

# EYNSHAM

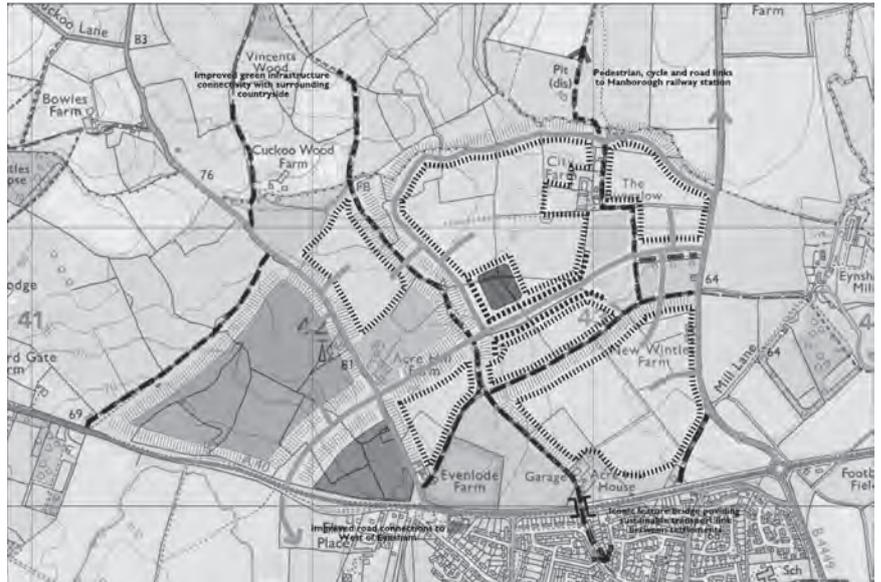
## Council & Community

# NEWS

Issue 23 – February-March 2017

# TOUGH CHOICES

*Organic farmer Robert Crocker reflects on the District Council's proposed 'Garden Village' site – "possibly West Oxfordshire's best kept environmental secret".*



I feel I have lived a charmed life to date, doing the job I love as farmer and custodian to a part of the landscape that epitomises rural England. So it is now with deep sadness that I view its future in the light of hugely ambitious development proposals – starting with a 'Garden Village'.

The countryside to the north of the A40 (including WODC's proposed 'Garden Village' site) is the beginning of the ancient 'Wychwood Forest' Royal Hunting area extending across to Charlbury, the Wychwoods and on to Burford (Gateway to the Cotswolds). It is currently Oxford's 'Green corridor' into West Oxfordshire and makes an interesting and beautiful transition from the Thames Valley to the rolling countryside beyond. The 650 acres I farm extend from the A40 Eynsham roundabout up the hill to Freeland, through the valley, past Church Hanborough to Long Hanborough and across to North Leigh Common. We farm organically and the whole farm is under a Nature First, 'Higher Level Stewardship' scheme and serves as an oasis for wildlife alongside the more intensively farmed, neighbouring land.



The area between Eynsham and Freeland is of particular significance, with its many small fields, large

mature hedges, majestic oaks and diversity of ancient meadows, wetlands and wooded areas. The jewel in the crown is the 250 acres of City Farm, which is possibly West Oxfordshire's best kept environmental secret.

Here an impressive list of 90-plus species of birds have been recorded, an array of wild flowers (including Devil's-bit Scabious) as well as very rare arable plants such as Field Woundwort and Annual Knawel, which have helped give the farm "Site of European Importance" status.

City Farm serves as the epicentre for nature, with lightly managed wildlife corridors, radiating out to the countryside beyond. The loss of any part of this unique habitat will imbalance an ecosystem that has avoided the ravages of modern farming of the last 60 years. *Read more on page 2.*

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*“Loss of any part of this unique habitat will imbalance an ecosystem that has avoided the ravages of modern farming of the last 60 years” ... continued from page 1*

Two footpaths pass through the farm; one from Eynsham to Church Hanborough, the other to Freeland. In spring, the deafening chorus of birdsong is a joy to hear. The farm is still a favourite haunt of the cuckoo, because of the reed warblers nesting in profusion. It is as though one is stepping back in time to a bygone era.

The valley and streams which terminate with the City Farm wetlands (a nature reserve in themselves) serve as flood attenuation for the whole area to the north, where 100's of new houses are now planned. With each new house and subsequent interference with the areas hydrology, an unquantifiable flood risk to those downstream is being initiated. Proposals to build as far north as City Farm (in my opinion as current land manager) is a very risky strategy.

This is a landscape that deserves protection, not development. Thank goodness there is now a viable and possibly better alternative at South Leigh. *See page 3.*

## Opportunity 2017

The Eynsham News team needs a features writer/ editor (or three), to keep us all informed about the lesser-known and more intriguing goings-on around the village. Arts, music, theatre, food, sport, wildlife – we're open to suggestions. Why not get some recognition for your expert knowledge?



*Would you like any suburbs, or just the bill?*

Eynsham News is an equal opportunity project, with hours as flexible as you like. We get paid in fun and we'd love you to join us – please give it a go.

If regular, long-term commitment is not for you, that's not a problem. Just contact one of us whenever you have thoughts or suggestions – not necessarily long or deep – and encourage friends and neighbours to get involved as well. Make these columns your own!

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## EYNSHAM NEWS

is published by a local, not-for-profit voluntary group, set up solely to produce a community newsletter of broad general appeal. Free delivery to every household is arranged by volunteers. Eynsham News is also online, for family and friends around the country and overseas:

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

Local stories, snaps and snippets are always welcome - and corrections also, thanks! Next issue will be out on 27 March – copy deadline Friday 10 March.

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# eynsham futures

**EYNESHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN** is out with various consultees and we welcome comments from village residents as well. As we said last time, the closing date is 31 January so you don't have much time.

We have pushed ahead so that our plan is ready to go to WODC for formal consultations as it will carry more weight at the public examination of WODC's own plan, with which we still disagree.

