

FOCUS



MARCH 2026

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THE FOCUS MAGAZINE COMMITTEE

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KINDLY NOTE

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

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 Mike Coker 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: Jane Taylor 07852 586045

Email: bookings@ebvh.co.uk 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

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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 at the Edlesborough Pavilion on the first Thursday of each month from 2.30pm. A get together to meet and share friendship, information and mutual support. There

**NO ONE
SHOULD FACE
CANCER
ALONE**

will also be speakers and medical professionals to address members' questions and requests.

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

No need to book just come along to the pavilion.

5th March and 2nd April.

**Edlesborough Community Sports Club
CIO Charity No. 1160939**

Village Diary

* TERM TIME ONLY
** FORTNIGHTLY

WEEKLY

Mon-Sun	St. Mary's Edlesborough is open on Fridays to Sundays 10am-3pm and when the Friends are working on site - 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*	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 , Eaton Bray Academy LU6 2DT 7.30-9.30pm, w:dagnall-community-choir.co.uk 01525 220189
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	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	St Judes Clinic. Moira's Therapeutic Pilates 9.45 to 10.45 and 11 till 12 noon, 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	St Judes Clinic. Moira's Therapeutic Pilates 7 till 8 pm and 8.05 to 9.05 pm 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	Home League Weds 2:30pm – 3:30pm (weekly fellowship & activities including singing, quizzes, arts & crafts, bible thought & a prayer – predominantly for women although gentlemen are very welcome), The Salvation Army , Booth Place, Eaton Bray, LU6 2DR.
Wed	Champion's Club Weds 6:15pm – 7:15pm (2nd, 3rd, 4th & 5th Weds of the month, Age 5+, term time only – lots of fun including games, music, activities & bible stories), The Salvation Army , Booth Place, Eaton Bray, LU6 2DR.
Thur	KFPA Street dance classes Edlesborough Memorial Hall 4.15pm-6.30pm (4 years+) Contact Kiri 07988161043 or visit Facebook page 'KF PerformingArts/ KFPA' for info
Thur	Berkhamsted Taekwon-do Adults 6.30pm, Dagnall Village Hall, 07813 755785
Thur	Beavers (6 to 8 years old), 6.15-7.30pm, 1st Eaton Bray & Edlesborough Scout Hut, High Street, Edlesborough. Contact: ebebeaverleader@ebescouts.co.uk
Thur	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	Eaton Bray Tennis Club 6.30pm - 8.00pm Social play for all adults	1st Tues	Sewing Class 7-9pm, Edlesborough Pavilion, <i>General.enquiries@edthepav.org.uk</i>
Thur	Eaton Bray Pickleball 6.30pm - 8.00pm Social play for all adults (weather permitting)	1st Tues	Jewellery Making 7-9pm, Edlesborough Pavilion <i>General.enquiries@edthepav.org.uk</i> (Dates can vary)
Thur	Adult Board Games 12-2:30pm, Pavilion 07740 197392 Email <i>Stevemunday1@gmail.com</i>	1st Tues	Dunstable & District Orbit (social & charitable) Club Dunstable Rugby Club, 8pm. 01525 222441
Thur*	Move Better, Feel Better Pilates 10-11am, Edlesborough Memorial Hall Contact Lesley Pickering, 07767 823202, <i>lesley@lesleypickering.com</i>	1st Wed*	Messy Church 6-7:15pm, Salvation Army, Booth Place, Eaton Bray, LU6 2DR
Fri	Tap & Ballet Classes JoAnn Latus School of Dance, 4-8pm, Eaton Bray VH, 07800 518654	1st Thur	Pavilion Cancer Support Group from 2.30 pm in Edlesborough Pavilion.
Fri	Jazzercise 9:15-10:15, Eaton Bray VH, Beth 07539 739136	1st Sat	St. Mary's Church Eaton Bray Coffee Morning, 10:30am - 12 noon (July held on 2nd Saturday)
Fri	Scouts (10½ to 14 years old), 7.00-8.30pm, 1st Eaton Bray & Edlesborough Scout Hut, High Street, Edlesborough. Contact Mark Owen, <i>ebescoutleader@ebescouts.co.uk</i> , 07899 892344	1st Sat	Book Swap at St Mary's Eaton Bray, 10:30am - 12 noon (July held on 2nd Saturday)
Fri	"Little Luvvies" baby ballet classes 10am-11.30am, Northall Village Hall. Contact Emma Whittemore on 01525 376124	2nd Mon	Film Society Sept to June, 2pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Graham Chappell 07980 321977
Fri	Movement is Medicine Pilates 9.45-10.45am and 11 till 12 noon. Great Gaddesdon Parish Hall, <i>moira@stjudesclinic.com</i>	2nd Tues	Dunstable & District Local History Society meeting, 7.45pm, Methodist Church Hall, Dunstable
Fri	Food evening at The Pavilion Email <i>ecstrading@edthepav.org.uk</i>	2nd Tues	Edlesborough W.I. 7.30 pm, Edlesborough Memorial Hall. Contact Jackie Flint 01525 221618
Sat	Jazzercise 9-10am, Eaton Bray VH, Beth 07539 739136	2nd Tues & Thur	Adult board games club 7-9:30pm, Edlesborough Pavilion, 07740 197392, email <i>Stevemunday1@gmail.com</i> ,
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	1st Thur	Girls' Night Out 7:30pm (1st Thurs of the month – for more details including where we meet & what we do each month, email <i>eaton.bray@salvationarmy.org.uk</i>)
Sun	Sunday Worship at 11am Edlesborough Baptist Church, Moor End, LU6 2FL. Contact: 01525 222064 or <i>edlesboroughbaptistchurch@gmail.com</i>	2nd Thur	Sewing Class 10:30am -12:30pm, Edlesborough Pavilion, <i>General.enquiries@edthepav.org.uk</i>
Sun	Karate for kids & adults 3-4:15pm & 4:30-5:45pm, Eaton Bray VH, Contact 07500 007779	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
Sun	Eaton Bray Tennis Club 10am -12pm Social play for all adults	3rd Thur	Edlesborough Parish Council Meeting 7.30pm, Edlesborough Pavilion or as stated in Edlesborough Parish Council News
Sun	Eaton Bray Pickleball 10am -12pm Social play for all adults(weather permitting)	3rd Sat	Junior board games club Edlesborough Pavilion, <i>General.enquiries@edthepav.org.uk</i> (dates can vary)
Sun	Sunday Worship Sun 11am – 12pm (weekly worship for all ages followed by tea/coffee/squash, biscuits & a chat), The Salvation Army, Booth Place, Eaton Bray, LU6 2DR. Edlesbray Bridge Club at Edlesborough Pavilion 07958 183133 or ted.mani123@btinternet.com	3rd Sun	Parish Lunch 11.30 to 2.00pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Chris Hewitt 222288
MONTHLY		4th Wed	Book club 7-10pm <i>General.enquiries@edthepav.org.uk</i> (dates can vary)
1st Mon	Eaton Bray Parish Council Meeting 7.30pm, The Coffee Tavern (except Jan-2nd Monday)	1st Sat	Coffee Morning 10:00-12 noon, Edlesborough Methodist Church
1st Mon	Eaton Bray W.I. 7.30pm. Eaton Bray Methodist Church Hall. Margaret Jones on 07478 061156		

EATON BRAY WITH EDLESBOROUGH ~ PARISH NEWS ~

Vicar: Rev'd Joy Cousins

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

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

Reader: Gordon Gray (01525 220136)

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

Many of you will have already heard the news that I will be retiring at the end of May after 9 years as Vicar of Eaton Bray with Edlesborough. For Dave and me it will be a big change as we move back to Yorkshire. We have both greatly enjoyed being part of the vibrant community in Eaton Bray, Dagnall, Edlesborough and Northall. It has been wonderful to explore a part of the world which was new to us, and to appreciate the local countryside, as well as having access to London. It has been a real privilege to lead the churches at St Mary's and All Saints' Dagnall. There have been many highlights and also some tough times, most notably during the Covid Pandemic. I hope to be able to say farewell to many of you before I leave. My final service will be at St Mary's on Sunday 26th April at 10am- all welcome!

So what happens next? The Church of England has an historic system for the appointment of clergy. The benefice becomes vacant on the date of my retirement. There are a number of stakeholders who will be involved in the appointment process. These include the Patron of the church (which for St Mary's is the Diocesan Board of Patronage) and representatives of the Diocese, the Deanery and the local parish church. The Church Wardens, and the Parochial Church Council (not to be confused with the Parish Council) will shoulder much of the responsibility for the smooth running of the church during the vacancy. For Dagnall, this will include the District Wardens.

Don't expect that there will be a new Vicar immediately. Normally all vacancies are advertised, so the timetable needs to allow time for adverts to be placed, applications to be returned to the Bishop's or Archdeacon's office, shortlisting to take place, interviews to be held, references to be checked, and once the successful candidate has agreed to take the job, for him/her to give notice in their current parish.

The process is likely to take about six to nine months. The most important consideration is to find the right candidate for the post.

Although the time scale may seem quite drawn out, it does present an opportunity for consideration about what sort of gifts the church and parish would like from their next parish priest. Undergirding all the deliberations and discussions, I hope there will be plenty of prayer; prayer that God will bring the right person to be the new Vicar of these villages.

One of the aspects of ministry which has been a blessing to me in all my parishes has been working ecumenically with other Christian denominations. Currently this is the Churches Together in Eaton Bray, Dagnall, Edlesborough and Northall. On Palm Sunday, 29th March we will be doing something different. There will be a short United Service at St Mary's at 10am. Around 10.30am, we will gather outside Eaton Bray Village Hall before our Walk of Witness to the Salvation Army on Booth Place. There will be refreshments followed by a service at the Salvation Army for those who wish to stay. We are hoping for a donkey to accompany us on our walk! Do join us for any part of our Palm Sunday celebrations.

