



FOCUS

JULY 2025

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THE FOCUS MAGAZINE COMMITTEE

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August Focus will be a **JOINT ISSUE for August & September.**
Don't forget to send in your August & September article by 10th July.

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 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/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

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: northallvhbookings@gmail.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 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.

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.

**NO ONE
SHOULD FACE
CANCER
ALONE**

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@stjudesclinic.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@stjudesclinic.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@bscouts.co.uk
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
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 Pavilion 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 Sept 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

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

What would I choose as my Desert Island Disks? The Radio 4 programme, which has run since 1942, allows people to choose 8 tracks, a book and a luxury item to take away to a fictional desert island. At least one of my tracks would be sacred music. But what kind? A hymn, a modern worship song or a piece of choral music such as Faure's Requiem? I am inspired by all of them and listen to them depending on my mood. Music is deeply evocative and feeds us in a way that other things can't. That's why music has been central to worship for millennia.

The Psalmist writes: 'Praise God with the blast of the ram's horn, praise him with the lyre and harp, praise him with timbrel and dance, praise him with loud clanging cymbals.' (Psalm 150) This speaks of exuberant music and dancing in praise of God. The Psalm concludes, 'Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Alleluia!' We still use horns, harps and cymbals in our music making today. The other instruments are not as well known. A lyre was a stringed instrument like a lute. The timbrel was a percussion instrument like a type of tambourine. All these come together to make a joyful noise to the Lord.

Brass bands have long been associated with singing hymns. In the northern tradition of Whit Walks during Whitsuntide (now known as Pentecost) brass bands accompanied the processions. Revd Sabine Baring-Gould came from an aristocratic Devon family via Clare College, Cambridge. As a curate he had been given the daunting task of starting a mission church at Horbury Bridge, a tough

working class community in West Yorkshire. At Whitsun, Horbury celebrated with a feast and the children from all the Sunday schools walked to church for a special service. As the Feast approached, Baring-Gould was faced with a challenge, He had to persuade the children from the Brigg (as Horbury Bridge was known) to walk into town on Whit Tuesday to join the Feast. On the eve of Whitsun 1865, he decided he would write a hymn for the procession. He had to get it written quickly in order to go to print that day on the Saturday afternoon to be ready for Tuesday's Whit Walk. Recalling this he wrote: 'I sat down and knocked off the hymn in about 10 minutes. We got it printed and practised and it was sung to the tune of 'Haydn'. The hymns is still sung today, and known after its opening line, 'Onward Christian Soldiers'.

We don't have a procession, but we do have a brass band coming! On Sunday August 10th Churches Together in Eaton Bray, Edlesborough and Northall are meeting on Edlesborough Green for 'Hymns on the Green'. We will be accompanied by the Dunstable Salvation Army band and look forward to singing some of our favourite hymns. The event starts at 3pm and everyone is welcome to come along. Bring a chair or a picnic rug, relax and enjoy the wonderful sound of a brass band in the park. Every Blessing, Joy, Vicar of Eaton Bray with Edlesborough

Rev'd Joy Cousins



NORTHALL BAPTIST CHAPEL

CHAPEL LANE, NORTHALL

(just beyond the 30 speed limit signs on the road towards Leighton Buzzard)

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

For more information contact: **John Hazell 01525 218142**

Email: **northallchapel@btinternet.com**

Website: **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.



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 – JULY 2025

SUNDAY 20TH JULY 10.30AM

HOLY COMMUNION

FOR ANY QUERIES PLEASE CONTACT

PHILIP LEE ON 07977 234453 OR DOROTHY GREEN ON 01442 843237



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WHERE ARE WE?

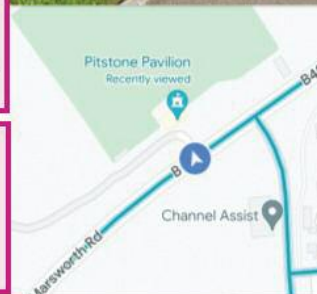
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LU7 9AP

26th JULY

09.30 – 12.30



What's the Repair
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It's so easy! Bring along anything you need fixing, and we will repair it for you while you sit and enjoy hot drinks and homemade snacks from our café area. *We just ask for a Donation!*

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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 on Saturday July 12th from 10.30 – 12.00 am

(One week later than usual due to the village fete being held on 5th July)

It was lovely to see so many of you at the Book Swap in June; once again we had more books than we could fit in the bookshelves, so we will be donating the excess to the stall selling books at the carnival.

For those of you who have books they wish to donate for charity you are welcome to take them along to the bookstall at the fete, on the day of the fete.

The fete is always an enjoyable day out and our team will be helping at the bookstall, we look forward to seeing you there.

For more information about Book Swap please contact:

Chris Sanders Email: chris.sanders45@gmail.com

Jenifer MacKenzie Email: jenimackenzie@hotmail.com



THE COFFEE TAVERN

Eaton Bray

Large Hall/1st Floor	£12.50/hour
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Large Hall & Committee Room	£18.00/hour
Office / Ground Floor	£6.50/hour
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For bookings please call **07836 240467**
or the Parish Clerk on **07931 479663**

www.eatonbrayparishcouncil.gov.uk/the-coffee-tavern/

ADVICE AND INSIGHTS FOR KIDS IN THE GAME

1. Building Confidence Through Football

Confidence is one of the most important gifts we can offer a child—and football is the perfect setting for it to flourish. On the pitch, kids face challenges that require bravery, persistence, and belief in themselves. Whether it's stepping up to take a penalty or bouncing back from a mistake, football creates endless moments where a child's inner voice can grow louder and more positive.

A supportive coach who highlights effort over outcome helps shape this growth. A child who hears "Great idea!" after trying something new is more likely to try again and learn. Over time, this encouragement builds a sense of self-worth that extends well beyond the game.

Coaching Tip: In training, design drills that allow players to experience small successes- such as scoring in 1v1 scenarios or completing a trick move. Praise the intent and bravery just as much as the result.



Daniel Piley
Coach for EB Lions U11 Saturday Team





Edlesborough Primary Academy (EPA) and Doverly Academy (DA)

Join Our Local Governing Body

The joint Local Governing Body for **Edlesborough Primary Academy (EPA)** and **Doverly Academy (DA)** is looking for two new governors to join the committed team supporting our two schools.

EPA and DA are part of the Knowledge Schools Trust, which is dedicated to providing high-quality education and support to its schools. The Trust supports school leadership, governance, and operational efficiency, creating an environment where every child can thrive. Through a commitment to excellence, the Trust empowers its schools to uphold high academic standards while fostering an inclusive school community.

Governors are responsible for ensuring the strategic direction of the school, its performance and the use of resources to support learning. They help to ensure that our schools provide the best possible education for all our children. The Local Governing Body meets 5 evenings each academic year, with most meetings taking place remotely (with at least one face-to-face meeting a year). Governors also visit the schools a few times a year. Governors do not need to be experts to tackle the responsibilities required; advice and training are available.

We are particularly interested in applicants who either have:

- A background in primary education (and live anywhere in the UK)
- or
- Live locally and have an interest in education

For someone from the education sector there will be opportunities to learn from across the Trust their approach to delivering excellence in schools.

The Local Governing Body is looking for members of the local community with some daytime time availability, interest and enthusiasm to fulfil the roles.

If you are available and interested in making a difference in our school community and would like to know more about these volunteer positions, please contact hr@ks-t.org.



Support the Scout Hut renovation by buying a brick!

An eye-catching display of personalized, engraved bricks will be installed prominently on an internal wall as part of our hut upgrade. You could include your name, scouting nickname, dates you were a Scout or a message for future Beavers, Cubs and Scouts to see!



Small Brick with 1-2 lines of text (max 30 letters incl. spaces)	Minimum donation £35.00
Large Brick with up to 3 lines of text (max 60 letters incl. spaces)	Minimum donation £55.00



If you would like to buy a brick please scan the QR code or send an email to:
ebesecretary@ebescouts.co.uk
Order Deadline 31 July 2025

Charity Number: 300452

Friend of Bucks



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NORTHALL &
DISTRICT**



Charity No. 293800

Wednesday Club

We are looking for **volunteer drivers and conductors** to help with transporting the members to and from their homes on our minibus. This would be on a rota system, depending on the number of volunteers.

**CALL 07854 230243
IF YOU CAN HELP**

Problem Solving:

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Web: www.computamtion.co.uk

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EDLESBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Including Edlesborough • Dagnall • Northall • 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 2025

The Annual Parish Meeting was held on 22nd May in Edlesborough Memorial Hall.

During the meeting, the audience listened to interesting presentations from:

- Cllr Booth about the Council's work over the past year and future
- Thames Valley Police and the new PCSO Mike Cocker
- Mr Alan Williams – Traffic Calming & Speedwatch
- Laura Kyrke-Smith MP
- Buckinghamshire Cllr Chris Poll
- Eaton Bray Lions Football Club – a written report was read out by the Clerk.
- St Mary's Carnival Committee - Mark Kilfoyle
- ECSC CIO – Kate Meredith
- ECSC Trading Company Ltd – Paul Hancock. John Howells drew people's attention to the Tibbs Dementia Foundation that hopes to start to run a group in Edlesborough Pavilion.
- Edlesborough WI – Di Hedges
- EDaN Beautification Team - Lorna Cabbage
- Dagnall School – Tina McKay
- Edlesborough Cricket Club – Gary Herbert

Thames Valley Police PCSO Mike Cocker, PCSO Tina Hobson and Special Constable Sam Richards gave an update on the local crime figures and impressed upon all to ring 999 if they see a crime in progress or something of concern. The officers are NOT permitted to look at Facebook for information about crimes.

