

FOCUS

OCTOBER 2026



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THE FOCUS MAGAZINE COMMITTEE

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KINDLY NOTE

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

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

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DEFIBRILLATOR LOCATIONS

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

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

DAGNALL: Red Lion Public House & Munns Farm Shop

EATON BRAY: The Coffee Tavern & 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 1st October, 5th November & 3rd December**. 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 2-3.30pm, 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
Mon	Edlesborough/Eaton Bray Bridge Club Alternating 2-4pm and 7-9pm, the email contact is alisonfmorris@gmail.com . The group is open to players of all levels from beginners to experienced.
Tues	Pilates 10.30-11.30am, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Nicky Roussou 07861 162680
Tues*	Totternhoe Baby & Toddler Group 9.30-11.15am, St. Giles Church Hall
Tues	Tap & Ballet Classes JoAnn Latus School of Dance, 4-8pm, Eaton Bray VH, 07800 518654
Tues**	Coffee Morning Bring & Buy, Table Top Sale, 10-11:30am, Salvation Army Hall, Booth Place, EB
Tues	Jazzercise 9:15-10:15, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Beth 07539 739136

Tues	Berkhamsted Taekwon-do Kids 5.45pm-6.30pm, Dagnall Village Hall, 07813 755785
Tues	Berkhamsted Taekwon-do Adults 6.30pm, Dagnall Village Hall, 07813 755785
Tues	St.Judes Clinic. Moria's Therapeutic Pilates 9.45 to 10.45 and 11 till 12 noon, moira@stjudesclinic.com
Wed	Pilates 8pm, Northall Village Hall, Lisa: 07832 230774
Wed	Northall & Dist Age Concern Wed Club 10am-3pm, Northall Village Hall, Dee 07854 230243
Wed	Art Course online 9.30 - 11.30am, contact Lorna Moore 07896 619660
Wed	Art Course Bellows Mill Eaton Bray, 2-4.30pm, contact Lorna Moore 07896 619660
Wed	Pilates 6-7pm, Eaton Bray V.Hall, Heather Holmes 07305 023077 pilateswithheather@mail.com
Wed	St Judes Clinic. Moira's Therapeutic Pilates 7 till 8 pm and 8.05 to 9.05 pm moira@stjudesclinic.com
Wed*	Stay & Play toddler group 'Musical Monkeys' Eaton Bray Village Hall, 10am 07944 891235
Wed	Knit and Natter 12-2pm Edlesborough Pavilion Di Hedges 07794 075269
Wed	Home League Weds 2:30pm – 3:30pm (weekly fellowship & activities including singing, quizzes, arts & crafts, bible thought & a prayer – predominantly for women although gentlemen are very welcome), The Salvation Army , Booth Place, Eaton Bray, LU6 2DR.
Wed	Champion's Club Weds 6:15pm – 7:15pm (2nd, 3rd, 4th & 5th Weds of the month, Age 5+, term time only – lots of fun including games, music, activities & bible stories), The Salvation Army , Booth Place, Eaton Bray, LU6 2DR.
Wed	Zumba Gold (for active adults that prefer low impact & slower pace) 9.15am-10.15am Eaton Bray Village Hall Contact Carolyn ~ 07941 092673 c.syme26@gmail.com
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@stjudeclinic.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.

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 place. 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**

As a volunteer Lock Keeper at Soulbury I'm used to life's little "ups & downs." The apparent serenity of our inland waterways, is punctuated by the drama of rising in a lock as it fills with tons of turbulent water. Of course, sometimes things go wrong. As water is let out of the lock, the stern of the boat can get caught on an underwater sill, and there's nothing like sinking your boat to put a dampener on your holiday!

As a priest and member at St Mary's Eaton Bray, I know that life can be just as fickle. Everything's going along just nicely and then suddenly we're hit by an unexpected crisis. The loss of a job, a health crisis, bullying at school or perhaps the most unsettling of all.. a breakdown in a relationship. It is in these moments, that many of us find ourselves praying the prayer we never thought we'd pray. "God help me!" and it is these moments that I just want to spend a moment thinking about.

First of all, whatever your faith or lack of it, if you feel prompted to pray – just do it. Pray to Jesus. The Bible encourages us to lay all our cares and concerns before Him because he cares for us. Maybe you feel unworthy, a hypocrite, or just ashamed. Do not think for one moment that you are beyond His care and concern. That's a lie. We are the very people He loves & died for opening up a way into the Father's Presence.

Secondly, be honest with Him. Tell Him what you think, how you feel and what you want Him to do. Do not try and bargain with Him or make deals with Him. That's never a good idea and often leads you into making promises that you'll never be able to keep.

Thirdly, keep praying but try and leave the

answer with Him. I firmly believe that not only does Jesus hear our prayers but answers them too. The trouble is that sometimes the answer is "No"

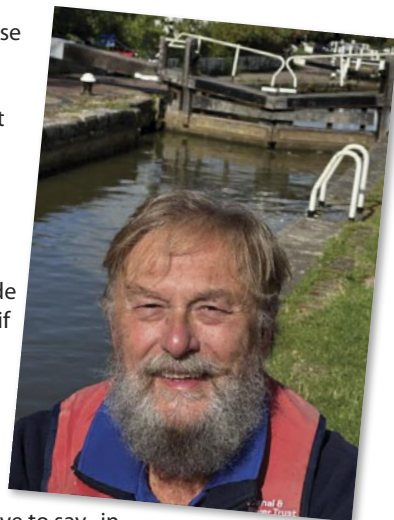
To be honest, it won't surprise you to learn that, I have found those times when God has said "no" to be the most difficult to understand. But after 50 years of walking with Jesus, I have come to realise that sometimes, I have just not known all the facts and His "no" was just His way of saving me from myself. Through these times He has taught me the value of trust, perseverance, kindness and compassion, or even... the power of forgiveness.

Then of course there were those times when He just said "yes." Wonderful times, marvellous times filled with gratitude and joy! But if I ask myself, in which seasons did I learn more about Him, myself or others. I'd have to say.. in the hard times. Strange isn't it?

Every Blessing

Chris

Revd Chris Lane, St Mary's Eaton Bray, Edlesborough, Northall & Dagball.



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 OCTOBER 2026

SUNDAY OCTOBER

18TH 10.30AM

HOLY COMMUNION

FOR ANY QUERIES PLEASE

CONTACT PHILIP LEE ON

07977 234453 OR DOROTHY

GREEN ON 01442 843237





The Choir took a summer break during the latter part of August and returned fully

refreshed in September. We are rehearsing now for the annual Poppy Prom taking place at St Mary's Church, Eaton Bray on the afternoon of **Sunday 31st October** commencing at 2.30 pm. We will be joined by South Beds Concert Band under the direction of Matt Quick. The afternoon concert is always special as we reflect on those lost defending our country.

After this the Choir will start putting together a programme of Carols in preparation for the Tree Lighting to take place at the Five Bells, Stanbridge on **Saturday 5th December** at 5.30pm. This is a wonderful occasion and a joy to be part of. Everyone is welcome and it is an early opportunity to sing a few well-known carols whilst enjoying the convivial atmosphere.

The Choir's Annual Christmas Concert will be taking place at Eaton Bray Village Hall on the afternoon of **Sunday 13th December**. We will be announcing further details regarding guest artists who will be joining us later. In the meantime, please ensure this date is in your diaries.

We are pleased to say that the Choir's Open Evening which we held on **Monday 13th July** was a great success and resulted in some new members joining the Choir. Even though you may have missed the Choirs Open Evening, do not let that put you off coming along on a Monday evening to the Choir's rehearsal base at Eaton Bray Academy, School Lane, Eaton Bray, at 7.45pm, finishing at 9.45pm. Parking is free, secure and well lit, so why not come along and give it a go. You will receive a warm and friendly welcome.

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 I 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

Eaton Bray Singers
Charity Fundraising

Christmas Concert

Sunday 13th December 3.30pm
Eaton Bray Village Hall
Church Lane
Eaton Bray, LU6 2DJ
Doors open at 3.10pm

Ticket £5 each Children FREE

Please scan the QR code below for tickets or
contact the choir: eatonbraysingers@gmail.com

*** Refreshments and Mince Pies ***

Father Christmas will be making a visit!



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65 Moor End, Edlesborough, LU6 2HN



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

The next Book Swap is at St Mary's Church On Saturday October 3rd from 10.30 – 12.00am

Once again the coffee morning was very busy and we had continual visitors to the Book Swap corner. Our dedicated crime and mystery is still very popular, so much so, that we are looking for a bigger bookcase to put it in. The maximum size we can accommodate is Height 110cms, Width 74cms, and depth 20cms. If anyone has one that they would like to re-home, we would love to hear from you.

