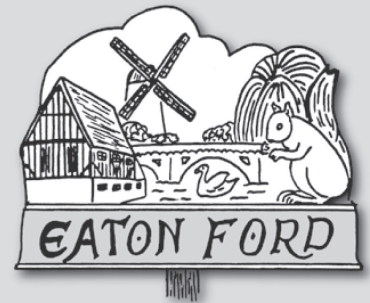




# ESCAN

Your FREE Community Newsletter



Eatons Community Association - Registered Charity No.1110148

December 2011

## Willow Bridge

The bridge was planned to open in time for the schoolchildren when they returned to school in September and it was! So no more excuses of wet feet or unable to cross by the Rivermill in the wintertime. Wonderful, said one mother. And what do older people say – Great, I can go to Tesco, visit the Leisure Centre and go swimming without getting the car out. The bridge is suitable for toddlers on small bikes, for walkers, for mobility scooters and people in wheelchairs. The bridge is lit so the river can be crossed in the evening – so much better than trying to go round the bypass or across at the Coneyeare.

And the openings – well there was the official opening with lots of official people, and the Sustrans visit where officials from Sustrans came to look at the

bridge and ask children about how they used the bridge – but our local event with passports was fun and well supported. During the afternoon Heartsease folk dancers came along and joined in the fun by dancing a version of 'Strip the Willow' on the bridge, and other dances on the Eatons path to the bridge. ESCA hopes that you came along and collected your passport to cross from one ancient county to the other and enjoyed yourselves.

We are promised that bins will soon be provided near the bridge so if you spot some litter please pick it up and pop it into the bins.



## ESCA helps local groups

The May Queen Lauren Whittaker and May Princess Lucy Marshall came along to the Eatons Community Association AGM and handed out the cheques. The Bottle Bank Money this year went to Bushmead School, Eaton Socon Beavers and Cubs, St Marys Church towards a digital projection system, the Friday club and the Xmas Dinner.



The money raised from this year's Open Gardens event went to the older residents of the Eatons – the Eaton Socon Evergreen Club, the Welcome Club and the Wednesday Club which meets at Hanover Close in Eaton Ford. And finally some of the money raised at May Day was given to the entertainers who make May Day such a memorable event with their enthusiastic performances.

## Carol Singing around the Christmas Tree

Friday 16th 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

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

On Monday 9th January 2012, there will be a Plough Monday Celebration in Eaton Socon, beginning at Eaton Socon Church at 7.30pm with the Blessing of the Plough, followed by Molly dancing and singing. Then moving on to local hostelrys for more dancing and refreshment. Audience participation is encouraged so why not come along and join in – a real bit of village fun with a serious side as the plough needs to be blessed for a good harvest. For further information please contact Roger & Patti Pitt on 01234 376278.

Sweet Paradise

TRADITIONAL SWEET SHOP

4 Cross Keys Mall, St. Neots

01480 356665

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

AMERICAN JELLY BELLY BEANS

## Lots more news and views inside.

If you have any news or views please send to the Chairman no later than 28th February 2012 for inclusion in the next issue.

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



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## Useful Telephone Numbers

<b>Street Lighting</b> report the number on the lamp-post, the street name and town.	<b>0800 253 529</b>
<b>St Neots Town Council</b>	<b>01480 388911</b>
<b>Police</b>	<b>01480 456111</b>
<b>Gas Emergency</b>	<b>0800 111 999</b>
<b>Electricity Emergency</b> 24 Seven EME	<b>0800 783 8838</b> <b>0800 056 8090</b>
<b>Water Emergencies</b>	<b>08457 145 145</b>
<b>Huntingdonshire District Council</b> General Enquiries Out of Hours Emergencies Fly Tipping	<b>01480 388388</b> <b>01480 434167</b> <b>01480 388640</b>
<b>Jubilee Hall</b>	<b>01480 394150</b>
<b>Duloe Village Hall</b>	<b>07768 303373</b>
<b>St Marys Church Hall Eaton Socon</b>	<b>01480 212219</b>
<b>Eatons Community Centre</b>	<b>01480 388911</b>
<b>Doctors Surgeries</b> Eaton Socon Health Centre Cedar House Surgery	<b>08444 771802</b> <b>01480 406677</b>
<b>Bushmead School</b>	<b>01480 375375</b>
<b>Crosshall Infants School</b>	<b>01480 475980</b>
<b>Crosshall Junior School</b>	<b>01480 475972</b>



