

EYNESHAM

Council & Community

NEWS

Issue 24 – April - May 2017

Not in my backyard



We love our local wildlife ... so long as it stays out of the food patch! Allotment Association chair Andy Swarbrick (far right) welcomes a Parish Council cheque presented by Cllr Andrew Bickley. Main image © Moth Clark

Your local allotment association is very pleased to announce the completion of its deer fencing project. The project started almost two years ago with a whisper about funding for community projects via Tesco Bags of Help. In under 24 hours we scrambled together a proposal for very much needed fencing.

Having won the first round, Eynsham residents and plot holders united to vote en-masse at our A40 Tesco garage. An impressive award of £10,000 still challenged our budget until the Parish Council offered to help fund the bridleway section of fencing. A&G Landscapes of Didcot were awarded the contract and have been exceptional at all stages.

Meanwhile plot holders pulled together collectively and individually over many wintry weekends to prepare the site for installation – which began in early January and was completed in just two weeks.

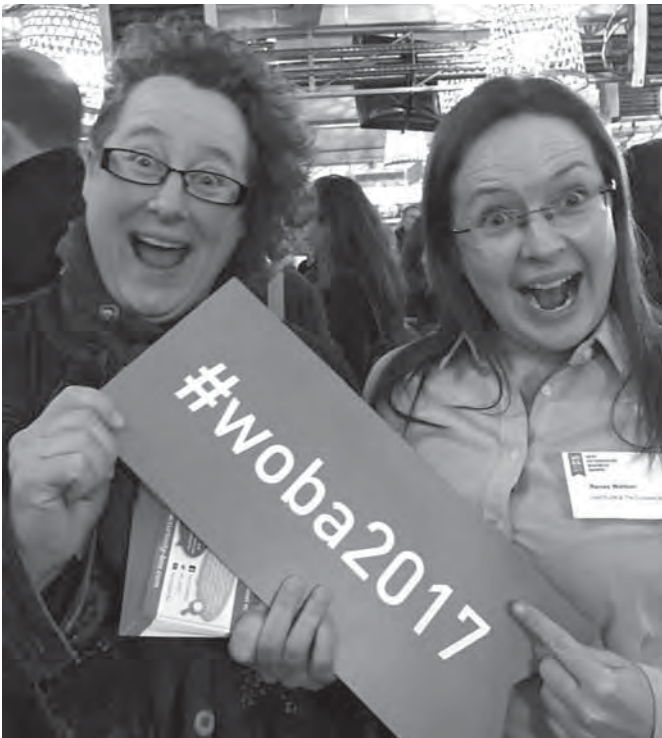
Particular thanks to Peter Ayres, who organised the working parties and supervised the contractors, all volunteers who helped in clearance and the plot holders who made donations towards the project.

This major allotments improvement could not have got off the ground without the initial Tesco award. Every winter deer come on site and eat whatever they can find. Treasurer Christine Jackson said, “Since I took on my plot, every winter I would find all my vegetables completely eaten by deer. I am so pleased that will no longer be the case.”



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Congratulations to Lentus Composites and The Curiosity Box from Eynsham, innovation finalists at West Oxfordshire Business Awards on 1 March. Above, CB founder Renée Watson (R) celebrates with Vanessa Sampson; *photo © Jo Sensecall of Marketing Sense.*

And triple congratulations to Lentus Composites, who scooped new business award and large business award as well as an innovation award.

Challenge and response

Eric White introduces his latest art project.

On the morning of the announcement of the go-ahead for the Garden Village I was out early with my sketchbook and camera, walking the footpaths that run across the site currently designated for development. This marked the beginning of a long term art project to document and record this seemingly ordinary but, in actual fact, very special tract of Oxfordshire countryside.

Why special? Firstly because it contains a rich diversity of habitats: mature hedgerows, ponds and wetland, an abundance of majestic oaks, arable land and meadow. Secondly, as it is organically farmed and flanked by land to the north with a designation as a Site of European Importance, it is home to a dazzling array of wildlife. Thirdly and significantly, because it is our patch.

So, if this land is to be built upon at some time in the not-too-distant future, it is my aim to preserve at least the memory of its current rural identity in pictorial form – views, details, impressions and observations – often incorporating text with image to record my thoughts at the time. With an ever-changing prospect through the seasons the possibilities for the artist are seemingly endless.

Cherish and enjoy this piece of countryside while you can. Remember the lines from the Joni Mitchell song: “Don’t it always seem to go that you don’t know what you’ve got ‘til it’s gone”.

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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 29 May – copy deadline Friday 12 May, though advance notice really helps if you'd like some room to spread.

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eynsham futures

The EYNSHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN reached an important milestone this month – the Parish Council have formally approved the plan for submission to West Oxfordshire District Council who are responsible for taking it through the next stage of consultation and examination.

This, then, is the moment to celebrate and to thank all the people who have worked so hard over the last two years preparing the Plan.

Thanks go first to the Eynsham Futures Steering Group team for organising events and meetings for residents to have their say, collecting information, writing up results, preparing the documents and doing all the other administrative tasks necessary to bring the plan together.

Particular thanks go to those who have used their expertise. We are blessed with so many skilled people in the village whether in organising effective community engagement, presenting ideas and creating plans, understanding planning policy or simply applying logic and common sense to the issues we face.

Thanks also to all the residents who have taken part from filling in questionnaires to making some really thoughtful observations on the plan during the time it has been available for commenting on. Even the simplest of comment may have set a train of thought in motion and the result is a plan that, we hope, both represents local opinion and is stronger because of all the different contributions you have made to it.

