



ESCAN

Your FREE Community Newsletter



Eatons Community Association - Registered Charity No.1110148

December 2016 – April 2017

ESCA helps local groups (photograph by Angela Donnelly)

Our Eatons May Queen, Courtney Lanigan, and May Princess, Kirusana Vijayaraj, came along to the popular Eatons Community Association AGM and handed out cheques, totalling nearly £3,000. Donations were given to various groups to help towards the cost of Xmas meals for our older residents, to Hanover Close Residents for refurbishing a garden area, several Eatons baby and toddler groups, St Mary's Church and River Church groups, the Evergreen group, Little Miracles, Holidays at Home, Encore Music Group and Eatons Guides and Scouts. ESCA was also able to provide money for materials for the art and craft group at The Hillings Residential Car Home in Eaton Socon. The money raised from this year's Open Gardens event went partly towards developing the environmental area at Bushmead School and also towards children's environmental activities. And finally, some of the money was given to the entertainers who make May Day such a memorable event with their enthusiastic performances and to St Neots Museum as they help us every year with the exhibition boards for the history exhibition.



By popular request certificates were also given out to Owen Gough, Rodney Todman, Angela Donnelly, Brian Robson, Graham Mailer, Sheila and Tony Kent - local people who help ESCA in many ways during the year. We are very grateful to everyone who willingly volunteers their time and expertise to help the Community Association.

Carol Singing around the Christmas Tree

Christmas Carols around the Tree on Eaton Socon Green on Friday 9th 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.



Plough Monday in Eaton Socon

Don't forget to join us for the annual Plough Monday celebrations on Monday 9th January 2017, beginning at Eaton Socon Church at 7.30pm with the Blessing of the Plough, followed by Molly dancing and singing. Dancing and drinking continues during the evening at nearby hostelries. 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. With most of Eaton Socon Parish still farmed across the county boundary in Bedfordshire we are delighted to host this annual event. For further information please contact Roger & Patti Pitt on 01234 376278.



NEAT STREET 2016

A proud group of residents stand under their Neat Street Award in Spencer Close. Even the children, Austin and Bella, joined in for the photograph with their miniature gardens. Spencer Close in Eaton Ford has now won twice – in 2013 and 2016.



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Lots more news inside.

Deadlines for all contributions
20th February 2017 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**



C & A Hurst Opticians

Registered Opticians
& Contact Lenses

359, Great North Road Eaton Socon

Telephone: 01480 406002

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



Useful Telephone Numbers

Street Lighting	0800 253 529
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
Local Halls	
Jubilee Hall	01480 392733
Duloe Village Hall	07768 303373
St Marys Church Hall Eaton Socon	01480 352154
Eatons Community Centre	01480 388911
Eaton Socon Sports Assoc Hall	0791 7017048
Doctors Surgeries	
Eaton Socon Health Centre	01480 478260 / 08444 771802
Cedar House Surgery	01480 406677
Eaton Socon Children's Centre, Bushmead Rd	01480 358340
Bushmead School	01480 375375
Crosshall Infants School	01480 475980
Crosshall Junior School	01480 475972
Community Car Scheme	01480 476047



Useful Websites

ESCA	www.escan.org.uk
St Neots Town Council	www.stneots-tc.gov.uk
Eaton Socon Health Centre	www.eatonsoconhealthcentre.co.uk
Cedar House Surgery	www.cedarhousesurgery.net
St Neots Archives	www.st-neots.ccan.co.uk
Paxton Pits	www.paxton-pits.org.uk
Sudbury Meadow	www.sudburymeadow.org.uk
St Marys Church	www.eatonsocon.org
Pightle	www.eatonsoconpightle.org.uk
Bushmead School	www.bushmeadprimaryschool.org.uk
Duloe, Staploe and Honeydon	www.staploeduloeandhoneydonparishcouncil.bedsparishes.gov.uk
St Neots Time Bank	www.stneotstimebank.org.uk
River Church	www.riverchurch.eu
St. Neots Children's Centres	www.eatonsoconchildrenscentre@cambridgeshire.gov.uk



