



Snowy Eaton at night

Quarterly newsletter produced by your Parish Council and jointly funded
by the Jessie Hughes Village Hall

Parish Council News

Your newsletter

For the past year, we've hand-delivered our quarterly newsletter to all residents in the parish (approx. 210 households). We've also emailed it to a group called 'Friends of Eaton' (approx. 200 contacts). Since Covid began last March, we haven't had the newsletter printed: instead, we've sent it by email to the approximately 200 email addresses on our 'Villagers' lists as well as the 200 email addresses on the 'Friends of Eaton' list.

The downside is that some people in our Parish don't have email, and although we print a few for those that we know about, some miss out. **So, while we continue to send this out by email to the two lists, we've decided to put 25 paper copies in our telephone box** for those that want to pick one up for themselves or to deliver it to those not on email. If these aren't enough, we'll add a further 25.

So please feel free to take a paper copy, especially if you or someone you know doesn't have email, so that they can stay up to date with local news.

It makes sense to do the census!

census
2021

Households across Cheshire West and Chester will soon be asked to take part in the nationwide survey of housing and the population, carried out every decade since 1801, with the exception of 1941.

Information from this first digital census will help to determine how services (e.g. doctors' surgeries, housing or new bus routes) are planned and funded locally. Local authority funding from central government is allocated using the census information. It's therefore important that the information gathered is accurate and that there are high levels of responses from communities.

Examples of how local authorities use census information include:

- For policy making and council funding from central government.
- For developing local housing plans to reflect future needs; and to inform funding bids by identifying inequalities at a local level.
- For local authorities to understand the demand for public health and social care services; to identify pockets of health deprivation; and to support future care planning.
- In pupil forecasting models, to inform capital bids for education and to monitor the supply of qualified people.
- To support funding bids for road improvements and to inform planning and profiles around changes to public transport.
- To measure housing affordability and assess local housing needs.
- To help emergency services, libraries, and waste collection.
- To provide evidence for charities to use to aid funding.
- To help businesses decide where to open shops.

Census Day is March 21st 2021. Households will receive a letter with a unique access code that will allow them to complete their questionnaire online. Census liaison managers will assist with any queries. Paper questionnaires will be available on request. For more information, visit www.census.gov.uk.

Covid – local update

No sooner had Christmas finished than we entered a new lockdown. This effectively shut down all Eaton village activities, closing our already restricted village hall and also our primary school. This lockdown could be for quite a few weeks and so it's particularly important that we look out for those in our village / parish who need physical or mental support. In relation to the Eaton Buddy System, thank you to the many that keep it going. If anyone needs help with shopping etc, please get in touch and we'll find someone to help you. The delivery service offered by supermarkets and shops such as Rose Farm continues to work well. You'll find the latest list of local shops etc, along with their current hours, on the Tarporley Facebook page.

If you have elderly neighbours, or people living on their own near to you, please make some kind of contact to see if they need help or just a chat.

Village carols

Unfortunately the ‘Ticket only Carol Sing’ with entertainment, to be held in the school car park before Christmas, had to be cancelled at the last minute due to changes in Covid rules. To partly compensate, a small band of carollers (including Santa and music) visited outside eight households of people who were known to be on their own or have had a tough Covid year. Carols were sung and seem to have been appreciated.

Flooded roads



This is currently a major issue in our village and surrounding areas. We are speaking with Highways about flooding in our parish, particularly the blocked drains at the bottom of Lightfoot Lane (which cause the water flow down Lower Lane) and also the long standing problem of Sapling Lane. They promise some action but in each case major road works are required. We have stressed the danger caused to pedestrians and drivers, particularly when there is ice

on these roads. Their response is that they currently have a massive workload caused by flooding - but we'll persevere. We're also have also managed to track down the road grit bin that was on Sapling Lane and will relocate it near the cross due to recent road hazards.

Your Parish Council

Unfortunately, Amy Markham, a councillor for the past three years, is leaving the village. We'd like to thank her for her input during this time and for lowering the average age of the Council! If anyone is interested in filling this post, please contact Clerk Lindsey Worrall (details further down).

