



ESCAN

Your FREE Community Newsletter



Eatons Community Association - Registered Charity No.1110148

May to September 2023

Eatons May Day Celebrations

Monday 1st May 2023, on Eaton Socon Green, 12pm-4pm

- 12pm: Stalls open
- 2pm: Crowning of the May Queen or King
- 3pm: Community Cup
- 4pm: Grand Raffle



After two years of interruption, our traditional May Day returned in 2022, and we're hard at work making it bigger and better this year! We hope you're all looking forward to an afternoon of fun, entertainment and fundraising! We'll be looking for a new May Court to represent



us at community events throughout the year, some familiar performers and some new faces are busy rehearsing for the big day, and the usual selection of stalls providing food, games and a variety of interesting merchandise, promoting the many good causes that are active in the Eatons!



This year we will also be renewing our Community Cup to mark not only someone who is making a real difference to lives in the Eatons – who will get a surprise on the day! – but also someone who will be familiar to you all and one of our longest supporters. Join us mid-afternoon at the stage for the presentation.

Do get in touch if you'd like to find out more: eatonsca@gmail.com

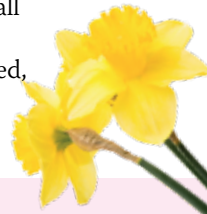


NEAT STREET

Nominations open!

Shortlisting: late June, Judging: July

Are you proud of your street and think it should receive some recognition? Or would you like is to give everyone near you a gentle prod to make a bit of a difference? Do get in touch with us to pass on your nominations; the judges will be visiting our shortlisted nominees over the summer, but you won't know exactly when, so you'll need to keep a regular eye on the litter and weeds... The winners will get a plaque to mark their achievement as well as a small prize like bulbs to improve their street further. Be warned, there are some competitive groups out there!



The Cage opening

Sundays 28th May, 25th June, 30th July, 2pm-4pm

Are you curious about what a stay in our little prison would be like? There are very few left in the country now, but ours has survived and we'll be opening the doors on the last Sunday of each month so you can experience it for yourself – and we do promise to let you out again! See if you can work out how someone managed to escape and disappear many years ago... Admission is free.

Sweet Paradise
TRADITIONAL CONFECTIONERS
- EST 2000 -

Largest local independent stockist of Sugar Free sweets.

- Sweets • Drinks • Ice Creams • Chocolates •
- Wedding Cart Hire • Sweet Bouquets •

Visit us at 4 Cross Keys Mews, St Neots or buy your sweets online from www.sweetparadise.co.uk
TEL: 01480 356665

Lots more news inside.

Deadlines for all contributions
1st September 2023 for inclusion
in the next issue.

We look forward to hearing from you.
Follow us on Twitter: @EatonsCA

C & A Hurst Opticians
Registered Opticians
& Contact Lenses
359, Great North Road Eaton Socon
Telephone: 01480 406002



Useful Telephone Numbers

Street Lighting	0800 783 8247
report the number on the lamp-post, the street name and town.	
St Neots Town Council	01480 388911
Police	01480 456111
Gas Emergency	0800 111 999
Electricity Emergency	
24 Seven	0800 783 8838
EME	0800 056 8090
Water Emergencies	08457 145 145
Huntingdonshire District Council	
General Enquiries	01480 388388
Out of Hours Emergencies	01480 434167
Fly Tipping	01480 388640
Local Halls	
Jubilee Hall	01480 392733
St Marys Church Hall Eaton Socon	01480 352154
Eatons Community Centre	01480 388922
Eaton Socon Sports Assoc Hall	0791 7017048
United Reformed Church	07366 058861
Doctors Surgeries	
Eaton Socon Health Centre	01480 210000
Cedar House Surgery	01480 406677
Eaton Socon Children's Centre, Bushmead Rd	01480 358340
Bushmead School	01480 375375
Crosshall Infants School	01480 475980
Crosshall Junior School	01480 475972
Community Car Scheme	01480 476047
Foodbank	01480 475426



Useful Websites

ESCA	www.escan.org.uk
St Neots Town Council	www.stneots-tc.gov.uk
Eaton Socon Health Centre	www.eatonsoconhealthcentre.co.uk
Cedar House Surgery	www.cedarhousesurgery.net
St Neots Archives Group	www.st-neots.ccan.co.uk
Paxton Pits	www.paxton-pits.org.uk
Sudbury Meadow	www.sudburymeadow.org.uk
St Marys Church	www.eatonsocon.org
Pightle	www.eatonsoconpightle.org.uk
Bushmead School	www.bushmeadprimaryschool.org.uk
Duloe, Staploe and Honeydon	www.staploeduloeandhoneydonparishcouncil.bedsparishes.gov.uk
River Church	www.riverchurchstneots.co.uk
St Neots Children's Centres	www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/childrenscentres



Who's Who at ESCA

<i>Chairman</i>	Julia Hayward	01480 210097
<i>Treasurer</i>	Dave Jarrett	01480 216065
<i>May Day Administrator</i>	Julia Hayward	01480 210097
<i>ESCAN Co-ordinator</i>	Carole Robson	01480 218755
<i>Editor</i>	Sara Foyle	

Dates for your diary

Services at St Mary's Eaton Socon

- 14th May** Evening Praise and Worship 6.15 to 7.30pm.
21st May Hive 2.00 to 3.30pm. This group is aimed at children of any age who have additional needs or disabilities. Booking essential.
28th May Sharing Life Through Learning 6.15 to 7.30pm.
11th June Evening Praise and Worship 6.15 to 7.30pm.
25th June Sharing Life Through Learning 6.15 to 7.30pm.
2nd July Service of Celebration for our Curate's Priesting 10.00am, followed by a Dessert Party. Please bring a dessert.
9th July Evening Praise and Worship 6.15 to 7.30pm
24-28th July Holiday Club 9.00am to 12noon
 Open to all children currently in primary education R-Yr 6. Keep an eye on the website.
24th September
 Harvest Festival Services 9.00am and 10.30am.
 Church Lunch at 12.30.