Residents can report non urgent crimes/events/suspicious activity either by ringing 101 or making an online report to 101.

The PCSOs asked that they be informed of anything that concerns parishioners. Reports can also be emailed to the team at their new email address WingNHPT@thamesvalley.police.uk

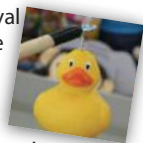
The full minutes of the meeting can be viewed on the Edlesborough Parish Council website.

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. NB no surgery will be held in August.

Council Stall at St Mary's Village Carnival

Council invites all to come and meet the Councillors at the St Mary's Village Carnival on Saturday 5th July. Our stall will enable you to find out more about the Council and our upcoming projects. You can ask questions, make suggestions, and even try to win a prize at our "Hook a Duck" game!



Inconsiderate Parking in the Villages

Once again the Parish Council has received complaints about inconsiderate parking in the villages, in particular near Edlesborough Primary Academy, the shops in Edlesborough and at junctions.

Council reminds drivers that inconsiderate parking causes a danger to other road users, pedestrians, and wheelchair users.

Edlesborough Parish Council does not have any jurisdiction over parking on the highway.

Parishioners can find more information and report parking issues to Buckinghamshire Council via <https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/parking-roads-and-transport/parking/tell-us-about-a-parking-problem/>

Illegal or obstructive parking should be reported directly to Thames Valley Police. This can be done online via <https://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/ro/report/rti/rti-beta-2.1/report-a-road-traffic-incident/>

Or by calling 101 for non-emergency enquiries

Annual Charges Review

Council conducted its Annual Charges Review at the May meeting. The agreed charges are available to view in the meeting minutes and on the Council website.

Annual Return 2024/25

The internal Audit of the Accounts for the year

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

2024/25 has been completed. The Council approved the Annual Return for the year ending March 2025 at the June 2025 Council meeting. The Accounts have now been submitted to the external auditor PKF Littlejohn LLP.

Council hereby gives Notice of Public Rights and Publication of Unaudited Annual Governance and Accountability Return for the Accounts for the year ended March 2025.

Any person interested has the right to inspect the accounting records for the financial year to which the audit relates. The documents will be available on reasonable notice by application to the Clerk. The inspection period is 30 working days, commencing 23rd June, and ending 1st August.

Buckinghamshire Councillors

Copies of the latest reports from the Buckinghamshire Councillors can be viewed on the EPC website alongside the minutes of the EPC meetings.

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, comments will only be visible to the BC planning team. 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 (EPC) and our Buckinghamshire Ward Councillors have raised their concern to Buckinghamshire Council that this change will make it harder for the ECPC'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.

EPC encourages 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 EPC 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.

Speedwatch & EDaN Traffic Management

Any parishioner interested in becoming involved with the EDaN Community Speedwatch for Edlesborough Parish should contact Mr Alan Williams via email at speedwatch@edlesborough-pc.gov.uk or 07828 398371.

Play Equipment & Litter Bins in the Parish

Should parishioners have concerns about the play equipment or litter bins on the parish recreation areas please report them to:

Edlesborough Green play equipment & litter bins – clerk@edlesborough-pc.gov.uk

Dagnall Recreation Ground play equipment, adult exercise equipment & litter bins – Dagnall Village Hall Committee via Dagnall_village_hall@outlook.com

Northall Play Equipment – Northall Village Hall Committee via 07982 688710.

Play Equipment on the Bellway Development in Edlesborough – 020 8371 7070 (site address Barn View, Edlesborough, LU6 2FT).

Litter bins on the roadside – www.fixmystreet.buckinghamshire.gov.uk

Error in June Focus Report

Please note that due to an editing error in the Council's report for the June edition of this magazine Cllr Kevin Cubbage's picture was incorrectly labelled

Council Meetings

The next Edlesborough Parish Council Meetings will take place on:

- Thursday 17th July 2025 – in the back room of Dagnall Village Hall
- Thursday 18th September 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.

All the hyperlinks in the information above can be accessed through the Edlesborough Parish website.



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THIRD FLOOD SUMMIT BUILDS ON PROGRESS



Central Bedfordshire Council has convened a third multi-agency Flood Summit to review progress, share outcomes, and continue collaborative action to address local flood risk. The third summit, which brought together the Environment Agency, Anglian Water, the Bedford Group of Internal Drainage Boards (IDB), National Highways and the Council, took place in May and considered last year's exceptional rainfall.

Cllr Adam Zerny, Leader of Central Bedfordshire Council, welcomed the commitment shown by partners across the region: "We have made tangible progress across Central Bedfordshire over the last year. From engineering works and maintenance to community engagement and strategic assessments, we're working together to look at how we can continue to reduce the risk of flooding."

Alongside many specific investigations and improvements, the Environment Agency is also progressing the Great Ouse Strategic Intervention Study, a major assessment of how the wider Great Ouse catchment can be managed in light of climate change and growth. The outputs will be used to inform future long term planning for investment in

flood risk management and development of schemes across Central Bedfordshire.

Cllr Zerny concluded: "Last year, over 30 different areas in Central Bedfordshire were affected by flooding. This third summit has shown what partnership working can deliver. With climate pressures growing, we and our partners are committed to maintaining momentum and empowering communities to improve flood resilience."

Eaton Bray

Anglian Water has completed the partial replacement of the rising main on Northall Road and removed significant sewer blockages and a broken valve, improving surface water sewer drainage performance. Additional scheduled cleaning of the foul water sewer along the High Street will also help with flows. The Internal Drainage Board has also completed maintenance work on The Comp to remove an obstruction in the culverted section.

The logo for Central Bedfordshire, featuring the words 'Central Bedfordshire' in white text inside a green circle.

**Central
Bedfordshire**



Central Bedfordshire Council gives update on the new Local Plan for our area

Central Bedfordshire Council is in the process of developing a new Local Plan. But what is a Local Plan? A Local Plan sets out how Central Bedfordshire will develop over the next 20 years, making sure new developments are:

- **IN THE RIGHT PLACE**
- **OF THE RIGHT CHARACTER**
- **AND ARE OF HIGH QUALITY**

It also seeks to ensure that growth will include:

- **ROADS**
- **SCHOOLS**
- **SERVICES (SUCH AS HEALTH)**
- **RETAIL, LEISURE AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES**

Over the past 12 months, Central Bedfordshire Council has been engaging with residents, Town and Parish Councils, Ward Councillors and others to help shape the new Local Plan.

Through the workshops and the public surveys, the council received a significant amount of valuable feedback that they are now taking into consideration as they prepare for their first formal stage of engagement (called Regulation 18, or Issues and Options) which will take place in early 2026.

Central Bedfordshire Council has prepared reports to summarise the main themes that were raised through the survey and engagement workshops. https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/332/call_for_sites

CALL FOR SITES

Central Bedfordshire Council recently ran a 'Call for Sites' exercise, this is where the council seeks to identify plots of land which meet its needs for the new plan. This can include land for new homes and jobs, renewable energy and green spaces – including Biodiversity Net Gain which is a requirement for development to increase wildlife and habitats on a site.

Central Bedfordshire Council received 626 submissions, which have now been published. As a result of an initial assessment, 174 sites have been discounted for the delivery of new homes. This initial assessment looked at whether sites could deliver at

least 10 homes and whether there were any land ownership or legal issues that would stop a site being developed (for example where land has been submitted without the permission of the landowner). Sites were also discounted where they were not well connected to an existing settlement (not directly next to the edge of a settlement and not big enough to standalone and provide their own infrastructure, such as schools)). These sites may still be re-assessed for other uses or re-considered alongside other sites in the future.

The remaining sites will need to go through a rigorous assessment process to determine whether they could be considered for future development. The Council has not yet completed the full assessment that is required to understand whether any of these sites are suitable.

More information about the site assessment process and the sites themselves is available on the Council's website: <https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/call-for-sites>.

Cllr Adam Zerny, Leader of Central Bedfordshire Council, said: "For me, it's vital that residents get a real opportunity to have their say. We all know new housing will be built, but we must send a clear message to the government that we will only accept the right homes in the right place and with the right infrastructure. I won't be able to support a Local Plan that doesn't do this. The council has been consulting with residents, and we recognise the need to provide new homes and jobs for the next generation, so younger people have the chance to buy their first homes near family and friends, and for people downsizing to stay close to their roots. We will also need the infrastructure and facilities to support that growth.

"Landowners have put forward 626 sites through our Call for Sites but for the moment, these should only be considered suggestions. 174 have already been discounted. Officers will now be analysing each site and looking closely to either include or exclude them as part of plan proposals going forward. In the next few years there will be further public consultations and residents will rightly get the chance to say whether they agree with the shortlist of sites the Council eventually proposes."

For more information, please visit our new Local Plan pages: https://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/info/153/central_bedfordshire_local_plan_2015_to_2035

For further information please contact: Thom Burn, Communications Business Partner at thom.burn@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk



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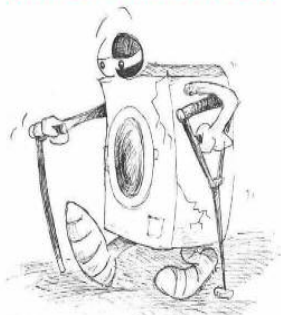
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EATON BRAY PARISH COUNCIL

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www.eatonbrayparishcouncil.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 what is going on in the parish.



