



ESCAN

Your FREE Community Newsletter



Eatons Community Association - Registered Charity No.1110148

December 2014 – April 2015

ESCA helps local groups

The May Queen Caitlin Goudie and May Princesses Jessica Riddy and Irene Petrie came along to the popular Eatons Community Association AGM and handed out cheques, totalling over £2,000.



Donations were given to various groups to help towards the cost of Xmas meals for our older residents, to Hanover Close for activities for the winter months, Eatons baby and toddler groups, for equipment for children at Eaton Socon Cricket Club, new instruments for the Church musicians and towards the church clock repairs so that the church clock can once again tell the time. Eatons Guides and Scouts also benefitted and ESCA was pleased to be able to help the newly formed Trefoil Guild (see inside).

The money raised from this year's Open Gardens event went mainly towards the provision of a defibrillator in Eaton Socon (see inside) and a smaller amount was given to help the administration costs of the St Neots Food Bank. 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

Eaton Socon Green
Friday 12th December 6-6.30pm

Join with us in singing carols around our Christmas Tree on Eaton Socon Village Green.

Wrap up warmly, bring a torch and enjoy a warm mince pie after the carols.

Children are very welcome.



Plough Monday in Eaton Socon

Don't forget to join us for the annual Plough Monday celebrations on Monday 12th January 2015, beginning at Eaton Socon Church at 7.30pm with the Blessing of the Plough, followed by Molly dancing and singing.



Dancing and drinking continues during the evening at nearby hostelrys. Audience participation is encouraged so why not come along and join in – a real bit of village fun with a serious side as the plough needs to be blessed for a good harvest. With most of Eaton Socon Parish still farmed across the county boundary in Bedfordshire we are delighted to host this annual event. For further information please contact Roger & Patti Pitt on 01234 376278.

Defibs for the Eatons

Thanks to everyone who has contributed to the fund raising for defibs in the Eatons. A magnificent effort by the Crosshall Schools has ensured that one has been placed in Eaton Ford and they have also contributed to the one for Eaton Socon. £500 has been contributed by the Co-op, £500 from Tom McCormick from the Barley Mow who ran a charity golf day, and with money from the Eatons Open Gardens event the defib for Eaton Socon will soon be placed in the village. People are being trained and if you ever need to use a defib full instructions will be given when 999 is called in an emergency. Well done everyone!



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Lots more news inside.

Deadlines for all contributions
20th February 2015 for inclusion
in the next issue.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Follow us on Twitter: @EatonsCA

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



C & A Hurst Opticians

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Useful Telephone Numbers

Street Lighting report the number on the lamp-post, the street name and town.	0800 253 529
St Neots Town Council	01480 388911
Police	01480 456111
Gas Emergency	0800 111 999
Electricity Emergency 24 Seven EME	0800 783 8838 0800 056 8090 08457 145 145
Water Emergencies	
Huntingdonshire District Council General Enquiries Out of Hours Emergencies Fly Tipping	01480 388388 01480 434167 01480 388640
Jubilee Hall	01480 392733
Duloe Village Hall	07768 303373
St Marys Church Hall Eaton Socon	01480 352154
Eatons Community Centre	01480 388911
Doctors Surgeries Eaton Socon Health Centre Cedar House Surgery	08444 771802 01480 406677
Bushmead School	01480 375375
Crosshall Infants School	01480 475980
Crosshall Junior School	01480 475972



Useful Websites

ESCA	www.escan.org.uk
St Neots Town Council	www.stneots-tc.gov.uk
Eaton Socon Health Centre	www.eatonsoconhealthcentre.co.uk
Cedar House Surgery	www.cedarhousesurgery.net
St Neots Archives	www.st-neots.ccan.co.uk
Paxton Pits	www.paxton-pits.org.uk
Sudbury Meadow	www.sudburymeadow.org.uk
St Marys Church	www.eatonsocon.org
Everyclick	www.everyclick.com
Pightle	www.eatonsoconpightle.org.uk
Bushmead School	www.bushmeadprimaryschool.org.uk
About my Area	www.aboutmyarea.co.uk/pe19
Duloe, Staploe and Honeydon	www.staploeduloeandhoneydonparishcouncil.bedsparishes.gov.uk
St Neots Time Bank	www.stneotstimebank.org.uk
River Church	www.riverchurch.eu
Battle the Boredom	www.battletheboredom.com



