







May Day Celebrations May 4th 2009 on Eaton Socon Green 12 noon –4pm

Join us on Eaton Socon Village Green for a traditional May Day Celebration with May Pole Dancers and other entertainment, stalls, BBQ, and refreshments.

- 2pm Crowning of May Queen
- 3pm. Award of Eatons Community Cup
 - 4pm Drawing of Raffle





Open Gardens 14th June 2009

Last year's Eatons Open Gardens was a great success and we raised money for childrens groups within the Eatons. We are still looking for more gardens to his event bigger and this year the date

has been set for the afternoon of Sunday 14th June. If you would like to open your garden in aid of charity please let ESCA know at 3 Collingwood Road, Eaton Socon, Cambs or email esca@freeuk.com. Tickets and programmes will be available nearer the time. Watch out in the local newspapers and notice boards for exact times nearer the event.

School Reunion 11 July see inside for details

Local History Exhibition



May Day Sale of History Booklets and Research of Eatons Archives

Sat 2nd May & Mon 4th May at St Mary's Chuch 10am—4pm

St Mary's BBQ Sunday 12th July

Join us on the Green outside the church from 12.30pm .Cost will be £5 adult, children under 12 free. If it's wet, we'll do it all in the church! All enquiries to the Vicar (01480) 212219.

Lots more news and views inside

If you have any news or views
please send it to the Chairman no later than
20th June 2009
for inclusion in the next issue

We look forward to hearing from you

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



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

Useful Telephone Numbers

Street Lighting

0800 253529 and report the number on the lamp-post, the street name and town.

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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

Jubilee Hall

for bookings please contact

Cherie -- 01480 394150 or email cherie@intecc.co.uk

Duloe Village Hall

Please contact Sam on 07768 303373

Useful Web sites

Cambridgeshire Archives www.ccan.co.uk

Esca www.escan.org.uk

Paxton Pits

www.paxton-pits.org.uk

Sudbury Meadow www.sudburymeadow.org.uk

everyclick www.everyclick.com

St Marys Church www.stmaryseatonsocon.org.uk

Who's Who in ESCA

Chairman Sue Jarrett	216065			
Treasurer Dave Jarrett	216065			
May Weekend Organiser Muriel Ralph	383317			
Open Gardens Organiser	216065			
History Co-ordinator Sue Jarrett	216065			
ESCAN Organiser Judith Margolis	212363			
ESCAN Publisher Stuart Fairweather	213555			
For all correspondence				
Letters and adverts to ESCA, 168b Great North				
Road, Eaton Socon, St Neots, Cambs PE19 8EH				
Email address: esca@freeuk.com				

Dates for your diary

May: St Neots Local History Month

Talks and walks are being planned throughout May so contact the St Neots Museum for more information. ESCA will be putting up an exhibition based on the large village project that has studied all the older buildings and families in Eaton Socon and Eaton Ford.

St Neots Local History Meetings Eynesbury Cof E school at 7.30pm

- May 1st Dr William Stukely by David Cozens
- May 17th Beating the Bounds Walk contact Nell Marshall for more info
 Tel 01480 472495
- June 5th History of Wyton and the Pathfinder Force by Sqn Ldr Dalley
- Sep 4th Pickwicks Cambridgeshire
 Scrapbook 1838 by Mike Petty

Colmworth and Neighbours Local History Meetings Colmworth Village Hall at 7.30pm

- May 8th Life of a River by Anne Doody
- June 12th House Detective- Outside Views and Inside Storeys by Mac Dowdy
- July 17th North Bedfordshire Villages by Vivienne Evans

Roxton & District Local History meetings – Roxton Parish Hall, 7.30pm

- May 7th The Mistress, Her Maid & the Men in Their Lives
- June 4th A Day in a Victorian School
- Sep 3rd Travelling Ladies

Cage Opening Free admission

- Sun May 10th 2pm-4pm
- Sun Jun 7th 2pm-4pm
- Sun Jul 12th 2pm-4pm

Built in 1826 when Eaton Socon was in Bedfordshire this Lock Up in School Lane served as a useful parish prison for short term wrongdoers or until they could be taken to Bedford for trial.