EATON BRAY PARISH COUNCIL REPORT: MAY 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.

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/>

EATON BRAY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING & ANNUAL MEETING OF EATON BRAY PARISH COUNCIL, 12-MAY-2025 (Annual Minutes ratified at the Parish Council Meeting on 2-June-2025)

ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDING, 31 March 2025

The final accounts were signed off by the Internal Auditor on the 9-May-2025. The accounts will be available for public inspection for a period of 30 working days from 4-June-2025 to 15-July-2025. Inspection notices have been displayed on the Parish Council website/Parish Council noticeboard (Coffee Tavern) and Eaton Bray Facebook page.

CHAIRPERSON'S ANNUAL REPORT

A copy of the Chairperson's annual report can be seen on the Parish Council website or obtained by applying to the Parish Clerk.

COFFEE TAVERN ANNUAL FINANCE REPORT

A copy of the annual finance report can be seen on the Parish Council website or obtained by applying to the Parish Clerk.

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

- Bower Lane – road resurfacing. Cllr Spicer has been speaking with the portfolio holder to understand what is happening with these road works, which were approved/programmed in to be carried out. UPDATE: 02-June-2025: Resurfacing works planning to be carried out June 2025.
- Potholes: Cllr Spicer has registered potholes in the parish on FixMyStreet.
- High Street – storm drain: No works have been carried out. To chase. UPDATE: 02-June-25: The drain near May Close has been cleaned.
- Fly-tipping: There has been an increase in The Rye, however most incidents occur within Billington parish. Cllr Spicer looking into this and speaking with CBC to find a solution to this matter.
- Household Waste Recycling Centre: CBC findings show no evidence that the new

booking system has a direct effect on fly-tipping. Cllr Spicer is monitoring fly-tipping incidents.

BEDFORDSHIRE POLICE

- General Assistance/recommended number: 101 - Emergency: 999
- Textphone service: 18001 101
- Follow local policing team on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/leightonbuzzardpolicing/>
- Crime Map for your area (details can be found on the Bedfordshire Police website): <https://www.beds.police.uk/area/your-area/bedfordshire/central-bedfordshire/leight-on-buzzard--rural/about-us/crime-map>

PLANNING APPLICATIONS/APEALS/ ENFORCEMENT NOTICES – MAY 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:** Repair work has been carried out to a section of the play area surface.
- **Holmans Field:** A section of hedge is opening next to the access gate (locked). The Parish Council are looking into installing a kissing gate in this location.
- **The Rye:** Visitors to The Rye were parking on the road, near the junction, causing issues to road users. The Parish Council wished to remind all recreation ground users not to park their vehicle from the car park entrance to the junction.

MONTHLY PAYMENTS: MAY 2025/PERIOD 2

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

ALLOTMENT INSPECTION: MAY 2025

An allotment inspection was carried out on Tuesday 20th May 2025, with the follow-up inspection due to be carried out on Tuesday 9th September 2025 (*weather permitting*).

YEAR END ACCOUNTS, 31-MARCH-2025

The Clerk distributed the accounts for the Annual Return to all Parish Councillors. The Parish Council signed-off Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2024-2025 and

Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2024-2025.

- 3-June-2025: The Parish Council gives Notice of Appointment of date for the Exercise of Public Rights, for accounts for the year ended 31-March-2025.
- Any person interested has the right to inspect the accounts by contacting the Parish Clerk. The inspection period is 30-working days, commencing 4-June-2025 and ending 15-July-2025.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:

(1) St. Mary's Village Carnival: Saturday 5th July 2025

Carnival procession starts from The Orchards, Eaton Bray from 12:30pm
Stalls & Attractions at Edlesborough green from 11:00am

Representatives from Eaton Bray Parish Council will once again be sharing a stall with representatives from Edlesborough Parish Council. We look forward to meeting you then.

(2) Picnic in the Park with music from the Heath Band

Sunday 24th August 2025, 3pm-4:45pm at School Lane recreation ground

The Parish Council have organised a 'Picnic in the park with music from the Heath Band'. Bring your own food and enjoy the music. Two accessible/baby toilets will be available on site. Please check the Parish Council Facebook page/website for any updates (subject to cancellation for poor weather).

PARISH COUNCIL OFFICE

(1st Floor, The Coffee Tavern, Eaton Bray)

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

- Parish Council Meeting, Monday 7th July 2025 from 7:30pm
- Parish Council Meeting, Monday 1st September 2025 from 7:30pm

PARISH COUNCIL OFFICE (Ground floor)



10am-12noon at The Coffee Tavern, 18 High St, Eaton Bray, LU6 2DP
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DAGNALL WEATHER STATION (AONB)

Weather Conditions for May 2025

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

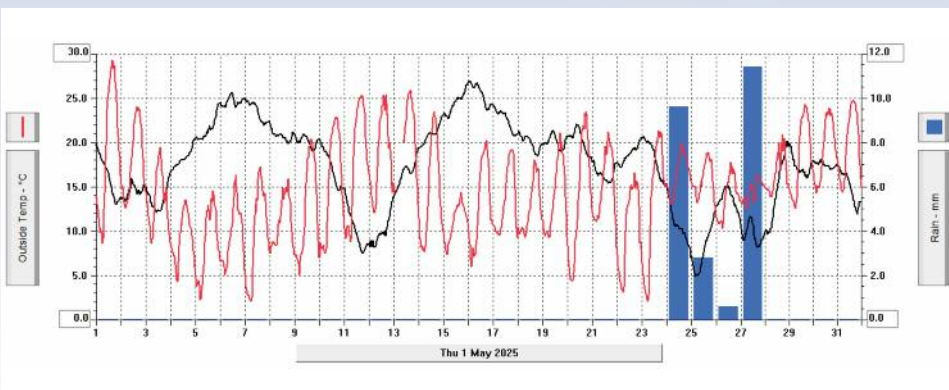
May was sunny, warm and dry overall, with high pressure dominating for most of the month.

The first 23 days were totally dry and sunny. With clear nights, it was a little chilly in the mornings, but the temperature soon rose. The highest temperature recorded was 29.7°C on the 1st of May and we had 15 days at more than 20°C. On the 24th, the long-awaited rain came and stayed for four days. That was it for the month. We had a total of 24.4mm rainfall, with the wettest day being the 27th at 11.4mm. The month finished back on a warm note, being again dry and sunny.

Taking the end of April into account, we had 30 consecutive dry days. So far this year, I have recorded 207.4mm of rain, which is only 69% of the average.

	High	Date/Time	Low	Date/Time
Temperature:	29.7°C	1 May 15.30	2.0°C	5 May 05.00
Mean Temperature	14.6°C			
Dewpoint:	16.4°C	29 May 13.00	0.5°C	6 May 06.00
Humidity:	96%	7 May 07.00	27%	1 May 16.30
Barometer:	1026.9 mb	16 May 01.30	1004.9mb	25 May 03.30
Wind Speed N	31 mph SSE	29 May 13.30	Months avg.	5.2 mph
Wind Chill:	27.6°C	12 May 15.30	5.9°C	4 May 04.00
Dominant Wind:	N			
Rainfall *T= total rain days and moisture. R= Actual rain				
*Rain Days: 4), 4(R)		Wettest Day 27 April	11.4 mm	0.449 ins
Monthly Rain:	Total	May 2025	24.4 mm	0961 ins
Yearly Rain:	Total	5 Month	207.5 mm	8.169 ins

May 2025 ~ Temperatures, Rain. Pressure black line



For weather data 24 hours a day, updated every 15mins, visit: www.dagnallweather.co.uk and http://bit.ly/weather_dagnall this site forecast and much more

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.

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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2nd prize - **Ian Binks**

3rd prize - **John Plater**

MAY

1st prize - **Graham Chappell**

2nd prize - **Teresa Ledger**

3rd prize - **Martin Day**

APPLEDOWN RESCUE DOG OF THE MONTH



This stunning lad is Shadow, a Husky aged nearly three years. The only reason he finds himself in rescue is probably his breed! Huskies are special and he will need experienced owners with

understanding of the breed. Shadow can be a little aloof until you get to know him, but then he loves a fuss! He is active on the lead and will need owners who can offer the mental stimulation and exercise needed to keep him happy. Shadow needs a well-fenced garden and on-lead exercise. He could probably live with a female dog pending introductions, but not cats. Any children aged 7+.

Please visit our website for details about adoption and an application form. 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
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01525 220383 (10am-1pm & 2-4 pm)

Email: appledown.kennels@btinternet.com

Website: www.appledownrescue.co.uk

Viewings are by appointment only

Eaton Bray
 Good Neighbours



Eaton Bray Good Neighbours has been in operation for nearly ten years but we are always looking for new volunteers and happy to take new clients when necessary. Volunteers can be asked if they will take clients for a hospital or doctor's appointment. However, if they prefer not to take passengers, they can be very useful collecting shopping or prescriptions to deliver to the client's home address. There is no compulsion to take on a job which is sent out by text. Volunteers reply if they are able to take the job and other volunteers are notified. We are very lucky to have virtually no request we can't accommodate.