You can find information about all our Holy Week and Easter services in the centre pull out of this Focus.

With every blessing, **Joy**




NCG Lent Course 2026

The adventure of Prayer

Join the North Chilterns Group on **Tuesday evenings** this Lent as we discover prayer is not a duty but an adventure!

March 3rd	Praying with spiritual gifts
March 10th	Praying with icons
March 17th	Praying with the Iona Community
March 24th	Help! I'm too busy to pray!

All sessions start with refreshments at 7.30pm concluding with a short act of worship, ending by 9pm.


**Totternhoe Church Hall, The Ride,
Totternhoe LU6 1RH**

FOCUS MAGAZINE 2026 ADVERTISING

I would like to thank all the advertisers who support the Focus magazine. Some have advertised with us for many years and I am delighted to welcome several new advertisers this year.

A thank you must go to all our readers who support the local businesses who advertise.

I hope that you find the advertisers index of the magazine, printed on page 73, useful when looking for services.

Sally Taylor

Advertising Manager

Email: advertising@thefocusmagazine.co.uk

Phone: 01525 221576

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 MARCH 2026

SUNDAY 15TH MARCH 10.30AM
HOLY COMMUNION

FOR ANY QUERIES PLEASE CONTACT
PHILIP LEE ON 07977 234453 OR
DOROTHY GREEN ON 01442 843237



NEW LOCATION, NEW NAME.

Eaton Bray Singers

Following on from the Choir's successful relocation to Eaton Bray Academy it was decided to change the Choir's name. After much discussion, at which we considered a number of names, the final decision was that we will now be known as Eaton Bray Singers.

As well as settling in to our new location we have attracted new members to the choir and I am pleased to say they are thoroughly enjoying being with us. We have not changed our choir evening. We still get together on Monday evenings at 7.45pm. If you would like to come along on any Monday evening for a taster please do.

We have put together a selection of music from Stage and Screen for this year's concert, which will be premiered on Sunday April the 19th at Eaton Bray Village Hall, and the curtain rises at 3.30pm. This concert is a joint presentation as we will be sharing the stage with the South Beds Concert Band who many people will be familiar with as we both work together at the annual Poppy Prom. It promises to be a showstopper of an afternoon. Tickets will be available from the Choir's ticket office 07956 537262 and www.ticketsource.co.uk/eatonbraysingers or

Showtime!
An Afternoon of Music
from Stage and Screen

Join Eaton Bray Singers
(formerly Dagnall Community Choir)
and South Beds Concert Band

for a relaxed and enjoyable spring afternoon of
well-loved music from the stage and screen.

Sunday 19th April, 3.30pm
Eaton Bray Village Hall
Church Lane, Eaton Bray, LU6 2DJ

Tickets: £10 per adult, £5 for under 16s
(Under 16s must be accompanied by an adult)

Available by calling 07956 537262
www.ticketsource.co.uk/eatonbraysingers
or scan the QR code below

just scan the QR code on the advert in Focus Magazine, at £10.00 for adults and £5.00 for children up to the age of sixteen.

We look forward to seeing you on opening night.



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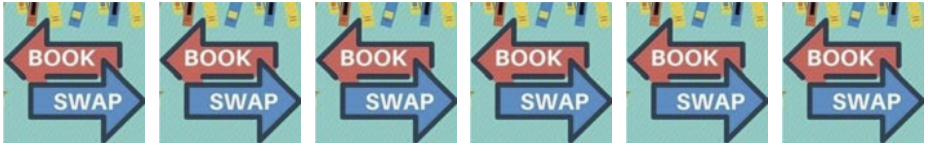



Thank you Ken Coates for 40 Years

After four decades, **Ken Coates** has retired from the committee of Focus magazine, bringing to a close another chapter in the publication's history. Ken joined the Focus committee at the end of 1983 as advertising manager to support Tom Cowper. Focus became a free magazine in 1984, thanks to Ken's efforts

and looked very different from the publication readers know today. Year after year, he played a steady and influential role behind the scenes, helping to guide mainly financial decisions. Among Ken's contributions was his role in instigating improvements to the magazine's production and presentation, he championed the transition from black and white to colour—a change that transformed Focus visually. Over 40 years, he provided stability through changing times and changing committees offering his experience while remaining open to new ideas. His long-standing involvement ensured that improvements were made thoughtfully, with respect for the magazine's history as well as its future. As Ken steps down from the committee, his dedication has left a lasting imprint on the publication and on those who have had the pleasure of working alongside him. The committees over the years owe Ken Coates a sincere thank you for 40 years of service and commitment. His contribution will continue to be felt in every colourful page of Focus for years to come.





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

**The next Book Swap is at St Mary's Church
Saturday March 7th from 10.30 – 12.00**

*It's our 4th birthday
Come and help us celebrate!*

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
Committee Room/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/



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MARCH-ING ON

March is a slightly odd month. It's not quite winter, not quite spring. The mornings can still feel bitter, but suddenly there's blossom on the trees and the light lingers a little longer in the evening. You leave the house wrapped up, and return wondering why you bothered with the coat at all.

It's a month of transition.

In the Christian calendar, March often sits firmly in Lent, a season that doesn't always get the same enthusiasm as Christmas or Easter. Lent doesn't come with twinkly lights or chocolate eggs (at least not officially). Instead, it invites us to slow down, take stock, and be honest about our lives and the world we're part of.

That may sound a bit gloomy, but actually, Lent, like March, is full of promise.

Lent begins with the reminder that we are human: fragile, limited, and imperfect. Not exactly a slogan for a greetings card. And yet, there is something quietly hopeful about telling the truth. About admitting that we don't always get it right, that life can be messy, that the world is complicated. Because once we stop pretending otherwise, real change becomes possible.

March is often when people start thinking again about small changes. Getting back out into the garden. Opening the windows. Going for a walk rather than another evening on the sofa. Nothing dramatic, just gentle shifts that

make life feel a bit more spacious.

In the same way, Lent isn't really about heroic self-denial or giving up chocolate with grim determination. At its best, it's about paying attention. Paying attention to how we treat one another. To where we've become distracted or worn down. To what really matters.

Jesus spent forty days in the wilderness before beginning his public ministry, a time of quiet, reflection, and preparation. Not rushing ahead, but getting ready. Lent echoes that rhythm. It reminds us that growth doesn't happen instantly. That hope often starts beneath the surface, unseen, like seeds in cold soil. And that feels very March-like.

In our villages and communities, this is often the month when things begin to stir again. Plans are made. Groups restart. People venture out a bit more. There's a sense that something new might be possible, even if we can't quite name it yet.

So perhaps this March is an invitation to be gentle with ourselves and one another. To allow space for reflection as well as action. To notice the signs of life returning, in the world around us and within us.

Spring doesn't arrive all at once. Neither does renewal. But both come, slowly and surely.

Rev Tim Haines,

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EDLESBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Including Edlesborough • Dagnall • Northall • March 2026

Clerk: Miss Penny Patakya | 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

MVAS – Moveable Vehicle Activated Speed Devices

Council now has a new location on Pebblemoor for the use of its MVAS device.

MVAS devices are primarily an educational tool. Apart from advising you of either the speed limit or the speed that you are travelling at, the devices are counting vehicles, their speed, etc. and the statistics can be used by the police to instigate the use of the camera van. No actual data is captured of vehicle registration numbers.

EPC has three MVAS devices that can be used at fourteen approved locations across Edlesborough, Dagnall and Northall.

The data is downloaded and analysed regularly and is shared with Thames Valley Police.

More information about Traffic Calming in the parish and the latest MVAS data can be viewed at www.edlesborough-pc.gov.uk/community-information/traffic-calming-in-the-parish/

Buckinghamshire Council FixMyStreet – Update

Buckinghamshire Council has upgraded FixMyStreet so residents can report problems such as damaged gates, broken bridges, missing signposts or overgrown paths using the new Public Rights of Way category.

Photos and exact map locations can be added, and reports are automatically passed to their Rights of Way team through an improved, integrated system. This means



faster routing, fewer duplicates and clearer updates.

Report an issue here:

<https://fixmystreet.buckinghamshire.gov.uk>

Buckinghamshire Council have confirmed the following

- a job has been raised to repair the Pebblemoor road surface (at the bend).
- Dagnall roundabout - the Highway Officer has carried out an inspection and has identified that there is no immediate safety issues requiring attention, the decision is that no action will be taken at this stage. The issue will be added to a package of works to be carried out at a later date.

Salt Bins, Fly Tipping and Issues with Roads and Pavements

Buckinghamshire Council has approximately 1,200 salt bins located across the county, filled prior to winter with additional refills provided following prolonged icy or snowy conditions.

Salt bins are for use on public footpaths and roads, not private land. The council is unable to grit all footways, so bins enable residents to take local action while resources are focused on priority roads.

Request a new salt bin:

<https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/parking-roads-and-transport/road-safety/salt-bins/>

Report an empty or broken salt bin:

<https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/parking-roads-and-transport/report-problems-on-roads-streets-and-pavements/report-an-empty-or-broken-grit-bin/>

EdleFest 2026

EdleFest 2026 will take place on 5th and 6th June. More information and tickets are available via the EdleFest website

<https://edlefest.site123.me/>

EPC Precept Increase for 2026/27

At the January Council meeting councillors agreed the budget for 2026/27. To keep pace with the current rate of inflation, the Council agreed to submit a precept request of £202,032 to Buckinghamshire Council. The "precept" is the amount of money Buckinghamshire Council gives to Edlesborough Parish Council from their Council Tax income. This means that the Parish Council's element of the Band D rate will increase from £138.15 to £145.06 per year for a band D property.

More information about the Council's finances can be viewed at www.edlesborough-pc.gov.uk/parish-council/annual-returns-to-audit-commission/

Litter in the Parish

Council is aware of and is **very** grateful to all the residents who litter pick in the Parish.

