



YOUR **FREE**
COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

← SCAN
Registered Charity No.1110148
APRIL 2007



Mayday Celebrations

Monday 7th May 2007
Eaton Socon Village Green
12 noon through to 4pm

2pm - Crowning of the May Queen

3pm - Presentation of the Community Cup

4pm - Drawing of the raffle

- Maypole Dancing
- Majorettes
- Barbecue
- Refreshments
- Stalls



Local History Exhibition/ Sale of history Booklets and Research of Eatons Archives

5th and 7th May 2007

Dates for your Diary

22nd April 2007

St Neots Spring Clean
Eaton's Residents meeting at 2pm
at the Ice Cream Kiosk in the Riverside Car Park

28th April

Camera Club exhibition - *Priory Centre*

5th and 7th May 2007

Local History Exhibition/Sale of history Booklets
and Research of Eatons Archives
St. Mary's Church. Time - 10am - 4pm

7th May 2007

May Day Celebrations *Eaton Socon Village Green.*

13th May 2007, 27th May 2007,
24th June 2007, 15th July 2007

Opening of the Eaton Socon Village Cage
2.00pm - 4.00pm Free Admission,
School Lane, Eaton Socon.

4th May and continues throughout May
Local History Month Starts. See inside this issue.

1st June 2007

last date for entries into the Neat Street
Competition. Judging will take place during July

10th June 2007

Open Gardens, programmes for sale on
Eaton Socon Village Green from 1pm on the day

Through out June/July/August

Peter Ibbetts walks around St Neots
meet on Tuesdays at 7.15pm
by the Day Column in St Neots Market Square

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

Family Service - 10.30am
Evening events as advertised

'Energise' for 11-16's - monthly

Further information

www.eatons-church.org.uk

Lots more news and views inside.

If you have any news or views please send
to the Chairman or the Editor no later
than 20th July 2007 or 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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Booklet News and Reviews

Ever wished to know about life in Cow Lane, Peppercorns Lane and School Lane or Ackerman Street, Woods Lane and Mill Lane then this year's booklet may answer some of those questions. Focussing on the lanes that make up the old village centre of Eaton Socon this years history booklet includes information on the Millers Arms, the Falcon Pub, the Cock Pub (later the Manor House) the glove factory, the River Mill, the Eaton Socon Academy, River Farm and lots more. Read about the Thody family who farmed some of the land for over 100 years, the Peppercorn family at The Manor House, the Hobson family at the Mill, the vicar's family who built a house near Castle Hill and lots more.

Or, if you have family that has lived here for several generations the Burials booklet is now available. This lists people who were buried in Eaton Socon Churchyard from 1813 – 2002.

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.

Who's Who in ESCA

Chairman	Sue Jarrett	216065
Treasurer	Christine Bettis	392829
May Weekend Organiser	Muriel Sharpe	
Open Gardens Organiser	Situation Vacant	
History Co-ordinator	Sue Jarrett	216065
ESCAN Editor	Christine Bettis	392829
ESCAN Publisher	Stuart Fairweather	213555

For all correspondence

Letters to ESCA, articles and adverts for ESCAN
 3 Collingwood Road,
 Eaton Socon, St Neots,
 Cambs. PE19 8JQ
 email address: esca@freeuk.com
 website: www.escan.org.uk