Who's Who at ESCA

Chairman	Sue Jarrett	01480 216065
Treasurer	Dave Jarrett	01480 216065
May Day Administrator	Julia Hayward	01480 210097
Open Gardens	Collette Barnes	01480 403343
History Co-ordinator	Sue Jarrett	01480 216065
ESCAN Co-ordinators	Kate Norden	01480 470039
	Carole Robson	01480 218755

Hanover Knitters

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

Dates for your diary

St. Mary's Church, Eaton Socon

Sun Dec 7th 10.30am – **Nativity Play**
Thurs Dec 11th 12.30pm – **Christmas Lunch**
(entry by ticket only – contact St Mary's)
Wed Dec 17th 2pm – **Traditional Carol singing service with Bishop Robin Smith (retired Bishop of Hertford)**
Sun Dec 21st 6pm – **Carol Service**
Christmas Eve 3pm & 5pm – **Family Carol Services**
Christmas Eve 11.30pm – **Midnight Communion Service**
Christmas Day 10am – **Christmas Day Family Communion Service**
Sun Jan 11th 4pm – **Family Christingle Service**

Eaton Ford Methodist Church

Dec 21st 10.30am – **Carol Service. Everyone welcome**
Christmas Eve 11.30 pm – **Joint service at the United Reformed Church in the High Street.**
Christmas Day 10.30 am – **Joint service at Berkley Street Methodist Church, Eynesbury**
Dec 28th 10.30am – **Regular church service at Eaton Ford Methodist Church**

River Church, Eatons Community Centre

Christmas Eve 6.30pm – **Christmas Carols - a family event open to everyone.**

Christmas Day Lunch – hosted by River Church in partnership with Chefs Table Solutions for those in our community who would otherwise be on their own or are facing financial hardship.

Both events will be at The Eatons Community Centre, behind the Co-op in Eaton Ford. For more information please call Jim Fitzgerald on 07545 175837 or visit www.riverchurch.eu

St Neots Choral Society and Sinfonia

Mar 7th Spring Concert – Viennese evening featuring favourites by Johann Strauss the younger.
St. Mary's Church Eaton Socon 7.30pm
Mar 28th Bach St. John Passion – St. Mary's Church Eaton Socon 7.30pm

Little Barford Church Service

Sun 14th Dec 3pm – **Carol Service**
Please wrap up warm as this small church has no heating. Directions to the car park will be signposted on the day from Little Barford village – A lovely little church and well worth a visit !



Textile Bank Money

Don't forget to put your old clothing and shoes into our textile bank in the Tesco Express car park in Eaton Socon. Donations into this bank will provide money for Eaton Socon and Eaton Ford but those in other banks will go to HDC and elsewhere. Please support our community.



DOROTHY DANCING CLUB

Join this friendly modern sequence dancing at Jubilee Hall, Eaton Socon
Tues 8pm-10.30pm
Admission £2.50 includes tea and biscuits
Contact Mr Mike Bullen for more information Tel 01480 213770 (evenings)



Copy date for the next edition of ESCAN for news, adverts and information – 20th February 2015.

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

● Chairman's Spot ●

This year has been yet another busy and exciting year with wonderful sunny weather for May Day and the Eatons Open Gardens. We also supported the Dragon Boat Racing and the St Neots Edwardian Festival in the Town Centre.

At our history exhibition we had a great interest in the 'Eaton Socon in the Great War' information and in the unique Sunny Smile exhibition attended by Chris Hoefkens. These exhibitions have resulted in more information being gathered about life in the Eatons.

Early in the year we were asked for help in the supply of a defibrillator in Eaton Ford and we should all be proud that after a fantastic effort by local people two defibrillators have been bought this year for the Eatons (see front cover). We are now working towards providing more benches in the area.

During October certain areas of the Eatons were tidied up and bulbs planted as part of our ongoing efforts to brighten up the Eatons. ESCA is also still trying to get post boxes painted and benches installed – we hope to succeed in the early months of 2015.

