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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 publishedin 'this' magazine, neither do they refl ect 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 CAR SERVICE**

CO-ORDINATOR: Peter Williams 01442 842506 Email: peterw500@aol.com



#### **POLICE CONTACT DETAILS**

GENERAL ASSISTANCE (RECOMMENDED NUMBER): 101 EMERGENCY: 999 **TEXTPHONE SERVICE: 18001 101** 

#### **BEDFORDSHIRE POLICE: (EATON BRAY)**

T/Sqt 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

#### **BOOKING CONTACTS**

NORTHALL VILLAGE HALL: Lorna Cubbage 07857 318696

Email: northallvhbookings@gmail.com Website: www.edlesborough-pc.gov.uk/nvh

**EATON BRAY VILLAGE HALL: Norman Lee** 07975 797202 & **Jane Taylor** 07852 586045 Email: northallvhbookinas@amail.com Website: www.ebvh.co.uk

> **COFFEE TAVERN: Julie Mahoney** 07836 240467 Website: https://eatonbray.com/coffee-tavern/

**DAGNALL VILLAGE HALL: Bev Way** 07875 462128 & Trish Owen 07762 151364

Email: DVH Bookings@outlook.com

EDLESBOROUGH MEMORIAL HALL: Penny Pataky 01525 229358

Email: manager@edlesborough-pc.gov.uk **EDLESBOROUGH PAVILION: 07836 240467** 

Email: booking@edthepav.org Website: https://edthepav.org.uk/

#### 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

#### EATON BRAY GOOD NEIGHBOURS HELPINE 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.

**Neighbours** 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 2.30pm. 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.

We are grateful to the Pavilion Trustees and the Burghope Trust for their support.

No need to book just come along to the pavilion. Upcoming sessions will include

speakers talking about Cancer Information and Wellbeing, Lung Health, Lymphoedema, Citizens Advice and Macmillan about money matters and entitlements, Stoma care, local

Hospices and the long term effects of radiotherapy.

In July our group will be one year old so do come along to celebrate with us.



## \* TERM TIME ONLY \*\* FORTNIGHTLY

	200		* TERM TIME ONLY
	Villag	eL	iary * TERM TIME ONLY ** FORTNIGHTLY
WEEK	<b>9</b> /		6.30pm, Dagnall Village Hall, 07813 755785
Mon-Sun	<b>St. Mary's Edlesborough</b> opening times are limited - Please see notice board and website	Tues	<b>Berkhamsted Taekwon-do Adults</b> 6.30pm, Dagnall Village Hall, 07813 755785
Mon-Sun	Pavilion Gym Mon-Frid 6:30am to 9:30pm Sat/Sun 8am-8pm Email Gym@edthepav.org.uk	Tues	<b>Movement is Medicine Pilates</b> 1:30-2:30pm, Billington Hall, moira@stjudesclinic.com
Mon-Sun	<b>Pavilion</b> open for members. M-T 6:30am-9pm, F 6:30am-10pm, S/S 8am-8pm	Wed	<b>Pilates</b> 8pm, Northall Village Hall, Lisa: 07832 230774
Mon-Fri*	Email: General.enquiries@edthepav.org.uk  Eaton Bray Pre-school Eaton Bray Lower School,	Wed	Northall & Dist Age Concern Wed Club 10am- 3pm, Northall Village Hall, Dee 07854 230243
Mon-Fri*	01525 220468, admin@eba.ec <b>Dagnall Under 5's</b> Dagnall Village Hall, 9.15am - 12.15pm, Mrs Ann Tobin 07816 358342	Wed	Art Course online 9.30 -11.30am, contact Lorna Moore 07896 619660
Mon-Fri*	Edlesborough Primary Academy Pre-School	Wed	<b>Art Course</b> Bellows Mill Eaton Bray, 2-4.30pm, contact Lorna Moore 07896 619660
Mon-Fri*	01525 220431, epamanager@epa-primary.org  Totternhoe Pre-school Totternhoe CE Acad	Wed	<b>Pilates</b> 6-7pm, Eaton Bray V.Hall, Heather Holmes 07305 023077 pilateswithheather@mail.com
Mon	01582 662959 totternhoeoffice@tot.dsamat.co.uk  Pilates 10.45am, Totternhoe Memorial Hall,	Wed	<b>Movement is Medicine Pilates</b> 7-8pm & 8:05-9:05pm Billington Hall <i>moira@stjudesclinic.com</i>
Mon	Lisa: 07832 230774 <b>Dagnall Community Choir</b> , All Saints Church	Wed*	<b>Stay &amp; Play toddler group</b> 'Musical Monkeys' Eaton Bray Village Hall, 10am 07944 891235
	7.45-9.45pm, w:dagnall-community-choir.co.uk	Wed	Knit and Natter 12-2pm Edlesborough Pavilion
Mon*	<b>Movement and exercise classes</b> with a dance flavour, Northall VH 2-3.30. Jan 01442 864271.	Wed	Di Hedges 07794 075269  Lunch Menu at The Pavilion
Mon	<b>Cubs</b> (8-10 ½ yrsears old), 6.30pm - 8pm, 1st Eaton Bray & Edlesborough Scout Hut, High Street, Edlesborough. Contact Liz Coates 01442 842550	Thur	Email ecsctrading@edthepav.org.uk  KFPA Street dance classes Edlesborough Memorial Hall 4.15pm-6.30pm (4 years+)
Mon	Yoga 6:45pm, Edlesborough Memorial Hall, contact 07837 727302		Contact Kiri 07988161043 or visit Facebook page 'KF PerformingArts/ KFPA' for info
Mon	Barre 8pm, Edlesborough Memorial Hall, contact 07837 727302	Thur	<b>Berkhamsted Taekwon-do Adults</b> 6.30pm, Dagnall Village Hall, 07813 755785
Mon	Eaton Bray Tennis Club 4-7pm mini / junior tennis coaching	Thur	<b>Beavers</b> (6 to 8 years old), 6.15-7.30pm, 1st Eaton Bray & Edlesborough Scout Hut, High Street,
Mon	<b>Eaton Bray Tennis Club</b> 7-8pm Adult Coaching 'Get Back Into Tennis'		Edlesborough. Contact: ebebeaverleader@ebescouts.co.uk
Tues	<b>Pilates</b> 10-11am, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Nicky Roussou 07861 162680	Thur	Eaton Bray Methodist Church Social Afternoons 2 - 4pm, All Welcome
Tues*	Totternhoe Baby & Toddler Group 9.30- 11.15am, St. Giles Church Hall	Thur	Explorers Scouts (14-18 years old), 8pm- 9.30pm, 1st Eaton Bray & Edlesborough Scout Hut,
Tues	<b>Tap &amp; Ballet Classes</b> JoAnn Latus School of Dance, 4-8pm, Eaton Bray VH, 07800 518654		High Street, Edlesborough. Contact Simon Betts, simon_betts@hotmail.com
Tues**	Coffee Morning Bring & Buy, Table Top Sale, 10-11:30am, Salvation Army Hall, Booth Place, EB	Thur	<b>Jazzercise</b> 18:30-19:00 and 19:00-19:45, Eaton Bray VH, Beth 07539 739136
Tues	Jazzercise 9:15-10:15, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Beth 07539 739136	Thur	<b>Retro Line Dance Class</b> 11.15am to 12.45pm. Eaton Bray Village Hall. Beginners welcome. www.jukeboxjunction.co.uk
Tues	Eaton Bray Tennis Club 6-7.30pm Social play for all adults	T1	info@jukeboxjunction.co.uk 07864 212171
Tues	Berkhamsted Taekwon-do Kids 5.45pm-	Thur	Adult Board Games 12-2:30pm, Pavilion 07740 197392 Email Stevemunday1@gmail.com

