

FOCUS

MAY 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

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EATON BRAY VILLAGE HALL: Jane Taylor 07852 586045

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

COFFEE TAVERN: Julie Mahoney 07836 240467

Website: <https://eatonbray.com/coffee-tavern/>

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

Email: DVH_Bookings@outlook.com

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Email: manager@edlesborough-pc.gov.uk

EDLESBOROUGH PAVILION: 07836 240467

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

PARISH COUNCIL CONTACTS

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

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

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EATON BRAY GOOD NEIGHBOURS HELPLINE 07930 987064



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

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 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 Cousins

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

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

Reader: Gordon Gray (01525 220136)

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

This will be my last Focus article. After 9 years as Vicar of Eaton Bray with Edlesborough I am retiring. By the time you read this, I will have had my final service on 26th April, and will be frantically sorting and packing up ready for the big move back to Yorkshire. When I first applied for the post, this was not an area of the country I was familiar with, although Dave had played cricket in Eaton Bray many years ago. It has been a pleasure to get to know you all, become part of the life of the four villages, and to lead St Mary's Eaton Bray and All Saints' Dagnall as Vicar. Much has happened during the past 9 years.

In 2018, the Parish welcomed the first curate in living memory, Revd Dr Stephen Burge. As a self-supporting minister, Stephen continued with his secular job whilst also ministering amongst us. He enjoyed it so much that he stayed on as Assistant Priest for four years after his curacy ended. St Mary's celebrated 800 years as a Parish Church in 2019 with the visit of HRH Richard, Duke of Gloucester along with the Lord Lieutenant of Bedfordshire, the High Sheriff of Bedfordshire, Bishop Richard and local schools. We had a wonderful day and the tree which was planted in the churchyard is thriving.

During the next couple of year, the Covid Pandemic changed all our lives overnight. We had to find new ways of being church with the building closed initially, and then partially opened. That led to the purchase of a livestream camera to share services and we now livestream our worship weekly. You can find information on the church website.

Post Covid, it has been wonderful to participate again in the many community events which take place in our villages. Edlesfest, organised and run by the Friends of

the Church on the Hill, is always a great event, with fabulous music in the beautiful surroundings of St Mary's Church, Edlesborough. St Mary's Village Carnival is a remarkable community get together with so much to do. Over the years it has faced challenges including Covid, weather and the World Cup, but it continues to raise vital funds for St Mary's Eaton Bray and other local good causes. Dave and I have enjoyed Quiz nights in Eaton Bray village Hall and our team even became quiz champions on one occasion!

Of course, the main commitment of a vicar is to lead the people in worship. We gather week by week, and at the great Christian festivals of Christmas, Easter, Pentecost, and Harvest. It is always a great joy to conduct baptisms and weddings and share with people on such happy occasions. It is also a real privilege to take funerals and pray with people at times of challenge and sadness.

It will be a huge change for me to retire from full time ministry after nearly 34 years. But I will continue to be a priest and get involved with the local church in our new village. I'm pleased to say that in the past few years two retired priests, Chris and John, have moved into the parish and together with Catherine Hayden, Church Warden and the Parochial Church Council they will be helping during the Vacancy. It may be a while before a new incumbent is appointed, but you will be in safe hands.

Thanks to everyone for their support during my ministry here and I wish you all God's richest blessings.

Joy, Vicar of Eaton Bray with Edlesborough



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.



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On the **FIRST** and **THIRD SUNDAYS** of each month there is **HOLY COMMUNION** at **8am**

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

WEEKDAYS: WEDNESDAY at **10am HOLY COMMUNION**

EVERYONE IS WELCOME AT THESE SERVICES

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



ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, DAGNALL MAY 2026

SUNDAY 17TH MAY

10.30AM

HOLY COMMUNION

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





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WEST WYCOMBE PARK

Fresh from its star turn in Bridgerton, the grounds reopen at West Wycombe Park.

The house reopens on 2 June.

GROUNDS OPEN 1 APRIL
Sunday to Thursday 2-5pm



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:
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

**Future Book Swap dates
at St Mary's Church
May 2nd 10.30 – 12.00
June 6th 10.30 – 12.00**

It was good to see familiar faces returning with books to swap and some new faces as well. The Book Swap continues to be very busy and is continuing to attract more people who love to read.

The Book Swap is open to coincide with the coffee mornings at St Mary's church and the Bookcase is not open for swapping or leaving books at any other time. We are only accepting novels and we asking that you only bring them when the Book Swap is open. Please note we are not accepting cookery books and factual books or any large amounts of books. We hope that by bringing a book you have recently read and taking a book someone else would like to share we will have small library of constantly changing current books for people to enjoy.

For more information about Book Swap please contact:

Chris Sanders

Email: chris.sanders45@gmail.com

Jenifer MacKenzie

Email: jenimackenzie@hotmail.com



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or the Parish Clerk on 07931 479663**

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



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dance, theatre, sports events, food sales, craft fairs, exercise
classes, friendship groups, we welcome you all – and more!*

Faith, Familiar Places, and New Growth

May is a month I've always associated with steady growth. The brightness of early spring deepens now into something more settled and confident. Gardens begin to take shape, days stretch out, and there is a sense that life is moving forward with purpose. It feels like a fitting time to reflect on how faith, too, grows quietly and faithfully over time. This May, I will again be spending some time in Gibraltar, where my partner is from, a place I visit often and have come to love. Over the years, Gibraltar has become familiar territory: its narrow streets, dramatic landscape, and strong sense of community. Being there regularly has helped me appreciate how deeply place can shape us, not only our memories and relationships, but our faith as well.

Worshipping in Gibraltar is always a reminder that Christianity is both local and universal. The hymns, prayers, and Scriptures are familiar, yet shaped by a different accent and culture. It reinforces something central to Christian belief: that the Church is not confined to one building, village, or country. We are part of a worldwide community rooted in the same story, the story of God's love made known in Jesus Christ.

At the heart of Christian faith is the conviction that God is not distant, but deeply involved in human life. In Jesus, we see a God who shares our joys and struggles, who meets people where they are, and who calls us into lives shaped by love, forgiveness, and hope. That

message does not change from place to place, even though the way it is lived out may look different.

May falls within the season of Eastertide, a time when Christians reflect on resurrection not just as an event, but as a way of seeing the world. Resurrection faith teaches us to expect new life, sometimes in obvious ways, but often slowly and quietly. Just as plants grow beneath the soil before we ever see them, faith often deepens unnoticed until, one day, we realise something has changed.

As May unfolds, I hope this season invites us to notice what is growing, not only in our gardens, but within ourselves and our community. Perhaps it is a deeper sense of trust, a renewed faith, or simply greater kindness towards one another. The Christian story reminds us that God is present in these moments, nurturing growth and offering grace along the way.

You are always very welcome at the Methodist churches, whether for worship, conversation, or quiet reflection. My prayer for this month is that all of us may experience something of God's renewing love, rooted in faith and lived out in the shared life of our village.

With every blessing,

**Rev Tim Haines -
Methodist Minister**

www.eatonbraymethodists.org



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feel completely
at ease.

Thank you!"
- R.R.



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EDLESBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Including Edlesborough • Dagnall • Northall • May 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 | 01252 229358

Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting for Edlesborough, Dagnall and Northall will be held commence at 7.30pm on Thursday 28th May in **Edlesborough Memorial Hall**.

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

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

Annual Meeting of Edlesborough Parish Council

The Annual Meeting of Edlesborough Parish Council will commence at 7.30pm on Thursday 21st May. At this meeting the Council will elect the Chair for the year and allocate roles and responsibilities. The minutes of the last Annual Meeting can be viewed on the Council website.