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

Sue, ESCA Chairman

Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB)

For free helpful, impartial advice on many matters please go along to the CAB portacabin in the Tan Yard car park, near Waitrose, PE19 1AN

Advice helpline – Mon to Fri 9:30am to 3:30pm
Tel: 0344 245 1292

Website www.ruralcambsab.org.uk

Drop in sessions Tues and Thurs 9.30 – 12.30

If follow up appointments are needed after a drop in session or telephone interview then these will be held on Tues and Thurs afternoons.

Money advice appointments Wednesdays.



Help with your Computer



If you get a new computer, laptop or tablet for Christmas which you are finding hard to understand then why not pop down to the library and get some free friendly advice on Tuesdays from 10 till 12:30. The library now has wifi so you can bring in your laptop and tablet and log on to the internet free of charge. No booking is required, and whether you are a complete novice or an improver the library volunteers are keen to help with all aspects of computing.

Don't get frustrated – go and ask for help. Volunteers are happy to help in this increasingly technological world.



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

Meet your councillor

If you would like to ask your town or district councillor a question or have any concerns then why not email them - using the email contacts on the Town Council website or phone them on -

Eaton Ford	Bob Farrer	01480 404014
	David Hartly	01480 477202
	Bill Hodges	01480 394109
	Colin Thompson	01480 477406
	Graham Welton	07732 131563
Eaton Socon	Nick Berry	01480 471194
	Stephen Davison	07752 264983
	Roger Harrison	07717 666238
	Keith Prentice	01480 214838

St Mary's Eaton Socon Clock Appeal

A big thank you to everyone who contributed to the church bells appeal. These are now retuned and are ringing once again. Now, it is the turn of the church clock, which is permanently fixed at 12 o'clock which is not very helpful if you wish to know the right time. The clock has been inspected annually and for several years there has been advice that various parts were wearing out and would need replacement.

Now has come the crunch and although some electrical work has been carried out to ensure that no problems exist in that area – the clock is now in urgent need of replacement parts and an overhaul. The cost of this work will be over £2,000 with VAT.

Any contributions towards this urgent work will be very much appreciated, so that our clock will once again tell us the time and sound out its unique chimes. If you wish to contribute to the clock appeal please make cheques payable to **Eaton Socon PCC** and post them to the Church Office, St Mary's Church, Great North Road, Eaton Socon, St Neots, Cambs, PE19 8EJ. For more information on this appeal please contact Christine at the church office - email office@eatonsocon.org or phone **01480 352154**.

St Neots Food Bank



The Food Bank is now open for **four** sessions each week, aiming to provide emergency food for three days to individuals and families identified by care officials.

Distribution Centres

Mon – Open Door Church Centre, Eaton Ford (behind Kip Mcgrath) 4pm-6pm

Tues – United Reformed Church 10am – 12noon

Thurs – Berkley Street Methodist Chapel, Eynesbury 4pm – 6pm

Fri – St Mary's Church, Eaton Socon 10am – 12 noon

Food Bank Office - open Mon, Tues and Friday 10am– 12noon

When you are shopping why not buy a little something extra and pop it in the Food Bank box in your supermarket. A shopping list of items can be found on the website - stneots.foodbank.org.uk

For more information about the bank or if you wish to help in any way please phone 01480 475426 or email info@stneots.foodbank.org.uk

Scams – beware of hoax police calls

Beware of men phoning and claiming to be police officers. One victim was told that a male in custody had given their address and another reported that she was asked to give her card details, as they had been cloned.

After becoming suspicious one victim contacted the Police, who confirmed that the name and collar number did not exist. In all cases no money has been taken from the victims accounts but please be alert and do not trust anyone over the phone, without trying to check who exactly they are.

Never give bank cards, cash or valuables to anyone at the door, even if they say they are from your bank or the police.

The fraudsters can be very persuasive and often victims don't realise they have been scammed, always make sure you have ended the call before dialling 999.

To report an incident in action always call 999, if it is after the event call Action Fraud on 0300 1232040.

"St Neots Riders Group"

Free cycle rides of varying lengths for all ages arranged by Sustrans Rangers, though children must be accompanied by adults. 10:30am prompt start from outside the Ambiance Café in the Riverside Park.

