the half term break and ahead of the clock changes. The waistcoats are all embroidered with our club name, the Lions logo and a statement –

‘helping to keep me safe’.

The children couldn’t wait to try their waistcoats on.

We were treated to an hour with some of the school pupils and given a guided tour by the children who were understandably proud of their school. We certainly hope that this small project will have a big impact on our community and would like to thank everyone who helped us to raise the funds over the summer months to make this act of community service possible.

We are continuing with our monthly **free deliveries of fish and chips** and are building up more and more people with every month that goes by. We are delighted with the success of this project and would like to thank everyone who is involved, not least the people who are behind us in the queue on a Friday evening when we go to collect our deliveries. Your patience with us is greatly appreciated. It is also heartening to realise how many of you read these articles and are aware of the work we are doing.

Our first bingo night in Dagnall was a success and enjoyed by all who attended. The next one will be held on Tuesday 4th December. Doors open at 7pm with bingo commencing at 7.30pm.

Dont forget our **Christmas Fayre** in Edlesborough Hall on 8th December. We are open from 10am – 4pm and **entry is free**. Santa will be with us for the day and you will get the opportunity to meet him in his magical grotto. It is just £5.00 per child and a gift will be given from Santa with every paid entry to the grotto. There will also be plenty of opportunities for pictures.

Mums & Dads, you will love looking around our various craft stalls or perhaps just have a coffee and a sweet treat whilst you are with us.

Finally and most importantly, we have been selected to assist Santa on a week of sleigh outings around the villages week commencing 10th December. Full details are provided from the big man himself in a separate article.

Please do support the Lions in any way you can. All money raised goes back into supporting community projects and we know that in the short time since our club’s formation, we have made a positive impact lots of people. The money we raise over Christmas will go towards providing Christmas parcels to those who perhaps need it the most. If you know of anyone who would benefit from a small Christmas hamper, please do get in touch and lets us have the details.

Farewell from Sam at Buds of May

Buds of May

I would like to start by thanking all of my customers and contract accounts for their loyalty and support over the last 7 years, without them Buds of May would not have been

the success it is today. I have met some lovely people from the village and surrounding villages in that time, many of which I now class as friends, so thank you.

After 7 years I had to make a tough decision, family demands and other work commitments beckoned and I couldn't juggle all the balls any longer. So I am moving on and passing the helm to someone else. I was lucky enough to have such a fantastic workforce, Georgia, who unfortunately left to get married and live in Qatar earlier this year. We all miss her but wish her all the very best. Christine, whom many of you know from around the village and church. A long standing member of staff and a dedicated hard worker. Faye and Wendy two very talented ladies with initiative ideas and high aspirations. They have grown to love Buds of May and the floral business so much so that they are taking over and will front your new local florist 'Edlesborough Flowers'. Without all of these ladies I couldn't have done it, so a big thank you to them. Although Buds of May will be no longer, Edlesborough Flowers will take its place and continue to provide the high quality service you have all become accustomed to. New exciting gifts and a new injection of energy, so I hope you will all join me in wishing Faye and Wendy all the very best of luck and wish them every success in their new venture. Please continue to keep it local and support these ladies as you have done me over the years, I guarantee you will not be disappointed.

Sam

2012 Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal – Eaton Bray

Many thanks to all the house to house collectors (particularly the new one this year) and to all the shops and premises in Eaton Bray who hosted a poppy box. The Eaton Bray total for this year is £2296.78 which includes the money for the wreaths that we supply from the Royal British Legion. These wreaths are now around the church memorials. The amount of cash collected in the boxes this year is very slightly (2.8%) down on last year, but understandable. The way that the Remembrancetide dates fell this year with Halloween and school half term is the main reason.

The generosity of the people and businesses of Eaton Bray is very heartening, especially when money is generally getting so much tighter for all of us – so a big thank you from the whole team to everyone who donated to the appeal.

We would also like to thank sincerely Jean Stanley, who has stepped down from collecting. Jean and her husband, Keith, ran the appeal for Eaton Bray for a number of years before us and Keith sadly passed away earlier this year.

This is all about Eaton Bray because Edlesborough doesn't have a Poppy Appeal organiser! If you live in Edlesborough, are interested in supporting the work of the RBL and would like to know what's involved – then please phone us on 221137 and we can explain.