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/>

Meet your neighbourhood team to discuss all things crime and safety. Whether you've seen it, heard it or been affected by it... **HAVE YOUR SAY**
WE WANT TO HEAR IT
THAMES VALLEY POLICE

Thames Valley Police

The next Thames Valley Police Have your say event will take place in Edlesborough Pavilion on Wednesday 13th May from 12.30pm – 2pm. All parishioners are welcome to attend.

Considerate Parking in the Villages

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

Please do not park:

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



Traffic Calming in the Parish

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

East Bucks Community Board.



The East Bucks Community Board has launched the responsible dog owner campaign on social media, on the East Bucks Community Board Facebook page. They will be highlighting some key areas of focus with social media assets over the coming weeks and there is a dedicated webpage that will accompany these posts.

EDLESBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Including Edlesborough • Dagnall • Northall • 2025/26

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



The information is available on the Buckinghamshire Council website <https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/responsive-dog-owners>

Buckinghamshire Best Kept Village Competition

Both Edlesborough and Dagnall villages have again entered the Buckinghamshire Best Kept Village Competition. Judging will take place between 1st June and 14th July.



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.



Parish Allotments - Notice of Inspection

Allotment Inspections will be carried in the first two weeks of May 2025 out at the following sites:

- The Green
- Cow Lane
- Dagnall
- Northall

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

Council Meetings

The next Edlesborough Parish Council Meetings will take place on:

- **Thursday 21st May 2026 – in Edlesborough Memorial Hall this meeting will follow the Annual Meeting of Edlesborough Parish Council that commences at 7.30pm.**
- **Thursday 18th June 2026 – in Edlesborough Memorial Hall**

The meetings will commence at 7:30pm.

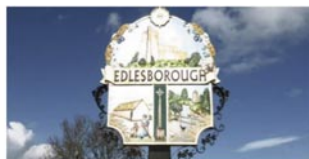
The meetings will commence at 7:30pm.

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.



Edlesborough Annual Parish Meeting including Dagnall and Northall



The Edlesborough Annual Parish Meeting will commence at 7.30pm on Thursday 28th May 2026 in Edlesborough Memorial Hall.

The Annual Parish Meeting is not an official, quorate council meeting. Neither Buckinghamshire Council nor Edlesborough Parish Council can pass resolutions at this meeting. Respective organisations can take matters back to their councils for consideration.

The Annual Parish Meeting is your chance to catch up on events that have happened over the last 12 months and hear the plans for the forthcoming year.

Any local organisations wishing to share information at the meeting should contact the Parish Clerk, by 1st May 2026, to request a slot on the agenda.

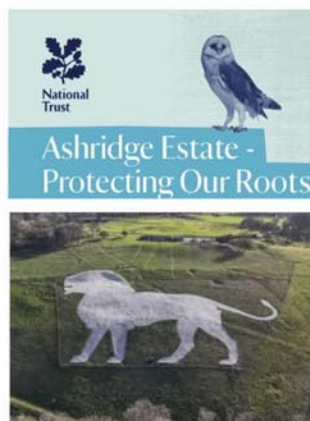
All parishioners are welcome to attend, and we look forward to seeing you.

This year we have the guest speakers from the following organisations

Ivinghoe & Pitstone Repair Café



Ashridge Estate – Protecting Our Roots



Whipsnade Zoo – Whipsnade Lion Restoration Volunteers

Full minutes of previous Annual Parish Meetings are available to view on the EPC website www.edlesborough-pc.gov.uk or via clerk@edlesborough-pc.gov.uk 01525 229358

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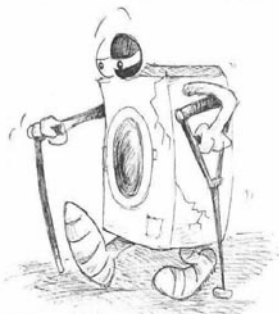
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PARISH COUNCIL WEBSITE

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.



EATON BRAY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

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

(Minutes ratified at the Parish Council Meeting on Monday 13th April 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

- Grand Union Canal Transfer: The details/plans for this next stage of the consultation have gone out. A notice of the consultation was put on the Parish Council noticeboard (The Coffee Tavern) and the Eaton Bray Facebook page.
- Council Tax Relief: CBC are looking to make changes to council tax relief for people of working age who do not work. They will be looking at other ways to ensure people who fall into this bracket will not struggle/fall into poverty.
- Fly-Tipping: Cllr Spicer has been raising awareness with CBC and our MP regarding the major problems being experienced with fly-tipping in this area. An article covering this issue was on BBC Three Counties location news, highlighting Eaton Bray specifically.

BEDFORDSHIRE POLICE

- Follow local policing team on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/leightonbuzzardpolicing/>
- Crime Map for your area (details can be found on the Bedfordshire Police



website):<https://www.facebook.com/leightonbuzzardpolicing/>

RECREATION GROUNDS

- Skate Park: Repair works planned to go ahead April 2026, delays due to bad weather.
- School Lane – the Parish Council are looking into the installation of a drinking/water bottle filling station in the recreation ground.

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

2) 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*).

3) Music with the Heath Brass Band and Christmas Carols

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

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



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

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

- Annual Parish Meeting & Annual Meeting of Eaton Bray Parish Council, Monday 11th May 2026, from 7pm
- Parish Council Meeting, Monday 1st June 2026

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Tuesday 19th May 2026 – Tuesday 9th June 2026 – Tuesday 14th July 2026

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OPEN GARDENS

~ 2026 ~

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

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

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

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EASTER and THEN WHAT?

The day before Easter, I watched the epic 1965 film, "The Greatest Story Ever Told", a dramatisation of the life of Jesus on earth (The one where Centurion, John Wayne declaims somewhat unconvincingly, "Surely this man was the SonaGaad!" as Jesus died on the Cross.) It climaxes of course with the events of what we now call Holy Week and, as I watched, I found myself getting quite edgy - are they going to leave time for the Resurrection. Jesus was crucified and entombed and, with about five minutes remaining, we reached His Rising from death, then swiftly to His Ascension and return to God the Father, all accompanied by the Hallelujah Chorus. In the nick of time....The End....Final Credits....Put it away until next Easter.

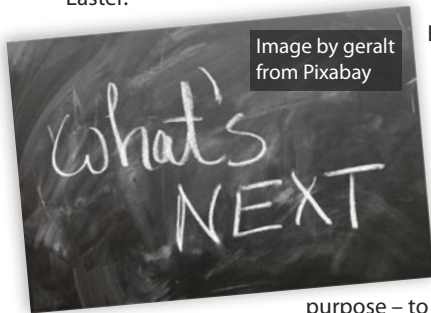


Image by geralt from Pixabay

But it is not The End of the story. Jesus had come into the world for a

purpose – to show everyone what God is like; His love and mercy towards them, His longing to enter into a Father/Child relationship with them/us and His promise to forgive all the wrong deeds, thoughts, attitudes and choices which damage our lives and relationships, and His gift of Life for ever with Him when we trust Him. But then, nearly two thousand years ago, only a handful of people knew – Jesus' disciples, His followers. So, He said to them, "All authority is given to me, so, you go into all the world and tell everyone the Good News. Teach people about me and all that you have learned from me...

....and look....I will be with you all the way, for ever".

There is a legend that when Jesus got back to Heaven He met the Angel Gabriel, who asked Him, "How are people to know about you, trust you and become followers themselves?" Jesus replied, "My Disciples will tell them". "Really?" said Gabriel, "And what if they let you down like they did before?" Jesus smiled. "There is no Plan B" He said.

Jesus knew that His Disciples would need help to carry out His Mission and so He gave them His own Spirit, the Divine Holy Spirit, to inspire and enable them. "Repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached everywhere," He said, "Starting where you are, but wait until you get The Power". So they waited and the Spirit came to them like mighty flames driven on fierce and tumultuous wind. And out they went on that Day of Pentecost – to make Jesus known. It was effectively the Birth – Day of the Church.

