

FOCUS



APRIL 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 volunteer distributors. ✉Editor

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

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DEFIBRILLATOR LOCATIONS

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

The units can be found on the outside walls of the following locations:

DAGNALL: Red Lion Public House & Munns Farm Shop

EATON BRAY: The Coffee Tavern

NORTHALL: The Swan Public House

EDLESBOROUGH: Edlesborough Memorial Hall, Baptist Church & Summerleys



EDLESBOROUGH SURGERY

01525 221630 www.edlesboroughsurgery.co.uk



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



Focus is online at www.thefocusmagazine.co.uk

Village Info



EDAN COMMUNITY CAR SERVICE



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

POLICE CONTACT DETAILS

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

BEDFORDSHIRE POLICE: (EATON BRAY)

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

THAMES VALLEY POLICE (EDLESBOROUGH, DAGNALL & NORTHALL)

PCSO 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

EDLESBOROUGH MEMORIAL HALL: Penny Pataky 01525 229358

Email: manager@edlesborough-pc.gov.uk

EDLESBOROUGH PAVILION: 07836 240467

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

PARISH COUNCIL CONTACTS

EATON BRAY PARISH COUNCIL: 07931 479663

Email: clerk@eatonbrayparishcouncil.gov.uk Website: www.eatonbrayparishcouncil.gov.uk

EDLESBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL (including Dagnall & Northall): 01525 229358

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

EATON BRAY GOOD NEIGHBOURS HELPLINE 07930 987064



MANNED PHONE HOURS: 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday.

(An answering service is available for out-of-hours calls). Call us if you want help getting to the surgery/hospital and collecting prescriptions.

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

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EDLESBOROUGH 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 will also be speakers and medical professionals to address members' questions and requests. No need to book, just come along to the Pavilion **Thursdays 2nd April, 7th May and 4th June**
We are grateful to the Pavilion Trustees, Edlesborough Surgery and the Burghope Trust for their support



Edlesborough Community Sports Club CIO Charity No. 1160939

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	Eaton Bray Singers , 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'
Mon	Jazzercise 7-8, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Beth 07539 739136
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
Thur	Eaton Bray Pickleball 6.30pm - 8.00pm Social play for all adults (weather permitting)
Thur	Adult Board Games 12-2:30pm, Pavilion 07740 197392 Email Stevemunday1@gmail.com
Thur*	Move Better, Feel Better Pilates 10-11am, Edlesborough Memorial Hall Contact Lesley Pickering, 07767 823202, lesley@lesleypickering.com
Fri	Tap & Ballet Classes JoAnn Latus School of Dance, 4-8pm, Eaton Bray VH, 07800 518654
Fri	Jazzercise 9:15-10:15, Eaton Bray VH, Beth 07539 739136
Fri	Scouts (10½ to 14 years old), 7.00-8.30pm, 1st Eaton Bray & Edlesborough Scout Hut, High Street, Edlesborough. Contact Mark Owen, ebescoutleader@ebescouts.co.uk , 07899 892344
Fri	"Little Luvvies" baby ballet classes 10am- 11.30am, Northall Village Hall. Contact Emma Whittemore on 01525 376124
Fri	Movement is Medicine Pilates 9.45-10.45am and 11 till 12 noon. Great Gaddesdon Parish Hall, moira@stjudesclinic.com
Fri	Food evening at The Pavilion Email ecstrading@edthepav.org.uk
Sat	Jazzercise 9-10am, Eaton Bray VH, Beth 07539 739136
Sat	KFPA Musical theatre classes Edlesborough Memorial Hall 9.30-10.30am (4years+) Contact Kiri 07988161043 or visit Facebook page 'KF PerformingArts/ KFPA' for info
Sun	Sunday Worship at 11am Edlesborough Baptist Church, Moor End, LU6 2FL. Contact: 01525 222064 or edlesboroughbaptistchurch@gmail.com
Sun	Karate for kids & adults 3-4:15pm & 4:30- 5:45pm, Eaton Bray VH, Contact 07500 007779
Sun	Eaton Bray Tennis Club 10am -12pm Social play for all adults
Sun	Eaton Bray Pickleball 10am -12pm Social play for all adults(weather permitting)
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

MONTHLY

1st Mon **Eaton Bray Parish Council Meeting** 7.30pm, The

Coffee Tavern (except Jan-2nd Monday)

1st Mon	Eaton Bray W.I. 7.30pm. Eaton Bray Methodist Church Hall. Margaret Jones on 07478 061156
1st Tues	Sewing Class 7-9pm, Edlesborough Pavilion, General.enquiries@edthepav.org.uk
1st Tues	Jewellery Making 7-9pm, Edlesborough Pavilion General.enquiries@edthepav.org.uk (Dates can vary)
1st Tues	Dunstable & District Orbit (social & charitable) Club Dunstable Rugby Club, 8pm. 01525 222441
1st Wed*	Messy Church 6-7:15pm, Salvation Army, Booth Place, Eaton Bray, LU6 2DR
1st Thur	Pavilion Cancer Support Group from 2.30 pm in Edlesborough Pavilion.
1st Sat	St. Mary's Church Eaton Bray Coffee Morning, 10:30am - 12 noon (July held on 2nd Saturday)
1st Sat	Book Swap at St Mary's Eaton Bray, 10:30am - 12 noon (July held on 2nd Saturday)
2nd Mon	Film Society Sept to June, 2pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Graham Chappell 07980 321977
2nd Tues	Dunstable & District Local History Society meeting, 7.45pm, Methodist Church Hall, Dunstable
2nd Tues	Edlesborough W.I. 7.30 pm, Edlesborough Memorial Hall. Contact Jackie Flint 01525 221618
2nd Tues & Thur	Adult board games club 7-9:30pm, Edlesborough Pavilion, 07740 197392, email.Stevemunday1@gmail.com ,
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 eaton.bray@salvationarmy.org.uk)
2nd Thur	Sewing Class 10:30am -12:30pm, Edlesborough Pavilion, General.enquiries@edthepav.org.uk
2nd Fri	Leukaemia Research Coffee Morning 2 Dunstable Road, Dagnall 10.30 a.m. all welcome. No meeting in September, June plant bring and buy, December Sherry & mince pies
3rd Thur	Edlesborough Parish Council Meeting 7.30pm, Edlesborough Pavilion or as stated in Edlesborough Parish Council News
3rd Sat	Junior board games club Edlesborough Pavilion, General.enquiries@edthepav.org.uk (dates can vary)
3rd Sun	Parish Lunch 11.30 to 2.00pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Chris Hewitt 222288
4th Wed	Book club 7-10pm General.enquiries@edthepav.org.uk (dates can vary)
Last Sat	Coffee Morning 10:00-12 noon, Edlesborough Methodist Church

EATON BRAY WITH EDLESBOROUGH ~ PARISH NEWS ~

Vicar: Rev'd Joy Cousans

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

The Jewish and Christian Scriptures both begin with God creating the world and all that is. As each new thing is created- moon and stars, sea and sea creatures, plants and animals- God sees that it is good. Finally God creates human beings to care for his good creation. When I asked a class of Year 5 and year 6 pupils if they thought that people had done a good job in caring for the creation not one of them put their hand up. And they were able to point to many reasons why that was what they thought. They cited wars, pollution, deforestation, and cruelty to animals as some reasons for their answers. And when we talked about how human beings sometimes treat one another, they felt that often things are not as they should be. Their analysis of the state of the world is not new. It is however a situation in which God has offered us hope.

Christians believe that hope lies in the person of Jesus. The Gospel writers record the life and work of Jesus, Son of God. All of them show Jesus healing the sick, performing miracles and teaching about the Kingdom of God (also called the Kingdom of Heaven). All four Gospel writers record in great detail the events of the final days of Jesus' life: his triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, the Last Supper with his

disciples and his arrest, trial and crucifixion. Matthew, Mark, Luke and John all write of Jesus' burial in a new tomb in the rock, owned by Joseph of Arimathea. On the eve of the Sabbath Jesus is dead, and laid in the tomb. On Saturday, Sabbath day, everyone rests according to the Law, so it is not until Sunday morning that the women take the spices they have prepared and go to the tomb to anoint Jesus' body. Luke refers to this group as 'the women'. The three other gospel writers name them as Mary Magdelene, and Mary the mother of James. There is no doubt that it was the women who were the first to discover the empty tomb.

Mary Magdelene is sometimes called 'the apostle to the apostles'. What this means is that she was the very first person who carried the good news of Jesus' resurrection from the dead. She ran to share it with the disciples. But she was not believed. Her words seemed 'like nonsense' to the disciples. Was this because it seemed so far fetched? Or was it because she was a woman? There may also have been a feeling amongst the 11 (because by this time Judas was gone) that they were Jesus' closest friends. Wouldn't he have appeared to them first? But they all, with the possible exception of John, had abandoned Jesus when he was arrested and had denied even knowing him.

Following Jesus has never been easy. Following Jesus makes demands on us. He calls us to put him first, to change our ways and our thinking, and to adopt 'Kingdom Values'. Being a Christian is not about 'trying to be good', but being God's people in relationship with him. It is a lifelong, 24/7 commitment. Being a Christian means that we have hope for now and for the future. Hope of a fresh start, and the promise of a glorious resurrection.

With every blessing this Easter, Joy



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 APRIL 2026

FRIDAY 3RD APRIL 3.00PM

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

SUNDAY 5TH APRIL 10.30AM

FAMILY COMMUNION

SUNDAY 19TH APRIL 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 - Showtime!

