

FOCUS



AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2026

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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 & Eaton Bray Tennis/Pickleball Club

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 6th August, 3rd September and 1st October**. 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. Moira's Therapeutic Pilates 9.45 to 10.45 and 11 till 12 noon, moira@stjudesclinic.com
Wed	Pilates 8pm, Northall Village Hall, Lisa: 07832 230774
Wed	Northall & Dist Age Concern Wed Club 10am- 3pm, Northall Village Hall, Dee 07854 230243
Wed	Art Course online 9.30 -11.30am, contact Lorna Moore 07896 619660
Wed	Art Course Bellows Mill Eaton Bray, 2-4.30pm, contact Lorna Moore 07896 619660
Wed	Pilates 6-7pm, Eaton Bray V.Hall, Heather Holmes 07305 023077 pilateswithheather@mail.com
Wed	St Judes Clinic. Moira's Therapeutic Pilates 7 till 8 pm and 8.05 to 9.05 pm moira@stjudesclinic.com
Wed*	Stay & Play toddler group 'Musical Monkeys' Eaton Bray Village Hall, 10am 07944 891235
Wed	Knit and Natter 12-2pm Edlesborough Pavilion Di Hedges 07794 075269
Wed	Home League Weds 2:30pm – 3:30pm (weekly fellowship & activities including singing, quizzes, arts & crafts, bible thought & a prayer – predominantly for women although gentlemen are very welcome), The Salvation Army , Booth Place, Eaton Bray, LU6 2DR.
Wed	Champion's Club Weds 6:15pm – 7:15pm (2nd, 3rd, 4th & 5th Weds of the month, Age 5+, term time only – lots of fun including games, music, activities & bible stories), The Salvation Army , Booth Place, Eaton Bray, LU6 2DR.
Thur	KFPA Street dance classes Edlesborough Memorial Hall 4.15pm-6.30pm (4 years+) Contact Kiri 07988161043 or visit Facebook page 'KF PerformingArts/ KFPA' for info
Thur	Berkhamsted Taekwon-do Adults 6.30pm, Dagnall Village Hall, 07813 755785
Thur	Beavers (6 to 8 years old), 6.15-7.30pm, 1st Eaton Bray & Edlesborough Scout Hut, High Street, Edlesborough. Contact: ebebeaverleader@ebescouts.co.uk
Thur	Explorers Scouts (14-18 years old), 8pm-9.30pm, 1st Eaton Bray & Edlesborough Scout Hut, High Street, Edlesborough. Contact Simon Betts, simon_betts@hotmail.com
Thur	Jazzercise 18:30-19:00 and 19:00-19:45, Eaton Bray VH, Beth 07539 739136
Thur	Retro Line Dance Class 11.15am to 12.45pm.

Eaton Bray Village Hall. Beginners welcome.
www.jukeboxjunction.co.uk
info@jukeboxjunction.co.uk 07864 212171

Thur	Eaton Bray Tennis Club 6.30pm - 8.00pm Social play for all adults
Thur	Eaton Bray Pickleball 6.30pm - 8.00pm Social play for all adults (weather permitting)
Thur	Adult Board Games 12-2:30pm, Pavilion 07740 197392 Email Stevemunday1@gmail.com
Thur*	Move Better, Feel Better Pilates 10-11am, Edlesborough Memorial Hall Contact Lesley Pickering, 07767 823202, lesley@lesleypickering.com
Fri	Tap & Ballet Classes JoAnn Latus School of Dance, 4-8pm, Eaton Bray VH, 07800 518654
Fri	Jazzercise 9:15-10:15, Eaton Bray VH, Beth 07539 739136
Fri	Scouts (10½ to 14 years old), 7.00-8.30pm, 1st Eaton Bray & Edlesborough Scout Hut, High Street, Edlesborough. Contact Mark Owen, ebescoutleader@ebescouts.co.uk , 07899 892344
Fri	"Little Luvvies" baby ballet classes 10am- 11.30am, Northall Village Hall. Contact Emma Whittemore on 01525 376124
Fri	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. Salvation Army Hall in Booth placel. If you are interested in joining our WI please contact Sue Tucker on 07772 901816
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

Revd Gregory Whyley was vicar of Eaton Bray for 46 years from 1825 until he died, still in post, in 1871. During his long tenure Revd Whyley was in the habit of annotating the burials register with details of the most sad or surprising causes of death among his flock. Death through accident, illness and epidemic in particular, were recorded with notes in the margins and this has revealed to subsequent generations more about our predecessors in Eaton Bray.

In mid-Victorian England, there were six epidemics of scarlet fever; one of these occurred in 1863 and Eaton Bray was not spared. In the summer and autumn of that year, the village suffered 27 deaths from this illness, mostly of children.

Having lived through an epidemic ourselves in recent times, we must surely have empathy with people in the past. That period was upsetting for us all and tragic for many families, but at least we had the benefits of modern medical knowledge. But in Eaton Bray in 1863, while fever scoured the village, there was little that could be done. Revd Whyley however, did what he could to lessen the suffering of the poor, and his charity was recorded in the Leighton Buzzard Observer in September 1863,

Fever at Eaton Bray

The inhabitants of Eaton Bray have for a long time being severely visited by a malignant fever which has greatly reduced the poorer class and plunge them into deep suffering and distress. The medical attendants have in most cases, ordered the patient wine and beef tea, but through their long suffering and poverty they

are in many cases unable to procure either of these useful articles. In order to meet this difficulty Messrs John Buckmaster, C Thorn and F Simmons have instructed Mr. Jabez Thorne to supply free of expense, to those parties producing an order from the medical attendant, those things required in fever cases. Any persons desirous of aiding in this laudable object may forward their contributions to either of the above-named gentlemen. The smallest sums will be thankfully received and acknowledged through the medium of the Leighton Buzzard Observer

It should be observed that the Rev. GE Whyley has for weeks past, been supplying wine and beef tea gratuitously to the poor of this parish but it was thought desirable that someone should take the matter in hand in order to release the rev. gentlemen of the burden.

This article was followed by a list of the 60 names of those who had contributed sums ranging from 6d to £1, and a later edition of the newspaper reported that £16 14s 6d had been collected in total.

At this time when our parish begins the long process of appointing a new vicar, let's spend a moment to give thanks for Revd Whyley, for his life- long faithfulness, his Christian charity and his devotion to the people of Eaton Bray.

Revd Whyley's grave and that of his wife Jane, can be found in the north-west corner of St Mary's churchyard.

Catherine Hayden,
Churchwarden



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 AUGUST & SEPTEMBER 2026

SUNDAY 16TH AUGUST 10.30AM
HOLY COMMUNION

SATURDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER 10AM ~ 12NOON
HARVEST BRUNCH

SUNDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER 10.30AM
HARVEST FESTIVAL WITH HOLY COMMUNION

FOR ANY QUERIES PLEASE CONTACT

PHILIP LEE ON 07977 234453 OR DOROTHY GREEN ON 01442 843237





Eaton Bray Singers have had a pretty busy July. We had a stall at the Carnival and our now annual Cream Tea and Concert which was held at Whipsnade Village Hall. The choir will be spending the next few weeks working on new items for the Poppy Prom which takes place at St Mary's Church, Eaton Bray on the afternoon of Saturday 31st October. This is always a special and memorable occasion in which we all enjoy taking part.

We will also be looking at new pieces for our Christmas Concert which will be taking place at Eaton Bray Village Hall on the afternoon of Sunday December 13th.

I was thinking of reasons as to why you should join a choir, perhaps you are lonely, possibly feeling low or frazzled. This might be your answer. Find a local choir i.e. Eaton Bray Singers and sing. Singing alongside other people floods the brain with feel-good chemicals. It slows and steadies the breath in a way that settles the whole nervous system, and it drops you into a room full of strangers all reaching for the same note at the same moment. Studies tie it to reduced stress, brighter spirits and a deep sense of belonging, the very thing we need in our pandemic of modern loneliness.

You don't need to have a particular talent, you simply turn up and join in at Eaton Bray Academy on any given Monday evening at 7.45pm. You will be assured of a warm welcome and no audition is required.

SINGING WITH DANESBOROUGH CHORUS



How did I become a Soprano without having any Mafia connections? It all goes back to 1975 when teachers got a salary increase, resulting in many being made redundant because schools closed.

