



# ESCAN

Your FREE Community Newsletter



Eatons Community Association - Registered Charity No.1110148

January to April 2023



## ESCA offers a helping hand!

2022 was a bit of a mixed year for our fundraising. We all had a good time at May Day and made a healthy amount, but Open Gardens didn't happen. We enjoyed the support of the textile bank and St Neots Town Council too. And when we prepared for our AGM, we were overwhelmed with the number of groups who asked for some help – with the cost of living crisis in the news, a recurring theme was grants to assist people young and old who would like to take part in community life but can't because of the cost. In the end we squeezed as much out of our funds as we could, to give £3,580 in twenty-one grants, our largest number yet, to a wide range of causes – from Brownies and Guides, to Christmas meals for the isolated; from training community money advisers to looking after the environment of the Eatons, and notably giving a helping hand to some of our May Day entertainers who want to make sure

they are equipped and able to support youngsters who want to take part in future years. We're delighted to do our bit in getting the Eatons through tough times, and it's always a pleasure to hear at first hand about all the activities going on and how our grants are being put to good use.



## May Day 2023 gets underway

After two years of enforced absence, May Day came alive again in 2022 and we hope everyone had a good time! A gloriously sunny day saw thirty-five stalls, some familiar faces entertaining us, and a lot of volunteers keeping us all well fed – and all to raise a lot of funds for many good causes!

We're now starting the work towards the 2023 event – we'd like to reach the heights of the pre-COVID era but we need more volunteers to do all the things we'd like to do. If you can help either in preparations or on the day, please do get in touch – all our details are inside.

## NEAT STREET

### Turner Road is our Neat Street

In the last issue we reported that Turner Road had won our Neat Street competition for 2022. Since then, our plaque to mark the occasion has arrived and been installed, and we were delighted to have a lot of Turner Road's residents come along for the official unveiling.



If you'd like one of these plaques where you live, all you need to do is nominate your street (or a portion of it, if it's a long one!) – we'll compile the shortlist in about May. And once you're on that shortlist, we'll prompt everyone to get tidying in time for judging over the summer. The last couple of years has got people rather competitive, so be prepared!

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## Lots more news inside.

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

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

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



## Useful Telephone Numbers

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



## Useful Websites

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



## Who's Who at ESCA

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

## Dates for your diary

### Easter Services at St Mary's Eaton Socon

#### Maundy Thursday

Maundy Thursday Service at 7.30pm

#### Good Friday 7th April

All Age Service at 10am with Hot Cross Buns

An hour at the cross at 2pm

#### Saturday 8th April

Easter Eggstravaganza at 2pm-4pm

Booking essential (visit [www.eatonsocon.org](http://www.eatonsocon.org))

#### Easter Sunday 9th April

Easter Day Communion at 9am

Easter Day Family Communion at 10.30am

Easter Day Evening Celebration at 6.15pm

For all enquiries, please contact the Church Office

[office@eatonsocon.org](mailto:office@eatonsocon.org)

Tel: **01480 352 154** (Tues to Thurs 9am-11.30am)

[www.eatonsocon.org](http://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 are moving our meetings and events back to

The Eatons Centre in 2023. Please visit

[www.riverchurchstneots.co.uk](http://www.riverchurchstneots.co.uk)

or contact Rob McFarlane on **07904 101720**

for more information.

Visitors are always welcome at River Church and

we invite you to join us!

### Choral Society and Sinfonia concert

**Spring Concert, Saturday 4th March 2023, 7:30pm,**

at St Mary's Church, Eaton Socon

Programme TBA

**Sat 1st April 2023 at 7.30pm**

at St Mary's Church, Eaton Socon

HAYDN

The Creation

**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 March 2023**

Please send ESCAN letters & Adverts to ESCA, 3 Collingwood Rd, Eaton Socon, St Neots, PE19 8JQ Email – [eatonsca@gmail.com](mailto:eatonsca@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](mailto:claire.mascarenhas@stneots-tc.gov.uk)

**Rob Simonis – Eaton Ford ward – [robert.simonis@stneots-tc.gov.uk](mailto:robert.simonis@stneots-tc.gov.uk)**

**Bob Farrer – Eaton Ford ward – [bob.farrer@stneots-tc.gov.uk](mailto:bob.farrer@stneots-tc.gov.uk)**

**Gordon Thorpe – Eaton Ford ward – [gordon.thorpe@stneots-tc.gov.uk](mailto: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](http://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.