We are 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 nearly ten years. Volunteers are not on a rota or committed in any way. They can just opt into a job if it is convenient. Although we are volunteers, petrol is paid at a standard rate.

We look forward to hearing from you. Our telephone number 07930 987064

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Eaton Bray Cricket Club

It's been a cracking start with all 4 senior teams making their mark.

Results

May 4 Eaton Bray Sunday X1 246-7. Junaid Ashiq 64 Sachin Singh 51. Amptill 207 a/o. Junaid Ashiq 4-22. Eaton Bray won by 39 runs.

May 10 Watton at Stone 148 a/o. Josh Edwins 4-10. Eaton Bray 1st X1 149-5. Azeem Akhter 52 n/o. Eaton Bray won by 5 wickets.

May 10 Harpenden 132 a/o. Eaton Bray 2nd X1 137-2. Lee Gauntlett 55. Eaton Bray won by 8 wickets.

May 11 Eaton Bray Sunday X1 187-6. Azeem Akhter 95 n/o. Luton Town & Indians 145 a/o. Syed Furgan Shah 4-32. Eaton Bray won by 42 runs.

May 17 Eaton Bray 1st X1 331-4. Owen Brown 118 Andy Norris 106. Shenley Village 97 a/o. Eaton Bray won by 234 runs.

May 17 West Herts 103 a/o. Stefan Bennett 7-21. Eaton Bray 2nd X1 108-3. Peter Robinson 57 n/o. Waton Bray won by 7 wickets.

May 18 Eaton Bray Sunday X1 218-3. Owen Brown 76 n/o Azeem Akhter 71 n/o. Hexton 194-9. Eaton Bray won by 24 runs.

May 22 Eaton Bray Outlaws 148-7. Azeem Akhter 54. Eggington 117 a/o. Eaton Bray won by 31 runs.

May 24 Knebworth Park 156 a/o. Junaid Ashiq 5-27. Eaton Bray 1st X1 157-1. Andy Norris 90 n/o. Eato Bray won by 9 wickets.

May 24 Bushey 119 a/o. Eaton Bray 2nd X1 119 a/o. Match tied.

May 25 Offley & Stopsley conceded to Eaton Bray Sunday X1.

May 31 Hertingfordbury 125 a/o. Eaton Bray 1st X1 127-8. Eaton Bray won by 2 wickets.

May 31 Eaton Bray 2nd X1 95 a/o. Hemel Hempsted 96-2. Hemel Hempsted won by 8 wickets.

June 1 Luton Town & Indians 201-9. Junaid Ashiq 4-14. Eaton Bray Sunday X1 175-9. Junaid Ashiq 57. Luton Town & Indians won by 26 runs.

June 5 Leighton Buzzard 160-7. Eaton Bray Outlaws 135-5. Leighton Buzzard won by 25 runs.

June 7 Hatfield & Crusaders 57 a/o. Dave Emerson 6-16. Eaton Bray 1st X1 58-7. Eaton Bray won by 3 wickets.

June 7 Watford Town 105 a/o. Ian Jones 4-22. Eaton Bray 2nd X1 did not bat. Match drawn. Rain.

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.



NORTHALL BAPTIST CHURCH - 200 YEARS AND STILL GOING



A little Church with strong local links.

What are you scared of?

We had our first BBQ of the year during the May half term break when the weather was good. One day the decking was all cleaned off and pressure washed and the BBQ which hadn't been used at all last year because of the persistent rain, was cleaned in readiness. The following day the cover was removed just before lunch time and I heard a piercing scream. A young toad had managed to get up onto the gas ring and seemed to be wedged. We set it free and it happily hopped off.



There are so many things to be scared of. A quick think produced the following list of well-known things that people are scared of. I am scared of mice – I think it's their long bendy tails. My Mother-in-Law was terrified of spiders. Others are scared of water, dogs, horses or flying birds, hospitals or needles or blood, the dentist, heights or falling. Some are scared of small places, others of open spaces. Many children are afraid of the dark.

A quick internet search revealed almost 150 different phobias, some of which seem quite bizarre unless of course you suffer from them. For example, Xanthophobia which is fear of the colour yellow and Koumpounophobia which is the fear of buttons!

There are examples in the Bible where people were scared. It was often when they knew that they had done something wrong. Adam and Eve ate the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil after being expressly told by God, not to. When the Lord God next walked in the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve hid among the other trees as they were scared, knowing they had done wrong. Hiding didn't help them as God found them.



God always finds us; indeed, he knows all things. We can't hide from God. But if we confess our wrongdoing, God forgives.

I've often wondered how scared the Apostle Paul was when he was frequently attacked while preaching the gospel of the saving grace of Jesus. On one occasion he had to be lowered down from a window in a basket to escape arrest in the city of Damascus. He was shipwrecked 3 times. He was beaten and imprisoned several times. Paul wasn't trying to hide; he hadn't done anything wrong but was trying to speak to as many people as possible about Jesus. It can feel scary to talk about Jesus but you or others may need to know more. Give it a go.

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

As the choir celebrates its 15th anniversary this year, we are delighted to give you details of the special event we have coming up in early September. We will be hosting a "Come and Sing" choral workshop, with acclaimed composer and conductor **Philip Stopford**, on Saturday 6th September.

Please come and join us for a day of musical creativity - whether you're a seasoned singer or simply love to sing, this workshop is a wonderful opportunity to work with a talented and accomplished musician, sharing the joy of singing and the warmth of the musical community. It promises to be a thoroughly enjoyable day.

This will be a whole day event, running from 10.00am to 4.00pm at All Saints Church, Dagnall (the little church on the roundabout, where our choir rehearsals take place.) Tickets are £15 per person, to be purchased in advance and the event is open to everyone. We recommend booking early to secure your place!

The ticket price includes light refreshments (tea and coffee); please bring your own lunch or make other lunchtime arrangements. We will have the use of Dagnall Village Hall, across the road from the church, which will provide additional parking and facilities.



Tickets can be purchased by calling 01525 220189, or online via the QR code.

Please visit our website www.dagnall-community-choir.co.uk

for further information, or if you have any questions, please email dagnallcc@gmail.com.

An event poster for the 'Come and Sing Choral Workshop'. The poster has a yellow background with musical notes and a treble clef. The text on the poster reads: 'COME AND SING CHORAL WORKSHOP with acclaimed composer and conductor PHILIP STOPFORD Hosted by Dagnall Community Choir ALL SAINTS' CHURCH DAGNALL, HP4 1QX Saturday 6th September 2025 10.00am to 4.00pm £15 per person, to include tea and coffee Tickets available from 01525 220189 or online via QR code Please see our website for more information www.dagnall-community-choir.co.uk'. There is a QR code on the right side of the poster.

COME AND SING
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PHILIP STOPFORD
Hosted by Dagnall Community Choir
ALL SAINTS' CHURCH DAGNALL, HP4 1QX
Saturday 6th September 2025
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£15 per person, to include tea and coffee
Tickets available from
01525 220189
or online via QR code
Please see our website for more information
www.dagnall-community-choir.co.uk

Dagnall

Community Choir meets every Monday evening from 7.45 to 9.45pm, at All Saints Church, Dagnall. We welcome new members and are particularly keen to recruit to our Tenor section at present. If you'd like to come along and join us, we'd love to see you at one of our rehearsals. There are no auditions, and no requirement to be able to read music – all that is required is a love of singing!





Hope to see you at the Carnival, fingers crossed for good weather.

Club is closed for the entire month of August to recharge volunteer and staff batteries - club phone will not be monitored daily so please leave a message & we'll get back to you ASAP.

AGM - notice is hereby given that on 20th August at 2pm our committee will be meeting at Northall Village Hall, 2pm. Those with interest are welcome to attend and join us for light refreshments - thank you.

As the Focus deadline is pre Music Quiz Night (Friday 13th June) we are predicting a great night was had by all, many a laugh and a test of memory too. Thank you to all who attended, supported, cooked and arranged for the fundraiser.

I was very pleased that my plea for rhubarb went so well having a very poor crop at our patch this year. So ... Does anyone have a glut of any seasonal produce ideal for us to freeze and prepare puddings in advance? We'd be grateful for any fruits suitable - thank you.

Becoming a Club Member? Simply contact us on **07854 230243**, leave a text or message including your contact details, and our leader Dee will get back to you ASAP with a date to visit, our availability or the option to join the waiting list.

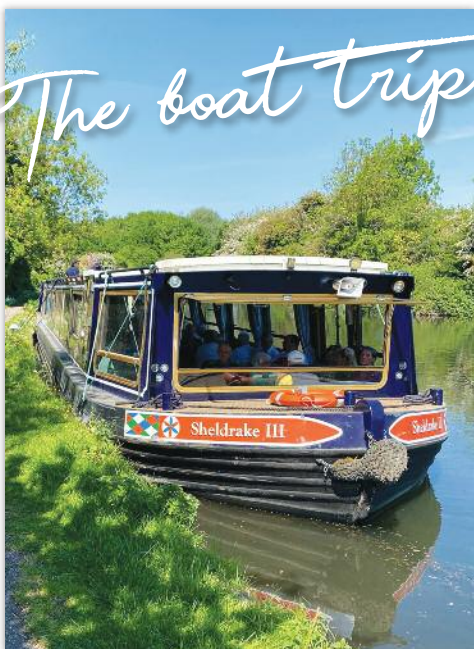
Your donations of goods always go a long way to support our activities: We gladly accept and appreciate regifting and items for fundraising, plus those seasonal fruits and vegetables enhance our homemade meals.

