



# ESCAN

Your FREE Community Newsletter



Eatons Community Association - Registered Charity No.1110148

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

October to December 2024

## May Day!

May Day was a gloriously sunny day and once again we were treated to a feast of stalls, games, food and entertainment – both stalwarts of previous years and some new faces! We're delighted to welcome our new May Court to carry on representing us at fundraising events, and the Derek Giles Cup was presented to Peter Bradford, who you may well see tending to the Pightle come rain or shine. A huge thankyou to Lisa who stepped into the organiser's hot seat for this year, as well as all the volunteers who make it happen!



## Can you help? Do you want to keep May Day?

The EatonS Community Association (ESCA) has been serving and supporting local residents of both Eaton Ford and Eaton Socon for over 45 years, promoting Eaton's rich community and heritage. Including organising and running the annual May Day fete, we have raised thousands of pounds for local causes over the years, providing benches, opening the Lock-Up, running the Open Gardens event etc.

The ESCA committee runs with less than a dozen people but as we all get older three of the principal members of the committee are retiring, for no other reason except that they've done their stint and have other things to do.

So, we now need a few people to help keep the existing events running, or perhaps create

new projects. It's not an onerous or time-consuming task, it just takes up a few hours every so often, and includes publishing this ESCAN magazine.

Of course, if we don't get replacements, then it is quite likely that we will have to close down, or at least severely reduce our activities – which may mean that there will be no more ESCAN, no more Open Gardens, no more Carol Singing on the Green, no more Lock-Up opening, and most important of all, possibly no more May Day.

So, if you think you can help, or can devote some time to help us, please give our previous chair an email or call:

[julia@juliahayward.com](mailto:julia@juliahayward.com) / 0777 3918 223



2024 Winners – Minden Court

## Carols on the green

Put **Friday 13th December at 6 o'clock** in your diaries as we gather around the illuminated tree on Eaton Socon Green to sing carols, whatever the weather. Everyone is welcome to join, we'll provide the words, good company, and warm mince pies as sustenance – you provide the voice and perhaps an umbrella!



## Neat Street winners

Damp springs followed by long, hot summers make the Neat Street competition challenging with grassy areas suffering, and gardens needing work – while the weeds are well established in the gutters! But, as usual our secret judges found that we take pride in our streets and look after them well!

We're delighted to announce the winners of Neat Street 2024 are **Minden Court** – with **Hathaway Close** a very close second place. 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, nominations are in spring 2025, but it's never too soon to make a bit of a difference.



## ESCA's Grants and 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. Each year we use this money to support as many local groups as we can with grants.

Our AGM will be on the **21st October at 7.30pm** in St Mary's Church. The May Court will be presenting cheques, the grant recipients will be sharing a little about the work that they do and how you can help, and there will be light refreshments afterwards for you to stay and chat.



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TEL: 01480 356665

Please note – we are not a political group. We are supported by all political parties and are not part of one.



## 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 388 911</b>
<b>Police</b>	<b>01480 456 111</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 388 388</b>
Out of Hours Emergencies	<b>01480 434 167</b>
Fly Tipping	<b>01480 388 640</b>
<b>Local Halls</b>	
Jubilee Hall	<b>01480 392 733</b>
St Marys Church Hall Eaton Socon	<b>01480 352 154</b>
Eatons Community Centre	<b>01480 388 922</b>
Eaton Socon Sports Assoc Hall	<b>07917 017 048</b>
United Reformed Church	<b>07366 058 861</b>
<b>Doctors Surgeries</b>	
Eaton Socon Health Centre	<b>01480 210 000</b>
Cedar House Surgery	<b>01480 406 677</b>
Almond Road Surgery	<b>01480 473 413</b>
<b>Eaton Socon Children's Centre, Bushmead Rd</b>	<b>01480 358 340</b>
<b>Bushmead School</b>	<b>01480 375 375</b>
<b>Crosshall Infants School</b>	<b>01480 475 980</b>
<b>Crosshall Junior School</b>	<b>01480 475 972</b>
<b>Community Car Scheme</b>	<b>01480 476 047</b>
<b>Foodbank</b>	<b>01480 475 426</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.staploeduloeandhoneydonparishcouncil.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>Treasurer</i>	Dave Jarrett	<b>01480 216 065</b>
<i>May Day Administrator</i>	Lisa Coyne	
<i>ESCAN Co-ordinator</i>	Carole Robson	<b>01480 218 755</b>
<i>Magazine design</i>	Sara Foyle	

