



YOUR **FREE**  
COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



Registered Charity No.1110148

**WINTER 2007**



## Chairmans Address



As we end another busy year and head on towards our Christmas festivities the Eatons Community Association can look back on a very busy year with a very small committee.

This year we ran May Day with the bare minimum number of committee members and we are very grateful to all those extra volunteers and ex committee members who helped us out. The Open Gardens quickly followed along with Anglia in Bloom, the Neat Street Award and the unveiling of the Blue Plaques. As well as that we have opened the Cage on several occasions, run local history walks and talks and worked with other local history groups to make history more accessible.

We finished the year with a committee mainly comprising members who had been co-opted during the last twelve months – this included all the main posts of Minutes Secretary, May Day Organiser, Treasurer and the Newsletter Co-ordinator. At our October AGM we are very pleased to announce that a full committee was elected and we look forward to a far more stable year as we plan our events for 2008 and our 30th birthday in 2009. I am sure that we would all like to welcome the new committee members who I know will plan work hard throughout next year in all our events. And for our newsletter ESCAN we welcome Judith Margolis who will be working hard to collect adverts and articles.

In September three of the ESCA committee members were invited to an awards ceremony in St Ives and we found that we had won the Cambridgeshire ACRE (Action in Rural Communities) Community Life Award for Heritage in the Community. We would like to thank everyone who helps us in our quest to find out about the history of the Eatons. Keep it up – if you have photos or memories to share with us please let Sue know on 01480 216065 or ESCA, 3 Collingwood Rd, Eaton Socon, Cambs, PE19 8JQ

## Dates for your Diary

24th November

**Christmas Craft Fayre**

*St Mary's Church Eaton Socon*

2.00pm - 4.00pm

30th November

St. Neots & District Camera Club -  
**'An Evening with Andy Rouse'**

*St Neots Bowling Club, Eaton Socon*

2.00pm - 4.00pm

1st December

St. Neots Choral Society

**Choral and Orchestral Concert**

**Bach Christmas Oratorio**

*St Mary's Church, Eaton Socon 7.30pm*

23rd December

**Carols led by Vivien Almond**

*Eaton Ford Methodist Chapel 10.30am*

Eatons Evangelical Church

**Carols Service**

*Crosshall School 10.30am*

2nd December

United Reformed Church **Christingle**

*St Mary's Church Eaton Socon 4.00pm*

24th December

**Crib Service**

*St Mary's Church Eaton Socon 4.00pm*

**Midnight Communion** at *St Mary's*

7th, 8th & 9th December

United Reformed Church

**Christmas Tree Festival**

*High Street St. Neots*

7-8th is 10am - 4pm

& 9th is 12noon until 4pm

**United Service**

**with Holy Communion**

*United Reformed Church 11.30pm*

7th December

**ESCA Christmas Carols**

*Eaton Socon Green*

6 - 6.30pm

25th December

**Family Communion**

*St Mary's Church Eaton Socon 10.30pm*

**United Service** led by Rev Chris Giles

*Berkley Street Methodist Church 10.30am*

23rd December

**Carols by Candlelight**

*St Mary's Church Eaton Socon 6.30pm*

Eatons Evangelical Church

**Family Carols Service**

*Crosshall School 10.30am*

12th January 2008

**Antique Evaluation Day**

**with Thomas Plant**

*St Mary's Church Eaton Socon*

6th February 2008

**Ash Wednesday**

*St Mary's Church*

*Eaton Socon*

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](http://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 March 2008 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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# ESCAN Local News

## 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**

## 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](http://www.sntc.co.uk)

## 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 Organiser	Judith Margolis	212363
ESCAN Publisher	Stuart Fairweather	213555

### For all correspondence

Letters to ESCA, articles and adverts to: 168b Great North Road, Eaton Socon, St Neots, Cambs PE19 8EH  
Email address: [esca@freeuk.com](mailto:esca@freeuk.com)  
Website: [www.escan.org.uk](http://www.escan.org.uk)



## 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.**

## 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 ??

## Cambridgeshire Community Archives Network

# [www.ccan.co.uk](http://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.

## Thumbs up for the Open Door



We celebrated our 15th birthday with a big party at the Open Door Family Centre and it was 'thumbs up' from the kids, a great time was had by all.

Thank you to everyone who helped make the party a success and we look forward to the next 5 years.

Open Door welcomes families with young children everyday with free entry for all. Tel **01480 403253** for information about the centre and our Toy Library. *Carole Page*



## Tiddlers & Toddlers

Do you know that there's a children's Group running every Friday morning?

Term-time at the Jubilee Hall Eaton Socon

### Everyone is welcome

We run from 9:30 – 11:30 am  
Nominal charge £2.50 per family  
(Includes drink & biscuit)

Come along and try before you buy!