Dates for the monthly Parish Council meetings (all via Zoom on Tuesdays at 7:30pm) are 16th February; 16th March; 20th April.

Speeding through Eaton

We've continued to communicate to the police the concerns of our community about drivers speeding through Eaton. From our vehicle-activated speed sign, we've supplied the times when speeding is most likely to occur. Our local contacts are PCSO Jorge Ferreira and PC Philip Monks. In December, they were equipped with a new handheld speed gun (Trucam), which enables them to catch and prosecute these drivers (they say that a van with a radar gun can't be used on our roads as the 'straights' aren't long enough!). Covid has delayed other ideas, such as a Community Speed Watch initiative, but these will be pursued in due course.

Our Village Green

The wall by the telephone box, partly knocked down by a wagon last year, still hasn't been repaired (financed by our insurance company) and the contractor is now waiting for better weather.

With regards to the two oak trees on the Green which need 'reducing', we've finally agreed a specification with help from villager Martin Boardman. This will reduce the height and some lower branches will be removed. This cut should last for eight or nine years, which is financially affordable by the Parish Council. Previous specifications didn't address this. The contractor is being chosen now and work should commence within weeks.

Village Green leaf clearance

A very big thank you to the 15 villagers who turned out on Wednesday 4th November to fill nearly 30 one-tonne sacks with leaves. Some of the team went round to the entrance of Elm Tree Court, where a lot of leaves gather, and up as far as the church. Without this annual collection, drains would get blocked and gardens covered. Streetscene of CWaC came and emptied the sacks into their truck. Many thanks to all involved. Unfortunately, due to distancing we couldn't retire to the Smithy for refreshments from Ian and Barbara but we look forward to that next year.

Roadside hedge cut

This is the fifth year that councillors Eddie Shaw and Mike Wilson have arranged this for villagers with roadside hedges that, for road safety reasons, are difficult to cut. On 27th November, six hedges were cut by local contractor Jamie, who does an amazingly neat job. Thanks to Mary for again being on traffic control. Don't forget to look out for this next November if you'd like to join the scheme.

Eaton Youth Club

Our local Youth Club, started in 2011, hasn't happened since last March due to Covid. The club is now short of officials and leaders. Normally meeting once a week at the school, many hours of enjoyment have ensued, but with Mary and Mike now bowing out, it needs volunteers to take over as Chair, Secretary and Treasurer, as well as more helpers. This was discussed by the Parish Council. Unless a new structure is set up, the Youth Club may have to close. If you can help, please contact our Parish Clerk, Lindsey.

Eaton Play Zone

This has been much used since re-opening in July and fortunately has been allowed to stay open during this current lockdown. The duty rota was suspended at the re-start, with Mike and Mary

looking after things and Brian Oldham topping up the sanitiser gel. The rota will resume on 1st February.

Oulton Park passes

So far, there are no set plans for the distribution of annual free passes for villagers. However, we'll spread the word and notify existing pass holders when things change: nobody should miss out.

Oulton Mill picnic area

This popular parish facility has remained open during the pandemic. We get many visitors from outside our area who appreciate the wonderful view across the lake. Most are responsible and take their rubbish home as requested by the signs. Although the mown grass paths and table area looked good last year, the meadow grass area was not worked on. We hope to re-instate it this spring and to give more attention to expanding the mini fruit orchard. Anyone wanting to help should get in touch with Mike.

Waste collection (important!)

Cheshire West and Chester Council would like to hear your views on their proposed waste strategy, which will shape how the council delivers your waste services over the next ten years. This includes proposed reductions in your bin collection frequency, changes to your access to waste recycling facilities and charges for garden waste collections. Please complete the survey and make use of the comments boxes if you have suggestions: <https://bit.ly/3sWwMoz>.

PS. Green bin collections have been suspended until Feb 8th (for many residents, the first collection this year will be on Feb 15th).

