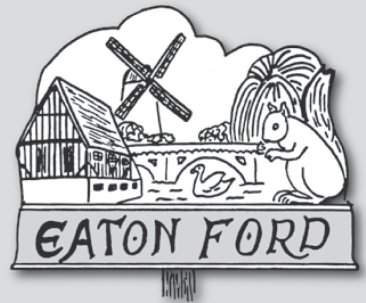




# ESCAN

Your FREE Community Newsletter



Eatons Community Association - Registered Charity No.1110148

April 2012

## Eatons May Day Celebrations

Monday May 7th 2012

on Eaton Socon Green 12 noon – 4pm

12 noon stalls open

2pm Crowning of the May Queen

3pm Award of the Eatons Community Cup

4pm Drawing of the Raffle



If you wish to find out more about the entertainment or stalls on May Day please contact ESCA (Eatons Community Association), 3 Collingwood Rd, Eaton Socon, St Neots, Cambs, PE19 8JQ or email [eatonsca@gmail.com](mailto:eatonsca@gmail.com)

## History Exhibition St Marys Church, Eaton Socon

Saturday 5th May and Monday 7th 10am – 4pm

“Then and Now” Local History Exhibition

Launch of new book “The Eatons Then and Now”

Research local archives for families and buildings

Explore the 1911 Census



View of Eaton Socon from the church tower in 1956

## Eatons events

**Lock Up/Cage Opening** – Free admission  
School Lane, Eaton Socon

May 20th 2pm – 4pm

Jun 24th 2pm – 4pm

Jul 15th 2pm – 4pm

**Pightle AGM** – May 28th 7.00pm

**Church 80th birthday Celebrations Jun 23rd and 24th** – see inside

**Eatons Open Gardens Jun 24th 2012** – see inside

**Neat Street July 2012** – entries deadline June 8th

**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 20th July 2012 for inclusion in the next issue.

**We look forward to hearing from you.**

**Follow us on Twitter: @EatonsCA**



**C & A Hurst Opticians**

Registered Opticians  
& Contact Lenses

359, Great North Road Eaton Socon

Telephone: 01480 406002



## Useful Telephone Numbers

<b>Street Lighting</b>	<b>0800 253 529</b>
report the number on the lamp-post, the street name and town.	
<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	<b>0800 783 8838</b>
EME	<b>0800 056 8090</b>
<b>Water Emergencies</b>	<b>08457 145 145</b>
<b>Huntingdonshire District Council</b>	
General Enquiries	<b>01480 388388</b>
Out of Hours Emergencies	<b>01480 434167</b>
Fly Tipping	<b>01480 388640</b>
<b>Jubilee Hall</b>	<b>01480 392733</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	<b>08444 771802</b>
Cedar House Surgery	<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	<b><a href="http://www.escan.org.uk">www.escan.org.uk</a></b>
St Neots Town Council	<b><a href="http://www.stneots-tc.gov.uk">www.stneots-tc.gov.uk</a></b>
Eaton Socon Health Centre	<b><a href="http://www.eatonsoconhealthcentre.co.uk">www.eatonsoconhealthcentre.co.uk</a></b>
Cedar House Surgery	<b><a href="http://www.cedarhousesurgery.net">www.cedarhousesurgery.net</a></b>
Cambridgeshire Archives	<b><a href="http://www.ccan.co.uk">www.ccan.co.uk</a></b>
Paxton Pits	<b><a href="http://www.paxton-pits.org.uk">www.paxton-pits.org.uk</a></b>
Sudbury Meadow	<b><a href="http://www.sudburymeadow.org.uk">www.sudburymeadow.org.uk</a></b>
St Marys Church	<b><a href="http://www.eatonsocon.org">www.eatonsocon.org</a></b>
Everyclick	<b><a href="http://www.everyclick.com">www.everyclick.com</a></b>
Pightle	<b><a href="http://www.eatonsoconpightle.org.uk">www.eatonsoconpightle.org.uk</a></b>
Bushmead School	<b><a href="http://www.bushmeadprimaryschool.org.uk">www.bushmeadprimaryschool.org.uk</a></b>
About my Area	<b><a href="http://www.aboutmyarea.org.uk/PE19">www.aboutmyarea.org.uk/PE19</a></b>