It's a fine balancing act – our plan has to conform with WODC's plan which isn't finalised yet so we have to be as close as possible while still insisting on a couple of really important points for the village, e.g.

- Not building south of Chilbridge Road.
- Planning all the Eynsham developments and the A40 work as one project not 2 or 3.
- If a Garden Village goes ahead, then focus all the effort there not west Eynsham.

Our case to WODC is <http://bit.do/WODC-1> \*\*

## One thing *is* certain, nothing is certain yet!

**HOW MANY GARDEN VILLAGES DO WE NEED?** No sooner does one Garden Village get government blessing than another appears a couple of miles down the road! The new proposal is located between South Leigh and the A40, so it's mostly not in our patch, but it has all the 'features' listed in West Oxfordshire's own version. In some ways it could be easier to deliver as there is only one owner, virtually no existing houses and easy access to the A40 but we all know how we felt when the news broke for us, so the last thing we should be saying is "let's dump all our problems on South Leigh." It's called Barnard Gate Garden Village – details are at <http://bit.do/BGGVa> \*\*

Government funds and an alternative location should concentrate minds to ensure the Garden Villages are well designed as both will want to be first with a good workable design.

It's unlikely that both proposals could go ahead at the same time – not enough builders for a start, let alone the A40 chaos. There is a risk that the one that isn't built now will come round again in 15 years time when there will be yet another tranche of 'unmet housing need' to cope with. This begins to look like a continuous conurbation from the edge of the Oxford Green Belt to Witney which we and, we must hope, WODC will want to prevent.

**WE LIVE IN INTERESTING TIMES!** We still have to concentrate on our own Neighbourhood Plan and doing what we can well. We are aware that many

*\*\* These short links make typing simpler but they must go in the address bar at the top of the screen not into Google which does not recognise them.*

people are frustrated by issues like the A40 and the sheer number of new homes which the NP cannot control directly. The Parish Council does lobby WODC and OCC to get some local knowledge and common sense into their plans but the remit of a NP is quite limited. If you read the ENP at <http://bit.do/ENPv13> \*\* you will find the things we can directly control in the blue boxes and those things which we cannot control, but are important, are in green 'Recommendation' boxes.

**PLEASE HELP US DECIDE.** The village has a choice to make - a 'western bypass' will mean building houses south of the Chilbridge Road on a field popular with walkers (and dogs) but the road will take some through traffic away from Witney Road and Acre End Street. Which do we go for – less traffic or our closest circular country walk reduced to round-the-houses, crossing the new road twice? So far we think loss of countryside outweighs reduced traffic but is this what the village wants? – email or phone us with your view. See: <http://bit.do/WODC-1> \*\*

**CONTACT:** Richard Andrews – 01865 880106 or email to [eynsham.futures@gmail.com](mailto:eynsham.futures@gmail.com)

**MAKING SENSE OF IT ALL:** with so much going, it's easy to be confused. Two ways to help:

- Our **FAQ** answers: <http://bit.do/ENP-FAQ> \*\*
- **Discuss** the issues with other concerned residents at Eynsham-Futures on Facebook



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# Eynsham churches

## ST LEONARD'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND

Vicar: vacancy  
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.

Book the date! Eynsham Churches Holiday Club 2017  
"Maker Fun Factory" July 24-29. Enquiries to Chris  
Sugden: eynshamhc2016@gmail.com

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# Contacts

**Allotments:** John & Sara Bannister, 01865 880324

**Bartholomew School:** Witney Road, 01865 881430

**Carnival:** see page 16

**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, see page 11

**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  
Katy Crowe: 07711 994417 – page 6  
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](mailto: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](mailto: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

Recycling service changes are coming in 2017 –  
more information from WODC on 01993 861020 or  
[www.westoxon.gov.uk/bins2017](http://www.westoxon.gov.uk/bins2017)

## Halls for hire



|  |              |
|--|--------------|
| <b>Baptist Church Hall:</b>              | 07900 066471 |
| <b>Bartholomew Room/Sports Pavilion:</b> | 07956 901622 |
| <b>Cricket Pavilion</b>                  | 07872 103262 |
| <b>Music Room:</b>                       | 07971 529242 |
| <b>Primary School Hall:</b>              | 01865 881294 |
| <b>Red Lion:</b>                         | 01865 882903 |
| <b>Scout Hall:</b>                       | 01865 881787 |
| <b>Social &amp; Sports Club:</b>         | 01865 881234 |
| <b>St Leonard's Hall:</b>                | 01865 880107 |
| <b>Tolkien Room &amp; garden:</b>        | 01865 881613 |
| <b>Village Hall:</b>                     | 01865 881624 |
| <b>White Hart Function Room:</b>         | 01865 883093 |

## Weather watch

*Grant Paton reports from Odell Cottage – live updates at [www.odellweather.co.uk](http://www.odellweather.co.uk)*

Overall 2016 was slightly warmer (2%) but much drier (19%) than average. The first half of the year was wetter than average but the second half was very much drier. Overall, the temperature was much the same as in the past two years but each year was drier than the previous one. In 2016 there were 164 days of rain with an annual total of 545mm. January was the wettest month with 73mm of rain and July the driest with 10.5mm. There was a maximum wind gust of 49.4mph on 1 February.

The warmest month was July with an average temperature of 18.2°C, with the hottest day on 19 July when the temperature reached 33.9°C. The coldest month was February at an average of 5.5°C. However, the lowest temperature was on 30 November at -6.0°C.



## OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

As conditions demand, OCC has regular gritting runs along main routes through the village – Acre End Street/High Street/Oxford Road, Hanborough Road/Mill Street, Station Road – and the bypass. Online updates on Twitter @OxfordshireCC

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# Public services



*Welcome to new Parish Councillor Katy Crowe. All Council contact details are listed on page 5.*

I have lived in Eynsham since 2010 with my husband Jon and now with our twin daughters who are 18 months old. Since having the twins I spend a lot more time in the village and have a keen interest in its future now that it is our family home.

