

# ESCAN



Eatons Community Association - Registered Charity No.1110148

December 2013 – April 2014

## ESCA helps local groups

The May Queen Eve Peacock and May Princesses Charlotte Payne and Laura Hurley came along to the Eatons Community Association AGM and handed out the cheques. The money raised from the textile bank at Tesco Express and the grant from St Neots Town Council was given to some of the older residents groups of the Eatons - the Hanover Residents Social Group, the McNish Court residents, the Wednesday Welcome Group and the Evergreens; the two churches - River Church and St Marys Church towards Xmas Meals; the Merrymakers entertainers, and Tiddlers and Toddlers under 5's group.



The money raised from this year's Open Gardens event went towards activities for teenagers in the Eatons - including the Eaton Socon Venture Scouts, the Eaton Socon Ranger Guides, the Rock Solid Church Teenagers and the Battle the Boredom Website (see inside for more information). And finally some of the money raised at May Day was given to the entertainers who make May Day such a memorable event with their enthusiastic performances.

## Village Sign returns after 48 years

Have you spotted our new historic sign on Eaton Socon Village Green, and been surprised by the Bedfordshire badge on it? Mary Page, aged 98 years, from Eaton Ford, and Charlotte Payne, May Princess aged 10



photo by Colin, son in law of Mary Page

years, from Eaton Socon proudly unveiled the sign on 18th September, which is a copy of the original Festival of Britain sign placed on the green in 1951.

The historic sign is similar to other signs that were placed in Bedfordshire villages to celebrate the Festival of Britain. After the Second World War the government decided to celebrate the achievements of Britain by holding large exhibitions in London to illustrate the British contribution to civilisation, past, present and future including contributions to the arts, science and technology, and industrial design. It would also mark the centenary of the 1851 Great Exhibition at Crystal Palace.

Counties were also encouraged to celebrate the Festival of Britain and one of Bedfordshire's ideas was new village signs, which include the Festival of Britain symbol on the left and the Bedfordshire County Council coat of arms on the right. Over 150 villages and hamlets were given these unique signs, which originally cost £10, and one of the original signs can still be seen in Little Barford. Eaton Socon had a sign as the village was in Bedfordshire and had been for centuries. It was probably removed when the village became part of Huntingdonshire in 1965 but the new sign will provide a talking point and a new understanding of our village which moved counties from Bedfordshire into Huntingdonshire and later into Cambridgeshire.

## Carol Singing around the Christmas Tree

**Eaton Socon Green**

**Friday 6th December 6-6.30pm**

Join with us in singing carols around our Christmas Tree on Eaton Socon Village Green.

Wrap up warmly, bring a torch and enjoy a warm mince pie after the carols.

Children are very welcome.



## Lots more news inside.

Deadlines for all contributions  
28th February 2014 for inclusion  
in the next issue.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Follow us on Twitter: @EatonsCA

ESCA wishes everyone a Happy Christmas  
and Best Wishes for the New Year

**Sweet Paradise**

**TRADITIONAL  
SWEET SHOP**

4 Cross Keys Mall, St. Neots

**01480 356665**

Pop in and see if we have your  
favourites amongst our 200+ jars

**AMERICAN JELLY BELLY BEANS**

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



**C & A Hurst Opticians**

Registered Opticians  
& Contact Lenses

359, Great North Road Eaton Socon

Telephone: 01480 406002



## Useful Telephone Numbers

<b>Street Lighting</b>	<b>0800 253 529</b>
report the number on the lamp-post, the street name and town.	
<b>St Neots Town Council</b>	<b>01480 388911</b>
<b>Police</b>	<b>01480 456111</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 388388</b>
Out of Hours Emergencies	<b>01480 434167</b>
Fly Tipping	<b>01480 388640</b>
<b>Jubilee Hall</b>	<b>01480 392733</b>
<b>Duloe Village Hall</b>	<b>07768 303373</b>
<b>St Marys Church Hall Eaton Socon</b>	<b>01480 352154</b>
<b>Eatons Community Centre</b>	<b>01480 388911</b>
<b>Doctors Surgeries</b>	
Eaton Socon Health Centre	<b>08444 771802</b>
Cedar House Surgery	<b>01480 406677</b>
<b>Bushmead School</b>	<b>01480 375375</b>
<b>Crosshall Infants School</b>	<b>01480 475980</b>
<b>Crosshall Junior School</b>	<b>01480 475972</b>