## 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>

### Family Olympic Fun Day

Free event with lots of fun activities  
**Ernulf Academy Sat 14th July 10am – 1pm**  
 No need to book but places may be limited  
**For more details – Tel 01480 374948 or 223348**

### Copy date for the next edition of ESCAN for news, adverts and information – 20th July 2012.

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

## Dates for your diary

### Eynesbury Village Association

21st and 22nd April  
**St George's Day Celebrations** on Eynesbury Village Green

### St Neots Sinfonia and St Neots Choral Society

Sunday May 13th at St Marys Church, St Neots  
**St Neots Arts and Music Festival**  
**Diamond Jubilee Concert and 'Last Night of the Proms'**  
 Sat Jul 2nd at St Marys Church, Eaton Socon  
**Diamond Jubilee Concert**  
 Mozart – Coronation Mass  
 Handel – Let Thy Hand Be Strengthened

### St Neots Music and Arts Festival 12th – 13th May

Sat 12th May **History Exhibition** St Neots Church 10am-4pm

### Jubilee Celebrations in the town

see posters on the notice boards and the St Neots Town Council website – [www.stneots-tc.gov.uk](http://www.stneots-tc.gov.uk)

### Sue Ryder Woofs and Wellies event (Shuttleworth)

A sponsored family event on Sun 27th May at 11am with each four legged friend taking home their own goodie bag and medal  
 For more information - call Danielle on 01767 642412 or email [danielle.brandon@sueryder.org](mailto:danielle.brandon@sueryder.org)

## Textile Bank

Have you found the new textile bank at Tesco Express? If not, why not go and have a look. Money raised from these textiles 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.

## Eaton Socon Ex-Service Club

More members wanted for this club with great facilities in School Lane with a hall, a snooker table and a pool table. If would like to join this friendly club or find out about its wonderful facilities which can be hired for functions please contact 01480 356870 or mail [esesc@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:esesc@hotmail.co.uk)

## Knitting and Crochet Club

If you wish to join this fast growing group please contact Angela on 01480 405639. All ages welcome.

## 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 14th May      Mon 11th Jun      Mon 2nd Jul**  
**Mon 6th Aug      Mon 3rd Sep**

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 ●

Welcome to another copy of ESCAN, your free community newsletter from the Eatons Community Association (ESCA).

2012 is a year full of celebrations with St Georges Day in Eynesbury, May Day in Eaton Socon, the Queens Diamond Jubilee and the Olympics. But there are also the Eaton Socon Church's 80th birthday celebrations and the 50th birthday for the 1st Eaton Socon Guides and Scouts.

Keep a look out in the newspapers, on the village noticeboards and the town website for great events for everyone to enjoy.

Hope to see you there,  
**Sue, ESCA Chairman**

## Currency Card

**Travelling abroad is a fun and exciting experience, but getting currency can be laborious and expensive.**

Not any more! There is a new way to buy and spend currency that means you won't go back to funny money, travellers cheques or just making do with your everyday card (and often getting badly stung by doing so).

**Do you want to help your community at the same time? If so then log on to [www.escan.org.uk](http://www.escan.org.uk) and follow the links to get your First Premier Travel Card and to help ESCA. This card is the smarter way to carry travel money abroad.**

## T NEAT STREET July 2012

This popular event is now in its ninth year with Blackwood Rd in Eaton Socon winning last years competition. It is now time to enter your street for this year's competition so get together with your neighbours and enter for Neat Street 2012. Streets will be judged on (1) the absence of weeds on kerbs and gutters, (2) no litter, (3) maintained front gardens or frontages and (4) unobstructed pavements. Contact ESCA by phone or email and enter your street by June 8th. Longer streets can be split into smaller sections.