$\sim 200$	
Village Diary	* TERM TIME ONLY ** FORTNIGHTLY

			TORTRIGITE	
Thur*	Move Better, Feel Better Pilates 10-11am, Edlesborough Memorial Hall	1st Wed*	Messy Church 6-7:15pm, Salvation Army, Booth Place, Eaton Bray, LU6 2DR	
	Contact Lesley Pickering, 07767 823202, lesley@lesleypickering.com	1st Sat	<b>St. Mary's Church</b> Eaton Bray Coffee Morning, 10:30am - 12 noon (July held on 2nd Saturday)	
Thur	<b>Lunch Menu at The Pavilion</b> Email ecsctrading@edthepav.org.uk	1st Sat	<b>Book Swap</b> at St Mary's Eaton Bray, 10:30am - 12 noon (July held on 2nd Saturday)	
Fri ————	<b>Tap &amp; Ballet Classes</b> JoAnn Latus School of Dance, 4-8pm, Eaton Bray VH, 07800 518654	2nd Mon	Film Society Sept to June, 2pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Graham Chappell 07980 321977	
Fri	<b>Jazzercise</b> 9:15-10:15, Eaton Bray VH, Beth 07539 739136	2nd Tues	Dunstable & District Local History Society meeting, 7.45pm, Methodist Church Hall,	
Fri	<b>Scouts</b> (10½ to 14 years old), 7.00-8.30pm, 1st Eaton Bray & Edlesborough Scout Hut, High Street,		Dunstable	
	Edlesborough. Contact Mark Owen, ebescoutleader@ebescouts.co.uk, 07899 892344	2nd Tues	<b>Edlesborough W.I.</b> 7.30 pm, Edlesborough Memorial Hall. Contact Jackie Flint 01525 221618	
Fri	<b>"Little Luvvies" baby ballet classes</b> 10am- 11.30am, Northall Village Hall. Contact Emma Whittemore on 01525 376124	2ND TUES & Thur	Adult board games club 7-9:30pm, Edlesborough Pavilion, 07740 197392, email <i>Stevemunday1@gmail.com</i> ,	
Fri	<b>Movement is Medicine Pilates</b> 10-11am Great Gaddesdon Parish Hall, <i>moira@stjudesclinic.com</i>		Edlesborough Pavilion members, guests and new enquirer's welcome	
Fri	Food evening at The Pavilion Email ecsctrading@edthepav.org.uk	2nd Thur	<b>Sewing Class</b> 10:30am -12:30pm, Edlesborough Pavilion, <i>General.enquiries@edthepav.org.uk</i>	
Sat	<b>Jazzercise</b> 9-10am, Eaton Bray VH, Beth 07539 739136	2nd Fri	<b>Leukaemia Research Coffee Morning 2</b> Dunstable Road, Dagnall 10.30 a.m. all welcome.	
Sat	KFPA Musical theatre classes Edlesborough Memorial Hall 9.30-10.30am (4years+)		No meeting in September, June plant bring and buy, December Sherry & mince pies	
	Contact Kiri 07988161043 or visit Facebook page 'KF PerformingArts/ KFPA' for info	3rd Thur	Edlesborough Parish Council Meeting 7.30pm, Edlesborough Pavilion or as stated in	
Sun	<b>Sunday Worship at 11am</b> Edlesborough Baptist Church, Moor End, LU6 2FL. Contact: 01525	3rd Sat	Edlesborough Parish Council News  Junior board games club Edlesborough	
Sun	222064 or edlesboroughbaptistchurch@gmail.com  Karate for kids & adults 3-4:15pm & 4:30-		Pavilion, General.enquiries@edthepav.org.uk (dates can vary)	
Sun	5:45pm, Eaton Bray VH, Contact 07500 007779 <b>Eaton Bray Tennis Club</b> 10am -12pm Social play	3rd Sun	<b>Lunch club</b> 11.30 to 2.00pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Chris Hewitt 222288	
MON	for all adults	4th Wed	Book club 7-10pm	
MON <sup>*</sup> 1st Mon	Eaton Bray Parish Council Meeting 7.30pm,		General.enquiries@edthepav.org.uk (dates can vary)	
1st Mon	The Coffee Tavern (except Jan-2nd Monday) <b>Eaton Bray W.I.</b> 7.30pm. Eaton Bray Methodist	Last Sat	Coffee Morning 10:00-12 noon, Edlesborough Methodist Church	
4 . 7	Church Hall. Margaret Jones on 07478 061156	THIS I	MONTH'S ONE OFF/	
1st Tues	<b>Sewing Class</b> 7-9pm, Edlesborough Pavilion, <i>General.enquiries@edthepav.org.uk</i>		AL/IRREGULAR EVENTS	
1st Tues	<b>Jewellery Making</b> 7-9pm, Edlesborough Pavilion <i>General.enquiries@edthepav.org.uk</i> (Dates can vary)	3 May	<b>Wild Magic Rewilding and Community Food Project Fun Afternoon</b> 2pm, Main Road North, Dagnall, HP4 1RE, 07436 535337	
1st Tues	Dunstable & District Orbit (social & charitable) Club Dunstable Rugby Club, 8pm.	10 May	<b>Cafe Community</b> 11am-1pm, Eaton Bray Methodist Church	
	01525 222441	24 May	Repair Cafe 9:30am-12:30pm, Pitstone Pavilion	

## EATON BRAY WITH EDLESBOROUGH ~ PARISH NEWS ~

Vicar: Rev'd Joy Cousans

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



Moving house and moving to a new job are always filled with mixed emotions. On the one hand there are the feelings of excitement and anticipation about a new

start, but on the other there are often feelings of sadness about leaving somewhere which has meant a great deal to us. As many of you will know, I am moving on from my role as Assistant Priest at St Mary's, and moving to serve as Assistant Priest at St Barnabas'. Linslade. I came to St Mary's just under seven years ago, as a newly ordained deacon, and in recent months I have recognised the need to move on and see my ministry flourish in pastures new. My last Sunday in Church will be at 10am on Sunday, 11 May, which, very appropriately, is Good Shepherd Sunday, where many of the readings reflect on the way in which Jesus guides, nourishes us, and leads us to pastures new.

Over my seven years working with Revd Joy, I have learned a great deal about how to be a Priest and how to serve in God's church and have benefited greatly from Joy's wisdom and patience! I have also learned a great deal from all the people that I have met in my time at St Mary's, Eaton Bray and All Saints', Dagnall. So many people in our villages lead such inspiring lives and I will head to Linslade a much better person for all the encounters that I have had during my time here. It has been a real privilege to walk the journey of faith alongside you all.

We are in the midst of Eastertide, which is a good time to think about new lives, filled and led by the Spirit. The Easter story is the unfolding story of God's love for all people, but the resurrection also calls us to remember the hope of new life and new beginnings, which is something that I will hold close to my heart as I start my new ministry at St Barnabas', Linslade. At the beginning of the John's Gospel, Jesus meets Nicodemus, who has many questions to ask him about God and faith. Jesus tells Nicodemus that everyone needs to be born again; for me, the idea of being born again is not a single moment in time, say when someone becomes a Christian, but Jesus reminds us of our constant need to be born again in the Spirit, every day, allowing ourselves to be guided by God to where we need to be. Much of the Christian life is recognising through prayer and reflection the need for change and allowing ourselves to be changed by God.

Sometimes that can mean a small change in our lives, at others it can mean a big change, like the one that I will soon be embarking on. Despite this talk of moving on, I will not be far away, and I know that I will be helping to cover services when Joy is on leave, so although it will be good bye for now, I will be giving everyone a hello in the not too distant future!

I will remember my time at St. Mary's, Eaton Bray and All Saints', Dagnall with great fondness and I will keep you all in my prayers in the months and years ahead. I hope that you will say a prayer for me too as I start my new ministry in Linslade.

God Bless!

Revd Stephen Burge

## EDLESBOROUGH

## THE FRIENDS OF THE CHURCH ON THE HILL, EDLESBOROUGH



It is a year ago that our Project to restore the West Window was completed. We want to recognise the help and support that our Community gave us during the seven year absence of the Window. After years of frustration.

The Churches Conservation Trust (CCT) finally appointed our Group to manage the restoration and the finances. This was the first time that the CCT had devolved such a responsibility. We were fortunate to receive generous donations from our supporters including Burghope's Charity Land but the majority of the funds arose from the EdleFesters.

We want to say "Thank You" and we are having a celebration on Sunday May 18th. The Bells will be ringing from 1.45pm to 2.30 pm so please feel free to come and listen to the bells and then enjoy the occasion helped by tea and cakes.

#### Website:

edlesboroughchurch.co.uk
Facebook: Friends of the
Church on the Hill,
Edlesborough
Festival Website:

edlefest.site123.me

## **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

WEEKDAYS: WEDNESDAY at 10am HOLY COMMUNION

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME AT THESE SERVICES** 

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



### ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, DAGNALL - MAY 2025

Sunday 18th May 10.30am Holy Communion

FOR ANY QUERIES PLEASE CONTACT

PHILIP LEE ON 07977 234453 OR DOROTHY GREEN ON 01442 843237



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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 will take place on
Saturday May 3rd 10.30 - 12.00
Saturday June 7th 10.30 - 12.00

The April church coffee morning was very busy and it was lovely to see so many faces old and new visiting our Book Swap section.

We have a small library of books and the turnaround is very good, giving users a good selection of new reading every month.

The amount of books we can have is dictated by the shelf space available. For this reason we do not take non-fiction books, cookery books or children's books; we only take novels.

We also ask that people only leave as many books as they take out as we do not have the capacity to store any books that will not fit onto the shelves.

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: jenimackenzie@hotmail.com



## 20 years of Eaton Bray Village Hall Quiz's Again Local Charities Benefit

We packed in all you lovely people on one of our busiest evenings yet of "Fun and Fundraising" for local good causes. Both Charities were represented with The Dunstable Foodbank putting in a team and Staff From Appledown Kennels doing their best. A big thanks to our local dentist "Floss and Smile" for sponsoring the 1st Prize. And another 1st was their Team The Plague Attackers entering. Thanks also to Tesco's again for supplying us with Baguettes

Our Auction for Guest Tickets to Jools Holland donated by one of our lovely local who plays with this wonderful band raised and extra £120.

The wonderful team who are the EB Quiz Elves and all those great raffle prizes of Maggie's Marvelous Raffle that raised so much towards our final total along with Quiz Master Supremo Geoff for his questions together with Graham and his overheads

If you know of a local company or individual who would like to sponsor us in supporting these great local causes please contact me.



Congratulation's to The Secret Seven seen here winning again receiving the "Keith Blackburn Memorial Shield"

You wonderful quizzers help raise for both these great Charities £1600 shared
See you all again in October 11th 2025
Robert Taylor Mintyman1958@gmail.com

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### EDLESBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

#### Including Edlesborough • Dagnall • Northall • May 2025

Clerk: Miss Penny Pataky | Office Hours: Mon - Fri 10am – 2pm (exc Wed) | Email: clerk@edlesborough-pc.gov.uk | Website: www.edlesborough-pc.gov.uk | Facebook: www.facebook.com/EDANParishCouncil | 01525 229358

#### **Annual Parish Meeting**

The Annual Parish Meeting for Edlesborough, Dagnall and Northall will be held commence at 7.30pm on Thursday 22nd May in Edlesborough Pavilion.

This meeting offers any parishioners, organisations, and businesses in Edlesborough, Dagnall and Northall and local areas the opportunity to raise any issues. Unlike a normal Parish Council meeting, in this special meeting anyone is allowed to speak on any topic related to the parish.