As a family we use a number of the local businesses and amenities including the GP surgery, playgrounds and the local shops and cafés.

Originally from Scotland and with a degree in history from the University of St Andrews, I am hoping my fundraising and marketing experience will be useful to the Council. I'm really looking forward to getting more involved in the local community and hopefully making a positive contribution here.

## Fishponds

*Sue Osborne, Chair, Fishponds Committee*

The Parish Council commissioned a survey of the trees at the Fishponds in the latter part of 2016. Some were found to have die back and other problems so they needed to be felled. By the time you read this, the work should have been completed and the diseased trees will have gone.

We hope to be able to use the resulting wood chippings to help improve the muddiest of the paths. We have also ordered some hoggin (the sort of material which forms the surface of the ramp at the south east corner of the Fishponds) which can be used to fill in the holes in the car park as well as to spread on the paths.

To this end, you're invited to join me on a work party on Sunday 12 February at 10:00. Please bring a wheelbarrow and spade if you have one, plus stout gloves and loppers, secateurs etc. (there is usually some pruning and scrub bashing needed at the Fishponds!). I'll also have litter pickers and plastic bags if anyone fancies taking part in a clean-up (though I must say that litter – and dog poo! – has continued to be minimal, which is great). Bring a hot flask – biscuits will be provided!

## Footpaths

*Sue Osborne, Chair, Footpaths Committee*

*"You can't beat a beautiful, life-affirming walk through icy silver and green countryside" – Alex James, The Times*

Well, as I write there hasn't been much ice (I hope I haven't spoken too soon!), but many of our rights of way are very muddy, so be sure you take extra care when out and about. Please feel free to carry secateurs with you on your walks, to snip away any overhanging twigs and brambles: every little helps and regular use is one of the best ways to keep paths clear.



*This photo © David Miller*

I'm aware that the north stretch of FP 206/7, which runs along the bank of Wharf Stream as it heads between Siemens and the Wharf Stream Way footbridge, needs attention. The route has deviated from its proper course, but, more urgently, the stile at the eastern junction has long been broken down, as has the waymarker post, and a couple of new "entrances" to the path have been created. One of these has a dangerous piece of low fencing right across it and I am informed that someone tripped and fell over this. I have reported the problems to OCC's Countryside Service team and I'm awaiting action. Meantime, please be alert if you use this path to cut between the Wharf Stream Way and Siemens/The Talbot.

# Road to ruin?

*Dennis Stukenbroeker – Transport Representative*

Eynsham Parish Council has not given its support to Oxfordshire County Council's scheme for a Park & Ride at Eynsham and a connecting bus lane towards Oxford. The scheme, which includes extending the dual carriageway from Witney to Eynsham, would build a Park & Ride for up to 1,000 cars north of the A40 and west of Cuckoo Lane on land owned by the county council. It would also create a dedicated bus lane eastbound from the Park & Ride to the Duke's Cut Bridge, but only a bus priority lane on part of the southbound carriageway. The plan would also include a new roundabout, new pedestrian and horse crossings and reduce the speed limit from 60 to 50mph.

Concern has been expressed that the plan to charge for the Park & Ride would exacerbate the existing problem of commuters parking in Eynsham streets for free and taking the S1 bus into Oxford. This problem has already increased since the County Council's withdrawal of subsidies stopped the 18 bus running to Oxford. Witney Town Council has also opposed the Eynsham Park & Ride, saying it should be in Witney.

The Parish Council said that the scheme takes no consideration of either Eynsham's emerging Neighbourhood Plan or the proposal by West Oxfordshire District Council in its draft Local Plan to build a Garden Village of 2,500 homes and commercial premises north of the A40 at Eynsham and a further 1,000 homes to the west of Eynsham.

The Parish Council also criticized the lack of supporting documents made available to the public for the consultation, which has now closed. One of the few things the public, and the parish council, were able to comment on in this most recent consultation was the placing of a cycleway and footpath. The A40 currently has cycleways on both sides of the A40 but the inclusion of a bus lane may remove one of these. The OCC preference was for the remaining cycleway to be on the north side of the A40. In the Parish Council response, Councillor Professor Mark

Zumbuhl argued for a cycleway and footpath on the south side, being more convenient for both cyclists and pedestrians and requiring cyclists to cross the A40 fewer times to access the cycleway to their destination.

The Parish Council has met with planners from OCC on numerous occasions to discuss the A40 plans. Members have become increasingly frustrated by the lack of information disclosed by OCC and the failure to take into consideration the problems caused by A40 congestion, and the proposed plans, to Eynsham residents. The latest meeting was at the Traffic Advisory Committee on 10 January. Eynsham Parish Council Chairman Gordon Beach described OCC's A40 plans as 'a lunatic scheme' and Vice Chairman Richard Andrews, who is drafting Eynsham's Neighbourhood Plan, criticized the most recent A40 plan's siting of the Park & Ride roundabout on the A40 as not being in a good place for Eynsham's and WODC's proposed expansion for the west of Eynsham.

Stagecoach, which is expected to service the Park & Ride scheme, is in favour of OCC's bus priority proposals. If the Park & Ride scheme goes ahead it anticipates increasing its current A40 service to at least four per hour. Stagecoach says it is finding the current A40 congestion an increasing problem with regard to maintaining its reliability. It will be revising its schedule in the future to incorporate longer journey times.

## Finally

The Parish Council has approved the following grants for 2017/8 with funds to be paid out in April or May.

- West Oxon Citizens Advice – £400
- OASIS – £325
- Eynsham Baptist Church Toddler Group – £75
- Eynsham Violin Masterclass – £100
- Eynsham Churches Holiday Club – £250
- Eynsham Good Neighbour Network – £300
- Royal British Legion – £150.