## Useful Websites

ESCA	<a href="http://www.esca.org.uk">www.esca.org.uk</a>
St Neots Town Council	<a href="http://www.stneots-tc.gov.uk">www.stneots-tc.gov.uk</a>
Eaton Socon Health Centre	<a href="http://www.eatonsoconhealthcentre.co.uk">www.eatonsoconhealthcentre.co.uk</a>
Cedar House Surgery	<a href="http://www.cedarhousesurgery.net">www.cedarhousesurgery.net</a>
Cambridgeshire Archives	<a href="http://www.ccan.co.uk">www.ccan.co.uk</a>
Paxton Pits	<a href="http://www.paxton-pits.org.uk">www.paxton-pits.org.uk</a>
Sudbury Meadow	<a href="http://www.sudburymeadow.org.uk">www.sudburymeadow.org.uk</a>
St Marys Church	<a href="http://www.eatonsocon.org">www.eatonsocon.org</a>
Everyclick	<a href="http://www.everyclick.com">www.everyclick.com</a>
Pightle	<a href="http://www.eatonsoconpightle.org.uk">www.eatonsoconpightle.org.uk</a>
Bushmead School	<a href="http://www.bushmeadprimaryschool.org.uk">www.bushmeadprimaryschool.org.uk</a>
About my Area	<a href="http://www.aboutmyarea.org.uk/PE19">www.aboutmyarea.org.uk/PE19</a>



## Who's Who at ESCA

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

**Copy date for the next edition of ESCAN for news, adverts and information – 28th February 2012.**

Please send ESCAN letters & Adverts to ESCA, 3 Collingwood Rd, Eaton Socon, St Neots, PE19 8JQ Email – [eatonsocon@gmail.com](mailto:eatonsocon@gmail.com)

## Dates for your diary

### St Marys Church, Eaton Socon

**Wed 15th Dec 12.30pm** Christmas Lunch  
**Sun 18th Dec 6.30pm** Carol Service  
**Wed 21 Dec 2pm** Carol Service with the Bishop of Bedford followed by mince pies and refreshments  
**Sat 24th Dec Christmas Eve 3pm & 5pm** Family carol service  
**Sat 24th Dec Christmas Eve 11.30pm** Midnight Mass  
**Sun 25th Dec Christmas Day 10.30** Family Communion

**2012**

**Sun 15th January 4pm** Christingle service  
**Tues 21st Feb 6pm** Pancake Party  
**Easter Services** – please contact church

### Eaton Ford Methodist Church

**Sun 18th Dec 10.30am** Christmas Carol Service  
**Sat 24th Dec Christmas Eve 11.30am** Holy Communion at the United Reformed Church in St Neots  
**Sun 25th Dec Christmas Day 10.30am** Service at Berkley Street Methodist Church in Eynesbury

### Sinfonia/Choral Society dates

**Sinfonia** March 3rd 2012 – 7.30pm  
**Choral** March 31st 2012 – 7.30pm

The St Neots Players proudly present their Christmas Production a brand new adaptation of

## Oliver Twist

starring **Zac Guest as Oliver** and directed by **Brendan Sheppard**

**Priory Centre 15th 16th 17th December**  
**Tickets from [www.stneotsplayers.co.uk](http://www.stneotsplayers.co.uk)**  
**or phone 07585 211401**

**Or Box Office at Priory Centre 01480 388922**

## Knitting and Crochet Club

We have been told that this new club is well supported so if you wish to spend time knitting with others and enjoying a cup of tea please contact Angela on 01480 405639. ESCA would like to apologise to all those who phoned the wrong number given in the last newsletter and we wish the club well. The age range for this popular club is presently 11- 85 so please go along, meet others and enjoy knitting.

## Wool for the Trefoil Guild

If you have any wool that is unwanted please contact ESCA on 01480 216065. All wool is knitted into garments for children by keen active older members of the Girl Guide movement.

## Meet your councillor

Have you ever wanted to meet your councillor or ask a question about something concerning the town. Well now is your chance at the Eatons Community Centre, The Maltings, behind the Co-op Stores in Eaton Ford – 7.30pm – 8.30pm.

**Mon Jan 9th**  
**Mon Feb 6th**  
**Mon Mar 5th**

If you want to phone your councillor or email them - the contact details are on the Town Council website and on the back of your Priorities newsletter.