## ESCAN Deliveries

A very big thank you to three more people who have kindly 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 please let ESCA know. Your efforts are very much appreciated.

*Do you know someone who has a special celebration coming up?*

**How about buying them a truly unique gift?**

For a donation (minimum £30) the bells of Eaton Socon will ring out in celebration of the special occasion. A commemorative certificate and a bottle of bubbly will be presented to that special person to mark the special occasion.

Is this the answer to your present buying worries?

Contact Wendy on 212563 or Sue 476068  
([sue.spencer1959@ntlworld.com](mailto:sue.spencer1959@ntlworld.com)) for further details.

All proceeds will go to St Mary's Church "Use your talents" fundraising initiative.

## Celebration Weekend

**Come celebrate with us at the 80th Anniversary since St Mary's Eaton Socon was rededicated after the great fire!**

### EVENTS ON SATURDAY 23rd JUNE

**Flower Festival in the Church, 10am-4pm**

Entry: £1 per person; children under 12 free

**A Musical Celebratory Event @ 7.30pm**

£3.50 including refreshments

### EVENTS ON SUNDAY 24th JUNE

**Service of Celebration 'Songs of Praise' @ 10.30am**

followed by refreshments

**Celebratory Lunch: Hog Roast - Catered by 'Day's of Buckden'**

Sunday 24th June from 12:45pm - 2.30pm

Adults: £10; Children £7.50

Entry by ticket only (purchased before the day)

**Flower Festival in the Church, 1pm-5pm**

Entry: £1 per person; children under 12 free

**Eatons Open Gardens**

Programmes from village green 1.45 - 5pm

To book your tickets for either the Concert or Hog Roast, contact the Church Office on (01480) 352154

## 1st Eaton Socon Guides Celebrate 50 Years

Guides have been meeting in Eaton Socon since 1962 and this year we have a special programme of activities to mark our Golden year.

The year has kicked off with a visit to Northampton for the Pantomime in January and there are many more things planned including a visit to our World Centre, Pax Lodge, in October. In August we are having a special camp holiday where we will be joined for some of the activities by the 1st Eaton Socon Scout Group, who are also celebrating their 50 years.

Our actual birthday is on November 1st and we are warmly inviting anyone who has been a Guide with us to come along to meet up with old friends. There will be a party at the Scout Hut, Mill Hill Road, St Neots, PE19 7AQ at 7pm.

There are currently spaces for girls who are interested in joining. We meet each Thursday 7pm-8.30pm and run a varied schedule of activities. For more information or to get involved with Guiding again please email [1steatonsoconguides@gmail.com](mailto:1steatonsoconguides@gmail.com)



**Stop press news** – Just as we go to print we have heard that Carolyn Hare (guide leader) is one of the Olympic Torchbearers – she will be carrying it through Bury St Edmunds on 7th July. So, while the torch is carried by convoy past Eaton Socon we actually have a local girl carrying the torch. Well done Carolyn.

## Bell Ringers wanted

Do you fancy ringing bells – Eaton Socon needs more bellringers so if you would like to continue the English tradition of 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



# The Pightle Millennium Green – Eaton Socon

We have had a quiet winter in the Pightle and not much visible work has been done since November; however the committee have been very busy on a revised bid for the AmeyCespa Landfill Fund. Hopefully the bid will be successful, and if so, two of the objectives we have is to replace the rickety name boards with a more appealing and useful information board, and we also hope to replace a damaged bench and increase seating areas. I should be able to give more information regarding the bid in the summer issue, though I'm hoping that by then we will have the funding in place and the information boards will already be in situ.

During November 2011 the Pightle was one of the beneficiaries of Waitrose's Community Matters Scheme and we would like to say a big thank you to everyone who gave their token to the Pightle. In January we have received a very welcome donation of £387 from Waitrose.

