

EYNESHAM

Council & Community

NEWS

Issue 22 – December 2016 - January 2017

NEW TRICKS

West Oxfordshire District Council hopes allocating 3200 new houses to Eynsham will help rescue its Local Plan. *Richard Andrews reports*

WODC have published the changes to their Local Plan, ‘on hold’ since January when the independent examiner rejected it out of hand as not including enough new homes district-wide. He also made it clear that WODC had to respond positively to Oxford City’s ‘unmet housing need’ which was formally agreed at the end of September.

WODC have included the **2200** home ‘new village’ (named Tilgarsley after a hamlet north of Eynsham wiped out by Plague circa 1345) **and** added **1000** houses to the west of the village of which only 450 are for Eynsham’s needs.

Finally, WODC will allow **160 houses off Thornbury Road** as a way to drag up their ‘5 year land supply’ – currently less than 3 years and the main reason they are unable to fend off opportunist developers anywhere in the district. *Read more on page three...*



Meantime, Pete Jones (right) signs off 30 years at the Queens Head with Gavin Robinson (20 years of Fridays) – image © Dave Hunt



*Spectacular moves at the new Skate Park
- image © Alix Harrington*

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A better world in 2034?

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As I write this, my granddaughter Ella is approaching her first birthday. What do I wish for her when she becomes an adult? In Korea they have a special ritual – a doljanchi or ‘grab table’- to predict this. In front of many guests, the one year old, dressed in traditional costume, is placed in front of a table adorned with objects depicting different professions, such as a stethoscope for a doctor or a book for an academic. Whichever object the young child chooses predicts their future career.

I’m not so interested in Ella’s future profession but I am concerned about the kind of world she will inhabit on her 18th birthday. How will the crises we face today be resolved? What new challenges will we face? My dream is that the next generation will be a society that manufactures tractors rather than weapons; gets its energy from renewable sources rather than fossil fuels; and where policies are based on hope rather than fear. I wonder what hopes each of you has for your children and grandchildren?

2034 seems a long way in the future but if we want to ensure a positive future for the world, we need to start planning and preparing for it now. Remember that the UK has still not signed the Paris agreement on climate change! GreenTEA are hoping to screen the French film ‘Demain’ (‘Tomorrow’) in Eynsham in February. Why not come along and be inspired by the way local communities across the world are tackling climate change and preparing for that brighter future?

Helena Nielsen – Chair of Green TEA

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visit <http://issuu.com/eynsham1/>

Local stories, snaps and snippets are always welcome - and corrections also, thanks! Next issue will be out on 30 January – copy deadline Friday 13 January.

- Editor Joan Stonham, 28 Beech Road Eynsham: OX29 1LJ: eynsham.news@gmail.com
- Distribution coordinator Pam Breeze: 01865 880725
- Advertising/sponsorship Sandy Hellig: 07551 876285, email sandy.hellig@gmail.com
- Treasurer Tom Smith: thomasmithwm@gmail.com

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eynsham futures

West Oxfordshire District Council hopes allocating 3200 new houses to Eynsham will help rescue its Local Plan – *continued from page one.*

Access via Thornbury Road, directly opposite Bartholomew School, is strongly opposed by the Parish Council, local residents and is contrary to the Neighbourhood Plan.

Cynics may think WODC's leaders have 'written off' Eynsham as somewhere to put all their planning problems to protect other parts of the district – The Eynsham Futures Group (ESFG) takes no view – but WODC has real problems to solve in a very short time-frame. ***Is this being done at Eynsham residents' expense? You must decide for yourselves.***

Residents replying to last edition's questionnaire voted 80/20 against fighting the Tilgarsley idea but 96% thought the A40 should be improved first – an idea WODC regard as a non-starter. Some claim the survey is unrepresentative with only 150 responses – you can still complete it or do it again in the light of recent changes online at <http://bit.do/ENP-Q2>* and we will keep recording your feedback.

Concern seems less for Tilgarsley, where new residents at least have a choice whether or not to buy a house if there is limited infrastructure. There is more alarm that our willingness to support significant expansion to meet the pressing need for new homes seems to have been taken as the green light to build over every scrap of land west of Eynsham!

HERE'S HOW WE CAN ALL MAKE A DIFFERENCE! WODC's plan is now out for consultation. You have until 23 December to make comments which the Inspector will see and we encourage **everyone** to do so, putting forward the reasons why WODC's plan for Eynsham won't result in them building the houses they need and harming the village.

HOW CAN I DO THAT? HELP IS AT HAND!

There are a lot of complex issues and many people simply do not have the time to understand them. We have a guide on the EPC website:

<http://bit.do/ENP-WODC>* where you can pick the issues that you think most important and copy-and-paste – ideally putting in your own words if you can spare the time – then follow the link to the WODC 'feedback' site. Please be aware that just saying it is a bad plan and they are being unfair won't have that much impact! You have to focus on what is wrong and why.

* type these 'shortened' links into your web-browser – saves us space, less typing for you.

AND THERE IS MORE – THE A40 THIS TIME! OCC are putting their plans to improve the A40 out for consultation on 6 December giving you 6 weeks to respond. You can find this issue discussed in more detail and how to respond at <http://bit.do/ENP-OCC>*

SO WHAT ARE EFSG GOING TO DO NEXT?

We have a lot of feedback, including from the all-day event on 19 November, to collate and use to update the plan to send it to 'statutory consultees' such as English Heritage, Environment Agency, utility companies, etc., as part of getting the plan finished. With all this development going on, it will be even more important to ensure it is done well and to residents' requirements.

We will also keep talking to WODC. Speaking personally, it's hard not to feel taken advantage of, but more can be gained by helping WODC overcome its problems in ways that minimise harm to Eynsham. We know what you want from all our consultations with you. Hopefully, our local knowledge can improve WODC's plan but, if they insist that so much new development must come here, we may be back in the next edition asking you if we should spend some of the Parish Precept on a legal challenge to the plan.