Eaton Bray Singers are looking forward to an exciting spring concert and would love the local community to join us.

Following our move to Eaton Bray Academy earlier this year, the choir has been enjoying rehearsing in our new home and we're delighted to have welcomed several new members. It has been wonderful to see the choir continuing to grow, and we are always very happy to welcome new singers.

If you enjoy singing and would like to give it a try, why not come along to one of our rehearsals? We meet every Monday evening at 7.45pm at Eaton Bray Academy, and new members are always welcome to join us for a taster evening. You can find out more about the choir at

www.eatonbraysingers.co.uk

Our next concert, "Showtime!", will take place on Sunday 19th April at Eaton Bray Village Hall, from 3.30pm. The programme features a lively selection of music from stage and screen, and promises an entertaining afternoon for all ages.

We are delighted to be sharing the stage with the South Beds Concert Band, who many local people will recognise from the annual Poppy Prom. Performing together always makes for a special occasion, and this concert should be no exception.

Tickets are £10 for adults and £5 for children under 16, available from the choir ticket line

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

on 07956 537262, online at www.ticketsource.co.uk/eatonbraysingers or by scanning the QR code in the Focus Magazine advert.

We hope to see many familiar faces – and perhaps some new ones too – for what promises to be a show-stopping afternoon of music.



SUPPORT AT THE PAVILION

**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 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
Edlesborough Pavilion on Thursdays:
2nd April, 7th May and 4th June**



Edlesborough Community Sports Club CIO Charity No. 1160939



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

**The next Book Swap
is at St Mary's Church
On Saturday April 4th
from 10.30 ~ 12.00**



Some of the Book Swap team celebrating for our 4th birthday

Please only bring with you as many books as you will take home to read; there is not the capacity for storage or disposal of large numbers of books.

For this reason we cannot accept bags or boxes of books left at the church.

For more information about Book Swap please contact:

Chris Sanders

Email: chris.sanders45@gmail.com

Janifer MacKenzie

Email: jenimackenzie@hotmail.com



THE COFFEE TAVERN *Eaton Bray*

Large Hall/1st Floor	£12.50/hour
Committee Room/Ground Floor	£6.50/hour
Large Hall & Committee Room	£18.00/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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*Parties, receptions, art classes, yoga, meetings,
dance, theatre, sports events, food sales, craft fairs, exercise
classes, friendship groups, we welcome you all – and more!*

The Morning After

If you read this magazine around Easter weekend, or just after, you may well be surrounded by the usual signs that Easter has been and gone. Foil from chocolate eggs lurking in the bin. Slightly wilted daffodils on the table. Perhaps the vague feeling that you ate rather more roast lamb or hot cross buns than originally intended.


Easter is a big moment in the Christian year. Churches fill up, hymns are sung with extra enthusiasm, and the story of Jesus rising from the dead is told once again. It's a story about life triumphing over death, hope overcoming despair, and God having the final word. It's a story full of celebration.

But I've often thought that the most interesting part of Easter is actually the day after.

Not the first Easter morning itself, that extraordinary moment when the tomb was found empty, but the ordinary days that followed. The disciples didn't immediately become fearless heroes. They didn't suddenly understand everything. In fact, the Gospels tell us they were confused, uncertain, and in some cases hiding behind locked doors. Which, if we're honest, feels a bit more like real life.

Big moments of hope or celebration are wonderful, but most of life happens in the quieter days afterwards. The morning after the party. The Monday after the holiday. The ordinary week after the big event.

Easter reminds Christians that hope doesn't just belong to special occasions. The resurrection isn't only something to sing



about once a year and then neatly pack away. It's meant to change the way we see everyday life.

The message at the heart of Easter is that even when things look

finished, they may not be. Even when a situation feels stuck, change is still possible. Even when life seems overshadowed by worry, loss, or uncertainty, God is still quietly at work.

And that hope tends to appear in ordinary places.

It appears in small kindnesses between neighbours. In the slow work of rebuilding after difficulty. In friendships that endure. In communities that keep showing up for one another, even when things are not perfect.

You don't have to look far to see those things happening around us. In villages and towns like ours, life is often held together by exactly that sort of everyday goodness: people who volunteer their time, check in on neighbours, organise events, share lifts, or simply stop to chat when someone needs it.

Those things might seem small, but they are part of what keeps hope alive in the world.

The first Easter didn't begin with a grand public announcement. It began quietly, in a garden, with one person discovering that something impossible had happened. Only gradually did the news spread.

Perhaps that's how hope often works. Not with fireworks, but with small signs that something new has begun.

So whether Easter weekend for you is about church services, family meals, chocolate eggs, or simply enjoying the longer days and signs of spring, perhaps the real question is what happens afterwards.

Because if the Easter story is true, then hope doesn't end with the holiday. It continues into the ordinary days that follow.

And those ordinary days, it turns out, are where most of life, and most of hope, actually happens.

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EDLESBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Including Edlesborough • Dagnall • Northall • March 2026

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

Save the Dates

The Annual Meeting of Edlesborough Parish Council will be held on the 21st May at 7.30pm.

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on 28th May at 7.30pm – this meeting is an opportunity for organisations within the Parish to share information about themselves and/or a project they may have. For more information, please contact the Clerk via clerk@edlesborough-pc.gov.uk

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/>

Buckinghamshire Council (BC) Local Plan Sites Survey

On 17th February Buckinghamshire Council (BC) released the list of sites they consider are suitable or partially suitable for inclusion in the new Buckinghamshire Local Plan, the replacement for the VALP (Vale of Aylesbury Local Plan). All Councils must develop a plan to say where they think their share of the national government's new housing targets could be built.

Six sites have been identified across Edlesborough and Northall. EPC has responded the BC's Local Plan Site Survey. Copies of the Councils responses can be viewed on the EPC website.

Appeal to extend the opening times of Tesco to 10pm

The Clerk, Cllr Wilkinson and Cllr Hurst attended the Planning Appeal Ref: 25/00067/REF - 2 Pebblemoor Edlesborough Buckinghamshire LU6 2HZ. Variation of Condition 10 (opening hours) relating to 23/02966/APP (Change of use of existing

vehicle service garage to retail convenience store including associated external alterations, plant equipment, parking, and servicing area).

All parties were able to present evidence, ask questions and answer the Inspectors questions. The Inspector will conduct a further site visit before making his decision.

Application for a Freight Operators Licence at the old NMJ site, near the Travellers Rest

Over Christmas Eagle Freights Ltd applied for an HGV operator licence for the NMJ Motors site on the junction of the B489 and the B440. The application was for 20 trucks and 10 trailers. The application reference is OF2074529 SN.

At the February EPC meeting neighbouring parishioners raised concerns about the implications for them.

It was explained that the Council is not consulted on this type of application. Council suspects that the operators will need to apply for a change of use for the site as the use category will be different to a car sales use category. Currently Council is not aware of a change of use application.

It was confirmed that the Operator Licence has been granted.

BC Cllr Peter Brazier took the action to investigate whether a change of use application is necessary. If one is Buckinghamshire Council should inform neighbouring properties in line with its policy.

Litter in the Parish

Council is always grateful to all the parishioners who litter pick in the Parish, whether independently or as part of the litter picking team of volunteers.

Please note Buckinghamshire Council has issued the following advice for litter pickers.

Nitrous Oxide Cylinders;

- Do not dispose of these within your general or mixed recycling waste. Leave these where they are or place into a separate bag at the end of your property and request a removal on [FixMyStreet](#).
- The refuse teams waste team are not allowed to collect these as they are a fire hazard in the refuse vehicles. A report on [FixMyStreet](#) will result in the Streetscene team collecting the cylinders.

Items such as tyres or other types of fly tipping;

- When carrying out your litter pick, if you come across fly tipping, do not collect or move the waste. **Report the fly tipping online**, this will allow BC to investigate and arrange for the appropriate organisation to remove the waste.

Anyone wishing to join the litter picking team or wanting to take part in the Great British Litter Pick should contact Mrs Lorna Cabbage via Lornamcabbage@gmail.com

Dagnall Roundabout Surface

EPC is aware that there has been significant concern raised about the road surface at Dagnall roundabout, with up to three reports a day being made to Fix My Streets.

At the February EPC meeting Cllr Owen reported that a resident in Dagnall village has arranged with BC's contractors to repair the roundabout for them, and at no cost.

Grass & Hedge Cutting in the Villages

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

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



Moveable Vehicle Activated Speed (MVAS) Device

The latest data is on the Council website and has been shared with Thames Valley Police.

Cllr Wilkinson reported that Council originally hoped that the presence of the MVAS units would have a slowing effect on traffic, but until now that has not been very evident. There is a natural tendency for vehicles to slow as they enter the speed limited zones on the B440 near Jack O'Walls in Northall and the southern entry to Dagnall. Council has seen speed reductions of 1.3mph in Northall and 1.3 to 3.1mph in Dagnall. The introduction of the new location on Peblemoor has seen a 6.2mph reduction in speed at this location.

More information about Traffic Calming can be viewed on the Council's website.

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 16th April 2026 – Edlesborough Pavilion**
- **Thursday 21st May 2025 – in Edlesborough Pavilion this meeting will follow the Annual Meeting of Edlesborough Parish Council**

The meetings will commence at 7:30pm.

