



YOUR **FREE**
COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

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SPRING 2008



May Day Celebrations

Monday 5th May 2008

Eaton Socon Village Green 12 noon to 4pm

May Day has been a traditional day of festivities to celebrate the end of winter. These postcards show the most familiar of the English traditions - groups of dancers circling ribbons around the May Pole.

There have been May Day celebrations on our village green for centuries and a May Pole stood on the green until the First World War when it blew down one year. The celebrations were revived in the 1980s by the newly formed Eaton Socon Community Association.

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

The May Queen will be crowned at 2pm and the Eatons Community Cup will be presented at 3pm.

Entertainment is being booked so if you have some talent and wish to share it with others on Monday afternoon please let us know.

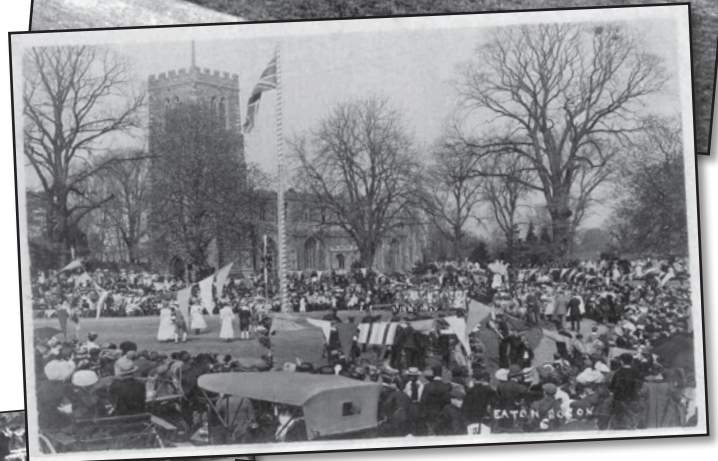
If you wish to book a stall, offer entertainment or be a volunteer helping please contact **Muriel Ralph, ESCA, 367 Great North Rd, Eaton Socon, Cambs, Tel 01480 383317 or email esca@freeuk.co.uk**

Local History Exhibition/Sale of History Booklets and Research of Eatons Archives

Sat 3rd May and Mon 5th May
St Mary's Church, Eaton Socon
10am - 4pm



Eaton Socon May Day Postcards



May Day 2007

A warm welcome awaits you at
Eatons Evangelical Church
meeting on Sundays at
Crosshall School, Gt. North Road
Family Service - 10.30am
Evening events as advertised
'Energise' for 11-16's - monthly
Further information
www.eatons-church.org.uk

Lots more news and views inside.

If you have any news or views please send to the Chairman no later than 21st July 2008 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.



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District Council

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Out of hours emergencies

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Useful Web sites

Esca www.esca.org.uk

Paxton Pits

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Sudbury Meadow

www.sudburymeadow.org.uk

everyclick www.everyclick.com

St Marys Church

www.stmaryseatonsocon.org.uk

Evangelical Church

www.snec.org.uk

Towering Success!

Volunteers from Friends of Sudbury Meadow had great fun on 1st March, constructing a wildlife tower in our wildlife garden. I think we were all re-living our childhood really, although there was a bit of work involved to start with. Take five donated pallets, remove the turf from the desired site, stack pallets, stuffing the gaps with all sorts of recycled materials suitable for sheltering wildlife, then replace turf on top. Simple.

It took all morning! See the picture for the result or pop along to the site and see for yourself. As part of our hedge has been cut, you can see into Sudbury Meadow as you come down Crosshall Road to the roundabout by Riverside Park, so there are no excuses for not knowing where it is.

It would be quite easy to create a wildlife tower on a smaller scale at home. Maybe a stack of spare bricks and bits of paving slab, with hollow plant stems, rolled up paper in old plastic bottles or drainpipes, bits of pruned bushes and anything else non-toxic which could serve as a shelter. From a safety point of view, do make sure that your tower will not fall over at the slightest push. We secured ours by nailing the pallets together as we went.