Who's Who at ESCA

<i>Chairman</i>	Sue Jarrett	01480 216065
<i>Treasurer</i>	Dave Jarrett	01480 216065
<i>May Day Administrator</i>	Julia Hayward	01480 210097
<i>Open Gardens</i>	Sue Jarrett	01480 216065
<i>History Co-ordinator</i>	Sue Jarrett	01480 216065
<i>ESCAN Co-ordinator</i>	Carole Robson	01480 218755

Hanover Knitters

Meets on the first Tuesday of the month at Hanover Close in Eaton Ford. Evening meeting, all ages welcome. For details please call Angela on 01480 534680

Dates for your diary

St Mary's Eaton Socon Christmas Services & Events

- Thurs Dec 8th 12.30pm – **Christmas Lunch** (entry by ticket only – contact St Mary's)
 - Sun Dec 11th 4pm – **Nativity Play**
 - Sun Dec 18th 6pm – **Carol Service**
 - Weds Dec 21st 2pm – **Afternoon Carol Service**
 - Christmas Eve 3pm & 5pm – **Family Carol Services**
 - Christmas Eve 11.30pm – **Midnight Communion Service**
 - Christmas Day 10am – **Christmas Day Family Communion Service**
- 2017**
- Sun Jan 1st 10am – **Combined Family Communion**
 - Sun Jan 8th 4pm – **Family Christingle Service**
 - Sun Mar 26th 10.30am – **Mothering Sunday Service**
 - Thurs Apr 13th 8pm – **Maundy Thursday Service**
 - Fri Apr 14th 10am – **Good Friday All Age Service**
 - Fri Apr 14th 2pm – **Meditations around the cross**
 - Sun Apr 16th 9am – **Easter Day Holy Communion Service**
 - Sun Apr 16th 10.30am – **Easter Day Holy Communion**

River Church, Eatons Community Centre

- Christmas Eve 6.30pm - 8pm – **Christmas Carols Service**
Refreshments provided.
- Christmas Day 10.30 - 11.30am – **Christmas Day Service**
- Community Christmas Day Lunch** - 12:30pm - 2:30pm, Eatons Community Centre. For those in our community who would otherwise be on their own or are facing financial hardship. Free event - but registration is essential. Help with transport is available if requested at registration. To sign up please contact Jim Fitzgerald on 07545 175837.

Eaton Ford Methodist Church

Sun Dec 18th 10.30am – **Carol Service** All welcome

St Neots Choral Society and Sinfonia

- Nov 12th 7.30pm – **Mendelssohn Hebrides Overture, Hummel Trumpet Concerto and a Mozart Symphony**, St Marys Church, Eaton Socon
 - Nov 26th 7.30pm – **Handel's Messiah**, St Marys Church, Eaton Socon
 - Dec 17th 6pm – **Joint Carol Concert**, St Marys Church, Eaton Socon (book tickets early)
- 2017**
- Mar 11th 6pm – **Humperdinck, Dvorak, Saint-Saens and Tchaikovsky**, St Marys Church, Eaton Socon
 - Apr 1st 7.30pm – **Dvorak, Strabat Mater**, Priory Centre

Little Barford Church Service

Sun 11th Dec 3pm – **Carols by Candlelight**
Please wrap up warmly as this small church has no heating. Directions to the car park will be signposted on the day from Little Barford village – A lovely little church and well worth a visit !



Textile Bank

Over £1,300 was given back to the community from your donations last year so don't forget to put your old clothing and shoes into our ESCA textile bank in the Tesco Express Car Park in Eaton Socon, opposite Eaton Socon Church. All this money was shared out between local groups at our AGM so **'use our bank to support our community'**.



Copy date for the next edition of ESCAN for news, adverts and information – 20th February 2017.

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

Chairman's Spot

Once again we have had a very busy and exciting year with our May Day, Open Gardens and the Neat Street Award. A new bench has been installed at the top of Mill Hill Road, with a generous donation from the Royal Naval Association and the textile bank has been well used at Tesco Express. We have had our unique village lock up open and walks around the village including a visit to the castle site, thanks to the new owner. The archaeological dig on the Lidl site provided answers to some questions and raised others, including an unknown building with a stone foundation and many Roman finds.