# ● Chairman's Spot ●

Yet another year has passed and this year has seen several big unexpected changes to the Eatons. Early this year TSGCS printers next to The White Horse closed (Soloprint) and The Wheatsheaf Pub on Eaton Socon Village Green also closed its doors. Sadly both properties are still boarded up, though it is known that plans have been submitted for the redevelopment of the Wheatsheaf site so we await to see what happens. Although the printers closed, some of the former employees formed a new printing business, xlpres, and they are being kept very busy on the Little End Industrial Estate. More recently Andersons butchers have closed (see back page) and the shop taken over by another business. Hopefully no more businesses in the village centre will close and the boarded up premises will be developed soon.

Onto ESCA news, we have had a great year with the opening of the new bridge and the associated activities, new village trails, 2 new blue plaques and we have once again been active planting shrubs and hundreds of bulbs around the Eatons to make the place a better place for our Eatons residents. At our recent AGM we welcomed three new people onto the ESCA committee who will be helping us in the forthcoming exciting Jubilee year.

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

**Sue, ESCA Chairman**

## Joining up the parish!

At a time when budgets are being squeezed all around, a new village bus service has been launched which joins up Eaton Socon with the surrounding villages. Beginning in August, three times a day, six days a week the Number 29 tours the parish, visiting Duloe, Staploe, Honeydon, Colmworth and Bushmead on its three quarters of an hour journey between St Neots and Pavenham -taking in some roads which haven't seen a bus for many years. To some it could be a lifeline from isolation, to others it could be a relaxing meander through the wonderful countryside around us, or a visit to Bushmead Priory.

The 29 is supported by Bedford Borough Council. Timetables are available on their website or by calling Grant Palmer on 01582 600844. However, like any local service, it needs your support too. Use it or lose it!



## Bell Ringers wanted

Did you hear the church bells ringing on Remembrance Sunday? To ensure that we can continue the English tradition of bell ringing in Eaton Socon we need some new recruits. Almost anyone over the age of 11 can learn to ring. You do not have to be particularly strong or musical (although it does help) or go to church. You do need to be free on Wednesday evenings and half an hour on Sunday morning. If you would like to see what we do or have a go yourself ring Wendy on 212563



If you are a dog owner please think of others and pick up your dogs 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. This also applies to the new bridge. The bridge is not a place to leave dog mess on. Bins should soon be provided at each end of the bridge. Please use them.

## Textile bank at Tesco Express

The bottle bank has gone but a new turquoise blue textile recycling bank has been placed in the car park. Money raised from this bank will be sent to ESCA to distribute to local groups, just as the bottle bank has done in the last few years.

So if you have clothes that are not worth taking to the charity shops in the town please think of the textile bank at Tesco Express. Let ESCA continue to support small groups that benefit from that little bit of extra money.



## The Eatons Community Centre

Have you found the new Eatons Community Centre yet? Officially opened on 23rd April in 2010 by HRH Duchess of Gloucester, it is a modern design and heated by an energy efficient bio-mass boiler and includes many of the latest up to date design features.

Tucked behind the Co-op shop in Eaton Ford it is a large purpose built centre with great facilities – a purpose built pre-school/children's area, two medium sized meeting rooms which can be merged into one for larger gatherings and a large main hall complete with a fully operational kitchen. The hall is suitable for all types of events, conferences and community group meetings and is an ideal venue for private functions such as weddings and birthday parties

If you are looking for somewhere to have a party or hold an activity why not consider looking around this great place. For booking enquiries or further information please contact:-

Tel: **01480 388922**  
Email: **priory.centre@stneots-tc.gov.uk**  
Web: **www.thepriorycentre.com**



## Santa Dash - 11th Dec

The Sue Ryder St Johns Hospice are hosting a Santa Dash at St Neots Rugby Club. Everyone can join in from 9 am to run, jog or walk the 5km or 2.5km route dressed as Santa. Adults are given santa suits (to keep) and children get reindeer antlers. To join in with this fun for all the family – please register at [www.sueryder.org/events.php](http://www.sueryder.org/events.php) or email [tori.bray-whitworth@sueryder.org](mailto:tori.bray-whitworth@sueryder.org) for more information.