For more interesting ideas for wildlife gardens, try the website www.wildaboutgardens.org. Alternatively, there is a book 'Wildlife Gardening for Everyone' which is a compilation of really good ideas from the website, plus additional material from the Wildlife Trusts. This is where we found the idea for our wildlife tower.

If you would like to help at Sudbury Meadow, the programme is on our website www.sudburymeadow.org.uk and also on the site notice board.

Look forward to seeing you!

Alison Pearson Friends of Sudbury

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.

Dates for your Diary

Sundays from 6 April:

New Service Times for

St Mary's Church Eaton Socon

8am BCP Holy Communion

9am Holy Communion

10.30am Informal Worship

Mon 5th May

12 noon - 4pm

May Day Celebrations

Eaton Socon Village Green

Sat 3rd May and Mon 5th May

10am - 4pm

Local History Exhibition/Sale of History Booklets and Research of Eatons Archives

St Mary's Church, Eaton Socon

Sunday May 11th

2pm - 4pm

Opening of the Eaton Socon Lock Up

- Free admission

School Lane, Eaton Socon

Sunday 8th June pm

Open Gardens

Programmes from Eaton Socon Green

Sunday June 15th & July 20th

2pm - 4pm

Opening of the Eaton Socon Lock Up

- Free admission

School Lane, Eaton Socon

Saturday 21st June

at 7.30pm

Concert with

Wyton Area Voluntary Band

St Mary's Church, Eaton Socon

Sunday 13th July

at 12.30pm

Hog Roast Lunch

St Mary's Church, Eaton Socon

Monday 1st September

at 5.30pm

Talk by Simon Houfe

(Grandson of Architect who rebuilt the church following the fire)

St Mary's Church, Eaton Socon

Who's Who in ESCA

Chairman	Sue Jarrett	216065
Treasurer	Dave Jarrett	216065
May Weekend Organiser	Muriel Ralph	
Open Gardens Organiser	Situation Vacant	
History Co-ordinator	Sue Jarrett	216065
ESCAN Organiser	Judith Margolis	212363
ESCAN Publisher	Stuart Fairweather	213555

For all correspondence

Letters to ESCA, articles and adverts to: 168b Great North Road, Eaton Socon, St Neots, Cambs PE19 8EH
Email address: esca@freeuk.com
Website: www.esca.org.uk



Bus passes go National

There's only weeks to go until the new national bus pass scheme starts. The county-based passes are being replaced with a nationwide one.

You will be able to travel anywhere in England off-peak. The Eatons will benefit a lot, as a trip to Bedford - or beyond - on the X5 service will be free for the first time.

But, you need to apply - and a few who are eligible haven't yet done so. Please don't miss out, contact the **District Council** on **(01480) 388388** for assistance and application forms.



Gone but not forgotten

The Eatons are fortunate in having a frequent daytime town service in addition to the X5 - as well as a few services which go off the beaten track. What we don't have is a complete set of stop signs.

Some were damaged over the years, some have never had a sign as routes have changed, and some may just have been forgotten. So here are a few places where you might not have realised you could catch the bus...though be warned, some of the drivers might not realise either!

The commuter services to the station:

Nelson Road, Bushmead Road, Monarch Road, Duloe Road, Great North Road, on the opposite side to the existing signs (in practice they will stop anywhere safe as long as you signal clearly)

Town services: Mill Hill Road, opposite the Scout Hut

Town and Kimbolton services: three places on Crosshall Road - the Barley Mow, Milton Avenue and Saviles Close. Do you know of any other places where stops used to be? **Julia Hayward** (01480 210097, or julia@ratbag.demon.co.uk) would be interested in hearing from you.

