



YOUR **FREE**
COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

← ESCAN

Registered Charity No.1110148

SUMMER 2007



Meet our New Vicar

In June 2007 our new young energetic vicar Tim Robb was inaugurated into St Mary's Church, Eaton Socon.

Tim grew up in Christchurch, New Zealand in a Christian family with his parents, his older brother Chris and younger sister Sarah Jane, both of whom are now married and have children. On leaving school he went to Canterbury University in New Zealand to read music. In 1994 he assisted Andrew Maries during his New Zealand tour and decided to come to the UK to read theology at London Bible College (now London School of Theology). During his time at the college he met his wife Julie and they were married in July 1998.

In September 1998 he began working for Watford Parish Church, St Mary's, as their director of music and also for the All Souls Orchestra of All Souls Church, Langham Place. He became more involved with St Mary's Church as time progressed and in September 2001 he began training for ordination at Bristol. In July 2003 he became curate at Christ Church, Bedford. During his time there Tim and Julie had a daughter Sarah and in May this year he moved to Eaton Socon.

In Tim's spare time he enjoys music, photography, socialising, eating out, 1893 New Zealand Second Sideface Advertisement Stamps and spending time with his family.

Tim's wife Julie also grew up in a Christian family in Peckham, South East London. On leaving school she went to Cardiff University to read Biochemistry, after which she qualified as a Dietician and worked at Guys Hospital. On reading Theology at London Bible College Julie fell in love with the subject, met Tim and also completed a PhD in New Testament (Kings College, London).

In between being a full time mother and wife Julie works as a freelance lecturer and tutor. During her spare time she enjoys music, singing, reading and time with her family. She says that she doesn't do sewing, arranging flowers or making scones, but Tim will make scones. Their daughter Sarah is 3 years old has lots of energy, enjoys music, reading, playing hide and seek, cutting things up and loves her blue teddy.

Tim promises to be a very active vicar and when you see him out and about please say hello. Both Tim and Julie are very welcoming. They will get involved and look forward to meeting everyone in the parish (perhaps not quite everyone as the parish is so large !)

Church Dates

Sunday 30th September 2007

Harvest Festival
4pm Harvest Tea, 5:30pm Songs of Praise

Saturday 24th November 2007

Christmas Craft Fair
2-4pm in the Church

Dates for your Diary

16th September 2007

Eaton Socon Lock Up opening
School Lane 2pm - 4pm

13th October 2007

Bulb Planting *Queens Court 10am - 11am*

16th October 2007

ESCA AGM *Bushmead School 7pm*

20th October 2007

Green Fair *Priory Centre 10am - 4pm*

7th December 2007

Christmas Carols *Eaton Socon Green 6pm*

Christine Bettis

Christine has left Eaton Socon and is now working in a new job in Scotland. Christine was on the ESCA Committee for several years and she has been a great asset to the community. Since arriving in Eaton Socon a few years ago she has been actively planting bulbs, opening her garden, organising mince pies for the Christmas Carols, helping with the carnival and many other jobs.

On the committee she has held the posts of Chairman, Treasurer and ESCAN co-ordinator - all of which she has carried out fantastically well. Her husband Keith will soon join her in Scotland and I am sure that we would all like to wish them all the best for their new life in Scotland.

A warm welcome awaits you at
Eatons Evangelical Church
meeting on Sundays at
Crosshall School, Gt. North Road

Family Service - 10.30am
Evening events as advertised

'Energise' for 11-16's - monthly

Further information

www.eatons-church.org.uk

Lots more news and views inside.

If you have any news or views please send to the Chairman no later than 15th October 2007 for inclusion in the next issue.

We look forward to hearing from you.