Rushton Parish Chair: Neil Thompson

General Parish Council Matters - Contact the Parish Clerk,

Lindsey Worrall, at rushtonclerk@aol.com. Tel: 01829 760653.

Communications: Mike Wilson - mike.marywilson@btinternet.com

The Jessie Hughes Village Hall

The Jessie - like almost everything else - is closed and will remain so until by the government advises otherwise. We did try to reinstate classes in the autumn of 2020 - and Ballet, Pilates, Yoga and Hi-fitt Pilates all started again, but Lockdown 3 put paid to any ideas of carrying on in the New Year. The hall is being regularly cleaned and checked and we'll be ready to re-open our doors as soon as possible. With all the work done by Jan and her Covid Team, the Jessie has to be one of the most Covid-prepared buildings in Cheshire!

Talking of doors, we've taken the opportunity presented by closure to order new doors and adjacent windows that lead from the hall onto the balcony. That south-facing side gets all the weather – rain, sleet, gales, winds and summer sun (remember that?) – and the wooden door frames have warped, making it almost impossible to close the doors securely. The beading around the windows has also deteriorated and the combination of door and window gaps has occasionally allowed water to blow in, which is no good for the window sills and the sprung floor. The new frames have been ordered and should be installed by the time the hall will re-open. With much-appreciated assistance from Steve Wright, we've made a request for a grant to help cover the cost. Fingers crossed! Sadly, news of other progress is sparse to say the least.

BT

Discussions with BT about the provision of broadband are sporadic at best – two weeks ago, a BT engineer arrived at the Hall, to 'install a telephone'. By pure chance he was seen, as we hadn't been made aware of his visit. He then discovered that the nearest connection point was in Edgewell Lane! We continue to press BT and are determined that persistence will prevail!

Help needed

When we re-open, we will need a (part-time) Hall Manager. Mostly concerned with all aspects of hiring the hall out, this post will be advertised in full detail in the spring, with hours and pay details. In

the meantime, we'd be happy to have a preliminary discussion with anybody interested in finding out more. Please call Jan Freeman on 01829 730820.

Similarly, we're still looking for somebody to help us to set up a dedicated Jessie website. We'd be delighted to hear from anyone with the knowledge and/or ability required - or to point some ageing technophobes in the right direction. Please call John Freeman on 01829 730820.

Solar panels

We're continuing to look at the feasibility of adding solar panels to the Jessie roof. Our builders have confirmed that the roof is strong enough to support any panels.

We're desperate to re-open and will do so, letting everybody know, as soon as we get a clear indication that continuous usage is possible and permissible.

John Freeman

Local activities

Eaton Bridge Club



The Eaton Bridge Club last played bridge at the Jessies Hughes in March 2020. The coronavirus with its potentially life-threatening effect on the elderly has prevented face-to-face play anywhere since then. The advent of the vaccines holds out hope that play can be restarted in the foreseeable future. This play will, however, be subject to some conditions - that the instructions permitting the use of the hall aren't too hampering; that players have been fully vaccinated; and that the recommended time for the vaccine to become fully effective has elapsed. The vaccination programmes for our age groups are currently scheduled to be completed by April/May.

We hope, therefore, that if no delays occur in the implementation of the vaccination programme and/or no adverse developments occur in the ability of the virus to mutate to other, more severe forms, play at the Jessie may restart in late spring or summer.

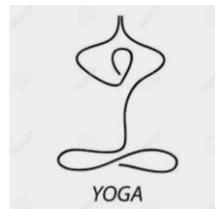
Martin Evans

Yoga



Hello Yogis,

The importance of looking after your health couldn't be greater – so we all need to schedule time everyday to exercise for our physical and mental wellbeing. Due to lockdown restrictions there are no yoga classes in the hall. However, I'm doing a Live Instagram Yoga Class every Tuesday 7pm - 8pm. You can connect with me there on your 'Stories' @yogabmcc. The class will stay available on my 'feed' for 24hrs, so you can do it in your own time.



Yoga is excellent for both mind & body. Any queries, please contact me. Take care and keep safe.