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## Making history



*Eynsham Firefighters are appealing for your help with a new Roll of Honour project – Stuart Smith explains. Above, baby Joanne Brown (held by uncle Chris) needed rescue from a sweet machine outside the old V/G shop – now Rainbow House. Top left are Karen Cradock (Hedges) and Julie Carter*

We are incredibly proud to be Eynsham Firefighters and would love to acknowledge the commitment, dedication and professionalism of all those that have served before us; handing down their wisdom, experience and team spirit, shaping the current crew into what it is today.

We aim to create a Time Line of Honour, listing them all. The final design is not settled but we hope it will be a source of pride and lasting legacy for those that have served their community and to their families.

We want to go as far back as possible and do not want to miss anyone off so we need the details of everyone who has served at Eynsham in the past (including the name of the horse that used to pull the manual pump!).

If you have served or know someone who has, please let us know: drop details in at the fire station or Rob (Sam) at Evenlode DIY, tell any serving Eynsham firefighter or mail [eynshamfirefighters@btinternet.com](mailto:eynshamfirefighters@btinternet.com)

We need full names, rank, date started and date finished. Service number will help too but please supply what you can. If you served yourself, it would be great if you could also list all those you remember serving with.

Any photos or information that may help this project would be fantastic too (copies only please, we don't want to be responsible for losing precious memories). Thank you.

PS have you seen our viral video on YouTube? "Don't use your mobile while driving" was a mannequin challenge created in a few hours one morning – tough viewing but worth two minutes of anyone's time.

## Garden waste

*West Oxfordshire District Council will be charging £30 per bin per year for its fortnightly garden waste collections from April onwards*

For many years this service has been free but due to the loss of external funding it is now necessary to charge.

You will need to sign up to receive this service and the Council is writing to all households in early February with more details.

To take advantage of the maximum number of collections for the year beginning April 2017, please register before 3 March. If you do not wish to pay the £30 charge, simply do nothing and your garden waste collections will cease at the end of March 2017.

For more information or to sign up, call 01993 861025 or visit [www.westoxon.gov.uk/garden](http://www.westoxon.gov.uk/garden)

Payment will be taken with a debit or credit card only.



The role of the police office in Eynsham Village Hall changed on 23 January, mainly due to some recent cuts in the police budget. The office is still being manned by members of the local police team (PCSOs Helen Keen and Sandra Syphas) but there is no front desk function available to the public. All lost property and general queries should be directed to Witney Police Station (Monday-Friday 10:00–18:00), or if seen as more urgent to the Police Enquiry Centre on 101. In the event of an emergency call 999 as always.

The Neighbourhood Action Group is still a channel for the public about any general non-emergency problems in the community – <http://eynsham-nag.org/>

The Village Hall Management Committee is very sorry to be losing the local police office, says chairman Roy Wilkinson, though very pleased that we shall still see our PCSOs around the village. They will be occupying one of the two rooms that the police have hired in the Village Hall for many years.

The second room is now available for public hire to a permanent body or for one-off meetings. The room has a floor area of just under 18 sq metres (4.2 x 4.2m) and initial enquiries should be made via the booking clerk, Rachel Cassar: 01865 881624 or by email [bookings@eynshamvillagehall.co.uk](mailto:bookings@eynshamvillagehall.co.uk)

## Sporting heroes



Grants of £50 to £1,250 plus free access to WODC leisure facilities run by GLL Better are open to coaches, clubs and unsung heroes with the launch of the 2017 West Oxfordshire Sports Awards. Last year, 48 individuals and organisations were honoured for their achievements from county to international level – including England hockey player Lucy Millington, shown here (centre) with fellow winners Sophie McPeak (left) and Charlotte Bacon.

The deadline for all nominations and grant applications is Friday 20 February. For details, call 01993 861080 or visit [www.westoxon.gov.uk/leisure](http://www.westoxon.gov.uk/leisure)

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Email: info@fredtallack.com



# Home front

This year's Eynsham Society Christmas Party charity collection was for the Eynsham Consolidated Charity. The Clerk, Robin Mitchell, gave a brief outline of the history and aims of the charity and over £100 was raised by the end of the evening. The Charity is for the 'relief of need, hardship and distress' and is an amalgam of a number of very old local charities dating back at least to the 17th century. Because of their ancient origins it also applies to Freeland, as this was originally part of the 'Ancient Parish of Eynsham'. The names of some of the former contributors to the funds of those charities appear on the boards in the upper chamber of the Bartholomew Room. Today the Charity typically makes around 20 grants a year totalling over £3,000 – helping those with all kinds of financial problems. Please write to Robin Mitchell 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.

## Feeling the cold?



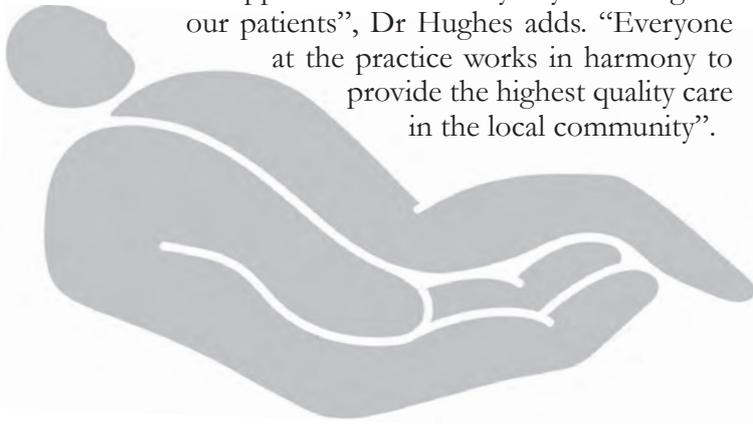
This winter GreenTEA are again offering to visit your home with an infrared camera which can see where heat is escaping. Our team can offer advice and local recommendations for both simple DIY measures and other ways to improve the cosiness of your home, as well as potentially lowering bills and carbon emissions.