Volunteers we welcome you to chat and discuss with us any voluntary assistance you may care to offer. Your involvement and support can be tailored around your other commitments so one-offs, back-ups, or regular rota support would be most Welcome. Regular slots every 4/5 weeks exist for kitchen roles and minibus crew - drivers or conductors. Please feel free to leave your contact details on the Club phone **07854230243** and we'll get back to you ASAP. Dee, Club Leader, shall forward your info and details to the relevant point of contact. Thank You.





The boat trip



Volunteers

Thank goodness for all volunteers
 The ones who spend retirement years
 Each giving of their special skill
 Preferring graft to sitting still
 And those who have a job already
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 All for love and not for pay

So many groups would fall apart
 If volunteers weren't at the heart
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 Content to give their time for free

Their toil, their hearts, their sweat and tears
 Thank goodness for all volunteers





Summer Vibes

Get into those summer vibes with

EATON BRAY PARISH COUNCIL

Picnic in the Park

with The Heath Band

School Lane Recreation Ground

Sunday 24th August 2025

3pm – 4:45pm

(15-min interval at 3:45pm)



Bring your own picnic

Sit back and enjoy the music from the Heath Band

The perfect way to enjoy a
summer bank holiday weekend

Portaloos (accessible to all) will be available

Located: School Lane car park

(event subject to weather conditions)

NIGELS THOUGHTS

Dear Friends,

It really does not seem so very long ago that Elisabeth, Jonathan and I were just beginning to get to know the people of Eaton Bray, Edlesborough, Dagnall and Northall.

How much has changed since then, and soon it will be time to say 'Goodbye'. You will know that Elisabeth, my wife, passed away over three years ago now. We were wonderfully supported by you all at that time, and there is not a day goes by but that I feel her loss. Jonathan and Anna have already left to make their first home together in Bedford, and Bernie and I (who were married last August) will be moving out of the manse and travelling the short distance to Silsoe in late August.

We have enjoyed the last nine years of our work together. There have been many opportunities and challenges along the way, and we have not always been able to grasp the opportunities, nor agree about the future. Sharing times of blessing, together with harder times is all a part of our life as we journey together in community.

I know that it is going to be hard to move on and to start again, as I seek to discover and respond to the call of God to serve Him (in retirement) in another place.

This is the stuff of life, what doesn't move on can become stale and, in time, immovable. But we believe in a God who, whilst dependably the same from age to age, is always moving on and,

in his love, finding fresh ways to bless all his children.

We would perhaps like things to stay the same, but growth is important and it does not occur unless we are prepared to take risks, and trust that God has other, greater plans for us.

You may have heard that at Eaton Bray Methodist Church we are preparing to take such a brave risk, as we move on from our church buildings on Totternhoe Road. We shall seek to follow the way that God will reveal to us, as we continue to worship with one another in other premises, and you will be very welcome to join us.

The church is leaving the building in order to be more present in the community. The final service of worship in the present church building will be held on the afternoon of Sunday 28 September 2025.

To move away from the familiar, where we feel secure, can seem both exciting and daunting. God is in our future however, calling us on, as individuals and communities into the new things that he has planned for us.

Thank you and
God bless,

Nigel



Dunstable Probud 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.

Our Countryside

5th July 2025

On behalf of the Carnival Committee a sincere Thank You to all who responded to our appeal for replacement gazebos to protect stalls (and stallholders) from the rain (or hopefully from the sun) – the response was amazing and we are very grateful.

Chris Banks



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 experienced players are very welcome.

If you couldn'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 GADDESSEN BOWLS CLUB
Church Road, Little Gaddesden HP4 1NX



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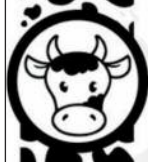
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SOMETHING GIANT IS COMING THIS SUMMER

12 larger-than-life trolls take up residence at Whipsnade Zoo for summer holidays

Twelve larger-than-life trolls are taking over Whipsnade Zoo this summer, and they're on a mission to understand how humans connect with the natural world around them.

Arriving on summer solstice on Saturday 21 June and staying until the autumn equinox on Monday 22 September, the group of mythical travellers will be calling on young humans to bring their adults to the UK's largest zoo to assist them with a very special fieldstudy.

The trolls have observed that fully-grown humans get up to all kinds of puzzling antics, and many of these mature humans seem to have forgotten how to connect with nature.

Guided by head troll, Taks, these magical beings need curious, nature-loving kids to bring their grown-ups to Whipsnade for a day immersed in the wonders of the animal kingdom – to show them how humans interact with nature, and demonstrate that some humans, at least, share their childlike wonder and love for wildlife.

Nestled amongst 600-acres of wildlife at the conservation zoo, the trolls can be found using a Trolls Treasure Hunt Map, with each of the gentle giants ready to be

touched, sniffed, and interacted with, all while completing nature-themed crafts

and tasks to reconnect with the wonders of the natural world along the way.

Visiting Bedfordshire for this exhibition world premiere, the twelve trolls, ranging from 5ft to over 9ft tall, are constructed entirely from recycled materials by Danish artist and activist Thomas Dambo.

The troll trail is free this summer with zoo entry, and visitors can explore the rest of Whipsnade Zoo, with more than 11,000 animals from 245 species to discover – including a pride of rare northern African lions and their seven cubs. Rated the most popular attraction in the East of England by ALVA (Association of Leading Visitor Attractions) a visit to Whipsnade Zoo this summer is perfect for all the family - book tickets today at www.whipsnadezoo.org/.



One of the trolls, Taks, who will be visiting Whipsnade Zoo this summer (c) Photos and artwork by Thomas Dambo

Whipsnade Zoo announces names of youngest four northern African lion cubs

Whipsnade Zoo can reveal the names of its youngest litter of northern African lion cubs, born to mum Waka, following a month-long naming bonanza.

The conservation zoo's tiny pride have been named Bertie, Oya, Malaika and Kibibi – names chosen by local school children and a prize-draw winner.

The second litter born at the conservation zoo this year, prize-draw winner Matthew Hampstead chose Oya, after the African goddess of wind and lightning for one of the females, and Bertie, referencing Storm Bertie to pay homage to the stormy conditions in which both litters were born.

A long-time zoo fan, Berkhamsted-born Matthew said: "I entered the prize draw as I wanted to contribute towards all the amazing work being done by ZSL at Whipsnade Zoo and ensure this continues, and I was really excited by the prospect of having the honour of naming the lion cubs."

"I fell in love with all the animals in the zoo, but the lions were the main reasons behind what made me keep coming back – I couldn't get enough of them! And of course now there will always be a special place in my heart for Bertie and Oya! This is truly an honour to be able to name the lion cubs and I am hugely grateful for the opportunity."

The names came from a short-list provided by Whipsnade Zoo's lion keepers, who have been watching the cubs grow and develop their

playful personalities. This list was also shared with 24 local schools from Luton and Central Bedfordshire, to vote on the names they liked best, with Malaika and Kibibi, meaning 'Angel' and 'Little Lady' in Swahili, coming out on top.

The money raised by the prize draw will fund the global conservation work of ZSL, the international charity behind Whipsnade Zoo.

Sarah McGregor, section manager of predators at Whipsnade Zoo, said: "These cubs mean so much to our visitors, so it's great that we've been able to get the local community involved in helping us pick names for them.

"We're delighted with the names that have been chosen! As the cubs get bigger each day they are showing more of their individual

personalities, and we're now able to see unique spot patterns on their heads, so it's becoming easier to tell each one apart."

The three older cubs, born to the Zoo's second lioness Winta in November last year, are being named by ZSL supporters, and their names will be confirmed soon.

Sarah added: "All seven northern African lion cubs are an important addition to the conservation breeding programme for their threatened subspecies, and they've already proven the power of seeing amazing animals helps to educate our visitors not only about the threats lions face in the wild, but also how the public can help us protect the planet and create a world where wildlife thrives".

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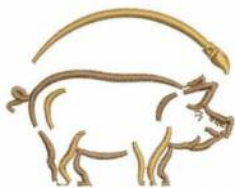


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Flying ant day: when winged ants take their nuptial flight

By Lisa Hendry

Each summer, there comes a moment when we suddenly notice that the ground is crawling with large winged ants. Then the air seems to be full of them and we find ourselves ducking and diving, trying not to get them in our mouths or hair.

So what causes this simultaneous taking to the air, and is there really such a thing as flying ant day? Find out when and why ants grow wings and swarm.

What are flying ants?

Flying ants are known as alates. In the UK, particularly in urban areas, the winged insects you see are almost always the sexually mature queens and males of the black garden ant, *Lasius niger*. The larger ants are the queens. They can be up to 15mm long. Black garden ant (*Lasius niger*). The queens are much larger than the garden ant.



When is flying ant day?

This annual swarming event usually occurs in July or August and coincides with a period of hot and humid weather. Winged ants appear at different times around the country and local weather conditions are critical for the coordination of swarming activity.

Ants tend to fly earlier in urban areas than rural areas, probably because temperatures are generally warmer in urban environments, known as the urban heat island effect.

In summer, a spell of good weather often leads to sightings of winged ants, called alates.

It can be unfortunate timing for tennis players at Wimbledon. There are years when flying ants plague players during their matches, causing so much disruption it makes the news. However, swarms of flying ants can appear any time between June and the start of September.