Brenda McCooey (07876497664)

Ballet



Pointe Works successfully re-opened last term, with around 100 of the 150 students returning to classes each week at the hall. Just as we were about to film the exams, classes had to go on hold again but the children worked really hard at home and on Zoom to keep their preparations on track. Thirty eight students from Years 2 to 10 took part in the exams between 16th and 20th December. I am so immensely proud of them for having the tenacity to keep going towards their goal in the face of such adversity. To train and take a Royal Academy of Dance ballet exam in the middle of a pandemic is something to be really proud of. No matter what their results are, they are all gold medallists in my eyes.

The Year 9s and 10s who took their Grade 4 on 20th December have now graduated from Pointe Works. It's especially poignant as these were the first intake of three year olds when the school opened at the hall ten years ago. I wish them all the very best and hope that they will continue dancing for many more years to come. We are hoping to re-open the doors again very soon and invite the next generation of three year old dancers to our lovely hall. In the meantime, classes are on Zoom at all the levels.

For more information about ballet classes, please email nicolle@pointeworks.co.uk.

Nicolle Higgins *Nicolle will get in touch with her students re. lockdown*

Up The Garden Path



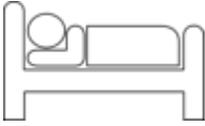
The New Year has brought changing weather: first the frost and ice, then the storm and now the snow. We're now experiencing some beautiful days but I can't see the garden for the carpet of snow. However, hopefully all the bulbs are being kept warm ready to emerge, to signal the start of a new gardening year.

The gardening group would normally be looking forward to the January AGM and social, when members bring home made chutneys and a selection of local cheeses to start the year off as we aim to continue, mainly eating and chatting! However, we're unable hold any speaker evenings at present. This will be reviewed once we know when the lockdown is due to end.

Gardening group members regularly chat via email. If anyone wants to join in the chat, or has any questions, please email lindsey.worrall@hotmail.co.uk and we can include your questions to the group. Membership of the gardening group is £20 a year. There are no other fees except for garden visit costs. Alternatively, you can attend meetings as a guest for £3 an evening.

Lindsey Worrall (01829 760653)

Tarporley War Memorial Hospital



It will come as no surprise that our wonderful hospital has been really struggling as a result of Covid. Quite remarkably, it's continued to sustain a wide range of free services for many months, supporting the NHS and our community. However, this has now become too difficult and it has had to close for the time being. The following notice was put out by the hospital in mid-January:

'Unfortunately, due to unprecedented challenges resulting from the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, Tarporley War Memorial Hospital has taken the difficult but necessary decision to close until further notice.

This step has been taken in the best interests of the hospital and with the safety and wellbeing of patients and colleagues at the forefront of our minds. Every possible action is being taken to limit this period of closure. Further updates will be provided as soon as there is more information to share.

Stay safe.

From the team at TWMH.'

Fundraising remains a formidable challenge, more than ever, and we aren't able to offer many events for you to support. Looking ahead, the Grand National is scheduled for April 10th and we run a very popular draw for this legendary race. Please purchase tickets and encourage your friends too! The tickets can be purchased on line at: <https://tarporleywarmemorialnhs.enthuse.com>.

You can also buy tickets from me if you prefer and I have books available for anyone wanting to help us to sell them. The lockdown means it's incredibly hard for us to sell tickets as normal, so please help us as best you can. Thank you so much for supporting us.

*Brian Byrne - Member of the hospital fundraising team.
(borisbyrne@btinternet.com / 01829 732255)*

St Thomas' Church



Happy New Year! I hope you had as good a time over Christmas and New Year as possible under present restrictions. The Blessing of the Crib service on 19th December at St Thomas' was Georgina's last as Rector. I shall miss her guidance, tuition and friendship enormously and I am sure that you will all want to wish her peace, health and happiness in whatever endeavour our Lord has planned for her.