To sign up for a survey, please email Andy Swarbrick on andyswarbs@gmail.com (including your name, address and telephone number). You will be contacted to set up an appointment for a camera team to visit during an evening, and will receive advice on how to prepare for the survey and how to interpret the results.

# Your care in our hands

*Eynsham News sponsors Robert Hughes and his wife Cathy McClelland would once again like to convey their gratitude to their fantastic team at EYNESHAM DENTAL CARE.*

“A team approach is absolutely key in caring for our patients”, Dr Hughes adds. “Everyone at the practice works in harmony to provide the highest quality care in the local community”.



Eynsham Dental Care provides all that is needed for a healthy mouth from check ups and full written treatment plans, to mouth freshening hygiene services and implants for brand new teeth.

“We are happy to see patients under 18 years old absolutely free under the NHS and have payment plans or pay as you go for adults” Dr McClelland tells us. “Our on-call service ensures you will be cared for in an emergency at weekends, bank holidays, Easter and over the Christmas holidays.”

The experienced reception team of Ali, Rose and Jane are always at hand to take your call for more information or to book an appointment. You can also visit the Eynsham Dental Care website to find out a bit more about who they are and what they do for the community here in Eynsham and the surrounding villages.

“Having a healthy mouth is the start to a healthy lifestyle and we are experts in healthy mouths”, Dr Hughes says proudly. “We would like to welcome all of our local community to put **your care in our hands.**”



**You can contact them on:**

**Tel: 01865 880047**

**E-mail: info@eynshamdentalcare.com**

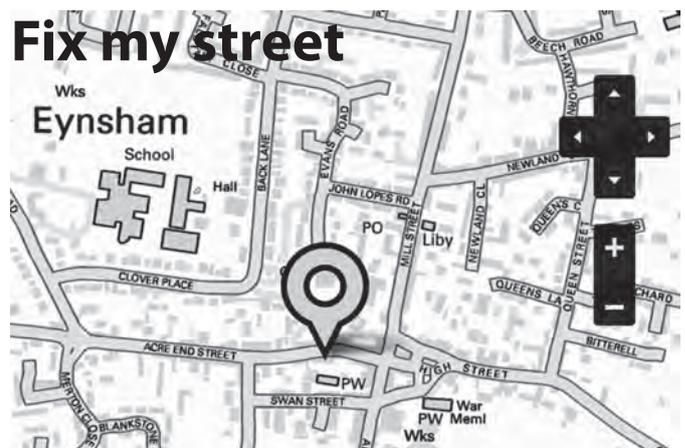
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Those walking near the Eynsham Allotments recently will have seen that work has started on installing a deer fence around the full boundary. This is being funded by a grant from Tesco ‘Bags of Help’, which the Allotment Association won last year following public participation in a competition. Additional funding has been raised from the plot holders themselves, plus support from Eynsham Parish Council, who own the land.

Since the win, the Association has obtained quotes for the work from a number of local organisations and arranged working parties that have been clearing brambles, shrubs and other debris from the line of the new fence. This has been a major undertaking, as some parts of the boundary have not been cleared for many years.

Andy Swarbrick, chair of the committee says “I’d like to thank all members of the committee, and plot holders for their hard work over the last few months. It has been hard work, but we are now close to completion of this project, which will allow all plot holders to grow their produce safe in the knowledge that the local deer population is not having a free lunch on their plots.”



Pothole not fixed? Street light not working? OCC Highways relies on members of the public to use their online system for reporting non-emergency cases – including pavement defects.

You can ‘Report a road problem’ at [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk) or go direct to [fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk](http://fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk) where you can also opt for updates via email or subscribe to an online feed.

# Over to you

Swifts are amazing little birds and their exuberant swooping and screeching along the streets of Eynsham marks the beginning of summer. Thanks to Sarah Couch for the beautiful sketch.



After thousands of miles on the wing they only leave the air to find holes under eaves and to make nests under our roofs. Sue Chapman has been surveying swifts in Eynsham and has highlighted the loss of nesting sites through renovation works. Understandably people do not want draughty houses, but there are things we can do so that we do not lose the Eynsham swift colony. Swift nest boxes can be installed high on a wall (preferably out of full sun) or built into a wall using special swift nest bricks or blocks.

Could you help? We can provide swift nest sites by:

- Making swift boxes following a pattern
- Offering to host a swift box under the eaves
- Helping install boxes
- Sponsoring a box
- Installing special swift nest bricks in walls of new buildings
- Spreading the word.

We need to have nest boxes ready before the swifts arrive in May. If you are interested in joining a swift support group or can help in any way, please contact Hywel Edwards or Sarah Couch on 01865 464056 or Sue Chapman suechapmane@hotmail.com

Let's keep Eynsham swift friendly. Thank you!

## Keep on recycling

More than 60 per cent of waste was recycled on West Oxfordshire between April 2015 and March 2016, putting the District sixth in the league table of 351 local authorities, a jump of seven places year on year – so a pat on the back to us all.

If you are thinking of spring cleaning after the mass of 'stuff' accumulated over Christmas – remember Swap Shop. Our next 'event' is on Saturday 18 March; and you don't have to bring something to take something away. Every year, with your help, the GreenTEA Waste Group saves tons and tons of materials from going to landfill; we save people masses of money; we provide the materials for literally thousands of DIY jobs and school projects. Some things are absolutely new, some are very old!

So come and see what we've got next time at Oxford Road Sports Pavilion from 10:00–12:00 on 18 March. We shall include a seed and plant give-away with other garden related items.

*Eleanor Chance: 01865 881095*

Meantime, the charity shop on Newland Street is a great place to re-home unwanted goods. And the clothes bank at Eynsham Fire Station is open every day – please use it and support the Fire Fighters charity. Remember, the recycling banks in Back Lane car park are for excess waste that will not fit in your recycling boxes. Any waste left lying round the bins is classed as fly-tipping and offenders will be prosecuted ... [Ed].