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

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



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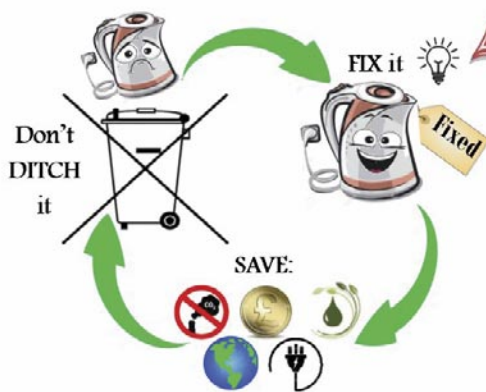
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EATON BRAY PARISH COUNCIL REPORT: MARCH 2026

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.



LITTER PICK DAY - Saturday 11th April 2026



The Eaton Bray village litter pick is village-wide event and is open to everyone who would like to join in and give a little bit of time to help us tidy up the accumulated litter and rubbish around the village.

Please visit the Parish Council website for further information or contact the Parish Clerk to express an interest.

EATON BRAY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

**HELD ON MONDAY 2nd February 2026,
from 7:30pm**

(Minutes ratified at the Annual Meeting of Eaton Bray Parish Council on Monday 2nd March 2026)

CBC CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL

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

www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

CBC Email:

customers@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk -

CBC Customer Services: 0300 300 8301

- Road Gritting: Contract has been renewed. Cllr Spicer is in the process of getting The Rye/Northall Road added to the gritting route.
- Wallace Drive: Cllr Spicer is in communication with CBC regarding the importance of getting this road surface/potholes repaired.

BEDFORDSHIRE POLICE

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- Crime Map for your area (details can be found on the Bedfordshire Police website):<https://www.facebook.com/leightonbuzzardpolicing/>

RECREATION GROUNDS

- (1) **Dog Fouling:** The Parish Council has noticed recently in the recreation grounds an increase of dog fouling. We would like to remind dog owners/walkers to pick up after their dog and either dispose of it in the dog bins provided or take home.
- (2) **Skate Park:** The Parish Council will be carrying out repairs to the skate park in the next few months. Weather dependant.
- (3) **Car Parks:** The Parish Council wished to remind users, that under parish Byelaws, '...no person shall, without the consent of the Council, leave or cause or permit to be left any motor vehicle in the grounds between the hours of 10pm and 6am.'

PLANNING APPLICATIONS/APEALS/ ENFORCEMENT NOTICES – FEBRUARY 2026/MARCH 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: FEB 2026/PERIOD 11

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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY/COMMUNITY EVENTS:

(1) Litter Pick, Saturday 11th April 2026

An Eaton Bray village-wide event, open to everyone who would like to give a bit of time to help us tidy up accumulated litter/rubbish around the village. Please visit the Parish Council website/Facebook page for further information or contact the Parish Clerk to express an interest.

(2) Allotment Inspection, Tuesday 19th May 2026: The Meads/Holmans Field

(weather permitting)

(3) 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*).

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

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 13th April 2026, from 7:30pm
- Annual Parish Meeting & Annual Meeting of Eaton Bray Parish Council, Monday 11th May 2026, from 7pm

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 21st April 2026 – Tuesday 19th May 2026 – Tuesday 9th June 2026



Eaton Bray Village

Litter Pick Day, Saturday 11th April 2026

The Eaton Bray village litter pick is a village-wide event and is open to everyone who would like to join in and give a little bit of time to help us tidy up the accumulated litter and rubbish around the village.



We meet in the car park on School Lane around 10.30am.

The Parish Council will organise all the necessary safety equipment, such as high viz vests, grabbers, bags and we will arrange for CBC to collect up all the bags when we are done.

We are looking for an expression of interest at this stage to help gauge numbers so we know how much equipment we'll need. **Please fill in your details (website form)** if you would like to join us and we'll contact you nearer the time with some specific details once the numbers of volunteers is confirmed.

To sign up please visit the Parish Council's website:

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Thank you, Eaton Bray Parish Council



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~ 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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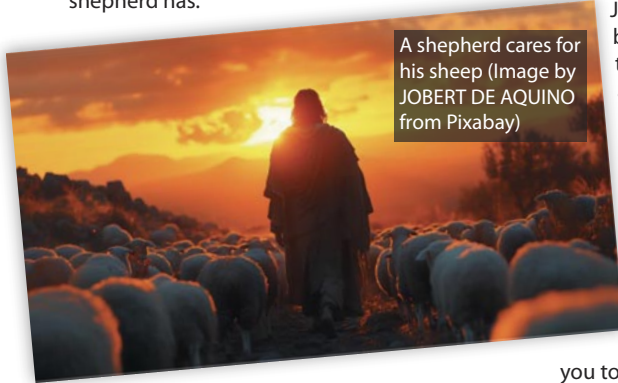


The Good Shepherd

Jesus often taught his disciples by telling stories which we call parables. One of the well-known stories in the Gospel of John chapter 10 is entitled 'The Shepherd and His Flock'. The people at the time would have been very familiar with shepherds who lived away from their families' tending flocks of sheep on the hillside. This job would have been done by people considered outcasts from society. God's view doesn't always line up with our view and we know that the shepherds outside Bethlehem were the first to be told the message of Jesus's birth – today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. Jesus reminds those with him about the important responsibility the shepherd has.

At Easter we are again remembering Jesus on the Cross. What a terrible punishment for the only one who had no sin. Good Friday is the day we are reminded that Jesus laid down his life for us. But Hallelujah, on Easter Sunday, we celebrate that he rose again, making a way (Gate) through which we can personally restore our relationship with God.

God's protection is there if we call on him, as it was for King David in Psalm 23. He trusted 'the Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want'. The Lord was protecting him, providing sustenance, leading him and caring for him in his time of need. The modern version of the hymn Psalm 23 echoes this with the chorus 'I will trust in him alone'.



Jesus was and is the Good Shepherd, and by dying on the cross he was also the Lamb that was slain. We will meet that Lamb again. In John's vision described in Revelation 5 the Lamb who was slain will be sitting on the throne in Heaven. We will then give him his rightful honour, praise and worship.

You will see from the photo above that Northall Church is surrounded by sheep so this passage is very poignant. Join us for our regular Sunday services in the Church at 11 am, or online. 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 stream our services, accessible online or over the phone – contact us for more details.

A shepherd cares for the sheep, protects the sheep. He knows the sheep and the sheep hear his voice and only follow him. Jesus says explicitly twice that he is the Good Shepherd and that he is the Gate for the sheep. He leads the sheep and as he says in verse 14, Jesus will lay down his life for the sheep. However, Jesus is special as he says that no-one takes his life from him, but he lays it down of his own accord and has the authority to take his life up again, which we later see when Jesus willingly dies on the cross for our sins.

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.



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Eaton Bray  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**

DAGNALL WEATHER STATION (AONB)

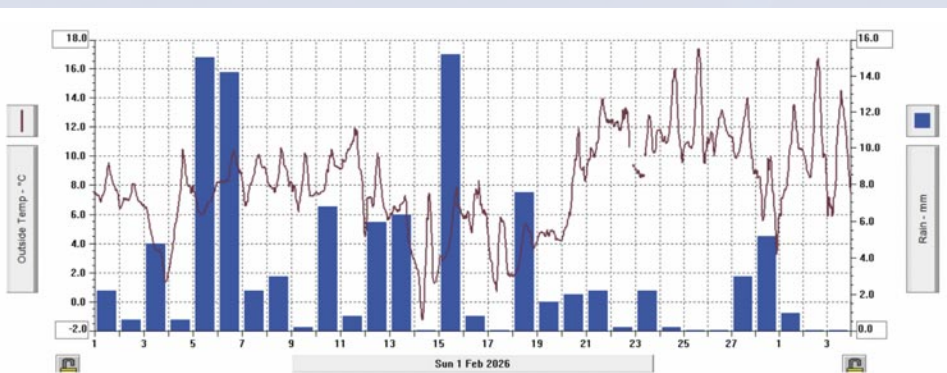
Weather Conditions for February 2026

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

February continued to be unsettled, as we experienced the same rain dominated pattern seen in January. Despite still being winter, the month was very mild with a mean temperature of 7.8°C. The temperature only dropped below zero on one day, and even then for only four hours, with a low of -1.3°C. Rain was recorded on 22 days with the wettest day being the 8th at 15.2mm. The total rainfall for February was 103mm, which is 165% of the average. The running total rain for the year is 210.4mm, which is 162% of the average.

	High	Date/Time	Low	Date/Time
Temperature:	17.7°C	25 Feb 14.30	-1.3°C	14 Feb 08.00
Mean Temperature	7.8°C			
Dewpoint:	12.3°C	25 Feb 115.00	-1.9°C	14 Feb 07.30
Humidity:	100%	3 Feb 08.00	621%	2 Feb 15.00
Barometer:	1019.2mb	28 Feb 21.30	975.0mb	11 Feb 22.30
Wind Speed	36 mph wsw	23 Feb 04.00	Months avg.	6.6 mph
Wind Chill:	10.5°C	12 Feb 15.00	-7.2°C	6 Feb 00.00
Dominant Wind:	SSE			
Rainfall *T= total rain days and moisture. R= Actual rain				
*Rain Days:24(T), 247(R)	Wettest Day 8 Feb		15.2 mm	0.598 ins
Monthly Rain:	Total	February 2026	103.0 mm	4.055 ins
Yearly Rain:	Total	1 Month	210.4 mm	8.283 ins

February 2026 ~ Temperature & Rain



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.