The only concern which slightly sours our celebrations is whether WODC will support us in getting the Plan through its formal stages in a timely manner – as they are duty-bound to do.

Those of you who went to the public meeting in the village last 5 December will know how little support Eynsham got from the WODC representative there and things have, if anything, gone downhill since.

Those of us who have worked with WODC try to resist the temptation to think that they want to slow us down, just as we try to resist the thought that WODC have written Eynsham off as the place to dump all the new housing, but it gets harder all the time.

Hopefully, we are quite wrong and WODC will restore the good working relationship we had with them before. Let's hope so for everyone's sake.

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

Coming soon

A PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP (PPG)

What is a PPG? Well it's a group of people that act as a "bridge" between the Eynsham Medical Group (EMG) and its patients. Amongst other things, the PPG will:

- Provide better communication between patients and the EMG;
- Advise the practice on patients' views about quality of service;
- Encourage patients to take greater responsibility for their own health;
- Organise health promotion events.

So keep your eyes open for news about the PPG over the next few months when we will be explaining more about what will be happening.



The Wychwood Project is delighted to announce that it has won Heritage Lottery Funding for a free exhibition covering 800 years of the Royal Wychwood Forest – on display from June to September in the Oxfordshire Museum, Woodstock.



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Eynsham churches

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Vicar: 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

EYNESHAM 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: eynshamhc2017@gmail.com

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8 Bridge Street Witney

Tel: 01993 776486

Golden Charter pre-paid plans available

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: roads & street lights Taylor Wimpey,
01235 541900; open spaces Remus, 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

Toilets: Back Lane Car Park, 01249 822063

Waste Collection: WODC, 01993 861020

YOUR VOTE MATTERS

MAKE SURE YOU'RE IN



County Council elections take place on 4 May 2017. If you are not already registered, you need to apply no later than 13 April – it takes only a couple of minutes. Find your National Insurance (NI) number first, then call the District Council on 01993 861410 or visit www.gov.uk/register-to-vote

Local councils

EYNESHAM 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
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 07956 901622
email epc.clerk@eynsham-pc.gov.uk – see page 6

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

Halls for hire



Baptist Church Hall:	07900 066471
Bartholomew Room/Sports Pavilion:	07956 901622
Cricket Pavilion	07872 103262
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

Time to freshen up!



Eynsham Directory 2017 goes to print this autumn, for delivery to every home in the parish, free. Are you making the most of your entries?

Every local group or business has two FREE entries at Eynsham Online, which will shape the print Directory:

- A classified listing with 30 words or so (180 characters) to explain exactly what you do;
- A feature page with your contact details and opening hours / meeting days and times – plus masses of space for images, news and events.

You can update this all yourself now, so take another look at eynsham-pc.gov.uk – you'll be so glad you did!

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Public services

- Best wishes and thanks to Parish Clerk Rachel Faulkner as she moves to a full-time post in Kidlington next month after three years here with us. A new Clerk has been appointed; we hope to have an introduction in our next issue. *All Council contact details are listed on page 5.*
- Grateful thanks to the unseen volunteers who make things more pleasant for others around the village. Every little helps. You have no idea what a difference it makes to see a single notice board cleared up! Take a stroll along Mill Street while it lasts and be inspired.

Our great outdoors

Sue Osborne – Chair, Fishponds & Footpaths Committees and keen photographer (opposite)

FISHPONDS: Following the felling of some diseased trees at the Fishponds, a working party was organised to plant around fifty berry-bearing saplings to help “fill the gap” left by the trees in the south-eastern corner (near the playing field entrance). We were very grateful to accept a donation towards this planting, kindly offered by Chris Baker and his family, in memory of his mother, Shirley. This area will now be called “Shirley’s Spinney” in her honour.

The amazing people who turned up to help also managed to spread almost ten tons of hoggin, which has made a great improvement to the muddiest of the paths. Dead leaves were raked up, litter was picked up and removed, and the post bearing one of the flotation buoys by the pond itself was repaired and reinstated. I can’t thank the stalwarts of Eynsham enough for their hard work on such a cold and grim morning. You know who you are!

Unfortunately, the ubiquitous dog poo has begun to make a reappearance, both in plastic bags and in its raw state. It would be so nice if we could keep our beautiful places free of mess, so please, please put it in the bins provided or take it home! Thank you.

FOOTPATHS: Well, as I write this the daffodils are nodding and the snowdrops are almost over, which must mean spring is on its way, along with longer days, lighter evenings and more time to walk! I am pleased to say that work will be beginning very soon to improve the entrance to the Wharf Stream Way art trail, opposite Hazeldene Close. The path alongside the allotments will also be levelled and resurfaced, which will make the route easier to negotiate.

I am still hoping that the stretch of Footpath 206/7 which hugs the bank of the Wharf Stream itself will

be reinstated soon – see page 6 of issue 23 for more details, and please continue to take care if you use this route.



“The sum of the whole is this: walk and be happy, walk and be healthy”. Charles Dickens.

If you take a look at the Eynsham Photo Map at <http://tinyurl.com/eynsham-pm> you will see that a circular walk leading south of the village and back up via the Thames Path has been illustrated with photographs of all the gates, stiles and bridges along the route. See <https://tinyurl.com/eynsham-cw1> for map and directions.

Enjoy your walks and, as ever, please feel free to contact me with any feedback.