Plan A is still fully operational – Disciples telling Good News, making new Disciples and has been so for nearly two thousand years. Same mission, same Holy Spirit, same Divine Love at work. Pentecost will be celebrated on May 24th this year, in Worship, Praise and Commitment, at a Church near you. Maybe Northall Baptist Church is near you. Please know that you would be most welcome to join us then or any Sunday at 11 am. To have Fellowship with God and with each other.

Contributed by Rev. Lynne Davis
Contact Ruth 07791 425625 for Zoom Link

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

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Eaton Bray Good Neighbours

It seems that the world is a very uncertain and unstable place at the moment. However, it's important to remember that some things are anchored and unchanged. Spring flowers continue to bloom; animals wake up from hibernation; the sun rises and sets and some people still need help to get to medical appointments or to have their prescription collected in spite of all that is going on around the world to concern us. How lucky we are to have a fantastic band of volunteers who calmly continue to assist people who need it. Some take the phone calls and arrange the help while others do the driving. We are particularly in need of new volunteers in both of these roles.

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. 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. EBGN is a service Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm.

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

DAGNALL WEATHER STATION (AONB)

Weather Conditions for March 2026

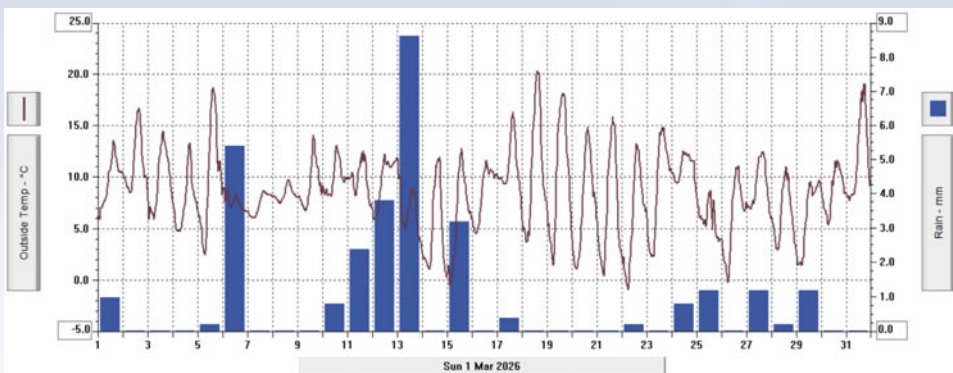
Elevation: 450 ft. - Latitude: 51° 50' 13" North - Longitude: 0° 33' 34" West

March was overall mild and changeable with below average rainfall here in Dagnall.

The month started fine with temperatures in the high teens before becoming unsettled. In the middle of the month, we had a week of fine weather with the temperature reaching a monthly high of 20.4°C on the 18th. March was warmer than normal with a mean temperature of 8.6°C, but there were still cool periods early mornings and, at the end of the month, the temperature dropped to -1.3°C. The wettest day was the 12th with 8.6mm. March had a total rainfall of 30.6mm, which is 55% of the average. The running total for the year was 241.0mm, which is 127% of the average.

Temperature:	High	Date/Time	Low	Date/Time
	20.4°C	18 Mar 14.30	- 1.3°C	22 Mar 06.00
Mean Temperature	8.6°C			
Dewpoint:	13.3°C	18 Mar 17.00	- 1.9°C	27 Mar 06.30
Humidity:	100%	10 -18 Mar	37%	21 Mar 17.00
Barometer:	1030.9mb	29 Mar 05.30	996.0 mb	13 Mar 02.00
Wind Speed	47 mph SW	23 Mar 19.30	Months avg.	6.1 mph
Wind Chill:	20.3°C	18 Mar 14.30	- 0.9°C	22 Mar 06.00
Dominant Wind:	SW			
Rainfall *T= total rain days and moisture. R= Actual rain				
*Rain Days:	24(T)- 24(R)	Wettest Day	12 Mar	8.6 mm 0.339 ins
Monthly Rain:	Total	March 2026	30.6 mm	1.205 ins
Yearly Rain:	Total	3 Month	241.0 mm	9.488 ins

March 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.

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Today, Castle Combe's remarkably well-preserved monuments and architecture make the town a delight to explore. The fact that no new houses have been built in its centre since the 1600s only adds to its timeless beauty. Marvel at the Market Cross and stunning stained glass windows of St Andrew's Church (said to be home to one of Britain's oldest working clocks), before settling in for some tasty pub grub in one of the welcoming inns.



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Match Day Mindset

As matches become more competitive, help children develop calm, focused mindsets. Pre-match nerves are normal—teach kids how to manage them.

Coaching Tip: Practice visualisation and deep-breathing techniques. Let players talk through tactics to increase ownership and confidence.



Daniel Piley

Coach for EB Lions
U11 Saturday Team





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Wellington

Situated on the southern tip of the North Island and named after the first Duke of Wellington, it became the capital of New Zealand in 1865. Located along the 'Roaring Forties'—a belt of powerful westerly winds—Wellington sits where these winds are funnelled through the Cook Strait, the narrow channel between New Zealand's North and South Islands. This natural wind tunnel accelerates the air as it passes through, earning the city its famous nickname: 'Windy Wellington'.



Compact and easy to explore on foot, Wellington is a food lover's paradise. Tucked-away laneway bars, a buzzing café culture, and a collection of award-winning restaurants make every corner a culinary discovery. Renowned as one of the world's top ten coffee cities, there are plenty of places to sit and savour your hot drink of choice.

Top things to see in Wellington

Te Papa Tongarewa Museum of New Zealand: You could easily spend the day here exploring the different levels and galleries. One particular highlight is Gallipoli – The Scale of Our War exhibit. The real life experiences of New Zealanders have been brought to life by Weta Workshop.

Photo Opportunity: Take the cable car from Lambton Quay up to the Botanic Gardens for fantastic views over the city.

See wildlife close to the city: Visit Zealandia, a fully fenced sanctuary that is home to many of New Zealand's rarest birds, reptiles, fish, insects and plants all in a predator-free environment. There are transfers from the city and I would recommend a guided tour so you don't miss any of the wildlife. For something a bit different, book a Twilight or Night Time tour.

Visit Wellywood: If you are a movie fan, then a trip to Miramar to visit Weta Workshop is a must! Home to the creative team behind, Lord of the Rings, the Hobbit, Black Panther and Avatar to name but a few! The easiest way to get there is to book the inclusive transfer and guided tour from the city. If you have more time, try one of the activities such as Intro to Scars & Scrapes.

Walk the Waterfront: Stroll along Wellington's 2km waterfront soaking in the city and harbour views. There are plenty of places to stop along the way including parks, cafés and museums, as well as unexpected art installations.

Top Tip: Wellington is often overlooked by visitors to New Zealand but there is more to this cool capital city than just a crossing point to the South Island! Make sure to add it into your itinerary!

For more information and help in planning your trip to Wellington contact Sarah at Travel Impressions, as she is an advanced level Kiwi Specialist and has lived in New Zealand.

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ST MARY'S VILLAGE CARNIVAL

Saturday 4th July 2026

A Day of Flags, Fun & Family Magic! 11am to 6pm

Your Essential Guide & Contact List

Get ready to paint the Procession Route with colour
This year's theme : **"COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD"**
Celebrate your heritage, your dream destination or your favourite nation.

Join the Procession of Nations!
Starting at: The Orchards at 11:45am

NB: The new route will be from The Orchards - Eaton Bray and then along Edlesborough High Street and left into Pebblemoor and onto The Green. The route will no longer include The Green or Brownlow Avenue.
Be part of the Procession this year? Got a business, vintage car, or big personality- get seen and enjoy the day.