ANNUAL CLIMATOLOGICAL SUMMARY FOR 2025

Temperature°

Precipitation

Wind Speed

	High Temp	Date	Low Temp	Date	Mean Temp	Rain Day Max	Date	Month Total	Wind Gusts	
Jan	12.7°	5 th	-6.3°	11 th	3.8°	18.4mm	5 th	90.0mm	41.0	Jan
Feb	15.3°	21 st	-1.3°	17 th	5.3°	12.6mm	26 th	61.4mm	35.0	Feb
Mar	21.4°	20 th	-3.8°	16 th	8.0°	1.2mm	23 th	5.2mm	27.0	Mar
Apr	27.2°	30 th	0.0°	9 th	11.8°	18.2mm	23 th	26.4mm	36.0	Apr
May	29.7°	1 st	2.0°	5 th	14.6°	11.4mm	23 rd	24.4mm	31.0	May
Jun	33.4°	30 th	7.1°	8 th	18.8°	10.2mm	27 th	26.0mm	31.0	Jun
July	34.4°	11 th	7.6°	3 rd	19.7°	12.8mm	7 th	39.6mm	30.0	July
Aug	34.4°	12 th	5.1°	22 nd	18.7°	13.2mm	24 th	37.2mm	30.0	Aug
Sep	27.6°	19 th	2.0°	23 rd	14.5°	19.4mm	22 nd	58.1mm	42.0	Sep
Oct	21.1°	6 th	2.9°	12 th	13.9°	16.4mm	3 rd	62.6mm	44.0	Oct
Nov	17.7°	5 th	-2.6°	20 th	9.0°	30.0mm	14 th	84.0mm	32.0	Nov
Dec	14.6°	9 th	-0.9°	5 th	7.4°	26.2mm	18 th	79.4mm	40.0	Dec
	YEAR	TOTALS								
Lows /Max	34.4°	July	-6.3°	Jan	Avg 12.0°	Total Rain	Year	594.5 mm (23.406ns)	Wind 51.0 mph	Lows /Max
	Max	Min								

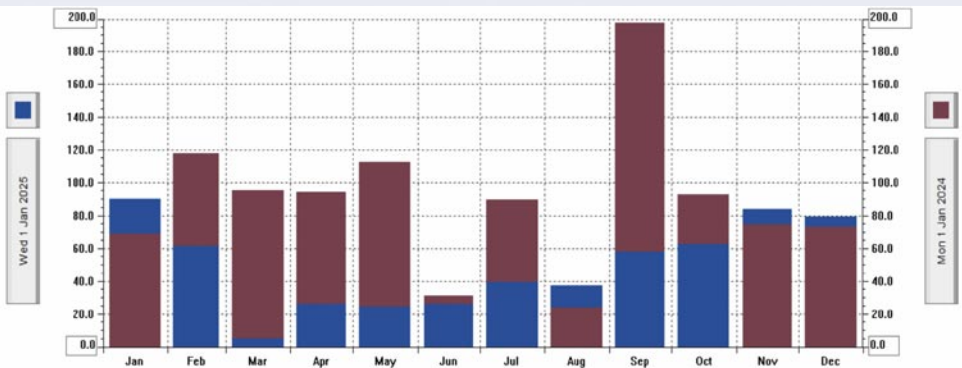
2025 Highlights:

It was a record-breaking year in the UK and for us in the Dagnall area.

The year is best described very warm, sunny and dry. We started the year with January being the wettest month of the year with 90mm of rain with February being average. Then came March which was abnormally low rain full 5.2mm which is under ¼ inch and only 9% of the average for March also warm. This dryer weather continued for months average of 65% of the yearly rain. It looked like we would break the Dagnall 79 year record but it was not to be. November and December were wet but with 594mm it was still only 75% of the yearly average. To compare with 2024 which had 1078mm of rain 2025 was only 55%.

It was hot and sunny with 3 heat waves reaching 34.4° in July and August

Comparing Rainfall Wet 2024 to Dry 2025



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ADVICE AND INSIGHTS FOR KIDS IN THE GAME

The Importance of Inclusion

April brings new energy. It's also a time to focus on inclusion ~ making sure every player feels seen and valued, no matter their ability.

Coaching Tip: Mix teams regularly and rotate positions. Appoint a weekly "kindness captain" to promote peer support.



Daniel Piley

Coach for EB Lions
U11 Saturday Team





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DESTINATION FOCUS ON...

Travel Impressions
A World of Experience

Granada

Set in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada mountains, Granada was the last stronghold of the Moors in Spain before the Spanish monarchy recaptured it in 1492, ending nearly 800 years of Moorish rule. The Alhambra, a 13th century Moorish palace dominates the skyline of the city and should be top of your list of places to visit. I would recommend staying in a hotel with a roof top view of the palace.



Getting to Granada is a bit trickier than other Spanish cities but it is worth it! There are no direct flights and the closest airport that you can fly to directly from the UK is Malaga. From there you can hire a car and drive or alternatively take the bus or train into Malaga and then a bus or train onto Granada. Spending time in both cities works really well. Malaga is not the prettiest of cities but has a stunning cathedral, lots of history to explore and some great restaurants.

MUST SEE HIGHLIGHTS

- **The Alhambra and Generalife:** A UNESCO World Heritage site, this massive complex includes the Nasrid Palaces, Alcazaba fortress, and the serene Generalife gardens. Visitor numbers are limited each day so you need to book well in advance of your visit.
- **Granada Cathedral and Royal Chapel:** A 16th century Renaissance cathedral and the burial site of the Catholic Monarchs, Ferdinand and Isabella, who recaptured the city.
- **Explore the Realejo (Jewish) and Albaicin (Arab) Quarters:** Wander through and get lost in the narrow winding streets.
- **Sacromonte:** Home to the Gitano (Spanish Gypsy) community and famous for its unique, whitewashed cave dwellings and for being the birthplace of Flamenco. Many residents left in the 1960's when there were floods and landslides. The Museum of Caves is worth the long, uphill walk to visit, and there are also spectacular views of the city and the Alhambra.

TOP TIPS

We booked an English speaking tour of the Alhambra and were very lucky to have a small group. Our guide was brilliant and very knowledgeable. We saw and learned about things we would not have seen if we had taken the self-guided tour. It lasted over three hours and involved a fair amount of walking so make sure you have comfortable shoes. Be sure to book a tour that includes the Nasrid Palaces. The food in Granada is amazing but it takes a while to get used to the portion sizes, and when ordering tapas: less is more would be my advice!

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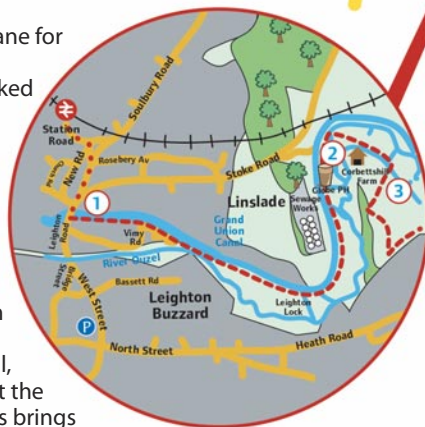


Leighton Buzzard – Woburn

8.5 miles/13km

- 1) From the Town Centre follow Leighton Road to the road bridge which crosses the canal. Walk northwards along the towpath of the **Grand Union Canal** to The Globe Public House.
- 2) Pass the pub and turn right through a kissing gate into a large meadow. This section of the walk can become flooded at certain times of the year. Immediately turn left, heading down the bank and onto the boardwalks. At the end of the boardwalks turn sharp right and walk across the field to the edge of the river. At this point head for the bridge that crosses over the river.
- 3) Cross the bridge and head straight across the field to a track. Turn left, through the kissing gate and left again to join a large, sandy track known as **Firs Path**. Keep following this path with the wood on your right and river on your left until you emerge into a large meadow. Continue to follow the path up the hill and through the wood to the crossroads.
- 4) Turn left along **Bragenham Lane** for 50m and turn right onto the footpath. Follow the waymarked path to **Oak Wood**.
Oak Wood is part of Stockgrove Country Park. To visit the Park follow the signposted path which is off the bridleway.
Pass the pond and over the bridge. Continue on the main path until you reach a T-junction. Turn right up the hill, through the conifers and past the cottages and clock tower. This brings you out onto **Brickhill Road**.
- 5) Turn right and after 200m turn left through the layby and down a narrow path. Follow the bridleway around the edge of **Rammamere Heath**. On leaving the heath, head towards **Rammamere farm**. Go through the gate and into open fields. Cross one field but do not go through the gate. Instead turn right and follow the fence line. Follow the waymarked path until you get to the corner of the field by a wood. At this point turn left over a stile and