We have put answers to the questions you have been asking on the Parish website – find them at <http://bit.do/ENP-FAQ>*

Contact Richard Andrews on 01865 880106
or email to eynsham.futures@gmail.com



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Vicar: vacancy - see page 15
Church Office & Secretary: Jan Macdonald
21 High Street 01865 883325
email stleonards_stpeters@btconnect.com

SUNDAY SERVICES

Holy Communion 09.00, Morning Service 10:45, Evening Service 18:00

WEEKDAYS Monday Prayer Meeting 07:00,
Wednesday Communion 09:30

ST PETER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

www.stpeterseynsham.org.uk
Parish Priest: Father Mark Lagorio 01865 881613 /
stpeterschurcheynsham@gmail.com
Retired Priest: Fr Martin Flatman 07719 646790

SUNDAY SERVICE Sunday Mass 10:00
Saturday Mass of Sunday 17.00

EYNSHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

Minister: Revd Zoltan Biro 01865 881670
Church telephone / answerphone: 01865 882203
Church Secretary: Denise Launchbury,
82 Shakespeare Road 01865 881128 /
eynsham.baptists@btinternet.com
Church Treasurer: Bob Thiele 01865 426203
SUNDAY SERVICE with Junior Church 10:30; Songs of Praise
2nd Sunday of month 15:00.

You are warmly invited to any of the Christmas services featured on page 18 this month.

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Contacts

Allotments: John & Sara Bannister, 01865 880324

Bartholomew School: Witney Road, 01865 881430

Carnival: see page 14

Chemist: Lloyds Pharmacy 64 Acre End Street,
01865 881283

Childcare: Health Visitors, 01993 881887

Chiropody: Baptist Church Hall 2nd Monday,
01865 880871

Dentists: 4 Cassington Road, 01865 880047

Dogs: WODC, 01993 861020

Electoral Services: WODC, 01993 861410

Fire Station: Station Road, 01865 881337;
emergencies 999

Flooding: early warning 0345 988 1188; sandbags
WODC 01993 861000 (out of hours 0845 3039706)

Gas: enquiries 0845 835 1111, leaks 0800 111 999

Grass Cutting: Parish Council, 07956 901622

Hazeldene Close: open space and street lights
Remus Management Ltd, 0121 766 1480

Library: 30 Mill Street, 01865 880525 - *plus wi-fi*

Market: St Leonard's Church Hall, 01865 880928

Medical Centre: Conduit Lane, 01865 881206

Noise: WODC, 0151 3432945 (24 hours)

Pest Control: WODC, 01993 861060

Planning: applications WODC 01993 861420

Play Areas: Parish Council, 07956 901622

Playing Fields: Management Committee Sue Brown,
01865 464267

Police: Village Hall Back Lane, incident reporting 101,
emergencies 999

Post Office: 39 Mill Street, 01865 881159

Power cuts: 105

Primary School: Beech Road, 01865 881294

Recycling: District Council, 01993 861025

Road Repairs: Oxfordshire Highways, 0845 310 1111
- emergency reports only

Social Care (OCC): 0845 050 7666,
emergencies 0800 833408

Sports Centre: Back Lane, 01865 731090

Street Cleaning: WODC 01993 861020

Street Lights: 24 hour fault line 0800 317802 - page 8

Toilets: Back Lane Car Park, 01249 822063

Waste Collection: WODC, 01993 861020



Local councils

EYNSHAM PARISH COUNCIL (EPC)

Richard Andrews (Vice-Chair): 01865 880106

Jane Baldwin: 01865 435129

Gordon Beach (Chairman): 01865 880979

Andrew Bickley: 01865 884496

Sue Brown: 01865 464267

Patricia Crowley: 01865 731303

Peter Emery: 01865 731199

Ross Macken 01865 882415

Andy Mosson: 01865 880889

Sue Osborne: 01865 880285

Nick Relph: 01865 464264

Dennis Stukenbroeker: 01865 880609

Mark Zumbuhl: 01865 422207

Email formula: firstname.lastname@eynsham-pc.gov.uk

PARISH CLERK Rachel Faulkner, 1 Glovers Close

Woodstock OX20 1NS: 07956 901622

email epc.clerk@eynsham-pc.gov.uk

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL (OCC)

Charles Mathew: 01865 882205

County Hall: 01865 792422

WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Peter Emery: 01865 731199

Edward James: 01865 731009

Peter Kelland: 01865 880028

Council Offices: 01993 861000

Your chance to ask why?

A public meeting in Eynsham Village Hall on Monday 5 December at 19:30 will be attended by the leaders of OCC, WODC and Oxford City Council and the Chief Executive of Oxfordshire Local Economic Partnership – so an opportunity to hold those responsible to account for decisions affecting Eynsham's future.

Halls for hire

Baptist Church Hall:	07900 066471
Bartholomew Room/Sports Pavilion:	07956 901622
Music Room:	07971 529242
Primary School Hall:	01865 881294
Red Lion:	01865 882903
Scout Hall:	01865 881787
Social & Sports Club:	01865 881234
St Leonard's Hall:	01865 880107
Tolkien Room & garden:	01865 881613
Village Hall:	01865 881624
White Hart Function Room:	01865 883093

Seasonal recycling

Once the gifts are opened, the mince pies are eaten and the needles are dropping from your tree, don't forget that most of your Christmas waste can be recycled! Normal waste collection dates slip a little, understandably: from Wednesday 28 December to Friday 30 December; and Wednesday 4 January to Friday 6 January.

- Extra recycling: leave in open cardboard boxes or clear bags on your collection day. Glass must go in your recycling box.
- Extra food waste: leave out your kitchen caddy for weekly collections too.
- Festive greenery: real Christmas trees, holly, ivy and mistletoe can be put out as garden waste (remove decorations, pot, wire etc.). You don't need to be signed up for garden waste collections – simply leave out on your next green collection date, Wednesday 18 January. Trees over 4ft/120cm must be cut in half.