Additions and Corrections

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

Useful Numbers

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**

ORDER FORM

I wish to order the following books -

Eaton Socon in Character	_____	copies at £2.50
Eaton Socon at Work	_____	copies at £2.50
Recalling 60 Years On (the fire that destroyed the church)	_____	copies at £2.50
A Year in the Life of the Eatons (1992)	_____	copies at £2.50
The Eatons at War	_____	copies at £2.50
Trails around the Eatons (revised in 1998)	_____	copies at £3.00
The Inns and Outs of the Eatons (rewritten in 1998)	_____	copies at £3.00
The River in the Eatons	_____	copies at £3.00
The Ways and Wherefores of the Eatons	_____	copies at £3.00
School Admission Registers 1910 – 1965	_____	copies at £3.50
Little End Hamlet	_____	copies at £3.50
Cross Hall Ford Hamlet – The Osborne Empire	_____	copies at £4.00
Maltmans Gardens – (Health Centre area)	_____	copies at £7.50
Eaton Ford - The Millers and the Masons	_____	copies at £7.50
Cross Hall– The lost hamlet of Eaton Ford	_____	copies at £6.00
Eaton Socon – The Village Lanes	_____	copies TBA
Eaton Socon Burials Registers 1813 – 2002"	_____	copies at £6.00
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)

Chairman's Address

A short chairman's notes this time as there is so much going on this summer. After our plea for help on the committee we have had one volunteer who has very kindly taken on the job of organising May Day. This is a very important job, as the event cannot just happen without a lot of help. We are still looking for help for the Open Gardens event. The Open Garden programme can be compiled easily but we need someone to co-ordinate the gardens and meet the gardeners who are kind enough to show their gardens. We will also soon need an Editor & Co-ordinator for this newsletter as Christine is moving on to pastures green. If you are interested please let me know.

Please read the newsletter carefully and enjoy some or all of the various events taking place – May Day, Local History Month with its walks and talks, Open Gardens, Neat Street and St Neots in Bloom. We are planning a fantastic summer – so enjoy yourselves and hope for some wonderful weather.

If you would like to offer some help at any of these events please contact **Sue J.** on **01480 216065** or **ESCA, 3 Collingwood Rd, Eaton Socon, Cambs, PE19 8JQ**

Local History Month

Local History month begins with a talk at the St Neots Local History Society Meeting on 4th May on 'The Causeway to St Ives bridge' at 7.30pm at Eynesbury C of E School. This is followed by our free local history exhibition in Eaton Socon Church on Sat 5th and Mon 7th May – this years booklet and exhibition is all about the centre of Eaton Socon village. History booklets will be on sale and Eaton Socon Archives can be researched. For quiet research it would be better to visit on Saturday. The month continues with a variety of talks and walks - details and costs of all the events will be available at the Museum and the Library. Sue Jarrett from ESCA will be giving a talk on '50 Pubs in Eaton Socon Parish' on Thursday May 24th at St Neots Library at 7.30pm and will be leading a walk around Eaton Ford on May 29th at 7.30pm.

Neat Street

This popular event is now in its fourth year with Eaton Ford winning twice and Eaton Socon once. It is now time to enter your street for this years competition so get together with your neighbours and enter for Neat Street 2007.

Longer streets can be split into smaller sections. Closing date for entries is 1st June 2007

Your road will be judged on the following: -

- **The absence of weeds on kerbs and gutters**
- **The absence of any litter**
- **Maintained front gardens or frontages**
- **Unobstructed pavements**

We already have a number of streets entered, why not enter yours today, by contacting **Sue Jarrett** on **216065**.



Blue Plaques

As we go to print the blue plaques have been approved and have been ordered. We are the first group in this area to have heritage boards and a group of blue plaques so we should feel privileged. Our heritage in the Eatons is unique – having the Great North Rd running through the parish, beerhouses and coaching inns such as the White Horse and the Cock Pub, the Union Workhouse, industries such as the basket weavers and the Eaton Socon Brewery. It is great to see so many people reading the boards and soon the plaques will be in place. When they appear leaflets will be available in the Museum and Library to show the position of the boards and plaques.

Sudbury Meadow

A quick reminder that Sudbury Meadow is on Crosshall Road, a few metres from The Barley Mow pub, next to Regatta Meadow. It is open all the time. The padlocks on the gates are for Radar key holders to unlock and swing the gate wide open for wheelchairs or motorised buggies. The rest of us lift the latch! Please keep to the footpaths, either gravel or mown grass, so that the plants and animals are not disturbed.