Due to the significant increase in litter at the Pebblemoor car park and the two bins adjacent to it on the green Council agreed to remove these two bins. Council is aware that other organisations such as the National Trust and the Canals & Rivers National Trust have taken this approach in some locations, with the aim of encouraging people to take their litter home.

Other litter and recycling bins remain in place on the Green.

Council asks all parishioners to please use litter bins provided in the Parish or to take their litter and/or recycling home.

Remember **green bins** are for general waste, **blue bins** for waste that can be recycled and **red bins** are for dog waste.

Let's work together to keep our parish litter free!

Freight Operators Licence Application at old NMJ Site.

Council was informed that an application was submitted by Eagle Freights Ltd for an HGV operator licence for the NMJ Motors site on the junction of the B489 and the B440. The application is for 20 trucks and 10 trailers.

Application reference OF2074529 SN
[https://www.vehicle-operator-](https://www.vehicle-operator-licensing.service.gov.uk/view-details/licence/629595)

[licensing.service.gov.uk/view-details/licence/629595](https://www.vehicle-operator-licensing.service.gov.uk/view-details/licence/629595)

The closing date for residents to object was 31st December 2025. Unfortunately, due to receiving the information over the Christmas period Council was unable to notify residents at the time.

The nature of this type of application is such that Council was not consulted and had no opportunity to comment or object.

EPC advises residents who are concerned about this application or who witness breaches in the Ivinghoe Freight Zone at this location to report them to the Traffic Commissioners Office via

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/traffic-commissioners/about/complaints-procedure>

More information about the Ivinghoe Freight Zone can be viewed at

<https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/parking-roads-and-transport/road-freight-and-heavy-goods-vehicles-hgvs/ivinghoe-freight-zone/>

EPC Surgery

If you have a question or suggestion for the Parish Council the Clerk will be available on the first Thursday of December, March, June and September in Edlesborough Pavilion from midday – 2pm.

Council Meetings

The next Edlesborough Parish Council Meetings will take place on:

- **Thursday 19th March 2026 – Edlesborough Pavilion**
- **Thursday 16th April 2026 – Edlesborough Pavilion**

The meetings will commence at 7:30pm.

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

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



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Five Reasons Edlesborough Pavilion Is at the Heart of Our Community

Edlesborough Pavilion is more than just a building – it's a place where our community comes together. Whether you're looking to get fit, meet new people, support local talent or simply enjoy a drink with friends, the Pavilion has something for everyone. Here are five great reasons to get involved this year.

1. A Local Affordable Gym

The Pavilion gym offers a friendly and accessible way to stay active without travelling far. It's ideal for all abilities, whether you're just starting out or keeping up a long-term fitness routine. Exercising locally also means supporting a facility that reinvests back into the community. Membership is for over 18-year-olds only. For more details email: gym@edthepav.org.uk

2. Events That Bring People Together

From music nights showcasing local talent to social events and community gatherings, the Pavilion is fast becoming a hub for entertainment in Edlesborough. These events aren't just about having a good night out – they help support local performers and businesses and strengthen the sense of community that makes our village special. The next Seniors' Lunch will take place on Tuesday 21st April from 12.00 to 2.00pm, and the Pavilion offers a warm space, providing a welcoming place for people to meet, relax, and connect.

3. A Flexible Space to Hire

Looking for a venue for a party, meeting or class? The Pavilion offers versatile spaces available for hire, suitable for everything from

birthday celebrations to fitness sessions and community groups. Hiring locally keeps events affordable and ensures the Pavilion continues to thrive. To book contact booking@edthepav.org.uk

4. A Welcoming Bar and Social Space

The Pavilion bar is a relaxed, friendly place to catch up with neighbours, make new friends and unwind. Whether it's after a gym session, during an event or just popping in for a drink, it's a space designed to be welcoming for everyone. Please check the website for the opening hours:

<http://www.edthepav.org.uk/clubdiary>.

5. A Brilliant Place to Volunteer

Volunteers are the heartbeat of Edlesborough Pavilion. From helping at events to supporting behind the scenes, volunteering is a fantastic way to meet people, learn new skills and give back to the village. We are always looking for more volunteers – even a small amount of time makes a big difference. To find out more email

general.enquiries@edthepav.org.uk

By joining, volunteering or simply attending events, you help ensure the Pavilion remains a vibrant community space for years to come.

Find out more or become a member at edthepav.org.uk.





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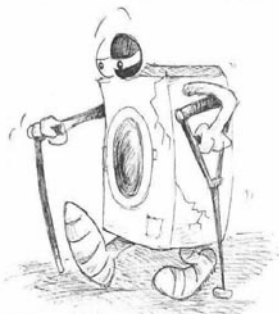
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EATON BRAY PARISH COUNCIL REPORT: FEBRUARY 2026

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/>

ALLOTMENT INSPECTION – MAY 2026



An allotment inspection is due to be carried out on **Tuesday 19th May 2026.**

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



DOG FOULING IN THE PARISH

We love seeing everyone out walking their furry friends, however we want to keep the area clean and safe for everyone - especially children playing on the grass.

We have noticed recently in the recreation grounds an increase in dog poop being left and not removed... as a gentle reminder, please remember to bring a bag, pick up after your dog and dispose of it in the dog bins provided or take it home and dispose of it as you do there.

Thank you for doing your part to help keep our village clean.



THE RYE CAR PARK BOLLARD

The Parish Council are reminding all recreation ground users that the bollard, at the entrance to the car park, will be raised prior to Bank Holiday weekends. This is to ensure that no unauthorised vehicles can gain access during these periods. The bollard is lowered after the long weekend.

EATON BRAY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON MONDAY 12TH JANUARY 2026, from 7:30pm

(Minutes ratified at the Parish Council Meeting on Monday 2nd February 2026)

CBC CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

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

- RoadGritting: Cllr Spicer is awaiting details of roads approved for gritting in the parish.
- Wallace Drive: Cllr Spicer is in communication with CBC regarding the poor quality of this road and much needed works required.

BEDFORDSHIRE POLICE

PCSO Rachel Carne – email
rachel.carne@beds.police.uk

- There have been a spate of burglaries in neighbouring areas, currently no reports in Eaton Bray. The police are monitoring the situation.
- The Parish Council raised concerns regarding van break ins in the parish. These concerns have been noted and recorded.
- The Parish Council has forwarded dates to the local police for parish community events planned for this year, with possible attendance. Subject to availability.
- 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/leighton-buzzard--rural/about-us/crime-map>

SCHOOL LANE RECREATION GROUND

Skate Park: The Parish Council will be carrying out repairs to the skate park in the next few months.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS /APPEALS/ ENFORCEMENT NOTICES – DECEMBER 2025/JANUARY 2026

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.

MONTHLY PAYMENTS: JANUARY 2026/PERIOD 10

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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY COMMUNITY EVENTS:

(1) Picnic in the Park with music from the Heath Band:

Sunday 30th August 2026, School Lane recreation ground (3pm-4:45pm)

The Parish Council are once again organising a picnic in the park with music from the Heath Band. Bring your own food and enjoy the music. 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).

(2) Music with the Heath Brass Band and Christmas Carols

Wednesday 16th December 2026, 7pm at Market Place, Market Square, Eaton Bray.

The Parish Council will once again be organising Christmas Carols in the village. The Brass Band will be helping residents celebrate the festive season. We will be doing a charity collection during the event and would like to thank everyone that attended last year, we collected £260 of which £130 went to Appledown Boarding Kennels and £130 to The Wednesday Club. Please check the Parish Council Facebook page/website for any updates (subject to cancellation for poor weather).



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

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

- Parish Council Meeting, Monday 2nd March 2026, from 7:30pm
- Parish Council Meeting, Monday 13th April 2026, from 7:30pm

PARISH COUNCIL OFFICE (Ground floor)

**10am-12noon at The Coffee Tavern,
18 High Street, Eaton Bray, LU6 2DP**

(Open dates/times subject to change, please check the EBPC Website for updates)

Tuesday 10th March 2026

Tuesday 21st April 2026

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An illustration of the Eaton Bray Academy building, a large, modern structure with a glass entrance and a red roof. The building is surrounded by green trees and a large tree in the foreground. Several children are shown playing in the schoolyard. In the top left corner, there is a blue badge with the Ofsted logo and the text 'Ofsted Good Provider'. In the top right corner, a red banner contains the text '"Pupils are unfailingly proud of their school" Ofsted, 2019'.

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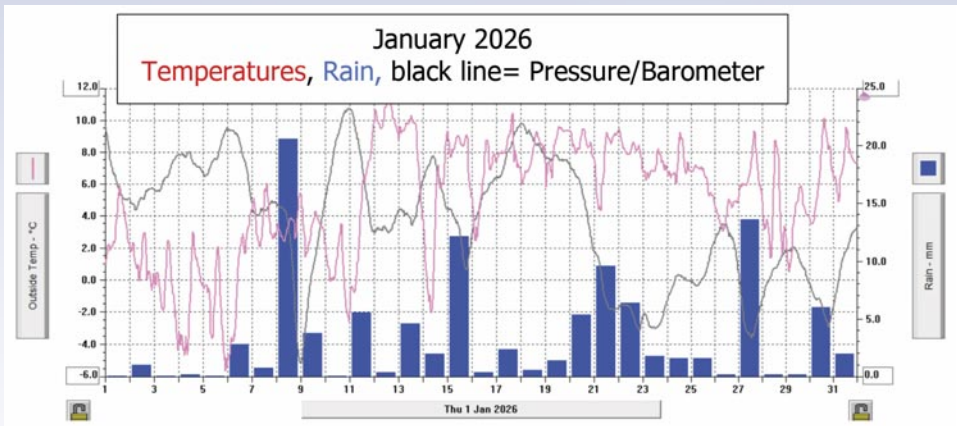
DAGNALL WEATHER STATION (AONB)

Weather Conditions for January 2026

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

January started cold in the first week with the temperatures dropping to -5.7°C on the 5th. The second week saw some frosty mornings, then the temperature rose slightly to leave the rest of the month frost free. The highest temperature was on the 12th of January at 11.9°C. Overall, it was a wet and dull month with damp and cloudy days. Rain was recorded on 27 days, although some were just mist or drizzle which registered 0.2-0.4mm on the gauge. The wettest day was the 8th with a total of 20.6mm, while January as a whole recorded 107.4mm rainfall: 144% of the average. It was also a windy month with above average wind speed.

