

FOCUS

JULY 2026



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THE FOCUS MAGAZINE COMMITTEE

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KINDLY NOTE

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

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

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DEFIBRILLATOR LOCATIONS

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

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

DAGNALL: Red Lion Public House & Munns Farm Shop

EATON BRAY: The Coffee Tavern

NORTHALL: The Swan Public House

EDLESBOROUGH: Edlesborough Memorial Hall, Baptist Church & Summerleys



EDLESBOROUGH SURGERY

01525 221630 www.edlesboroughsurgery.co.uk



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



Focus is online at www.thefocusmagazine.co.uk

Village Info



EDAN COMMUNITY CAR SERVICE

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



POLICE CONTACT DETAILS

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

BEDFORDSHIRE POLICE: (EATON BRAY)

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

THAMES VALLEY POLICE (EDLESBOROUGH, DAGNALL & NORTHALL)

PCSO Mike Coker Email: WingNHPT@thamesvalley.police.uk

TO REPORT NON URGENT CRIME: www.thamesvalley.police.uk

BOOKING CONTACTS

NORTHALL VILLAGE HALL: **Lorna Cubbage** 07857 318696

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

EATON BRAY VILLAGE HALL: **Jane Taylor** 07852 586045

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

COFFEE TAVERN: **Julie Mahoney** 07836 240467

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

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

Email: DVH_Bookings@outlook.com

EDLESBOROUGH MEMORIAL HALL: **Penny Pataky** 01525 229358

Email: manager@edlesborough-pc.gov.uk

EDLESBOROUGH PAVILION: 07836 240467

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

PARISH COUNCIL CONTACTS

EATON BRAY PARISH COUNCIL: 07931 479663

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

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

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

EATON BRAY GOOD NEIGHBOURS HELPLINE 07930 987064



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

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 4th June, 2nd July and 6th August**. We are grateful to the Pavilion Trustees, Edlesborough Surgery and the Burghope Trust for their support.



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. Moria'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	St.Judes Clinic. Moria's Therapeutic 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: **Parish in vacancy**

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

Church Warden: **Catherine Hayden** Tel: 01525 220527

email: churchwarden@stmaryseatonbray.org.uk. Please contact her with any enquiries.

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

On Saturday 4th July, St Mary's Village Carnival will take place on Edlesborough Green. St Mary's PCC and congregation are looking forward to seeing you there!

This year's theme is 'Countries of the World' and I'm sure that as ever, there will be an amazing and imaginative variety of decorated houses, especially along the procession route.

Our Guest of Honour is Peter Mayne, well known as a local historian. He has an impressive collection of old photographs of the villages, as well as many anecdotes about people and events. If you want to know anything about Eaton Bray and area in times past – Peter's your man!

Mary Mayne is equally well known as an award-winning quilter, and St Mary's Church is proud to have given a home to one of her splendid quilts featuring buildings in Eaton Bray. A number of these buildings no longer exist, so it is both an example of expert needlework and an historical document. Come and have a look at it in the Lady Chapel and pick up a leaflet telling you about the various buildings depicted.

Once again the Carnival Committee have put together something for everyone with floats, stalls and many other attractions. Besides being a time to enjoy yourselves, Carnival is an opportunity to celebrate being part of our community whilst raising money for good causes.

St Mary's, Eaton Bray, is an historic, grade 1

listed church over 800 years old. It is a church for everyone in the community and Carnival helps to keep the building in good condition through contributing to its Fabric Fund. Other local charities and worthy causes also benefit and over £335,000 has been distributed in recent years!

The Carnival would be nothing without its many visitors, not just from our villages but from Dunstable, Leighton Buzzard, Luton and Hemel Hempstead, all coming for a day of fun in the countryside. Invite your family and friends, no matter where they live, to experience the best of village life and if they are feeling peckish, there is not only St Mary's BBQ with all the traditional BBQ fare, but in keeping with the theme, a wide range of international dishes including, German sausages, Chinese noodles, Greek Gyros, Thai and Indian dishes and of course, good old Fish and Chips!

Catherine Hayden,
Churchwarden, St Mary's Church

Carnival Prayer

Father, we thank you for the life and fellowship of our villages. Bless our Carnival; may all who attend, or take part, enjoy the event and may it inspire people to give freely of their time and service in support of this community.

Amen.



NORTHALL BAPTIST CHAPEL

CHAPEL LANE, NORTHALL

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

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

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

Email: **northallchapel@btinternet.com**

Website: **www.northallbaptistchurch.org**

There has been a Baptist Chapel in Northall for more than 200 years. Today we continue to seek to worship God, serve him in our daily lives and support and encourage one another in the difficult and the joyful times.



SERVICES at ST. MARY'S CHURCH, Eaton Bray

SUNDAYS: 10am PARISH HOLY COMMUNION (apart from the third Sunday – see below)

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

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

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

EVERYONE IS WELCOME AT THESE SERVICES

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



ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, DAGNALL JULY 2026

SUNDAY JULY 19TH

10.30AM

HOLY COMMUNION

FOR ANY QUERIES PLEASE

CONTACT PHILIP LEE ON

07977 234453 OR DOROTHY

GREEN ON 01442 843237





The Eaton Bray Singers have a busy July to look forward to. However before we get there our most recent concert took place at St John the Baptist Church in Stanbridge. It is a few years since our last visit to the church and it was a pleasure to return. We were made most welcome and the choir appreciated the warmth of the audience to our performance. We look forward to returning to Stanbridge in the future.

As for July, we will be playing a small part at the up coming St Mary's Village Carnival on Saturday 4th July. We will not be singing but we will have a stall packed with prizes which can be won from taking part in our tombola. Members of the choir will be in attendance to answer any questions relating to the choir, so please feel free to ask.

Then on the afternoon of Sunday 12th July we will be hosting our, now annual Cream Tea and Concert at Whipsnade Village Hall, please come and join us for an afternoon of music from the choir plus a special guest soloist and relax with a Cream Tea. Tickets are priced at £12.50 and are available by calling 07956 537262, or www.ticketsource.co.uk/eatonbraysingers Tickets for this concert are selling fast so please do not delay purchasing yours.

The choir's updated website, www.eatonbraysingers.co.uk reflects our new name and location at Eaton Bray Academy, School Lane, Eaton Bray, where we meet every Monday evening and there you will find further information on the choir.

**Cream Tea & Concert
with
Eaton Bray Singers**

Sunday 12th July
2.30pm
at
Whipsnade Village Hall
The Green, Whipsnade, LU6 2LG

Come and join us for an afternoon of music
from the choir and a guest soloist.
Relax and enjoy with a cream tea.

Tickets £12.50 each

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



ST MARY'S EATON BRAY

100 Club

APRIL

1ST PRIZE - **ELIZABETH STAGG**
2ND PRIZE - **SAMANTHA PALMER**
3RD PRIZE - **SAMANTHA PALMER**

MAY

1ST PRIZE - **ROBERT DICKSON**
3RD PRIZE - **HAZEL GIBBONS**
3RD PRIZE - **GREG BAKER**

JUNE

1ST PRIZE - **MARK RUSLING**
2ND PRIZE - **MARTIN QUINN**
3RD PRIZE - **SUE TUCKER**

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65 Moor End, Edlesborough, LU6 2HN



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

**The next Book Swaps are
at St Mary's Church
On Saturday July 11th
from 10.30 – 12.00**

**(One week later than usual due to
the carnival being held on 4th July)
And Saturday August 1st
from 10.30 – 12.00**

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

For those of you who have books they wish to donate for charity you are welcome to take them along to the bookstall at the carnival on the day, please do not leave them at the church. The carnival is always an enjoyable day out and our team will be helping at the bookstall, we look forward to seeing you there.

For more information about Book Swap please contact:

Chris Sanders

Email: chris.sanders45@gmail.com

Jenifer MacKenzie

Email: jenimackenzie@hotmail.com



THE COFFEE TAVERN
Eaton Bray

Large Hall/1st Floor	£12.50/hour
Committee Room/Ground Floor	£6.50/hour
Large Hall & Committee Room	£18.00/hour
Office / Ground Floor	£6.50/hour
Free WiFi, Kitchen, Disabled Toilets & Access Ramp	

**For bookings please call 07836 240467
or the Parish Clerk on 07931 479663**

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



DAGNALL VILLAGE HALL

Our beautiful village hall is now available for hire,
all day, every day!

Competitive rates. Disabled access, 2 halls, stage,
car park, kitchen, enclosed outside area, wi-fi, Bluetooth PA.

Please contact us for any enquiries!

DVH_bookings@outlook.com

07875 462128 / 07762 151364

Parties, receptions, art classes, yoga, meetings,
dance, theatre, sports events, food sales, craft fairs, exercise
classes, friendship groups, we welcome you all – and more!

July brings with it one of the highlights of our village year: St Mary's Village Carnival. There is something wonderfully life-giving about seeing our community with laughter, colour, and community spirit. This year's theme - ***Countries of the World*** - invites us to celebrate the richness and diversity of cultures that make up our global family.

