

# FOCUS



February 2014

Happy  
Valentine's  
Day

The local village magazine just for us!  
Eaton Bray, Edlesborough, Northall & Dagnall

# *The White Horse Inn At Eaton Bray*



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**HAVE A HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY**



**THERE'S A LOVELY MEAL WAITING FOR  
ALL YOU LOVERS**

**EXPERTLY PREPARED BY HEAD CHEF  
PHIL BROWN**

# Focus Magazine Committee

**Joint Editor:** George Crutcher

7 Summerleys, Edlesborough 221637

**Email:** [george.crutcher@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:george.crutcher@tiscali.co.uk)

**Joint Editor:** Sally Siddons

34 Wallace Drive, Eaton Bray 221733

**Email:** [sallysid@hotmail.com](mailto:sallysid@hotmail.com)

**Dagnall Representative:** Sue Cawdell

10 Deans Meadow, Dagnall 01442 842200

**Circulation Manager:** John Plater

41 Church Lane, Eaton Bray 221095

**Treasurer/Leaflet Enquiries:** Ken Coates

10 The Nurseries, Eaton Bray 220868

**Advertising:** Sally Siddons

34 Wallace Drive, Eaton Bray 221733

**Design and Layout:** Tracey Moren (Moren Associates Limited) 01525 229695

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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**

## Kindly Note...

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

✉ Editors

### **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](mailto:LPT.LeightonRural@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk)

### **Thames Valley Police (Edlesborough, Dagnall & Northall)**

General Assistance: 101

PC Steve Brisley Mobile: 07817 817 562

PCSO Jackie Dodson Mobile: 07800 703 524

PCSO Natalie Hall Mobile: 07800 702 456

Email: [WingSouthNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:WingSouthNHPT@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk)

# Village Diary February 2014



## Weekly

- Mon-Fri (term time) Eaton Bray Pre-school, Eaton Bray Lower School, 01525 220468
- Mon-Fri (term time) Dagnall Under 5's, Dagnall Village Hall, 9.15am - 12.15pm, Mrs Ann Tobin 07816 358342
- Mon-Fri (term time) Edlesborough Pre-School, Edlesborough School, 01525 220431  
manager@edlesborough.bucks.sch.uk
- 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, Contact Sandra Counsell 07979 521900
- Mondays Dagnall Community Choir, All Saints Church 7.45 – 9.45pm
- Mondays Weight Watchers, 7pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall
- Mondays (term time) Movement and exercise classes with a dance flavour, Northall Village hall 2-3.30. Contact Jan 01442 864271.
- Mondays & Thursdays Buggy Push Fitness Class, 10:15am, Eaton Bray Park - [www.simplesfitness.com](http://www.simplesfitness.com)
- 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, Ruth Allen, 01525 222468 or 07796 265174 or email [ruthallen002@gmail.com](mailto:ruthallen002@gmail.com)
- Tuesdays Northall Baby & Toddler Group, 9:30-11:30am, (open in the Summer School Holidays) Northall Village Hall, Stacey Richmond 01525 222999/07957 607592
- Tuesdays Tap & Ballet Classes, JoAnn Latus School of Dance, 4-8pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall, 01582 620576
- Tuesdays Zumba Fitness Class, 8.15-9.15pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Zoey 07595 986892
- Tuesdays Circuit Training - Edlesborough School Hall, 7-8pm - [www.simplesfitness.com](http://www.simplesfitness.com)
- Tuesdays Coffee Morning, Bring & Buy, Table Top Sale, 10-12noon, Salvation Army Hall, Booth Place, Eaton Bray
- Fortnightly Cheeky Monkeys Under 5's playtime, 1pm - 2.45pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall, contact Rachel on 07789 760007
- Weds (term time) 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
- Wednesdays Zumba Fitness Class, 9.30am, St Giles Church Hall, Totternhoe, Zoey 07595 986892
- Wednesdays Dynamic Yoga 6.30-7.30pm £5 Eaton Bray Coffee Tavern Keira 07936 693696
- 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 (term time) Northall School of Dancing classes between 3.30pm and 6.30pm. Contact Nicola Bisson on 01525 406647

# Village Diary February 2014



Thursdays	Central Bedfordshire Children's Centres' Toy Library, 9-9.45am, Eaton Bray
Fortnightly	(School Lane) Public Car Park
Fridays	Tap & Ballet Classes, JoAnn Latus School of Dance, 4-8pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall, 01582 620576
Fridays (term time)	10am-11.30am "Little Luvvies" baby ballet classes. Contact Emma Whittemore on 01525 376124
Fridays	Zumba Fitness Class, 9.30am, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Zoey 07595 986892
Fridays	Keep Fit class, Edesborough Memorial Hall 10 - 11am
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) Worship Service 11am-12pm. All welcome. Barry 01525 229610 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. <a href="http://www.wendy-poole.co.uk">www.wendy-poole.co.uk</a>
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, St Mary's Church, Edlesborough Open Day, 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 Wednesday	Eaton Bray & Edlesborough Lions Club, 7.30pm, The Coffee Tavern
2nd Thursday	CAMEO Coffee, tea & chat, 10am-12noon, Edlesborough Methodist Church
2nd Saturday	Workshops Dynamic Yoga 9.30-11am £10 Eaton Bray Coffee Tavern Keira 07936 693696
3rd Thursday	Edlesborough Parish Council Meeting, 7.30pm, Memorial Hall
3rd Sunday	Lunch club 11.30 to 2.00pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Chris Hewitt 222288

## Other Regular Events

2nd	Beds Area Narrow Gauge Model Railway Club Meeting, 11.30am-4.30pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall
8th	Cafe Community, 11am-1pm, Eaton Bray Methodist Church
14th	Leukemia Research Coffee Morning, 2 Dunstable Road, Dagnall 10.30 am. All welcome.
18th	Dagnall Over 60s Lunch & Quiz at the Red Lion, Dagnall
24th	ELF walk from Eaton Bray Church 10am

## One Off/Annual/Irregular Events

9th	A Highland Fling, 6-9pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall. Tickets: 01525 237098
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We have some business advertising space left for 2014. Please give Sally Siddons a ring on 221733 if you would like to take advantage of this

# Village Notices

**BABYSITTING  
EXPERIENCED  
15 YEAR OLD  
£5 AN HOUR  
PHONE AMBER ON  
01525 220712**



**EDaN Community  
Transport**

Peter Williams:  
01442 842506

## **Eaton Bray Cricket Club 100 Club Winners December 2013**

£25	Joe Sweeting	No 81
£10	Eric Pratt	No 29

## **January 2014**

£25	George French	No 120
£10	Isabel Pearson	No 50

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

## **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

## **WANTED**

### **Female Lose Weight & Get Fit Buddy!**

Podgy 52 year old female wants a fellow plump buddy / buddies, to motivate each other & attend something or other in order to lose weight & get fit. Target 2 stone... by daughters wedding in September. Problem being, sitting on the sofa with a glass of wine is far more appealing on a cold winters night... and a warm summers evening! Not a stranger to weight loss - lost 5 stone about 5 years ago, but found keeping it off more difficult.... It doesn't matter on the age of the buddy, but someone with a sense of humour is a must!

If you fancy giving it a go, please email me on [kempsterann@gmail.com](mailto:kempsterann@gmail.com)

## **George Debrick**

Grace, Kevin and Mark and all the family would like to thank Dr Haider, all nurses and carers who attended George and all our friends and neighbours for their kind offers of help and the many visits George received during his illness.

Special thanks to Tim, Peter and Wynn. Also thank you for the many cards and tributes to George and all donations for Cancer care. Last but by no means least our thanks to Garry Jenkins for the lovely service and White Dove Funerals for all their help.

A note from Grace. Thank you to all my family for being here for me.

## EDLESBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

# The Council currently has vacancies for 2 Parish Councillors

Would you like to know more about local issues and developments in Edlesborough, Dagnall and Northall?

Do you have an interest in how the villages and their amenities are run?

Would you like to obtain some real satisfaction by making a contribution to our local community?

If so and you are aged 21 or over and live (or work) in the Parish you might like to consider joining the Parish Council where there are currently 2 vacancies, 1 in Edlesborough and 1 in Dagnall.

Councillors do not have to live in the village which they represent.

For more information please contact the Parish Clerk, Lin Sargeant at:

- 41 Pebblemoor, Edlesborough LU6 2HZ
- 01525 220859
- [parish.council.clerk@edlesborough-pc.gov.uk](mailto:parish.council.clerk@edlesborough-pc.gov.uk)

## London Luton Airport

With an increase in aircraft in the area and in particular when the wind is from the East, we are getting some aircraft flying directly over the village to join the flight path into the airport. If you are disturbed by the traffic flying over the village, there is a complaints hotline number: 01582395382. This is an airport number where you can register your concerns. It is important to do this if we are to reduce these disturbances over our village.

If you need to complain about Heathrow flight noise the number is 0800 344 844. Email: [noise\\_complaints@heathrow.com](mailto:noise_complaints@heathrow.com)



The National Trust  
South Beds Assn

Monday 3rd February

**Katharine of Aragon and her  
Connection with Ampthill**

*Roberta Calvert: amateur local historian*

Our speaker will talk about the early life of Katharine of Aragon and her role as the Queen of England and wife of Henry VIII. She will explain the connection with Ampthill, together with the Tudor Festival commemorating her stay in Ampthill Castle. She will also demonstrate Tudor costume and how it is made for the Festival, and show photographs and artifacts of the period.

**2.30pm, Salvation Army Centre,**

**Bull Pond Lane, Dunstable**

**Visitors are welcome at £1**

*For further information  
phone 01582 527790*

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

**Wednesday:** **10.00am**    Holy Communion

*EVERYONE WELCOME AT THESE SERVICES*

## St. Mary's Village Carnival 5th July 2014



If your New Year's resolution involves getting rid of the turkey and pudding that's being carried around fear not! If it's still with you by the summer there will be plenty of opportunity for physical activity when you shake your funky stuff at this year's Carnival. The theme for this year is MUSIC and all things MUSICAL. So start thinking about your favourite groups, orchestras, singers, songs, musicals and instruments.

The massive ghetto blaster that is Carnival is just beginning sound checks at present but will be tuning up over the next few months for the full volume event on 5th July. If you would like to help with the Carnival in any way during the months running up to July please make contact on the numbers below; no contribution too small, no enthusiasm too great.

Here is an early reminder for local businesses, schools, youth groups, and organisations of any kind that you can both support the Carnival and have your organisation promoted during this event. Here's how:

- Advertising in the Carnival Programme – delivered to all the households in Dagnall, Eaton Bray, Edlesborough and

Northall.