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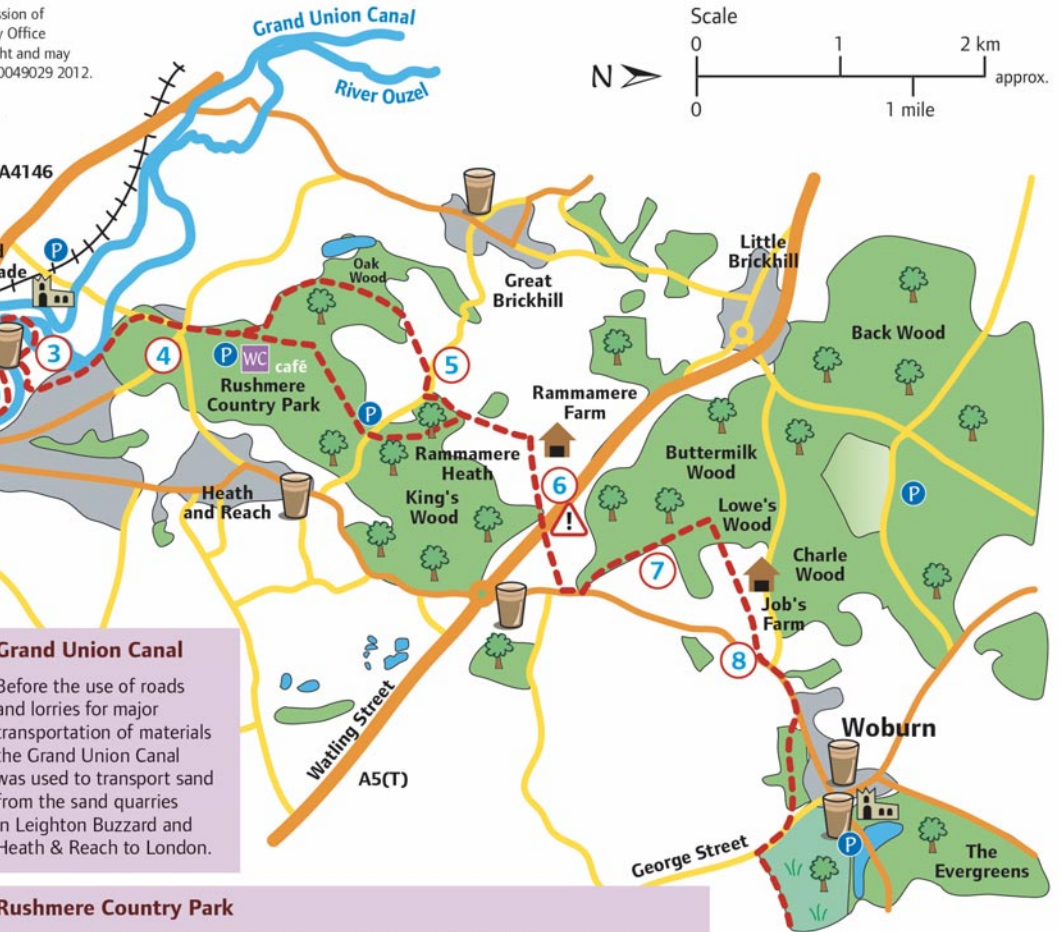


Linslade

The Linslade area was part of Buckinghamshire until 1965, with the river marking the old County boundary. In the distance you can see Old Linslade Church, which shows the position of the original village of Linslade.

footbridge and into another field. **King's Wood National Nature Reserve** is on the right hand side.

- 6) Cross the road with care and follow the crossfield footpaths until you reach **Sheep Lane**. At the road turn left and after 150m turn left again through a gate and along a grass ride.



Grand Union Canal

Before the use of roads and lorries for major transportation of materials the Grand Union Canal was used to transport sand from the sand quarries in Leighton Buzzard and Heath & Reach to London.

Rushmere Country Park

Rushmere Country Park is jointly owned by Central Bedfordshire Council and the Greensand Trust. It consists of 400 acres of woodland, heathland, grassland and lakes. Parts of the site are important habitats such as Bakers Wood Site of Special Scientific Interest a semi ancient woodland. Several new permissive footpaths, cycle routes and horse routes have been established through the Park. There are family cycling routes around the site which are free to use. There are also mountain biking routes; for which a **permit** is required which can be purchased from Rushmere visitor centres. Refreshments and toilet facilities are also available in the visitor centre.

An optional diversion is available which runs through the Park and via the facilities.

Woburn

Woburn village has a delightful Georgian town centre, and is well worth visiting. The Woburn Heritage Centre in the old church of St. Mary's in Bedford Street will tell you about the history of the village and surrounding area.

- 7) Enter the wood following the bridleway known as Nun's Lane to a junction with a large sandstone marker. Turn right and follow the path to the road, passing Job's Farm.
- 8) Just before the road turn left along the field edge path. Cross the road and continue along the pavement for 400m. By the

former Maryland College there is a fingerpost on the opposite side of the road. Cross the road with care and follow the waymarked path across a field and then along the fence line.

From this path, take the first left to go into Woburn, or the second left to follow the Greensand Ridge Walk to the fire station

EDLESBOROUGH WI ~ FEBRUARY 2026

theWI February 2026 meeting held on Tuesday 10 February opened with Jerusalem being sung by members. Minutes of January meeting read and agreed - unanimous approval for television reporter Bill Hamilton's talk and confirmation another talk booked on a different topic. Further news, trips planned and a busy birthday month saw the lucky ladies receive cards and plants.

A general knowledge quiz between competing tables caused great hilarity and head scratching. Always amazing to discover what we have actually stored away in our grey

matter without resorting to Google! The winning table were rewarded by boxes of Smarties....

After firing up our brains, hot soup (tomato or chicken) and crusty French bread was served by the Committee, just the winter warmer needed. We then had an opportunity to catch up with friends we hadn't seen for a month. The evening concluded with a raffle.

Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month at the Memorial Hall at 7.30 pm. Edlesborough WI have a Facebook page where you can find the 2026 Programme and news. New Ladies are always welcome.

Caroline Coleran

EDLESBOROUGH WI ~ MARCH 2026

theWI Sweet memories but don't get me started on Wagon Wheels!!! This was the talk we had at our March WI meeting in Edlesborough by Kevin Varty. We really didn't know what to expect. Kevin a die hard chocolate fan told us the story of confectionary and the derivation of the names of some of our favourite sweets and chocolate bars. There was a lot of audience participation interjecting Kevin's very humorous talk accompanied by a slide show. Most of our big brand chocolate manufacturers were part of the Quaker movement. Bournville, Cadburys, Fry's and Terry's are all names we recognised, His first slide started with marshmallows in 1850 and ended with the Wispa bar in 1983. Even though a lot of us can't remember what we ate for dinner last night we could all remember the advertising slogans that went with our favourite childhood chocolate bar, Milky Way the bar you can eat between meals. Maltesers the chocolate with the less fattening centre. A Mars a day helps you work, rest and play. We knew them all. I think Kevin was quite impressed.

He said it is most important that the texture of the chocolate feels nice in the mouth and has a nice flavour. For instance Chocolate Oranges

are a marriage made in heaven but chocolate lemons and chocolate apples just didn't work. Also some of our favourites came from manufacturing mistakes that stuck like Aero, Flakes and Walnut Whips where they put the walnuts that were broken on the inside and perfect ones on top. Aeros were made at the wrong heat causing bubbles but the texture works in the mouth and so they stayed and still going strong.

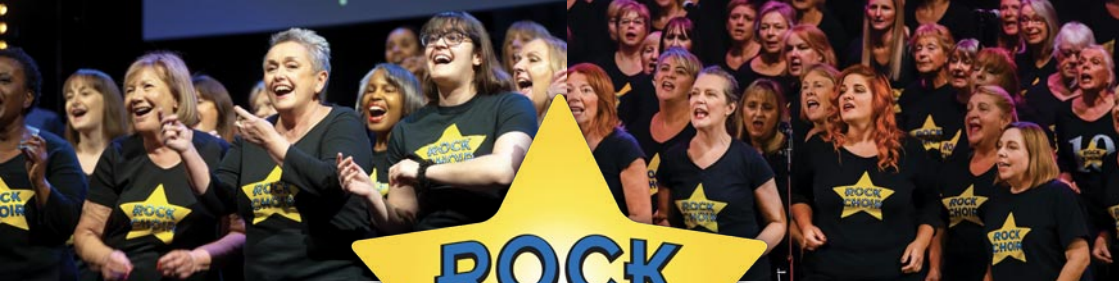
We all took a happy trip down memory lane and the title of Kevin's talk was about the fact that the bars have gradually diminished in size and gone up in price. The only place that sells the original size Wagon Wheel is Australia.

Some chocolate bars have come and gone but the one that remains the No 1 is the good old Mars Bar. A Mars a day helps you work rest and play!!!

Before Kevin's talk we had our business matters and talk about up and coming events. Birthday plants were handed out followed by the raffle, refreshments and chinwag with our friends. New members are always welcome we have our meetings in Edlesborough Hall on the second Tuesday of the month at 7p.m.

We have a trip to Anglesey Abbey organised for the 25th June.

Jane Jones



ROCK CHOIR

ROCK CHOIR is the world's largest contemporary choir, with over 33,000 members participating in approximately 400 local communities across the UK and Ireland.

ROCK CHOIR has an uplifting ethos of fun and friendship, and community spirit is a huge part of its attraction where members enjoy a dynamic, glamorous, accessible and busy new social life while connecting with their community.

With no auditions and no requirement to read music, it helps improve people's well-being by building their self-confidence, self-esteem and in turn helps them to enjoy positive mental and physical health benefits all through the power of group singing.

ROCK CHOIR was the first contemporary choir experience of its kind offering an accessible and inclusive experience for amateur singers with no musical experience. It began in 2005, in Farnham, Surrey by award-winning musician and singer, Caroline Redman Lusher MBE and is now a household name.

ROCK CHOIR offers all ages an alternative experience to the traditional classical or community choir introducing members to feel-good or emotional pop, rock and contemporary chart songs. For some, these songs help release stress and act as therapy. Hit songs from the current charts and decades are deconstructed

and rebuilt by Founder and Creative Director, Caroline Redman Lusher MBE and her creative team to offer members unique versions of favourite hits.