The Book Swap is free, do come and check us out whilst you enjoy coffee and cakes in a friendly sociable space.

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!*

October: Seasons of Change

As I write this, the days are noticeably shorter than they were only a few weeks ago. The mornings have a touch of chill in the air, leaves are beginning to turn from green to gold and crimson, and our gardens and fields are preparing for another season of rest. October reminds us that change is a natural part of life.

For many people, autumn can be a favourite time of year. There is a certain beauty in the changing colours and a comfort in returning home as darkness falls earlier each evening. Yet change can also be unsettling. We may be facing changes in our families, our health, our work, or our communities. Some changes we welcome; others arrive uninvited.

The Bible often uses images from nature to help us understand God's presence and faithfulness. Just as the seasons follow one another in their appointed time, we are reminded that God remains constant through every season of our lives. The writer of Ecclesiastes tells us that there is "a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens." Life brings moments of joy and sorrow, beginnings and endings, growth and rest. Through them all, God walks beside us.

Harvest celebrations often take place during October and give us an

opportunity to pause and give thanks. We live in a world that encourages us to focus on what we lack or what we want next. Harvest invites us instead to notice what we have already received: food on our tables, roofs over our heads, friendships, family, and the countless kindnesses we experience every day. Gratitude has a way of changing our perspective and reminding us of God's generosity.

October is also a good time to look out for one another. As the nights draw in, some people can feel isolated or lonely. A simple conversation, a visit, a phone call, or an offer of help can make a tremendous difference. One of the greatest gifts we can give is our time and attention. The love of Christ is often seen most clearly in these small acts of kindness that bind communities together.

As we move further into autumn, may we take time to appreciate the beauty around us, give thanks for the blessings we enjoy, and trust God with the changes and uncertainties we face. Whatever season of life you find yourself in, remember that you do not journey alone.

May God bless you and those you love.

Rev. Tim Haines
Methodist Minister

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EDLESBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Including Edlesborough • Dagnall • Northall • October 2026

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

Buckinghamshire Local Plan

Buckinghamshire Council published the **Pre-Submission Buckinghamshire Local Plan and site allocations (Regulation 19)** on **23rd July 2026**.

This was followed by a six-week public consultation period.

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

EPC held an Additional Ordinary Meeting on 20th August and agreed its response to the Plan. A copy of EPC's response can be viewed on the Council website at www.edlesborough-pc.gov.uk/planning/buckinghamshire-council-final-consultation-on-draft-local-plan/.

Buckinghamshire Council is now considering all the representations received and must submit the Local Plan, supporting evidence and consultation responses for independent examination in **December 2026**.

Further information is available on the Buckinghamshire Council website at www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning-policy/local-planning/buckinghamshire-local-plan/

Riding unlicensed powered vehicles

It is against the law in the UK to ride hoverboards, minibikes (or 'mini motos'), motorised scooters such as GoPeds and e-scooters on both public roads and pavements. The same applies to 'trail' bikes, three-wheeled bikes, and quads unless they are displaying valid number plates.

Please note this law applies to Edlesborough Village Green.

If you are concerned about this type of activity on the Green or elsewhere in the Parish, please report it directly to Thames Valley Police.

These vehicles may be used only on private roads or land with the owner's permission.

The results for the Buckinghamshire Best Kept Village Competitions are in!

Edlesborough scored 179 points in the DeFraigne Cup. The cup was won by Steeple Claydon with 188

points. Dagnall scored 179 points in the Morris Cup. The cup was won by Whitchurch with 197 points. Council thanks everyone who worked and continues to work hard to look after all three villages in the parish. The score sheets can be viewed on the Council website under News & Campaigns.

Allotments

The annual allotment rent for 2026/27 is due to be paid at the start of October 2026. The rent due is £2.60 per pole.



EPC requests that payments are made by internet banking. Any tenants not able to pay by internet banking please contact the Clerk ASAP to discuss an alternative payment method.

Please ensure rent is paid by 11 October 2026. Overdue payments will incur a £10 administration fee.

EPC currently holds a waiting list for all allotment sites. Anyone wishing to be added to the waiting list should contact the Clerk.

Friends of the Church on the Hill, Edlesborough

Edlesborough Parish Council is saddened to announce that the volunteer group **Friends of the Church on the Hill, Edlesborough** has formally disbanded.

Over many years, this dedicated group of volunteers has made an invaluable contribution to the preservation, enhancement, and promotion of the Church on the Hill. Through their fundraising efforts, practical support, and community engagement, they have helped deliver a number of significant improvements, including:

- Installation of floodlighting around the church
- Restoration of the stained-glass window
- Regular cleaning and maintenance of the church
- Opening, securing, and overseeing access to the building
- Emptying and managing the church wall safe
- Responding to enquiries and assisting contractors when required
- Organisation of the popular annual **EdleFest** event
- Opening the church and supporting **Heritage Open Days**



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EDLESBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

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- Creation of a small kitchen area within the church
- Enhancements to the overall visitor experience at this important local heritage site.

The decision to disband the group has not been taken lightly and is largely the result of operational changes introduced by the **Churches**

Conservation Trust, which have significantly affected the role and activities of the volunteers.

As a consequence, this year's **EdleFest** was the final event to be organised by the Friends of the Church on the Hill.

Although the group has now ceased to operate, some former volunteers have kindly indicated that they will continue to assist with the maintenance of the churchyard and the care of graves within the grounds.

The Parish Council extends its sincere gratitude to all those who have been involved with the Friends of the Church on the Hill over the years. Their commitment, enthusiasm, and hard work have played a vital role in preserving and enhancing one of Edlesborough's most valued historic landmarks for the benefit of residents and visitors alike.

Streetlights

Please report failed streetlights in Edlesborough, Dagnall and Northall to the Clerk for repair via

clerk@edlesborough-pc.gov.uk or 01525 229358.

When making a report please ensure you provide the Clerk with the information displayed on the lamp post.



Salt Bins

The responsibility for filling these bins is with Transport for Buckinghamshire. When supplies are running low, a refill request should be submitted via the Buckinghamshire Council website: [Report problems on roads, streets and pavements | Buckinghamshire Council](#). It is preferable for a parishioner living close to the salt bin to make the request, but anyone may do so.



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.

Council Meetings

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

- **Thursday 15th October 2026**
– Northall Village Hall
- **Thursday 19th November 2026**
– Edlesborough Memorial Hall

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

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

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

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



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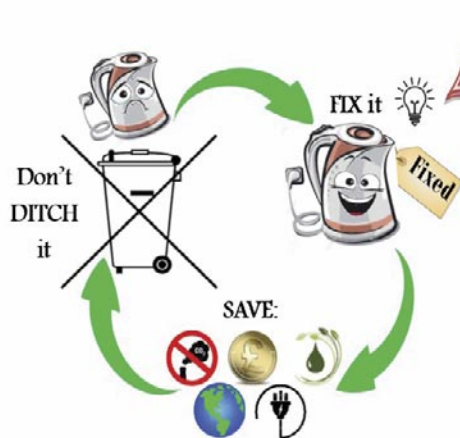
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The Heart of the Pavilion: Meet Our Volunteers



Di Hedges



Malcolm Plaatz



Steve Dix



Sue Gauntlett

The Pavilion wouldn't be the thriving hub it is without the people who give up their time to keep it running. This month, we speak to four of the volunteers behind the scenes, to find out what brought them here, what keeps them coming back, and why they'd encourage others in Edlesborough to get involved too.

Steve Dix, who has volunteered for just under two years, helps behind the bar and kitchen on Wednesday and Thursday lunchtimes, and lends his musical talents to the Memory Café and Cancer Support groups. Already a regular user of the pavilion gym, Steve got involved when he wanted something to occupy his time while his wife was still working. "It's a fantastic facility for the village," he says. "The more help the pavilion gets, the more events can be put on. As they say – use it or lose it!"

Di Hedges first got involved in 2023, setting up the pavilion's Knit & Natter club, and was formally appointed a director of the trading company in June this year. Alongside her events team work, she's since launched a local Gardening Club and History Club, both now meeting at the pavilion. "I enjoy meeting people, forging new friendships and networking for the benefit of the pavilion," Di says. "Volunteering gives you a priceless feeling – giving even a small amount of time gives you back more in confidence and self-esteem."