Contact: gavyn@gmail.com

- Best Dressed Houses – 3 Top CUP'S to Win this year for: Eaton Bray, Moor End & Edlesborough
- Best Dressed Business – One dazzling cup to win- Who will it be?? Good Luck 🍀 Judging takes place 11am-1pm

Contact: Louise-janes@janesltd.co.uk

ROYAL FLOAT ALERT!

We're crowning our Carnival Prince & Princess!
Know a little one with big dreams? Let them ride in style
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Contact: ellisonkath08@outlook.com

GRAND PRIZE DRAW!

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THE ARENA & GREEN

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DOG SHOW DELIGHT!

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Taking Up a New Hobby: Outdoor Bowls

Finding a hobby that encourages relaxation, social connection, and gentle physical activity can be incredibly rewarding. Outdoor bowls—often simply called lawn bowls—is one such pastime that quietly offers all of these benefits and more. While it may not always grab headlines, those who try it often discover a deeply satisfying and surprisingly engaging activity.

A Sport for All Ages and Abilities One of the most appealing aspects of outdoor bowls is its accessibility. Unlike many sports that demand high levels of fitness or agility, bowls can be enjoyed by people of all ages and physical abilities. Whether you're a teenager looking for something new or a retiree seeking a leisurely activity, bowls provides a level playing field. It's easy to learn the basics, yet challenging enough to keep you improving over time. Gentle Exercise with Real Benefits Outdoor bowls offers a form of low-impact exercise that's easy on the joints but still beneficial for overall health. Walking back and forth across the green, bending, and delivering the bowl all contribute to improved mobility, balance, and coordination. It's an ideal way to stay active without the strain associated with more intense sports.

A Social and Welcoming Community Bowls clubs are often known for their friendly and inclusive atmosphere. Taking up the sport can introduce you to a community of people who share a common interest. Whether you're playing competitively or just for fun, the social aspect is a huge draw. Many clubs host regular events, matches, and social gatherings, making it easy to build friendships and feel part of a group.

A Game of Skill and Strategy At first glance, bowls might seem simple—just roll a ball toward a target. But the reality is far more nuanced. The game requires precision,

concentration, and tactical thinking. You'll need to consider factors like the slope of the green, the weight of your delivery, and how to outmaneuver your opponent's bowls. This mental engagement keeps the game interesting and rewarding.

Time Outdoors Spending time outdoors has well-documented benefits for mental health, and bowls offers plenty of it. Played on well-maintained greens, often surrounded by nature, the environment is calm and relaxing. It's a chance to unplug, breathe fresh air, and enjoy a slower pace of life—even if just for a few hours.

Affordable and Easy to Start Compared to many hobbies, outdoor bowls is relatively inexpensive. Most clubs offer beginner sessions and provide equipment, so you don't need to invest heavily upfront. This makes it easy to try the sport without a big commitment and decide if it's right for you.

A Hobby for Life Perhaps one of the greatest advantages of outdoor bowls is its longevity. It's not a hobby you'll outgrow—in fact, many players continue well into later life. The combination of physical activity, mental challenge, and social interaction makes it something you can enjoy for decades.

Taking up outdoor bowls might not be the most obvious choice, but it's one that offers a unique blend of relaxation, challenge, and community. If you're looking for a hobby that enriches both body and mind while connecting you with others, it might be time to give bowls a try.





For those of us who are lucky enough to live within the sound of the bells of St Mary's Church in Eaton Bray, we will all be very familiar with the beautiful tones ringing from the bell tower every Sunday morning and again Monday evenings at the bell ringer's weekly practice.

For me, this is the sound of a small rural village tradition and feel privileged to enjoy it week by week.

What you may not know is that bell ringing in English churches began in early medieval times inherited from continental Christian practice. Notably this is believed to be from Campania and it is likely from this that the term 'campanology' is derived.

Over time, it evolved from simple signalling into a rich religious and cultural tradition culminating in the uniquely English art of change ringing in the 1600s. It was originally not just a religious calling to worship but also coordinating daily life before the widespread ownership and use of clocks, signal of danger such as fire, curfews and invasions. The bells were often 'baptised' in ceremonies reflecting the ancient belief they had a sacred role in protecting the community. Today, at St Mary's we have a very committed bunch of local neighbours who come together through Tower Captain, Gaye Soule to practice well known and much-loved precise sequences in repetition which is perhaps surprisingly mathematical. Throughout all seasons come rain or shine the ringers arrive at the bell tower to continue in this tradition.

The bells are reached from a narrow winding staircase before reaching the platform where the ringers pull each bell in full circle.

There were originally 5 bells: the 2

oldest dating back to 1656. The 6th bell was added much later in the early 20th century. The bells need upkeep and periodic

overhauling: the last one took place in 2009 when the bells were notoriously difficult to ring. They are tuned in the key of A flat and the largest weighing a massive 900lbs or so.

Our current ringing team are John Plater, Bryan Daniels, Richard Stroud, Adrian Roberts and Carl Riger. The other regular ringers are Sharon Stilliard, Sarah Edwards, Susan Rivett and Gaye Soule all of whom have learned to ring more recently.

The team are of varying age ranges with diverse backgrounds from school teachers to retirees with varied working lives. They are always ready to welcome newbies to share their love of what they do ensuring we are able to continue enjoying this most unique of English traditions.

Bell ringing is much more straight forward than you may think and accessible for all ages from kids to older. If this is something you would like more information on and/ or to get involved with please contact Gaye Soule, Tower Captain, on 07807 924218.





STOVETOP MACARONI CHEESE

Pasta is a good source of carbs and whole wheat versions contain plenty of fibre. Plus you can easily add veggies and protein to create a perfectly balanced meal. Macaroni cheese is one of the most popular comfort foods around. The combination of chewy pasta, creamy sauce, and gooey cheese is warming, delicious, and indulgent. When it's baked in the oven, as it traditionally is, the top also becomes gorgeously crisp.

If you're craving mac and cheese but would like a quick weeknight version, why not make it on the hob? Not only does this save energy, but it also means you can tuck into a piping hot bowl in just 20 minutes.

To make sure this dish is as tasty as the oven-baked classic, it's important to create a sauce that's thick, creamy, and packed with flavour. Garlic powder, onion powder, smoked paprika, and pepper go a long way!

First, cook the pasta; macaroni is traditionally used, but you can use any small pasta like penne, rigatoni, conchiglie, or farfalle. Then, make your sauce, and once it's thickened, add the cheese. Mozzarella gives it a gooey texture, while cheddar has a stronger taste.

Finally, add the pasta to the sauce and top with parsley. For extra vitamins and protein, you can also add peas to the pasta as it's cooking.

INGREDIENTS:

- 2 tablespoons butter
- 2 tablespoons flour
- 2 cups water
- 3 1/2 cups milk
- 1 pound elbow macaroni uncooked
- 3/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1/4 teaspoon onion powder
- 1/2 teaspoon smoked paprika
- 1/4 teaspoon black pepper
- 4 cups shredded cheddar cheese
- 1 cup shredded mozzarella cheese
- 1 tablespoon chopped parsley

INSTRUCTIONS

Melt the butter in a large pot over medium heat. Add the flour, then whisk until combined, about 30 seconds.

Pour in the water and whisk until smooth and just thickened.

Add the milk and whisk until combined.

Stir in the macaroni, salt, garlic powder, onion powder, smoked paprika and pepper, then bring the mixture to a simmer.

Cook for 8-10 minutes, stirring occasionally until pasta is done.

Turn the heat to low, then stir in the cheeses. Keep stirring until the sauce is smooth. Sprinkle with parsley and serve.

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Making the Most of Edlesborough Pavilion

There's something special about having a space right on your doorstep where people can come together, stay active, and enjoy community life—and that's exactly what Edlesborough Pavilion is all about.