Walks with Peter Ibbett

St Neots May 2009 Local History Walks

St Neots Town Trail - Walk the revised trail and learn more about the largest town in Cambridgeshire and its previous inhabitants.

- Sun 3rd May 10.30 to 11.45;
- Wed 6th May 7.15pm to 8.45.

St Neots:- Then & Now -This walk in the centre of St Neots compares past documents and photographs with the present town.

- Sun 17th May 10.30 11.45;
- Wed 20th May 7.15 to 8.45

Meet at the Day Column in the centre of St Neots Market Square. All walks a gentle pace with Local Historian and trained walk leader Peter Ibbett. Book £2 (Limited numbers) via pjibbett@aol.com 01480 218756

** Ask about special walks & talks for your group

** Summer Walks are also being planned

St Neots Gardening Club, St. Mary's Church Hall, Brook Street, St Neots. At 8:00pm

- May 28th Illustrated talk on Fuchsias by Graham Parnwell Competition: a potted fuchsia
- July 23rd Open Forum Garden questions answered.
 Competition: three pods of runner beans
- Aug 8th 40TH Anniversary Summer Show
- Sep 24th A.G.M and Discussion on 2010 events

St Mary's Church Easter Diary			
5th Palm Sunday	8:00am	BCP Holy Communion (said)	
	9:00am	Holy Communion	
	10:30am	Morning Worship	
8th Wednesday	12.45pm	Easter Lunch	
9th Maundy Thursday	8:00pm	Tenebrae' Service	
10th Good Friday	10:30am	Family Worship	
	2:00pm	An Hour at the Cross	
12th Easter Sunday	8:00am	BCP Holy Communion (said)	
	9:00am	Holy Communion	
	10:30am	Morning Worship + Communion	
25th Saturday	10am	Lots for Tots Sale	

Chairman's Notes.....

Just a very short Chairman's Notes as once again we have an action packed summer so come along and join in. There are events for all tastes and ages. 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, St Neots in Bloom and the School Reunion. 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

School Reunion! 11th July



Write this date in your diary if you went to Eaton Socon School in School Lane. The transfer of all pupils to Bushmead School began in 1969 so it is now 40 years since the school closed.

This reunion will be held in Eaton Socon Church and is for everyone who went to the school. The cost will be £10 and will include refreshments and drinks. Copies of the School Admission Registers will be available to see and there will be facilities to photocopy photos so bring them along to share with others.

Tickets will be available from Easter and at May Day or send a cheque made payable to ESCA and send to ESCA, 3 Collingwood Rd, Eaton Socon, St Neots, Cambs PE19 8JQ

Eatons People and Places Project

The study of all the buildings, houses and families in the present areas of Eaton Ford and Eaton Socon is complete. Hooray!

After many years of photographing, sketching, researching and visiting lots of residents ESCA has made an extensive study of the two villages. This does not mean that the study has ended — it now means that we have a fantastic resource to correct and update. When people email or phone with enquiries we have a lot of information which can be shared. Thank you if you have helped us and if you spot anything that needs to be altered please let us know.

Calling all May Queens

We are still trying to collect a list of all ESCA May Queens from the very first May Day. If you were a May Queen or know of a former May Queen and their present address please contact ESCA at 3 Collingwood Rd, Eaton Socon, St Neots, Cambs, PE19 8JQ. This year ESCA is 30 years old and we would like to celebrate by inviting all former May Queens along to the celebrations.

Eatons Hidden Secrets

Did you look at the back wall of The Sun Car Park where there are traces of the old brewery buildings – if not then why not go and have a look in the next few months.