This year has seen major developments in the Eatons with several new shops, more housing and a new Care home being built. Photographs have been taken as these developments have taken place and some of them will be used in future exhibitions.

Finally, during the autumn, many bulbs have once again been planted around the Eatons so we can look forward to a brighter more colourful Eatons next Spring. On behalf of the ESCA committee may I wish you all a Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

Sue Jarrett, ESCA Chairman

Help at Home

Care Network, Cambridgeshire offers free short term practical help for up to 3 weeks after a hospital stay or an illness at home for all adults over the age of 18 years. Visits are arranged by Care Network's Help at Home Co-ordinator, at a time to suit you and the volunteer. If you think you might need some help such as shopping, fetching prescriptions or help with small tasks why not Tel: 01354 694413 or email hah.north@care-network.org.uk

If you could help as a volunteer please contact the Care Network using the contacts above or email admin@care-network.org.uk. The team are there to help you and can arrange full training.



Hearing Aid Users

Free monthly hearing help drop in session in Eaton Socon Health Centre on the 3rd Friday of each month, from 2- 4pm. NHS hearing aid users can receive free replacement batteries and have their hearing aid cleaned and retubed. Free advice is also offered on hearing aid use.

For further details please see – www.cambridgeshirehearinghelp.org.uk

Embrace service – Luminus scheme



This free service is designed to help people over the age of 65 years to remain independent. The team can help with complicated and confusing paperwork, can undertake small tasks around the home, will support people in times of need and help provide mobility aids to enable people to stay in their own homes. This scheme is available to everyone, not just Luminus tenants, so if you think the team can help – please call 01480 428562 or email embrace@luminus.org.uk

Hall/Function room for Hire

Eaton Socon Sports Association at River Road has a clubhouse which can be used for functions such as birthday parties, meetings etc.

Very reasonable rates. One-off hire or regular bookings considered.

For further details please contact Stuart Ross on 07917017048 or email - stuart.ross3@ntlworld.com

CONTACT YOUR COUNCILLORS - If you would like to ask your councillor a question or have any concerns then why not email them – using the contact details on the Town Council website or phone them on -

EATON FORD
Charles Bober – 07948 706958
Derek Giles – 01480 731321
Bob Farrer – 01480 404014
Keith Prentice – 01480 214838
Gordon Thorpe – 07956 878780

EATON SOCON
Barry Banks – 07710 209950
Roger Harrison – 07717 666238
Ben Hicks – 01480 700463,
mobile 07528 227964
Colin Maslen – 07810 481941

Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB)

For free helpful, impartial advice on many matters please go along to the CARC portacabin in the Tan Yard car park, near Waitrose, PE19 1AN
Drop-in Sessions - Mon, Tues, Thurs - 9.30am - 12.30pm (NB. sessions may close early depending on demand or volunteer availability)

Wed - Open for pre-arranged debt appointments only.

Appointments - follow up appointments if needed are only made after a drop in or telephone interview.

Advice helpline – Mon to Fri 9.30am to 3:30pm

Tel: 0344 245 1292

Website www.ruralcambscab.org.uk



Help with your Computer



Will you be lucky enough to get a computer, laptop or tablet for Christmas, but may have difficulty understanding it then why not pop down to the library for help? Whatever your skill level - volunteers

are happy to show you how to use a mouse, find information, read and send emails, buy from ebay or google for something. The younger generation may be fantastic at showing you how to access things but they do it so fast that you are left baffled by what is happening. If this is you then ask for some free helpful advice. No booking is required and volunteers are always keen to help. Free computer sessions – every Tuesday 10-12.30

Wool and Silks

Lots of wool and embroidery silks were donated last time to some very grateful people so if you still have some sitting around in your sewing box then why not donate them to local people who can make good use of them. If you can help, please contact Sue on 01480 216065 or email eatonscas@gmail.com.

Encore!