For all details and bookings, please refer to our website:
www.eatonsocon.org

Eaton Socon Methodist Church

Services on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month, commencing at 10:30am.

Update on River Church St Neots

River Church meets at 10:30am every Sunday at The Eatons Centre, St Neots, PE19 8ES.
 For more information please visit www.riverchurchstneots.co.uk
 or contact Rob McFarlane on 07904 101720.
 Visitors are always welcome. We invite you to join us!

Little Barford Church

Ascension Day Service Thursday 18th May at 7.30.
 This is a pretty little Church in Little Barford and opens for services twice a year at Christmas and Ascension. It has no electricity or heating, so the services are candlelit. You may need to wear something warm if it's chilly.

Choral Society and Sinfonia joint Summer Concert

Summer Concert, Saturday 1st July 2023, 7:30pm,
 at St Mary's Church, Eaton Socon
 LAST NIGHT OF THE PROMS:
 A joint concert with St Neots Choral Society

Copy date for the next edition of ESCAN for news, adverts and information – 1st September 2023

Please send ESCAN letters & Adverts to ESCA, 3 Collingwood Rd, Eaton Socon, St Neots, PE19 8JQ Email – eatonsocon@gmail.com

CONTACT YOUR COUNCILLORS

If you would like to ask your councillor a question or have any concerns then why not email them – using the contact details on the Town Council website or phone them on:

Barry Chapman – Crosshall ward – 07803 134 565

Clare Mascarenhas – Eaton Socon ward –

claire.mascarenhas@stneots-tc.gov.uk

Rob Simonis – Eaton Ford ward – robert.simonis@stneots-tc.gov.uk

Bob Farrer – Eaton Ford ward – bob.farrer@stneots-tc.gov.uk

Gordon Thorpe – Eaton Ford ward – gordon.thorpe@stneots-tc.gov.uk

Colin Maslen – Eaton Socon ward – 07810 481 941

Barry Banks – Eaton Socon ward – 07710 209 950

Visit the town council website <https://www.stneots-tc.gov.uk> to find the latest on who your councillor is.

Councillors' surgeries: Cloisters, Priory Centre
see Town Council website: www.stneots-tc.gov.uk

St Neots & District Gardening Club

Meeting at St Mary's Church Hall, Brook Street, St Neots.

All meetings start at 7.30pm

Members £2.00, Non members welcome £2.50.

27th April – Thursday Hardy Exotics by Colin Ward

25th May – Thursday Propagation by Geoff Hodge

22nd June – Thursday House plants by Rebecca Chambers

27th July – Thursday Demonstration Preparing for the annual show

12th August – SATURDAY Annual show 2.00pm

@ Jubilee Hall, Eaton Socon

No meeting in **September** as it's the AGM

For more information and latest news:

www.stneotsgardenclub.org.uk

Textile Bank

In the current financial year we have received £568 to give out to local groups in the Eatons at our AGM, so when you are turning out your clothes please remember to use your local textile bank (situated at Tesco express opposite St Mary's Church). You can donate clothing, shoes, bedding and towels. All money received comes to ESCA and will be shared by local groups in the Eatons.



CAMBRIDGESHIRE HEARING HELP

NHS Hearing Aid Maintenance Centre

We clean, re-tube and supply batteries for NHS hearing aids.

We do not provide hearing aids or hearing tests.

Meeting on the 4th Wednesday of each month at the Library, Priory Lane, St Neots PE19 2BH. From 10 am to 12 noon.

This is a drop-off and wait service, by appointment only.

To book an appointment please use our online service at:

www.cambridgeshirehearinghelp.org.uk

or phone the office: **01223 4166 141**

or text: **07852 699 196**



ESCAN Deliveries

Thank you if you have offered to deliver our newsletters. It would be wonderful to have one or two more volunteers – especially in Peer Road and Crosshall Road. We deliver to over 6,000 homes, three times a year. We have a staunch band of volunteers but it is becoming more difficult for some of them to take on any more, plus two or three have stepped down for various reasons. If you think you could help out, just to do part of a road will be fine (we are short of deliverers in Eaton Ford) please contact Julia Hayward on **(01480) 210 097** or Carole Robson on **(01480) 218 755**



Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB)

Adviceline: 0808 278 7807

Monday to Friday 09:30 to 15:30

Universal Credit Help to Claim line: 0800 1448 444, for anyone seeking to make a new claim for Universal Credit

Webchat or Email via:

www.citizensadvice.rural.cambs.org.uk

Information also available on our website at

www.citizensadvice.rural.cambs.org.uk

or at www.citizensadvice.org.uk



Appointments, including face-to-face, where required for advice at either our main centres or outreach sessions are made after a telephone assessment.

Cambs Backgammon Club

Come and play the world's oldest board game! We meet at one of the pubs in the Eatons on alternate Monday evenings from 7pm. Everyone from beginner to Grandmaster is welcome. Drop us a line at julia@juliahayward.com to find out more.



Cromwell Quilters

Cromwell Quilters are a patchwork, quilting and textile art group based in Huntingdon but we do have members in the St Neots area. If you're interested in joining us or would like further information, please contact Pam Tasker:

07980 608 576



Café on the Green

10am-noon every Monday

Eaton Socon Church Hall

Why not pop in and have a chat,
a cuppa and cake





Sudbury Meadow

By the time you read this in May, Sudbury Meadow should be bursting with new life! The meadow itself will be full of cow parsley (*Anthriscus sylvestris*) along with other spring flowers and grasses. Our three gardens will be starting to fill out whilst the orchard trees should have set fruit. Will we have another incredibly hot summer this year? I hope not as it certainly didn't help some wildlife last year, particularly moth and butterfly caterpillars and it didn't help me either!