All parishioners are encouraged to attend. By attending the meeting, you will get to meet representatives from organisations in the Parish and this may lead to opportunities to work together with them and or the council.

#### Annual Meeting of Edlesborough Parish Council

The Annual Meeting of Edlesborough Parish Council will commence at 7.30pm on Thursday 15th May. At this meeting the Council will elect the Chair for the year and allocate roles and responsibilities. The minutes of the last Annual Meeting can be viewed on the Council website.

## Buckinghamshire Council Changes to Comment about Planning Applications

Until very recently, anyone wishing to make a comment about a planning application could do so on the Buckinghamshire Council (BC) website and that comment would be visible to all, including the personal information. From now on, whilst anyone can still comment, it will only be visible to the BC planning team and the Buckinghamshire Ward Councillors. This change is being made for data privacy reasons, and all that will be publicly visible is the number of comments made.

Edlesborough Parish Council is concerned that this change will make it harder for the Parish Council's response to planning applications to properly reflect the sentiments of the community we represent, as we will be unable to see any comments ourselves. We encourage parishioners to continue making comments on the BC website as before but please also email a copy of your comments to clerk@edlesborough-pc.go.uk so that we can give full consideration to them in our response.

Please note the time available to enter comments in Public Access expires quite quickly. To avoid losing long comments, consider typing them in a separate document (such as Word or Notepad) and then copying and pasting them into the comments page.

#### **Considerate Parking in the Villages**

Once again the Council reminds parishioners to park considerately in the villages.

#### Please DO NOT park:

- On the pavements or grass verges.
- · Opposite or withing 10m of junctions.
- Across resident's driveways.
- On the white lines or keep clear markings in the villages.



**DO NOT** stop or park opposite or within 10 metres (32 feet) of a junction, except in an authorised parking space.

#### **Village Planters**

The EDaN Beautification Team NEEDS more volunteers to help with the upkeep of the various planters in the Parish. Can you spare some time? If so, please contact Lorna Cubbage, Lornamcubbage@hotmail.com to find out more.



#### **Grass & Hedge Cutting in the Villages**

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

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

#### **Traffic Calming in the Parish**

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



#### **EdleFest 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.



#### **Parish Allotments - Notice of Inspection**

Allotment Inspections will be carried in the first two weeks of May 2025

out at the following sites:

- · The Green
- · Cow Lane
- Dagnall
- Northall

Any tenant wishing to discuss their plot should speak to their site warden or contact the Parish Clerk via *clerk@edlesborough-pc.gov.uk* or 01525 229358.

#### **Council Meetings**

The next Edlesborough Parish Council Meetings will take place on:

- Thursday 15th May 2025 in Edlesborough Pavilion this meeting will follow the Annual Meeting of Edlesborough Parish Council
- Thursday 19th June 2025 in Edlesborough Pavilion.

The meetings will commence at 7:30pm.

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

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

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## "A Tonic for These Troubled Times"

Feeling like our world could use a little lift? Then pour yourself a generous measure of EdleFest – our village's very own music festival, returning this June to deliver just the tonic we all need.

Headlining this year's Saturday festivities is the brilliant Man the Lifeboats, a band described as "a tonic for these troubled times" – and never has that phrase felt more spot-on. They'll be closing the festival in unforgettable style on Saturday, June 7th, promising a rousing finale in The Church on the Hill, our beautifully atmospheric medieval venue.

And we've got the magnificent Barrel House Vipers headlining on Friday night, "Some of

the best players on the UK Jazz and Swing scene," to get you up out of your seats for a therapeutic bop, or at the very least some vigorous foot tapping!

The church has stood through centuries of troubled times before this one – so what better place to gather, raise a glass, and let great music carry us away for a while? This

year's EdleFest offers two nights of live music spanning folk, swing, americana, country, and indie-pop – a diverse, hand-picked line-up set to stir souls and get toes tapping.



## WE'VE GOT ANOTHER GREAT LINE-UP FOR YOU THIS YEAR. HERE'S A QUICK TASTER:

#### **FRIDAY 6TH JUNE**

#### **Barrel House Vipers**

From Glastonbury to New Orleans... to Edlesborough. Put on your dancing shoes! "Some of the best players on the UK Jazz and Swing scene."

#### **Alex Hart Band**

"Set to make a global impact", says The Guardian. We say, why travel the globe when they're on the doorstep?

"The Stevie Nicks of Folk" - BBC R2

#### **Heidi Browne**

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

"A masterclass in storytelling" - Tom Robinson
BBC 6 Music.

#### **SATURDAY 7TH JUNE**

#### **Man the Lifeboats**

A high energy romp to close our festival on a high! Think The Pogues meet The Levellers.

Tonic for these troubled times!

"A stomping musical cocktail of alchemic proportions" - OUTLINE MAGAZINE.

#### **Dolly Mavies Band**

An extraordinary band, blending heartfelt storytelling with driving rhythms, atmospheric soundscapes, and haunting vocals.

"We love what she's doing" - BBC R2 Bob Harris

#### The Dicemen

Check out their latest single, Church on a Hill, written about our very own venue. "Very good indeed" – BBC Radio Wales













**Tickets are just £18 per evening,** with discounts for seniors, juniors, and further discounts for double-night bookings.

The bar will be open throughout, serving up well-priced refreshments to keep the vibe flowing.

If you've joined us before, you know the magic of EdleFest – the joy of world-class music just a stroll from home. If you haven't? Well, there's no better year to discover it.

#### Come for the music. Stay for the community. Leave feeling just a little more hopeful!

For more details and tickets, scan the QR code or search online for EdleFest, or visit *edlefest.site123.me*, call 07974 921923, or *email EdleFest@gmail.com* 





#### **BRAIN AT 3AM:**

I can see you are trying to sleep, so I would like to offer you a selection of every memory, unresolved issue, or things you should have said or done today, or in the past 40 years!

#### The Computer Swallowed Grandma

The computer swallowed grandma. Yes, honestly its true! She pressed 'control' and 'enter' And disappeared from view. It devoured her completely, The thought just makes me squirm. She must have caught a virus Or been eaten by a worm. I've searched through the recycle bin And files of every kind: I've even used the Internet, But nothing did I find. In desperation, I asked Jeeves My searches to refine. The reply from him was negative, Not a thing was found 'online, 'So, if inside your 'Inbox,' My Grandma you should see, Please 'Copy,' 'Scan' and 'Paste' her In an email back to me.



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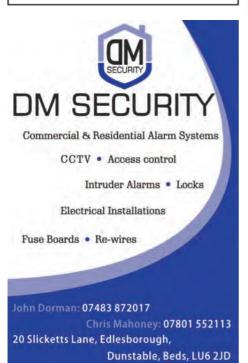
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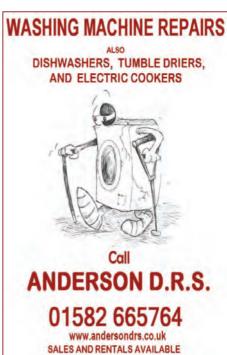
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Parish Clerk: Mrs Heidi Head | Email: clerk@eatonbrayparishcouncil.gov.uk www.eatonbravparishcouncil.gov.uk | Telephone/Text: 07931 479663

For full contact details visit the Parish Council website. Follow Eaton Bray on Facebook - Keep up to date with wht is going on in the parish.

#### **EATON BRAY PARISH COUNCIL REPORT: FEBRUARY 2025**

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

A full copy of the minutes for Eaton Bray Parish Council can be found on our website: www.eatonbrayparishcouncil.gov.uk

#### PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE

To keep up to date with what is happening in your parish, you can get all Parish Council news and updates from the Parish Council website. The website has all Parish Council meeting agendas, minutes, financial documents and contact information as well as official sponsored events/initiatives and is the official council communications website. Visit it here: www.eatonbrayparishcouncil.gov.uk

#### **EATON BRAY FACEBOOK PAGE**



Follow Eaton Bray Parish Council on Facebook, keep up to date with your Parish Council and what is going on in the parish:

https://www.facebook.com/EatonBray

#### **EATON BRAY PARISH COUNCIL ACCOUNTS**

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

#### PARISH COUNCIL REGULATIONS/POLICIES

Copies of the Parish Council's regulations/policies can be seen on the Parish Council Website.

#### FLOODING INFORMATION

- For whom to contact if you experience flooding in the parish, a list of flood support contacts is available on the Parish Council website. Visit it here:
  - https://www.ebpc.co.uk/floodinginformation/
- [Anglian Water: 0800145145 open 24 hours a day - to receive calls relating to the

#### flooding - if effluent involved then they must be on site within 4 hours]

In addition, a leaflet detailing sources of information and advice following the recent floods has been produced by CBC and is available on our website. You can also visit the CBC website for more information. relating to flooding matters: https://www. centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/44/planning/ 444/flooding\_and\_flood\_risk\_management

#### **FixMyStreet**

CBC have a reporting system to make reporting easier, quicker and more accurate. To report and track highways and environment problems go online/use the FixMyStreet app:

https://fixmystreet.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/

#### THE MEADS ALLOTMENTS: Allotment Inspection – MAY 2024



An allotment inspection is due to be carried out on Tuesday Eaton Bray Allotments 20th May 2025.

Date subject to change, please check the Parish Council website for any updates.

#### **EATON BRAY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

HELD ON MONDAY 3rd February 2025, from 7:30pm

(Minutes ratified at the Parish Council Meeting on Monday 3rd March 2025)

#### CBC CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

Your Ward Councillor: Cllr Philip Spicer Email: Philip.Spicer@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk **CBC** Website:

www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk CBC Email:

customers@centralbedfordshire.gov.uK -

CBC Customer Services: 0300 300 8301

 Affinity Water: Emergency works are being carried out in the parish, updates on this work are available for them website; however, updates on the works are being put on the local Facebook page.