**26th January** – A History of Easton Lodge, the Countess and her Gardens

**23rd February** – Club night Check website for the talk

**23rd March** – Club night Check website for the talk

**27th April** – All about Swines Meadow Farm Nursery

For more information and latest news:

[www.stneotsgardenclub.org.uk](http://www.stneotsgardenclub.org.uk)

## Textile Bank

In the last calendar year we have received £1,110 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](http://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.ruralcambs.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvice.ruralcambs.org.uk)

Information also available on our website at

[www.citizensadvice.ruralcambs.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvice.ruralcambs.org.uk)

or at [www.citizensadvice.org.uk](http://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](mailto: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. We are holding an exhibition at Buckden Village Hall, the first since 2017, with proceeds going to charity. 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



## Derek Giles: a tribute



It is with immense sadness that we pass on the news of the death of long-standing ESCA committee member Derek Giles in November. A long-standing councillor at every level and twice Mayor of St Neots, Derek was also involved in a wide range of causes around the Eatons, starting with DOOM in the 1990s – the campaign to save the Ouse

Meadows from development – and many others over the years such as the Pightle and the Eaton Socon Charities. Derek was always involved in May Day, was a regular fixture behind the barbecue feeding hundreds of hungry visitors, and we were delighted to welcome him back both during his time as Mayor to welcome our May Queen, and also in 2022 to formally open the day. He would also mysteriously be “absent” whenever Father Christmas came to visit our carols on the Green and elsewhere...

Derek's energy and enthusiasm for the Eatons and everything going on in them was boundless, and while he was involved in politics at high levels, ultimately becoming Chair of the County Council, for much of that time it was as an independent, specifically campaigning for the town that he loved in preference to toeing a party line. Derek and Sandie were awarded the Freedom of St Neots earlier this year, in recognition of two lifetimes of service to the community.



One of Derek's last missions was to ensure the land south of the Pightle be safeguarded as green open space and acquired for the community, and with that done, part of it will be planted up with fruit trees to become Giles's Orchard as a reminder of his contribution – as well as his love of cider apples.



## 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. This is my experience of it. I realised I needed to do more exercise, so I thought I'd give it a try. 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. I do the walk and have been doing it for six weeks and am thoroughly enjoying it. I didn't think I'd do two and a half kilometres at my first attempt but was really pleased that I managed five. 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](mailto: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 solo's. 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>

## Your FREE Community Newsletter

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

Then contact us here: [eatonsca@gmail.com](mailto:eatonsca@gmail.com)





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](mailto:walkandtalk4menstneots@gmail.com) for more information.

Sunday 1st January – 10.15am  
Sunday 22nd January – 09.15am  
Sunday 5th February – 13.15pm  
Sunday 19th February – 09.15am  
Sunday 5th March – 13.15pm  
Sunday 19th March – 09.15am  
Monday 3rd April – 17.45pm  
Sunday 16th April – 09.15am

## 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](http://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

Winter update



Many thanks to ESCA and SNTC for the grants and gifts we have received to keep us Guiding in the Eatons. We're looking forward to our District Carol Service and thank the Revd Tim Robb for everything.



Our **Brownie** unit has been busy with crafts, badges and lots of games! They have been learning martial arts, and have raised money for Alzheimers Society with a chocolate bingo night.



**Rainbows** had a great summer and started the term off with some outdoor activities, looking at different trees, leaves and exploring outside. They've been working hard on their badges and some have gained their Bronze and Silver awards – well done!



**Guides** went to Wellies and Wristbands over the August Bank holiday weekend and had a great time, raftbuilding, abseiling, climbing and lots more as well as watching and meeting the bands! We started the term with a bang raising money at our Macmillan coffee evening. **Rangers** now have a new leader and are making plans for trips to London and elsewhere as well as doing some badges.

We have had a few new volunteers join in which is great but we'd still like enough to get our dormant Brownie Unit open again. If you would like to get more involved in a local group and do something amazing, maybe **Guiding** is for you.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**



**Why not get in touch to see what we do?** You can register on the Girlguiding website or email [esdistrictcomm@gmail.com](mailto:esdistrictcomm@gmail.com)

## Appeal from the Tower

Since my article in the last edition of ESCAN, in which I appealed for new recruits to learn to ring Church bells, the situation has become more urgent. Since that article we have a new Monarch and an initiative, 'Ring for the King' has been launched. The aim is to teach enough people to ring every Church bell in the UK for the Coronation of King Charles III on Saturday 6th May 2023. Currently there are approximately 38,000 bells in the UK but only about 30,000 people to ring them. Therefore, we have our work cut out!