- Advertising in the arena.
- Having a float in the Carnival procession.
- Having a stall at the Carnival.
- Donating a prize for the Grand Draw.
- Donating a prize for the Silent Auction.

Further details of Carnival 2014 including how to book a stall, arrange advertising, offer prizes and much more can be found on the Carnival website at:

[www.stmarysvillagecarnival.com/carnival](http://www.stmarysvillagecarnival.com/carnival)

For any specific questions or if you would like to get involved contact:

Gordon Gray 01525 220136 or Richard Evans 01525 222512

Finally, I leave you with the words of Igor Stravinsky:

**“My music is best understood by children and animals”**

However, be assured that adults are allowed at Carnival too!

# Music





# A Letter from Rev'd Coralie



**Vicar: Coralie McCluskey**  
**The Vicarage, 11 High Street, Eaton Bray - Tel: 01525 220261**  
**Honorary Assistant Priest: Revd John Heffer**  
**Reader: Gordon Gray (220136)**  
**Church Warden: Catherine Hayden (220527)**  
**Parish Administrator: Elisabeth Ryder (07799 494972)**  
**Web contact: [eatonbraychurch@aol.com](mailto:eatonbraychurch@aol.com)**

## **Whoopee!**

The British Board of Film Classification is to review its guidelines for certification saying that it would pay particular attention to the impact of gore and strong visuals in its deliberations, as well as acknowledging that the sexualisation of young women in film and music videos is a major concern.

The BBFC has also said it will give greater weight to the theme and tone of films which are issued with parental guidance (PG) and those suitable for 12 year olds and over (12A).

Changes to the guidelines will come into force on the 24th February but the BBFC admitted that there will be ongoing work with regard to the 12A classification as it continues to confuse many viewers.

It was interesting and heartening to read some of the online discussion. Responses included concern that the average teenager is exposed to far worse on the internet, on the news and in their everyday life than anything they would find in the cinema. I cheered on reading the comment that society has a duty to protect children.

## **Children at St Mary's**

Working with children is one of our priorities and it is a privilege to see this work growing at St Mary's.

**Messy Church** on the first Sunday of the month from 3pm till 5pm welcomes parents and children working together in a creative though sometimes chaotic environment. The session is story or theme based and involves a range of activities including art & craft, singing, games, quiet and noisy times, opportunities to work alone or with others and finally sitting down to have tea together. Themes covered over the last year included, Easter, Christmas, holidays, bible stories, friends & family. We always welcome newcomers and if you just want to have a look please come along. Some people come every month, others just occasionally.

**TOTS** is for pre-school children and their carers (mums, dads, grandparents, child minders). It's on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month at 2pm. It lasts an hour so that picking up other children from school is not a problem.

**St Mary's Choir** is for those who want to sing and want to learn more. It meets on a Friday evening at 7:30pm.

If you want to know more about any of these activities please contact me on 01525 220261, drop a note in at the vicarage or email me at [vicar@stmaryseatonbray.org.uk](mailto:vicar@stmaryseatonbray.org.uk)

*Coralie*

# EDaN Community Transport



I hope you all had a pleasant Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

Peter Williams our community transport co-ordinator is on holiday until the end of April. In the interim period, if you need to book a journey, please call

**Viv Hill on 01442 842623**

Viv and Peter are main drivers within the scheme and this will mean that we are in need of anyone who can come forward to help out with some driving while Peter is away and Viv is on duty. We would welcome your call even if you can only drive to help us out during this period.

I would be grateful to receive a call from anyone who can give a little of their time to help other people less fortunate than themselves, even if only for a temporary period.

Many thanks to all those drivers already doing such a wonderful job for us and let's hope that we can welcome some new drivers on board this month!

With very best wishes

✍️ Kathy Bovington

Community Transport Leader

Tel 01442 842473 or Mob 0779 0537032



## Hold a Fish and Chip Supper



**to help Spinal Cord Injured People Rebuild Lives after Injury**

**Great British Fish and Chip Supper – Friday 16th May 2014**

Want to eat Fish and Chips, while raising money for charity? Hold a fish and chip supper on Friday 16th May 2014 whilst raising awareness of spinal cord injury and supporting SIA's vital services.

You can hold a fish and chip supper in your own home, at work or hold a larger supper at your local community centre.

SIA will provide a fundraising pack containing hints and tips, recipes, invitations and donation envelopes. By inviting 8 friends and asking them to donate an additional £5.00 means you will raise at least £40.00 from your supper but we will also give you additional fundraising ideas to raise even more money for SIA.

In 2014 SIA is celebrating its 40th anniversary and so we want to make the better matter and raise £25,000 from everyone holding suppers. Last year we raised £12,500 from the suppers.

The money raised from the suppers will help the Spinal Injuries Association

offer support to individuals who become paralysed and their families, from the moment a spinal injury occurs, and for the rest of their lives by providing services and publications which enable and encourage paralysed people to rebuild lives after spinal cord injury.

Every year in the UK over 1,000 people experience a spinal cord injury and there are an estimated 40,000 spinal cord injured people in the UK alone.

Community Fundraising Manager, Elizabeth Wright, says, "The Fish and Chip Supper is a wonderful opportunity for a great evening with friends and family. We are also encouraging people who work to hold a Fish and Chip Lunch in their work places to raise even more funds. You may be even a local community group wanting to run a fun evening with your group.

For more information or request a fundraising pack call Elizabeth Wright on 0845 071 4350 or email fundraising@siafishandchips.co.uk or visit [www.siafishandchips.co.uk](http://www.siafishandchips.co.uk)



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## **EDLESBOROUGH SURGERY**

**11 Cow Lane Edlesborough**

**Enquiries - 01525 221630 Appointments - 01525 220333**

**[www.edlesboroughsurgery.co.uk](http://www.edlesboroughsurgery.co.uk)**

**Dr J R Bell, Dr Tisha Patel**

**Dr Stephanie Johnston, Dr Kirsten Riemer, Dr Heather Counsell**

**Friendly village Practice offering a wide range of health services including coils/implants, minor surgery, travel advice, in house blood tests, on-line appointments and repeat prescription ordering. Four Nurse Practitioners offering acute clinics with same day appointments. Also, midwife, health visitors in attendance. Local District Nurse Service.**

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leightonbuzzard@stagecoach.co.uk  
www.stagecoach.co.uk/leightonbuzzard  
www.facebook.com/stagecoachleightonbuzzard



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**07836 650015 (mobile)**

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# *Dominic Woolcott*

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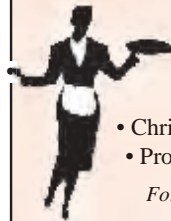
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## **Edlesborough W.I.**

At our recent meeting Jenny & Pauline stood in for Phrena (President) and Wendy (Minutes Secretary).

Judging by the comments made, everyone had thoroughly enjoyed our Birthday celebrations the month previously. The Aylesbury trip to see “Seven Brides for Seven Brothers”, and a tour of the theatre, had also been very popular. Thanks to Jenny for making all the arrangements.

At the meeting we had an interesting, and sometimes quite amusing, talk by Josie Jeffrey. Now retired, Josie had worked as a store detective in such stores as Littlewoods and Marks & Spencer at branches in Luton, Stevenage and Watford. She also spent short spells in both London & Dublin. The work involved attending as a witness when a shoplifter appeared in court, and Josie related many instances. Although not to be condoned, quite a number of them did raise a laugh

when Josie described the way they were carried out. Some cases, however, were really sad, especially the ones regarding young children who had obviously been trained to steal. The examples given were quite an ‘eye opener’ to what takes place in some of the large stores.

Our last meeting of 2013 combined the A.G.M. and Christmas party. After the annual reports, etc., the celebrations began with a tasty supper prepared by Ann and her two helpers. We were entertained by monologues from three ladies and, as in past years, by Les & Dave who provided the music we all love to hear. Presents were distributed, after which we all joined in a sing-song of popular music. I hope we didn’t disturb too many neighbours, as it was rather ‘enthusiastic’! Altogether, it was a lovely evening for all concerned, and we now look forward to 2014.

✍️ Val Harris

## **Thank You**

I would like to say a big thankyou to all the people who came to help me when I had a fall on December 4th, and waited until the ambulance arrived. Thankfully I

did no damage apart from a few bruises and bruised pride, I would like to wish you all a very happy new year...

✍️ Barbara Bates



# EB Lions Astro Children Denied Training Pitch

At the December meeting of the Eaton Bray Parish Council (EBPC) the decision to proceed with the building of an all-weather training facility in the village was quashed which effectively means that the project will not go ahead.

EB Lions provides football to the children in and around all the villages and this season is our most successful ever – 25 teams and over 320 players spanning U5's to U17, including 4 successful Girls teams and a new U21 team.

For the past 3 years EB Lions have been working tirelessly, professionally and persistently on plans to obtain planning permission and then to build an all-weather 3G training pitch following clear indications of support by EBPC for a joint project.

This was an ambitious project, costing over £275,000 but with the support of Beds FA and skill of the Club, the project was viable and achievable at **no cost** to the parish council. Moreover, it needed no external 'non-village' use to make it financially viable as it was entirely self-funding. A joint planning application was initially made on a site in Bower Lane, which despite convincing the planners of the worthiness and benefit, was eventually agreed that the site was just not right given Highway issues so alternative sites in the village were sought.

The site favoured by EBPC and EB Lions was on the Recreation Ground at The Rye and in November 2012 planning permission was granted, subject to agreement of the operational details. By this point a small local opposition became so vehement, even to the extent of making spurious legal threats that EBPC's

resolve began to evaporate. At this late stage, EB Lions suggested to EBPC that one of the previously identified sites, Holman's Field (School Lane) could be considered as an alternative. That suggestion and the opposition led EBPC to a full public consultation process that culminated in a shameful public meeting in October at which supposedly sane adults were seen and heard shouting at children in attempting to give creditability to irrelevant arguments, half-truths and distortions that have been continually repeated.

The formal public consultation vote was a clear YES, rather inconvenient to the EBPC and opponents but nevertheless, being only a consultation has been conveniently ignored.

The practical result of this decision for the club may well mean a reduction in the number of teams due to a lack of training playing surfaces which means fewer children in our villages playing sport but the full consequences of this decision will only become evident over the coming years. The community has lost the opportunity to have a fully funded top quality sports facility. EBPC councillors have bowed to a small number of noisy complainers and despite some individual members rather embarrassingly commending EB Lions of doing a fine job at the same time as killing the project, have let down the community they serve. Progress is destined to fail while it remains so much easier to say "No" than to embrace opportunity and change. The Olympic spirit has now left Eaton Bray for good.

