

FOCUS

April 2023



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For more information contact:

John Hazell 01525 218142

Email northallchapel@btinternet.com

Web: www.northallbaptistchurch.org

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10th of the month

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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Focus would like to remind contributors that the deadline for articles is the 10th of the preceding month

Kindly Note

If the event you wish to advertise falls in the first week of the month, it is advisable to get the details into Focus a month earlier. The magazines are not delivered from the printers until the first of the month, therefore it takes a few days for them all to be circulated throughout the village.

≠ Editor

Focus is online at www.thefocusmagazine.co.uk

Village Diary



Weekly

- Mon-Sun St. Mary's Edlesborough opening times are currently very limited
Please see notice board and website
- Mon-Fri (term) Eaton Bray Pre-school, Eaton Bray Lower School, 01525 220468, admin@eba.ec
- Mon-Fri (term) Dagnall Under 5's, Dagnall Village Hall, 9.15am - 12.15pm, Mrs Ann Tobin 07816 358342
- Mon-Fri (term) Edlesborough Primary Academy Pre-School, 01525 220431, epamanager@epa-primary.org
- Mon-Fri (term) Tottemhoe Pre-school, Tottemhoe CE Academy, 01582 662959, tottemhoeoffice@tot.dsamat.co.uk
- Mondays Pilates, 10.45am, Tottemhoe Memorial Hall, Lisa: 07832 230774
- Mondays Dagnall Community Choir, All Saints Church 7.45-9.45pm, w:dagnall-community-choir.co.uk
- Mondays (term) Movement and exercise classes with a dance flavour, Northall VH 2-3.30. Jan 01442 864271.
- Mondays KFFPA ISTD ballet classes, Edlesborough Memorial Hall 4pm-6.30pm (4years+)
Contact Kiri 07988161043 or visit Facebook page 'KF PerformingArts/KFFPA' for info
- Mondays Cubs (8-10 1/2 years old), 6.30pm - 8pm, 1st Eaton Bray & Edlesborough Scout Hut, High Street, Edlesborough. Contact Liz Coates 01442 842550
- Mondays Yoga, 6:45pm, Edlesborough Memorial Hall, contact 07837 727302
- Mondays Barre, 8pm, Edlesborough Memorial Hall, contact 07837 727302
- Mondays Eaton Bray Tennis Club - 4-7pm mini / junior tennis coaching
- Mondays Eaton Bray Tennis Club - 7-8pm Adult Coaching 'Get Back Into Tennis'
- Tuesdays Pilates, 10-11am, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Nicky Roussou 07861 162680
- Tuesdays Tottemhoe Baby & Toddler Group, 9.30-11.15am, St. Giles Church Hall, Ruth Allen, 01525 222468 or 07796 265174 or email ruthallen002@gmail.com
- Tuesdays Tap & Ballet Classes, JoAnn Latus School of Dance, 4-8pm, Eaton Bray VH, 07800 518654
- Tuesdays Coffee Morning, Bring & Buy, Table Top Sale, 10-11:30am, Salvation Army Hall, Booth Place, Eaton Bray
- Fortnightly Keep Fit class, Edlesborough Memorial Hall 11 - 12noon
- Tuesdays Jazzercise 9:15-10am, Eaton Bray VH, Annis, annisjazzercise@gmail.com 07447 409666
- Tuesdays Eaton Bray Tennis Club - 6-7.30pm Social play for all adults
- Tuesdays Berkhamsted Taekwon-do Kids, 5.45pm-6.30pm, Dagnall Village Hall, 07813 755785
- Tuesdays Berkhamsted Taekwon-do Adults, 6.30pm, Dagnall Village Hall, 07813 755785
- Wednesdays Pilates, 8pm, Northall Village Hall, Lisa: 07832 230774
- Wednesdays Northall & District Age Concern Wednesday Club, 10am - 3pm, Northall Village Hall, Contact Dee on 07854 230243
- Wednesdays Art Course online 9.30 -11.30 am, contact Loma Moore 07896 619660
- Wednesdays Art Course, Bellows Mill Eaton Bray, 2-4.30pm, contact Loma Moore 07896 619660
- Wednesdays Jazzercise 7:30-8:30pm, Eaton Bray VH, Annis, annisjazzercise@gmail.com 07447 409666
- Wednesdays Eaton Bray Tennis Club - 5-6 pm 9-11 years old tennis coaching & U16 Beginners tennis
- Wednesdays Pilates 6-7pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Heather Holmes, 07305 023077 pilateswithheather@mail.com
- Thursdays KFFPA Street dance classes, Edlesborough Memorial Hall 4.15pm-6.30pm (4 years+)
Contact Kiri 07988161043 or visit Facebook page 'KF PerformingArts/ KFFPA' for info
- Thursdays Berkhamsted Taekwon-do Adults 6.30pm, Dagnall Village Hall, 07813 755785
- Thursdays Beavers (6 to 8 years old), 6.15-7.30pm, 1st Eaton Bray & Edlesborough Scout Hut, High Street, Edlesborough. Contact: ebebeaverleader@ebescouts.co.uk
- Thursdays 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.
- Thursdays Eaton Bray Methodist Church Social Afternoons, 2 - 4pm, All Welcome
- Thursdays Retro Line Dance Class. 11.15am to 12.45pm. Eaton Bray Village Hall. Beginners welcome.
www.jukeboxjunction.co.uk info@jukeboxjunction.co.uk 07864212171
- Fridays Stay & Play toddler group, 'Musical Monkeys' at the Eaton Bray Village Hall, 10-11.30am, £4.50 for one adult and child, £1 for extra children/adults, 0-6 months free

Village Diary

- Fridays Tap & Ballet Classes, JoAnn Latus School of Dance, 4-8pm, Eaton Bray VH, 07800 518654
Fridays Jazzercise 9:15-10am, Eaton Bray VH, Annis, annisjazzercise@gmail.com 07447 409666
Fridays 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
Fridays "Little Luvvies" baby ballet classes, 10am-11.30am, Northall Village Hall. Contact Emma Whittemore on 01525 376124
Saturdays Jazzercise 9-10am, Eaton Bray VH, Annis, annisjazzercise@gmail.com 07447 409666
Saturdays KFPA Musical theatre classes, Edlesborough Memorial Hall 9.30-10.30am (4years+) Contact Kiri 07988161043 or visit Facebook page 'KF PerformingArts/ KFPA' for info
Sundays Sunday Worship at 11 am, Edlesborough Baptist Church, Moor End, LU6 2FL. Contact: 01525 222064 or edlesboroughbaptistchurch@gmail.com
Sundays Karate for kids & adults, 2:30-4pm & 4:30-6pm, Eaton Bray VH, Contact 07500 007779
Sundays Eaton Bray Tennis Club - 10am -12pm Social play for all adults
Monthly
1st Monday Eaton Bray Parish Council Meeting, 7.30pm, The Coffee Tavern (except Jan-2nd Monday)
1st Monday Eaton Bray W.I. Meeting, 7.30pm. Eaton Bray Methodist Church Hall. Contact Margaret Jones on 01525 220991
1st & 3rd Tues Dunstable & District Orbit (social and charitable) Club meet at Dunstable Rugby Club at 8pm. For details contact 01525 222441 or 01582 755147
1st Saturday St. Mary's Church, Eaton Bray Coffee Morning, 10:30am - 12 noon (July held on 2nd Saturday)
1st Saturday Book Swap at St Mary's Eaton Bray, 10:30am - 12 noon (July held on 2nd Saturday)
2nd Monday Film Society, Sep to May, 2pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Graham Chappell 01525 220883
2nd Tuesday Dunstable & District Local History Society meeting, 7.45pm, Methodist Church Hall, Dunstable
2nd Tuesday Edlesborough W.I. Meeting, 7.30 pm, Edlesborough Memorial Hall. Contact Sue Bingham 01525 222522
3rd Thursday Edlesborough Parish Council Meeting, 7.30pm, Memorial Hall
2nd Friday 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 Sunday Lunch club 11.30 to 2.00pm, Eaton Bray Village Hall, Chris Hewitt 222288
Last Saturday Coffee Morning, 10:00-12 noon, Edlesborough Methodist Church

This Month's One Off/Annual/Irregular Events

- 8th Easter Coffee Morning, 10am-noon, Dagnall Church
22nd St Mary's Spring Fair, 12-3pm
22nd Repair Cafe, 9:30-12:30 Ivinghoe Village Hub

Birds of Bray

Newspapers wanted regularly

Can collect

**Please call Chris or Sue Mitchell
on 01525 221128**

Answer machine in use if unavailable



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and can be recycled**



Village Info



EDaN Community Transport
Peter Williams: 01442 842506

Village Hall Booking Contacts

Northall: Lorna Cabbage Tel: 07857 318696 www.edlesborough-pc.gov.uk/nvh

Email: northallvhbookings@gmail.com

Eaton Bray: Norman Lee Tel: 07975 797202

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

Dagnall: Bev Way 07875 462128 & Trish Owen 07762 151364

Email DVH_Bookings@outlook.com

Edlesborough Memorial Hall: Penny Pataky, Tel: 01525 229358

Email: manager@edlesborough-pc.gov.uk

Police Contact Numbers...

making neighbourhoods safer together

General Assistance (Recommended Number): 101 Emergency: 999

Bedfordshire Police (Eaton Bray)

Leighton Buzzard Police Station/Kathryn Horgan: 01582 473411

Typetalk: 18001 01582 473418

Thames Valley Police (Edlesborough, Dagnall & Northall)

PCSO Jackie Dodson

Email: greatbrickhillwingivinghoenhpt@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

Defibrillator Locations

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



Dagnall: Red Lion Public House & Munns Farm Shop

Eaton Bray: The Coffee Tavern

Northall: The Swan Public House

Edlesborough: Edlesborough Memorial Hall & Baptist Church, Summerleys



Helpline: 07930 987064

Manned phone hours:

9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday

(An answering service is available for out-of-hours calls)

Call us if you want help with getting to the surgery/hospital, collecting prescriptions, minor errands or d-i-y jobs, form-filling, walking your pet, on-line shopping support etc. or if you would welcome our befriending service.

We help people of Eaton Bray and adjacent villages

St Mary's Spring Fair

Saturday 22nd April 2023
Eaton Bray Village Hall
12am - 3pm

Come and enjoy a coffee and cake, or some delicious lunchtime refreshments including our legendary bacon butties!

Then browse the lovely craft stalls, plus jigsaws, raffle, chocolate tombola and plants for sale.

If you would like a stall for the event, please contact Barbara Morton on:

01525 852368, or

Email: Barbara.morton1@gmail.com



Eaton Bray with Edlesborough Parish News

Vicar: Rev'd Joy Cousins

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

Associate Priest: Rev'd Stephen Burge

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

Reader: Gordon Gray (01525 220136)

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

Samuel Sebastian Wesley's anthem *Blessed Be the God and Father* is almost synonymous with Easter. Despite a fairly calamitous premiere on Easter Day in 1834, where half the choir were not available, it has become a regular feature in the choral repertoire of Anglican churches. Wesley's gem of an anthem is often sung on Easter Sunday at Choral Evensong, the final service of Holy Week, making it the last hurrah after a week of intense work for choir and clergy alike. I am sure that this would make S. S. Wesley very happy – when he entered his anthem into a church music competition, he was firmly rebuked and told that it was not what church music should sound like at all! It is very hard to imagine such a thought now!