A multi-year citizen science project by the Royal Society of Biology found that the widely held idea of a 'flying ant day' is actually a misconception: there is no single day when ants fly all at once. Rather, there is a 'flying ant season'. Winged ants actually emerge over several weeks, although there

are often several peaks in appearances, each lasting only a few days. The precise pattern of swarming varies from year to year.

Swarming is triggered by the weather, a study found that ants only flew on days when it was warm, not windy and conditions had improved compared to the previous day.

Where do flying ants come from?

Prior to swarming, ants are going about their everyday business and living in a colony in a nest.

Black garden ants nest in dry soil. You'll often find them in flower beds and lawns, and under paving slabs or stones. Patios are a favoured location.

They are common in almost any dry, open area that is warmed by the Sun - including gardens, pavements, brownfield sites, heathland, grassland and coastal areas.

In the few weeks before the swarming event happens, you may see heaps of soil appearing above the nests.



A *Lasius niger* ant nest that has been exposed when a paving slab was moved. Worker ants and pupae are visible.

Ants live in a caste system, where individuals have specific jobs. The queen lays the eggs while female workers look after the queen, eggs and larvae. They also gather food, enlarge the nest and otherwise ensure the colony runs smoothly. Most of the eggs develop into workers, but when the colony is ready, the queen begins to produce virgin queens and males.

When the winged males (drones) and virgin queens (princesses) emerge from the nest, they scatter to maximise the chance of mating between different colonies and reduce inbreeding.

Why do ants fly?

An ant colony can only expand so much. At some point a new queen will need to strike out on her own to begin a new colony. She needs to meet and mate with a male from a different colony and find a new area in which to start building her nest. Growing wings and flying enables her to do this.

So each year, alates emerge from nests and take



flight. They aren't interested in people or picnics - they are just looking for a mate.

The large winged females and the smaller winged males are often seen flying joined together. This is known as the nuptial flight.



Lots of winged ants in a corner between brickwork.

Winged ants appear in huge numbers when conditions are right. This maximises the chance of successful mating encounters and survival.

Why do ants swarm?

Why do flying ants appear in such large numbers all at once? One reason is that this gives them protection from predators. There really is safety in numbers.

Another reason to swarm is to increase the chance of reproduction - with larger numbers of their species around the ants won't have far to look for a mate. During this brief, once-in-a-lifetime mating period, a queen usually mates with several males.

What happens after the nuptial flight?

Once ants have mated, the role of the males is over. The mated queens quickly chew off their own wings and begin looking for a suitable site in which to nest and set up a new colony. This is why you often see large ants walking around after a 'flying ant day' and may even see discarded wings scattered over pavements.



A queen that no longer has wings.

The ants you see the rest of the year are female workers, gathering food for the colony.

Once the queen has found a suitable site, she digs herself an underground chamber and lays her first few eggs, which she rears to adulthood. She won't eat for weeks - not until her first brood of daughter workers are ready to forage for food for her.

The stock of sperm the queen received during the nuptial flight will enable her to lay fertilised eggs for the rest of her lifetime. And she has many egg-laying years ahead of her, often reproducing until a colony is thousands strong (large nests can have more than 20,000 workers).

How long do flying ants live?

Males don't do any work in the nest and are only produced by their colony during flying ant season. They develop from unfertilised eggs. After the nuptial flight, the male ants usually only live for another day or two, so not much more than a week in total. Their sole reason for existence is to mate with new queens.

Lasius niger queens can generally live for up to 15 years (although *L. niger* queens in captivity have reached 28 years). But they spend most of their lives in their nest. They only spend a small portion of their lives as winged or flying ants - when they are young queens that need to establish a new colony of their own.

Why flying ants are actually a good thing

These flying insects may seem annoying to some people, but their tunnelling activities play a vital role in improving soil quality.

Their swarming events also provide a vital food resource for many species of birds. Swifts and gulls can often be seen feeding frenziedly from rising swarms of ants.

The black garden ant and the related cornfield ant (*Lasius alienus*) are particularly important to the continued survival of the silver-studded blue butterfly (*Plebejus argus*) on heathland. Populations of this attractive butterfly have declined across most of its range.

The ants and the butterfly have developed a mutually beneficial relationship. The ants tend the caterpillars, protecting them from predators. In return, the ants feed on secretions produced by the caterpillars.



A few ants on a *Plebejus argus* caterpillar.

Ants in the UK

Ants, along with bees and wasps, belong to the insect group called Hymenoptera. They are recognised by their three fairly distinct body parts.

There are about 60 species of ant in the UK, and they all live in complex colonies.



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EATON BRAY SCENE AGAIN A SLIDE SHOW

BY PETER MAYNE



If you were crowded into the Village Hall on the 10th May you would have witnessed over 150 years of Pictures and anecdotes from the wonderful Octogenarian Peter Mayne.

Covering the Villages of Eaton Bray, Edlesborough and the surrounding area we were regaled by this marvelous raconteur for nearly 2 hours, and he still had more, much more to impart on the wonderful characters incidences and events.

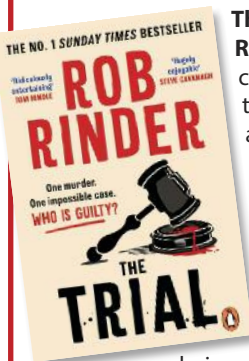
Peters' collection of Historical photos, stories last given over 13 years ago was undertaken especially to raise funds for St. Francis Hospice Berkhamsted who looked after his good friend Pete Farrar.

Donations collected on the evening from the sales of Tea, Coffee & Biscuits kindly supplied free from lovely Maggie & Danny along with ticket sales raised a total for St. Franciss to a whopping. **£1177.40**

BOOK REVIEWS

Over Sharing is a hilarious, wickedly sharp revenge comedy. It had me laughing out loud reading it in bed until one in the morning. Meet Iris, once Iris of the happy home and happy marriage. Until divorce ruins her life. Who does she blame? Social influencer Maddy. Maddy preaches happy families, faithfulness, devoted motherhood. Iris thinks she's an outrageous fake. And proving it will make her very, very happy.

A top read from the gifted **Jane Fallon**.



The Trial by Rob Rinder is a

courtroom sensation: the ruthless killing of a famous cop as he steps into the witness box.

Detective Inspector Grant Cliveden has been secretly poisoned barely minutes before

being due to give

evidence; once the toxin kicks in it takes him less than ten seconds to die.

The nation mourns (absurdly good-looking DI Cliveden once saved the late Queen's life from assassination; he's a hero-hearthrob).

All the evidence for his murder points to one man, which is why the KC appointed to defend him is deeply reluctant to take on the job; it's a sure-fire loser.

What's more, it is his enthusiastic junior's first-ever case. But nothing is what it seems. If Cliveden's murder was sensational, just wait until you get to the trial.



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What is an APPI Mat work Class and why it may be for you!

The Australian Physiotherapy and Pilates Institute was set up by Glen and Elisa Withers, two Australian Physiotherapists as validated research grew about the importance of the body's core in all we do.

The Institute is now worldwide and provides on going education for its instructors, like me, that continues to be rooted in scientific evidence.

Instructors are Health Professionals, many of them Physiotherapists, so clients' needs are assessed, their levels of ability and restrictions carefully plotted and a programme of tailored exercises to improve function, stability and mobility arrived at. All this can be applied to injury rehabilitation, Chronic Pain Management, or enhancement within sport. Modification and progression of exercises are carefully monitored to provide optimal outcomes, guiding you back to better health, fitness and regained confidence in your body.

The wonderful thing about Mat work Pilates is that it is accessible for everyone. Joseph Pilates designed it initially to need nothing more than a mat and your body. Over time, it's been refined but you can still achieve progression with a few

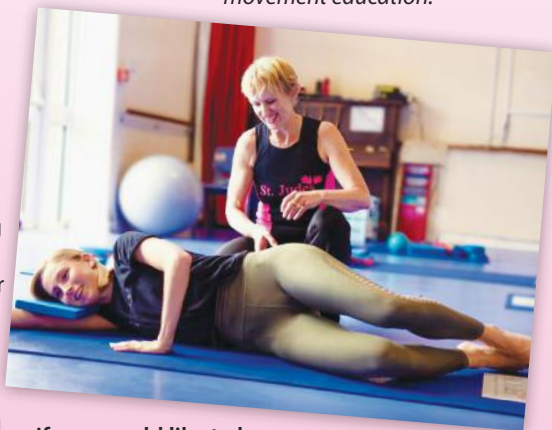
simple and inexpensive bits of equipment, like bands or balls.

You will be told by your APPI Instructor, not only **WHAT** you are doing but **WHY** you are doing it. Knowledge is Power as the saying goes. And with that comes improved results and independence to continue to practice your own Pilates wherever and whenever, either on your own, or in classes, where the same emphasis of correct technique and progression are applied.

Mat work Pilates is therefore a powerful tool that can see you through the journey from gentle rehabilitation to high exercise performance needs.

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Quoting Kristina Holding of the APPI.
"Mat work is not just where you start, it's where you grow and delivers safe, smart, scalable movement education."



If you would like to know more about APPI Pilates or me Moira D'Arcy a Chartered Physiotherapist and APPI Instructor, email me at moira@stjudesclinic.com. Or visit my website at www.stjudesclinic.com.