At Eaton Bray Methodist Church, we're delighted to once again join with our fellow village churches in hosting the free games tent. We hope it will be a place of joy, welcome, and shared fun for all ages, just come along and join in. Meanwhile, our friends at Edlesborough Methodist Church will have their building open as a quiet space. In the midst of the bustle, it can be a gift to pause, breathe, and simply be.

A theme like ***Countries of the World*** also gently reminds us of something deeper. The Bible paints a beautiful picture of humanity not as divided, but brought together. In the book of Revelation, we glimpse "a great multitude... from every nation, tribe, people and language" gathered in unity (Revelation 7:9). Differences are not erased, but celebrated as part of God's good creation.

In a month when many will also be enjoying international sport -

perhaps catching the World Cup or Wimbledon - we're reminded how powerful shared experiences can be. Sport has a remarkable way of bringing nations together, if only for ninety minutes at a time! It hints at a deeper truth: that we are made for connection, community, and mutual encouragement.

In our villages, this spirit is seen in small, meaningful ways - in neighbours helping neighbours, in volunteers giving their time, in laughter shared across generations. The carnival becomes more than an event; it becomes a sign of who we are at our best.

So whether you're competing in a game at the church tent, enjoying the parade, or taking a quiet moment in Edlesborough Chapel, I encourage you to notice the gift of being part of something bigger - a community that reflects, however imperfectly, a much wider world.

May this July be filled with celebration, kindness, and a renewed sense of belonging - for our villages, and for the wider world we share.

With every blessing,

Rev. Tim Haines

www.eatonbraymethodists.org

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EDLESBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Including Edlesborough • Dagnall • Northall • July 2026

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

Edlesborough Annual Parish Meeting 2026 including Dagnall & Northall

Council thanks all those parishioners who attended the 2026 Annual Parish Meeting.

Council was delighted to host presentations from

- Edlesborough Parish Council
- Thames Valley Police
- Ivinghoe & Pitstone Repair Café
- Ashridge Estate: Protect Our Roots
- Whipsnade Lion Restoration Project
- Edlesborough Community Sports Cub CIO
- The Edlesborough Knit & Natter, Gardening and Local History Clubs.

Council extends its thanks to all who gave presentations.

If you would like to give a presentation about your organisation at next year's Annual Parish Meeting please contact the Parish Clerk for a space on the agenda.

EPC Surgery

The Clerk will be available on **Thursday 2 July**, from **12 noon to 2.00pm**, at **Edlesborough Pavilion**.

Parishioners are welcome to drop in to speak with the Clerk or a Councillor about local matters, raise questions, or make suggestions.

Repairs to Edlesborough Pavilion

At the time of writing, the repair works at Edlesborough Pavilion are well underway. Council hopes that they will be completed in time for the St Mary's Carnival.

Please note the soffits beneath the balcony

will be replaced at a later date once it has been confirmed that the repairs to the balcony have been successful.

The Council would like to thank **ECSC CIO and Trading Company**, together with all charity members, for their patience and understanding during the period of these essential works.

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/



Buckinghamshire Best Kept Village Competition

Both **Edlesborough** and **Dagnall** have once again been entered into the **Buckinghamshire Best Kept Village Competition**.

Judging will take place between **1 June and 14 July 2026**.

Inconsiderate Parking

Council continues to receive complaints about inconsiderate parking in the villages, in particular near the school, Tesco and the village shops.

Council reminds drivers that they should not park on the white lines near Edlesborough School, Pebblemoor and the village shops. These white lines were installed to create safe crossing and passing points on the roads.



EDLESBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

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Edlesborough Parish Council does not have jurisdiction over highways matters. The installation of yellow lines falls under the authority of Buckinghamshire Council as the Highways Authority. Previous requests for yellow lines within the village have been declined, as Buckinghamshire Council has determined that they would not be enforceable.

Further information regarding parking concerns can be found at [Report a parking problem](#) | [Buckinghamshire Council](#)

Instances of dangerous parking should be reported directly to Thames Valley Police at [Report a road traffic incident](#) | [Thames Valley Police](#)

The Parish Council is exploring potential options for improving safety on Pebblesmoor near Tesco's; however, any changes must first be assessed through Buckinghamshire Council's Highways Feasibility process.

Parishioners are reminded that parking on grass verges is not permitted, as this causes damage and hinders maintenance works.

All residents whose hedges border pavements are reminded that it is their responsibility to keep them well trimmed, ensuring the full width of the pavement remains available for pedestrians, including pushchair and wheelchair users.



Improvements to Edlesborough Memorial

Council has recently completed installing a new television and audio equipment in the hall. This new equipment includes speakers and microphones that will be available for hirers to use.

Council is now seeking quotes to improve the heating system.

Financial Matters from the May 2026 Council Meeting

- Council reviewed its charges for the upcoming year.
- Council approved the year-end accounts and associated documents for submission to the external auditor, PKF Littlejohn LLP.
- Council noted that no recommendations were made by the Internal Auditor.
- Council confirmed the dates for the Exercise of Public Rights - 12th June 2026 – 23rd July 2026.

More information about this and other Council matters can be found in the meeting minutes on the Council website.

Council Meetings

The next meetings of **Edlesborough Parish Council** will be held on:

- **Thursday 16 July 2026**
– Edlesborough Memorial Hall
- **Thursday 17 September 2026**
– Edlesborough Memorial Hall

Both meetings will commence at **7.30pm**.

Parishioners are welcome to attend all Ordinary Parish Council meetings and may ask questions, raise issues, or make suggestions during the **Open Forum**, which takes place before the formal start of the meeting.

Where possible, the Council requests that questions or issues are submitted in writing to the Clerk by the **Tuesday preceding the meeting**.

Agendas and minutes from previous meetings are available on the Council's website www.edlesborough-pc.gov.uk or from the Parish Clerk.





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Discontent with Windows is rapidly increasing with their new policies that force you to have online accounts and cloud data storage with the AI over-watch of everything you do.

I did it a few months ago replacing Windows 11 with Linux and removing all Microsoft software from my laptop. It wasn't particularly difficult, no more so than learning a new piece of software that does everything the old software did but with some different menus and new buttons in strange places.

Main reasons for changing from Windows to Linux

1. **Cost** – Windows is moving to a rental model ramping up the cost of their software. Linux and the open source software packages that run on it are free to use.
2. **Privacy** – Windows can leverage their software to track your needs and your interests then target you with products like Copilot AI and advertising.
3. **Waste** – Your old laptop that Windows says is too old to run the latest Windows 11 will function perfectly on Linux and likely will be much faster.

So what can you do if you are not a real computer nerd and don't know how to install let alone use Linux?

You could blow the dust off that old laptop that Windows tells you is scrap and install Linux as a trial. Get familiar with the look and feel of it. Try doing all the things you usually do, but do them in Linux. Don't blow up your present Windows laptop, not until you are confident to make the switch permanently. Which version of Linux should you install?

There are many flavours of Linux, most of them operate on the same internal engine, called the kernel, it's only the graphical wrapper that changes. You probably want one that has the closest look and feel to the Windows Graphical User Interface – the GUI. I chose Linux Mint and although it isn't Windows it's close enough that I know how to use it or at least where to start.

You can download a copy from the official Linux Mint website and burn the ISO onto a memory stick. If that's a bit too tricky for you just bring us your old laptop and we'll install it for you at the Repair Cafe. Or you could bring us a memory stick and we'll burn the ISO for you – it needs at least 4Gb.

You may run into some problems getting it to boot from USB. It may need those settings adjusting in the BIOS first. If all that is meaningless bring us your laptop and we'll install it for you – but recover your data first. Linux will do a clean install and wipe all of your data.

Linux Mint comes pre-installed with Libre Office which will fully replace Microsoft Office. The only trick you need to remember is to save all your files as .docx or .xlsx so that you can share files with other unenlightened individuals still using Microsoft. It also comes with Thunderbird Mail to replace Outlook and Firefox web browser to replace Edge or Chrome. We will do a separate guide to help you set up those free to use s/w packages the first time.

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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.

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EATON BRAY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING & ANNUAL MEETING OF EATON BRAY PARISH COUNCIL, 11-May-2026

(Annual Minutes ratified at the Parish Council Meeting on 1-June-2026)-

ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDING, 31 March 2026

The final accounts were signed off by the Internal Auditor on the 5-May-2026. The accounts will be available for public inspection for a period of 30 working days from 3-June-2026 to 14-July-2026. Inspection notices have been displayed on the Parish Council website/Parish Council noticeboard (Coffee Tavern) and Eaton Bray Facebook page.

CHAIRPERSON'S ANNUAL REPORT

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

COFFEE TAVERN ANNUAL FINANCE REPORT

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

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Email: Philip.Spicer@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

CBC Website:

www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

CBC Email:

customers@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk -

CBC Customer Services: 0300 300 8301

- Wallace Drive: Temporary Road closure for patching works, August 2026.
- Fly tipping – The Rye: Continual fly - tipping in this location, being monitored.
- Overgrown hedging: Residents to ensure hedging/trees do not encroach on to public footpaths/highways and if so, should be cut in accordance with tree/hedge cutting guidelines during March-September.