Sue Gauntlett joined the events team around three years ago and has managed pavilion bookings since February. A keen jewellery

maker, she started out wanting to run her own craft class, and now finds and supports crafters running sessions at the pavilion as well as handling all booking enquiries. "I love seeing the benefit and appreciation crafters and their customers get from the classes," she says. "We're so lucky to have such an amazing facility in our village – it wouldn't run without volunteers. I've lived here twenty years, and since volunteering I know so many lovely people and have made great friends."

Malcolm Plaatz has been involved with the Pavilion since shortly after it first opened, and has been a trustee for the past three years. These days his main role is looking after the building's maintenance. "It's nice to be involved with the community and meeting people," Malcolm says. His message to anyone considering volunteering is simple: "Come and join a great team of like-minded people."

Between them, Steve, Di, Sue and Malcolm represent just a fraction of the volunteers who make the Pavilion what it is. All of the Pavilion's trustees and directors are volunteers too, and none of our volunteers, in any role, are paid. If their stories have struck a chord and you'd like to find out more about getting involved, get in touch at general.enquiries@edthepav.org.uk – there's always a warm welcome waiting.





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EATON BRAY PARISH COUNCIL

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For full contact details visit the Parish Council website. Follow **Eaton Bray** on
Facebook - Keep up to date with what is going on in the parish.



EATON BRAY PARISH COUNCIL REPORT

A hard copy of the most recent draft minutes can be viewed on the Eaton Bray Parish Council notice board at The Coffee Tavern, 18 High Street, Eaton Bray, LU6 2DP

A full copy of the minutes for Eaton Bray Parish Council can be found on our website:

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 or obtained by applying to the Parish Clerk.

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EATON BRAY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING, MONDAY 6TH JULY 2026

(Parish Council Minutes ratified at the Parish Council Meeting on 7-September-2026)

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PLANNING APPLICATIONS

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:**
- Play area: The Parish Council are in the process of repairing failing areas of the play area surface. The council are also in communication with the original contractor regarding the surface and repairs to such.
- Play equipment: The Parish Council are looking into the costs for installing a concrete table tennis table.
- The Rye ground:**
- Play equipment: The Parish Council are looking into the installation of some new play equipment.

PARISH TREES

The Parish Council are organising for a tree survey to be carried out to all trees in the parish, setting out a schedule of works for trees from high priority to low priority

MONTHLY PAYMENTS: JULY 2026/P4 & AUGUST 2026/P5

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) REMEMBRANCE SERVICE:

Sunday 8th November 2026

This year the Remembrance Service will be held at St. Mary's Church, Eaton Bray. Please note that there will be a road closure in



force which will affect a small section of the High Street and Church Lane (around location of the memorial) during the service, from 10:45am to 11:15am.

(2) Best Dressed House Competition: Christmas 2026

The Parish Council are once again holding the Best Dressed House at Christmas competition for Eaton Bray. Judging will be on Saturday 12th December 2026. The winner will be announced at the Brass Band and Christmas Carols event on Wednesday 16th December. A certificate/small gift of a customised bauble will be awarded to the winner.

If you wish to enter the competition, please email the Parish Clerk who will forward an application form to complete for your entry to be submitted. **Registering your interest will be open from Monday 2-Nov-2026 and close Friday 27-Nov-2026.** (only residents of Eaton Bray parish are eligible to enter).

(3) 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 5-October-2026
- Parish Council Meeting, Monday 2-November-2026

PARISH COUNCIL OFFICE (Ground floor)

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

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

- Tuesday 13-October-2026 /



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Peace in our busy world

The hustle and bustle of the summer holidays has been replaced by the hustle and bustle of the autumn term and back to work. The traffic has increased again and the hot weather is now a memory. It'll soon be all those Christmas Jingles in the supermarkets and the rush for Christmas gifts to be bought. Don't you wish for some peace and quiet? A time to catch your breath. A time of less political and financial challenge?



"Ra" electric motor boat moored at Wroxham Norfolk : it is charged from solar cells on the canopy which is sufficient for a day's trips.

We have just had a few days in Norfolk, an area we hadn't really explored before. We had a noisy steam ride on the Bure Valley Railway to Wroxham and then an amazing 2-hour boat trip on the Broad. What was remarkable was the boat was a rarity – a fully electric boat with solar panels. It was so smooth and so quiet that you could only hear the water lapping against the twin hull as we sailed. There was very little other traffic on the water making it ideal to track the birds and other wild life. It reminded me of how heaven might be. Peace! It did seem like heaven on earth.

In Luke 19 v 38 as the crowds were escorting Jesus into Jerusalem on what we now call Palm Sunday, they shouted 'Blessed be the king who comes in the name of the Lord' and Peace in heaven and glory in the highest.'

This led on to the crowds a few days later demanding (noisily) that Jesus be put to death. How quickly the mood of the people changed. From the Sunday to the following Friday

At the birth of Jesus, the angels proclaimed 'Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to men on whom his favour rests.' Jesus has always been associated with peace. 700 years before Jesus, Isaiah foretold his birth giving him a name of Prince of Peace, among others.

Peace is so easily shattered but so many of us really enjoy the peace of a Church building. Our river guide told us the story of John Betjeman who visited Norfolk as a child with his parents and bored, found his way into St. Peter's Church Belaugh. This sparked his lifelong passion for architecture and churches.

It's worth exploring the peace of a Church and contemplating the many blessings we have and thanking the Lord God who provides them. Just before he died, Jesus said 'my peace I give to you.' Ask him for the peace he brings and it will calm your busy life.

Join us for our regular Sunday services in the Church at 11 am. We'd love you to join us for our worship and song. You will get a warm welcome. For those unable to attend in person we also stream our services.

Contact Ruth 07791 425625 for Zoom Link

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

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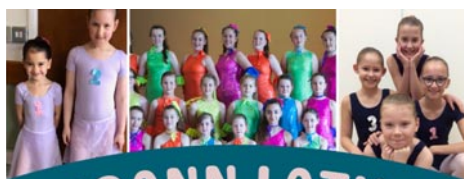
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Eaton Bray Good Neighbours

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Volunteers are not committed in any way. They can just opt into a job if it is convenient. Some are on a rota to take the phone calls 9am to 5pm and some drive. Although we are volunteers, petrol is paid at a standard rate.

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

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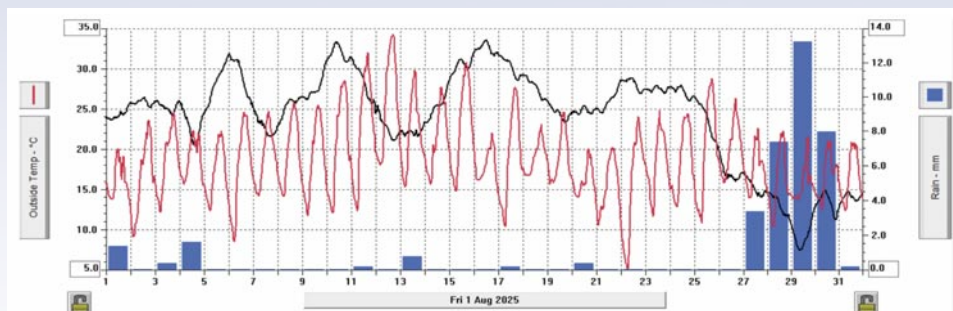
Weather Conditions for August 2026

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

August started warm with only a hint of rain over the first few days with continuous warm/hot weather. From the 5th, the temperature started to rise again. For five days (10th-15th) we experienced daytime heat above 28 degrees. The hottest day was 34.4°C on the 12th. It continued to be exceptionally dry and, by the 19th, we had only recorded 4.6mm of rain. This dry period was followed with relative downpours as the remnants of hurricane Erin came through. Across those four days, we had 32.8 mm of rain. The 29th of August was the wettest day with 13.2mm rainfall.

	High	Date/Time	Low	Date/Time
Temperature:	34.4°C	12 August 16.30	5.1°C	22 August 06.00
Mean Temperature	18.7°C			
Dewpoint:	21.9°C	13 August 15.00	4.2°C	22 August 06.00
Humidity:	98%	22 August 08.00	30%	12 August 15.00
Barometer:	1028.0 mb	16 August 11.30	993.2 mb	29 August 08.30
Wind Speed	n/a	12 August 16.30	Months avg.	n/a
Wind Chill:	27.5°C	10 August 16.00	8.2°C	6 August 05.30
Dominant Wind:	n/a			
Rainfall *T= total rain days and moisture. R= Actual rain				
*Rain Days: 8(T), 8(R)	Wettest Day 29 August		13.2mm	0.520 ins
Monthly Rain:	Total	August	37.2 mm	1.465 ins
Yearly Rain:	Total	8 Months	310.4 mm	12.220 ins

July 2026 month of 2 halves
The majority of the in the first 9 days
Temperature peaked at the end of month



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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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About the Ships: *Royal Clipper* is the largest five-masted square-sail ship currently in existence. Looking like she is from the golden age of sailing ships but yet boasting state-of-the-art navigation systems and all the comfort of the finest modern yacht, *Royal Clipper* carries just 227 guests. The twin sister ships, *Star Clipper* and *Star Flyer*, are smaller carrying just 166 guests.