For full contact details visit the Parish Council website. Follow **Eaton Bray** on **Facebook** - Keep up to date with wht is going on in the parish.



- Northall Close: There are proposed utility works in this location, with a 3-week road closure to be in place, the works were pushed back from the original dates whilst other emergency works/road closures in the parish were in place.
- Green Waste: Cllr Spicer has sent out an enquiry to residents to understand their views on green waste collections/costs.

#### **BEDFORDSHIRE POLICE**

- General Assistance/recommended number: 101 - Emergency: 999
- · Textphone service: 18001 101
- Website: Local Team/Leighton Rural: https://www.beds.police.uk/area/yourarea/bedfordshire/central-bedfordshire/leight on-buzzard--rural/about-us/top-reportedcrimes-in-this-area
- Follow local policing team on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/leightonbuzzard policing/

#### PLANNING APPLICATIONS/APPEALS/ ENFORCEMENT NOTICES — FEBRUARY 2025

A copy of the Parish Council's response to planning applications can be seen on the Parish Council Minutes available on the Parish Council website or obtained by applying to the Parish Clerk.

#### **RECREATION GROUNDS**

- School Lane recreation ground: The new benches have been installed at the entrance to the play area and the school pick up point. The contractors had left a crack between the new tarmac and the original path, this has now been made good.
- Holmans Field: The gate into the field has now been fitted with a padlock, to hopefully stop any more damage to the field/pitch.
   There is a gap adjacent to the locked gate allowing pedestrian access to the field.

## ST MARY'S VILLAGE CARNIVAL, 5TH JULY 2025

Eaton Bray Parish Council are once again planning to join forces with Edlesborough Parish Council to have a stall at the carnival. It will be lovely to meet parishioners from both parishes on the day.

## MONTHLY PAYMENTS: FEBRUARY 2025/PERIOD 11

A copy of the Parish Council monthly payments can be seen on the Parish Council website or obtained by applying to the Parish Clerk.

## DATE FOR YOUR DIARY - CHRISTMAS 2025: BRASS BAND & CAROLS

Wednesday 17th December 2025, 7pm at Market Place, Market Square, Eaton Bray.

The Parish Council are once again organising Christmas Carols in the village. The Brass Band will be helping residents celebrate the festive season. Put the date in your diary and come and enjoy the festivities.

## PARISH COUNCIL MEETING (1st Floor, The Coffee Tavern, Eaton Bray)

Details can be obtained from EBPC website: www.eatonbrayparishcouncil.gov.uk

 Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Meeting of Eaton Bray Parish Council, Monday 12th May 2025 from 7:00pm

#### PARISH COUNCIL OFFICE (Ground floor)



10am-12noon at The Coffee Tavern, 18 High St, Eaton Bray, LU6 2DP (Open dates/times subject to change, please check the

EBPC Website for updates) Tuesday 20th May 2025 – Tuesday 10th June 2025

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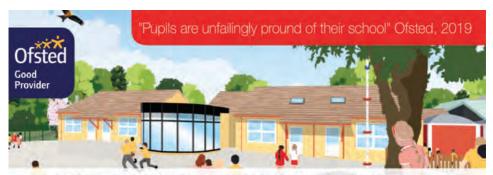
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#### DAGNALL WEATHER STATION (AONB)

#### Weather Conditions for March 2025

Elevation: 450 ft. - Latitude: 51° 50′ 13″ North - Longitude: 0° 33′ 34″ West

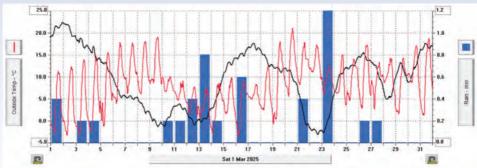
High pressure was present for most of the month, giving us some chilly mornings, above average sunshine and very dry conditions. The first few days began frosty, but we had to wait until the 16th to record the lowest temperature of 3.6°c. We recorded 10 days when the temperature dropped below zero, although frost can form from around 2°c, so we saw frost on the shed for 16 mornings. With sunny days, the temperature climbed very quickly and reached the month's highest of 21.4°c on the 20th. The sun also contributed to an unusually high March mean temperature of 8°c. March is normally a drier month, but this year it was extra dry with 5.2mm of rain, which is only 9% of the average. That compares to March 2023 when we recorded 129mm.

**New:** Every month I will update the total amount of rain so far this year. I have recorded 156.6mm of rain up to 31st March which is 78% of the average.

	High	Date/Time	Low	Date/Time
Temperature:	21.4°c	20 March 15.0	-3.8°c	16 March 05.30
<b>Mean Temperature</b>	8.0°c			
Dewpoint:	11.2°c	22 March 18.00	-3.6°c	2 March 07.30
Humidity:	97%	1 March 09.30	29%	5 March 14.30
Barometer:	1036.0 mb	1 March 22.00	997.8mb	22 March 15.30
Wind Speed	27 mph NW	30 March 12.00	Months avg.	4.6 mph
Wind Chill:	20.0°c	20 March 14.30	-4.4°c	16 March 05.30
Dominant Wind:	SSE			
	Rainfall *T=	total rain days and moi	sture. R= Actual rai	in
*Rain Days:13T), 8R	We	ttest Day 23 March	1.19 mm	0.047 ins
Monthly Rain:	Total	March 2025	5.2 mm	0.204 ins
Yearly Rain:	Total	3 Month	156.6mm	6.165ins

#### March 2025 ~ Temperatures, Rainfall and Pressure

\* The plot below adjusts itself based on the highest daily level of rainfall in the month (a measly 1.19mm on the 23rd), so although the blue lines on the chart make it look like there was a lot of rain, there really was very little.



For weather data 24 hours a day, updated every 15mins, visit: <a href="http://bit.ly/weather\_dagnall">www.dagnallweather.co.uk</a> and <a href="http://bit.ly/weather\_dagnall">http://bit.ly/weather\_dagnall</a> this site forecast and much more

If anyone has a question, comment or wishes to contact me please email: <a href="mailto:david@dagnallweather.co.uk">david@dagnallweather.co.uk</a> 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.

## Cream Tea & Concert with Dagnall Community Choir

Sunday 6th July 2.30pm

at

Whipsnade Village Hall The Green, Whipsnade, LU6 2LG

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If you'd like to join our Sunday developmental side. Male/female, all ages and abilities welcome.



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### APPLEDOWN RESCUE DOG OF THE MONTH

Beautiful Princess is very obviously a German Shepherd. Until she came to us her six years had been rather chaotic and have left her rather anxious in unfamiliar situations. A sweet-natured girl, she will be well worth the patience and consistency needed to help her gain confidence. Princess will need a home where she has lots of companionship, regular on-lead exercise and where any children are 16 years plus. We think she would live with another dog pending introductions, but not cats. This gentle girl deserves a loving home for the rest of her days.

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!



### Appledown Rescue & Rehoming Kennels

Harling Road, Eaton Bray, Beds LU6 1QY 01525 220383 (10am-1pm & 2-4 pm) **Email:** appledown.kennels@btinternet.com

**Website:** www.appledownrescue.co.uk Viewings are by appointment only



## **WE NEED YOU!**

Some people find it difficult getting out and about for shopping, prescriptions or medical appointments.

EBGN is a group of volunteers who offer this help in Eaton Bray, Edlesborough, Northall and Totternhoe.

There is no fixed rota. You opt into a job sent to you by text if it's convenient for you. Basic mileage is paid.

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# Eaton Bray Cricket Club : We are all ready for the 2025 cricket season at More to come as the season progresses.

We are all ready for the 2025 cricket season at the Rye. Our preperation has gone well with outdoor training and a couple of friendly matches in April.

Our first league games take place on the 4th May with an away game against Ampthill Town in the Beds Sunday League and on 10th May with the 1st X1 taking on Watton At Stone at the Rye and the 2s traveling to Harpenden in the Herts League. All support is most welcome.

#### **DATES FOR THE DIARY**

- May 10th Race Night
- June 8th Family Fun Day
- July 5th Quiz Night
- September 6th End of season party.
- September 27th Annual club dinner and presentation Evening

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.



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### Eaton Bray Cricket Club (Est 1914)

2 Teams Herts League 1 Team Beds Sunday League 1 Team Village T20 League 1 Team Ladies Softball 5 Junior Teams U9 U11 2xU13 U15

Good on and off field facilities
Come and join a progressive
family friendly cricket club
For more information
please contact us on
Facebook & X
@EatonBrayCC

#### **NORTHALL BAPTIST CHURCH - 200 YEARS AND STILL GOING**



#### Spring is here, a reflection

My favourite month of the year is May. All the trees are fully out, green and fresh. Things look clean and washed. It's not been too hot yet to make things all dry and dusty or worn out.

Gardens look smartly manicured, there is the smell of cut grass as you walk down the road. Flowers and blossom in many colours and shades are everywhere.

Our gardens and farmers' fields are so dependent on the weather. Each year, as Spring arrives, the progress of growth follows the winter temperatures, rain, snow and wind. Gardeners and farmers aren't in control of these and have to work with what they get when they get it.



This Spring has brought an early riot of colour at the moment, the tulips are so varied and by the time you read

this the blue bells will be an amazing picture.