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.beds.police.uk/area/your-area/bedfordshire/central-bedfordshire/leighton-buzzard--rural/about-us/crime-map>

PLANNING APPLICATIONS/APEALS/ ENFORCEMENT NOTICES – MAY 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.

RECREATION GROUNDS

- **School Lane recreation ground – water refill station:** The Parish Council are in the process of



installing a water refill station for recreation ground users.
UPDATE [01/06/26]: Water refill station now installed on the wall of the Tennis Club.

- **The Rye ground:** The Parish Council are looking into the replacement of the kissing gate (lower entrance) to allow access for prams/wheelchairs.

MONTHLY PAYMENTS: MAY 2026/PERIOD 2

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

ALLOTMENT INSPECTION: MAY 2026

An allotment inspection was carried out on Tuesday 19-May-2026, with the follow-up inspection due to be carried out on Tuesday 15-September-2026 (*weather permitting*).

YEAR END ACCOUNTS, 31-MARCH-2026

The Clerk distributed the accounts for the Annual Return to all Parish Councillors. The Parish Council signed-off Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2025-2026 and Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2025-2026.

- 2-June - 2026: The Parish Council gives Notice of Appointment of date for the Exercise of Public Rights, for accounts for the year ended 31-March-2026.
- Any person interested has the right to inspect the accounts by contacting the Parish Clerk. The inspection period is 30-working days, commencing 3-June-2026 and ending 14-July-2026.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY/COMMUNITY EVENTS:

(1) Picnic in the Park with music from The Heath Band and a display from Imagination Majorettes

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

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. There will also be a display from Imagination Majorettes during the interval. Accessible/baby toilets will be available on site. Please check the Parish Council Facebook page/website for any updates (*subject to cancellation for poor weather*).

2) Christmas Carols/songs with music from The Heath Ban

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

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; this year the Parish Council will be supporting Leighton Buzzard Community First Responder Group. Please check the Parish Council Facebook page/website for any updates (*subject to cancellation for poor weather*).

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



Details can be obtained from EBPC website:

www.eatonbrayparishcouncil.gov.uk

- **Parish Council Meeting, Monday 6-July-2026**
- **Parish Council Meeting, Monday 7-September-2026**

PARISH COUNCIL OFFICE (Ground floor)

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

Tuesday 14-July-2026 / Tuesday 11-August-2026 / Tuesday 15-September-2026



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It's usually understood that a human can only survive for about 3-5 days without water, although it could be a lot less in very hot weather. It is essential for life. We need to keep drinking good, clean water.

We should realise how lucky we are; we have clean water at the turn of a tap. I have just finished reading a book entitled 'Thirst' by Scott Harrison (available booksellers and online ISBN 978-1-5247-6284-1). What he has achieved to help provide clean, accessible water for over 20 million people in communities across the world is nothing short of amazing.

Scott, an American, started his life as the child of committed Christians but turned away, becoming a nightclub promoter surrounding himself with drink, drugs and women. However, when someone threatened to murder him, he fled suddenly realising how precious life is. During a short spell volunteering with Mercy Ships in Africa, he witnessed how difficult access to good quality water can be in some parts of our world. He was upset seeing so many villages without a nearby clean water source. Children were forced to drink dirty water; becoming ill, many not living past their 5th birthday. People, usually girls and women, were walking hours in difficult conditions to collect daily water rations. The hours spent collecting water, was time they could not spend at school, or working in fields or employment leading to unbreakable cycles of poverty. The injustice of this inability to access clean water was particularly difficult when many of these villages are situated above reserves of excellent

groundwater. It moved him to set up a charity, called charity:water, to drill wells. Over the past 20 years, they have brought water through more than 200,000 projects, and along with it, hope.

Life-giving water is throughout the Bible, starting in Genesis, at creation, with the Spirit of God hovering over the waters, right to the final chapter of Revelation, entitled the River of Life, describing the water in the heavenly city, as clear as crystal.

In John 4, early in Jesus' Ministry on earth, he met a Samaritan woman by Sychar's well. Jesus was tired and asked the woman for a drink of water. He then told her, greater than this physical water, that anyone who drinks the 'living water' that he gives them, will never thirst again; 'indeed the water I give will become a spring of water welling up to eternal life'. This symbolic living water reflects how those who reach out to Jesus, receive the Holy Spirit to guard and guide them through life's tricky pathway, giving them true fulfilment. It is much better than the water which only gives hope here on earth, but is truly life-giving eternal hope, restoring our relationship with our God and creator. Ask Jesus today for this gift of life.

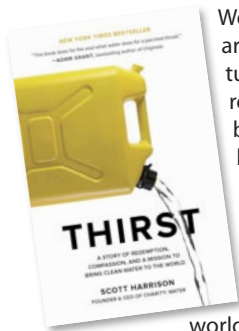
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For those interested in the history of Northall Baptist Church, a free copy of the booklet, Rebels in Green Pastures can be supplied or downloaded from our website:

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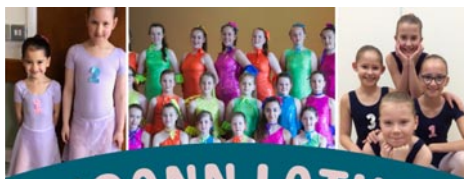
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Eaton Bray Good Neighbours

Summer Holidays are here for schoolchildren and adults alternate between wanting sunshine for days out and wanting rain for the garden!

What **EBGN** always wants is new volunteers. We are lucky enough to have two joining us last month which is real bonus. We also launched a new initiative for clients to be able to ask for small DIY jobs. This is jobs such as changing a light bulb or putting up a picture not painting a whole room!

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

We look forward to hearing from you.

Our telephone number is

07930 987064

Eaton Bray Good News.



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

DAGNALL WEATHER STATION (AONB)

Weather Conditions for May 2026

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

May was a month of two halves, with the first two weeks seeing unsettled weather and below average temperatures and the second half of the month saw record-breaking heat. The month started with mild temperatures, outbreaks of rain and strong gusts of wind. By the 5th, temperatures had dropped, the weather was unsettled and we experienced frosts on the 11th and 12th alongside a low of 2°C. Temperatures started to increase around the 19th, to reach an unbearable 35.5° on the 24th. The thermometer remained in the thirties for the next five days, and it was not until the 31st that temperatures dropped back into the low twenties.

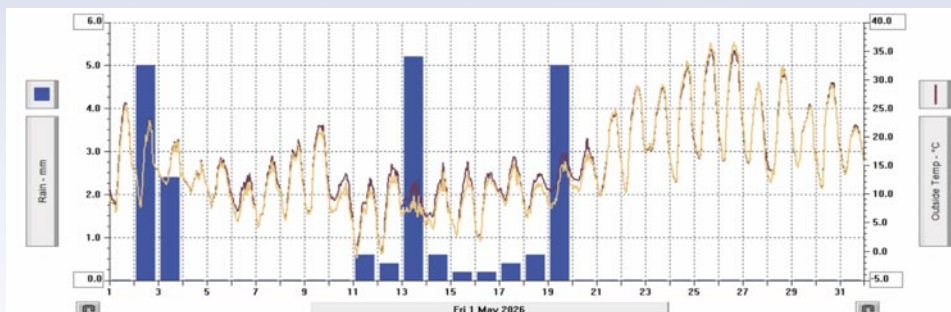
It was a dry month with only 20.7 mm of rain, which is 34% of the May average. The running total for the year so far is 265.9mm, which is 86% of the average.

I've been asked why my temperature recordings are often higher than the Met Office.

My weather station is sited in a garden surrounded by other gardens and houses, where the Met Office has open sites.

	High	Date/Time	Low	Date/Time
Temperature:		25 May 16.30	0.2°C	11 May 03.00
Mean Temperature	15.4°C			
Dewpoint:	20.5°C	25 May 20.00	-1.2°C	11 May 02.30
Humidity:	99%	11 May 07.30	34%	25 May 15.00
Barometer:	1030.3 mb	25 May 09.30	999.83mb	13 May 16.00
	33 mph	13 May 12.30	Months avg.	4.5 mph
Wind Chill:	25.3°C	25 May 16.00	-091°C	11 May 03.30
Dominant Wind:	n/a			
Rainfall *T= total rain days and moisture. R= Actual rain				
*Rain Days: 1(T), 11(R)		Wettest Day 13 May	5.2 mm	0.205 ins
Monthly Rain:	Total	May 2026	20.7 mm	0.165 ins
Yearly Rain:	Total	5 Month	265.9 mm	10.468ins

May 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.

Take a Historic Break in the UK

Arundel, West Sussex

The market town of Arundel, West Sussex, stands out for its stunning medieval castle, Gothic cathedral, and location on the River Arun.

Arundel Castle offers a glimpse into the lives of the Dukes of Norfolk and their ancestors, who have resided there for over 850 years. And the more modern 19th-century cathedral boasts fine examples of French Gothic architecture.