## Useful Websites

ESCA	<a href="http://www.escan.org.uk">www.escan.org.uk</a>
St Neots Town Council	<a href="http://www.stneots-tc.gov.uk">www.stneots-tc.gov.uk</a>
Eaton Socon Health Centre	<a href="http://www.eatonsoconhealthcentre.co.uk">www.eatonsoconhealthcentre.co.uk</a>
Cedar House Surgery	<a href="http://www.cedarhousesurgery.net">www.cedarhousesurgery.net</a>
St Neots Archives	<a href="http://www.st-neots.ccan.co.uk">www.st-neots.ccan.co.uk</a>
Paxton Pits	<a href="http://www.paxton-pits.org.uk">www.paxton-pits.org.uk</a>
Sudbury Meadow	<a href="http://www.sudburymeadow.org.uk">www.sudburymeadow.org.uk</a>
St Marys Church	<a href="http://www.eatonsocon.org">www.eatonsocon.org</a>
Everyclick	<a href="http://www.everyclick.com">www.everyclick.com</a>
Pightle	<a href="http://www.eatonsoconpightle.org.uk">www.eatonsoconpightle.org.uk</a>
Bushmead School	<a href="http://www.bushmeadprimaryschool.org.uk">www.bushmeadprimaryschool.org.uk</a>
About my Area	<a href="http://www.aboutmyarea.co.uk/pe19">www.aboutmyarea.co.uk/pe19</a>
Duloe, Staploe and Honeydon	<a href="http://www.staploeduloeandhoneydonparishcouncil.bedsparishes.gov.uk">www.staploeduloeandhoneydonparishcouncil.bedsparishes.gov.uk</a>
St Neots Time Bank	<a href="http://www.e-s-timebank.eu">www.e-s-timebank.eu</a>
River Church	<a href="http://www.riverchurch.eu">www.riverchurch.eu</a>
Battle the Boredom	<a href="http://www.battletheboredom.com">www.battletheboredom.com</a>



## Who's Who at ESCA

<b>Chairman</b>	Sue Jarrett	<b>01480 216065</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	Dave Jarrett	<b>01480 216065</b>
<b>May Day Administrator</b>	Julia Hayward	<b>01480 210097</b>
<b>Open Gardens</b>	Collette Barnes	<b>01480 403343</b>
<b>History Co-ordinator</b>	Sue Jarrett	<b>01480 216065</b>
<b>ESCAN Co-ordinator</b>	Kate Norden	<b>01480 470039</b>

### ESCA Website

Our website is being redesigned so watch out for a new look and more up to date information.

## Dates for your diary

### St Mary's Eaton Socon Church Dates

#### Christmas Services & Events

Thurs Dec 12th @ 12.30pm **Christmas Lunch**

(entry by ticket only – contact St Mary's)

Sun Dec 15th @ 10.30am **Nativity Play**

Wed Dec 18th @ 2pm **Traditional Carol Service with the Archdeacon of Bedford**

Sun Dec 22nd @ 6pm **Carol Service**

Christmas Eve @ 3pm & 5pm **Family Carol Services**

Christmas Eve @ 11.30pm **Midnight Communion Service**

Christmas Day @ 10am **Christmas Day**

#### Family Communion Service

Sun Jan 12th @ 4pm **Family Christingle Service**

### Methodist Church Services

Sun 22nd Dec, Eaton Ford Methodist Church - **Carol Service**  
Led by our Minister, Rev. Tricia Williams - 10.30 a.m.

Tues 24th December Christmas Eve - **United Midnight Service**  
(with Holy Communion) at United Reformed Church, St. Neots  
beginning at 11.30 p.m.

Wed 25th December Christmas Day - **United Service**  
at Berkley Street Methodist Church, Eynesbury - 10.30 a.m  
Led by Rev. Tricia Williams. Please note NO service at Eaton Ford.

### River Church, Eatons Community Centre

Sat 21st December at 6pm – **Family Carol service**

December 25th – No service, but a **Community Christmas Lunch** at the Eatons Community Centre.

The River Church and Chefs Table Solutions in partnership with other local churches are hosting a free Christmas Lunch for those who would otherwise be on their own on Christmas Day or would find it difficult to cook their own. Starts at 12.30pm Donations towards this event from the public are welcome. If you would like to attend or need more information please contact Jim Fitzgerald on 07545 175837. Transport will be provided if needed.

Sunday services are at 10.30 at the Eatons Community Centre, behind the Co-op Store in Eaton Ford, and all are welcome.

### St Neots Players Pantomime

#### Beauty and the Beast

Thurs 9th Jan – Sat 11th Jan 2014 at the Priory Centre

Get your tickets soon and do not be disappointed.

## Meet your councillor

Have you ever wanted to meet your Town Councillor or ask a question about something concerning the town? The councillor surgeries will now be held between 11am and 12 noon at The Priory Centre on Saturday mornings (not the Eatons Community Centre).