Recycling service changes are coming in 2017 – more information from WODC on 01993 861020 or www.westoxon.gov.uk/bins2017

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“If winter comes, can spring be far behind?” – Percy Bysshe Shelley. Image © Sue Osborne

Our great outdoors

*Sue Osborne, Chair, Fishponds/Footpaths Committees.
All Council contact details are listed on page 5.*

Footpaths Committee members completed their biennial walk of all the rights of way in the parish and sent their findings to OCC's Countryside Service in October, for information and action.

Our latest project is to record all the gates, stiles and footbridges on every right of way on the Photo Map at Eynsham Online. We hope this will have several benefits:

- Each “obstacle” will be documented and the photos can be updated as necessary (e.g. if a broken stile is repaired or a footbridge deteriorates)
- A note will be added to the spreadsheet each time we report any damaged or broken stiles, etc., in the two years between submitting each spreadsheet so that we can monitor improvements (or otherwise)
- People using the parish rights of way can assess for themselves whether a particular route may be available to them, as they can see what obstacles, if any, exist on the ground
- This may enable us to create more routes suitable for people of all abilities in the future.

On the latter point, we have contacted OCC to ask whether the footbridge on the Wharf Stream Way can be made more accessible, as the high step and rail cause problems for some users.

The sculpture at the point where the Way crosses the dismantled railway is now complete and looks amazing. Do go and take a look if you can.

Some funds are available to help us with improvements to Footpath 206/5 (from Bitterell to Mead Lane), so we very much hope that you will see some smartening up of the Thames Water entrance soon...

For a printed map of Eynsham's footpaths and rights of way, go to Eynsham Online > Village Info >

Village A–Z > Footpaths. As always, we welcome all your feedback. Please feel free to contact me or other members of the Committee.

AT THE FISHPONDS, I am delighted to report that I was unable to spot any dog poo (not even the deposits which are bagged up and hung from trees) when I carried out the September and October inspections of the site! Let's hope this trend continues.

We shall be organising some Fishponds working parties over the winter and spring; please keep your eye out for dates and come along if you can. We are aware that some mature trees need attention at the site. This work is in hand and should be carried out soon.

Grateful thanks to the Eynsham Open Gardens group, who sent us a cheque to pay for wildflower seeds at the Fishponds. We hope the results will be visible next year!

Unfortunately, we have not been able to make any headway with the proposed dry stone walling project this year, but we are ever-hopeful that we might be able to arrange some working parties to start in 2017.

Planning for people

Dennis Stukenbroeker – Chair, Planning Committee and Transport Representative

2,200 houses here, a 1,000 houses there. All in Eynsham, of course. But what are we actually building? Lots of houses, but will any of this be a community?

As chairman of the Parish Council planning committee, and the transport representative, I get invited to an increasing number of conferences on planning, housing, transport, infrastructure and stuff. I try to go if it's free and I can get there on my OAP bus pass. Usually the best things are the coffee and biscuits, but I did take home some things from a recent one with the meaningless title of 'Place-making'.

In West Oxfordshire District Council's draft local plan, we are invited to comment on the importantly sounding West Eynsham Strategic Development Area. This is 'around 1,000 new homes by 2031, a proportion of which (550) homes will contribute towards meeting the housing needs of Oxford City while the remainder (450) contributing to West Oxfordshire's own identified housing needs'.

Included in this proposed expansion of the village are two existing developer-led projects, the 77 home Eynsham Nursery and Garden Centre site and the 160 home development off Thornbury Road. That's 237 houses – that's it, just houses. The Parish Council objected to both of these, but mostly on physical infrastructure and access grounds. Our concerns were for the additional traffic through the village, not for the people who would have to live there.

The draft local plan promises 'a new western link road for Eynsham serving the new development and also providing a strategic road connection from the A40 to the B4449 to the south'. However, this will likely be delivered long after the 237 houses have been built and occupied.

Meanwhile, these new residents of Eynsham will have to crawl in their cars down an extended Old Witney Road or try and force their way out of Thornbury Road and join the traffic on Witney Road to get to work, school, go shopping, and everything else. As suggested by the 'Place-making' speakers, these new residents, living in large developments cut-off from the village as a whole, will make their social connections off-site and these estates risk becoming just dormitories for people with limited opportunities to interact with their neighbours. We on the Parish Council should have paid more attention to the social infrastructure, or lack of it.

The proposed Tilgarsley Garden Village, according to the draft local plan, will provide better physical infrastructure such as roads, schools, local employment, 'recreational and shopping facilities' and a neighbourhood centre 'of a suitable scale'. The development is 'to be phased in accordance with the timing of provision of supporting infrastructure and facilities'.

But this is going to go on until 2031. We should also think about the social infrastructure here. If Tilgarsley is developer-led and funded, there are going to be a lot of people living there a long time before everything gets built. The 'Place-making' conference PowerPointed the horrors of living in a perpetual building site. Naming it after an abandoned medieval plague village is not very auspicious.



Residents continue to ask how the plans for a village-wide 20 mph limit are coming along. Following advice from Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) the Parish Council paid to have average speeds monitored on the roads. You may have noticed the black boxes at various points around the village when this was done before the school summer holidays.

The established principle is that roads with average traffic speeds over 24 mph require speed-reducing measures in addition to speed restriction signs. This is because police action is not considered a practical way of enforcing 20 mph zones which therefore have to be largely self-enforcing because drivers keep their speed down in response to the road layout.

Fortunately only a few areas in the village have average speeds above 24 mph so we only have to introduce changes in a few key areas to make the village a 20 mph zone. We have been advised that 'speed cushions' (as in Merton Close) rather than the humps in Spareacre Lane or Acre End are far the most cost-effective technique but Parish Councillors are not convinced this is the only or best approach for Eynsham. Discussion will continue at the Traffic Advisory Committee meeting on 10 January.



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Bartholomew School



Paul Stammers reports on neighbourhood planning links and student transport; and a vacancy on the governing body.