	High	Date/Time	Low	Date/Time
Temperature:	11.9°C	12 Jan 00.30	-5.7°C	5 Jan 22.00
Mean Temperature	5.0°C			
Dewpoint:	9.7°C	12 Jan 16.30	-6.5°C	5 Jan 21.30
Humidity:	100%	11 Jan 20.00	71%	3 Jan 13.00
Barometer:	1021.5mb	10 Jan 22.30	977.3mb	9 Jan 00.00
Wind Speed	39 mph SSE	11 Jan 20.00	Months avg.	7.6 mph
Wind Chill:	10.5°C	12 Jan 15.00	-7.2°C	6 Jan 00.00
Dominant Wind:	SSE			
Rainfall *T= total rain days and moisture. R= Actual rain				
*Rain Days: 27(T), 27(R)	Wettest Day 8 Jan		20.6 mm	0.724 ins
Monthly Rain:	Total	January 2026	107.4 mm	4.228 ins
Yearly Rain:	Total	1 Month	107.4 mm	4.228 ins



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.

NORTHALL BAPTIST CHURCH - 200 YEARS AND STILL GOING

A little Church with strong local links.

Well-Being

These days we are all encouraged to think about our own well-being – it is a complex combination of physical, mental, emotional and social health factors. Each New Year we are inspired or motivated to drink less alcohol, move more or start a diet, all to improve our well-being. But is that the answer to how we feel?

What makes us happy? It's often hard to decide. Good health plays a big part and a happy family situation is what gives most folks pleasure and a feeling of security.

Some people cope better than others with difficult circumstances. Quite often several problems come along at the same time making things really difficult. A smile or an understanding gesture helps us feel better.

I have recent experience with the NHS and been absolutely amazed at the understanding and caring attitude from all their staff.

Jesus when he was here on earth helped and healed many people both physically and mentally. He also taught through parables or stories: one in particular was about caring for our fellow man regardless

of their background or

faith. The well-known parable of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10 gives an important message – who is it who cares? A man travelling alone on the main Jerusalem to Jericho Road,

was attacked by robbers. He was wounded and needed some help, as we all do from time to time. The story that Jesus told was to illustrate a point that the very people who you would expect to help, in those days the influential Priest and then the respected Levite, pillars of the Community, didn't act as their spiritual calling would expect.

The person who did help the injured man was a Samaritan, who was ethnically unacceptable to the Jews at that time. He treated his wounds, paid for his care even offering to return to pay more if needed. Although Jesus was a Jew the story tells us that the caring person is whoever is showing God's love and mercy regardless of their background.

Many people need care or a little extra help on a daily basis and we all need attention from time to time. Those who provide the help or care with a smile and respect are those who improve both their own well-being as well as that of the person needing help.

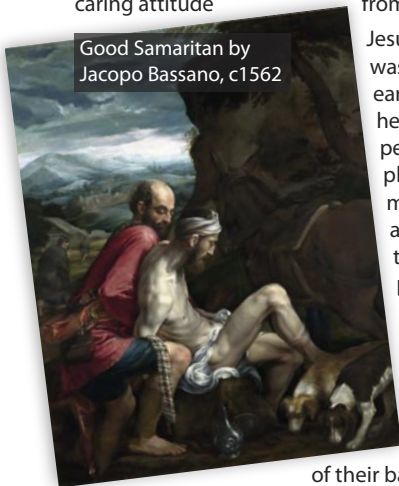
Jesus told the story as a result of a question to him – who is my neighbour? We are all each other's neighbour. Matthew 25 verse 36 tells us that if we feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, give clothes to those who need them or visit someone who is lonely, we are serving our Heavenly Father.

Join us for our regular 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.



Good Samaritan by Jacopo Bassano, c1562



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Eaton Bray 
Good Neighbours

Eaton Bray Good Neighbours is part of a network of similar groups

operating under the umbrella of Bedfordshire Rural Charities. Our local group covers Eaton Bray, Edlesborough, Totternhoe and Northall and has now been in operation for over ten years. New volunteers are always welcome and we particularly need drivers. Volunteers are not 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. If you don't want to be driving, we also have phone holders who are on a voluntary rota to organise volunteers as requests for help come in.

In 2025 we gave lifts to over 400 health appointments and 126 lifts for social and other events. We also collected and delivered 167 prescriptions and carried out 32 errands such as shopping and post office. All this needs volunteers and we are always looking for new recruits, especially drivers for giving lifts. Here is what volunteers have to say;

Steve began volunteering during Covid then started again when he retired as he enjoyed it so much. He delivers prescriptions on his trusty motorbike. He says "When you get a text to help and you can do it great, but if you can't there is no pressure as there is always someone that can. The people I help are so grateful too which makes it so worthwhile."

Paul told us a neighbour introduced him and he has been a volunteer since June 2025. Paul says "What a nice thing to do. I find it very rewarding acting as a lifeline to so many local residents. There is no pressure put on volunteers to undertake tasks and EBGN are a really friendly group of caring people to be associated with."

Carolyn says she enjoys volunteering, meeting new people and going to a variety of difference places.

EBGN is a service Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm. We look forward to hearing from you. Our telephone number is 07930 987064

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



OPEN GARDENS

~ 2026 ~

Since 2006, one of the social highlights of the year in our villages has been our **Open Gardens** event. We have had some wonderful afternoons enjoying gardens that have been opened by willing gardeners; both the gardeners and visitors enjoy the event which this year will take place on **Sunday 14th June 11.30 to 5pm**. People who have previously opened their gardens in mid-June may wish to show off an entirely fresh colour scheme this year. This is a really special event in our villages' calendar.

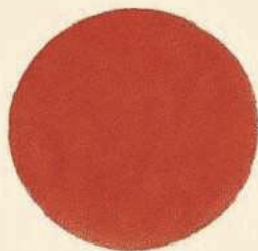
Now is the time to offer to open your garden. It can be large or small, newly designed or mature - all gardens have something to offer visitors and past experience suggests that those who open their gardens are delighted by the positive feedback they receive.

Would you open your garden for a few hours on a Sunday afternoon?

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Fun in Focus: Enjoyment Before Everything

As the season builds, remind kids that football should always be fun. Sessions that make kids laugh are just as valuable as technical drills..

Coaching Tip: Try themed sessions—pirate football, superhero warm-ups, or silly skills challenges—to keep training joyful.



Daniel Piley

Coach for EB Lions
U11 Saturday Team





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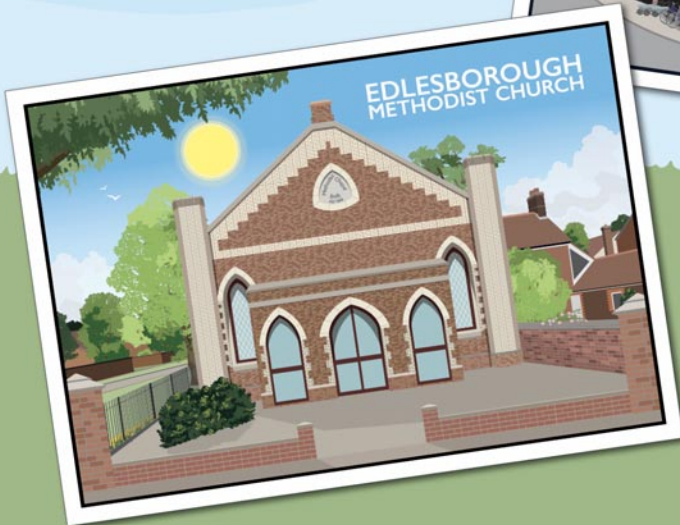
Pauline, Louise and David would like to say thank you to everyone for their condolences on the sudden death of Reginald, who passed away on January 7th 2026.

He will be sorely missed by his family and friends who new him.

Many thanks Pauline Hellard

HAPPY EASTER

FROM
**CHURCHES
TOGETHER**



DAGNALL,
EATON BRAY,
EDLESBOROUGH
& NORTHALL

Christians in the four villages i

CHURCH OF ENGLAND (Anglican Communion)

Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin, Eaton Bray with Edlesborough

Palm Sunday, 29 March	10.00am	Short C
	10.30am	Walk o
Monday in Holy Week, 30 March	7.30pm	North C
Tuesday in Holy Week, 31 March	7.30pm	NCG S
Wednesday in Holy Week, 1 April	7.30pm	NCG S
Maundy Thursday, 2 April	8.00pm	Comm
	9.00pm - midnight	Watch
Good Friday, 3 April	10.30am - 12.30pm	Messy
Easter Day, 5 April	8.00am	Holy C
	10.00am	Sung E

All Saints', Dagnall

Good Friday, 3 April	3.00pm	"An Ho
Easter Day, 5 April	10.30am	Family

BAPTIST CHURCH NORTHALL (Chapel Lane)

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

Palm Sunday, 29 March	11.00am	Palm S
Maundy Thursday, 2 April	7.30pm	Service
Easter Day, 5 April	11.00am	Service

THE SALVATION ARMY (Eaton Bray, Booth Place)

Palm Sunday, 29 March	11.00am	Joint S
Easter Day, 5 April	11.00am	Easter

EDLESBOROUGH and KENSWORTH METHODIST CHURCH and E

(April joint services at Edlesborough Methodist Church)

Palm Sunday, 29 March	10.30am	Meet a
		Salvati
	11.00am	Joint S
Good Friday, 3 April	10.30am	United
Easter Day, 5 April	10.30am	United

invite you to worship with them

h (High Street, Eaton Bray)

Churches Together Service

of Witness to the Salvation Army, Booth Place for coffee and fellowship

Chilterns Group Eucharist (NCG) St Mary's, Kensworth

Service, Stanbridge

Service St Mary's, Eaton Bray

Union Service remembering the Last Supper

of the Passion (silent prayer – feel free to join and leave as you like)

Church, Eaton Bray Village Hall

Communion

Eucharist and Easter Egg Hunt

our at The Cross" (Devotional Service)

Communion

Sunday Service

e of Holy Communion

e of Celebration – Christ is Risen from the Dead!