**Saturday 14th December**

**Saturday 29th March**

**Saturday 15th February**

**Saturday 12th April**

If you wish to email your councillor the details are on the Town Council website but if you have no access to computers the councillors and their details are -

<b>Eaton Ford</b>	Bob Farrer	01480 404014
	David Harty	01480 477202
	Bill Hodges	01480 394109
	Colin Thompson	01480 477406
	Graham Welton	07732 131563
<b>Eaton Socon</b>	Nick Berry	01480 471194
	Stephen Davison	07752 264983
	Roger Harrison	07717 666238
	Keith Prentice	01480 214838

**Copy date for the next edition of ESCAN for news, adverts and information – 28th February 2014.**

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

# Chairman's Spot

This year has been yet another busy and exciting year with wonderful sunny weather for May Day and the Eatons Open Gardens. We also supported the Dragon Boat Racing and the St Neots Medieval Fayre in the Town Centre when a special Eatons booklet was written for the event – based on true stories illustrated by superb drawings from Bushmead School children.

At our history exhibition we had a great interest in the Then and Now photographs and in the unique Jordan and Addington exhibition attended by Judith Addington. We are also proud to have been able to place a copy of the Festival of Britain village sign back on Eaton Socon Green. During November certain areas of the Eatons will be tidied up and bulbs planted as part of our ongoing efforts to brighten up the Eatons.

At our recent AGM we welcomed one new person onto the committee – Carole Robson who is very active in St Marys Church, Eaton Socon, and who has offered to help with our newsletter.

On behalf of the ESCA committee may I wish you all a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

**Sue, ESCA Chairman**

## St Mary's Eaton Socon Bell Appeal

Wanted £13,000 to restore the bells to their true ringing appeal!

Target almost reached - if you wish to donate please send your money now and keep the bells ringing!

As Churches are self-funding Charities and do not receive any Government support (except Income Tax reclaim), the Church is asking for your support. This work will cost approximately £1625 per bell and only with your support can the bells continue to play an important role in the life of our community. *(If you are a taxpayer, we are able to reclaim an additional 25p for every £1 you donate.)*

**For further details or to find out more information, please contact: The Church Office on (01480) 352154 or the Vicar Rev'd Timothy Robb on (01480) 212219**



## Postage Stamps

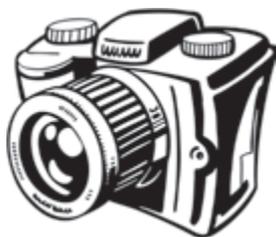
Do not forget to collect your stamps and either take them into the Cat Protection Shop in Cross Keys Mall or post them to ESCA, 3 Collingwood Rd, Eaton Socon, Cambs, PE19 8JQ



If you are a dog owner please think of others and pick up your dog's mess and dispose of the bag either at home or in a dog bin. We have had complaints that some owners are being particularly unkind and leaving the bags in the bushes or in someone else's garden. Please keep the Eatons clean and tidy.

## Eatons Photograph competition

Well done to all those who entered. There were some fantastic photographs and the winning entries from Jeannette Cadney (over 70's), Angela Donnelly (adult) and Ellen Winstanley (aged 13) will be enlarged and displayed at the Eatons Community Centre very soon. Why not go and have a look at our local talent.



## Handbell ringing

**Start Christmas on the right note!**



For the first time ever the East Anglian Handbell Team are giving a Christmas Concert in St. Mary's Church on Saturday 7th December at 3:00pm.

This is your chance to hear over 100 bells and handchimes in an amazing concert that will include some Christmas items and carols to help you start your Christmas off on the right note.

St. Mary's Church will make for a great venue and mince pies and hot drinks will be available in the interval.

Tickets are £10, Concessions £8, Children under 12 £3 and will be available from the Church Office or ringing 01234 823811

## Can you play Badminton?

St. Neots Badminton Club is looking for new members. We meet at One Leisure, St. Neots on Monday and Wednesday evenings 8-10pm. If you can play badminton and wish to dust off your racquet contact Laurie Parnham on l.parnham1@ntlworld.com



## Textile Bank Money

Have you got any textiles you cannot put in the blue bin then why not use the textile bank at Tesco Express? Money raised from these textiles will be given to ESCA to distribute to local groups. Let ESCA continue to support small groups that benefit from that little bit of extra money.



## ESCAN Deliveries

Do you want to become one of our kind volunteers who like to have a walk and deliver a few newsletters? We have a growing team of volunteers who deliver and a small team who count and bag the ESCANS, so if you would like to help please let ESCA know.

## St Neots Knitting Group

Meets on the first Tuesday of the month. Evening meeting, all ages welcome. For details please call Angela on 01480 405639

## CHRISTMAS CAROLS

**With the Mayor of St Neots**

Sat 7th December - 6.30pm St Neots Parish Church  
All welcome, free entry

## Christmas Tree Festival United Reformed Church, St Neots

ESCA will have a tree this year so go along and have a look at all the trees.

Refreshments and Christmas gift stalls.

Opening Times:

Fri 6th & Sat 7th Dec 10am- 4pm,

Sun 8 Dec 12-4pm.