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



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Who's Who in ESCA

Chairman	Sue Jarrett	216065
Treasurer	Dave Jarrett	216065
May Weekend Organiser	Muriel Ralph	
Open Gardens Organiser	Situation Vacant	
History Co-ordinator	Sue Jarrett	216065
ESCAN Editor	tba	
ESCAN Publisher	Stuart Fairweather	213555

For all correspondence

Letters to ESCA, articles
and adverts for ESCAN

3 Collingwood Road,
Eaton Socon, St Neots,
Cambs. PE19 8JQ

email address: esca@freeuk.com
website: www.esca.org.uk

Booklet News and Reviews

Two new booklets were produced in May and June. In May the long awaited book on the Village Lanes was available and if you would like to know about life in Cow Lane, Peppercorns Lane and School Lane or Ackerman Street, Woods Lane and Mill Lane then this years booklet may answer some of those questions. More than 180 pages focus on the lanes that make up the old village centre of Eaton Socon. This year's history booklet includes information on the Millers Arms, the Falcon Pub, the Cock Pub (later the Manor House) the glove factory, the River Mill, the Eaton Socon Academy, River Farm and lots more. Read about the Thody family who farmed some of the land for over 100 years, the Peppercorn family at The Manor House, the Hobson family at the Mill, the vicar's family who built a house near Castle Hills and lots more.

In June the Church celebrated 75 years since its rebuilding and rededication in June 1932 after the disastrous fire that destroyed the church in February 1930. For the celebration the fire booklet was revised with new pictures and more information kindly researched by Rosemary Galloway. So a big Thank You is given to Rosemary who retyped the booklet while Sue was compiling the Lanes booklet. The new booklet is named 'Recalling 75 years On'.

All these booklets are available in the St Neots Reference Library and the County Archives offices in Bedford and Huntingdon.

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 also be obtained from
"ESCA", 3 Collingwood Road, Eaton Socon, St Neots, Hunts, PE19 8JQ
using the form below.

Eaton Socon History Booklet 2008

The next booklet, due in May 2008. will be based on houses and buildings in the Great North Rd from Texaco Garage up to Andersons Butchers, including Eaton Socon Brewery, Howard and Wrights Mill, The Plough, The White Horse, The Wheatsheaf, The Old Sun, the Post Office on the village green, Laws Row, Glebe House, the two bakeries and lots more. If you live in this area and or have information on any families who once lived in these properties please contact **Sue Jarrett** on **01480 216065**.

ORDER FORM

I wish to order the following books -

Eaton Socon in Character	_____ copies at £2.50	School Admission Registers 1910 – 1965	_____ copies at £3.50
Eaton Socon at Work	_____ copies at £2.50	Little End Hamlet	_____ copies at £3.50
NEW "Recalling 75 Years On" (rebuilding and rededication of the church)	_____ copies at £3.00	Cross Hall Ford Hamlet – The Osborne Empire	_____ copies at £4.00
A Year in the Life of the Eatons (1992)	_____ copies at £2.50	Maltmans Gardens – (Health Centre area)	_____ copies at £7.50
The Eatons at War	_____ copies at £2.50	Eaton Ford - The Millers and the Masons	_____ copies at £7.50
Trails around the Eatons (revised in 1998)	_____ copies at £3.00	Cross Hall– The lost hamlet of Eaton Ford	_____ copies at £6.00
The Inns and Outs of the Eatons (rewritten in 1998)	_____ copies at £3.00	NEW Eaton Socon – The Village Lanes	_____ copies at £8.00
The River in the Eatons	_____ copies at £3.00	Eaton Socon Burials Registers 1813 – 2002"	_____ copies at £6.00
The Ways and Wherefores of the Eatons	_____ copies at £3.00	Church and Churchyard Survey	_____ copies at £7.50
		Eaton Socon Cemetery 1930 – 2002	_____ copies at £7.50

Eaton Socon Censuses and Electoral Registers are available on request.

I enclose a cheque for £ _____ made payable to ESCA. Name _____

Address _____

(Postage and Packing free to Eatons and St Neots residents)

Additions and Corrections

We do not always get it right and we welcome corrections or extra information for any of our history booklets. Many local residents help out with compiling these booklets and we know that many more have valuable knowledge. If you can help us to record our history with information, photos, maps or documents please contact **Sue** on **01480 216065**.

Useful Numbers

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and report the number on the lamp-post, the street name and town.

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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

**NEXT ISSUE OF ESCAN
CARNIVAL NEWS 2007**

Chairman's Address

Once again this is a short chairmans notes as we have many articles. Big thanks are due to anyone who helped at May Day. Just a small committee ran this event and even with the rain everyone enjoyed themselves and lots of money was raised. The new May Queen, Rhiannon Turner was crowned and the two princesses were Jenae Graham and Alex Ross. We would like to thank the local band 'Group Therapy' for the compering and excellent live music, Heartsease for their maypole dances and Sweeps and Milkmaids dances, Sentinels Majorettes, the Langdale Academy for their energetic display of dancing, members of the Allo Allo production for their sketches and also the Sara Whites Jive Group who encouraged many people to jive on the green. Once again the groups gave some fantastic entertainment and managed to keep going between the showers.