“Encore! Concerts for all, big and small” meet in Eaton Socon Church on the third Thursday of the month to bring live music to everyone from babies to grandparents in a relaxed and informal environment. Everyone is encouraged to react to music however they want – jumping up and down, dancing, sitting, lying down or drawing pictures inspired by what they have heard. But above all, they learn that music is fun and there's something very exciting about hearing it live. The concerts feature professionals from the local area as well as from London. Adult tickets cost £6 which includes tea and homemade cake, and pre-school children are free.

An ancient Round Barrow near Sharps Barns!



Did you visit the round barrow, built in stone and covered in earth, near Hail Weston on October 23rd? This amazing structure was built in a small wood near farmland in the same style as ancient round barrows built over 3,000 years ago. The soil over the structure is seeded and will soon provide a green grass covering.

To access the site a track leads from the cottages at Sharps Barns, on the road to Hail Weston. The track is just inside the Bedfordshire border and Eaton Socon parish, although the actual barrow is just across the county boundary in Cambridgeshire. This round barrow is a modern interpretation of ancient burial mounds – for more info on the site see the website -www.sacredstones.co.uk

Bedfordshire Day – 27/28th November

Watch for the Bedfordshire flags flying at the original county boundaries and on Eaton Socon Village Green. This event links Eaton Socon with villages throughout Bedfordshire who wish to celebrate the former county. Until 1965 Eaton Socon and Eaton Ford were still in Bedfordshire and the church registers still go to Bedford Archives.



The Eatons Community Centre



The Maltings, Eaton Socon, PE19 8ES
priory.centre@stneots-tc.gov.uk

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- Community Events
- Community Groups
- Private Functions
- Childrens Parties

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www.all-eyes.co.uk



St. Neots in Bloom

Three Eatons groups benefited when this successful group closed down in October. The St Neots In Bloom group promoted a pride in our town and entered the town for the 'In Bloom Awards' but for a variety of reasons it became very difficult to achieve its aims.

At its final meeting the money held by the group was shared out between several groups including ESCA, the Pightle Millennium Green Trust and Friends of Sudbury Meadow who will continue to work in the Eatons to make our environment better.

Julia Hayward (on the left) collected the cheque for the Pightle and Sue Jarrett (middle back) collected the cheque for ESCA. Crocus bulbs were also given out at the evening by the Rotary Club and these have already been planted.



Free bag of mulch

Did you ever see Brian from Eaton Socon clearing the footpaths of leaves in the autumn? Brian would like to remind you all of the free bags of mulch that are available at this time of year. If you wish a free bag then just pop outside and find a tree that is dropping leaves. Rake up the leaves into a bag and let the leaves rot down into a super nutritious mulch that you can spread on your garden. The more leaves you rake up, the more mulch you can get and if you rake up leaves along a footpath then the path will look so much clearer. Keep your environment tidy and help your garden !



Staploe & Duloe FC

The club are actively looking for Players -

- Ages 7 or 8 - mini soccer
- Age 12 or 13 - Youth football
- Age 15 - Youth football

If you are keen to take part why not go along to the club which is based in Duloe, next to the village hall, where the home matches will be played.

If interested please contact Colin Bower 07786 625397
or Barry Cathrall 07707 301640

Methodist Messy Play for adults

Eaton Ford Methodist Church are holding a Messy Church for the more mature on 12th April 2017 - 11am - 2pm. Learn about the Real Easter, enjoy making Easter gardens, crosses, baskets and much more, sing hymns/song and share lunch. All welcome, bring a friend. For more information please ring Vivien on 01480 457124.



Free food and Christmas decorations in the Pightle

YES – there is free food for birds as the trees are laden with berries but please do not help yourself unless you know what you are collecting. Some berries are poisonous to humans but the birds will feast on the berries in the winter months, so why not wander around and listen to the variety of birds – both native and winter visitors.



YES – teasels and holly can be found in the Pightle and you are welcome to collect some for your Christmas decorations but please leave some for others. Teasels look fantastic in any decoration, either left in their natural state or sprayed silver with a little glitter added to make them sparkle.