Planning update

Dennis Stukenbroeker – Chair, Planning Committee

As chairman of the Parish Council planning committee I am, of course, completely objective and unbiased, but one can’t help having a reaction to some of the applications we get.

I’ve always thought that with all the hype about WODC’s garden village on the other side of the A40 and its proposed high tech ‘knowledge spine’ industrial park, our old Oakfield Industrial Estate gets

overlooked. So when I saw the application (17/00329/FUL) by a firm called Clockwork to build a new 4400 square metre storage warehouse, it looked like it could be a good thing. And they're expanding to Eynsham from Witney.

It's on the site of those two blue huts you see when you drive down Stanton Harcourt Road. I was concerned we might be losing part of our WWII heritage but apparently they don't appear in a 1945 aerial photo but do in a 1952 one. Not only would Clockwork get rid of these but it would give the Oakfield estate a modern face, and maybe encourage more investment. Clockwork distributes components for the furniture industry.

I spend ages hoping I won't get any unfortunate applications and then two come along at once. Eynsham needs a children's day nursery but possibly not the one proposed at the Eynsham Roundabout junction of the A40 and B4449 (17/00248/FUL). Nurseries tend to look a bit cute but the design for this one looks like a warehouse on the Oakfield estate. Also, in a week when the papers were full of news about what diesel fumes and traffic pollution do to kiddies' brains, the WODC Environmental Health consultant didn't see anything wrong with this application that a little soundproofing wouldn't fix. The Parish Council objected.

An application for a 52 house development on Pinkhill Lane in back of the Oakfield estate (17/00281/OUT) was not something I was expecting. I get enough complaints about noise and smells from the estate as it is. The planning committee and I met with the applicants and they still couldn't explain how they were going to get to the site. That part of Pinkhill Lane is a private road, owner unknown, so the only public access is because it is also an official bridleway. I don't think my suggestion that they replace the garages with stables is going to fix the problem. The Parish Council objected.

All applications can be viewed in full via www.westoxon.gov.uk – Planning & Building – View Planning Applications and search the application number.

The Eynsham link

This flexible car/passenger sharing scheme emerged from the ashes of the Route 18 service connecting Standlake, Northmoor, Bablockhythe, Stanton Harcourt and Eynsham. With a start-up grant from OCC, the group has developed an identity card scheme – initially encouraging drivers from outlying villages to offer lifts into Eynsham for shops and services.

Founder member Mike Parker says, "We are happy for anyone who drives along this corridor in either direction to get involved." When you travel together you save petrol and parking costs, reduce congestion and cut pollution – and help sustain the local economy too. You can join up, request or offer a lift at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/eynshamlink>

Smartphone users may also be interested in the messaging group, which puts members in touch with one other precisely when they need help. To be added to the Eynsham Link WhatsApp group, please email jbrown1uk@yahoo.com

They work for you

The Annual Meeting for the parish of Eynsham takes place on Tuesday 25 April at 19:30 in the Village Hall. This is a public meeting – do come if you can. Here is your chance to catch up with representatives from the local Police and Fire Service, county, district and parish councillors, primary and secondary schools, Eynsham Consolidated Charity and Bartholomew Educational Foundation, Playing Field and Village Hall managers and the Allotments Association.

In a break with tradition, each public body has been invited to publish its own reports at Eynsham Online. Printed copies will be available in the Library a few days beforehand as usual, for residents who don't use the internet.



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Here for you



Another policing update from Sgt Liz Bell with a photo of our PCSOs

Although Thames Valley Police are developing a new service model as we have previously advised, PCSOs Helen Keen and Sandra Syphas continue to work in Eynsham from an office in the Village Hall. This office is no longer open to the public on set hours; however if we are on duty and in at the office then anyone is welcome to pop in.

If we are not on duty and the matter is not urgent or an emergency, then an email to the Eynsham Team will catch whoever is next on duty. If you do not have access to the internet a call to 101 works the same, as the Police Enquiry Centre can pass a message to us if you leave your name and contact details.

Myself and PC McHale no longer start work at the Eynsham Office however we still cover the area and deal with issues on the Eynsham area.

We regularly attend local events, day centres, schools and weekly markets, so there are many ways to catch us. Helen, Sandra and I will still be out on our bikes (Martyn is yet to pass his cycling proficiency!!) and on foot. **If you need us we are here.**

Remember – if your matter is URGENT or an EMERGENCY then you should use 101 or 999 and give the details of your concerns to the call taker. They are able to direct your call appropriately.

Second chances

Merton House assessment home off Merton Court was developed by OCC with input from local residents

Up to 6 vulnerable youngsters aged 12–17 will find a short-term 'home from home' here, giving them (and their families) an opportunity to strengthen relationships or to identify what sort of setting will best support their on-going needs. Keeping our children within the county offers the best possible chance of maintaining their existing family/school/social networks and of continuous, effective monitoring.

On Thursday 16 February, members of the Community Liaison Group (local residents and councillors) were invited to look around the newly-completed home and meet some of its staff. Registered Manager Sandra Curley thanked everyone for attending and expressed her appreciation for the warm and open way in which all parties were able to communicate. She said "It really does set the standard for young people when they can see the adults in their community coming together to support them and each other".

We look forward to continuing this useful and informative liaison in the future. County Cllr Charles Mathew adds "This facility is a story of which OCC can be proud and we hope it will help those unfortunate enough to need such guidance".

