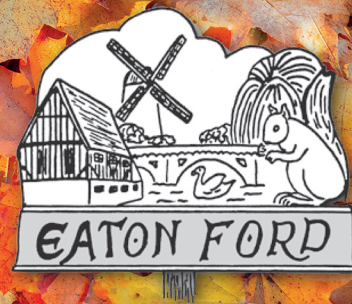




ESCAN

Your FREE Community Newsletter



Eatons Community Association - Registered Charity No.1110148

October to December 2022



Grants & AGM

Another reason to be pleased with this year's May Day is that it is one of our most substantial sources of funds – and with a sunny day and a good turnout, we had a successful afternoon not only supporting community groups to fundraise on the day, but to make a healthy amount ourselves.

We do also have some income from the Textile Bank – about which, more later - and St Neots Town Council, so we will be looking to make a number of grants at our AGM to community groups based in the Eatons. It's very easy for small groups who really make a difference to fall under the radar of larger funding bodies, but we want to help as much as we can – so if £100 or so would be a substantial help, do get in touch! Many groups have gone somewhat into hibernation in recent times, but whether



you've been ploughing on throughout the pandemic or just reopening again, we'd love to hear from you. Just drop us a line at eatonsca@gmail.com and let us know what you would use it for!

Our AGM will be on the 27th October at 7.30pm, all being well in St Mary's Church, with light refreshments afterwards for you to stay and chat to us and the various voluntary groups present – although we will have Zoom as a fallback if required. Please do let us know if you plan to come, so that we can confirm details close to the time.

NEAT STREET

The long, hot summer this year has certainly made the Neat Street competition more challenging than normal – not only have many of the grassed areas been rather scorched in the last few weeks, it's been uncomfortably hot for doing much physical work outside. Our secret judges did take those difficulties into account while on their rounds, and were very impressed by the overall standards of our nominees. Indeed, the final scores produced a three-way tie, and once again the tie-breaker was a couple of gutter



weeds. So – we're delighted to announce that the winners of Neat Street 2022 are Turner Road – who missed out narrowly to Spencer Close in 2021. A plaque is on its way, and we hope to have an informal presentation later in the autumn.

If you'd like your street to take part next year, we'll start taking nominations in the spring, but it's never too soon to make a bit of a difference.



Carols on the Green

Not Christmas stuff already? Well, our next issue may not reach everyone in time, so you can put the date in your diaries now. Each year we brave the cold and wet on the first Friday in December, at 6pm to sing carols around the illuminated tree on Eaton Socon Green and enjoy warm mince pies afterwards courtesy of vicar Tim. Everyone is welcome to join us – we'll provide the words and the company, all you need is enthusiasm and an umbrella just in case!

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TEL: 01480 356665

Lots more news inside.

Deadlines for all contributions
14th November 2022 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

ESCA AGM

Thursday 27th October 7.30 pm in St Mary's Church

St Mary's Eaton Socon

Sunday 25th September – 9am & 10.30am Harvest services

Sunday 30th October – Light Night Event for the Family (see website for more details)

Sunday 13th November – 10.30am Remembrance Sunday

Christmas @ St Mary's Eaton Socon

Saturday 19th November – 10am-2pm Christmas Fayre

Sunday 27th November – 3.30pm Christingle Event

Thursday 8th December – 12.30pm Christmas Lunch Event (tickets required – see website for more details)

Wednesday 14th December – 2pm Afternoon Carol Service

Sunday 18th December – 10.30am Instant Nativity Play Service

Saturday 24th December – 3pm & 5pm Family Carol Services (Christmas Eve)

Sunday 25th December – 10am Christmas Day Celebration Service (Christmas Day)

Sunday 1st January – 10am New Year Family Celebration (New Year's Day)

For all enquiries, please contact the Church Office

office@eatonsocon.org

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

www.eatonsocon.org

Eaton Socon Methodist Church

Service on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of the month at 10.30am.

All are welcome!

Little Barford Church

Carol service by candlelight on Sunday 11th December at 3.00 pm.

This is a lovely little church and worth a visit. There is no electricity or heating so if it's a bit chilly you'll need to wear something warm.

There are signs to the Church in the village.

Update on River Church St Neots

As a result of The Eatons Centre being used as the Mass Vaccine Centre we are not holding our Sunday Meetings as normal. We are currently meeting in-person at Little Paxton Village Hall and are hosting online services. For more information please visit

www.riverchurchstneots.co.uk

Visitors are always welcome. We invite you to join us!