So why is Wesley's *Blessed be the God and Father* so popular? What makes it so special? To begin with he sets a beautiful passage from Peter's *First Letter*. The passage is too long to include here, but the opening words are "*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his great mercy, hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.*" (1 Peter 1:3). These are powerful words, giving us great hope for new life and renewal through the resurrection of Jesus which we share in too. The other reason why Wesley's anthem is so popular is because the music is really top notch. The piece begins by setting the words just quoted in quietly, the choir singing unaccompanied, building up to a loud, confident declaration of the power of Jesus's resurrection, which Wesley supports with the entrance of a loud and brassy organ chord. It is dramatic stuff – but that is exactly what the resurrection is!

The central part of the anthem includes a famous treble solo, then duet setting the words, "*Love one another with a pure heart fervently. See that ye love one another.*" (1 Peter 1:22). I don't think that there are many better ways to sum up what Jesus's death and resurrection are all about. As John writes in his Gospel, "*For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.*" Jesus's sacrifice for us was an act of love for us and for the whole world and as Christians we are called to love the world too. We must, as Peter writes, love one another with a pure heart fervently.

Wesley ends his anthem with a rousing chorus with the choir singing the words, "*But the word of the Lord endureth for ever.*" (1 Peter 1:25) And God does endure forever, God endures all our sin, and surrounds us in his love. On our part, let us respond with our own acts of love. Let us surround others in our broken world, the poor, the needy,

the sick, the prisoners, the homeless, refugees, in the love and grace that we so gratefully and gladly receive.

So I wish you all a very Happy and Holy Easter and may you all be filled with the joyful hope given to us through the resurrection of Jesus Christ our Lord. God bless,

✠ Rev'd Stephen



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 a
WORSHIP SERVICE FOR EVERYONE at 10am, a shorter less formal service*

WEEKDAYS: Wednesday at 10am HOLY COMMUNION
EVERYONE IS WELCOME AT THESE SERVICES

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

Dagnall Church Services



Fri. 7th April	3.00 pm	Good Friday Service
Sat. 8th April	10 am – 12 pm	Easter Coffee Morning including Easter crafts for children
Easter Day		
Sun. 9th April	10.30 am	Holy Communion

For any queries please contact

Philip Lee on 07977234453 or Dorothy Green on 01442 843237

Dunstable Probus Club

Dunstable PROBUS Club meets on the second Monday of the month at Tilsworth Golf Centre and membership is open to retired or semi-retired professional and business people. The Club's main purpose is the promotion of good fellowship. Members enjoy some social activities and the occasional organised visit throughout the year and after their regular monthly lunch meetings are entertained by speakers who give talks on a wide range of topics. If you are interested in joining the Club, please contact the Secretary, Philip Savage on 01582 662462.



EASTER COFFEE MORNING At Dagnall Church

**Saturday 8th April 10am to noon
Join us for a cuppa and some cake
Including Easter crafts for children**

All Welcome



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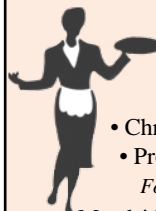
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The advertisement for Lee Hutt Heating & Plumbing Services is a blue square with white text and icons. It features a list of services including Bathrooms, Tiling, Heating, Taps, Leaks, and Call Outs, along with 'Free Estimates'. At the bottom, there are two phone numbers: 01525 222145 and 07971 559185. The company name 'Lee Hutt' is at the top with a '25 YEARS' anniversary logo.

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for more information or to make an appointment

The COLLEGE of PODIATRY registered hcpc www.hcpc-uk.org

The advertisement for ChiroPoddy Home Visiting Practice features a photograph of hands being examined. The text lists the practitioner as Julia Reading, BSc(Hons), with 17 years of experience. Services include treating corns, hard skin, verrucae, thickened/ingrowing nails, and nail cutting, as well as diabetic feet. Contact information is provided as 0774 647 2781. Logos for The College of Podiatry and HCPC are also present.

Anne Johnson Osteopath
6 Moor End, Eaton Bray

Back, neck and joint pain
Postural tension and headaches
Arthritic and other muscle and joint problems
07957 250682
Book by phone or online
www.anne-johnson.net

The advertisement for Anne Johnson Osteopath includes a small logo of a stylized 'A' and 'J'. The text provides the name, address (6 Moor End, Eaton Bray), and a list of services: Back, neck and joint pain; Postural tension and headaches; and Arthritic and other muscle and joint problems. Contact details include the phone number 07957 250682 and the website www.anne-johnson.net.



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Chris Mahoney: 07801 552113
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Litter Picking in the Villages - It Goes On....

I bet you weren't expecting to hear from me again so soon, but a lot has happened in the last month. Your enthusiastic Village litter pickers have been out on a mission over the past month with another 22 bags collected as well as sundry interesting items. There was so much that I had to call out the "Men in Orange" from Bucks C.C. for the second time this year, and it's only just March... where does it all come from?? An interesting aside was that I left all the bags and debris by my gate to be collected by said "Men in Orange", and while it was waiting it was visited and carefully inspected by a gentleman in a blue van. Was he considering adding to the pile or just looking??.....

A horror story which I must bring to your attention is that someone is dumping used adult incontinence items in Northall. This has happened at least twice and has had to be cleared up by one of our lovely litter pickers. This is totally unacceptable and we are going to be keeping a close watch to see if we can catch the culprit who thinks it is OK to dump such items in the hedgerow!

I have heard on the grapevine that the trial of a Recycling Bin on Edlesborough Green is not going well and that your Parish Council are incurring fines due to contamination because some people are being too lazy to separate the items which can be recycled from those which can't. It's not rocket science!! Cans, bottles, cardboard items. There's a notice which tells you which items are suitable! Everything else, put it in the other litter bins which are around the Green. And if you can't figure out whether it's recyclable or not, just take it home and put it in your dustbin.....

The "Great British Litter Pick" will be happening all over the country between March 17th and 2nd April. I am sure that our team will be out and about as usual during that period. But don't leave it to them. You can do your bit by keeping the main parts of the Villages near your homes litter free, and by encouraging the younger members (and maybe not so young too – beer cans and wine bottles?) of the village community to respect the environment we are so lucky to live in.

✍️ Lorna Cabbage



Friend of Bucks



Age Concern
NORTHALL & DISTRICT
WEDNESDAY CLUB



Charity No. 293080

We are looking for volunteer drivers and conductors to help with transporting the members to and from their homes on our minibus. This would be on a rota system, depending on the number of volunteers.

Call 07854 230243 if you can help.

Violets are red and roses are blue
Avoiding the cliché that's what I do
Now I have your attention to tell you my woe
Of doggy doo mess and where it doth go
I love all the doggies and give them a fuss
But they have to toilet not exactly like us
While going the rounds on my litter pick
What I discovered sure made me sick
A doggie doo bag full open and split
Left on the verge by some thoughtless twit
I collect and and I place it in council red bin
Leaving the grass like a bright shiny pin
The moral of this is plain and quite clear
Take a SPARE bag and save me a tear.

✍️Frederick R. Moore



*Have you penned a verse with local interest that we could publish in Focus?
We would be happy to accommodate any budding poets.*



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

**The next Book Swap is at St Mary's Church
on Saturday April 1st from 10.30 – 12.00 am**



The Book Swap team celebrating for our 1st birthday

Please only bring with you as many books as you will take home to read; there is not the capacity for storage or disposal of large numbers of books. For this reason we cannot accept bags or boxes of books left at the church.

The Digital Library never closes

At the Book Swap session on 13 May (a week later than usual because of the Coronation) Diarmid Lambert from Central Bedfordshire Libraries will give a presentation on "Your library from home". This will include details on how to access ebooks, audiobooks newspapers and magazines free of charge via Press Reader Libby and BorrowBox using your library card.

For more information about Book Swap please contact:

Chris Sanders Email: chris.sanders45@gmail.com

Jenifer MacKenzie Email: jenimackenzie@hotmail.com

The Book Swap is free and open to all adults

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The Coronation of His Majesty The King and Her Majesty The Queen Consort

EPC thanks the parishioners who responded to its call for ideas for the Coronation. These ideas are being considered. Once a decision has been made this will be shared with Parishioners.

EdleFest 2023

EdleFest 2023 will take place on the 9th and 10th June. More information and tickets are available via the EdleFest website <https://edlefest.site123.me/>

Ivinghoe Freight Strategy – Update

Many parishioners will be aware that the 7.5T exclusions zones signs have now been installed at strategic points along the B440, Leighton Road. This forms part of Buckinghamshire Council's phase one of the implementation phase.

Phase 2 includes working with the neighbouring authorities, including Central Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire on the installation of the advance notice signage. This will ensure HGV drivers and operators know about the zone before they venture along the B440 from Bedfordshire or Hertfordshire.

Buckinghamshire Council expect the work to be completed in the 1st half of 2023.

Buckinghamshire Cllr Chris Poll extended his thanks to all the parishioners who took the time to respond to the well organised campaign to fight for the inclusion of the B440 through Edlesborough and Northall in the zone.

Once all the signage is in place parishioners can report vehicles breaching the zone via www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/parking-roads-and-transport/road-freight-and-heavy-goods-vehicles-hgvs/report-an-hgv-using-a-road-that-has-a-weight-restriction/

EPC Surgery

Do you have a question or a suggestion for the Parish Council?

The next EPC Surgery is on **Wednesday 5th April** in Edlesborough Pavilion from midday – 2pm.

All parishioners are welcome to pop in and speak to the Clerk or a Councillor about local matters at this surgery.

EPC Small Grant Scheme

Is your organisation looking for money for a specific project? Have you heard of the EPC Small Grant scheme?

The EPC Small Grant is a great opportunity for local groups, local charities and local organisations to get a grant of up to £500 in this new scheme.

The main terms of the grant are very straightforward.

- The purpose for which the grant is made must be in the interest of Edlesborough Parish that covers the residents of Edlesborough, Dagnall and Northall.
- EPC will determine the size of the award up to a maximum of £500.
- We will not award funds for activities that have already taken place.



- Any publicity covering the activity funded must mention EPC's involvement.
- Following the award, recipients must make a short presentation at the Annual Parish Meeting.



Applications will be reviewed at any time during the year and awards to successful applications made in each quarter beginning in April of each year. The total funding available is limited.

Full details of the terms of the scheme can be found here on the EPC website www.edlesborough-pc.gov.uk/community-information/epc-small-grant-scheme/

Electric Car Charging Points

EPC have been informed that some parishioners have been experiencing issues when trying to install an electric car charging point in their home. EPC advises any parishioner looking to purchase an electric car to explore the feasibility of installing a charge point first. More information can be found at www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk/electricity/electric-vehicle-charging-point/charging-point-installer

Save the Dates

The Annual Meeting of Edlesborough Parish Council will be held on the 18th May at 7.30pm.

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on 25th May at 7.30pm – this meeting is an opportunity for organisations within the Parish to share information about themselves and/or a project they may have. For more information please contact the Clerk via clerk@edlesborough-pc.gov.uk

Council Meetings

The next Edlesborough Parish Council Meetings will take place on:

- Thursday 20th April 2023 – in Edlesborough Memorial Hall
- Thursday 18th May 2023 – in Edlesborough Memorial Hall this meeting will be preceded by the Annual Meeting of EPC that commences at 7.30pm

The meetings will commence at 7:30pm.