Image © Graham Rice

The governors continue to monitor closely the ongoing discussion about new housing in and around Eynsham. The proposed 'Garden Village' north of the A40 would have a significant impact on school life, as would new homes on the Witney side of Eynsham. Members of the governing body are attending public meetings to hear the issues being raised as the development plans evolve.

Governors are also continuing to urge the County Council (OCC) to rethink its policy on bus transport from Standlake to Eynsham.

OCC says most students from Standlake are not entitled to free transport because Henry Box school in Witney is slightly nearer than Bartholomew. Standlake School has always been one of the catchment schools for Bartholomew and is a founder member of the Eynsham Partnership Academy (EPA), so at the moment the EPA is subsidising the service.

However, budget pressures mean this cannot be a long-term solution. It is not clear how long the OCC-run bus service will be maintained anyway. The EPA regards the council's stance as flawed, saying OCC will not make major savings if the authority has to provide transport to Witney as well as Eynsham.

Bartholomew staff and governors are lobbying county councillors and officers in an effort to resolve the issue – parents will be informed of any breakthrough.

The school has a vacancy for a community governor and is seeking applications. Governors act as 'critical friends' to the senior leadership team and provide valuable input into decision making about the curriculum; they monitor students' achievement and review exam results. They also help to allocate financial resources to keep the school safe and fit for purpose. If you are interested (or wish to suggest someone), please email office.4054@bartholomew.oxon.sch.uk

Debating points

Parish & District Cllr Peter Emery

On 26 October the WODC Draft Local Plan was debated at length by a number of speakers, including myself. I made it clear that there needs a clear separation of Tilgarsley (Garden Village) from Eynsham; that all of Oxford City's 'unmet need' should go to Tilgarsley; and that the strategic site to the west of Eynsham for 1000 homes should be removed.

The debate lasted almost three hours and the draft plan was passed for public consultation (copies are now in Eynsham Library and online, public exhibition in St Leonard's Hall on 12 December from 14:30–20:00).

Now you may ask why, across three different parties, were councillors voting for a plan that is clearly flawed? Why the haste? Why not try again to write a more acceptable plan? Here is why:

If, by 17 March next year, the WODC plan has not been 'made' – passed as fit for purpose and satisfactory by a Government appointed inspector – HM Government may decide to appoint consultants to write a local plan for us. The cost re-charged to the District Council would be in excess of £1.5 million. And Government might add even more housing at that time.

Until A Plan is in place, we shall continue to have 'development by appeal' as developers forge ahead with their plans, relying on planning appeals and a little number called the NPPF to allow them to build pretty much anywhere. So 17 March is looking tight as a target, even without a re-write at this stage.

There is now a six-week public consultation and it has never been more important for the public to engage in the process. What is being proposed is a dramatic change to this village. I urge you to read the relevant parts of the plan, come to the public exhibition and PLEASE give feedback.

If I can help in any other way – just ask.

In brief

BT propose to remove two local payphones, at Witney Road (5 calls in last 12 months) and Wytham View / Hanborough Road (2 calls). The listed box beside the Bartholomew Room is not affected. Please send any comments to the District Council by Friday 23 December:

community.development@westoxon.gov.uk

Top marks to OCC for the new disabled access to Eynsham library, installed as part of the automation project. In an unexpected move, they open on Mondays now – closing on Tuesday instead.



A message from Sgt Liz Bell on double parking, pavement parking, etc. around the village

Dangerous and inconsiderate parking is an ongoing challenge and the neighbourhood team welcomes your support in finding effective solutions. I would hate to see anyone taking the wrong type of action – avoid confrontation at all costs! – but here are some safe ways to help:

- Report any incidents, with full details and photos if possible, to Ron Hollis on 0777 046 6237 or our office in the Village Hall
- Download our 'Pavements for People' stickers from @eynsham-nag.org for use on windscreens as needed; and report offenders to the team as before, to tackle on your behalf. Thank you.

The Neighbourhood Team are also running another 'have your say' session on 25 November in the Bartholomew Room from 10:00–12:00. Do come and have a word if you're around.

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Home front

Volunteer befriender Elly Wastie reports on Christians Against Poverty in Eynsham

St Leonard's church became a partner with Christians Against Poverty (CAP) in May 2014. Eynsham residents now have free access to the CAP debt centre at 33A High Street Witney; and to local CAP money coaches via phone or email.



CAP Debt counsellor Margaret Biddlecombe (above) offers free, confidential debt counselling at home with a volunteer befriender. Short budgeting skills courses are also available. Befrienders and CAP money coaches in Eynsham are volunteers and worship with St Leonard's church family.

The award winning charity Christians Against Poverty has 20 years of experience, working to tackle the main causes of poverty – debt, unemployment and addiction – through 576 church based projects across the UK. Call 0800 328 0006 for Debt Help and for Money Course enquiries visit @CAPuk or email jenniferclarke362@gmail.com

Can we help?

Bartholomew Educational Foundation and Eynsham Consolidated Charity make grants in confidence to local people. The next Trustees' meeting will be on 28 November, then every 3 months after that. Please write well beforehand if possible to Robin Mitchell, Clerk to the Trustees, at 20 High Street OX29 4HB or email robinmitchell255@gmail.com

EYNSHAM GOOD NEIGHBOUR NETWORK offers free volunteer help with odd jobs around your home: please feel free to call us on 07443 564516.

EYNSHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD CAR SCHEME provides transport for health care appointments: ring one of our co-ordinators on 07469 764174.