Bell ringing can be a fascinating and sociable hobby and once the basics have been mastered the learning opportunities and challenges are infinite. There are also endless opportunities for social occasions and a welcome awaits you in almost every church with bells in the country. Although our main job is to ring for Sunday services, you do not have to be a church goer to be a bell ringer. If you wish to know more or would like to see us 'in action' you are welcome to come up the tower to see what we do. For safety reasons please let us know beforehand.

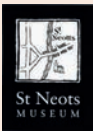
As mentioned last month, Eaton Socon bell ringers are just about able to ring on a regular basis at the current time but would welcome new volunteers. We are hoping to recruit a few new people (from the age of 12 years) in the New Year in preparation for ringing for the Succession of King Charles III. If you used to ring Church bells in the past and would like to give it another go or you are interested in learning in the future please email the Tower Captain on: [michael-j-matthews@hotmail.com](mailto:michael-j-matthews@hotmail.com)



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](http://www.stneotsmuseum.org.uk)

Follow us



@stneotsmuseum

## Eaton Belles WI



We meet regularly on the second Tuesday of each month, with guest speakers to delight us!

### Join us and enjoy our various activities:

- with **walkers** to keep fit;
- our **Crafty Belles**, who are currently working on a variety of arty projects;
- and our **Budding Belles**, who are busy sharing planting tips

For more information contact us at:

[eatonbelleswi@gmail.com](mailto:eatonbelleswi@gmail.com)

## Bikes, lights and bells



Although the nights are getting lighter, please remember that you will still need your lights, and use your bell when passing pedestrians – it is very scary and dangerous to suddenly find a bike passing while walking along and cars cannot see you on your unlit bike. Mark of Broken Spokes Cycles in New Street, St Neots is happy to sell you lights and bells and to service your bike ready for the wintry weather. So add lights, wear bright clothing, use a bell and stay safe !!

**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



**DATES FOR 2023**

Join ladies from The Property Angels Foundation for an 'Angel Walk and Talk'

<b>JANUARY</b>	<b>FEBRUARY</b>	<b>MARCH</b>
<b>Saturday 28th January</b> Thicket Walk St Ives <small>One Leisure St Ives Car Park @ 11am (arrive 10.45am)</small>	<b>Saturday 25th February</b> Riverside Park St Neots <small>Outside the Cafe @ 11am (arrive 10.45am)</small>	<b>Saturday 25th March</b> Paxton Pits Nature Reserve <small>Outside the Cafe @ 11am (arrive 10.45am)</small>
<b>APRIL</b>	<b>MAY</b>	<b>JUNE</b>
<b>Saturday 22nd April</b> Hinchingsbrooke Country Park <small>Outside the Cafe @ 11am (arrive 10.45am)</small>	<b>Saturday 20th May</b> Thicket Walk St Ives <small>One Leisure St Ives Car Park @ 11am (arrive 10.45am)</small>	<b>Saturday 24th June</b> Riverside Park St Neots <small>Outside the Cafe @ 11am (arrive 10.45am)</small>
<b>JULY</b>	<b>AUGUST</b>	<b>SEPTEMBER</b>
<b>Saturday 29th July</b> Paxton Pits Nature Reserve <small>Outside the Cafe @ 11am (arrive 10.45am)</small>	<b>Saturday 26th August</b> Hinchingsbrooke Country Park <small>Outside the Cafe @ 11am (arrive 10.45am)</small>	<b>Saturday 30th September</b> Thicket Walk St Ives <small>One Leisure St Ives Car Park @ 11am (arrive 10.45am)</small>
<b>OCTOBER</b>	<b>NOVEMBER</b>	<b>DECEMBER</b>
<b>Saturday 28th October</b> Riverside Park St Neots <small>Outside the Cafe @ 11am (arrive 10.45am)</small>	<b>Saturday 18th November</b> Paxton Pits Nature Reserve <small>Outside the Cafe @ 11am (arrive 10.45am)</small>	<b>Saturday 16th December</b> Hinchingsbrooke Country Park <small>Outside the Cafe @ 11am (arrive 10.45am)</small>

**We are women, supporting women!**

[www.propertyangelsfoundation.org](http://www.propertyangelsfoundation.org)



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

Once again the Pightle is getting ready for winter, as the weather has suddenly turned much colder and I look out each afternoon and comment on how much darker it is! But, there are signs of the work to come next year as fences have gone around the site for new moorings, and the area that will be the extension to the Pightle becomes clear to all. There are always jobs that need doing, and while nothing is growing very quickly it's our opportunity to plant things for the year ahead and catch up on those jobs that are hard to find time for. If you'd like to help out, we'd love to hear from you – no particular skills are necessary, just a love of the Pightle and sturdy footwear.