What's Included : Full board sailing including buffet breakfast and lunch, an afternoon and midnight snack and a 6-course à-la-carte dining experience for dinner. Relaxed open dining means no allocated tables and allows you to get to know your fellow passengers, and 24hr tea/coffee and drinking water is included. There is a dedicated sports team on board, and water sports are complimentary.

Where Do They Visit: In the summer the ships are based in the Mediterranean and visit Nice, Venice and Rome, as well as the Greek Islands and Turkey; new for 2027 will be Albania. In the winter they move to the Caribbean and Central America. You can travel across the Atlantic as well as through the Panama Canal at certain times of year. Pre- and post-cruise stays can be added to your trip.

Top Tip: As the ships move in a different way to larger standard cruise ships, it may take a little while to find your sea legs so I would recommend taking some tablets with you. It is a truly unique cruising experience, being on deck when the ship is under sail power is exhilarating and not to be missed!

*For more information and help in planning your Star Clippers voyage,
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EDLESBOROUGH WI

theWI

Our August meeting was a Fish and Chip Supper. This has become a tradition, a popular choice and always well attended.

Firstly however, we sang Jerusalem, minutes of the July meeting read and signed, birthday cards, plants and best wishes distributed to the lucky ladies. News and items of interest were discussed. The evening temperature was slightly cooler than of late but moving the date of the Supper to a winter month has been agreed to be more appropriate.

The tables had been laid and set up prior to the meeting. Members brought their own glasses and drinks of choice. The Fish and Chip van arrived promptly. While the meals were plated up members chatted and caught up with their news. Always lots to recount - many members do not see each other from one month to the next – such busy lives they live.

The supper was a great success as always. A big thank you to the Committee for all their hard work. The evening concluded with the usual raffle and then many hands made light work of putting the tables and chairs away and tidying up.

Our next meeting was on September 8th when the speaker was Chris Hodges – 'From Dots to Dabs – The History of Radio'.

Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month in the Memorial Hall at 7.30pm. New ladies are always welcome.

Caroline Colleran

INSPIRING WOMEN



EDLESBOROUGH WI



theWI

Edlesborough W.I. meet in the village hall on the second Tuesday of every

month. Our September meeting was entitled 'Dots to Dabs' and Chris Hodges came to talk to us about the radio and how it has changed through the decades. Chris works in the world of media, arts and technology and his enthusiasm for radios was apparent in the number of examples of radios he had displayed for us. We all took a trip down memory lane as he used them very cleverly and technically with the use of his mobile phone to produce the sound and memories of yesterday.

Going through from the 1920's from the wireless to transistors to the 80's when Spotify and Alexa's etc were on the market. Also the days when radios were fine pieces of furniture. The first radios were used for government announcements and communications for example the Kings abdication and war announcements and now are very much a form of entertainment. Chris played us a few intros to guess the programme or star associated with it, we did very well with that.

We had our usual raffle and refreshments, and birthday plants were gratefully received.

New members are always warmly welcomed.

We are now looking forwards to our trip to Anglesey Abbey.

Jane Jones

Back to Club - Summer Break Roundup

Firstly, Annual **Harvest Auction** time! A warm welcome to all who join us on **Friday 2nd October at The Swan, Northall**, for our traditional and not so traditional Auction ... We've even more spectacular items this year!!

Viewing & paddle registration from 7.30pm

Auction & bidding starts at 8.00pm

Cash or Card payment on the night only.

Carnival Day - thank you to all who supported the Tombola - donations arrived thick & fast prior to and the committee would like to thank everyone for their continued support.

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

Canal Trip - a fun filled day with gorgeous weather back in July seems now such a long time ago ... hilarious "duck quack" bingo was played onboard, in true club spirit Helen & Lucy had planned the game to entertain, amuse and bring laughter to all on board. The volunteers all had a great day out too. Thanks to all who prepared, planned and participated to make the trip unforgettable.

Please see the updated board within Northall

The poster is for a 'HARVEST FESTIVAL AUCTION' held 'IN AID OF NORTHALL AGE CONCERN' on 'FRIDAY 2ND OCTOBER AT THE SWAN NORTHALL'. It features a background of autumn leaves and pumpkins. The central image shows an Aston Martin dealership interior with several cars, including a green Aston Martin DB11 in the foreground. Text on the poster includes 'MANY LOTS INCLUDING A BEHIND THE SCENES GUIDED TOUR AT ASTON MARTIN INCLUDING THE WORKSHOP AND ALL THE ICONIC CARS.' and a circular badge in the bottom right corner that says 'FOR UP TO 6 PEOPLE'. The Aston Martin logo is visible on a wall panel in the background.

Village

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

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

Wednesday Club



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Come Along to The Wednesday Club!



Are you looking for a friendly way to spend your Wednesdays? Would you enjoy good company, a delicious lunch, and a chance to make new friends?

Then why not join The Wednesday Club?

The Wednesday Club is a welcoming place where older members of our community can come together to enjoy companionship in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. Whether you live alone or simply fancy getting out for a few hours each week, you'll always receive a warm welcome.

Each Wednesday, members enjoy a freshly prepared lunch and plenty of time to chat over a cup of tea. If you like games, there's the opportunity to join in with cards, board games, quizzes, or other activities—but there's absolutely no pressure. Many people simply enjoy the conversation and the chance to catch up with friends.

One of the greatest benefits of the club is the opportunity to meet new people. Friendships often blossom over a shared meal or a game, and many members say Wednesday has become the highlight of their week.

Worried about getting there? Local transport is available, making it easier for those who no longer drive or find travelling difficult. We want everyone to have the chance to enjoy the company and activities on offer.

If you've been thinking about getting out a little more or know someone who might benefit from a friendly afternoon, why not give The Wednesday Club a try? New members are always welcome, and you'll soon discover that it's much more than just lunch—it's a place to belong.

Come along and see for yourself. We look forward to welcoming you!

Contact Helen on 07854 230243



Quote from a member...

I'm so grateful to the people that run the Wednesday Club. I get a lovely cooked lunch and I am picked up and taken home. If it wasn't for them I would not go out at all.

Bletchley Park – The Secret That Helped Change the World



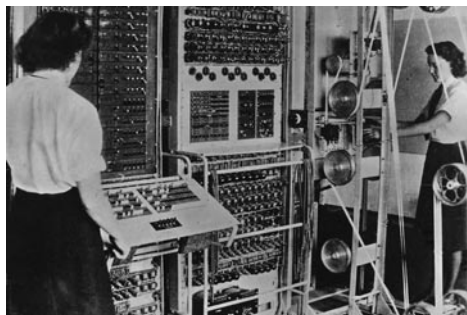
Just under an hour's drive from many of our local villages lies one of Britain's most remarkable historic sites: Bletchley Park. At first glance it appears to be an attractive Victorian country estate, complete with a grand mansion, lakes and gardens. However, behind its peaceful appearance lies a story of extraordinary intelligence, innovation and courage that played a vital role in the outcome of the Second World War.

In 1938, as war loomed across Europe, the British Government purchased Bletchley Park to serve as a secret centre for codebreaking. During the war, thousands of mathematicians, linguists, engineers, chess champions, academics and military personnel worked there in complete secrecy. Many told even

their closest family members nothing about what they were doing.

Their greatest challenge was deciphering encrypted messages produced by the German Enigma machine. The task seemed almost impossible, as the machine could generate millions of different settings. Among the brilliant minds working at Bletchley Park was mathematician Alan Turing, whose pioneering work, together with that of many colleagues, led to the development of machines capable of speeding up the codebreaking process.

The intelligence gathered at Bletchley Park became known by the codename "Ultra" and provided the Allies with invaluable



The Colossus computer at Bletchley Park, Buckinghamshire, England, c. 1943



Women at work in the intercept control room of Hut 6 at Bletchley Park, 1943



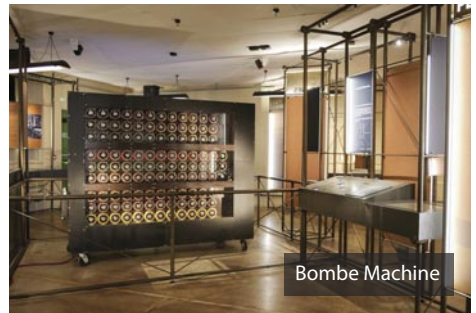
Alan Turing Office Hut 8

information about enemy plans. Historians believe that the work carried out there shortened the war by as much as two years and saved countless lives.