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

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

Clerk: Miss Penny Pataky *Office hours Mon – Fri 10am – 2pm (Excl. Wed)*

Email: clerk@edlesborough-pc.gov.uk 01525 229358 Website: www.edlesborough-pc.gov.uk

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THE 1st EDLESBOROUGH SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

TICKETS NOW AVAILABLE – LIMITED AMOUNT!

Presenting: A Midsummer Night's Dream by William Shakespeare

19th – 21st May 2023 (2 performances on 21st)

St Mary the Virgin ('Church on the Hill')

Leighton Road, Edlesborough, Buckinghamshire LU6 2EP

'Walk About' Production using Shakespeare's 1st Folio script

Edlesborough 'Church on the Hill' will be hosting the first Edlesborough Shakespeare Festival in Spring 2023 and tickets are now available!

Our 1st Folio inspired production of Shakespeare's **A Midsummer Night's Dream** will be the first for The Players Theatre Company Edlesborough, a company that brings together local actors, production crew and volunteers to host the yearly Edlesborough Shakespeare Festival. We are proud to welcome to our company and production the lovely Kiri and her local company KF Performing Arts whose younger performers will be our magical fairies.

Set in Peaky Blinders 1920's, our Lovers together with the magical fairies led by Titania, Oberon and Puck will confuse and amaze you and our Rustics or Rude Mechanicals led by Quince and Bottom, will leave you laughing as you move to the next scene.

The venue is the beautiful 'Church on the Hill' in Edlesborough and the production, as a 'walk about' will take in the full landscape and views the Church has to offer – adding to the magical story The Dream offers.

Due to the nature of the performance, there are only 50 tickets available per show – so book quickly to avoid disappointment. (There is the opportunity to add another date, so if you are unsuccessful please let us know). We are, sadly, not able to accommodate wheelchairs due to the hills that are involved to get to the venue and around it. Those with reduced mobility can be accommodated as there will be some chairs placed at all locations. There are some stairs leading to the venue but there will be support for all!

We do hope that you will join us for this exciting event, rain or shine the performance will go on to delight you, make you laugh, sigh and despair at Shakespeare's wonderfully written characters bad decisions!

In the words of Peter Quince, leader of the Rude Mechanicals:

"If we offend, it is with our good will.

That you should think, we come not to offend,

But with good will. To shew our simple skill,

That is the true beginning of our end.

Consider then, we come but in despite.

We do not come, as minding to content you,

Our true intent is. All for your delight,

We are not heere. That you should here repent you,

The Actors are at hand; and by their show,

You shall know all, that you are like to know."



Ticket Information

Doors open at 6pm / Show starts at 7pm / Show ends at 10pm (approx)

Tickets - £12.00 (16+) £8.00 (under 16 & concessions)

All ticket money from this production will go to the Church Restoration Fund

A Bar will be available for beer, wine and soft drinks.

Due to limited availability, if you are unable to book please let us know via email; theplayerstce@gmail.com. We do have the opportunity to add an extra performance if required.

Tickets can be booked through www.ticketsource.co.uk

Type in **EDLESBOROUGH SHAKESPEARE** in the 'find events' section.

Friend of Bucks



Age Concern NORTHALL & DISTRICT WEDNESDAY CLUB



Charity No. 293080

Our Quiz Night on the 10th March was a resounding success – raising a grand total of £782.50 on the night! Thanks & gratitude to all those that supported us by their attendance & participation. We also thank our Quiz Master Gordon, all the Committee, Trustees, Volunteers & staff for the successful evening.

Save the Date ... This Year's Harvest Auction date confirmed for 6.10.23

As always we are pleased to Welcome enquiries for:

Regular Rota Volunteers: Help in the Kitchen, Mini-Bus Drivers/Conductors

One Off Volunteer Offers: to entertain, musical talent sharing ...

Donations: items for fundraising & the sales table

For joining us as a Member: Phone **07854 230243** - please leave a message & contact details - our leader Dee shall get back to you ASAP

We're also on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/WednesdayClubNorthall/> for following and any last minute updates eg any errors I may make in dates published here in Focus

The Early History of Northall and District Age Concern

In early 1985 Rosie Bennett, who lived in Northall, decided to do something about the fact that many of the older folk in the community rarely got out of their homes because of the danger of using the footpaths beside the busy main road which ran thorough the village. She therefore set about raising money to fund a social outing for this group of people but, sadly, before she could complete the task, she was taken seriously ill and died in hospital in April of that year.

A collection was made at her funeral and £1,200 (£3,000 at today's prices) was raised. With so much money entrusted to him, her husband Peter set about putting it to good use by establishing a Wednesday Lunch Club for older folk in the four villages of Eaton Bray, Edlesborough, Dagnall and Northall.

The venture was launched in January 1986 as Northall & District Age Concern. The day-to-day running of the Club was in the care of the enthusiastic duo of Pet Barber and Eileen Edmonds and with a Team of energetic supporters the Club was run on this basis until Peter was succeeded as Chairman in 1992 by Ian Conner.

Open Gardens 2023

Since 2006, one of the social highlights of the year in our villages has been our Open Gardens event. We have had some wonderful afternoons enjoying gardens that have been opened by willing gardeners; both gardeners and visitors enjoying the experience in equal measure.

This year's event will be on 16th July This is a really special event in our villages' calendar, and now is the time to offer to open your garden. It can be large or small – all gardens have something to offer visitors and past experience suggests that those who open their gardens are delighted by the positive feedback they receive. Do please think about it, then get in touch with Gordon Gray (220136).

If you would be willing to open your garden the afternoon on 16 July please ring Gordon Gray on 220136



Eaton Bray Methodist Church

February opened with an inspiring service led by Paul Wright, our new ECO-Church Officer. He explained the rationale of ECO Church, a learning community of churches which take practical action to promote ecological health in every aspect of church life. It works in tandem with AROCHA, an international Christian charity which inspires, equips and conserves. Each church works towards an award - Bronze, Silver and Gold, based on what the members have achieved collectively. After an audit of action taken over the past few months, Paul believes we are on the verge of being able to claim the Bronze award, after which we should be in a strong position to work for the Silver. On the second Sunday in February, our Café Service was led by with characteristic warmth by Chris Berry who focused on Acts of Kindness. In groups we shared experiences of these and what they mean to the giver and receiver. John Enejo visited us on the third Sunday. His sermon was a typically challenging one: faith without action is meaningless. We all need to put our love into action, as Jesus commanded. Our final service of the month was the first Sunday in Lent and also a Communion Service conducted by our Minister, Rev Nigel Bibbings. As we prepare for Easter, we think of Jesus facing temptation in the wilderness. Like him, we are tempted, but unlike him we fail to resist. There is nothing wrong with being tempted, it's how we handle it that matters. We need to draw on God's grace to resist and overcome the evil around us.

Date for your diary

Warm Hub/Social Afternoon Weekly on **Thursdays 1.30pm – 5.30pm**
Chat, meeting friends, games, refreshments.
All Welcome.

A Warm Invitation

If you would like to join us in a Sunday service, you would be very welcome. Our Sunday worship takes place in the Eaton Bray Methodist Church on Totternhoe Rd and starts at 10.30am.



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Dagnall Community Choir

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Helen studied at The Trinity College of Music, London. She has directed many choirs over the years and currently directs Vauxhall Luton male voice choir. We are very pleased to have her as our MD.

Our Accompanist - Joe Leslie.

Joe is a professional musician and has been an accompanist with many choirs. He also has a talent for directing and is the Musical Director of The Dunstable Ladies Choir.

We welcome them both and are thrilled to have them as our musical team.

Rehearsals are going extremely well. We have been singing a lovely selection of songs from the choir's repertoire, which we will be performing in the future.



- Flying Free
- One Moment in Time
- The Lord is my Shepherd (Vicar of Dibley)
- Who is Sylvia
- Last Night of the World (Miss Saigon)
- Like a Rainbow Shining
- Fields of Gold
- Ave Verum Corpus (Mozart)
- Andrew Lloyd Webber Celebration
 - Don't Cry for me Argentina (Evita)
 - Memory (Cats)

We are always happy to welcome new members to our friendly choir. All voice parts are welcome, especially tenors and basses, so whether you are high or low.....come along! There are no auditions, and it is not essential that you can read music - what we do want is people who enjoy singing and who enjoy meeting new people. We meet on Monday evenings at Dagnall Church, Ringshall Road, HP4 1RL. We start at 7.45pm, have a short coffee break and finish at 9.45pm.

For more information about the choir, please visit our website:

www.dagnall-community-choir.co.uk

Or find us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/dagnallcommunitychoir.



Appledown Rescue Dog of the Month



Meet Lassie a GSD-cross born in 2016. A lively girl who is full of fun and loves to play ball. This friendly sociable dog needs a home with owners willing to continue her training. She walks well on the lead, but if you see a dog with a tennis ball you may be heading after it at speed! Lassie needs to be an only pet and with company at home until she is well settled. Any children must be over 13.

If you are interested in offering a rescue dog a loving home you can find an application form on our website and details of the rehoming process. To support our work please make a one-off donation of £3 by texting APPLE to 70111, or donate via Paypal using the 'DONATE Support a Cause' option. Cheques are very welcome too!

Appledown Rescue & Rehoming Kennels Harling Road, Eaton Bray LU6 1QY

01525 220383 (10am-1pm & 2-4 pm) E-mail: appledown.kennels@btinternet.com

Website: www.appledownrescue.co.uk **Viewings are by appointment only.**



We have welcomed some new volunteers this month to help with deliveries and befriending by telephone. Some volunteers will be busy baking this month ready for our Easter Bake. We keep in touch with villagers who have requested our help throughout the year.

We continue to be in touch with some of the community by telephone. If you live on your own, having a chat on the telephone can make a lot of difference to your day.

Our volunteer drivers have had many requests for lifts to hospitals or local doctors surgeries. We always welcome new drivers to help us continue our kind help to our community.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer we would like to hear from you.

- Drivers provide lifts to doctors, or hospitals.
- Volunteers help collecting shopping or medication and befriending.
- We also have a mobile phone which we take in turns to receive calls for requests for help, from local people in our villages.

You can contact us by calling 07930 987064 when a friend will answer your call. We welcome your help but we are also here if you need any help

Eaton Bray Good Neighbours

EATON BRAY PARISH COUNCIL

Becoming a Parish Councillor For Eaton Bray

"I'm passionate about improving my village"

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

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

BECOME A PARISH COUNCILLOR

For more details, please contact the Parish Clerk
 (t) 07931 479663 - (e) clerk@ebpc.co.uk - (w) ebpc.co.uk



Nigel's Thoughts

Dear Friends,

At the start of April this year we find ourselves travelling through the events of what Christians call Holy Week and Easter.

At this time we remember the events of the week leading up to Jesus suffering, death on the cross and finally, glorious resurrection.

There are many opportunities over this week to hear the gospel narratives and to join together in worship with others. Please see the Easter card from the churches enclosed in this issue of Focus for details.

The focus of my thoughts as I approach this important time this year is on 'letting go'.

We like to think that we are in control of every aspect of our lives, that "we can manage" on our own, and up to a point that is possible. However, we cannot truly be at peace until we learn to let go and let God in. The greatest thing that has ever been achieved in the whole of history, was achieved by God through the surrender of Jesus in self-giving love, so that every individual (you and me, and all creation) may be set free to live and love in this world and the next.