Sun 14th December – Xmas Festive Bike Ride

Why not get out your bike and decorate it for the special ride, as well as wearing festive clothes. There will be a quiz at the refreshment stop

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

The Eatons Community Centre



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

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

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Sudbury Meadow

Winter will be biting at the heels of autumn by the time you read this and the colourful leaves at Sudbury Meadow will have fallen. Summer visiting birds will have been replaced by winter ones, such as Redwings and Fieldfares. We may even get Waxwings again if the Guelder Rose berries are still around.

The year at Sudbury Meadow seems to have flown by with some dramatic changes to the site in that time. No more Lombardy Poplar trees at the front of the site, a relief for local residents during stormy weather. However, we are left with the major task of creating a new area at the front of the site, which is proving a challenge due to re-growth from the poplar roots and trunk remains (to say nothing of new street light cabling just below the surface!). Weed seeds have also germinated. Friends of Sudbury Meadow is working with site owner, HDC, to come up with a solution, but in the meantime we apologise for the rather untidy front of the site.

It was a much better summer for butterflies at Sudbury Meadow than in 2013. Gatekeepers were in abundance during July, along with Small and Large Whites, Small Tortoiseshells and Meadow Browns. Smaller numbers of Peacock, Small Skipper, Holly Blue, Common Blue, Speckled Wood and even Ringlet were also seen feeding on both the meadow flowers and those in our wildlife gardens. Meadow grasses are important food plants for several butterfly caterpillars (Small Skipper, Gatekeeper, Meadow Brown and Ringlet), which is why we try not to cut all the meadow in June/July when the butterflies are laying eggs. By delaying cutting until September and also leaving areas uncut, hopefully some caterpillars or pupae will survive over winter.

Volunteers are the key to Sudbury Meadow's success as a wildlife site. We have occasional help from HDC Countryside Services, but otherwise we need all the volunteers we can get! Weeding, hedge cutting, propagating plants, growing vegetables, orchard care, making bird and insect nest boxes, operating mechanical equipment and helping on the committee are just some of the activities we need help with. Call 01480 374792 for more information or check our website www.sudburymeadow.org.uk. Winter work parties will be on 06/12/14, 10/01/15, 07/02/15 and 07/03/15, 10am - 12.30pm.



Autumn Colour

The Pightle Millennium Green – Eaton Socon

Once more autumn has come and activity in the Pightle is visibly settling down ready for the cold months ahead – although we seem to be enjoying an unnaturally warm November. A few weeks ago, we met some of our regular berry-pickers making the most of the Pightle's abundance of fruit – blackberries being the most obvious, but look around and you can find elderberries, sloes and haws. Our apple trees continue to produce a healthy crop of russets; rather bitter in September, they come in to their own later. One of the saddest autumn sights is a fruit tree with its produce lying on the ground rotting away; please remember you're more than welcome to help yourselves to ours! We'd also be interested to hear what becomes of all that fruit – some has fed my family with crumbles and jams, have you any more adventurous recipes, we wonder?



Autumn is the time for getting many of the more mundane jobs done, and we've had both volunteers and Community Payback involved in carrying out repairs, removing ivy from the trees, cutting back overhanging growth and generally improving the Pightle all round. It's really encouraging to see some of the youngsters, when given support and motivation, really getting stuck in and enjoying learning new skills. Our bulb-planters have stocked various areas up with many hundreds of English bluebells and narcissi, and you'll have seen that the meadow area has had some more extensive work done; the surface has been primed with wild flower seeds ready for next year, and several locations have had holes dug and refilled with topsoil ready for tree-planting. Why do we need to do this? It's certainly not obvious now but back in the Pightle's history, it was first a gravel pit then a dump for ash from the old coal-fired Little Barford power station. Over time the ash has set into hard lumps, which is not conducive to roots growing, so it needs digging out and breaking up. While it's hard work, it serves as a reminder of how far the Pightle has come over the years!

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

Julia Hayward

Trustee – The Pightle Millennium Green Trust

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

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St. Neots & District Gardening Club

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

- Jan 22nd **Wrest Park. Three hundred years of garden history**
by Dr. Twigs Way. Competition - Flower/s of the month
- Feb 26th **Isles of Scilly** by Peter Walker. Competition - Snowdrops
- Mar 26th **Clematis, Queen of climbers** by Carole Adams
Competition - a vase of spring flowers
- Apr 23rd **Roses, Who Dares Prune!** by Simon White of Beales Roses
Competition - a decorated egg.
- May 28th **Houseplant care** by Geoff Hodge
Competition - one stem of a foliage plant.