### FIRST VISIT FREE!

Contact Diane on **0777 566 3849**  
Jude on **01480 384132**  
Or Margaret on **01480 215695**

## Useful Numbers

### Street Lighting

0800 253529

and 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

## Christmas Tree Festival

December 7th, 8th and 9th 2007

The United Reformed Church in the High Street St. Neots is to hold a Christmas Tree Festival this year for the first time.

There should be around 40 trees. This is to be a community event with many local organisations and groups displaying a Christmas tree to promote their particular interests, activities and aims.

Our Church is endeavouring to raise funds for a Redevelopment Scheme to radically change our existing buildings so that it will be more accessible to local groups and clubs for events and meetings - whilst still remaining a sanctuary for worship.

The festival will be open on Friday and Saturday from 10am - 4pm and on Sunday from 12noon until 4pm.

Admission is free. Programmes £1.

Refreshments will be served throughout the festival.

## Do you qualify for a Warm Front Grant?

As many as 7,600 homes in the Huntingdonshire district are believed to be eligible for grants for heating and insulation improvements, according to Eaga Partnership Ltd, who manage the government funded Warm Front scheme.

Under the initiative, which is funded by the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, qualifying households could receive up to £2,700 to help pay for energy saving measures, such as loft insulation, cavity wall insulation, draught proofing, central heating and heating repairs.

To qualify for a grant, householders should be in receipt of an income or disability benefit and live in their own home or rent it from a private landlord. Those likely to be eligible are householders who are over the age of 60, who receive pension credit, people who suffer from a long term illness or disability, have a child under 16, or are pregnant.

To apply for a grant, call the Warm Front helpline free on 0800 316 2814 (quoting reference MK547) and a trained advisor will guide you through the process. Lines are open Monday to Friday 8am-6pm and 9am to 5pm on Saturdays.

### NEED TO MAKE A WILL?

### NEED TO PLAN FOR THE FUTURE ?

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Tel: 01480 380027 (Eaton Socon)

Email: [shojen\\_dowell@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:shojen_dowell@yahoo.co.uk)

## Yoga



Fridays 1.30pm to 3.00pm  
Jubilee Hall, Eaton Socon

Contact Cherie

01480 394150

## VISITING PIANO TEACHER

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Melanie Grant B. Mus, ASCM

Tel **01480 215592**

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# Biodiversity Success!



Alison Pearson provides an insight to the Anglia in Bloom Special Biodiversity Award

Much to our surprise and delight Sudbury Meadow was nominated for, and secured, the Special Award for Biodiversity in this year's Anglia in Bloom. We were judged against a least five other sites (I forgot to count as I was so surprised at hearing our name called out!), one of which was a SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest). So what prompted the judges to choose Sudbury Meadow?

According to the Anglia in Bloom guidelines, the overall aim of this award is "...to recognise the efforts made by communities in supporting and increasing biodiversity in domestic and community gardens and within parks, gardens, allotments and other green spaces managed by local authorities." Below are brief details of the judging criteria and how Sudbury Meadow meets them.

- **Consideration of the positive (and negative) impact of selected plants and other features on local biodiversity.** *The policy at Sudbury Meadow is to use plants that are native to the area or will not spread into the wider environment.*
- **Evidence of engaging and educating the wider community on the topic of biodiversity as relevant to the local area.** *Several groups of young people have helped us and we are about to install six species information boards at the site, in addition to our main information board.*

- **Evidence of the consideration given to specific wildlife that needs support within the local area, and the steps taken to implement supporting planting schemes.** *The local Biodiversity Action Plan was consulted right at the start of the project and Song Thrush is a specified species that has benefited at Sudbury Meadow.*
- **A healthy balance of planting styles incorporating a variety of habitats to support a wide range of wildlife and also sustainable approaches to bedding schemes.** *In addition to maintaining the meadow, we have increased the hedgerow cover, planted a shrubbery of native species, planted a new orchard and created three demonstration wildlife gardens. We use recycled materials where possible and have a composting area.*
- **Quality and appropriateness of planting design and presentation.** *We try, not always successfully!*

So there we are, an award winning local authority green space, managed by a community group.

You are welcome to join us.

**Friends of Sudbury Meadow**  
[www.sudburymeadow.org.uk](http://www.sudburymeadow.org.uk)  
or **01480 374792**

## Cricket news

The club celebrated its most successful season in its history both on and off the field in 2007 with the 1st team gaining promotion as champions in both Saturday and Sunday leagues whilst also adding the East Beds trophy to the cabinet in night competitions. The young lads won the U13 & U14 with the U11 finishing runners up in their respective league.

