



YOUR **FREE**
COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

← ESCAN

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SUMMER 2008



Community Cup and Long Service Award



This year we awarded the Community Cup to Colin Jackson who has helped ESCA for many years with their May Day celebrations. When ESCA started the celebrations Colin ran school discos where the May Queen and Princesses were selected. He then set up the sound equipment at our May Day Celebrations and has compered the event with only one year's break. ESCA are very grateful for all his time and effort (and of course his wife Jenny's contribution) and his support.

We also wished to award a Long Service Award in recognition of the work carried out by two local residents for many many years. Ron and Peg Barringer are the first to be given this award as a very big thank you from ESCA in honour of their contribution to Remembrance Sunday. Each year they iron the flags, polish the poles and place them early

in the morning around our village war memorial. This is a very important job and always makes our memorial look impressive on the Great North Rd, in full view of all passers-by.

Bottles make money for the Eatons Waitrose donation

A very big thank you to all of you who have taken their bottles to the bottle bank at Tesco Express. This bottle bank was bought by an Eatons resident and the money comes back to us. This year hundreds of pounds have been sent back to us from the sale of the glass.

If your organisation would like a donation from the bottle fund please write to ESCA. All requests will be considered at our next ESCA Committee meeting and donations handed out at our AGM on 6th October (please keep that evening free if you send in a request).

So don't miss out, write in today and have some of the cash you have helped to make. This is the only bottle bank in St Neots where the money comes straight back to the residents so pass around the message – take your bottles to Tesco Express, Eaton Socon and help us to help you. Please write with your requests for donations to ESCA, 3 Collingwood Rd, Eaton Socon, St Neots, Cambridgeshire, PE19 8JQ with details of your group, where they meet, how much they would like and for what (or email esca@freeuk.com) by 29th September.



Collette Barnes and Sue Jarrett (on the left) were very honoured to be able to accept a cheque for ESCA from Tim Cobley, St Neots Waitrose manager. Waitrose are giving away a share of £1,000 to three charities every month. ESCA was one of the very first to receive a cheque, so thank you to all the customers who voted for ESCA.

ESCA AGM
Monday Oct 6th 7.30pm
St Mary's Church Hall
Eaton Socon

Lots more news and views inside.

If you have any news or views please send to the Chairman no later than 20th October 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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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, and adverts to
168b Great North Road, Eaton Socon,
St Neots, Cambs PE19 8EH
Email address: esca@freeuk.com

Eaton Socon Charities

This time of year Eaton Socon Charities will consider requests for a grant.

Formed from various church charities that once gave out coal and bread to people in the parish who might benefit, the charities now donate money in the autumn.

Grants are available to people living within Eaton Socon Parish which includes Eaton Ford, Cross Hall, Duloe, Staploe, Honeydon, Begwary, Tythe, Basmead, Bushmead, Goodwick and Wyboston. If you would like to be considered for a grant please ask at the Eaton Socon Post Office for a form or if you have any queries please telephone Joan Squire on 01234 378894 or Derek Giles 01480 392341

St Neots Priorities



St Neots Priorities is printed four times a year and we are aware that in parts of the Eatons we have not been getting our Priorities Newsletter. Please ask around your

friends in other parts of the town and if they have got a copy then let the Town Council know that yours has not been delivered. The Post Office are being paid to deliver the Priorities and we know that some areas have had only one copy so far this year so where are the missing copies?

Eatons Community Centre

Work has now started with the first turf being cut on 15th August behind the Rainbow stores. More news in our next issue

Heritage Open Days 11th – 14th September

Heritage Open Days celebrates England's fantastic architecture and culture by offering free access to properties that may be closed to the public or normally charge for admission. Every year on four days in September, buildings of every age, style and function throw open their doors, ranging from castles to factories, town halls to tithe barns, parish churches to Buddhist temples. In St Neots this year we are hoping to



open a small selection of buildings so watch in the local newspapers for local information. The St Neots Museum will have an event on Sat 13th Sep and here in Eaton Socon we plan to open the Lock-up and St Marys Church on Sunday 14th September 2:00pm – 4:00pm.