✍ EB Lions AFC

## Letter to the Editor...



*As a grandparent of children attending EB Lions Football I find it very difficult to comprehend the decision of a mostly unelected Parish Council, not to support the introduction of an all weather pitch. For more years than I care to remember football has been played on The Rye. Indeed when we first moved to the village, I used to take my own children to watch. Now they have children of their own and they are to be prevented from enjoying worthwhile outdoor pursuits all year round by this decision. The only possible reason for not allowing the introduction of such a facility is "car parking" and I understand that this issue was addressed by the concept of knocking down the clubhouse. Incidentally I wonder how much of our money the Parish Council has loaned to the Old Football / Social Club over the years and how much of this has ever been recouped. I believe that no contributions towards the new facility would be required from the Parish Council and therefore us.*

*Floodlights would only be used through the dark Winter/Spring Nights and then as far as I understand only until about 9.30.p.m, so would affect no one. As to noise, rather the sound of children playing than the quiet of kids with NOTHING better to do than hanging around on street corners planning their next burglary or drug fix,  
✍ Name and address supplied*

## St Mary's 100 Club

St Mary's has stood in the village for almost 800 years and, throughout its history, it has not been equipped with that most basic of facilities, a toilet.

This has meant that some elderly folk have been unable to risk coming to church, visitors for funerals and weddings have been uncomfortable throughout services and, rather unsatisfactorily, children have been instructed to 'go behind a gravestone'. 2014 should see that situation remedied with the construction of an extension to house a new toilet.

To help fund the toilet we have started a 100 Club, featuring monthly draws of 50% of the received income. For just £2 per number per month you could help St Mary's get this much needed facility and put yourself in with a chance of winning a first prize each month of over £50.

The first draw was made by Claire Lawrence, conductor of the Aylesbury Concert Band, at the wonderful New Year's Concert on 11 January. At the time of the draw the 100 Club had 117 members so the three winners shared prize money of £117.

Congratulations to the winners of our first draw:

Winner of £58.50 – no. 65,  
Patricia Costin, Eaton Bray  
Winner of £35.10 – no. 62,  
John Palmer, Edlesborough  
Winner of £23.40 – no. 38,  
Susan Walker, Eaton Bray

If you would like to help us by joining the 100 Club please collect a form from St Mary's Church, Eaton Bray, or from [www. StMarysEatonBray.org.uk/Groups/100-Club](http://www.StMarysEatonBray.org.uk/Groups/100-Club)

# Dagnall News

## **Dagnall Over 60s**

Dagnall Over Sixties enjoyed a delicious Christmas Lunch on 17th Dec. 56 members turned out to join in the festivities. My sincere thanks go to my committee and their husbands and partners, who helped to make the day such a success.

On Wed January 22nd we held our AGM and Birthday tea. Feb 18th is a lunch and quiz at the Red Lion in Dagnall.

We are all looking forward to our weekend in Llandudno in March.

Thanks go to Roy Castledine for organising this event. (Let's hope Llandudno has not been too badly affected by the recent storms and high tides.)

We are delighted to have two new members to the club. We are still looking for "newly" Over Sixties to join us, as our overall numbers are down, due to ill-health and sadly from several deaths over the past year or two.

My telephone number is 01442843202.

Please get in touch if you are interested. Lifts to Dagnall can be arranged with the Car Service, at minimal cost.

✉ Rosemary Holt. (Allan)

## **Dagnall Community Choir**

### **NEW YEAR - NEW CHAPTER**

With the start of the New Year we are delighted to welcome a new Musical Director / Conductor to our Choir.

Michelle Garrard is not unknown to some of our members who have sung under her direction in other Choirs and they were very pleased to learn of her accepting this new challenge. She grew up in a Salvationist family, steeped in music, with parents encouraging her musicality throughout childhood, and eventually went on to study piano and clarinet at Trinity College of Music.

Since then she has been involved in leadership of choirs and now relishes taking on the fresh challenge of what has become a comparatively large Community Choir singing a wide variety of music.

We also welcome the arrival of Judy Smither as our regular accompanist. She has accompanied us occasionally in the recent past and is also well known in local musical circles and is a conductor in her own right. She is busy working on organising a Choir Festival in St. Mary's R C Church in Dunstable on March. 29th. and we are looking forward to being one of several Choirs involved.

So we now enthusiastically look forward to the next phase in the development of our Choir and hope to have the opportunity to entertain you some time in 2014.

## **Red Lion, Dagnall**

Now that we have put away the festive decorations and cooked our last turkey dinner we can start getting ready for spring time. We are planning our next food night for Valentines weekend when we have a 3 course meal on Saturday 15th February. It is exciting that we have a guest chef Martin Nisbet who having worked for 17 years in London at many award winning restaurants is launching his 'Supper Club' starting at the Red Lion for a Valentines Meal at a brilliant price of £20.00 per head. Booking is definitely advisable for this.

## **Dagnall School**

See page 35 for details and photos of John Bercow's visit to Dagnall School.

# Harvest Auction

(Charity No 293080)

Northall & District Wednesday Club committee and members would like to thank all the businesses that supported us with donations for the Harvest Auction.

We also want to thank all the individual donors and generous bidders who contributed to the event. TOGETHER WE RAISED £2060. THANK YOU ALL.

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*Ashridge Golf Club*

*Café Masala*

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*Icknield Farm, Kelly Bronze Turkey*

*Janes*

*Lantmannen/Unibake*

*Laurence Cull*

*Lawes Paws*

*London Gliding Club*

*Mead Open farm*

*Mentmore Golf*

*NG Autos*

*Park Farm Fisheries*

*Peter Pratt, Home Farm, Northall*

*Roebuck Garage*

*Silver Arrow Archery*

*St Judes*

*Swan Pub, Northall*

*Thai Traditional Massage for Ladies*

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

## The 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

### 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

Champions Challenge Club (term time)

(Ages 5-10 years) 5.45-6.45pm

### Thursday

Parent and Toddler Group

(Term time) 9.30-11.30am

Haberdashers' night

2nd Thursday of month 7.45 pm

Ladies Fellowship

(Last week of month) 7.45pm

*For further details please contact Captain*

*Jenny Dibsall T:01525 221156/07717 813682*

*E: [jenny.dibsall@salvationarmy.org.uk](mailto:jenny.dibsall@salvationarmy.org.uk)*

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# Eaton Bray Parish Council

## Highlights of the Minutes of the Meeting of Eaton Bray Parish Council held on Monday 4 November 2013 from 7:30pm at the Coffee Tavern

### Public Consultation/EB Lions

The Public Consultation on the proposed all-weather training pitch in Eaton Bray has now closed; responses received were collated and recorded.

EATON BRAY PUBLIC CONSULTATION - all-weather training pitch				
EATON BRAY PARISH: ELECTORS 2,149 (Full Register 2012-2013)				
RESPONSES	RESULTS	PITCH	THE RYE	HOLMANS
FOR	163	163*	135	140
AGAINST	126	92	121	119
TOTAL RESPONSES		289		
*There are 5 further votes which indicated that they would support a pitch in the parish but did not support the proposals put forward; currently included in the against responses.				
Number of responses from Edlesborough/Northall & other town/ villages can be viewed on the Eaton Bray Parish Council Website				

### Raised Flower Beds

The Parish Council, together with the village improvement team (EBAT), are placing raised flower beds around the village sign/notice board situated in Market Square.

### Local Transport Problems

The Parish Council have raised the concerns of residents to Central Beds Council/Highways regarding the changes to the parish bus route during the road works/closure in Totternhoe and the lack of notification by the bus company for residents. The Parish Council have put forward suggestions for improvement.

## Highlights of the Minutes of the Meeting of Eaton Bray Parish Council held on Monday 4 December 2013 from 7:30pm at the Coffee Tavern

### Central Beds Council (CBC):

Website: [www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)

gov.uk

Customer Services: Telephone: 0300 300 8302 / Email: [customers@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:customers@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)

- Social Housing in parish – CBC are launching a consultation so that local residents can have their say on proposals to introduce a new ‘allocations scheme’ ... to respond to this visit the CBC website or call 0300 300 4237. Residents can also contact Cllr. Mustoe direct for help/advice regarding upgrading/downgrading their property.

- Heating Oil – the Bedfordshire Rural Community

Charity (BRCC) are currently looking at developing oil-buying groups in rural Bedfordshire as heating oil users may be able to negotiate cheaper prices for oil tanks and heating equipment as part of a group. If you are interested in setting up an oil-buying group in your area you can contact Lisa King at BRCC on 01234 832643.

### Bedfordshire Police

Crime Type	Recorded Crime	
	06/09/12 to 03/12/12	06/09/13 to 03/12/13
Domestic Burglary	3	0
Burglary Other	1	1
Vehicle Crime	5	3
Other Theft	3	3
Criminal Damage	1	2
Drugs	1	0
Other Notifiable Offences	1	0
Total	15	9



Crime report from 06/09/13 to 03/12/13.

**ASB** - There were 2 *reported* incidents of anti-social behaviour between the dates of 06/11/2013 and 03/12/2013. Classified as below:

- A vehicle was reported as abandoned on BOWER LANE since 18/11/2013. This has been logged and the vehicle is not causing an obstruction.
- A vehicle was reported as parking in-front of their neighbour's garage. Officers attended and stated that there was no obstruction.

If you have any information regarding any of the above incidents or wish to contact any Leighton Buzzard PCSO, then please call 01582 473411 or email us at LPT. LeightonBuzzardLinslade&Rural@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk

**Raised Flower Beds**

The Parish Council, together with the village improvement team (EBAT), has now placed raised flower beds around the village sign/notice board situated in Market Square. They are now planning to do the same around the Knights Close notice board.

**Parish Council Precept**

Due to the removal of the Council Tax Support funding from CBC and budget forecast for 2014/15 it was agreed to increase the parish precept from £65,000 to £70,000.

**Future Eaton Bray Parish Council Meeting Dates**

1. Monday 3rd February 2014; 7:30pm at The Coffee Tavern (1st floor)
2. Monday 3rd March 2014; 7:30pm at The Coffee Tavern (1st floor)

**Parish Council Website:** [www.ebpc.co.uk](http://www.ebpc.co.uk)

For full detailed copy of the minutes for Eaton Bray Parish Council please visit the Parish Council website.

A hard copy of minutes can also be viewed on the Parish Council's notice board at The Coffee Tavern.

✉ Heidi Head, Parish Clerk & RFO

Email: [clerk@ebpc.co.uk](mailto:clerk@ebpc.co.uk)

Telephone/Fax: 01525 221464

Website: [www.ebpc.co.uk](http://www.ebpc.co.uk)

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

## Eaton Bray Methodist Church

On behalf of all the Members and friends of our Chapel may I wish you a Happy and Healthy New Year.