The employment people sent me to see a certain Ted Smith who was starting a music education centre on Aspley Heath. He said he didn't need any teachers yet; what he really wanted was a decorator. So I had a brief career as a decorator, during which Ted invited me to sing in a new choir he was starting. As I was NBOW (Not Busy On Wednesdays), I joined Danesborough Chorus as a soprano.

Things you should know about Danesborough's post of Musical Director:

- only two in over 50 years;
- both called Smith.
- only apply if your surname is Smith.

Danesborough singers come in all shapes, sizes, ages and aptitudes. We have OWLs (those who like being Out With Lads/Lasses), and Harassed MOTHs (Mothers of Three) who come for a wonderful weekly session of Group Therapy with Singing without having to pay therapists' fees.

Singing with Danesborough is the most inclusive experience you'll ever have, as well as being good for your health.

Above all, if you've ever wanted to sing some of the greatest music written for voices, come along and learn with other enthusiasts. Singing isn't like book learning; you learn it by doing, so why not come along and have a go?

Anyone for the Hallelujah Chorus?

Judy Barker

Danesborough Chorus rehearses in Aspley Guise Village Hall,
MK17 8JS on Wednesdays at 7.30pm.
Contact admin@daneshorough.org.uk
or see www.daneshorough.org.uk

Danesborough Chorus 2026–2027 Season

Join us to celebrate
Ian Smith's 50 years
as our Musical Director



Sunday 22 November 2026
Church of Christ the Cornerstone
Rutter: Magnificat
Vaughan Williams: Benedicite
Grieg: Holberg Suite

Sunday 14 March 2027
Milton Keynes Theatre
with Alina Orchestra
conducted by
Hilary Davan Wetton
Beethoven: Symphony No. 9

Saturday 13 February 2027
St Mary & St Giles, Stony Stratford
A programme of English music

Saturday 26 June 2027
St Mary's Church, Woburn
Elgar: Dream of Gerontius

Danesborough Chorus: www.daneshorough.org.uk Reg Charity no 1188026

village and country estate agents
Sears & Co



villageandcountry@searsandco.co.uk
01525 657330 | www.searsandco.co.uk
65 Moor End, Edlesborough, LU6 2HN



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

The Book Swap continues to be very busy. Please come along to browse our book shelf and enjoy coffee and cake in the church.

Future Book Swap dates at St Mary's Church

August 1st 10.30 – 12.00

September 5th 10.30 – 12.00

October 3rd 10.30 – 12.00

The Book Swap is free, and gives people the chance to read books other people have enjoyed, due to our limited storage, we ask you to bring only as many books as you want to swap. Please note, we only accept novels in good condition and we ask that you only bring them when the Book Swap is open. We are not accepting cookery books and factual books or any large amounts of books.

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!

I always think August and September are the months when Britain collectively loses its sense of time.

In August, half the population appears to be on holiday, while the other half are trying to work out why nobody is answering their emails. Villages become strangely quiet one moment and surprisingly busy the next. Many of us spend a considerable amount of money travelling somewhere warmer than the UK, only to discover that home has chosen that particular week to have summer.

Then comes September. Suddenly there are new school shoes to buy, new routines to establish, and a creeping suspicion that Christmas items have appeared in the shops several months earlier than is reasonable. Again. (Yes, I have mentioned Christmas in our summer edition. Sorry)

One of the great consolations of village life is that, while the world seems to rush from one thing to another, villages still understand the value of stopping for a chat. A five-minute walk to post a letter can easily become a twenty-minute conversation. Some see this as inefficiency. I prefer to think of it as community.

The Bible has rather a lot to say about rest, although I suspect the writers were not imagining scrolling through holiday photos on social media. The biblical idea of rest is less about doing nothing and more about remembering what matters. It's about stepping back long enough to see the bigger picture and appreciate the people around us.

There's a verse in Psalm 46 that says:

"Be still, and know that I am God."

(Psalm 46:10)

Those words are not really an instruction to sit quietly doing nothing. They are more a

reminder that, amidst all the noise and busyness of life, we don't have to carry the weight of the world on our own shoulders. The village will survive if we take a day off. The weeds will continue their ministry regardless of our efforts. The emails will still be there tomorrow.

And perhaps that's a useful thought as we move from summer into autumn. Life is busy. The news is rarely cheerful. There are always jobs to do, and household projects that remain firmly in the "I'll get round to it" category.

Yet there is still much to be thankful for: good neighbours, shared laughter, acts of kindness, and the quiet beauty of familiar places. These small things may not make the headlines, but they are often the things that sustain us.

As a minister, I am frequently reminded that faith is not about having all the answers. It's about trusting God while living with the questions. It's about finding hope when things are difficult and maintaining a sense of humour when life becomes slightly absurd—which, if we're honest, is quite often.

So whether August finds you travelling abroad, holidaying at home, tending the garden, entertaining grandchildren, or simply trying to remember what day of the week it is, I hope you'll find time to enjoy the season.

And when September arrives with its timetables, commitments and inevitable rush back to normality, may you face it with courage, patience and perhaps a strong cup of tea.

Every blessing,

Rev. Tim Haines

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Website: www.edlesborough-pc.gov.uk | Facebook: www.facebook.com/EDANParishCouncil | 01525 229358



St Mary's Village Carnival

Thank you to everyone who visited the Parish Council stand at this year's St Mary's Village Carnival. The Council was delighted to promote its Biodiversity and Rewilding Project, with visitors given the opportunity to plant a sunflower seed and take home a packet of wildflower seeds to sow in their own gardens.

The Council extends its congratulations to the St Mary's Village Carnival Committee for organising another outstanding event. We commend the Committee for the considerable effort and dedication invested before, during and after the carnival. We would also like to thank everyone who contributed to making the day such a success, whether by taking part in the procession, decorating their homes, volunteering, or attending and supporting the event.

EPC Surgery

The Clerk will be available on **Thursday 8th October**, 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

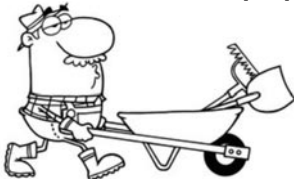
The latest data collected by the **Moveable Vehicle Activated Speed (MVAS)** devices is available on the Traffic Calming page of the Council's website:

www.edlesborough-pc.gov.uk/community-information/traffic-calming-in-the-parish/

Allotment Rents

Annual allotment rents for **2026/27** are due from the beginning of **October 2026**.

The rent remains **£2.60 per pole**.



The Council requests that payments are made via internet banking wherever possible. Any tenant who is unable to make payment in this way should contact the Clerk as soon as possible to discuss alternative arrangements.

Please ensure that payment is received by **11th October 2026**. Late payments will incur a **£10 administration fee**.

EDLESBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

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The Parish Council currently maintains a waiting list for all allotment sites. Anyone wishing to be added to the waiting list should contact the Clerk.

Plot Numbers

The Council would also like to remind tenants that the Allotment Agreement states:

"Each Tenant shall provide and display a stake showing the allotment number."

At its June meeting, the Council agreed that where tenants continue to be in breach of this requirement, the Council will install a plot number and invoice the tenant for the associated cost.

Dogs at the Allotments

Due to increasing complaints to the Council about dogs at the allotment sites Council reminds tenants and dog owners walking through the sites of the following rules;

- Dogs **MUST** be kept on a short lead.
- **DO NOT** allow your dog to stray onto the allotment plots.
- **ENSURE** you clean up after your dog.
- Dog walkers must keep to the designated paths/rights of way.

Should tenants become aware of dog owners regularly breaching these rules please contact the clerk with the following information;

- Allotment site.
- Description of owner and dog.
- Times when the dog is exercised at the site.



Buckinghamshire Local Plan

The Council has been advised that Buckinghamshire Council will publish the **Pre-Submission Buckinghamshire Local Plan and site allocations (Regulation 19) on 23rd July 2026**. This will be followed by a six-week public consultation period.

The consultation will provide residents, businesses, organisations and other interested parties with an opportunity to comment on whether the Plan is legally compliant and sound.

Once the consultation has closed, Buckinghamshire Council will consider all representations received before submitting the Local Plan, supporting evidence and consultation responses for independent examination in **December 2026**.