The hay has now been cut, bulbs planted and the Pightle has been prepared for the winter months by the trustees and volunteers. In these days of getting fit by walking or using outside spaces as an outdoor gym you may wish to help our growing band of volunteers. Regular tasks include grass cutting, trimming back overhanging vegetation, litter picking and in the winter months laying bark chippings on muddy paths.

A recent visitor who is also a hedge layer has offered to lay the hedge on the north side, next to the field of cows. It seems that the hedge is now of the right maturity and size and it is likely that the project will start in December when all the leaves have fallen. Two volunteers from Paxton Pit will undertake this exciting venture and they are happy to show others how to carry out this dying craft.

If you wish to learn about hedge laying or would like to volunteer to undertake some tasks in the Pightle we would love to hear from you – being a Trustee or volunteer is not arduous work and fresh faces and new ideas are always appreciated!

Wishing you all a very happy Christmas, and hoping you'll enjoy a very colourful show in the Pightle next spring!

Julia Hayward

Trustee – The Pightle Millennium Green Trust

Website: <http://www.eatonsoconpightle.org.uk>

Tel: 0777 3918223 Email: Julia@juliahayward.com

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St. Neots & District Gardening Club

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

- Jan 26th **Pests and Diseases**,
by Geoff Hodge
- Feb 23rd **Chrysanthemums My Way**,
by Jim Osbourne
- Mar 23rd **Paxton Pits**,
by Jim Stevenson
(Chief Ranger)
- Apr 27th **tba**

Fly tipping

If you spot something that is flytipped then take a photo and send it to clive.durston@huntingdonshire.gov.uk saying where the location is.

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 (Trustee of The Pightle Trust) 11 Collingwood Rd, Eaton Socon PE19 8JQ

Dear Trustee 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 am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/ or capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Signed.....



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 Off the Blackcat roundabout, follow signs to Great Barford, Roxton then turn right into Chawston.

Community Car Service

Do you need a lift in a car to get to the doctors, hospital, shops or to meet friends where no suitable public transport exists or you have mobility difficulties. If so, then phone The St Neots Volunteer Centre at 01480 476047 to book transport or leave a message on the answer phone. Please also mention, at the time of booking, if a wheelchair needs to be transported and to give as much notice as possible (minimum 3 working days).

Volunteers use their own cars to provide transport and a small charge of 40 pence per mile is made for the journey, based upon mileage travelled by the driver. A minimum fee of £1.50 will apply for short journeys.

Volunteer drivers are always needed so if you would like to help please phone 01480 476047 for more details.



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

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, find out more on our web site www.stneotsbadminton.org and click 'Join us' to make contact, or email Jane at chair@stneotsbadminton.org



Tiddlers & Toddlers

Every Friday in term time at Jubilee Hall, 9.30am-11.30am
Everyone Welcome

£2.50 per family (includes drink and biscuits)
Contact Benny on 01480 477838

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St. Neots Area

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CAMBRIDGESHIRE HEARING HELP

Free helpful advice from this local charity to help those living with hearing loss will be given at -

Commemoration Hall, 39 High Street, Huntingdon, PE29 3AQ
Wed 23rd Nov 2016 - 10am to 12 noon

Equipment to help you hear better will be demonstrated for those who do or do not wear a hearing aid – **Telephones, Television and radio, Alarms Door bells and Personal Listeners**

For more information about Cambridgeshire Hearing Help see the website - www.cambridgeshirehearinghelp.org.uk
or phone 01223 416141 at 8A Romsey Terrace Cambridge CB1 3NH
Registered Charity No 1154071 (formerly Cambridge CAMTAD)

St Neots TIME BANK

This fast growing bank is a way for people to share their knowledge and skills with their community and be rewarded for it – with time. For every one hour you volunteer, you can claim back the same amount and you can save up your credits for those jobs you can't manage or don't have the skills or time for. Age and ability no obstacle. No money is needed other than for materials. No job too small. The time bank offers full insurance security, access to training and the opportunity to become involved in community projects.