Roger & Helen Wilkinson – Poppy Appeal organisers for Eaton Bray.



Merry Christmas

Greetings Good Readers of Focus Magazine,
I am delighted to be able to tell you that I have found time in my rather hectic schedule to come and visit you all ahead of Christmas. I want to be certain that my Elves are getting all of the correct gifts ready before I set off from my home again on Christmas Eve.

I will be joining the Lions at Edlesborough Village Hall on 8th December where I hope I get the opportunity to welcome lots of you to my grotto. Its going to be very special this year and I have sacks of early Christmas gifts for any good children that come to see me.

Rudolp and I will be bringing the sleigh around your lovely villages the following week so make sure you look out for us.

I will be out, assisted by my friends, the Eaton Bray & Edlesborough Lions from 6.30pm until 8pm on the following nights....

Dagnall on Monday 10th December
Edlesborough on Tuesday 11th December
The Orchards and Northall Road
in Eaton Bray Thursday 13th December
The Comp and High Street Area on
Friday 14th December

I do hope you can find the time to come out and say 'hello'

Santa



FROM THE DELL OF
Santa Claus



Edlesborough Flowers

Flowers, Gifts, Jewellery & more...

Formerly Buds of May, Edlesborough Flowers now has new owners, a new name and a new look. As well as providing a wide choice of floral gifts and tributes (that can be delivered locally, nationally and internationally), they have a large stock of fresh, seasonal flowers at great prices for every day. In addition, the shop has a beautiful selection of contemporary gifts, including jewellery, scarves, handbags, cards, candles, bath products and baby & children's items.

With Christmas coming, wreaths, seasonal gifts and arrangements are all available along with a new gift wrapping service.

Edlesborough Flowers is located at 2 High Street, Edlesborough, Beds, LU6 2DP and can be contacted on 01525 221920, info@edlesboroughflowers.co.uk, www.edlesboroughflowers.co.uk

Opening hours are Monday to Thursday 9.30am – 4.00pm,
Fridays 9.30 am - 5.30pm and Saturdays 9.30am - 4.00pm.

Healthy Bones

Healthy bones are essential for a happy and healthy future.

From our forties bones gradually naturally lose their density. 1 in 2 women and 1 in 5 men over the age of 50 in the UK will break a bone, mainly due to osteoporosis. This literally means “porous bones” and occurs when the mesh-like structure within the bones becomes fragile and breaks occur with minor falls and injuries.

So what can we do to help ourselves?

1. Healthy diet – eat a varied diet rich in calcium: dairy products (low fat varieties are just as good), tofu and spinach are all good.
2. Calcium absorption can be affected by caffeine and salt and avoid excessive amounts of meat and cheese as this can increase the acidity in your body.
3. Vitamin D – we get 90% from the sun but good sources include oily fish, cereals and margarine.
4. Stop smoking – you are more likely to develop osteoporosis.
5. Be active – bones are stronger when you do at least 5 hours of weight bearing exercise a week such as walking, running, golf or tennis.
6. Maintain a healthy weight – carrying too much weight puts a strain on your joints. Crash dieting can also increase the risk of osteoporosis.

St Judes Clinic 26 Lake Street Leighton Buzzard LU7 1RX

☎ 01525 377751 🌐 www.stjudesclinic.com

Tips provided by Nicki Lake, Chartered Physiotherapist at St Judes Clinic

Age Discrimination against the Law

From 1 October, the Equality Act 2010 made age discrimination unlawful in the provision of goods and services. This applies to:

- services such as shops, banks and hospitals
- organisations carrying out a public function such as the prison service or tax collection services
- associations such as sports clubs



There are specific exceptions when age discrimination may be allowed. For example a trader can offer special discounts for a particular age group, or can offer holidays exclusively for people over 50. A private club, association or charity can still cater for a particular age group, such as a club for pensioners or a youth club.

Age discrimination is also still lawful in cases of positive action and where a policy or practice can be justified as a way of meeting a 'legitimate aim' that is socially positive or in the public interest.

For more information contact the Citizens Advice Bureau, Grove House, High Street North, Dunstable. Tel: 01582 670003. Would you like to join our volunteers? Please contact the above number for more information on volunteering opportunities at Dunstable Bureau.