Over the past year I have slowly been coming to terms with the loss of my lovely wife Elisabeth. I couldn't face Holy Week last year. I was walking my own way of the cross, in having to let her go and missing her so desperately.

I returned to work and worship on Easter morning, knowing that God had taken her to be with himself, that Elisabeth was free from suffering and pain and held in his wonderful love. I am only now beginning to grasp, a year later, that in the letting go, in the acceptance of what has happened there is the potential for new possibilities. I will always be thankful for and treasure all the years of love and life we shared as a family, but life has to go on, and the future will be shaped by all that has so wonderfully been.

There is the possibility of Resurrection everywhere if we will let go and allow it to happen.

A very Happy Easter to you!

 Nigel

Eaton Bray Cricket Club

Preparations are going well for the start of the 2023 season. Ground in very fair fettle and the wicket looking good for some more exciting cricket again this year.

Eaton Bray Cricket Club are always on the hunt for new players of any age or ability. We run 2 senior teams in the FCCL on Saturdays and 1 in the Beds Sunday League. We also have a side in the newly formed Village T20 League played midweek. The club have a very good junior section with 6 teams at age group U9 2xU11 2xU13 and u15 and also a Ladies Softball Team.

The club would like to thank our sponsors Meadow Marquees, Mlily Mattress, Fine & Country Estate Agents, Westrope Butchery, Topps Tiles, SMSS Ltd and the Focus Magazine for their continued support.

If you would like to be part of a progressive family friendly club please contact us via Facebook or Twitter @EatonBrayCC.

We hope you enjoy your cricket with Eaton Bray in 2023.



EATON BRAY PARISH COUNCIL

Eaton Bray Parish Council Focus Report

A full copy of the minutes for Eaton Bray Parish Council can be found on our website: www.ebpc.co.uk. A hard copy of the minutes can also be viewed on the Parish Council's notice board at The Coffee Tavern.

Parish Council Website

To keep up to date with what is happening in your parish, you can get all Parish Council news and updates from the Parish Council website. The website has all Parish Council meeting agendas, minutes, financial documents and contact information as well as official sponsored events/initiatives and is the official council communications website. Visit it here: www.ebpc.co.uk

FixMyStreet

CBC have a reporting system to make reporting easier, quicker and more accurate. To report and track highways and environment problems go online/use the FixMyStreet app: <https://fixmystreet.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/>

Parish Council Open Office/Surgery

If you need to speak to the Parish Council Clerk about local matters, you can visit the Parish Council Office at the Coffee Tavern on the second Tuesday after the monthly parish council meeting each month. For further information, please contact the Parish Clerk or visit <https://www.ebpc.co.uk/parish-council-surgery/>

Thank You to Councillor Mike Simkins

For twelve years, Councillor Mike Simkins has been a member of the Parish Council and is now stepping down from the role to pursue other projects. The Parish Council would like to thank Councillor Simkins for all his help and hard work during his time on the council and his dedication to the village. This, however, leaves us short of Parish Councillors and we have vacancies needing to be filled. If residents are interested in joining the Parish Council, please contact the Parish Clerk. More details at: <https://www.ebpc.co.uk/become-a-parish-councillor/>

EATON BRAY PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
Held on Monday 13th February 2023, from 7:30pm
(Minutes ratified at PC Meeting, 06/03/2023)

Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC)

Cllr Philip Spicer - email: Philip.Spicer@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

CBC Website: www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

CBC Email: customers@centralbedfordshire.gov.uk

CBC Customer Services: 0300 300 8301

Bedfordshire Police

- For general Police contact/enquiries: non-emergency call **101**
- For emergencies: call **999**

Planning Applications & Appeals – January 2023/February 2023

A copy of the Parish Council's response to planning applications can be seen on the

Parish Council website or obtained by applying to the Parish Clerk.

Eaton Bray Parish Council Accounts

- A copy of the Parish Council's Finance & Annual Reports can be viewed on the Parish Council Website.
- Monthly Payments – February 2023: A copy of the Parish Council monthly accounts can be seen on the Parish Council website or obtained by applying to the Parish Clerk.

Recreation Grounds

- School Lane: Groundworks – there has been a delay on the completion of the groundworks.*Update (06/03/2023): Works have been completed.
- School Lane: Play area fencing – final repairs to the play area fencing to be carried out. *Update (06/03/2023): Works have been completed.
- School Lane: Lighting – the council to look into full costs before final decision made.

Village Signs

The new village signs have now been fitted.

Ground maintenance contract 2023-2026:

Tenders were presented to the council, MWAgri Ltd was the chosen contractor.

Mill End Close/Waterside

Representatives from the Parish Council met with members of the river authority, Bedford Group of Drainage Boards [IDBS], to look at the high-water level and the large flow of water coming down/over the weir and into the ditch.

The Meads Allotments

A new notice board is to be fitted at The Meads allotments.

Parish Council Meetings (1st Floor, The Coffee Tavern, Eaton Bray)

Details can be obtained from the EBPC website, www.ebpc.co.uk

- Parish Council Meeting, Monday 3rd April 2023, from 7:30pm
- Annual Parish Meeting, Monday 15th May 2023, from 7:00pm
- Annual Meeting of Eaton Bray Parish Council, Monday 15th May, from 7:30pm

Parish Council Open Office (Ground floor)

10am-12noon at The Coffee Tavern, High Street, Eaton Bray

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

- Tuesday 11th April 2023
- Tuesday 16th May 2023



Heidi Head, Parish Clerk

Email: clerk@ebpc.co.uk – Telephone/Text: 07931 479663 – Website: www.ebpc.co.uk

Parish Office: The Coffee Tavern, 18 High Street, Eaton Bray, Beds, LU6 2DP

Postal Address: 17 Hammond Street, Aston Clinton, Bucks, HP22 0AJ

Follow Eaton Bray on Facebook - Keep up to date with what is going on in your parish





... Let's Play **Tennis**...

Make 2023 the year to try something new!

WE OFFER JUNIOR SESSIONS AND ADULT SESSIONS

FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO OUR WEBSITE OR CONTACT HEAD COACH SARA BAMFORD

If you are interested in Tennis we would love to hear from you.

Details of our Club regarding what's on offer and membership rates are available on our club website (ebtlc.org.uk)

We offer a coaching programme for all ages and abilities and you don't even need a racket for these sessions to get you started or back into the game.

JUNIOR COACHING

MONDAY 4:00pm - 5:00pm

Mini Red (ages 4-8 years old)



MONDAY 5:00pm - 6:00pm

Under 16 Intermediate (ages 11-16 years old)



MONDAY 6:00pm - 7:00pm

Under 18 Advanced (ages 16-18 years old)



WEDNESDAY 5:00pm - 6:00pm

Under 16 Beginners (ages 11-16 years old)



These sessions CAN BE BOOKED online VIA

OUR WEBSITE www.ebtlc.org.uk

ADULT COACHING

MONDAY 7:00pm - 8:00pm

Get Back Into Tennis



These sessions CAN BE BOOKED online VIA

OUR WEBSITE www.ebtlc.org.uk

PRIVATE COACHING

1-2-1 Sessions are available with Head Coach Sara Bamford in 1 hour or 30 minute slots.



To book please contact Head Coach Sara Bamford directly.

★ **SUNDAY MORNING SOCIAL TENNIS** ★

10:00am - 12:00pm

ALL ADULT MEMBERS WELCOME

★★★★ ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES ★★★★★

Adult : £105.00 / Family : £189.00 / Junior 11-18 : £30.00

Other packages are available.



Contact coach Sara Bamford on 07561 571578 or sara_levay@hotmail.com to book your place on any of the coaching sessions.

TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT OUR CLUB PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE ebtlc.org.uk

*Churches Together in Eaton Bray,
Edlesborough, Dagnall and Northall*

***Easter services
in our villages***

***We welcome you to worship
this Easter***



Photo by Gaye Soule

Christians in the four villages invite you to worship with them

CHURCH OF ENGLAND (Anglican Communion)

Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin, Eaton Bray with Edlesborough

(High Street, Eaton Bray)

Palm Sunday, 2 April	8.00am	Holy Communion
	10.00am	Blessing of palms. Procession & Sung Eucharist (assemble by the Village Hall behind the church)
Wednesday in Holy Week, 5 April	10.00am	Holy Communion
	7.30pm	Tenebrae Service
Maundy Thursday, 6 April	8.00pm	Holy Communion followed by The Watch (silent prayer)
Good Friday, 7 April	11.00am - 1.00pm	Messy Church in Eaton Bray Village Hall
	2.00pm	'An hour at the Cross' (Devotional Service)
Easter Day, 9 April	10.00am	Sung Eucharist with Easter Egg Hunt

All Saints', Dagnall

Good Friday, 7 April	3.00pm	'The Way of the Cross' (service of reflection)
Easter Day, 9 April	10.30am	Family Communion Service

BAPTIST CHURCH NORTHALL (Chapel Lane)

200 years and still going. *A little Church with strong local links.*

Palm Sunday, 2 April	11.00am	Service with a Palm Sunday Theme
Maundy Thursday, 6 April	7.30pm	Service of Holy Communion
Easter Day, 9 April	11.00am	Service of Celebration – Christ is Risen from the Dead!

Christians in the four villages invite you to worship with them

THE SALVATION ARMY (Eaton Bray, Booth Place)

Please refer to the website www.salvationarmy.org.uk/eaton-bray for details of services

EATON BRAY, EDLESBOROUGH & KENSWORTH METHODIST CHURCHES

Palm Sunday, 2 April	10.30am	Palm Sunday Worship at <u>Eaton Bray</u> with Rev Seung-Wook Jung
	10.30am	Palm Sunday Communion Service at <u>Edlesborough</u>
Good Friday, 7 April	10.30am	United Service of Prayer and Meditation at <u>Eaton Bray</u> Methodist Church, with Rev Nigel Bibbings
Easter Day, 9 April	10.30am	<u>Eaton Bray</u> . Easter Morning Café Worship with Mr Colin Quine
	10.30am	Edlesborough (with Kensworth). United Easter Morning Worship at <u>Kensworth</u> with Mr Roger Owers

ST MARY'S CHURCH RC, West Street, Dunstable

Please ring 01582 662710 for details of services

Easter

Easter is the most important and joyful Christian Festival.

It celebrates Jesus Christ's resurrection from the dead - three days after he died on the cross.

The Easter story is at the heart of Christianity

On Good Friday Jesus Christ was executed by crucifixion. His body was taken down from the cross and buried in a tomb.

The tomb was guarded and an enormous stone was put over the entrance, so that no-one could steal the body.

On the following Sunday some women visited the grave and they found that the stone had been moved and the tomb was empty.

Jesus himself was seen that day and for days afterwards by many people. His followers realised that Jesus had risen from the dead.

This Means:

That no one is outside of God's love. Everybody can begin again and can experience new life in Christ through faith in him and by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Churches Together in Eaton Bray, Edlesborough, Dagnall and Northall

is a visible sign of the Churches' commitment to the communities of which they are a part and to each other.