If you wish to be involved, then email: timevolunteers@hotmail.co.uk
or Tel: 07590909057.

www.stneotstimebank.org.uk

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/timebankstneots>

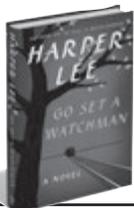
or tweet <https://twitter.com/StNeotsTimeBank>



Your "Library at Home Service"

If you are stuck at home and would like to read a book then why not ask the library for help - Cambridgeshire Libraries offer a home delivery service for people who can no longer use the library because of mobility problems, ill health or because they have full time (unpaid) caring duties. Volunteer library visitors will ensure that people who have particular problems in visiting a library do not miss out on a regular supply of books or audio books. Books can be chosen by the reader and delivered free of charge to your home by volunteers.

For more information contact Liz Sheppard
email - your.library@cambridgeshire.gov.uk
tel 0345 045 5225 or ask at your local library



Little Miracles

This is a parent led support group and Charity for families that have children with additional needs, disabilities and life limiting conditions.

The group works with children and their families from 0-25 years providing support and activities, including trips and holidays. They also work closely with professionals for advice and support. A parents coffee group meets every Monday in term time at the Eatons Children's Centre, next to Bushmead School, from 1pm-2pm.

Most of the staff members are volunteers and if you are interested in receiving help or offering help then why not contact Janine Usher on – Janine.usher@littlemiraclescharity.org.uk or phone 07446 992591



Eaton Socon Trefoil Guild

Why not start the New Year with a new challenge? If you are over 18 and enjoy meeting others this group may be for you - whether you have been in the guide or scout movement or not. In 2016 the group enjoyed many different activities including a visit to Buckden Towers, self defence, making sugar decorations and bowling. Members help out at various guiding activities and may be able to help you if you are putting on an event. We are always glad to see new members and meet on the first Tuesday of each month at 7.30 so please email eatonsocontrefoilguild@gmail.com for more information.

We look forward to meeting you!

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Dates for History Groups

St. Neots Local History Society

Monthly meetings at Eynesbury C of E School Hall, Montagu St, Eynesbury at 7.30pm
Chairperson – Elaine Donaldson 01480 217492

Jan 6th **The Second World War POW Camps in Beds and Cambs**
(with some escape stories), by Kenneth Lewis

Feb 3rd **Postcards from St. Neots Part 2** (preceded by AGM),
by Rodney Todman

Mar 3rd **Lady Margaret Beaufort** (born at Bletsoe Castle, Bedfordshire),
by Margaret Badley

Apr 7th **The Gallipoli Campaign**, by Keith Edmonds

Colmworth & Neighbours History Society

Monthly meetings at Colmworth Village Hall at 7.30pm
Chairperson – Chris Walker 01234 771536

Jan 20th **The Story of Hereward the Wake**, by Mark Steinhardt

Feb 17th **Women of the Great War**, by History Revisited

Mar 17th **The Great Fires of London and Chatham**, by David Davies

Apr 21st **Mammoths and Man in the Ouse Valley**, by Dr Chris Thomas

Roxton & District Local History Group

Monthly meetings at Roxton Parish Hall on the 1st Thursday at 7.30pm
Contact P. Newell: 01234 870158

Jan **No Meeting - late Christmas Dinner**

Feb 2nd **WW1 and the lives of local people**, by Liz Davies with Norman
Keightly bringing WW1 artefacts

Mar 2nd **What are they doing at the Black Cat** (the finds of a recent
archaeological Dig at the site to the east of the Black Cat), by Ben
Dyson and Dr Clive Waddington

Apr 6th **Amy Wonderful Amy, her life as a woman pioneer flyer**, by Ray Smart

Alfred Rowlett – A Local Character

You may or may not have seen the blue plaque in Eaton Ford that mentions Alfred Rowlett, known by many villagers as Doc Rowlett, a herbalist and antique dealer. There are many stories surrounding Doc Rowlett, including his finding of Bunyan's anvil which was shaped in a particular way and mounted on a large iron structure. He is recalled as having found it in a scrapyards on Avenue Rd, St Neots, but other villagers are not so sure that it is genuine. He was a great storyteller and Sunday evenings were often spent with the Addingtons in Ford House drinking whisky and telling stories.