Members perform at approximately 2000 events on average a year from local community and charity fund-raisers to high-profile glamorous national events. The **ROCK CHOIR** Team along with the Rockies have raised in excess of 3 million pounds for local and national charities through these events.

ROCK CHOIR offers members once in a lifetime and unique experiences locally and nationally such as recording at London's Abbey Road Studios, taking part in the Edinburgh Festival Fringe and BBC Proms in the Park. They have performed together as one **ROCK CHOIR** at the nations' arenas such as the BP Pulse LIVE, London O2, Wembley, Liverpool and the NEC. Members have been on tour to support artists such as Russell Watson, contributed to high-profile albums, performed in iconic venues such as The Royal Albert Hall, performed on national television and have sung at red carpet film premieres.

Local ROCK CHOIR Leader, Liz Shea, is welcoming new members and offering a free taster session in Dunstable, Amersham, Berkhamsted and Welwyn Garden City. Visit www.rockchoir.com for further information and to book a FREE taster session.





BANANA BREAD RECIPE

Prep: 15 minutes

Cooking time: 30 minutes

Serves: 8-10 people

INGREDIENTS:

140g soft butter

140g light soft brown sugar

2 large eggs, beaten

140g self-raising flour

1 tsp baking powder

½ tsp nutmeg

½ tsp cinnamon

2 very ripe bananas, mashed

85g chopped walnuts

METHOD:

1. Preheat your oven to 180 degrees/Gas mark 4.
2. Grease a 2lb loaf tin with butter and line with baking paper.
3. In a large bowl, cream together the butter and brown sugar then slowly add 2 beaten large eggs.
4. In a separate bowl, mix together the flour, cinnamon, nutmeg and baking powder.
5. Add the flour mixture to the butter mixture a little at a time, folding it in as you go.
6. Mash the bananas and add to the bowl, mixing well and making sure there are no lumps.
7. Mix in the walnuts.
8. Once the mixture is a thick yet runny consistency, pour it into the loaf tin and bake for 30 minutes – or until the skewer comes out clean.
9. Allow to cool in the tin for at least 10 minutes. You can then transfer the loaf to a wire rack to continue cooling. Tip – if you don't have a wire rack, then you can always take a wire shelf out of your oven and use that instead (but make sure it's cool first).

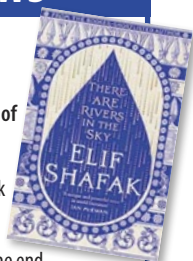
Additional ingredients that you could consider using (you can add these in at the same stage as we add the walnuts in this recipe): Sultanas, raisins, flaked almonds, chocolate chips or chunks, desiccated coconut, banana chips.

BOOK REVIEWS

There Are Rivers in the Sky

by Elif Shafak

A story about three characters living along two rivers, all under the shadow of one of the greatest epic poems of all time.



In the ancient city of Nineveh, on the bank of the River Tigris, King Ashurbanipal of Mesopotamia, erudite but ruthless, built a great library that would crumble with the end of his reign. From its ruins, however, emerged a poem, the Epic of Gilgamesh, that would infuse the existence of two rivers and bind together three lives.

In 1840 London, Arthur is born beside the stinking, sewage-filled River Thames. With an abusive, alcoholic father and a mentally ill mother, Arthur's only chance of escaping destitution is his brilliant memory. When his gift earns him a spot as an apprentice at a leading publisher, Arthur's world opens up far beyond the slums, and one book in particular catches his interest: *Nineveh and Its Remains*.

In 2014 Turkey, Narin, a ten-year-old Yazidi girl, is diagnosed with a rare disorder that will soon cause her to go deaf. Before that happens, her grandmother is determined to baptize her in a sacred Iraqi temple. But with the rising presence of ISIS and the destruction of the family's ancestral lands along the Tigris, Narin is running out of time.

In 2018 London, the newly divorced Zaleekah, a hydrologist, moves into a houseboat on the Thames to escape her husband. Orphaned and raised by her wealthy uncle, Zaleekah had made the decision to take her own life in one month, until a curious book about her homeland changes everything.

There Are Rivers in the Sky entwines these outsiders with a single drop of water, a drop which remanifests across the centuries. Both a source of life and harbinger of death, rivers—the Tigris and the Thames—transcend history, transcend fate: “Water remembers. It is humans who forget.”

Our bookgroup reviewed this book on 25th February 2026 we all gave it 5/5

The writing is very descriptive and jumps from one time line to another telling the stories of Arthur, Narin and Zaleekah intertwined with the story of King Ashurbanipal and how it links to the 2 historic rivers all of them connected by a single drop of water.

We all enjoyed it and agreed it is impeccably written and researched. We liked the references to actual events and some of us were planning to visit the British museum where some of the artefacts from Mesopotamia are on display: it is inspiring to read a book that leaves a desire to find out more about the true story it is based on.

The book is very long and can be hard to read, all of the characters suffer greatly in their lives and we are given a close look at the genocide and persecution of the Yazidi, but we loved the book and can recommend it.

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1. Move your body every day, even if it's slow, because motion is what keeps age from winning.
2. Eat simple, clean food and drink plenty of water-health now decides how long you stay independent.
3. Spend time with younger people; their energy will keep your spirit alive and curious.
4. Forgive everyone, not for them but for your own peace, because holding grudges steals your remaining joy.
5. Tell your stories often; they are treasures your family will look for when you're gone.
6. Take more photos and write small notes; memories fade faster than you think.
7. Wake up grateful each morning, because every sunrise at this age is an earned privilege, not a promise.

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Reaching Out to Our Community

Edlesborough Pavilion is turning its focus firmly towards the heart of what makes it so special ~ our community.

The Pavilion has always been more than just a building. It's a place where friendships are formed, local groups gather, teams compete, and memories are made. What many people may not realise, however, is that the Pavilion is run entirely by the community, for the community.

Behind the scenes, a dedicated group of volunteer trustees work together to ensure the Pavilion remains welcoming, well-maintained and sustainable for the future. Now, as we look ahead, we are keen to invite new people to get involved and help shape the next chapter.

We are particularly looking to recruit new trustees.

Becoming a trustee is a rewarding and meaningful way to support a valued local space. Trustees help guide decision-making, contribute ideas, share skills and experience, and ensure the Pavilion continues to serve the needs of residents of all ages. Whether your background is in finance, marketing, maintenance, events, administration ~ or something entirely different ~ your perspective could make a real difference.

Importantly, you do not need prior trustee experience. Enthusiasm, reliability and a commitment to the community are what

matter most. The roles are flexible and designed to fit around work and family life, with shared responsibilities and a supportive team environment. You won't be expected to do everything ~ but you will be part of something worthwhile.

Volunteering with the Pavilion is also a fantastic opportunity to meet new people, develop skills, and play a direct role in protecting and improving a space that so many rely on. As community needs evolve, fresh ideas and new energy are vital to ensuring the Pavilion continues to thrive for generations to come.

If you've ever attended an event, watched a match, hired the space, or simply enjoyed seeing it in use, this is your chance to give something back.

Could you help shape the future of the Pavilion?

If you are interested in becoming a trustee or would like to find out more about how you can get involved, we would love to hear from you. Together, we can ensure Edlesborough Pavilion remains a vibrant and valued part of our community. Get in touch general.enquiries@edthepav.org.uk





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St George's Day

St George's Day is celebrated every year on **23 April** and is considered the national day of England. It honours Saint George, a Christian martyr who became England's patron saint.

Saint George is believed to have been a Roman soldier of Greek origin who lived in the 3rd century AD. According to tradition, he served in the Roman army. When Christians were persecuted, George refused to renounce his faith. He was executed around AD 303, becoming a Christian martyr.

Because of his bravery and faith, he was later venerated as a saint.

The most famous story about Saint George is the legend of the dragon. A town was being terrorised by a dragon. To appease it,

townspeople sacrificed animals and eventually humans. When a princess was chosen as the next sacrifice, George intervened. He killed the dragon, saving the princess and the town. This story symbolises good defeating evil and Christian faith overcoming paganism. It's a legend rather than historical fact.

Why is he England's patron saint, because St. George became linked with England during the Middle Ages when English soldiers reportedly invoked him during the Crusades. In 1348, Edward III made Saint George the patron saint of his chivalric order, the Order of the Garter and his symbol, the red cross on a white background, became the flag of England.



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2026
EdleFest

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But we wanted to let you know that ticket sales are currently ahead of last year's, so don't leave it too late. All our artists are booked and we're very excited by the quality of the performers that we have in our line-up.

As mentioned in other articles, we will be operating under 'Marty's Law', where we can only have a maximum of 200 people in the Church, including the artists and the Friends and helpers. That means we cannot guarantee there will be tickets available on the door, so we encourage you to buy your tickets as soon as possible.

It isn't long now until June 5th and 6th, so don't miss out on some fabulous live music, right here on our doorstep.

You can see 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!

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Bernadette (Edlesborough)

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Warren (Eaton Bray)

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Jim (Eaton Bray)

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Andrew Janes (Edlesborough)

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READING NEWSLETTER

Reading Leader: Mrs J Tebbutt | Spring 2 2026

WHAT WE'RE READING



Henry

Warrior Cats by Erin Hunter
'A great graphic novel with lots of drama about a cat who joins a group called the forest cats. WARNING - a little violent!'



