



YOUR FREE
COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



Registered Charity No.1110148

WINTER 2008



Eaton's Young Tourists do club proud

Eaton Socon Young Cricketers were keen to impress on their recent tour to Holland both on and off the field. U13 and U15 squads enjoyed success on the field and the fantastic hospitality off it from their Dutch hosts in and around Amsterdam. Coach Chris Mckay hailed their first tour a huge success for the lads who were a credit to their club.



Exercise on a Saturday and a blooming good show in the Spring



More daffodils were planted on Eaton Socon Village Green and at Queens Court in October by members of ESCA and we are looking forward to more great displays in the springtime



Sing Carols for Christmas

Do not forget to join us on Eaton Socon Green wrapped up warmly on Friday 12th December at 6:00 to 6.30pm for some carol singing around our Christmas tree. Warm mince pies afterwards will help to warm those slightly chilly toes and we wish you all a happy Christmas

Eaton Socon Health Centre

To be sure of getting your repeat prescriptions filled before Christmas, make sure you put the requests in by the

17th December 2008

Normal services resume on the
6th January

Lots more news and views inside

If you have any news or views please send it to the Chairman no later than 14th March 2009 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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Police 01480 456111

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EME 0800 056 8090

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General enquiries
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Out of hours emergencies
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Fly Tipping 01480 388640

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Useful Web sites

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www.ccan.co.uk

Esca www.esca.org.uk

Paxton Pits
www.paxton-pits.org.uk

Sudbury Meadow
www.sudburymeadow.org.uk

everyclick www.everyclick.com

St Marys Church
www.stmaryseatonsocon.org.uk

Who's Who in ESCA

Chairman Sue Jarrett	216065
Treasurer Dave Jarrett	216065
May Weekend Organiser Muriel Ralph	
Open Gardens Organiser	216065
History Co-ordinator Sue Jarrett	216065
ESCAN Organiser Judith Margolis	212363
ESCAN Publisher Stuart Fairweather	213555

For all correspondence

Letters and adverts to ESCA, 168b Great North Road, Eaton Socon, St Neots, Cambs PE19 8EH
Email address: esca@freeuk.com

One building about to go and one about to be built – The Bell Public House

This public house built in 1934 replaced the earlier Bell Public House which stood alongside the road in front of this building. This photo shows The Bell in October 2008 before it's demolition to make way for a KFC Restaurant and Drive Thro' take away.



The Eatons Community Centre

The long awaited Community Centre behind the Co-op Food Store (formerly Rainbow Store) in Eaton Ford is due to open in 2009. This first turf was cut in August 2008 and this photo shows the field just before work starts in Autumn 2008.

	
Christmas Diary Dates	
	November
	30th 4:00 PM Christingle ST MARYS CHURCH, GREAT NORTH ROAD, EATON SOCON
December	
	12th 6:00-6:30 PM
	Sing Carols around the Eaton Socon Christmas Tree ESCA EATON SOCON GREEN, OUTSIDE ST MARYS CHURCH, GREAT NORTH ROAD, EATON SOCON,
	21st 10:30 AM Carol Service led by Miss Vivien Almond. EATON FORD METHODIST CHURCH, ST NEOTS ROAD.
	6:30 PM Carols by Candlelight ST MARYS CHURCH, GREAT NORTH ROAD, EATON SOCON
	24th 4:00 PM Family Carol Service ST MARYS CHURCH, GREAT NORTH ROAD, EATON SOCON
	11:30 PM United Service, with Holy Communion, EATON FORD METHODIST CHURCH AT THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH, HIGH STREET, ST.NEOTS.
	11:30 PM Midnight Communion ST MARYS CHURCH, GREAT NORTH ROAD, EATON SOCON
	25th 10:30 AM Joint service led by Rev. Christine Giles. EATON FORD METHODIST CHURCH AT BERKLEY STREET METHODIST CHURCH, EYNESBURY
	10:30 AM Family Communion ST MARYS CHURCH, GREAT NORTH ROAD , EATON SOCON
	



Chairman's 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 hard working committee. This year May Day was sunny and we had a great time with our energetic local performers and all the groups that had stalls on Eaton Socon village green.

The Open Gardens quickly followed along with Anglia in Bloom and the Neat Street Award. 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.

At our October AGM we are very pleased to announce that a full committee was elected and we look forward to our 30th birthday next year. When ESCA was first formed in 1979 one of its aims was to welcome newcomers to Eaton Socon Village and much of Eaton Ford was still being built. Since then the aims have expanded and developed to include all the environmental and historical activities that are now carried out.

We are proud to work in the Eatons and promote its identity within the town of St Neots. This newsletter is distributed by volunteers within the Eatons and the villages within Eaton Socon parish. If you have news or an article about life in the Eatons why not let us know. Let us help you keep the Eatons alive with Eatons news. Have a happy and healthy Christmas and New Year.