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Would you like to give something back to the people in your community when they need you most? How about providing emergency lifesaving skills to one of them until an emergency ambulance arrives?

Community First Responders are volunteers who are trained and equipped by the ambulance service to answer life-threatening emergencies in their neighbourhood while the ambulance is on its way. Because they carry a defibrillator, time spent collecting one of the public defibrillators is avoided.

Sudden Cardiac Arrest is the UK's single biggest killer. The UK national average chance of survival is 4%. In areas with an active Community First Responder scheme, this increases to 20 to 25%.

When the ambulance service receives an emergency call of the appropriate type, the responder is passed a message on a mobile phone alerting them to the incident. They then make their way to the incident with guidance from the control room. This means that help is on the way within seconds of a call being made.

If you are over 18 and would like to support this literally lifesaving and very rewarding project, please contact local liaison & training officer David England for an information pack:

- call 07970 490519
- email david.england@scas.nhs.uk
- visit [www.southcentralambulance.nhs.uk](http://www.southcentralambulance.nhs.uk)

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*The Wychwood Project is an Eynsham-based charity that works with local communities and other partners to conserve and restore our area's rich variety of landscapes, habitats and wildlife. Director Sharon Williams introduces us*



From Burford to Woodstock through Witney and Eynsham and north to Chipping Norton, the Wychwood Project covers dozens of West Oxfordshire towns and villages in an area that, as the Royal Forest of Wychwood, was once the hunting ground of kings.

The Wychwood Project relies on the great efforts of volunteers from across the area. Why not come along this month? Boots, gloves and suitable clothes are all you need: we provide the tools and any training. Sessions run 09:30–15:00, but you can halt sooner, as your stamina permits!

On the first Sunday and third Thursday of every month there is a variety of FREE outdoor volunteering opportunities. This February we are coppicing (pruning trees to stimulate healthy growth) and hedgelaying (improving hedge shape & structure).

Stay fit this winter and help conserve West Oxfordshire's natural environment with the Wychwood Project. For more information:

- call 01865 815423
- email [wychwood@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:wychwood@oxfordshire.gov.uk)
- visit [www.wychwoodproject.org/volunteer](http://www.wychwoodproject.org/volunteer)

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# People Rotary Club of Eynsham



*Tessa Hammond has a round-up from the Rotary Club of Eynsham in 2016 – and they're not done yet.*

The Club has had a very successful year with lots of fun events including: a film night last April showing "A Private Function"; collaborating with Bartholomew Players on the supper show for "Relative Values" in May; supporting Eynsham Carnival in July; a Call My Bluff competition with a neighbouring Rotary Club; a Race Night in October; and of course, helping Santa on his way around Eynsham and local villages in December. All the events were very well supported, raising several thousand pounds for our charities.



We have made donations to local primary schools for exciting additions like ukuleles; supported Eynsham Carers Christmas lunch; helped fund and create the new Skatepark extension and participated in renovation of paths at the Fishponds. We also regularly help with deliveries of food donations from Eynsham village to Oxford's Gatehouse Project, distribution of Eynsham News and monthly litter-picking round the village.

We have had talks from and made donations to:

- The Gatehouse Project – helping Oxford's homeless
- Footsteps Foundation – helping disabled children fulfil their potential
- Maggie's Centre – cancer support at the Churchill hospital

On the international stage, we are involved in the funding and development of clean water and toilets at schools in a remote region of Kenya; we paid for a Shelter Box to be deployed to the survivors of the earthquake and hurricane Matthew in Haiti; and we have made donations to Rotary Foundation charities.



We are also hosting a Rotary Global scholar, Michaela Dolk, from Sydney, Australia, who is studying an MSc in Water Science and Management at Green Templeton College, Oxford. She has attended our Christmas meal and helped with the Santa collection in Cassington as well as participating in Rotary events such as a visit to St George's Chapel, Windsor – her reaction "the most beautiful building I ever stood inside!"

Our meetings are held at the White Hart, Newland Street on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month. *Forthcoming events include a film showing "Tea With Mussolini" on Saturday 22 April at the Village Hall.* We welcome new members – please get in touch via [eynsham-pc.gov.uk/Rotary-Club-of-Eynsham](http://eynsham-pc.gov.uk/Rotary-Club-of-Eynsham)

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## First principles

*Ursula Howard reckons we could make a wonderful settlement of the 'Garden Village' if we listen to the lessons of the past. She speaks with some authority, as her great-grandfather invented Garden Cities, founding two in England – Letchworth and Welwyn – and inspiring garden cities, villages, hamlets and new towns from Berlin to Brazil.*

Ebenezer Howard was born in 1850 into a large family who ran a confectioners' shop in inner London. After brief years of school, he became a clerk – actually a shorthand wizard in the burgeoning bureaucracies of commerce and the state. He scraped a living, while the squalor of London's slum dwellers depressed him.

In the USA where Howard emigrated in his 20s, he discovered his lifelong passion. Better living conditions for poor people. Learning from the Chicago 'City in a Garden', he returned to England penniless but determined to create healthy communities worthy of people's potential. The idea was to create tolerant, active communities living together in small cottages beside larger houses and to bring work and schools within walking distance. 'Town in country' was a healthy environment (including temperance!) with grand spaces and mutual self-reliance nurtured through shared allotments, communal laundries, facilities for shared childcare, unfenced gardens and small-holdings.

Howard's *Garden Cities: a peaceful path to Real Reform* was published in 1898. There was no money, just energy, belief in people and powers of persuasion. By 1903 distinctively-designed houses, schools, community centres and churches began to go up. By spring 1905 the first train rolled into Letchworth's new station. So infrastructure, the prerequisite of good community living, was in place in a jiffy compared with present-day proposals.