The cobblestone streets of Arundel's historic town centre are full of independent shops, cafes, and art galleries. And Arundel Lido and nearby Swanborne Lake are a haven for outdoor enthusiasts. Rent a rowing boat, enjoy peaceful lakeside walks, or take a refreshing swim in the lido's heated outdoor pools. Arundel is also a gateway to the beautiful South Downs, making it an ideal base for walking and exploring the great outdoors.!



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Daniel Piley

Coach for EB Lions
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Travel Impressions

A World of Experience

Tamouda Bay

Situated on the north-east coast of Morocco, Tamouda Bay is Morocco's newest resort. This long, sandy bay is popular with Moroccans and remains undiscovered by the UK tourists but that could change with the launch of a new direct flight.

Why should we visit? As well as the beautiful beach and luxurious hotels, there are historic cities including the UNESCO site in Tetouan to discover, and they are less crowded than Marrakech. The hotels all have spas and offer other activities such as watersports. They can arrange horse riding and hiking in the Rif mountains.

How to get there: Royal Air Maroc have launched a twice weekly flight from Gatwick direct to Tetouan which is a 30-minute drive from Tamouda Bay. Alternatively, Tangiers is a two-hour drive away.

Where to stay: We recommend the Royal Mansour but other luxury properties include Banyan Tree, Sofitel and St Regis.

What to see:

- **Tetouan:** founded by the Berbers in the third century BC, it was once the capital of Spanish Morocco. Exiled Muslims and Jews came to the city from Andalusia in the 16th century. The historic walled medina is a UNESCO World Heritage Site known as the 'White Dove' thanks to its iconic, white-washed houses. The narrow alleyways give visitors a taste of local life that is off the usual tourist track. Be sure to visit the restored Khalifa Palace and Archaeological Museum.
- **Chefchaouen:** this city is a striking vision of blue. Here houses, walls, streets, steps and doorways are all painted in various shades of the colour. Formerly a Moorish fortress, today Chefchaouen is a blend of Islamic and Jewish influences, attracting more tourists than Tetouan, it has its own historic medina and ancient Kasbah.
- **Tangier:** once the 'pearl of Morocco', and historic gateway between Europe and Africa, it has undergone a revival after a period of neglect. High-end restaurants, renovated hotels and galleries blend with the white washed streets of the medina, artisan shops and Moroccan cafes. It is a two-hour drive from Tamouda Bay.

Top Tip: Travel between May and November for the best weather and warmest sea temperatures and go soon before it gets 'discovered'!

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

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



THE HISTORY OF CROQUET

On a sunny summer afternoon, few sights are more classically British than a croquet lawn. Players dressed in light colours stroll across the grass, mallets in hand, while spectators enjoy tea and conversation nearby. To many, croquet conjures up images of country houses, village fêtes and leisurely afternoons. Yet behind this seemingly tranquil pastime lies a fascinating history spanning centuries and continents.

From Ancient Pastimes to Victorian Lawns

The precise origins of croquet remain something of a mystery. Historians believe it evolved from a family of games involving balls, hoops and sticks that were played across Europe from the Middle Ages onwards. Similar games existed in France, Ireland and England, each contributing elements that would eventually become modern croquet.



The strongest claim comes from France, where a game known as paille-maille was popular as early as the 13th century. Players used a mallet to strike a ball through hoops, a concept familiar to any croquet enthusiast today. Variations of the game spread across Europe, adapting to local customs and landscapes.



Modern croquet, however, is generally considered to have emerged in Ireland during the mid-19th century. The game was brought to England around the 1850s and quickly captured the imagination of Victorian society.



The Victorian Croquet Craze

Croquet arrived at exactly the right moment. The expanding middle classes had more leisure time, larger gardens and an appetite for outdoor recreation. Unlike many sports of the period, croquet could be played by both men and women together, making it a particularly attractive social activity. By the 1860s, croquet had become a national sensation. Lawns were laid out across the country, manufacturers produced elegant equipment sets, and instructional manuals appeared in bookshops. Country estates hosted tournaments and garden parties where croquet often took centre stage.

The game's popularity was so great that it influenced fashion and social etiquette. Newspapers regularly reported on competitions, and many Victorian novels mention croquet as an essential feature of summer society.

Competition and Organisation

As enthusiasm grew, efforts were made to standardise the rules. In 1868, the first official code of croquet laws was published, helping transform the game from a social pastime into a recognised sport. The establishment of croquet clubs followed, and competitive play flourished. England became the centre of organised croquet, with tournaments attracting skilled players from across the country. Strategic play

evolved rapidly, revealing that beneath its genteel appearance lay a game of considerable skill and tactical depth. Croquet's reputation received a further boost through its association with royalty and the upper classes. It became a regular feature of garden parties and country-house weekends.

Even today, croquet retains a certain elegance, although modern clubs welcome players from all backgrounds. What was once seen as a fashionable pastime for Victorian society has become an inclusive sport enjoyed by people of all classes.

Modern croquet exists in several forms, including Association Croquet and Golf Croquet. Both versions are played throughout the United Kingdom and internationally, with world championships attracting competitors from around the globe.

At local level, croquet clubs continue to thrive. Many offer introductory sessions for newcomers, and the sport remains renowned for its welcoming atmosphere. While strategy and precision are central to the game, the social side remains just as important. Visitors to a local croquet club are often surprised by the level of concentration and skill involved. What appears simple from the sidelines quickly reveals itself to be a fascinating contest of planning, accuracy and nerve.

More than 150 years after its Victorian heyday, croquet continues to hold a unique place in British life. It



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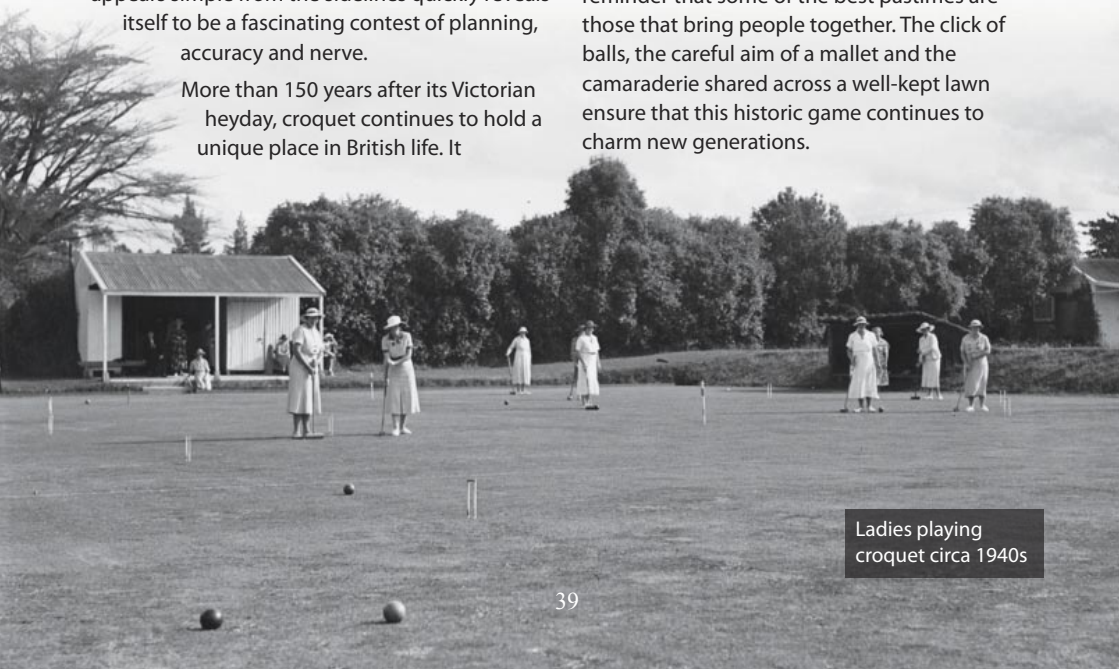
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combines sport, socialising and tradition in a way few activities can match.

Whether played competitively or simply enjoyed on a summer afternoon, croquet remains a reminder that some of the best pastimes are those that bring people together. The click of balls, the careful aim of a mallet and the camaraderie shared across a well-kept lawn ensure that this historic game continues to charm new generations.



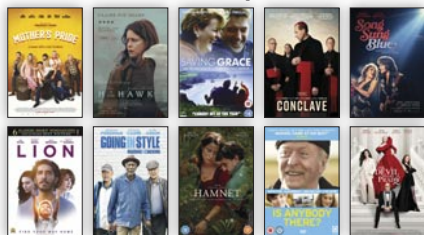
Ladies playing
croquet circa 1940s

THE FOCUS ON FILM SOCIETY

We meet on the **second Monday of each month at Eaton Bray Village Hall from September to June**. Screenings begin at **2.00pm** with doors opening at **1.30pm**. After the film we serve tea and biscuits with time to chat about the film.

Our films are **chosen by the members**. Throughout the season, members submit their suggestions. These are then reviewed by the **Film Selection Committee**, who choose **ten films** for the following season.