## Dates for your diary

### Services at St Mary's Eaton Socon

For all enquiries, please contact the Church Office  
**office@eatonsocon.org**

Tel: 01480 352 154 (Tues-Thursday 9:00-11:30am)

For full details of events see website: **eatonsocon.org**

**Weekly services:** Sunday 9am (Traditional), Sunday 10.30am (Contemporary), Wednesday 9am (Reflective)

**Sundays 27 October; 24 November** (Refreshments from 5:50pm)

**6pm Sharing Life Through Learning.** An opportunity to go deeper into God's word.

**Sundays 6 October; 3 November – 3:16 Service.** A service open to everyone using interactive worship and fun activities to help us learn more about God and grow together. Come as you are, whether you've been a Christian for years or are just searching for something, young, old, everyone in between, all are welcome to join us.

**Sundays 20 October; 17 November; 15 December (2:00-3:30pm) Hive.** Aimed at children (of any age) who have additional needs or disabilities and their siblings and parents/guardians.

**Sundays 13 October (off site 3:00-4:30pm)**

**Wildlife Walk and Tea.** Family friendly walk meeting outside the Church – walking over river to Pocket Park and back to Willow Bridge, followed by tea and cake on the barge 'Dragonfly'

**Monday 7 October; 4 November (9:30-12:30pm)**

**Creation Care Working Party.** Come along and help tidy our lovely churchyard, drink coffee and chat.

**Monday 21 October; 18 November. M-Team Morning.**

An opportunity to help with various DIY jobs around Church. Come for 30 minutes or the whole morning. Refreshments provided.

**Thursdays 31 October; 28 November. Thursday Lunch Club (at 12noon).** Fellowship and food with a two-course meal.

£4.00 pp for adults available during the day. Booking essential.

**Sunday 27 October (5:00-7:00pm). Light Night Family Event.**

An alternative to Halloween with fun, games and activities for all the family. No scary costumes.

**Sunday 3 November (6:00-7:15pm) Service of Memories.**

An opportunity to remember those no longer with us.

### Christmas

**Saturday 16 Nov, Christmas Fayre** (10:00am-2:00pm)

**Sunday 1 Dec, Christingle Event** (3:30-4:30pm)

Start the festive season making your own Christingle.

**Thursday 12 Dec, Christmas Lunch** (12:30-2:30pm)

Come and enjoy a delicious Christmas lunch. Ticketed event – booking essential.

**Sunday 15 Dec, Instant Nativity Service** (10:30-11:30am)

No rehearsals or lines to learn, just show up and have fun.

**Wednesday 18 Dec, Afternoon Carol Service** (2:00-3:00pm)

Traditional carol service with refreshments.

**Sunday 22 Dec, Christmas Carol Service** (6:00 to 7:15pm)

**Tuesday 24 Dec, Christmas Eve Family Carol Services** (3:00-5:00pm)

**Wednesday 25 Dec, Christmas Day Celebration** (10:00am)

Begin your Christmas Day celebrations with our family service.

**Sunday 29 Dec, Family Celebration** (10:00am)

For all enquiries, please contact the Church Office:

**office@eatonsocon.org**

Tel: 01480 352 154 (Tues-Thursday 9:00-11:30am)

For full details of events see website: **eatonsocon.org**

### River Church

10:30am every Sunday at The Eatons Centre, St Neots, PE19 8ES.

