

FOCUS

April 2025



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Northall & Dagnall



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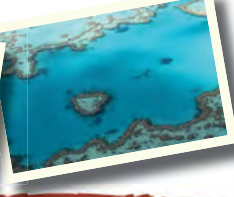
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The Focus Magazine Committee

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Kindly Note

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

✍Editor

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

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Defibrillator Locations

These units are registered with the Ambulance Services. To access them, please phone 999. You will be given the access code and the location of the unit will be confirmed. The defibrillator is easy and safe to use. The units can be found on the outside walls of the following locations:

Dagnall: Red Lion Public House & Munns Farm Shop

Eaton Bray: The Coffee Tavern

Northall: The Swan Public House

Edlesborough: Edlesborough Memorial Hall &
Baptist Church, Summerleys

Edlesborough Surgery

01525 221630 www.edlesboroughsurgery.co.uk

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



Focus is online at www.thefocusmagazine.co.uk

Village Info



EDaN Community Transport
Peter Williams: 01442 842506

Police Contact Details

making neighbourhoods safer together

General Assistance (Recommended Number): 101 Emergency: 999

Textphone service: 18001 101

Bedfordshire Police (Eaton Bray)

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

Thames Valley Police (Edlesborough, Dagnall & Northall)

PCSO Tina Hobson

Charlotte Cottage, 73 Leighton Road, Wing LU7 0RD

Email: WingNHPT@thamesvalley.police.uk

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

Village Hall Booking Contacts

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

Email: northallvhbookings@gmail.com

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

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

Coffee Tavern: 07836 240467

Dagnall: Bev Way 07875 462128 & Trish Owen 07762 151364

Email: DVH_Bookings@outlook.com

Edlesborough Memorial Hall: Penny Pataky, Tel: 01525 229358

Email: manager@edlesborough-pc.gov.uk

Edlesborough Pavilion: booking@edthepav.org

Parish Council Contacts

Eaton Bray Parish Council: 07931 479663

Email: clerk@eatonbrayparishcouncil.gov.uk

Website: www.eatonbrayparishcouncil.gov.uk

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

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



Helpline: 07930 987064

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

Call us if you want help getting to the surgery/hospital and collecting prescriptions

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

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Pavilion Cancer Support Group

This group meets in Edlesborough Pavilion on the first Thursday of each month from 2.30 pm. A get together to meet and share friendship, information and mutual support. There will also be speakers and medical professionals to address members' questions and requests.

No need to book just come along to the pavilion. We grateful to the Pavilion Trustees and the Burghope Trust for their support.

Upcoming sessions will include speakers talking about Cancer Information and Wellbeing, Lung Health, Lymphoedema, Citizens Advice and Macmillan about money matters and entitlements, and the long term effects of radiotherapy.

**NO ONE SHOULD
FACE CANCER ALONE**

Village Diary



Weekly

- Mon-Sun St. Mary's Edlesborough opening times are limited - Please see notice board and website
- Mon-Sun Pavilion Gym Mon-Frid 6:30am to 9:30pm Sat/Sun 8am-8pm email Gym@edthepav.org.uk
- Mon-Sun Pavilion open for members. M-T 6:30am-9pm, F 6:30am-10pm, S/S 8am-8pm Email General.enquiries@edthepav.org.uk
- Mon-Fri* Eaton Bray Pre-school, Eaton Bray Lower School, 01525 220468, admin@eba.ec
- Mon-Fri* Dagnall Under 5's, Dagnall Village Hall, 9.15am - 12.15pm, Mrs Ann Tobin 07816 358342
- Mon-Fri* Edlesborough Primary Academy Pre-School, 01525 220431, epamanager@epa-primary.org
- Mon-Fri* Totternhoe Pre-school, Totternhoe CE Acad 01582 662959 totternhoeoffice@tot.dsamat.co.uk
- Mon Pilates, 10.45am, Totternhoe Memorial Hall, Lisa: 07832 230774
- Mon Dagnall Community Choir, All Saints Church 7.45-9.45pm, w:dagnall-community-choir.co.uk
- Mon* Movement and exercise classes with a dance flavour, Northall VH 2-3.30. Jan 01442 864271.
- Mon Cubs (8-10 ½ yrs old), 6.30pm - 8pm, 1st Eaton Bray & Edlesborough Scout Hut, High Street, Edlesborough. Contact Liz Coates 01442 842550
- Mon Yoga, 6:45pm, Edlesborough Memorial Hall, contact 07837 727302
- Mon Barre, 8pm, Edlesborough Memorial Hall, contact 07837 727302
- Mon Eaton Bray Tennis Club - 4-7pm mini / junior tennis coaching
- Mon Eaton Bray Tennis Club - 7-8pm Adult Coaching 'Get Back Into Tennis'
- Tues Pilates, 10-11am, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Nicky Roussou 07861 162680
- Tues* Totternhoe Baby & Toddler Group, 9.30-11.15am, St. Giles Church Hall
- Tues Tap & Ballet Classes, JoAnn Latus School of Dance, 4-8pm, Eaton Bray VH, 07800 518654
- Tues** Coffee Morning, Bring & Buy, Table Top Sale, 10-11:30am, Salvation Army Hall, Booth Place, EB
- Tues Jazzercise 9:15-10:15, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Beth 07539 739136
- Tues Eaton Bray Tennis Club - 6-7.30pm Social play for all adults
- Tues Berkhamsted Taekwon-do Kids, 5.45pm-6.30pm, Dagnall Village Hall, 07813 755785
- Tues Berkhamsted Taekwon-do Adults, 6.30pm, Dagnall Village Hall, 07813 755785
- Tues Movement is Medicine Pilates, 1:30-2:30pm, Billington Hall, moira@stjudescclinic.com
- Wed Pilates, 8pm, Northall Village Hall, Lisa: 07832 230774
- Wed Northall & Dist Age Concern Wed Club, 10am-3pm, Northall Village Hall, Dee 07854 230243
- Wed Art Course online 9.30 -11.30am, contact Lorna Moore 07896 619660
- Wed Art Course, Bellows Mill Eaton Bray, 2-4.30pm, contact Lorna Moore 07896 619660
- Wed Pilates 6-7pm, Eaton Bray V.Hall, Heather Holmes 07305 023077 pilateswithheather@mail.com
- Wed Movement is Medicine Pilates 7-8pm & 8:05-9:05pm Billington Hall moira@stjudescclinic.com
- Wed* Stay & Play toddler group, 'Musical Monkeys' Eaton Bray Village Hall, 10am 07944 891235
- Wed Knit and Natter 12-2pm Edlesborough Pavilion Di Hedges 07794 075269
- Wed Lunch Menu at The Pavilion, Email ecstrading@edthepav.org.uk
- Thur KFPA Street dance classes, Edlesborough Memorial Hall 4.15pm-6.30pm (4 years+)
Contact Kiri 07988161043 or visit Facebook page 'KF PerformingArts/ KFPA' for info
- Thur Berkhamsted Taekwon-do Adults 6.30pm, Dagnall Village Hall, 07813 755785
- Thur Beavers (6 to 8 years old), 6.15-7.30pm, 1st Eaton Bray & Edlesborough Scout Hut, High Street, Edlesborough. Contact: ebebeaverleader@ebescouts.co.uk
- Thur Eaton Bray Methodist Church Social Afternoons, 2 - 4pm, All Welcome
- Thur Explorers Scouts (14-18 years old), 8pm-9.30pm, 1st Eaton Bray & Edlesborough Scout Hut, High Street, Edlesborough. Contact Simon Betts, simon_betts@hotmail.com
- Thur Jazzercise 18:30-19:00 and 19:00-19:45, Eaton Bray VH, Beth 07539 739136
- Thur Retro Line Dance Class. 11.15am to 12.45pm. Eaton Bray Village Hall. Beginners welcome. www.jukeboxjunction.co.uk info@jukeboxjunction.co.uk 07864 212171
- Thur Adult Board Games 12-2:30pm, Pavilion 07740 197392 email Stevemunday1@gmail.com
- Thur* Move Better, Feel Better Pilates, 10-11am, Edlesborough Memorial Hall Contact Lesley Pickering, 07767 823202, lesley@lesleypickering.com

* Term time only ** Fortnightly

Village Diary

Thur	Lunch Menu at The Pavilion, Email ecstrading@edthepav.org.uk
Fri	Tap & Ballet Classes, JoAnn Latus School of Dance, 4-8pm, Eaton Bray VH, 07800 518654
Fri	Jazzercise 9:15-10:15, Eaton Bray VH, Beth 07539 739136
Fri	Scouts, (10½ to 14 years old), 7.00-8.30pm, 1st Eaton Bray & Edlesborough Scout Hut, High Street, Edlesborough. Contact Mark Owen, ebescoutleader@ebescouts.co.uk , 07899 892344
Fri	"Little Luvvies" baby ballet classes, 10am-11.30am, Northall Village Hall. Contact Emma Whittemore on 01525 376124
Fri	Movement is Medicine Pilates 10-11am Great Gaddesdon Parish Hall, moira@stjudesclinic.com
Fri	Food evening at The Pav Email ecstrading@edthepav.org.uk
Sat	Jazzercise 9-10am, Eaton Bray VH, Beth 07539 739136
Sat	KFPA Musical theatre classes, Edlesborough Memorial Hall 9.30-10.30am (4years+) Contact Kiri 07988161043 or visit Facebook page 'KF PerformingArts/ KFPA' for info
Sun	Sunday Worship at 11am, Edlesborough Baptist Church, Moor End, LU6 2FL. Contact: 01525 222064 or edlesboroughbaptistchurch@gmail.com
Sun	Karate for kids & adults, 3-4:15pm & 4:30-5:45pm, Eaton Bray VH, Contact 07500 007779
Sun	Eaton Bray Tennis Club - 10am -12pm Social play for all adults