Sue

CCAN Cambridgeshire Community Archives Network – www.ccan.co.uk

Why not have a look at the St Neots Website Archive. The group have been very busy and added lots more photos of buildings and some video clips. There are now over 800 images, with photographs of floods, shops, buildings that have gone, adverts, maps, monuments, street signs, special trees, people, events and many other features of life in this area. If you find a hotspot it is possible to find other similar photographs such as flooding, families and thatched cottages.

If you see anyone photographing a building please ask them what they are doing and why. Recently all the thatched cottages in the town were photographed as well as some buildings that were thought to be about to be altered and a few plaques on houses. The St Neots Museum Curator, Anna Mercer, knows who is involved from the Archive Group and will happily answer any queries about what is going on. Museum phone number – 01480 388788. Alternatively please phone Sue Jarrett, the ESCA Chairman on 01480 216065 or email esca@freeuk.com about any photographing. The next exhibition is at the Priory Centre, 21st March 2009. 10:30 – 3:30

Do you play the organ?

St Mary's Church in Eaton Socon are searching for a new Organist. If you are interested please call the Vicar, Tim Robb, on 212219



Money for local Groups

This year ESCA donated more than £2,000 to groups of all ages from the Bottle Bank, the Open Gardens and from May Day profits. The youngest groups were under the age of five and the oldest group were a group of active older Eatons residents who meet together once a week. We are proud to be able to help all groups, whether they are the very young, the teenagers or the older residents. Most of these groups are run by volunteers who do a fantastic job. So if you are a volunteer keep up the good work, it is very much appreciated and if you have a paid job but work with volunteers then you are also important. Thank you all for all your efforts

A big reminder to everyone to use the **Tesco Express Bottle Bank**. It really makes a difference. Help us to help you

Local History Society talks

St Neots Local History Society 2009 Meetings at Eynesbury C of E School, Montagu Street, Eynesbury at 7.30pm

- 2nd Jan History and Development of Little Paxton Pits
- 6th Feb A G M and short talk
- 6th Mar Kimbolton – 1000 yrs of history
- 3rd Apr Life in the Big House by the real Mrs Hudson
- 1st May Dr William Stukeley by David Cozens

Roxton Local History 2009 Meetings at Roxton Village Hall start at 7.30pm Visitors £1.50

- 5th Feb The World of Elizabeth Snitch and her Bedfordshire Map Sampler 1779 with Marion Maule who discovered the story of the 12 year old girl who stitched it.
- 5th Mar In the Pantry with Ian Walker - Memories of what used to be your Grandmas pantry
- 2nd Apr The £150 cottage with Josh Tidy - The £150 starter homes in Letchworth Garden City

Colmworth and Neighbours History Society Meetings at Colmworth Village Hall start at 7.30pm..

- 16th Jan Religious houses of North East Bedfordshire and will hopefully include Bushmead Priory.
- 20th Feb Medieval Colmworth documents that were recently transcribed by Beds archivists



Brampton Choral Society presents

“Mother Hubbard”
at
Brampton Park Theatre

Wed 10th – Sat 13th Dec
at 7.30pm
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Eaton Socon Village Green

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House Deeds – these are very useful when sorting out families and their homes many years ago.

Photos of houses and buildings that have gone

– in particular Rose Cottage (234 Great North Rd) and 213 Great North Rd. If you have any of the above please let us see them. With your permission we can read and scan information/photos and then return them. All information is helpful in our research.

ESCAN Deliverers - We are still looking for deliverers who would be willing to spare a little bit of time to deliver ESCANS particularly on part of the Deer estate, part of Queens Gardens and part of Crosshall Rd. We know of some very kind volunteers whose names have vanished off the computer list and if anyone who did once volunteer would like to help again please contact ESCA by email or phone 01480 216065.



Save your stamps

During December we are busy sending and receiving Christmas Cards. Please tear off those stamps and donate to charity. We know of two good causes – St Marys Church Eaton Socon have a box just inside the church hall door and the Cats Protection League are also collecting them at their shop in Cross Keys Mall in St Neots. Or you can post them to ESCA and we will take them wherever. Address at the front of the newsletter

St Neots Volunteer Bureau Needs YOU

The Bureau are always looking for volunteers to help in the local community. If you have a few hours to spare and would like to help others why not arrange to visit the office for an informal chat.

Social Car Scheme

People who cannot travel on public transport can request a volunteer driver to take them to the doctors, dentists, social events, shopping. A small charge is made for the service. Please contact Sandra Attewell at 01480 476047 If would like to become a volunteer driver please phone 01480 476047

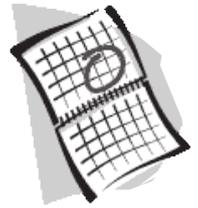
Calling all May Queens

Next year ESCA is 30 years old and we would like to celebrate by inviting all former May Queens along to the celebrations After the last newsletter we received information on three past May Queens. We are still looking for more than 20. If you know where they are please contact ESCA at 3 Collingwood Rd, Eaton Socon, St Neots, Cambs, PE19 8JQ.