For more info visit **www.riverchurchstneots.co.uk**

### St Neots Choral Society and Sinfonia

9th November and 8th March. **St Neots Sinfonia concerts.**

21st December and 28th June: **Joint concerts with the**

**Choral Society.**

**Copy date for the next edition of ESCAN for news, adverts and information – Monday 10th November 2024**

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

## CONTACT YOUR COUNCILLORS

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

**Barry Chapman – Crosshall ward – 07803 134 565**

**Clare Mascarenhas – Eaton Socon ward –**  
[claire.mascarenhas@stneots-tc.gov.uk](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)**

**John Dunford – Eaton Ford ward – [john.dunford@stneots-tc.gov.uk](mailto:john.dunford@stneots-tc.gov.uk)**

**Vivienne Hitchin – Eaton Ford ward – [vivienne.hitchin@stneots-tc.gov.uk](mailto:vivienne.hitchin@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)

## Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB)

**Adviceline: 0800 278 7807**

Monday to Friday 9:30am-3:30pm

**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.



## St Neots Choral Society

The award-winning St Neots Choral Society is a long-established local community choir performing four concerts a year, of which two (the Summer Concert and the Carol Concert) are performed in conjunction with St Neots Sinfonia. We have an active and committed membership of about 75 singers and are keen to welcome new members in all voice sections, as we make exciting plans for next season. You can be sure to find challenge and inspiration as well as having great fun singing with a friendly group of people. We also hold regular social events (lunches, quizzes and get togethers) where you can join in and make new friends. All our members and venues are local to St Neots.

If you like the idea of singing in a local choir, performing the best of classical music, please get in touch (No auditions necessary).

We rehearse on Wednesday evenings (term times) at 7.30pm at Eynesbury C of E Junior School, Montagu Street, Eynesbury, St Neots PE19 2TD.  
[www.stneotschoralsociety.org.uk](http://www.stneotschoralsociety.org.uk)

## Wednesday Welcome

Meets on Wednesday afternoons (term time only) 3-4pm in the Church hall at St Mary's Church, Eaton Socon.

All are welcome for tea/coffee cake and friendly conversation. Sometimes there is a planned activity.

**Please come along and join us.**

## Café on the Green

10am-noon every Monday (generally Term Time)

Eaton Socon Church Hall

Come and join us for tea, coffee, cake, chat and friendship.



## Cricket for 1.5-8s

Fun sessions for boys and girls that will give your child an introduction to cricket whilst also developing co-ordination, agility, athleticism and confidence!



Get in touch with us...

[info@littlecrickets.fun](mailto:info@littlecrickets.fun)

07305 003044

[little-crickets.class4kids.co.uk](http://little-crickets.class4kids.co.uk)



## Little Paxton Gardening Club

*"Where gardening and friendships blossom"*

Our monthly club meetings resume in Little Paxton Village Hall at 8pm with the following schedule:

**Wednesday 2nd October – Unexpectedly Hardy Plants,**  
*Tim Fuller*

Tim is the owner of the nursery The Plantsman's Preference in Norfolk. Specializing in an extensive range of Hardy Geraniums and Ornamental Grasses as well as many new, rare and unusual perennials (particularly those suitable for shade).

Plants will be available for purchase on the night and you can pre-order from his website.

**Wednesday 6th November – Climate Change and Closer to Nature,**  
*Jim Paine*

Jim has recently retired from running The Walnut Nursery in Norfolk after 25 years, he has a degree in Environmental Science and a background in international conservation.

Tonight he talks to us about the current science behind climate change forecasts and how as gardeners we can respond to ensure that we continue to enjoy success as well as nurture biodiversity within our own spaces.

Visitors are always very welcome – £4 per meeting (including refreshments) or why not become a member? for a reduced joining fee of £6 from September thru to December 2024.

We'd love to have you with us!

For more information, please contact:  
Paula Haywood **07717 846 712**



## 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 812 938** or email [stneotsprobusec@gmail.com](mailto:stneotsprobusec@gmail.com)

## Textile Bank

In the current calendar year we have received £498 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.





## Girlguiding Eaton Socon

On the 24th February we joined up with other units in St Neots to take part in Thinking Day celebrations. Thinking Day is celebrated by guiding units all over the world. The girls took part in various different crafts. Chocolate tasting and learnt some dancing.

### Rainbows

They have made robots, they had a robot that tucks you into bed, a robot that flies and a robot that makes it so you don't have to go to school.

They flipped pancakes and decorated them with different fillings. They have also been musical and made some instruments out of junk.

### Brownies

Have made Chinese Dragons to celebrate Chinese New year. They have made towers out of spaghetti to see who can make the tallest, flattest, stickiest and fattest.