We were delighted to receive another seat in January, donated by members of the Rotary Club, St Neots St Mary's. Many thanks to you all for this. It is already being used and should be a good place to sit and watch the bird life in the meadow.

We have an alien amongst us! Last autumn, we found two Harlequin Ladybirds at Sudbury Meadow. These foreign insects have received a lot of publicity lately. We are looking for extra volunteers to take on recording the ladybirds at Sudbury Meadow, so that we can monitor the progress of the newcomers. The survey is part of the national one, being run from the Biological Records Centre at Monks Wood. Do get in touch if you would like to help.

Finally, thank you to all dog walkers who clear up after their dogs at Sudbury Meadow. Not only does it make it more pleasant for visitors, but also for those of us working on site.

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



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Eaton Socon Youth Cricketers

The history of Eaton Socon Cricket Club is long and chequered. Cricket has been played in Eaton Socon for over 150 years, being a big social event for the whole village. One of the earliest sites for the club was in the garden of Eaton house, owned by the Wilkinson family, which is currently used by Radio Links. The first game was held there in 1855, on a Tuesday afternoon, Tuesdays being half-day shop closing, thus enabling the local tradesmen and shopkeepers to take part.



The cricket ground was moved to various places in the village over the years, ending up from 1936 at the current site off Peppercorns Lane, on land owned by the McNish family, next to the Pightle. This is the little haven of peace where cricket matches take place at weekends during the summer. It is not just men hitting a ball with a bat for a few hours, but a social scene that involves the whole family. There is nothing nicer than sitting in the sun watching cricket on a warm Sunday afternoon, glass in hand, watching your husband or son (or daughter!) play a game that is both entertaining and civilised, where no-one argues with the Umpire. The membership of the cricket club often contains grandfathers, sons and grandchildren of the same families all contributing to and enjoying the Club.

The importance of youth development was first highlighted in the 50's, when a Youth Team was founded. However, in the 90's, certain far-sighted and dedicated members realised that the future of the club, and cricket in general, lay in promoting youth cricket and retaining the colts within the club, introducing them to men's cricket. As a result, Eaton Socon now has Youth teams at U11, U13 and U15 ages, which are all forces to be reckoned with. Many young players have gone on to County level cricket. Currently, over 50 children, boys and girls, from 8 to 15, attend cricket training sessions. Eaton Socon has two men's teams, and in 2006, a Youth development team was successfully formulated to give promising youngsters an introduction to adult cricket.

To encourage the children to practise, Eaton Socon Cricket Club wants to replace the old, unusable cricket nets with new Astroturf nets. Unfortunately, these will cost around £12,000 to rebuild. To raise this amount, the Club are holding many fundraising events, including a Race Night and various sponsored events to be carried out by the children. If you can help in any way, and would like to donate time, money or effort, please contact **Chris Mckay** on **01480-393580**.

Angela Donnelly

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QUIZ – all answers will be found on the new Heritage Boards

As we did not have a single entry for the quiz, here it is again. - All answers will be found on the new Heritage Boards, these are placed at Eaton Socon Rivermill, Eaton Socon Green, Little End (near B & Q), Bunny Lane (Nelson Rd), Eaton Ford Green, Maltmans Gardens (near the Health Centre corner), Cross Hall Ford (near the Barley Mow) and Cross Hall (opposite the Eaton Oak).

WIN a
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- In 1900 School Lane was called

- Where could the largest newts be found?

- What was the phone number of Haile Weston drinks?

- Cavendish Court was built on which Charity land?

- Which pub was also called the Union Parade Hotel?

- Who stayed at the Bell after winning the Victoria Cross?

- Who kept traction engines on the Health Centre site?

- How many arches were on the old bridge across the river?