Meanwhile why not have a look for other bits and pieces on buildings? While researching the last history booklet ESCA asked various residents what the black metal structure was on the wall at 199 Great North Rd. Most people answered 'what metal thing? It looks very much like it could have had a notice of some kind in it and it possibly advertised basketmaking when Alf Hooper lived in the house.

Another piece of metal is attached to the old Lock Up in School Lane but this is easier to explain as there is a photo showing a lamp attached to the building to provide some kind of lighting along the road. Also look for blocked doorways or windows. One blocked door can be found at the front of the Waggon and Horses. Can you find any others?

Cambridgeshire Community Archives Network – ww.ccan.co.uk

Have you heard about this project? The St Neots Community Archives website is increasing weekly with more than 900 photographs and memories. ESCA is actively involved in this project so 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. Phone Sue Jarrett on 216065 if you have any information or photos you would like to share or come along to the local history exhibition at St Marys Eaton Socon Church Hall over the May Weekend.

Sudbury Meadow

Volunteers from Friends of Sudbury Meadow put up a new nesting box on 18th February, in the middle of National Nest Box week (14-21 February). Donated by BBC Radio Cambridgeshire this box should soon be occupied by blue tits.

Ladybird spotting at Sudbury Meadow



April 26th - 'How to survey Ladybirds' Sunday 10.30 - 12.00. Do you know a Harlequin ladybird from a Seven-spot? Learn where and how to look for different species of ladybird and how to take part in the national ladybird survey. Suitable for adults and ages 8-16, accompanied by an adult. Please book in advance by

calling 01480 374792.

Volunteers in Work parties are often to be seen at Sudbury Meadow on Wednesdays and Saturdays. If you wish to take part please contact Alison on 01480 374792



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Phone Jane on 01234 307178 or visit the website on www.babycollege.co.uk

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- 1. How many days in 13 weeks?
- 2. 1500.75 700.36
- 3. 560 pupils go to school. 65% walk. How many pupils do not walk?
- 4. (2x + 4)(5y 6)
- 5. Convert 2.45 to the simplest fraction.
- 6. 345 x 46
- 7. 345cm = ? Mm
- 8. $6 \times 3 4 \times 8 =$
- 9. Four apples cost £5.60. How much would seven apples cost?

10. What is 10.25% of £3150?

Eaton Ford has a Kip McGrath local after-school tuition centre which caters for all abilities 6-17 in English, Maths and Science.. Maximum group size of 5 with an experienced teacher

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SINGER PERFORMS River Church will be hosting a 'Summer Song Spectacular' Neots on Saturday 9th May.

Faye Hart in order to raise funds towards furnishing the new Eatons Community Centre due to open in December 2009. Faye, a former English National Opera principal and Grafham resident, will be presenting a selection of beautiful, well-known arias, before being accompanied by Kate Atalay of Kimbolton to perform favourite classical duets. Completing a triumvirate of local talent is renowned pianist, St Neots resident Christine Anderson, who accompanied Faye in her last concert with the Caldicott Male Voice Choir from Wales at Hinchingbrooke Performing Arts Centre last November.

Faye is uniquely offering her services free-of-charge with a heart-felt desire – that the people of Eaton Socon and Eaton Ford will benefit from their new centre and, in particular, in its role as a new home for River Church, a vibrant and growing church started in January 2006.

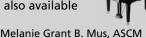
"We are excited to present the Summer Song Spectacular as the first of many high quality events to promote God-given talent in our local church. This will be a brilliant opportunity for St Neots locals to enjoy an evening out whilst contributing towards their new Community Centre.

Tickets priced at £10 (£12 on the door) and £7 concessions (£9 on the door) are available at www.theriver.org.uk or at Wish You Were Here Travel, 36 High Street, St. Neots, PE19 1JA.