Over winter the dedicated Sudbury Meadow volunteers set to work in the shrubbery and coppiced (cut growth to the ground) or pollarded (cut back growth above ground to reduce height) about two-thirds of the shrubs. This will let in more light, not just to the ground flora but also to several ground floor flats at Cavendish Court. We look forward to seeing what appears this year and hope it isn't just nettles! Not that nettles are necessarily a bad thing of course. They are a valuable food plant for a number of butterfly caterpillars such as peacock, small tortoiseshell, comma and red admiral, as well as moths and other insects.

The shrubbery cuttings were used to make a semi-circular dead hedge around a pile of orchard cuttings from last September. We hope this will slowly rot down to provide habitat for insects and small rodents and we intend to keep adding to it as time goes on. If you see another pile of cuttings still in the meadow, it is because we suspected a robin was trying to make a nest in it. The first weekend in February was a bit too early really but the mild weather encouraged a number of birds to start their breeding season.

Do pop in to Sudbury Meadow if you can. It is a lovely, peaceful place to sit and enjoy some fresh air. If you would like to support the site you can become a Friend of Sudbury Meadow or volunteer at the site. See our website www.sudburymeadow.org.uk for more information or call **01480 472624**.

Alison Pearson
Chair, Friends of Sudbury Meadow
alison@sudburymeadow.org.uk

Your FREE Community Newsletter

Would you like to advertise
in the next issue of Escan?

Then contact us here: eatonsca@gmail.com



Park Run/Walk

Are you thinking about getting more exercise but don't fancy the idea of going to the gym? Then how about trying the Park Run? Don't know what the Park Run is? – It's a nationwide organisation which encourages people to run and enjoy it over a five kilometre circuit.



You can walk if you don't want to run and they're promoting the Park Walk at the moment. There are hundreds set up all over the country and the St Neots one is at Pocket Park, Eynesbury.

It's very well set up and is informal and friendly, although there are a few rules to keep everyone safe and there are marshalls around the course. They are very safety conscious so there's nothing to worry about.

You run or walk at your own pace so there's nobody to beat but yourself. If you're interested and would like to know more please email: pocket@parkrun.com

The Merrymakers Singing Group

Are you interested in singing and having fun? Then why not come and join us? We have been singing as a group for over 20 years now and are still going strong.

We entertain at care homes, residential homes, afternoon clubs, evening clubs, in Bedford, locally and various villages. We are not a choir just people who enjoy singing. We do not ask for an audition just be able to sing in tune.

We rehearse twice a week at the Methodist Church, Eaton Socon, opposite One Stop.
Mondays 1-3pm and Wednesdays 2-4pm



We sing with backing tracks, songs from 40's upwards. We sing group songs, duets, and solos. We also like to put some humour in certain songs. We also do recitations, sketches etc.

Please do come along and see what we do. We are hoping some men out there would be interested as well as the ladies.



Litter Picking

SNARL meet regularly around St Neots, and all their various picks are advertised on Facebook.

FB event details are here:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/370925185064713>

Join us and help your community!

for more information on SNARL visit:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/StNeotsLitterPick>



SUPPORTING MENTAL HEALTH



Walk & Talk 4 Men

Walk & Talk 4 Men – St Neots offers a safe space for men to talk whilst taking a leisurely walk. We meet twice a month at Paxton Pits nature reserve. There's no need to book, just turn up.

Follow us on Facebook **Walk & Talk 4 Men St Neots** or email **walkandtalk4menstneots@gmail.com** for more information.

Thursday 4th May – 5.45pm
Sunday 21st May – 9.15am
Monday 5th June – 5.45pm
Sunday 25th June – 9.15am
Thursday 6th July – 5.45pm
Sunday 23rd July – 9.15am
Monday 7th August – 5.45pm
Sunday 20th August – 9.15am

St Neots Library



You're guaranteed a warm welcome at St Neots Library, with something for everyone throughout the week.

Library membership is free, and we have a large selection of books to borrow, along with free online books, magazines, newspapers and audiobooks.

Our friendly and knowledgeable staff are always on hand to help find information about local services and resources. The library has free Wi-Fi, public computers and study space, along with seating areas and daily newspapers to read.

We have activities through the week for all ages, including rhyme time and story time, family activities and clubs for children. We have a knitting group and regular talks for adults.

On Tuesday mornings we have an IT drop-in session for those who need a little help with using technology such as mobile phones, tablets and laptops. This runs from 10.00-12.00, no booking required. Staff can also



assist with renewing or applying for a bus pass at any time.

For more information about the library and our events, please visit: **www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/library** or pop into the library during opening hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 9.30am-5.00pm
Wednesday: 1.30pm-7.00pm and Saturday: 9.30am-4.00pm

Guiding in the Eatons

Here is what the Brownies, Guides and Rangers have been up to in the Eatons!



We have had fun over the last few months and we are looking to get out more when the weather starts getting warmer.



Brownies have been busy doing badge work. We celebrated Chinese New Year and pancake day, made valentines cards and will be doing a Mother's Day and Easter activity. In the Easter break some of us will be going on pack holiday.



The Guides and Rangers have been very busy over the last few months. We have been learning about first aid, practicing dressing wounds, and dealing with bleeding and shock.



At Christmas we enjoyed the local pantomime 'The Emperor's new clothes', it was very funny! We were also lucky enough to see 'Maltida the musical' at the cinema. This was a large

gathering with other local guide units and we had a great time.