## ESCAN Deliveries

A very big thank you to two more people who have kindly phoned up and offered to deliver some ESCANs to nearby houses. We have a small team who count and bag the ESCANs and a larger team of over 60 people delivering the newsletters but there are still some areas not very well covered. If you have a little spare time and would like to help on the Queens Gardens estate, or elsewhere in the Eatons please let ESCA know. Your efforts are very much appreciated.

## A Trip to Sudbury Meadow by Gill Holt

Next time you park in the Riverside car park, don't just go to the town. Wear some good footwear, pass under the road and turn to your left, cut across the grass towards a willow tree. Walk along the wildlife friendly hedge line with the tall Poplars, and follow around to the left. Here you will find, nearly hidden in the hedge a kissing gate. Go through, you have walked from a tidily mown park into a hidden oasis, managed for wildlife. This is Sudbury Meadow.

You might not think that there is much to see at this time of the year, but Teasels, Knapweed, and Thistles are still in abundance, good food for Goldfinches, one of my favourite birds. Nettles, Bristly Ox-Tongue, and Burdock still show some life, White Dead Nettle and of course Dandelions will take some real frost to subdue them!

Now stroll on, follow the path to the other side of the meadow, there are some mature shrubs here, and information boards to help you identify them. These shrubs are laden with wildlife friendly berries, more than I have seen for a long time, a product of the mild spring that we had. Dogwood, Spindle, Willow, Guelder Rose and Wayfaring Tree are all putting on a show of autumn colour. My little dog, "Sparky", is eating the Cleavers! It was used in herbal medicine as a cleanser. He obviously knows this as he often picks it out to eat! Further round the meadow is a small orchard, the trees have almost lost their leaves now. I helped Alison Pearson (who looks after the meadow) to prune some of these trees, She is always glad to welcome new volunteers to her band of helpers. I have to admit I haven't had time lately to join them. I litter pick Barford Road Pocket Park regularly as I dog walk, and volunteer there, as it is nearer to home. If everyone picked up one piece of litter

everywhere would be tidy, or better still didn't drop it in the first place, and don't get me on dog mess, or we'll be here forever!

As you walk past the fruit trees you will see that many have labels, and are more unusual varieties. There must have been a good crop this year, with plenty left on the ground for the wildlife. You have now followed the path to the road side of the meadow where it becomes a more formal area. Small raised beds still have some Runner beans standing, and some Peppers too! Another bed has Borage and it has had babies, lots more for next year! There are more herbs in the next bed and still some flowers in another. Even a Dahlia with flowers, one good frost and they will all be gone!

As you walk on you will see more beds, many plants are still in flower, and there are labels to tell you their names. You can see here a good example of living Willow hedges, which are growing well and will be woven in during the winter, another job for volunteers along with a bit of weeding and tidying.

Then on we walk to a little pergola with a seat, a place to sit and contemplate. Although I wish I hadn't sat down as the seat was wet! I can never sit long in a garden as I always spot something to do, and now I have spotted a new feature. A raised alpine bed, which is intriguingly made from stout old pallets! How clever!

Well I am afraid we have to leave this tranquil part of Sudbury Meadow, we have arrived at the main entrance in Crosshall Road where there is an information board to tell you all about the area and its wildlife, but why not discover it for yourself, as I did, by the back door!



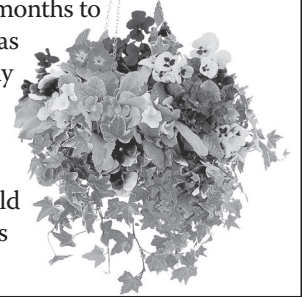
### Bulb planting

Yes, ESCA have been out and about once again planting bulbs and shrubs. First came the shrubs planted in two flowerbeds in the Eaton Socon Churchyard with the brownies helping. More shrubs will be planted next spring. Next came several ESCA committee members planting daffodil bulbs in the churchyard beds and along the pathway leading to Willow Bridge. Poppy seeds have also been scattered and we all hope for a fantastic display next spring and summer. The shrubs and some bulbs were supplied by ESCA who raise money for plants supplying refreshments at Sinfonia and Choral Society Concerts at Eaton Socon Church. The Town Council also kindly supplied two large bags of daffodil bulbs.



### Winter flower displays

We know that businesses and houses are judged in the summer on their summer displays but it is also a delight to see people taking care in the winter months to brighten up their buildings. ESCA was there when St Neots Motor Company put up their winter baskets thereby making them the first building with flower baskets at the southern entrance to Eaton Socon. ESCA would like to thank everyone who continues to brighten up the Eatons.