What does this say now, in the spirit of Ebenezer? Why not a community land trust, rather than developers, private home-owners and councils as the only stakeholders? Like all successful garden villages, this one needs architects committed to the concept and to 'greening' the environment. Then, water, sewerage, energy, schools and hospitals were mutual ventures for community benefit. Couldn't locally-generated solar energy, eco-buildings and cooperatively-sourced Wi-Fi meet the new village's needs? Garden cities genuinely improved health: infant mortality plummeted in Letchworth. (Of course, there were no cars in 1905 – no snarled-up A40 traffic. London's killer pollution had been left behind).

Garden Cities put people before housing density, communities alongside individuals and a good society as well as work needs. 'Love, life and Liberty' is their slogan, evoking centuries-old dreams for a better world. In Eynsham now, let's not reduce that ambition to solving Oxford City's overspill problem.

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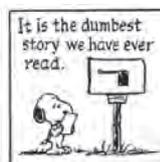
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# Recreation



The new Eynsham Carnival Committee and Friends of Eynsham Carnival are busily preparing for the big day – Saturday 1 July 2017.

Carnival day will be similar to previous years, commencing with the shirt race and continuing with the procession of floats to Eynsham Playing Fields, where there will be activities, events, the craft fair and fun fair.

There will be some space available for local groups and organisations to be involved on the day. Please let the committee know if you would be interested in putting on some form of performance, entertainment or activity in the arena or on the field. Contact: [enquiries@eynshamcarnival.com](mailto:enquiries@eynshamcarnival.com)

## DATE FOR THE DIARY

*Saturday 28 March Eynsham Carnival Family Disco at the Village Hall – competition for selecting Carnival royalty: Queen, King and attendants. Full details will be available at Eynsham Online in February.*



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**EYNSHAM COUNTRY MARKET** reopens on Thursday 2 February 2017. Will there be new season marmalade? You bet! *Sue Butler-Miles*

**Brownies**

Calling all girls in years 2-4

Do you enjoy the opportunity to try new things, go on adventures and make friends? If so, why not try Brownies?

We are holding a free taster meeting where you can see what we get up to and chat to the current Brownies.

Tuesday 28th February 5:45pm–7:15 pm, Eynsham Scout HQ, Back Lane, Eynsham.

For further details or to register interest contact Sinead Andrews (Tawny Owl) on 01865 731233 or [1steynshambrownies@googlemail.com](mailto:1steynshambrownies@googlemail.com).

[www.girlguiding.org.uk/brownies](http://www.girlguiding.org.uk/brownies)



**EYNSHAM CARERS GROUP** enjoyed a delicious meal at Eynsham Emporium on 21 December. Thanks to Corin, Helen and Linda for their great service as always. The group also wish to thank Eynsham Rotary Club for their donation – *story and photo* © *Norma Gummow*.

The advice and support received from each other and from Wendy and Anney at Age UK is invaluable. A big thanks to Pamela Richards who formed our group. We look forward to meeting again on Wednesday 15 February. Happy new year to everyone.

## FLEDGELINGS SING

– stay and sing musical fun for all under-fives, from babies to four-year-olds and their carers at the Scout Hall on Wednesday from 10:30–11:30 during term time. There are songs you are bound to know and others you won't, but they are all easy to pick up. Lots of actions, colourful props and a guitar, then the children get to enjoy free play with the toy musical instruments while the adults have a natter over a cup of something. Contact Marie Mills at [fledgelingssing@gmail.com](mailto:fledgelingssing@gmail.com)





Come and look at what our new-look library has to offer. Pop in at 30 Mill Street on Monday morning 13 February for tea, coffee and cakes!

- Lovely bright new space, fully accessible
- Free computer / internet access, ability to print
- Space for work / research, local history
- E-books, DVDs, free Wi-fi
- Audio CDs and cassettes
- Family friendly Rhymetime Monday afternoon

Your library is now available from 09:30–11:30 every day. If you'd like to make use of our new extended Open+ hours, pop in on 13 February and we will show you how it all works. *Katherine Mercieca: 01865 880525/eynsham.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk*

**EYNSHAM MORRIS** sessions continue on Tuesday evenings from about 9-ish till closing at The Newlands Inn. And our second Morris workshop of 2017 is on Saturday 18 February in Eynsham Baptist Church Hall from 14:00–16:00. More info from Robin Saunders: 07814 062819/robinsawn@hotmail.com

**EYNSHAM PRAM BASH** on Saturday 4 March at The Social & Sports Club from 19:30–23:30 will feature live music from Wolfbait and Port in a Storm, along with other acts. Tickets £5 at Eynsham DIY – all profits to continuation of the Shirt Race.

**EYNSHAM SCOUTING REUNION:** the next Boss's Night will be on 7 April 2017 at Eynsham Scout HQ in Back Lane from 19:00 for a meal at 19:30 costing £15 plus £7 if you are joining the real ale club. All over 18s, present and previous members of Eynsham Scout Group are welcome. For more information ring Sandra Scott on 01865 464341 (evenings and weekends only) or visit [eynshamscoutsarchive.org.uk](http://eynshamscoutsarchive.org.uk)

**ST PETER'S CHURCH** Annual Pancake Feast Saturday 25 February in the Tolkien Room from 10.30–13.30. Come and enjoy our delicious savoury and sweet waitress served pancakes. There will also be a raffle and cake stall.