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CHICKEN & GOOSEBERRY TAGINE

INGREDIENTS

3 tbsp olive oil

8 skinless chicken thigh fillets
cut into chunky pieces

2 onions thinly sliced

2 tsp ground turmeric

2 tsp ground cumin

2 tsp ground coriander

1 tsp ground cinnamon

1 tbsp rose harissa

1 tbsp tomato purée

400g tin chopped tomatoes

500ml chicken stock

200g ripe red gooseberries trimmed
of any stalks

handful of coriander chopped

couscous to serve

METHOD

Step 1 Heat 1½ tbsp of olive oil in a casserole or tagine over a medium-high heat.

Season the chicken pieces well, then fry in batches for 5-6 minutes, flipping halfway through, until golden brown. Scoop out onto a plate. Add the remaining oil and the onions to the pan, and fry with a pinch of salt for 10 minutes until the onions are soft and slightly caramelised.

Step 2 Add the spices, harissa and tomato purée, and fry for 2 minutes before tipping in the tomatoes and stock. Return the chicken to the pan, then bring to the boil, cover, reduce the heat and simmer gently for 45 minutes or until the chicken is tender and the sauce reduced.

Step 3 Add the gooseberries and simmer for 10 minutes until they are just softened, then stir in the coriander and serve with couscous.



CLASSIC TRIFLE

INGREDIENTS

100 g fresh British strawberries, washed,
hulled and halved

125 g fresh British raspberries, washed

125 g fresh British blueberries, washed

220 g tin peach slices in fruit juice, drained

3 tbsp cherry brandy

2 tbsp icing sugar, plus extra for dusting

145 g angel cake, sliced into thick fingers

30 g soft amaretti biscuits, crumbled

250 g fresh British custard

300 ml fresh British double cream

flaked almonds, to decorate 300g/10½oz
slender young rhubarb, trimmed and cut into
roughly 2cm/¾in lengths

METHOD

Step 1 In a bowl, mix together the strawberries, 100g of the raspberries, 100g of the blueberries, the drained peach slices, cherry brandy and the icing sugar. Leave to marinate for 10 minutes.

Step 2 Meanwhile, line the base and sides of a 1.5 litre glass dish with the angel cake slices.

Pour the fruit mixture over the top of the cake, then sprinkle over the amaretti biscuits. Pour the custard over the top.

Step 3 Whisk the cream until medium peaks form. Dollop round spoonfuls over the top of the trifle, scatter over the flaked almonds and decorate with the remaining raspberries and blueberries. Chill in the fridge for 1 hour and dust with a little icing sugar just before serving.

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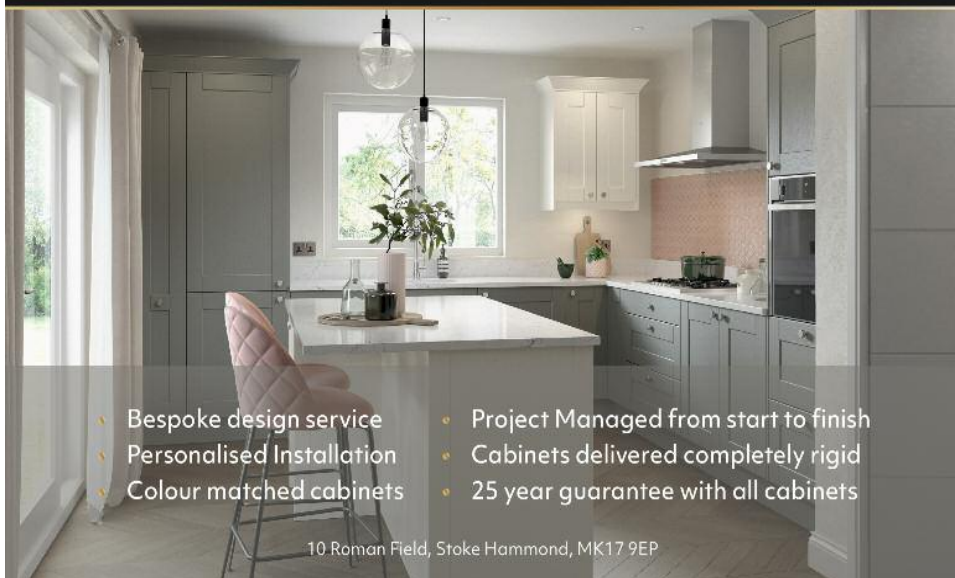
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Totternhoe GARDEN CLUB

The Afternoon Tea for Totternhoe Seniors was held on 11 June and 38 people attended. Everyone had a good feed and lots of chatting and socialising went on.

Our first garden visit of the summer season and once again Joyce provided us all with a "grand day out" to Kenilworth Castle.

This is one of the United Kingdom's sixteen 'most visited' historical sites maintained by English Heritage for the nation.

The spectacular ruins reveal much of the Mediaeval and Tudor past as a royal residence. Many buildings remain unaltered since the reign of Elizabeth I with some displaying works of both mediaeval and renaissance architecture. Located upon an elevated site overlooking open countryside (much of which was once a mere and moat) now containing several mature trees and grass walkways.

The highlight must be the recreated Elizabethan Garden – the first ever to be created on such a grand scale. Originally, it was devised for a visit by Queen Elizabeth I in 1575. Divided into quadrants and then sub-divided into

knots filled with perfumed perennials plus succession planting of annuals through the seasons.

A spectacular central feature is the white Italian Carrara marble fountain carved with eight scenes from Ovid's "Metamorphoses" around the base. This was a most interesting visit and stroll from ruin to ruin and thence to the exceedingly well cared for garden topped off by a welcome cup of tea.

Well done, Joyce! Another Grand Day Out.

Chris Jell

For more information about the Garden Club, 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**.

At the moment we have reached our limit of 130 members, but Veronica will be pleased to take your details and put you on the waiting list to join.

Joyce Murphy -
Chairman

EDLESBOROUGH WI

theWI

Edlesborough WI meets on the second Tuesday of the month in the Village Hall. After we had completed our usual monthly matters on our agenda including minutes of the our previous meetings, notices of up and coming trips and meals out and birthday cards with beautiful plants had been given out it was time to welcome our speaker.

Our speaker was Jo Laurie with the heading Tales from the Riverbank. Not knowing quite what to expect we were entertained with a very jovial account of Jo's walk with a friend along Thames Barrier path. They started at the source in the Cotswolds and walked the 184 miles through beautiful countryside into and across London to their destination the Thames Barrier at Woolwich. Along with her talk Jo showed us slides of a lot of the many places of interest including churches, sculptures, locks, weirs, wildlife and many more. Their walk started with very beautiful rural landscape in the Cotswolds and ended in London seeing ancient and modern buildings.

A few of the very notable places they saw are Henley, Eton College, Hampton Court, Kew Gardens and the Houses of Parliament. When you travel by foot you have to keep your eyes wide open and there are numerous interesting things to see along the way. On average they walked 10-15 miles a day. The only drawback of the walk is lack of "loos". Whilst walking through the rural parts you have to get very close to nature but in London the rather "posh" hotels welcomed them very warmly to use their well equipped facilities despite being in hiking boots with backpacks!!!!

After Jo's very gripping account of her walk we had our usual raffle with refreshments. New members are always warmly welcomed please come and join our programme is very varied.

Jane Jones

INSPIRING WOMEN



Share your experiences, problems and solutions with all things technical by

Joining our *WhatsApp* Group or our private Pavilion IT Help and Support Group on *Facebook* or by email

pavilionithelp@gmail.com

or further meetings at the Pavilion if requested

**Steve Munday ~ 07740 197392
Christine Hurst ~ 07398 246496**

HELPFUL TIPS ON FINANCE

Side Hustles and Summer Earnings

The long summer days often inspire people to pick up side work — whether it's freelancing, tutoring, crafting, or renting out a room on Airbnb. But are you aware of the tax rules?

The good news is the Trading Allowance still stands at £1,000 for 2025/26. This means that if your self employed or casual income is under £1,000, you don't need to register or file with HMRC. There's also a separate £1,000 Property Allowance for occasional landlords.

If you exceed these thresholds, you must register for Self Assessment and report your income. Keep receipts and records from the outset to make things easier come tax return season.

Tip of the Month: You can earn up to £1,000 tax-free from side gigs using the Trading Allowance. Stay under it, and no tax return is needed.

Daniel Riley
(Riley Accountants)





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Known as 'Music City', Nashville in Tennessee might be the heart of the country music industry but it is not the only music you will hear around the city. You will find Americana, rockabilly, jazz, blues, classical, gospel, rock n' roll and, of course, country all being played in any one of Nashville's over 180 live music venues: you won't find such a diverse mix anywhere else!

Getting to Nashville couldn't be easier as British Airways flies direct from Heathrow five times a week. There is a huge range of accommodation to choose from – boutique to 5-star deluxe – covering all budgets, and a minimum of three, preferably four, nights is what we would recommend.

Evening Must Do's

- The Grand Ole Opry – the world's longest-running music radio show celebrates 100 years in 2025. See country music superstars, as well as rising stars performing on this iconic stage.
- Watch a singer-songwriter show for a unique way to hear music at The Listening Room or The Bluebird Café.
- Broadway – spend the evening in one or a selection of the bars, restaurants and live music venues; there are over 180 in the city to choose from.
- Sporting event – watch an American football, hockey or soccer game: Nashville is hosting three of the FIFA World Cup 2025 matches.