When we look at the pictures of countries around the world, it makes you thankful for the weather in this country. Not too hot although we love to complain about the heat or the rain. Gardens need a lot of tending. Weeding, mowing, watering and harvesting. But life depends on these actions for our food. All supplied by God right from the beginning. There are an endless number of plants, herbs

and trees mentioned in the Bible. A small selection of those mentioned are: Almond, Lily of the Field, Apricot, Bay Tree, Beans, Cedar, Flax, Grape Vine and Mustard as well as Wheat and Barley. The branches of Date Palms were spread on the ground when Jesus rode into Jerusalem on his last week of human life.

The Bible tells us that life began in a garden, the Garden of Eden. We read about Jesus' sufferings, before his death, in the Garden of Gethsemane, which is also described as an Olive grove.

John's gospel chapter 20 verse 41 tells us where Jesus was buried. It says 'at the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no-one had ever been laid. Because it was the Jewish day of Preparation and since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there'.

At the end of the Bible in Revelation 22 it describes the river of life flowing from the throne of God, down the middle of the street. There will be the Tree of Life bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month and the leaves of the trees are for the healing of the nations. Doesn't that sound wonderful?

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

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

Ruth Cox Tel: 07791 425625

#### **DAGNALL COMMUNITY CHOIR**

Tickets are now available for our Afternoon Tea Concert, which takes place on Sunday 6th July 2.30pm at Whipsnade Village Hall.

This event is a must for anyone who enjoys a cream tea... or relaxing in lovely surroundings on a summer's afternoon... or a sociable afternoon in friendly company... oh and there's music too! We will be entertaining our audience with a selection of favourites new and old from our repertoire, encompassing a variety of different styles from musicals, contemporary songs and classical pieces.

All this for just £12.50 a ticket, available by calling 01525 220189 or online at www.ticket source.co.uk/dagnall-community-choir

We're sure this event will be just as much of a success as our Spring concert back in March, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended. We sang at Dunstable Methodist Church alongside Dunstable Town Band, who were not only excellent musicians, but also a friendly and welcoming group who we look forward to working with again in the future. Here's a selection of some of the pieces we're

• Fly Me to the Moon – Bart Howard

currently working on:

• For The Beauty of the Earth – John Rutter

- Stand By Me Ben E King
- You've Got a Friend in Me Randy Newman
- Hallelujah Chorus Handel
- Anthem Benny Anderson, Time Rice, Bjorn Ulvaeus

If you enjoy singing, come and sing with us! You would be very welcome to come along to one of our rehearsals and give it a try - we meet on Monday evenings, 7.45pm at Dagnall Church (the little church on the roundabout in Dagnall.)

We have spaces in all sections of the choir - soprano, alto, tenor, and bass – though are particularly keen to welcome more male voices. We're a community choir, so there's no audition required, and it's not essential to be able to read music. Whether you're an experienced singer or a novice, we invite you to join us.

Come along on any Monday night from 7.45 and discover your voice!

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







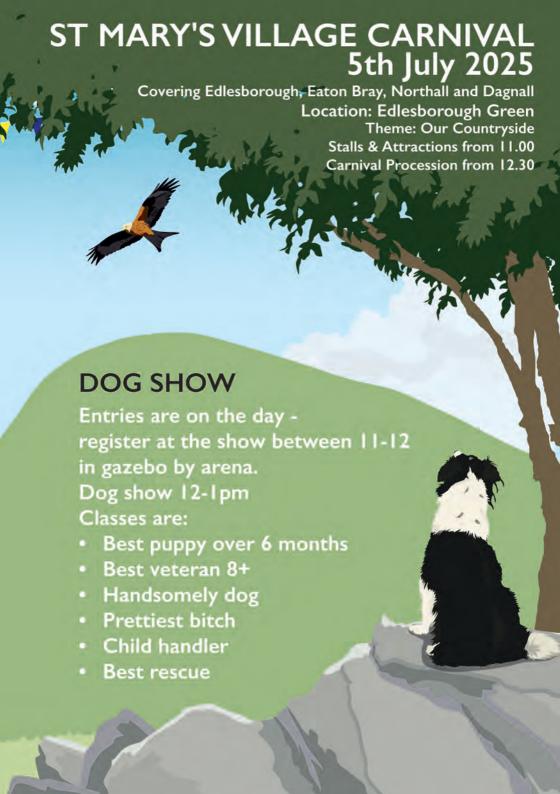
#### **DONATIONS**

Please bring any donations to the White Elephant stall on the day.

If you have a poem or recipe or even a joke that you would like to be featured in the programme please send it to carnivalprogramme25@gmail.com by 30 april 2025

#### **GRAND DRAW**

Prizes up for grab include:
Spa Day
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Voucher for cookery class for four
Hotel Chocolat bundle – value £100
Ticket for 4 people to visit Woburn Safari Park



# **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.



#### Appledown Rescue and Rehoming Kennels

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# FUN DOG SHOW

Saturday 10th May 2025

12 Classes & Best-in-Show Stalls, Tea Tent, Barbecue, Raffle & more! Guest Judge - Lynne Davies Entries on the day - £2 per class Showground opens at 11am (limited on-site parking) Classes commence at 12pm Showground closes around 4pm

#### Classes

- Best Puppy (under 1 year)
- Golden Oldie (8 years+)
- Best Appledown rescue
   Yound Handler (7-14 yrs)
- 5. Handsomest Dog
- 6. Prettiest Bitch
- 7. Best Biscuit Catcher

- 8. Family Dogs (2 or more)
- 9. Waggiest Tail
- 10. Musical Sits
- 11. Best Condition
- Dogs that have not won a rosette in another class
- 13. Best in Show

#### **NIGELS THOUGHTS**

Dear Friends.

The month of May is one of my favourites. I wonder which is yours.

Hopefully, by the time you read this, we will have had a little rain to nourish the thirsty ground after these last weeks of lovely spring sunshine. Then we shall see our villages in all their glory, winter far behind us, and before the intense heat of summer.

There is a richness about these weeks of springtime, which speaks of renewal, of the earth, and also of heart and mind for those of us who have felt too long bound up in winter.

Pentecost Sunday is on the 8th June this year, a little later than it often is because Easter was late this year. Coming fifty days after Easter Pentecost reminds us that just as we have had to wait for the new life of spring to follow winter, so the first disciples of Jesus had to wait for the blessing of the Holy Spirit's power to be able to live their live as Christians.

Life rarely gives everything to us 'on a plate', sometimes we have to wait, and it is

in the waiting, the growing anticipation, as well as in working through the disappointments and challenges along the way, that we truly grow into the unique and treasured individuals that God knows each

So enjoy the wait, and do not be in too much of a hurry to rush through these days. Each day is God's gift, and he will help us to experience his love as we share it with others in each moment.

one of us to be.

God's gift to his friends at Pentecost was that of the Holy Spirit, a powerful gift, yet a gift given to help us discern his will, to live in his ways, with boldness, without fear, and to share the good news of his love with others.

God's gifts are worth the wait!

God bless, until next month... Nigel



### **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.



#### BIRDS OF BRAY

#### **NEWSPAPERS WANTED REGULARLY**

Please call **Chris** or **Sue Mitchell** on **01525 221128** who can collect. Answer machine in use if unavailable.



# Community Update and Scoping Report consultation

Since our last update, we have been working to progress our proposals for the Grand Union Canal Transfer. Our work since our last update has included starting our extensive environmental surveys, as well as considering all of the feedback we received from our first public consultation.

We have now published our second Community Update for the project which provides an overview of this work, which you can view on our website at https://guctransfer.co.uk/resources/document-library/.

The update also highlights a key milestone in our programme as we have recently submitted our Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping Report to the Secretary of State, via the Planning Inspectorate. This report seeks a Scoping Opinion about the scope, assessment methodology and level of detail to be provided in our Environmental Statement (which provides the findings of the EIA). To help people understand more about this important part of the process, we have

published a news article on our website at https://guctransfer.co.uk/the-scheme/how-itwill-develop/#the-regulators-alliance-for-pro gressing-infrastructure-development-rapid

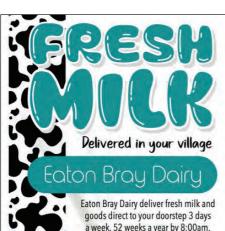
We'd welcome your support in sharing this information with your residents through any existing channels you have.

As a relevant parish council on the scheme route, we understand the Planning Inspectorate has now shared the Scoping Report with you as they carry out the required consultation to inform their Scoping Opinion on the suitability of our proposed EIA approach.

If you have any questions regarding the Scoping Report, the consultation process, or the Grand Union Canal Transfer or would like a meeting to discuss the proposals with the project team, please don't hesitate to get in touch with us at contact@guctransfer.co.uk.

Kind regards, Grand Union Canal Transfer team





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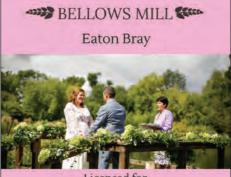
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With spring fast approaching, there's no better time to declutter and earn a bit of money in the process.

Sorting through your attic, garage or spare room requires a big effort, but it could be well worth it if you sell some of your unwanted stuff. You can earn up to £1,000 a year like this without dealing it on to HMRC.

#### **CLOTHES**

The usual rule is that if you haven't worn a garment for two years, get rid. Go online, even inexpensive items can be put on Vinted, eBay or Preloved and they don't charge sellers for listing. Designer clothes cab be sold on Vestiaire Collective or you may have a local dress agency that will take a cut if they sell a brand name for you.

Consider shifting your preloved togs by the kilo if you have alot to get rid of and they're in good condition. Google "selling clothes by the weight". Got some M&S clothes to unload? You can get vouchers to spend at the store by recycling them through the Oxfam and M&S Another Life scheme.