Service at Booth Place

Praise at Booth Place

EATON BRAY METHODIST CHURCH

t Eaton Bray Village Hall car park for Palm Sunday procession to
on Army Hall for

Service with Salvation Army

Service of Prayer and Reflection led by Rev Tim Haines

Easter Communion Praise led by Rev Patrick Kandeh



The Good News of Easter

The chief executive of Apple said, fake news is 'killing people's minds'. The challenge is to work out if things are true or not.

Christians claim that Jesus is good news because he came to share God's love. Biblical writers show how Jesus died on the cross and then rose again on the first Easter day. Many dismiss this as 'fake news'. I believe it's true.

As Christians we believe that Jesus is God's son and that because he has risen from death we too can have eternal life after death when we put our trust in him. That is why Easter is such a joyful festival. It celebrates new life - the new life of Jesus and the new life we can have through him.

The Churches Together in Eaton Bray, Edlesborough, Northall and Dagnall invite you to come and celebrate with us and find out more about the good news of Jesus Christ this Easter.

(Revd Joy Cousins).





Dunstable foodbank



I had the pleasure of presenting the Dunstable Food Bank with a cheque for £421. So a big thank you to everybody that bought a Memories Calendar, those who donated money or sold calendars for me.

These include Louise & Andy Janes, The lovely lads in Nisa, The White Horse, coffee mornings at St Mary's, Christmas Church Lunch, Wednesday Club, Farmers Inn, Memorial Hall & Cross Keys Totternhoe.

Thanks to Celia and Peter French, Jill Bunker and Jim Hawkins for sharing their precious photos and the wonderful stories behind them.

Finally a correction on the May page and the Five Bells Pub, Ted Rogers is Dick Wood son.

Kathy Ellison.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE WHEN LIVING IN RURAL BUCKS

Healthwatch Bucks latest project looks at how those living in the rural parts of Bucks access health and social care.

Project Manager, Alison Holloway says: "We know that people living in rural areas may experience health and social care services differently from those living in towns in Buckinghamshire. It's important for us to learn more about any difficulties these communities might encounter."

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) define a rural community as people living in areas with fewer than 10,000 residents. So, if you live in a village or a rural area, please tell Healthwatch Bucks what works for you and what could make it easier for you to access any health or social care such as dentists, hospitals, and respite care.

People can share their feedback in confidence via their online survey via this QR code, or on their website <https://bit.ly/4jVz2HB>



The survey closes on 31 May.

Healthwatch Bucks would also like to have small group discussions with 6 to 12 people, especially if you're not comfortable using a computer to fill out our survey. Please call them on 01494 324832 if you would be interested in hosting a group to talk in more detail about this subject.

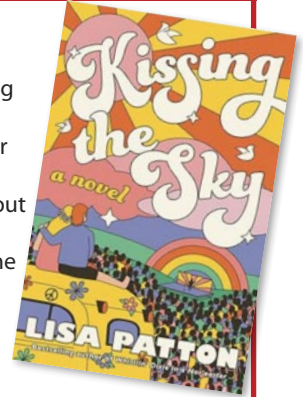
Healthwatch Bucks will write a report summarising what they have been told. It will include recommendations about what would make accessing health and social care rural in Bucks better.

Zoe McIntosh, Chief Executive of Healthwatch Bucks, says: "Our goal is to make sure local people influence the health and care services that residents of Buckinghamshire use. It's very important that those living in the countryside feel heard and can easily get the care they need. We will share what we find out so we can help to bring about positive change where it's needed."

BOOK REVIEWS

Kissing the Sky by Lisa Patton

From the bestselling author of *Whistlin' Dixie* in a Nor'easter comes a soulful, nostalgic novel about a young woman coming of age in the '60s to the blare of the music that shaped a generation.



It's the summer of '69. While her peers revel in free love and rock and roll, Suzannah is home from college, sequestered inside her conservative Southern home. Her domineering father has condemned rock music and driven away her best friend. She's counting the days until fall.

But everything changes when her free-spirited best friend, Livy, resurfaces, urging Suzannah, a talented singer, to join her for three days of peace and music in upstate New York. Fed up with her father's rules and fearful for her brother's fate in Vietnam, Suzannah agrees to the road trip, sneaking off without her parents' knowledge.

Miles outside her comfort zone, the electrifying bedlam of Woodstock jolts her into a journey of self-transformation. But it's not all incense and peppermints. Suzannah's falling hard for Leon, a boy she meets at the festival, and the seductive bud of first love conceals a thorn of heartache. Lies uncover betrayal, and Livy's wild behavior leads to a startling revelation.

A nostalgic trip through the turbulent '60s, this is the story of a lovable heroine who lets go of the girl she was to embrace the woman she's becoming while she learns to lift her voice—for herself and perhaps for the world.

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Eaton Bray Vicarages



The Vicarage in the early 19th century

The earliest reference to the vicarage at Eaton Bray comes in a document of church property compiled by the Archdeaconry of Bedford in 1708. The house was built of timber, (presumably it was half-timbered with render infill) and had a thatched roof. It had three rooms downstairs, two with brick floors, one with an earthen floor and five bed chambers upstairs. Barns and stables lay outside. A painting of this property survives from the early 19th century.

A photograph of the Vicarage from about 1920 reveals a totally different building, so presumably the old property was pulled down and replaced. Plans dated 1828 by Robert Feake Nixon, surveyor and builder of Woburn are held at the archive of the Diocese of Lincoln. It seems likely that the newer building was built on or near the same spot as it would have occupied the glebe land. The only map of Eaton Bray to pre-date this, a strip map of 1819 simply shows some properties in the area of the later vicarage, but they are simple rectangles to denote a building rather than an attempt to trace the shape of the building itself. This is not surprising as the map is simply designed to show land ownership.

The Vicarage about 1920

The Rating and Valuation Act 1925 specified that every building and piece of land in the country was to be assessed to determine its rateable value. Eaton Bray, like much of the county, was assessed in 1927 and the valuer visiting the vicarage found that it stood in 1.893 acres. The building comprised three drawing rooms, a work room, a kitchen, a scullery and pantry with seven bedrooms



and a bathroom above. A brick and slate coal shed, a store and a W. C. stood outside together with a weather-boarded garage The

valuer was not impressed commenting: "Not up to much"

Papers held at the Ely Diocesan Archive from 1873 show alterations and additions to the vicarage at that date. Bedfordshire and Luton Archives and Records Service holds a number of papers relating to the vicarage and its



demise, finally vacated in 1970. The new vicarage was 27 The Comp and it served as

an interim measure before a new vicarage could be built. The Comp seems to have been used from 1970 to about 1973, when the Vicarage moved to 11 High Street, where it remains at the time of writing [2012].



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Wednesday Club

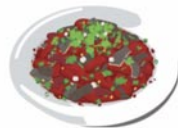


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Wednesday Club



AGE
Concern

Charity No. 293080

January into February has continued to be a truly phenomenal time for us All at Club!!

Headline and quite possibly our most exciting news EVER is the arrival of our "New to Us" minibus!!! All those connected & familiar with the Club shall know that our Old Faithful (minibus) has served us well for so many years ... we've been saving, fundraising, and dreaming for several years of a modern updated vehicle with which to transport our members to & from.

With many thanks to a remarkably dedicated sub-committee, some generous donor funds and our fundraising pot, the Dream became reality as we have taken delivery of this beauty - please see the images.

In mid-January approximately 30 of us took part in a couple of CPR/Defib information sessions. We got to explore some of the equipment, discussed procedure & got to test our visitor's vast knowledge. This was all thanks to a volunteers contact in the "know" and was much appreciated by all attendees on the day.

Our 5 ***** Food Hygiene streak continues with a visit from the EHO in late January. All our volunteer cook teams are to be praised for their high standards - the team on the day are a credit to you all - many thanks.

Don't forget our Quiz Night on Friday 13th - I'm reliably informed that tickets are now limited.

Wednesday Club phone is not monitored daily so please leave a message or text on 0785 4230243 thank you





THE FRIENDS OF THE CHURCH ON THE HILL, EDLESBOROUGH



2026
EdleFest

CHECK OUT THIS YEAR'S LINE-UP FOR OUR VERY OWN MUSIC FESTIVAL

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

This **June 5th and 6th** you could be enjoying a glass of something in the sunshine at the Church on the Hill, a stunning medieval venue overlooking Aylesbury Vale, before sitting down (or even dancing, if you prefer!) to two evenings of fabulous live music.

We've got another great line-up for you this year, bringing you artists who you'd normally find playing at the Albert Hall, Glastonbury or the O2 Arena. We've even got Ashley Campbell, daughter of Glen Campbell, to sprinkle a little bit of Nashville magic in the village! You can check out all the details by searching online for **EdleFest**, or visiting edlefest.site123.me, but meanwhile here's a quick taster of what's to come...