Village Hall Car Park

I am sure that most of you will have noticed that we started the enlarging and resurfacing of the car park back in August. And as you may have noticed it has not yet been finished, although you most certainly can park!

We must apologise to users, but we have had a small difference of opinion with the main contractor regarding the specification of the finished job and our architect is dealing with the problem. We are hoping that the job will be finished very soon.

I would point out, that we have created a width restriction at the entrance to the carpark and will be erecting signs at the entrance to remind drivers. Fear not, it is wide enough for even the largest car and light commercial vehicle, but is designed to keep heavy commercial vehicles out of the car park, which have been the main cause of the potholes that appeared in the past.

On a happier note our Quiz, which will have taken place on the 17th November, is again sold out and my apologies to those who we couldn't find room for, but be assured you are first on the list for the next **Quiz which is on April 13th.**

The next event after that will be the **10th Eaton Bray Beer Festival** which as usual, will be in the Hall on **Friday 31st May and Saturday 1st June 2013.**

As this is the **10th**, we are getting a little more (actually a lot more) excited and planning a lot of extras to make it the best ever.

Again, may I thank all the villagers who have supported the hall over the last year either by running events, attending events or supporting hall trustees in their fundraising. We really appreciate the support we receive.

May we wish you all a very Happy Christmas and above all a Healthy New Year.

For any further information please contact Ross on 221411.



Some comments from our recent Ofsted report:

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.

www.dagnallunderfives.co.uk

Wednesdays
1:00pm to 2:45pm
(During term time)
 Eaton Bray Village Hall

Cheeky monkeys
 under fives play time

£1.50 per adult / £1.00 per child / 50p under 1yr

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London Luton Airport Latest

From Another World

Madcap schemes, like mushrooms, must flourish during autumn. We've recently seen two, each involving a 4-runway Luton (instead of Boris Island or a third runway at Heathrow), from outfits anxious to register their presence with the Davies Commission which is examining the UK need for capacity at a "hub" airport. Both would have levelled Luton Hoo and required Stansted to close (to release airspace); one would have required a sort-of motorway linking the M1 and the A1(M), the other involved a driverless railway linking the West Coast main line at Tring, across the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty to the new airport, and then onwards to the East Coast Main Line at Stevenage.

Not for local communities: and not, it seems, for the owner the current airport, whose spokesperson said "We don't think these plans are workable..... while we recognise the need for a UK hub airport to be located in the South-East, neither this site's topography nor the current airport is suited to the requirement". We were interviewed by Three Counties Radio and Look East when the first scheme hit the news - we were somewhat critical (and wondered, on-air, if the date had somehow slipped to 1st. April).

What IS annoying is that these various efforts to drum up business or to attract the attention of the Davies Commission spread a generalised "planning blight" over tens of thousands of residents. But let's be thankful for small mercies: three whole weeks have gone by without yet another popping up from among the fallen leaves.

Closer To The Real World

The airport operators' informal consultation has ended and we can expect to see a planning application to be lodged with Luton Borough Council on 19th. November. It remains to be seen whether the Council, as it should, immediately refer the application to the Planning Inspectorate as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (NSIP), as we have already told Luton Borough Council that it is, though in disguise. As we've stated previously, the "additional capacity of at least 10 million passengers per year (Mppa)" rule applies – the operators themselves declare in their Master Plan that *"While the runway could, in theory, accommodate a larger airport than we plan, this could not be delivered within the existing airport boundaries in a manner that would provide a satisfactory level of customer service"*. We're all ready to urge The Minister (Eric Pickles), our local MPs and the Local Government Ombudsman to call-in the application if Luton Borough Council tries to determine it themselves.

It would be all too easy to adopt "no expansion" position over expansion at Luton, but that would be unrealistic: it's all too plain from what appears in the media that Government has swallowed the "aviation must expand or the UK will go bust" story, especially where airports in the south-east is concerned. We're now considering what minimum set of "conditions" should be attached to any permission to expand so as to ensure that surrounding communities are not obliged to suffer any greater levels of disturbance. All ideas on this subject will be welcome: "no flights between 23.30 and 07.00" is one very popular candidate but we know the airport will fight that tooth and nail.





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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.

