





May Day

This year's May Day was particularly special, as after a break thanks to COVID we have a May Court again! The weather teased us with a light shower just as they were crowned but overall the day was a lovely setting for stalls, games, entertainment and a lot of yummy



food! Our original Community Cup was retired as it's full up with names now and we're delighted to have the Derek Giles Trophy to carry on

commemorating everyone who makes a difference, beginning with Jim Fitzgerald of River Church (and our head barbecue chef!). Thankyou to everyone who turned out and help us raise a lot of funds for good causes.

Grants

The funds we raise on May Day as well as our other efforts, and a generous amount from St Neots Town Council come back to the community to support many groups who normally don't qualify for larger sources of funds. If you're

involved with any activity or project in the Eatons for which a £100 grant would make a real difference, we'd love to hear from you! Just drop us a line at eatonsca@gmail.com before Sunday 1st October and let us know what you'd like to do with it.



Our AGM will be on Monday 23rd October at 7.30pm, in St Mary's Church, where our May Court will present grant cheques, and there will be light refreshments afterwards where you can chat with us and the various voluntary groups present - and maybe enthuse more to join your cause!

ESCA Chairman's needs you!

We can only do what we do thanks to the efforts of our own volunteers, and our own ranks are thinning as time presses on. If May Day and everything else you read about here is to have a longer-term future we need new blood ourselves. Are you up for the challenge? Do get in touch with us, we'd be delighted to have you on board - and while being a good organizer is always helpful, no experience is necessary!

Spot

October to December 2023

EATON FORD

NEAT STREET

The last year has certainly been a tough one for our potential Neat Streets, with council cutbacks meaning that almost every pavement edge has a line of flowers growing along it. Some of you have taken matters into your own hands, clearly, as our winners Bushmead Gardens had hardly a weed in sight when our secret judges popped round. Many congratulations to them on their second win, the first being in 2019. We'll have a plaque ready very soon and an informal presentation in the autumn.

If you'd like to take part next year, drop us a line with your nominations!





Carols on the Green

Christmas isn't *that* far away – put Friday 15th December in your diaries as we gather around the illuminated tree on Eaton Socon Green to sing carols, whatever the weather. Everyone is welcome to join, we'll provide the words, good company, and warm mince pies as sustenance - you provide the voice and perhaps an umbrella!

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Lots more news inside.

Deadlines for all contributions Friday 10th November 2023 for inclusion in the next issue.

We look forward to hearing from you. Follow us on Twitter: @EatonsCA



C & A Hurst Opticians Registered Opticians & Contact Lenses 359, Great North Road Eaton Socon Telephone: 01480 406002



Useful Telephone Numbers

Street Lighting	0800 783 8247		
report the number on the lamp-post, the street na	me 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		
FlyTipping	01480 388640		
Local Halls			
Jubilee Hall	01480 392733		
St Marys Church Hall Eaton Socon	01480 352154		
Eatons Community Centre	01480 388922		
Eaton Socon Sports Assoc Hall	0791 7017048		
United Reformed Church	07366 058861		
Doctors Surgeries			
Eaton Socon Health Centre	01480 210000		
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		
Foodbank	01480 475426		



Useful Websites

www.escan.org.uk

FSCA St Neots Town Council Eaton Socon Health Centre Cedar House Surgery St Neots Archives Group Paxton Pits Sudbury Meadow St Marys Church Pightle **Bushmead School**

River Church

www.stneots-tc.gov.uk www.eatonsoconhealthcentre.co.uk www.cedarhousesurgery.net www.st-neots.ccan.co.uk www.paxton-pits.org.uk www.sudburymeadow.org.uk www.eatonsocon.org www.eatonsoconpightle.org.uk www.bushmeadprimaryschool.org.uk Duloe, Staploe and Honeydon www.staploeduloehoneydonparish council.bedsparishes.gov.uk

www.riverchurchstneots.co.uk St Neots Children's Centres www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/ childrenscentres

Who's Who at ESCA

Chairman Treasurer May Day Administrator ESCAN Co-ordinator Editor

Julia Hayward	0
Dave Jarrett	0
Julia Hayward	0
Carole Robson	0
Sara Foyle	

01480 210097
01480 216065
01480 210097
01480 218755

Dates for your diary

Services at St Mary's Eaton Socon For all enquiries, please contact the church office office@eatonsocon.org Tel: 01480 352154 (Tues-Thurs 9:00am - 11:30am) 2 Oct/6 Nov Creation care working party, from 9.30am 15 Oct/19 Nov Hive, aimed at children of any age who have additional needs or disabilities. For further info contact Liz: cfcw@eatonsocon.org 16 Oct/20 Nov M-team morning, from 9.30am 22 Oct/26 Nov Sharing life through learning, 6.00pm **29 Oct** Light night family event, an alternative to Halloween, 5.30 to 7.00pm 5 Nov Service of memories, an opportunity to remember those no longer with us, 6.00 to 7.15pm 12 Nov **Remembrance Sunday service**, 10:00am, followed by Act of Remembrance at War Memorial, 11.00am 3 Dec Christingle event (ticketed event) start the festive season making your own Christingle, 3.30 to 4.30pm 7 Dec Christmas Lunch (ticketed event) 10 Dec Instant Nativity service. No rehearsals or lines to learn, just show up and have fun, 10.30 to 11.30am 13 Dec Afternoon Carol Service, 2.00 to 3.00pm 17 Dec Christmas Carol Service, 6.00 to 7.15pm 24 Dec Traditional Christmas Service at 9.00am with Holy Communion 24 Dec Christmas Eve family carol services. Start your Christmas festivities with our family friendly carol services. 3.00 and 5.00pm 25 Dec Christmas Day celebration. Begin your Christmas Day celebrations with our family service at 10:00am 31 Dec Family celebration at 10:00am