Diary Dates

- 1st Sept **Talk by Simon Houfe**, grandson of the Architect who rebuilt St Mary's Church after the fire in 1930. St Mary's Church Hall, Eaton Socon 5:30pm.
- 12th Sept **Harvest Festival** St Mary's Church, Eaton Socon. Harvest Tea 4pm; Harvest Service 5:00pm.
- 13th Sept **Heritage Open Days** Event at St Neots Museum. For more information Tel: 01480 388788. Email: curaors@stneotsmuseum.com.
- 13th Sept **Quiz Night with Fish and Chip supper**. St Mary's Church Hall, Eaton Socon, 7:15pm. Tickets £5 on the door or in advance 01480 212363.
- 14th Sept **Heritage Open Days** Eaton Socon Lock Up and St Mary's church opening, School Lane, Eaton Socon, 2:00pm – 4:00pm.
- 29th Sept **Closing date** for Bottle Bank grant applications. (See front page).
- 31st Sept **Light Party**. An alternative to Halloween St Mary's Church Hall, Eaton Socon, 4:30pm.
- 6th Oct **ESCA AGM** St Marys Church Hall, Eaton Socon 7:30pm
- 11th Oct Bulb Planting – Queens Court, 10:00am – 11:00am.
- 25th Oct **St Neots Archives on the Internet exhibition**, St Mary's Church Hall, Eaton Socon, 10:30 - 4:00pm

Chairman's Address

This is the time of year when we say many thanks to all those who have helped us to run events.

May Day

A big special thank you goes to Jean Searle for the May Queen's and Princesses dresses, Johnson Jewellers for the necklace for the retiring May Queen, Posy Bowl for providing the flowers, Just Engravings for the engraving of the Community Cup, Endersby Awards for the Long Service Award, Ian Narin of St Neots Community College for all his wonderful photographs, H.E. Payne of Wyboston for the use of their lorry, St Marys Church for allowing us to once again use the church and St Neots Red Cross for providing first aid.



The retiring May Queen Rhiannon Turner crowned the new May Queen, Leanne Hemming, and the two Princesses were Samantha Mason and Melissa Yeoman.

We would like to thank Colin Jackson for the compering, the local band 'Group Therapy' for the excellent live music, Heartsease for their maypole dances and Sweeps and Milkmaids dances, Sentinels Majorettes, the Langdale Academy for their energetic display of dancing, the Riverside Theatre for their wonderful singing and also the Sara Whites Jive Group who encouraged many people to jive on the green.

Thank you also to the shops and businesses who supported us by providing raffle and tombola prizes, to local groups who lent us tables and to groups who came along and supported us with their stalls.

A special thank you to Tesco Express who supported us in several ways at the celebrations.

We would also like to thank the many volunteers who helped with the exhibition within the church, to the church for selling refreshments and to everyone who tidied up afterwards. Three students from St Neots Community College (Ernulf) made a video of the celebrations and we await eagerly to see the results. Another great day with a village feel. Thank you everyone.



Open Gardens 2008

In June we had a very successful afternoon with twelve well-tended gardens opened by their owners. Lots of people came and this year money was raised for the Tiddlers and Toddlers group and the St Neots Sentinels Majorettes. Both groups meet in the Eatons. A big thank you to all the gardeners and all the visitors.



Calling all May Queens

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

ESCA SUCCESS!



Mill Hill Rd was officially named in 1948 after it had been called Windmill Hill Rd, Mill Hill Rd and Duloe Hill/ Duloe Rd for many years. After 50 years we are proud to say that in July it finally got a road sign at the junction with Eaton Ford Green. ESCA have been working with local councillors to get a road sign after a local resident said that a road sign had never existed at that junction. Do you know of a road that needs a sign?

We have also been working with the local council to make the area more accessible to wheelchair users and have successfully organised dropped kerbs on Eaton Socon Green and School Lane. Do you know of a pavement that needs a dropped kerb?



Cambridgeshire Community Archives Network

Have you heard about this project? The St Neots Community Archives website is increasing weekly with more than 350 photographs and memories. ESCA is actively involved in this project so if you have any old photos, videos or memories then why not share them with others. All photos will be scanned and returned to their owners so this is a good way to share those memories with others and keep our history live. Phone Sue Jarrett on 216065 if you have any information or photos you would like to share or come along to St Marys Eaton Socon Church Hall on Sat 25th October from 10:30-4:00pm.