Cllr Julia Hayward

St Neots Town Council, Eaton Socon ward
Tel: **0777 3918223**

New church office for St Marys



Can you put a caption to these pictures? Email escan.co.uk with your ideas and they may be printed in our next edition

One of the exciting developments at St Mary's so far this year has been the conversion of some space in the Church Hall into an office. Due to be completed by May, it is hoped that this office will become a 'point of contact' for both people visiting the Church and for the local community.

It is the shared vision of the new vicar Timothy Robb (pictured above centre) with others (too numerous to mention all by name!) to see the Church expand both its facilities and opportunities in drawing together the local community more in various ways over the forthcoming years. Do watch this space for future developments!!

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 with new fencing and a large metal sculpture making the park look more attractive. Have you also spotted the new village/town sign in its flower bed just across the Town Bridge?

Open Gardens 8th June 2008

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 make this event bigger and this year the date has been set for the afternoon of Sunday 8th 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 noticeboards for exact times nearer the event.

Lottery money keeping us fit

The Huntingdonshire branch of the Parkinson's Disease Society have organised regular exercise classes for people with Parkinsons, MS or recovering from Strokes. The classes are free - thanks to the National Lottery, and cater for a wide range of ages and abilities. The classes are on Tuesdays 11-30 to 12-30 at the Priory Centre, St Neots.

For further information contact **Richard Gregory 01487 642599** or **Margaret Budd 01489 492773**



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
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Jude on 01480 384132

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St. Neots

Local History Month 2008

During the month of May there is a full programme planned. Starting on Friday 2nd May at 7.30pm, at Eynesbury C of E School is a 'Call my Bluff' Mystery Objects Quiz organised by St. Neots Local History Society. Over the weekend in Eaton Socon is the annual Local History Exhibition in St Mary's Church from 10am – 4pm on Sat 3rd and Mon 5th May. On Thursday 8th May, 7.30 in St. Neots Museum is a talk on 'George Bower, Victorian Entrepreneur' by Linda Reed and on Sunday 11th May Eaton Socon Lock Up will be open in School Lane from 2-4pm.

The month continues with a public debate - Who is St. Neots most important historic character? where 6 speakers will represent six of St. Neots leading historic figures, and the audience will have a chance to vote for their 'favourite' on Thursday 15th May at 7.30pm in St. Neots Library and on Sunday 18th May at 10.30am Peter Ibbett will lead a walk around St Neots on St. Neots Historical Characters.

The following week on Tuesday 20th May there will be a talk by Sue Jarrett on the Great North Rd at 7.30pm in the Museum and on Thursday 22nd May from 2pm – 4pm will be a drop in session at the museum to find out more about the internet-based Community Archive.

Also during the month will be a walk around Eltisley and an exhibition in St Neots Museum from Wednesday 14th May to Saturday 14th June, Tues to Sat 10.30-4.30 with exhibitions from Eltisley Local History Society, including the village's First World War casualties, and by St. Neots Local History Society on local historic characters – vote for your 'favourite', to be commemorated by a plaque.

Further Information on all these events can be obtained from St Neots Museum and Library.

Photographic Competition



A photographic competition has been organised jointly by St. Neots & District Camera Club and The Friends of Paxton Pits Nature Reserve for amateur photographers.

The competition is free and you can enter up to 6 photos using any combination of four categories:

- 1 **Birds (land and water)**
- 2 **Flora & Fungi**
- 3 **Insects to include Butterflies & Moths**
- 4 **Any photograph, taken on the Nature Reserve, not in categories 1,2 or 3**

The pictures must be less than 4 years old and have been taken from the

public footpaths, nature trails and/or hides on the Nature on the Paxton Pits Nature Reserve

Closing date Friday 11th April 2008

All entries will be exhibited on

SATURDAY 26TH APRIL

in the Priory Centre, St. Neots, with the St. Neots & District Camera Club's Annual Photographic Exhibition

SATURDAY MAY 3RD

in St. Mary's Church, St. Neots as part of the Ascension Day events

Full conditions for entry obtained from the Visitors' Centre, Paxton Pits, www.paxton-pits.org.uk or **01480 406795**

Help Wanted....