The Orchard Centre

Cllr Katy Crowe mourns the loss of a valued service

The Orchard Children's Centre closed on 1 March. Along with 31 other centres, it is to be replaced by eight Children and Family Centres around the county.

Eynsham is lucky to have a number of fantastic volunteer-run baby and toddler groups, and long may they continue, but the Children's Centre was different and served a very specific need within the village. It offered services from stay and play sessions, parenting and healthy lifestyle courses, breastfeeding support and first aid training to hand-holding for those experiencing post-natal depression and a great deal more.

As a new parent I knew I could access ad hoc support and advice about anything that was bothering me. The staff were always quick to offer help, or to refer me to my health visitor or GP if required. More often than not I just needed reassurance. I worry that the burden on our already stretched GPs and health visitors will now increase dramatically. I worry too about those families in the village and surrounding areas who relied on the more targeted help that the Children's Centre also provided. Many thanks to the staff for their unfailing, valuable and much appreciated help and advice over the years. You will be missed.

Top of the class

Bartholomew School's Sixth Form continues to rate among the best in the country – Paul Stammers has another report from the governors

Our rating is based on the value added measure (the progress made between different stages of education), which the Government considers the most important.

Figures for 2016 show our sixth form was:

- In the top 3% of all state sixth form schools and colleges;
- In the top 4% of all sixth forms, including the independent sector;
- The top-performing sixth form in Oxfordshire.

Year 11 performance for 2016 was similarly impressive and the school is understandably proud of its academic credentials. However, staff are determined to maintain Bartholomew's inclusive approach. This is no doubt one reason why the number of students keen to study here beyond GCSE at the school – and make use of the new Sixth Form study centre – has been rising steeply. More than 200 Year 11 interviews for entry into the Sixth Form and other educational pathways, such as BTECs, took place in the first half of February.

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Home front

E Y N S H A M

Good Neighbour

N E T W O R K

For free volunteer help with odd jobs around your home, please feel free to call 07443 564516. Below, Joan Ramell offers a personal recommendation.

Have you ever needed a light bulb changed or some other minor problem in the home that you needed help with? I would strongly recommend calling the Good Neighbour Network. I have been helped a number of times and have found that all the volunteers have been very willing to come at an arranged time and put things right for free!

Do not suffer in silence. I am so grateful for the help I have received.

A volunteer writes... "For the last 18 months I have befriended an elderly gentleman as part of the EGNN initiative. W is in his 94th year and although he lives with family members they are out at work all day. He is lonely and needs variety and more company. It's rewarding to spend time with him. I usually visit once a week and stay for a couple of hours, we talk, drink tea and do crosswords together.

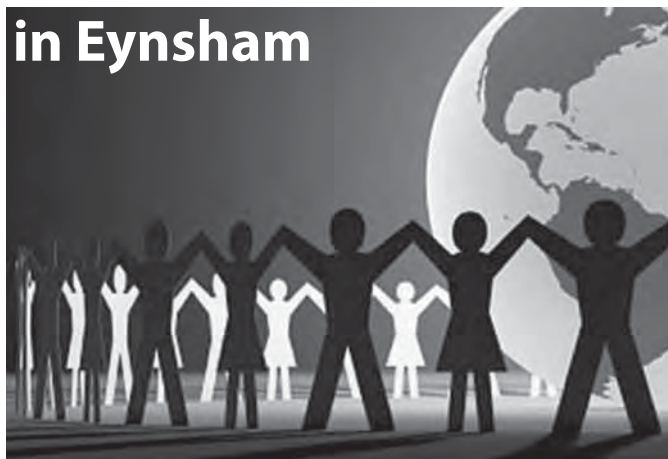
"I always get a wonderful welcome. He has had an interesting and varied life and his attitude in very old age has taught me a lot. He is full of gratitude and acceptance and delights in the smallest things – the shape of a leaf in the garden or the way in which a fly can walk vertically up a window pane. He loves the natural world and enjoys being outside in the fresh air whenever possible. Despite the frailty of advanced age he makes a very great effort to do some gardening and in the summer months there are often gifts of garden produce or flowers.

"I have been fortunate to be paired with W on this scheme. The real reward is to see the benefit that only a few hours a week can bring to someone else".

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

Refugees welcome

in Eynsham



In a packed event on Friday 20 January at the Village Hall, over 100 Eynsham residents discovered what it's like to be a refugee arriving in England today. Claire Page reports, enquiries to Sue Raikes: 01865 464021

Hosted by Refugees Welcome in Eynsham (RWIE), the evening began with a 30-minute film produced by Oxford charity Asylum Welcome (whose board of trustees is chaired by local resident Marcus Thompson) demonstrating the crucial need to support asylum-seekers, who are granted few rights once they arrive in the UK. Also present was Heather McCulloch of Cotswold and West Oxfordshire District Council who is responsible for implementing the government's Syrian Resettlement Scheme in Witney. Six Syrian families are now living in Witney. Each has a team of befrienders and volunteer English teachers – many of whom are part of RWIE. Five of the families attended, with one of the mothers reading a poem she'd written for the occasion and one of the youngest singing a song in Arabic.

Samia and Samir, a Syrian couple who had arrived independently in Eynsham, spoke powerfully about their search for work and a safe place to live. They thanked their hosts and Eynsham residents for their warm welcome. Eynsham local, Ania Ready, who went to Dunkirk in January as a volunteer for Help Refugees, thanked people for their kind donation of warm clothes.

"It was a fantastic event," said Sue Raikes who heads up RWIE, "and clearly demonstrated the warmth of interest and support there is locally for those who are fleeing the trauma of violence and war."

