

EYNSHAM

Council & Community

NEWS

Issue 27 – October – November 2017

The turning year

Eric White (© image opposite) wrote in an earlier issue about an idea for a long-term art project to document the proposed site of the ‘Garden Village’. Now some eight months on, he has scores of canvases, sketches and photos, and a host of memories, from many excursions across the A40. He is looking forward to the mists and colours of autumn so that he can add yet another layer of interpretation to these few hundred acres and complete a nearly full calendar year.

‘I have had no political agenda as such, but with this tract of farmland threatened by development I simply wanted to record it through the seasons for the benefit of future generations, to show what we have and may have lost.’

In January I was out in the early morning with frost on the ground; the oblique rays of the sun did little to counteract the cold, so with ungloved hands it was often difficult to hold a pencil. This was a time when, with the prospect of development on the not-too-distant horizon, the bare frames of the trees and hedgerows made the landscape look all the more vulnerable. Spring brought renewed hope with its profusion of blackthorn and hawthorn blossom in the hedges, and field margins decorated with the delicate lace of cow parsley.

Continues overleaf

In this issue

- Eynsham futures 3
- Contact sheets 4 – 5
- Public services 6 – 9
- Home front 10 – 11
- Over to you 12 – 13
- Local people 14 – 15
- Recreation 16 – 18
- What’s On 19 – 20



The turning year

Continued from page one

Up above, the kestrels and the kites displayed their special talents as masters of the air, while down below the local troupe of deer kept their respectful distance. Summer came, the boughs and hedges now fully bedecked in weighty foliage and the grasses lush and heavy with morning dew or the wet of overnight rain, to present yet another version of a landscape to which I was becoming increasingly attached. My companions were now the squadrons of swifts, insouciant of my presence, darting across the open fields and effortlessly avoiding any obstacles in their path. With the air still, birdsong would drown out the murmur of distant traffic.

Apart from the daily dog walkers on paths close to the road, the occasional jogger or more energetic runner and the resident travellers, with whom I enjoyed many a friendly and informative chat about the neighbourhood woodpeckers, owls and herons, I have encountered very few walkers out and about. While I have relished my solitary state unbothered by passers-by, it saddens me to think that we have on our doorstep an asset which may soon disappear under concrete and asphalt but is enjoyed by relatively few.

Eric's exhibition goes on view in the Bartholomew Room over the weekend of 4-5 November.



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 **the red corner**
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6,000 new houses?!

Eynsham Planning Improvement Campaign continues to fight your corner. Let us put you in the picture...



EPIC is supporting the Eynsham Neighbourhood Plan. It was drawn up after detailed assessment and extensive consultation with residents, with careful consideration of sustainability and local need. Eynsham Parish Council in consultation with residents estimated the need at about 750 homes.

West Oxfordshire District Council is planning a 'Garden Village' of 2,200 houses just over the A40 and 1,000 for west Eynsham – a 150% expansion of our village, with no guarantee that roads, schools, medical facilities, etc., can or will keep pace.

Things could get worse. Gladman's new proposal for 3,000 houses near South Leigh is likely to go for planning permission shortly and there is a real risk that this will be granted as well as the areas west and north of Eynsham, making about 6,000 new houses in all.

Come and talk to us! The EPIC stand outside the Village Hall on Saturday 23 September from 14:00–16:30 is cunningly timed to coincide with Eynsham Village Show. Or you can keep up-to-date via public noticeboards, follow us on Twitter @epic2031 or visit eynsham.me.uk

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 at eynshamnews.org.uk

Local stories, snaps and snippets are always welcome – and corrections also, thanks! Next issue will be out on 27 November – copy deadline Friday 10 November, though advance notice really helps if you'd like some room to spread.

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Patients' corner

Another update from Eynsham Patient Participation Group (PPG) – Graham Maynard reports

Many will know that there has been an outburst of complaints about the routine repeat prescription service provided at Lloyds Pharmacy in Eynsham. Your PPG team have been working to get the situation improved – with, I am pleased to say, substantial success!

Discussions with the Lloyds area manager, who wants me to 'pass on his thanks for your patience and understanding', have resulted in:

- the recent appointment of a new pharmacist manager;
- recruitment of additional experienced dispensary staff;
- a review of workflow in the shop to assess where efficiencies can be made and dispensing speeded up; and
- a commitment by the area manager to visit the store twice weekly to ensure that 'things are moving in the right direction'.