Our January 2023 meeting opened with minutes of the December meeting. The Christmas Party at Tilsworth Golf Club was deemed a great success and a show of hands indicated interest in holding it there again. Resolutions were voted on. Further details on our 2023 programme supplied. The last item of interest was to note and appreciate the return of the framed Women's Institute Edlesboro' banner. Looking clean and fresh and back on a wall at the Memorial Hall where it had hung for many years.

For our guest speaker we were delighted to welcome Rikki Harrington, local author, poet, entomologist and Honorary Fellow of the Royal Entomological Society. The subject, Butterflies and Their Poems. Rikki was most entertaining and knowledgeable having studied and enjoyed butterflies since he was a child in Dorset. There are 58 native British butterflies and we are very fortunate in that 32 varieties can be found in Ashridge. Too many to talk about on the night but a complete list of butterflies was projected on to his screen and we the audience randomly called out a name. Rikki then supplied the information. Thus, Purple Emperor, feeds on rape crop in Ashridge and drinks honeydew from aphids and the Brimstone, feeds on the spring bluebells, again in Ashridge and winters as adults in the UK. In each case the butterfly biography was followed by an amusing poem.

The evening concluded with refreshments, a raffle and an opportunity for members to catch up with each other after the Christmas holidays.

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

✍️Caroline Colleran

Edlesborough W.I. meet at the Memorial Hall on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:30pm. Unfortunately in February due to problems with heating that have been resolved we delayed our meeting a week. Apologies if you decided to come and and join us. We are now back to normal and you are very welcome.

This month was a fun social evening. After the business matters of our group had been dealt with the committee served us hot soup and rolls, coffee, tea and biscuits which was spot on for a cold winters night. We all enjoy our speakers and entertainers but sometimes it's nice to just sit back with your friends and catch up on news. The committee also asked us all to fill in a questionnaire about our future activities which gave us all a voice to give requests and feedback in what we would like to get from our meetings. We presently have speakers, quizzes, meals out, trips out and fun social evenings. Our committee work vary hard to give us a varied programme and it's valuable to them to receive the view of each member.

As we always welcome new members please come and join us.

✍️Jane Jones

St Mary's 100 Club

The lucky prize-winners are:

January 2023

1st Prize - Victor Courtice

2nd Prize - Robert Dickson

3rd Prize - Sheila Banks

February 2023

1st Prize - Joan Fossey

2nd Prize - Iain Stubbs

3rd Prize - Robert Dickson

Repair Cafe

Saturday 22nd April

9:30-12:30

Ivinghoe Village Hub

Bring along broken items to be fixed by volunteers!

No charge for fixing, but donations are welcome

Don't
DITCH
it



FIX it



SAVE:



Bring along:

- Tools and equipment
- Electrical goods
- Electronic devices (phones/tablets/laptops)
- Clothing, fabrics, jewellery




- Household items
- Toys and games
- Wooden items
- Bicycles

And more...

 Repair Cafe

Toss it? No way!



-  Ivinghoe & Pitstone Repair Cafe
-  ivinghoerepaircafe@gmail.com
-  www.iprepaircafe.wixsite.com/repaircafe



Northall Baptist Church

200 years and still going

A little Church with strong local links

Easter

Are you looking forward to Easter? Perhaps it's the holidays? Maybe you're hoping for the warmer weather so you can get on with some gardening? Possibly it's those Easter eggs and Hot Cross buns or a family roast meal with the traditional lamb?



*The tomb is empty and
Jesus has risen to life*

The Hot Cross buns signify the death of Jesus on the Cross on what we now call Good Friday. Isn't that funny – to celebrate some-one's death and call it a 'good' day! But that person was real, was crucified although he had done nothing wrong. We read in 1 Peter 3 'For Jesus died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring us to God.' He rose again on the 3rd day having taken away all the sins of all those who believe in him, past and future. And John 3 v 16 explains that God sent his only Son that whoever believes in him will

not perish but have eternal life.

The Easter eggs symbolise new birth and the resurrection of Jesus. It raises the conundrum of 'which came first – the chicken or the egg?'

A Christian would probably say that the chicken came first in God's creation. The beginning of life is in the egg and also, we see new life all around in the garden after the cold winter months. The bulbs and other growth coming up, bringing life and colour to our gardens. As I write this we are beginning to see the first blossom coming out, although some late snow today may have slowed some of that down. Some of those creatures that sleep over winter will be waking up. We may see hungry hedgehogs soon. I don't see any evidence that the squirrels sleep these days. They keep trying to pinch the bird nuts in our garden.



The roast lamb dinner represents Jesus again. Jesus was recognised as the Lamb of God even before he started his ministry here on earth. John the Baptist, after he had baptised Jesus said 'Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!' Easter is the most important time in the Church calendar. Jesus himself said 'I am the resurrection and the life'. The disciples were able to witness this and then continued to tell as many people as they could. Christian belief all hangs on His resurrection, so Easter Sunday is what we are looking forward to. Enjoy all those delicious goodies but think about the One who lived, died and rose again to save us.

Our Sunday services are 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.

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

✉ Ruth Cox Tel: 07791 425625

They were there when...

One starry night two thousand years ago, a shepherd boy came down from the hillside to see a new baby in a manger. The whole story is captured in a few New Testament sentences...in the special words we read every year.

But at Christmas 2020 that suddenly didn't seem enough for me. I wanted to be that boy...to feel being there when Jesus first entered the human world in such humble surroundings. Excited, baffled, awestruck. So I wrote a short article for the Northallerton Zion URC church magazine, trying to recapture that magic. And it was also published in a different local village general magazine.

In doing so, I felt blessed - experiencing fresh emotions, gaining new insights. For the next few issues I submitted several more similar pieces as I adopted other Gospel personas, retelling events in a way that tried to make them alive and personal.

But then, unexpectedly, Ann and I moved house - back to the South. I lost access to the magazine outlet that had part-justified my scripts. Demotivated, I might have stopped. But one special member of the congregation encouraged me to carry on, even if only for its own sake or for my own spiritual nurture. Until by the next Christmas I had secretly written another three dozen or so, telling most of the Gospel story through the imaginary reflections of the characters who were there when...

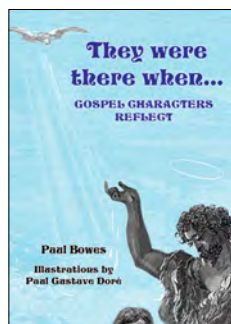
Approaching Easter 2022, my new Anglican vicar found out about them. She was compiling a special Good Friday service and she challenged me. 'There is little detail about Simon of Cyrene in the Bible but he had a unique part to play. How did that happen? Imagine how he felt.' So I did. I wrote one more...and on that Friday she invited me to read to the congregation a section from the resulting piece - which I offer to you now...

A Burden Shared (an extract)...by Simon of Cyrene

Pilate was reluctantly persuaded to condemn the man to death. Whatever the rights and wrongs, that terrible victim's trudge to Golgotha inevitably ensued - no doubt after a little debilitating rough stuff from his Roman captors. The crowds en route were by now mostly baying against this Jesus...presumably any of his original supporters were just cowering in the background, if still around at all, for fear of their own arrest. So those brutal Roman soldiers goaded him along the packed, noisy streets, pushed and shoved him as he struggled under the strain of carrying the heavy wooden cross piece that would form part of his own crucifixion ordeal.

I was there to witness this increasingly cruel stage. No, much more than that. I must explain. To actually take part - against my will, of course. It was all awful, but I was mesmerised. Somehow feeling drawn towards him in an overwhelming sense of helplessness as his staggering progress got slower and slower. I didn't know him personally, yet my spirit yearned to assist. He looked so physically spent. And, as a result, I got a little too close for my own good. I guess the soldiers had begun to fear he might expire before reaching the destination, depriving the mob of their spectator sport. Seeking to alleviate the problem, one of them looked around for a different sort of victim. He grabbed me, before I could realise his intentions. Roughly shoved me to the man's side and ordered me to take over carrying the wooden beam. Suddenly, as

I brushed against this Jesus, an extraordinary spark went through me. And the look of love on that fellow Jew's face I will never forget. Otherworldly, despite his pain and exhaustion. Whispered that he was going to his Father, and promising that we would meet again there. A claim to be nothing less than the son of God, in other words. Not blasphemous. A revelation. I truly believed him. Still do.



I once had the privilege of editing and publishing the books of over a hundred different authors...but never my own. So, as a personal treat for my 75th birthday, I have published all these reflective stories, embellished by nearly a hundred of the amazing nineteenth century engravings of Paul Gustave Dore.

They Were There When... (Gospel Characters Reflect) £9.99

Book Castle Publishing 978 1906632 18 2

Paul Bowes

42, High Street, Barkway, Hertfordshire, SG8 8EE

paul.bowes12@btinternet.com

Paul is President of the Dunstable and District local history society

He was the proprietor of the former Book Castle in Church Street

His wife, Ann, was a Reader in the Dunstable Anglican benefice

April at the Grove



Film

I Wanna Dance With Somebody - 20/24 Apr

Live Screening

Cinderella: The Royal Ballet - 12 Apr

The Marriage of Figaro: The Royal Opera - 27 Apr

Encore Screening

Good (National Theatre) - 23 Apr

Life of Pi (National Theatre Live) - 25 Apr

Drama

Sherlock Holmes: The Valley of Fear - 17/18 Apr

Comedy

Axel Blake: In Style - 21 Apr

Variety

Emma Kenny - The Serial Killer Next Door - 4 Apr

The Marti Pellow Show: Pellow Talk - 30 Apr

Popular Music

Some Guys have all the Luck - The Rod Stewart Story - 6 Apr

The Bohemians - Queens Greatest Hits - 7 Apr

Woman Like Me - The Little Mix Show - 8 Apr

What's Love Got To Do With It? - 9 Apr

Seven Drunken Nights - The Story of the Dubliners - 13 Apr

Michael Starring Ben - 14 Apr

Dire Streets - 16 Apr

Beyond the Barricade - 19 Apr

The Cavern Beatles - 22 Apr

Rock For Heroes 23 - 28 Apr

All or Nothing - 29 Apr

Pantomime

Rapunzel - 2 Apr

Children's Shows

The Little Mermaid - 3 Apr

Goldilocks & the Three Bears - 15 Apr

Ticket prices vary; for more information or to book, call the Box Office on 01582 60 20 80 or visit the website at www.grovetheatre.co.uk.

HELPING YOU TO ACHIEVE YOUR DREAM GARDEN

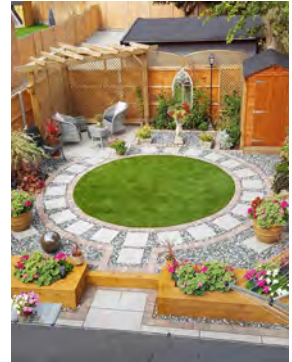
Planning and developing a garden is a constantly evolving process. Over the years, it has been a delight and a privilege to have been asked by many lovely people in our local towns and villages to help them with their garden transformations. An added bonus is when we are invited back to see how their gardens have flourished and matured over time.

Here are a few of the questions that we ask when we come to talk to you about planning your new garden.



Orientation - "Which way does your garden face?"

A north, south, east or westerly aspect (or any combination of these) significantly impacts the amount of sunlight and warmth that you and your garden will enjoy over the year. However, it is important to really look at the movement of the sun in relation to the surroundings, as buildings, fences, trees and other obstacles will affect where the pockets of light and shade fall across the day and over the seasons. For this reason we encourage our clients to compile a 'Sunlight Diary' for up to 6 specific times during the day and to record and photograph the areas of light and shade in the garden at those times. This information then helps us to make suggestions about the types of planting and landscaping features that would be best suited to the garden.