Monthly

1st Mon	Eaton Bray Parish Council Meeting, 7.30pm, The Coffee Tavern (except Jan-2nd Monday)
1st Mon	Eaton Bray W.I. 7.30pm. Eaton Bray Methodist Church Hall. Margaret Jones on 07478 061156
1st Tues	Sewing Class 7-9pm, Edlesborough Pavilion, General.enquiries@edthepav.org.uk
1st Tues	Jewellery Making 7-9pm, Edlesborough Pavilion General.enquiries@edthepav.org.uk (Dates can vary)
1st Tues	Dunstable & District Orbit (social & charitable) Club, Dunstable Rugby Club, 8pm. 01525 222441
1st Wed*	Messy Church, 6-7:15pm, Salvation Army, Booth Place, Eaton Bray, LU6 2DR
1st Sat	St. Mary's Church, Eaton Bray Coffee Morning, 10:30am - 12 noon (July held on 2nd Saturday)
1st Sat	Book Swap at St Mary's Eaton Bray, 10:30am - 12 noon (July held on 2nd Saturday)
2nd Mon	Film Society, Sep to June, 2pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Graham Chappell 07980 321977
2nd Tues	Dunstable & District Local History Society meeting, 7.45pm, Methodist Church Hall, Dunstable
2nd Tues	Edlesborough W.I. 7.30 pm, Edlesborough Memorial Hall. Contact Jackie Flint 01525 221618
2nd Tues & Thur	Adult board games club 7-9:30pm, Edlesborough Pavilion, 07740 197392, email Stevemunday1@gmail.com , Edlesborough Pavilion members, guests and new enquirer's welcome
2nd Thur	Sewing Class 10:30am -12:30pm, Edlesborough Pavilion, General.enquiries@edthepav.org.uk
2nd Fri	Leukaemia Research Coffee Morning 2, Dunstable Road, Dagnall 10.30 a.m. all welcome. No meeting in September, June plant bring and buy, December Sherry & mince pies
3rd Thur	Edlesborough Parish Council Meeting, 7.30pm, Edlesborough Pavilion or as stated in Edlesborough Parish Council News
3rd Sat	Junior board games club, Edlesborough Pavilion, General.enquiries@edthepav.org.uk (dates can vary)
3rd Sun	Lunch club 11.30 to 2.00pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Chris Hewitt 222288
4th Wed	Book club 7-10pm General.enquiries@edthepav.org.uk (dates can vary)
Last Sat	Coffee Morning, 10:00-12 noon, Edlesborough Methodist Church

This Month's One Off/Annual/Irregular Events

5 Apr	Wild Magic Rewilding and Community Food Project Fun Afternoon, 2pm, Main Road North, Dagnall, HP4 1RE, 07436 535337
5 Apr	Eaton Bray Village Hall Charity Quiz, 7pm, £10 per person, email mintyman1958@gmail.com
12 Apr	Cafe Community, 11am-1pm, Eaton Bray Methodist Church
26tApr	Repair Cafe, 9:30am-12:30pm, Pitstone Pavilion

Focus is online at
www.thefocusmagazine.co.uk

Eaton Bray with Edlesborough Parish News

Vicar: Rev'd Joy Cousins

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

Associate Priest: Rev'd Stephen Burge

Church Warden & Pastoral Matters: Catherine Hayden (01525 220527)

Reader: Gordon Gray (01525 220136)

Website: www.stmaryseatonbray.org.uk Facebook: St Mary's Eaton Bray

A new start.

Lots of TV programmes show people wanting to start a new life. Whether it's setting up a new business, moving abroad or learning a new skill, the schedules are full of people trying out something different. The desire to begin again is strong within us. Even in the pattern of the year, the changing seasons bring new life out of drab cold earth as winter turns into spring.

Easter is the most important festival of the Christian calendar for it is the culmination of God's plan of salvation for humankind. We may think that much preparation and planning goes into important events that we undertake. But God's plan of salvation took centuries to come to fruition. The Messiah had been expected for over a thousand years by the time Jesus was born. The one who would come to save his people was foretold by the prophets, but even so Jesus was not quite what people anticipated and failed to live up to many people's expectations. On Good Friday, it seemed that God's plan had all gone disastrously wrong. By the end of the day, Jesus was dead in the tomb, the terrified disciples were locked away in hiding and God's plan of salvation had failed. Or so it seemed.

Then the most awesome event in human history changed their lives forever. On the first Easter Day, Jesus was seen raised from the dead. Not only was he seen, but he spoke with his disciples, ate with them and appeared to a great crowd of people. On the road to Emmaus, he met with Cleopas and his companion and explained to them the sweep of God's purposes. 'Then Jesus said to them, "O how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.' (Luke 24 verses 25 to 27). It was not a mistake that Jesus had died on the cross, but part of God's plan for the salvation of humankind.

One of the reasons Christians celebrate Easter is that through Jesus' death and resurrection God offers us new life and a new beginning. And we don't have to go somewhere different to do it! As we come to God and say sorry for things we've done wrong in the past, we can be forgiven.

This is expressed in the following prayer. A penitent's prayer (author unknown)

Lord Jesus Christ, I admit that I am a sinner.

I confess my sins to you, especially those upon my conscience.

I firmly believe that you died for me to bear away my sins.

And now, according to your promise, I open my heart to you.

Come in, Lord Jesus, and be my Saviour and Friend for ever. Amen.
With the past behind and a hope to come we can know the joy of a new beginning right here and now.

Happy Easter!

☞ Joy, Vicar of Eaton Bray with Edlesborough



SERVICES AT ST. MARY'S CHURCH, EATON BRAY

SUNDAYS: 10am PARISH HOLY COMMUNION

(apart from the third Sunday - see below)

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

**On the Third Sunday of each month there is
CAFE CHURCH at 10am, an informal service with coffee and croissants**

On Easter Sunday, Cafe Church will be replaced by Sunday Eucharist

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

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

Dagnall Church Services

Fri. 18th April 3.00 pm Good Friday Service

Easter Day

Sun. 20th April 10.30 am Holy Communion

For any queries please contact:

Philip Lee on 07977234453 or

Dorothy Green on 01442 843237



GORDON'S CHRISTMAS PUZZLE 2024



Thank you to everyone who has entered this year's Puzzle and for your remarkable generosity. 2024 has been a successful year: 300 entries (slightly down on recent years) of which 89 scored full marks and a substantial sum of money raised (£8,000) meaning that each of the charities Lupus UK, Parkinsons, the Joy Foundation, the National Deaf Children's Society—and St Mary's Church Eaton Bray – will each receive £1,600.

A draw was held to select the winners. The three people who scored full marks and will receive £50 were: Leslie Dommett, Wendy Howden and Colin & Jan Vout. Five additional names, were selected from those who submitted an entry; each of these will receive £10. These were: Elizabeth Arnfield, the Bassett Family, Alison Brennan Hilary Coulson and Carol Duxbury. Special thanks to Sheila Banks who undertook some of the marking and Marion Higley who looked after the printing before and after Christmas.

This brings the total raised by the 34 Puzzles since 1991 to £143,600. The donations have been made to 100 different charities of which 72 have received donations of £1,000 or more. On behalf of all the charities supported "Thank you for your generosity".



Saturday 26th

April

9:30~12:30

PITSTONE PAVILION

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- ♻️ Anything wooden, metal, ceramic, clocks,
- ♻️ Jewellery,
- ♻️ Software problems, mobile screens!

EVERYONE IS WELCOME!



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

The next Book Swaps at St Mary's Church:

Saturday April 5th from 10.30 – 12.00

Saturday May 3rd 10.30 – 12.00



**Our team pictured
celebrating our 3rd birthday
at the church coffee morning.**

We look forward to seeing you
all again next month.

For more information about Book Swap please contact:

Chris Sanders Email: chris.sanders45@gmail.com

Jenifer MacKenzie Email: janimackenzie@hotmail.com

EATON BRAY METHODIST CHURCH INVITES YOU TO CAFE COMMUNITY

Saturday 12th April

11:00am to 1:00pm

Donations shared with All We Can

Relax and chat with friends, coffee, light lunch

All ages welcome (inc. activity area)

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



Eaton Bray Village Hall Charity Quiz

Saturday 5th April

7.00pm for 7.30pm start

Just £10 per person

Teams of up to 8 people

Includes a Ploughman's

Bring you own glasses and drink

Supporting Appledown Kennels & Dunstable foodbank

For bookings contact:

Robert Taylor

Mintyman1958@gmail.com



Open Gardens 2025

Sunday 27 July

12 – 5pm

**Roving Tickets £5 from St
Mary's, Eaton Bray - 11.30am**

Since 2006, one of the social highlights of the year in our villages has been our Open Gardens event. We have had some wonderful summer's days years enjoying the gardens that were opened by willing gardeners; both the gardeners and visitors have enjoyed some delightful days. This year we are once again inviting proud garden owners to display their garden so, given

kind weather, we should have a lovely afternoon out for all concerned.

If you would consider opening your garden or would like more information please contact either Gordon Gray on 01525 220136 or Kay Griffiths on 07866 889 498. Do make sure the date is in your diary – we look forward to seeing you once again. It should be a tremendous afternoon for everyone interested in gardens.

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Edlesborough Parish Council News

Including Edlesborough, Dagnall and Northall

Grass & Hedge Cutting in the Villages

Now that the spring has arrived the cutting of the grass verges will resume. EPC reminds parishioners that parking on the grass verges is NOT PERMITTED as this causes damage to them and inconveniences the contractors.



EPC reminds all parishioners whose hedges border the pavements that they are required to ensure that their hedges are kept well-trimmed, ensuring that the maximum pavement width is available for pedestrians, pushchair, and wheelchair users.

Vehicle Crime Survey

Following a request from Eaton Bray Parish Council (EBPC) Cllr Tomkins, EPC has set up a Vehicle Crime Survey on its website. The purpose of the survey is to find out about vehicle crime in Edlesborough, Dagnall and Northall over the past 12 months. EPC will then collaborate with EBPC to compare and share results.