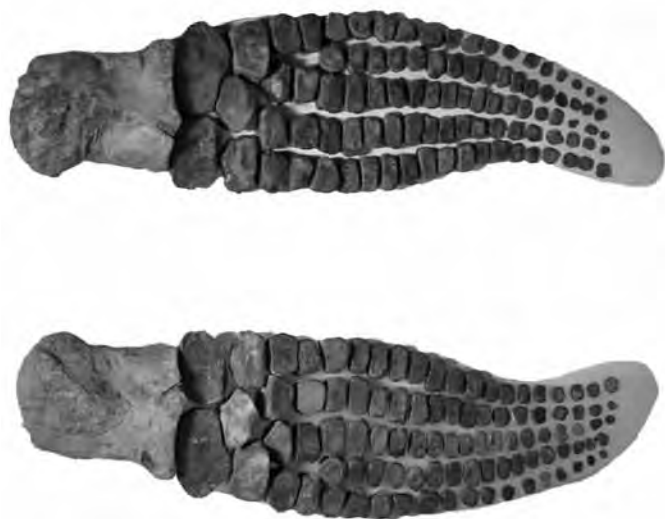
Back to the future

Mark Zumbuhl finds high tech live and well in Eynsham

Playing a board-game recently, we found one of the pieces was lost. It would have been great to just push a button and get a replacement. This kind of thing now can be done by 3D printing, which creates objects by gradually building up layers of material.

ThinkSee3D, one of the new wave of companies exploring such technologies, is based right here in Swan Street. Founded two years ago by Steven Dey, it has attracted more than passing interest for the variety of objects in the window – and successful work experience placements too. “But ThinkSee3D really took off when we were commissioned to do some work by the British Museum”, Steven explains.

From a project creating half-scale pieces for visitors to handle, the company has gone on to restoring complex Assyrian works and African rock art. They can use photographic techniques to effectively reassemble smashed objects, or visualise entire towns. Scanning can reveal secrets like ancient writing sealed in canopic jars, or the last meal of an ancient mummified crocodile (cow, it turns out).



Considerable investment in equipment was needed. Once the scans or designs are turned into a 3d model in the computer, patience is needed too: the machines print about an inch of material per hour.

Currently, much of their work is with museums – both human history and archaeology and projects such as an ichthyosaur for Birmingham Science Museum. The firm has also worked on medical projects for a podiatrist and graph visualisations for an economist.

As more designs become available for internet download, or photogrammetry software allows people to generate their own 3D models, it is likely that printed objects will become common – from custom bike parts to that replacement hi-fi knob which you can't find for sale online. Have a look next time you pass, or check the website.



Renée Watson wishes you a curiously crystalline Christmas

We have all seen the resurfacing of the roads around Eynsham Co-op, but have you ever wondered at the science of a road? The longest running experiment, a massive 84 years, examined the drip rate of Pitch, a type of tar! Setting aside the startling dedication to such a mundane test, I was shocked to realise that our roads are liquid – very thick and slow moving but liquid nonetheless. This brought a new appreciation for the upkeep of roads. It also reignited my fascination with materials. From old school Pitch to incredible new materials like Graphene Aerogel, our world, and some scientists say our survival, relies on innovative materials.

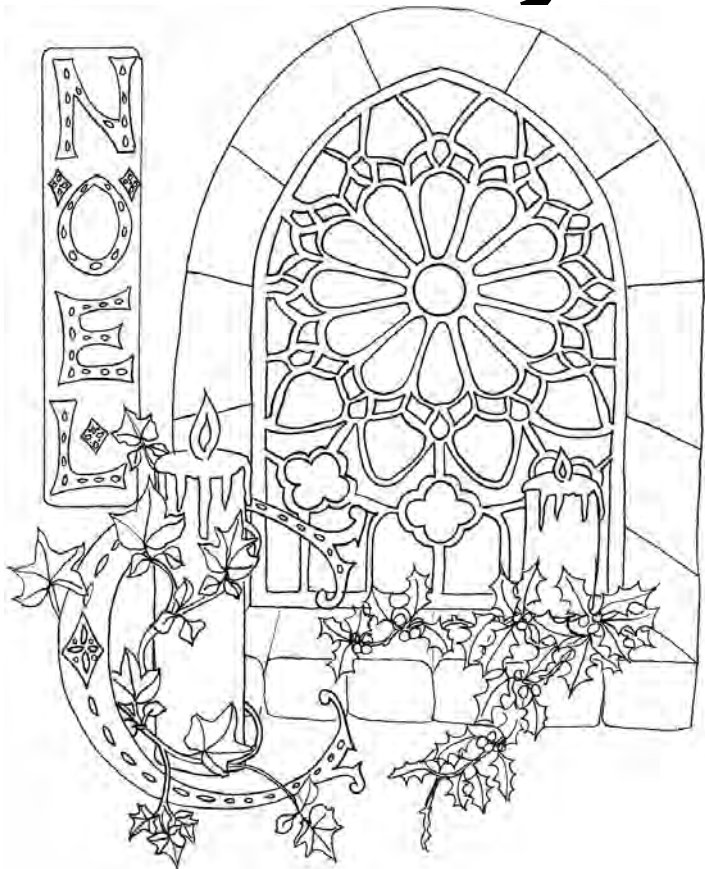
One of the things that make materials so useful is their crystal structure: the particular arrangement of atoms in the material that gives rise to its properties. Iron oxide, for example, lines up its atoms into a cube, so its crystal structure looks almost exactly like dice. When we understand the crystal structure we can work out how to make materials stronger, more durable, more flexible or whatever characteristic we want it to have.

As a student I learned how proteins in your body behave and how their crystal structures could help us find cures for disease. It was fascinating to learn that common nutrients, such as calcium, have a specific protein built into your cells that moves the nutrient in and out. The crystal structure of the calcium transporter allows us to see exactly how the calcium connects and moves around. This same technology lets us see how medicines work, or in some cases stop working.

In the lead up to Christmas we hope to be surrounded by some of the largest and most exciting crystals... ice crystals in the form of snow! If you want to explore crystals with your kids, try our special edition Christmas Curiosity Box! A Nano box for just £9.95 makes a brilliant Christmas gift. See what we are all about at curiosity-box.com or dare to tread the new liquid road and drop in to HQ behind the Co-op!

We would also like to offer readers of Eynsham News a Christmas gift of a £5 off voucher from the Curiosity Box shop. Just use this code EYN5off.