Over time, more and more residents have been discovering just how much the Pavilion has to offer. From hosting local clubs to social gatherings and private events, it's a place that continues to grow with the community.

Here's a quick guide to what's available and how you can be part of it.

At its heart, the Pavilion is a community facility, created to be welcoming, accessible, and inclusive. A key part of that is its membership structure, which helps keep everything running smoothly while ensuring fair access for everyone.

If you live within the Edlesborough Parish, covering the villages of Edlesborough, Dagnall and Northall, you do not pay a membership fee. This is because the cost of building the Pavilion was funded by the Parish Council, and repayment of the associated loan continues to be supported by the local residents through the Council Tax that they pay.

For those living in nearby villages such as Eaton Bray and the surrounding areas, the Pavilion is very much open to you too. A small membership fee applies, which helps contribute towards the day-to-day running costs—things like upkeep, utilities, and ongoing improvements. These contributions play an important role in keeping the Pavilion a high-quality, well-maintained space for everyone to enjoy.

The aim is simple: to create a shared community hub that is both welcoming and sustainable. Whether you're popping in for a class, attending an event, or considering hiring the space, becoming a member is your gateway to getting involved.

If you haven't visited yet, why not come along and see what's happening? There's a warm welcome waiting, and plenty of opportunities to meet people, try something new, and make the most of this fantastic local facility.

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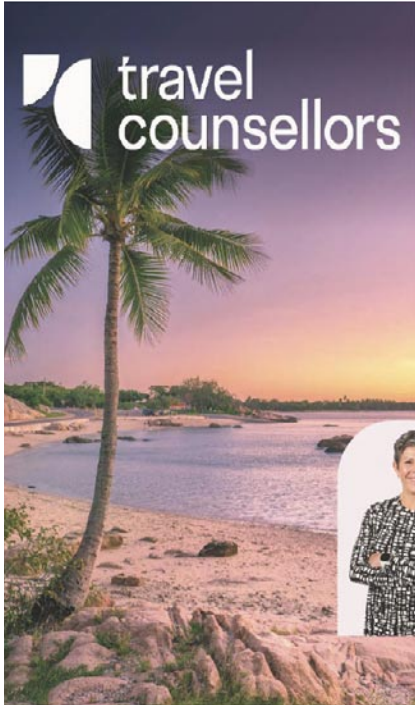
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THE GREAT BRITISH LITTER PICK IN EDLESBOROUGH AND NORTHALL

Once again members of the Litter picking Group in Edlesborough and Northall have been out in force taking part in the Great British Litter Pick. We managed two organised litter picks, and several members also took part independently. We collected at least 20 black bags of litter and there were probably others which were taken home and disposed of in domestic collections. So, the Villages should be looking much tidier, shouldn't they? Disappointingly I drove down Cock's Close towards Pebblemoor from the main road this afternoon. This area was litter picked twice, once on 14 th March when several bags were filled, and again on 28 th March when three more bags were collected.

Today it needs doing again! This is not acceptable because the road is in open countryside. It seems that there are people who think it is OK to throw rubbish from cars or drop it on open verges and hedgerows rather than take it home, with no consideration for the effect on the environment or on the wildlife we value so much. One person has used this road for years to dump their wine bottles before driving home. We pick up dozens!

We have also noticed a big increase in gas canisters amongst the debris we collect. We can't dispose of these and so have to contact the County Council to arrange for them – and any other items too big for us to deal with – to be collected. It costs money to send out “the Men in Orange”, our money from our Council Tax....

A great big “Thank You” to all the stalwart members of the group who took part in the great British Litter Pick, and to all those who go out on a regular basis to keep the villages tidy. It's not a pleasant hobby but a satisfying one, and our villages are very lucky to have some very dedicated people.

But **everyone** should be doing their part to help keep our villages and surrounding environment clean and tidy. It's simple really....

1. **Don't drop litter anywhere** and expect others to clear up after you.
2. Always use litter bins or if none are available, please take your rubbish home with you.
3. Help to keep the area around your home litter free. A few minutes is all it takes.

One only has to drive down the bypass towards Milton Keynes to see that the wildflowers on the verges on the main roads are slowly disappearing under increasing amounts of rubbish which can only be collected by trained staff from our cash strapped councils. It's frustrating that we can't help to clear them up, but we can do a great deal to make sure our local environment doesn't end up like this.

Lorna Cabbage





THE FRIENDS OF THE CHURCH ON THE HILL, EDLESBOROUGH



EdleFest 2026

5-6th June



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EdleFest, our village music festival, is all ready to host another unique weekend, alive with music.

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

We've got another great line-up for you this year, encompassing folk, blues & roots, bluegrass, americana, country and indie-pop. You can check out all the details by visiting edlefest.site123.me, but meanwhile here's a quick taster of our exciting line-up.



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FOREIGN AFFAIRS

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

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



Scan the QR code or search online for **EdleFest 2026**, or visit edlefest.site123.me, call 07974 921923, or email EdleFest@gmail.com.

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Lucas (Northall)

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Warren (Eaton Bray)

★★★★★



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Jim (Eaton Bray)

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Bernadette (Edlesborough)

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Andrew Janes (Edlesborough)

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Mole Facts



Moles are very rarely seen as they spend most of their lives underground. They are stocky animals, with a wedge-shaped body and short tail. They use their spade-like paws to dig tunnels and hunt for their favourite meal of earthworms. They also like to eat underground grubs that would usually feed off crops, so moles can help to control unwanted visitors!

By digging up the earth, moles help make the soil healthier by aerating it. This allows more types of plants to grow, which in turn feed more insects. Not only this, their tunnels improve soil drainage, which helps stop flooding and huge puddles forming on the ground. Moles truly are the unsung heroes of the animal world!

How to identify

The mole is unmistakable. It is a stocky little animal, covered in black, velvety fur, with tiny eyes, a long, pink nose and two big, shovel-like 'hands' for front paws. You're more likely to spot mole hills (the piled-up earth from their burrowing) than the

Did you know?

A mole can dig up to 20 metres of tunnel in a day using its spade-like forepaws to effectively breaststroke its way through the soil. Every now and again, loose soil is pushed up to the surface, resulting in what we see as a mole hill.

The mole's velvety coat helps it to move easily through the soil, and its mouth and nose are protected from debris by their down-facing position.



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ON MODERN LIVING

I have something to tell you, something really quite important,
And I'll do it in a moment, once I've got my status sorted.
I just need to check my emails and my Twitter feed and then,
I'll be ready.... Right. Here we go..... Erm what was it again?

You see, I'm really struggling with this constant need for interruption,
Is it entertainment or an inconvenient disruption?
"Mesmerize me world!" Bestow the hollow joy of pure distraction,
On my fleeting mind. I can't focus on anything but action.

It's The Age Of Instant Updates. Come and see what you can find!
Let the one line briefings flood in and lobotomize your mind.
Choose your subjects, charge your battery and then wait with baited breath,
As you switch the toggle, and 'notify' yourself to death.

Oh, and be sure to start wanting lots of things you do not need,
Because they're not short of a sales pitch in your information feed.
There's no limit to the ideas and the goods people can sell you,
Everything now has a price (just decreasingly a value).

Oh thank you advertisement for your gushing words of praise,
Yes I am that special aren't I? I've been thinking that for days.
And from those pictures of that handsome man in your trendy regalia
I can clearly see if I don't buy some too I'll be a failure.

What a lovely time he's having. You can see that it's the case. Look!
What a super smile! I'll bet that he's got loads of friends on Facebook.
So window display, as you promise to confer social status,
Go ahead - take over my decision making apparatus.

Hang on. Stop. Let's focus for a moment. Switch it off. Rewind.
Stop checking the scores. Lose the batteries. Liberate your mind.
I think we need a 'time out', some reflection and atonement.
Have we any idea what's going on around us at the moment?