For many years research has shown that social isolation leads to a greater risk of poor health and unhappiness, especially in housebound people where the risk of loneliness is greater.



Rob Clark, Church Warden at St Marys Eaton Socon, is currently looking at the support services offered in the Eatons, in an effort to establish whether there is a need for additional help in the community.

If you are involved in, or know of, services that support those either housebound or on their own, please contact **Rob** on Tel **(01480) 890033**, or St Mary's at www.StMarysEatonSocon.org.uk.

St Neots Volunteer Bureau

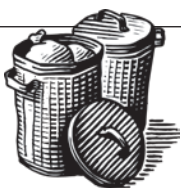
The Bureau is always looking to recruit volunteers to help in the local community, if you have a few hours to spare and would like to help others, why not arrange to visit the office for an informal chat, you may be surprised at the volunteer opportunities that are available.

Please contact **Sandra Attewell** the organiser at St Neots Volunteer Bureau. Telephone **01480 476047**

St Neots Volunteer Bureau Social Car Scheme

The bureau runs a thriving Social Car Scheme. People unable to travel on public transport can request a volunteer driver to take them to the doctors, dentist, social events or shopping. A small charge is made for this service.

To continue with this valuable service the bureau is looking for volunteer drivers willing to use their own cars to help with this scheme. If you would like more information on becoming a social car driver or a leaflet on the service. Please telephone the bureau on **01480 476047**.



Neat Street July 2008

This popular event is now in its fifth year with Eaton Ford winning twice and Eaton Socon twice. It is now time to enter your street for this years competition so get together with your neighbours and enter for Neat

Street 2008. Streets will be judged on the absence of weeds on kerbs and gutters, 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.

Nice and close just for you

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Open Gardens 2008

In June 2007 we had a very successful afternoon with seven beautiful gardens opened by their owners. We are now beginning the planning for June 2008.

Please contact us if you would like to take part in 2008.



Trefoil Guild, Girl Guides

Dear Friends,

Several years ago I wrote an appeal in ESCAN for any surplus wool that you may no longer need. The response was tremendous and I would like to thank everyone who gave me their leftover wool.

The wool is used by the Girl Guides to supply items to one of their four World centres, in Pune, India which supports the local Family Welfare Centre, which in turn, supports families on three slums, totalling up to 60,000 people. The UK Guides make up jumpers, pullovers (for the older boys) and blankets from the wool. Some of us also sponsor a child in one of those slums.

Some Airlines allow extra weight for Charities, and last September a group from Bedfordshire were given an extra 10Kg each. This helped me a lot as I had been hoarding about 60 assorted jumpers, etc and 15-20 blankets. They were able to take them all.

My husband and I have been there twice and have seen the work they do. The Centre began in a small way 30 years ago and has grown so much that they are venturing outside Pune. But to get back to why I am writing this. Each time a Guiding group goes to Pune they are all asked to take a bag of clothes or blankets.

So please have a look to see if you have any wool you do not need. Any kind of wool is useful. Please help us to help those who are less fortunate, and a very big thank you in advance.

For more information or if you can help in any way please contact me on **01480 212485. Jeannette Cadney**, St Neots Trefoil Guild, Girl Guides

PS. In case you are wondering, No, I did not make everything myself. A 90 year old lady from Eaton Ford made most of the blankets and my friend from Pottersbury made most of the clothes. Large bags of wool have been taken by Guiding friends all over the country for others to use.

So if you can help we would be very grateful.

Many thanks once again.

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The Eaton Socon War Memorial

Have you ever wondered about the names on the War Memorial that sits on Eaton Socon Village Green – who the young men were who lost their lives defending our country? Who were their families and where did they live? Where are they buried? We now have two energetic committee members researching the young men and their families, and photographing their graves abroad. If you have a photograph of any of the young men or know anything about them please visit the history exhibition on Saturday 3rd May and speak to Sue. We are planning to produce a book with photographs and information as a future project.