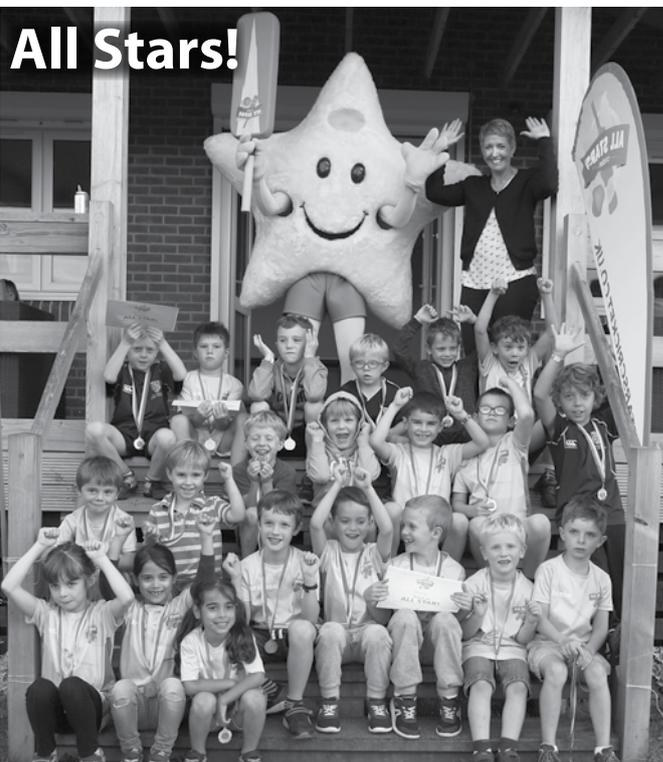
These measures do suggest that Lloyds have taken the issue seriously and are attempting to improve their service. However, readers may rest assured that the PPG will keep a check on progress.

Moving on, it might help to know a little about the journey of a prescription from ordering to collection at the chemists. For instance, you may not realise that, from the time of ordering a prescription, the surgery is allowed three days to have it signed off by the GP, to resolve any queries about medications and to send it to the pharmacy, either physically or by electronic transfer. (Electronic transfer is quicker so, if you haven't already done so, why not sign up.)

Lloyds Pharmacy in Eynsham processes over 10,000 items per month, it's not unreasonable to expect that they might take a couple of days to make up the prescriptions. Staff have to sort the prescriptions, enter details on each patient's medical record (a legal requirement), label the packages and have the pharmacist check them for clinical appropriateness.

In short, it's going to take about five days to get your prescription, no matter how hard Lloyds work at it, so do think ahead and order in good time.

The PPG is now turning its mind to primary health care needs in the Eynsham area, should all of the projected housing development come to pass. Keep an eye out for future *Patients Corner* and, in the meantime, please let us have your views on existing arrangements via our surgery questionnaire or our online link at tinyurl.com/eynsham-PPG



It's been a great season for Eynsham Cricket Club and especially the juniors, says Patrick Arnold, with under 10s winning the county cup for all primary schools; representatives at county level; and a record number of kids attending All Stars – © photo Ian Miller above – and youth cricket. All are welcome to our end of season dinner on Saturday 21 October – tickets £25 from sam@eynshamcc.org



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www.stleonardseysham.org.uk
Vicar: Duncan Fraser 07810 324088
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.stpeterseysham.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

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

*You are warmly invited to any of the Harvest services featured on page 18.
Maker Fun Factory and Oasis, supported by the three churches, are reported
on page 16.*

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Contacts

Allotments: John & Sara Bannister, 01865 880324

Bartholomew School: Witney Road, 01865 881430

Carnival: enquiries@eynshamcarnival.com

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

Good Neighbour Scheme: free volunteer help at
home, 07443 564516

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

MP: Robert Courts, 58-60 High Street, Witney
OX28 6HJ, 01993 225020/robert@robertcourts.co.uk

Neighbourhood Car Scheme:

transport for health care, 07469 764174

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

IS YOUR LISTING UP TO DATE? The Eynsham Directory 2017 will have **FREE** entries for every local service, group and business. Check yours out now and get them right before it goes to print! You'll find the online version at eynsham-pc.gov.uk/cats.aspx

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

Patricia Crowley: 07791 973118

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: Katherine Doughty,
07956 901622

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

OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL (OCC)

Charles Mathew: 01865 882205

County Hall: 01865 792422

WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Peter Emery: 01865 731199

Edward James: 01865 731009

Peter Kelland: 01865 880028 - *see page 9*

Council Offices: 01993 861000

Halls for hire

Photos, maps and lots more info at Eynsham Online – Venue Hire



Red Lion:

Scout Hall:

Social & Sports Club:

St Leonard's Hall:

Tolkien Room & garden:

Village Hall:

White Hart Function Room:

Baptist Church Hall:

07900 066471

**Bartholomew Room/
Sports Pavilion:**

07956 901622

Cricket Pavilion

07872 103262

Music Room:

07971 529242

Primary School Hall:

01865 881294

01865 882903

01865 881787

01865 881234

01865 881690

01865 881613

01865 881624

01865 883093

Other news

WODC are 'reconsidering' their Local Plan in the light of comments from the Inspector after the last round of public examination, says Cllr Richard Andrews. They will change as little as possible but they may be pre-empted if the proposers of the alternative 'garden village' at Barnard Gate put in a planning proposal. The whole situation remains very unclear.