Day Time Must Do's

- The Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum – the world's most popular music museum, featuring legends of country music past and present.
- Guided tour of the historic RCA Studio B – see where Elvis, Roy Orbison, Dolly Parton, and many more, recorded classic hits.
- The National Museum of African American Music – discover how African Americans have helped shape all genres of American music.
- Take a foodie tour and try some Hot Chicken or Tennessee BBQ and find out what meat-and-three is!

Top Tip

There is so much to see in Nashville you could easily spend your whole time just in the city and surrounding area, but why not extend your music-themed trip and combine with a visit to Memphis or New Orleans.

For more information and help in planning your visit to Nashville, contact Sarah and Michelle at Travel Impressions of Tring

01442 890265 or via enquiries@travelimpressions.co.uk
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home](http://www.edlesboroughbaptist.wix.com/home)

Find us on Facebook @gbce2014

EVENT CANCELLED

OPEN GARDENS EVENT 27 JULY

I'm sorry to inform you that this summer's Open Gardens event has sadly been cancelled due to there being too few offers of gardens to visit. One explanation for this may be the almost three months without rain this Spring. If you have a lovely garden and would like to help ensure the Open Garden event takes place next year please contact

Gordon Gray on **01525 220136**.

EATON BRAY WI

theWI

Our Meeting
on 2 nd June
started with a

short business when it was announced that it is Bedfordshire WI's 110th Anniversary year and a display of banners and scrapbooks will be held at Jordans Mill in Biggleswade on 16 th September. This was followed by tea and lovely cakes.

Members had been asked to bring flowers and greenery with them together with oasis, and containers were provided if they wished to use them. We had a fun evening making an arrangement under the expert guidance of the flower arrangers amongst us, and we were amazed at the talent shown by everyone!!

The competition this month was for an item beginning with "K" and this was won by Helen Wilkinson with an impressive display of knots tied and mounted on card.

Our next meeting is on July 7 th when the Osana Ukulele Band will play for us again with a chance to exercise our lungs with a good singsong Eaton Bray WI meets at the Methodist Church Hall, Totterhoe Road, Eaton Bray at 7.30pm .on the first Monday of each Month and ladies of all ages are most welcome. If you are interested in joining our WI please contact **Sue Tucker** on **07772901816** or **Margaret Jones** on **07478 061156**



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July brings long, warm days that continue late into the evening — perfect for pottering in the garden after work, hosting barbecues, and enjoying your beds and borders as they reach their peak.

For advice on what to get started this month, check out the ‘what to sow & grow in July’ page. In the meantime, here’s a list of jobs to keep on top of this July:

Timely Tips



- 1 Summer can still throw out a few surprises — make sure **tall plants** and **climbers** are well supported in case of bad weather.
- 2 Water at dusk to reduce evaporation and use mulch to **retain moisture** around plants.
- 3 Terracotta pots are prone to **evaporation** so dampen the pot down to keep roots inside cool and damp.
- 4 Regularly deadhead **bedding** and **perennial plants** to encourage new blooms for as long as possible.

In the flower garden



- Cut back faded **perennial plants** to keep borders tidy.
- As your **penstemon** flowers fade, cut them back to just above a bud to encourage more flowers.

- Cutting back growth in **hanging baskets** can encourage new flowers and foliage and will revive the display. Make sure you feed your baskets well after doing this.
- Cut back **hardy geraniums** and **delphiniums** after the first flush of flowers to encourage new growth and further blooms.
- Keep an eye on your newly-bloomed hydrangeas for **hydrangea scale** - a sap-sucking insect that can affect growth. Read our dedicated **scale insects pest & diseases** page to learn more.
- Continue to tie in and train new growth on **climbing plants**.
- Prune **wisteria** now. Just remove the whippy side-shoots from the main branch framework to about 20cm from their base (about five leaves from the main stem).
- Prune lupins to encourage more flowers.
- If you need to **prune your deciduous magnolia**, now's the best time to do it.
- Divide clumps of **bearded Iris** so they have time to form roots and flower buds for next year before the cold weather arrives.
- Take cuttings from your favourite tender plants for overwintering indoors. Cuttings can also still be taken from shrubs and **border perennials**.
- Deadhead **bedding plants** and perennial plants to stop them self-seeding and to encourage further flowering.
- Deadhead your **roses** to keep them looking tidy. Leave the flowers in place if your rose produces attractive hips (seed pods).
- Deadhead **sweet peas** regularly to keep them blooming. Water daily in dry weather.
- Capture seed heads from **dandelions** and other weeds. Collect them before they get a chance to release their seeds and spread throughout your garden.
- Keep an eye out for **pests on plants**, early treatment is best.
- Stop rust damaging **hollyhock** foliage by pruning out affected leaves and/or spraying with a fungicide.
- Look out for **clematis wilt**. Symptoms include wilting leaves and black discolouration on the leaves and stems. Cut out all affected material and dispose of it in your household waste.

Looking after your lawn



- This is your last chance to feed your lawn with a special **lawn fertiliser** to encourage healthy green growth.
- Water **newly seeded** or turfed lawns in hot weather. Don't allow new lawns to dry out.
- If you're experiencing prolonged dry weather, set your **mower** blades higher to reduce stress on the grass.
- If your lawn is **infested by ants**, brush out the nests on a dry day. Always brush them away before mowing.
- Recut any **lawn edges** if needed and install lawn edging to make future maintenance easier.



The word Eaton means “river farm”. Eaton Bray has numerous small streams giving the name the connotations of a well-watered landscape. The Bray element was not added until the 15th century or later, the Bray family becoming Lords of the Manor of Eaton in 1490.

Eaton Bray is an ancient parish in the Manshead Hundred. It was, briefly, the centre of a rural district council from 1894 to 1933. The parish is bordered as follows:

Billington to the north; Stanbridge to the north-east; Totternhoe to the north-east and east; Whipsnade to the south and south-east and Edlesborough [Buckinghamshire] to the west and south-west. There have, of course, been small boundary changes over the years, the most significant of which was the adjustment of the county boundary with Buckinghamshire to run along the stream in Moor End meaning that Moor End Mill, Two Counties Mill and Summerly Road, amongst others, moved from Eaton Bray and Bedfordshire to Edlesborough and Buckinghamshire.

In 1985 an area of land running north from



Dukes

Avenue in Whipsnade was transferred from Eaton Bray to Whipsnade. Some small, uninhabited areas were also exchanged between Eaton Bray and Totternhoe.

The Domesday Book of 1086 records 20 villagers, 13 smallholders and 2 slaves in the Manor of Eaton Bray – a total of 35. These numbers would only count the heads of households so to arrive at a true figure for the population one needs to multiply this figure by at least four, suggesting a total population of around 140, making Eaton Bray a more substantial settlement for the time.



It looks as if Eaton Bray has always been one of the more populous rural parishes in the county as the figures below indicate. It is interesting to note that the only drop in population occurred after 1871 and lasted into the 1920s. An agricultural depression initially drive people away from the land to seek their living in towns and steady agricultural mechanisation continued that trend before an increasing birth rate began to reverse the decline. Latterly, of course, many villages have seen great expansion as the population has risen and people who work in towns and cities have chosen to move to the countryside for the better quality of life it affords; hence the population of Eaton Bray more than doubling between 1931 and 2011.

1801	583
1811	674
1821	816
1831	957
1841	1,097
1851	1,455
1861	1,440
1871	1,640
1881	1,520
1891	1,330
1901	1,117
1911	979
1921	975

1931	1,042
1951	1,165
1961	1,509
1971	1,671
1981	2,072
1991	2,300
2001	2,591
2011	2,585
2021	4,199



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Dear All

As I write, it has occurred to me that I have been appointed to The Eaton Bray Salvation Army Church and wider community for almost a year now.

It has been my privilege to share in worship and fellowship with many of you on different occasions. I look forward to what God has in store for us in this coming year. Everybody is always welcome at The Salvation Army, and in view of this here is a little more information about our regular activities.

Sunday Worship 11am-12pm – this is a time of worship for all ages with refreshments and a chat afterwards.

Tuesday Coffee Morning (fortnightly) 10am-12pm – everyone is welcome. Homemade cakes and preserves are available to purchase, as well as a bric-a-brac stall.

Wednesday Home League 2.30pm-3.30pm – this is a time of fellowship predominantly for women (although gentlemen are very welcome). We have a range of speakers and some of our activities include singing, quizzes, and arts and crafts. We have a bible thought and a time of prayer. Refreshments are also served.

Wednesday Champion's Club 6.15pm-7.15pm (2nd, 3rd, 4th & 5th Wednesdays of the month – term time only) – this is a fun time for children aged 5 years and above to enjoy games, music, activities and to learn about the bible.

Wednesday Messy Church 6pm-7.15pm (1st Wednesday of the month – term time only) – this is a time for the whole family to explore bible stories through arts and crafts, and singing.

For further information about any of our activities, please call into our hall at any of the times above

(The Salvation Army, Booth Place, Eaton Bray, Dunstable, Beds, LU6 2DR
telephone: 07796 980565 or contact us by email: eaton.bray@salvationarmy.org.uk

Also, for more information in the coming days look out for us on Facebook.

"And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." Colossians 3:17.

Blessings

Jacqueline

(The Eaton Bray Salvation Army Church Leader)

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