Choral society and Sinfonia concert

Help us celebrate the Choral Society's 50th year!

St Neots Sinfonia autumn concert: An evening of Vaughan Williams, 7.30pm, Saturday 12th November at St Mary's Church, Eaton Socon

St Neots Choral Society autumn concert: An evening of Vaughan Williams, 7.30pm, Saturday 26th November at St Mary's Church, Eaton Socon

Carol Concert: 6pm, Friday 9th December at St Mary's Church, Eaton Socon – Well-known carols, Christmas-themed works and readings. Children are welcome to join the percussion section for a special work!

Copy date for the next edition of ESCAN for news, adverts and information – 14th November 2022

Please send ESCAN letters & Adverts to ESCA, 3 Collingwood Rd, Eaton Socon, St Neots, PE19 8JQ Email – 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**

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

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



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.citizensadvicerruralcambs.org.uk

Information also available on our website at
www.citizensadvicerruralcambs.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.

Café on the Green

10am-noon every Monday
Eaton Socon Church Hall

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



Help with your Computer/ Tablet/ipad



Are you lucky enough to have been given a gift of a computer/tablet/Ipad, or perhaps just treated yourself to a new one but can't quite get to grips with it? Help is at hand. Just pop into the library where volunteers will be happy to give some free helpful advice on how to find information, read and send emails buy from ebay or google for something. Whatever your skill level there will be someone to help you. No booking required – just turn up for free sessions every Tuesday 10:00am – 12.30pm.

Textile Bank

We already have £858 so far this year 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.



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 the Burwell Road/Mill Hill Road. and parts of Wyboston. 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

Cambs Backgammon Club



Come and play the world's oldest board game! Normally we meet at The Rivermill on alternate Monday evenings from 7.15pm. 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. We are holding an exhibition at Buckden Village Hall on 24th and 25th September 2022, 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



Chairman's Spot

You may have noticed something different about this edition of ESCAN... we're trying out a 12-page format for the first time. Looking back, it was twenty years ago that we first printed an eight-page ESCAN and ten years

ago that we tried colour. A huge thank you to everyone who has contributed over that time, and to XLPRESS who have supported us through that journey. Our website escan.org.uk has digital copies of issues back to 2007, so you can see for yourself the changes over the years.

In that time we've covered a lot of goings on in the Eatons, and our "What's On" pages have grown with the community. We'd love to feature more about all the activities that go on here, whether it's just adding meetings to our lists of dates to remember, or doing a full feature on your club or charity – we now have more space for you. Budding authors and photographers are more than welcome too; if there's something you'd like to share, do get in touch. We're also on the lookout for more people to help with assembling ESCAN, and delivering to households in some areas – the more hands we have, the lighter the work! Delivering one bag would be about three hours a year, and you'd be part of a great team.

We also wouldn't have ESCAN without our advertisers – so please do support them! All of them are local businesses who are part of the Eatons' life.

Finally – while ESCAN hasn't been as active as previous years, we're looking forward to 2023 being another step back on the road to normality after two years of disruption. Our volunteer numbers have been depleted in that time, and so we're looking for enthusiastic people to join the committee and take ESCAN forward. If you're interested in seeing Open Gardens return, May Day go from strength to strength, join in on some of the little jobs we do almost unnoticed around the area, or if you've got new ideas that we can take on, please do join us. You're more than welcome to come to the AGM in October, to talk to all of us and find out more about what we do.

Julia Hayward, Chair

St Marys @ 6: Sharing Life through Learning

Sunday 23rd October – 6pm

St Marys @ 6: Sharing Life through Learning

Sunday 6th November – 6pm

St Mary's @ 6: Service of Memories

Sunday 27th November – 6pm

St Marys @ 6: Sharing Life through Learning

Sunday 11th December – 6pm

St Mary's @ 6: Carol Service

For all enquiries, please contact the Church Office

office@eatonsocon.org

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

www.eatonsocon.org

Appeal from the Tower

How often have you heard Church bells ringing out on Sunday mornings or as a new bride and groom exit a church? Like them or loathe them it is a very old English tradition and sadly, it is one that is dying 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.

Eaton Socon bell ringers are just about surviving at the current time but would welcome any lapsed ringers. We also hope to teach a few new people (from the age of 12 years) in the near future. If you used to ring Church bells in the past, may be interested in learning in the future or just would like to come to see what we do, please email the Tower Captain on: michael-j-matthews@hotmail.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 will be litter picking near the Quora retail park (Great North Road) in Eaton Socon on Sunday 18th September between 1 pm and 3 pm

Join us and help your community!