Daisy

Gobbolino the Witch's Cat by Ursula Moray Williams
'It's about a witch's cat who wants to be a kitchen cat instead! It keeps on getting kicked out of different houses along the way.'



Bridie

The Cafe at the Edge of the Woods by Mikey Please
'It's a bit amazing! Because they found the different characters and silly food.'

WORLD BOOK DAY

1 Creative Costumes

We held a dressing up day focused on adventure books. Look at our fantastic costumes.



2 Library Visit

Sparrowhawks class visited Hemel Hempstead library. They had a tour of the library and also took part in a scavenger hunt with the dewey decimal system.

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Memories of Wallace Nurseries

by Edwin Hope

Edwin started his first job working at Wallace Nurseries straight from school in 1959. He started in one of the 46 greenhouses newly planted with carnations, working with Mr Peter Tibbett for several months. He was then moved to greenhouse No 36, working with two ladies. Edwin remembers that in this greenhouse the carnations were more advanced in their growing stage.

Later Edwin moved between other greenhouses doing various stages of work and ended up working with Mr Fred Line in charge of mixing compost and filling the pots. The pots were then loaded onto a truck and trailer and taken into greenhouse No. 41 or 42 where tables had been arranged and the boxes of pots were ready for planting up. Wallace's also grew freesias and small rooted azalea plants imported from Holland. The azaleas were grown on to be sold when mature. Edwin and Fred used to assist in downloading the deliveries.

There were 2 large and 2 small greenhouses devoted to growing chrysanthemums and the person in charge of these was Mr. Eric Ruffett and several of Eric's family worked at Wallace's.

One of Edwin's many jobs at the nursery was to help disbud the carnations to help them produce strong blooms. The blooms were supported with wires and sticks. There was an automated watering system involved which unfortunately sometimes failed to work! The beds were raked at intervals to keep all the soil loose and fresh. Once or twice a year smoke bombs were held overhead to reduce pests and the greenhouses were also fumigated during which time the workers had to wear masks. Edwin left Wallace's in April 1966 after which time his career took a different direction when he moved to Renault trucks in Boscombe Road Dunstable.





Laughing Gas is NO laughing matter!

Thames Valley Police is aware of a rise in the recreational use of nitrous oxide, often referred to as "NOS" or "laughing gas;". Although some young people believe it is harmless, inhaling nitrous oxide can cause dizziness, confusion, fainting, and dangerously low oxygen levels, which may lead to long term health problems. Medical and safety guidance also warns that inhaling gas directly from a canister can damage the throat and lungs because the gas is extremely cold and released under high pressure. These risks are even greater for children and teenagers, whose bodies and brains are still developing, making them more vulnerable to harm even from a single use.

We are also concerned about discarded nitrous oxide canisters appearing in parks, play areas, and other places where young people should feel safe. We are asking residents to support us by reporting any use or suspicious activity they witness so that we can keep our neighbourhoods safe.

Your local Neighbour
Police Team



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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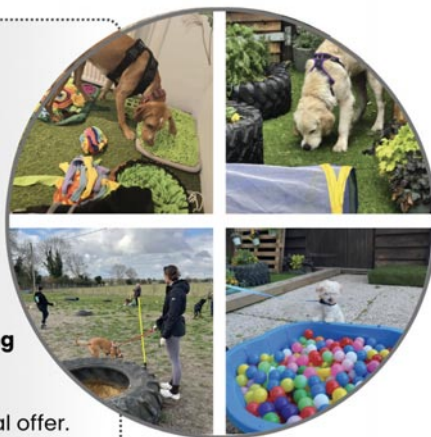
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EATON BRAY WI

theWI Members met for lunch at the Swan in Northall on Friday, 20th February. Our thanks to Barbara for organising the lunch and our thanks as always to the Swan for the delicious meal and for making us so comfortable.

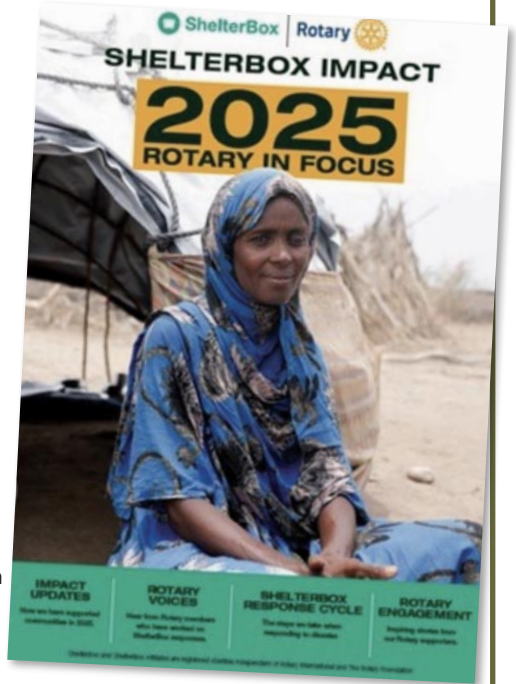
At our Meeting on Monday, 2nd March we heard a very interesting talk by David Swain on the work of the charity 'Shelterbox', Shelterbox was started in the year 2000 and has been supported by Rotary over the past 25 years. Now it is a world wide organisation, supporting people to rebuild their lives after disaster or conflict. From Cameroon to Syria, all the way to the Philippines and the Caribbean, they have provided shelter to over three million people so far.

David said that home should be a place of safety and security yet every day, homes are torn apart by war, crisis and disaster. Over 123 million people have been forced from their homes by conflict, disaster, and extreme weather. More than half are women and girls. Every family deserves a place to call home after disaster. When disaster strikes they immediately contact their partners on the ground to establish the scale of the disaster

Any support is carefully tailored to the needs and could mean providing a combination of tents, blankets, mosquito nets water filters and solar lights or cash to empower people to choose the items they need most.

David also stressed that their work doesn't stop once they have provided families with emergency shelter and essential aid items. They also offer comprehensive training to make sure families can make the best use of the items and use a train-the-trainer approach to empower communities to rebuild and maintain their homes long after their teams leave.

It's not just about teaching people to construct shelters as quickly as possible. It's about making the most of the aid items, so that families have the best possible chance of recovery.



Lyn thanked David for a most interesting talk and the members decided that Shelterbox would become our Charity for this year. The members raised nearly £200 in donations

Eaton Bray WI usually meets at the Salvation Army Hall in Booth place at 7.30pm on the first Monday of the month but our next meeting will be on Monday 13 April when Keith Tucker will be giving a talk on Neurology and Pain.

If you are interested in joining our WI please contact Sue Tucker on 07772 901816

INSPIRING WOMEN

Totterhoe GARDEN CLUB



John's garden

April 2026

I cannot give you all details of our next meeting on 12 March with Kathy Doyle telling us about sustainable and organic gardening as it will be held after the publication date. A report will be in the May issue.

Three of the four outings have been booked. We shall be going to the first RHS Show at Sandringham in July, Lamport Hall in Northamptonshire in May and John's Garden at Ashwood Nurseries in the West Midlands in June. We have visited John's Garden quite a few times before and have found it well laid out with super planting. Not only that, but the



John's garden

nurseries actually have a lot of the plants for sale. The staff are really welcoming and the food is also varied and tasty!

We last went to Lamport hall in 2017. They were very welcoming and provided a good lunch. As we had visited in late September, the garden - though interesting - was not at its

best, so this time we shall be going earlier when there will be much more to see. The garden was originally started in the 17th century but today the gardens include extensive herbaceous borders and shrubbery walks. There is also a walled garden.

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 Totterhoe 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



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HELPFUL TIPS ON FINANCE

A Fresh Financial Start

A new tax year means a clean slate. April is a great time to organise your finances and take advantage of the updated allowances. Check:

- New tax thresholds and rates
- Updated savings interest limits
- National Insurance or pension changes

If you're self-employed or a landlord, consider whether it's time to switch to digital tools. Making Tax Digital continues to expand and going paperless now will save future stress.

Tip of the Month: Set up a simple spreadsheet or app to track income, expenses, and tax deadlines from day one of the new year.



Daniel Riley
(Riley Accountants)

Wednesday Club



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Wednesday Club being entertained by The Ukulele Band

Zoo-normous egg hunt at Whipsnade Zoo this Easter

Celebrate conservation charity ZSL's 200th birthday with an Easter trail of epic proportions at UK's largest zoo ~ Saturday 28 March – Sunday 12 April

LISTINGS RELEASE: HOP on down to Whipsnade Zoo this Easter for an enormous Easter egg hunt with a twist – families will be tasked with cracking a secret code to be rewarded with a tasty treat!

From **Saturday 28 March to Sunday 12 April**, children and their grown-ups can join the search for six gigantic eggs hidden within the UK's largest zoo. Stamping their code-cards at each spot, kids will collect letters and numbers, which they'll need to un-scramble to reveal a top-secret message (clue: it's connected to the 200th anniversary of ZSL, the conservation charity behind Whipsnade Zoo).

Just like the animals at Whipsnade Zoo often put their cognitive abilities to the test with puzzle feeders to unlock their favourite snacks, at the end of the trail successful egg-splorers will exchange their completed code cards for a tasty treat, and can enjoy some fun Easter-themed crafts.

Sign up to become a Gold Member of ZSL before Easter, and you'll have an exclusive chance to find a extra-special hidden egg and win a prize!