A big special thank you goes to Jean Searle for the May Queens and Princesses dresses, Johnson Jewellers for the locket for the retiring May Queen, Posy Bowl for providing the flowers, Endersby Engravings for the engraving of the Community Cup, Ian Narin of St Neots Community College for all his wonderful photographs and St Marys Church for allowing us to once again use the church. Thanks also to Paynes Lorries, the Masonic Lodge, McNish Ct and the Ex Services Club.

Thank You also to the stalls who came along, set up in the rain and continue to support us. And we cannot forget the many volunteers who helped with the exhibition within the church, to the church for selling refreshments and to everyone who tidied up afterwards. Another great day with a village feel. Thank you everyone.



During the past year we have had a challenging few months with quite a change in committee members due to illness and moving away. We are now looking forward to a new strong committee with more members. If you would like to offer some help at any of these events or to come on to our committee please come along to our AGM in October or phone Sue J. on 01480 216065 or write to ESCA, 3 Collingwood Rd, Eaton Socon, Cambs, PE19 8JQ.

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Cambridgeshire Community

Archives Network
www.ccan.co.uk

The new Cambs Community Archives website is increasing weekly with more photographs and memories. ESCA is actively involved in this project so if you have any old photos, videos or memories then why not share them with others. All photos will be scanned and returned to their owners so this is a good way to share those memories with others and keep our history live. Phone **Sue Jarrett on 216065** if you have any information or photos you would like to share.

Bottles make money for *the Eatons*

A very big thank you to all of you who have taken their bottles to the bottle bank at Tesco Express. This bottle bank was bought by an Eatons resident and the money comes back to us. This year hundreds of pounds have been sent back to us from the sale of the glass so if you are a group who meets in the Eatons you can ask for some money. If you would like a donation from the glass fund please write in to ESCA and say what you would like and for what. All requests will be considered at our ESCA Committee meeting on Sep 25th and donations handed out at our AGM. So don't miss out, write in today and have some of the cash you have helped to make. This is the only bottle bank in St Neots where the money comes straight back to the residents so pass around the message – **Take your bottles to Tesco Express, Eaton Socon and help us to help you.** Please write with your requests for donations to **ESCA, 3 Collingwood Rd, Eaton Socon, St Neots, Cambs, PE19 8JQ** with details of your group, where they meet, how much they would like and for what (**or email esca@freeuk.com**)



Did you know?

- Dr Newby has retired from Eaton Socon Health Centre. We know that he has worked hard at the centre for many years and we wish him all the best in his retirement.
- A new shop has opened in Queens Gardens next to Eaton Spice, Indian Takeaway. Spend and Save is a general stores and we would like to welcome them to Eaton Socon
- Bunnies have returned to Bunny Lane. Watch out for them alongside Nelson Road.

It's a net success for Eaton Socon's Young Cricketers

Pictured here are some of the young Eaton Socon cricketers who will benefit from the new all-weather cricket practise nets to replace the old unusable facilities. The new nets were formally opened by the Mayor in April.

A big thank you to sponsors and anyone involved in fundraising.



News from the Pightle

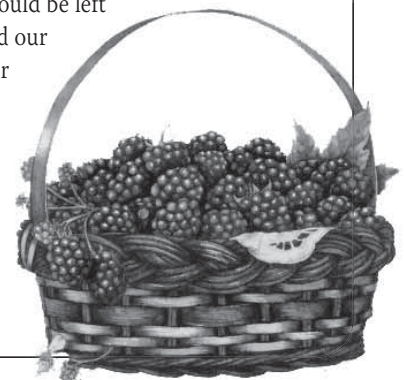
Spring in the Pightle has been beautiful this year. It never fails to amaze me how suddenly the trees and shrubs go from brown to fresh bright green. The trees, wild flowers and grasses are lovely. There are plenty of birds and the rabbits so cheeky that they don't run off until the last minute. Fox cubs have been seen and also green woodpeckers feeding off ants in the short grass. There are many butterflies, damselflies and other insects in the Pightle so the food chain seems to be working very well. Also plenty of blossom, dog roses and elder flowers.