Currently, the girls are working on their 'Have Adventures' and there is lots to look forward to in the term ahead, with badge work and activities during the meeting, holding a stall at the May Day Festival, a weekend camp, and a trip to the GirlGuiding festival 'Wellies and Wristbands' over the August bank holiday weekend

If you are interested in becoming a leader we particularly need leaders for another Brownie unit (7 to 10 year olds). Being a leader is rewarding and a lot of fun (see: **www.girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved/become-a-volunteer/ways-of-volunteering**). There are various roles you can do to support guiding, with flexibility in how the unit is run. Training is always given, with support from local Guiders. If you want to ask any questions please email: **esdistrictcomm@gmail.com**

Appeal from the Tower

Our main job, as bellringers, is to ring on a Sunday prior to the weekly service and we try to improve our skills on a Wednesday night at our weekly practice. Our role is not just restricted to these occasions though. You will soon hear the bells of St Marys Eaton Socon ring out for the Coronation of King Charles the third. The bells will also be ringing out this Summer for the Weddings of many happy couples as they celebrate their special day. How many guests realise that there are eight people in the tower ready to ring the bells once the wedding service has ended?



As mentioned last month, Eaton Socon bell ringers are just about able to ring on a regular basis at the current time. Things are looking more positive but we would welcome more new volunteers. If you used to ring Church bells in the past and would like to give it another go or you are interested in seeing what we do with a view to learning a new skill, please email the Tower Captain on:

michael-j-matthews@outlook.com



Scan me



Youth Cafe

We are very excited to announce that we have launched a new Youth Cafe at St Mary's Church, Eaton Socon.

There are already two Youth Cafes running, one at Love's Farm and the other at St Neots Evangelical Church (SNEC). Both cafes have seen an increase of young people dropping in on their way home from school to socialise, eat and drink and be together in a safe warm place for a couple of hours.

What it is: We want to provide a warm, friendly kind space, with snacks and offers of games and chat, to children as they walk home from school. Many children go home to an empty home so this is a safe alternative. It's for any secondary school-aged pupil. No younger siblings, no other adults, other than safeguarded and DBS leaders.

It's for any faith or no faith. It's not a place where we instigate God conversations, unless the youth ask questions. But, what flows out from this group is the opportunity to invite young people in to discuss bigger questions. We can also invite them to other evening youth clubs and youth events around the town.

This is an exciting new venture, which we hope will ultimately help and encourage young people to form positive friendships, giving them a place to go and to be part of the community with all that the community has to offer.

NEW Mondays 3.30-5pm St Mary's Church, Eaton Socon PE19 8EJ

Tuesdays 3.30-5pm St Neots Evangelical Church, Cambridge Street PE19 1PL

Wednesdays 3.30-5pm Loves Farm House, Kester Way PE19 6SL



Cambridge & District
YOUTH FOR CHRIST cambridgeyc.uk/st-neots



Discover our Edwardian police cells

Visit St Neots Museum

- **Friendly local museum**
- **Free entry for all local visitors**
- **Museum craft & gift shop**
- **Local walks: pubs, crime, ghostly**
- **On our website:**

Local history blogs & KS2 local history videos

Online exhibitions & Museum 'What's On' info



8 New Street, St Neots, PE19 1AE / 01480 214163

Open: February to December

Tuesday to Saturday, 11.00am - 4.00pm

www.stneotsmuseum.org.uk

Follow us



@stneotsmuseum

St Neots Singers

St Neots Singers proudly presented a cheque for £700 to the East Anglian Air Ambulance. Money was raised from their June family and friends evening, a Christmas concert, also singing at St Neots library and at the White Horse, Eaton Socon in December.

St Neots Singers is an established Community Choir, singing a variety of songs from musicals, pop songs and choral works.

We meet on Thursday evenings at 7.30pm at the United Reformed Church in St Neots. First session is free!



We love welcoming new members so if you fancy joining a relaxed and friendly group to make new friends and sing, please get in touch:

StNeotsSingersCC@gmail.com

Photo credit Steve Moore

Would you like to try a new hobby or activity? Perhaps you would like to hone your current skills, or just get out and meet people?



Then you should join the St Neots and District u3a. It is a thriving organisation with over 50 different interest groups. For example there are two types of "Dance Groups", Line Dancing and Modern Jive.

There are many other "active" groups such as, Tai Chi, Walking Football, Golf, Walking/Striders, Walking/Hikers and Walking to spot Wildlife!



Line dancers

There are several intellectual groups such as Current Affairs, Egyptology, Heritage and Culture, Music Appreciation and many more.

If you are struggling with modern technology there is an IT help group. In fact there are so many groups and topics covered that the list seems endless. Of course if there is something you are interested in, there is always the possibility of starting up a group covering that topic.

In addition to these groups, that generally meet once a week, there is also the Monthly Meeting (2.00pm at the Priory Centre, St Neots, on the 3rd Tuesday of the month), where there is a guest speaker. About 150 people attend these meetings, they offer a great opportunity to meet and greet other like minded people, have a chat, a cuppa and a biscuit.

Everyone is welcome to join the **u3a**, we only have one stipulation, you should not be in full time employment, we charge a modest annual fee (circa £20) and there is a fee for every meeting (circa £1). Lots more information can be found on our website

<https://u3asites.org.uk/st-neots/home>



Tai Chi group



News from the Pightle (pronounced:- Pie . t. hul)

Once again the Pightle is stirring from its winter slumber, and thanks to the efforts of our many volunteers we can look forward to another year of growth! This year we'll start to see change in the new land we have around the cricket pitch and beyond, with new plantings and tidying up around the new moorings as they take shape. There are always little jobs that need doing to keep the Pightle in good condition, sadly including clearing up after one or two visitors. We do love it that so many people enjoy and use the Pightle regularly, and are grateful to everyone who takes a moment to keep it tidy and healthy. If you're interested in doing more, we would love to hear from you – there's a very sociable working group that goes out regularly, but even if you can only help once in a while it is all very much appreciated.