Eaton Socon Methodist Church

Services on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month, commencing at 10.30am

Update on River Church St Neots

River Church meets at 10:30am every Sunday at The Eatons Centre, St Neots, PE19 8ES. For more information please visit: www.riverchurchstneots.co.uk or contact Rob McFarlane on 07904 101 720. Visitors are always welcome. We invite you to join us!

24 Dec Christmas Eve service at 6.00 to 7.30pm Join us at The Eaton's Centre, St Neots, PE19 8ES, for an evening of Christmas Carols. Family event open to the whole community. Refreshments will be served.

25 Dec Christmas Day Lunch: On your own for Christmas lunch? Financial hardship? We invite you to join us! Free event but registration is essential. Help with transport is available if requested at registration. We can deliver locally. To sign up or help/donate - contact Jim Fitzgerald on 07545 175 837.

Little Barford Church

10 Dec, Sunday Carol Service at 3.00pm

This is a candlelit service. It's a lovely little church and well worth a visit (there are directions in the village), but has no electricity or heating so make sure you wrap up warm.

Choral Society

- 25 Nov Autumn Concert, at 7.30pm
- 23 Dec Carol Concert, at 6.00pm both held at St Mary's Church, Eaton Socon.

Sinfionia Concert

4 Nov 7.30pm at St Mary's Church.

Copy date for the next edition of ESCAN for news, adverts and information – Friday 10th November 2023

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

Barry Chapman – Crosshall ward – 07803 134 565 Clare Mascarenhas – Eaton Socon ward –

claire.mascarenhas@stneots-tc.gov.uk Rob Simonis – Eaton Ford ward – robert.simonis@stneots-tc.gov.uk John Dunford – Eaton Ford ward – john.dunford@stneots-tc.gov.uk Vacancy – Eaton Ford ward Colin Maslen – Eaton Socon ward – 07810 481 941 Barry Banks – Eaton Socon ward – 07710 209 950

Visit the town council website **https://www.stneots-tc.gov.uk** to find the latest on who your councillor is.

Councillors' surgeries: Cloisters, Priory Centre see Town Council website: **www.stneots-tc.gov.uk**

CAMBRIDGESHIRE HEARING HELP 🤊

NHS Hearing Aid Maintenance Centre

We clean, re-tube and supply batteries for NHS hearing aids. We do not provide hearing aids or hearing tests. Meeting on the 4th Wednesday of each month at the Library, Priory Lane, St Neots PE19 2BH. From 10 am to 12 noon. This is a drop-off and wait service, by appointment only.

To book an appointment please use our online service at: **www.cambridgeshirehearinghelp.org.uk**

or phone the office: **01223 4166 141** or text: **07852 699 196**



Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB)

Adviceline: 0808 278 7807

Monday to Friday 09:30 to 15:30 Universal Credit Help to Claim line: 0800 1448 444, for anyone seeking to make a new claim for Universal Credit Webchat or Email via:

www.citizensadviceruralcambs.org.uk

Information also available on our website at **www.citizensadviceruralcambs.org.uk** or at **www.citizensadvice.org.uk**



Appointments, including face-to-face, where required for advice at either our main centres or outreach sessions are made after a telephone assessment.

Café on the Green

10am-noon every Monday Eaton Socon Church Hall Why not pop in and have a chat, a cuppa and cake



Free mental health pottery group

Improve your mental health with our fabulous free pottery classes!

Running weekly every Tuesday 12.30pm to 2.30pm

Meeting at Art and Soul Creative Hub, 7 New Street, St Neots PE19 1AE



To find out more and book your place, call: 01733 396404

Fit for life St Neots

Mondays 2-3pm at Jubilee Hall, Eaton Socon – Only £5 per session Contact Dawn: **07971 182 261** Healthy Mind Healthy Body Healthy ♥

T&S

CAFE | GALLERY | CREATIVE HUB

Designed for seniors, **Fit for Life** is a safe way to increase muscle strength, balance, mental health and your range of movement for daily living. All while minimising impact on your joints.

Textile Bank

In the current financial year we have received £696 to give out to local groups in the Eatons at our AGM, so when you are turning out your clothes please remember to use your local textile bank (situated at Tesco express opposite St Mary's Church). You can donate clothing, shoes, bedding and towels. All money received comes to ESCA and will be shared by local groups in the Eatons.