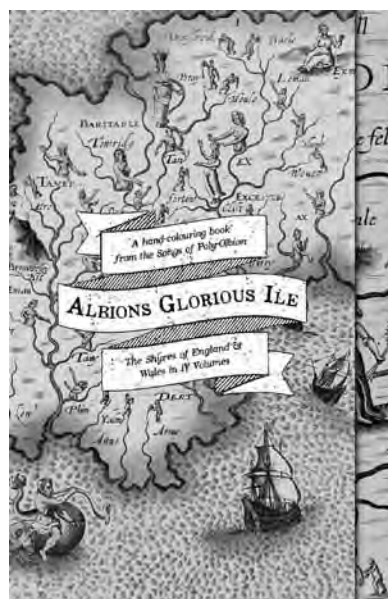
Over to you



Thanks to Laraine Saedi for this seasonal contribution to our Colouring Corner – available to print off online. “Now I am retired from teaching I seem more aware of the changing seasons. I also have more time to indulge my interest in art and jewellery making. This drawing was inspired by stained glass and manuscript letters. I hope you enjoy colouring in the detail using your own vibrant colours; you could even add a touch of gold.”

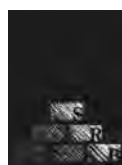
A TIME OF GIFTS: Monday 16 January is the day for our annual delivery of home-made soup to The Gatehouse Charity for homeless people in Oxford. Gatehouse clients average 365 a week and 46% of them are rough sleepers. Numbers are increasing every quarter, so the soup will be much needed and well used.

Eynsham has been providing a week’s worth of soup to this very worthwhile cause for several years, in addition to the regular visits from our Gatehouse Volunteers (next date 11 December – warm gloves, caps and scarves welcome). If you would like to join our numbers and make up to two litres of soup, please contact Margherita Pierini for more details on 01865 880923 or email margherita@pierini.co.uk



This new colouring book – Albion’s Glorious Isle – was compiled by local resident Anne Louise Avery and is available from Amazon or Waterstones. Adult colouring books are not the novelty they may seem, says Anne. Henry Peacham’s *Compleat Gentleman* (1622) advised that the basics of hand-colouring were easy to learn, and highly beneficial:

“I could wish you now and then, to exercise your Pensill in washing and colouring, which at your leasure you may in one fortnight easily learne to doe: for the practise of the hand, doth speedily instruct the mind, and strongly confirme the memorie beyond any thing else,”



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Grave concerns

Local undertaker Annie Green highlights a consequence of so many new homes being allocated to Eynsham

“If and when you are faced with the bereavement of a family member and resident of this village, do you assume that your loved one will be buried, or have cremated remains interred, in your local churchyard or village cemetery?”

“I have been asking this question for over 10 years and the resounding answer has always been YES! So what are your thoughts if I say NO, you cannot be buried in Eynsham, the nearest place will be Witney Cemetery, for which your ‘out-of-parish’ fees will be almost £2,000?”

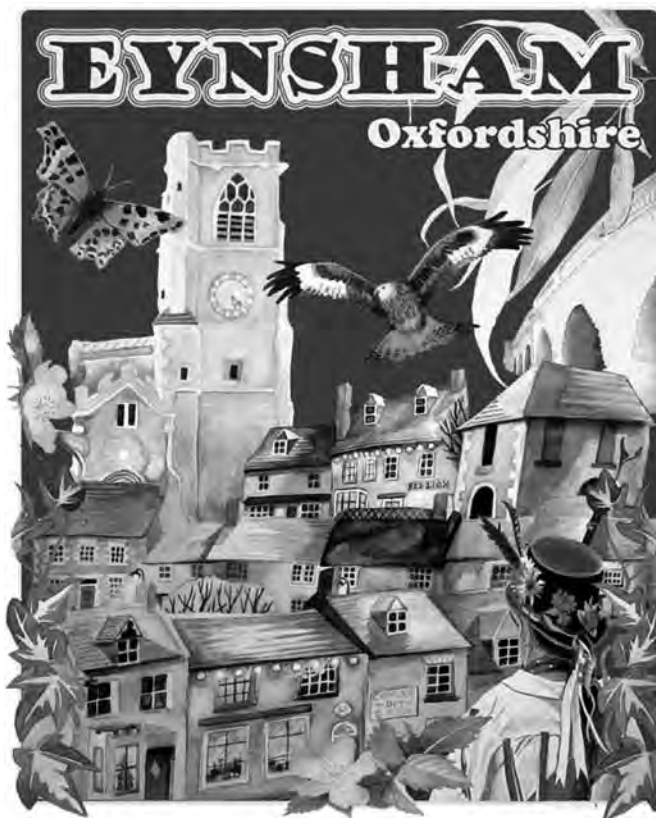
“St Leonard’s Churchyard is nearing capacity for full burials (unless a grave is re-opened or reserved). Yet no alternative is available as yet and there is a distinct lack of responsibility for the dilemma we face.

“Eynsham Parish Council assures me they have proposed a new burial ground/cemetery whenever a major planning application is lodged with the District Council; but they keep being turned down.

“So if WODC insists on building more and more homes, they seriously need to address how these new and existing families bury their loved ones with respect and dignity.”

Eynsham Parish Council comments: We share Annie Green’s frustration. We are in continuous discussion with landowners and over the last 10 years have built up over £50,000 to buy a new burial ground. This should easily buy 3 acres of agricultural land; but with building planned around Eynsham pushing prices to £1m per acre or more, no one is willing to sell to us at a price we can afford.

We urge every resident to support the Neighbourhood Plan’s provision for this pressing need at next year’s consultation.



Washing up after Christmas dinner will hold no terrors if you invest in one of these 100% cotton tea towels, though they make striking gifts for far-flung friends as well. Designed in the village by Jane Tomlinson (who else?), made in Britain and on sale at Eynsham Emporium while stocks last.

Warm congratulations also to Jane on her latest venture in mapping. Her painting of the shipping forecast, entitled ‘Attention All Shipping’, scooped top prize in a competition run by the British Cartographic Society – which she finds particularly amazing as she has no training in the discipline!