For next season we will be launching Eaton Socon AAA(3A's) All Abilities Academy for the youngsters where we can focus on more specific coaching and training using our new net facilities. Our new scoreboard has just been completed and will be unveiled during our cricketforce weekend April 4,5 & 6 and hope to see there, Mike will be in touch.



## Bottles make money for the Eatons

If you were one of the lucky groups to receive cash from the bottle bank – congratulations.

A big reminder to everyone to use the **Tesco Express Bottle Bank**. It really makes a difference. £1,400 was given out to groups at this year's AGM from the proceeds of the bottles. So use the bottle bank and help us to help you.





## Carnival 2007

At the end of August our May Queen and Princesses took part in the carnival procession. We would like to thank FS Trailers for the loan of the trailer, Clive Cakebread for offering to drive the trailer and the staff at 'The Gentle Touch' for the wonderful hairstyles for the girls. A very big thank you to you all.

## May Day Celebrations

May 7th 2007 on Eaton Socon Green 12 noon -4pm

It is not too soon to book your stall for next years May Day or to offer some entertainment. Join us in Eaton Socon for a traditional May Day Celebration with May Pole Dancers and other entertainment, stalls, BBQ, refreshments and a local history exhibition in the church. If you wish to book a stall or offer entertainment please contact ESCA, 3 Collingwood Rd, Eaton Socon, Cambs.



## Christmas Carols

Do not forget to join us on Eaton Socon Green wrapped up warmly on Friday 6th December at 6pm for some carol singing around our tree. Warm mince pies afterwards will help to warm those slightly chilly toes and we wish you all a Happy Christmas.

## Community Cup - 2008

This cup is given out to a group or person who carries out voluntary work within the Eatons Area.

If you know of a deserving person or group who makes a real effort in the Eatons and who may go unnoticed - please let us know and they could be given the Community Cup at the 2008 May Day.



## Did you know?

- In 1969 Rodney Tibbs published a book called "FENLAND RIVER" in which he mentioned that "At Eaton Socon, not far from Tempsford, a mammoth carcass was discovered; a reminder of the Ice Age" - does anyone know anything about this ?
- A railway was planned through Eaton Socon in the 1840's. Just imagine getting on a train somewhere near Bushmead Rd and getting a train to Cambridge !!

## Open Gardens 2008

In June 2007 we had a very successful afternoon with seven beautiful gardens opened by their owners. Wee now beginning the planning for June 2008.

Please contact us if you would like to take part in 2008.



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# Hidden Secrets of the Eaton Parish

by Judith Margolis

I've lived in Eaton Socon for over seven years but working full time gave me few opportunities to get to know the area. Now that I have more time – and am helping put together ESCAN, I wanted to find out more about where I live. Who better to educate me than Sue Jarrett and, as I helped deliver the piles of newsletters last month to our amazing group of distributors, we took a drive around the Parish, so that she could show me just how diverse our area is.

Now its time to work on the December issue and it occurred to me that there must be other people in similar situations, who have little time between work and family to get to know the neighbourhood. So in the next few issues I plan to highlight interesting locations that caught my eye on our trip

An amazing find was in the little village of Honidon which was home of the mother of one of the founder members of the Church of Latter day Saints (commonly known as the Mormon Church). in America.



Mary Fielding Smith was born on July 21, 1801. She was the sixth child of John Fielding a Bedfordshire farmer-preacher, and Rachel Ibbotson. John preached in the little Methodist Church in Honidon. In 1834, Mary emigrated to Toronto, Canada to join her brother and her sister. They joined to the newly formed Church of the Later day Saints (LDS) in 1836. Mary moved to Kirtland, Ohio the following year to join the larger body of the church and married Hyrum Smith, a founder member of the LDS and became stepmother to his children, who included the future church patriarch John Smith. She was widowed in 1844 when a mob killed her husband. Mary died in Salt Lake City, Utah at the home of her second husband Heber C. Kimball, on September 21, 1852

**NEXT ISSUE** – A hidden secret that even Sue doesn't know! We found an A1 underpass painted with some great graffiti art, that gets painted over ever so often, so that it can be repainted with new designs. Is there anyone reading this who knows who does this? Please tell us so that we can share it with our ESCAN readers next issue. Email [jmmargolis@yahoo.com](mailto:jmmargolis@yahoo.com)



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## ESCAN Deliverers

Thank you as always to all our deliverers, of which there are over 50 of you in total. It is really true that without you ESCAN just would not happen. There is no way our small committee could deliver to nearly 6,000 homes without your help. However we are still looking for people who are willing to give up an hour or two of their time three times a year to deliver ESCAN. So if you feel up to a bit of light exercise please contact **Sue Jarrat** on **01480 392829**. On the other hand if you know of someone in the Eatons area that is not receiving a copy of ESCAN please let us know and we will look into it.