However, his antiques always intrigued the children and in the small windows of his house in Eaton Ford would be placed small antique ornaments. But what was not known until very recently was his connection with the Horniman Museum in Forest Hill, London. This museum opened in 1901 and some of Rowlett's curios are in the museum. Alfred Rowlett had various jobs throughout his life – in the censuses he was described as a horsekeeper, a general labourer, and a bricklayer's labourer while later in life villagers recall him sweeping the roads.

But at some point in his life he found that he could sell some curios from the countryside, including charms that could cure illnesses, cooking pots, articles used in country games, Valentine cards and various other curiosities. A researcher in the museum recently contacted ESCA and asked about his life as they were trying to find out more about this fascinating character. We were able to tell them more about his life and family and exactly where he lived from the 1920s until his death in 1948.

ESCA put a blue plaque on his house in Eaton Ford – 166-168 St Neots Road but today there are no antiques in the small windows and if you wish to see some of his curiosities you will need to visit the Horniman Museum in Forest Hill.



ESCA Local History Books and Information

Now that Winter's with us and we spend more time indoors, what a good opportunity to buy one of the ESCA local history books.

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 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
<input type="checkbox"/>	Eaton Socon in the Great War	£6.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tea Towel	£3.95
<input type="checkbox"/>	Inns and Outs of Eaton Socon Parish	£6.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Floods are Out (St Neots Community Archive Group)	£2.99

I enclose a cheque for _____ made payable to ESCA.

Name _____

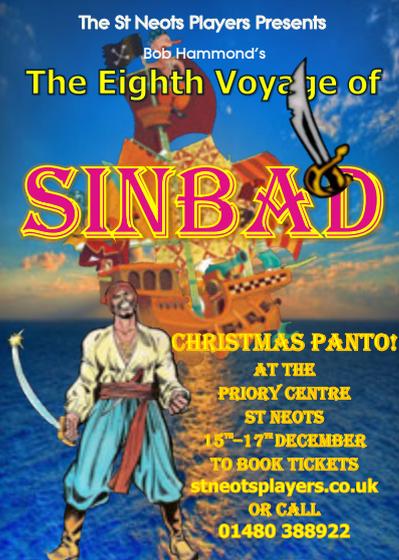
Address _____

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

After enjoying your Christmas dinner and some fine wine, why not dry your crockery, cutlery and glasses and dishes with your very own Eatons farmhouse T-towel – a bargain at only £3.95 – only available from ESCA and St Neots Museum.



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"St Neots Riders Group"



Since 2015 free cycle rides of varying lengths for all ages have been arranged by Sustrans Rangers, though children must be accompanied by adults. So why not get out your bikes, explore the local area in the sunshine and make new friends.

WHEN - every third Sunday

WHERE - start at the Ambiance Café in the Riverside Park at 10.30 am (prompt start)

For more info see - www.bit.ly/snbikerides and for the next bike ride see www.bit.ly/snnext or phone Richard Cooper, Volunteer Liaison Ranger, email - ranger@ridingabike.co.uk or Tel 01480 718818.

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St Neots Coffee Pot Memory Café, Musical Memories and more !

The Coffee Pot Memory Café extends a warm welcome to all suffering from memory loss and their carers. Run by volunteers and carers, and supported by St Neots Rotarians, this group holds various events during the month:

The Memory Café - 2nd Wed at the Berkley Street Methodist Church, Eynesbury 11am - 12.30.

Carers and Companions - 3rd Wed at Roxton Garden Centre, 10am-12.30

Musical Memories - 4th Wed at Peppercorns Music Academy, Little End Rd, Eaton Socon - 11am - 12.30

Pay as You Dine Lunch - 1st Wed - The Wheatsheaf, Perry, PE28 0BX, 12noon for 12.30 lunch.

All those with memory loss and their carers will be very welcome at all these events so why not go along and meet some friendly faces - please phone Wendy on 01480 219925, or Nell on 01480 472495 for more details.



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