Any parishioner wishing to respond to the survey can do so via [Vehicle Crime Survey - Surveys - News & Campaigns - Edlesborough Parish Council](#)

Traffic Calming in the Parish

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

Ex-RAF Land in Edlesborough

The Parish Council is aware of a "Wild Magic" rewilding project that is being promoted on the ex-RAF Edlesborough land. Readers should be aware that the site in question is currently the subject of an investigation by the Buckinghamshire Planning Enforcement Team for a possible breach of planning policy.

Parish Tree Survey

The Parish Tree Survey is now complete, and Council will be seeking quotes for any trees identified as needing work. Any parishioner wishing to see a copy of the survey can submit a request to the Parish Council.

Unitary & Parish Council Elections

The next scheduled elections in Buckinghamshire will be held on Thursday 1 May 2025.

This will be to elect 97 Councillors to Buckinghamshire Council and Councillors to town and parish councils (if contested).

Find out more about the unitary and parish elections on 1 May 2025, including important dates and standing for election at www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/your-council/elections-and-voting/current-and-previous-elections-in-buckinghamshire/election-timetable-and-notice/buckinghamshire-council-unitary-and-parish-elections/

Save the Dates

The Annual Meeting of Edlesborough Parish Council will be held on the 15th May at 7.30pm.

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on 22nd May at 7.30pm – this meeting is an

Clerk: Miss Penny Pataky Office hours Mon – Fri 10am – 2pm (Excl. Wed)

Email: clerk@edlesborough-pc.gov.uk 01525 229358 Website: www.edlesborough-pc.gov.uk

Facebook: www.facebook.com/EDANParishCouncil



Edlesborough Parish Council News

Including Edlesborough, Dagnall and Northall

opportunity for organisations within the Parish to share information about themselves and/or a project they may have. For more information, please contact the Clerk via clerk@edlesborough-pc.gov.uk

EPC Small Grant Scheme

Is your organisation looking for money for a specific project? Have you heard of the EPC Small Grant scheme?

The EPC Small Grant is a great opportunity for local groups, local charities, and local organisations to get a grant of up to £500 in this new scheme.

The main terms of the grant are very straightforward.

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

Applications will be reviewed at any time during the year and awards to successful applications made in each quarter beginning in April of each year. The total funding available is limited.

Full details of the terms of the scheme can be found here on the EPC website www.edlesborough-pc.gov.uk/community-information/epc-small-grant-scheme/

EdleFest 2025

EdleFest 2025 will take place on 6th and 7th June. More information and tickets are available via the EdleFest website <https://edlefest.site123.me/>



EPC Surgery

If you have a question or suggestion for the Parish Council the Clerk will be available on the first Thursday of each month in Edlesborough Pavilion from midday – 2pm.

Council Meetings

The next Edlesborough Parish Council Meetings will take place on:

- Thursday 17th April 2025 – in Edlesborough Pavilion
- Thursday 15th May 2025 – in Edlesborough Pavilion this meeting will follow the Annual Meeting of Edlesborough Parish Council

The meetings will commence at 7:30pm.

Parishioners are welcome to attend all Ordinary Parish Council meetings and may ask questions, raise issues, and give suggestions during the Open Forum before the formal start of the meeting. Council requests that where possible questions, issues and suggestions are submitted in writing to the Clerk by the Tuesday preceding the meeting.

The agenda and full minutes of previous Parish Council meetings are available to view on the website or from the Parish Clerk.



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Line-up Announced for Our Very Own Music Festival!



EdleFest, our annual village music festival, is all ready to rock and roll... and swing, and folk, and pop...

This June 6th and 7th you could be enjoying a glass of something in the sunshine at the Church on the Hill, a stunning medieval venue overlooking Aylesbury Vale, before sitting down (or even dancing, if you prefer!) to two evenings of fabulous live music. We've got another great line-up for you this year, encompassing folk, swing, americana, country and indie-pop. You can check out all the details by searching online for EdleFest, or visiting edlefest.site123.me, but meanwhile here's a quick taster of our exciting line-up.

Friday 6th June

Barrel House Vipers

From Glastonbury to New Orleans...
to Edlesborough.

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*"Some of the best players on the
UK Jazz and Swing scene."*

Alex Hart Band

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"The Stevie Nicks of Folk" – BBC R2

Saturday 7th June

Man the Lifeboats

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Dolly Movies Band

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*"We love what she's doing"
- BBC Radio 2 Bob Harris*

Heidi Browne

An eclectic timeless sound encompassing rootsy, country flavours, influences of jazz and soul.



"A masterclass in storytelling"

- Tom Robinson BBC 6 Music

The Dicemen

Check out their latest single, Church on a Hill, written about our very own venue.



"Very good indeed"

- BBC Radio Wales

For those of you who have been to EdleFest before, you'll know how fortunate we are to host this fantastic event, right on our doorstep. For those of you who haven't – well, maybe this is the year to come and try it!

Tickets are available for individual evenings or for both nights at a discount.

Scan the QR code or search online for EdleFest, or visit edlefest.site123.me, call 07974 921923, or email EdleFest@gmail.com.

See you there!



Our Countryside

5th July 2025



After the torrential rain last July, the Carnival Committee has been taking stock of the equipment we use and find that we are desperately short of gazebos to protect stalls (and stallholders) from the rain or even from the sun.

Should you have one lying unused in your garage or shed, we would be very happy to take it off your hands and put it to good use.

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Classes commence at 12pm

Showground closes around 4pm

Classes

- | | |
|------------------------------|---|
| 1. Best Puppy (under 1 year) | 8. Family Dogs (2 or more) |
| 2. Golden Oldie (8 years+) | 9. Waggiest Tail |
| 3. Best Appledown rescue | 10. Musical Sits |
| 4. Young Handler (7-14 yrs) | 11. Best Condition |
| 5. Handsomest Dog | 12. Dogs that have not won a rosette in another class |
| 6. Prettiest Bitch | 13. Best in Show |
| 7. Best Biscuit Catcher | |

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Please visit our website for details about adoption and an application form. Please note that when adopting an adult dog any resident children must be aged 7+. To support our work you can make a one-off donation of £3 by texting APPLE to 70111, or donate via Paypal using the 'DONATE Support a Cause' option. Cheques are very welcome too!

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The Repair Café Needs You!



Repair Cafés are spreading all across the UK after starting up in Holland a few years ago. As well as fixing just about anything that you can carry into them we are beginning to see shoppers becoming conscious of repairability when buying new.

You may not be aware but you can find a repair score for most phones, tablets and laptops that

you may be thinking of buying. Before buying a new phone it could be worth checking if the battery can be replaced easily, or will require open heart surgery using a scalpel and heating pads to separate the adhesive. Checkout IFIXIT online and search for repair scores then compare your buying options.

Making these repair scores public and displaying them alongside the price tag in stores is apparently mandatory in some European countries. Rather like the Energy rating we see on fridges and washing machines, wouldn't it be good to have the Repairability score when you are about to buy?

Volunteering at our nearest repair café over the last year has shown me that so many manufacturers create deliberate barriers to repairing their products. These range from special screws with non-standard heads to electronic serial numbers that the product will not recognize if changed. That's assuming you can buy the spare parts needed and the manufacturer actually publishes a repair manual.

The good news is that there is so much more information available now on how to repair many products. There are lots of You Tube videos to show you how to test and repair all kinds of faults. These are often amateur videos but when the manufacturer hasn't provided repair data they are invaluable. I'm often frustrated trying to open up some kitchen appliance only to find a secret screw hidden behind a label. Or a series of snap fit catches moulded into the case that require a thin plastic disk inserted into the split line. Somebody on You Tube will have worked it out already.

So what can you do? You could join the campaign for repairability and for public data on repair scores. You should consider it when buying any new product. How long will it last, does it carry a warranty, can the battery be replaced? Can you fix it yourself, can it only be fixed by the manufacturer at great expense. Remember that the Repair Café's volunteers are experts who will be able to repair items you would not attempt yourself. You might consider volunteering at the Repair Café. If you have a few tools, the skills to repair stuff and can spare a half day once a month, let us know or just come along.

If there are enough of us volunteering that the Ivinghoe and Pitstone Café overflows maybe we can set up a local branch in Eaton Bray or Edlesborough? Contact me if you are interested and would like to chat about the possibility.

✉ Martin Hayden

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Help to Improve our Bus Services

I know that buses are vital for residents here in Edlesborough, Northall and Dagnall. People depend on buses for getting to work, school, the shops or to see friends and family.

Lots of people speak to me about their local services. I know that whilst there are some good services, there are many problems that need addressing as well. People across Aylesbury have for too long put up with unacceptable delays, cancellations and scrapped services, including Arriva's decision to end bus services to Oxford and High Wycombe.

I have been pleased with the Government's announcement that it would allocate £6.7m to Buckinghamshire Council to improve bus services, in addition to maintaining a cap on fares. We are moving fast and taking bold steps to deliver better buses for local communities in Buckinghamshire.

However, I know there is more to be done.

That's why I have recently launched an online survey to help improve bus services in our area. I want to know your views in order to make a stronger case to Buckinghamshire Council and local bus providers.

The survey will be used to help understand how many residents travel by bus, how satisfied they are with the current service, which improvements can be made to improve the passenger experience, and how to increase passenger numbers across Aylesbury and the surrounding villages. I would encourage both regular bus users and people who don't use public transport to take part in the survey. I want to understand your experiences of local bus services, so I can push as your MP for better, more accessible public transport for everyone in our community.

Edlesborough, Northall and Dagnall residents are welcome to take part in the survey by filling in this short form: <https://forms.gle/j2stL3NAZw9rmNGu6>.

✉ Laura Kyrke-Smith MP



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April is a time of renewal and looking forward. EBGN has had a productive winter helping our 40 regular clients with lifts and prescriptions and a further 40-50 on an occasional basis. Finances are on a sound footing and the Steering Group has some new members with enthusiasm and fresh ideas. However, we are always short of

drivers so do give some thought to volunteering with us.