Further information is available on the Buckinghamshire Council website:

www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning-policy/local-planning/buckinghamshire-local-plan/

Council Meetings

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

- **Thursday 17 September 2026**
– Edlesborough Memorial Hall
- **Thursday 15th October 2026**
– Northall Village Hall

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

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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for more information mitul.patel5@nhs.net



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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

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MINUTES OF EATON BRAY PARISH COUNCIL, 1-June-2026

(Minutes ratified at the Parish Council Meeting on 6-July-2026)-

CBC CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE COUNCIL (CBC)

Ward Councillor: Cllr Philip Spicer

Email: Philip.Spicer@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

CBC Website:

www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

CBC Email:

customers@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk -

CBC Customer Services: 0300 300 8301

- BT phone box Wallace Drive/High Street: Consultation has gone out for the proposed removal of the phone box in this location.
- Speeding car High Street: Concerns were raised regarding an accident along this road. This matter has been reported to CBC/local police.
- Fly tipping–Northall Road: Rubbish has been removed.

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 water refill station is installed on the wall of the Tennis Club.
- School Lane play area surface: The Parish Council are carrying out some repairs to the play area surface.
- Play Equipment: The Parish Council are looking into designs/costs for additional play equipment for The Rye/School Lane.

TRAFFIC MONITORING/S.I.D.

The replacement S.I.D. in Bower Lane is now up and running, the Parish Council will be collecting data from the machine to understand traffic flow/speeds.

MONTHLY PAYMENTS: JUNE 2026/PERIOD 3

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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY/COMMUNITY EVENTS:

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

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 7-September-2026
- Parish Council Meeting, Monday 5-October-2026

PARISH COUNCIL OFFICE (Ground floor)

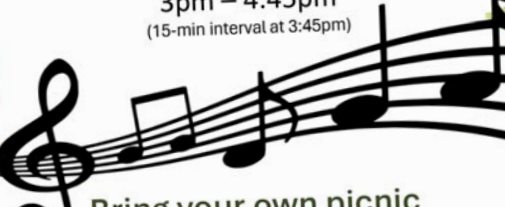
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(Open dates/times subject to change, please check the EBPC Website for updates)

**Tuesday 11-August-2026 /
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3pm – 4:45pm
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The summer holidays are here and lots of us are off on holiday, enjoying day trips to the seaside or visiting friends and family. That usually involves a car ride, a train journey or a plane trip or even a cruise. How do we find our way there? Does it cause arguments? These days we mainly use a satnav or rely on a tour guide.

Google Earth often helps to locate places and give us an idea of where we are heading. A paper map was used before that. In the olden days people used the sun during the day or the moon and stars by night. God's provision to light our way. Not sure how I'd have managed!

We have visited some far-flung places over the years. We visited Petra in Jordan, now an uninhabited ruin, carved directly from sandstone. Petra which has an awe-inspiring entrance through a narrow ravine is thousands of years old, just 120 miles by road from the Dead Sea and was the land of the Edomites, descendants of Esau, who feature in several places in the Bible. It was on a trading route and historians think that the Magi would have gone there on their way to see, worship and give their gifts to the child Jesus. We know that they followed a new star.

Next, we visited Eritrea. Most people asked us where that even was! There are many countries in Africa that are just names unless like Eritrea you have a WWII or other interest and able to locate it on a map or globe of the world. Due to the Ukrainian war, we have also learnt a lot recently about the location of Crimea where Florence Nightingale worked as a nurse, improving conditions of those injured in the Crimean War.

After the WWII map makers based at Hughenden Manor I was amazed to read

recently that there are volunteer map makers, initially based in nearby Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire and now in Chinnor, Oxfordshire who use their mapping skills to help locate people trapped by disasters. Recently they have helped locate people in the Venezuelan earthquake, a cyclone earlier this year in Madagascar and floods in Mozambique among many. They provide a 'satnav for humanitarians'.

There were many journeys in the Bible. How did they find their way? We tend to think of the 40 years that Moses led the Children of Israel through the wilderness, as them just being lost. But there was a plan. The plan was a visible sign of God's presence in the pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. Abraham followed water sources on his way from Ur to Canaan rather than a direct route.

Jesus said in John 14 'I am the way, the truth and the life'. Our journey along life's tricky path is better if we trust in Jesus.

He shows us the way and helps us back when we go astray. Put your trust in Jesus who helps us live in the right way.

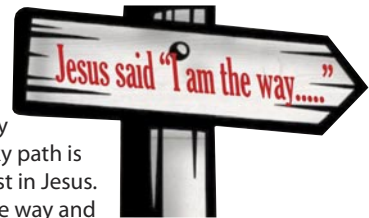
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For those interested in the history of Northall Baptist Church, a free copy of the booklet, *Rebels in Green Pastures* can be supplied or downloaded from our website:

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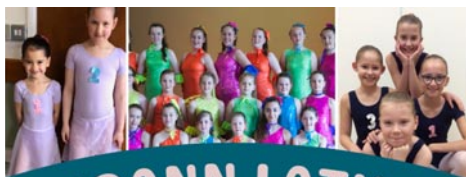
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Eaton Bray Good Neighbours

Where did the year go? Here we are with summer gently slipping into autumn, a change in weather and possibly also changes in school or other life situations. Some pupils starting school, some leaving school and some adults looking to retire from work or contemplating different activities and challenges now children have flown the nest.

If you find yourself with a few hours to spare and looking for something new, why not consider joining us as a volunteer? Some of us take the phone calls and arrange help while others do the driving. So if you can spare a few hours a month, do join us as a volunteer. We are particularly in need of new volunteers from Totternhoe.

In the last quarter we fulfilled almost 200 requests and there were 16 new clients. Around 50% of requests were for lifts to medical appointments, around 25% for picking up prescriptions or shopping and the remainder a number of requests for social transport where the positive impact on health and wellbeing was significant.

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 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 07930 987064

DAGNALL WEATHER STATION (AONB)

Weather Conditions for June 2026

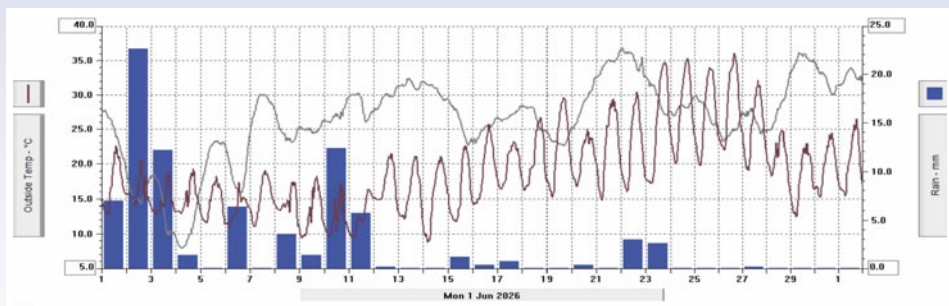
Elevation: 450 ft. - Latitude: 51° 50' 13" North - Longitude: 0° 33' 34" West

June's pattern was similar to May's with another month of two halves. The first two weeks were unsettled, cool and wet, then temperatures rose to bring extreme heat.

The showers which started June, amid a low temperature of 8.8°C, continued for eleven days. But they seemed a distant memory as the heatwave took hold and the Met Office issued a rare red warning. The temperature climbed into the thirties Celcius on the 22nd and the heat continued for six consecutive days. The highest recorded temperature was 36.2°C on the 26th. It cooled a little towards the end of the month. Despite the heatwave, June was wetter than normal with 81.6mm rainfall which was 154% of the average. For the year so far, I have recorded 349.7mm of rain, which matches the six-month average.

	High	Date/Time	Low	Date/Time
Temperature:	36.2°C	1 June 16.00	8.8°C	14 June 04.30
Mean Temperature	18.9°C			
Dewpoint:	25.1°C	24 June 13.00	6.7°C	8 June 22.30
	100%	23 June 04.30	30%	26 June 16.00
Barometer:	1025.9 mb	22 June 02.30	993.4mb	4 June 05.30
	31 mph SSE	4 June 13.30	Months avg.	5.1 mph
Wind Chill:	36.1°C	26 June 14.00	8.4°C	9 June 03.00
Dominant Wind:	W			
Rainfall *T= total rain days and moisture. R= Actual rain				
*Rain Days:4), 4(R)		Wettest Day 2 April	22.6 mm	0.890 ins
Monthly Rain:	Total	June 2026	81.6 mm	3.212 ins
Yearly Rain:	Total	6 Month	349.7 mm	13.767 ins

June 2026 ~ Temperature, Rain. Pressure black line



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If anyone has a question, comment or wishes to contact me please email: david@dagnallweather.co.uk or telephone: 01442 843883

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Take a Historic Break in the UK

The Cotswolds

Another region of England widely celebrated for its beauty is the Cotswolds.