Cambs Backgammon Club



Come and play the world's oldest board game! We meet at The Waggon and Horses on alternate Monday evenings from 7pm. Everyone from beginner to Grandmaster is welcome. Drop us a line at **julia@juliahayward.com** to find out more.

ESCAN Deliveries

Thank you if you have offered to deliver our newsletters. It would be wonderful to have one or two more volunteers – especially in Crosshall Road and the



north end of Monarch Road. We deliver to over 6,000 homes, three times a year. We have a staunch band of volunteers but it is becoming more difficult for some of them to take on any more, plus two or three have stepped down for various reasons. If you think you could help out, just to do part of a road will be fine, please contact Julia Hayward on (01480) 210 097 or Carole Robson on (01480) 218 755



Sudbury Meadow

In the 2022 October-December issue of ESCAN I was concerned that the long summer drought would have a negative impact on butterflies at Sudbury Meadow. Many depend on fresh grass for their caterpillars to feed on and that was in short supply during their breeding season. However, I am pleased to report that summer 2023 has been very good for butterflies after all, particularly Gatekeepers. They loved our wild marjoram in the Butterfly Garden (I recorded up to 14 together on several occasions) and flited around along with Peacocks, Red Admirals, Common Blues and Holly Blues. We also had good numbers of whites, though telling those apart in flight is not something I can do! I can tell the difference between their caterpillars though and initially my kale was providing food for Small White caterpillars, followed by a few Large White ones. Well I didn't want much kale, so sharing it wasn't an issue!

St Neots Probus Club

A luncheon club for retired or semi-retired business or professional people, normally aged 60 or over, which meets monthly. If you are interested please contact the Secretary **01480 812938** or email **stneotsprobussec@gmail.com**



Walk & Talk 4 Men St Neots

Little Paxton Pits (the Heron Trail) Twice monthly walk & talk events Giving men time to walk, talk & connect Great company, amazing setting All men are very welcome

Contact Justin Leigh and Steve Whitney via our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/walkandtalk4menstneots

Email: walkandtalk4menstneots@gmail.com

Sunday 1st October at 13.15pm Sunday 15th October at 9.15am Sunday 5th November at 13.15pm Sunday 19th November at 9.15am

Sunday 3rd December at 13.15pm Sunday 17th December at 9.15am In the orchard I spotted Speckled Wood butterfly on a number of occasions, whilst around the meadow and sometimes in the gardens, Small Skippers dashed around. We did have much lower numbers of Small Tortoiseshell this year though, with only 1-2 seen and also only a few sightings of Commas.

Our experimental dead hedge is still intact but completely engulfed in nettles! This has rather limited our use of the composting area it encircles, but at least the nettles provide food for lots of insects and even us if we are brave enough to cut the young growth! Not something I have tried. Elsewhere in the orchard, the apple crop appeared to be really good, but as we do not use traps or chemicals it soon became apparent that many had been attacked by grubs and also by wasps. We have a wasps nest in the orchard, but left it as the residents appeared to be one of the more benign species of social wasps. They will naturally die during the autumn.

I hope you get the chance to visit Sudbury Meadow before the winter sets in. The meadow should be cut by the middle to end of October if all goes to plan. You are welcome to volunteer with us too if you are over 18. See our website **www.sudburymeadow.org.uk** for more information or call **01480 472624**.

Alison Pearson Chair, Friends of Sudbury Meadow alison@sudburymeadow.org.uk

St Neots Library

library

You're guaranteed a warm welcome at St Neots Library, with something for everyone throughout the week.

Library membership is free, and we have a large selection of books to borrow, along with free online books, magazines, newspapers and audiobooks.

Our friendly and knowledgeable staff are always on hand to help find information about local services and resources. The library has free Wi-Fi, public computers and study space, along with seating areas and daily newspapers to read.

We have activities through the week for all ages, including rhyme time and story time, family activities and clubs for children. We have a knitting group and regular talks for adults.

On Tuesday mornings we have an IT drop-in session for those who need a little help with using technology such as mobile phones, tablets and laptops. This runs from 10.00-12.00, no booking required. Staff can also



assist with renewing or applying for a bus pass at any time.

For more information about the library and our events, please visit: **www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/library** or pop into the library during opening hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday: 9.30am-5.00pm Wednesday: 1.30pm-7.00pm and Saturday: 9.30am-4.00pm



In it to win it!

Arthur Rank Hospice Charity needs to raise £4.79 million this year, in order to continue to offer services free to patients. By supporting the Winter Raffle you would be helping them to reach this target.

Tickets are available to buy from 8 November and need to be with the charity by 8 December 2023. The charity is very grateful to anyone who can buy or sell tickets or would like to contribute to prizes. Please visit **arhc.org.uk/donate/give-money/raffles** or email **fundraising@arhc.org.uk** or telephone **01223 675 888**.

The Merrymakers Singing Group

Are you interested in singing and having fun? Then why not come and join us? We have been singing as a group for over 20 years now and are still going strong.

We entertain at care homes, residential homes, afternoon clubs, evening clubs, in Bedford, locally and various villages. We are not a choir just people who enjoy singing. We do not ask for an audition just be able to sing in tune.