Volunteers can choose to take a turn with the phone, collect prescriptions or shopping or drive clients to medical appointments. This is a valuable support for villagers who find it difficult to get out and about. Eaton Bray Good Neighbours is part of a network of similar groups operating under the umbrella of Bedfordshire Rural Charities. Our local group covers Eaton Bray, Edlesborough, Totternhoe and Northall and has now been in operation for over ten years. Our telephone is with a volunteer Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm with an answerphone available outside of these times. Volunteers are not on a rota or committed in any way. They can just opt into a job if it is convenient so do give some thought to joining us as a volunteer. Although we are volunteers petrol is paid at a standard rate. We look forward to hearing from you. Our telephone number is 07930 987064.

EBGN

April's Awakening

April whispers, soft and sweet,
With petals blooming at her feet.
The rain taps lightly on the glass,
A fleeting song that comes to pass.

The earth is brushed in hues of green,
A waking world, alive, serene.
The trees stretch tall with newfound grace,
Sunlight dancing on their face.

The air is filled with fragrant showers,
Morning mist and budding flowers.
A robin sings, a stream runs free,
April hums in harmony.

A time of hope, of skies turned bright,
Of days that linger into night.
She stirs the soul, she lifts the heart,
A gentle hand, a work of art.



***Have you penned
a verse with local
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Over the Hill

It seems like only yesterday
When I was in my youth
But my body tells me otherwise
I've got old and that's the truth

I used to love the nightlife
When I was in my prime
But now I'm lucky if I'm not asleep
In bed by half past nine!

I've gone from hitting nightclubs
In my fancy night attire
To a pair of snug pyjamas
And a mug of cocoa by the fire

I try to do the crosswords
To keep my mind tip-top
Then I'll venture into another room
But for what, as I've forgot

I get my daily workouts now
By just doing household chores
If I manage to change the duvet set
I expect so much applause

My teeth, well they've seen better days
And my skin's a little thin
But at least I've reached my twilight years
Now, to me that's such a win

I need my trusty hearing aid
So, I can hear your voice
Finally, a perk for me
As this, it is my choice

My mind may think I'm twenty-five
But my body's had its day
But I soldier on regardless
As 'that's life' as they all say

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10th MAY 2025

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Eaton Bray Scene again in slides will be raising funds for The Hospice of St. Francis where Mr Pete Farrah was cared for during his final days . He did so much for our village over the years and was manager of the Pitstone Green Heritage Museum.He will be missed by many.

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(fortnightly)

Home League: Weds 2.30-3.30pm
(Ladies fellowship)

Messy Church: Weds 6pm-7:15pm
(1st Weds of the month term time - for all the family not just the children)

Champions Club: Weds 6.15-7.15pm
(Term time only - Age 5+)

Girls' Night Out: Thurs 7.30pm
(1st Thurs of the month)

For further information please call into the hall, telephone: 07796 980565 or contact us by email:
eaton.bray@salvationarmy.org.uk

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Chapel Lane, Northall

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For more information contact:

John Hazell 01525 218142

Email northallchapel@btinternet.com

Web: www.northallbaptistchurch.org

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

April at the Grove



Comedy

Mothers of The Brides - 5 Apr

Barnstormers Comedy Club - 24 Apr

Live Music

The Bon Jovi Experience - 3 Apr

The Magic of The Beatles - 4 Apr

Land of Hope and Glory - 9 Apr

The History of Oasis & Beyond - 11 Apr

The Spice Girls Experience - 18 Apr

Sexbomb: Celebrating the Music of Sir Tom Jones - 19 Apr

rePunK'd - The Classic Punk and New Wave Revival - 25 Apr

Lost In Music - 26 Apr

That'll Be The Day Spring 2025 - 30 Apr

Live Screening

Turandot - 1 Apr

Encore Screening

Six The Musical Live! - 8 Apr

André Rieu's 75th Birthday Celebration: The Dream Continues - 14 Apr

Film

Bridget Jones - 2,5,10 Apr

The Last Showgirl - 14 Apr

September 5 - 22 Apr

Mickey 17 - 23 Apr

A Real Pain - 24 Apr

Becoming Led Zeppelin - 28 Apr

Drama

Far From The Madding Crowd - 15 Apr

Family

The Wizard of Oz - 12 Apr

Andy And The Odd Socks - 17 Apr

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

*Churches Together in Eaton Bray,
Edlesborough, Dagnall and Northall*

Easter Services in our villages

***We welcome you to worship
with us this Easter***



Photo by Corinne Lovell

CHURCH OF ENGLAND (Anglican Communion)**Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin, Eaton Bray with Edlesborough**
(High Street, Eaton Bray)

30 March Mothering Sunday	10.00	Messy Church Communion Service and giving of flowers
13 April Palm Sunday	10.00	Blessing of Palms & Sung Eucharist (meet by Eaton Bray village hall)
14 April Monday in Holy Week	19.30	NCG Eucharist, St Mary's, Kensworth
15 April Tuesday in Holy Week	19.30	NCG Eucharist, Stanbridge
16 April Weds in Holy Week	19.30	Tenebrae Service, St Mary's, Eaton Bray
17 April Maundy Thursday	20.00	Holy Communion followed by the Watch of the Passion
18 April Good Friday	11.00- 13.00	Messy Church, Eaton Bray, Village Hall
	14.00	"An Hour at The Cross" (Devotional Service)
20 April Easter Day	8.00	Holy Communion
	10.00	Sung Eucharist & Easter egg hunt

ALL SAINTS', DAGNALL

18 April Good Friday	15.00	'The way of the cross' service of reflection, All Saints' Dagnall
20 April Easter Day	10.30	Family Communion All Saints', Dagnall

BAPTIST CHURCH NORTHALL (Chapel Lane)

200 years and still going. *A little Church with strong local links.*

13 April Palm Sunday	11.00	Palm Sunday Service
17 April	19.30	Service of Holy Communion
20 April Easter Day	11.00	Service of Celebration. Christ is Risen from the Dead!

THE SALVATION ARMY (Eaton Bray, Booth Place)

18 April Good Friday	10.30	Good Friday Service at Eaton Bray Methodist
20 April Easter Day	11.00	Easter Day Service

EATON BRAY METHODIST CHURCH

18 April Good Friday	10.30	Good Friday Service
20 April Easter Day	10.30	Easter Day Service

EDLESBOROUGH METHODIST CHURCH

18 April Good Friday	10.30	Good Friday Service at Eaton Bray Methodist
20 April Easter Day	10.30	Easter Day Service

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Easter

Easter is the most important and joyful Christian Festival.

It celebrates Jesus Christ's resurrection from the dead - three days after he died on the cross.

The Easter story is at the heart of Christianity

On Good Friday Jesus Christ was executed by crucifixion. His body was taken down from the cross and buried in a tomb.

The tomb was guarded and an enormous stone was put over the entrance, so that no-one could steal the body.

On the following Sunday some women visited the grave and they found that the stone had been moved and the tomb was empty.

Jesus himself was seen that day and for days afterwards by many people. His followers realised that Jesus had risen from the dead.

This Means:

That no one is outside of God's love. Everybody can begin again and can experience new life in Christ through faith in him and by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Churches Together in Eaton Bray, Edlesborough, Dagnall and Northall

is a visible sign of the Churches' commitment to the communities of which they are a part and to each other.

Nigel's Thoughts

Dear Friends,

It is at this time of year that the Christian faith is seen at its most counter-cultural. This seems particularly so at the moment in our world. A world in turmoil, in which much that we have taken for granted for so long no longer seems sure. Where both nation states and individuals are seen to be putting themselves first, without much thought of the consequences for others.

In the context of the next few weeks, during which the season of Lent concludes, and then in Holy Week, as we travel through the Garden of Gethsemane and follow the way of sorrows to the place of crucifixion itself. Can we see the wonder of our God who, in Jesus gives Himself away in humble but strong love for the sake of others? Can we sense Him reaching out to us all?

Who are we to desire to be doing anything else than walking in His footsteps, and following his example?

Of course we know that the events of Good Friday are far from the end of the story, but they are a vital part, they assure us that when we are in need or suffer, that we have a brother who has gone before us and will always be there to accompany, comfort and strengthen us.

In the triumph and joy of Easter morning let us not for one moment forget the way of sacrifice, of love that gives itself away, by which we know ourselves to be God's children and eternal sisters and brothers to Jesus our Lord.

Let us not be so concerned about our own continued prospering then, that we miss the opportunity to share in the purposes of our God of love, who gives himself away.

A Very Happy Easter to you all!

 Nigel



Eaton Bray Cricket Club

Fixtures for the Bedfordshire Sunday League have been published.

May 4th Amptill Town away	Return July 27th.
May 11th Luton Town & Indians home	Return June 1st.
May 18th Hexton home	Return Aug 24th.
May 25th Offley & Stopsley home	Return June 22nd.
June 15th Harlington away	Return Aug 17th.
June 29th Kempston Hammers	Return Aug 3rd.
July 6th Wolverton Town away	Return Aug 31st.
July 20th MK Warriors home	Return Aug 10th.



Eaton Bray Cricket Club are always looking out for new players of any age or ability. We run 2 senior teams in the Herts League and a senior side in the Beds Sunday League. 5 Junior teams at aged U9 U11 2xU13 U15 and a Ladies Softball team. If you would like to join a progressive family friendly club pop down to the Rye Gardens or get in touch via Facebook or X @EatonBrayCC.

The club would like to thank our sponsors Meadow Marquees, The Westrope Butchery, Fine & Country Homes, Prestige Kitchens, Emma Jane Tutoring, Castles Estate Agents and the Focus Magazine for their continued support.

Please enjoy your cricket with Eaton Bray in 2025.

Your Photos



*Above: Spring Ploughing by Beryl Bishop, Below: Cat having a nap by Ken Coates
Cover photo by Andrew Weeks*



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Glis Glis - Edible Dormouse



In appearance, the glis glis is like a small version of the grey squirrel. The head and body are about 150mm (6") long and the bushy tail is about 125mm (5") long. The fur is silvery grey, shading to a light colour underneath and there is a ring of black hair around each eye.