### Brian's hint for the season

Why not collect a bag of leaves from your road or elsewhere in the Eatons and put them in your compost bin – great mulch for the next Year – free and you will help to keep the paths from becoming slippery.

### St. Neots & District Gardening Club

St.Mary's Church Hall, Brook Street, St.Neots, 8pm.

- Jan 26th **In Search of Vikings** Trevor Gunton  
Competition - Flower/s of the Month
- Feb 23rd **Plants for Shade** Asterby & Chalkcroft Nursery  
Competition - Snowdrops
- Mar 22nd **The History of the National Trust** Veronica Bennett  
Competition - A vase of Spring Flowers
- Apr 26th **A Rampage round my Greenhouse** Mr.W.Morris  
Competition - A Decorated Egg

Contact – Chairman David Usher Tel 01480 476671

# The Pightle Millennium Green – Eaton Socon

2011 has been a busy year for the Trustees of the Pightle. We've certainly gone through a range of emotions and learning curves in trying to secure the financial future of the Pightle.

I would like to say a big thank you to all the residents of the Eaton's who have become PAL's of the Pightle during the last year. Your financial contributions have ensured that we can meet our financial obligations for the coming year. Thanks also go to those members of the community who have volunteered their time and expertise to help out. Also the Community Payback teams who have carried out the majority of the manual work.

We have recently had both financial and advisory support from the Town Council and Ed Reilly the new Acting Town Clerk, for which we are very grateful.

Thanks also go to Little Barford Power Station for their financial contribution. Progressing into 2012 The Pightle is financially healthier than it was this time last year, this however, does not mean we can sit back and relax, as there is still much work to be done.

On a slightly lighter note we were selected by Waitrose to be one of the groups to be awarded Community Tokens during November 2011, and we will await news of how much we have got to add to our coffers and help us towards our aims for next year.

During October Sue and a number of volunteers including some of the local councillors planted 300 woodland bulbs in small woodland glades in the Pightle. The bulbs were donated by ESCA and should hopefully add some colour to the woodland areas and begin flowering from February onwards so keep a look out.

One thing that has surprised me in recent years is the lack of knowledge locally regarding where the Pightle is, what it is for, some people have regularly used the 'back path' but have never been into the Pightle or realised it was land for public use. One of the Trustees goals for the coming year is to raise enough funds to provide information boards for the Pightle, this will hopefully make the land more welcoming and increase awareness of the Pightle and the fact that it is there for daily use by members of the public.

Thank you all for your continued support and we look forward to 2012.

*Bev White*

Chair – The Pightle Millennium Green

Tel: 353054

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



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## Tiddlers & Toddlers

Do you know that there's a  
children's Group running every  
Friday morning?

Term-time at the  
Jubilee Hall Eaton Socon

## Everyone is welcome

We run from 9:30 – 11:30 am  
Nominal charge £2.50 per family  
(Includes drink & biscuit)

Come along and try  
before you buy!

**FIRST VISIT FREE!**

Contact Diane on 0777 566 3849  
Or Margaret on 01480 215695  
Benny on 01480 477838

# 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 Bev White (Chairman of The Pightle Trust) 69 Shakespeare Road Eaton Socon PE19 8HT

Dear Chairman Bev,

69 Shakespeare Road, Eaton Socon, St Neots, Cambs PE19 8HT

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)

I understand that The Pightle Trust is a registered Charity and is able to claim back a tax contribution from The Government. As a UK tax payer I would like to "Gift Aid" my contribution so that an additional 25% can be claimed.

Signed.....

Please send details of how I can help to:-

Name.....

Address.....

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

I would like to be kept informed of any news about The Pightle by E Mail

My E Mail address is.....

## Re-ablement

*Being independent following an operation or illness*

If you or someone you care for requires social care support following an illness or operation, this would traditionally have been provided by a care assistant providing direct care to the person in need.

Since September 2010 a new service, re-ablement, has been providing support to enable older people who have poor physical or mental health following illness or an operation to live in their own homes.

Re-ablement programmes can last for as little as a few days and generally don't exceed six weeks. The ethos of re-ablement is to encourage people to do things for themselves rather than having things done for them. There is no charge to the individual as long as they are participating in the programme.