Encompassing six counties and hundreds of picture-perfect villages, it's one of the UK's most visited areas for a reason. If you love village life and enjoy a community feel while surrounded by pristine countryside, it's difficult to think of a more idyllic spot.

There are so many beautiful and historic Cotswold villages that selecting the loveliest is tricky – but Gloucestershire's Bourton-on-the-Water is often voted one of the prettiest villages in England. Nicknamed the 'Venice of the Cotswolds', it's home to honey-coloured cottages, quaint tea rooms, gorgeous gardens, and elegant stone bridges that arch over the photogenic River Windrush.

Vying for Bourton-on-the-Water's 'prettiest village in England' crown is Wiltshire's Castle Combe. The beauty of Castle Combe is no secret (it's been featured in the Hollywood movies *Stardust* and *War Horse*), and its winding streets can get crowded with wide-eyed tourists. But the surrounding woods are peaceful and pristine, and the Bybrook River is popular with locals enjoying a quiet stroll.

For some, the touristy nature of the Cotswolds can be off-putting, especially if you prefer the quiet. But, while places like Stow-on-the-Wold and Burford get busy, many more peaceful, quintessential Cotswolds villages are just as beautiful.

The twin villages of Upper and Lower Slaughter might be small, but they're home to some of the most romantic streets in the UK – and the unspoilt countryside and landscaped gardens that surround them will likely take your breath away.



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EDLESBOROUGH WI



Edlesborough W.I. meet in the village hall on the second Tuesday of the month at 7p.m.

After we had done our usual half an hour of business and announcements we started our evening called 'Shaw's Corner'. Shaw's Corner was the home of the playwright George Bernard Shaw at Ayot Saint Lawrence near Wheathampstead and Mr Murray Craig came to entertain us with his slides and information. It is now a National Trust Property.

George Bernard Shaw was very well known for writing Pygmalion on which the film My Fair Lady was based.

George and his wife Charlotte resided in London having Shaws Corner, a former rectory, as their country retreat. They rented it before purchasing it in 1920 for approximately £6000. How times have changed !!

George wrote over 60 plays and received the Nobel Peace Prize for his literary works and an Oscar for the film Pygmalion. He likened himself to Shakespeare. He was also a keen photographer.

Murray told us a lot about the history of the house and the famous people that visited including T.E. Lawrence (Lawrence of Arabia), the actress Vivien Leigh and William Morris the textile designer to name a few.

Today they do tours of about 45 minutes in the mornings with free viewing in the afternoons. Unlike other National Trust Properties it doesn't have a tearoom.

After our speaker we had our raffle, the birthday plants were given out and we enjoyed our refreshments.

Our trip to Anglesey Abbey was cancelled due to the heat and in fact Anglesey Abbey closed through this period. It has been rescheduled for Tuesday the 15th of September.

There will be a coffee morning in the hall on 29th Sept at 11.30 a.m.-1 p.m.

New members are always welcome.

Jane Jones

EATON BRAY WI



The East Anglian Air Ambulance (EAAA) is an air ambulance providing helicopter emergency medical services (HEMS) across the English counties of Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire and Bedfordshire.

The appeal to fund the service was launched in the summer of 2000 by top jockey Frankie Dettori, who had been injured in a serious plane crash in June of that year. When flying commenced in January 2001, the service was initially available only one day a week. The charity operates two helicopters, 365 days a year, from its bases at Cambridge Airport and Norwich Airport, covering over 5,000 square miles (13,000 km²) and a population of approximately 3.5 million. Andy attended our Meeting on Monday 6th July to give us a refresher course on CPR. He explained that in the UK, only around 8% of people survive an out of hospital cardiac arrest if resuscitation alone is attempted. But when a defibrillator is used together with effective cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) within the first 3-5 minutes, the chance of survival can increase to 40-70%. It's quite a difference – and it's a difference that we can make.

We all tried to perform CPR on the dummies that Andy had brought with him and watched how the defibrillator is used. It was a most interesting and useful evening.

The evening finished with refreshments.

Eaton Bray WI usually meets at the Salvation Army Hall in Booth place at 7.30pm on the first Monday of the month

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

Community Spirit Shines at St Mary's Church Carnival



The annual St Mary's Church Carnival returned to Eaton Bray and Edlesborough on Saturday, 4 July, once again bringing the two villages together for one of the area's most cherished traditions.

In the beautiful sunshine, residents of all ages lined the streets, cheering and waving as a colourful procession of decorated floats and dancers made its way through the villages. The parade, a highlight of the summer calendar, showcased the creativity and community spirit that have made the carnival a long-standing success year after year.

The festivities culminated on the village green, where an arena of entertainment awaited visitors. Families enjoyed a wide variety of attractions, including live performances, classic cars, food stalls offering something for every taste, ice cream, a traditional tea tent, beer tent and the ever-popular barbecue.

The carnival's success is built on the dedication of the local community. From beautifully decorated houses and shop fronts to the tireless efforts of the 15-strong carnival committee, countless volunteers work behind the scenes to ensure the event continues to



thrive. Monies raised at the carnival goes entirely to local charities diligently managed via the committee.

St Mary's Church Carnival remains a shining example of joyous community spirit, bringing together generations of residents to celebrate village life and create lasting memories.

Next year's theme was for the first time announced at this year's carnival which is **"Musicals"**.

The carnival committee will be meeting soon to begin the year-long planning to ensure

Saturday, 3rd July 2027 continues to be the success we love and look forward to.

If you would like to get involved with the carnival committee or would like to put forward names of worthy causes to benefit from the proceeds raised please contact the current chairman, Mark Kilfoyle at mark.kilfoyle@yahoo.co.uk or photo-journalist Sarah Padilha at sarah@padilhaimages.co.uk



The History of Straw Plaiting in Edlesborough



Edlesborough straw platers in Victorian times

Nestled on the edge of the Chiltern Hills, the Buckinghamshire village of Edlesborough was once an important centre of the straw plaiting industry that flourished across Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Hertfordshire during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Although largely

forgotten today, straw plaiting played a vital role in the village economy and shaped the daily lives of generations of local families.

Origins of the Industry

Straw plaiting involved braiding specially prepared wheat or rye straw into long decorative strips, known as plaits. These plaits were then sold to hat manufacturers in nearby centres such as Dunstable and Luton, where they were sewn into fashionable hats and bonnets. The industry had become well established in the South Midlands by the early eighteenth century, benefiting from the chalk soils of the Chiltern region, which produced particularly suitable straw.

Edlesborough's location near Dunstable and Luton placed it at the heart of this thriving trade. Like many villages in the area, it combined agricultural work with cottage industries, allowing families to supplement their incomes during periods when farm labour was less demanding. By the nineteenth century, straw plaiting had become one of the village's principal occupations.

A Cottage Industry

Unlike factory work, straw plaiting was carried out in homes and cottages. Entire families often participated. Women were the main producers, but men and children also contributed. The work required little equipment beyond prepared straw and skilled hands, making it accessible to even the poorest households. Plaiters could work while walking, talking or supervising other domestic tasks, which helped make the occupation popular throughout the region.

In Edlesborough, the production of plait was



Various steps of straw plaiting

organised on a remarkable scale. Historical accounts record that bundles of plait, usually twenty yards in length, took approximately six hours to complete and earned around one shilling. A diligent worker might earn between six and twelve shillings per week, providing a valuable addition to the household income.



Plaiting Schools and Child Workers

One of the most distinctive features of the industry was the existence of plaiting schools. These were often ordinary cottages where children learned the craft from an early age. In Edlesborough, children were frequently sent to such schools, both to acquire the necessary skills and to allow their mothers more time to produce plait. Historical records suggest that one village plaiting school operated from nine o'clock in the morning until ten o'clock at night on weekdays.