The animal is common in Europe, but is not native to Britain. It was deliberately introduced into Tring

Park in 1902 and has spread into the surrounding area. The extent of the spread is not fully known, but is thought to be no more than about a 30 mile circle from Tring, although there have been unconfirmed reports of sightings at much greater distances. Today, the introduction of new, wild, species is prohibited by environmental laws, but at that time no one had any concern for the long term implications of releasing what is, in effect, a pest into the UK. Glis Glis cause considerable damage to trees and crops, and from the mid 1920's onwards were causing damage in houses, particularly by gnawing woodwork and electric cables.

The common name "edible dormouse" dates from Roman times. The Romans farmed them by keeping them confined and fed a diet to encourage them to become fat. They were then served as an exotic delicacy at banquets. Like many small animals, Glis Glis can appear to be attractive and entertaining. However, they are definitely not to be regarded as a pet or a cuddly toy. They have been described as sulky, standoffish and at times bad tempered. Once fully emerged from hibernation they are very nimble and fast on their feet.

Glis Glis are nocturnal and in houses the first signs of infestation will either be noises heard in the loft at night, or signs of damage in the loft or outbuildings. The animals hibernate for long periods (the German common name for them is "Seven months" because they hibernate for the 7 months October - April)

Only limited research has been done on the life cycle of the UK population. It is thought that Glis Glis emerge from hibernation in May and that a litter of 2 - 5 young are produced in July - August. It is possible that there may be more than one litter each year, but precise information is lacking. By the standards of small rodents, Glis Glis have fairly long lives. It is known that animals in the wild live for 3 - 5 years and there is a record of a Glis Glis in captivity surviving for 8 years. They are rarely found outside the Luton, Beaconsfield and Aylesbury triangle, where they are fairly common. The small litter size and the small number of litters per year, together with action of natural predators mean that Glis Glis do not multiply out of control the way that rats and mice do. However, they are slowly extending the infested area and this will be aided if there is a tendency to warmer spring and summer weather.

As Glis Glis are regarded as pests, it is illegal for householders to release them back into the wild.

There are very strict laws about how Glis Glis must be caught and dispatched, everyone involved must work under strict Government license terms. Do not be tempted to control Glis Glis without recourse to a licence or a company working under such licence terms. Otherwise you may commit a criminal offence.

Please note that the terms of the licence is to kill the animals caught by specific means - it is illegal to remove them and release them alive in another area. It is thought that some of the spread of Glis Glis to other areas has been caused by well-meaning householders who have trapped Glis Glis and then, out of a mistaken sense of humane disposal have released them. Not only is this illegal but all this does is present the problem to someone else.

For advice from the regulatory body on edible dormice contact Natural England on 0854 6003078, or at www.naturalengland.org.uk. They will either assist you directly or put you in touch with your local Wildlife Management Adviser. Advisers can offer guidance to you over the telephone to ensure you do not contravene any legal methods of control.

Courtesy of www.dialapest.co.uk



Whats on at Leighton Buzzard Theatre

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

Film

I'm Still Here - 2 Apr

Bridget Jones: Mad About the Boy - 4,10,23 Apr

Sonic the Hedgehog 3 - 7 & 9 Apr

Dog Man - 16 Apr

Mickey 17 - 17 Apr

Music

Eltonesque - 11 Apr

An Evening of Worship - 22 Apr

Shout Out to the 60s - 24 Apr

Comedy

Barnstormers - 5 Apr

Family Theatre

A Big Egg by Steven Lee - 14 Apr

The Farmer and the Clown - 19 Apr

Event Cinema

Turandot - 1 Apr

National Theatre Live: Dr. Strangelove - 3 Apr

SIX The Musical Live! - 6 & 8 Apr

The Metropolitan Opera Live: Le Nozze di

Figaro - 26 Apr

Dunstable Probus Club

Dunstable PROBUS Club meets on the second Monday of the month at Tilsworth Golf Centre and membership is open to retired or semi-retired professional and business people. The Club's main purpose is the promotion of good fellowship. Members enjoy some social activities and the occasional organised visit throughout the year and after their regular monthly lunch meetings are entertained by speakers who give talks on a wide range of topics. If you are interested in joining the Club, please contact the Secretary, Philip Savage on 01582 662462.



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Easter Traybake

Prep 20 mins, Cook 35 mins, Serves 12

Make this easy Easter-themed traybake with the kids. It features a chocolate sponge covered in fudge icing then decorated with Easter sweets and treats.

Ingredients

150ml sunflower oil
plus extra for the tin
165g golden caster sugar
2 eggs
150ml milk
165g self-raising flour
3 tbsp cocoa powder
1 tsp bicarbonate of soda
For the chocolate fudge icing
100g milk or dark chocolate, chopped (either a chocolate bar or Easter egg, broken up)
100g butter, softened
100g icing sugar
100g Easter treats (chocolate eggs, sweets, chocolate bar pieces)

Method

Heat the oven to 180C/160C fan/gas 4. Oil and line a traybake tin, about 20 x 30cm, and 5cm deep. Put the oil, sugar, eggs and milk in a bowl and whisk until well combined. Sieve over the flour, cocoa and bicarb, and stir briefly until combined. Pour the mixture

into the tin, and bake for 20-25 mins until the cake is well risen and springs back when pressed. Transfer to a wire rack and leave to cool completely.

Melt the chocolate in a bowl set over a pan of simmering water, ensuring the bowl doesn't touch the water, or in short blasts in the microwave until melted. Leave to cool for a few minutes.

Beat the butter and icing sugar together until pale and fluffy, then drizzle in the chocolate and beat again until smooth and uniform in colour. Swirl the icing over the top of the cake, with a few peaks and swirls to decorate. Scatter with the Easter treats to serve.

Icing - This makes a thin layer of icing but you can double or triple the quantities if you'd like a more generous amount.



Easter Hot Chocolate

Ingredients

200ml milk
½ tbsp cocoa powder
100g hollow chocolate egg, (milk or dark), broken into small pieces
2 tbsp whipped or squirty cream
25g mini chocolate eggs
sugar-coated chocolate buttons or beans, or more chocolate egg, broken into small pieces
1 tbsp mini marshmallows

Method

Pour boiling water from the kettle into a heatproof mug to warm it up. Heat the milk and cocoa in a small pan, or in blasts in the microwave, until steaming. Discard the hot

water in the mug, and tip in the chocolate egg pieces. Pour over the hot milk. Stir for 30 seconds or until the chocolate has melted. Top with the cream, sprinkle over the mini eggs or broken egg pieces and marshmallows to serve. (serves 1)



Courtesy of BBCgoodfood.



Northall Baptist Church

200 years and still going

A little Church with strong local links

Hope this Easter

The fairly modern and very popular Spiritual Song, 'In Christ Alone my Hope is Found' by Stuart Townend, tells the story of Jesus life here on earth, death and resurrection. The Easter story of hope. Jesus, my light, my strength, my song, this cornerstone, this solid ground. How we need some solid ground at the moment when all around seems to be shifting sand. It talks about Jesus as our comforter who came to earth, took on flesh and although scorned by those he came to save, gave us a gift of love and righteousness. How precious. The verse that I find particularly poignant is this and is so relevant to our thoughts during the Easter period:

There in the ground his body lay, light of the world by darkness slain,

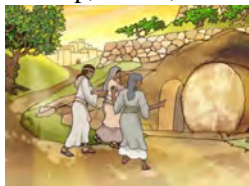
Then, bursting forth in glorious day, up from the grave he rose again!

And as he stands in victory sin's curse has lost its grip on me,

For I am his and he is mine – bought by the precious blood of Christ.

The last verse tells that Jesus has removed our guilt and nothing in our whole life can deflect us from our eternal destiny. 'Here in the power of Christ I'll stand!'

Up from the grave he rose. He's alive! Living in Heaven and we can speak to him. Ask him for help, advice, wisdom. It's called prayer.



Jesus was a real person, born, lived and died in a small corner of the Mediterranean. An area that was under Roman occupation at the time and now is very uncertain. There are very few Christians left in that area now but worldwide there is increasing searching for a living Saviour and the certainty of hope when things are sad, bad or worrying.

JESUS HAS RISEN

When there are difficult circumstances such as illness or a family death or other worries, we often hear people saying that they are praying. When a disaster happens, Churches open their doors to provide the help, support and comfort needed. We have seen several times recently when the nearby Church has been the focal point dispensing the care and love on behalf of a risen Jesus who understands the troubles and pain we have. He's lived a human life and has seen the suffering as well as suffering himself.

So, this Easter weekend starts with remembering Jesus last meal with his disciples, his anguish because he knew what was going to happen, his betrayal by Judas, Peter's denial then the sham trial leading to his painful death on the Cross. But the amazing resurrection is the high point of celebration. Jesus is alive. Bursting forth in glorious day! He has won the victory. Try praying – you are sure to get an answer. Have hope this Easter.

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

For those interested in the history of Northall Baptist Church, a free copy of the booklet, *Rebels in Green Pastures* can be supplied or downloaded from our website: <http://northallbaptistchurch.org/>

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Lucas (Northall)

★★★★★

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Bernadette (Edlesborough)

★★★★★

I cannot speak highly enough of this local business. Excellent speed of service, professional staff, all work and pricing fully explained and job completed to our full satisfaction. I will be confidently recommending them to others.



Warren (Eaton Bray)

★★★★★

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Jim (Eaton Bray)

★★★★★

Burst pipe early Saturday morning and David responded within 20 minutes. Problem solved immediately and follow up was first class!