The Sunday School Carol Service was a very special time and the joy on the faces of both Youngsters and Congregation was palpable. Our thanks to everyone who helped beforehand and on the day.

A huge thank you to June Jarrett and Celia James for their tireless knitting and sewing which resulted in a total of £670-00 being raised for our Maintenance Fund, a wonderful result from all their hard work. A little bird has told me they have already started for next Christmas!

Cafe Community will recommence on Saturday February 8th from 11am until 1pm when we invite you to join us for a light lunch or coffee and biscuits and a chance to relax with friends.

Cafe Worship the following day will be led by Paul and Rona Wright, members of our Sunday School Staff. A warm welcome awaits.

March's Cafe Community will be on Saturday 8th and Cafe Worship on Sunday 9th when Rev. Andy Melvin will lead our Service.

## Second Festive Bingo in Memory of Basil Thorne

The bingo in early December kicked off Christmas festivities in Dagnall with a fun night. There was a lovely buffet and lots of great raffle prizes. In total the evening raised £92 for Dagnall Village Hall. About seventy people came along and all said what a wonderful evening they had had – we are sure one Basil would have enjoyed.

Many thanks to caller Claire who as always did a brilliant job and Eric and Dave and family for their help on the night.

We appreciated everyone's support and have already had lots of requests for another one this year!

✍️The Thorne family

## Edlesbray Leisure Fellowship (ELF)

Hello Everyone.

A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL.

We hope that you all enjoyed the Christmas Break, whatever you did.

The walk scheduled for 11th November was postponed until November 25th.

A small group of walkers led by Brian F.W. began at Wyvale Nursery, Bulbourne and enjoyed a circular walk along the Grand Union Canal Tow Path, The Wendover Arm to Little Tring, then Tringford and Marsworth Reservoirs to Startops End and back to the Garden Centre. The walkers then enjoyed a well deserved snack of Mince- Pies and Coffee. The walk was around 3 1/2 - 4 Miles.

Several members visited Waddesdon Manor on December 4th to view the Christmas Lights.

Thanks must go to the Volunteers who decorated the Christmas Tree named "The Lazy Tree" which was displayed in the Christmas Tree Festival at Eaton Bray Church.

Our meeting in The Coffee Tavern on November 28th combined our normal meeting with our annual Sherry and Mince-Pies event. Several ideas were put forward for outings during 2014. Brian W, collated the ideas and dates suggested together with the members names who

would be willing to organise them. Norman collected the annual donations of £5 towards the refreshments for the year. Alan and Val organised the sherry and Mince-pies.

These were enjoyed by members present. Thanks go to them.

December 12th saw a good group of members enjoying a very nice meal at The Heath Inn. Good Company, Food, Service and Welcome.

This event brought our 2013 Year to a close.

### FEBRUARY DATES

MONDAY 24th

Walk from Eaton Bray Church 10am



### Dunstable & District Local History Society

**Tuesday 11 February, 7.45pm  
History of the Priory Church**

Dunstable's parish church survived the destruction of the monastery of which it was once a part. Hugh Garrod's talk ranges from Edward VI to the present day.

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— Christopher —  
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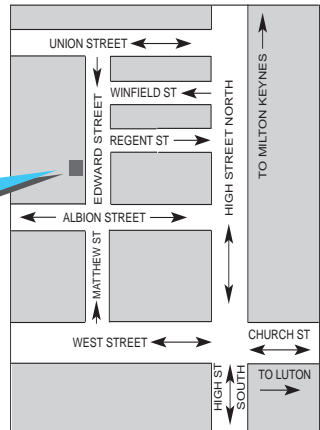
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# Dagnall School

John Bercow MP spent some time at Dagnall School on Friday (13th) December.

During a tour of the school Mr Bercow noted the helping hands tree, which showed just how many parents and local people have supported the school practically this year. He enjoyed reading the children's work on the displays and then took some time in the hot seat answering their questions. Several focused on mathematical problems and Mr Bercow, ably assisted by the children, calculated there must be some 5,000 tables in the Houses of Parliament! The children then asked him to support them in the road safety campaign to reduce the speed of vehicles coming through Dagnall Village.

*Vicky Lee, Chair of Governors,  
David Gravestock – EdaN, and  
Rev. Coralie McClusky with John  
Bercow MP in the hotseat and  
children at Dagnall School posing  
some tricky questions.*



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# Your Village Photos



*Above: Pigeon  
by Callum Ryan aged 13*



*Above: From the bridge at  
Waterside  
Right: Berries  
Both by Callum Ryan aged 13*



*Rhubarb  
by John Hockey*



*Edlesborough Church  
at sunset by Richard  
Woodhead*

*Lollipops on sticks!  
by Sally Siddons*



## **Your Photos**

Thank you to everyone who sends us their photos to use each month. More often than not we have so much editorial that we are unable to include any photos. However, all photos received are stored and used when we have space to spare. We occasionally use your photos on the front cover, for this to work we need the

photo to be of portrait orientation, which fits in with our cover design. Most of the photos we receive are understandably landscape or not sufficient quality to go on the cover. For future reference the cover photo needs to be a minimum of 300dpi when enlarged or shrunk to the cover size of 210mm high x 148mm wide.



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*"We like learning French!"*

### Quotes from children

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*"Early Reading is good. I love doing my letter sounds!"*

*"We are all learning!"*



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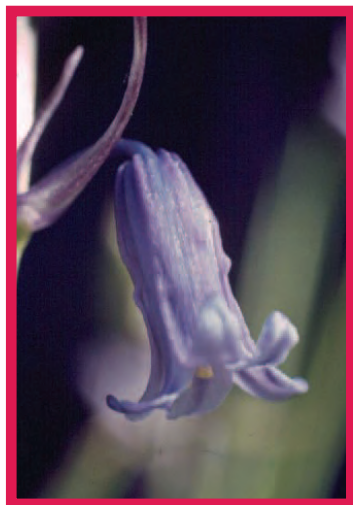
# **Your Village Photos**

*Right: Allotment sunflowers  
by John Hockey*

*Below: Ashridge by Shelagh  
Bagni*



*Bluebell by Phil Wood*



*Pear Tree Cottage  
by Adrian Lewis*



*Goldfinch in Yew Tree Close  
by Richard Woodhead*



*Above: Summer meadow at College  
Lake by Brian Russell*

*Right: Daffodil and crocus in the  
snow by Phil Wood*



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# Eaton Bray W.I.

Eaton Bray WI is a small, friendly group who meet on the first Monday of the month (except for Bank Holidays when we meet a week later), at the Eaton Bray Methodist Hall at 7.30pm.

The WI is all about inspiring women, offering them the opportunity to join and be involved in a way that suits them.

Many elements come together to make a successful WI, and the real measure of success is when a WI works for every single member. Everyone needs the opportunity to take part and also establish new friendships. Members need to know that their contribution is important and valued, providing refreshing new ideas and new ways of looking at and doing things.

An interesting and attractive programme is the image of each WI. Speakers are an integral part of a WI meeting from which we pick up interesting information along the way, or there is an activity for the evening, this usually lasts about 45

minutes, following which is the social time when refreshments are served and a raffle held.

Each WI is only as good as the women who join it and it has always put great importance on being a warm and welcoming group. Three reasons why you might consider joining us each month, Fellowship-the friendship of like minded ladies, who help wherever and whenever they can. Belonging-to an organisation that has the power to lobby the government on issues that matter to us, our resolutions are very important, as they give us a real voice. Fun-we are a happy group and there is plenty of laughter, we enjoy being and doing things together. We also enjoy being part of a larger group situation, where we have meetings for the five WI's in our area in Spring, Autumn and Christmas

Visitors are always welcome, if you are interested please ring either Barbara Collier on 01525 221401 or Deirdrea on 01525 210426.



## Eaton Bray Academy

### Enterprise Christmas Fayre



Congratulations to the Enterprise teams - they made an astonishing £238 profit at their Xmas Fayre.

The hall looked so inviting with the various stalls brimming with goodies and delights.

Once again the cakes, mince pies and smoothies sold out very quickly! Other stalls enticed customers with handmade Christmas gifts & decorations. The "Guess the weight of the cake" stall was extremely popular, especially when an

element of competition crept in!

The children gave excellent customer service dealing well with people and money - no easy task!

So well done to all involved for their efforts, and a huge thank you to all who supported the Fayre.

Needless to say in true entrepreneurial style, we are planning our next Enterprise Spring Event - so watch this space!

✍️Debbie Lake

# Edlesborough Parish Council News

## Including Edlesborough, Dagnall and Northall

### Parish Council meeting - dates and venues

20th February 2014 7.30pm at Edlesborough Memorial Hall

20th March 2014 7.30pm at Edlesborough Memorial Hall

### Parish Council vacancies

Would you like to know more about local issues and developments in Edlesborough, Dagnall and Northall?

Do you have an interest in how the villages and their amenities are run?

Would you like to obtain some real satisfaction by making a contribution to our local community?

If so, and you are aged 21 or over and live (or work) in the Parish, you might like to consider joining the Parish Council where there are currently 2 vacancies, 1 in Edlesborough and 1 in Dagnall.

Councillors do not have to live in the village which they represent.

For more information please contact the Parish Clerk, Lin Sargeant.

### Precept 2014/15

The Council has agreed a Precept of £82,155 for 2014/15. This means that the rate for a Band D property will be £66.05 compared to £58.25 in 2013/14, giving an increase of £7.80 per annum (13.4%). This increase is primarily due to two factors. Firstly, the Government's 'Localised Council Tax Support' is being reduced from last year's £5,803 to £1,845 in 2014/15. Secondly, the first payment will need to be paid into a 'sinking fund' which needs to be built-up over the next few years to pay for the upgrading of the Parish's 143 street lights, and the replacement of some of the poles.

### Buckinghamshire County Council

Due to restructuring of the Local Area

Technicians as from 2nd January the villages of Edlesborough, Northall and Dagnall have new Technicians, Rob Anderson and Clifford Marshall. All outstanding matters which the Parish Council has raised again with Bucks CC will be taken up by the new Technicians, these items include, safety railings in Dunstable Road, Dagnall; white lining at the junction of Nelson Road and Dunstable Road, Dagnall, pot holes at the junction of Brook Street/High Street, Edlesborough, Moor End and St. Mary's Glebe; clearing of vegetation from streetlights; Dragons Teeth at Church End, Edlesborough; speed limit reduction from the Travellers Rest to Edlesborough (A4146).