Although Alan Turing has become the best-known figure associated with Bletchley Park, the achievement was very much a team effort. Around 10,000 people worked at the site during the war, and approximately three-quarters of them were women. They operated complex machinery, analysed intercepted messages and carried out countless essential tasks that contributed to the success of Britain's intelligence operations.

After the war, the work at Bletchley Park remained classified for decades. Many veterans were unable to discuss their experiences until official secrets were finally lifted in the 1970s. Today, the site has been lovingly restored and transformed into an award-winning museum, allowing visitors to discover the remarkable stories that remained hidden for so long.

Visitors can explore the beautifully restored codebreaking huts, the famous Mansion, and interactive exhibitions explaining how the



Bombe Machine

codebreakers tackled seemingly impossible puzzles. The National Museum of Computing, situated on the same site, houses the rebuilt Colossus computer, one of the world's first programmable electronic digital computers.

There are also hands-on activities, guided tours and opportunities to learn how wartime communication worked. The grounds also make for an enjoyable day out, with cafés, picnic areas and regular special events throughout the year.

Bletchley Park's legacy extends far beyond wartime history. The groundbreaking work in computing and cryptography carried out there laid important foundations for the digital world we live in today. Every smartphone, laptop and secure online transaction owes something to the pioneering ideas developed behind the walls of this once-secret estate.

So if you are interested in history, technology or simply looking for a great local day out, Bletchley Park is well worth a visit. Sometimes the greatest stories are hidden in the most unexpected places—and few places have a more extraordinary story to tell!



Codebreaking huts



Enigma-Machine



The Harvest Moon ☆ Over Eaton Bray and Edlesborough

As summer gives way to autumn, the golden moon rising over the countryside seems to connect the present day with generations who have watched the same skies and worked the same land.

For centuries, the routine of village life was closely tied to the agricultural year. Eaton Bray, whose name was recorded as Eitone in the Domesday Book of 1086, was a farming community with extensive arable land and rich meadows. Historical records tell us that wheat, barley, beans, plums and damsons were among the crops grown here, while cattle grazed the meadows.

Across the county boundary, Edlesborough has an equally ancient agricultural story. Its name is Anglo-Saxon in origin and the settlement was recorded in Domesday as Eddinberge. Archaeological evidence suggests that people were living here as far back as the Roman period.

Before modern farm machinery and electric lighting, a bright moon was more than simply a beautiful sight. The additional evening light around the Harvest Moon could give farmers extra time to gather crops.

It is easy to imagine the fields around Eaton Bray and Edlesborough busy at harvest time: carts making their way along the lanes, sheaves gathered from the fields and neighbours working together before the shorter days of autumn arrived.

Harvest was also a time for community. In Edlesborough, local history records a harvest band playing on the lawn of the old vicarage, alongside fetes, garden parties and other village celebrations. Such occasions remind us that harvest was not simply about bringing in crops; it was also about bringing people together.

If you look around our villages today there are still reminders of that agricultural past. Old farm buildings, lanes, hedgerows, field boundaries and the open countryside all form part of a landscape shaped by generations of farming.

Eaton Bray even retains a reminder of its medieval past in the moat at Park Farm, all that remains of the village's former moated castle. The surrounding countryside has witnessed an extraordinary span of history—from medieval manors and farming communities to the modern villages we know today.

And there is folklore too. Edlesborough has a long-standing local legend of a tunnel said to connect the church with the former Bell public house. Another tale tells of the ghost of a girl with a besom broom who was supposedly seen sweeping leaves from the pub fireplace after hours. Fact, folklore or simply a good village story, these tales add to the character of a place.

Today, most of us are no longer dependent upon the harvest in the way our ancestors were, but the moon can still provide a moment to stop and appreciate our surroundings.

When the Harvest Moon rises over Eaton Bray and Edlesborough this autumn, perhaps spare a moment to look across the fields and imagine the generations who came before us. They too would have watched the moon climb above the rooftops and fields, marking the changing season and the approach of winter.

The Harvest Moon is therefore more than a beautiful feature in the night sky. Here in Eaton Bray and Edlesborough, it can remind us of our shared countryside, our agricultural heritage, our village traditions—and the stories, both historical and legendary, that have been passed down through the years.

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EdleFest

WE'RE BACK - BUT DIFFERENT! ~ BRAND NEW VENUE - SAME OLD EXCITEMENT

It has been such a pleasure putting music on in our old village church for the last few years... but, sadly, newly imposed costs have forced us to move on. It could have been the end of **EdleFest**, but we're not giving up just yet - and we hope you won't be either!

Our new venue, the village hall in Eaton Bray, brings you some great benefits...

- parking on the same level as the venue
- accessible access and toilets

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

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

- padded seating
- no restricted views of the stage

And of course, you'll still get the same quality of great artists (and the same bar!)

Help us keep **EdleFest** alive and don't miss out on another great weekend of music, right here in the village. Put it in your calendar now - June 4-5, 2027.

We're even offering a **limited number of early bird tickets at a discounted price**, so don't miss out.



Scan the QR code or search online for **EdleFest**, or visit edlefest.site123.me, or email richard@edlefest.co.uk,

We've got another great line-up for you this year. You can check out all the artists' details on the website, but meanwhile here's a quick taster of what's to come...

See you there!



The Magpies

Sublime harmonies, exquisite musicianship and impressive songwriting

'One of those effervescent albums you'd be happy to recommend to people who might not consider themselves folk fans' - The Sunday Times



Good Habits

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Rob Heron and the Teapad Orchestra

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"That's one hot band right there!" - Huey Morgan, BBC Radio 2



True Foxes

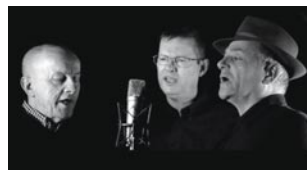
Powerful vocals and soulful songwriting from this Folk/Americana duo

BBC Introducing named them the artist of the week across 8 BBC radio stations



Robbie Cavanagh

Fine, timeless music - a veteran of the Americana music industry
Awarded Whispering Bob Harris's Emerging Artist Award at the Americana Music Awards



The Dicemen

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"Very good indeed" - BBC Radio Wales



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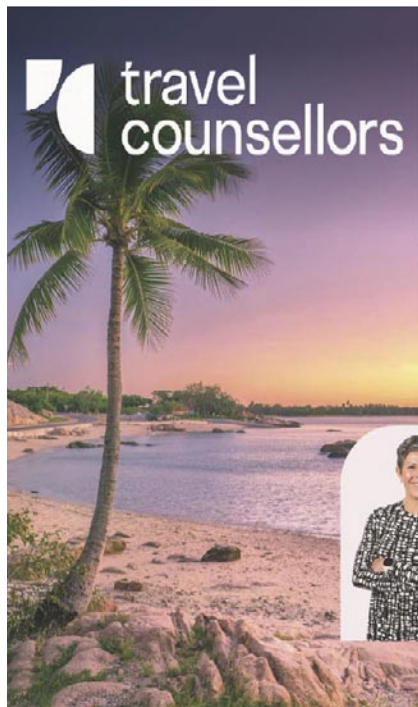
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Support to patients, respite for carers

Here at **Hospice at Home**, we were proud to support World Alzheimer's Month which took place in September.

Our wonderful volunteers provide invaluable support to people living with dementia, including Alzheimer's, as well as their families and carers.

All our services are free to use.

Dementia can affect the whole family, and caring for someone living with dementia can sometimes be challenging. Alongside medical teams, our volunteers offer compassionate support tailored to individual needs, including:

Respite visits for a few hours

Friendly telephone calls and companionship

Support for families and carers

Information about benefits and support available

Signposting to organisations offering further advice

Our volunteers can provide companionship while giving families and carers some much-needed time for themselves. Your wellbeing matters too.

Supporting all life-limiting illnesses

Our free support is not limited to dementia. Our volunteers support people with any life-limiting illness, including cancer, stroke, motor neurone disease and Parkinson's disease, along with their families and carers.

Depending on individual needs, volunteers can offer companionship, friendly telephone calls, shopping assistance, transport and other practical support.

Our aim is to help people feel listened to, cared for and supported.

How to access our support

You can be referred by your medical support team or contact us directly to refer yourself:

email: hello@hospiceathomevolunteers.co.uk

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We'll arrange a personal meeting to discuss your needs and aim to match you with one of our dedicated volunteers.