Re-ablement is now being offered to a wider client group including new service users with a physical disability and new occupational therapy referrals. Future development of the service will look at assisting older people who already have a care package but due to illness or physical issues may now require a higher level of support.

You can find out more about re-ablement at [www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/social](http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/social)



"The St. Neots Freecycle" group is open to all who want to "recycle" that special something rather than throw it away. Whether it's a chair,

a fax machine, piano or an old door, feel free to post it. Or maybe you're looking to acquire something yourself! Nonprofit groups are also welcome to participate too!"

Freecycle is an email group you sign up to over the Internet. There are groups based all over the UK, and the one for the St Neots area can be found at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/stneotsfreecycle/> The idea is for members to offer stuff to other members – all local people - for free, instead of sending it to the tip or leaving it gathering dust. I've found Freecycle invaluable for stuff that is inconvenient to sell, and not worth much, but still useful to somebody, like old furniture, toys, clothes and building materials. For instance, I had an old trampoline which needed a lot of work to be sellable, so instead, I put it on Freecycle. A lovely family collected it: I got my lawn back with zero effort, and they got a bargain. Win, win! And there's an added benefit, through Freecycle we've met many interesting people in our community who we might never have done otherwise.

Anna Hayward

## A'Neater Hairstyling

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Anita Wonford

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07810800856

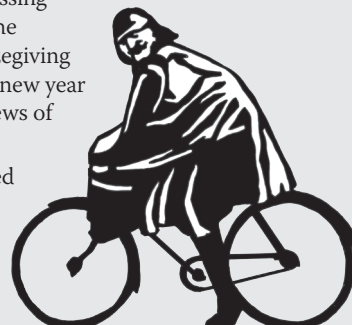


## Portrait bench near Willow Bridge



This is now ordered and it should be placed on the Eynesbury side before Christmas. There will be a lifesize Eynesbury Giant, Cecil Paget on his bicycle and a child playing cricket so there is little chance of missing the bench when it arrives. The official presentation and prizegiving ceremony is planned for the new year so watch in the papers for news of the event.

This special bench is provided by the Sustrans Connect2 project and similar benches are being built across the UK to form a common link for all Connect2 projects.



## "St Neots Saturday and Sunday Riders Group"

Local Volunteer Rangers from Sustrans organise cycle rides around our countryside monthly on Sunday mornings, a shorter ride on the 1st Sunday of the month and a longer ride on the 3rd Sunday of the month. Participation in the rides is free and fund raising is optional. The Rangers are just keen to encourage more people to cycle more often. Riders of all ages are welcome, though children must be accompanied by adults. The pace is easy so no one is left behind. Normal 10:30 prompt start from outside the Ambiance Café in the Riverside Park.

So why not get out your bikes, get them in good working order and head out for a Sunday cycle ride. Now that Willow Bridge is open why not explore St Neots – the new cycle map is now available from ESCA or the Tourist Info spot at Barretts.

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

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### Not So Young or Fit? Very Easy Gentle Pilates

New class starting 17th Jan  
Tuesdays 11.30-12.30  
Eatons Centre, Eaton Socon  
Small Classes, Limited Places

Tel: Rosemary on  
**01480 213815**

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PILATES INSTRUCTOR  
(REPS)



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## Dates for History Groups

### St Neots Local History Society

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

- Jan 6 **Metal detecting** by Tony Hagger  
 Feb 3 **Farming in a bygone age** by David Bushby (+AGM)  
 Mar 2 **The archaeology of Viking Tempsford and West Saxon Bedford 915-917AD** by Dr. Matt Edgeworth  
 Apr 6 **Villagers** (from the records of Gamlingay) by Jim Brown  
**Chairperson – Elaine Donaldson 01480 217492**

### Colmworth & Neighbours History Society

Monthly meetings at Colmworth Village Hall at 7.30pm

- Jan 20 **Bedford Rocks – Part 2** by Nick Wilde (popular music in Bedford)  
 Feb 17 **Lacemaking** by Barbara Potter  
 Mar 16 **The Rise and Fall of Cardington Airships** by David Fowler  
**Chairperson – Stephen Smith 01234 376487**

### Roxton & District Local History Group

Monthly meetings at Roxton Parish Hall at 7.30pm

- Jan 7 **New Year Party**  
 Feb 2 **P.O.W's in North Bedfordshire** by Stephen Risby  
 Mar 1 **Pull Yourself Together Girls - The Spirella Story** by Josh Tidy curator of the First Garden City Museums  
 Apr 5 **The History and Renovation of The Swiss Garden** by Trevor Mardlin