If you've visited recently, you may already have seen that we have a new bench to commemorate Sue Jarrett, one of our original trustees right back to the original creation of the Pightle, with the assistance of the St Neots Initiative. It looks out over the meadow where Sue would regularly take classes of children from the Eatons' schools and get them hunting enthusiastically for wild flowers, bugs and butterflies, and the design is a reminder of those flowers that will appear all around it in the months to come. It's also flanked by newly planted silver birch trees which will over the years mature into a beautiful backdrop for the bench. It was formally opened at the start of December by members of Sue's family and will be a permanent reminder of how much the Pightle as we know it owes to her years of dedication.



The year ahead will bring a lot more changes to look forward to as we carry on the work in the new area next to the cricket pitch and beyond – it may be some years before our current plans are finished, but remembering how far the existing Pightle has come in twenty years with a small band of devoted volunteers, it should be a wonderful sight by the time I'm ready to hang up my keyboard!



Wishing you all a very happy Christmas and a colourful new year!

*Julia Hayward*

Trustee: The Pightle Millennium Green Trust  
Website: <http://www.eatonsoconpightle.org.uk>

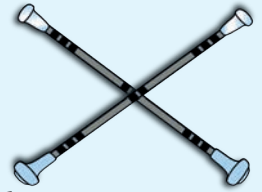
## Dog Walkers

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: **steel21september1063celtic@hotmail.co.uk**



# 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](http://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.

Monday 9th January – Observing evening

Monday 6th February – Observing evening

Monday 6th March – Observing evening

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

[SNAA.co.uk](http://SNAA.co.uk)



## Friendship Club

I got asked to run somewhere for people to go on a Friday morning for tea, coffee and snacks.

When I was asked to do this I was shocked, because it wasn't anything like me to do something like this. We are now in our fourth year, which is amazing because I just gave it one month thinking no one would be interested.

We call it *The Tea and Coffee club* although we do not have a membership. Also, we don't ask people to pay for what they eat and drink but just ask for a donation. I keep mentioning we, I am the leader but I ask the regulars what they would like on Friday mornings so really all I am is their mouthpiece. My name is John. I won't give you my surname as I'm shy. Occasionally I'm assisted by Sara.

**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).



## ST NEOTS MAN CAVE

St Neots Man Cave opened its doors for the first time on Sunday 9th October. The Cave offers a safe space for men to share skills, express creativity and talk. Cavers can bring their own project or partake in those that arise on a day-to-day basis. If that's not of interest then there's plenty of coffee and tea to be drunk, whilst having a chat, reading a book or playing a game.

Follow us on Facebook **St Neots Man Cave** or register your interest at: [www.stneotsmancave.org.uk](http://www.stneotsmancave.org.uk)

Opening times currently Tuesday 9.00am-1.00pm and Thursday 1.00pm-5.00pm, at the Steve van de Kerkhove Centre in Cemetery Road, St Neots.

## St Neots Singers Thursday evenings

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 are always looking for 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](mailto:StNeotsSingersCC@gmail.com)



## 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](mailto: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.



## 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**





# 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



## 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**

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**.



## !! 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](mailto:stneots@huntsvc.org.uk), or telephone **01480 476 047**.*

## Live a little further afield?

We have Volunteer Centres and Community Car Schemes based in Huntingdon (**01480 414 766**), St Ives (**01480 301 462**) and Ramsay (**01487 814 117**).

We even have our 'Huntingdon Together' Charity Shop located at 1 Princes Street; So next time you're in Huntingdon why not pop in, grab a bargain, and help support the work of the Volunteer Centres at the same time.

Christmas and New Year are difficult times for many people, and sometimes something as simple as a friendly hello, a quick chat, and the feeling of been seen can make a huge difference to someone who is struggling. Imagine if everyone gave just an hour of their time to help others.... What a difference that would make!

Registered Charity: 1126811  
Company Number: 6726114

[www.huntsvc.org.uk](http://www.huntsvc.org.uk)

## 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

You do not have to have been a member of Girlguiding to join Trefoil Guild; anyone over 18 is welcome to join so please get in touch and come along to visit one of our meetings. We are a small friendly group with average of nine members attending.