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Lucas (Northall)

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Bernadette (Edlesborough)

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Warren (Eaton Bray)

★★★★★

Brilliant work from Paramount Plumbing again today for a replacement boiler. This must be our 4th or 5th project with these guys and they are always professional and good value. 100% recommend this company.



Jim (Eaton Bray)

★★★★★

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



Andrew Janes (Edlesborough)

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DOWN THE LANE

OCTOBER 2026

This has been the greenest plant in my garden this summer- one Golden Hop! I trimmed it back a little in July and it has gone its merry way since, no watering or feeding. I have never seen it with so much fruit. It reminds me of a wedding dress with a long artfully arranged train.

Fruit, generally has been prolific this year though my Bramley apples fell off the tree while they were still small so there are none to store this year. The rabbits have enjoyed them. There was a good crop of raspberries but they ripened too quickly or it was too hot to pick them. The hedgerows have been covered with blackberries which are much tastier than those from my thornless bush. Even the birds leave them alone.

This has been a 'no gardening' summer. It's been too hot to plant vegetable seeds and I couldn't plant out lots of my flowers; they wouldn't have survived in the ground so the perennials and shrubs are still in trays.

Roses have flourished this year and repeat flowered. I have seen stunning displays in other parts of the country. They must have benefited from the wet winter as they have deep roots.

I'm now planning what I can plant for next year. I always grow some pelargoniums in tubs. I use large containers with plenty of plants and they create an eye-catching display even when neglected for a short time. I've stopped using other bedding plants as they dry out quickly and then can't be



revived. Many of my shrubs have proved resilient - lavender, perovskias (best year ever!) sage, buddlea , thyme, in fact Mediterranean plants generally. They also attract pollinators. If they are planted in gravel they grow even better as the gravel acts as a mulch retaining water but prevents the plants getting waterlogged in the winter.

Irises have survived as have hellebores which grow in shade.

The grass, I can't call it lawn, is still brown but there are some pretty flowers which are surviving. My favourite is wild mint. I shall try to transplant some into the wild garden in the churchyard for next year.

Sally Taylor

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~ In memory of Celia French ~

The family of the late Celia would like to say a heartfelt thank you to everyone who donated in her memory. We are very pleased to share that a total of £455 was raised for Dogs Trust, a charity very close to Celia's heart.

Celia lived to a wonderful age of 101, and was a very much loved Mum, Grandma, Great-Grandma and a friend to many. We feel incredibly grateful for the kindness and generosity shown following Celia's passing.



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For more information, contact
Deborah Earnshaw 07399 779 894
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jacquelineparry@fnhospice.org.uk

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100 Club
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1st prize - **Barbara Myers**
2nd prize - **Hazel Gibbons**
3rd prize - **Robert Feaviour**

AUGUST

1st prize - **Yvonne Ranson**
2nd prize - **Abigail Newbigging**
3rd prize - **Graham Chappell**



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Bats of Bedfordshire and Buckinghamshire: NIGHT-TIME VISITORS

As the sun sets on a warm summer evening, a different kind of wildlife begins to stir. While swallows settle into their nests and blackbirds fall silent, bats emerge to patrol our gardens, woodlands, rivers and village streets. Although we rarely get more than a fleeting glimpse of them, these fascinating mammals are among the most important—and misunderstood—members of our local wildlife.

Britain is home to 18 species of bat, and at least a dozen have been recorded in Bedfordshire and Buckinghamshire. The most familiar is the common pipistrelle, Britain's smallest and most widespread bat. Weighing little more than a £1 coin, it can often be seen darting around gardens and village greens shortly after sunset, feeding on tiny flies and midges.

Another regular visitor is the soprano pipistrelle, which is particularly fond of hunting over ponds, streams and rivers. Brown long-eared bats are quieter fliers, often gleaning moths and insects from leaves in woodland and churchyards. More rarely, lucky observers may encounter noctule bats, Britain's largest common species, flying high above the treetops while there is still daylight.

Our two counties provide excellent bat habitat. Ancient woodlands, hedgerows, chalk grassland, rivers such as the Great Ouse and the Ouzel, traditional orchards, village ponds and old buildings all offer places to feed, roost and raise young. Churches, barns and older houses can be especially valuable, with tiny crevices providing safe nursery roosts where females gather to raise a single pup each summer.

Bats play a vital role in keeping insect numbers under control. A single pipistrelle may consume several thousand small insects in one night, making these nocturnal hunters valuable allies for gardeners and farmers alike. They also act as indicators of a healthy environment: where bats thrive, insect populations and habitats are usually in good condition.

Unfortunately, bats face increasing challenges. The loss of hedgerows, changes in farming

practices, modern building renovations remove roosting spaces, can all difficult. Bright and artificial lighting make life more difficult. Bright LED lights may interrupt feeding routes or deter some species altogether. Climate change is also altering the timing and availability of the insects on which bats depend.

The good news is that everyone can help. Leaving a corner of the garden a little wilder, planting night-scented flowers, creating a pond, or simply reducing outdoor lighting can all make a difference. If you have mature trees, avoid unnecessary pruning during the summer months, and if you are planning building work on an older property, check whether bats may be present before work begins. All British bats and their roosts are legally protected, even when the bats are temporarily absent.

One of the easiest ways to enjoy bats is simply to step outside on a calm evening between May and September. About 20 minutes after sunset, watch the sky above your garden, local churchyard or village pond. Their rapid, twisting flight is unmistakable, though they are often easier to hear than to see. Modern bat detectors, many of which connect to smart phones, can convert the bats' ultrasonic calls into sounds we can hear, revealing a hidden world overhead.

Across Bedfordshire and Buckinghamshire, volunteers carry out bat surveys, monitor roosts and help conserve these remarkable animals. Their work has shown that even small villages can support a surprising diversity of species when suitable habitats are connected by hedgerows, woodland and watercourses.

Next time you are enjoying a summer evening outdoors, look up. Those tiny silhouettes flickering against the twilight are not birds but some of Britain's most extraordinary mammals—quietly performing an essential role in the health of our countryside while most of us are off to bed.

Become a Parish Councillor for Eaton Bray

EATON
BRAY
PARISH
COUNCIL

Notice of Vacancy - To be filled by co-option

Eaton Bray Parish Council is made up of nine volunteers from the parish. Following recent resignations there are vacancies for Parish Councillors on Eaton Bray Parish Council.

To be considered for co-option applicants must have the necessary electoral qualifications. All the relevant information may be obtained by contacting the Parish Council Office (details below)

Application Forms are available from the Parish Clerk.

"I want to be part of decisions affecting my area"

"I'm passionate about improving my village"

"I want to have an influence on Parish Council spending"

Parish Council Office: Heidi Head, Parish Clerk
(t) 07931 479663 - (e) clerk@eatonbrayparishcouncil.gov.uk
Website: www.eatonbrayparishcouncil.gov.uk



Dunstable Probud Club

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

The Club's main purpose is the promotion of good fellowship. Members enjoy social activities, 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, Derek Ward on 01582 608242.

Don't put off the switch

The UK's analogue landline network will be switched over to digital in January 2027



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What about customers with additional needs?

Protecting customers with additional needs remains BT's top priority, and it continues to strengthen safeguards, including working closely with local authorities, telecare providers, charities and government to ensure those with additional needs are identified and supported safely through the transition.

Free in-home engineer visits are available for those who need extra help, and the provision of backup power solutions to help customers make calls during power cuts.

For customers without broadband, BT will be offering a dedicated landline service, allowing them to use their landline in the same way they do today.

What if there's a power cut?

We understand that for many, particularly those with additional needs, the landline is a lifeline. We want to be sure everyone remains connected.

Customers with additional needs such as health pensions or without mobile signal, can take advantage of free power backup support, on request.

We're also working closely with the power companies to establish processes which help them to restore power as quickly as possible.

For more information, visit www.bt.com/connected-together



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Focus Magazine has 10, printed, full colour editions a year. There is a print run of 2,500 copies which are delivered to every property in the four villages.

The magazine can be found online at **www.theFocusmagazine.co.uk**.

Current advertisers are being contacted regarding renewal of their advertising for the 2027 editions of the magazine.

If you would like to advertise in Focus in 2027 please contact **advertising@thefocusmagazine.co.uk** or ring **Jane Clark** on **07812 153880** or **Sally Taylor** on **01525 221576**.



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THE FOCUS ON FILM SOCIETY

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

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 film for October is **H is for Hawk**. H is for Hawk is a moving and visually striking film about grief, healing, and the powerful bond between humans and nature. Its emotional depth is matched by beautiful cinematography and a thoughtful central performance.