Of course the beginnings of the warmer weather means that the spring bulbs will be appearing en masse. Years of organised plantings in the wintertime mean that there's now

colourful patches all over, and I myself love seeing the carpets of daffodils and snowdrops as they flower and spread from their initial patches. We are always careful to make sure only native species are planted, and while it's always possible for competitors to escape from nearby gardens, we do try to keep them out! Meanwhile, a number of our trees and shrubs like the sloe will be in full blossom for a while, transforming the pathways from green to brilliant white. It also won't be long before our resident rabbits become a more common sight again – as long as you stay quiet, as they are somewhat wary of humans and dogs! There's also more evidence of the birds who make the Pightle their home, and perhaps some larger animals. We're always keen to hear from you if you have pictures of them – many are hard to spot and even harder to capture on film!



Julia Hayward

Trustee: The Pightle Millennium Green Trust

Website: <http://www.eatonsoconpightle.org.uk>

Tel: 0777 3918223 Email: Julia@juliahayward.com

Dog Walkers

It is great to get some exercise and walk dogs in and around the Eatons but please remember to pick up your dog's mess and don't let others suffer with mucky smelly shoes and clothes. It really is not pleasant and has been proved to be a health hazard – **so please don't forget to clean up after your dog!**



Sentinels Majorettes

Supported by NHS Audiology and Cambridgeshire County Council Sentinels Majorettes are rehearsing again and looking for new recruits! For more details contact Ann Steel on **07956 311828**, or email: **steel1932@outlook.com**



Pal of the Pightle

<http://www.eatonsoconpightle.org.uk>

The Pightle here in Eaton Socon is enjoyed by many and relies on volunteer help to keep it maintained for the enjoyment of us all. The Pightle is NOT a Council owned facility and therefore has to rely on volunteer help.

We need regular finance to pay for items like grass cutting, maintaining the paths, planting new bulbs and trees as well as the annual insurance that has to be paid.

Can you help by becoming a "Pal of The Pightle"?

A "one off" donation or a small regular monthly contribution would be of great benefit for the long term success of The Pightle. To become a Pal, please download the 'Pal of the Pightle' form from our website eatonsoconpightle.org.uk/Pals.aspx then send this, or your donation, to ESCA, 3 Collingwood Road, Eaton Socon, St Neots, PE19 8JQ

Cambridgeshire Neighbourhood Watch

What is our purpose?

Cambridgeshire Neighbourhood Watch Association (CNWA) works as a team, where everyone comes together to make their communities safer and improve the wellbeing of our residents. We work with the Police, Local Authorities and many other voluntary and professional organisations, but most importantly we work with residents. The Association is a not for profit organisation, non-party in politics, non-sectarian in religion, and we operate equal opportunities and non-discriminatory policies embracing the diversity in our communities.

What we do

We aim to help prevent crime and reduce the fear of crime. We do this by developing a greater understanding of how to prevent crime, and by improving community vigilance and reporting suspicious incidents. We also aim to improve well-being in the community by encouraging activities aimed at improving neighbourliness, reducing loneliness and by fostering a community spirit.



What can you do?

We are always looking for unpaid volunteers to join us, at all levels of the organisation, particularly at local level. To join us visit our website <https://cambsnw.org.uk> and become a registered member. Once you are a member, you also then have the option to join a scheme in your specific area.

Find out more at <https://cambsnw.org.uk>

St Neots Astronomical Association

Meeting at Paxton Pits visitor centre on the First Monday of the Month (Second Monday if it's a bank holiday).

In the winter months we have observing evenings with a number of telescopes to try out and a laser guided sky tour to help star finding.

Meeting dates with Astronomical presentations are:

15th May

5th June

3rd July

7th August

4th September

SNAA.co.uk



New members are most welcome, if you need help and advice using your own telescope then bring it along, We are happy to help.

Library@Home Service

Are you struggling to get out and about* and love reading?

We can provide you with:

- Monthly visits by a friendly volunteer
- Tailored choice of books/audiobooks
- Useful health information
- Time to have a chat
- A free service – donations welcome

To find out more contact:

volunteers@cambridgeshire.gov.uk

Telephone: **01223 706803, 07425 615685** or **07342 700308**

If you could spare some time to volunteer and visit a reader, please contact us (above).

* e.g. physical/mental ill health, caring responsibilities.

at home
library



Cambridgeshire
libraries

Friendship Club

We call it *The Tea and Coffee club* although there's no formal membership. There is no charge but we do ask for a donation towards the refreshments. I lead the group but I do ask the group to say what they would like to do on Friday mornings.



We are open on Friday mornings between the hours of 10am-12pm.

We serve tea, coffee, cake, bacon rolls, hot dogs and occasionally the odd snack bar is thrown in.

We are a non-profit organisation – what money we do receive is from the regulars and floating visitors, and pays for our Christmas meal which is usually attended by 20-30 people.

Please pop in if you're passing the Ex-Service Club, School Lane, Eaton Socon. Most of the people who come to us are mature and happy, so you will get a warm welcome (we don't turn anybody away).



Little Paxton Gardening Club

"Where gardening and friendships blossom"

Join us in our 45th Sapphire Anniversary year.

Regular club meetings start at 8pm in Little Paxton Village Hall

3rd May – Debbie Cooke, award, winning garden designer –
"I have a herb for that"

13th May – Spring Plant Sale, Grove Road, Little Paxton.
From 10.00am

8th July – Plant Sales Table at Paxfest, QEII Playing field,
Little Paxton. From 12.00pm

June to August – A season of summer garden visits,
For members and invited guests

6th September – Dr Gwenda Kyd, scientist and complementary
medicine practitioner – "Plants to drugs"

Visitors are welcome. £2 per indoor meeting payable at the door. You do not need to be an expert but enthusiasm helps!