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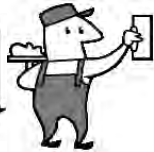
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EDaN – helping in the local community



St. Mary's Ladies Guild Eaton Bray

Jenny Hewett hosted today's meeting in Deirdrea's absence and handed out birthday cards for Judy Venn, Joan Calder and Gladys Deamer who was celebrating a very special birthday. Mission to Seafarers had acknowledged and thanked the Guild for their latest cheque for £200 in memory of Tom Heffer. Devotions were led by Christine. Jenny commented on the cost of heating the Church during the winter months and three options were discussed to raise extra funds to donate to the Church but no decision on which option to use will be made without further thought and consultation.

Jenny introduced Dr. John Noakes who was giving a presentation on a visit he and his wife made to Jordan with the Alpine Garden Centre. John started the presentation with a very interesting talk on the history of Jordan. Their journey started at Ma'daba showing slides of Roman and Greek architecture a mosaic map and many colourful pictures of flowers that were growing despite the ground being sandy, very dry and rocky to name a few species - ranunculus, asiaticus, lots of varieties of orchids, scilla, silene behen, and gladiolus. Goats were also shown wandering on the hillsides, not too popular as they eat the flowers! Their journey continued to Jerash where Jordan's national flower the black iris was found and a slide of Hadrians Gate was shown; as they travelled on views of the Dead Sea, Wadi Dana and Petra a city carved into the mountains (a world heritage site) were shown.

Joan thanked John for the very interesting and colourful presentation.

Social time followed with a rendition of Happy Birthday to Gladys and a reminder that the next meeting on 12th December is a Christmas celebration, entertainment by members and a bring and share tea.

After enjoying refreshments the raffle was drawn and members made their way home.

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Steel *Magnolias*



Thursday – Saturday 21 – 23 February 2013
Eaton Bray Hall

Hilarious and touching, this play is set in a beauty parlour somewhere in Louisiana, USA. Through four scenes spanning three years, the ladies engage in small-town gossip, running the gamut of the birth, marriage and death cycle. Through laughter and tears the deep strength and purposefulness underlying the antic banter of the characters is ultimately revealed.

Box office 01525 222283, opens in January

Coralie

On Sunday 14th October, at St Mary's Church, Coralie was instituted as our Vicar - until now she has been our Priest-in Charge. It was a service in which nearly 100 people ranging in age from 93 years to 6 weeks participated and which combined the legal formalities of the Church of England with a joyful family celebration!



Left to right: Revd Canon John Payne-Cook, Acting Archdeacon, Bishop Richard of Bedford, Coralie, and Revd Ruth Pyke who represented the Bishop of St Albans.
Photo by Eileen Bennett

Knolls View Amenity Land, Northall

Installation of Seats, Saturday 27th October 2012

A work party from the combined forces of Edlesborough Parish Council and the EDaN Beautification Team installed 2 teak benches in Northall's 'amenity land' garden, which lies behind the village sign unveiled by John Bercow MP a year ago. Local resident, Roger Moffat (Sway) is remembered in this garden; he lost his life in a tragic road accident last year near here and The Swan in Northall contributed to the purchase



of the benches with a collection at the pub. We hope local residents, walkers and

cyclists will enjoy a rest in our garden and look forward to our wild flower meadow blooming next summer. We are grateful to AVDC for their help in the creation of the garden and helping with some of its continuing maintenance.





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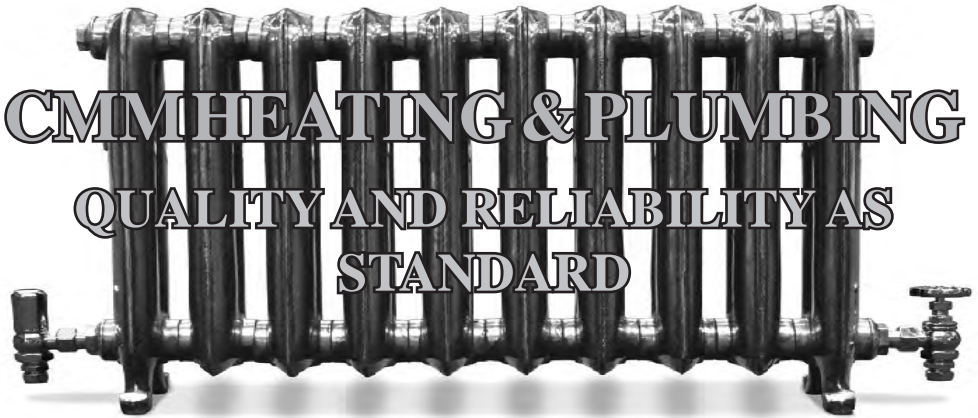
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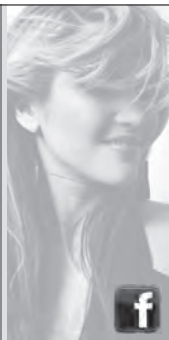
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Salvation Sound - December 2012