The bench has been replaced, a pathway will be kept clear alongside the river and swims will be opened for the fishermen. It is such a pleasure to be able to sit and watch the river, and hear the great variety of bird song. One resident, sitting in the sun on the bench, commented that the soft pastel shades reminded him of Spain.

Many people love and use the Pightle, and some still comment that it should be left in its natural state, but we must manage it. We had our AGM in June and our usual three members of the public turned out. This is the time to air your views to the Trustees or to become a trustee.

Please remember that the Pightle is for everyone to enjoy so if you are a dog walker please pick up the dog mess and leave the Pightle as you would wish to find it – a pleasant clean wild area to enjoy. Remember also that September is blackberry time – so come and pick your own tasty berries and cook some tasty pies or eat them with cream.

Delicious! **Joan Foley, Chairman**



Buckingham Palace Sends Best Wishes to Royal Society

Twenty fourth of February was a substantial landmark for the Royal Society of Saint George in the St Neots Area. Very appropriately the town's new branch was formed on St Georges Day 23 April 2006. Since it's formation the Royal Society has held a number of events in the town.

On Saturday 24th February guests from prominent organisations in the town gathered at a reception in the Priory Centre Cloisters to witness the formal presentation of the Royal Society's Branch Charter. The Charter was presented by Mr James E Newton, World Chairman of the Royal Society to Mr Paul Ursell, President of St Neots Area Branch and Mayor of St Neots. Mr Newton addressed the audience on the importance of England's heritage and English values before asking all assembled to toast God, England and St George and the new St Neots Branch. Mr Ursell added how important it is to welcome new societies, associations and groups, which are positive and constructive, into the growing town of St Neots. Mr Dickinson explained that Her Royal Majesty, Patron of the Society had been invited to the reception and a surprise letter from Buckingham Palace expressing best wishes to the Branch had been received.

Mr Jonathan Djanogly, Patron of the St Neots Branch and Member of Parliament for Huntingdonshire spoke of his support for the Royal Society and his pleasure at the establishment of the St Neots Branch. Chairman of the new branch, Mr John Dickinson, explained the Royal Society's aims and objectives and works through it's Charitable Trust and thanked everyone for their warm support. Mr Keith Whittingham, Vice-Chairman, outlined the many events and activities the Branch has planned for the coming year and brought proceedings to conclusion by sharing the Loyal Toast with all assembled.

Anyone interested in receiving further information about the Royal Society or it's activities and events should contact **Barry Chapman, Branch Secretary** on 01480 212540 or e-mail saint.george@ntlworld.com or visit www.royalsocietyofstgeorge.com.



Pictured above (from left): Mr John Dickinson - Branch Chairman, Mr Paul Ursell - Branch President & Mayor of St Neots, Mr James Newton - Chairman of the Royal Society, Mr Keith Whittingham - Branch Vice-Chairman, Mr Jonathan Djanogly - Branch Patron and Member of Parliament

Community Cup

The Community Cup this year was awarded to Chris MacKay. Chris has been very active at Eaton Socon Cricket Club since the early 1980's playing and in the last few years coaching at all levels. He recently spearheaded the fundraising for new practice nets, bringing in over £20,000 in 7 months. Winter coaching for Eaton Socon takes place on Sundays at St Neots Community College and during the summer at the club, just off Peppercorns Lane, on Friday afternoons and evenings. There are currently over 150 children, boys and girls, registered for this cricket training, many of whom play at county level. We are honoured to be able to award this cup for Chris's contribution to the club and for providing such a well used amenity for the local youth.



Open Gardens 2007

In June we had a very successful afternoon with seven beautiful gardens opened by their owners. Lots of people came and we received a letter thanking us -

'We visited the Eaton's Community Open Gardens fund raising event yesterday and enjoyed it very much. The gardens were a delight and we received a very warm and friendly welcome from all the generous owners. Please pass on our thanks to all concerned.'

ESCA would like to thank all the hard working gardeners who opened their gardens. It is very much appreciated and lots of money was raised for the young cricketers in Eaton Socon. Hundreds of boys can be seen practising at the cricket nets so it really does help the young people of the Eatons. A big thank you to everyone.