Date for your diary

May Day Celebrations, May 4th 2009 on Eaton Socon Green 12 noon –4 pm 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, 367 Great North Rd, Eaton Ford, or email esca@freeuk.com



Residential Homes needed for senior catizens

St Neots & District Cats Protection have a number of senior and elderly residents who are desperately in need of retirement homes with human companions who will take care of them. Who knows it could be a match made in heaven. All of these pussioners have been given a clean bill of health, been neutered or spayed, vaccinated, microchipped and treated for fleas & worms. In their twilight years these cats need a nice warm lap, some choice morsels and a little attention, that's not too much to ask is it? in return you will have a loyal friend to keep you company. It is possible that some funding may be available for certain cats in the event of unexpected vetinary treatment in the future - please ask for information.

PENNY 14 years old, has lived alone for 3 years with just 1 visit a day for food, desperately in need of patience and attention. Experienced cat owner needed.

GOLIATH, FIDO, & JERALD 10 yrs old. These three have had a very hard life and none are particularly pretty and are full of character. Access to a garden is a must for the boys and not near a busy road.

Please contact us if you are able to offer a loving new home to any cat. It could be their last chance. TEL: 01480 476696, 07966 282005 or 07970 257061 <http://stneots.cats.org.uk/>

Eaton Socon History Booklet 2009

The next booklet, due in May 2009. will be based on houses and buildings on the Great North Rd from the Waggon and Horses to the George and Dragon and will also include Bushmead Rd, Beauchamp Close, Queens Gardens, Bushmead School and The Crescent. The booklet is now well on its way but we would still welcome more information. 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

The Eaton Socon War Memorial

The booklet on the men who lost their lives in the two world wars is progressing well. We have a few photographs of those who died but there must be more. If you have a photo of a young man from Eaton Socon who died please contact Sue Jarrett on 01480 216065

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LAWN CARE IN WINTER

Mowing

Don't be afraid to mow the lawn (if it needs it) even if it is December or January, as long as there is no frost on the ground.

Fallen leaves

Leaves should be cleared away as they fall.

Aeration

Soil compaction is a frequent cause of turf deterioration and moss invasion. For optimal effectiveness the lawn needs aerating in autumn.

Disease

There has been a lot of disease in lawns this year. We have seen Red Thread and Fusarium. You may have seen bleached patches which have red cotton like threads growing from the older leaves of grass. This disease can leave scars in the lawn and if weather remains mild they need to be treated.

Moss Control

Moss will build up in soils that are not free draining. If moss is left untreated the grass becomes thin. Treat with iron sulphate based fertilisers or spray with a liquid iron treatment.

Worm Casts

This month will probably see the appearance of worm casts (small mounds of earth brought to the surface by worms). It is advisable to scatter the casts with a broom otherwise they encourage weeds to grow

This information was kindly supplied by ProLawncare Ltd
For more information the services that they offer call 01480 812393 or 0772 007 2446 or E-mail info@prolawncare.co.uk

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Photos of houses and buildings that have gone – in particular Rose Cottage (234 Great North Rd) and 213 Great North Rd

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Warm mince pies afterwards

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Eatons Hidden Secrets

Thank you for all those villagers who told ESCA that Shakers Way does not go past Tythe Farm. Next time we will let you know exactly where it goes and why it is called Shakers Way or Sheakers Way. We have also been told that there is another unusual shaped farmhouse at Gransden.

This time we thought that you might like to have a more local hidden secret. Have you ever had a good look in the Old Sun Car Park in Eaton Socon ?



There are obviously cars in the car park but if you have a good look at the back wall there is what looks like a fireplace and two columns with an archway over, which is often covered in ivy. The fireplace is part of a building that was once attached to the Old Sun Public House which had a brewery at the back and was still there on the 1925 Land Valuation map.

The two columns and archway in the wall were around a gate that once led to Eaton Socon Vicarage. Just south of the Sun Public House is a large house now called Glebe House but which was the Vicarage until the early 1930's. Servants and tradespeople were not allowed up the main driveway to the vicarage and would have to ask permission to go through the Sun yard and in through the back entrance which was through the back wall of the Sun yard. Why not go and have a look around the car park but be careful of the cars?

Sudbury Meadow and The Pightle

Have you found these two special areas in the Eatons. Sudbury Meadow in Eaton Ford is up Crosshall Rd just beyond the Barley Mow on the Riverside side of the road. Here visitors can find meadows, an orchard, examples of wildlife, bird and butterfly gardens and lots more. Notices explain what can be found and seating allows visitors to sit a while, watch and listen.