Friday 5th June



The Often Herd

Transcending the traditional boundaries of bluegrass music. *"For those who think they don't like bluegrass, this could be the point they change their minds"*



John Smith

Pioneering singer-songwriter with over 125 million Spotify streams – and for good reason! *"At the forefront of British folk and roots music for twenty years"*



Roswell Road

A joyful, harmony-obsessed Americana duo likened to First Aid Kit and the Indigo Girls. *"A duo whose voices combine to create a seamless flow of rich, harmonic beauty"* - Americana UK

Saturday 6th June



Foreign Affairs

BBC Radio 2 regulars, a blues/roots band who are rising fast across the UK and Europe. *"Swaggering and playful, a blues-infused middle finger to monotony"* - Earmilk Magazine



Ashley Campbell Duo

Daughter of country legend Glen Campbell, and now an acclaimed star in her own right. *"Featured on a Grammy award winning and Oscar nominated album"*



The Dicemen

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

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

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



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

See you there!



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Lucas (Northall)

★★★★★



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Warren (Eaton Bray)

★★★★★



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Jim (Eaton Bray)

★★★★★



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

Bernadette (Edlesborough)

★★★★★



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Andrew Janes (Edlesborough)

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Wills versus Lasting Power of Attorney

Key Differences

When planning for the future, many people assume that writing a Will is enough to ensure their affairs are in order. However, a Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA) serves a different and equally important purpose. Whilst both documents help manage personal affairs, they operate at different times and cover different aspects of decision making.

What is a Will?

A Will is a legally binding document that outlines how a person's estate (money, property, and possessions) should be distributed after their death. It allows individuals to:

- Appoint executors to manage their estate
- Specify who should inherit their assets
- Name guardians for any minor children
- Make their funeral wishes known
- Provide for charities or other beneficiaries
- A Will only takes effect upon the death of the person who has created it and can be changed throughout your lifetime.

What is a Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA)?

An LPA is a legal document that allows someone to appoint one or more individuals (the attorneys) to make decisions on their behalf if they lose mental capacity during their lifetime. There are two types of LPAs:

1. Health and Welfare LPA – These covers decisions about medical treatment, care, and daily living. It only takes effect if the donor (the person putting the LPA in place) loses mental capacity. Whilst the donor has capacity, only they will make decisions about their health and welfare.
2. Property and Financial Affairs LPA – This allows the attorneys to manage finances, including bank accounts, bills, property

sales, and investments. It can be used either before or after the donor loses mental capacity, depending on their wishes.

Unlike a Will, an LPA is valid only during the donor's lifetime. Once the donor passes away, the LPA ceases to be effective, and the executor of the Will takes over.

Key differences

The main difference between a Will and an LPA is their purpose. A Will is designed to distribute a person's assets after death, while an LPA is intended to manage a person's affairs during their lifetime if they lose mental capacity.

A Will takes effect only after death, whereas an LPA can take effect during the donor's lifetime if required. In a Will, individuals appoint executors to manage their estate, whereas in an LPA, they appoint attorneys to make decisions on their behalf.

Another key difference is that a Will does not require registration with any authority before it becomes valid. In contrast, an LPA must be registered with the Office of the Public Guardian before it can be used.

Do I need a Will and an LPA?

Yes. Many people create a Will but overlook setting up an LPA. However, without an LPA, if you lose mental capacity due to illness or an accident, no one (not even family) has automatic rights to manage your affairs. They would have to apply to the Court of Protection for a deputyship order. This will lead to delays, potential financial difficulties, and costly court applications.

By having both a Will and an LPA, you ensure that your affairs are taken care of, both during your lifetime and after your death by those appointed. You also ensure that you are appointing people whom your trust.

Danesborough Chorus Spring Concert



Saturday 28th March 2026 at 7.30pm
St Mary's Parish Church, Woburn



Josef Rheinberger: *Mass in E flat*

Ola Gjeilo: *Sunrise Mass*

Accompanist: Tim Grant-Jones

Conducted by Ian Smith

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EATON BRAY WI

theWI Our meeting on Monday, 2nd February started on a serious note with members choosing from a selection of suggested resolutions which will form the basis of the next W.I. national campaign. After a secret ballot, the clear winner was the resolution to campaign for 'Accessible Public Toilet Facilities to Promote Dignity, Health and Social Inclusion.' We then lightened the evening with a spirited game of 'Crazy Bag Whist', which resulted in much hilarity, especially when the fun gifts people had won were revealed at the end of the game.

Members are now looking forward to our annual Birthday Lunch at The Swan

in Northall on Friday, 20th February.

At our next meeting on Monday, 2nd March we will hear a talk by David Swain on the work of the charity 'Shelterbox', which provides supplies for people who have been forced to flee their homes due to conflict or crisis.

(Report by Lyn Stubbs)

Our new venue is the Salvation Army Hall in Booth place at 7.30 pm 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 07772 901816

INSPIRING WOMEN

THE GREAT BRITISH LITTER PICK IN THE VILLAGES

This year the Great British Litter Pick (formerly known as the Keep Britain Tidy Campaign) will be taking place between March 13th and March 29th. The Edlesborough and Northall litter pickers will be out in force - but they have been busy all winter (when it has stopped raining) keeping your villages clean and tidy. However, litter is an ongoing problem which affects everyone in the villages and should not be left to the dedicated members of the Group. We all want to be proud of where we live and want it to look good so we should all take part.

If you are interested in joining an organised litter pick in the area, please contact me at lornamcubbage@gmail.com. But you can also do your bit by making an effort to take all your litter home with you and bin it and also by keeping the area around your home clear of debris. By keeping the centre of the villages clean, this gives the group the opportunity to tackle to more outlying areas around the villages.

Thank you for your support with this.

Lorna Cubbage



Dunstable Probus Club

Dunstable PROBUS Club meets on the second Monday of the month at Tilsworth Golf Centre and membership is open to retired or semi-retired professional and business people.

The Club's main purpose is the promotion of good fellowship. Members enjoy some social activities and the occasional organised visit throughout the year and after their regular monthly lunch meetings are entertained by speakers who give talks on a wide range of topics.

If you are interested in joining the Club, please contact the Secretary, Philip Savage on 01582 662462.



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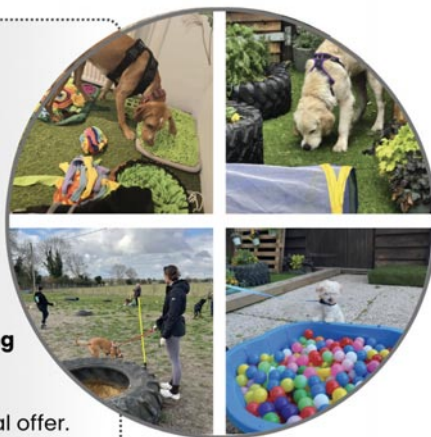
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Edlesborough Pavilion & Edlesborough Community Sports Club CIO

In late 2021 Edlesborough Parish Council (EPC) was delighted to announce that the new Edlesborough Pavilion was open.

This project originated in 2012 when EPC began consultations on what was to be done with the 'old', 'unfit for use' and unsightly pavilion.



The old, not fit for purpose Pavilion.



Edlesborough Pavilion today.

The vision was gradually developed for a new building which would not only provide first class sports facilities but would also provide excellent amenities for the wider community to use.

The total cost of designing, building and equipping the new Edlesborough Pavilion was £1,126,775. Below is a table showing how this was funded.

EPC gave a 25 year lease to ECSC CIO (Edlesborough Community Sports Club CIO), to manage and operate the new Pavilion for the benefit of all Edlesborough Parish residents – who are automatically eligible for free

membership. (Edlesborough Parish includes the villages of Edlesborough, Dagnall and Northall).

Questions have been raised as to why people who reside outside of Edlesborough Parish are required to pay a nominal membership to ECSC CIO. The reason for this is that Edlesborough Parish residents paid and continue to pay for the funding of the building through their precept. (The "precept" is the amount of money Buckinghamshire Council gives to Edlesborough Parish Council from their Council Tax income.) The building is an Edlesborough Parish Council asset for the benefit of its residents.

EPC would like once again to give thanks to the Trustees of ECSC CIO, ECSC Trading Company and all the volunteers who give so much time and energy to the day to day running of Edlesborough Pavilion. It really is a mammoth task! Without all these amazing people Edlesborough Pavilion would not be the success it currently is!

To activate your membership or if you live outside Edlesborough Parish please visit

<https://edthepav.org.uk/> or contact membership@edthepav.org.uk

Residents of neighbouring parishes are welcome to join and benefit from the building for a nominal annual fee. This is currently £50 per year for a family membership covering two adults in the same household, or £30 for a single adult membership. Fees to be paid annually in advance.

Funder	£
New Homes Bonus Board (AVDC Grant as a result of the new houses in Edlesborough)	350,000
AVDC S106 (contribution from developers of new houses in Edlesborough)	334,000
EPC – Special Projects – funds built-up over past years	195,275
EPC – 30 years loan from the Public Works Loan Board	175,000
ECSC and its donors	50,000
Sport England	22,000
EB Lions FC	500
TOTAL	1,126,775

Article by Edlesborough Parish Council
February 2026 www.edlesborough-pc.gov.uk

Totternhoe GARDEN CLUB

March 2026

Our first evening meeting of the year on 15 January was really well supported and many members renewed their subscription.

Andy Sands had us all enthralled with his beautiful photographs which covered an enormous range of wildlife and habitats plus fungus in its own strange world. We were treated to the delights of Burnham Beeches, Scotland and the Isle of Mull plus tales of capturing pictures of an osprey catching fish - unfortunately it had dropped it, but it was still a startling image. He also regaled us with how he had surreptitiously brought home animal droppings to grow fungus on and had hid it from his wife in the kitchen! We had to suffer two power cuts towards the end of the talk which had affected the entire village, but we were able to resume with little effect.

Our next meeting is on 12 March at 7.30pm at St Giles Hall when the speaker will be Kathy Doyle telling us about sustainable or

organic gardening. Visitors are always welcome.

We also hope to have available the lists for the forthcoming outings. We went to some interesting places last year and I have included a few pictures of interest.

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

For more information about Totternhoe 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



Ian, Lynn & Liz



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HELPFUL TIPS ON FINANCE

Use It or Lose It — Tax Year-End Planning

The end of the tax year (5 April) is fast approaching, and March is your last chance to make use of annual tax allowances.