The story unfolds with patience and sensitivity, making the journey feel intimate and deeply affecting throughout. 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.

For more information call

Graham Chappell on 07980321977

or simply come along to one of our films.



It's every Monday alternating 2-4pm and 7-9pm at Edlesborough Pavilion

Email alisonfmorris@gmail.com

The group is open to players of all levels from beginners to

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for 7pm start

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SOME QUESTIONS TO WARM YOU UP

1. What company was originally called "Cadabra"?
2. What is the name of Anna and Elsa's kingdom in the movie Frozen?
3. How many hearts does an octopus have?
4. What is the only mammal that can truly fly?
5. Which planet in our solar system is the hottest?
6. What is the name of Shrek's wife?
7. How many stripes are on the United States flag?
8. What is the national animal of Australia?

Answers on page 73

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Totterhoe GARDEN CLUB

The Manor ~ Hemmingford Grey

Did many of us know what to expect, or even dare to imagine the treat we were all in for on our summer outing. First a walk around the garden, followed by a guided tour of 'The Manor House', a most interesting and magical place offering history, art and craft, and a garden encouraging 'A gentle plea for chaos', with formal squares and rectangles, and a garden informally. It was full of Old Roses (advice given by Graham Stewart Thomas) and crammed with herbaceous perennials – magical. A table offering plants for sale, no doubt from the garden, added to the genius of the place! Many plants were purchased by members.

Well, one treat is more than acceptable and another was to follow, a guided tour of The Manor, a 900 year-old house. Diane Boston guided my tour and was knowledgeable, interesting and humorous. Her mother-in-law, Lucy Boston, having purchased the house in 1939, set about largely restoring it. She was a patchwork maker (the patchwork quilts on show being quite remarkable) and a gardener. Her writing included six children's books 'The Green Knowe' series, which were based on the Manor. In the attic were many of the toys featured in the stories.

There was much to see and learn, much more than can be written here. Certainly, a grand day out, so thank you Joyce Wood and Mary Lilley for organising the trip.

Chris Jell

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



The White Lion of Whipsnade – A Village Landmark with a Roaring History!



For generations of local people, the White Lion on Bison Hill has been as much a part of the landscape as Ivinghoe Beacon, the Downs and the villages scattered around them. Whether seen from the road, a distant hillside or from an aeroplane, that enormous white figure gazing across the countryside is instantly recognisable.

But the White Lion is more than an eye-catching landmark. It is nearly a century old, and its story is closely tied to the creation of Whipsnade Zoo and to the people of the local area.

The story begins with the Zoological Society of London, founded in 1826. By the early twentieth century there was growing interest in establishing a large, open-air zoological park in the countryside, where animals could benefit from fresh air and more spacious surroundings.

In 1926, ZSL purchased a derelict farm on the Dunstable Downs for £13,480. Work began soon afterwards, and Whipsnade Park Zoo opened its gates to the public on 23 May 1931. It was designed as an “open zoo” and was intended to bring people closer to animals in a setting very different from a traditional city zoo.

The new zoo needed an equally impressive way of announcing its presence and the answer was to carve a giant lion into the chalk hillside.

The White Lion was designed by architect and

artist R. B. Brook-Greaves. Work began in 1931 and involved the painstaking removal of turf and earth to expose the brilliant white chalk beneath.

This was no small garden project. The finished lion stretches approximately 147 metres – around 480 feet – from nose to tail and covers about 6,500 square metres.

Creating such a huge figure accurately was a remarkable feat, particularly without the surveying and computer technology we take for granted today.

One fascinating account comes from Rod Carden-Lovell, whose grandfather Hugh Simmons was involved in the project. Simmons used telescopes from Ivinghoe Beacon and Bison Hill to check the proportions of the lion from a distance. The two viewpoints were used to communicate adjustments, with local housewives even providing hundreds of white tea towels to help mark out the outline so that it could be seen through the telescopes.

The work took around eighteen months. Chalk excavated from the hillside was also moved to help build up parts of the figure, including the head. Eventually, in Easter 1933, the White Lion was complete.

The lion was intended partly as an advertisement for the new zoo. At a time when there were no motorway signs, digital billboards or social media campaigns, a 480-foot lion carved into a hillside was a rather

effective way of saying: Whipsnade Zoo is here! It could be seen for miles across the countryside and from the air.

There was another practical reason for its prominence. The figure also acted as a warning to low-flying aircraft to keep away from the zoo and avoid disturbing the animals.

The White Lion therefore served several purposes at once: advertisement, landmark, work of art and practical warning.

Only a few years after the zoo opened, Europe was at war.

The White Lion presented an unexpected problem. Its brilliant outline was so conspicuous that it could potentially be used as a navigation point by enemy aircraft. So the lion disappeared. During the Second World War it was camouflaged using green paint, turf and wire netting. The zoo itself also played an important wartime role, providing a refuge for animals evacuated from London Zoo during the Blitz. For a time, the great white lion that had been designed to attract attention had to do the exact opposite.

After the war, the lion once again became a familiar sight across the Downs. For local families it became a useful landmark and a reassuring presence – something that told you where you were and, for those returning home after a journey, that you were nearly there. Over the decades it has been seen by millions of visitors and countless local residents. Children have grown up with it, perhaps barely noticing it at times, only to realise how much it means to the landscape when they return after being away.

Of course, a chalk lion does not stay white forever. The figure sits on a steep hillside which is also environmentally important. The surrounding area was designated a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) in the 1980s because of its rare native flora and fauna. This means that pesticides and machinery cannot simply be used to clear the vegetation from the lion.

In recent years, volunteers have taken on the remarkable task of maintaining the figure by

hand. In 2023, Whipsnade Zoo appealed for volunteers to help restore the landmark and received more than 700 expressions of interest. A dedicated team subsequently began regular sessions, painstakingly removing weeds by hand. Then came an even bigger job. In 2025, around 1,100 tonnes of fresh chalk were spread across the lion. More than sixty volunteers helped with the final stage, stamping the chalk down by foot because machinery could not be used. The enormous task covered the lion's head, body and tail, helping to restore its brilliant appearance for 2026.

It is a wonderful example of how a landmark created by local people nearly a century ago continues to depend upon local people today.

The White Lion has even been illuminated on special occasions. In 1981, for Whipsnade Zoo's 50th anniversary, 750 lightbulbs were used to illuminate the hillside figure.

And in 2026, as ZSL celebrates its 200th anniversary, the lion is once again taking centre stage. The lion was illuminated on the 23 September 2026 – only the third time in its history that the famous figure shone after dark.

From its creation in the early 1930s, through wartime camouflage, decades of changing countryside and generations of local families, the White Lion has remained remarkably constant. Perhaps the most interesting thing about the White Lion is that, although it was created as part of an ambitious advertising scheme for a new zoo, it has long since become something much more important.

Next time you see that enormous chalk figure stretched across Bison Hill, it is worth remembering the people who surveyed it with telescopes, the workers who dug it by hand, the families who helped establish the zoo, the people who hid it during wartime – and today's volunteers who still climb the hillside to keep it white.

Nearly a hundred years after it first appeared, the great lion is still watching over Whipsnade.

And long may it roar!

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Dog walking is one of the pleasures of village life, and our green spaces are there for everyone to enjoy. Unfortunately, dog fouling continues to be an issue, and it is particularly disappointing when mess is left on areas used by children, walkers and other residents.

Recently, six separate pieces of dog poo were found on a small triangle of grass near my home. Seeing so much mess concentrated in such a small area is unpleasant and makes it difficult for people to enjoy what should be a shared community space.

Most dog owners are considerate and responsible, but it only takes a few people choosing not to pick up after their dogs to create a problem for everyone else. Apart from being unpleasant to step in, dog waste can carry harmful bacteria and parasites, making it especially important that it is removed promptly.

A simple reminder, therefore: please take a poo bag with you every time you walk your dog, use it, and put the tied bag in an appropriate bin. If there isn't a bin nearby, please take the bag home with you rather than leaving it beside a path or on the grass.

Our village is a place we all share. Keeping its verges, paths and green spaces clean takes only a little consideration, but makes a big difference to everyone who lives here.

Six pieces of dog poo on one small patch of grass is six too many! Please help keep our village clean, pleasant and welcoming for everyone.