## Gold for the Eatons

After all the excitement of the Olympics in 2012, not many would be aware that the 13th Mind Sports Olympiad was held in London this summer. Julia Hayward, our vice-chair, was among contestants from forty countries in a week featuring games from the best-known to the truly obscure. After a marathon final weekend, she brought home the gold in competitive computer programming, beating finalists from India, Europe and South Africa, a bronze in poker and a bronze in the Pentamind - combining scores from five events including backgammon, cribbage and Japanese logic puzzles. Her next ambition is an appearance on Countdown... watch this space...

**Well done Julia, A fantastic result!**

# LADIES, RUGBY NEEDS YOU!

Do you want to...

Have fun? Meet new people? Get fit?

Then come and give **women's rugby** a try!

More members are needed - all shapes and sizes, ages and abilities welcome for our Ladies and Junior teams.



**Tuesdays 7.00 - 8.30pm**

**St Neots Rugby Club, The Common, PE19 1RU**



St Neots Ladies RUFC

Contact: Emma on 07834 070930

or Sara on 07747 782148

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

## Red Post boxes return

Yes! After a whole year of attempting to get our post boxes painted we have succeeded. As I write this 4 are now red and black and we hope the rest will soon be done. This has been a lesson in patience, persistence and pestering for something to be done.

The photographs show the Eaton Socon Post box before and after – Wow what a difference a coat of paint makes!



## Plough Monday in Eaton Socon

Where else in the town of St Neots can we bless the plough and hope for a good agricultural year! With most of Eaton Socon Parish still farmed across the county boundary in Bedfordshire we are delighted to host the annual blessing of the plough.



On Monday 13th January 2014, there will be the annual Plough Monday

Celebrations in Eaton Socon, beginning at Eaton Socon Church at 7.30pm with the Blessing of the Plough, followed by Molly

dancing and singing. Then moving on to local hostelries for more dancing and refreshment. Audience participation is encouraged so why not come along and join in – a real bit of village fun with a serious side as the plough needs to be blessed for a good harvest. For further information please contact Roger & Patti Pitt on 01234 376278.



## Bunny Lane Clean Up

In November a few keen ESCA members and councillor Nick Berry cleaned up Bunny Lane – the ancient sunken trackway alongside Nelson Road. We found 2 fire extinguishers, 2 hub caps, a car tyre, a whole wheelie binful of recyclables and several bags of other rubbish. This was a superb effort to clear litter and overgrown trees in the lane which had accumulated over many years. Let's now use the litter bin and keep the lane clear.



## Cleaning up your area

Do not leave it to others but why not take a little time to smarten up your road. We are not asking you to clean up your entire street but why not spend a little time tidying up your garden and perhaps the kerb area in front of your house. A little brush along the pavement after mowing and perhaps clearing a little litter caught in a nearby bush will keep the Eatons tidier and will hopefully encourage others to look after their gardens and roads. We all know how we feel when we see a scruffy street or a tidy street. Let us all be proud of the Eatons.

## St. Neots & District Gardening Club

Meetings on Thursdays at St. Mary's Church Hall, Brook St., St. Neots, at 8pm.

Jan 23rd **Getting to grips with Pruning** by Nigel Start

Feb 27th **Botanical Garden Travels** by Sara Oldfield

Mar 27th **Bumble Bees and other Bees** by Brian Eversham

April 24th **Patio Gardening and Gardening in small places** by Rodney Tibbs

Members £2.00, Non-Members £2.50 which includes refreshments and a raffle ticket

Contact – Chairman David Usher Tel 01480 476671

# xlpress

## Litho & Digital Printers

9 Foundry Way  
Eaton socon, St Neots  
Cambs PE19 8TR

Tel: 01480 219356  
Email: [info@xlpress.co.uk](mailto:info@xlpress.co.uk)  
Web: [www.xlpress.co.uk](http://www.xlpress.co.uk)



# Need glasses?

## save your money

# BUY DIRECT!

## why pay more?

(frame & lenses)

Single Vision from £9.00\*

Bifocals from £39.00\*

Varifocal from £59.00\*

- Repairs & Emergency Specs\*
- Free NHS Specs\*
- Reglaze your own frame save ££'s\*
- Premium frames & lenses at low prices
- Large selection of Specs Frames

High/complex prescription  
**SAVE UP TO 75%**



Just bring in your up to date prescription for a **TOP QUALITY BARGAIN!**

\*T & C's apply, ring for details. Please ensure your prescription is less than 2 years old.

### FACTORY SHOP

20 Norman Way Ind. Park,  
Over, Cambridge CB24 5QE

Tel: **01954 231545** or 07824 706969

Opening Hours: Mon – Fri 9.00am to 5.00pm

SPECIAL NOTE: Showroom opening times may vary, please ring to avoid disappointment

[www.all-eyes.co.uk](http://www.all-eyes.co.uk)



# The Pightle Millennium Green – Eaton Socon

Once more autumn has overtaken us and activity in the Pightle is visibly settling down ready for the cold months ahead. Over the last few weeks I've met a number of berry-pickers making the most of the Pightle's abundance of fruit – blackberries being the most obvious, but look around and you can find elderberries, sloes and haws. Our apple trees



have also been laden with fruit this year, and I've been delighted to see virtually all the apples within arm's reach have been taken and enjoyed while they were still good. One of the saddest autumn sights is a fruit tree with its produce lying on the ground rotting away; please remember you're more than welcome to help yourselves to ours!