We rehearse twice a week at the Methodist Church, Eaton Socon, opposite One Stop. Mondays 1-3pm and Wednesdays 2-4pm



We sing with backing tracks, songs from 40's upwards. We sing group songs, duets, and solos. We also like to put some humour in certain songs. We also do recitations, sketches etc.

Please do come along and see what we do. We are hoping some men out there would be interested as well as the ladies.



Litter Picking

SNARL meet regularly around St Neots, and all their various picks are advertised on Facebook. FB event details are here: https://www.facebook.com/events/370925185064713 Join us and help your community!

for more information on SNARL visit: https://www.facebook.com/groups/StNeotsLitterPick

Guiding in the Eatons

Here is what the Brownies, Guides and Rangers have been up to in the Eatons!





Rainbows have taken part in science week and the St Neots parade and made our own musical instruments to play as we walked along. We also had fun with some activities to celebrate

the King's coronation, as well as working towards a variety of Girlguiding badges and the Anglia Region Feel Good Nature Badge.



Brownies have been getting out and about in the summer term, including a penny hike around The Pightle, bowling at Eat n Bowl, a sports evening and a trip to see the Little Mermaid. We celebrated the Kings' coronation by hunting

for the crown, playing royal flush and having a picnic. We also had a pack holiday in Hertfordshire, trying lots of different adventurous activities.

We have a long waiting list for Brownies, so if you are interested in helping set up a new unit please contact esdistrictcomm@gmail.com Being a leader is rewarding and a lot of fun. Further information can be found on the Girl Guiding website www.girlguiding.org.uk/get-involved/ become-a-volunteer/ways-of-volunteering

There are various roles you can do to support guiding (training and support is given from local Guiders). Please email us if you have any questions: esdistrictcomm@gmail.com



Guides and Rangers enjoyed a weekend camp in May, where they completed their whittling and backwoods cooking badges. They planned and cooked their own dinners on open fires, and the rangers completed their bush craft badge. We also attended a camp in the new forest with 3,000 other guides. The girls completed a variety of adventurous activities and got to see some up-and-coming bands in the evenings. Here are a

few of the bands they saw: Sweet Love, Channy, Just the Brave.

During our normal meetings, we have walked around Paxton pits, had an indoor campfire and also completed a penny hike around the town which finished with chips.

Appeal from the Tower

Last Autumn we were part of the nationwide initiative called "Ring for the King" when it was hoped we would have all ring-able bells being rung over the weekend of 6th-8th May to celebrate the coronation of King Charles the Third and Queen Camilla. I'm pleased to say that with the help of our two new recruits Peter and Trish we were able to ring all eight bells at Eaton Socon on both the Saturday and Sunday. All those taking part were given a commemorative badge to mark the occasion. However, we are not often able to ring all of our bells most Sundays due to us only having five or six regular ringers and we have also had to cancel several practices due to insufficient numbers.



I am aware that there are a number of former bellringers living in the parish and we, at St Marys, Eaton Socon, would be delighted to see you at our practices nights Wednesday 8.00-9.00pm and for service ringing Sunday 10.00-10.30am. If you feel you would like a try out before joining in ringing with others Sue & I would be happy to arrange this. Alternatively we would be happy to teach anybody from the age of 12 years upwards. In either case please contact me by email on: **michael-j-matthews@hotmail.com**

Finally I would like to say a big thank you to ESCA for kindly providing a grant for training materials some of which is still available. We have used the money to buy books and videos to help Peter and Trish in their learning.

Michael & Sue Matthews





Youth Cafe

All term time only NEW Mondays 3.30-5pm St Mary's Church, Eaton Socon PE19 8EJ Tuesdays 3.30-5pm St Neots Evangelical Church, Cambridge Street PE19 1PL Wednesdays 3.30-5pm Loves Farm House, Kester Way PE19 6SL * * run by Loves Farm Church

Our Youth Cafes are free for those in School years 7-13. Join us for:

- games
- cafe (small charges will apply)
- a space to hang out with friends
- homework area

For more information, scan the QR code or email Ange on **ahoile@cambridgeyfc.uk**



Cambridge & District

YOUTH FOR CHRIST cambridgeyfc.uk/st-neots



www.stneotsmuseum.org.uk

T: 01480 214 163 E: director@stneotsmuseum.org.uk **Opening times:** Tues to Sat, 11.00am – 4.00pm St Neots Museum The Old Court New Street PE19 1AE

f 🖸 stneotsmuseum

Eatons Court leads the Parade!

Our May Queen Emmie Durrant and Princesses Alannah Montiesh and Lucy Davies had the honour of showing the way to the rest of St Neots by leading the St Neots Festival Parade around Priory Park on the morning of 24th June which got the whole weekend off to a great start.



Computer Ink Cartridges

First I would like to thank you for your continued support for our collections of cartridges and phones. So far the bowlers at SNIBC together with others members of the

community have raised in excess of £2,500.00 which we have donated to the St Neots food bank.