It's The Age Of The Individual and self-expression is in bloom,
As we purchase, download, watch, devour, consume, Consume, CONSUME.
And get so hung up about how we want ourselves to be viewed,
That we over-communicate every single thing we do.

No detachment or reflection, only gestures histrionic,
But the thing about the scramble for esteem that's most ironic,
Is that all this self-promotion erodes dignity and principles.
Hello Age Of Individualism! Oh... where are the individuals?

And another thing, why is it we deserve so much these days?
Why must we complain when things don't work out how we hoped they may?
Do we ever stop and think quite how emphatically unhinging,
It is to be surrounded by entitlement and winging?

And this new digital snooping on the lives of other folks,
Fuels ever more deluded expectations, dreams and hopes.
We deserve to be successful! We deserve to be adored!
Why? Because we're special, and we have the right to so much more!

Well, we all can master something if we take the time to learn it,
And we all can gain respect, if we do the things to earn it.
Yes, we have our rights, and whilst we deserve to be treated equal,
We can't always dump the blame for how we feel on other people.

Because we're the most dangerous enemies we could ever meet,
We lie in ambush for ourselves around the corner of the street.
Yes, regardless of the things that other people do or say,
We're the only people who can make or break our day.

Has it always been like this? Were we always so expectant?
We were always so self-focussed? So possessive? So reluctant?
Have we now become so numb during the things we do or feel,
That unless we stop and film them, then we might not think they're real?

And we've dumbed things down so much now to a point that's so absurd,
That they build political campaigns around a single word:
'Change!' We need a change, although it matters not what to.
For in The Age Of Intolerance, just a change itself will do.

Why is change always a good thing? What's the problem with routines?
When did travelling and shopping become an end and not a means?
And the answers, why are they always without and not within?
Why will a new car make us feel so much happier than we've been?

Because the new car becomes the old car, the new girlfriend the old wife.
The new destination becomes the place you've lived in all your life.
So instead of changing everything around us, for a change,
How about we change ourselves? The idea's really not that strange.

BOOK REVIEWS

The Daughter of Time by Josephine Tey

The title is taken from the old proverb "Truth is the Daughter of Time"

The Daughter of Time explores the historical facts surrounding one of Shakespeare's most enduring villains, King Richard III, and interrogates how stories are preserved, who gets to tell them, and what can be discovered when we reexamine history from a new perspective.



Inspector Alan Grant is laid up in hospital with a spinal injury and he's bored. Renowned for his ability to read a face, he passes the time looking at old portraits and one which particularly grabs his attention is of Richard III, the supposed arch villain who killed his own nephews, to make his crown secure. But Grant doesn't accept the sensitive noble face in the portrait is the face of a villain so he sets out to investigate what really happened and who in fact killed the princes in the tower. Was Richard III truly the ogre of legend and of Shakespeare's play - a wicked uncle who murdered his nephews to steal the crown of England? Grant becomes obsessed with unravelling this most enduring of historical mysteries. As he investigates with the help of an enthusiastic young American scholar, he unearths long-buried intrigues and concludes that what has been written about Richard III is fiction made credible by the writings of Thomas Moore and given the stamp of authenticity by William Shakespeare. Grant delves into the historical factual evidence available with increasing sympathy for Richard and less for Thomas Moore, (who was 11 years old when the murders were alleged to have taken place), and finds him innocent of the murder of his nephews. He decides that Richards successor Henry VIII is the guilty one.

Our group was much divided on their opinions of this book, one member found it boring, old and dated and didn't finish it. Another two members also didn't finish it. We found the telling of the story can be somewhat plodding and the setting for the story is very static. However, some of us found it an interesting concept and a fascinating read and enjoyed it. The characters who visited Grant were likable and the evidence that was collected made us interested in what happened to the princes. It also made us question the veracity of other events mentioned in the book that are well accepted but not reported accurately. Worth taking the time to read, if you can get past the huge amount of data – you definitely need a time line of the Kings and Queens. We rated this 3/5



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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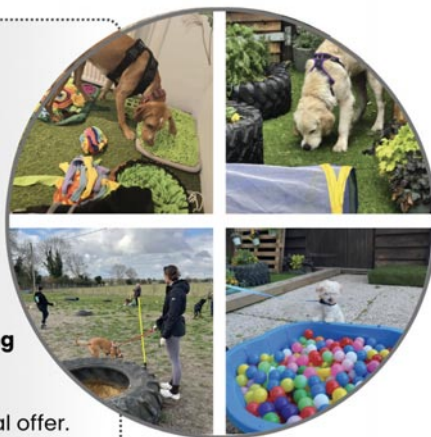
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New Chapter of the Wednesday Club

25th March 2026 was a big day for the Club and its members.

We held a farewell party for our club leader of 4+ years, Dee, and welcomed our new leader Helen who officially took over on 1st April 2026.

Dee has successfully run the club and increased the weekly membership over the years and there is no doubt, that the club, its members and volunteers will miss her greatly.

Dee is off to Bonnie Scotland to start the next chapter in her life story with her husband.

Wednesday was indeed a sad day.

We are pleased to have found a new club leader in Helen, a local lady from Totternhoe, and she has been able to shadow Dee throughout the month of March and learn the do's & don'ts of running the club.

We look forward to her bringing new ideas to the club whilst maintaining the ethos of ensuring the members enjoy a weekly Safe haven with good company, excellent home cooked food and entertainment too.

Helen's first week as Wednesday Club Leader was 1st April and we are delighted to announce

that the day went without a hitch and no April Fools pranks occurred.

So we wish Dee lots of luck with her new Scottish adventure and hope if she's ever back down South she pops in to visit, and we also hope that Helen enjoys a long and equally successful tenure as Wednesday Club leader.

Lynne Rust
(chairperson)





Totternhoe GARDEN CLUB

May 2026

At our meeting on 12 March, Kathy Doyle told us about her background in sustainable and organic gardening including where she trained and how things have progressed during the years that followed. It was interesting to hear about the useful tips to look after the soil in our gardens especially the trend in 'no dig' horticulture. We were shown photographs of the various small gardens around Dunstable that she has been involved in designing and in many cases helping to put in place.

We held our AGM in April and were pleased and surprised it was so well supported. Maybe tempted by the opportunity of finding out where we shall be visiting this year on our four outings! The committee were voted back en bloc and we were able to see slides of last year's outings to Coughton Court, Kenilworth Castle, Leeds castle and Waterperry Gardens. Such wonderful weather for all the outings. I did not go on the last trip to RHS Wisley so was unable to provide any photographs for that.

Joyce Wood and Mary Lilley have organised four days out this year including a trip to Sandringham in July to see the new RHS Show. It is quite some years since we went to Lamport Hall in Northamptonshire in 2017 and we are looking forward to having lunch there on our first outing of the year in May. It has been home to the Isham family for over four centuries and we expect to see some ten acres of garden as well as an interesting house. We shall be visiting earlier in the year than the last time and expect to see a garden awash with colour. I hope I shall be able to tell you all about it in the next issue.

Joyce Murphy - Chairman

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

For membership queries contact Veronica Clarke by e-mail at r_vclarke@hotmail.com or telephone 01582 600764.

Eaton Bray Singers Join us this Spring

Eaton Bray Singers continue to enjoy a busy and enjoyable few months, with weekly rehearsals full of music, laughter, and a shared love of singing.

Now firmly settled at Eaton Bray Academy, the choir has been pleased to welcome new members in recent months, and we are always keen to grow further. Whether you are an experienced singer or someone who simply enjoys singing and would like to give it a try, you will be made very welcome.

We rehearse every Monday evening at 7.45pm at Eaton Bray Academy, and there is no need to audition – just come along for a taster session and see what you think. It's a friendly and supportive group, and a great way to meet people as well as enjoy making music together.