Members £2.00, Non-Members £2.50 which includes refreshments
and a raffle ticket

Contact – Chairman David Usher Tel 01480 476671

Pal of the Pightle

The Pightle here in Eaton Socon is enjoyed by many and relies on volunteer help to keep it maintained for the enjoyment of us all. The Pightle is NOT a Council owned facility and therefore has to rely on volunteer help.

We need regular finance to pay for items like grass cutting, maintaining the paths, planting new bulbs and trees as well as the annual insurance that has to be paid.

Can you help by becoming a "Pal of The Pightle"?

A "one off" donation or a small regular monthly contribution would be of great benefit for the long term success of The Pightle. Please send this off to Mrs Julia Hayward (Trustee of The Pightle Trust) 11 Collingwood Rd, Eaton Socon PE19 8JQ

Dear Trustee Julia,

I would like to become a "Pal Of The Pightle"

- A) Please accept a donation of £_____ as a "one Off"
donation to help maintain The Pightle.
- B) I would like to donate £_____ per month to help maintain
The Pightle.(Please send me your bank details so I can set up a
standing order)

Name.....(surname and initials)

Date.....

Address and Postcode.....

Email.....

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

If you would like to Gift Aid your contribution so that The Pightle trustees can claim back a tax contribution from The Government please read and sign below.

I confirm I have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for the current tax year (6 April – 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all charities and Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for the current tax year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify. I understand the charity will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 that I have given.

Signed.....

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Message in a bottle

This is a great new idea promoted by the Lions Club to encourage everyone to keep their personal and medical details on a standard form and in a common location so that paramedics can find out your details if you are taken ill. The bottle is free. For more information—see website www.lions105ea.com/specialist_officer/miab.html

ESCAN Deliveries

Do you want to become one of our kind volunteers who like to have a walk and deliver a few newsletters? We have a growing team of volunteers who deliver and a small team who count and bag the ESCANS, so if you would like to help please let ESCA know.

Guiding and Scouting in the Eatons

Have you spotted our young enthusiastic members of scouting and guiding out and about in the Eatons learning new skills and enjoying themselves? Would you like to join these groups, as a helper or leader having fun and passing on your knowledge?

If you have some spare time and would like to join in there are lots of ways you can volunteer, so why not find out more. No previous experience is needed, you can learn new skills, have fun and make a difference in your community, all at the same time!

For scouting please contact – Chris Buss, Group Scout Leader
07825 810259 or pop into the Scout Hut in Eaton Ford any Wednesday night between 7:30 – 9:00pm.

For guiding please contact – Helen Sargeant, District Commissioner
hsarge@uwclub.net or phone 07760 487175

A great welcome awaits you!

St Neots Astronomy Association

If you fancy learning more about stars and the universe why not go along to this new group which meets once a month at Paxton Pits Nature Reserve – usually on the first Monday of the month.

Newcomers are welcome – £25 per year or visitors paying £2 on observing meetings and £5 on speaker meetings.

If you wish to go along, make new friends and learn more about astronomy then log onto – www.snaa.co.uk

Homestart helps families in Cambridgeshire who have at least one child under 5, by providing a volunteer to visit their homes regularly for friendship and support. The group is firmly rooted in the local community, is funded locally and managed by a Trustee Board drawn from the local community.

Home-Start support helps to:

- Reduce family isolation and increase social support networks
- Strengthen parent-child relationships
- Improve parents' emotional health and well-being
- Increase access to health, education and community services.

Home-Start volunteers support families in a sensitive and flexible way. They share their time and friendship and work alongside parents, focusing on their strengths and offering families the opportunity to develop new relationships, ideas and skills. Volunteers visit a family once a week, for approximately two hours.

What one of our families said; "She (the volunteer) was a regular part of the children's lives, so I knew that they trusted her... It was the regularity that made it such a support – something to look forward to when things were difficult."

If you are interested in either becoming a volunteer or receiving help from Home-Start then please contact our office at 32 St Marys Street, Eynesbury on 01480 700242 or email office@homestartwcnf.org.