Please don't throw your computer ink cartridges away – just pop them in a bag and take them to St Neots & District Indoor Bowls Club in River Road, Eaton



Socon. Money is being raised by one of their members for local good causes. Donations can also be left at 30 Beatty Road, PE19 8PT and left in the blue box outside the front door.

Would you like to try a new hobby or activity? Perhaps you would like to hone your current skills, or just get out and meet people?



Then you should join the St Neots and District u3a. It is a thriving organisation with over 50 different interest

groups. For example there are two types of "Dance Groups", Line Dancing and Modern Jive.

There are many other "active" groups such as, Tai Chi, Walking Football, Golf, Walking/Striders, Walking/Hikers and Walking to spot Wildlife!

There are several intellectual groups such as Current Affairs, Egyptology, Heritage and Culture, Music Appreciation and many more.



Line dancers

If you are struggling with modern technology there is an IT help group. In fact there are so many groups and topics covered that the list seems endless. Of course if there is something you are interested in, there is always the possibility of starting up a group covering that topic.

In addition to these groups, that generally meet once a week, there is also the Monthly Meeting (2.00pm at the Priory Centre, St Neots, on the 3rd Tuesday of the month), where there is a guest speaker. About 150 people attend these meetings, they offer a great opportunity to meet and greet other like minded people, have a chat, a cuppa and a biscuit.

Everyone is welcome to join the **u3a**, we only have one stipulation, you should not be in full time employment, we charge a modest annual fee (circa £20) and there is a fee for every meeting (circa £1). Lots more information can be found on our website

https://u3asites.org.uk/st-neots/home



Tai Chi group



The PIGHTLE Millennium Green Trust

For many years Sue Jarrett used to host groups of school pupils for nature walks and bug hunts around the Pightle. Since her untimely passing three years ago these had ceased. This year one of our Trustees, Stewart Fairburn, and his wife Sarah offered to restart the visits.

In May we were delighted to once again welcome pupils from Bushmead Infants school to the Pightle. We still have the butterfly nets, magnifying bug jars and insect identification cards so it was about time that they were dusted down and used again.



The first visitors were the Bushmead reception pupils with their teacher and class helpers. After handing out the nets and bug jars the group congregated at Sue's memorial bench and began



In July a group from year 1 visited and once again thoroughly enjoyed their time at the Pightle catching their bug searches with great enthusiasm. It was wonderful to see their interest and enjoyment while they collected their specimens.



and identifying insects. They found ladybirds, grasshoppers, crickets, hover flies and many other insects. The children searched the meadow area in front of the memorial bench: this is where Sue used to organize her searches.



After the bug hunt, the pupils were guided through the trees to look at the entrance to one of the badger sets. Unfortunately, the badgers were not willing to pop their heads out in daylight to entertain the children. That's for very late evenings and very early mornings.

The Pightle team enjoyed hosting the school visits and are very happy to arrange further field trips in the future. If your school is interested in a visit, please contact Peter Bradford via email at **chair@eatonsoconpightle.org.uk** or call **07747 807 002**.

Peter Bradford Trustee: The Pightle Millennium Green Trust Website: www.eatonsoconpightle.org.uk Email: chair@eatonsoconpightle.org.uk Tel: 07747 807 002

Your FREE Community Nowslotter

Would you like to advertise in the next issue of Escan?

Then contact us here: eatonsca@gmail.com

Dog Walkers

It is great to get some exercise and walk dogs in and around the Eatons but please remember to pick up your dog's mess and don't let others suffer with mucky smelly shoes and clothes. It really is not pleasant and has been proved to be a health hazard – so please don't forget to clean up after your dog!

Sentinels Majorettes

Supported by NHS Audiology and Cambridgeshire County Council Sentinels Majorettes are rehearsing again and looking for new recruits! For more details contact Ann Steel on 07956 311828, or email: steel1932@outlook.com





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. To become a Pal, please download the 'Pal of the Pightle' form from our website **eatonsoconpightle.org.uk/Pals.aspx** then send this, or your donation, to ESCA, 3 Collingwood Road, Eaton Socon, St Neots, PE19 8JQ

Cambridgeshire Neighbourhood Watch

What is our purpose?

Cambridgeshire Neighbourhood Watch Association (CNWA) works as a team, where everyone comes together to make their communities safer and improve the wellbeing of our residents. We work with the Police, Local Authorities and many other voluntary and professional organisations, but most importantly we work with residents. The Association is a not for profit organisation, non-party in politics, non-sectarian in religion, and we operate equal opportunities and non-discriminatory policies embracing the diversity in our communities.

What we do

We aim to help prevent crime and reduce the fear of crime. We do this by developing a greater understanding of how to prevent crime, and by



improving community vigilance and reporting suspicious incidents. We also aim to improve well-being in the community by encouraging activities aimed at improving neighbourliness, reducing loneliness and by fostering a community spirit.

What can you do?

We are always looking for unpaid volunteers to join us, at all levels of the organisation, particularly at local level. To join us visit our website **https://cambsnw.org.uk** and become a registered member. Once you are a member, you also then have the option to join a scheme in your specific area. **Find out more at https://cambsnw.org.uk**

St Neots Astronomical Association

Meeting at Paxton Pits visitor centre on the First Monday of the Month (Second Monday if it's a bank holiday).