The evening raised £170 for Asylum Welcome and many offers of help for supporting refugees. As well as putting on awareness and fundraising events, Refugees Welcome in Eynsham has funded kitchen equipment for refugees through Asylum Welcome's Adopt a Room scheme and has supplied many refurbished bikes to refugees in Witney and Oxford.

The next RWIE event is a bluebell walk with the Syrian families in May, then a fundraising event in June – more details in our next issue.

Wildlife in your garden

In Eynsham we're really blessed with wildlife all year round, reports Moth Clark. Red kites are over the village every day and nobody could miss the characterful jackdaws and rooks that rule the village. Pretty much anyone who keeps their garden feeders full is likely to see all kinds of birds.

But spring is about to bring the village its own special wonders. Garden birds will be looking splendid in their extra-colourful breeding plumage. Soon, house martins and swallows will arrive and the air will be full of screaming swifts. The plumage of yellowhammers (see my pic below) in the hedgerows surrounding the village will be set to 'yellow-max' and they'll be joined by the unmistakable call of chiffchaffs.



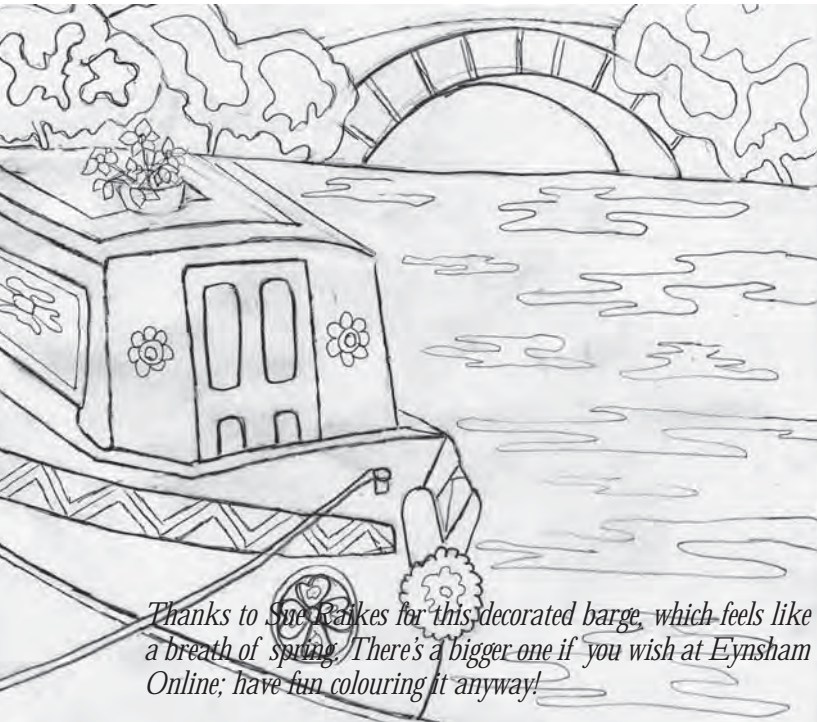
If hedgehogs visit you they'll also be more evident again. They really need our help and it's been shown that being able to get straight from one garden to another benefits them hugely. So we cut a small hole in our wooden gate, and some of our neighbours have joined in with similar holes in their fences to create a hedgehog highway! And if you don't get hedgehogs, why not see if you can attract them by putting out some dry (non-fishy) cat food and water?

Have you noticed pied wagtails in Eynsham? asks Rachel Grant. I have recently seen a number of these attractive birds in Lombard Street and Mill Street.

These lively little birds are black and white with a characteristic "wag" of the tail – hence their name. They are perhaps one of the easiest birds to identify as their undulating flight is also distinctive! Pied wagtails feed mainly at ground level, as insects are the chief components of their diet. For breeding, they will use a hole in a tree or wall but will also use an open fronted nest box similar to a robin nesting box. The British Trust for Ornithology has reported an 11% decline in numbers between 1995 and 2010. Gardens are an important source of food and nest sites for this species. They have adapted to feed in urban areas and you can attract them to your garden by sprinkling some dried mealworms on your garden path or placing them in a ground feeder.

Over to you

Set aside the less helpful assertions and the case for a unitary council is strong, says County Cllr Charles Mathew



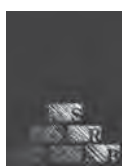
Thanks to Sue Balkes for this decorated barge, which feels like a breath of spring. There's a bigger one if you wish at Eynsham Online; have fun colouring it anyway!

The big debate

The proposals for governance of our county – unitary or devolved, in various combinations – seem to have generated more heat than light in news and social media. With this in mind, we invited our county and district councillors to bring things closer to home, setting out how Eynsham will benefit from a unitary or devolved arrangement and avoiding generalities so far as possible. Their personal responses follow, side by side.

- Government funding for all councils continues to shrink and will be minimal by 2020. In future we must look to income generation from professional services and the sharing of council assets for infrastructure funding. Councils will be in this respect stronger together.
- Current divisions of responsibility between parish, district and county councils are widely misunderstood. The solution must be based on ensuring councils serve the people of Oxfordshire by eliminating duplication and coordinating policies (housing, planning, roads, children's services, support for older and less fortunate members of the community).
- Individual councils need to recognise that they have failed to work with local communities in the past (broadband / five year planning requirements not filled; random permissions granted/gravel core strategy).
- The claim that unitary will save £20m a year for the next five years has little evidence and no vision. As an accountant I believe we could save at least £60m (10% of total expenditure, excluding schools). I also believe we should aim for a freeze (at least) on Council Tax for the next three years.
- Area executive boards (AEBs) will work for the people of Oxfordshire as long as local issues are defined and local voices are sought, heard and respected. The number suggested (currently 15) needs reviewing – not only to minimise costs and bureaucracy but also to ensure meaningful geographic areas.