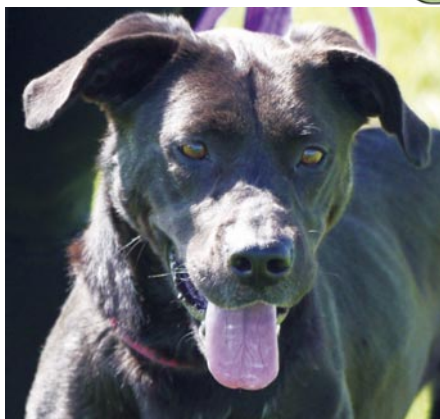
Editor

APPLEDOWN RESCUE DOG OF THE MONTH



This pretty girl is Althea, a medium-size crossbreed aged 3 years. She is a very sweet girl who has not had the easiest start in life but is growing in confidence since she has been with us. It's possible that she has never lived in a house, so she will need owners with the kindness and patience to help her learn to be an indoor pet. Althea walks well on the lead and really loves her walks. We think she could live with another dog pending introductions, but not cats. Any children must be 7+. Althea has lots of love to give and will thrive in the right home.

For more information, please see her album on our Facebook page, or email the kennels. Visit our website for details about adoption and an application form. Viewings are by



appointment only. Information about ways to donate to support our work can be found on our website.

Appledown Rescue & Rehoming Kennels Harling Road, Eaton Bray, Beds LU6 1QY
01525 220383 (10am-1pm & 2-4 pm) • Email: appledown.kennels@btinternet.com
Website: www.appledownrescue.co.uk



Seniors Social at Edlesborough Pavilion Tuesday 3rd Nov 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 warming bowl of soup with a roll 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

We look forward to seeing you!



Music at St Mary's

POPPY PROM

31 October, 2.00pm

St Mary's, Eaton Bray

A celebration of 'Remembrance' and
'The Last Night of the Proms'

featuring: Dagnall Community Choir, South Beds
Concert Band, plus soloist Catherine Pope



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Tickets (£10) will go fast so hurry to book your seats!



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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

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TEE UP AND DRIVE CHANGE FOR LOCAL PEOPLE FACING CRISIS

Local homelessness charity, DENS, has announced its upcoming Golf Day at the exclusive Stocks Golf Club in Aldbury, Hertfordshire.

Taking place on Friday 9th October, the fundraising event welcomes players of all abilities for a fantastic day of golf and hospitality at one of the area's most prestigious clubs – usually reserved for members only.

As well as 18 holes of golf on Stocks' championship course, guests can expect breakfast and a two-course BBQ lunch, exciting competitions and a luxury auction, with prizes including a golf fourball at The Grove and a Harry Potter Studio Tour family ticket.

All funds raised at the event will support DENS on its mission to prevent and alleviate homelessness, poverty and social exclusion throughout their communities. The charity's pathway of vital services include accommodation, therapy, employment

coaching and a foodbank.

For local businesses looking to make an even bigger impact, sponsorship packages are also available.

Charlotte McCarthy, Senior Community & Events Fundraiser at DENS, said: *"Our charity Golf Day is a fantastic opportunity for the community and local organisations to join us on the fairway for a brilliant day out, while driving forward a positive impact for local people experiencing crisis."*

Limited places are available to book now at www.dens.org.uk/golf26



St Mary's Village Carnival



A Huge Thank You to Our Community

Carnival 2026 – The Numbers

2026 was an incredible year for fundraising, and thanks to the amazing support of our community, visitors, volunteers, sponsors and everyone who came along on the day, we were able to donate **more than £14,000** to the **St Mary's Church Fabric Fund and local charities**.

Each year, **50% of the Carnival's fundraising goes directly to the St Mary's Church Fabric Fund**, which helps to maintain and preserve our wonderful village church.

That support really does make a difference. In recent years, the Fabric Fund has helped pay for projects including the replacement of the church's ageing lighting system with low-energy digital lighting, repairs to leaks in both the North and South Aisle roofs, and specialist conservation work on the stonework in the Chancel.

Further work planned for 2026 and 2027 includes repairs to historic stonework around the altar, repairs to the vestry roof and ceiling following the removal of bees, a replacement vestry skylight and a new alarm system.

Looking further ahead, major projects are also being considered, including a new heating system, replacement radiators, extensive external stonework repairs and work to the church's deteriorating interior limewash.

Maintaining a historic building such as St

Mary's is an ongoing and costly task. **Current spending on the fabric of the church averages around £10,000 every year**, while major projects such as heating upgrades and external stonework repairs can easily run into **six figures**.

This is why the money raised through the Carnival is so important. **Every ticket bought, stall supported, raffle entered and donation made helps enable essential repairs and improvements that might otherwise have to be delayed for years**. The Carnival genuinely plays a significant part in helping to protect St Mary's for future generations.

Our **primary charity for 2026 was the Hospice of St Francis in Berkhamsted**, and we were delighted to donate an incredible **£3,700** from this year's Carnival.

The Hospice described the amount as "truly remarkable" and passed on its heartfelt thanks to everyone involved in the Carnival. Most importantly, the donation will make a real difference to the care and support the Hospice is able to provide to people and families across our local community.

And the support doesn't stop there. One of the things we are proudest of is being able to share the money raised amongst a wide range of smaller charities, clubs, community groups and local causes. **Just some of the organisations and causes we were able to support this year include:**

- Appledown Rescue
- Eaton Bray Tennis & Pickleball Club
- Edlesborough Parish Council – Defibrillator Maintenance
- Dunstable Men in Sheds
- Edlesborough Community Sports Club
- Edlesborough Community Gym
- East Anglian Air Ambulance
- Eaton Bray Cricket Club

2026 ~ What a Year!

- Infinite Allstars Cheerleading Academy
- Leighton & Linslade Macmillan Support Group
- Ollie Beer – Outlook Expedition
- Hospice at Home Volunteers – Leighton Buzzard
- Hospice at Home Volunteers – Dunstable/Houghton Regis
- Totternhoe Players Amateur Dramatics
- 1st Eaton Bray & Edlesborough Scouts

It is only because our villages continue to support the Carnival in such fantastic numbers that we are able to support so many worthwhile causes in return.

Best Dressed Houses and Businesses

What an amazing, colourful array of houses and businesses lined the procession route this year! From simple bunting to huge inflatable dragons, French champagne bottles, World Cup posters and flags, it really was a sight to see.

This gave Kathy and Louise the enviable task of judging the **Best Dressed Houses and Businesses** for another exciting year.

House Cup Winners

- **New York, New York** – 7 Lords Terrace, Eaton Bray
- **The Chinese Dragons & The Luck of the Irish** – 23 & 27 Moor End, Eaton Bray
- **The World Cup & Boots** – 19 Barnview, Edlesborough

Business Cup Winners

Both winners are newcomers to our villages, and what a fantastic job they did getting involved in the party atmosphere that the Carnival procession creates!

- **BLISS Hair Salon** – A French Restaurant for the Day, Eaton Bray
- **CURIOSITEA ROOMS** – Around the World, Edlesborough

A **huge thank you** to everyone who took the time to decorate their homes and businesses. We know just how much work goes into creating these wonderful displays, and coming up with new ideas and designs each year is certainly a challenge!

We hope the Carnival continues to keep your creative minds in tune, and that you are already starting to think about next year's theme...

MUSICALS!

Judging will start earlier next year at 10am, so make sure you're ready!

We can't wait to see what you come up with.

Looking Ahead to Carnival 2027

Once again, a **huge thank you to all the volunteers** who give their time and energy to make the Carnival such a success each year. Quite simply, it could not happen without you.

And remember — **we will need you again next year, as well as plenty of new volunteers!** Whether you can spare a few hours on the day, help with preparations beforehand, or get involved more regularly, we would love to hear from you.

We are also on the lookout for **more working gas BBQs** for our amazingly popular — and great value — Church BBQ on Carnival day. If you have a gas BBQ you are looking to get rid of, please get in touch with us via social media or email mark.kilfoyle@yahoo.co.uk.

Thank you once again to everyone who supported **St Mary's Village Carnival 2026**. Whether you volunteered, decorated your home, joined the procession, sponsored us, ran a stall, bought a raffle ticket, enjoyed the BBQ or simply came along and supported the day — **you helped make it happen**.

We can't wait to do it all again next year!

Save the date: Saturday 3rd July 2027!



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Count your Blessings

*I found myself recently asking,
where is this year going?*

*The summer was beautiful,
although maybe a little hot for
some!*

*Another school year has
commenced, the harvest is being
collected and the nights will soon
be drawing in.*

*What do we have to look forward
to, you might ask yourself?*

*We have a great God who loves
us, who walks beside us and
continually showers many
blessings on us. Maybe today we
need to open our eyes and look
around at everything God has
freely given to us, count your
blessings and you might just be
surprised at everything God has
done for you.*

*A warm welcome awaits you at
any of our weekly activities.*

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)



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