Andrew Janes (Edlesborough)

★★★★★

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What to do in the Garden in April



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

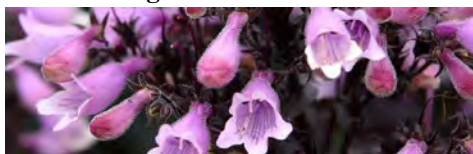
This month, there's plenty to sow and grow in your garden and greenhouse. But there's lots more to do besides sowing and planting out. Here are your main garden jobs this April:

Timely Tips

Start with these four garden tasks this month:

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

In the flower garden



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

- and create new plants for your garden.
- Pinch out the tips of fuchsia plants and sweet pea plant shoots, to encourage bushy growth this summer.
- Divide primroses once they have finished flowering.
- Plant rhododendron bushes once the threat of frost has passed, and the ground is moist.
- Move evergreen trees and shrubs now, provided the soil isn't frozen or waterlogged.
- Feed trees, shrubs and hedges with a balanced, slow-release fertiliser, by lightly forking it into the soil surface. Roses, in particular, are greedy plants and will greatly benefit from feeding as they come into growth.
- Tie in climbing roses.
- Check any tree stakes and ties to make sure they're not cutting into the trunk. Loosen any that are tight, to allow the trunk some room to expand.
- Prune your penstemons now - cut back all the old shoots to the base, provided there is new growth at the bottom of the plant. If there are no new shoots at the base, cut just above the lowest set of leaves.
- Finish cutting back any dead foliage on perennials and ornamental grass plants (if you haven't done so already), to make way for new growth.
- Prune Forsythia as soon as they have finished flowering, cutting back to strong, young shoots.
- Trim winter-flowering heathers as the flowers disappear, to prevent plants becoming leggy.
- Tie in new honeysuckle and clematis stems. These plants will be putting on growth now, and you'll need to train them along their supports.
- Continue to remove faded flowers from winter pansies to stop them setting seed. This will encourage flushes of new flowers throughout the spring.
- Deadhead daffodils and tulips as the flowers

finish, but leave foliage intact, allowing it to die back naturally.

- Apply a layer of mulch around your perennials and biennial plants, trees and shrubs before the hot weather arrives. Use organic matter such as well-rotted manure.

In the vegetable garden



Get busy with these vegetable garden tasks this April:

- Prepare vegetable seed beds by removing all weeds.
- Dig a 5-cm (or more) layer of compost, well-rotted manure or green waste into beds.
- Cover prepared soil with sheets of black plastic to keep it drier and warmer in preparation for planting.
- Build raised beds to take the bending out of growing vegetables.
- Harvest asparagus spears when they're no more than 18 cm tall.
- Support pea and bean plants now. For quick and easy pea supports, push some twiggy sticks around your plants.
- Thin carrot seedlings to achieve good-sized carrots; do this in the evening when fewer carrot flies are around.

In the fruit garden



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

- Protect fruit blossom from late frosts by covering them with horticultural fleece on cold nights.
- Spray the emerging leaves of peach and nectarine trees to prevent peach leaf curl. Sheltering your plants from the rain will also help reduce the risk of peach leaf curl.

- Mulch fruit trees with well-rotted manure or garden compost, taking care not to mound mulch up around the trunk.
- Top-dress patio fruit-trees with fresh compost and a slow-release fertiliser.
- Feed raspberry canes, fruit bushes and fruit trees to encourage good crops this season. Apply a slow-release fertiliser around their base.
- Try hand pollinating peaches and nectarines with a soft-bristled paint brush for better crops this year.

Looking after your lawn

These are your lawn-care jobs for April:

- Sow lawn seed now on well-prepared soil and keep the soil moist while it germinates.
- For an instant lawn, lay new turf this month, and keep it moist until it's established.
- Repair any bare patches in your lawn - try sowing lawn repair grass seed.
- Apply a high-nitrogen fertiliser to your lawn, for a boost at the start of the season.
- Apply specialist lawn weed killer to your lawn wherever moss and weeds are a problem.
- Brush away any worm casts on dry days.
- Mow your lawn more regularly, as required. Lower your mower blades towards the end of the month.
- Recut lawn edges to straighten them up.
- Install lawn edging to make future maintenance easier.
- Aerate compacted areas of lawn, by spiking it with a garden fork.

Obtain more tips from:
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Eaton Bray History

The White Horse Public House, The Green, Eaton Bray (courtesy of the Bedfordshire Archives)



The White Horse 1820, painted by Thomas Fisher. Photo circa 1920.

The White Horse was the oldest known licensed premises in Eaton Bray. The earliest record of it is in 1810 when it was the venue for a court held by the Manor of Eaton Bray with the Members. The building was listed by the former Department of Environment in September 1980 as Grade II, of special interest. The department dated the construction to the early 19th century, raising the interesting possibility that it was purpose built as a public house. The building is clad in colourwashed roughcast and has a hipped slate roof. It has been extended to the rear.

The White Horse played a minor role in a felony. In 1832 Samuel Heley of Edlesborough and George Woodcraft of Eaton Bray were accused of stealing ducks from Eaton Bray farmer William Rollings. He went to Heley's house and found one and a half ducks there, he also found two ducks at Woodcraft's house. He then went to the White Horse where he saw two ducks' heads, one of which he identified because it had a blemish on the top of the eye, though the eye had been knocked out. 30 year old Heley and 25 year old Woodcraft were both sentenced to six months' hard labour. Woodcraft seems to have stayed on the right side of the law but Heley went to prison twice more – in 1845 for stealing apples and pears, when he received fourteen days' hard labour and in 1876 when he served fourteen days' for breaching the Factory Acts. The countywide licensing register of 1876 states that the owner was Annie Macnamara of Caddington, Lady of the Manor, She leased the property to Dunstable brewer Benjamin Bennett, meaning that the publican, James Bird, was the sub-tenant. By the time of the 1891 licensing register the pub was a free house, though still owned by the Macnamaras. In 1898 the public house was put up for sale by auction by Arthur Macnamara. The sale particulars read as follows:

THE FULLY-LICENSED PUBLIC HOUSE

Known as

“THE WHITE HORSE”

Situate at the junction of the High Roads in the centre of EATON BRAY VILLAGE and within four miles of the towns of LEIGHTON BUZZARD and DUNSTABLE

Comprising

SUBSTANTIALLY-BUILT HOUSE,

containing

BAR, PARLOUR, CLUB ROOM, TAP ROOM AND EIGHT BED ROOMS;

Connected by covered way are

KITCHEN, WASH-HOUSE AND STORE;

THE OUTBUILDINGS

Include

Stabling for Seven Horses and Barn,

And in field

PIGGERY AND HEN-HOUSE

Together with

GARDEN AND PADDOCK

Let on a Yearly Michaelmas tenancy to Mr. HENRY SELLS at the low Rent of £30 per annum.
THE POSITION OF THIS HOUSE RENDERS IT CAPABLE OF DOING A LARGE TRADE.

The particulars are annotated to show that the White Horse was bought by Berkhamsted brewers Lock & Smith for £2,000. Perhaps the rent was not as low as the sale particulars suggested because in 1901 the publican, Henry Sells, became insolvent and his possessions were sold at auction. The pub was a favourite place for auction sales for the best part of a century, from at least 1858 until at least 1944.

The countywide licensing register of 1903 duly shows the White Horse owned by Lock & Smith. It is described as: “clean and in good repair” and was just 44 yards from the next licensed premises (The Five Bells); the property had one front, one side and one rear door.

The Rating and Valuation Act 1925 specified that every building and piece of land in the country was to be assessed to determine its rateable value. Like most of the county, Eaton Bray was assessed in 1927 and the valuer visiting the White Horse found that it was now owned and occupied by George Walter Shiers. The valuer commented: “Nice attractive looking place but looks larger outside than inside”

The property comprised a public bar (“good”), a tap room (“rather small”), a club room (“good, brick floor”), a kitchen, a sitting room and a large lobby with six bedrooms (“one a letting bedroom”), a dining room and a bathroom upstairs. A brick, weather-boarded and slated washhouse, a coal shed and a WC stood outside along with three brick, stone and slated stables (“disused”) and a weather-boarded and sheet iron two bay open shed.

The takings were said to be £12 per week in winter and £18 in summer. Trade consisted of four barrels of beer per week, eight to twelve dozen bottles of beer per week, six gallons of spirits per year and eighteen gallons of wine per year. The valuer observed: “Good stock in cellar. Been here just over a year”. Evidently there was some uncertainty over the level of trade because another hand has written: “Mrs. Shiers says five barrels per month. Mr. Shiers in bed” and another person has written: “I think above trade rather underestimated”. The observation was made: “House faces small green, good position. Five Bells practically adjoins”.

The owner also had an orchard of just over half an acre (“few trees”) and a small plot with a weather-boarded and tiled meal house and store. In the orchard stood two weather-boarded and tiled piggeries and a weather-boarded and felt hen house (“good”).

The White Horse was the only public house left in Eaton Bray and sadly closed on Sunday 2nd March 2025, the rest having closed and either been demolished, become private houses or, in the case of the Hope and Anchor an Indian restaurant and the Plough currently a dentist practice.

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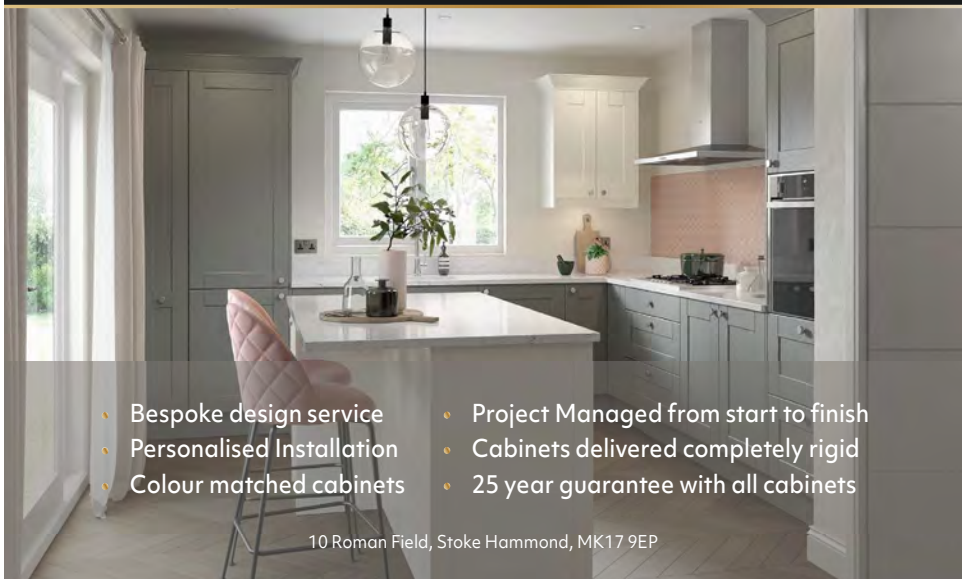
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The Edlesborough Rose Brass

If you are new to Edlesborough Parish or indeed even if you have lived here for some time, you may not know about the Edlesborough Rose. You will, no doubt, have seen its image atop our village sign on the Green.