Parents paid small fees and supplied the straw, while keeping the earnings from their children's work. A seven-year-old child was expected to produce substantial lengths of plait each day and could contribute significantly to family income. Such practices were common throughout the straw-plaiting districts and later attracted criticism from educational reformers concerned about child labour and poor schooling conditions. The introduction of compulsory education in the 1870s gradually led to the closure of many plait schools.

Markets and Dealers

The success of the industry depended upon networks of dealers and markets. Edlesborough hosted a weekly plait market where local workers sold their finished products. Two full-time plait dealers operated in the village, while others travelled from neighbouring communities on market days. One notable dealer was Walter Gray, who lived at a house called "Westleigh". A shed beside his property was used to distribute straw to local women, who then returned completed plait for sale.

These local markets connected village producers

with the major hat-making centres of Dunstable and Luton. Through this system, the work of countless village women and children became part of a national and international fashion industry.

Social and Economic Importance

At its height, straw plaiting transformed rural society. Across the region, skilled plaiters could earn more than agricultural labourers, giving women and children an unusual degree of economic importance within their households. Contemporary observers sometimes complained that the trade made rural workers less willing to accept poorly paid farm work. Nevertheless, for many families it provided a crucial source of income and improved living standards. (Turvey History)

In Edlesborough, the significance of straw plaiting was such that it became one of the defining local occupations, alongside farming, milling and fruit growing. The trade was so deeply embedded in village life that modern village symbols still include representations of straw plaits to commemorate this important heritage. (edanhistory.uk)

Decline of the Trade

The prosperity of straw plaiting did not last indefinitely. During the second half of the nineteenth century, competition from imported plait from Italy, and later from China and Japan, drove down prices. Improvements in transport and international trade made foreign products cheaper than locally made plait. At the same time, changing fashions and industrialisation altered the economics of hat production.

By the late nineteenth century, earnings had fallen sharply, and the industry entered a long decline. Although some older residents continued plaiting into the twentieth century, it ceased to be a major employer. Records from nearby villages note that local plaiting schools closed and the craft survived only among a diminishing number of practitioners.

Legacy

Today, little physical evidence remains of Edlesborough's straw-plaiting past, yet the industry played a central role in the village's social and economic history. For more than a century it provided employment, supported families and connected a rural Buckinghamshire community to the wider world of fashion and trade. The story of straw plaiting in Edlesborough is a reminder of how a seemingly simple craft could sustain an entire community and leave a lasting mark on local identity.

The Coffee Tavern

High Street Eaton Bray

The Coffee Tavern is a rather unexpected sight in a village. Notes state that it had been created at the beginning of the 20th century by Rev. Edwin Sutton as a resort for the unemployed workmen of the village and to keep them out of the numerous drinking houses! Sutton was vicar from 1890 to 1916. The Coffee Tavern opened in 1901.

The Instrument of Foundation is dated 1916 and was lodged with the Central Office of Supreme Court of Judicature. It states that the building was bought by Rev. Sutton from Solomon Gurney and Gabriel Woodham together with a cottage either side (1 Church Lane and 20 High Street), one in the occupation of a man named Fountain the other by Henry Thurgood. The Coffee Tavern was to be used as a "reading room and club for men of all classes and inhabitants of the village". The instrument marks the conveyance from Rev. Sutton to trustees: William Edmund Wallace, nurseryman and owner of Poplar Farm; Frederick George Pratt, farmer, formerly at Poplar Farm; Edwin Brown, blacksmith; Jabez Thorne, butcher; Ernest Gray, nurseryman; Joseph Hebbs, ex-police constable; William Henry Wallace, nurseryman; Albert Bunker, miller and two ex-officio trustees, the Vicar of Eaton Bray and the Chairman of Eaton Bray Parish Council. The following year the Coffee Tavern was vested in the Official Trustee of Charity Lands.

The Rating and Valuation Act 1925 specified that every building and piece of land in the country was to be assessed to determine its rateable value. Eaton Bray, like most of the county, was assessed in 1927. The valuer visiting the Coffee Tavern on 20th May found that the trustees still owned the cottage either side of the tavern as well as the tavern itself. The tavern comprised a refreshment room, a dining



room, a store room and a committee room downstairs with a large club room, a billiards room and a reading room upstairs. A brick and slate W. C. and a urinal stood outside. The valuer commented: "H. Sear caretaker runs refreshment department and has profits as wages (only 5/- week wages). Self supporting – no profit".

As noted above, one of the cottages owned by the trustees was 1 Church Lane. Correspondence from 1953 and 1954 shows that it was considered unfit for human habitation. It was demolished shortly after the date of the correspondence.

In 1961 the trustees of the Coffee Tavern conveyed the property, together with 20 High Street, to the Parish Council. In the late 1980s and early 1990s the tavern was used as a surgery by two doctors, latterly by one from Dunstable and one from Edlesborough.

Image dates from circa 1896



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Celebrating 5 Years of Edlesborough Pavilion



This September marks a very special milestone: five years since the doors of Edlesborough Pavilion first opened to the community. What began as a simple need to replace an ageing, "unfit for purpose" building has grown into a thriving hub at the heart of village life ~ and it's all thanks to the vision, patience, and hard work of so many people.

How it all began

The story starts back in 2012, when Edlesborough Parish Council began consulting on what to do with the old pavilion. From those early conversations, a bold vision emerged: not just a sports facility, but a building that could serve the whole community. The Pavilion Working Party formed to drive the project forward, evolving into the Edlesborough Community Sports Club (ECSC), who worked hand-in-hand with the Parish Council on the building design and ~ crucially ~ the enormous task of fundraising.

Raising the funds took far longer than anyone anticipated, but persistence paid off. Work finally began on-site in October 2019. Then came COVID-19, bringing further delays at the worst possible time. Despite the setbacks, the team pressed on, and the result is a building the whole village can be proud of: a high quality, beautifully equipped Pavilion that stands as a genuine asset to the parish.

Five years of growth

Over the past five years, the Pavilion has evolved far beyond its original brief. It has proudly hosted the Tennis Club's annual awards and the EB Lions' Awards Day, and has sponsored Play on the Green. It also stepped up as a hub for COVID and flu vaccinations when the community needed it most.

Perhaps most rewarding has been watching the Pavilion become a natural home for local groups ~ from games and arts activities to the cancer support and dementia support groups who now meet there regularly. It's a reminder that the building's true value lies in the everyday moments it makes possible.

A heartfelt thank you

None of this would have been possible

without the dedication of so many people over so many years: Edlesborough Parish Council, the volunteers who gave their time, the trustees who steered the project through its most challenging moments, the fundraisers, the tradespeople, and groups including Edlesborough Cricket Club, Edlesborough Tennis Club, and EB Lions Football Club. Thank you all — and to every resident and user who has made the Pavilion what it is today.

Looking ahead

Join us to celebrate on our Open Day, Sunday 20th September, 11.00am ~ 4.00pm
everyone is welcome!

Tea tent 2026

Another fabulous carnival day celebrating Countries of the World on Saturday 4 July 2026. The weather started cool with a covering of cloud; this was great as it meant the tea tent volunteers could set up without getting too hot and bothered!

We were ready to serve from 10.30 am with a steady stream of customers. However, we were soon busy with a queue of patiently waiting customers wanting a hot or cold drink, before having to choose from the delightful savoury dishes and the really hard task of choosing a cake from the huge selection of donated cakes.

Our team of dedicated volunteers served everyone with a smile and caught up with friends and family throughout the day.

The team welcomed some new volunteers who were soon in the swing of things. As a result of everyone's hard work we managed to take an impressive £2,216.79 which is magnificent.

Thanks to everyone who was involved we simply couldn't do it without them all – Karen, Julie & Sue



Seniors Social at Edlesborough Pavilion
Tuesday 8th September 2026, 12 – 2 pm



Please come and catch-up with friends or have the opportunity to meet new ones. Enjoy company and conversation whilst savouring a jacket potato loaded with cheese, beans or tuna followed by a slice of homemade cake with a tea or coffee.