Great North Road Speed Bumps

Thank you for your phone calls and emails about the size and spacing of the speed bumps along the Great North Rd. All your comments have been passed to the local councillors and to the county council.



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Anglia in Bloom

Well done to everyone who entered the front garden competition or the best commercial businesses. We are proud to say that The Millers Arms won a prize. Sudbury Meadow, The Pightle, The Riverside Park and the gardening club at Crosshall School were seen by the judges who were very impressed by all the hard work. Well done everyone. Lets keep St Neots Blooming.



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We can offer you information on any mental health diagnosis; put you in contact with support either here at The Limes or partnership agencies.

The Limes, 24 New Street, St Neots, Cambs, PE19 1AJ.
Tel 01480 470480
Website - www.huntsmind.org.uk
email - huntsmind.org.uk

Sudbury Meadow by Alison Pearson

What a strange year we are having! More rain than we know what to do with in some parts and temperatures fluctuating so much that the more tender vegetables are sulking. At Sudbury Meadow we are definitely being challenged! However, the volunteers pulled out all the stops for the St Neots in Bloom judging, on 12th July, and managed to present a reasonably well-kept set of gardens, though the grass had to wait for its cut.

The wet weather prevented the upper meadow from being cut in late June as the ground was too soft for the machinery. We will probably wait until after 1st August now, before we cut the whole meadow, adopting the traditional cutting time of a Lammas meadow. This will allow our summer flowers to set seed. Unfortunately, it will also allow the bindweed, which is smothering most of Sudbury Meadow, to set seed too. Bindweed seems to have been flourishing in the green corridor over the last few years and is proving to be a real nuisance in the gardens and shrubbery at Sudbury Meadow.

Butterfly numbers seem to be well down this year. A few Gatekeepers and Ringlets emerged in mid-July, but nothing like the numbers of the last two years. We hope this is due to the weather and not our management of the grassland. Slugs and snails on the other hand, have been so prolific that we have lost most of the vegetables and many of the summer bedding that we planted. Hopefully both Song Thrushes and hedgehogs will benefit from this extra food supply.

We hope you enjoy visiting Sudbury Meadow. Look out for new shrub signs later in the year, as we start developing on-site wildlife information.

Friends of Sudbury Meadow
www.sudburymeadow.org.uk or 01480 374792



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Eatons Community Centre

This long awaited centre, due to be built behind the Rainbow Store in Eaton Ford is being redesigned and current plans are available on the St Neots Town Council website – see www.sntc.co.uk

LOST AND FOUND

If anyone left something on the hedge on May Day while watching the entertainment can they please contact **Sue Jarrett** on **216065**. Sue still has the things and will gladly give them back if the owner can say what they left there.

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Editorial from St. Neots Camera Club



Andy is an extremely talented and inspirational wildlife photographer and has captured some of the world's most stunning and exciting images. He regularly appears on television; is a prolific author and in addition raises money for conservation projects. His visit to St. Neots, which will be the only time in the near future he will appear in this part of the Country, will

include his full Antarctica talk, showing fantastic shots of penguins, plus some of his very latest work. Andy considers that his talk is not suitable for children.



St. Neots Camera Club Presents
An Evening With Andy Rouse
International Wildlife Photographer
Friday 30th November 2007 7.30pm
St. Neots Bowling Club (nr. Waitrose) Tickets £10
From SNCC, 4, Orchid Close, St. Neots, PE19 7GS
Cheques payable to SNCC.
Please include stamped, self-addressed envelope
Camera Club website – www.stneots-camera-club.org.uk
Andy Rouse considers this talk unsuitable for children

Neat Street JULY 2007

This popular event was judged in July and the winners were Popham Close. A plaque will soon be made and put up in the street. We know that all those streets who entered made a difference to their street so thank you all very much and we must thank our judges and sponsors – Hunts District Council. We value your support.

Eaton Socon Charities

At this time of year Eaton Socon Charities will consider requests for a grant. Formed from various church charities that once gave out coal and bread to people in the parish who might benefit, the charities now donate money in the autumn.

Grants are available to people living within Eaton Socon Parish which includes Eaton Ford, Cross Hall, Duloe, Staploe, Honeydon, Begwary, Tythe, Basmead, Bushmead, Goodwick and Wyboston.