Contact either **John Rogerson Tel 01234 871150** or **Stella Gibbs 01480 351931**

## New Tourism boards in St Neots

Have you seen the new Tourism boards in St Neots – bright and colourful and easy to read. They are placed in the former Hunts District Council Boards near the Library, outside the Museum, at Tebbutts Rd Car Park and at the Riverside Park. Aimed mainly for tourists they are also a source of information for local residents – and include places to visit within St Neots and further away. Why not stop to have a look as you are passing by.



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the local interactive website

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## Want a Christmas Present with a difference?

**Why not buy one of the ESCA local history books. The larger books will provide you with hours of reading and re-reading as you learn about the history of the houses and the families who lived in the Eatons. All the ESCA books are available from the Museum or from ESCA.**

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

<input type="checkbox"/>	Eaton Socon at Work	£2.50
<input type="checkbox"/>	Eaton Socon in Character	£2.50
<input type="checkbox"/>	The Eatons at War	£2.50
<input type="checkbox"/>	The Inns and Outs of the Eatons	£3.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	The River in the Eatons	£3.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Trails Around the Eatons	£3.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	A Year in the Life of the Eatons (1992)	£2.50
<input type="checkbox"/>	Church and Churchyard Survey	£7.50
<input type="checkbox"/>	Eaton Socon Burials Registers 1813 - 2002	£6.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	Eaton Socon Cemetery 1930 - 2002	£7.50
<input type="checkbox"/>	Recalling 75 Years On (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"/>	Eaton Socon - Limited Edition Glass	£8.99
<input type="checkbox"/>	Eaton Ford - Limited Edition Glass	£8.99

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)



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

## The Secret Life of St Neots Station by John Slack

Have you bought this best selling book yet? If not then why not pop down to Tesco Express, opposite Eaton Socon Church, and buy a copy for Christmas.

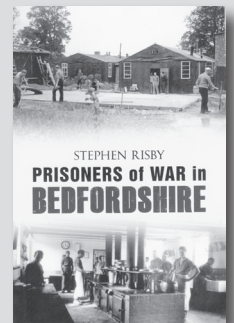


The book on St Neots Railway Station is full of information and illustrations from 1844 to the present. Find out about the building of the railway line, the 3 railway schemes into the town centre, the involvement of Octavius Wilkinson and how Eaton Socon nearly became the Crewe Junction of the East. Information is given on how industry in the town thrived, including Paine's Brewery and George Bower's iron foundry, and how one of Bower's products caused a major accident at Offord. There are many interesting snippets of information on life in and around St Neots in this great little book and illustrations include many award winning photographs taken by Joe Doncaster who worked at the station from 1931 to 1970.

All books bought from Tesco Express will help ESCA and the Museum, so don't delay, buy your copy now. Cost £14.99

## Prisoners of War in Bedfordshire by Stephen Risby

Have you heard about the Prisoners of War that lived in and around St Neots in the 2nd World War - living in camps, hostels and on the farms nearby. Stephen Risby has written a very comprehensive book about prisoners of War in Bedfordshire including why they came to Bedfordshire, their lifestyle and how they became trusted and were allowed to roam unguarded. He also researched the prisoner's war camp at Ducks Cross just south of Colmworth. If you would like to buy one of these books please contact Stephen on 01582 597073 or email ESCA at eatonsca@gmail.com and we can put you in contact with him.



## Andersons World Famous Butchers Shop



Andersons butchers proudly boasted that they served some of the most interesting and individual people in the world. I think we can all say that the village butchers shop has served the village very

well and it is a loss to see such a shop close after many years.

A visit to Andersons was not always the speediest shopping spree in the world but there was always politeness, a willingness to serve the local community and a friendly smile. Often you came away knowing far more about the village than you knew when you went into the shop. Many groups benefited from Andersons excellent meat and the Eatons Community Association always used their meat for the May Day BBQ.

Life will go on in the Eatons without a butchers but never again will be there be the same focal point to find out what is going on in the village, a cheery wave and sense of humour. ESCA wishes to send their thanks to all the staff at Andersons who have worked so hard throughout their time in Eaton Socon, keeping the village spirit alive and wish them well in whatever they decide to do in the future.