### Illegal dumping

On average one offender has been convicted in Buckinghamshire every week for the last five years. AVDC ask people who come across waste dumped on public land to report it for clearance on the hotline 0845 330 1856 or online at [www.buckscc.gov.uk/fly](http://www.buckscc.gov.uk/fly)

### Dog Fouling/Control of Dogs

It has been observed that due to the field in Slicketts Lane having been ploughed an increasing number of dog owners are using Edlesborough Green and the problems of dog fouling and dogs not being kept under control by their owners is becoming a serious issue and not fair on the dog owners who obey the byelaws and clean up their dogs deposits and keep them under control. More serious action will be taken if this problem persists.

### Bus Shelters

Repair work is to be undertaken to the Bus Shelter at the top of Edlesborough High Street.

✉ Lin Sargeant – Clerk to Edlesborough

Parish Council - Tel. 01525 220859  
e-mail: parish.council.clerk@  
edlesborough-pc.gov.uk  
Penny Pataky – Manager/Assistant Clerk  
– contact number 01525 229358  
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229358**  
e-mail: assistant.clerk@edlesborough-pc.  
gov.uk  
Website: www.edlesborough-pc.gov.uk

## All Saints' Church Dagnall

### Services and Meetings in February 2014

Sun. 2nd Feb.	9.00 am	Eucharist
	10.30 am	Morning Service
	6.00 pm	Evening Service with Holy Communion
Wed. 5th Feb.	7.45 pm	Get-together - Speaker: Revd Neil Drayton
Sun. 9th Feb.	10.30 am	Morning Service
	6.00 pm	Eucharist
Wed. 12th Feb.	7.45 pm	Get-together - Speaker: Tony Lumley - Northern Lights
Sun. 16th Feb.	10.30 am	Family Communion
	6.00 pm	Evening Service
Wed. 19th Feb.	7.45 pm	A Musical Evening with Revd David Jenkins
Sun. 23rd Feb.	10.30 am	Family Service
	6.00 pm	Eucharist
Wed. 26th Feb.	7.45 pm	Get-together - Speaker: Karen Drayton

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



## Appledown's Dog of the Month

This is Misty, a medium-sized crossbreed aged six years.

Misty has a gentle temperament and is very affectionate. She would enjoy a quiet home with retired owners rather than a noisy, busy household. Misty is fine with other dogs, she is house-trained and could be left for a couple of hours. She was not walked before coming to us, so may not be able to go off the lead. Misty is not happy in kennels and so we are very keen for her to find the happy, loving home she deserves.

If you feel you could offer Misty, 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.

**Variety Concert Night, Saturday 8th March, 7.30 p.m.** – Join us for an evening of entertainment at Dagnall Village Hall. Music, comedy and magic! For further details please contact the kennels. Tickets £10.

**Appledown Rescue and Rehoming Kennels**, Harling Road, Eaton Bray, Beds LU6 1QY.

Call 01525 220383 or e-mail appledown.kennels@btinternet.com  
(Reg Charity No. 1116848)

# Council Seeks Residents' Views on Spending Plans

Central Bedfordshire has published its draft 2014/15 budget and has launched a public consultation on its proposals for spending £186 million next year as well as suggested savings and investments.

In keeping with a previous pledge, the draft budget is based on freezing the Council's proportion of council tax for a fourth year running and protecting front line services.

The greatest proportion of funds – 58 per cent of the overall budget - are earmarked for services for children and social care for vulnerable members of our communities, reflecting increasing demands on these services. The draft budget includes proposals for making funds stretch further, such as using local rather than expensive out-county care placements for children and providing alternatives to costly residential and social care services for adults.

As well as accommodating increased demands on services, the council needs to make further savings because, in common with local authorities across England, funding for the Council has been reduced by more than a quarter. The savings needed for £2014/15 stand at £17.4 million, with a further £25.6 million needed over the following three years.

Proposed savings include reductions in building-related costs, councillor expenses and non-front line services such as consultants and agency staff. There are also plans to secure better deals when re-tendering contracts.

The budget proposals also include plans for investment, including £48 million from the Housing Revenue Account over the next four years to improve

accommodation for older people and build new facilities such as the new Priors View extra care scheme in Dunstable. Investments of over £91 million are proposed from the capital budget to provide more school places, better waste treatment facilities and improve the road network.

Investing in technology will help services run more cost-effectively, while capital spending to upgrade leisure centres will generate additional income that will cover costs.

A number of other measures are being proposed to increase income and offset the need for further savings. These include charging for pest control services, increasing rents on council owned commercial properties and farms, improving debt recovery and generating more advertising and sponsorship income. Executive Member for Corporate Resources and Deputy Leader of the Council, Cllr Maurice Jones says: "We have a proven track record of delivering savings, having delivered £60 million of efficiencies since the council came into existence in 2009.

"We remain determined to deliver value for money, so we have carefully scrutinised our spending to look at where further efficiency savings can be made or income generated and have put together a budget that allows us to maintain essential services.

"We also remain committed to listening to our residents and I hope that people will take time to look at our proposals and give us their views."

The council's spending plans are open for public consultation until Friday, 31

January 2014. Further information and a budget survey are available online at [www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/consultations](http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/consultations). Paper copies of the consultation documents are also available at the council's Priory House and Watling House offices.

The Executive will use the feedback

from the public consultation to finalise its budget proposals which will be considered by full Council on 20 February.

For further information please contact: Louise Manders, on 0300 300 5830 (out-of-hours 07875 430164) or email [louise.manders@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:louise.manders@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk)

## News from the Lions Den...

What a busy December we had! It was wonderful to see so many of you as we accompanied Santa and his sleigh around the villages. Many thanks to all of you who supported us with donations and for waving at us as we passed by.

Santa was delighted with all of the letters sent to him via our special post boxes. Our thanks again to the stores who looked after these for us. Santa has assured us that he will be doing this again next Christmas.

Eaton Bray Academy and Edlesborough School both provided outstanding support to us and we thoroughly enjoyed getting to know those of you who volunteered your time.

As always, every penny raised will all be donated back into our local community in a variety of ways.

December wasn't just about collecting funds though. We provided a Christmas party and lunch for a group of senior local residents which was very well received. They particularly liked the visit from Santa and the food selection boxes he gave them to enjoy over Christmas. We also took a group of 30 disabled children

to a football match at the MK Dons which was a real highlight for all of us. Being able to give people an experience that they wouldn't normally be able to enjoy is priceless for us.

We are now back to planning our activities for the coming year and have some very exciting plans for events we want to bring to the community. Details of these activities will always be published via Focus in the main.

By the time you read this, we hope we will have had the pleasure of meeting lots of you again at the village panto as we will be running the refreshment bar again on all three nights.

If you have any community service projects that we may be able to assist with, please do not hesitate to get in touch and we will see how we can best assist if appropriate.

✍️ Rachel

*Ordinary people  
doing amazing things*



## La Tertulia

Is there anybody locally that would like to join a Spanish speaking club, it could be an informal social gathering once or twice a month for an hour or so. The purpose being to practice the Spanish language.

This is a basic idea that if popular could be developed further, (films, books, talks, visits etc.etc.) if interested please contact Angel Huelamo on 01525 221106  
Email: [huelamo47@aol.com](mailto:huelamo47@aol.com)



# Eaton Bray Lawn Tennis Club

Well didn't Christmas go quickly? Having been building up to it since about July, one turkey dinner, a couple of glasses of Chateau de Plonk Reserve and a short snooze, and just like Geoff Hurst's third goal in 1966, it was all over. Before I knew it, it's coming up to deadline day for the February Focus! Mind you the actual build up was fun. A couple of weeks beforehand, around 20 of us piled into the White Lion restaurant in Dunstable for our Tennis Club Christmas Dinner. I don't think they knew what had hit them. Three large courses were quickly scoffed as if there was no tomorrow, and copious quantities of the aforementioned de Plonk were consumed, and that was just me. Now clearly, any elite sportsman such as Andy Murray stays well clear of rich food and any alcohol, which should indicate to you the total seriousness (or lack of it) with which we take our personal fitness and sporting abilities at EBLTC. As the restaurant staff helped to pour us back into our taxis come closing time, we all vowed to never do it again and to get fit for the New Year. Apart from me, of course. I'll start after the summer holidays....

The more hardy souls in our club have continued to brave the cold, thunderstorms, gale force winds and frost, and turn out every Tuesday and Sunday for social tennis on our School Lane courts. Our teams in the winter league have a few postponed games to catch up on, but that's usually down to the opposition not wanting to go outside if it drops below 60 degrees (sorry but I'm an old money person). One particular player, who shall remain nameless, has vowed to play on average 5 tennis games a week during 2014, which will add up to 260 sessions on court during this year. He did manage around 200 I believe last year,

so it is entirely feasible providing he lives in the clubhouse. His wife apparently is very supportive, but we're not sure if that is because of his improved fitness or the fact that he won't be under her feet 5 days a week, and also she'll have more room in bed and her shopping bill will go down.

The saga of the outstanding Men's doubles final (outstanding in that it's not been completed yet, not the quality of the tennis therein...) goes on, as Chairman Stuart is still suffering from an injury. It is hoped to complete the match by the end of this month. I'm quite happy though, as whilst all this to-ing and fro-ing continues, the trophy (or a replica of it as my doubles partner Darren has the original as it was his turn...) remains prominently displayed on my sideboard, as we are technically still the reigning champions. It's a good job I don't have to defend it right now though, as I'm in the same boat as Stuart, quite literally. I was indulging in some fairly innocuous rowing in a small boat on a lake in Madrid in October, and at the annoyance of my other half got a bit competitive with my friend, a former EBLTC member, who was holding the other oar. Whilst our respective partners screamed at us from the 'stern' to stop acting like schoolchildren, we hurtled across the lake at breakneck speed, backwards of course, causing general mayhem, motorised craft urgently veering out of our path, ignoring the plaintiff cries of both our wives and the increasingly panicky Spanish boat rental owner through his loudhailer who was, I can only guess, imploring us to immediately stop and return to port. He didn't sound too happy. Mind you who does through a loudhailer, especially in rapid high-pitched Spanish? Anyway, to cut a long story short, thanks to that over-exuberance I now have a



trapped nerve in my shoulder, which even after copious sessions of physiotherapy means that I can't raise my hand above head height. It's improving, although my wife is not terribly sympathetic for some inexplicable reason, but in the meantime I suppose I could always serve underarm, in fact that might be more accurate and powerful than my normal serve....!

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](http://www.ebltc.org.uk); Alternatively please call Chairman Stuart Adolph on 07773 816320, Coach Sara Leavy on 07561 571578, or if they're all out and I'm not out buying my wife more flowers, then me, Andy Cross, on 07783 667338.