Membership for a season of ten films costs **£35** with a sliding scale for people who join part way through the season – excellent value at **£3.50 per film**.



Films for this season will include:

**Mothers Pride
H is for Hawk
Saving Grace
Conclave
Song Sung Blue
Lion
Going in Style
Hamnet
Is Anybody There
The Devil Wears Prada**

New members are always welcome, so if you are interested do come along and try us.

For new members **guest membership** is available at **£5 for one film** before joining.

Remember our first film of the season will be shown on **Monday 14th September**.

For more information call

Graham Chappell on 07980321977
or simply come along to one of our films.

SALTED CARAMEL CHEESECAKE



INGREDIENTS

- 250g ginger nut biscuits, blitzed to crumbs
- 90g butter, melted
- 300g tin caramel
- ½ tsp sea salt flakes
- 540g of Philadelphia original cream cheese
- 200ml whipping cream
- 5 tbsp caster sugar
- Seeds of 1 vanilla pod or 2 tsp of vanilla extract
- 30g salted caramel popcorn
- Small handful of toasted pecan nuts

METHOD

Line the bottom and sides of 23cm spring form tin with parchment paper. Mix together the ginger nut biscuit crumbs and the butter and tip in to the bottom of the lined tin and up the sides. Using the back of a wooden spoon push the biscuit base down so it compacts. Put the base in fridge to firm up for 15 minutes or so.

For the cheesecake mixture, put the Philadelphia into a bowl with the cream, caster sugar and the vanilla and beat until smooth with an electric hand-held mixer.

To make the salted caramel, beat the salt into the caramel until smooth. Remove tin from fridge and spread two-thirds of the caramel on to the base. Then add cheesecake mixture and carefully spread on top, smoothing it off nicely with the back of a spoon.

Place tin in fridge for 2 hours or overnight to set. Once set, remove from the fridge and scatter popcorn and pecan nuts on top, drizzle over the rest of the salted caramel to serve.

EDLESBOROUGH WI

theWI Our June meeting covered the usual items of minutes, singing Jerusalem and giving out birthday posies and cards. We sadly reported the death of one of our oldest past members, Doreen.

Jacky read out some fun snippets from our archives of 1974, like arranging a trip to Holland, as well as a car Rally and dance!

Our speaker for the evening was someone we were welcoming back, and this time her talk was entitled 'Where there's a quill there's a way!' Intriguing! She had brought a cardboard cut out of William Shakespeare, so we quickly realised the talk was about him (1564-1616). She talked about his life as an actor on the London stage as well as his writing of plays and sonnets, and his marriage to Anne Hathaway.

She enjoyed reminiscing about the plays she had seen at Stratford and in London and the famous actors she had seen performing, like David Tennant and Kenneth Branagh! She encouraged audience participation with fun snippets of information that each of us read out!

The meeting ended with a raffle and refreshments. Our next meeting in July will be on Shaws corner, a National Trust property near Wheathamstead.

We meet on 2nd Tuesday of the month at Edlesborough memorial hall, at 7.30 pm, and new ladies are always welcome.

Many thanks, **Jacky Hockey**



EATON BRAY WI

theWI Eaton Bray WI flower arranging night. We all arrived mainly with flowers from our gardens and lots of foliage to set to and be creative.

Many ladies tried not to use floral foam but, with using some florist tape in a diagonal cross over their containers, managed to achieve good results in a variety of different shaped containers.

The Salvation Army meeting hall was awash with colour and we were all very pleased with our arrangements. We looked at the displays, enjoyed our coffee and biscuits and then settling down among our efforts for a good chat and a catch up.

A lovely relaxed evening among our friends.

Hopefully all the arrangements reached home safely!

Helen Wilkinson



Please don't feed the Red Kites!



Some people like to feed red kites meat in their gardens to attract large numbers – the birds make dramatic swoops when they feed. While this is an impressive spectacle, The Chilterns Conservation Board discourages feeding red kites.

Here are some of the reasons why:

- Feeding encourages red kites to become bolder than they naturally would be and to fly too close for comfort. They have sharp claws and a wingspan of around six foot. If the birds become a nuisance this could change public support for the welfare of these birds, perhaps leading us back down the road towards the persecution of red kites – part of the worrying history of these birds.
- Feeding encourages concentrated numbers of kites in one area. This discourages songbirds and ground nesting birds from feeding and successfully bringing up their young.
- The scraps of uncooked and cooked meat that people feed red kites don't present a balanced, healthy diet.

- Red kites can drop scraps of meat onto neighbouring gardens and properties which is a health risk and attracts rats and vermin (the Conservation Board has even received complaints about scraps of meat dropping directly onto people's heads!).
- Feeding discourages red kites from expanding their range and looking for new breeding territories and sources of food. This disrupts their natural population spread.
- Red kites can feed and thrive successfully in their natural habitat without our assistance. People were encouraged to feed them during their reintroduction in the 1990s, but now that this species is doing well, feeding is no longer necessary.

So please don't feed the red kites – it's far better to enjoy them soaring high above our gardens or in their natural environment on a walk in the Chilterns hills.

#don'tfeedtheredkites

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Wellbeing at the Heart of Our Community



At Edlesborough Pavilion, wellbeing means so much more than keeping fit — though with a gym on site and strong support for local sports clubs, we have that covered too. As a community hub run entirely by local volunteers, we are proud to offer a warm, welcoming space where people of all ages can connect, learn, grow, and look out for one another.

The Pavilion is managed by Edlesborough Community Sports Club CIO, a registered charity dedicated to enriching community life through sport, recreation, and social engagement. Everything we do is for the benefit of the people who live here.

Support When It Matters Most

We host a Cancer Support Group — a safe, compassionate space where those affected by cancer can come together, share their experiences, and find comfort in the company of people who truly understand. We also run a Dementia Group, offering meaningful connection and engagement for people living with dementia, as well as their families and carers.

Staying Social, Staying Well

Social interaction is one of the most powerful contributors to mental wellbeing, and the Pavilion is buzzing with activity throughout the week. Our Bridge, Board Games, and Gin & Jigsaw groups bring people together through laughter, friendly competition, and great conversation — helping to combat loneliness, forge new friendships, and provide the kind of regular social contact that makes a real difference to everyday life.

Creativity and Learning

Whether you are a seasoned artist or simply curious to try something new, our arts and craft groups offer a welcoming space to express yourself, pick up new techniques, and enjoy the quiet satisfaction of making something with your own hands. These sessions help build confidence, encourage relaxation, and foster a real sense of community spirit. We also run an IT Help and Support group for anyone struggling with phones, computers, or laptops — friendly, practical help from people who are happy to take their time.

Coming Together Over Lunch

One of our most loved offerings is our regular Seniors Lunches — a free, sociable occasion that brings local residents together over a good meal. The next one takes place on **Tuesday 8th September, 12.00–2.00pm**. All are welcome.

A Space for Everyone

As a charity, our mission is simple: to keep the Pavilion a vibrant, inclusive, and accessible space where every member of our community feels at home. The sheer variety of what happens here each week is a testament to the strength and spirit of Edlesborough — and a reminder of just how much a shared space can mean.

Whether you are seeking support, companionship, a new hobby, or simply a friendly face, there is a place for you here

Find out more: edthepav.org.uk

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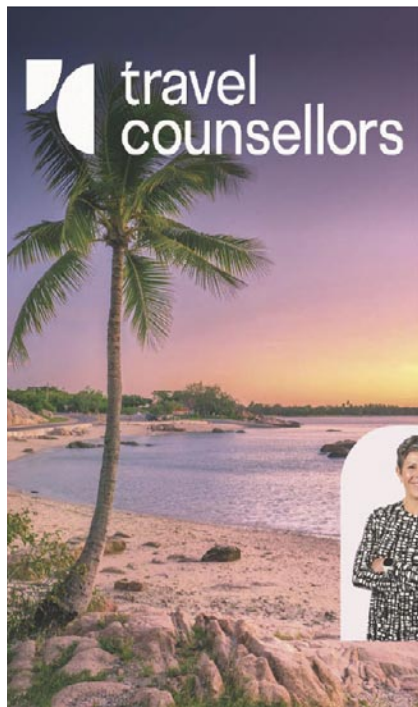
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DUNSTABLE PRIORY CHURCH

We are recruiting experienced musicians to join our auditioned choir.

We sing two services a month: morning eucharists, termly evensong and carol services for Advent and Christmas. We have 12 choristers (aged 7-15) and adults on all voice parts.

Our historic church building hosts an inclusive Anglican community and people of any faiths or none are warmly welcome to sing in our choir.

Our director, Dr Chloë Allison, completed her PhD researching medieval Parisian Polyphony in the Cambridge University Music Faculty, and now conducts university choirs in Cambridge. She is also Choral Director at The Purcell School for Young Musicians (one of the UK's four specialist music schools).

A typical Sunday repertoire might include Stanford 'Magnificat and Nunc dimittis in B flat', Tallis 'If ye love me', Howells 'Like as the Hart' and Elgar 'The Spirit of the Lord'.