There has been talk in the media of how modern children are increasingly detached from their environment. We've been doing our bit to hold back this trend, hosting educational visits for the children at Bushmead School; and this summer we tried an experiment where, for a couple of hours each Friday afternoon in the school holiday, we invited families to come in and take on a "Pightle Challenge". Armed with nets, magnifiers and paper, parents and children set off on a mission to find a list of things, sketch them and - hopefully - identify them, with the Trustees on hand with reference books in case anything unusual turned up. We certainly discovered some artistic talent; we discovered that we have copious numbers of at least eight species of butterfly, and the children learnt that they are much easier to catch if you simply wait for them to stop flying! The best moment was seeing the excitement of two visiting youngsters who had never actually set foot in a field before, and they would have stayed all day if they could!

Autumn is the time for bulb planting and once again hundreds of bulbs have been planted so watch out for lots of colour in late winter and early spring. As we all approach Christmas it is time to prepare Christmas decorations and if you wish to use teasels, holly or other small greenery from the Pightle please help yourselves. There is plenty for everyone.

## Julia Hayward

Chair – The Pightle Millennium Green Trust  
Tel: 0777 3918223 Email: [Julia@juliahayward.com](mailto:Julia@juliahayward.com)  
Website: <http://www.eatonsoconpightle.org.uk>

Carpet  
Laminate  
Karndean  
Wood &  
Vinyl



## Floored by Ian

choose your flooring in the  
comfort of your own home

-  free measuring
-  no obligation quote
-  professional fitting

Over 20 Years Experience

Call Ian Today  
07876 238308

## Anita's manicure & pedicure services.

Eaton Socon based nail technician.

\*Manicure / pedicure from £10.

\*CND shellac & gel nails.

\*Nail art.

\*Gift vouchers available

[www.anitamanicureandpedicure.weebly.com](http://www.anitamanicureandpedicure.weebly.com)

07974 358892

10% discount with this advert.



## A Level Biology and GCSE

Science Tuition  
Qualified Science  
Teacher

Contact Karen Dodson

01480 406543

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

# Pal of the Pightle

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.

Please send this off to Mrs Julia Hayward (Chairman of The Pightle Trust) 11 Collingwood Rd, Eaton Socon PE19 8JQ

Dear Chairman Julia,

I would like to become a "Pal Of The Pightle"

- A) Please accept a donation of £\_\_\_\_\_ as a "one Off" donation to help maintain The Pightle.
- B) I would like to donate £\_\_\_\_\_ per month to help maintain The Pightle. (Please send me your bank details so I can set up a standing order)

Name.....(surname and initials)

Date.....

Address and Postcode.....

Email.....

Please make any cheques payable to 'The Pightle Millennium Green Trust'.

If you would like to Gift Aid your contribution so that The Pightle trustees can claim back a tax contribution from The Government please read and sign below.

I confirm I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for the current tax year (6 April – 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all charities and Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for the current tax year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify. I understand the charity will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I have given.

Signed.....

## WOODFIELD

Physiotherapy Centre



Physiotherapy Podiatry / Chiropody Sports Massage  
Acupuncture Pilates Women's Health Physiotherapy

Talk to us on 01234 378996 or email [info@woodfieldphysio.co.uk](mailto:info@woodfieldphysio.co.uk)

Visit [www.woodfieldphysio.co.uk](http://www.woodfieldphysio.co.uk)

Practice partners: Physiotherapists Kate Abrahams MSc MCSP & Cordelia Squire MSc MCSP  
Registered with all major health insurance companies

## A'Neater Hairstyling

State Registered Hairdresser  
NVQ Level 3 qualified

Hairdressing by  
Anita Wonford  
St Neots Area

07810800856



## DOMESTIC APPLIANCES REPAIRS & SALES

Cookers  
Washing Machines  
Tumble Dryers  
Dishwashers

Established local service  
Tel: 01480 212426

## Battle the Boredom Website

Have your teenagers ever protested "I'm bored.."? Are you a young person yourself? If so why not look at the website that might give you answers – <http://www.battletheboredom.com/main-member.html>

Local mum & web developer, Donna **Salter** created the website herself after her two teenagers asked about joining some local clubs and soon realised how hard it was to find contact details, even on the web. She decided to solve the problem by creating her own site.

Her teenagers helped Donna with the design, and she does all the maintenance herself, including funding the site running costs & competitions.