Lastly I believe that unitary government in Oxfordshire needs an independent appeal committee, with minimal control by politicians or individual AEBs, to examine and uphold genuine grievances and ensure decisions are reconsidered.



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What is best for West Oxfordshire? asks WODC District Councillor Peter Emery

WODC, along with Cherwell District and Oxford City is in favour of creating a combined authority model with a local mayor

which would pave the way for devolution, unlocking central government funds for major infrastructure developments. Notably five County MPs support this and are against the unitary proposals.

Residents have overwhelmingly backed the WODC 'Too Good to Lose' campaign opposing plans to create a unitary authority. 97% wanted to see more options than the single proposal put forward by Oxfordshire County.

- WODC has the second lowest district council tax charge in England. This is likely to rise under a single Oxfordshire authority due to a need to equalise spending and tax plans across the county.
- WODC continues to make savings without cutting services by intelligent use of shared services with other councils and by having a 'can do' rather than a 'cannot afford to – so won't do' attitude.
- WODC has a policy of free parking throughout the district that benefits local businesses and encourages tourism and is a major driver behind our thriving town centres and flourishing local economy.
- WODC is run by elected LOCAL Councillors who care about what goes on the District and are locally accountable by the residents and the ballot box. The unitary campaign consider 100 councillors enough for the whole county with local problems being sorted out by an unelected board.
- WODC play a key role in driving economic growth in West Oxfordshire. We have secured significant inward investment in the District, attracted new businesses and helped many businesses grow. The unemployment rate is now one of the lowest in England.

The way it was

The new Eynsham Carnival Committee are keen to revive some of Carnival's lost traditions. The origins of the carnival were in a village sports day and the 1939 Carnival featured a tug of war, six-a-side football, bowling for a pig and Aunt Sally!



So this year we are presenting Rope Wars, a knockout tug of war competition on the field on Carnival day, Saturday 1 July 2017. Do you think your club, group, business or band can beat the rest of the village? Get involved and sign up your team of 8. And if you own a classic car or motor bike and are willing to show it at Eynsham Carnival, please email us for info/registration: enquiries@eynshamcarnival.com

"The way it was" is also the theme for Eynsham Flower Festival, looking to fill St Leonard's Church over Carnival weekend with flowers, photos and memories from days gone by. If your business, group or society would like to take part please email PCSO Helen Keen at helen.keen@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

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People



ROSEMARY (ANNE) WRAPSON 1934-2017: a tribute by Denise Launchbury and friends; photo © Ian White.

Though Anne was born in Kent, her family soon returned to their roots to buy the High Street Stores in Acre End Street, so she grew up in Eynsham.

Anne trained as a nurse at Oxford's Radcliffe Infirmary. A Christian throughout her life, she married Robert Cooper at Eynsham Baptist Church in 1955. After the birth of daughters Karen and Bronwen, the family moved to London, where Robert became Chaplain & Head of Religious Education at Eltham College. Other postings included 18 months in Iran, where they were parent figures to 20 orphan boys; and several years in Derbyshire, where they divorced.

After a second marriage and divorce, Anne fulfilled a long-held wish to return to Eynsham in 1993. She immersed herself in village life, joining the History Group, the Ramblers, Bartholomew Players and the Women's Institute. She played the organ at Eynsham Baptist Church for several years; and she reacquainted herself with the Radcliffe Guild of Nurses. Nursing

was in Anne's blood. She would always willingly help to nurse family and friends in times of need, whether they lived locally or further afield.

Besides her family, Anne was very interested in opera, classical music, reading, cricket (especially attending Test matches at Lords), Scrabble, cribbage, walking, travelling, socialising, and writing letters and postcards. Whenever you received a card from one of Anne's trips away, every inch of writing space would be used and sometimes you would have to turn the postcard round and round to read it all!

Anne loved amateur dramatics. She was involved in several Bartholomew Players productions, as well as in the Eynsham Mysteries – modern, humorous adaptations of medieval mystery plays, which were performed in St Leonard's Church.

Bartholomew Players Chairman Gareth Hammond encountered her as Miss Marple from a seat in the audience in 2005 and was inspired to join the group. "I last saw her shortly before Christmas at her care home in Witney. By then she could no longer speak, but we still improvised a lively conversation. True to form, she insisted on giving me a bottle of bubbly for the cast and crew of the play to enjoy at our after-show party. She will be sorely missed."

"Old actors never die, they just play to the gods".

Being both determined and resilient, Anne accomplished many of her dreams during her retirement. She made a personal pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela and volunteered as a hospitalero, looking after other walkers on their journeys. She visited family and friends in New Zealand and in Australia, where she participated in parasailing. She undertook voluntary work in India and, whilst there, visited the Taj Mahal. She even climbed to the crow's nest of a tall ship in Weymouth in 2014!

Anne was someone you could talk to in absolute confidence. She always gave words of wisdom, comfort and encouragement. A loyal, trusted family member and a friend to so many, she will be greatly missed.