## **Edlesborough Book Group**

### **When God was a Rabbit by Sarah Winman**

The intriguing title of this book is soon explained. Elly Portman, its narrator, is remembering her childhood living in a suburban neighbourhood of Essex, with her parents and older brother. She is an intelligent, observant little girl, who feels different from her contemporaries and more at ease with adults. Joe, her brother, with whom she has a close bond, realises her isolation and presents her with a pet rabbit. When she is told that the rabbit cannot be named Eleanor she promptly christens him God.

The book has two parts. The first tells of Elly's childhood in Essex and of the uprooting of the family to Cornwall, where her parents turn a beautiful old house into a successful B and B. The second half starts when she is twenty seven and follows her life in London,

where she is trying to establish herself and also her visits to her brother, who lives in New York. Her story covers the period from 1968 to 2001 and brings in most of the major events of those years. The many peripheral characters circling Elly and Joe are varied and colourful and add humour and pathos to their story. Essentially though, it is the story of a family and the value of love in its many forms.

Sarah Winman wrote this, her first novel, after life as an actress and after a writing course at the University of East Anglia. When God was a Rabbit is well written and easy to read. There is a lot to commend it and all but two members of the reading group enjoyed the book. Our criticism was that it was easy to read and very easy to forget.

## **Dagnall Christmas Fayre**

The Dagnall Christmas Fayre took place on Saturday 7th December and raised £1200 for the school & Dagnall Under Fives. Thank you to all the local business who gave their support by donating prizes for our raffle including, Berkhamsted Logs, Luton Hoo, The Red Lion, London Gliding Club, Bluebell Tea

Rooms, Bridgwater Arms, Tring Brewery, Grand Junction Arms, Brownlow Cafe, Travellers Rest, High Street Hair, D.E Hines & Dairy Cottage Riding Academy. Thank you to all the staff, governors & parents who helped on the day and to everyone who came along.

☞FODS & Dagnall Under Fives

# Eaton Bray Cricket Club

## Pre-Season Nets

Our pre-season practice sessions have now started, please feel free to come along and try our net sessions. Held on Wednesday evenings at 7pm to 8pm for the U12s and U14s and at 8pm to 9pm for the senior players, these sessions are held at Dunstable Town Cricket Club's indoor nets for our senior players.

We are also organising sessions for our U8s and U10s on Wednesdays, 6pm to 9pm, but as I write this we haven't confirmed a venue for these. Details can be obtained by contacting our junior organisers through our email address quoted below.

The Club is always looking for new players of all abilities, from 6 to 14 for our Junior section and 14 to 75 for our Senior section. We'll accept anyone from aspiring and future England players to guys who like to play socially and have a drink afterwards.

This season we hope to continue to grow with under 14, 12, 10 and 8 teams. We are always looking for new players (from 6 above), so feel free to try us out.

## Centennial Year 2014

This year is the club's Centennial year and we are currently preparing several events and games to commemorate this. All ex players, tea ladies, officials and volunteers are invited to attend these events.

**Late April – Chairman's XI v President's XI** The game to start early afternoon with an all day fixture followed by a party in the evening. Any ex-players who would like to play in this game please contact us on the below email.

**Friday May 23rd – T20 v Caddington CC** – This commemorates the club's very first game, which was against Caddington on 23rd May 1914. The game is to start

at 6pm. All spectators are welcome to attend, the match will start at 6pm.

**Sunday July 27th – Match v Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC)** – This is our main event of the Centennial year. An all day game starting at 11.30am against the MCC, who are also celebrating their 200th year at Lords. We encourage all current and ex-players, tea ladies, volunteers and anyone who has been involved in the club to attend what will be a great day. We also invite any local MCC members to the match to support their club (MCC ties are optional).

**Late August - Music Festival** – We will be hosting a music festival afternoon and evening. We will have a jazz band playing for a couple of hours and our very own trumpeter from Jools Holland's Big Band (Jason McDerimid). We will also have a number of fun activities to keep the children (and some of the older ones) entertained. Everyone is welcome to attend. More details will follow when plans are finalised.

## Contact and Call for New Players

We are in the 21st Century and have several ways we can be followed or contacted.

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## National Vegetable Society Tuesday 4th March 7pm at Pitstone Memorial Hall An evening with IVOR MACE

Ivor, is a retired professional in horticulture with forthright views which he frequently expresses in the gardening press and the "Simply Vegetables" magazine.

His talk this evening will cover the subject of growing leeks & onions for showing and, just as importantly to many of us, he will tell us how to achieve the very best results for a whole range of vegetables for the kitchen and table, all gained from a whole life spent in horticulture.

He has also been known to grow a mean chrysanthemum. This is a unique opportunity to hear one of our hobby's great personalities All are welcome

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We have some business advertising space left for 2014. Please give Sally Siddons a ring on 221733 if you would like to take advantage of this.

# A New Year and New Scouting Adventures

## 1st Eaton Bray & Edlesborough Scout Troop

Scouting offers challenge and adventure to 400,000 young people and 100,000 adults across the UK. We believe in helping our Members fulfil their potential by working in teams, learning by doing and thinking for themselves. We give people of every background the chance to stretch themselves, learn new skills and make lifelong friends.

Our village group, 1st Eaton Bray & Edlesborough, are looking forward to another Scouting year and we have **BIG** plans!

Last year we celebrated Scouting in our villages for **100 years** and in that time we have grown hugely. We have many activities planned with all our sections, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts in 2014 and one of the biggest challenges ahead is be fundraising for our new Scout Hut. We hope the new hut plans will accommodate village scouting for many more years to come **but we do need your help.**

Our plans include an extension of 3 metres, improved access and better storage capacity, updated kitchen facilities and improved toilets, all long overdue as long suffering Scouts, parents and visitors

will know.

Would you be able to help?

- Do you have advice or professional experience in fundraising that you could offer our committee?
- Would you consider making a donation to our Scout group?
- Could you suggest any fundraising activities?

We also need new leaders. Our Scout leader Paul is leaving at the end of the summer term and we need extra support for our young members continue Scouting. With training and one-to-one support, we make sure that each one of our volunteers gets to make best use of their skills and talents.

- Can you help?
- Would you consider training to be a leader?

We look forward to hearing from you.

If you would like to know more please approach our Group Scout Leader Nick Evans [ng.evans@btconnect.com](mailto:ng.evans@btconnect.com) or any of our leaders usually at the Scout Hut on Tuesdays, Thursdays or Friday evenings.

Our Scouting adventure continues; we will keep you posted on our progress!



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# What's On for St Mary's, Eaton Bray

## February

### Highland Fling / Barn Dance

#### Sunday 9 February

6pm to 9pm in Eaton Bray Church Hall

Tickets: Family ticket £30, Individuals: £10, Children: £7 – from Gordon Gray & Helen Elves

Have a great time and a real laugh, dancing away the winter blues and Christmas excesses with friends. The evening includes food and tea / coffee. Bring your own alcohol.

## May

Music at St Marys (in conjunction with MacMillan Hospice at Home

### Peculi8

#### Saturday 17 May

7.30pm at St Mary's Tickets: £7.50; Bar

Peculi8 grew from a group of classically trained singers coming together as friends to support a Children in Need event in 2005. They enjoyed it so much that they decided to meet regularly and perform for other good causes. They sing "a capella" in 8 part harmony and lend their unique sound to a repertoire ranging from Mozart via Queen to Amy Winehouse! This will truly be a performance with something for everyone.

## June

### Open Gardens Festival

#### Sunday 8 June

Midday to 5pm

Tickets from Eaton Bray Village Hall, giving admission to all the gardens - £5

One of the villages' social highlights. Some beautiful gardens will be at their best for your delight and pleasure. If you would like to offer your garden please contact Kay Griffiths on 01525 222849.

### Music at St Mary's Luton Symphony Orchestra

#### Saturday 21 June

7.30pm at St Mary's

Tickets: £7.50; Bar, Accompanied children

### FREE.

June sees the return of Luton Symphony Orchestra after their highly successful concert in 2013. Entitled "This Sceptred Isle" the orchestra will present a programme of English music for a summer's evening to include works by Britten, Boyce, Butterworth, Elgar, Handel and Vaughan Williams.

The concert will see the world premiere of Dunstable Downs, a Suite for Winds by Musical Director, Dafydd Billinghurst. Dafydd says, "I wanted to create a piece to showcase our fine wind section and to celebrate our beautiful surroundings.

The movements encapsulate in sound what my wife and I have seen and enjoyed on our many walks on The Downs."

## July

### Carnival

#### Saturday 5 July

Midday to 5pm on Edlesborough Green

Free admission, free entertainment, free parking. Procession 12.30 to 1.30pm

If you would like to help at this fantastic day out please contact Gordon Gray on 01525 220136 or via the website:

[www.stmarysvillagecarnival.com](http://www.stmarysvillagecarnival.com)

## August

### Music at St Mary's Buffalo

#### Saturday 9 August

7.30pm at St Mary's

Tickets: £7.50; Bar. Accompanied children FREE

Buffalo were formed in 1998 and feature, among others, Katrina Grant, wife of our previous vicar. Along with songs of their own, the band mixes bluegrass "standards" and more modern songs by the likes of Tim O'Brien and Ron Block. They also do a good line in foot-tapping fiddle tunes.

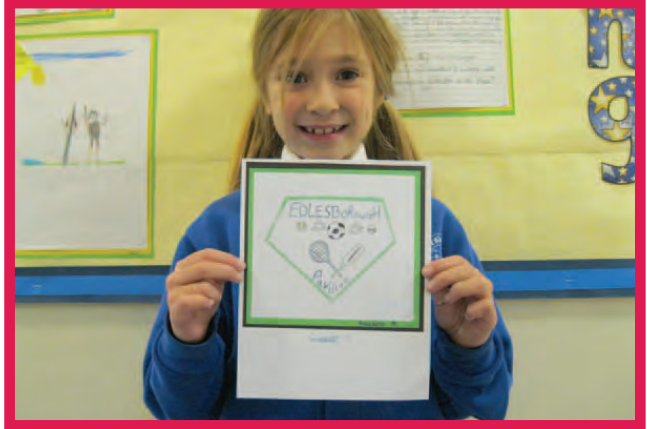




## Well Done Annabelle!

A massive congratulations to Annabelle Meaden, a Year 4 pupil at Edlesborough School, who won the competition to design a logo for the new Edlesborough Pavilion. The judges had a hard decision to make as the quality and level of design was set very high by other entrants, however, Annabelle was delighted to find out that her design had been chosen as the overall winner.