The Edlesborough Rose is a unique medieval memorial brass which has been associated with the history of Edlesborough Church for many centuries. It has travelled a bit in its time having had stays in both Pitstone Church and Ashridge House chapel during the 19th & early 20th centuries, and more recently it languished for 33 years in a bank vault in Bedford where it was taken for safekeeping after the theft of another brass from the church.



As those 33 years ticked by, the memories of those who had been active in the church at that time, grew dim, and when the newly formed Friends of the Church on the Hill, started to ask questions, there was no clear answer concerning the whereabouts of the Rose Brass. Hence there began a four year quest to rediscover this precious artifact.

There were many twists and turns, with hopes being raised and dashed in those four years. But ultimately, documents were found in the Churches Conservation Trust archives which proved where the brass had been lodged, and finally in January 2017 it was possible to reclaim it. The brass came back to the church briefly later that year for a celebration of its return; it is now with the CCT awaiting conservation, and the Friends are working on a plan to commission a replica for the church.

The brass is unique and precious because there are no other known examples of a brass in the form of a rose. There are ancient records of a very similar brass in St Peter's, St Albans, but this was lost in the early nineteenth century, probably during a time of restoration of the church.

The Latin text on the rose brass is:

‘Quod expendi, habui: Quod donavi, habeo: Quod negavi, punio: Quod servavi, perdidit’

A modern translation would be ‘What I have spent, I have had: What I have given away, I still have; What I refused to give, I am punished for; What I kept for myself, I have lost.

It is therefore what is known as a ‘Memento Mori’, a reminder that we must all die,

and an encouragement to do good in this life in order to obtain benefits in the next. In particular, it urges the reader to be generous and share with others whatever we are fortunate enough to possess.

The brass has long been associated with an inscription in the church to John Killingworth who died in 1412. This view is expressed by several important 19th & 20th century commentaries on Edlesborough Church, (although no doubt they would have used each other as sources). More recent however, learned opinion suggests that the Rose has no connection with John Killingworth but belongs to another memorial brass, now lost - and furthermore, it may not originally have been made for Edlesborough Church. And so our well-loved Rose brass continues to throw up more mysteries to be solved!

Website: edlesboroughchurch.co.uk

Facebook: Friends of the Church on the Hill, Edlesborough

Festival Website: edlefest.site123.me

We hope that you found this of interest.

✍ Catherine Hayden (Friends Group)

Dagnall Community Choir

As we move into spring and the warmer months, the choir is busy preparing for our Afternoon Tea Concert, which takes place on Sunday 6th July, 2.30pm at Whipsnade Village Hall. Last year this was a lovely event, appreciated by all who attended and enjoyed a cream tea while they were entertained by our musical offerings. This year we have added several new songs to our repertoire, and revived a few old favourites, which we are relearning and perfecting for this concert, so please come along and enjoy a summer's afternoon with your local community choir. Tickets are £12.50 each, available from choir members or by calling 01525 220189.



We are also hoping to host another exciting event this summer or autumn, which we know will appeal to music lovers... watch this space for more information – we hope to be able to update you soon!

This year we are celebrating the 15th anniversary of the founding of Dagnall Community Choir. We started out in 2010, and despite a number of changes in our membership over the years, and a hiatus of eighteen months during the pandemic, we have continued to meet weekly on a Monday evening ever since and enjoy the absolute joy that comes from singing together.

Like many community groups though, we are now finding our numbers decreasing, which is a worry for those of us who would love to see the choir continue for another fifteen years! So our plea for new members is heartfelt. We would love to welcome anyone who would like to come along to one of our rehearsals and sing with us. There are no auditions and no requirement to be able to read music – just a love of singing is all that's required.

So please do join us for a singalong during one of our rehearsals, which take place weekly on Monday evenings at 7:45pm at Dagnall Church (the one on the roundabout on the main road through Dagnall village).

For more information about our choir or to get in touch, please visit our website at www.dagnall-community-choir.co.uk



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Focus - April 1986 - April Fools

VICAR IN TITHE SHOCK HORROR!

All inhabitants of the parish of St. Mary's, Eaton Bray, could be in for an unwelcome surprise if plans, currently under consideration, to restore the ancient tithe system go ahead. Unrepealed legislation dating back at least 600 years gives the priest of the parish the right to exact a tithe of 10% of annual gross income from each parishioner to pay for the upkeep of the church. The last time this tithe was collected, most parishioners would have contributed a chicken or two, or perhaps a sheep, but in modern times the Vicar, the Rev. Brian Moore, expects to 'clean up'. "We're on to a goldmine," he told Focus. "Now we'll be able to do all those little jobs we've had to shelve-new roof on the church, new vestments, new seats, new licensed bar in the vestry, new organ, new Vicarage in the Canary Islands - the lot!"

If plans succeed, the first demands for tithes will go out just after harvest in the autumn. One loophole remains for those who do not wish to hand over their hard-earned cash. Under a little-known section of the tithe law, any person who spends five consecutive days and nights in the church during harvest time is exempt from tithe requirements. Is the Vicar worried that his flock might all avoid the requirement? "Not really," he told us. "For one thing, the church isn't the most comfortable of places to camp out. For another, I intend to have recordings of my sermons played back continuously through a public-address system for the whole five days - what you could call the ultimate deterrent!" Even so, in case there are hardy souls willing to put up with this fearful ordeal in order to cling to their money, we understand that space in the church is to be allotted by ticket, obtainable from the churchwardens at an as yet undisclosed price.

Where did the Vicar get the idea for this amazing scheme? "I've been thinking for a long time that we needed some entrepreneurial skills around here," said Mr Moore, flicking ash from his large cigar over our reporter. "With the first haul of readies I'm going to install a computer system in the Vicarage - it'll write sermons, check the tithes, keep tabs on parishioners and even produce Focus once a month - you monkeys are all going to be redundant." So saying, he polished his signed photograph of Rupert Murdoch with his silk handkerchief and announced that the interview was at an end.

Can anything be done to stop this appalling scheme? We at Focus will keep you up-to-date. Read next year's April Fool's Day edition for further news.



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Dagnall Weather Station (AONB)

Weather Conditions for February 2025

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

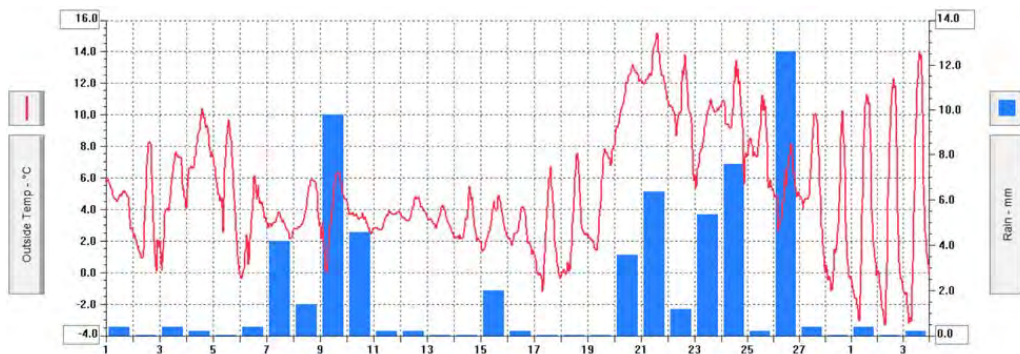


February was a quiet month made up of two halves. The first was characterised by below average temperatures, while the second half was warmer and saw a high of 11.7°C on the 21st. This gave us a respectable mean temperature of 5.3°C – good for February. We had 11 hours when temperatures fell below zero, although the lowest was only 1.3°C. With a total rainfall of 61.4 mm, it was a fraction above the average for February. The wettest day was the 26th with 12.6mm of rain.

	High	Date/Time	Low	Date/Time
Temperature:	11.7°C	21 Feb 13.30	-1.3°C	17 Feb 07.30
Mean Temperature	5.3°C			
Dewpoint:	12.c	21 Feb 11.30	-2.9°C	17 Feb 23.30
Humidity:	97%	15 Feb 14.30	59%	17 Feb 14.00
Barometer:	1043.9 mb	6 Feb 08.00	1004.6mb	21 Feb 15.00
Wind Speed	35 mph S	21 Feb 10.00	Months avg.	6.0 mph
Wind Chill:	13.3°C	22 Feb 15.30	-4.0°C	17 Feb 09.00
Dominant Wind:	SSE			
Rainfall * <i>T</i> = total rain days and moisture. <i>R</i> = Actual rain				
* Rain Days: 20(T), 20(R)	Wettest Day 26 Feb		12.6 mm	0.496 ins
Monthly Rain:	Total	February 2025	61.4 mm	2.417 ins
Yearly Rain:	Total	2 Month	151.4 mm	5.691 ins

February 2025 Temperatures and Rainfall

Note - the plot below shows the first 3 days of March ignore this.



For weather data 24 hours a day, updated every 15mins, this site forecast and much more, visit: www.dagnallweather.co.uk and http://bit.ly/weather_dagnall. If anyone has a question, comment or wishes to contact me please email: david@dagnallweather.co.uk or telephone: 01442 843883. Dagnall weather now has an app for your iPad & iPhone! Just go to the apple store, search for Wunderstation and follow the instructions to Dagnall Weather Station. Now updated every minute.