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An artist painted a winter scene - snow blanketed the ground and the pine trees in the background. It was eventide and in the semi-darkness a log cabin was barely visible. A gloomy atmosphere pervaded the canvas. Yet in the window of the cabin a candle burned. That single light created a feeling of warmth and love and security.

When Jesus was born in the stable on that dark winter's night a light came into this world. In later life he declared, "I am the light of the world." The apostle John said, "In Him was life, and this life brought light to mankind." John 1.V.4

When you light your Christmas candles think about what it is that you are celebrating:

Count not the presents under the tree
Nor the fairy lights that make it bright,
Count not the stars in the midnight sky
Nor the moonbeams that shed their light,
But count the blessings; that Christmas brings

Of love and joy and charity,
The birth of Jesus, the King of Kings,
Christ's love that has no parity.
Now as the lovely Christmas rose
Flowers in the winter sun,
And we gather holly and mistletoe
To prepare for the festive fun.
Walk out beneath that midnight sky,
Look up and you will see
The Star of Bethlehem still shining there
With God's gift of life for eternity... B.M.
May God bring His love to you all, enjoy
this festive season. Look forward to a
happy and healthy New Year.

from Maureen.....

Eaton Bray Village Hall 100 Club

Winners November 2012

27	Neil Cartwright	£100
175	Anita Johnson	£25
199	Jan Blundell	£25
9	Angel Marks	£25

Drawn on 9 November 2012 at Eaton Bray Academy. Please direct any correspondence to Ross Bagni 71 Bower Lane Eaton Bray, Bedfordshire LU6 1RB Telephone: 01525 221411.

The Salvation Army, Booth Place - Weekly Activities



Sunday
Footprints (Sunday School) 9.45-10.45am
Morning Worship 11.00am
Songs of Praise 4.00pm

3rd Sunday of the month May to December

Monday (term time)

Champions Challenge Club
(Ages 5-10 years) 5.30-6.30pm

Tuesday

Coffee Morning
(alternate weeks) 10.00-11.30am
Music practices (all welcome) 7.30-9.00pm

Wednesday

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

Thursday

Parent and Toddler Group
(Term time) 9.30-11.30am
Ladies Fellowship
(Last week of month) 7.45pm

For further details please contact Captain

Jenny Dibs dall

T: 01525 221156/07717 813682

E: jenny.dibs dall@salvationarmy.org.uk

W: www.salvationarmy.org.uk/eatonbray

Eaton Bray Cricket Club 100 Club Winners November 2012

£100	E Fountain	124
£25	C Campbell	70
£10	B Scott	44
£20	J Knaggs	20

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

Dagnall Weather Station (AONB)

Weather Conditions for October 2012

It seems I am repeating myself again as October was yet another wet month with rain recorded on 29 days. Total rainfall was 103.2 mm (4.63 inches) — twice the five year average. It was a cooler month, completely different from October last year which was a dry and warmer month with only 26.6mm (1.05 inches) of rain.

During the month various weather systems travelled over the UK bringing low pressure cloud and rain. In the plot below I have tried to show this, and you can see the spikes where the barometer drops and the resulting rain.