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People



Following a recent appeal to Eynsham residents for volunteers to help organise Eynsham Carnival, we are delighted to announce that a new larger committee has now been formed. Many people have also volunteered to be Friends of Eynsham Carnival, to help with the organisation and running of the event on the day.

Most long standing committee members have stood down after years of service and the new committee thanks them for their fantastic contribution to our community.

Eynsham Carnival 2017 will be held on Saturday 1 July and is expected to be similar to previous years with the shirt race, floats, procession, activities, events, craft fair and fun fair on the field. We are looking to involve more local groups and organisations, not to join the committee, but to be involved in carnival and be included in the parade, put on a demonstration, or run a fun event for children (or grown ups!), etc.

We would very much like to hear your ideas so please come along to Eynsham Village Hall on Saturday 3 December from 14:00–16:00 to find out more, meet members of the committee and contribute your ideas, or email: eynshamcarnivalandcraftfair@gmail.com



Eynsham is famous for its long and unique tradition of English Morris dancing. All members must have lived in the village at some time in their life, making us one of only two sides in England to achieve this closeness and the camaraderie that goes with it.

If you would like to be part of this local tradition, why not join us during the 'closed season' (October to April) on Tuesday evenings from about 9-ish till closing at The Newlands Inn. Have fun, keep fit and make new friends!

Our first two Morris workshops of 2017 are on Saturday 21 January and 18 February from 14:00–16:00 in Eynsham Baptist Church Hall. More info from Robin Saunders: 07814 062819/ robinsawn@hotmail.com

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Oxford Road Skate Park (photo © *Alix Harrington*) is an outstanding example of how much can be achieved by a small group of youngsters with the right attitude and support. Two years after airing the subject, they have a facility that is a real credit to community effort, with official launch and memorable moves and BBQ on 9 September supported by Eynsham Rotary.

The Parish Council is immensely grateful to Community First for co-ordinating the grant and planning applications; to funding from WREN – FCC Community Action Fund, Rotary Club of Eynsham, Cottsway Community Fund and the Doris Field Trust; and to all the hard working supporters – with a special mention for Eynsham Youth Centre. Over to you now, guys! Those waste bins were put there for you...



Congratulations to Audrey McCormick (7), whose drawing of her favourite animal won this class at the Village Show and features at @eynshamvillageshop.info

After wanting one since age two, she finally has a baby bunny called Nibbles. She says ‘my brother Arthur and I chose the name as he nibbles on everything, when we cuddle him he chews holes in our jumpers’. Mother Tess says we so loved joining in with the village show for the first time this year, we’ll definitely be back! Laura Emberson came a worthy second with a fabulous giraffe and Gideon Sheils won bronze for his turtle.

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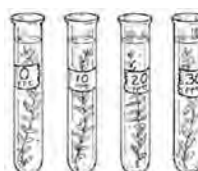


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Recreation



BARTHOLOMEW PLAYERS' production of *Yes, Prime Minister* runs from Wednesday 30 November to Saturday 3 December at Eynsham Village Hall. With all the political intrigue and changes that have prevailed over the summer of 2016 in the UK, they decided this would be a relevant and entertaining play. Tickets £9/£8 at Evenlode DIY or on the door; Friday charity supper show with Eynsham Army Cadets £18 in advance only from Denise Santilli: 07721 744020 or bart.players@gmail.com

CHRISTMAS WREATH MAKING: another joint venture from the Eynsham churches, Friday 2 December 19:00–21:30 in the Baptist Church Hall. Tickets £5 including refreshments and materials from Ruth Lockwood: 01865 881871.

EYNSHAM ARTS GROUP members will be producing their own unique interpretation on the theme 'Reflections' in the form of original artwork representing their musings and contemplations as well as mirrored images of people, places and things. As always expect a distinct diversity of subject and style from these talented local artists – including original paintings, both framed and unframed, and an array of cards and prints, all at very affordable prices. The show runs from 19–27 November in the Bartholomew Room.



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EYNSHAM CHORAL SOCIETY Christmas concert will be held in St Leonard's Church on Saturday 3 December at 19:30. We are singing Vivaldi's Gloria, Schubert's Mass in G and Vaughan Williams Fantasia on Christmas Carols. The conductor is Stuart Dunlop and we shall be accompanied by soloists and the Oxford Ensemble. Tickets £12 (£10 concessions) from Eynsham DIY or email eynshamcs@gmail.com

EYNSHAM CHURCHES HOLIDAY CLUB: Summer may feel a long way off but will come around soon enough. Book the dates now for the "Maker Fun Factory" from 24–29 July 2017 in Eynsham Village Hall and Scout Hall. Contact eynshamhc2016@gmail.com



EYNSHAM COMMUNITY CHOIR invites you to come and join in a big carol sing-in on 8 December in St Leonard's Church at 20:30 – and raise funds for Eynsham Day Centre too. Contact Anne Ryan on 01865 880858 or eynshamcommunitychoir@gmail.com

EYNSHAM COUNTRY MARKET will be holding a Christmas market in The Emporium on Saturday morning 26 November and free tastings on 1 December. Our last market of 2016 will be on 22 December – we reopen on Thursday 2 February 2017. *Sue Butler-Miles*

MATURE MOVES: This popular class meets on Thursdays in term time from 11:30–12:30 in St Leonard's Hall. It is designed to give you a good workout – but at a gentler pace – so ideal for the active retired. We move to music of all types, both seated and standing, to promote muscle strength and balance (reducing falls as well). Come along, have fun and make new friends! Just £4, first class FREE, supported by Age UK. Contact *Ohven Radburn: 01993 773432*

PARENT & TODDLER GROUP: stay and play fun for preschool children and their carers is open Wednesday and Friday in term time from 09:30–11:00 at the Baptist Church Hall, cost £1.50 per family. Running for at least 30 years, some parents remember coming themselves as children! We encourage free & active play with the kind of bulky toy you can't use at home, such as Little Tike cars, trikes, a trampoline and slide, as well as puzzles, role play and arts & crafts. Drop in anytime or contact Anna Parrinder on 07800 818625.