For further information, please contact: Richard Hart – Tel: 07531 355921 or twoharts@talktalk.net

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Word from 'The Pightle'

The A. G. M. for 'The Pightle' was poorly attended, despite being advertised in the 'Town Crier' and posters around Eaton Socon and Eaton Ford, which was so disappointing. The funds for 'The Pightle' were discussed. This is causing some concern as town council funding is limited and The Pightle has no separate funding from elsewhere. The paths and grass need to be cut and limited funds may mean less cutting in the future. We rely on our volunteers who do a fantastic job.

There are many people walking their dogs in 'The Pightle' as the meadows have been shut off due to the gate being broken and now blocked, so one has to climb over to get into the meadows, so please do clear up after your dogs! Damage was carried out on 'New Years Eve'. My husband and I filled two large black plastic bags with beer tins and bottles left by the same idiots that no doubt damaged the cricket pavilion and nets. What a start to the 'New Year'! The bottles were broken into the grass and we had to carefully collect up this broken glass. I know it is a small minority that do this, but one does wonder do the parents know the quantity of alcohol their children are drinking.

Today is the 2nd of February and I have just had my midday walk around 'The Pightle' and it is snowing. The dogs love it and scamper through the snow, searching down the rabbit holes, but there is nothing to be seen, though early this morning there were lots of rabbits out grazing. I notice many of the scrub and trees have the bark eaten off. I don't know if this is being done by rabbits or deer, it will of course cause some of the trees to die back. There is I am sure a badger burrow, the dogs investigated it one day and a definite growling sound came from within it. The dogs don't want to take on a badger, they are fearsome fighters with the most lethal claws. I have also heard that a black squirrel has been seen, there are the greys but the black is something new.

The days are drawing out and the birds are becoming more active and their song

can be heard, even though it is cold. There are some new trees to the front of 'The Pightle' and we look forward to Spring to see them come into leaf, flower and producing some fruits. In March the Hawthorn will blossom, and new leaf buds will show. School children recently planted snowdrops and these, with the bluebells and daffodils should make a good spring display.



'The Pightle' belongs to all of us in the

Eatons – why not come down and help us on 16th May - starting at 10am for our Trim and Tidy day.

'All the very best for 2009'

Joan Foley Chairman The Pightle Millennium Green Trust.



On The Buses!

Seventeen brand new coaches have entered service on the X5 Cambridge to St Neots, Bedford, Milton Keynes, Bicester and Oxford Stagecoach route. The new coaches have greener engines, leather seats, free Wi-Fi, power sockets, air-conditioning and access for a wheelchair user.

The Mayor and ESCAN editor Judith Margolis were given the opportunity to try out the disabled access on the new buses. The trial didn't go quite as smoothly as planned. Although the mayor managed the manoeuvre easily, Judith found it difficult with her electric wheelchair. Finally after several attempts, she too was able to board the coach using another chair. Wheelchair users have to book 24 hours in advance, the coach only takes one wheelchair at a time and they need to make sure they have a compatible chair. The lift will also be of benefit to other disabled people who have trouble climbing the steep stairs.

New buses have also entered service for Stagecoach Cambridge (a different company to the Bedford operations who run the X5) they will start a fully accessible, turn-up-and-go service once an hour from St Neots to Cambridge on the 12th April. Like the new little Whippet town buses but larger, they will have a wide low entrance and flat floors. **Definitely** no lift!

May Day Celebrations

Entertainment is being booked so if you have some talent and wish to share it with others on Monday afternoon please let us know. If you wish to book a stall, offer entertainment or be a volunteer helping please contact Muriel Ralph, ESCA, 367 Great North Rd, Eaton Socon, Cambs, Tel 01480 383317 or email esca@freeuk.com

Royal British Legion Eaton Socon Branch

The Eaton Socon Branch of the Royal British Legion would be pleased to welcome new members from the residents of Eaton Socon and Eaton Ford. You do not have to be an ex-service person to join.

The branch meets at the Ex-Service Club in School Lane at 8pm on the second Monday of the months of February, April, June, August, October and December.