As well as performing locally, we also enjoy singing at a variety of venues in the surrounding area. In May, we are looking forward to singing at Stanbridge Church, continuing our connection with the wider community and sharing our music with new audiences.

Looking ahead, we are excited to be returning with our popular "Afternoon Tea" concert on Sunday 12th July at 2.30pm at Whipsnade Village Hall. This much-loved event combines music with a traditional cream tea, with scones, jam and cream served for the audience to enjoy while listening. This will be the third year we have held this concert, and it has always proved a great favourite with those who attend. More details will be available nearer the time.

If you are interested in joining us, or would simply like to find out more, please visit our website:

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HELPFUL TIPS ON FINANCE

Spring Clean Your Spending

As the days get lighter, it's a great time to lighten your financial load too. A spending review can help you reclaim control — and cash.

Start by looking at your last 3 months of bank statements. Are you paying for things you no longer use? Could you switch suppliers to save money?

Don't forget to check your savings and investments — even a small increase in interest can boost returns significantly over time.

Tip of the Month: Review your direct debits and cancel anything you don't use. Every little cut adds up over a year.



Daniel Riley
(Riley Accountants)



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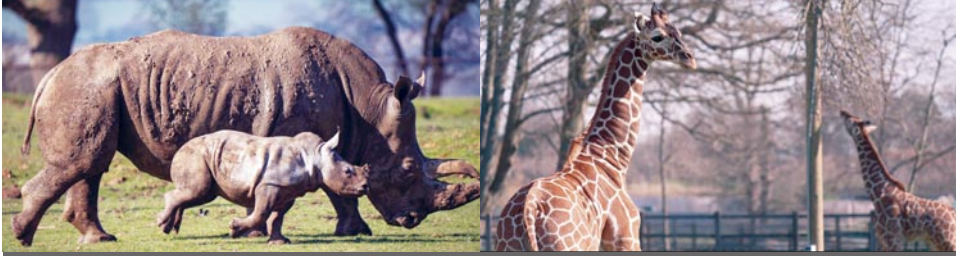
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NEW STOMPING GROUNDS

Baby rhino and giraffes take first steps outside at the UK's largest zoo



Baby rhino Mick and mum Jaseera and giraffe calves Leoni and Duke ZSL

TWELVE TINY hooves met grass for the first time recently as spring sunshine and warmer weather meant Whipsnade Zoo's three-month-old southern white rhino calf and two four-month-old reticulated giraffe calves could explore their grassy paddocks at the UK's largest zoo.

Born on 31st December to mum Jaseera, the newest addition to the conservation zoo's 'crash' of ten Southern white rhinos, Mick, was a little tentative about getting his feet muddy at first. Named after a long-serving member of staff who has since retired, Mick was slowly coaxed onto the grass by mum, and was soon racing around the paddock by her side.

Meanwhile, reticulated giraffe siblings Leoni and Duke – born just three weeks apart in December – were seen galloping around their grassy paddock, kicking up grass and inquisitively investigating everything they came across.

Connor Corrigan, team leader of large hoofstock at Whipsnade Zoo, said: "Just like in the wild, our three new arrivals have spent their first few months staying very close to mum; but each day, they are getting more confident and curious about the world around them.

"We've been waiting for a warm and dry day to let the trio into the great outdoors for the first time. While they have plenty of space in their cosy indoor dens, it's been great to see

them exploring further.

"As the spring sun continues to shine, these three little ones will be racing around their new stomping grounds just in time for Easter."

With just 10,000 southern white rhinos and 11,000 reticulated giraffes left in the wild, all three newborns will be taking big steps for their species by joining the conservation breeding programmes for their species, which ensure a genetically diverse and healthy back up population thrives in conservation zoos like Whipsnade.

Connor continued: "The trio are not only important additions to the conservation breeding programmes for their threatened species; they're great ambassadors, helping us to inspire future conservationists at Whipsnade by educating people about the threats rhinos and giraffes face in the wild, such as poaching, habitat loss, and climate change – and what actions they can do to help."

A day out for the whole family and only a short drive or train journey from London, visitors to the UK's largest zoo this Easter can visit the three newborns, as well as 11,000 other animals, and help support the conservation efforts of international charity ZSL across the globe. To find out more and to buy tickets, visit: www.whipsnadezoo.org.

Whipsnade Zoo | A ZSL conservation zoo.

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Bluebells at Ashridge
by Jenny Jeffs

APPLEDOWN RESCUE DOG OF THE MONTH



Handsome Finnegan is a Beagle cross born in June 2023. He had a rough start in life and unfortunately his first attempt at a new home didn't work out, so he is back with us hoping for the perfect family. Finnegan needs owners who like an energetic dog and are willing to carry on with his training. Knowledge or experience of this lively breed would be helpful and in the right home he will flourish and be a super little dog. We think he could live with a female dog pending introductions, but not cats, in an adult only home. For more information please see his 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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Charity run for Dementia UK

"My Dad, Les, was born in 1942 in London, and his earliest memory was being under a kitchen table during a bombing raid. After school he completed a sheet metal working apprenticeship, met my Mum and had my brother, Mark, then me. At work, making commercial kitchens, he was picked to make cabinets for some microwave oven prototypes, and through this entry into Research and Development found his way into the early stages of the computer industry. In this field he worked for Boeing Airlines, leading to connections with other major firms like Rolls Royce, eventually working on the computerisation of the London Stock Exchange. He was a very clever chap indeed. After his working life, he trained to practice the Chinese therapy of Shiatsu, becoming fully qualified and treating a number of patients, who all became friends, for many years. While all this was going on, he was funny, warm, and frankly the best father and role model I could have wished for.

I tell you this because it shows how much dementia and Alzheimer's disease took from him, and in turn us. Over a four year period we slowly but surely lost him, as he became less and less himself. By the end he did not recognise any of our family, including my Mum, his wife of 60 years.

The feeling of helplessness we all felt during those years still lingers. To try and combat it, my wife Jo and I walked the 80 mile Dales Way (from Lake Windermere to Ilkley in Yorkshire) a few months after his

death in 2024, raising £1,100 for the Alzheimer's Society. Helping towards providing support for other families dealing with dementia goes some way to "look for the positive" as my Dad would have said.

We are now a family who have lived in Eaton Bray and Edlesborough for over 25 years, both our sons growing up here.

This year, my two sons and I are running half marathon and 10km road races in aid of Dementia UK, who supply Admiral Nurses to give this much needed support.

If you would like to sponsor us, possibly because your own family has been affected like ours, please use the "Just Giving" link below. Thank you."

JustGiving™



**Scan to visit Leigh Bowyers's
JustGiving Page**

Wednesday Club



AGE
Concern
Charity No. 293880

Would you like to help in the community by joining our friendly volunteers. If you have a passion for lending a hand we have opportunities working as part of a team.

This would be on a rota basis of every 4/5 weeks.

Call 07854 230 243 if you can help.



Wednesday Club being entertained by The Ukulele Band



Parties **Wedding Receptions** **Stage Productions**
Fitness Classes **Business Meetings** **Beer Festivals**
Film Shows **Club Meetings** **Keep Fit** **Quiz Nights**

Eaton Bray Village Hall

Capacity for 220 People **Parking for 70 Cars** **Meeting Room** **Countryside Views**
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For bookings or enquiries call: 07852 586045
email: bookings@ebvh.co.uk

www.ebvh.co.uk



Join the Carnival Procession!

Let's Go Around the World!

We're delighted to announce that this year's much-loved Eaton Bray & Edlesborough Carnival Procession is back ~ and we're aiming to make it the biggest, brightest, and most colourful yet!

We would love to invite everyone from our wonderful villages and surrounding communities to be part of something truly special.

This Year's Theme: Countries of the World

Pack your (imaginary!) bags and bring your favourite destination to life ~ whether it's Paris, Rio, New York, Sydney, or somewhere a little more unusual!