They have also been making a time capsule for future generations of brownies

### Guides and Rangers

Have worked together in small groups and planned and organised different activities for badges. They did a variety of activities from seeing how they can feel empowered to make a change to experimenting with different materials about what makes the best Zip Wire. They have had a go at floral arrangements in old cups and saucers for mother's day.

### If you feel you might like to get involved.

We have flexible volunteering opportunities that let you make a difference on your schedule. You can help as much or as little as you want.



## 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.



**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.

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 Eatons Community 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).

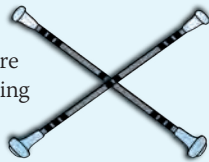
Lots more information can be found on our website

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

## 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 311 828**, or email: [steel1932@outlook.com](mailto:steel1932@outlook.com)



## Youth Cafe



All term time only

**NEW Mondays 3.30-5pm**

St Mary's Church, Eaton Socon PE19 8EJ

**Tuesdays 3.30-5pm**

St Neots Evangelical Church, Cambridge Street PE19 1PL

**Our Youth Cafes are free for those in School years 7-13.**

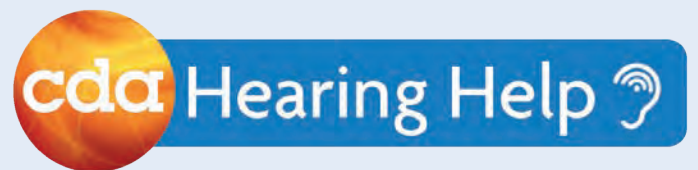
Join us for:

- games
- cafe (small charges will apply)
- a space to hang out with friends
- homework area

For more information, scan the QR code or email Ange on [ahoile@cambridgeyfc.uk](mailto:ahoile@cambridgeyfc.uk)



 Cambridge & District  
**YOUTH FOR CHRIST** [cambridgeyfc.uk/st-neots](http://cambridgeyfc.uk/st-neots)



## 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 Priory Centre, Priory Lane, St Neots PE19 2BH. Open 1:30-3:30pm. No appointment necessary, just pop in. Interested in volunteering with us?

Visit [www.cambridgeshirehearinghelp.org.uk](http://www.cambridgeshirehearinghelp.org.uk)

or phone: 01223 4166 141

## 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!**



In August we installed a bench in memory of Derek Giles, who very sadly passed away almost two years ago, in November 2022.

ESCA and SNTC both made generous donations towards the cost. The bench has been placed in Giles Gardens, the area of the Pightle to the South of the path to the Willow Bridge. This is mostly planted with fruit and nut trees to encourage wildlife.

Derek held a variety of positions in Local Government at Town, District and County levels over more than thirty years. He was Mayor of St Neots twice, from 1996 to 1998 and again, twenty years later, from 2016 to 2018. He retired as Chair of the County Council in November 2021.



As well as his roles in the councils, Derek involved himself in many projects, activities and causes around St Neots. One of these was the Pightle, and Derek was one of the founder members back in 1999. He was a regular and active volunteer throughout his

life and was Chair of the Trust for several years. He was particularly proud of the Black Poplars that he planted down by the river.

The bench is at the edge of a new lawned area that we hope will become a popular spot for taking a break or for having a picnic. It is angled to look both towards the cricket ground and also towards the river. There are apple trees close by, very reminiscent of Derek and his love of cider.

The bench is already being well used, but there will be an official opening, by Sandie Giles, at noon on Monday 14th October. All of Derek's many friends are very welcome to join us there.



We have seven benches in the six acres of the original Pightle, but this is the first to be placed in "Pightle 2". We are keen to have some more and if you are interested in donating a bench in memory of a loved one, to mark a special celebration or just because you like to sit down, then please contact Peter Bradford. Similarly, if you want to discuss having a tree planted, or would like to help to maintain and develop the Pightle: email: [chair@eatonsoconpightle.org.uk](mailto:chair@eatonsoconpightle.org.uk) or call 07747 807 002.