Subscriptions are £11 per year for all members and membership forms can be obtained from Mr W. Staniforth, Tel 01480 218473 or Mr B. Gardiner, tel 07944 027067

Do you play the organ?



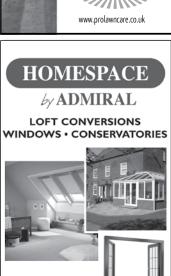
St Mary's Church in Eaton Socon are searching for a new Organist . If you are interested please call the Vicar, Tim Robb on 212213

Cleaning up your area

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







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A Prize for the Winner!

All profits being donated to Crosshall Infant School's Educational Aid Project for children in Burlacu, Moldova.

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Wanted 93 pictures of young men!

Not just any young men please! We are looking for pictures of the young men from the Eatons who died in the two world wars. They do not need to be pictures of the men in uniform but can be pictures of them as young boys.

1st World War - Frank and Frederick Adams, Geoffrey William Addington, John

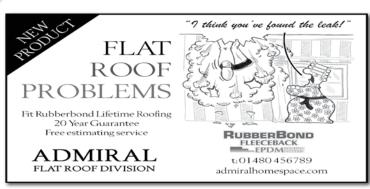


Two of these young men went off to war and only one returned.
Do you have any family photos showing someone on the War Memorial?

Thomas Anderson, Richard Samuel Ball, Herbert Ernest and William Henry Balls, Edward Bardell, Corbett and Frederick Barringer, Charles Bettles, Leonard Bundy, Harold George Carrington, Claude and Frederick Charles Cheshire, Albert Ernest Childerley, Walter James Cook, George William, Jack and Jesse Cooper, John Corbett, Arthur Edwin and Frank Cousins, Albert Cross, Albert Thomas and John William Darrington, Charles Day, George and William Dean, Arthur Frederick Dobney, Robert John Drake, Reginald Arthur Gentle, William Francis Gill, John William Goodman, William Green, Harry and Sidney Harris, Sidney William Hart, Ben Hartop, Charles William Hawkins, John William and Leonard George Haynes, Francis James or John Francis Hemmings, Frederick William and William Henry Higgins, Sidney Hoitt, H.C. Hope, Frederick Charles Humphries, Ernest Frederick Markham, John William Mason, Charles Walter Medlow, William Murfin, Frank Oakley, Albert William Page, Charles Arthur and Job Payne, Edward and Wilfred George Reynolds, John and Walter Searle, Corbet Charles and Samuel Smith, Rudolph Meade Smythe, George Robert and John Evelyn Thornhill, Frederick Charles Thornton, Arthur Darrington Townsend, Horace Usher, Albert George Watts, Frank Whiddett, Frank Marchant White and Charles Wiles.

2nd World War – Stanley Victor Asbury, John Henry Asplin, Harry William J. Baker, Frederick John Bedford, William Birdsall, Keith John and William Brewer, William Henry Dickens, John Raymond Freeman, Harold John Gray, Edward Ben Hartop, Jack Edward Mortimer, Arthur John Payne, John Norman Ritchie, Kenneth James Scales, Stanley Shoesmith, John Thomas Thody, Ernest Douglas and Sidney Eric Usher, Lawrence Whitlock







House Deeds – how important are they?

Once again house deeds have proved invaluable in the research of the Eatons buildings. If you have your house deeds – do not hide them away but let us have a peek and use them in our researches. In many cases the deeds will tell us the owners and occupiers of that particular property and of those nearby which is obviously extremely useful when sorting out details of houses.

Neat Street July 2009

This popular event is now in its sixth year with Eaton Ford winning three times and Eaton Socon winning twice. It is now time to enter your street for this year's competition so get together with your neighbours and enter for Neat Street 2009. Streets will be judged on (1) the absence of weeds on kerbs and gutters, (2) no litter, (3) maintained front gardens or frontages and (4) unobstructed pavements. Contact ESCA by phone or email and enter your street. Longer streets can be split into smaller sections.