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Duncan Fraser

St Leonard's Church are delighted to announce the appointment of our new Vicar – Revd Duncan Fraser who is currently Curate at All Saints Church, Eastbourne. Duncan and his wife Carmen, with their two children, will be moving to Eynsham sometime after Easter. The licensing service by the Bishop of Dorchester will take place in St Leonard's on Monday 15 May at 19:30. Everyone is welcome to come along.

Prof Sir Peter Mansfield

Thanks to John Dowling for spotting this eminent scientist's Eynsham connection in his recent obituary

Sir Peter was the first person who applied Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) to full body medical applications; he worked on this with Siemens forerunner Oxford Instruments of Eynsham with support from the Medical Research Council. In 1978 he was himself the guinea pig for its first human trial. He stepped into the box and remained there in the dark for thirty minutes as there was no illumination yet fitted. From that point on, MRI was on its way to revolutionising medical technology and diagnosis worldwide. Knighted in 1994 and awarded the Nobel Prize in 2005, Sir Peter had failed his 11 plus examination but could look back on a life's work that changed the world.

Random acts of kindness

Have you experienced, or noticed, one of these? Do let us know! Sandra says...

We wanted to thank the lovely staff who worked so cheerfully through five weeks of refurbishment at the chemist – so we could collect our prescriptions as usual. Two of us shook tins at customers and passers-by, and the enthusiastic response raised over £100. We now have the pleasure of presenting a gift voucher from Eynsham Emporium to each of the six staff members. And we all have a very smart new chemist to boot!

Recovery time

As some of you know, I have had severe rheumatoid arthritis since May 2015. I am very glad to say I am now in almost total recovery and expect soon to come off drugs for life – except perhaps the odd paracetamol! I credit this to a whole-food plant based diet as well as Bikram Yoga. I am happy to talk to local groups or individuals with rheumatoid arthritis: please call 07789 995111 or visit <http://foodandarthritis.blogspot.co.uk/> I shall also be at the Emporium from 11:00–12:00 on the 4th Monday of every month if you would like to meet and talk about arthritis and diet. Just look for the man drinking a Green Tea!

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EYNSHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL PTA is holding a family Bingo on Friday 31 March. Doors open 18:45, eyes down 19:15 – advance booking only. Please email eynshamprimarypta@outlook.com or call/text Nic on 07986 099173.

EYNSHAM CHORAL SOCIETY will be singing Mendelssohn's Elijah, conducted by Stuart Dunlop, on Saturday 13 May at 19:40 in St Leonard's Church. Tickets £12 (£10 concessions) from Evenlode DIY or email eynshamcs@gmail.com

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Cricket news

Eynsham cricketers young and old look forward to another great summer 'down at the club' says Patrick Arnold. To be part of it please come to our signing up evening on Friday 7 April.

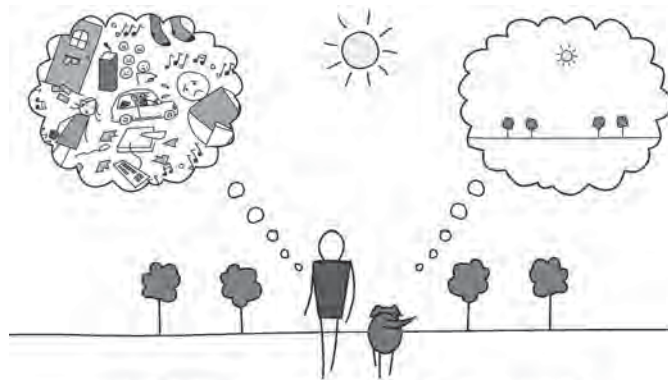


After a successful 2016 season where both 1st and 2nd XIs won promotion to higher leagues, Eynsham Cricket Club is excited about its prospects. The decision to build the new clubhouse is paying dividends – attracting young players back to the club is improving the level of cricket played and making it a fun place for everyone involved. We always need more good players, especially on Sundays, and cricket nets have started with an eye to challenges ahead (Sunday 15:00–16:00 in the Sports Hall).

In addition to league success, the last two years have seen substantial growth in the youth section. We now have 3 ECB Level II coaches helping teach young players which made the club a busy place every Friday night in summer – on and off the field! This year ECC will embrace the All Stars Cricket initiative being launched by the ECB, for 5-8 year olds who want an exciting start to the game. It promises to be a lot of fun and adds to the leagues that the Under 9s and U11s now compete in. We hope there will be matches for U13s this summer too. Amy Coe's sports camps are also expected to continue in May half term and summer holiday, with wide ranging coaching for our junior members.

Remember too that the new clubhouse is now a great venue used by members and non-members for parties, celebrations and meetings – the Road Runners' family day being one of the big successes of 2016!

New members, visit www.eynshamcc.org – Juniors, search Eynsham Young Cricketers on Facebook or email Patrick@livingwiththelions.co.uk



Mind Full, or Mindful?

Would you be interested in forming a mindfulness group in Eynsham? It would aim to meet weekly to develop a supportive community of practice. If you're interested in being part of this group and would like to find out more please contact James Bird: james@thebirdsonline.net

REMEMBER Helena Nielsen's introduction to 'Demain' in our December/January issue? Tomorrow – hailed as the perfect antidote to global despondency – is screening free on Thursday evening 11 May at The Marlborough School, Woodstock. Details from Ros Kent: 01865 580502. *Ask about car shares!* – Ed.