How Can You Take Part?

Taking part couldn't be easier ~ and the more creative, the better!

- **Walk the route in costume**
- **Decorate a pushchair, buggy, or wheelbarrow**
- **Pull a cart or small float**
- **Cycle in style**
- **Decorate your car, van, or even a lorry**

Whether you're a school, local business, group of friends, or just a family wanting some fun, this is your chance to shine — and even promote what you do!

Go Big, Go Bold, Go Colourful!

We want to see the streets come alive, so don't hold back:

- **Flags from around the world**
- **Music and mobile sound systems**
- **Water pistols and playful props**
- **Costumes for kids, adults... even the dog or granny!**

If it's fun, safe, and full of colour ~ we're all for it!

Prizes to Be Won!

There will be prizes for the best entries in each category, so get those creative ideas flowing ~ this is your chance to impress!

Event Details

Start: The Orchards, Eaton Bray

Time: 11:45am

Date: Saturday 4th July

Finish: Edlesborough Green (approx. 12:00pm)

Let's Bring the Community Together!

This procession has always been a fantastic way to bring together neighbours, families, and local groups — and this year, we'd love to see even more of you involved.

Let's make this year's carnival one to remember!

Want to Take Part?

To join the procession or request an application form, please get in touch:

Gavyn@gmail.com



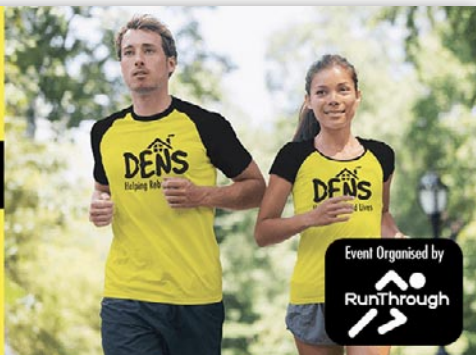
STEP UP FOR THE RETURN OF A POPULAR WALKING EVENT THIS SUMMER

**HEMEL HEMPSTEAD
10K & 5K**

SUNDAY 17TH MAY 2026

Access our exclusive lowest price!
(up to £15 cheaper than normal fee)

FREE running tee for first 50 sign-ups



Hertfordshire homelessness charity, DENS, is thrilled to announce its Castle Walk fundraising event, taking place on Sunday 14th June 2026.

All funds raised will help DENS prevent and alleviate homelessness, poverty and social exclusion – with local services including safe accommodation, employment and skills coaching, and a foodbank.



Walkers can choose between 5- or 10-mile routes, winding through the stunning local countryside and woodland – both starting and finishing at the iconic Berkhamsted Castle.

This family-friendly event, which also welcomes dogs, has previously hosted hundreds of participants, ranging from seasoned hikers to those enjoying a peaceful stroll.

Expect a fantastic community atmosphere, breathtaking views and a finisher's token to commemorate the day.



Charlotte McCarthy, Senior Community & Events Fundraiser at DENS, said: "There's nothing quite like the Castle Walk to kickstart the summer. When our first walkers gather at the castle, there's such excitement and positivity in the air. It's always a highlight of the season for us, and we can't wait to share that energy with the community once again."

Affordable entry options are on offer, including a discounted family ticket.

To register for the Castle Walk, please visit www.dens.org.uk/walk.



With the days getting longer in May, find out what you should be doing in the garden this month

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

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

Timely Tips for May



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

In the flower garden in May



- Thin out drifts of hardy annuals.
- Harden off half-hardy plants by leaving them outside during the day and bringing them back under cover at night for 7 to 10 days before planting outdoors.
- Plant summer hanging baskets, adding good-quality compost, slow-release fertiliser and water-retaining crystals, to keep them in top condition. Protect them from late frost under cover. Try planting petunia 'Pegasus Wine Splash' for cascading stems of brightly spotted blooms. Find more advice and tips about keeping your hanging baskets looking amazing across the seasons on our hub page.
- Harden off dahlias and tender exotics such as canna 'Tropicanna' lilies for planting as soon as the risk of frost has passed.
- Continue dividing herbaceous border perennials to improve vigour and create new plants.
- Divide established clumps of hostas as they come into growth.
- Trim back spreading plants such as aubrieta, alyssum and candytuft (*Iberis* sp.) after they've flowered, to encourage fresh new growth and more blooms.
- Towards the end of the month, keep an eye out for powdery mildew on flowering shrubs and flowers, like rhododendrons. Treat with fungicide to prevent further spread.
- Lift forget-me-nots to prevent heavy self-seeding and reduce spreading.
- Prune penstemons now — cut all the old shoots back to the base, providing there is new growth at the bottom of the plant. If there are no new shoots at the base, cut just above the lowest set of leaves.
- Lightly cut back & tidy up late-flowering honeysuckle. Leave any big pruning jobs until winter.
- You've still got time to plant any container-grown evergreen climbing shrubs now the risk of frost has passed.
- Take cuttings of tender perennials, such as fuchsia and pelargoniums (tender geraniums). The new shoots of hardy perennials can also be used for cuttings.
- Take softwood cuttings of shrubby herbs (such as sage and lemon verbena).
- Prune out overcrowded and dead stems of early-flowering clematis (*C. alpina*, *C. cirrhosa*, *C. macropetala*, *C. armandii*, and their cultivars) after flowering.
- Tie in rambling and climbing roses. Laying the stems horizontally will help to produce more flowers.
- Tie in sweet pea plants with sweet pea support rings to encourage them to climb.
- Prune spring-flowering shrubs after flowering.
- Cut back flowered shoots of choisya to promote a second flush of flowers in autumn.
- Trim lavender plants, cutting off old flower heads and about 2.5 cm (1 inch) of the current year's growth.
- Feed and water container plants.
- Top-dress permanent pot plants to refresh the compost.
- Supplement container plants with balanced liquid feed every 2-4 weeks to promote healthy growth.
- Closely inspect plants for pests and diseases — early prevention is much easier than curing an infestation.
- Pick off any larvae or lily beetle from rosemary or viburnum plants as soon as you spot them to prevent an infestation.
- Look out for signs of blackspot on roses. If discovered, treat it with a systemic fungicide.
- Continue to weed beds and borders. This reduces your plants' competition for water and nutrients.
- Lift and divide overcrowded clumps of daffodils and other spring-flowering bulbs.



Edlesborough Memory Cafe

2nd Wednesday of every month
from 2.30 – 4 pm

Edlesborough Pavilion, The Green, LU6 2JF

Join us for tea, coffee, a chat, and plenty of fun activities.

No booking necessary and all are welcome – whether you have a formal diagnosis or not. All we ask is for a £4 suggested donation per person.

For more information, contact:
contact@tibbsdementia.co.uk | 01234 210993

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You are invited to a
BRUNCH

in support of
The Salvation Army Eaton Bray

At The Salvation Army
Booth Place, Eaton Bray, LU6 2DR

On Saturday 16th May 2026
From 11am to 1pm

Full English Breakfast
Sausage or Bacon Roll
Hot & Cold Drinks available

We look forward to seeing you!



Greetings from all at The Salvation Army in Eaton Bray.

We pray that you have all had a great Easter and have encountered God in a special way this year, maybe even for the first time.

I wonder how many of you are list makers? Confession time, I love a to do list.

If it's not on there I often forget!

When thinking about, and yes, at times becoming overwhelmed by the endless list of things needed to do, I came across this to do list by mindful Christianity. It made me pause and consider what a great to do list to begin each day. I pray that it will help someone...

Trust God with every plan.

Open your heart to His leading.

Do your work with love and care.

Offer each moment as worship.

Let His peace guide your priorities.

Invite Him into even the small things.

Serve others with joy.

Thank Him for each completed step.

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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