For your chance to win a £10.00 Barretts Gift Voucher, please send your answers to
**3 Collingwood Road, Eaton Socon,
 St Neots, Cambs. PE19 8JQ**

Name _____
 Address _____

May Day Celebrations May 7th 2007

on Eaton Socon Green
 12 noon – 4pm

It is not too late to book your stall for this year's May Day or to offer some entertainment. Join us in Eaton Socon for a traditional May Day Celebration with May Pole Dancers and crowing of the May Queen, 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. PE19 8JB**

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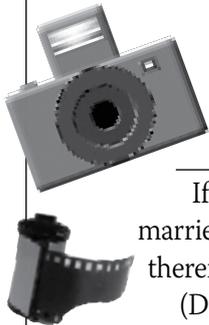
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WANTED by the St Neots Camera Club

If you are, or know of, a couple who were married in the St. Neots area in 1947 and will, therefore, be celebrating 60 years of marriage (Diamond Wedding Anniversary) in 2007, please contact St. Neots Camera Club. 01480 - 218575.

Neighbourhood Watch



Did you think Neighbourhood Watch was a thing of the past, well its not. It is alive and kicking and looking for more residents within the Eatons to take part. If you are interested in keeping an eye on your local area of the Eatons please contact **Angie Walters** on **01480 422957** or alternatively **angie.walters@cambs.pnn.police.uk**

Daffodil Planting

If you have an area of green grass in your area that you think would benefit from a splash of colour in the Spring and you know a few neighbours willing to give us a hand. Please let us know, and we could be planting Daffodils in your area next October.
Tel. Sue Jarrett on 01480 216065

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ESCA Community Cup 2007

Thank you for your nominations why not come and see the presentation of the Community Cup at our May Day Celebrations the presentation should take place at 3pm, on Eaton Socon Village Green.

We hope to see you all there to congratulate our winner.



01480 456789

Emiline Street Alconbury Cambs

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St Neots Camera Club Exhibition

On Saturday 28th April 2007, in the Priory Centre, the newly formed St. Neots & Area Community Archive Group will display photographs and documents so far collected for the online archive website (www.ccan.co.uk). This display will form part of the annual exhibition of work by The St. Neots & District Camera Club, which this year will incorporate the entries for the photographic print competition, named St Neots 'As I See It', (organised by the Camera Club and the Town Crier newspaper). There will also be photographic presentations by local schools and a print display by St. Neots Museum

Below you can see two images of the Duloe Windmill, we hope it will make everyone aware of the importance of recording our history, as gradually old photographs of buildings and people are not thought not to be so important in this modern day and are being lost along with records of our history.



Duloe Windmill 1910 - 1920



and as it is in 2007

Cambridgeshire Community Archives Network www.ccan.co.uk

You may have read in the newspapers or seen on TV recently about the new Cambs Community Archives website. The St Neots area now has a group and ESCA is involved. The website already has over 100 photos of St Neots, Eaton Socon, Eaton Ford, Eynesbury and nearby villages. 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. Come along to our exhibition over the May weekend with your photos and memories and ask to speak to Sue. Members of the website archive group will be there on Saturday.

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Do You Remember Herman?

Well what have I started? I went on holiday to Scotland for 2 weeks in November / December and when I returned there were 15 messages on my answer machine all to do with Herman, along with notes dropped through my door. Thank you to Cindy Abbott, Sandra Folbig, Sue Houghton, Jenny Griffiths, Mrs Bailey and everyone else who left a message about Herman on my answer machine and to Sue de Fraine & Linda Jewell who dropped me a line. I really did not expect this level of response! I apologise for not returning all your calls but I did appreciate them.

I know have a few copies of the recipe which, when I have time I will retype with all your added extras like sprinkling demerara sugar or melted butter over the top of the cake. I am also looking to try making this cake myself, well those that know me well know that's a little white lie, as my better half will probably make it, I am useless in the kitchen! So if anybody has a batch on the go please give me a call & if the timing is right I'll take a cupful off your hands. Thank you once again to all of you that got in touch.