### 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.

**January** – we will be discussing and planning our program for 2023.

**February** – Night at St Neots Museum.

**March** – AGM.

**April** – Talk on the A14 excavations.

**May to July** out and about doing a variety of different things.

**August** – we hold a bring a share picnic and are joined by other local Trefoil Guilds.

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

Please e-mail: [eatonsocontrefoilguild@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:stneotsprobussec@gmail.com)

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Mob **07718 957281**

Email [d.morizzo@ntlworld.com](mailto:d.morizzo@ntlworld.com)



## 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](http://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

The money received from ESCA provides special treats for the WEDNESDAY WELCOME group at St Marys church, Eaton Socon. This spring the group enjoyed an afternoon cruise on the John Bunyan boat, on the river Ouse, in Bedford. Tea and cakes were provided, and everyone enjoyed a relaxing, quite afternoon cruising through Bedford along the Embankment and local countryside.

This was an afternoon which will be remembered for a long-time and is all thanks to the generous donation from ESCA.

Meeting at 3pm every Wednesday afternoon in the church hall for tea, cakes, a chat and occasionally a speaker or entertainment, it provides welcome friendship for a number of folks. Please feel free to come along.

## St Neots Woodcraft Group

Calling all young people age 5-16! St Neots Woodcraft Folk groups meet up every Thursday evening during school term time at Paxton Pits to take part in activities around cooperation, international understanding, the environment and peace.

At our groups our young members develop self confidence, make lifelong friends and explore the social and natural world around us through games, crafts, bushcraft activities, drama, debates and outdoor activities.

Our groups are split by age, Elfins age 5-9, Pioneers age 10-12 and Venturers age 13-16.



Woodcraft Folk is a national educational movement for children and young people and being involved means making friends near and far both at group night and taking part in exciting camping trips and days out throughout the year.

Get in touch to find out more [lauren@woodcraft.org.uk](mailto:lauren@woodcraft.org.uk) or look us up on Facebook/Twitter.

## 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.



# 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.

**6th January** – The Golden Age of Fen Skating – *Guy Hussey*

**3rd February** – Crime & Punishment in St Neots – *Liz Davies*  
(followed by a short Annual General Meeting)

**3rd March** – Edward Montagu of Kimbolton Castle –  
*Andrew Bamford*

**31st March** – The Construction of Grafham Water –  
*Richard Storey*

**5th May** – Bedfordshire Churches - Part 3 – *David Longman*

## Colmworth and Neighbours History Group

**Friday 20th January** – Traditional Plough Play & Border Morris –  
*Bedford Morris Group*

**Friday 17th February** – Romano-Celtic villa: a temple-  
mausoleum and evidence of industry at Priors Hall, Corby –  
*Paddy Lambert*

**Friday 17th March** – The BBC & Glenn Miller in WW2 Bedford  
– *David Fowler*

**Friday 21st April** – David Lloyd George: His Life and Loves –  
*Stephen Smith*

## Roxton & District Local History Group

Thursdays Roxton Village Hall

**2nd February** – Crime and punishment in Victorian St Neots.  
Discusses responses to crime over the centuries and the profound  
changes during the 19th century, looking at crime and criminals in  
St Neots in the 1860s and 1870s, by *Liz Davies*

**2nd March** – Caring for books and documents – simple measures  
to ensure that your precious family records come to no harm.  
May include show & tell session by *Pamela Birch, County Archivist*

**6th April** – Steve Cooney Stuart Family, Tempsford

## Groups in the Eatons

Do you get bored? If so, then why not try these:

**Eaton Belles WI** – Tel Gillian on 07802 545814

**Eaton Socon Trefoil Guild** – Tel Judith on 07704 575311

**Café on the Green** – Mon 10-12am at Eaton Socon Church

**St Neots Probus Club** – 01480 812938

**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](mailto: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](http://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. They 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

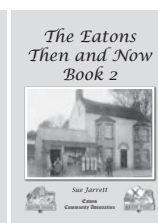
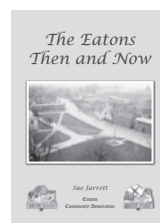
I enclose a cheque for \_\_\_\_\_ made payable to:  
Eatons Community Association.

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"

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

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Website — www.chefstablesolutions.co.uk

**St Neots Tennis Club**

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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](mailto:stneotstennisclub@gmail.com)

[www.stneotstennis.co.uk](http://www.stneotstennis.co.uk)

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2023 MENU

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