All provided free of charge by ECSC Charity

Members & non-members who are of state pension age are welcome

Other drinks will be available to purchase from the bar

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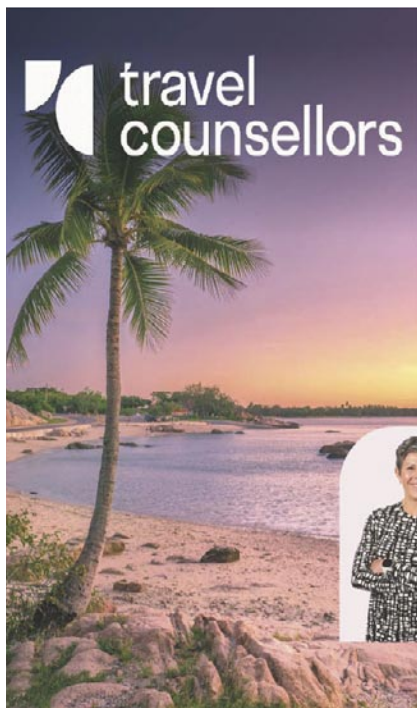
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SUPPORT AT THE PAVILION



**This group meets at the
EDLESBOROUGH PAVILION
on the first Thursday of each month
from 2:30pm**



A get together to meet and share friendship, information and mutual support. There will also be speakers and medical professionals to address members' questions and requests. We are grateful to the Pavilion Trustees, Edlesborough Surgery and the Burghope Trust for their support



**No need to book, just come along to the
Edlesborough Pavilion on Thursdays:
6th August, 3rd September and 1st October**





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EdleFest 2026 A Double Dose of Musical Magic

From the little music festival with the BIG heart!

This year's **EdleFest** was said by many to have been the best yet. Full houses both nights and a lucky weather situation meant a happy audience. Bands were from London, Bristol, Newcastle, America and Edlesborough.

The Friday night openers were the returning Roswell Road, two skilled musicians with lovely voices.

John Smith followed. We knew we were on to a good thing, when so many 'Groupies' from far and wide bought tickets. His vocal range was fantastic, and his singing was relaxed and melodic.

The Often Herd closed with a great set of all genres of music reflecting the qualities of their lead singer. They sold the most merch ever in **EdleFest's** history!

Could Saturday fulfil its promise? Oh yes!

Our home band, The Dicemen were on top form musically and comically.

They were followed by Ashley Campbell, daughter of Glen and his fourth wife, Kimberley Wollen. Ashley is the youngest of his 9 children. Sitting near the back you could hear every word as clear as a bell and the audience loved her. Her guitarist

Thor Jensen is a star in his own right.

EdleFest 2026 ended with Foreign Affairs who really got the audience moving. This Bristol based band, led by 2 brothers gave us all a good send off into the night.

EdleFest is more than just a local music event, it brings communities together and business to our local economy. This year, The Swan at Northall got 8 covers, Curiositea Rooms got breakfasts and Bellows Mill had extra guests.

It is no secret that due to extraneous circumstances this has been a very difficult year for us to put on this popular annual event which leaves the future to be very uncertain. We know that most of the present team, which has organised **EdleFest** since 2012 will be unable to operate next year.

We thank you, 'EdleFesters', for all your support over the years and hope to have more concrete news later in the year.

We would also like to thank and recognise our very loyal sponsors and supporters who are listed alongside our article.

Friends of the Church on the Hill, Edlesborough



EdleFest 2026

Brought to you by Friends of the Church on the Hill, Edlesborough

Thank you to our Supporters, Sponsors & Donors

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| Penny Pinstripes | - New dates on banners |
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Lucas (Northall)

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Bernadette (Edlesborough)

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Jim (Eaton Bray)

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Andrew Janes (Edlesborough)

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Otters Return to Bedfordshire's Rivers

There are few sights more magical than catching a glimpse of an otter slipping silently through a river at dawn or dusk. For generations, such encounters were almost unheard of in Bedfordshire, but today these remarkable mammals are quietly making a welcome comeback.

The European otter was once common throughout Britain, inhabiting rivers, streams and wetlands across the country. However, by the 1960s and 1970s, pollution, habitat loss and the widespread use of agricultural pesticides had caused a dramatic decline. In many counties, including Bedfordshire, otters had virtually disappeared. Fortunately, the story has taken a happier turn.

Thanks to cleaner rivers, stronger legal protection and decades of conservation work, otters have slowly recolonised many of our waterways. Surveys have confirmed signs of otters along the River Great Ouse, River Ivel, River Flit, Elstow Brook and Potton Brook, with evidence suggesting their range has steadily expanded over recent years. Conservation projects have also improved riverside habitats and even created artificial "holts"—the sheltered dens where otters rest and raise their cubs. Their recovery is one of Britain's great wildlife success stories.

Otters are wonderfully adapted to life in the water. Their dense waterproof fur traps air to keep them warm, while webbed feet and a powerful tail make them graceful swimmers. Sensitive whiskers allow them to detect fish even in murky water, and they are capable of staying underwater for nearly a minute before surfacing with barely a ripple.

Although fish form much of their diet, otters are far from fussy. They will also eat frogs, crayfish, eels and occasionally small mammals or birds, taking whatever prey is most abundant. Their varied diet is one reason they are such successful hunters.

Despite their growing numbers, seeing an otter remains a rare privilege. They are mostly nocturnal or active during the

quieter hours around sunrise and sunset. More often than not, the only clues to their presence are footprints in soft mud or "spraints"—their distinctive droppings—which they leave on prominent rocks or bridge supports to mark their territory.

If you enjoy walking along Bedfordshire's rivers, particularly in quieter stretches away from busy roads, it is worth keeping an eye open. Move slowly, pause often and listen. Sometimes the first sign is simply a V-shaped ripple crossing the water, followed by a sleek brown head emerging for just a few seconds before disappearing again.

Otters are also an important indicator of healthy rivers. Because they sit near the top of the food chain, they depend on clean water and plentiful fish. Where otters thrive, it usually means the wider river ecosystem is in good condition. Their return reminds us that when we care for our rivers, nature responds.

That said, challenges remain. Road traffic is one of the greatest dangers to otters, especially where rivers pass beneath busy roads. Pollution and habitat fragmentation continue to threaten wildlife, making it more important than ever to protect and improve our waterways.

For local communities, there are simple ways to help. Supporting river conservation projects, reducing litter, avoiding disturbance of riverbanks and reporting wildlife sightings to local recording groups all contribute valuable information for conservationists.

Perhaps the greatest lesson from the otter's return is one of hope. Wildlife can recover when given the chance. A river that once seemed empty may now conceal one of Britain's most charismatic mammals.

So next time you stroll beside the Great Ouse, the Ivel or one of Bedfordshire's many smaller streams, take a moment to look a little more carefully. You may not see an otter—but knowing they are once again sharing our county is reason enough to celebrate.



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BOOK REVIEWS

The Other Bennet Sister by Janice Hadlow

"It is a sad fact of life that if a young woman is unlucky enough to come into the world without expectations, she had better do all she can to ensure she is born beautiful. To be poor and handsome is misfortune enough; but to be penniless and plain is a hard fate indeed."

The Other Bennet Sister presents Mary Bennet in a whole new light as she becomes Austen's newest leading lady.

The novel begins by retelling events from *Pride and Prejudice* from Mary Bennet's perspective. Mary is the "plain" middle sister, the introvert in a family of extroverts, and a constant disappointment to her mother; she finds solace in her books.

After the death of her father the house, which is entailed is bequeathed to the insufferable Mr Collins. When he comes to visit with the intention of asking for the hand of one of the Bennet sisters, he sets his cap at Lizzie who rejects him. Mary tries to attract Mr Collins in order to save the family home, but she makes a spectacle of herself and is piped at the post by her friend Charlotte.

One by one, the other sisters move on, Mary's future becomes uncertain, forcing her to leave Longbourn and seek a new place in the world. She travels between her sisters' households and eventually finds her way to the Gardiners, who empower her to accept herself for what she is and she grows in confidence. She draws the attention of two suitors, Mr Hayward and Mr Ryder, but despite pressure from her mother to get married, Mary insists on finding happiness on her own terms.

Mary's whole life is a journey of discovery and self-discovery. Mary has little confidence and average looks and skills, but when she entered the joyful Gardiner household, she found the happiest home she had ever known. Mary was appreciated for who she was and found love on her own terms.