#### **TFCH**

Lots of outlets exist for the hardware and other media items you no longer use. CEX takes DVDs and games and has stores countrywide. World of Books sells CDs too, as does Money Magpie, which also allows you to trade in computers, tablets and mobiles. Compare prices on several sites.

#### **TECH BITS AND PIECES**

Astoundingly, there's a market for iPhones and people who want to sell on their own,

incomplete tech or need replacement accessories. Put yours on eBay, Facebook Marketplace or Vinted. If you just want to give away, Freecycle is also worth trying.

#### **BOOKS**

Volumes gathering dust on your shelves? Music Magpie, World of Books and We Buy Books are all sites that enable you to make money from your unwanted tittles. Scan the barcode with your smartphone or enter the ISBN to get a valuation.

#### **TOYS**

Some retro toys, such as Little Ponies and Transformers, can fetch a lot on eBay. Toy Exchange is a site that will value and sell selected playthings for you.

#### **LEGO**

Believe it or not, even those random pieces of Lego thrown into an old box can net cash. Music Magpie will accept genuine Lego bricks as long as the total weight is 500g or more. They pay £1.50 for that quantity but you will need at least £5 worth of gods in total on the site.

#### **MOBILES**

Sell My Mobile and Compare and Recycle both let you compare offers and select the one you prefer. Even damaged mobiles are considered. Obviously, you should do a factory reset before selling on.

#### **PRINTER CARTRIDGES**

You can recycle these for free at stores such as Tesco and Curry's and the local recycling centre, but why not get paid? Printer Cartridge Recycling offers over £2 for the most popular, more if the cartridge is unused.

# WHIPSNADE ZOO

Whipsnade Zoo's second lion cubs take their first steps outside the den

The eight-week-old cubs, who are yet to be sexed, were spotted running, climbing, and playfighting in their paddock.

They are the second litter to be born at the UK's largest zoo, just two months after their trio of half-siblings, with all seven cubs part of the conservation breeding programme for their threatened subspecies.

#### **Northern African Lions**

Northern African lions are a subspecies of lion that was first recognised in 1758, but only officially confirmed by scientific studies in 2017. These studies recognised that there are in fact two distinct subspecies of African lion, Northern and Southern, with Northern lions facing greater threats in the wild and therefore in most need of vital conservation attention. Sadly, three quarters of African lion populations are declining in the wild, driven by large-scale habitat conversion for logging, livestock farming and housing, the loss of prey through unsustainable hunting, and human/wildlife conflict.

In 2023, Whipsnade Zoo became home to two north African lionesses, Waka (3) and Winta (3), and male Malik (3). The conservation zoo now has a pride of ten lions with the arrival of Winta's three cubs, and Waka's four cubs.

#### **Conservation Breeding Programmes**

Many of the animals at Whipsnade
Zoo, including the lions, are involved in
conservation breeding programmes,
also known as the European
Endangered Species Programme (EEP).
The zoo-based populations of each
species in an EEP are managed via a
studbook, and the EEP holder is
responsible for pairing well-matched
animals and recording details such as
birthplace and parentage to ensure a healthy

The EEP for Northern African lions is not

and diverse population of animals.

only vital for creating an important insurance population of the threatened big cats in good zoos and protecting the lineage of this subspecies, but through meticulous and complex planning, it makes sure matches within the breeding population are genetically viable.

#### Whipsnade Zoo - a ZSL conservation zoo

Whipsnade Zoo is part of ZSL, a science-driven conservation charity, working to protect and restore wildlife in the UK and around the world. First opened to the public in 1931, Whipsnade Zoo works to restore wildlife through vital conservation breeding programmes and inspiring a lifelong love of animals in the conservationists of tomorrow. Explore the wonders of the natural world at the largest zoo in the UK.

Visit https://www.whipsnadezoo.org/ for more information and to book tickets.

**PHOTOS:** Whipsnade Zoo's three north African lion cubs take their first steps outside with mother Waka ©Whipsnade Zoo



Whipsnade Zoo's quartet of rare northern African lion cubs were pictured taking their first exploratory steps outside today, under the watchful eye of mother Waka.







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#### **NEW BOOKING SYSTEM TO IMPROVE RECYCLING CENTRE VISITS**

People visiting Central Bedfordshire's Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs,) will soon benefit from a new online booking system designed to make trips quicker, easier and more efficient.

The booking system comes into effect on Wednesday 26 March, meaning residents will need to book a 20-minute time slot at any of the four recycling centres in Ampthill, Biggleswade, Leighton Buzzard and Thorn Turn, Houghton Regis. The new system aims to reduce queues, improve traffic flow, and ensure centres are used exclusively by Central Bedfordshire residents.

Managing visitor numbers will allow staff to offer more on-site recycling advice to help boost recycling rates and support the council's commitment to a more sustainable Central Bedfordshire.

Booking is quick, simple, and free via the council's website. Slots can be reserved up to two weeks in advance, with same-day bookings also available to offer maximum flexibility.

Cllr Tracey Wye, Executive Member for Sustainability and Climate Resilience, said:

"The new booking system will ensure that only Central Bedfordshire residents use the sites for free and make sure we are not paying to dispose of waste from people living elsewhere"

"It will make using the recycling centres quicker and easier, preventing queues, or worse, those days where everyone comes at once and they have to start turning people away."

"The council is not only committed to improving recycling, but it also hopes to reduce the amount of waste generated in the first place by encouraging people wherever possible to try to repair items or find a new home for those items that can be reused and repurposed by others."

Residents disposing of restricted items – such as carpets, mattresses, DIY waste, engine



oil, gas bottles, or fire extinguishers – or using certain vehicles will be able to apply and instantly receive (subject to conditions) a waste permit through the council's new booking system. The new booking system will significantly speed up the process for receiving a waste permit.

To make a booking, residents will be asked to provide their name, email address, postal address and vehicle registration. Post codes will be used to confirm Central Bedfordshire residency. Residents will need to register for a Central Bedfordshire Council account.

Should residents miss their time slot they can simply book another one. Subject to the booking slot availability this can be done almost immediately. Bookings can also be cancelled or changed.

Central

**Bedfordshire** 

All visitors will be required to book a slot before they visit the HWRC / tidy tip. Site staff reserve the right to refuse entry to anyone

that attempts to enter the facility without a valid booking.

No booking is required to visit the trade waste site or Reuse Shop at Thorn Turn.

#### LITTER PICKING IN EDLESBOROUGH

Well, we had a lovely day this year for our group Litter Pick for The Great British Spring Clean. Five of us enjoyed the sunshine while we had a go at the car parks and hedges around the Green, Cow Lane, and Cock's Close. Other members of the group have been out during the Spring Clean period, and a great deal of litter has been collected, especially around the Traveller's Rest area. It is very satisfying, and quite moreish to clear an untidy spot and leave it looking neat and tidy. Pity it doesn't stay like that!

Disappointingly, as we were finishing up by the gate of the Green opposite Cow Lane, two teenagers in hoodies came along and sat for a while on the roundabout. We didn't see them leave but then we noticed that they had left two empty cans of Coca Cola lying on the roundabout, despite there being lots of litter bins around the Green!! This is the generation that is worried about the environment, and it doesn't bode well for the state of the Green now that the school holidays are starting.

You can't help but notice the state of the Leighton Buzzard bypass and the A4146 towards Milton Keynes. These are areas the team would love to have a go at, but they are outside our area, and anyway, we aren't insured to do main roads with no footpath. Councils are short of money as most of it is spent on social care, and utilities such as refuse collecting. So, litter picking comes way down on the list. We can all do our bit just by keeping the area around our homes free from litter. There is

always some around, especially after the binmen have been. Our team try to keep the more outlying parts of the villages away from houses as free of litter as possible. Many of you will have seen Michael and Jane out on a regular basis. If you do, give them a wave or a toot on the horn. It's always nice to be noticed and appreciated.

We are very grateful for the help and support given to us by Edlesborough Parish Council who supply our pickers and bags and help us to dispose of our collected rubbish. Edlesborough and Dagnall have been entered for the Bucks Best Kept Village competition, and we will do our very best to make sure that everything is clean and tidy when the judges arrive at the end of June/beginning of July.

So, in the meantime, let's work together to keep our villages litter free and encourage our young people to use the bins on the Green for their crisp packets and cans. Wouldn't it be great if one day Michael and Jane went out and found nothing to do!!

Lorna Cubbage.







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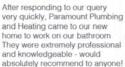






#### Lucas (Northall)

\*\*\*\*





#### Warren (Eaton Bray)

4

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#### Bernadette (Edlesborough)



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#### Andrew Janes (Edlesborough)



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Vine weevils have a notorious reputation for being indiscriminate feeders, targeting a wide range of ornamental plants.

However, it's worth mentioning that they do have preferences for certain plant species. They are particularly attracted to plants with soft, broad leaves and those that thrive in containers or plant pots. Some of the plants that vine weevils often favour include:

- Ferns: Many types of ferns are susceptible to vine weevil damage due to their delicate fronds.
- Primroses and Heucheras: These plants are among the top choices for vine weevils, and they can cause significant harm if left unchecked.
- Fuchsias: Fuchsias are a favorite target due to their lush, green foliage and vibrant blooms.
- 4. **Strawberries:** Both ornamental and edible strawberries can fall victim to vine weevils.
- Rhododendrons and Azaleas: These evergreen shrubs are susceptible to vine weevil larvae feeding on their roots.
- Lavender: Although known for their hardiness, lavender plants can still be affected, especially when potted.

If you suspect vine weevils in your plant pots, it's crucial to take action promptly to protect your greenery. Here we outline the steps you should follow to deal with this garden menace.