The February 2025 meeting opened with minutes of January meeting, members' news and birthday plants distributed to the lucky ladies. A good turnout attended in anticipation of a fun social evening comprising quiz sheets on topics such as plants and general knowledge. Tables of six competed for the 'top prize' of a box of chocolates and it was impressive to see how erudite our ladies were, some gaining almost full marks. After exercising our grey matter, hot soup, (choice of tomato or vegetable) and rolls were served by the committee. Very welcome on a cold evening. We then had an opportunity to catch up with friends we hadn't seen for a month. The evening concluded with coffee, tea and biscuits and a raffle.

✍️ Caroline Colleran

For our March meeting we had a lovely lady Christine Farmer who came to talk to us about her personal experience being a participant on the TV programme The Repair Shop located at Weald and Downland living museum. Christine started by telling us about how she applied online, filling out the appropriate form to have her 200 year old sewing table repaired which held great sentimental value. The programme beautifully mends and restores family heirlooms. She used photographs to tell us about the presenters and her treasured table. She explained the whole procedure from applying to go on the programme, the filming, up to when it was aired on TV.

The programme researchers do a lot of work into the people and the article to make sure everything is genuine.

We all sat thoroughly engaged in Christine's easy and amusing way of talking and the story, going back to her childhood, of her beautiful sewing table. She had been left the treasured table in the will of a neighbour that cared for her when she was a child when her mother had to work. A person she had a lot of affection for. The story took us back to days gone by and was deep and personal. I think we all felt her joy when the wonderful repair team presented her with the repaired article that had had a chunk of wood out of the leg put back in and carved and the top that had been badly damaged restored to its former glory. A programme displaying great skills and sentimentality. Most people shed a tear of joy when they see the end result.

We ended our evening with our usual refreshments and raffle and a good chat and catch up with friends.

Edlesborough WI meet on the second Tuesday of the month in the village hall at 7p.m. Anybody thinking of joining us would be made very welcome. We have a varied programme of enjoyable topics and every month is different. There is a Facebook page where you can find the 2025 Programme and news. New ladies are always welcome.

✍️ Jane Jones



Birds of Bray
Newspapers wanted regularly
Please call Chris or Sue Mitchell
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Better Backs for Gardeners

Spring has finally sprung and there are many gardening jobs facing us! Although gardening can be good for the mind, it can play havoc with your body. Follow these tips for better backs and don't let an injury spoil your fun.

- Before doing any physical exercise, warm up first with a walk and some gentle stretching.
- Take regular breaks and change position between jobs to avoid tiredness, overuse and injury.
- Keep your back straight when lifting and use your knees, thighs and arms to help. Don't try to lift too much at one time – particularly those bags of compost!
- When digging, avoid twisting and straining and don't forget to take regular breaks.
- Use kneeler seats or mats when planting and don't overstretch by working too far in front of you.
- Mow a little at a time, keeping upright.
- Avoid overstretching when pruning by using long-handled shears and use secateurs with a cut and hold action.
- If using electric hedge trimmers don't hold them too far in front of you.
- Consider the planning of your garden – raised flower beds may save you twinges in the long run.
- Consider your core and the benefit of being fit for task. Many of my Pilates clients tell me how much better their backs are after gardening, or how much more they can do in a gardening session now, than they could do before taking up Pilates with me



If you would like more information about Pilates, or my classes, look at www.stjudesclinic.com
Happy Gardening!

Tips supplied by Moira D'Arcy Chartered Physiotherapist and APPI trained Rehab Pilates Teacher

theWI
INSPIRING WOMEN

Eaton Bray W.I.

Deirdrea welcomed the members to the February meeting. Birthday cards and best wishes were given to Judith Porter and Lesley Smith.

The main part of the evening was a lively discussion of the nominated listed Resolutions. Each member had the chance to consider the four Resolutions, and select the one that they would like to go forward for further discussions and voting, by delegates, at the Annual Meeting for 2025. Sally Taylor, Lyn Stubbs and Helen Fairmainer presented the Resolutions after which, voting papers were given out and collected.

What followed later was in complete contrast, a free for all game of crazy bag whist. Each member purchased and wrapped two gifts (bought as cheaply as possible) for the table, they were all given some playing cards. When their card was called out, they could take a present from the table. When the table became empty, then the rush began to take parcels from other members. Great hilarity was caused, when one by one the members opened their parcels, what a selection of funny and unusual (rubbish) gifts had been bought. Thanks were expressed to Helen Wilkinson for running this.

Refreshments were served by Susan and Cathy, followed by a generous amount of raffle prizes. An evening full of fun, which for members is part of what WI is about.

There will be a report next month on the March meeting with Geoff Lambert and Medical Detection Dogs which was amazing. A Bring and Buy stall was held for our charity, Homestart.

Rise and Shine!

Bears at Whipsnade Zoo awaken from hibernation and play in spring sunshine

Whipsnade Zoo's four European Brown bears Mana, Minnie, Naya and Cinderella, have woken in February after three months of deep slumber, signalling the start of spring at the UK's largest zoo. The foursome were spotted frolicking through their woodland home and splashing in their pool in the February sunshine.



Whipsnade Zoo's predators section manager Sarah McGregor said: "It's so lovely to have our four bears out and about again at Whipsnade Zoo. Every year when they emerge from hibernation, we know that spring has finally arrived!

"While they were a little sluggish at first, our four girls have now well and truly woken up – especially after a dip in the cold water! They've been busy exploring their woodland home, taking in the smells and sights, climbing the trees, and causing a commotion playfighting in the water."

Wild bears enter hibernation, a survival skill they've learned to preserve energy when food availability is scarce, every winter.

Sarah explained: "Although food is plentiful here at the zoo, the bears are still driven by innate instincts to forage, and so we adapt what they are fed to match their behaviour."

"Every year we devise a personalised nutrition plan for our brown bears to make sure they get enough calories, and ensure they bulk up during the autumn, ready for a nice long, deep sleep."

"They've had a good long snooze, but now that they are ready to be active again they'll be getting a range of meat, seasonal veg and other nutrient-rich foods which will increase their muscle mass after hibernation."

Two Kings and a Queen of the Savanna!

Whipsnade Zoo's trio of Northern African lion cubs had their first health check at 11-week-old, allowing their excited keepers to finally learn the sexes of the conservation zoo's newest arrivals.

The zoo's expert vet team and keepers carried out the cubs' medical exam in the familiar surroundings of their indoor den, to keep the cubs as relaxed as possible.

The team worked quickly to get all three lions checked, vaccinated, and sexed as fast as possible meaning they were done in just 15 minutes.



Whipsnade Zoo's senior veterinary officer Dr Taina Strike began by determining the sexes of the cubs, announcing that Winta was the proud mother of two males and one female. The check-up included administering vaccines, fitting microchips, listening to their hearts, and inspecting their tiny paws and ears. The vets also took the opportunity to thoroughly check the progress of the cub who hadn't been walking as expected, and were happy to report that his leg is faring much better now.

However, during the examination, a heart murmur was detected in the second male cub, who will now be under close veterinary observation for the next few weeks.

Totternhoe Garden Club

After a very interesting talk by Katharine Hersee in September, we made a visit in February to her garden which she opens via the National Garden Scheme. Here is Chris's report:

Our visit to "Touchwood" in Great Missenden coincided with fine weather to view a host of various varieties of snowdrops and we received a warm welcome from our hostess Katharine. Common and rare snowdrops were on show in her garden and were a mixed variety of tall and short, single and double species plus also those with yellow markings instead of the usual green.

Prior to a walk around the garden, Mrs Hersee gave an informative and light-hearted talk. Not a galanthophile herself, but nonetheless knowledgeable enough to inform us with slides of the delights of these charming winter plants iconic in their acceptance amongst gardeners particularly in their value and importance to the garden in flowering at the time most needed during early to mid-winter and in some cases late winter. We were given an insight into the galanthophile world, their interest and passion for the snowdrop and in some cases their desire to acquire rare plants – sometimes commanding £1,850 for one bulb!

We were lucky enough to be able to see inside a small part of this lovely Arts & Craft house when we were offered tea and cake!

Thank you, Joyce for arranging the good weather and an interesting day out.

All in all, another 'Grand Day Out' to start the season of garden visits.

✍Chris Jell

I will be able to tell you more about the meeting held on Thursday 13 March in the next issue. Paul Rabbits gave us "A History of The Royal Parks".

All our meetings are held at 7.30pm at St Giles Church Hall, Church Road, Totternhoe.

The outings calendar is nearly complete and will be available before the AGM which will be held this year on 10 April. This is a free event and we expect to have a DVD of last year's outings after the official business.

For more information, e-mail Joyce Murphy at tgc@mothermurphy.co.uk or telephone 01582 667085.

For membership queries contact Veronica Clarke by e-mail at:

r_vclarke@hotmail.com

or telephone 01582 600764

✍Joyce Murphy - Chairman



**You know you're
getting old when you
run into your
friends at the
pharmacy instead
of
at the nightclub.**

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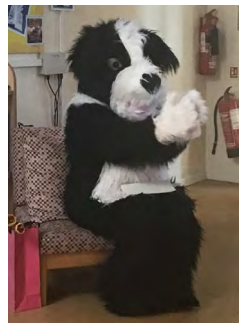


Dagnall Church of England School is 'wild about reading.' As part of celebrating World Book Day the children and staff dressed up as animal characters from their favourite books. We even had some naturalists to ensure that all of the animals were being looked after carefully.

The children loved being able to take part in 'buddy reading' with children across the school and with members of the Wednesday Club.

We also had some mystery readers join us each day to share stories with us - we had great fun trying to guess who they were.

We particularly loved reading stories with Emily the dog, from Appledown.



One of the most popular activities was our 'books for breakfast' where parents came in to read with their children whilst having a fantastic breakfast supplied by our Friends of Dagnall School parents.

We have had the most amazing week and can't wait to do it all again next year.



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