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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Or Margaret on 01480 215695

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ESCA AGM

Monday Oct 6th

7.30pm

St Mary's
Church Hall
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Donarbon Community Fund

If you are a not for profit organisation looking for grant funding for a capital project, you may be eligible to apply for a grant from the Donarbon Community Fund.

The Donarbon Community Fund, managed by the Cambridgeshire Community Foundation, receives landfill tax credits from Donarbon Waste Management and uses the money to make grants under set criteria.

The Donarbon Community Fund will fund projects in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough that are within 10 miles of a Landfill site.

Grants are available for the following projects –

- The provision, maintenance or improvement of a public park or other general public amenity
 - The conservation of a specific species or a specific habitat where it naturally occurs
 - The repair, maintenance or restoration of a place of worship or a place of architectural importance
- Grants will normally be for up to £20 000, although in exceptional circumstances, support to projects may be offered at a higher level. If you wish to apply for a grant you need to be able to contribute 10% of the value of the grant you are seeking.

The first stage to access a grant is to complete an expression of interest form. This form, along with guidance notes and more general information can be obtained from the Cambridgeshire Community Foundation (01223 421588) www.cambscf.org.uk. The panel who will meet to consider grant requests meets on a quarterly basis in early July, October, January and April.



Neat Street

Thank you to all the streets who entered the Neat Street competition. The judges were very impressed by our gardens

and roads and wish to say that 'there was not one piece of litter in any of the streets judged and all the house owners should be proud of their streets'. The winner this year was part of the Great North Rd just north of the roundabout near Hursts Opticians – so well done and a special plaque has been ordered.

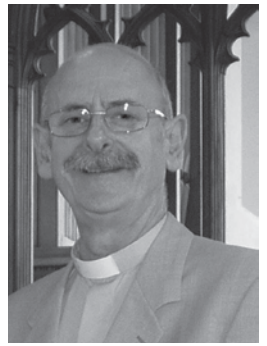
Ka mate, ka mate!
ka ora! ka ora!

Vicar's caption competition

Last issue we asked for suggestions for a caption for this picture of Tim Robb the Vicar of St Mary's Eaton Socon. The winning caption was submitted by Bill Moore. It is an ancient chant used by the All Blacks rugby team from New Zealand to help them focus on defeating the other team.



Bishop breaks the rules!



David Miller, took the first step to becoming Priest in June. He was ordained as a deacon at St Albans Abbey alongside 14 other candidates.

David has worked tirelessly for the last 8 years as lay minister for St Mary's Church Eaton Socon. Normally when a deacon is ordained they have to move to another parish, but in recognition of David's invaluable contribution to local community and the life of the Church, the Bishop of St Albans has agreed to let him stay.

Sunday services were put on hold to allow members to travel to St Albans. The church bells rang all afternoon, and almost 200 members of the congregation attended a celebratory tea followed by a service of thanksgiving.

Another Eatons Hidden Secret



Do you know about the unusually shaped Tythe Farm house ?

We have been told that the octagonal farmhouse was built for the Duke of Bedford and that there are only one or two such unusual shaped farmhouses. Do you know any different ? The farmhouse is on a road known by locals as Sheakers Way – leave Eaton Socon by Bushmead Rd and turn left at the red painted house. Follow the directions to Wyboston and Tythe Farm is just over ½ mile, set back behind the farm buildings on the right.

Showtime!



The St Neots Players Website has been extensively updated. It now has a brand new Doctor Who Competition, the dates and times for all the shows and details of how you can become a member.

www.st-neots-players.org.uk

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House Deeds – these are very useful when sorting out families and their homes many years ago.

Photos of houses and buildings that have gone – in particular Rose Cottage (234 Great North Rd) and 213 Great North Rd

If you have any of the above please let us see them. With your permission we can read and scan information/photos and then return them. All information is helpful in our research.

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Quiz Night with Fish and Chip supper

St Mary's Church, Eaton Socon



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Letters

Open Gardens

Margaret and John Seymour write – We thoroughly enjoyed our day when we opened our garden to likeminded people. May we take this opportunity to thank everyone who donated to our own charity. The money raised will go toward building a new kitchen, for the Roots nursery school in Gambia. The amount raised was £49.62 which we most appreciated. Many thanks

Girl Guides

Dear Friends,

A big thank you to everyone who has shown an interest in the work of Deep Griha, the Family Welfare Centre in Pune, India, which is supported by the Girl Guides.