Looking forward, the search for the 50th Rector is well under way. There is, as you might expect, a process to be followed. We're blessed in this parish with a proactive and committed PCC, led by dedicated church wardens. Together they have worked to set the legal process in motion, along with the requisite appointment committee and preparing the Parish profile.

You may be wondering how you can help during the transition period. There are three hugely important things that you can do. Firstly, support Rosemary and Mike as far as possible, for as churchwardens the legal responsibilities fall upon their shoulders at this time, together with the accompanying stress! Secondly pray often and without ceasing that our Lord sends us the person that he knows will be the best fit. Finally, please continue to support St Thomas' and St Helen's when they are open again, in accordance with any measures for safety and wellbeing. I'm licensed to the parish and will strive to continue the established service pattern. I've put together a service rota and whilst you'll see a lot more of me, you'll also see some much-loved faces returning to help occasionally.



We continue to have so much to thank our Lord for, even in dark days, for we know how the story ends. Let us press on this year and continue to petition the Lord, with thanksgiving, and may we all enjoy his peace that is beyond our understanding.

Julian Osborne (Curate)

Mid-Cheshire Foodbank

The hugely successful Christmas Foodbank appeal organised by St Thomas' resulted in donations of nearly 300 items in 27 carrier bags and two boxes - a truly generous gesture acknowledged in this email from the very grateful manager of the warehouse in Winsford: *"Please could you pass on our thanks to the people of St Thomas's Church and the village of Eaton, who donated 96.7 kg of food and toiletries today. This will be a great help during the festive period, as we are seeing a significant increase in the number of people using the Foodbank. Thank you very much and I hope you all have a lovely Christmas and New Year."*

And thank you John and Jan for agreeing that The Old Barn could be the dropping-off point.

Mike Scott, Warden

Eaton Reading Group



The book we read for our December online discussion was 'To the Bright Edge of the World', by Alaskan author Eowyn Ivery. The group all enjoyed this book. It really did take you to the edge of the world, with a 19th century Alaskan expedition into the interior, following their discoveries and hardships. Alongside this ran a second story of the wife left behind, who was exploring the newly burgeoning subject of photography, in her case ornithological. The third strand of the story took the unusual form of including letters, documents, newspaper clippings and journals, sent by a 20th century relative of the explorers to an Alaskan museum. It was a book which, alongside the thrill of exploration, illustrated the despoiling of a landscape for profit.

Our January read couldn't have been more different. 'Girl, Woman, Other' by Bernadine Evaristo was a joint winner of the 2019 Booker Prize. It follows the very differing stories of 12 women. Most are black and most live in the UK. Throughout the book, each character has a different story, a different voice, and a different place in society. But each story has an engrossing

storyline about identity.

This book is written in a very different style, considered by some as refreshing and by others as disjointed. Although there is a strand loosely joining the characters, it could just as easily be dipped into. The group's response was divided: some loved it others were not so moved... but it did make you think!

Next month we'll be reading 'A Wrinkle in Time' by Madeleine L'Engle. This is a category of book we haven't read before, so we look forward to doing so.

Tina Peel 732904

The Drays Coffee Shop eaton drink @ THE DRAYS



The sun's not out ☹️

The sky's not blue ☹️

But we've got hot drinks and cakes for you! 😊

Open Wednesday to Saturday,
10am - 2pm.

See you on your 'Daily Exercise!'

PS. If you have any of the following, please get in touch: stationery; diaries; note pads; tampons; face wipes; baby wipes; toothpaste; hair brushes. These will help us to provide essential toiletry bags, sanitary/self-care bags, and maternity hampers. There are so many women in need at the moment. Thanks.

Anne Kelly

Eaton Rambling Club



Despite Covid, we were able to have a walk in December, so we've had four walks in five months. The November walk should have been led by Richard and Jane Potton, but the mini-lockdown came in the week before and the walk had to be cancelled. Just in time, as restrictions lifted, Mary and Mike were able to hold the Christmas Walk on Sunday 6th December.