Key things to review:

- ISA contributions (limit: £20,000)
- Pension contributions and tax relief
- Capital gains and dividend allowances
- Charitable donations and gift aid claims

If you run a business, consider bonuses, pension contributions, and capital investments before year-end to optimise tax efficiency.

Tip of the Month: Use your full ISA allowance before 5 April — it's a tax-free wrapper you don't want to waste.



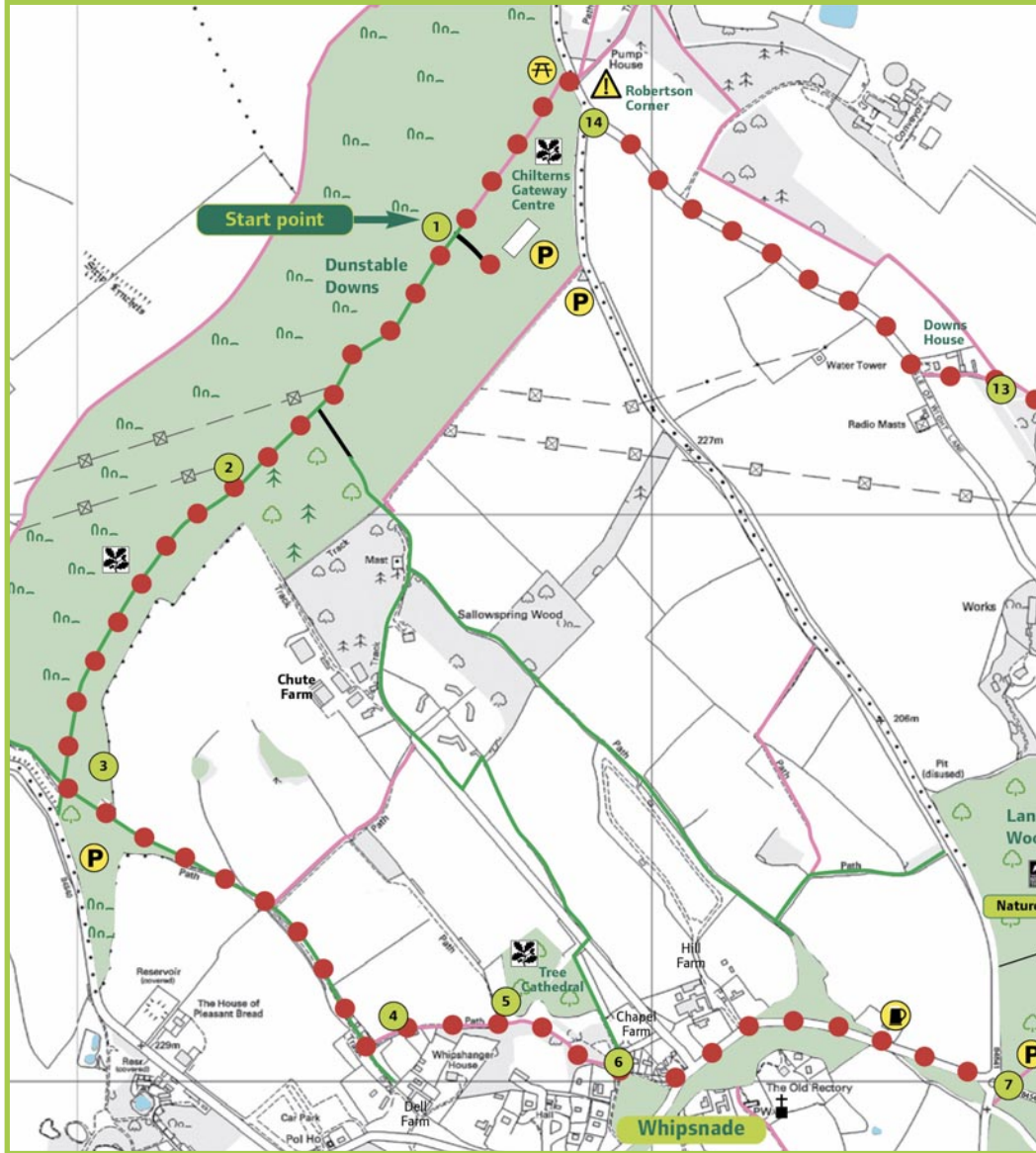
Daniel Riley
(Riley Accountants)

CIRCULAR WALKS

WHIPSNADE

WALK: APPROX. 4.5 MILES/7.2KM TIME: 2.5 HOURS

The village of Whipnade was not named in the Domesday Survey and was possibly an amalgamation of lands recorded in 1086 from Eaton Bray and Studham and possibly Totternhoe, indeed during the 12th Century much of the parish was still wilderness. A settler named Wibba cleared a piece of the woodland giving the parish the 13th Century name of 'Wibba's Snaed'.



COUNTRYSIDE CODE

Be safe – plan ahead and follow any signs

Leave gates and property as you find them

Protect plants and animals, and take your litter home

Consider other people.

Key

● ● ● ● ● ●	The walk
— (pink)	Footpath
— (green)	Bridleway
— (black)	Other Paths
🌳 🌳 🌳 🌳	Woodlands
Ⓟ	Parking
🏠	Public house
🌳	Picnic area
⛪	Church
🌿	Open space
🦉	Wildlife Trust
🦉	National Trust



- 1 From the Chilterns Gateway Centre walk down past the Windcatcher and turn left on to the bridleway.
- 2 Continue along the bridleway, through the gate into a grazing meadow with a line of beach trees then a woodland on your left.
- 3 Leave the grazing area through the gate and immediately turn left and continue along the bridleway following the sunken lane.
- 4 Directly after the house, turn left through the gap in the fence, follow the footpath along the side of the house boundary to a kissing gate, walk through the field with fencing on the right to the next gate that leads into the meadow around the Tree Cathedral
- 5 **PLEASE TAKE TIME TO EXPLORE THE TREE CATHEDRAL** Bear slightly right with the Tree Cathedral on your left, continue and walk on through the Tree Cathedral car park
- 6 Cross the road with care and follow the road towards Kensworth, past the church, downhill and past the Old Hunters Lodge public house, to the Whippsnade roundabout.
- 7 Cross the road with care to Whippsnade Heath car park. Follow the tarmac path and then follow the footpath straight on through woodland.
- 8 Continue through woodland, follow the footpath straight on to kissing gate and cross into pasture, cross field to roadside opposite Greenend Farm.
- 9 Cross the road and follow the footpath to the right of Old Greenend Farm which leads down onto Codlings Bank.
- 10 In the valley bottom turn left through kissing gate and walk diagonally uphill across pasture to go through kissing gate by telegraph pole and continue straight on and through kissing gate in chain link fence.
- 11 Enter tree plantation and follow path left downhill past brick built shed to join track by the quarry's chain link fence.
- 12 Follow the track with the fence line on your right to the corner, bear right off the track onto the gently rising headland. Follow the left hand field edge in the direction of a mixed tree plantation with tall aerial on skyline.
- 13 Follow the headland path with the copse on your left and turn left into copse at the way mark post. Follow the path to the roadside and turn right to join Isle of Wight Lane and continue to junction with B4541 at Robertson Corner.
- 14 Cross the road with care and turn left to return to the Chilterns Gateway Centre.

Dogs are welcome on all our sites and rights of way but do keep them under control and away from any grazing animals as well as other visitors and please be a considerate owner; clean up if your dog leaves a mess.

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APPLEDOWN RESCUE DOG OF THE MONTH



Lovely Dottie is a bulldog cross aged almost 2 years. She has undergone eye surgery since this photo was taken and is now ready to find the loving home she so deserves. Dottie has not had a good start in life before coming to us and can be a little shy on meeting new people, but as soon as she knows you are a friend she loves cuddles! Dottie has some food allergies but we can offer all the advice necessary. A very sweet girl who could probably live with a male dog pending introductions. Any children 7+.

For more information please see her album on our Facebook page, or email the kennels. Visit our website for details about adoption and an application form. Viewings are by appointment only. Information about ways to donate to support our work can be found on our website.

Appledown Rescue & Rehoming Kennels Harling Road, Eaton Bray, Beds LU6 1QY

01525 220383 (10am-1pm & 2-4 pm) • Email: appledown.kennels@btinternet.com

Website: www.appledownrescue.co.uk

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Hello all you wonderful Quizzers

ANNOUNCING

the **Next Quiz on 11th April 2026**

Eaton Bray Village Hall

6.30pm for start @ 7pm

**Once again supporting great local charities, Appledown
Kennels & Dunstable Foodbank**

Please put the date in your diaries. Email me for more details

Robert Taylor & The EB Quiz Elves

Mintyman1958@gmail.com 07497 514919



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Have your say on our updated proposals!



Grand Union
Canal Transfer
Moving water together

We want to hear your views on plans for a vital new scheme to bring water from the Midlands to the Southeast. The scheme will secure future drinking water supplies, protect the environment, ensure future water availability for canal navigation, and unlock investment in our communities, now and in the future.

Phase Two Public Consultation

Our second public consultation will take place from **Wednesday 11 February to Thursday 2 April 2026** 

All feedback to this consultation must be received in writing by **11:59pm on Thursday 2 April 2026**.





















Take part in the consultation, provide your comments and feedback on our plans:

-  **Online:** complete and submit a feedback form on our website: www.guctransfer.co.uk
-  **Email:** email your feedback to contact@guctransfer.co.uk
-  **Freepost:** post a hard copy feedback form or a written response to **Freepost GRAND UNION CANAL TRANSFER** (no stamp required).