Cat's Protection League News



We have been called into a property where there are in excess of 60 cats living at the property of an elderly person

We are desperately in need of cat food as we will now be feeding in excess of 200 feral, stray and outside cats this winter.

We will need loving new homes for many young and old cats that are handleable.

We would also like to find anybody with stables, a farm or smallholding could adopt 2 or 3 of the feral cats (neutered).

All donations of cat food, cat beds, cat carriers, cash or goods can be taken to our charity shop in Cross Keys Mall, St Neots. Large amounts of cat food can be collected.

For further information telephone 01480 476696 or 07966 282005. Please leave a message if we do not answer, we will ring you back.

Anything but paint wasters

Last issue I appealed for any information about the Graffiti art painted on the A1 underpass.

Thank you for such an interesting reply



When the skate park was refurbished in steel (at a cost of £327,000) agreement was entered into with the District Council and Police that it would be a centre for the street art/graffiti spray can artists and taggers.

Broadly they divide into two groups. True artists and others who just enjoy spraying tags and low quality pieces wherever they can find a place to do so.

Whilst discussing their interests they commented on how much they would like to paint in the underpass. Permission for them to do so was obtained from the Highways Agency. The project was supported by the Town Council, District Council and the Police.

It was agreed with the street artists that the north wall would be for free expression where the artist could do as they wish and train the younger generation on how to paint high quality pieces rather than the crude scribbles seen on walls, fences and road signs.

Funds were raised by the Rotary Clubs of St Neots for the south wall to be used for a mural of St Neots historic buildings and personalities. The group of artists who undertook the work on the south wall were bought enough paint to maintain the art work in good condition for several years.

Who are the artists? Well they are a shy and retiring group who normally identify themselves with numbers such as PWS 129 - a hand down from the identification tags used in the USA. PWS is a humorous reference to themselves as Paint Wasters.

House Deeds – how important are they?

In the course of writing this years history booklets we were lucky enough to read several house deeds which altered our thinking on the development of the houses and their families. We had already sorted out the censuses and thought that we had the families in the right places but a quick read of deeds showed that we were wrong and at the last moment several families had to be moved into other dwellings. So the moral of the story is - if you have house deeds that can help us please let us see them. 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.

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.



Booklet News and Reviews

This year ESCA has been focussing on part of the Great North Rd and with so much information on such an important part of the village it has evolved into two booklets –

Pt 1 - Texaco Garage to Nelson Road or for the older residents - Howard and Wrights Mill to Bunny Lane. Find out about The White Horse, The Eagle, The Plough, Eaton Socon Brewery, Howard and Wrights Mill and Whiteheads Toy Factory. Learn more about the Hobson family, a staunch church going family who once owned nearly all the property on the west side of the Great North Rd up to Nelson Road and who built York Cottages to hide the Chapel. Learn also about Bedlow, a police sergeant in Biggleswade who bought up property in Eaton Socon and whose family owned them for over 100 years.

Pt 2 - Nelson Road (Bunny Lane) to Andersons Butchers. This area was the centre of the village and had the village shops such as general stores, drapers, sweet shops, butchers, blacksmiths, a taxi service and hairdressers. Find out about The Wheatsheaf, The Old Sun, Drakes Post Office, Cotton and Bamfords and the Telephone Exchange. Learn about the influence that William Law had during the nineteenth century, and about the vicars who lived in the new vicarage and enlarged their garden. Find out about Charles Dickens stay in Eaton Socon when he found the Cock Pub full one night and so slept in the house opposite.

All these booklets are available in the St Neots Reference Library and the County Archives offices in Bedford and Huntingdon.

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.

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Additions and Corrections

We do not always get it right and we welcome corrections or extra information for any of our history booklets. Many local residents help out with compiling these booklets and we know that many more have valuable knowledge. If you can help us to record our history with information, photos, maps or documents please contact **Sue** on **01480 216065**.