Seventeen walkers split up into three groups and, remaining socially distanced, followed each other through the lovely Budworth Common, finally entering the north side of Little Budworth and then back to the cars. It was then a short drive to the Egerton Arms for a wonderful meal of baked

potatoes and a variety of fillings. Thanks to landlord Mike and family for holding tables for us and giving quality service and food. The walk included a meet with lovely 'Christmas decked' horses and riders, a BYO mulled wine stop and the now normal search for the secretary's husband (who once again took the wrong turning saying that all trees look the same). All agreed that it had been a great event and so good to catch up with news without looking at a screen.

As soon as restrictions are lifted, these monthly walks will continue. If you'd like to join the Eaton Ramblers, please get in touch. Bring a packed lunch to eat on route. I try to give details of the type of walk, length (4-7 miles usually) and whether there are any obstacles like stiles/steep hills. All walks initially meet in the Jessie Hughes car park (unless otherwise specified) at 9.45am on Saturdays and 10.15am on Sundays. However, as we can't car share at the



moment, walks will usually start from the walk location (directions are given in the email). Keep well and keep walking.

Gill Ellison (Secretary) - 01829 782693

Eaton WI



Well, it's that time again when I should be reporting on what Eaton WI have been doing - and again we're unable to meet due to this awful pandemic. I hope everyone enjoyed Christmas and New Year as best as you could under the circumstances. We were hoping to have been starting our meetings early this year but it isn't looking good at the moment with the number of cases increasing and this new Covid variant.

We're having regular updates from our Cheshire Federation of WIs and a number of Zoom meetings have been set up for members. The details have been circulated. The speaker at the CFWI Zoom meeting in January was Jacqui Felix-Mitchell, a member of the Chartered Institute of Horticulture and RHS Garden Design Consultancy. On 10th February at 7pm, the speaker will be Dr Jackie Bell, a Senior Teaching Fellow at Imperial College, London. She appeared on the documentary series 'Astronauts', and her dream is to follow in the footsteps of Tim Peake and Helen Sharman to become an astronaut. On 25th February, the speaker will be Katie Awadas, talking about living with endometriosis. I hope that Eaton WI members will join these Zoom meetings while we're unable to hold our own meetings at the Jessie Hughes.

I also hope a lot of our members have now had their first dose of the vaccine, which will enable some sort of normality to resume in our lives. We look forward to the day when we can get back to meeting again in the Jessie Hughes in the not-too-distant future.

Eaton WI welcomes visitors to the meetings: we normally meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 7.30p.m. If you require any further information, please contact our Secretary Celia Gregory on 01270 528647 or myself on 01829 733639.

Dianne Ouseley (President)

Eaton Primary School



Although Christmas was different in 2020, the children at Eaton school still managed to celebrate it - with parties in their bubbles, online pantomimes and, of course, the recording of this year's nativity concert, which they were able to enjoy at home with

their families.

We welcomed the children back on 4th January, before once again most were asked to stay home. The teachers were ready, though, and from the next day we started remote teaching. Each day, the children have several videos made by their teacher and live sessions to keep them learning and connected to the staff and their classmates. They are set a range of activities to balance the amount of time spent online, yet giving them the information they need. Families have been supported where needed with access to technology. School continues to be open for children whose families are critical workers. We continue to be impressed with the resilience and positivity of our whole school community.

This is the first full term since we formed the Sandstone Trust, a union of Eaton and Tarvin Primary Schools and Tarporley High School. Staff from the three schools are working together to share practice, discuss curriculum opportunities and to enhance the move to the secondary school. There is also much mutual work in areas such as administration and managing the school estates – which are supporting us in achieving even more for our children. The advantages of combining with our local secondary school are now coming to the fore. If families with children would like to know more, they would be more than welcome to contact us for a chat.

We are so much looking forward to welcoming the rest of the children and staff back into school - once it is deemed the right time to do so. We wish all of our local community well.

Andrew Davies (Executive Headteacher)



Many thanks to all of our contributors and distributors.

Deadline for contributions to the next newsletter:

Mon 26th April, 2021

Phil Allcock, Editor (phil@phila.co.uk)