The children and staff of



## Christmas Tree Festival 2013

An enormous thank you to all who contributed towards and supported the Christmas Tree Festival. It was a great weekend showcasing the amazing gifts and creativity of St Mary's congregation and its many friends in this parish and beyond. The event raised over £1,000.



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**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 2 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 Best Way to Buy a Car

*Jonathan Vernon Smith is the Sony Award winning mid-morning show presenter for BBC Three Counties Radio. During his consumer hour he helps listeners with their consumer problems and now shares his advice with you.*

Mobile phones, internet connections and cars are the three products I receive the most calls about on my consumer radio show. Today I'd like to help you avoid problems with the latter – cars! Buying a good, reliable car rather than a nightmare vehicle that will eat into your wallet is a good way to start.

The first important thing you must understand is that unless you buy a car from a proper retailer, you have no comeback if the car develops a fault. The minute you drive a new car away from a private seller, you're on your own if it breaks down. I therefore always suggest buying cars from good, reputable garages, and if you can stretch to it, main dealers. They, generally (and I use that word with caution - some are awful!), offer the best after sales service.

Secondly, you must do your research. Use the internet to find the most suitable car for you. Look at reliability scores, running costs and insurance. Don't rush into purchasing a car you know nothing about on the forecourt, just because you think you'll look good in it. Find something that's the right size, has a good reputation for reliability and isn't going to cost the earth to run.

The third thing you must do is to buy **LOCALLY**. Please don't make the mistake that so many people make these days. They go to a search website, enter the car of their dreams, find that the only independent garage that has one available

in the colour they like is 300 miles away and travel up by train to buy it. If you have a problem with that vehicle it will be YOUR responsibility to get it back to them to repair. That's going to be a very expensive journey on a recovery vehicle all the way to Manchester! Use the internet to research garages and the people that run them.

Fourthly, if you don't know anything about cars, then for goodness sake, take someone with you who does! A friendly mechanic is best. If you don't know anyone who is an expert, then I would strongly advise having an independent check on the vehicle by an organisation such as the RAC. It may cost a couple of hundred quid, but it's worth every penny if it prevents you from buying a complete lemon. A car is normally the second most expensive thing you purchase after a house, I lose track of the number of people who spend £15,000+ on something they know and understand absolutely nothing about and then wonder why they have problems.

Please remember that when you find a car that you like, **DO NOT PUT A DEPOSIT DOWN UNLESS YOU REALLY INTEND TO BUY IT**. When you agree to pay a deposit, you normally enter into a legally binding contract to purchase the product. If you change your mind, you not only risk losing the deposit, you could be forced by the garage to take the car and pay the full amount owing on it. Salesmen and women often suggest the deposit in a relaxed manner. Don't be fooled, when you change your mind, the relaxed manner will probably fly right out of the window.

Never pay the full amount requested for a vehicle. The garage will price a vehicle

up with some room for negotiation. If you pay the price on the windscreen, you're probably paying over the odds. Remember car salesmen and women are employed partly because of their ability to get as much money out of you as possible and make the company as much profit. Bear this in mind at all times when agreeing a price to pay. If you're hopeless at doing a deal, then take someone with you who is good at it!

Finally, if you follow all of my advice and you STILL have a problem with it or the garage, then you can contact me at BBC Three Counties Radio and I'll do my best to try and help you.

## Knowing when to go to Court!

Thankfully most consumer disputes can be settled through effective and firm dialogue. If not, there are programmes such as mine that offer additional assistance for people who are finding it difficult to resolve their consumer complaint.

However, some cases just cannot be resolved, no matter how hard one or both parties try. It is for these cases that the small claims court can be very helpful.

This month, I will outline how to use the small claims court system to obtain the best results.

Firstly, **DO NOT RUSH TO COURT.** In my experience, judges often look unfavourably at customers who are seen to take a company to court too quickly. It makes the consumer look unreasonable which never bodes well. Therefore always try as hard as you can to resolve the complaint between yourselves first. Consider the small claims court your last resort and it is essential that you have kept a record of your conversations and correspondence.

When you reach the conclusion that (within 6 years of the dispute and for amounts up to £10,000) the company or tradesman is not prepared to resolve the problem, you must write a letter of intention. Make it clear in the letter that you have tried hard to offer them opportunities to resolve the problem and that you would like to offer them one final opportunity. Allow them one month from receipt of the letter to respond, and make it clear that if you do not hear from them, you will lodge papers with the small claims court. Send the letter recorded delivery and ensure they have received it and signed for it.

If they still show no interest in resolving the dispute, then you have an important decision to make. Will you go through with your threat of court action or not? If you decide on the former, you must go into it with your eyes open. You can always lose as well as win, however it may not cost you as much as you may think. The fee is dependent on how much you are suing for, but this will be outlined when you proceed with the action. If you are successful, the defendant will have to pay your costs as well as the amount you are claiming for.

It is also worth noting that you do not need a lawyer to take someone to the small claims court. It's relatively straight forward, and as long as you've been reasonable and sensible in your dealings with the company or tradesman, you stand a good chance of getting a favourable judgement.

In many cases, mediation is offered as a way of agreeing a course of action. The result of this is not legally binding, and most often I would advise you to proceed with this where offered. It doesn't prevent you progressing a case to a judge if unsuccessful. However, turning it down can make you look unreasonable.

If things go your way, the judge will award in your favour and will request that the defendant pays you a sum of money (either the whole of the amount you're seeking, or a proportion of it). They will be given instructions as to how to pay it, and if they fail to do so, you can instruct county court bailiffs to recover the money. You can also escalate the case to the high court for a further fee and instruct the high court enforcement officers to chase your money.

Taking a company to court can be a daunting prospect, and I would always suggest obtaining advice from your local citizens advice bureau who will give you tailor-made advice on your specific case. Good luck!

✍ Jonathan Vernon Smith



## Ski Tips

With ski season coming up we have put together some useful pointers to help you have a safe and happy holiday

- **Prepare yourself** at least six weeks before you go, tailor your fitness regime towards skiing. Power, endurance, flexibility and agility are ALL important with skiing.
- **For strength**, try quarter squats or knee bends. (You should be cautious if you have any knee problems!) Core is core - consider Pilates-style exercises to help improve your core stability.
- **For endurance**, try stepping up and down off the bottom stair whilst maintaining a good spinal posture, or simply take the stairs rather than the lift.
- **For agility**, try placing your feet together with your knees slightly bent as if skiing and now jump from side to side, keeping the knees “soft” (slightly bent.)
- **For flexibility**, concentrate on quadriceps (front of thigh) hamstrings (back of thigh) and calf muscles.
- **For your core**, try Ski Fit Pilates – after a thorough assessment of your needs, exercises are tailored to your requirements (see [www.stjudesclinic.com](http://www.stjudesclinic.com).)

### On the slopes

- **Warm up** before you ski and don't get cold waiting for chair lifts – keep moving.
- **Fuel Stops** - don't skip meals keep your energy up with a good carbohydrate intake. Take muesli bars for snacks in rest periods.
- **Keep Hydrated** – with water.
- **Finally** - don't get in “just one last ski run” - fatigue, combined with cold, can lead to poor judgement and accidents.

If you do get injured, stop skiing, follow the basic first aid guidelines of RICE (Rest, Ice, Compression and Elevation) and seek medical advice from a doctor or Chartered Physiotherapist.

### A final note

If you are worried about your level of fitness, or are unsure about anything in this article, one of our Chartered Physiotherapists will be happy to help.

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# St Mary's Ladies Guild

## **December 11th Meeting – Christmas Celebration**

This was a pre-Christmas celebration and after Deirdrea had welcomed members, glasses of sherry were handed out to start the festivities. Birthday cards were handed out to Joan Horne and Ann Hendricksun. Devotions followed led by Christine.

### **Notices:**

The Guild stall had raised £110 for St Mary's at the Christmas Fayre which was an excellent result. It was requested that questionnaires handed out at November's meeting be returned. Marjorie Mann and Joan Leader were thanked for decorating the Guild tree for the Tree Festival. The next meeting is the Guild AGM. Subscriptions of £6 will be due and another person is required to join the committee. The speaker after the AGM will be the vicar Coralie McClusky.

### **Fun Time**

Susan Molnar and the "One Accord" group were introduced. Song sheets were handed out and the 8 members of the accordion band played a wonderful selection of Christmas songs and carols encouraging all to join in and sing which truly put members in the 'Christmas spirit'. Jenny thanked Susan and the ladies (and one gentleman) for the splendid music.

The raffle was drawn followed by a festive tea provided by the committee. Then everyone joined in singing The Twelve Days of Christmas (including actions) accompanied by a lady from the band. A closing prayer was said and it was time to go home.

## **January 8th Meeting-Service and AGM**

After wishing everyone a Happy New Year Deirdrea handed out birthday cards to Pearl Ginn, Maureen Taylor, Barbara Illic and Christine Holloway and was pleased

with a card received from a member thanking her for all the hard work put into the organisation and preparation of the monthly meetings.

There were only two notices; a very disappointing 12 out of 39 questionnaires handed out had been returned. The speaker for the next meeting on February 12th will be Paul Bastini – Air Ambulance Service.

### **Annual General Meeting**

Members were given a comprehensive written report covering 2013 to keep the meeting brief. The president (Deirdrea Ellins) thanked committee members and many others who had given their help during the year. Committee members were named for the following year and accepted by those present. Marjorie Mann went through the list of speakers she had been able to book for the previous year and had supplied the programme for 2014. The Treasurers report followed listing the monies raised over the year for charities and St. Mary's Church by holding raffles, bring and buy table, and subs. Thanks were given to David Mann who audits the accounts and on his advice a bank account for the Guild was being set up. No questions were raised and the AGM closed.

### **Service**

A table had been set up with candles and a fringe around the edge of cardboard cut-outs with every members name on them. Coralie took the service and explained in great detail the Eucharist and Communion was offered to all. This was a very pleasant and friendly service during which all present lit a candle. Joan Calder thanked Coralie on behalf of all members for this and presented her with a gift.

The raffle was drawn and members were treated to a delicious afternoon tea before making their way home.