Viewpoint - "What are the views that you look at regularly?"

A garden design that takes into account your primary and favourite viewpoints will help to ensure that you can fully enjoy the work that goes into the transformation. A simple example could be adding a birdbath or bird feeding table to your garden, as a focal point from a window that you regularly look out from. Focal points give your views interest, height and an added dimension to the horizontal landscape. They can be large, structural or prominent objects that grab your attention, for example, an ornamental weeping cherry tree or arbour covered in roses. Alternatively, they can be smaller and more discrete helping to create an air of mystery which entices you into the garden. For example, a bench in front of a small wildlife pond nestled amongst the shrubbery. The most important thing to remember is that any focal point must be in scale with its surroundings so that it looks and feels as though it is fully integrated into the design without being overpowering or looking like it is a "pea on a drum"!

Colour - "What colours would you like to see in the garden?"

Recognising that colour is very personal to every client, we will explain the rationale behind the effects of using similar or varying colours in a planting scheme. We will also talk about the joys of adding scent, touch, sound, contrast, texture, and repetition to the plan as we want you to feel excited when you step out and experience your new garden. We particularly encourage pollinator friendly plants and use complementary and organic planting techniques to deter pests and weeds. Warm colours such as red, orange, gold, pure yellow, bright pink, red-based purple help to create a feeling of excitement and positive energy in a garden. They can be used at front entrances in pots and /or hanging baskets to provide a cheery welcome or can be placed around a seating area to make it feel cosier and more intimate. Some believe that these colours also help to promote a healthy appetite! Cool colours such as blue, blue-based purple, light pink mauves, green, chartreuse, green-based yellow help to create a feeling of calm and relaxation. They can make objects appear further away and more spacious.

How to get in touch

We can help you with layout plans, planting plans, suggestions for materials and introductions to local landscapers and arborologists. We are based in Eaton Bray and would be delighted to hear from you. Visit our website at www.gillysglamgardens.co.uk or Instagram to see some of the garden transformations that we have completed over the past few years.



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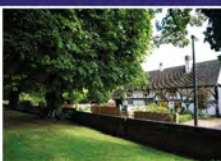
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Simnel-Spiced Fridge Cake

Courtesy of Waitrose.com

Ingredients

Vegetable oil, for greasing
200g dark chocolate (70% cocoa solids), chopped
150g milk chocolate, chopped
100g salted butter, cubed
60g golden syrup
3 tsp mixed spice
150g Ginger Nut biscuits
100g blanched almonds, roughly chopped
200g Golden Marzipan, chopped into chunks
1 large orange (scrubbed), zest
100g dried apricots, finely chopped
11 Maltesers

Method

Grease and line the base and sides of a 20cm round cake tin with baking parchment. Put the dark and milk chocolate in a heatproof bowl with the butter, golden syrup and mixed spice.

Sit over a pan of gently simmering water and allow to melt, stirring occasionally, until smooth and combined (don't let the water touch the base of the bowl). Set aside to cool slightly.

Meanwhile, put the biscuits in a plastic food bag, then bash into pieces using a rolling pin. Tip into a large mixing bowl and add the almonds, marzipan, orange zest and apricots. Pour in the melted chocolate mixture and stir until well combined.

Spoon into the prepared tin, pressing the mixture down evenly. Arrange the Maltesers in a circle around the outer edge. Cover and chill for at least 1 hour or until firm. Allow to stand at room temperature for 10-15 minutes before slicing and serving.



Gluten-Free Chocolate Cake

By Liberty Mendez Courtesy of BBCgoodfood

Ingredients

150ml vegetable oil, plus extra for the tins
175g plain gluten-free flour
1 tsp xanthan gum, 50g cocoa powder
1 tbsp baking powder, ½ tsp bicarbonate of soda
75g dark brown soft sugar, 75g caster sugar
2 tbsp golden syrup, 2 eggs
100g Greek yogurt, 100ml milk
2 tbsp instant coffee, dissolved in 4 tbsp hot water

For the icing

300g icing sugar, 25g cocoa powder
150g soft salted butter, 3 tbsp milk
65g dark chocolate, melted

Method

Heat the oven to 180C/160C fan/gas 4. Oil the base of two 18cm sandwich tins and line with baking parchment. Mix the flour, xanthan gum, cocoa, baking powder, bicarbonate of soda, a large pinch of salt and both sugars together in a large bowl.

Whisk the golden syrup, eggs, oil, yogurt, milk and coffee together in a jug. Gradually whisk the

wet ingredients into the dry until you have a smooth mixture.

Pour the mixture into the prepared tins and bake for 30-35 mins until risen and firm to the touch. Remove from the oven and leave to cool for 10 mins in the tins before turning out onto a cooling rack.

While the cakes are cooling, make the icing. Beat the icing sugar, cocoa powder, butter and milk together for 5 mins until smooth and fluffy. Gradually pour in the melted chocolate while beating, scraping down the sides of the bowl to make sure everything's included.

Spread half the icing over the middle of one sponge using a small palette knife. Sandwich the other sponge on top, with the flat bottom-side facing up. Spread the remaining icing around the top and sides of the cake, smoothing over with a palette knife. If you have any icing left, you can pipe some rosettes on top of the cake.



Amphibians in the Garden

Courtesy of www.rhs.org.uk

Frogs, toads and newts can all be found in gardens where they predate on a wide range of invertebrates. It's easy to encourage them by providing a pond where tadpoles can develop and with at least one shallowly sloping side up to dry land to allow easy access. Make your garden great for adult amphibians by creating log piles and other damp habitats in which they can shelter.



Which amphibians are found in gardens?

Britain has two native frogs, two toads, and three species of newts.

- Of these, the common frog and common toad are likely to be found in gardens throughout Britain
- The common or smooth newt and the palmate newt are also widely distributed
- Some garden ponds may have the scarce and protected great crested newt, while some gardens, especially in south east England, may have non-native green marsh frogs
- The natterjack toad and the pool frog are unlikely to occur in gardens

These animals feed on a wide range of small invertebrates.

- Although the adults and juveniles do most of their feeding on land, all of these amphibians must have still water, such as a pond, in which they will mate and lay eggs
- The eggs hatch into tadpoles that initially feed on algae. Later they feed on insects that have fallen in the water and are predatory on other pond life. The tadpoles gradually develop legs and, in the case of frogs and toads, lose their tails, and become small frogs, toads or newts

How to attract amphibians to the garden

These creatures can be helped by providing a pond where the tadpoles can develop.

- At least one side of the pool should gradually slope up to dry land, this enables the young amphibians to leave the water once the tadpole stage is over
- If the pond has steep sides a ramp covered in chicken wire in one corner can help
- Small amphibians can be predated by birds and other predators, growing plants around the pool will provide some cover
- When in the pond, frogs and toads need a point above the water on which to rest and breathe. In the summer a water lily pad may suffice but a more permanent solution is to position a few rocks or logs half in and half out of the water if there are no suitable areas of shallow water
- Allow new ponds to become colonised naturally by amphibians that are likely to be already present in the area, rather than transferring spawn or tadpoles. This reduces the risk of spreading infection and diseases which can kill amphibians
- Newts are probably the most aquatic of British amphibians. Attract them by allowing grass to grow over the pond edge into the water and introducing non-

invasive submerged aquatic plants. Newts use narrow-leaved water plants on which to lay their eggs, placing each egg between a folded leaf

- Fish will eat spawn, tadpoles and other pond life so should not be introduced into a pond for amphibians
- Frogs and newts will also overwinter in the bottom of ponds

Where else to find amphibians

Adult amphibians often spend time out of water, especially over winter. In the autumn, many amphibians seek sheltered places away from ponds where they shelter until the following spring.

- Log piles provide good shelters. Frogs, toads and newts will also find suitable places in hedge bottoms,
- Careful if moving pots or wheelie bins, especially in hot weather, as amphibians can be hiding out under them where it is nice and damp
- Greenhouses often have a resident frog or toad due to it staying damp and being a good place for them to hunt

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Moira D'Arcy Grad Dip Phys MCSP APPI AACP

Email: moira@stjudesclinic.com

(qualified APPI (Australian Physiotherapy and Pilates Institute) instructor for 12 years and Chartered Physiotherapist with 37 years' experience, running St Judes Clinic in Leighton Buzzard for 30 years.)

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Bletchley Park: Home of the Codebreakers

HM The Queen visited Bletchley Park on 15 July 2011. She said, *“It is impossible to overstate the deep sense of admiration, gratitude and national debt that we owe to all those men and, especially, women. They were called to this place in the greatest of secrecy – so much so that some of their families will never know the full extent of their contribution.”*

During World War I Britain built up a significant Signals Intelligence (Sigint) operation, listening to enemy radio traffic. The Government Code & Cypher School (GC&CS) was created at the end of the war and developed over the next two decades. Bletchley Park housed the British codebreaking operation during World War II and was the birthplace of modern computing. Historians estimate that the Codebreakers’ efforts shortened the war by up to two years, saving countless lives.

In 1938 Bletchley Park was bought by the Head of MI6. In August, a delegation from MI6 and the Government Code and Cypher School (GC&CS) spent around a month at Bletchley Park. To disguise their true identity, this delegation masqueraded as ‘Captain Ridley’s Shooting Party’.

By 1939 veteran cryptanalysts from World War I plus linguists and classicists such as John Tiltman, Dilly Knox, Hugh Foss and Frank Birch formed the core of GC&CS’s expertise. They were joined by men and women recruited from industry and other branches of academia.

Bletchley Park staff worked on an 8-hour shift-system: 8 am to 4 pm (days), 4 pm to midnight (evenings), and midnight to 8 am (nights). However, it was not all work - The Bletchley Park Recreational Club included a library, drama group, music and choral societies as well as bridge, chess, fencing and Scottish dancing.

Many romances blossomed here and numerous couples went on to marry. However, they had all signed the Official Secrets Act and kept their vow of silence until the story of what was achieved there began to emerge in the 1970s. Even now, some Veterans remain tight-lipped about their part in the codebreaking operation because they had been sworn to secrecy.

As recruitment continued, conditions in the Mansion soon became overcrowded, with more office accommodation urgently needed. From October 1939, building work began on the now famous wooden huts, which were to be the scene of some of the most extraordinary stories of the war. These huts worked in pairs: Huts 3 & 6 and Huts 4 & 8. Bomb walls provided protection in case of air raid attack but created dark working conditions.

Enigma was an electro-mechanical cypher machine, adapted for use by the Wehrmacht (German Armed Forces) and became the most widely used German encrypting device in WWII. Enigma uses rotors to scramble messages into unintelligible cyphertext. The Wehrmacht adapted an early commercial version,



Enigma Plug Board

marketed to the banking industry, and believed it to be impenetrable.

Each one of the machine's billions of possible combinations generated completely different cyphertext. Finding the key settings for each network – which were reset at midnight every day – was the challenge faced by the Codebreakers.

Further and increasingly more complicated versions of Enigma were developed during the war, including one used specifically by the Kriegsmarine (German Navy).

Hut 6 was used for the decryption of Enigma messages sent by the German Heers (Army) and Luftwaffe (Air Force). Codebreakers utilized perforated sheets and later Bombe machines to aid with this decryption.