Go

## Learn to Drive Rite

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Email: [sales@stneotsmotorcompany.co.uk](mailto:sales@stneotsmotorcompany.co.uk)

(opposite The Highwayman)

# Homes Desparatly Needed for Adult Cats



St Neots and District Cats Protection are appealing for new and loving homes for a number of adult cats that are being cared for by the branch. The branch is under pressure as all their pens and fosterers are full and they have over 20 needy cats on their waiting

list to come into the branch. The advantages of adopting an older cat are numerous. Firstly all cats from Cats Protection are neutered or spayed, vaccinated, blood tested and microchipped and are ready to go to their new homes immediately, unlike kittens whose owners will have to pay for the various vet treatments which would be well over £100. Also an adult cat is safer on the roads and more confident in a new home. Furthermore an adult cat will only have to be kept in for 2 weeks and can then go outside, whereas kittens can not go outside at all for nearly 6 months. Another benefit of an adult cat is that a new owner who is not at home during the day need not worry as the cat is likely to settle down and sleep until the owner is home and will revolve its life around you. A kitten needs feeding every 4 hours and should have human company as much as possible in order to socialise it. The cats in the St Neots and District Branch are looking for loving new homes now and come in all shapes, sizes, colours and temperaments. There really will be one to suit you, so please ring us today and make an adult cat an offer of a new start.

Tel **01480 476696** or **07966 282005**. Please leave a message if we do not answer, we will ring you back.



## DUCHESS NEEDS A SPECIAL HOME

Duchess is a pretty, grey and tortoiseshell 5 year old girl, spayed, vaccinated and blood tested. She would be the perfect cat for experienced cat lovers, maybe retired owners or someone who works from home.

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Wednesday 10.00am &  
6.00pm

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

\* Journal of American Medical Association 2003

**QUICK AND EASY START**

## Baby Massage Classes Eaton Ford

Would you like an opportunity to calm your baby, improve sleep patterns, provide relief from wind or colic, and be able to communicate with your baby with nurturing touch to help strengthen the bond you have?

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**International Association of Infant Massage** courses consist of 5 weekly 1 1/2 hr classes.



## Useful Web sites



### Everyclick [www.everyclick.com](http://www.everyclick.com)

Ever wondered how you can help your favourite charity that bit more? Now you can do it without leaving your armchair! Everyclick is a new family-friendly Internet search engine where all the

pennies that come from advertisers go off to good causes - and when a lot of people are on the Internet, that's a lot of pennies - more than £300,000 already. All you need to do is go to **www.everyclick.com**, register, say who you'd like to benefit, and surf away. Even better, join the ranks of ESCA supporters and help us do more for our community!

(Incidentally, since the AGM I've just had a quick look - 3 people supporting ESCA, 2 supporting the Pightle trust, 2 the St Neots RAFA, 1 the St Neots Volunteer Bureau, and about £30 between them already!)



### Local Secrets [www.localsecrets.com](http://www.localsecrets.com)

This is a great web site if you need to find the best places to eat out, drink and shop in the Cambridgeshire area, it has reviews - or you can add your own review. There is also a comprehensive list of local 'what's on' where you

can find out about latest shows and events. Membership is free and you can download money off vouchers for local restaurants. There is also a free e-magazine delivered to your inbox weekly, fortnightly or monthly.

<http://groups.yahoo.com:80/group/stneotsfreecycle/>



The St. Neots Freecycle™ group is open to all who want to "recycle" that special something rather

than throw it away. Whether it's a chair, a fax machine, piano or an old door, all you need to do is post it on this web site. Or maybe you're looking to acquire something yourself! Nonprofit groups are also welcome to participate too!

One main rule: everything posted must be free. This local group is part of The Freecycle Network, a nonprofit organization and a movement of people interested in keeping good stuff out of landfills.

## St. Mary's Church Eaton Socon CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR

24 November 2007 to 24 November 2007: 2 - 4.30pm

Christmas Craft Fair with something for all the family. The craft group at St. Mary's Church has been meeting once a week during 2007 making various items, e.g. Christmas tree decorations, Christmas table decorations, Christmas cards and tags, aprons, waistcoats, childrens shoulder bags, shopping bags, lavender bags and many more for sale. There will be a cake stall, raffle, hampers, games for the children and more so this is going to be a super day. The children will also get a chance to write to Santa Claus. Refreshments will be available.



# Booklet News and Reviews

If you want a Christmas present with a local flavour why not buy one of our history booklets. The two newest 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 with lots of information including 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 vicars family who built a house near Castle Hills and lots more.

In June the Church celebrated 75 years of 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.

## 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
<b>NEW</b> "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	<b>NEW</b> 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**.