We would like to expand our website and include more photos of the Pightle. Can you help? If you have any photos of the Pightle, or flowers/insects etc within the Pightle and would like them to be included in the website please send them to the email address below. Please include your name on the bottom of the photo and age if under 18.

Depending on the weather and how Spring progresses this year we are looking for volunteers to help with hay raking the top third of the Pightle. Raking will only take one day maximum, if we get sufficient volunteers. If you are interested in helping please contact Sue Jarrett or myself to put your name down and obtain more details.

And don't forget to come along to our AGM in May where you can find out more about what is happening.

## Bev White

Chair – The Pightle Millennium Green  
Tel: 01480 353054 email: bev.pightle@yahoo.co.uk

Or

Sue Jarrett  
Tel: 01480 216065 email eatonsca@gmail.com

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

## Pightle AGM

**May 28th 2012 7pm**  
**at St Mary's Church, Eaton Socon.**

## St. Neots & District Gardening Club

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

- Jan 26th **A Rampage round my Greenhouse** Mr. W. Morris  
Competition - A Decorated Egg
- May 24th **Hard and Soft Fruit Growing** Mark Ekin  
Competition - A stem of a Flowering Shrub
- Jun 28th **Tropical Presentations**  
Competition - One Rose
- Jul 22nd **Trip To Capel Manor Gardens**
- Jul 26th **Alpines and Alpine Troughs** Mrs Angela Whiting  
Competition - One Pelargonium
- Aug 11th **Flower Show**  
Little Paxton Village Hall 2.30 pm.
- Aug 19th **Trip to Cambridge Botanical Gardens** 2.00 pm.

**Contact – Chairman David Usher Tel 01480 476671**

## Eatons Open Gardens

**24th June 2012**

Last year's Eatons Open Gardens was a great success and we raised money for groups of the older residents 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 24th June, to co-incide with the Church celebrations (see page 3). All money this year will be put towards a project within Eaton Socon Church. If you would like to open your garden in aid of this very worthy cause please let ESCA know at 3 Collingwood Road, Eaton Socon, Cambs or email eatonsca@gmail.com. Tickets and programmes will be available nearer the time. Watch out in the local newspapers and noticeboards for exact times nearer the event.

## Swimming in the river

Do you fancy a swim in the river? If so, then why not join others - the local outdoor swimming group regularly swim from the Coneygeare or the Rowing Club and last summer there were swimmers of all ages in the water at the Coneygeare. The Environment Agency confirm the high quality and cleanliness of our river, and in 2010 five triathlons were held in the town bringing up to 250 competitors.

However, it is not sensible to jump off any bridge and it is illegal to swim in or near the lock at the Rivermill and the police would like to be informed if people are putting themselves at risk eg, youngsters egging each other on and people acting under the influence of alcohol.

So, if you fancy a dip to cool down then find out more about open water swimming and safety on the website, [www.outdoorswimmingsociety.com](http://www.outdoorswimmingsociety.com) or get in touch via the Outdoor Swimming Society Facebook page or e-mail [bryn.dymott@btinternet.com](mailto:bryn.dymott@btinternet.com)

## FREE Lawn Health Check



## Amazingly green lawns for surprisingly little!

ProLawnCare provide a specialist, professional service for people who are serious about their lawns

- Free Lawn Health Check an in-depth survey of your lawn
- Free Programme Proposal a unique solution for your lawn
- The finest feeds, fertilisers and weed control products available along with expert knowledge

For further information call  
**01480 812 393**  
or [emailinfo@prolawncares.co.uk](mailto:emailinfo@prolawncares.co.uk)

### Actions required in Spring

- Feed lawn with Nitrogen slow release fertiliser
- Spray lawn with selective herbicide (only if warm enough)
- Mow lawn regularly and lightly. Don't cut shorter than ¾ inches (2 cm) this month. Grass will respond better if cut little and often.