As part of their Zoonormous day out, visitors can crack on and explore Whipsnade Zoo's 600-acre site, taking in the 11,000 animals that call the conservation zoo home including Asian elephants, 10 southern white rhinos including three-month-old calf Mick, and a herd of reticulated giraffes, including the herd's new arrivals, siblings Leoni and Duke born just three weeks apart last December.



Endangered northern rockhopper penguins and ferrets crack on with Easter enrichment at Whipsnade Zoo ©ZSL

An excellent value day out, the Zoonormous Egg Hunt is free with zoo entry and under 3s go free – book your tickets online now at www.whipsnadezoo.org.

Whipsnade Zoo | A ZSL conservation zoo.

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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.

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Hit the snooze!

Whipsnade Zoo's brown bears gently wake from hibernation

PHOTO STORY: SPRING may have arrived at the UK's largest zoo with a brief burst of sunshine, but Whipsnade's four European brown bears Mana, Minnie, Naya and Cinderella are in no rush to get up and at 'em.

The fluffy foursome were spotted basking in the first of the spring rays, having awoken after three months of deep slumber. Footage captured by zookeepers this week shows the bears taking in the sights, sounds, and smells of a new year at a leisurely pace.

Whipsnade Zoo's predators section manager Sarah McGregor said: "Spring is a magical time at Whipsnade Zoo, a moment made 'official' when our brown bears emerge from hibernation."

"They can be quite sluggish when they first wake up, and this year has been no exception – they've definitely wanted to hit the snooze button a few times! I think, like the rest of us, they're waiting for the sun to really start shining before committing to leaving their cosy beds."

Wild bears enter hibernation, a survival skill they've learned to preserve energy when food availability is scarce, every winter. While food is plentiful at the zoo, the bears are still driven by innate instincts to forage, and so the keepers adapt what they are fed to match their behaviour and encourage them to rest over the coldest months.

Sarah continued: "Although they're a little dozy at the moment, our brown bears get excited by food or enrichment, and love rolling about in scents we spray or sprinkle in their habitat. Over the next week or so they'll have well and truly woken up, and we can't wait to see them playing together or making a splash in the water of their pool."



European brown bear basking in the spring sunshine at Whipsnade Zoo (c) ZSL

While European brown bears are listed by the IUCN as a least concern species, some subpopulations in Europe are Critically Endangered from habitat loss and human/bear conflict.

Sarah added: "Our bears are great ambassadors for their species, to help educate and raise awareness of European animals and highlight how important it is for us to find ways for people and wildlife to coexist."

"ZSL, the international conservation charity behind Whipsnade Zoo is working around the world to restore habitats and protect important species. We're so lucky to have Naya, Cinderella, Mana and Minnie at the conservation zoo to educate visitors on the threats facing bears in the wild and what we can all do to help."

Visitors to the conservation zoo this spring will be able to see the bears, as well as 11,000 other animals, and every ticket goes towards supporting the conservation work ZSL does around the globe. Find out more and book tickets: [Whipsnade Zoo | A ZSL conservation zoo.](#)

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

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A WWII Tring Soldier's Story



Leonard Charles Collins

Having recently celebrated the 80th Anniversary of VE Day, it is appropriate to relate this story of one of many sons of Tring who served their country willingly and bravely during WWII – and happily survived.

Leonard Charles Collins was born on the 3rd March 1919 at 20 Henry Street, Tring. He was the youngest of Walter and Alice Collins' eight children. Leonard was a pupil at both Gravelly and Tring High Street Schools.

By 1936 he was employed at John Dickinson, Paper Mill in Apsley. At the time young employees were encouraged to join the Territorial Army from which you would receive a one off payment of £5 plus one week off each year to



Army photo Nth Africa

attend training. It was because of this that when WW11 broke out Leonard enlisted to the 1st Battalion Middlesex Regiment, Inglis Barracks, NW London.

At just 20 years of age Leonard's regiment was part of the British Expeditionary Force in France experiencing intense action from the rapid German advance. Leonard soon found himself promoted to Lance Corporal and Machine Gunner of 'C' Company when on the 15th May 1940, 'C' company engaged with the enemy and destroyed two heavy German machine gun units enabling the infantry to regroup.

However, as we know, the Expeditionary Force were overwhelmed by the German advance and were forced to retreat to the Dunkirk beaches and await embarkation to England. Leonard made it back to England on the 13th June 1940 arriving, "bare footed" at Tring station. This was apparently not uncommon when one considers the soldiers having to wade out to the rescuing boats.

He immediately returned to his regiment in Kent, where they remained until 1942 on full alert preparing for the expected German invasion. Whilst off duty the soldiers would frequent the local dance at the "The Welcome Stranger" pub in Lympne. It was there that Leonard met Leading Aircraft woman, Woman's Auxiliary Air Force, Renée Hornby-Burgess, who



My Dad is pictured riding the Vincent HRD which was owned by Mr Hugh Sharratt. The photo was taken by Hugh at Dad's parents house in Henry Street, Tring, Hertfordshire late 1939.



Parents wedding



The Army lineup photo shows Dad, second in from the left, on the back row, next to Hugh on dad's left. Next row down, second man in, is Dennis Sharratt.

was on leave from Tangmere Aerodrome while visiting her parents. (Renée's father had served in France during WWI. He liked the name, Renée because it translates to 'Born Again').

They married on the 27th June 1942 at St Peter and St Paul's Church in Tring. This was understood to be the first full military wedding at the Parish Church since the outbreak of war. After the wedding, Leonard returned to duty where he was then on continuous active service throughout the rest of the war travelling through, North Africa, Sicily, Egypt, Italy and finally Austria.

On returning to Tring, after being discharged in 1946, he and Renée moved into 26 Henry Street, Tring. Many of the properties on Henry Street were owned by the Co-Op Society. They were reasonably maintained having two ground floor rooms and two first floor bedrooms. However, the facilities, serving two or more families,



The Army photo was taken at Mill Hill barracks November 1939. Dad had enlisted on 10th October 1939. The Bren gun photo I think was taken close by outside their billet. Hugh Sharratt is standing (second man in) smoking a cigarette and holding a Bren gun.

comprised of an outside shared WC and washhouse with a metal bath hanging on the outside wall. The kitchen had a coal/wood burning stove and a single cold water tap.

He returned to work at his pre-war employer, John Dickinsons, who held his position open for him as they did for all their serving employees. In January 1959 Leonard was offered a job in the Transport office of Tunnel Cement in Pitstone where he remained until he died quite suddenly from a heart attack in December 1968. This was only one week after attending the annual Middlesex Regiment Reunion in Kensington, London. He was just 49 years old.

Leonard's funeral took place with full military honours at Tring's, St Peter and St Paul's Church the following January 1969. His son Richard Collins has kindly provided us with his story and had the pleasure of exhibiting Leonard's medals at the Tring Local History Museum last year.



Hugh Sharratt on his 1938 European tour. Hugh is identifiable by his goggles which are pushed up on to his head. The registration number CUR 711 is visible on both photos. Both Dennis & Hugh Sharratt are buried at Tottenhoe Cemetery.



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

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

Timely Tips



Start with these four garden tasks this month:

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

In the flower garden



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

- Lift and divide established **border perennial** plants now, like Hostas, to improve vigour and create new plants for your garden.
- Pinch out the tips of **fuchsia plants** and sweet pea plant shoots, to encourage bushy growth this summer. For more information about growing fuchsias.
- Divide primroses once they have finished flowering.
- Plant 'Z bushes once the threat of frost has passed, and the ground is moist.
- Move evergreen trees and shrubs now, provided the soil isn't frozen or waterlogged.
- Feed trees, shrubs and hedges with a balanced, slow-release fertiliser, by lightly forking it into the soil surface. Roses, in particular, are greedy plants and will greatly benefit from feeding as they come into growth.

- Tie in climbing roses.
- Check any tree stakes and ties to make sure they're not cutting into the trunk. Loosen any that are tight, to allow the trunk some room to expand.
- Prune your penstemons now — cut back all the old shoots to the base, provided there is new growth at the bottom of the plant. If there are no new shoots at the base, cut just above the lowest set of leaves.
- Finish cutting back any dead foliage on perennials and ornamental grass plants (if you haven't done so already), to make way for new growth. To learn more about maintaining & growing perennials in your garden, check out our perennial hub page.

Prune Forsythia as soon as they have finished flowering, cutting back to strong, young shoots.

Trim winter-flowering heathers as the flowers disappear, to prevent plants becoming leggy.

In the vegetable garden



Enjoy fresh asparagus this spring.

Get busy with these vegetable garden tasks this April:

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



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Over the past month we have seen the first signs of spring as the daffodils begin to paint our verges in yellow, it's a wonderful time to reflect on the seasons of life that God gives us.

As I look at the beauty that is all around, it fills me with hope of better days ahead and reminds us of the words from Ecclesiastes 3: 1 'there is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens...'

Spring in Eaton Bray brings a renewed energy to our community, offering a chance to shake off the winter blues and reconnect with neighbours.

Whatever season of life you find yourself in there is always an opportunity to do something new. If you're looking for a new way to connect this spring a very warm welcome is waiting for you at The Salvation Army, Eaton Bray.

Blessings

Jacqueline

(The Eaton Bray Salvation Army Church Leader)

The Salvation Army

Booth Place, Eaton Bray, LU6 2DR

Sunday Worship: Sunday 11 am – 12 pm

(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)

SA Tots: Weds 9.30am – 11.30am

(weekly – a fun time for babies & toddlers, & their parents, grandparents, carers, guardians – term time only)

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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