Music is distributed in advance and singers learn notes in their own time, making this a relatively low commitment choir. We rehearse every other Sunday after the services.

Singers interested in a high standard of music making, with an ability to prepare music themselves, can email our director on **priorychurchchoir@gmail.com** to express interest.



Wednesday Club



AGE
Concern

Charity No. 293080

Join Our Friendly Wednesday Club!

Are you looking for companionship, good food, and enjoyable entertainment in a warm and welcoming atmosphere?

The Wednesday Club is always delighted to welcome new members. Our club is specially designed for mature people who enjoy spending time with others, making new friends, and taking part in a variety of activities.

Every Wednesday, members can enjoy:



Morning coffee and a chat



A delicious home cooked 2 course meal



Afternoon tea and homemade cake



Regular entertainment and activities – with most weeks featuring live performers, speakers, music, quizzes, or other enjoyable events.

We understand that travelling can sometimes be difficult, which is why we

offer a door-to-door minibus service. Our friendly drivers can pick you up from home and bring you safely to the club, then return you home at the end of the day.

The Wednesday Club meets at Northall Village Hall and provides a wonderful opportunity to meet people, enjoy good company, and look forward to a fun and relaxing day each week.

Whether you come on your own or with a friend, you will always receive a warm welcome.

Come and join us – we'd love to see you!

For more information about membership, meeting times, and transport arrangements, please leave a message for Helen on the club phone: 07854230243.

Wednesday Club AGM is on Thursday 6th August at 3pm, Northall Village Hall, all welcome.





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Lucas (Northall)

★★★★★

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Bernadette (Edlesborough)

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Warren (Eaton Bray)

★★★★★

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Jim (Eaton Bray)

★★★★★

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Andrew Janes (Edlesborough)

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The Secret Lives of Britain's Newts

On warm spring evenings, when most of us are settling indoors, another world quietly wakes up in ponds, ditches and damp woodland corners across the countryside. Beneath lily pads and among tangled reeds, smooth-skinned amphibians glide through the water in search of mates. These are newts — some of the UK's most fascinating and overlooked wild creatures.

Britain is home to three native species of newt: the smooth newt, the palmate newt and the great crested newt. Though small and secretive, these amphibians play an important role in healthy ecosystems, feeding on insects, slugs and other invertebrates while also serving as prey for birds and mammals.

For lots of us, spotting a newt is a childhood memory of dipping nets in a pond and muddy wellington boots. Yet despite their quiet presence, newts are under increasing pressure from habitat loss, pollution and climate change.

The largest and most famous species is the great crested newt, instantly recognisable by its dark, warty skin and vivid orange belly patterned with black blotches. During the breeding season, males develop a dramatic jagged crest along their backs, giving them an almost prehistoric appearance.

Because of their declining numbers, great crested newts are strictly protected by law in the UK. It is illegal to disturb them or damage their habitats without a licence. As a result, these creatures often make headlines whenever construction projects uncover breeding ponds.

"Great crested newts are indicators of a healthy environment," explain many wildlife experts. "If newts are thriving, there's a good chance the wider ecosystem is thriving too."

Unlike frogs and toads, newts spend much of their lives on land. They hibernate through winter beneath logs, rocks and compost heaps before returning to ponds in spring to breed. Their courtship rituals are surprisingly elaborate. Male newts perform underwater dances,

waving their tails to attract females. Once eggs are laid individually on pond plants, tiny larvae hatch and begin life underwater before eventually developing legs and lungs.

This dual lifestyle makes newts especially vulnerable. They need clean ponds for breeding and safe surrounding habitats for shelter and feeding. Lose either one, and populations can collapse. Unfortunately, Britain has lost thousands of ponds over the past century due to intensive farming, urban development and neglect.

The good news is that ordinary gardens can become valuable sanctuaries. Wildlife charities encourage homeowners to create small ponds free from fish, which often eat newt eggs and larvae. Even a modest pond surrounded by native plants can quickly attract amphibians. Leaving areas of long grass, log piles and damp hiding places also helps.

Garden ponds have become increasingly important stepping stones between damaged wild habitats. In some urban areas, back gardens now provide better breeding conditions than heavily managed countryside ponds.

Newts may never command the same attention as foxes, badgers or birds of prey, but their survival tells an important story about the state of Britain's natural world.

These tiny amphibians have survived since the age of the dinosaurs, adapting through ice ages and shifting landscapes. Whether they continue to thrive in modern Britain may depend largely on how willing people are to protect the wetlands and green spaces they call home.

So next time you pass a quiet pond at dusk, pause for a moment. Under the still water, one of Britain's oldest and most remarkable creatures may already be watching.



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buggies, prams, high-chairs, cots etc. So
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contact our club for more information.



At the other end of the
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Toddington Singing
Café, a group for people
with dementia, their
families and carers. It is
led by Ruth Robinson
with the help of a team of volunteers. It
takes place on Thursday mornings 10.30-
11.45 in Toddington Village Hall. For more
information visit their website.
www.toddingtonsingingcafe.co.uk



These are just two of the charity groups we
support locally, so if you can help in any way
or would like to see what our club could do
for you or your organisation then contact us
via the details shown on the left.

New members are always welcome.

BOOK REVIEWS

Less

by Patrick Grant

"Stop Buying So Much Rubbish: How Having Fewer, Better Things Can Make Us Happier"

Great British Sewing Bee judge and Savile Row tailor Patrick Grant delivers a passionate manifesto against modern hyper-consumerism. He argues that cherishing fewer, high-quality items - rather than constantly buying cheap, disposable goods - can revitalize local economies, support skilled craftsmanship, and ultimately make us happier.

Grant highlights startling industry statistics, noting that the average person owns nearly five times as much clothing as they did 50 years ago, with millions of tons of waste ending up in landfills annually.

He contrasts modern profit-driven manufacturing with historical craftsmanship, noting that makers used to ask, "How can I make this better?" rather than "How can I make this cheaper?"

The book argues that buying well-made, natural-fibre clothing and other everyday goods - while prioritizing local manufacturing and circular economies - creates more fulfilling jobs and reduces our environmental.

During the book we get chapters on the history of capitalism and how our consumer-based society has evolved, we see how we have moved in a relatively short space of time from people who had very few clothes that lasted for years to a society where clothes are so cheap that they are a throw away item. We also get details of Patrick's life and career.

This was a great book for discussion and made us think about the way people purchase clothes and the effect this can have on the environment, particularly companies like Shein and Temu who produce goods with prices that aren't sustainable for anyone to earn a living so they have to be either very poor quality or produced by people on extremely low wages or both. Some of us will look at buying from his business, Community Clothing.

Broadly speaking, we were all in agreement that it was an eye-opening book but had been in need of serious editing as there was a fair amount of repetition including some historical information that didn't seem entirely necessary, so we all found it a bit tiresome in the end - a number of us had skimmed through some of the chapters rather than devouring his every word.

Some of us didn't agree with his generalisation of everyone wanting to 'make things with their hands' (in "his world" maybe!), some of the book just seemed to be promoting his own business, and it felt a bit 'preachy' at times.

Nevertheless, we almost agreed on a 3 out of 5 'score', with one member being more generous with a 4



Dunstable Probud Club

Dunstable PROBUD 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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Wednesday Club



AGE
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Charity No. 293880

July & Summer break

Firstly, thanks must go to all who attended the Music Quiz Night in May, it was a fantastic turnout of regular supporters and new faces. Whilst we faced some technical issues at the very start of the evening, we wish to thank Kevin & all others that came up with ideas & solutions to ensure sound (so helpful for a Music Quiz) was resumed. Total raised £961, thank you to all involved, quizmaster team, cooks team and those that supported.

Carnival Day - 5th July

We are pleased to be attending the Village Carnival again and hope to see you there. Donations of items towards our Tombola Stall have been coming into Club thick & fast - so thank you for your continued support following the requests in Focus and on FaceBook.

Photos this month include a beautiful donated planted flower arrangement - sold to the highest bidder - thank you to the donor for thinking of us.

We're so pleased that several members have provided their fellow members with floral table arrangements, quizzes and collections of wanted items. It's so heartwarming to see the care and thoughtfulness shown to their fellow members - a true community spirit is thriving in our Club.

8th July our Summer Trip - Canal Trip

With the extra space available to us on our minibus we've no longer the need for coach hire costs! So, we're using the savings towards treating the members to a Fish & Chip lunch onboard. Definitely a day to look forward to - Report in next issue.

Summer Closure - the whole of August, Wednesday Club AGM is on THURSDAY 6th August at 3pm, Northall Village Hall, All Welcome



Please see the "Summery" updated board within Northall Village Hall for our Diary - we have a rich variety of talks, activities and visitors lined up - there shall be something for everybody, I'm sure. Monthly Chair Yoga continues to remind us to move and is a regular feature in the diary.