### Lawn Fact:

"lawn grass helps purify water which is entering underground aquifers. The root mass and soil microbes act as a filter to capture and break down many types of pollutants"

**ProLawnCare**

[www.prolawncares.co.uk](http://www.prolawncares.co.uk)

## 'Bee' friends with wildlife!



*'Cultivating Pride  
in our Town'*



*'Bringing wildlife  
closer to home'*

In last year's Spring ESCAN, **St Neots in Bloom** asked you all to try to help our pollinating insects by reducing your use of pesticides and planting nectar-rich flowers. Unbeknown to us, Sarah Raven was recording a BBC TV programme, 'Bees, Butterflies and Blooms', broadcast in February this year, in which she asked the nation to do exactly the same thing! She now has support from the RHS (Royal Horticultural Society) which is encouraging all 'In Bloom' groups to plant for insects. One outcome is that you should find it easier to select appropriate plants at garden centres now, as the RHS and Horticultural Trades Association has launched a new 'Perfect for Pollinators' plant label. Its good to know we can all contribute to a national campaign and help these essential insects.

Last year **Friends of Sudbury Meadow** sowed a mixture of insect-friendly annuals in the Butterfly Garden at Sudbury Meadow. Due to one of the driest Springs and early Summers on record the seeds didn't germinate properly until late July and it was September before the display looked anything like what was expected. Still, at least it supplied nectar for late flying insects. A radical re-think may have to take place this year, as the drought tightens its grip.

More successful was the trial of solitary bee nest boxes at Sudbury Meadow, sponsored by St Neots in Bloom. Three commercially available boxes and two home made ones, were mounted on a suitable east-facing fence. The two commercial boxes using cardboard tubes were definitely the most successful (available mail order). Several different species of bee used the boxes, some of which we did not identify. Did you know that there are just over 220 different species of solitary bee in the UK! Solitary bees are docile, very rarely sting and don't seem to mind being observed at close quarters, so why don't you try putting up a solitary bee nest box this year?



*Oxford Bee Company's solitary bee nesting box showing two different chamber seals, mud*

During the coming months, St Neots in Bloom will be running its Best Front Garden competition again, sponsored this year by T. L. Cobbold, with prizes of £50, £30 and £20. The Commercial Frontage (baskets and containers) Awards will also be held. Both will be judged around the first two weeks of July, but look out for more details in the coming months.




### **Alison Pearson**

Chair, St Neots in Bloom and Friends of Sudbury Meadow.  
**01480 374792** or  
email [Alison.Pearson@dpconsultant.co.uk](mailto:Alison.Pearson@dpconsultant.co.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.....



## PEGASUS CYCLE REPAIRS

Is your bike covered in cobwebs & dust?

Let us service it ready for Spring

Cycle Repairs, Servicing, Maintenance and Safety Checks

Local Collection/Delivery Service Available

phone: Terry 07969741511 or Chris 07593 264916

email: pegasuscyclerepairs@virginmedia.com

## A'Neater Hairstyling

State Registered Hairdresser

NVQ level 3 qualified

Anita Wonford

Home based or mobile service offered St Neots area

07810800856



# Need glasses?

Personalized prescription specs from just **£9.00!**

why pay more?

Buy direct from the manufacturer

(frame & lenses)

Single Vision from £9.00\*

Bifocals from £39.00\*

Varifocal from £59.00\*

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- Free NHS Specs\*
- Reglaze your own frame save ££'s\*
- Premium frames & lenses at low prices
- High/complex prescription save up to 75%
- Huge selection of frames



Just bring in your up to date prescription for a **TOP QUALITY BARGAIN!**

\*T & C's apply, ring for details. Please ensure your prescription is less than 2 years old.