Bingo at Hanover Close

Bingo is held twice a week at Hanover –
Mon and Wed
2pm – 3pm

If you would like to play bingo go along, play a few games and then enjoy a cup of tea afterwards with new and old friends. Everyone is welcome to sessions which are held in the lounge. If you fancy helping out with the calling of numbers please go along and offer to help, especially on a Monday afternoon.

For more information please contact Denise Gable, Estate Manager, Tel 01480 406 438

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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)

Contact Benny on **01480 477838**

Can you play Badminton?

St. Neots Badminton Club is looking for new members. We meet at One Leisure, St. Neots on Monday and Wednesday evenings 8-10pm. If you can play badminton and wish to dust off your racquet contact Laurie Parnham on l.parnham1@ntlworld.com



St Neots TIME BANK

This fast growing bank is a way for people to share their knowledge and skills with their community and be rewarded for it – with time. For every one hour you volunteer you can claim back the same amount and you can save up your credits for those jobs you can't manage or don't have the skills or time for.

If you wish to be involved then don't be shy, nervous or embarrassed – sign up, make new friends. Age and ability are no obstacle – All you need is spare time. No money is needed other than for materials – this is VOLUNTARY. The Time Bank offers - full insurance security, access to training, the opportunity to meet other people and becoming involved in community projects and events. No job is too small and you do not need credit to ask.

If you are interested in time banking then email: timevolunteers@hotmail.co.uk or Tel: 07590 909057 to join or for further details.

www.stneotstimebank.org.uk

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

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



Eaton Socon Trefoil Guild

– guiding for adults

Eaton Socon now has its very own Trefoil Guild - open to everyone over 18 years of age – whether you have been in the guide movement or not. Join in, have fun and take advantage of the many opportunities that can be found as adults in the guiding movement. There will also be the chance to help support Guiding activities in Eaton Socon. Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm so please email: eatonsocontrefoilguild@gmail.com for more information.

Everyone welcome.

Dates for History Groups

St Neots Local History Society

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

Chairperson – Elaine Donaldson 01480 217492

- Jan 9th **The History and development of the Swiss Gardens at Old Warden**, by Beverley Bond
- Feb 6th **AGM followed by: Pillows, Pins and Bobbins**, the cottage industry of lacemaking, by David Bushby (President of St Neots Local History Society)
- Mar 6th **The Spy Who Loved**, by Clare Mulley – the hidden life of Polish-born Krystyna Skarbek, Britain's first female special agent in WW2 and whose name is recorded on the Tempsford War Memorial.
- Apr 10th **Loves Farm excavation update**, by Mark Hinman who will report on the latest news on this important archaeological site

Colmworth & Neighbours History Society

Monthly meetings at Colmworth Village Hall at 7.30pm

Chairperson – Stephen Smith 01234 376487

- Jan 16th **The Lopsided Barge** - a Journey into Family History, by Robert Parker.
- Feb 20th **The Gallipoli Campaign**, by Keith Edmonds
- Mar 20th **Bletchley Park**, by Bob Lovesey

Roxton & District Local History Group

Monthly meetings at Roxton Parish Hall at 7.30pm

Contact either P. Newell: 01234 870158 or Stella Gibbs 01480 351931

- Jan **New Year Party**, to be arranged
- Feb 5th **The History of Gamlingay**, by James Brown
- Mar 5th **The BBC and Glen Miller in WW11 Bedfordshire**, by David Fowler
- April 2nd **The Shuttleworth Diaries, including Dorothy Shuttleworth's experiences on a visit to Japan**, by Marian Moule.

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Your "Library at Home Service"

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

For more information contact Jakki Racey 077892 73903, email - your.library@cambridgeshire.gov.uk, 0345 045 5225 or ask at your local library

ESCA Local history Books and Information

Now that winter's with us and we spend more time indoors, what a good opportunity to buy one of the ESCA local history books? The larger books will provide you with hours of reading and re-reading as you learn about the history of the area.