The Wednesday Club phone is not monitored daily so please leave a message or text the Club Phone no **07854230243**, enquiries to join as a member, volunteer, offers of assistance, produce gluts etc. thank you



Thames Valley Police – Holiday Crime Prevention Advice

As the holiday season approaches, Thames Valley Police would like to remind residents of a few simple steps that can help keep your home safe while you are away. A property that looks unoccupied can be an attractive target, so it is important to create the impression that someone is still at home. Consider using timer switches for lights, asking a trusted neighbour to open and close curtains, and ensuring that post is not left piling up. Avoid sharing your travel plans on social media until after you return, as this can unintentionally advertise that your property is empty. Before leaving, double-check that all doors and windows are locked, including garages and sheds, and make sure any valuables are kept out of sight.

You can also enhance your home security by making use of modern technology and community support. Installing a visible alarm system or CCTV can act as a strong deterrent to potential offenders. If you are part of a Neighbourhood Watch scheme, let members know you will be away so they can keep an eye on your property. Don't forget to secure gates, lock away tools, and ensure any side access is restricted. Taking these simple precautions can make a significant difference in reducing the risk of burglary, allowing you to fully enjoy your time away with peace of mind.

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**Alison White Memorial Fund
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continued support.**





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or further meetings at the Pavilion if requested

Steve Munday ~ 07740 197392
Christine Hurst ~ 07398 246496

HELPFUL TIPS ON FINANCE

Side Hustle Season

Summer brings opportunity — not just sunshine but side income. Whether you're selling crafts, tutoring, or freelancing, make sure you're handling it tax-efficiently.

The Trading Allowance still lets you earn £1,000 tax-free from casual self-employment before HMRC requires reporting. If you rent property, the Property Allowance offers another £1,000 tax-free.

Keep all invoices, receipts and logs — digital tools like spreadsheets or apps make this easy.

Tip of the Month: Side hustling? Register early with HMRC if you expect to earn over £1,000 — avoid last-minute panic.

Daniel Riley
(Riley Accountants)



Memories of 60s British Seaside Holidays

It's the time of year for the family treat,
time to leave our little street.
Stopped the milk, stopped the papers,
don't forget to tell the neighbours.
The car is packed to the hilt;
it looks as though it's on a tilt.
On the motorway in a jam,
this is no way to get a tan!
Bed & Breakfast or Self Catering?
Which holiday will you be taking?
Mum's not cooking anymore;
she wants a break from family chores.
On the beach, jump in the sea,
there's lots of fun for you and me.
Sand castles to build, shells to collect,
catch a crab in your net.
Tall and thin, short and fat,
'Surely I don't look like that?'
'Where's my hat? My head is burning!'
It's the same each year, you are never learning!

Promenading in the evening,
be careful, what you're seen in.
Boy catches the eye of a lovely girl;
enough to send his heart in a twirl.
People watching, happy faces.
Chatter, chatter in so many places.
Old people sat in deck chairs,
remembering the fun of youth,
at seaside fairs.
Two weeks are up; it has gone so fast,
I thought it was too good to last!
Say goodbye to friends you've made
and don't forget to take home,
your bucket and spade!
See you next year!

By Simon Icke UK Poems and Quotes



A LANDMARK EXHIBITION OF CONTEMPORARY ART



launches at Claydon, near Buckingham. Prestigious international art gallery, White Cube, presents the work of artists including Tracey Emin, Antony Gormley and Enrico David in the extraordinary eighteenth-century interiors and grounds of Claydon.

WHITE CUBE at CLAYDON will be on view from **6 JUNE - 14 SEPTEMBER**.

The exhibition **IS FREE** (normal admission applies for non-members) but please book a slot as it's going to be busy.



WORLD CLASS ART

This dynamic and thought-provoking exhibition offers a rare encounter between

contemporary art and one of Britain's most distinctive country houses. The artworks respond to the character of the house and represent a breadth of approaches to sculpture, installation, photography and painting. White Cube at Claydon offers a fresh perspective on Claydon's history and spirit.



NEW SPACES OPENING

Inside the mansion, Claydon's extraordinary rococo interiors are transformed into

atmospheric gallery spaces. The exhibition extends into the gardens and two cherished private gardens belonging to the Verney family are open for the exhibition. The Pool Garden and Florence Nightingale Garden host sculptures by Marguerite Humeau and Virginia Overton.

“We're committed to opening up our places in ways that spark curiosity and deepen people's connection to heritage. The collaboration with White Cube is a very exciting example of this.

Tanya Brittain General Manager, National Trust”

Barbecue Season is Here!

As the days grow longer and the temperatures begin to rise, many of us start looking forward to one of the great pleasures of summer – the barbecue.

There is something special about cooking and eating outdoors. Whether it's a family gathering in the garden, a get-together with neighbours, or a celebration with friends, barbecues have a wonderful way of bringing people together. The aroma of food cooking on the grill, children playing on the lawn, and conversations stretching long into the evening are all part of the magic of summer.

While traditional favourites such as burgers, sausages, and chicken remain popular, modern barbecues offer so much more. Grilled vegetables, fish, halloumi, kebabs, and even fruit can provide delicious alternatives. A colourful salad, fresh bread, and a selection of chilled drinks can turn a simple barbecue into a memorable feast.

For those looking to try something different, barbecued pork is an excellent choice. A simple recipe is to marinate pork chops or pork loin steaks in a mixture of olive oil, garlic, honey, paprika, and a squeeze of lemon juice

for at least an hour. Cook over a medium heat for around 6–8 minutes per side, depending on thickness, until the pork is

cooked through and lightly caramelised on the outside. Serve

with a fresh salad, grilled corn on the cob, and a tangy apple slaw for a delicious summer meal.

Of course, a successful barbecue requires a little preparation. Dusting off the grill after its winter rest, checking gas bottles or charcoal supplies, and ensuring cooking utensils are clean and ready can save last-minute stress. Please also remember food safety, keeping raw and cooked foods separate and ensuring meats are thoroughly cooked.

The British weather, as always, can be unpredictable. Many seasoned barbecue enthusiasts will tell you that a few clouds—or even a brief shower—need not spoil the occasion. A gazebo, garden umbrella, or a sheltered patio can often keep the festivities going despite the weather's best efforts.

Barbecues are not just about the food; they are about getting together. They encourage us to spend time catching up with friends, meet new neighbours, and enjoy the simple pleasures of outdoor living. After the darker months of winter, they are an opportunity to relax and make the most of the summer season.

So, as the sunshine makes more frequent appearances and gardens burst into colour, why not fire up the barbecue, invite a few friends around, and celebrate the arrival of summer? After all, barbecue season is one of the best reminders that the warmer days are finally here.

Have a great summer and happy grilling.



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APPLEDOWN RESCUE DOG OF THE MONTH



Adorable Eminem is a lurcher less than a year old. The young lad has not a good start in life and is still filling out and gaining weight. Eminem needs calm, patient owners to give him lots of love and help him to gain in confidence. We feel he would benefit from living with another dog, pending introductions. He cannot live with cats or other small pets. Eminem will need a well fenced garden and on-lead walks. Any children in the family would need to be 7 years plus.

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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Totternhoe GARDEN CLUB

July 2026

The first outing of the year was to Lamport Hall and although we had a wet start to the day, it soon cleared up and over all was a most enjoyable day. We all enjoyed a guided tour of the house and an interesting walk around the large garden which included a walled garden. The nearby 12th century church of 'All Hallows' was also open for us to explore with its interesting history.

The 16th century house has had an up-and-down history - partly due, it would seem, to many of the Isham family dying at inopportune times! It is not now occupied by the family but has a tenant and is administered by a Trust set up in 1974.

The walled garden which had been the kitchen garden is now used to propagate Hardy Perennials on an expansive scale more like trials beds. The plants are well grown on a neutral to acid soil. In the main garden we found rare and different plants as well as those we know and love such as glorious paeonies. A rare beauty is the Paulownia tormentosa - the Foxglove tree which I would say is quite stunning!

There is also a 'bog garden' - actually a toilet with three seats!! There is a large rockery housing many gnomes. Lamport Hall also boasts the original and oldest gnome which is displayed within the house. All in all, a good day out with something for everyone to start the year's 'Grand days out'. Thanks are due to Joyce Wood and Mary Lilley for organising it.

Chris Jell

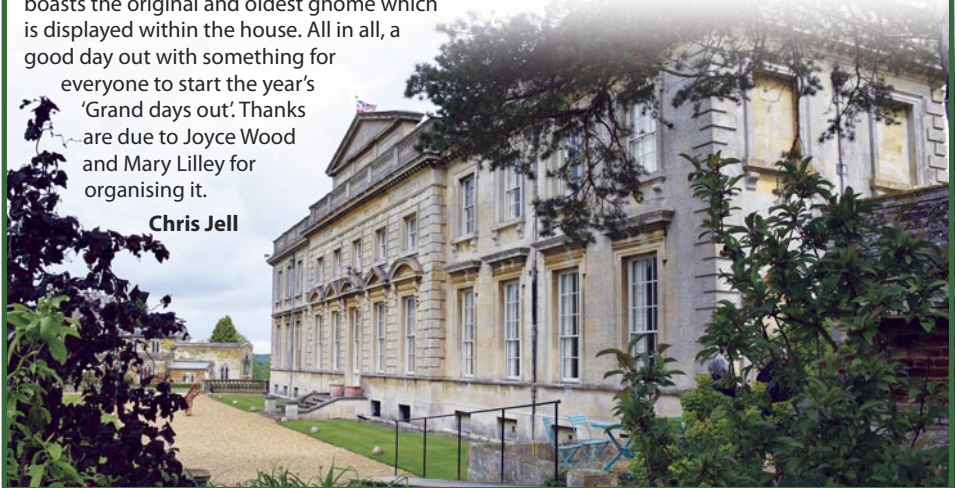
Many of us were somewhat disappointed in the food offering at Lamport Hall which seems to have suffered from the varying fortunes of the family. It was certainly not up to the standard of our previous visit but sufficed. The Garden Club will be hosting an afternoon tea for the seniors of the village which we can report on in the next issue.