### FACTORY SHOP

20 Norman Way Ind. Park, Over, Cambridge CB24 5QE

Tel: **01954 231545** or 07824 706969

Opening Hours: Mon - Fri 9.00am to 5.00pm

SPECIAL NOTE: Opening times may vary, please ring to avoid disappointment



[www.all-eyes.co.uk](http://www.all-eyes.co.uk)

## New police sergeant joins Eaton Ford/Socon

Eaton Ford, Eaton Socon and the surrounding area have a new policeman, Sgt Garry Webb, who has been an officer for ten years and is keen to meet local residents to find out the issues important to them. He brings with him a wealth of local knowledge and policing experience to lead the local team in problem solving on behalf of the people of the Eatons.



Creating a safer Cambridgeshire

## Burglary warning

POLICE are asking people to remain vigilant following a spate of burglaries in homes in the town of St Neots, including some in the Eatons.

Some ways of keeping your property safer -

- Alarms: Install an alarm - even an empty box on the side of your home can deter burglars.
- Dogs: A 'beware of the dog' sign can be enough to put off an intruder, regardless of whether a dog is present.
- Lock up your shed: Offenders often raid sheds to get their hands on tools to burgle.
- Strong communities are a deterrent for burglars: Make friends with your neighbours or join your local Neighbourhood Watch scheme. Report any suspicious activity to police.

'Bobby Scheme' - a great scheme for residents aged 65 or over - free advice for burglary victims and older people who feel vulnerable, (£20 donation towards its costs). For more information call **07866 602100** or visit [www.cpstrust.org](http://www.cpstrust.org)

## Blue Plaques to honour cycling

On 19th January 2012 two new plaques were unveiled in Eaton Socon to honour cycling within the village. First to be unveiled by Ken Fleet, a former keen cyclist and member of the North Rd Cycling Club, was the plaque at Hobbit Cottage, opposite the White Horse on the Great North Rd. This house was once used by the North Rd Cycling Club of London when cyclists would cycle from London to York along the Great North Rd, passing through Eaton Socon. One race in 1893 saw the winner of the race cover over 370 miles in 24 hours, starting at Little Paxton and finishing at Eaton Socon.

The second blue plaque was unveiled at 28 Ackerman Street where John Cecil Paget lived. He was a member of the North Rd Cycling Club, held several speed records, and was very important in the cycling world for his invention of wet weather clothing including the waterproof cycling cape. Many local people were involved in making these capes in the local area. The plaque was unveiled by Edith Fleet who once made Paget cycle capes and by Philip Jackson, who once lived in the bungalow.

Old cycles were brought to the unveiling by Veteran Cycle Club members.



## Eynesbury & St Neots TIME BANK

Time Banking is a controlled exchange of voluntary work and no money is exchanged - this is all voluntary work. You deposit time in the Bank by giving practical help and support to others, then you withdraw time when you need something doing for yourself by another member. Time can be banked to save up hours for bigger time consuming jobs. 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 members of the community and becoming involved in community projects and events.

If you are interested in voluntary work and banking the 'hours' spent so you can also benefit, then email: [timevolunteers@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:timevolunteers@hotmail.co.uk) or Tel: 07590909057 to join or for further details.

**xlpress** - Litho & Digital Printers  
01480 219356  
[www.xlpress.co.uk](http://www.xlpress.co.uk)

## Select Driving Tuition

Enjoy learning to drive !!

The Eatons and surrounding areas

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## Dates for History Groups

### St Neots Local History Association

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

- May 4th **Means of transport in old St Neots** by Rodney Todman  
 May 13th **Beating the Bounds around St Neots parish** (walk led by Don Hill)  
 Jun 1st **Turn again – The Merchant Stockers of Wyboston and London** – Prof David Stocker  
 Jul 6th **Guided tour around Great Paxton Church**  
 Aug 2nd **Guided tour around Madingley Hall**  
 Sep 7th **Aviation Archaeology in Cambridgeshire** by Julian Evan-Hart  
 Chairperson – Elaine Donaldson 01480 217492