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>



Sudbury Meadow

The end of September is the time for the lower meadow to be cut at Sudbury Meadow (Crosshall Road, Eaton Ford) and we look forward to a visit from a Paxton Pits volunteer, along with a tractor and flail. We missed an earlier cut of the upper meadow and orchard for various reasons, so that will be done too. However, areas will be left uncut as shelter for small mammals and invertebrates over winter.

It has been a roller coaster of a year so far, with wet weather in the spring halting several work parties, frost during fruit blossoming preventing some trees from fruiting, and at the time of writing, a second heatwave starting.

It is not easy for our wildlife to cope with the vagaries of the weather. A long, wet winter can destroy butterfly caterpillars and pupae overwintering in the long grass left for them.



Guelder Rose berries in the Shrubbery

Moles can be washed out of their tunnels during flooding, as can small rodents. Worse still however, is a dry summer with little, if no fresh grass growth. A number of our butterflies depend on it to lay their eggs and to feed their caterpillars. Butterfly Conservation is predicting that numbers will be well down next year as a result of the drought. Their 2022 survey may also show a decline. Certainly there were not as many butterflies at Sudbury Meadow this summer.



We have enjoyed other wildlife though. Birds such as great tits and blue tits had a reasonable breeding season, using the nest boxes on site and a song thrush was singing during the spring. We hope it is still around and bred successfully. We also have muntjac deer visiting. Not always welcome in the gardens as they do tend to munch on some of the vegetables and flowers!

In the shrubbery, guelder rose berries are starting to turn red. They are a good food source for voles and wood mice during the winter.

Our wonderful team of volunteers has been busy all year trying to keep the site accessible for people to enjoy. We do ask visitors with dogs to clean up after them and keep them on a lead please. The latter stops them running off and either disturbing the wildlife, pooing where you can't see or frightening other visitors.

Alison Pearson

Friends of Sudbury Meadow

www.sudburymeadow.org.uk

Tel: 01480 472624

Email: alison@sudburymeadow.org.uk

ST NEOTS MUSEUM
Winter Craft and Gift Fair
 22nd October - 24th December 2022
 Unique, handmade gifts by local artists and craft makers.

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 Open Tuesday - Saturday
 11am - 4pm

www.stneotsmuseum.org.uk



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Guiding in the Eatons

Looking forward to Autumn






Brownies had a very busy term in the run up to the summer with a pizza challenge, St George's day celebrations, penny hike and had a great time on Pack Holiday. Thanks to the Leaders, Michelle and Lynda for everything!




Rainbows finished off the year by making music shakers, finding out about space, making cards and playing at the park. We are looking forward to another great year.



Guides and Rangers are just recovering from the bank holiday weekend at Wellies and Wristbands! A festival just for them. They enjoyed music, a ferris wheel, henna and hot tubs as well as lots of other activities.

As we move into the darker evenings, we will be looking towards our indoor programmes and our winter events such as Hallowe'en, Remembrance Sunday, our District Carol Service and of course, the Panto!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!



As ever we are on the lookout for new volunteers. The 4th Brownie unit remains closed and we could do with another Rainbow unit as there is a big waiting list. If you would like help us get these up an running, you can register on the Girlguiding website or email esdistrictcomm@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
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.




St Neots & District Gardening Club

Meeting at St Mary's Church Hall, Brook St, St Neots.
All meetings start at 7.30pm
Members £2.00, Non members welcome £2.50.

Thursday 27th October – My life in Horticulture by Phyllis Cooper

For more information and latest news:
www.stneotsgardenclub.org.uk

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!

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




Line dancers

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)

Normally in my autumn post, I'd be looking back on a summer full of flowers and forward to a crop of blackberries. The summer weather can't have escaped anyone's notice, though, and walking around today I found the grass tinder-dry and the ground hard and unforgiving. What little fruit there was to be found on the brambles was pretty poor too – all pips and no juice! The apples may be a better bet in due course, we can only hope. Fortunately the flora of the Pightle are very resilient and have made it through very dry patches in the past – when showers come at last things should green up quickly.