Winter observing evenings start on Monday 2nd October.

- If its cloudy we have tech talks and demonstrations inside the visitors center
- Do you need help setting up your telescope or finding stellar objects? Then come along to the St Neots Astronomy club, where we can help you and show you how to find stellar objects with our laser guided sky tours.



SNAA.co.uk

Non Members welcome – The first visit is free.



Junior Park Run

You have probably heard of the parkrun/walk that's held on Saturday mornings at Pocket Park Eynesbury; for adults, but children can also take part. But did you know that that there is a

junior park run, a two kilometre course, on Sunday mornings at the Riverside Park, starting at 9.00am. Age range is 4 to 14.

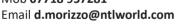
It's the same principle as the adult park run, it's not a race and the only person you compete with is yourself. The children love it and there are some very promising athletes taking part. Parents can run with the children. There are excellent safety measures in place and marshalls around the course. We are always looking help, so if you'd like to get involved we're always grateful for people to volunteer as a marshal, please contact us on:

riversidestneotsjuniors@parkrun.com

EATONS HOME, GARDEN & PROPERTY MAINTENANCE Co.

Providing an efficient, professional local service

Contact Don Morizzo (your local handyman) Tel **01480 406130** Mob **07718 957281**



Library@Home Service

Are you struggling to get out and about* and love reading?

We can provide you with:

- Monthly visits by a friendly volunteer
- Tailored choice of books/audiobooks
- Useful health information
- Time to have a chat

• A free service – donations welcome

To find out more contact:

volunteers@cambridgeshire.gov.uk Telephone: 01223 706803, 07425 615685 or 07342 700308 If you could spare some time to volunteer and visit a reader, please contact us (above).

* e.g. physical/mental ill health, caring responsibilities.



Eatons Art Group EXHIBITION and SALE

10.00am to 4.00pm, Saturday 14th October 2023

- Eaton Ford Scout Hut, Mill Hill Road PE19 7AQ.
- Come and see what your local artists have been up to!
- Judge what we do and pick up a bargain at the same time.
- Food and refreshments for sale on the day
- Free admission and car parking.





Coming up to its 1st year celebrations, the St Neots Mancave continues to thrive. Open on Tuesdays 09.00 until 13.00 and Thursdays 13.00 until 17.00, the cave offers a safe space for men to come to talk whilst they share and learn skills.

The first twelve months has seen a number of projects from repairing bikes, making bird boxes, samurai swords for a local tai chi group, garden planters and Hedgehog houses. And as Christmas approaches they will direct our efforts towards pallet wood Christmas trees and others Christmas items.

Find us at Cemetery Road, St Neots PE19 2BX



Cromwell Quilters

Cromwell Quilters are a patchwork, quilting and textile art group based in Huntingdon but we do have members in the St Neots area. If you're interested in joining us or would like further information, please contact Pam Tasker: 07980 608 576

07980 608 576





St Neots Volunteer Centre & Community Car Scheme

St Neots has a great community vibe with lots of local groups and activities, from lunch clubs to miniature railways, environment watch groups to entrepreneurship, walking groups to man caves.

And at the Volunteer Centre we want to help support and build on this, working with other organisations in the area to bring the help and activities to those who would benefit.

If you are a community group, charity, or not-for-profit we can help find you the volunteers you need, advertise your events, and help with networking.

Want to volunteer?

We can give guidance on some of the volunteering roles in the area, helping match you and your skills to suitable opportunities. You can learn new skills, build experience, and meet new people.

Volunteering looks great on your CV, but its benefits are much more wide ranging than that; helping alleviate loneliness, improving mental and physical health, enhancing your community, and helping others.

But we are not just a volunteer brokerage system...

We have an active **Community Car Scheme** based in our office, run by a great team of volunteer drivers and administrators.



This service is for anyone who needs to make essential journeys (e.g. for

appointments etc) where no suitable public transport exists, and for individuals with mobility difficulties. And we cover not only the local area of St Neots, but further afield such as Cambridge, Peterborough, & Bedford Hospitals.

If you think the Community Car Scheme may be able to help you, or you know of anyone in the St Neots area who could benefit from it, please get in touch with the office.

Our drivers all have one thing in common – their dedication to the community of St Neots and their willingness to give up their free time to support that community. Drivers use their own vehicles and are all DBS checked; journeys cost just 45p a mile (min £2) plus a £1 booking fee.

If you would like more information on the Car Scheme or wish to register for the service please telephone $01480\;476\;047$ / $07869\;714\;680.$

To learn more about volunteering, how we can help your organisation, or the work of the Volunteer Centre in St Neots you can email **stneots@huntsvc.org.uk** or telephone **01480 476 047**

Defibs in the town

There are more than 10 defibs in the town and some are more accessible than others as some are in shops or other buildings

which may be closed. If you think you need to use a defib then phone 999 and they will tell you where the nearest one is that is accessible and the code to open the cabinet to get the defib. If one is not available then this is

recorded on their system and they

should not send you to that location.