Christine Bettis 01480 392829

Sale of the Cock Pub in 1845

With the coming of the railways travel on the Great North Rd became less attractive and the coaching inns lost some of their visitors. While some of the smaller inns in Eaton Socon survived Henry Walker at the Cock Pub went bankrupt. It was said at the bankruptcy court that 'the misfortunes which have befallen him have arisen from no misconduct of his own, but simply from the sad reverses of his business, occasioned by the establishment of the Rail Roads'. The freehold estate was mortgaged for £2,500 and the estimated value was now only £1,000.

In September 1845 the fixtures and fittings of the building were sold over several days and the sale document is a small booklet detailing all the items. Seventeen bedrooms were noted – including a Balloon Bedroom, a Chintz Bedroom, Sun Bedroom, dressing rooms, a London Sitting room, a York Sitting Room, an Oxford Sitting Room, a Dolphin Room, store rooms, a compact brewery, a wine cellar, a beer cellar and lots more. The sale included 470 ounces of plate. 94 pairs of sheets, 160 tablecloths and 40 feather beds.

So what happened to the Cock Pub – it was sold to a Mr Peppercorn who then named the property The Manor House and it became a family home for many years. In the mid 1960's it was demolished and several houses were built on the land – now Manor House Close at the entrance to Peppercorns Lane.



THE COCK INN, EATON SOCON (Based on an old drawing)

Open Gardens

Our Open Gardens event will be going ahead again this year on the 10th June, if you would like to 'Open' your garden to help a local charity please contact Sue Jarrett on 216065. We have a dedicated set of followers, those who open their gardens and those who walk round, so please if you can spare a lazy afternoon in June come & join the team. Even if you don't have a garden to show but would like to lend a hand organising before hand or selling programmes on the village green on the day please give us a call.

St Neots in Bloom

St Neots has entered the Anglia in Bloom competition and judging will take place in July. There will also be a competition for front gardens in June and details of this event will be available in St Neots Priorities. If you do not receive The Priorities leaflet please let the Town Council know and they will monitor the situation carefully to ensure that all residents receive their free copy.

St Neots Spring Clean

St Neots Town Council have asked ESCA if they will take part in a town wide rubbish clear up. The Committee has agreed to take part and we wondered if you would like to join us. As yet we have not decided which part of the Eatons we are going to clean but it will probably be around the Riverside Park area of Eaton Ford. We are meeting at 2pm outside the Ice Cream Kiosk in the Riverside Car Park, we will bring the rubbish bags and a selection of hand held litter pickers for you to use, we hope to see you there.

Fitness-Pilates

Mon 6.15 – 7.15pm & Tues 9.45 – 10.45am

★ Berkley Street Methodist Church Hall, Eynesbury

A gentle, fun but effective Fitness-Pilates class for all levels. Using resistance bands and Pilates-based exercises to get a flatter tummy, stronger more flexible back and better posture. There is a nice relaxation to finish off the session too!

Fitness-Balls ★ NEW ★

Mon evenings 7.20 – 8.15pm ★ Berkley Street Methodist Church Hall, Eynesbury

A fun, bouncy & effective workout on the stability ball for all levels. This class will bring the fun-factor back into exercise and make your body feel toned and exercised!! Bring your own ball or borrow/buy one from Mel (first time only!)

Legs, Bums & Tums

Tuesday evening 6.20 – 7.20pm ★ Little Paxton Village Hall

An amazingly fun and easy to follow low-impact LBT class to burn fat as well as tone your thighs, bottom & tummy. Great music, excellent exercise and a fabulous body as a result!!!

Fitness-Pilates (Beginner)

Tuesday evening 7.25 – 8.25pm ★ Little Paxton Village Hall

Gentle, controlled and effective exercises for strengthening the back, toning the tummy, improving posture & balance! A nice relaxation and stretch finishes the session too!

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* Journal of American Medical Association 2003

St Neots & District Cats Protection



I have been unable to contact Diana who regularly provides a write up on the Cats Protection League so here's a little bit from me, the Editor.