The local children have been enjoying the sunny weather to go exploring the Enchanted Forest – now a regular feature of life in the Pightle, various trees and stones have now been decorated, and there are a couple of doorways at the bottom of our largest elder near the river that lead to... wherever a young imagination can conjure up! They will be there until the end of the summer holidays, and you'll find the rather more spooky inhabitants returning around half-term in late October for their annual fun.



And looking to the longer term, those of you who visited our May Day stall will have seen our sketches for the Pightle of the future. Having acquired much of the land that joins on to the existing Pightle behind the cricket club and towards the castle grounds, thanks to the generosity of the McNish family, we intend to start planting traditional English trees and placing benches, with the ambition of creating shaded walks and an orchard for the whole community to enjoy. It's going to take many years, and it will be wonderful to see the land evolve and grow. If you'd like to be part of creating it, we'd love to hear from you!



Julia Hayward

Trustee: The Pightle Millennium Green Trust
Website: <http://www.eatonsoconpightle.org.uk>
Tel: 0777 3918223
Email: Julia@juliahayward.com

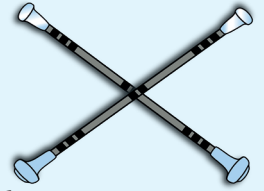
Dog Walkers

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: 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 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).

During the summer months we have visiting speakers covering a range of Astronomical subjects with spectacular slides. No astronomical knowledge needed to appreciate the talks.

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

3rd October, 7th November & 5th December are Observing evenings

New members are most welcome
SNAA.co.uk



Some TLC for our bench

Over the years we've installed a number of benches around the Eatons. We're delighted that over the summer, the bench at the top of Mill Hill Road has had a full refurbishment by the volunteers of the Royal Naval Association.

A double thankyou to them, as they sponsored that particular bench when it was first installed. It's looking lovely again!



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.

Sunday 18th September – 9.15am

Monday 3rd October – 5.15pm

Sunday 23rd October – 9.15am

Sunday 6th November – 1.15pm

Sunday 20th November – 9.15am

Sunday 4th December – 1.15pm

Sunday 18th December – 9.15am



Little Paxton Gardening Club

"Where gardening and friendships blossom"

Our 2022 programme continues with all meetings held at Little Paxton Village Hall at 8pm.

Visitors welcome but booking essential

Membership is open to all – you do not need to be a knowledgeable gardener but enthusiasm helps.

For more information or to book please contact:

Chair: Jane Hill – 01480 218805

Secretary: Margaret Rowland – 01480 383989

Club email Lpgardeningclub@hotmail.com



Free mental health pottery group

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Running weekly every
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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



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May Day is back!

After two years absence due to COVID, we were delighted to celebrate May Day on Eaton Socon green again! A beautifully sunny day was the perfect setting for thirty-five stalls featuring many local charities and small businesses, and an afternoon of entertainment with music and dancing.

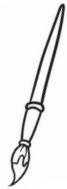
It wasn't as large as May Days of the recent past – not least because COVID has taken its toll on so many groups, and we ourselves have had to temper our ambitions to match the number of volunteers available. But you all came out to support us as before, and a lot of fun was had and money raised for good causes across the community. And we were delighted to present the Community Cup to St Neots Community Support as a thank you for their tireless work helping the vulnerable get through the last couple of years.

We're looking forward to a bigger and better May Day 2023 now!



St Neots 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

Congratulations to Derek and Sandie

Many of you will know Derek and Sandie Giles from many years of service as local councillors in the Eatons, supporters of ESCA, the Pightle, the Eaton Socon Charities and many other causes locally – whenever there was a job to be done, from sitting on committees to haymaking in the Pightle to barbecuing three hundred burgers on May Day.

We're delighted to pass on the news that Derek and Sandie were recognised for everything they've given to the community by being awarded the Freedom of St Neots in a short ceremony at the Priory Centre.

A huge thank you to you both from all of us!



Community Car Service

Do you need a lift in a car to get to the doctors, hospital, shops or to meet friends where no suitable public transport exists or you have mobility difficulties?



If so, then phone St Neots Volunteer Centre on **01480 476 047** to book transport or leave a message on the answer phone. Please also mention, at the time of booking, if a wheelchair needs to be transported and do give as much notice as possible (minimum 3 working days). Volunteers use their own cars to provide transport and a small charge of 40p per mile is made, based upon mileage travelled by the driver (minimum fee of £1.50 for short journeys). If you would like to volunteer – please phone **01480 476 047** for more details.