Experience the Thrill! Join Arthur Rank Hospice Charity's Firewalk

Ready to step out of your comfort zone? This extraordinary event will test your limits as you walk barefoot across scorching coals. Arthur Rank Hospice Charity invites you to participate in their exhilarating Firewalk event on **18 November 2023**. Be part of an incredible evening filled with self-discovery, courage, camaraderie, and the opportunity to make a meaningful difference in the lives of others. For just £35, secure your spot and get ready to ignite the night. But that's not all – as a participant, you'll be committing to raising £150 in support of the Charity. Every pound you raise will directly benefit patients and their families, providing dignity, comfort, and compassion during difficult times. Register today at **arhc.org.uk/firewalk**/ or email **fundraising@arhc.org.uk** or telephone **01223 675 888**

Hanover Wednesday Morning Group

Ladies, are you looking for a club to join once a week? We meet every Wednesday morning at 10:00am in Hanover Hall, Eaton Ford. We have a good variety of speakers and entertainers and more, followed by refreshments.

Having been in existence for 40 years, we are always looking to welcome new members. Come and see us at any of our meetings, a perfect time to make new friends. For more information, please ring **01480 350 063**.

Friendship Club

We call it *The Tea and Coffee club* although there's no formal membership. There is no charge but we do ask for a donation towards the



refreshments. I lead the group but I do ask the group to say what they would like to do on Friday mornings.

We are open on Friday mornings between the hours of 10am-12pm.

We serve tea, coffee, cake, bacon rolls, hot dogs and occasionally the odd snack bar is thrown in.

We are a non-profit organisation – what money we do receive is from the regulars and floating visitors, and pays for our Christmas meal which is usually attended by 20-30 people.

Please pop in if you're passing the Ex-Service Club, School Lane, Eaton Socon. Most of the people who come to us are mature and happy, so you will get a warm welcome (we don't turn anybody away).

St Neots Singers

St Neots Singers is an established Community Choir, singing a variety of songs from musicals, pop songs and choral works.

We meet on **Thursday evenings at 7.30pm** at the United Reformed Church in St Neots. First session is free!

We love welcoming new members so if you fancy joining a relaxed and friendly group to make new friends and sing, please get in touch:

StNeotsSingersCC@gmail.com



St Neots & District Gardening Club

Meeting at St Mary's Church Hall, Brook Street, St Neots. All meetings start at 7.30pm Members £2.00, Non members welcome £2.50.

Thursday 28th Sept –AGM & planning for 2024 Thursday 26th Oct – The forward looking gardener by Sharka Baxter

www.stneotsgardenclub.org.uk for more information and latest news.

Eaton Socon Trefoil Guild



Anyone over 18 is welcome to join

Trefoil Guild we are a small friendly group with average of nine members attending so please get in touch and come along to visit one of our meetings.

We usually hold our monthly evening meetings on the **first Tuesday of each month from 7.30pm**; venue varies depending what we are doing that month.

In addition to our monthly meetings we are often invited to join with other local Trefoil Guild groups for various activities and events including day trips and breaks away. We also get invited to assist with Girguiding activities during the year. Each January we plan our activities for that year.

Planned activities for 2023

October - visit to Cambridge Observatory

November – Christmas wreath making and opportunity to purchase RNLI cards

December – Christmas Carol Service and Christmas meal out.

Please e-mail: **eatonsocontrefoilguild@gmail.com** for more information.

We look forward to meeting and making friends with new people.

Judith Follon, Chairman Eaton Socon Trefoil Guild

The Library Presents

The Library Presents is back for a jam-packed autumn season of arts activities in libraries across the county. As always, there are performances and workshops to suit all ages, with music, theatre, dance, magic, puppetry and even some film. The season starts on **1st October 2023** with a reduced version of Macbeth, 'the Scottish Play', and runs through to mid-December, with arts and crafts workshops and many more performances.

There is a theme of horror, murder and chills, with Dr Jekyll & Mr Hyde, murder mystery and sinister silent film; but the season also has a lighter side, with fairytales, magic and balloons. Altogether there is a glorious mix of uplifting, enchanting and playful treats for the autumn months ahead.

Tickets available from early September

For ticket information please follow the online links at: **www.library.live/the-library-presents**

Telephone: 01353 616 991

In person at participating Libraries (cash only) On the door at all activities (subject to availability/cash only) By exchanging Digital Time Credits



Wednesday welcome

As we break for the summer I can report the Wednesday Welcome Group at St Marys church, Eaton Socon have had many enjoyable Wednesday afternoons since our last update. It is surprising how much talent we have locally and we have been entertained by Karen McKenzie, our resident poet, Jane Gill's hand bell ringers, Caroline Muzolf and the Evergreen choir, the St Neots U3A ukulele band and our own Brenda Hand and Wendy Stott's excellent quizzes. All providing great entertainment.

Money donated to the club has provided for our annual lunch and afternoon tea at The Stables-Bolnhurst, which never fails to please, and we need to thank Jill Uings for organising all the catering. A warm and very enjoyable afternoon.