If you would like to be considered for a grant please ask at the Eaton Socon Post Office for a form or have any queries please telephone **Joan Squire** on 01234 378894 or **Derek Giles** 01480 392341.

Sandra Craft RIP

ESCA would like to send its sincere condolences to the family of Sandra Craft who died after a very short illness on 28th June 2007. Sandra was very active in the town helping on several committees, volunteering in the museum and was well known by many people for her cheerful and chatty nature. Sandra was also a very active ESCA committee member delivering newsletters, putting up posters, preparing exhibition materials, opening the cage on a Sunday afternoon, manning stalls and generally helping out wherever she could. In the week leading up to May Day she was an enormous help and on May Day itself she was in the church selling history booklets. Sadly that was the last afternoon she spent in Eaton Socon and shortly after she became ill and passed away. She will be sorely missed and we wish her family all the best.

St Neots Priorities

St Neots Priorities is printed four times a year and we are aware that in parts of the Eatons (including the ESCA Chairman's address) we have not been getting our Priorities Newsletter. Please ask around your friends in other parts of the town and if they have got a copy then let the Town Council know that yours has not been delivered. The Post Office are being paid to deliver The Priorities and we know that some areas have had only one copy so far this year so where are the missing copies ??



Fitness-Pilates

Mon 6.15 – 7.15pm & Tues 9.45 – 10.45am

★ Buckden Millennium Community Centre (The Village Hall)

This popular group exercise class to music uses gentle, fun and effective Fitness-Pilates exercises for a flatter tummy, stronger more flexible back and better posture. There is a nice relaxation to finish off the session too!

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Mon evenings 7.20 – 8.15pm

★ Buckden Millennium Community Centre (The Village Hall)

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Legs, Bums & Tums

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* Journal of American Medical Association 2003

Eaton Socon Outdoor Bowls Club



The club was established in 1919 and over the years has given the local community a mixture of competitive bowling at various levels plus pleasure and enjoyment. Located at the end of River Road, Eaton Ford we have a top class Green and Club House.

The bowling opportunities for the members cover the complete spectrum from those that are beginners through to experienced County Bowlers. Our weekly program of matches and leagues allows the members the freedom to choose when they wish to play and at what level. On Monday afternoons and Tuesday mornings we have internal leagues. On Tuesday evenings the ladies have three teams in the Beds League and on Wednesday afternoons there are four teams playing in the Hunts leagues. On Thursday evenings three men's teams again are playing in the Hunts League against other clubs. Friday evening is the perfect mixture of new and experienced bowlers playing together in teams selected at random. Couple all this with the opportunity to play in friendly matches against other clubs on Saturday plus members arranging games between themselves from 10.30 am through to dusk and it is apparent that our members have complete freedom of choice

The social side of the club is of growing importance, with the membership asking not only for an active Bowls Club but also events where they can come along with their friends for an enjoyable evenings entertainment. To this end we have an active program of Dances, Discos, BBQ's, Race Nights and external trips to the Theatre etc. The clubhouse has a bar and comfortable seating areas both inside and out. We have a medium size dance floor that is used for various social events.

Green Bowling is a sport that all ages can participate in and in essence is not that expensive to equip yourself. A pair of special shoes plus a set of Woods (Bowls) is a good starting point. Come along and you will be surprised how quickly you get the basics and how many new friends you will soon have. If you would like more information or wish to have a try give us a ring on 01480 212989 Terry J Walford, President

QUIZ - answers to the last quiz were found on the Heritage boards

A big well done to those who visited all the boards and found the answers. All the entries were placed in a hat and the winners pulled out were - **Fraser and Alison Clarke of Eaton Socon.** Well done.

ANSWERS

1. In 1900 School Lane was called **Mill Lane**
2. Where could the largest newts be found?
the pond by Bunny Lane
3. What was the phone number of Haile Weston drinks?
St Neots 247
4. Cavendish Court was built on which Charity land?
Drydens Charity
5. Which pub was also called the Union Parade Hotel?
Rose and Crown, Eaton Ford
6. Who stayed at the Bell after winning the Victoria Cross?
Matthew Rosemond
7. Who kept traction engines on the Health Centre site?
George Bradshaw
8. How many arches were on the old bridge across the river? **Five**

Eatons Blue Plaques

During the summer twelve blue plaques arrived in Eaton Socon and Eaton Ford. The first one to be unveiled was the plaque to Matthew Rosamond. At a special ceremony to mark the 150th anniversary of the event that won him the prestigious Victoria Cross Eatons residents, members of the St Neots and Eaton Socon British Legion, members of the Rosamond family, Bob Eaton the Mayor of St Neots, newspaper reporters and Anglia Television stood on Eaton Socon Green on 4th June 2007.