For more details contact Jane Hill: **01480 218805**



Free mental health pottery group

Improve your mental health with our fabulous free pottery classes!

Running weekly every
Tuesday 12.30pm to 2.30pm

Meeting at Art and Soul Creative Hub,
7 New Street, St Neots PE19 1AE



To find out more and
book your place, call:
01733 396404



ART & SOUL
CAFE | GALLERY | CREATIVE HUB

Eatons Art Group

We're a friendly group of hobby Artists who meet up to exchange ideas and suggestions and have a nice chat and a cuppa.

Come and join us no matter what level your artistic skills are. We are open to some other types of craft too.

Beginners are very welcome as advice and guidance can be given from other members.

We meet every Tuesday morning between 9.30am and 12.00 at the Scout Hut, Mill Hill Road, Eaton Ford, St Neots.

Contact details: **Dave – 07914 928 469**
or **Lynne – 07549 549 902**



Free Parking
Disabled facilities

St Neots Volunteer Centre & Community Car Scheme

St Neots has a great community vibe with lots of local groups and activities, from lunch clubs to miniature railways, environment watch groups to entrepreneurship, walking groups to man caves.

And at the Volunteer Centre we want to help support and build on this, working with other organisations in the area to bring the help and activities to those who would benefit.

If you are a community group, charity, or not-for-profit we can help find you the volunteers you need, advertise your events, and help with networking.

Want to volunteer?

We can give guidance on some of the volunteering roles in the area, helping match you and your skills to suitable opportunities. You can learn new skills, build experience, and meet new people.

Volunteering looks great on your CV, but its benefits are much more wide ranging than that; helping alleviate loneliness, improving mental and physical health, enhancing your community, and helping others.

But we are not just a volunteer brokerage system...

We have an active **Community Car Scheme** based in our office, run by a great team of volunteer drivers and administrators.

This service is for anyone who needs to make essential journeys (e.g. for appointments etc) where no suitable public transport exists, and for individuals with mobility difficulties. And we cover not only the local area of St Neots, but further afield such as Cambridge, Peterborough, & Bedford Hospitals.

If you think the Community Car Scheme may be able to help you, or you know of anyone in the St Neots area who could benefit from it, please get in touch with the office.

Our drivers all have one thing in common – their dedication to the community of St Neots and their willingness to give up their free time to support that community.

Drivers use their own vehicles and are all DBS checked; journeys cost just 45p a mile (min £2) plus a £1 booking fee.

If you would like more information on the Car Scheme or wish to register for the service please telephone **01480 476 047 / 07869 714 680**.



Situated at the end of Cemetery Road, the St Neots Man Cave has been visited 502 times up to the end of February, of which 388 were people partaking in some kind of activity, all this in the four months since its opening early in October.

Bird Boxes are now readily available and bikes are about to be marketed. Furniture is being up cycled and we are also now getting requests to carry out other projects, including the total renovation, almost re-build, of a dolls house, garden planters, Mud kitchens for a local school and swords for the local Tai-Chi group, all of these being supplemented by our own, ongoing, chess in the community project which continues in the background.

We are pleased to announce that we have extended our opening on the last Thursday of the month, where we are now open from 13.00 until 21.00 hours. We continue to investigate the possibility of extended hours further, but to do this we will require volunteers to head up those sessions.

If you would like to be a part of this great initiative as a volunteer or caver email cavers@stneotsmancave.org.uk Alternatively come and visit us at the cave, we are open every Tuesday 09.00 until 13.00, Thursday 13.00 to 17.00 and 13.00 until 21.00 on the last Thursday of the month.



St Neots Community Car Scheme

!! CALLING ALL DRIVERS !!

Do you have your own car?
A Full Clean Driving Licence?
Do you want to help people
in your local community?

Then we'd love to hear
from you...



01480 476047



stneots@huntsvc.org.uk

With more and more people relying on the Community Car Scheme we are currently looking for additional drivers and office volunteers to join the team. If you think you could help please contact the Volunteer Centre.

Our office is open Monday to Thursday, 10am to 12noon – in the South Street Community Building, near the market.

To learn more about volunteering, how we can help your organisation, or the work of the Volunteer Centre in St Neots you can email stneots@huntsvc.org.uk or telephone **01480 476 047**

Defibs in the town

There are more than 10 defibs in the town and some are more accessible than others as some are in shops or other buildings which may be closed. If you think you need to use a defib then phone 999 and they will tell you where the nearest one is that is accessible and the code to open the cabinet to get the defib.

If one is not available then this is recorded on their system and they should not send you to that location.



Computer Ink Cartridges

First I would like to thank you for your continued support for our collections of cartridges and phones. So far the bowlers at SNIBC together with others members of the community have raised in excess of £2,500.00 which we have donated to the St Neots food bank.



Please don't throw your computer ink cartridges away – just pop them in a bag and take them to St Neots & District Indoor Bowls Club in River Road, Eaton Socon. Money is being raised by one of their members for local good causes. Donations can also be left at 30 Beatty Road, PE19 8PT and left in the blue box outside the front door.

Eaton Socon Trefoil Guild

Anyone over 18 is welcome to join Trefoil Guild so come along and share in the fun and friendship; please get in touch and come along to one of our meetings. You do not have to have been a member of Girlguiding to join Trefoil Guild so.



Activities for 2023

We usually hold our monthly evening meetings on the first Tuesday of each month from 7.30pm; venue varies depending what we are doing that month. We then have other activities at various times during the year.