For fun things, **battletheboredom** lists local clubs' contact details for young people, runs competitions for members, and offers zones for indoors hobbies, gaming, fashion, and music. There is also advice for more serious 'stuff', such as bullying, health, and keeping safe online.

Donna hopes in the future to take the site nationwide and emphasised that while it is great fun for the users it can also be a source of support. She has already helped several young people with advice on bullying. In time she plans for young people to add to the site's content themselves by sending in posts, uploading reviews, and music. So why not take a look at the site and find out more.

## "St Neots Riders Group"

Free cycle rides of varying lengths for all ages arranged by Sustrans Rangers, though children must be accompanied by adults. 10:30am prompt start from outside the Ambiance Café in the Riverside Park, maps available at Broken Spokes Cycles.

**For more information about the Sustrans cycle rides contact Richard Cooper, Volunteer Liaison Ranger**  
**email [ranger@ridingabike.co.uk](mailto:ranger@ridingabike.co.uk) or Tel 01480 889171.**

## Help with your Computer



Have you got a computer which you find hard to use or are you getting one for Christmas and you do not know how to log on, send an email, search the net, download your photos or start online shopping? You may not even know how to scroll, use the mouse or press the return button.

There is free friendly help at St Neots library every **Tuesday from 10 till 12:30** and no booking is required. Whether you are a complete novice or an improver the library volunteers are there to help. The library has 8 computers in their upstairs learning suite staffed by two friendly volunteers where you will always be made most welcome. Even the ESCA Chairman needs help sometimes so don't be shy go and ask!

## St Neots TIME BANK

Time Banking is a controlled exchange of voluntary work and no money is exchanged – this is all voluntary work. You deposit time in the Bank by giving practical help and support to others, then you withdraw time when you need something doing for yourself by another member. Time can be banked to save up hours for bigger time consuming jobs. Age and ability are no obstacle - All you need is spare time. No money is needed other than for materials – this is VOLUNTARY. The Time Bank offers - full insurance security, access to training, the opportunity to meet other members of the community and becoming involved in community projects and events.

If you are interested in voluntary work and banking the 'hours' spent so you can also benefit, then email: [timevolunteers@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:timevolunteers@hotmail.co.uk) or Tel: 07590909057 to join or for further details.

[www.e-s-timebank.eu](http://www.e-s-timebank.eu)

## Eaton Socon Ex-Service Club

More members wanted for this club with great facilities in School Lane with a hall, a snooker table and a pool table. If would like to join this friendly club or find out about its wonderful facilities which can be hired for functions please contact 01480 356870 or mail [esesc@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:esesc@hotmail.co.uk)

## St Neots Coffee Pot Memory Cafe

To lose one's memory is a sad and frightening thing – our memories make us who we are. It's not only traumatic for the person concerned, but also for those closest to them, and they can soon find their relationship turning from a spouse, son or daughter to that of a carer. As the memory loss increases, the family can become more isolated and friends may find it difficult to cope with the changed situation.

If you find yourself in this situation why not come along to the St Neots Coffee Pot Memory Café. Run by volunteers who have all experienced someone close to them suffering from memory loss, the group aim to provide support for those embarking on the same journey. Over a cup of tea or coffee and cake there will be a friendly ear and support. This club is supported by the St Neots Rotary Club.

The Memory Café meets on the second Wednesday of the month at Berkley Street Methodist Church in Eynesbury 11am – 12.30am.

Lunch Club – first Thursday of the month at The Eaton Oak meeting at 12 noon for 12.30am

For more information or for a friendly chat please contact Wendy P (212563), Wendy I (212295), Mary (475920) or Nell (472495)



## What do residents like, or most want to change, about living in St Neots?



There's a new community listening project taking place in Eynesbury which we hope to roll out later in Eaton Socon and other parts of St Neots. Following a similar resident survey of the Oxmoor estate Cambs County Council is working with Re:generate to find out what residents & tenants like and dislike about their own neighbourhood, and to encourage them to help make the changes they want by bringing them together with other like-minded neighbours to kickstart new projects, new friendships and so build up and strengthen their community. Volunteers from St Neots Community Cafe Listeners Project and the local Community Engagement Team are joining forces to take to the streets, the school gates and the housing estates to talk to local people, strengthen links across their neighbourhoods, and maybe create new community enterprises.

Our Cafe Listeners are a team of friendly volunteers who have been trained in higher level communication skills and are CRB cleared. They will be chatting to people on the street, at their door, at the school gates or at bus stops, setting up and maintaining the database, attending neighbourhood meetings, being an escort/transport provider for less confident tenants.. and more.

They also understand that the stresses of modern living can take its toll on even the most hardy citizens and so, for anyone who seeks it, they can also arrange to set up a private and confidential meeting in a quiet corner of a local coffee shop or bar, to talk through any issues which are causing them concern or signpost them to useful services.

On the job initial training and supervision is provided to all volunteers, with more in depth, accredited training to develop the higher level communication skills needed for those interested in becoming community mentors or coaches.