Decrypted messages were passed next door to Hut 3 for translation and analysis. The translators in Hut 3 had to make German military language, strictly formatted and littered with jargon, read like a credible report from a fake spy.

Hut 8 was built for the decryption of raw material from the Navy. Under its heads, Alan Turing and then Hugh Alexander, Hut 8, like Hut 6, became a major driving force in the development of analytical machines to speed up the decryption process.

By early 1940 Hut 4 was used for translating and analysing messages sent by the Kriegsmarine (German Navy) which had already been decrypted by Hut 8.

These two Huts provided crucial day-to-day intelligence in the desperate battles between the Allied convoys and the U-Boat wolfpacks which were determined to cut Britain's vitally important supply lines of food and fuel from across the Atlantic.

The first break into Naval Enigma, codenamed Dolphin, early in 1941 had a significant impact on the Battle of the Atlantic helping to reduce the destruction wrought by the U-Boat wolfpacks.

The Double Cross (XX) deception, codenamed Operation Fortitude South, led the German High Command to believe that the Allied plan to invade Normandy was actually a diversion from the true target, the Pas de Calais. This deception allowed the Allies to land at Normandy while the Germans laid in fortified positions in Calais. Operation Fortitude South was one of the most successful and important deception operations deployed during the war.

In 1941 a number of Codebreakers wrote to Winston Churchill in order to request more resources to ensure that the vital codebreaking work was able to match demand. Churchill's reply to an Aide was, "Action this day! Make sure they have all they want on extreme priority and report to me that this has been done".

As the importance of the huts grew, so did their staffing needs, so that by the end of the war, Hut 3, for example, was no longer a single wooden structure, but a whole range of locations and buildings on the Park.

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Enigma Setting Sheet

By early 1943 Bletchley Park had developed from a small community of specialist cryptographers into a vast and complex global signals intelligence factory. It hit its peak in 1944, when around ten thousand people worked at Bletchley and its associated outstations (75% of them women).



Bombe Control Room

The Bombe machine was developed by Alan Turing and Gordon Welchman to speed up the breaking of Enigma, so that messages, once decyphered, were able to provide operationally relevant Intelligence.

The Bombe was inspired by the ‘bomba’, an earlier machine designed by the Polish Cypher Bureau. The Bombe helped to deduce the day’s Enigma settings, of both the rotors and the plug board, by eliminating the many incorrect possibilities.

Hut 11 and later in March 1942 Hut 11a, were specifically built to house the Bombe machines; both huts were comprised of concrete to provide further protection to these precious machines. Hut 11a also became a training centre for the Women’s Royal Navy Service, WRNS, nicknamed ‘Wrens’, who operated the machines. They recall the Huts being hot and noisy; Hut 11 was referred to as the “Hell-Hole.

Bombes were mass produced and large outstations, such as Eastcote and Stanmore, were formed where these Bombes were utilised en-mass. Hut 11a became the main control centre for all Bombes in the UK. The USA also produced and operated Bombe machines.

Lorenz was an on-line cypher attachment which used the International Teleprinter Code, was specifically designed to be more complex, faster and more secure than Enigma. With 12 rotors, the number of possible wheel settings was a staggering: 43 x 47 x 51 x 53 x 59 x 37 x 61 x 41 x 31 x 29 x 26 x 2. Lorenz was used by Hitler, the German High Command and German Army Field Marshals to carry high level communications.

The Codebreakers called the machine Tunny and the coded messages Fish.

Cracking Lorenz, like Enigma, relied on determining the starting position of the rotors. Intelligence from Lorenz provided Allied Commands with details of the highest German policy decisions and tactics.

From early 1940 the teleprinter signals were intercepted but the Codebreakers knew nothing about the machine being used to encrypt the messages.

The Codebreakers in the BP Testery had deduced the operation of the Lorenz without ever seeing the machine, a feat made possible by a German operator mistake.

In May 1941 the codebreaking factory had outgrown the Mansion, cottages and wooden Huts so a programme of building more permanent brick and concrete reinforced blocks began. There was still a significant threat of air attack so Blocks A and B, which were built at the same time, were bomb-proofed and shrouded by trees, more being planted to break up shadows thrown by the moon.

Names of people, places, cover names, military units, radio stations and many other



Lorenz Cypher Attachment

significant details were recorded and kept in an enormous index in Block C, punched onto cards using Hollerith machines. Clerks, mainly women, searched decyphered messages for details that might help the Codebreakers in the future, and built up a huge cross-referencing system. At its peak, two million cards per week were used.

Block E was the hub of outward communication from Bletchley Park. Messages were re-encyphered using Type X machines and transmitted to Allied headquarters.

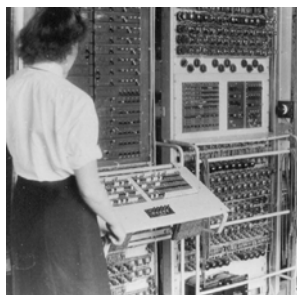
All that remains of Block F today is a concrete step and a patch of grass. But during World War II it was the world's first purpose-built computer centre.

Block H was built in 1944 and housed Colossus and Heath Robinson machines.

Colossus, the forerunner of the modern computer was developed to assist with the breaking of the Lorenz machine. By 1943 the Germans had introduced complications which made it virtually impossible to break Lorenz by hand – or brain – alone.

The first machine, designed by Dr Max Newman and his team in the Newmanry, was christened Heath Robinson, after the cartoon designer of fantastic contraptions. It was a slow and unreliable machine but it worked.

Tommy Flowers, a Post Office electronics engineer, designed Colossus, the world's first practical electronic digital and information processing machine. Colossus could read paper tape at 5,000 characters per second, the paper tape in its wheels travelling at 30 miles per hour. This meant that the huge amount of mathematical work that needed to be done to break Lorenz could be carried out in hours, rather than weeks.



Colossus

The first Colossus machine arrived at Bletchley in December 1943 with a second in June 1944.

These Colossi were working in time for Eisenhower and Montgomery to be sure that Hitler had swallowed the deception plan prior to D-Day on 6 June 1944.

There were eventually ten working Colossi at Bletchley Park.

The contributions of Bletchley Park's Codebreakers to the outcome of World War II are now globally recognised and include:

- Location of the U-Boat packs in the Battle of the Atlantic
- Identifying the beam guidance system for German bombers
- The Mediterranean and North African campaigns, including El Alamein
- Launch and success of Operation Overlord, including breaking German Secret Service Enigma, complementing the Double Cross operation which misled Germany on the intended target for D-Day
- Helping to identify new weapons including German V weapons, jet aircraft, atomic research and new U-Boats
- Analysis of the effect of the war on the German economy
- Breaking Japanese codes
- The outcome of the war in the Pacific

“The work here at Bletchley Park was utterly fundamental to the survival of Britain and to the triumph of the West. I'm not actually sure that I can think of very many other places where I could say something as unequivocal as that. This is sacred ground. If this isn't worth preserving, what is?” Professor Richard Holmes, *Military Historian*

Snow Day at Whipsnade Zoo

Whipsnade Zoo's wolverine Puff explores a snowy wonderland at Whipsnade Zoo

Whipsnade Zoo was transformed into a winter wonderland last month as overnight snow blanketed the 600acre conservation zoo. Animals at the UK's largest zoo enjoyed the unexpected change in scenery, with Wolverines Puff and Fi relishing the soft snow. Elsewhere the Amur tigers enjoyed their breakfast in the fluffy white stuff, as it coated the rolling Dunstable hills.



Adventure Time with Pip and Posy

Pip and Posy are heading to the for their biggest adventure yet

Saturday 1 April to Tuesday 9 May 2023

Pip and Posy are set to take families on a wildlife adventure this Easter, as the popular children's animated series comes to life through a series of fun activities at Whipsnade Zoo.

From **Saturday 1 April to Tuesday 9 May**, kids can enter **Pip and Posy's** wonderful world of play, friendship and exploration through a new adventure trail across the UK's largest zoo; inspired by everyone's favourite Pip and Posy stories. Meeting Asian elephants, red pandas and reticulated giraffes along the way, youngsters can invent special 'animal communication' handshakes next to the ring-tailed lemurs, snuffle through a treasure hunt like a wild boar, get creative making a cosy bug hotel for the conservation zoo's insects and much more – all on a jam-packed spring day out at Whipsnade Zoo.



Children can finish off their day by winding down for storytime sessions in the farmyard.

Don't miss **Pip and Posy** and more than 10,000 amazing animals at **Whipsnade Zoo** this Easter – free with zoo entry. Book tickets today at www.whipsnadezoo.org/



Party of Five

Three new African wild dogs join the pack at the UK's largest conservation zoo

Whipsnade Zoo is pack-ed full of excitement, as it celebrates the arrival of three male African wild dogs as part of the European breeding programme for the Endangered species.

The trailblazing trio, named Earl, Elvis and Einstein, arrived at the UK's largest zoo from West Midlands Safari Park on

Wednesday 1 February and have spent the past few weeks getting to know their new love interests - sisters Beebee and Ginger - in their new home in the heart of the idyllic Dunstable Downs.

Zookeeper Sarah McGregor said: "Earl, Elvis and Einstein have been settling in well and it's clear they all have very distinct personalities; Einstein has already bonded with Beebee, Earl is at his happiest exploring, and has been intrigued by all the new sights and smells, while Elvis is quiet and gentle and loves to laze around in the spring sunshine."

Visitors will be able to see these incredible canines, who are highly affectionate and love snuggling up with each other as well. Over the coming months, Earl, Elvis, Einstein, Beebee and Ginger will find their rightful places in the newly-formed pack – essential to the dynamics of this highly social species.

Whoever becomes the alpha male and female will be the only ones in the pack to have pups. The other dogs will have a different but no less important role; caring for the pups and providing support when they're born. Find out more and book tickets today at www.whipsnadezoo.org.



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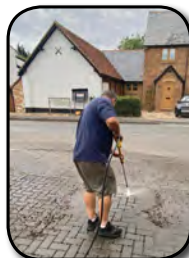
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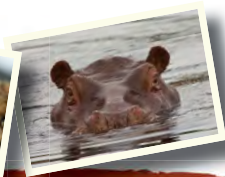
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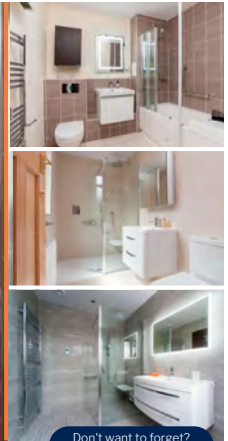
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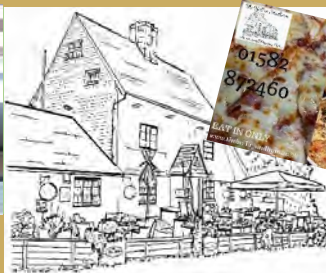
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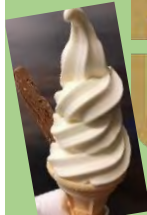


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Book Review

Courtesy of The Guardian

Sorrow and Bliss by Meg Mason

Shortlisted for the Women's Prize for Fiction 2022, an incredibly funny and devastating debut.