The ceremony began with a welcome by Sue Jarrett, chairman of the Eatons Community Association. David Bushby, who had researched Matthew Rosamond, then told everyone a little about Matthew's life. Born in Eaton Socon in 1823, he left England as a teenager following the death of his father to join the army. In 1857 he was involved in the Indian Mutiny, where on several occasions he showed his bravery. On one occasion he volunteered to light fires in order to drive back the Indian soldiers and on another occasion he helped to rescue a paymaster and his family from their bungalow and take them to safety. He was awarded the Victoria Cross by Queen Victoria in 186. David commented - "I wonder what Matthew must have felt like having risen from such a humble background to meeting Queen Victoria, foreign ambassadors and ministers, lords, bishops, British and India Army officials including General Lord Clyde, on his return from India".

The unveiling of the plaque was carried out by members of the Rosamond family Frederick, Peter and a younger Matthew. Sue Jarrett said: "Matthew Rosamond's name and achievement, once forgotten, will once again be remembered and honoured. The plaque has been placed on Regis House, opposite St Mary's Church, Eaton Socon, where the former bakery was once run by the Rosamond family.

The second blue plaque to be revealed in the Eatons and the first blue plaque to be placed on a building was the Anderson's Blue Plaque marking the only place left in the Eatons where a shop has stood for over 200 years. In 1800 the Flawn family had a blacksmiths shop on this site and when the Flawn family left the Peck family opened a butchers shop which was then taken over by Vic Anderson. Vic's son Justin continues the tradition of a thriving village shop with a welcoming smile and news from around the village.

The remaining ten blue plaques commemorate local industries and places and can be found in the Eatons.

Can you find them all ?

Let us know where they are and who or what they commemorate and win a Barretts voucher. Answers in the next ESCAN.

ESCA is the first group to have put up a set of plaques and boards in the district so we should be proud of our achievements. Leaflets are available at St Neots Museum and Library for the location of the boards and plaques, and new village trails. The plaques are part of the Eatons People and Places Project which has been funded by a grant from the St Neots Town Council, the Huntingdonshire Local History Society, the Rotary Club of St Neots St Mary's and a Local Heritage Initiative Grant.

For more information on these and other history projects in the Eatons please contact **Sue Jarrett, ESCA History Co-ordinator, 3 Collingwood Rd, Eaton Socon, St Neots, Cambs, PE19 8JQ.**

CATS IN CRISIS



The St Neots and District Branch of Cat Protection is facing its biggest crisis in its 7 year history and for once it is not a charity pleading for desperately needed cash. The two most pressing problems are, (1) cat fosterers who would be willing to temporarily care for cats that need rehoming and (2) sales assistants for Cross Keys shop. There is a growing waiting list of cats who are in desperate need of placement but we have nowhere to house them and the shop is crucial to providing the finance.

Do you have what it takes to become a Cat Protection fosterer ? All you need is enough room for one of our cat pens (13ft X 3ft), a love and passion for cats and there are no costs involved. It really is that simple and you will make such an impact, meaning the difference between life and death for an otherwise healthy homeable cat.

Open 15 months ago, our shop in Cross Keys Parade sells a range of new and used goods and the local people have been fantastically generous in their donations. The shop

is manned by a brilliant team of hardworking and dedicated staff who really enjoy their shifts and are involved in sorting, pricing, displays and selling. However, some days we cannot find two volunteers to man the shop so we may have to close it on some days, particularly Saturdays which would be devastating as the team have invested so much time and effort into making such a successful operation.

If you could spare a few hours each week to help in our shop or you are interested in fostering a cat you would be part of a great team helping a worthwhile charity. Please contact Lesley Horlock- branch co-ordinator, 15 Burnt Close, Eynesbury on 01480 391777 or 07900 257061 or talk to staff in the store today who would really appreciate your help.

Remember : St. Neots and District Branch of Cat Protection is your local charity that cares for cats in your area.