All enquiries to Christine Stocker-Gibson at [Christine@enterprisepathways.org](mailto:Christine@enterprisepathways.org) or Gordon Thorpe at [Gordon@enterprisepathways.org](mailto:Gordon@enterprisepathways.org) – or call 0845 582 6224.

**St. Neots Motor Company**  
Look no Further for your quality used car

**Tel: 01480 216374**  
**Email: [sales@stneotsmotorcompany.co.uk](mailto:sales@stneotsmotorcompany.co.uk)**  
**(opposite The Highwayman)**

## Dates for History Groups

### St Neots Local History Association

Monthly meetings at Eynesbury C of E School Hall, Montagu Street, Eynesbury at 7.30pm

Chairperson – Elaine Donaldson 01480 217492

- Jan 3rd **How to read a Church** by Bill Templeton  
 Feb 7th **AGM + Airships : the Triumph and the Tragedy** by David Bushby  
 Mar 7th **The Vikings : an Empire in the Atlantic** by Trevor Gunton  
 Apr 4th **Horace Clarabut : an Edwardian Photographer in St Neots** by Rodney Todman

### Colmworth & Neighbours History Society

Monthly meetings at Colmworth Village Hall at 7.30pm

Chairperson – Stephen Smith 01234 376487

- Jan 17th **From Hitler to Mandela – Re-enacting History** by Dr Michael Prior  
 Feb 21st **Bedford's Private Eye? The Bedford Bee 1879** by Nick Wilde  
 Mar 21st **The Search for Richard III** by Charlotte Barratt, University of Leicester

### Roxton & District Local History Group

Monthly meetings at Roxton Parish Hall at 7.30pm

Contact either P. Newell: 01234 870158  
 or Stella Gibbs 01480 351931

- Jan t.b.a. **New Year Party**  
 Feb 6th Charlie Porter will show us his collection of lanterns and give a talk about them  
 Mar 6th **The History of the Bedford Britannia Works and the Howard Family: Part One** - Illustrated talk by Ken Dickens  
 Apr 3rd **Talk on Local Railway History** by George Howe  
 May 1st **Part Two of his History of the Britannia Works** by Ken Dickens

## Food Bank

The St Neots Food Bank is now launched and is open on Tuesdays at the United Reformed Church, St Neots and Fridays at St Mary's Parish Church Eaton Socon - 10am to 12 noon. It aims to provide emergency food for three days to individuals and families identified by care professionals. For more information please phone 07599903037 or email: [info@stneots.foodbank.org.uk](mailto:info@stneots.foodbank.org.uk)

## Music Tuition

Piano, Flute, Recorder, Music Theory

Children and adults  
 Beginners to advanced  
 Eaton Socon area

<http://about.me/annagorton>  
[annagorton@btinternet.com](mailto:annagorton@btinternet.com)  
 07952 577883



## 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)  
 Contact Margaret on **01480 215695** or Benny on **01480 477838**



## Bingo at Hanover Close

**Bingo is held twice a week at Hanover – Mon and Wed 2pm – 3pm**

If you would like to play bingo go along, play a few games and then enjoy a cup of tea afterwards with new and old friends.

Everyone is welcome to sessions which are held in the lounge. If you fancy helping out with the calling of numbers please go along and offer to help, especially on a Monday afternoon.

**For more information please contact Denise Gable, Estate Manager, Tel 01480 406 438**

## Your family owned Funeral Directors in St. Neots

- Excellent service at low prices
- 24 hours, 7 days every week
- Pre-Paid Funeral Plans

**T. L. Cobbold**  
1947

*the family you can turn to*



**FPA**  
 FUNERAL PLANNING AUTHORITY  
 REGISTERED

Funeral Directors and Memorial Stonemasons

11-13 New Street

**ST. NEOTS**

**(01480)**

**476136**

PART OF THE **Lodge** FAMILY  
BROTHERS LTD

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

[WWW.ASSURED MORTGAGE ADVICE.COM](http://WWW.ASSURED MORTGAGE ADVICE.COM)



### Looking for a better deal?

We will search the whole of the mortgage market to find you the best possible deal!

Call us now for independent mortgage advice:

**0800 055 66 36**

Or you can email us at:

[info@assuredmortgageadvice.com](mailto:info@assuredmortgageadvice.com)

**Your home** may be repossessed if you do not keep up repayments on your mortgage.

You can choose how we are paid: you can pay us a fee of 1% of the loan amount or we can accept commission from the lender.

## Eaton Financial Services Ltd.

For all your financial needs:

Mortgages

Equity Release

Life & Health Protection



Pensions

Investments

Retirement Planning

**Call: 01480 215788**

**Email: [EFSLtd1@gmail.com](mailto:EFSLtd1@gmail.com)**

Typical fee for equity release 1.75%. To understand the features and risks please ask for a personal quotation.