### Colmworth & Neighbours History Society

Monthly meetings at Colmworth Village Hall at 7.30pm

- May 18th **The Air War over the Western Front 1914-1918** by Barry Tomlinson  
 Jun 22nd **1066 Health and Safety** by Stephen Carver of Cranfield University  
 Jul 20th **Castles in Bedfordshire** by Tony Woodhouse  
 Aug 18th **Church crawl by coach**, led by Roger Wilson – tickets in advance  
 Chairperson – Stephen Smith 01234 376487

### Roxton & District Local History Group

Monthly meetings at Roxton Parish Hall at 7.30pm

- May 3rd **A Poetry Reading: "Bedfordshire Life" seen through the eyes of a local poet** by Frank Batt.  
 Jun 7th **The Story of the Harrier Jump Jet** -the vertical take off plane that was tested at Thurleigh Airfield by John Shere  
 Jul 5th visit - t.b.a.  
 Sep 6th **Willington Village:** a more recent history and some influential families – by Rob Bollington.  
 Contact either P. Newell: 01234 870158 or Stella Gibbs 01480 351931

## "St Neots Riders Group"

Free cycle rides of varying lengths for all ages arranged by Sustrans Rangers, though children must be accompanied by adults. 10:30 prompt start from outside the Ambiance Café in the Riverside Park. The new St Neots cycle map is 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 or Tel 01480 889171

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# Local history Books and Information

**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 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"/> The Eatons Then and Now	tba
<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)



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## The Eatons Then and Now



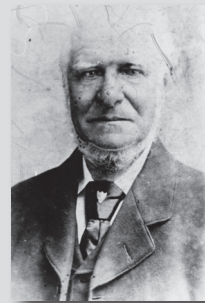
This new book has lots of photographs taken in Eaton Socon and Eaton Ford. Past photographs are compared with modern photographs and there are written explanations about each picture so the reader can identify past buildings.

This scene shows a much quieter life when the village green was the centre of Eaton Socon. There was no need to venture as far as St Neots for shopping as everything could be bought in the local bakers, butchers, general shops, sweet shops, shoemenders and the local Co-op. There were also plenty of pubs for drinking and Eaton Socon held its own annual fairs on the village green.

So why not come along over the May Weekend, buy a book and reminisce over the past with the old photographs. If you are a newer resident then buy a book and see what life was like before the fields were covered with housing.

## Wanted – More photographs for the next book

If you have family photographs that could be used in a future book please let ESCA know, or bring them along to the local history exhibition over the May Weekend Celebrations. We have very few photographs of Eatons people at work or standing outside their houses. Photographs can be scanned and given back very quickly. This photograph of George Ingle shows a man who was born at Little Paxton windmill, lived at Duloe Windmill as the miller with his family and who then settled at 204/206 Great North Rd. His son George Arthur Ingle was the last coach builder in Eaton Socon. Every photo has a story!



## Wanted - films

The St Neots Community Archive Group are collecting photographs of St Neots, Eaton Socon and Eynesbury and now have over 2,000 on the website. Now they are collecting old films and have already copied more than 7 hours worth of local films, including ice skating, the 1947 floods, rowing, dynamiting trees, the Land Army, prisoners of war and lots more. If you have a film and are happy for the archive group to copy it then please contact Sue on 01480 216065. We are planning to get shortened clips of the films on the archive website and to hold archive film sessions in the summer, so watch for further information on these events in the local newspapers.

Website - [www.ccan.co.uk](http://www.ccan.co.uk)

## MP's visit to xpress

Our local MP, Jonathan Djanogly, visited **xpress** in December and was very interested in how our local printing firm had set up and flourished in its first year of trading. The business had formed after the local printers TSGCS on the Great North Rd closed in February leaving several people jobless. After a few weeks the new printing firm had found premises and equipment and slowly the firm expanded. They are now a thriving business and still growing, ESCA wishes them well.