# Dagnall Weather Station (AONB)

## Weather Conditions for November & December 2013

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

### November 2013

	High	Date/Time	Low	Date/Time
Temperature	14.7°C	6 Nov 21.30	-3.1°C	19 Nov 22.30
Mean Temp	6.1°C	Dominant Wind:	NNW	
Humidity:	95%	9 Nov 18.30	63%	3 – 10 - 15
Barometer:	1039.4hPa	26 Nov 21.30	983.0 hPa	4 Nov 02.30
Wind Speed	40 mph W	2 Nov 19.30	Months avg.	4.8 mph
Wettest Day	3 Nov		10.8 mm	0.43 ins
Monthly Rain:	Total	Nov	61.6 mm	2.43 ins

### December 2013

	High	Date/Time	Low	Date/Time
Temperature	12.7°C	16 Dec 13.00	0.4°C	1 Dec 00.30
Mean Temp	6.4°C	Dominant Wind:	S	
Humidity:	99%	28 Dec 19.30	66%	27 Dec 13.00
Barometer:	1034.9 hPa	2 Dec 01.00	973.3 hPa	24 Dec 02.00
Wind Speed	48 mph ssw	24 Dec 01.00	Months avg.	7.6 mph S
Wettest Day		23 Dec	23.6 mm	0.89 ins
Monthly Rain:	Total	Dec	110.2 mm	4.34 ins

**November** started on the mild wet side, it was not until the night of 19th when we had our first real frosts -3.1°C which was the lowest temperature of the month. The second half of the month became drier with average temperatures for November.

**December** was an exceptionally mild month. It started calmly with high pressure systems in play and was moderately dry up to the 15th when we moved into a period of low pressure systems which continued following each other to the end of the month (see plot below). These systems brought heavy rain and high winds from the south keeping the temperatures mild. Facts: the temperature never dropped below Zero all month. We recorded wind speed above 40 miles per hour on 7 separate days. The average mean temperature was 6.4°C which is a significant high figure as the 5 year average for December is only 3.3°C

## 2013 Weather Conditions Yearly Summary

Temperature in °c

Rain in mm

Wind in mph

	Hi Temp	Date	Low Temp	Date	Mean Temp	Day Max	Date	Month Total	Hi	Date	Avg	Dom Dir
Jan	13.6°	1 <sup>st</sup>	-7.9°	22 <sup>nd</sup>	3.5°	15.6	26 <sup>th</sup>	55.2	46.0	28 <sup>th</sup>	5.9	WNW
Feb	11.0°	23 <sup>th</sup>	-3.7°	19 <sup>th</sup>	2.7°	13.2	10 <sup>th</sup>	52.0	35.0	4 <sup>th</sup>	6.2	NW
Mar	16.1°	28 <sup>th</sup>	-5.2°	31 <sup>st</sup>	2.8°	12.4	16 <sup>th</sup>	70.6	38.0	16 <sup>th</sup>	5.7	E
Apr	21.3°	30 <sup>th</sup>	-2.4°	6 <sup>th</sup>	7.8°	7.0	11 <sup>th</sup>	27.8	38.0	17 <sup>th</sup>	7.0	E
May	23.1°	27 <sup>th</sup>	0.3°	16 <sup>th</sup>	10.7°	14.2	28 <sup>th</sup>	62.8	41.0	9 <sup>th</sup>	6.0	W
Jun	27.8°	27 <sup>th</sup>	4.2°	2 <sup>nd</sup>	14.3°	7.8	22 <sup>nd</sup>	25.8	33.0	15 <sup>th</sup>	5.6	E
Jul	32.3°	25 <sup>th</sup>	7.1°	12 <sup>th</sup>	19.3°	14.2	27 <sup>th</sup>	46.9	30.0	28 <sup>th</sup>	4.0	SW
Aug	31.8°	19 <sup>th</sup>	7.4°	8 <sup>th</sup>	17.5°	13.6	24 <sup>th</sup>	59.0	33.0	1 <sup>st</sup>	4.7	NW
Sep	29.4°	8 <sup>th</sup>	4.5°	15 <sup>th</sup>	13.7°	17.0	24 <sup>th</sup>	47.2	33.0	15 <sup>th</sup>	4.2	SSW
Oct	20.3°	1 <sup>st</sup>	4.3°	16 <sup>th</sup>	12.3°	15.4	13 <sup>th</sup>	97.6	47.0	28 <sup>th</sup>	7.2	W
Nov	14.7°	13 <sup>th</sup>	-3.1°	19 <sup>th</sup>	6.1°	10.8	20 <sup>th</sup>	61.6	40.0	2 <sup>nd</sup>	4.8	NNW
Dec	12.7°	16 <sup>th</sup>	0.4°	1 <sup>st</sup>	6.4°	23.6	23 <sup>rd</sup>	110.2	48.0	24 <sup>th</sup>	7.6	S
Lows /Max	31.8°	Aug	-7.9	Jan	Avg 9.8°	Dec 23.4	Year	715.9mm 28.19in	48.0	Dec	5.8	Year avg W



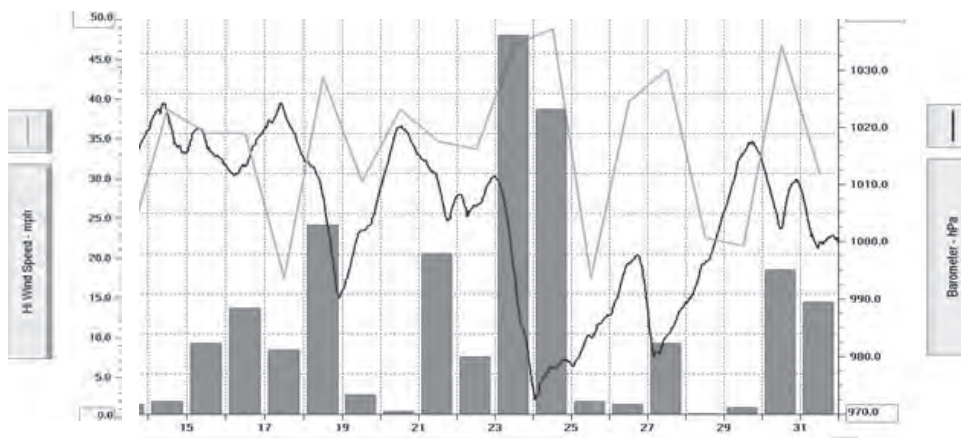
2013 started with January being a cold month with snow laying about for a few days. March was the coldest on record with an average mean temperature of 2.8°C and we had snow at the end of the month which stayed for the last 8 days. For most of the month the wind blew from the east bringing the cold air from north Europe and Russia making it feel much colder.

May continued to be cold making the spring a little late.

June was a very dry month, July was hot and August and September were about average giving us a reasonable summer. The last 3 months of the year brought the storms from the south and west along with rain and high winds making the ground saturated and brought down trees and fences. We were lucky in the Dagnall area as we never suffered the flooding that others experienced elsewhere in the UK.

**This shows the storms over Dagnall during the second half of December 2013.**

**The pressure drops the isobars are closer the winds increase and the rain intensifies**



For weather data 24 hours a day, updated every 15 mins, visit: [www.dagnallweather.co.uk](http://www.dagnallweather.co.uk) and [http://bit.ly/weather\\_dagnall](http://bit.ly/weather_dagnall). If anyone has a question, comment or wishes to contact me please email: [david@dagnallweather.co.uk](mailto:david@dagnallweather.co.uk) or telephone: 01442 843883.

## **Dagnall is not in the BT Plan for fast Broadband**

Dagnall is not in the BT Plan for fast Broadband

All the hype in the media about high speed broadband being rolled out to the rural area is not true for Dagnall if you believe the Openreach web site

The Little Gaddesden exchange/link to Dagnall is not currently in the roll out plan for the broadband fibre upgrade. This is

outrageous. We need everyone to register their interest and bring faster broadband speed to Dagnall.

Go to the openreach web site:- <http://www.superfast-openreach.co.uk/where-and-when/> and put your postcode in and it will tell you the situation. We all need to express our interest and fill in the form.

# Salvation Sound

It's that time of year! Coughs, colds, sneezes, the sad syndrome - I'm tired or lazy! I'm weary!, I'm getting old!, I'm depressed! I hate this time of year. Christmas is over; so is New Year. No reason to celebrate or party. Dark mornings, dark evenings. Ugh!  
Then I picked up a book...and started to laugh!!! I am going to quote from it - perhaps I shouldn't but I can't loan it to all of you!

"Insights on ageing: remember: you're never as old as you're going to get-unless of course you're dead already.

Middle-age spread: you have a heart of gold. That explains your size 20..."

Well I thought to myself "come on - it's a new year - I'm the child of a king...Thomas Kinkade paints "heavenly" pictures filled with beautiful homes where light seems to spill out of windows and doorways: they remind me of a line that someone wrote; "Sunset is heaven's gate----ajar!"

Dick Innes put this message down:

"Time...we enter it at birth,  
We pass through it in life,  
We exit it at death,

It is our preparation for eternity."

The hymn says: "I've been adopted, my name's written down, an heir to a mansion, a robe and a crown."

One day I'll move in there and spend eternity in praise of the one who created it all for me. But, well, not just yet!

A sick man wanted to take his wealth to heaven with him when he died. He prayed fervently about it until, at last, the lord gave in. But with one condition: he could only take one suitcase. The day came when the lord called him home. St. Peter greeted him but told him,"no suitcase".

"Oh! But I have an agreement with God", the man explained. "That's unusual", said

St. Peter, "mind if I take a look?"

The man opened up the bag to reveal shining slabs of gold.

St. Peter was amazed, "why in the world would you want to bring paving slabs?"

Someone else said "the only thing we can take with us is the love we leave behind".

If you could have your life over again what would you list as doing more of?

- More "I love yous",
- More "I'm sorrys",
- More "I'm listenings"
- More "I'll try harders",
- More - gratitude,
- More - prayers,
- More - faith.

Life is only temporary - heaven will mean the most to those who have put the most into living, whilst we are here in god's waiting room.

The sunday school class had sung "Silent Night" and had been told the Christmas story. Teacher suggested they draw the nativity scene. A little lad finished first. Teacher praised his work but was puzzled by a roly-poly figure off to one side. "Who is this?" She asked. The little boy replied, "Oh! That's round John Virgin".

I've reached the age where it is harder and harder to think of my body as a temple. (It's more like a building project that's out of control.)

I'm not fat, just calorifically gifted! Wouldn't it be wonderful if there were delicious, "all-natural" foods that are nutritious, fat-free, have no cholesterol, and promote good health? There is! In Galatians 5.22-23: the fruit of the spirit, a diet that is better shared!

Keep smiling...the luscious plum forgot to - and became a wrinkled prune...

Happy New Year

✍Maureen



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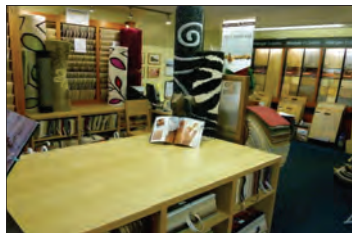
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