I am a supporter of the CPL and have been for many years, since as early as I can remember we have had cats in the family, most of them strays or re-homed. When I left home to live on my own I visited the CPL in my hometown in Hertfordshire and fell in love with Lucky. He was a big, black & white cat, with a stumpy 1-inch long tail & no hair on his collar line. He was 6 years old when he came to live with me and lived to the age of 13. It took a while for him to trust me, I don't think he was treated well in his first home, but with time we became good pals. When he was about 10 years old I moved to Eaton Socon and moved in with my now husband, Keith. I was worried that Lucky would not take to Keith & Keith wasn't that fussed about cats so was this a recipe for disaster, no quite the opposite I actually lost my best buddy to Keith, the two of them became best pals. In time we lost Lucky to cancer, it was all over very quick, within a week he was gone. Now we have Gizzy who again is black & white, and again has been re-homed. We adopted Gizzy when she was about 6 years old, I like them that age because most are house trained. We have looked after her for just over 3 years now and again her & Keith have a better bond, but I don't mind, I get a snuggle from her every now & then.

There are so many cats out there that need homes so if you are looking to re-home one please give CPL a call. If you can not provide a home for a cat how about dropping into their shop in Cross Keys and supporting them with a purchase or maybe dropping off some of your unwanted Christmas presents for them to sell on. Unfortunately they are not able to sell electrical goods and would be grateful if you could find alternative homes for these items.

You can contact them by ringing the branch number **01480 476696**.

Young Woman Engineer of the Year Award and an OBE

Congratulations to 24 yr old Suzanne Stamford of Eaton Socon who beat hundreds of others to win the 2006 Young Engineer of the Year Prize. In the Middle East she led a skilled team of 50 technicians maintaining all the army's robotic wheelbarrows used to tackle suspect explosive devices and other electronic machinery. She is also responsible for looking after the development, training, welfare and morale of the technicians in her platoon. Well done Suzanne.

Congratulations also to Toni Eastwood from Eaton Socon who was made an OBE in the New Year Honours List for her work in providing resources and support for women in business. Her award was for services to equal opportunities. Toni said - 'All I ever wanted to do is help women achieve their dreams and aspirations.' Well done Toni



Proud to be Loud (P2BL)

The innovative Proud to be Loud (P2BL) holiday scheme runs along the lines the children and young people want. This means that from day one, organisers sit down with them at the end of the day to ask what they liked and what was not so good. Every day is tweaked based on the comments received from the day before. And every holiday the scheme runs, the programme is amended from the previous one so that it is even more relevant. This active participation by users in deciding what activities to run, has led to a scheme that is popular and attracts the same faces back each time. One thing that is always popular is using hammer beads to make iron-on pictures, and there is an increasing move towards girls' only football. Often boys are so proficient at football that the girls may welcome some protected time to hone their skills in the sport.

Haysha Buss (age 12) says "It's a great way to socialise, meet new people and have fun. Plus your parents get some time off."

P2BL is an open access scheme, meaning you have to book up on a 'first come first serve' basis, but it also aims to offer places to those families who most need support. Not everyone can afford the usual options for childcare during school holidays, which can be a real problem for working parents. Therefore, organisers will be looking to offer places for children and young people who are not occupied during the day. If you find yourself worrying about where your children can go where they will enjoy the school holidays, without spending an arm and a leg, get in touch to book your place. This free scheme is open to all children and young people between the ages of 10 and 14 years in St Neots and surrounding villages.

The scheme is funded from a variety of sources and benefits from the support of key organisations such as Huntingdonshire District Council, Cambridgeshire County Council, St Neots Town Council, Luminus and Cambridgeshire Constabulary. Staff or money from these organisations is provided in recognition of the importance of providing holiday activities for this age group.

If you are interested in finding out more about the scheme, call **Gary Spackman** on **07770343238** or email **gary.spackman@cambridgeshire.gov.uk**

Great North Rd speed bumps

Do you have any comments about the speed bumps on the Great North Rd? Some residents have complained to us about the size and unevenness? Contact ESCA with your views.