When the reader is first introduced to Martha, the acerbic, straight-talking narrator of *Sorrow and Bliss*, she is thinking about a wedding held “shortly after” her own, where she answered a woman’s question about how she met her husband by saying, “Patrick’s sort of like the sofa that was in your house growing up”; a thing that was always there, so much so that no one ever “give[s] it any conscious thought”. This became their “stock answer” to this kind of question, Martha says, for the entirety of the eight years that she and Patrick were married.

This kind of narration is typical of Martha, who patterns many of her anecdotes this way: a short description of what happened, laced with witty asides, is then brought home with a devastating line to hint at the wider tragedy of what this actually means. The sofa story is funny, and full of character and charm – and then the reader is told this marriage has not lasted. A description of a gif that reminds Martha of Patrick is absurd and beautifully cute – until Martha reveals she has watched it “5,000 times” since the day she moved back in with her parents. Or the inverse happens: a list of some of Patrick’s small, annoying flaws is finished with the line, “He has the most beautiful hands I have ever seen.”

Sorrow and Bliss – Meg Mason’s debut novel – is narrated in the aftermath of Martha and Patrick’s separation, when Martha is thinking back over her life and trying to understand it, and herself. Patrick has indeed been in Martha’s life for as long as an old sofa – first coming to her family’s Christmas lunch when he was 13, accompanying a cousin from the boarding school they both attended because Patrick’s absent father has forgotten to book him a flight home.

From this beginning, he very much becomes a part of Martha’s extended family, taken under the wing of her wealthy and exacting aunt Winsome, who hosts these Christmas lunches each year in her central London home. Patrick is sweet-natured, self-effacing, shy and very much drawn in by Martha’s self-possession and fierce intelligence.

By what’s really at the heart of the novel is the illness that has been with Martha since her childhood: a cyclical, crushing depression that has left her, at times, unable to do anything but lie in small, dark spaces (“like a small animal that instinctively knows it’s dying”) for weeks or months at a time. Even when Martha is well, she fears the recurrence of her illness; and, more importantly, she lives with something a doctor told her in her teenage years: that falling pregnant while on her medication would not be safe for a developing baby. Because of this, Martha tells all of her lovers – including Patrick – that she doesn’t want children, even convincing herself that this is true, despite her adoration for them.

Mason never names Martha’s illness, and even chooses, once Martha receives a diagnosis, to refer to it simply as ‘— —’. There’s something wonderfully liberating about this, for the way in which it avoids the medicalisation that Martha has suffered her entire life, while still allowing her the clarity and understanding (and anger) that the diagnosis brings her. The name itself is not important, Mason is arguing; what’s important is that Martha’s ability to know herself, and see herself for who she really is, has been compromised by false information and advice from doctors, by loved

ones who have turned the other way, and by her own fear of what besets her. So much of *Sorrow and Bliss* is about Martha trying to reimagine her past and the person that she is, and to redeem the hurt and loss at its centre. Martha is vivacious and clever (“brilliant”, as her father’s estimation has it), and the fact of her charisma, as well as the way in which her dialogue and narration alike are peppered with droll asides, means that even the darkest of the material in *Sorrow and Bliss* is handled lightly – and it is all the more devastating for this. It is an incredibly funny novel, and one that’s enlivened, often, by a madcap energy. Yet it still manages to be sensitive and heartfelt, and to offer a nuanced portrayal of what it means to try to make amends and change, even when that involves “start[ing] again from nothing.”

Your Photos

Below left - Magnificent Magnolias by Richard Woodhead

Below right - Showing off at Whipsnade by Sally Siddons



Dog Rules For Humans

1. Don't come home smelling of other dogs.
2. You must feed me every goodie you eat.
3. Don't make me take a bath.
4. Let me outside even though I just came in, there was an area I forgot to sniff.
5. I can sleep anywhere I choose, even if it means you have to trip over me.
6. Don't shhh me from barking while you are on the phone, I heard the wind blowing the leaves.
7. Don't move me if I'm sleeping sideways on the bed, you have enough room on the edge.
8. Don't think you can leave a room without me.
9. If it lands on the floor, it's MINE!


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Dagnall Weather Station (AONB)

Weather Conditions for February 2023

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

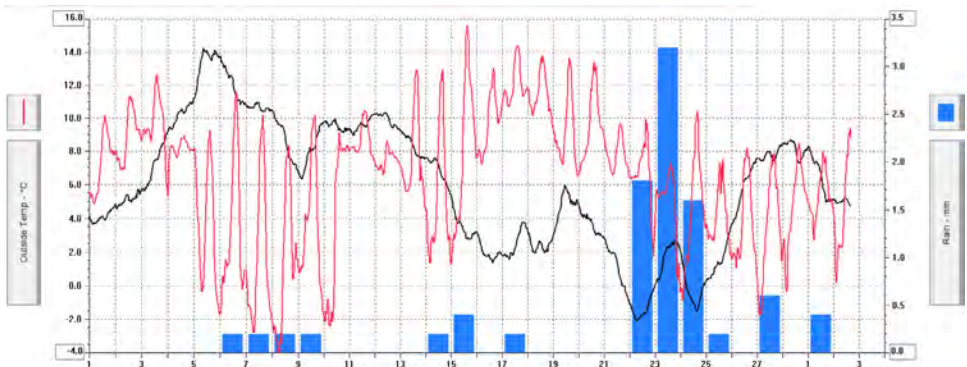


February was a dry and mild month with high pressure dominating the weather for most of the time. The start of the month was dry, then we had a frosty night, although the daytime temperature still averaged 10°C. Despite the plot below showing rainfall over this period, the 0.2mm measurement is likely to be frost melting off the rain gauge or fine drizzle. On the 13th, temperatures rose to reach the month's maximum of 15.8°C. Towards the end of the month, we had small amounts of rain. The 22nd was the wettest day, but with only 3.2mm. The total rainfall for February was 9mm, 14% of the average. That's just 1/3 of an inch. Temperatures were higher than the average.

	High	Date/Time	Low	Date/Time
Temperature:	15.8°C	15 Feb 15.00	-4.1°C	8 Feb 06.30
Mean Temperature	6.5°C			
Dewpoint:	11.0c	17 Feb 12.30	-4.6°C	8 Feb 06.00
Humidity:	99%	25 7-14 Feb	44%	6 Feb 06.00
Barometer:	1046.0 mb	5 Feb 09.00	1009.4 mb	Feb 06.00
Wind Speed	34 mph SSE	17 Feb 13.30	Months avg.	5.4mph
Wind Chill:	15.1°C	15 Feb 15.30	-6.0°C	8 Feb 06.30
Dominant Wind:	W			
Rainfall * T= total rain days and moisture. R= Actual rain				
*Rain Days: 12(T), 8(R)		Wettest Day 23 Feb	3.2 mm	0.126ins
Monthly Rain:	Total	February 2023	9.0mm	0.354ins
Yearly Rain:	Total	2 Month	85.2 mm	3.354 ins

February 2023

Temperatures and Low Rain Fall Black line shows pressure



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Woburn's Wall

(courtesy of the Bedfordshire Archives)

I have often been amazed at the length of the brick wall surrounding Woburn Park when driving past...

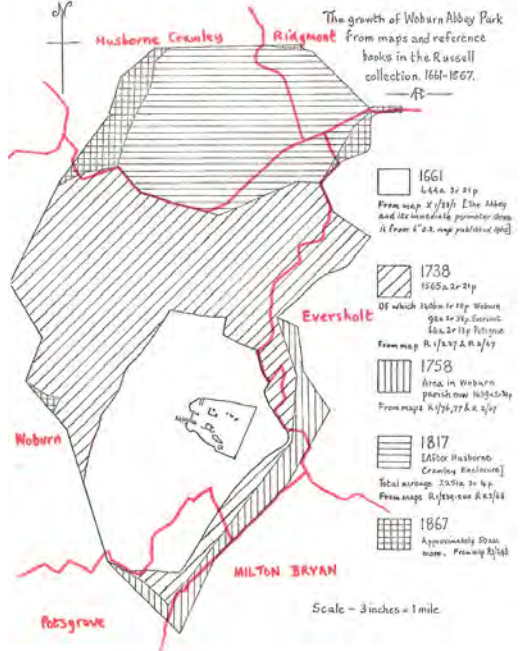
The growth of Woburn Park

The map right shows the growth of Woburn Park in stages between 1661, when it can be traced on Sir Jonas Moore's survey and 1867 from an estate map. The work was undertaken in 1989 by the Hutton Nichols Partnership and is available in the Bedfordshire and Luton Archive and Record Service searchroom. The boundaries of the parishes which the park lies are shown in red.

The wall enclosing the park is a very impressive achievement. Its nine mile length is now much patched where it has become unsafe or has collapsed over the years and every so often today bricklayers can be observed shoring up, replacing or repairing another section. Work carried out in 1983 by a researcher, Marie Draper, using evidence at Bedfordshire and Luton Archives and Records Service to determine the history of the wall is available in the Searchroom and is reproduced below.

The brick wall which encircles the Park of Woburn Abbey was begun in 1792 in the period of Henry Holland's improvements for the 5th Duke of Bedford. Accounts for that year refer to the digging of sandstone for the park wall, the purchase of sandstone for coping the wall and to the cleaning of 15,000 bricks for re-use in the wall. Its completion was approaching in 1798 when The Times carried a new item about the Abbey: "The Duke of Bedford's immense brick wall, which encircles all the paddocks, the park, and farms ... is almost finished, not wanting above 200 yards to complete it, which will be done this spring. It is a most stupendous piece of workmanship. The basement part of the wall is four bricks thick, and the elevation (14 feet high) three bricks, made of beautiful red earth that will stand unimpaired for centuries. This vast work, before it is finished, will cost £20,000".

In 1970 the 13th Duke of Bedford with his son the Marquess of Tavistock, later the 14th Duke, established a safari park in part of the Park along the boundaries of the parishes of Husborne Crawley and Woburn. The park has over eighty species of animal including lions, tigers, elephants and rhinos.



Woburn Park wall in Crawley Road 2012



Salvation Sound

I am sure that you will agree that we live on an amazing planet. No one knows exactly how old it is, but overall (according to Google) the best guess is that the Earth is estimated to be around 4.54 billion years old or so. The earth, continues to fill us with wonder, yet best of all, we don't need to travel to a faraway place to find it. For our local wildlife visitors, bring us just as much satisfaction.

However, one of the advantages of living in a rural location is that nature is right on our doorstep, literally. They insist on gate crashing our personal spaces, bringing an average day, into something extra special.

Whilst scientists are fairly confident, how it all started, the fine print, is a matter of opinion. I choose to trace the wonder of wildlife, not only to a series of events which were kick started at the beginning of time, to a loving Creator God. A God who ratified all these things and more, with the events which happened at Easter almost 2,000 years ago with Jesus triumphant story of life over death. Another perpetual symbol of hope.

Finally, it is with a sincere sense of regret that this will be my last piece for Focus, as my wife Sarah and I, conclude our leadership of The Salvation Army at Eaton Bray. It has been our privilege to have met you, through your generosity of the Toy Appeal, through coffee mornings or from attending one of our Sunday services. God bless you all.

✉ David Murray



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Girls Night Out (1st Thurs of the month)	Thursdays 7.30 pm

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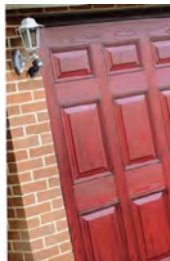


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