Your home may be repossessed if you do not keep up repayments on your mortgage.

Eaton Financial Services Ltd is Authorised and Regulated by the Financial Services Authority, FSA Number 455121



## Want a Christmas Present with a difference?

Looking for something local as a Christmas present then why not buy a book and learn more about your local area.

All these booklets are available for reference in the St Neots and Huntingdon Reference Libraries and the County Archives offices in Bedford and Huntingdon. They are also available to buy at St Neots Museum. The ESCA books are written by ESCA for anyone with an interest in the Eatons. All profits are used to support ESCA projects within the Eatons and no profits go to Committee members. If you wish to buy these books they can be obtained from "ESCA", 3 Collingwood Road, Eaton Socon, St Neots, Hunts, PE19 8JQ using the form below.

<input type="checkbox"/> Eaton Socon at Work	£2.50
<input type="checkbox"/> Eaton Socon in Character	£2.50
<input type="checkbox"/> The Eatons at War	£2.50
<input type="checkbox"/> The Inns and Outs of the Eatons	£3.00
<input type="checkbox"/> The River in the Eatons	£3.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Trails Around the Eatons	£3.00
<input type="checkbox"/> A Year in the Life of the Eatons (1992)	£2.50
<input type="checkbox"/> Church and Churchyard Survey	£7.50
<input type="checkbox"/> Eaton Socon Burials Registers 1813 - 2002	£6.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Eaton Socon Cemetery 1930 - 2002	£7.50
<input type="checkbox"/> Recalling the Great Church Fire of 1930	£3.00
<input type="checkbox"/> School Admission Register 1910-1969	£3.50
<input type="checkbox"/> Eaton Socon School Punishment Book	£1.50
<input type="checkbox"/> The Ways and Wherefores of the Eatons	£3.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Little End Hamlet	£3.50
<input type="checkbox"/> Cross Hall Ford Hamlet - The Osborne Empire	£4.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Maltmans Gardens - (Health Centre Area)	£7.50
<input type="checkbox"/> Eaton Ford - The Millers and the Masons	£7.50
<input type="checkbox"/> Cross Hall - The Lost Hamlet of Eaton Ford	£6.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Eaton Socon - The Village Lanes	£8.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Great North Road - Part 1 (Texaco Garage to Nelson Road)	£7.50
<input type="checkbox"/> Great North Road - Part 2 (Nelson Road to Andersons Butchers)	£7.50
<input type="checkbox"/> Great North Road - Part 3 (Wagon & Horses to Bushmead Road)	£7.50
<input type="checkbox"/> Great North Road - Part 4 (Bushmead Road to George & Dragon)	£7.50
<input type="checkbox"/> To the Glorious Memory – Eaton Socon War Memorial	£9.95
<input type="checkbox"/> The Eatons Then and Now	£5.00
<input type="checkbox"/> The Eatons Then and Now Book 2	£5.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Eaton Socon - Limited Edition Glass	£8.99
<input type="checkbox"/> Eatons keyrings	£1.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Mediaeval Mishaps and Mayhem in Eaton Socon Parish	£2.50

I enclose a cheque for \_\_\_\_\_ made payable to ESCA.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Eaton Socon Censuses and Electoral Registers are available on request (Postage and Packing free to Eatons and St Neots residents)



Just a few left of these unique glasses, so why not buy one and have a glass of your favourite tippie for Christmas.

Eatons Keyrings  
only £1



# THE Spice VILLAGE

HIGH QUALITY INDIAN FOOD,  
KEBABS, PIZZAS, BURGERS AND SOUTHERN FRIED CHICKEN

**Open 7 Days a Week**

Monday - Thursday 5.00 pm - 11.00 pm  
Friday and Saturday 5.00 pm - midnight  
Sunday and Bank Holiday 5.00 pm - 10.00 pm

**FAST FREE DELIVERY**

Any order over £20.00 gets  
**FREE Bottle of Coke**  
With Collection Orders Only  
Excludes Set Meals and Meal Deals

**01480 212 767**  
**154 St. Neots Road**  
**Eaton Ford, PE19 7AD**

## Drakes Garage, early 1960s

These lovely photographs have just been sent to ESCA by Chris Drakes, son of the owner Richard Drakes in the early 1960s. The petrol pumps were still there in the 1990s, when the garage was called Holdaway Garage. By 1996 cheap supermarket petrol made petrol sales uneconomical and the pumps were removed. The car sales and servicing continued until 2001 when the garage closed and the site was sold for housing. The tree seen on the right would now be on the Health Centre site but in this picture was in the garden of a large house, called 'The Beeches'.



This picture will soon be on a new ESCA website and has already been added to the St Neots archive website – [www.st-neots.ccan.co.uk](http://www.st-neots.ccan.co.uk)



If you have any photographs you wish to send to ESCA please see the email address inside the front cover. We are always pleased to see new pictures of the past.