Scouting update

Parents and volunteers have rallied round since our desperate appeal last summer, says Vanessa Gregory

Our hard-working leaders now have a new team of regular helpers to support over 100 Beavers, Cubs and Scouts and the group is still growing. Hazel Petty has taken over as Chair from Trevor Winstone, who has agreed to be Group Scout Leader for the time being.

All the groups have been busy. Recently the Beavers have learnt about garden birds and hiked around Eynsham in the dark, the Cubs had an exciting coach trip to Hendon Aircraft Museum, and our Scouts have been learning cycle maintenance, survival skills and whittling. All the sections took part in a hike around North Leigh – the Cubs and Beavers hiked 8 miles while the Scouts took up the 18 mile challenge.

We are looking for more help with our Beaver group (age 6–8). Our Beaver Leader is moving on – we have a great team of parents and helpers but we could always do with more. Could you come along with an idea for a fun craft activity, cool science experiment or to talk about local history? There are many opportunities if you can give a few hours a month. Please get in touch with GSL Trevor Winstone: trevorwinst@gmail.com

Spring wordsearch

How many seasonal words can you find here? Look in straight lines, across and down – answers on page 19. Many thanks to Sarah Medina for the puzzle



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Easter at our Churches

Good Friday 14 April 10:00
The Three Eynsham Churches

Ecumenical Service in The Square followed by coffee and hot cross buns in St Leonard's Church Hall

ST LEONARD'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND
The Square, Eynsham

Palm Sunday 9 April
09:00 Holy Communion (BCP)

10:45 All-Age Celebration

Holy Week
Maundy Thursday 13 April
20:00 **Tenebrae** (from the Latin for "shadows"): a communion service in gathering darkness as we reflect upon the betrayal and arrest of Jesus.

Good Friday 14 April
14:00 Last Hour of the Cross

Easter Day Sunday 16 April
09:00 Holy Communion (BCP)

10:45 Easter Family Communion

EYNSHAM BAPTIST CHURCH
Lombard Street, Eynsham

Maundy Thursday 13 April
12 noon Communion

19.30 Reflections and Communion

Good Friday 14 April
19:30 A quiet reflective service

Easter Day Sunday 16 April
08:00 A quiet reflective service and Holy Communion followed with breakfast

10:30 Family service and Holy Communion to celebrate Easter. There will an Easter egg hunt for children after the service.

All are welcome to any of these services

COMING SOON

The Eynsham Churches Holiday Club 2017
"Maker Fun Factory" July 24-29 in the Village Hall and Scout HQ. Enquiries to Chris Sugden: 07808 297043/eynshamhc2017@gmail.com



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What's on

March

- 26 **Litter Pickers**, Baptist Hall 13:45.
- 31 **Community Cinema** – page 18
- 31 **Family Bingo** – page 16

April

- 1 **GreenTEA**, Eynsham Emporium 10:30–12:00
- 6 **History Group**, St Leonard's Hall 19:30.
Pamela Richards, *The Wright Stuff* plus AGM.
Enquiries: 01865 882400
- 11 **Women's Institute**, St Leonard's Hall 19:30.
Annual Meeting & Social Evening.
Enquiries: 01865 882011
- 12 **Garden Club**, Village Hall 19:30.
Roger Umpleby, *Bees – what's the fuss about?*
Enquiries: 01865 882417
- 16 **Gatehouse Volunteers**: home-made sandwiches & cake for the Oxford shelter.
Enquiries: 01865 881346
- 18 **Ramblers Group**, Back Lane Car Park 10:30.
Walk over wildflower meadows to Witney, return on S1 bus.
Non-members welcome. Enquiries: 01865 880105
- 18 **Eynsham Futures**, Bartholomew Room
19:30 – page 3
- 19 **Carers' Group**, Eynsham Emporium 11:00.
Enquiries: 01865 882417/07557 430875
- 19 **Eynsham Society**, Village Hall 20:00.
Robert Crocker, *Organic Farming at City Farm.*
Enquiries: 01865 880563
- 21 **Arts Group**, Bartholomew Room 19:30.
- 22 **Charity Film Night** 19:00 – page 16
- 25 **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING** 19:30 – page 6
- 28 **Community Cinema** – page 18
- 30 **Litter Pickers**, Baptist Hall 13:45

SPRING QUIZ: 12 answers, *horizontal* and *vertical* –
with thanks to Rolando Medina for the sketch




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May

- 4 OCC ELECTIONS**, Village Hall 07:00–22:00
6 GreenTEA, Eynsham Emporium 10:30–12:00
9 Women's Institute, St Leonard's Hall 19:30.
Eynsham has Talent
12 Eynsham News copy deadline – page 2
13 Garden Club, Market Square 09:00.
Annual Plant Sale
13 Croquet Club, School Piece 14:00–16:30.
Open Day – come and try us!
13–21 Arts Group, Bartholomew Room 11:00–16:00.
Spring exhibition coincides with Artweeks in Eynsham
13 Choral Society, St Leonard's Church – page 16
14 Open afternoon, Bridewell Gardens 14:00–17:00.
www.bridewellgardens.co.uk
15 Licensing Service, St Leonard's Church – p 15
16 Eynsham Futures, Bartholomew Room 19:30 –
page 3
17 Carers' Group, Eynsham Emporium 11:00.
17–20 BARTHOLOMEW PLAYERS –
see opposite
19 Arts Group, Bartholomew Room 19:30
26 Community Cinema – page 18
28 Gatehouse Volunteers. Enquiries: 01865 881346

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 29 May – copy deadline 12 May.



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