Our group all found this an interesting read, most of us were familiar with the writing of Jane Austen, one of us re-read Austen frequently and was very familiar with her characters. Some people could see likenesses with characters from other books, for example Mr Ryder resembling Frank Churchill in *Emma*. It was agreed that she wrote convincingly in the style of Jane Austen, although some of the characters in this book were not written in such a good light as they were in the original *Pride and Prejudice*; Lizzie and Jane could appear quite shallow. One of us thought that the first part, retelling events from the original book, did not work as well as the original.

We had a long discussion about plagiarism and whether it was alright for an author to use another author's work carrying on their story, using their characters and piggy backing on their fame. Is this opportunistic writing because of the fame of Jane Austen; would the book have any meaning without *Pride and Prejudice* behind it? We didn't think it would.

Nevertheless, we all enjoyed it although some of us found it overlong and wanted to shake the heroine into action at the end. It took the heroine a long time of heart wrenching indecision to allow herself to be happy! We gave it 4/5



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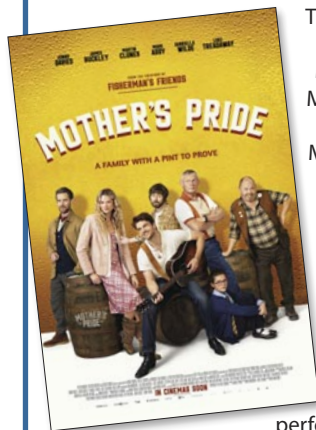
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We meet on the **second Monday of each month at Eaton Bray Village Hall from September to June**. Screenings begin at **2.00pm** with doors opening at **1.30pm**. After the film we serve tea and biscuits with time to chat about the film.

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**.



The September Film will be **Mothers Pride**
Mother's Pride – Review

Mother's Pride is a warm British comedy-drama about family, community, and saving a struggling village pub. Martin Clunes gives a strong

performance as a grieving landlord trying to keep his pub alive while rebuilding relationships with his family.

The film has a feel-good story with some funny moments and a positive message about working together. Although the plot is predictable, the characters are likeable, and the beautiful countryside setting adds to its charm.

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.

EASY FISH PIE



INGREDIENTS

- 1kg Maris Piper potatoes peeled and halved
- 400ml milk plus a splash
- 25g butter plus a knob
- 25g plain flour
- 4 spring onions finely sliced
- 1 x pack fish pie mix(cod, salmon, smoked haddock etc, weight around 320g-400g depending on pack size)
- 1 tsp Dijon or English mustard
- ½ a 25g pack or a small bunch chives finely snipped
- Handful frozen sweetcorn
- Handful frozen petits pois
- Handful grated cheddar

METHOD

Heat the oven to 200C/fan 180C/gas mark 6.

Put 1kg potatoes, peeled and halved, in a saucepan and pour over enough water to cover them. Bring to the boil and then simmer until tender.

When cooked, drain thoroughly and mash with a splash of milk and a knob of butter. Season with ground black pepper.

Put 25g butter, 25g plain flour and 4 finely sliced spring onions in another pan and heat gently until the butter has melted, stirring regularly. Cook for 1-2 mins.

Gradually whisk in 400ml milk using a balloon whisk if you have one. Bring to the boil, stirring to avoid any lumps and sticking at the bottom of the pan. Cook for 3-4 mins until thickened.

Take off the heat and stir in 320g-400g mixed fish, 1 tsp Dijon or English mustard, a small bunch of finely snipped chives, handful of sweetcorn and handful of petits pois. Spoon into an ovenproof dish or 6-8 ramekins.

Spoon the potato on top and sprinkle with a handful of grated cheddar cheese.

Pop in the oven for 20-25 mins or until golden and bubbling at the edges. Alternatively, cover and freeze the pie or mini pies for another time.

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READING NEWSLETTER

Reading Leader: Mrs J Tebbutt Summer 2 2026

WHAT WE'RE READING

Sophia



This is a really good book. It is a bit sad in places. But it is really enjoying reading it! It's about a boy who everyone thinks isn't good, but he is more kind than you realise.

Orla

You should read it because it gives you information about how people lived in Tudor times but not in a boring way, it's like someone is actually talking to you which makes it easier to understand. You will like this if you enjoy history but be warned, some of it is a bit gruesome and a little bit disgusting - but don't let that put you off as it is brilliant.



Robin Class

We have been a bit obsessed with this book in our class this week... It's really funny - Hugo Tayan - He is a superhero but it doesn't go right. We think you would like this book if you need a bit of a giggle!



READING NEWS

1 Summer Reading Challenge

It's that time of year again where we start thinking about the libraries Summer Reading Challenge! We are very lucky to have Hemel Hempstead library coming to speak to us to launch this years challenge. Please visit your local library to sign up!



2 FODS Donation

A big thank you to FODS who have bought our entire amazon wishlist! We are so grateful to have some beautiful new books to add to our library. As many of you will know, stocking a library is an ongoing project and we rely heavily on donations and fundraising so this BIG donation is fantastic and will be so beneficial for all of our pupils.

Our wishlist is now being added to with more fabulous titles, so if you do fancy being generous then please do feel free to buy us a book... or two! <https://amzn.eu/04F7MdXM>

TEACHER BOOK REVIEW

This book follows the character Stanley, a plastic bag, on his unusual and sometimes dangerous travels around oceans and seas. The rhyming story and pictures are fun but I loved the important message behind it. It made me think about how humans can harm and help wildlife. A great read for 'agents of change' who want to protect our beautiful world and the creatures within it!

- Mrs Hunt

THE BENEFIT OF LISTENING TO STORIES

Children who are regularly read to hear millions more words by the time they start school, giving their vocabulary, language skills and comprehension a powerful head start. Research also shows that listening to stories strengthens memory, attention and empathy, helping children understand both language and people. Just 15-20 minutes of story time a day can make a measurable difference to literacy, learning and lifelong confidence.

GRAPHIC NOVELS

This genre of book has seen a rise in popularity over the last few years and the interest doesn't seem to be waning! We are hoping to increase our stock of these books but if you do have any that you have finished with at home and they are in good condition please feel free to bring them in!



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August 2026



It is with great sadness that I have to report that Joyce Murphy passed away at home on the 23rd June. Joyce had decided to retire from her position as Chairman and on the previous Thursday, (after the Seniors Village Afternoon Tea) we made a presentation and thanked her for everything she had done for the Club. We will always be grateful for all the energy and hard work that Joyce put into the Garden Club and will remember the lovely outings, the afternoon teas and the shows that she organised. She was involved in every aspect of the Club and contributed significantly to its success. Joyce was also a valued member of Dunstable u3a Digital Photography 2 group from it's first meeting on 13th May 2009. We would like to extend our heartfelt sympathy to her son, daughter and family and her many friends. She will be much missed.

Margaret Jones ~ Secretary

APPLEDOWN RESCUE DOG OF THE MONTH



Pretty Pepsi is a medium size crossbreed who has just turned five. She is a very sweet-natured girl but does have some anxieties. She will blossom in a home with owners who have the time and patience to introduce her to new situations gradually and can offer stability and a regular routine. Due to her anxiety Pepsi needs to be in an adult only home where any children are 16+. We think a retired household would suit her very well where she would have plenty of company. She could probably live with another dog pending introductions. Pepsi cannot live in the Dacorum area. A lovely dog who will amply reward owners prepared to help her grow in confidence.

For more information please see her album on our Facebook page or email the kennels. Visit our website for details about adoption



and an application form. Viewings are by appointment only. Information about ways to donate to support our work can be found on our website.

Appledown Rescue & Rehoming Kennels Harling Road, Eaton Bray, Beds LU6 1QY
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Website: www.appledownrescue.co.uk

Local Swimmer Sets Sights on Triple Crown with New York Charity Challenge



OPENWORK.ENTHUSE.COM

Rose Hawkins 20 Bridges Swim around Manhattan, New York

Local Eaton Bray villager, Rose Hawkins is preparing to take on one of the world's most iconic open-water swims this September as she heads to Manhattan to raise money for charity and move a step closer to achieving the prestigious Triple Crown of Open Water Swimming.