**DATE FOR THE DIARY:** the Eynsham Churches Holiday Club 2017 "Maker Fun Factory" July 24–29 in the Village Hall and Scout HQ. Enquiries to Chris Sugden: [eynshamhc2016@gmail.com](mailto:eynshamhc2016@gmail.com)

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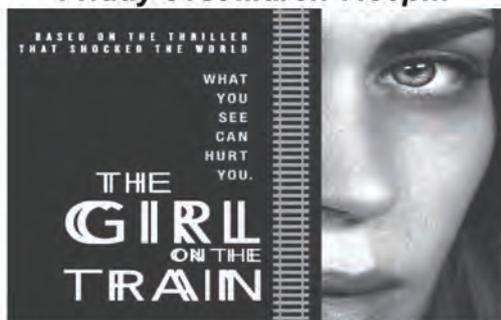
# Cinema at Eynsham Village Hall

Friday 24th February 7:30pm



(15) - 1hr 37mins

Friday 31st March 7:30pm



(12A) 1hr 52 mins

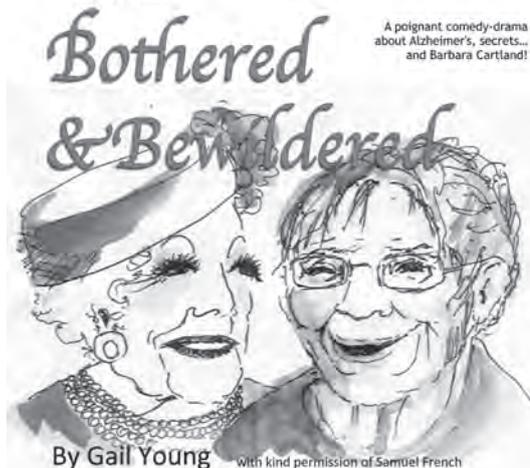
Saturday 28th January 7:30pm

*I, Daniel Blake*

Tickets available in advance from the 'Nice People' at Evenlode DIY

EYNSHAM DAY CENTRE continues on Mondays from 10:00–14:30 with popular activities such as painting, card making, knitting, quizzes, boccia, board games, singing and visiting entertainment.

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Saturday February 4th 2017

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Tickets £9, concessions £8 from Rapture Music Store, Woolgate Centre, Witney or Phone 01993 704032. Proceeds towards "Eynsham Day Centre".

*Bothered and Bewildered* is an unmissable comic drama following Irene and her two daughters as they struggle to come to terms with her Alzheimer's. Witney Dramatic Society has kindly arranged a charity fundraising performance for us on 4 February in the Village Hall at 19:30. Tickets £9, concessions £8 from Evenlode DIY.

We are actively seeking a new Chairperson to take us forward into 2017 and would love to hear from you – do look in or phone. *Linda Young: 01993 701082*

## Rubbish report



*Not a pretty picture, is it? Thanks to Eynsham Fire service for collecting this on a single training run – and to Norman Butler-Miles for the lines below. Do join us on the last Sunday of any month. Pam Breeze: 01865 880725*

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# What's on

## January

- 28 Community Cinema – page 18  
29 Litter Pickers, Baptist Hall 13:45 – page 18

## February

- 2 **History Group**, St Leonard's Hall 19:30.  
Bob Heath Whyte, *Medieval wall paintings in Chalgrove*  
4 **GreenTEA**, Eynsham Emporium 10:30–12:00  
4 **Bothered & Bewildered** – page 18  
5 **Acoustic Club**, White Hart 20:00: 01865 731787  
8 **Garden Club**, Village Hall 19:30. Glenys Dyer,  
*Winter Bloomers*. Enquiries: 01865 882417



- 12 **Fishponds Work Party** – page 6,  
*photo © Verity Hughes*  
13 **Eynsham Library drop-in** – page 17  
14 **Women's Institute**, St Leonard's Hall 19:30.  
Justine Turner, Handmade Chocolates. Enquiries:  
01865 882011  
15 **Carers' Group**, Eynsham Emporium 11:00.  
Enquiries: 01865 881396 – see page 16  
15 **Eynsham Society**, Village Hall 20:00. AGM.  
Enquiries: 01865 880563  
16 **History Group**, St Leonard's Hall 19:30.  
Ben Ford, *Recent discoveries at the Westgate excavations*.  
Enquiries: 01865 882400  
17 **Arts Group**, Bartholomew Room 19:30.  
18 **Eynsham Morris Workshop** – page 17  
21 **Eynsham Futures**, Bartholomew Room  
19:30 – page 3  
24 **Community Cinema** – page 18  
25 **Pancake Feast** – page 17  
26 **Litter Pickers**, Baptist Hall 13:45



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# March

- 2 **History Group**, St Leonard's Hall 19:30.  
Tim Jordan, *The Cotswold House*
- 4 **GreenTEA**, Eynsham Emporium 10:30–12:00
- 4 **Shirtrace Pram Bash**, Social Club 19:30–23:30
- 5 **Gatehouse Volunteers**: home-made sandwiches & cake for the Oxford shelter – warm gloves, caps and scarves welcome too. Enquiries: 01865 881346
- 5 **Acoustic Club**, White Hart 20:00: 01865 731787



- 8 **Garden Club**, Village Hall 19:30. Marcel Floyd, *Clematis*
- 10 **Eynsham News** copy deadline – page 2
- 11–12 **Arts Group**, Bartholomew Room.  
Print exhibition 11:00–16:00
- 14 **Women's Institute**, St Leonard's Hall 19:00.  
94th Birthday Party with Judith Holder
- 15 **Carers' Group**, Eynsham Emporium 11:00.
- 16 **History Group**, St Leonard's Hall 19:30.  
Rosemary Stiles, *Invisible Shakespeare*
- 18 **SWAP SHOP** – page 12
- 24 **Arts Group**, Bartholomew Room 19:30
- 21 **Eynsham Futures**, Bartholomew Room  
19:30 – page 3

These listings are open to all community groups and we welcome photos too – how about some from the Skatepark launch? Other pages are always open for stories and snippets, comments and corrections – see page 2 for contact details. Next issue will be out on 27 March – copy deadline 10 March.



Visit Eynsham Online at [eynsham-pc.gov.uk](http://eynsham-pc.gov.uk)

## Our sponsors

Thanks to Eynsham Dental Care, Pimms Commercial Properties and the Eynsham Churches for their generous support in 2016/17 – relevant features continue.

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