2 May – visit to Paxton Pits.

6 June – visit to Brampton Woods.

4 July – American Night: hot dogs? popcorn? S'mores? Cheerleading?

1 August – Bring and Share Picnic with campfire songs.

5 September – Talk on work as a Magistrate.

In addition to our planned monthly meetings we are often invited to join with other local Trefoil Guild groups for various activities and events during the year including day trips and breaks away. We also get invited to attend / assist with different Girlguiding activities.

Please e-mail: eatonsocontrefoilguild@gmail.com for more information. We look forward to meeting and making friends with new people.

Judith Follon, Chairman Eaton Socon Trefoil Guild

St Neots Probus Club

A luncheon club for retired or semi-retired business or professional people, normally aged 60 or over, which meets monthly. If you are interested please contact the Secretary **01480 812938** or email stneotsprobussec@gmail.com

EATONS HOME, GARDEN & PROPERTY MAINTENANCE Co.

Providing an efficient, professional local service

Contact **Don Morizzo** (your local handyman)

Tel **01480 406130**

Mob **07718 957281**

Email d.morizzo@ntlworld.com



Bushmead Primary School

I am delighted to be able to write about Bushmead Primary School for The ESCAN newsletter.

One of our key values at Bushmead is that of community, and because of that we have had a strong relationship with ESCAN over the years. In fact, this time of year reminds me very fondly of Sue Jarrett when I see the daffodils starting to grow in the community areas around our school. Sue was very active, alongside our children, with the planting and improvements made to these areas.

We have also over the years taken part in the May Queen selection, hosting the interview process for all the children who wanted to apply for this position. A few of our pupils have been successful and have been appointed as May Queens in the past years. May Pole dancing has also been a fun activity, which the children have enjoyed, and we are always keen to look for other ways to involve our school in community life in the local area. This year we are hoping that our choir will be performing at the May day celebrations held annually in Eaton Socon.

I am very proud to be the Headteacher at Bushmead. The support of our parents and community never ceases to amaze me. Only recently, we had a sponsored event, which involved a local Paralympian athlete and the amount raised to support our school was incredible. Our network of support extends to our parents fundraising group, known as friends of Bushmead, FoB, who give up their time and have some very creative ways to raise funds for our pupils. We are also supported by an excellent team of governors who again work voluntarily to make Bushmead Primary School the best it can be.

I look forward to letting all the readers of the ESCAN community know all about our school and keeping you up to date with life here at Bushmead. No day is ever the same and we always have lots of news and events to share with you all!

Steve Down, Headteacher

The Library Presents

Apply to be part of **The Library Presents 2023 programme!**

Open call for artists across the UK to suggest material for The Library Presents menu for Summer and Autumn 2023.

The season will bring workshops and performances to locations across Cambridgeshire.

For booking details and latest information of events visit:

www.library.live/the-library-presents

You can also sign up to our newsletter on this webpage, to receive monthly updates and notifications of the new season.



Wednesday welcome

This is a friendly group that meets every Wednesday afternoon between 3 and 4pm at St Mary's church hall Eaton Socon. There's tea, cakes, a chat and occasionally a speaker or entertainment. In the summer time there are outings and usually a visit to a garden centre. It provides welcome friendship for a number of folks. Please feel free to come along, you'll be very welcome.

Dates for History Groups

St Neots Local History Society

Normal meetings held at Eynesbury Primary School off Montagu Street, Eynesbury starting at 7.30 pm.

5th May – Bedfordshire Churches – Part 3.
Speaker: David Longman

14th May – Rogation Sunday Beating the Bounds Walk.
Leader: Don Hill

9th June – The Rise and Decline of the Victorian Reading Room in East Anglia. *Speaker: Sara Doig*

7th July – Guided Walk - St Ives and the Bridge Chapel.
Leader: Peter Scott

4th August – Guided Walk – Kimbolton. *Leader: Nora Butler*

1st September – A Higher Call. *Speaker: David Duker*

For further details see www.stneotslhs.org.uk

Colmworth and Neighbours History Group

Fridays Colmworth Village Hall 7.30pm

19th May – Daily Life in Tudor Times.
Speaker: Martin Sirot Smith

16th June – Katherine of Aragon: from Spain to Huntingdonshire.
Speaker: Nora Butler

15th September, AGM – A town transformed – Bedford during the 1950s to 1970s. *Speaker: Bob Ricketts*

Roxton & District Local History Group

Thursdays Roxton Village Hall

4th May – No talk planned – Local Elections

1st June – Victorian Gardens. *Speaker: Kate Harwood*

6th July – On the Road in 1910 – Early Motoring
Speaker: Peter Ibbett

3rd August – Outing – ABMC (TBC)

7th September – Archaeological Investigations of quarry sites Roxton – Willington area. *Speaker: Caitlin Halton*

St Neots Acorn cancer support group – First Wednesday of each month, 10.15am at McNish Court at Eaton Socon

Wednesday Morning group – Wed 10am at Hanover Close.
Tel: 01480 350063

Wednesday Welcome – Wed 3pm at Eaton Socon Church

Evergreen Club – Tues 1.30pm Ex-Services Club, School Lane.
Tel: 01480 215499 or 476216

If you would like your group mentioned please email
ESCA: eatonsca@gmail.com

Groups in Eaton Socon Parish Church

You may be surprised to know that there are many active groups within Eaton Socon church for all ages – art and craft groups, bellringers, men's groups, prayer meetings, life groups, toddlers, children's and youth groups. There is also a 'Café on the Green' every Monday morning and a social group for older people on a Wednesday afternoon (Wednesday Welcome).

To find out more about all these groups please see the church website www.eatonsocon.org

ESCA Local History Books and Information

All these booklets are available for reference in the St Neots and Huntingdon Reference Libraries and the County Archives offices in Bedford and Huntingdon. Many are also available to buy at St Neots Museum.