The Dagnall weather station can now bring you weather data 24 hours a day updated every 15 mins via the web: <http://myweb.tiscali.co.uk/dagnallweather> and http://bit.ly/weather_dagnall

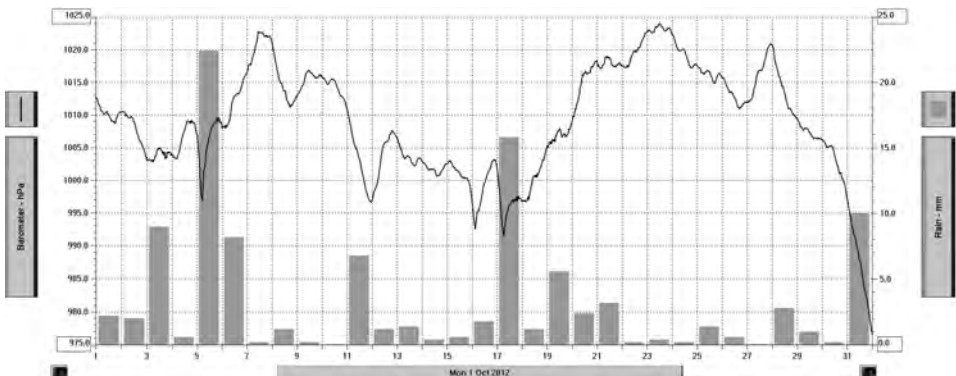
If anyone has a question, comment or wishes to contact me please email: davidgkillick@tiscali.co.uk or 01442 843883

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

	High	Date/Time	Low	Date/Time
Temperature:	17.7°C	1 Oct 15.30	- 0.7°C	28 Oct 00.30
Mean Temperature	9.7°C			
Dewpoint:	13.8°C	11 Oct 20.30	- 1.4°C	28 Oct 01.00
Humidity:	100%	23 Oct 02.00	55%	16 Oct 13.30
Barometer:	1023.9 hPa	23 Oct 12.00	977.1 hPa	31 Oct 23.30
Wind Speed	32 mph W	16 Oct 13.30	Months avg.	5.2 mph
Wind Chill:	16.9 °c	6 Oct 16.00	- 3.5°C	27 Oct 05.30
Dominant Wind:	S			
Rainfall *T= total rain days and moisture. R= Actual rain				
*Rain Days: 29 (T), 29(R)	Wettest Day 5 Oct		22.40 mm	0.881 ins
Monthly Rain:	Total	Oct 2012	103.2 mm	4.063 ins
Yearly Rain:	Total	6 Months	749.8 mm	29.519 ins

October 2012

Plots shows the low pressure and Rain days



Edlesborough Book Group

The Help by Kathryn Stockett

"The Help" was recently short listed for the Orange Prize and has also been made into an award winning film. The author, Kathryn Stockett, has used her experiences as a child in 1960's Mississippi as a basis for her novel and her heroine, Skeeter, as a vehicle for her own thoughts and observations of that time.

The story is told in the voices of three women. Two black maids, Minnie and Aibileen and a white girl, Eugenia Phelan, known as Skeeter. Returning home to Jackson after graduation, Skeeter begins to question many of the things she took for granted during her childhood. To her mother's horror she has aspirations to become a writer and not just get married as soon as possible. Watching the black maids at the houses of her friends, she becomes increasingly aware of the unfairness of their treatment and how they have no way to speak up for themselves. She notes that although they work in the houses of the white families, cook and clean for them and are entrusted with the care of their children, they are treated as second class citizens and segregated from the white community. As a result of her unease and observations, Skeeter advertises for maids to come forward to be interviewed by her. Most are reluctant at first, fearing reprisals, but two strong women emerge and their testaments convince her to try to publish their experiences in a book. These women are Aibileen and Minnie. Aibileen is nursemaid to one of Skeeter's best friends looking after her little girl, Mae Mobley. She has cared for many white children, loving them through their childhoods, only to see them grow apart from her when they reach maturity. Minnie is her more spirited friend, routinely losing jobs as she tells her employers exactly what she is thinking. As she is a superb cook she usually manages to find another position. The three women work together clandestinely and a bond forms between them as their project grows and other women come forward.

As well as the three main characters the author creates a host of other people who flesh out the story and bring the town to life. Skeeter's impact on the small town in the Deep South touches on the racial problems of the 1960's but keeps the story light. Kathryn Stockett has written a book that is very easy to read and which raises many of the problems faced by black people, but does not really delve deeply enough to make the story believable.

Our group all enjoyed reading the book and would recommend it to other groups for discussion.

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