## 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

## St Neots Folk Club

A club for acoustic, traditional, roots and contemporary folk music. Professional quality guests from the folk and festival circuit, plus local singers and songwriters. We meet every **Tuesday evening 7.30-9.45 pm**. At the Eatons Community Centre, The Maltings PE19 8ES. We have a very comprehensive programme on the go at the moment. Please contact us for further information on [www.stneotsfolkclub.co.uk](http://www.stneotsfolkclub.co.uk)

## River Church

**10:30am every Sunday** at The Eatons Centre, St Neots, PE19 8ES. We invite you to join us this Sunday. Meetings include worship, a sermon and children's ministry. Visitors are always welcome.

**Christmas Service, Sunday 22nd December 2024, 10:30am.** We invite you to join us for our Christmas Service. It will include Christmas Carols, Bible readings, a sermon and refreshments.

For more information visit [www.riverchurchstneots.co.uk](http://www.riverchurchstneots.co.uk)

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



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

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. Plus a knitting group and regular talks for adults.

On Tuesday mornings there is 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 10.00am-12.00pm, 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 in when open:

**Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 9.30am-5.00pm**

**Wednesday: 1.30pm-7.00pm and Saturday: 9.30am-4.00pm**

## Crime and Punishment!

A brand new town walk with our local historian Grace Chapman, running September 11th!

St Neots MUSEUM



**Book online £10/person**  
[www.stneotsmuseum.org.uk](http://www.stneotsmuseum.org.uk)

St Neots Museum  
8 New Street  
St Neots  
Tel: 01480 214163

[f @stneotsmuseum](https://www.facebook.com/stneotsmuseum)

Family

Walks

Events

Exhibitions

## St Neots Astronomical Association SNAA.co.uk

We meet at Paxton Pits visitor centre (PE19 6ET) on the First Monday of the Month (Second Monday if it's a bank holiday).



- Monday 7th Oct – the start of our winter observing season, if the skies are clear then telescopes will be set up outside, if cloudy there will be an astronomical talk.
- Do you need help setting up your telescope or finding stellar objects, then come along to the St Neots Astronomy club. We can help set up your telescope in minutes, and show you how to find stellar objects with our laser guided sky tours.

Non Members welcome – The first visit is free.

## Eaton Socon Trefoil Guild



Trefoil is open to everyone aged 18 and over and a fantastic opportunity make new friends for life. Trefoil members get involved in an exciting programme of activities, learn new skills, or listen to fascinating speakers. Eaton Socon Trefoil Guild meet on the first Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm in a variety of locations. Our programme for the remainder of the year follows:

**1 October** – Craft evening

**5 November** – Bonfire evening with edible bonfires and sparklers

**3 December** – Eaton Socon District Girlguiding Carol Service

**10 December** – Bring and share Christmas meal and Secret Santa

If you would like to make new friends and are interested in joining our meetings, for more details please email:

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

Jane Brown, Chair Eaton Socon Trefoil Guild

## EATONS HOME, GARDEN & PROPERTY MAINTENANCE Co.

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Where?

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Come along to the Lounge Room

For more info:

Jane Thomas 07731097236

Anne Taylor 07702363898

[jane.thomas@britishgymnasticsfoundation.org](mailto:jane.thomas@britishgymnasticsfoundation.org)  
[anne.taylor@housing21.org.uk](mailto:anne.taylor@housing21.org.uk)

'Love to Move' with  
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A gentle, fun, seated  
movement to music  
programme that will  
make you smile.  
Stay for a cuppa.

## St Neots Volunteer Centre & Community Car Scheme

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

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

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

### Want to volunteer?

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

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

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

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

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



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

Our drivers all have one thing in common – their dedication to the community of St Neots and their willingness to give up their free time to support that community. Drivers use their own vehicles and are all DBS checked; journeys cost just 45p a mile (min £2) plus a £2 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**.

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@hunsvvc.org.uk](mailto:stneots@hunsvvc.org.uk) or telephone **01480 476 047**



Be there for cats by becoming a

## fosterer volunteer

St Neots, Huntingdon & St Ives Branch of Cats Protection needs fosterers to provide temporary homes for cats and kittens who are waiting for a forever home.

If you could open your door to a cat in need, contact the branch to find out more about fostering and other volunteer roles.