The ESCA books are written by ESCA for anyone with an interest in the Eatons. All profits are used to support ESCA projects within the Eatons and no profits go to Committee members. If you wish to buy these books they can be obtained from "ESCA", 3 Collingwood Road, Eaton Socon, St Neots, PE19 8JQ using the form below.

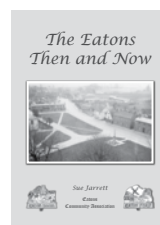
<input type="checkbox"/> Eaton Socon at Work	£2.50
<input type="checkbox"/> Eaton Socon in Character	£2.50
<input type="checkbox"/> The Eatons at War	£2.50
<input type="checkbox"/> The River in the Eatons	£3.00
<input type="checkbox"/> A Year in the Life of the Eatons (1992)	£2.50
<input type="checkbox"/> Church and Churchyard Survey	£7.50
<input type="checkbox"/> Eaton Socon Burials Registers 1813 - 2002	£6.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Recalling the Great Church Fire of 1930	£3.00
<input type="checkbox"/> School Admission Register 1910-1969	£3.50
<input type="checkbox"/> Eaton Socon School Punishment Book	£2.50
<input type="checkbox"/> The Ways and Wherefores of the Eatons	£3.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Little End Hamlet	£3.50
<input type="checkbox"/> Cross Hall Ford Hamlet - The Osborne Empire	£4.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Maltmans Gardens - (Health Centre Area)	£7.50
<input type="checkbox"/> Eaton Ford - The Millers and the Masons	£7.50
<input type="checkbox"/> Cross Hall - The Lost Hamlet of Eaton Ford	£6.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Eaton Socon - The Village Lanes	£8.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Great North Road - Part 1 (Texaco Garage to Nelson Road)	£7.50
<input type="checkbox"/> Great North Road - Part 2 (Nelson Road to Andersons Butchers)	£7.50
<input type="checkbox"/> Great North Road - Part 3 (Wagon & Horses to Bushmead Road)	£7.50
<input type="checkbox"/> Great North Road - Part 4 (Bushmead Road to George & Dragon)	£7.50
<input type="checkbox"/> To the Glorious Memory – Eaton Socon War Memorial	£9.95
<input type="checkbox"/> Eatons keyrings	£1.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Mediaeval Mishaps and Mayhem in Eaton Socon Parish	£2.50
<input type="checkbox"/> Eaton Socon in the Great War	£6.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Inns and Outs of Eaton Socon Parish	£6.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Floods are Out (St Neots Community Archive Group)	£2.99
<input type="checkbox"/> The Eatons Then and Now	£5.00
<input type="checkbox"/> The Eatons Then and Now Book 2	£5.00
<input type="checkbox"/> The Eatons Then and Now Book 3	£5.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Eaton Ford Trail	£2.50
<input type="checkbox"/> Eaton Socon Trails	£2.50
<input type="checkbox"/> Bushmead Secondary School	£5.00

I enclose a cheque for _____ made payable to:
Eatons Community Association.

Name _____
Address _____

Eaton Socon Censuses and Electoral Registers are available on request (Postage and Packing free to Eatons and St Neots residents)

Why not treat yourself or a friend to a set of 'Eatons Then and Now books' and discover how the Eatons have changed.



For your free trial quote "ESC2023"

REALFIT CENTRE

Join our community and enjoy our extensive range of PT lead, fitness classes. All levels of fitness welcomed.

Our classes include:

Mum & Baby	HIIT	Circuits
Over 60's	Strength Club	X Session
Boxing	Womens Lift	and more...

Call Us Today! 07864 364037
www.realfitcentre.co.uk

Anna Hayward (she/her) MNCS(Accred.)

Not Like the Others, Counselling & Training
– Specialist counselling for Neurodivergence (autism, Aspergers, ADHD)

<http://www.notliketheothers.co.uk>





Chef inspired catering for all types of events at the venue of your choice

Mobile number — 07545 175837
email — jim@chefstablesolutions.co.uk
Website — www.chefstablesolutions.co.uk



St Neots Tennis Club

St Anselm Place, St Neots, Cambs PE19 1AP (past Waitrose car park)

4 Floodlit courts • Clubhouse and bar • Social and team tennis • Coaching

New members of all ages welcome.

To contact us please email: stneotstennisclub@gmail.com
www.stneotstennis.co.uk

YOUR GUIDING LIGHT IN FINANCE
YOUR FUTURE IS NOW



Chartered Practice | Discretionary Fund Management
Over 10 years of Ethical Investments | Award Winning

01480 869466
www.beaconwm.co.uk

Financial Planning | Pensions
Investments | Portfolio Management



2023 MENU

THE Spice VILLAGE

FOOD HYGIENE RATING: 5

Our aim is Quality and Customer Satisfaction

WE USE 100% FRESH DOUGH on all our pizzas and nan breads

HIGH QUALITY INDIAN FOOD, KEBABS, PIZZAS, BURGERS AND SOUTHERN FRIED CHICKEN



BEST SERVICE, BEST FOOD, BEST TASTE

Open 7 Days a Week

Monday - Thursday 5.00 pm - 11.00 pm
Friday and Saturday 5.00 pm - midnight
Sunday and Bank Holiday 5.00 pm - 10.00 pm

FAST FREE DELIVERY SERVICE

In St. Neots, Eaton Ford, Eaton Scon and Little Paxton on orders over £10.00 and in the surrounding villages over £15.00

Any order over £20.00 gets FREE Bottle of Pepsi With Collection Orders Only
Excludes Set Meals and Meal Deals

01480 212 767
154 St. Neots Road
Eaton Ford, PE19 7AD