Image © Harold Jerred

ROTARY CLUB OF EYNSHAM: Thanks to everyone who supported our annual Charity Race Night at the Village Hall last month. We all had a great evening, a delicious meal and some of us even came out ahead in the betting! Rotary certainly did, raising over a £1000 for local projects (have you visited the new Eynsham skate park?) and Rotary causes, including sending a Shelterbox out to the people affected by the hurricane in Haiti.

Our next major event is escorting Santa and his sleigh on his tour of local villages – outline below.

- Monday 12 - Eynsham East
- Tuesday 13 - Eynsham Central
- Monday 19 - Eynsham West
- Tuesday 20 - Eynsham - Spareacre/North

We expect to be helping him on his way between 18:00–20:00 each evening (reindeer permitting!) – look and listen out for them! *Tessa Hammond*



VIOLIN MASTERCLASS: Saturday 3 December in the Music Room from 10:00–17:00. Professor Andrew Sherwood from Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music & Dance London will be working with the talented violin students of Eynsham. Prof Sherwood has performed as a soloist and conductor across Britain and abroad. He is in high demand as adjudicator for music festivals and kindly

agreed to this visit when some of our students met him at Chipping Norton Music Festival in March. This is a great opportunity for everyone with an interest in the violin to see a master at work.

Hannah Laurens: 01865 882880

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Sunday 11 Dec

15:00 Songs of Praise

Wednesday 14 Dec

10:15 Nativity Play for the under 5s

Sunday 18 Dec

18:30 Carols by Candlelight

Christmas Eve – Saturday 24 Dec

23:30 Midnight Communion

Christmas Day Sunday 25 Dec

10:00 Family Service

01865 882203

www.eynshambaptistchurch.co.uk

St Peter's Catholic Church

Christmas Eve – Saturday 24 Dec

17:00 Mass

(especially suitable for children)

23:30 Carols by Candlelight

00.00 Midnight Mass

Christmas Day – Sunday 25 Dec

10:00 Christmas Morning Mass

New Year's Day 1 Jan

10:00 Mass

01865 881613

www.stpeterseynsham.org.uk

St Leonard's Church of England

Sunday 4 Dec

17:00 Christingle

Monday 12 Dec

18:30 Scouts and Uniformed Carol Service

Sunday 18 Dec

18:00 Carols by Candlelight

Christmas Eve – Saturday 24 Dec

17:00 Crib Service

23:30 Midnight Communion

Christmas Day – Sunday 25 Dec

08.30 Holy Communion

10:00 All Age Christmas Service

01865 881323

www.stleonardseynsham.org.uk

The Three Churches

Thursday 8 Dec – Oasis Carol Service

14:00 at Eynsham Baptist Church

Monday 12 Dec – Carols

13:30 Day Centre 15:00 Beech Court

What's on

November



- 19–27 **Reflections**, Bartholomew Room 11:00–16:00
 25 **Have Your Say**, Bartholomew Room – page 9
 27 **Litter Pickers**, Baptist Hall 13:45 – *last of 2016*
 30 **Bartholomew Players** – page 16

December

- 3 **GreenTEA**, Eynsham Emporium 10:30–12:00
 3 **Eynsham Carnival**, Village Hall (small)
 – page 14
 3 **Choral Society**, St Leonard's Church – page 16
 4 **Acoustic Club**, White Hart 20:00: 01865 731787
 5 **PUBLIC MEETING**, Village Hall 19:30
 – page 5
 1 **History Group**, St Leonard's Hall 19:30.
 Liz Woolley, *Beer, sausages and marmalade.*
 7 **Eynsham Society**, Village Hall 20:00.
 Christmas Party. Enquiries: 01865 880563
 8 **OASIS** Carol Service & Tea,
 Baptist Church 14:00
 10 **Community Cinema** – page 18
 11 **Gatehouse Volunteers**: 01865 881346
 12 **PUBLIC EXHIBITION**, Draft Local Plan
 – page 9
 13 **Women's Institute**, Back Lane Car Park 18:15.
 Christmas party. Enquiries: 01865 882011
 20 **Eynsham Futures**, Bartholomew Room 19:30
 21 **Carers' Group**, Eynsham Emporium 11:00.



- 22 **Blood donors welcome**, Village Hall
 13:30–15:25 and 16:15–19:30. Tel: 0300 123 23 23

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January

- 1 **Acoustic Club**, White Hart 20:00: 01865 731787
- 7 **GreenTEA**, Eynsham Emporium 10:30–12:00
- 10 **Traffic Advisory Committee**, Bartholomew Room 19:30 – page 7
- 10 **Women's Institute**, St Leonard's Hall 19:30. Hugh Granger, *How our language evolved.*
- 11 **Garden Club**, Village Hall 19:30. AGM
- 13 **Eynsham News** copy deadline – page 2
- 17 **Eynsham Futures**, Bartholomew Room 19:30.
- 18 **Carers' Group**, Eynsham Emporium 11:00.
- 19 **History Group**, St Leonard's Hall 19:30. Russell Cherry, *The Oxford Canal.* Enquiries: 01865 882400
- 20 **Arts Group**, Bartholomew Room 19:30. AGM
- 21 **Morris Workshop**, Baptist Hall – page 14
- 22 **Gatehouse Volunteers**: 01865 881346
- 28 **Community Cinema** – page 18

Haiku

another cold day
but the good news is... somewhere
trying to rise up
like the dead leaves fingering
the wet edges of a ditch

– Catherine Baker

These listings are open to all community groups and we welcome photos too. Other pages are always open for stories and snippets, comments and corrections – see page 2 for contact details. Next issue will be out on 30 January – copy deadline Friday 13 January.



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A prediction for 2017? No, Will Hazell's riff on the robbers, rabbles and riots from Eynsham Record at localhistoryisawesome.co.uk

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