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 the Great Church Fire of 1930	£3.00
<input type="checkbox"/> School Admission Register 1910-1969	£3.50
<input type="checkbox"/> Eaton Socon School Punishment Book	£1.50
<input type="checkbox"/> The Ways and Wherefores of the Eatons	£3.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Little End Hamlet	£3.50
<input type="checkbox"/> Cross Hall Ford Hamlet - The Osborne Empire	£4.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Maltmans Gardens - (Health Centre Area)	£7.50
<input type="checkbox"/> Eaton Ford - The Millers and the Masons	£7.50
<input type="checkbox"/> Cross Hall - The Lost Hamlet of Eaton Ford	£6.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Eaton Socon - The Village Lanes	£8.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Great North Road - Part 1 (Texaco Garage to Nelson Road)	£7.50
<input type="checkbox"/> Great North Road - Part 2 (Nelson Road to Andersons Butchers)	£7.50
<input type="checkbox"/> Great North Road - Part 3 (Wagon & Horses to Bushmead Road)	£7.50
<input type="checkbox"/> Great North Road - Part 4 (Bushmead Road to George & Dragon)	£7.50
<input type="checkbox"/> To the Glorious Memory – Eaton Socon War Memorial	£9.95
<input type="checkbox"/> The Eatons Then and Now	£5.00
<input type="checkbox"/> The Eatons Then and Now Book 2	£5.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Eaton Socon - Limited Edition Glass	£8.99
<input type="checkbox"/> Eatons keyrings	£1.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Mediaeval Mishaps and Mayhem in Eaton Socon Parish	£2.50
<input type="checkbox"/> Eaton Socon in the Great War (NEW)	£6.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Tea Towel (NEW)	£3.95

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)



Sit in front of the fire or snuggled up warm and cosy on the sofa with a glass of your favourite tippie in our unique limited edition 9 oz glasses. Eaton Socon glasses now only available - from ESCA and St Neots Museum

Eatons Keyrings only £1



Eatons Christmas Gifts

Why not pop along to the Museum and choose an Eatons Book, farmhouse tea towel or Eaton Socon glass to make that extra special present? There are many books to choose from and they are great for that little bit of extra information. You too can become knowledgeable in the history of your local area.



The unique farmhouse tea towel will be very useful and gives the names of the former farmhouses – have you any idea where the farmhouses were and what they were called? Elms Farmhouse has been for sale for a few months but do you know where it is? In the 19th century it was linked with the coaching inn nearby, and it later became the largest farm in Eaton Socon. Buy a tea towel and find out where it is.

There are also a limited number of Eaton Socon glasses which are available at the museum so why not have a festive drink in a unique glass. All Eatons gifts are available from the Eatons Community Association – so why not order them today (see inside) and have them delivered to your door (free postage within a 5 mile radius of St Neots).

Post Box Update

How long does it take to paint a post box?

Approx 2 hours – including buying the paint if it is a private post box such as the one in Queens Court which is now a bright shiny red thanks to ESCA. Our efforts to get the Royal Mail boxes done are a different matter, having now taken just over 2 years and many frustrating emails. However they have now said they will be painted by the end of March 2015! We now wait to see if it really happens.



Roxton Request

Do you have any memories or photos of Roxton? The Roxton Local History Group would like to hear from anyone who has artefacts, photographs or memories so that a village history can be compiled. Photographs and other items can be copied and returned if you don't wish to donate them. Memories of all aspects of daily life in Roxton village as well as special events in years gone by would be greatly appreciated.



There is also a search on for a Red Photo Album of a Roxton Wedding that may have been borrowed by someone about three years ago.

If you can help in any way please contact Stella Gibbs on 01480 351931

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

The Coffee Pot Memory Club is a growing club for those with memory problems and their carers. Run by volunteers and carers, and supported by St Neots Rotarians, this group holds various events during the month –

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

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

Lunch Club – 1st Thurs – Eaton Oak 12noon for 12.30 lunch

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

To raise money for the group a monthly Craft and Gift Fair is held at the United Reformed Church on the 2nd Saturday of the month 9am – 2pm. Admission is Free and refreshments are served.

For details or to book a stall ring Mary on 07717 158549 or email: maryjdcruz@gmail.com



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St Neots Community & Business Awards

Watch out in the local newspapers and newsletters for information about this exciting new initiative by the Town Council. Awards will be given in a variety of categories so keep an eye out for any literature and take the opportunity to propose an individual or group for an award. This is your chance to reward someone for their efforts in the town! Awards will be given in the spring of 2015.



St Neots
COMMUNITY & BUSINESS
AWARDS 2015