Have your say and find out more at one of our events

Consultation events

Larger community events where you can meet our technical experts, view large scale maps and provide your feedback

-  **Hurley Village Hall, Hurley**
 Wednesday 4 March, 4pm – 8pm
-  **Curdworth Village Hall, Curdworth**
 Friday 6 March, 5pm – 8pm
-  **Great Brickhill Community Centre, Great Brickhill**
 Saturday 7 March, 11am – 3pm
-  **Lyons Community Centre, Chaul End / Caddington**
 Tuesday 10 March, 6pm – 9pm
-  **Stanbridge and Tilsworth Community Hall, Stanbridge / Tilsworth**
 Wednesday 11 March, 4pm – 8pm
-  **Daventry Community Centre, Daventry**
 Friday 13 March, 4pm – 8pm
-  **St Mary's Church, Youth HQ Hall, Atherstone**
 Saturday 14 March, 11am – 3pm
-  **Mancetter Memorial Hall, Mancetter**
 Tuesday 17 March, 11am – 3pm
-  **Eaton Bray Village Hall, Eaton Bray**
 Friday 20 March, 4pm – 8pm

Pop-up events

Smaller events along the route where you can speak to our team and view our consultation brochure

-  **Dunstable Downs and Whipsnade Estate National Trust Car Park, Dunstable Downs**
 Thursday 5 March, 10:30am – 1:30pm
-  **Waterside Pub, Hillmorton**
 Friday 13 March, 12pm – 3pm
-  **Stoke Bruerne Canal Museum, Stoke Bruerne**
 Saturday 14 March, 10:30am – 1:30pm
-  **Stoke Hammond Community Centre, Stoke Hammond**
 Wednesday 18 March, 5:30pm – 8:30pm
-  **Electra Welcome Centre, Campbell Wharf Marina, MK**
 Thursday 19 March, 10:30am – 1:30pm

Online event

We're hosting an online presentation by members of our team followed by a Q&A session. Register to take part via www.guctransfer.co.uk

-  Tuesday 24 March, 6pm – 7:30pm





Find out more

Visit our website at guctransfer.co.uk to access consultation materials, find locations to view hard copies, and subscribe to our mailing list.



Speak to the team

-  0121 270 5920, Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm (excluding bank holidays)
-  contact@guctransfer.co.uk



National
Trust



Ashridge Estate - Protecting Our Roots

Ashridge Estate continues to face significant challenges from recreational pressure which threaten its long-term health.

Since launching *Protecting Our Roots* in 2023, we've been working to protect Ashridge's fragile habitats while developing plans for new visitor hubs.

As a local resident we would like to invite you to a public engagement event to learn more about this work, see our emerging plans and share your views with the team.

Protecting Our Roots public engagement event

Date: Sunday 8 March

Time: 10am - 4pm

Where: Berkhamsted Civic Centre, 161 High Street,
Berkhamsted, HP4 3HB



For more information visit
nationaltrust.org.uk/ashridge-protecting-our-roots
or email protecting-ashridge@nationaltrust.org.uk



Ashridge Estate - Protecting Our Roots



EVICTING THE CHURCH BEES



For many years there have been bees living in the ceiling of the church vestry, happily minding their own business. However once the vestry roof developed a leak and it became apparent that hot works would be required to repair it, the PCC realised that part of the ceiling local to the leak would need to be removed in order to ensure the hot works above did not start anything burning in the ceiling void.

Murphy's Law applied with full force - naturally (!) - as the leak was very close to the bees' entrance. Hence there was a likelihood that honeycomb would be directly below the hot works area... beeswax burns wonderfully well (monks used to keep bees primarily for their wax, to be used for candles) and the bees were unlikely to respond favourably to their nest being incinerated. An endoscope examination revealed that bees and comb were indeed present as anticipated.

So members of the Bedfordshire Beekeepers Association were contacted to remove the nest. The plan was to check where the bees were clustered using a thermal camera, open up the ceiling where the bees were, remove the bees and comb as intact as possible, mount the comb in standard frames, put them in a new hive and take them away to a new home.

The plan failed at the first step - the thermal camera showed no sign of a cluster of bees.

So Martin set to work with a jigsaw, cutting access holes between the ceiling joists, and we peered in. Lots of comb but no sign of any bees. So we set about removing the comb - a sticky, messy job - and then bees appeared - luckily, sleepy and sluggish ones. We pressed on... and then found a small cluster, at the back of the cupboard over the vestments hanging area- so pretty much at arms length from the top of the ladder.

The beekeepers had brought with them a bee vacuum for just this eventuality, and used it to suck all the bees they encountered into a small hive. In the end a bare mug full were caught.

So - the bees were out, but there was still lots of comb to remove, most of it out of reach... until a spade was located! With this we were able to clear it out and leave an empty ceiling void.

The entrance in the outside wall was then blocked up to ensure that no other bees could take up residence once swarming season comes.

The bees in their small hive were taken to a nearby apiary and given fresh comb and honey stores. With luck they will start to build up in the coming weeks, if their queen was part of the mug full; and if not, they will be introduced to another colony to live out the rest of their lives.

Looking ahead in 2026: Serving Edlesborough and our villages

I hope Focus Magazine readers have had a very happy and healthy start to 2026. As your MP, I'm looking forward to serving you and all residents across Edlesborough this year.

I've been really enjoying continuing to meet the many talented and determined people who make up our communities across Edlesborough, Aylesbury and other villages.

I had the pleasure of meeting the wonderful Craftivists Group in Edlesborough recently — an inspiring community using creativity to campaign for social justice and to support those facing poverty. They've been busy making reusable tote bags from upcycled fabrics for local foodbanks and community fridges across Leighton Linlade, Luton and Dunstable. Their work is not only practical and environmentally friendly, but rooted in a powerful message: that while charity is vital, our goal must be a country where foodbanks aren't needed in the first place. We spoke about the need to tackle the upstream causes of poverty, and I'm grateful for their challenge, their compassion, and their determination to keep pushing for change.

I was also delighted to present my recent Community Champion awards to Jake Crane at Aylesbury Foodbank for his dedicated volunteer work supporting families in need, and to Amy Scullard, for her work organising a perinatal mental health support group for local parents. If you know someone in Edlesborough making a real difference in your community, I encourage you to nominate them for a future Community Champion award via my website.

In February, I am welcoming my latest cohort of young people to my "Your Voice, Your Future" work experience programme. It gives local students aged 16 and over the chance to learn about government and politics, including a day in Westminster, and I always learn a lot from working with them. Applications for the summer programme in

July will open soon via my website, and I welcome applications from young people in Edlesborough.

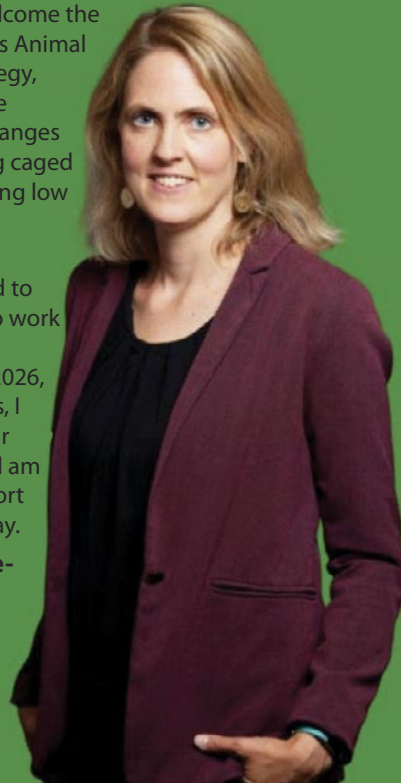
In local news, I welcomed the Government's announcement that Buckinghamshire Council will benefit from an above-inflation increase in funding over this Parliament. This funding recognises the challenges of delivering services in our area, and I hope it will be used to protect vital services and support our communities.

On the state of our roads, which many people raise with me, I'm pleased that the Buckinghamshire lane rental scheme has been approved by the Government, allowing the Council to charge companies doing road works and helping to reduce the delays and frustrations.

On a national level, I continue to raise the issues that matter to constituents in Parliament, including reducing driving test waiting times and improving our bus services. I welcome the Government's Animal Welfare Strategy, which will see important changes from banning caged hens to curbing low welfare dog breeding.

I look forward to continuing to work with you throughout 2026, and as always, I welcome your feedback and am here to support you in any way.

Laura Kyrke-Smith MP





Edlesborough Memory Cafe

2nd Wednesday of every month
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February has seen the commencement of a toddler group here at The Salvation Army in Eaton Bray, which runs every Wednesday 9:15am - 11:15am (term time only).

This is an exciting venture and will compliment our weekly Champion's Club and monthly Messy Church where we continue to introduce Jesus to children through fun, games, crafts, stories and music.

We have space for more to attend and would love to share these opportunities with more children from the surrounding villages.

Jesus taught us to encourage children as we read in Matthew 19:14 "Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

We are all indeed children of God and we would extend a very warm welcome to any child of His, no matter your age, to come and share fellowship with us.

Jacqueline

(The Eaton Bray Salvation Army Church Leader)

The Salvation Army

Booth Place, Eaton Bray, LU6 2DR

Sunday Worship: Sun 11am – 12pm

(weekly – worship for all ages followed by tea/coffee/squash, biscuits & a chat)

Coffee Morning: Tues 10am – 12pm

(fortnightly – including homemade cakes & preserves to purchase, as well as a bric-a-brac stall)

Home League: Weds 2:30pm – 3:30pm

(weekly – fellowship & activities including singing, quizzes, arts & crafts, bible thought & a prayer – predominantly for women although gentlemen are very welcome)

Champion's Club: Weds 6:15pm – 7:15pm

(2nd, 3rd, 4th & 5th Weds of the month, Age 5+, term time only – lots of fun including games, music, activities & bible stories)

Messy Church: Weds 6pm – 7:15pm

(1st Weds of the month, term time only – a fun time for the whole family to explore bible stories through arts & crafts, & messy activities)

Girls' Night Out: Thurs 7:30pm

(1st Thurs of the month – for more details including where we meet & what we do each month, email eaton.bray@salvationarmy.org.uk)



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

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