The centre is about 120 miles south east of Mumbai (Bombay). Groups of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts from all over the World travel there to attend sessions. These include visits to local places or worship, local markets, homes of local people and various welfare centres. There are often talks on local birds, ceremonies and dancing displays. One really does learn about all aspects of Indian life.

The blankets and clothes we make are taken whenever we can find a group which has an extra weight allowance from the airline. After sending my stock last September I have just returned from my friend in Pottersbury with 44 pullovers! Yes I did take a large supply of wool for future use.

Yours thankfully,
Jeannette Cadney,
St Neots Division Girl Guide

Eaton Socon History Booklets 2009-2010

The next booklet, due in May 2009. will be based on houses and buildings on the Great North Rd from the Waggon and Horses to the George and Dragon and will also include Bushmead Rd, Beauchamp Close, Queens Gardens, Bushmead School and The Crescent. If you live in this area and or have information on any families who once lived in these properties please contact Sue Jarrett on 01480 216065



War Memorial 2010

The booklet on the men who lost their lives in the two world wars is progressing well. We are still looking for photographs of the young men and information on their families. If you can help please contact Sue Jarrett on 01480 216065 or at esca@freeuk.com

Sue Jarrett – Paul Harris award



In recognition of her outstanding services to the community, the Rotary Club of St Neots St Marys has honoured Sue Jarrett with a Paul Harris award.

Named after the founder of Rotary International, the Paul Harris award is the highest honour that the movement can bestow.

Although in some clubs around the world members can receive the award by making (substantial) donations to the Rotary Foundation charity, St Neots St Marys, like most UK Rotary Clubs, awards it only in recognition of notable contributions to local communities or wider society.

Moreover, the award is given a maximum of once a year, and some years it is not awarded at all, so it is a rare and highly valued honour.

Sue was nominated for the award by the 2007/8 Club President, Gareth Holsgrove and was unanimously approved by the Club in recognition of her excellent work for the local community, particularly through ESCA, her work on local history, her distinguished service as a greatly admired teacher at Crosshall School, and her service to the Guide movement. In receiving her award, Sue joins a small and distinguished group of local residents whose service has been recognised in this way.

Gareth Holsgrove

LOVING NEW HOMES URGENTLY NEEDED

The local branch of the Cats Protection League always have cats up for adoption – why not consider giving one of these a home ?



RORY, a 5 yr old ginger tom who loves being pampered and requires a lap or cushion and your undivided attention when he says so. He needs an experienced owner and is not used to very young children

-MRS BERKLEIGH, a 9 year old tabby and white lady who has

been with us for over 4 months. She rather likes her food, is easy going and affectionate and loves to lay in the sun. She needs a safe home with a garden.

We are always getting kittens and new cats – why not contact us if you would like to adopt or help us in any way. All adult cats have been neutered or spayed, treated for fleas and worms, vaccinated, microchipped, and can use a litter tray. CONTACT US NOW ON 01480 476696 OR 07966 282005 OR 07900 257061

Booklet News and Reviews

Two new booklets were produced for May Day. Due to the large amount of information on the Great North Rd two booklets were produced -

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 the Wheatsheaf 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.

I wish to order the following books -



Eaton Socon in Character _____ copies at £2.50

Eaton Socon at Work _____ copies at £2.50

A Year in the Life of the Eatons (1992) _____ copies at £2.50

"Recalling 75 Years On"
(rebuilding and rededication of the church) _____ copies at £3.00

The Eatons at War _____ copies at £2.50

Trails around the Eatons (revised in 1998) _____ copies at £3.00

The Inns and Outs of the Eatons
(rewritten in 1998) _____ copies at £3.00

The River in the Eatons _____ copies at £3.00

The Ways and Wherefores of the Eatons _____ copies at £3.00

School Admission Registers 1910 - 1965 _____ copies at £3.50

Little End Hamlet _____ copies at £3.50

Eaton Socon - The Village Lanes _____ copies at £8.00

Cross Hall - The lost hamlet of Eaton Ford _____ copies at £6.00

Eaton Ford - The Millers and the Masons _____ copies at £7.50

Maltmans Gardens - (Health Centre area) _____ copies at £7.50

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