E: [volunteering@stneots.cats.org.uk](mailto:volunteering@stneots.cats.org.uk)  
[www.cats.org.uk/stneots/volunteering](http://www.cats.org.uk/stneots/volunteering)



Reg Charity 203644 (England and Wales) and SCO37711 (Scotland)

# Dates for History Groups

## Roxton & District Local History Group

Thursdays Roxton Village Hall

**3rd October** – Bedfordshire and it's churches Part 2. Second part of David Longman Talk – *David Longman*

**7th November** – The Lodge and the Peel and Stewart families. Now the RSPB – *Barry Groom*

## Colmworth and Neighbours History Society

Fridays Colmworth Village Hall 7.30pm

**18th October, The Sue Jarrett Memorial Lecture** – *Mac MacDonald* – The Work of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

**15th November** – *Mark Steinhardt* – Tristan and Isolde  
Outings and visits to be announced

## St Neots Local History Group

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

**4th October** – Community Networks on the Cambridgeshire Claylands from 400 BC to AD 600 (the Archaeology of Monksfields) – *Mark Hinman*

**8th November** – Airfields of Huntingdonshire – *Richard Carter*

**6th December** – The Stuart Family of Tempsford – *Steve Cooney*

## ESCAN Deliveries

ESCAN is delivered to 6000 homes three times a year, by a small army of volunteers, and assembled by a very small team, to whom we are very grateful!

However, Carole and Julia are retiring and we're looking for volunteers for two very important jobs – first, staying in touch with the deliverers and making sure they get their bags of ESCANs, and second collecting up all the articles and adverts that make ESCAN an interesting read. If you can help our team, please do contact Julia on (01480) 210 097 or Carole on (01480) 218 755



## Bellringing

We have continued to ring from 10.00-10.30am for service at St Mary's most Sunday mornings and also manage to practice most Wednesday evenings from 8.00-9.00pm. We do have to rely on ringers from other towers to achieve this. We have not had any national events to ring for this year.

If you feel you would like to try bell ringing we would be happy to teach anybody from the age of 12 years upwards, please contact me by email on [michael-j-matthews@hotmail.com](mailto:michael-j-matthews@hotmail.com)

For historic reasons St Mary's Eaton Socon is part of the Bedfordshire Association of Bellringers, the Association arranges additional training sessions which help accelerate the learning process.



Michael and Sue Matthews

# ST NEOTS MAN CAVE

With the first year complete, the St Neots Mancave is becoming a big part of the community support network. The year has seen us play a huge part in the St Neots Festival, creating a number of the signs and probably the most photographed blocks St Neots has ever had.

Schools, church groups and the NHS have all benefitted from Cave projects. At Christmas we concentrated on making Christmas Trees made out of pallet wood. January will see us back focusing on bird boxes, Hedgehog houses and planters, as well as refurbishing bikes and furniture.

**Interested? We are open Tuesdays 9.00am-1.00pm and Thursdays 1.00-5.00pm**

**Find us at Cemetery Road, St Neots PE19 2BX**

## St Neots & District Gardening Club

Meet at St Mary's Church Hall, Brook St St Neots.

All meetings start at 7.30, members £2.00, Non members welcome £2.50.

**Thursday 24th Oct. No dig gardening** by Russel Attwood  
Check out our facebook page for more information and latest news.



**Eatons Art Group** – Every Tuesday morning between 9.30am and 12pm at The Scout Hut, Mill Hill Road Eaton Ford.

Tel: 07914 928 469

**Evergreen Club** – Tues 1.30pm Ex-Services Club, School Lane.  
Tel: 01480 215 499 or 476 216

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

**Wednesday Morning group** – Wed 10am at Hanover Close.  
Tel: 01480 350 063

**Wednesday Welcome** – Wed 3pm at Eaton Socon Church

If you would like your group mentioned please email  
ESCA: [eatonsca@gmail.com](mailto:eatonsca@gmail.com)

## Library@Home Service

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[volunteers@cambridgeshire.gov.uk](mailto:volunteers@cambridgeshire.gov.uk)

Call: **01223 706 803, 07425 615 685** or **07342 700 308**

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

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

at home  
library



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