#### **Early identification**

The first step in addressing a vine weevil problem is to accurately identify the issue. Signs of an infestation may include notched or irregularly shaped holes in leaves, wilting plants, and the presence of small, brownish-black beetles, especially during the evening hours. By spotting these indicators early, you can prevent further damage to your plants.

#### **Inspect your plants**

Carefully inspect your affected plants, including the soil in your plant pots. Vine weevils lay their eggs in the soil, and the larvae feed on plant roots, leading to significant damage. Gently remove the affected plant from its pot, shake off excess soil, and check for the presence of larvae or adult weevils. Dispose of any infested soil carefully.



#### **Biological control**

Consider introducing natural predators of vine weevils, such as parasitic nematodes (Heterorhabditis megidis) or predatory beetles like Staphylinus erythropterus. These beneficial organisms can help control the weevil population in your garden.

#### Chemical control

If the infestation is severe or natural methods alone aren't effective, you may need to resort to chemical control. Use insecticides labeled for vine weevils, following the manufacturer's instructions carefully. Apply the treatment to the soil and around the base of affected plants. Be sure to choose a product that is safe for your specific plant species.

#### Repotting

To further prevent the spread of vine weevils, repot your affected plants in fresh, uncontaminated soil. Clean the pots thoroughly to eliminate any remaining eggs or larvae.

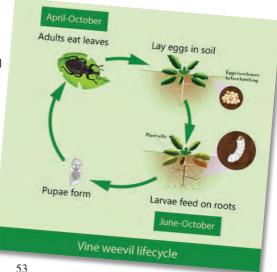
#### Monitoring

Keep a close eye on your plants in the weeks following treatment. Regularly inspect them for signs of vine weevil damage and the presence of adult weevils. Early detection and action can help prevent reinfestation.

#### Preventive measures

To minimise the risk of future vine weevil problems, consider implementing preventive measures. These include using weed-free compost, avoiding overwatering, and inspecting new plants for signs of infestation before adding them to your garden.

Dealing with vine weevils in your plant pots can be challenging, but with early detection and appropriate action, you can protect your garden from these voracious pests. By following the steps outlined in this feature, you can help ensure the health and vitality of your plants while keeping vine weevils at bay. Remember that a proactive approach to pest management is key to maintaining a thriving garden.



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#### **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.

If you can help, please contact Chris Banks on **07970 712447** THANK YOU



#### ARE YOU INTERESTED IN PLAYING BOWLS?



Little Gaddesden Bowls Club invites you join our friendly club and discover competitive and social Bowls in a beautiful country setting. Beginners and expérienced players are very welcome.

We are holding an **Open Afternoon on** Saturday 3rd May between 2.00pm and **4.00pm** and everyone is invited to come along and try bowls. No equipment needed – just bring a pair of flat soled shoes to wear on the green and we will provide the rest.

If you can't make the Open Afternoon, we hold regular informal 'roll-ups' on Monday mornings between 10 and 12 starting on 21st April (weekly thereafter). If you would like to come along to a Monday morning session just get in touch so we can be sure that someone is on hand to welcome you.

If you have any questions or would like more information please contact Anne Isherwood on 01442 842780

or email: anneisherwood@btinternet.com

Hope to see you on the green soon!

LITTLE GADDESDEN BOWLS CLUB Church Road, Little Gaddesden HP4 1NX

#### RHUBARB CAKE RECIPE

This rhubarb cake uses an all-in-one method so is easy and quick to make. Wonderful served warm as a pudding with cream, custard or crème fraîche, or equally delicious enjoyed with a cup of tea or coffee.

#### **INGREDIENTS**

200g/7oz softened butter, plus extra for greasing

200g/7oz caster sugar, plus 3 tbsp for the topping

3 large free-range eggs

1 tsp vanilla extract or almond extract

200g/7oz ground almonds

200g/7oz self-raising flour

1 tsp baking powder

300g/10½oz slender young rhubarb, trimmed and cut into roughly 2cm/3/4in lengths

#### **METHOD**

Preheat the oven to 180C/160C Fan/Gas 4. Grease a 23cm/9in springform cake tin with butter and line the base with baking paper.

Put the butter, sugar, eggs, vanilla or almond extract, almonds, flour and baking powder in a food mixer or food processor. Beat until smooth and thick.

Spoon the cake batter into the prepared tin. Top with the rhubarb, pressing it down gently. Sprinkle with the reserved 3 tablespoons of sugar.

Bake for 1 hour 15 minutes, or until a skewer. inserted into the centre of the cake comes out clean. Cover with foil if the cake starts to overbrown before it is cooked in the centre.

Cool in the tin for 20 minutes, then turn out onto a wire rack. Serve warm or cold.



#### Northall Village Hall AGM

Our Annual General Meeting is being held on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2025 at 7:30pm in the Hall, South End Lane. Everyone is welcome – only Northall residents can vote.

- Come and see the improvements we've made to the Hall.
- Come and test our Wi-Fi network, AV system, and large TV screen.
- Come and tell us about further improvements you would like to see us make to the Hall and Playground.
- Prosecco and Tea & Coffee will be available.



Thinking of hiring the Hall?

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For information about hiring the Hall,

contact the Booking Secretary – 07857 318696

#### NORTHALL BAPTIST CHAPEL

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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.



# ST MARY'S EATON BRAY



1st prize - **Yvonne Ranson**2nd prize - **Tony Tucker**3rd prize - **Alan Trantum** 

#### **MARCH**

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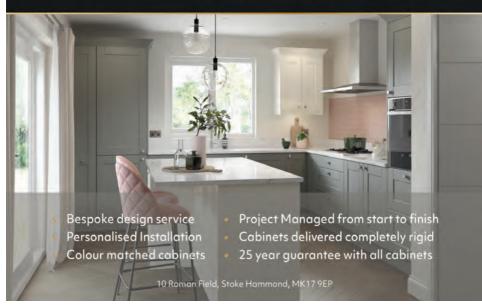




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t has been an exciting week at Dagnall Church of England School as we revisited and refreshed the vision of the school to make sure that it matches and underpins everything that we do in our school.

The children thought about what a fantastic place Dagnall is and how kind, caring and helpful the children and staff are. We learnt about the parable of the mustard seed and considered how to make Dagnall a place that everyone would want to come to. The children said that they wanted the school to be a place where children were challenged, happy, kind and loving and where they felt safe to make mistakes, safe in the knowledge that there are always people around that will help them.

The work that have done this week has led to our new vision, 'Rooted in God's love, we aim high.' We are so proud of our school and feel fortunate that we are able to come to such a supportive and happy school where, through strong foundations, we aim high and achieve.

We also know that we are lucky to have such a fantastic community who have fundraised, and built, a new spiritual garden where children can take time out of their day to support, think, reflect, or pray. Thank you.



#### **EATON BRAY WI**

he speaker at Eaton Bray WI meeting in March was Geoff Lambert from Medical Detection Dogs . Geoff RING WOMEN bought his dog with him and

he happily wandered amongst us all evening. It was very interesting to learn how these dogs are trained to detect various medical conditions. Geoff told us that breath samples from people already with certain conditions were captured and the dogs sniffed them from the containers. He told us that the samples from women already suffering from breast cancer were given to one of the dogs and then 12 women who had had mammograms volunteered to allow the dog to go amongst them. The dog picked out 3 woman whose mammograms had showed cancer and also 3 others that hadn't. These 3 woman were then monitored monthly and eventually all 3 developed cancer!

The dogs can also detect when people are going to have a fit in some cases up to 25 minutes before! An example was a young woman in Milton Kevnes who works on a very busy reception desk. Her dog sits under her desk and when he alerts her, she tells her standby and then goes to a room behind her until she is able to return to work. It was

amazing the amount of conditions these dogs can detect and the way they can help people get on with their lives safely when they have a dog living with them. All in all a great charity to support.

The members were welcomed to the April meeting. Birthday cards were given to Sue Ros and Deirdrea. Deirdrea introduced the speaker Mick James whose talk was based on The Companie of The

White Lion. Mick brought a most wonderful display of medieval weapons and armoury, Mary Rose arrows with silk binding, (some of which he had made himself, and they were difficult to detect the difference) Mary Rose bows made of yew, swords, helmets, shields, poles and a banner as well as clothing.

Various members were keen to try on helmets, jackets and gloves, which were all very heavy items. Barbara looked charming in her chainmail headpiece... Mick explained how Henry the fifth had an arrow shot into the side of his right hand cheek, and how it was withdrawn to try and avoid scarring. Mick takes a very active part in setting up various

open day displays in museums. Throughout his talk he was very ably assisted by Den, who passed around all the objects



Opportunity Scheme),

or perhaps not !!!!!

An excellent presentation that members could participate in. Lyn gave the vote of thanks. The table item was won by Margaret Varney, with her lovely fish.

Helen and Lesley provided the refreshments. It was a most enjoyable evening.

Next month 12th May is the Annual Meeting, when one year

ends and a new one begins.

Lyn may have some more details if needed Enjoy each day.

Love.

Deirdrea





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- Teaching is consistently good and children's safety is given the highest priority
  - Children learn good manners and know how to treat each other with respect

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#### **DESTINATION FOCUS WITH...**



## Canada

With jaw-dropping landscapes, incredible natural wonders, exciting cities, fascinating culture and amazing wildlife, it is little wonder that Canada is top of many people's travel wish list. TV shows such as *Race Across the World* and *Griff's Canadian Adventure* have shown on screen what a stunning country it is, and highlighted some off the beaten track experiences.

Canada is the second largest country in the world so although it is tempting to see and do as much as possible, we would recommend taking time to experience places visited. We suggest staying two nights in a destination and exploring just one or two provinces during your trip. We are positive you will want to make a return visit!