Eaton Socon Trefoil Guild

Anyone over 18 is welcome to join the Trefoil Guild, not just past Girlguiders, so please get in touch and come along to one of our meetings. We are a small friendly group with an average of nine members attending. For more information please email: **eatonsocontrefoilguild@gmail.com**



Monthly evening meetings are usually held on the first Tuesday of each month from 7.30pm; venue varies depending on activities.

September – possible evening at St Neots Museum / guided walk

October – Fish & Chip supper / RNLI fundraising evening

November – Christmas wreaths

December – Christmas meal

Additionally 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. **We look forward to meeting and making friends with new people.**

Events at St Neots Library

There's something for everyone at St Neots Library! We have a wide selection of adult fiction and non-fiction including Local History books, as well as children's books, board books, picture books, early readers and information books. We also have a range of large print, audio books and DVDs for all ages. And with a library card, you can access all our online services free too! There are computers available to book, as well as plenty of study space, and if you need help with your digital skills we can help you, or there are free courses you can take. We can also help you apply for or renew your concessionary bus pass.

Find out more and check opening times on:

www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/libraries

Or ring **0345 045 5225**, or find us on social media.



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**

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Email **d.morizzo@ntlworld.com**



The Library Presents

The Library Presents are delighted to announce the launch of their new season of exciting arts events which will run from October to December 2022. The season will bring workshops and performances to locations across Cambridgeshire.

Full details of the program, along with booking information can also be found at **www.library.live/the-library-presents**

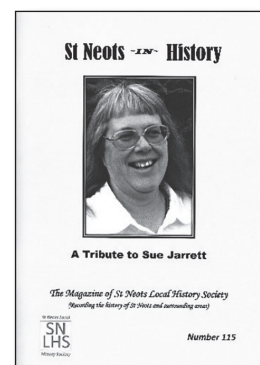
If you would like to receive a hard copy of the brochure please email **thelibrarypresents@cambridgeshire.gov.uk**

A Tribute to Sue

St Neots Local History Society has produced a special edition of their magazine in remembrance of long-standing member Sue Jarrett, who passed away in September 2020, and who many of you would have known as Chair of ESCA, a trustee of the Pightle, and with many other hats besides.

With a selection of articles by Sue taken from past editions of the magazine, and various tributes submitted by members and others, this would be a lovely memento of Sue and her contribution to the life and history of St Neots.

To purchase a copy (just £5), visit **www.stneotslhs.org.uk**, or contact ESCA (see ESCA Local History Books and Information).



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, Elfs 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** 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.

7th October – The War Time Diaries of a Battle of Britain Pilot – Victors Ekins of New Street, by **David Duker**

4th November – Gransden Windmill and Other Local Windmills, by **Martin Davies**

19th November – A14 Archaeological findings, by **Kate Roberts**

2nd December – Lord Fairhaven's Life at Anglesey Abbey, by **Helen Ackroyd**

** ticketed, not at our normal location and not at our normal time*

Colmworth and Neighbours History Group

21st October – **John Hutchings** will tell us about **North Bedfordshire Medieval Churches**. We shall hear the story of the local medieval church as it was before Henry VIII's disastrous legislation that changed beliefs held for perhaps 1,000 years.

18th November – **Barry Tomlinson** will describe many of the achievements of possibly the greatest engineer of all time, **Isambard Kingdom Brunel**.

Roxton & District History Group

Thursdays Roxton Village Hall

6th October – From Erik the Bald to Nigel de Albini: the Domesday Book in Bedfordshire, by **Brian Kerr**

3rd November – The Commonwealth War Graves Commission: Its History and Archives, by **Sophie Newton**

1st December – AGM

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

Lunch at the Methodist Church – 2nd Tues in the month, 12.30

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

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

Now that the nights are light for longer what could be better than sitting outside on a warm evening with a glass of something or a cup of tea/coffee reading one of ESCA's fascinating history books.

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"/> Eaton Socon Cemetery 1930 - 2015 | £7.50 |
| <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 |

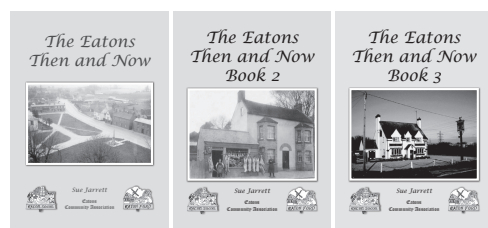
I enclose a cheque for _____ made payable to:
Eatons Community Association.

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.



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