In July, we visit the new RHS Show at Sandringham.

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.



Wednesday Club



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MAMMOTH ARRIVAL



A GIGANTIC bundle of joy has been delivered to Whipsnade Zoo in Bedfordshire, after an endangered Asian elephant was born on Monday 8th June.

Following a 22-month gestation, the not-so-tiny infant was born to mum Donna late at night, surrounded by the other females in the herd; her own mum Kaylee, and daughter Nang Phaya, who was born in 2022.

Captured on CCTV cameras in Whipsnade's Centre for Elephant Care, footage shows Kaylee and Nang Phaya sticking close to and supporting Donna during the birth, then crowding round to check on the newborn, with the calf getting to his feet and taking his first wobbly steps within ten minutes.

Standing at less than a metre tall and weighing 110kg, the baby boy is a vital addition to the European breeding programme for the endangered species – which in the wild are

threatened by habitat fragmentation, human/wildlife conflict, and climate change.

Whipsnade Zoo's section manager of elephants Stefan Groeneveld said: "The excitement we're feeling at the arrival of this calf is almost impossible to put into words. It's an amazing success for Donna and our herd at Whipsnade Zoo, and mum and calf are both doing brilliantly, which is exactly what we hoped for.

"Donna has been an exceptional mother from the moment her calf arrived, she's clearly learnt from her experience raising his sister Nang Phaya, and she'll be setting a really important example for when Phaya eventually has her own calf. With Asian elephants facing so many challenges in the wild, this calf represents real hope for the future of the species."

Sadly, Asian elephants are considered by conservationists to be one of the

AT UK'S LARGEST ZOO

Endangered Asian elephant born at Whipsnade Zoo



Baby Asian elephant born at Whipsnade Zoo (c) ZSL

most persecuted species in the world, facing daily threats in the wild including conflict with the communities they live alongside, as well as habitat loss and degradation. ZSL's conservationists in Thailand use cutting-edge wildlife technology to monitor Asian elephants, and are working with local communities to reduce human/wildlife conflict, to protect these incredible animals.

Stefan continued: "Every birth is special, but this latest calf is made even more so as he has arrived in the same year that ZSL, the charity which runs Whipsnade Zoo, turns 200 years old. As this birth is so significant, we would love the public to help us name him."

Elephant-lovers can donate to enter a prize draw, with the winner getting the opportunity to help pick a name from a shortlist, join the elephant team for a morning caring for the herd, and have an overnight stay in the lodges at the UK's largest zoo.

Stefan added: "We've asked our conservation team in Thailand, who work daily to protect and conserve these amazing giants in the wild, to put together a shortlist of names that link to hope, the future, and legacy, to make sure that this little boy has a name that is as special as he is, and as significant as the year he was born."

Every donation made to the naming draw will help support the care of the elephant herd at Whipsnade, and ZSL's conservation projects around the globe to restore habitats and protect wildlife.

Visitors to the zoo will be able to spot the new calf in the Centre for Elephant Care, alongside 11,000 other animals that call the conservation zoo home. To book a ticket and support ZSL's global elephant conservation work, visit **Whipsnade Zoo | A ZSL conservation zoo**. To enter the prize draw to be in with a chance of naming the calf, visit <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/elephant-calf>



What to do in the garden in July

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

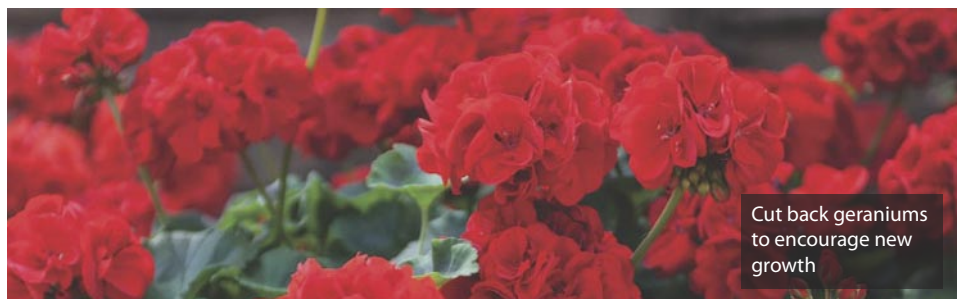
For advice on what to get started this month, here's a list of jobs to keep on top of this July:

Timely Tips



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

In the flower garden



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

can encourage new flowers and foliage and will revive the display. Make sure you feed your baskets well after doing this.

- Cut back **hardy geraniums** and **delphiniums** after the first flush of flowers to encourage new growth and further blooms.
- Keep an eye on your newly-bloomed **hydrangeas** for hydrangea scale - a sap-sucking insect that can affect growth.
- Continue to tie in and train new growth on **climbing plants**.
- Prune **wisteria** now. Just remove the whippy side-shoots from the main branch framework to about 20cm from their base (about five leaves from the main stem).
- Prune lupins to encourage more flowers.
- If you need to **prune your deciduous magnolia**, now's the best time to do it.
- Divide clumps of **bearded Iris** so they have time to form roots and flower buds for next year before the cold weather arrives.
- Take cuttings from your favourite tender plants for overwintering indoors. Cuttings

can also still be taken from **shrubs** and **border perennials**.

- Deadhead **bedding plants** and perennial plants to stop them self-seeding and to encourage further flowering.
- Deadhead your **roses** to keep them looking tidy. Leave the flowers in place if your rose produces attractive hips (seed pods).
- Deadhead **sweet peas** regularly to keep them blooming. Water daily in dry weather.
- Capture seed heads from dandelions and other weeds. Collect them before they get a chance to release their seeds and spread throughout your garden.
- Keep an eye out for pests on plants, early treatment is best.
- Stop rust damaging **hollyhock** foliage by pruning out affected leaves and/or spraying with a fungicide.
- Look out for clematis wilt. Symptoms include wilting leaves and black discolouration on the leaves and stems. Cut out all affected material and dispose of it in your household waste.

In the greenhouse



- Check plants daily. Water first thing in the morning or in the evening to reduce water loss through evaporation.
- Harden off and plant out any plug plants that you've been growing on.
- Damp down your **greenhouse** on hot days to increase humidity and deter red spider mites.
- Open vents and doors daily to provide adequate ventilation.
- Use blinds or apply shade paint to prevent the greenhouse from overheating in sunny weather.
- Try hanging **sticky traps** to catch flying pests to determine which **pest control** is needed.
- Tidy up fallen leaves and flowers to discourage the spread of fungal disease.



Edlesborough Memory Cafe

2nd Wednesday of every month
from 2.30 – 4 pm

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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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It won't come as a surprise to anyone reading this that music is important to The Salvation Army. The words of a song written by Keith & Kristyn Getty have been set to a new arrangement within The Salvation Army and have become an anthem of hope to so many over recent years. Therefore, I thought I would share them with you. I don't know what stage of life you are at, or where on the journey of faith you find yourselves but remember these words. I can testify and know them to be true in my own life and pray that you will have this assurance for yourselves. Psalm 139: 10 says "even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast." Below are the lyrics to this powerful song, may God bless you as you read them.

He Will Hold Me Fast

When I fear my faith will fail
Christ will hold me fast
When the tempter would prevail
He will hold me fast
I could never keep my hold
Through life's fearful path
For my love is often cold
He must hold me fast

He will hold me fast
He will hold me fast
For my Saviour loves me so
He will hold me fast

Those He saves are His delight
Christ will hold me fast
Precious in His holy sight
He will hold me fast
He'll not let my soul be lost
His promises shall last
Bought by Him at such a cost
He will hold me fast

He will hold me fast

He will hold me fast
For my Saviour loves me so
He will hold me fast

For my life He bled and died
Christ will hold me fast
Justice has been satisfied
He will hold me fast
Raised with Him to endless life
He will hold me fast
'Til our faith is turned to sight
When He comes at last!

He will hold me fast
He will hold me fast
For my Saviour loves me so
He will hold me fast

Blessing

Jacqueline

(The Eaton Bray Salvation Army Church Leader)

THE SALVATION ARMY

Booth Place, Eaton Bray, LU6 2DR

Sunday Worship: Sun 11am – 12pm

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

Coffee Morning: Tues 10am – 12pm

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

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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