St Neots in Bloom

St Neots has entered the competition once again and judging will take place in July. We are sure that you have noticed the changes this year at the entrance to the Riverside Park, the chopping down of the trees for the new flood defences and the large containers

sitting in the car park. These features are not exactly attractive but we can brighten up the town with colourful gardens and displays.

As last year there will also be competitions for front gardens in June, the best decorated pub and shop and other competitions within the town. Let us all make an effort and impress the judges. For more information please keep an eye on the local newspapers and the 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.

Dog walking

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

Take a break!





Take the weight off your feet and relax with a free cuppa and cake

Staploe & Duloe Football Club All systems go at last!

If you live in the Eatons and do not want to travel into St Neots to join sports teams then why not join groups in Duloe, a village not far from Eaton Ford.

The Staploe & Duloe Under 12's have regrouped and are now training under newly qualified Club coach Steve Cox. The team will be ready for the commencement of the league in September. The two villages are also looking to have a mini soccer set up for 7 / 8 / 9 and 10 year olds, boys and girls. Anyone who is interested please contact Secretary Ian Bygraves on 07880 544924

Postage Stamps

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

Extra special home needed for Scamp

Scamp is a large black and white male who is approximately 4 years old. He came to us with several other cats who he had lived with. Scamp was very nervous and quiet and spent his



first week hiding under his blanket whilst his penmates demanded attention. As time went on those penmates charmed their way into new homes and Scamp was left behind as he was nervous around new people. In time, and as he had a pen to himself, he came out of his shell a little and trusts his fosterer and allows him to pick him up. He has been with us for several months now and it is time he found a new and loving owner who will understand him. He will need a guiet home with no young children and would prefer to be an only cat. He would also be happy spending a lot of time outdoors with a warm dry place to come to when needed. If you can offer Scamp that extra special home and are prepared to go that extra mile to gain his trust he will reward you with being a quiet and gentle companion. Contact us now. Tel: 01480 476696, 07966 282005 or 07900 257061 http://stneots.cats.org.uk/

CAT FOOD WANTED...Thanks to all who continue to donate cat food to our various drop off points, it is much appreciated. Please keep it coming, you are really making a difference. Phone us for details or your nearest cat food collection point.



Booklet News and Reviews

Booklet info

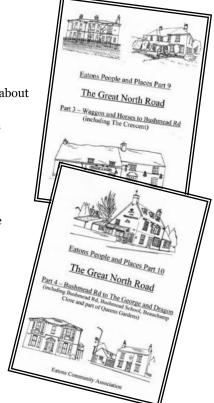
Due to the large amount of information two new booklets are being produced for May Day -

The Great North Rd Pt 3, Waggon & Horses - Bushmead Rd (including The Crescent). Find out about the Waggon and Horses, Black Horse, White Lion, Hillyard's Grocers, Ushers Shop, Ingle's Coachbuilders and Eaton Socon Co-op. Learn more about the Wilkinson family, Col Pank, Ratts Close, Livett's Ladies School, the sweet shops and the police houses.

The Great North Rd Pt 4, Bushmead Rd - George & Dragon (including Bushmead Rd, Bushmead School, Beauchamp Close and part of Queens Gardens). Find out about The George and Dragon, the blacksmith's families, Wall's Butchers shop, Field Cottage, Rose Cottage and the Sunny Smile factory. Learn more about Bushmead School, pre fabs in Beauchamp Close and the renumbering of houses in Queens Gardens.

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

The ESCA books are written by ESCA for anyone with an interest in the Eatons. All profits are used to support ESCA projects within the Eatons and no profits go to Committee members. If you wish to buy these books they can also be obtained from "ESCA", 3 Collingwood Road, Eaton Socon, St Neots, Hunts, **PE19 8JQ using the form below.**



I wish to order the following books:

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