The Pightle is situated on the back footpath in Eaton Socon and can be found just behind Capulet Close, near the cricket field. If visiting by car it is a good idea to park near the church and take the footpath leading north from the back of the churchyard. This large field has been left in a natural state and is full of wildlife. Visitors are likely to hear many birdsongs, see rabbits and squirrels playing and a walk through the field will lead to a bench near the river where boats can be seen quietly cruising along.

Both these areas are special to the Eatons and are managed by volunteers. If you would like to learn more about either and/or wish to help as a volunteer please contact Alison for Sudbury Meadow (tel 01480 374792) and Joan (tel 01480 212778) for The Pightle

Electric Pink Girls

'Electric Pink has been running for approximately 18 months. The Youth Club meets at the Open Door Project, 281 Great North Road, Eaton Socon (opposite the Health Centre), on one evening a week during term time. It is open to girls aged 10 years and above from the Eaton Socon area.

The club is supervised by 2 qualified youth workers and girls can undertake a variety of activities including arts, crafts, cooking, games or just have a general chit-chat! There is a small charge of 50p per week. For more information, contact:- Fliss Layde on 01480 393660, or Cheryl Hess on 01480 475473'

Anglia in Bloom



St Neots achieved a Silver Gilt Award, and the Anglia in Bloom judges were

very impressed by all the hard work around the town. Well done to everyone who entered the competitions and we are especially pleased to congratulate Richard and Sue de Fraine of Eaton Socon who won the best garden in the town.

Congratulations!

Richard and Sue live on Great North Road, Eaton Socon. A photograph of each garden was entered to the competition. The judges assessed, as best they could, colour co-ordination, effective use of the space shown in the photo, health, vigour and sustainability of the planting, cultivation and freedom from weeds, maintenance of paths, structures, lawns and other areas and all year round interest.



It was not an easy task! The three judges marked out of 60 and then the average score was calculated. There was only 1.6 marks between third and first places! Second place went to Christine Elmes in East Street, St Neots and third place went to Don and Pauline Gilbert in Kings Road, St Neots. Well done everyone. Lets keep St Neots Blooming.

Community Cup - 2009

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 2009 May Day Celebrations



Booklet News and Reviews

Due to the large amount of information on the Great North Rd two booklets were produced in May this year -

Pt 1 - Texaco Garage to Nelson Road or for the older residents - Howard and Wrights Mill to Bunny Lane. Find out about The White Horse, The Eagle, The Plough, Eaton Socon Brewery, Howard and Wrights Mill and Whiteheads Toy Factory. Learn more about the Hobson family, a staunch church going family who once owned nearly all the property on the west side of the Great North Rd up to the Wheatsheaf and who built York Cottages to hide the Chapel. Learn also about Bedlow, a police sergeant in Biggleswade who bought up property in Eaton Socon and whose family owned them for over 100 years.

Pt 2 - Nelson Road (Bunny Lane) to Andersons Butchers. This area was the centre of the village and had the village shops such as general stores, drapers, sweet shops, butchers, blacksmiths, a taxi service and hairdressers. Find out about The Wheatsheaf, The Old Sun, Drakes Post Office, Cotton and Bamfords and the Telephone Exchange. Learn about the influence that William Law had during the nineteenth century, and about the vicars who lived in the new vicarage and enlarged their garden. Find out about Charles Dickens stay in Eaton Socon when he found the Cock Pub full one night and so slept in the house opposite.

All these booklets are available for reference in the St Neots Library and the County Archives offices in Bedford and Huntingdon.
St Neots Museum now stock copies for sale.

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.**

I wish to order the following books :

"Eaton Socon in Character" ___ copies at £2.50	"Eaton Socon – The Village Lanes" ___ copies at £8.00
"Eaton Socon at Work" ___ copies at £2.50	"Cross Hall – The lost hamlet of Eaton Ford" ___ copies at £6.00
"A Year in the Life of the Eatons (1992)" ___ copies at £2.50	"Eaton Ford – The Millers and the Masons" ___ copies at £7.50
"Recalling 75 Years On" (rebuilding and rededication of the church) ___ copies at £3.00	"Maltmans Gardens – (Health Centre area)" ___ copies at £7.50
"The Eatons at War" ___ copies at £2.50	"Cross Hall Ford Hamlet – The Osborne Empire" ___ copies at £4.00
"Trails around the Eatons" (revised in 1998) ___ copies at £3.00	(new) "Great North Rd – Pt 1, Texaco Garage to Nelson Rd" ___ copies at £7.50
"The Inns and Outs of the Eatons" (rewritten in 1998) ___ copies at £3.00	(new) "Great North Rd – Pt 2, Nelson Rd – Andersons Butchers" ___ copies at £7.50
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