The west coast of Canada is well-known for the spectacular scenery and wildlife and is the most visited region. The east coast has equally stunning scenery, along with historic cities to explore and local culture to experience. The Maritime provinces offer shorter driving distances and a warm welcome from friendly locals as well as fantastic cuisine. The central and northern provinces are often overlooked and can be harder to reach but have hidden gems waiting to be explored.

There are lots of options for travelling around Canada. From the flexibility of self-drive to buses, planes, ferries, cruise ships and, of course, iconic train journeys with VIA Rail and on the Rocky Mountaineer. There is a wide range of accommodation available, from rustic lodges, boutique properties, to city centre apartments and resort hotels that are destinations in their own right.

An activity or experience can be the highlight of your trip and the list of what you can experience is endless. From bear watching during a stay at a remote wildlife lodge, or walking on a glacier, zip-lining down a mountain to a scenic tour in a motorcycle sidecar, or a guided foodie tour through a city restaurant district... there is something for everyone.

Indigenous experiences are becoming more widely available across the provinces and are a great way to connect with nature and to learn the story of the original inhabitants of the land. Canada is a diverse and inclusive country that prides itself on being a destination for all types of travellers.

Sarah from Travel Impressions of Tring has been a Canadian specialist since 2001 and is one of the top agents in the country as recognised by Destination Canada. She has visited many times and would be very happy to discuss your plans with you. Her top tip is to book early and don't forget you need apply for an online eTA to enter Canada. Please contact Sarah on:

01442 890265 or via enquiries@travelimpressions.co.uk www.travelimpressions.co.uk



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# What to do in the garden in May

May has arrived and the days are getting warmer and longer. Summer is on its way and it's time to tidy up spring plants, plant out summer flowers and get planning for autumn.

There are plenty of flowers and vegetables to sow and grow in May. Or read on for a comprehensive list of other garden jobs to get on with this month.

# Timely Tips for May



- Start planting out summer bedding plants towards the end of this month in warmer parts of the country.
- 2 Look after your finished spring bulbs for next year. Once they've gone over, resist the temptation to cut back the foliage. Instead, let it die and break down on its own and add liquid fertiliser all around the clumps. This will give you an even better display next spring.
- 3 Remember to open greenhouse vents and doors on warm days. You can also damp down your greenhouse on hot days to increase humidity and deter red spider mites.
- 4 Optimise your watering regime watering early and late to get the most out of your water — and start collecting and recycling water whenever possible.

# In the flower garden in May



- · Thin out drifts of hardy annuals.
- Harden off half-hardy plants by leaving them outside during the day and bringing them back under cover at night for 7 to 10 days before planting outdoors.
- Plant summer hanging baskets, adding good-quality compost, slow-release fertiliser and water-retaining crystals, to keep them in top condition. Protect them from late frost under cover. Try planting petunia 'Pegasus Wine Splash' for cascading stems of brightly spotted blooms.
- Harden off dahlias and tender exotics such as canna 'Tropicanna' lilies for planting as soon as the risk of frost has passed.
- Continue dividing herbaceous border perennials to improve vigour and create new plants.
- Divide established clumps of hostas as they come into growth.
- Trim back spreading plants such as aubrieta, alyssum and candytuft (lberis sp.) after they've flowered, to encourage fresh new growth and more blooms.
- Towards the end of the month, keep an eye out for powdery mildew on flowering shrubs and flowers, like rhododendrons.
   Treat with fungicide to prevent further spread.
- Lift forget-me-nots to prevent heavy selfseeding and reduce spreading.
- Prune penstemons now cut all the old shoots back to the base, providing 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.
- Lightly cut back & tidy up late-flowering honeysuckle. Leave any big pruning jobs until winter.
- You've still got time to plant any containergrown evergreen climbing shrubs now the risk of frost has passed.
- Take cuttings of tender perennials, such as fuchsia and pelargoniums (tender

- geraniums). The new shoots of hardy perennials can also be used for cuttings.
- Take softwood cuttings of shrubby herbs (such as sage and lemon verbena).
- Prune out overcrowded and dead stems ofearly-flowering clematis (C. alpina, C. cirrhosa, C. macropetala, C. armandii, and their cultivars) after flowering.
- Tie in rambling and climbing roses. Laying the stems horizontally will help to produce more flowers.
- Tie in sweet pea plants with sweet pea support rings to encourage them to climb.
- Prune spring-flowering shrubs after flowering.
- Cut back flowered shoots of choisya to promote a second flush of flowers in autumn.
- Trim lavender plants, cutting off old flower heads and about 2.5 cm (1 inch) of the current year's growth.
- Feed and water container plants.
- Top-dress permanent pot plants to refresh the compost.
- Supplement container plants with balanced liquid feed every 2-4 weeks to promote healthy growth.
- Closely inspect plants for pests and diseases — early prevention is much easier than curing an infestation.
- Pick off any larvae or lily beetle from rosemary or viburnum plants as soon as you spot them to prevent an infestation.
- Look out for signs of blackspot on roses. If discovered, treat it with a systemic fungicide.
- Continue to weed beds and borders. This reduces your plants' competition for water and nutrients.
- Lift and divide overcrowded clumps of daffodils and other spring-flowering bulbs.

# In the vegetable garden in May



- Continue earthing up potatoes.
- Harvest asparagus spears when they are no more than 18 cm tall.
- Thin out direct-sown vegetables such as spinach, carrot and lettuce seedlings, then water the rows well.
- Harden off outdoor tomatoes, courgettes and pumpkins for planting early next month.
- Protect carrots from carrot fly by covering with horticultural fleece or environmesh.
- Pinch out the growing points of broad beans as soon as beans start to appear at

- the base of the plant to reduce the risk of blackfly attack.
- Weed around your onions and garlic to reduce competition for nutrients and water. Apply an onion fertiliser to boost growth.
- Make supports for your runner beans, using 8 ft (2.4 m) bamboo canes.
- Support pea plants with twiggy sticks or pea netting.
- Keep on top of weeding weeds will compete with your vegetables for precious water, light and nutrients.

# In the fruit garden in May



- Protect strawberry plants with straw (to control weeds and lift the berries off the ground) and netting (to keep birds off the fruit).
- Harvest rhubarb, picking only one-third of the total amount of stems.
- Hang pheromone traps in stone fruit trees from May to August to monitor plum-fruitmoth activity.
- Hang pheromone traps in apple trees to reduce codling moth.
- Keep young fruit trees well watered while they are putting on rapid growth.

- Remove blossom and fruits from newly planted fruit trees to help them establish properly during their first year.
- Regularly check the centre of gooseberry bushes for green gooseberry sawfly caterpillars — they will quickly skeletonize leaves if not removed.
- Erect garden netting around soft fruit plants to prevent birds eating your crop.

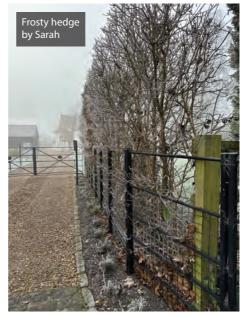
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# Your Photos















# WALK OR RUN TO REBUILD LIVES AT THE DENS WOODLAND TRAIL A COODLAND Sometimes of the dens woodland trail TRAIL ORIRUN DENS Helping Rebuild Lives

Local charity, DENS, is thrilled to announce the launch of its brand-new fundraising event, the Woodland Trail.

Taking place on Saturday 21st June, this exciting challenge invites participants to walk or run their choice of 5 or 10-mile routes – immersing themselves in stunning woodland scenery while making a real difference in the community.

Starting from the historic Berkhamsted Castle, participants will follow well-signed trails through outstanding natural landscapes, before receiving a special finisher's token at the end of their adventure.

Whether you're an experienced runner looking for a scenic challenge, a keen walker wanting to enjoy the beauty of nature, or someone in the community eager to push yourself to complete a long-distance route, the DENS Woodland Trail offers something for everyone.

More than just a day out in nature, every step taken will help local individuals and families facing homelessness, poverty and social exclusion.

Wendy Lewington, DENS CEO, said: "We're excited to launch the DENS Woodland Trail and offer a fantastic outdoor experience for local people, while raising much-needed funds. Every penny raised will go towards our vital services, ensuring that those most vulnerable in our community have the support they need to rebuild their lives."

The event is proudly sponsored by Safran Electrical & Power UK, a leading aerospace

company, based in Pitstone, that is committed to supporting local causes. Ellen Bigmore, Head of HR at Safran added: "We are delighted to partner with DENS on this wonderful new event. The DENS Woodland Trail not only encourages people to enjoy the great outdoors, but also highlights the importance of community spirit in helping local people facing crisis."



Booking for the DENS Woodland Trail is now open.

For more information and to secure your places, visit **www.dens.org.uk/trail.** 

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Spring is most certainly here and how blessed have we been to see the sunshine. I wonder how many of us have had a good spring clean! I recall how as a child my mum would always move the furniture around and change the curtains in our lounge during her spring clean, allowing us to have the full benefit of the sun, not hidden behind dark heavy curtains.

In Ecclesiastes 3:6 it reminds us that there is "a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away" (ERV).

As Christians we are told not to place our treasure in things that "moth and rust consume", we are called to "store up our

treasures in heaven" (Matthew 6:19-20). Our joy and security do not come from our possessions; our joy and security come from Jesus.

It doesn't harm to have a bit of a spring clean now and again, and not just in terms of furniture and curtains! Hebrews 12:1 challenges us to consider more than just our physical stuff when it says "throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles" (NIV).

What do we need to spring clean today in the power and name of Christ?

Jacqueline

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