We also visited The Raptor Foundation, near St lves and was treated to flying display by a variety of birds of prey, followed by an afternoon tea-Highly recommended!

We meet again on Wednesdays at 3pm in St Marys church hall, Eaton Socon.

Please feel free to join us for tea and cake.

Mike: 07899 856 636



Dates for History Groups

St Neots Local History Society

Normal meetings held at Eynesbury Primary School off Montagu Street, Eynesbury starting at 7.30 pm.

6th October – Wintringham Excavations. Speaker: Stuart Ladd * 7th October – Visit to Roxton Chapel 3rd November – Winnie Crossley, Pioneer Aviator. Speaker: Jim Brown 1st December – Did Cromwell really cancel Christmas? Speaker: Stuart Orme

For further details see www.stneotslhs.org.uk

Colmworth and Neighbours History Group

Fridays Colmworth Village Hall 7.30pm

 20th October – The Sue Jarrett Memorial Lecture, an early history of Colmworth church. *Speaker: John Hutchings* 17th November – The Wright Brothers and the beginnings of flight. *Speaker: Barry Tomlinson*

Roxton & District Local History Group

Thursdays Roxton Village Hall

7th September – Archaeological investigations of quarry sites in the Roxton/Willington area: results of recent work
5th October – Did Cromwell really cancel Christmas 3rd November – Bedfordshire and it's churches
7th December – AGM, a joint meeting with Willington Local History Society

Eatons Art Group – Every Tuesday morning between 9.30am and 12pm at The Scout Hut, Mill Hill Road Eaton Ford. Tel: 07914 928 469

Evergreen Club – Tues 1.30pm Ex-Services Club, School Lane. Tel: 01480 215 499 or 476 216

St Neots Acorn cancer support group – First Wednesday of each month, 10.15am at McNish Court at Eaton Socon

Wednesday Morning group – Wed 10am at Hanover Close. Tel: 01480 350 063

Wednesday Welcome – Wed 3pm at Eaton Socon Church

If you would like your group mentioned please email ESCA: **eatonsca@gmail.com**

Groups in Eaton Socon Parish Church

You may be surprised to know that there are many active groups within Eaton Socon church for all ages – art and craft groups, bellringers, men's groups, prayer meetings, life groups, toddlers, children's and youth groups. There is also a 'Café on the Green' every Monday morning and a social group for older people on a Wednesday afternoon (Wednesday Welcome).

To find out more about all these groups please see the church website **www.eatonsocon.org**

ESCA Local History Books and Information

All these booklets are available for reference in the St Neots and Huntingdon Reference Libraries and the County Archives offices in Bedford and Huntingdon. Many 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, PE19 8JQ using the form below.

Ad	dress	
Na	me	
Eat	ions Community Association.	
	nclose a cheque for made payable to:	
L	jousiimeau secondary school	£5.00
	Eaton Socon Trails Bushmead Secondary School	
		£2.50 £2.50
	The Eatons Then and Now BOOK 3 Eaton Ford Trail	
	The Fatons Then and Now Book 3	£5.00
	The Eatons Then and Now Book 2	£5.00
	Floods are Out (St Neots Community Archive Group) The Eatons Then and Now	£2.99
		£0.00 £2.99
	Inns and Outs of Eaton Socon Parish	£6.00
	Taton Socon in the Great War	£6.00
	Mediaeval Mishaps and Mayhem in Eaton Socon Parish	£2.50
	Eatons keyrings	£1.00
	To the Glorious Memory – Eaton Socon War Memorial	£9.95
	Great North Road - Part 4 (Bushmead Road to George & Dragon)	£7.50
	Great North Road - Part 3 (Wagon & Horses to Bushmead Road)	£7.50
	Great North Road - Part 2 (Nelson Road to Andersons Butchers)	£7.50
	Great North Road - Part 1 (Texaco Garage to Nelson Road)	£7.50
	Eaton Socon - The Village Lanes	£8.00
	Cross Hall - The Lost Hamlet of Eaton Ford	£6.00
	Eaton Ford - The Millers and the Masons	£7.50
	Maltmans Gardens - (Health Centre Area)	£7.50
	Cross Hall Ford Hamlet - The Osborne Empire	£4.00
	Little End Hamlet	£3.50
	The Ways and Wherefores of the Eatons	£3.00
	Jachool Admission Register 1910-1909 Jeaton Socon School Punishment Book	£2.50
	School Admission Register 1910-1969	£3.50
	Recalling the Great Church Fire of 1930	£3.00
	Eaton Socon Burials Registers 1813 - 2002	£6.00
	Church and Churchyard Survey	£7.50
	A Year in the Life of the Eatons (1992)	£2.50
	The River in the Eatons	£3.00
	The Eatons at War	£2.50
	Laton Socon in Character	£2.50
	Eaton Socon at Work	£2.50

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

Why not treat yourself or a friend to a set of 'Eatons Then and Now books' and discover how the Eatons have changed.







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Saw Jarrett Cana Committy Tancing



Produced and supported by XL Press, Alington Road, Little Barford, St Neots, Cambs PE19 6WE. Tel: 01480 474787

FOOD HYGIENE RATING

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