I was lucky enough to spend a couple of hours a few Sundays ago with the family chatting over coffee and hearing first-hand the passion that started at the age of 11 looking at the North Sea.

Rose first made headlines at just 24 in 2017 when she successfully swam across the English Channel, one of the toughest endurance challenges in the world. Battling cold waters, strong tides and unpredictable conditions, she completed the crossing after months of intensive training and determination.

Now, eight years later, her passion for endurance swimming remains as strong as ever. On 13th September, Rose will attempt the demanding 20 Bridges Swim around Manhattan Island, a gruelling 28.5-mile course that circles New York City's famous skyline. The event will also serve as a major charity fundraiser in aid of the Openwork Foundation, which supports vulnerable people and charitable projects across the UK and overseas.

In a remarkable show of commitment, Rose is personally covering the costs associated with the challenge, including training, specialist equipment and the escort boats required for the swim, ensuring that every penny donated goes directly to the charity.

The Manhattan swim represents the second leg of the Triple Crown of Open Water Swimming, an internationally recognised achievement awarded to swimmers who complete the English Channel, the Catalina Channel in California and the circumnavigation of Manhattan Island.

Friends, family and fellow villagers are already rallying behind Rose as she prepares for the latest chapter in her swimming journey. Rose trains locally in Woburn and Bedford as well as further afield in Windemere.

Completing the Manhattan swim would leave her just one challenge away from securing the coveted Triple Crown and cementing her place among an elite group of endurance swimmers worldwide.

Rose is setting her goal at raising £10,000. Those wishing to support Rose's fundraising efforts can donate via her appeal page: Rose Hawkins' Openwork fundraising page.

If you have a story that you feel that our local villages would find interesting please do contact resident photojournalist Sarah Padilha at sarah@padilhaimages.co.uk

Wednesday Club



AGE
Concern
Charity No. 293080

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

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

Call 07854 230 243 if you can help.



Wednesday Club being entertained by The Ukulele Band



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LOCAL CHARITY URGES COMMUNITY TO FUND ORDINARY ITEMS THAT WILL CREATE AN EXTRAORDINARY IMPACT

Hertfordshire-based homelessness charity, DENS, has launched the **More Than Appeal** to enable their life-changing services to move into new headquarters.

Construction work is well underway for the new DENS Centre, developed in partnership with Dacorum Borough Council.

The charity is relying on the generosity of its community to fund items like mugs, laptops and chairs – which may seem very ordinary at first glance. However, these items will help to create valuable opportunities that empower local people to take their next positive steps.

For example, a donation to the appeal will help ensure a mug is more than a mug – as for Amy, a mug of tea marks the moment she will start to get on top of rental arrears and keep her

family in their home, when she chats to the team at DENS.

Wendy Lewington, DENS CEO, said: “We want everyone who walks through

our doors to feel a sense of worth and belonging.

“Our services include therapy, financial literacy courses, tenancy sustainment support, employability skills training and our Foodbank. But we can’t provide this without the support of our community.”

DENS is asking their community partners and supporters to help reach a target of £20,000 towards funding this vital equipment. The first £5,000 of donations received will also be automatically doubled, thanks to match funding secured from a generous supporter.

Those able to give £1,000 or more will have their name featured on a special Giving Tree at the DENS Centre.

The appeal has received support from DENS Patron, **Adrian Scarborough** – the award-winning actor, and star of *The Chelsea Detective* and *Gavin & Stacey*.

In a special video message shared on his social media, he said:

“DENS is much more than a roof and a bed. So, please help us if you can.”

To donate to the **More Than Appeal** and help DENS provide transformative support to local people facing crisis, please visit www.dens.org.uk/walk.





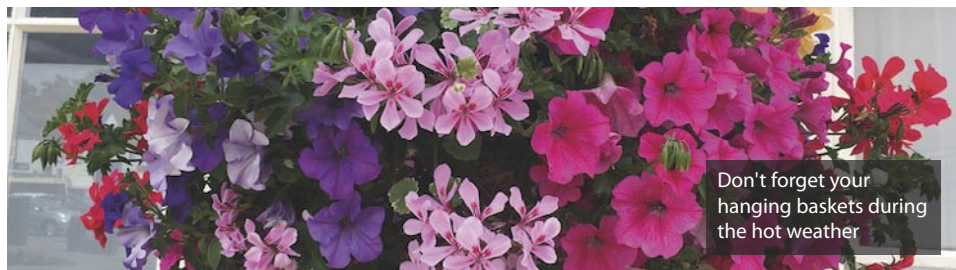
What to do in the garden in August

With the kids on holiday, enjoy the garden as a family!

The last official month of summer is the perfect time to enjoy your garden while it's still at its best. Children are on school holiday, lawns are in full use, and there's plenty of delicious fruit and veg to fill your dinner plate. If you're planning a holiday in August.

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

Timely Tips



Don't forget your hanging baskets during the hot weather

1. Top up ponds and **bird baths** regularly.
2. Water fruit and veg plants daily.
3. Prune all summer flowering shrubs, such as climbing **hydrangeas**, once the blooms are finished.

In the flower garden



Ensure top-heavy dahlias are staked to prevent damage

- Water **evergreen shrubs** like camellias and rhododendrons thoroughly this month to make sure that next year's buds develop well.
- Keep patio container plants well watered and feed with a **liquid fertiliser** every fortnight.
- Stake tall or top-heavy **dahlias** and **lilies** to prevent wind and rain damage. Dead-head lilies for a better flower display next year.
- Dead-head **annual bedding plants** and **perennials** to encourage them to flower into the autumn and stop them self-seeding.
- Cut back faded perennials to keep borders tidy.

- As penstemon flowers fade, cut them back to just above a leaf to encourage more flowers.
- Cut back **herbs** now to encourage a new flush of tasty leaves you can harvest before the frost.
- **Prune wisteria** after flowering by removing all the whippy side-shoots from the main branch framework to about 20cm from their base (about five leaves from the main stem).
- Trim any **lavender plants** after they've finished flowering to keep them compact.
- Collect ripened seeds and store them for next year. Leaving some seed heads in place can be attractive and allows the plant to self-seed in the surrounding soil.
- Mow meadows now to help scatter established **wildflower seeds**.
- Take cuttings of your favourite tender perennials such as **pelargoniums** and **fuchsia** to propagate them for next year.
- Finish dividing clumps of bearded Iris now so they have time to form roots and flower buds for next year before the cold weather arrives.
- Prune **climbing roses** and rambling roses once they've finished flowering (unless they're repeat-flowerers in which case leave them).
- Spray ground elder (and other perennial weeds) with a glyphosate-based **weedkiller**, the plants now have plenty of leaf surface area with which to absorb it.
- Look out for symptoms of 'clematis wilt' including black discolouration on the leaves and stems of your clematis. Cut out any infected plant material and dispose of it in your household waste.

In the fruit garden



- If you have plants fruiting in containers, make sure you give them a high potash liquid feed to keep them healthy and productive.
- Remember to feed your lemon tree (and other citrus fruit trees) throughout summer with a special citrus fertiliser.
- Plant out any rooted runners of strawberries for a good crop next year.
- Keep birds and squirrels off your berries with netting or old net curtains.
- Protect your crops with a bird scarer made from CDs tied to strings.
- Harvest your fruit trees — cherries, plums, peaches, nectarines and apricots should all be ripe now! Early varieties of apple trees will be ready towards the end of the month.
- If you have a glut of autumn raspberries, blackberries or loganberries, freeze them on trays for a couple of hours and then bag them up to use over winter.
- Tidy up strawberry plants and remove any old straw from around the plants to improve ventilation and reduce the risk of pests and diseases.
- Prune the fruited stems of your blackcurrant bushes after harvesting.
- Cut back the fruited canes of your summer raspberries, leaving the new green canes for next year's crop. Tie in next year's raspberry canes to support wires or fencing.



Edlesborough Memory Cafe

2nd Wednesday of every month
from 2.30 – 4 pm

Edlesborough Pavilion, The Green, LU6 2JF

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

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

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

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Please remember ...

***Church isn't just a building
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it's a family, a place where
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grow together and carry
each other's burdens.***

***When you're missing,
your presence is missed
because church isn't the
same without you!***

CH RCH

(It's not the same without u)

A new family awaits.

Blessings

Jacqueline Coates

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
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