Our Neighbourhood Plan is still out for formal consultation before it and the consultation comments are presented for examination by a (different) planning inspector, who will judge if it is 'sound' and can go forward to a vote by Eynsham residents.

Well done to Harrisons café for picking up on Nicki Ginat's suggestion in Issue 25 (June–July). Now vulnerable people of any age have a Safe Place in Eynsham. If they carry a card with a family member's contact number – and if they feel at all worried whilst they are out alone – they can go there and be sure that someone will call their chosen contact for help. Read more about the scheme at westoxon.gov.uk/safeplaces



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Public services



For a while now the Parish Council has been considering the merits of making the village a 20 mile per hour zone. Vice-Chair Richard Andrews reports on progress. All council contact details are listed on page 5.

BACKGROUND: The idea came out of consultations in the village over the Neighbourhood Plan in 2015. We have looked at the practicality of such a measure by conducting a road-speed survey; and have asked some designers for ideas about how to do it and how much it would cost before the Parish Council makes any proposals.

PROJECT TIMESCALES & CONSULTATION: We have not rushed ahead with the project, as much of the funding for this work would come from the new housing that is proposed for the village; and it gives us time for extensive consultation with residents which begins with this issue of Eynsham News. There are also other initiatives, such as the parking restrictions suggested in earlier issues, which must relate well with any such scheme.

BASIC PRINCIPLES OF A 20MPH SCHEME: 20mph has to be self-enforcing, that is drivers naturally keep their speed to 20mph by driving sensibly according to the actual road conditions without having to watch the speedometer all the time. Techniques such as narrowing the apparent or actual width of the road or chicanes are used, so people naturally drive slower without having to clutter everywhere with signs. We would also like to avoid speed humps, which encourage slow-down/speed-up driving, which wastes fuel (and generates more CO₂) and is both unpleasant and ineffective. We have to understand that the police won't enforce a 20mph limit and speed cameras won't be used; but even if people do go at 5mph more than a 20mph limit that is a lot safer than 5mph above a 30mph limit.

DESIGNING TO KEEP SPEEDS DOWN: The initial report from the consultants gives some idea of what might be done to provide a clear 'entrance point' to the 20mph zone and combine the speed notification with an attractive village entrance feature of the 'Welcome to Eynsham – please don't rush through

the village' nature. It also shows how expensive replacing the road surface can be, so we may be looking to a cheaper option of simply painting the surface as they suggest for an experiment. If this works we may have to look again at the expense of a new surface when the paint starts to wear, though some places such as Witney Road are already in need of a new road surface to repair the pot-holes! You can read the full report in the Library, or online (10 Mb alert) at: bit.do/EynshamCentre

RADICAL TRAFFIC IDEAS: Some other ideas emerged when we discussed the design opportunities which have been noted as they also came up during Neighbourhood Plan consultations. *The most radical is to restrict traffic through the central section of the village* – from Acre End Street at the junction with Station Road past the Co-op corner through to the Square. The only traffic permitted on this section would be buses and residents who need access for parking or loading. This would have a significant impact on passing trade for the shops and would require through traffic going west-to-east to use Station Road and the southern bypass, or to use Spareacre Lane. East-west traffic could still use Swan Street instead of Acre End; but there would need to be a length/weight restriction as the corners are so tight. Parking restrictions outside the pharmacy would help to minimise chaos when coaches need to turn into Station Road.

WHAT DO YOU THINK? Ultimately people may prefer to leave things as they are in the village centre, chaotic as that can be on occasion, rather than accept the restrictions but this is something that the Parish Council will be considering as it firms up plans over the next six months. We need feedback from local residents, please. Are we addressing the right problems? What are your concerns about traffic and road safety within the village? Are there more important things we should spend parish funds on? *Please send your comments to Parish Clerk Katherine Doughty or have a word with any parish councillor – details on page 5.*

Help us to help you

You are always welcome to come along to Council or Committee meetings – generally held on a Tuesday in the Bartholomew Room. Here are details for the next few weeks:

- Footpaths Committee 26 Sep 18:30
- Communications Committee 26 Sep 19:30
- Fishponds Committee 17 Oct 19:30

- Planning Committee (if required) 3 Oct 18:30
- Parish Council 3 Oct 19:30
- Parish Council 7 Nov 19:30
- Finance Committee 14 Nov 19:30
- Play Area Committee 14 Nov 18:30

A reminder that the deadline for village groups and voluntary organisations to apply for Parish Council grants is 14 October. You can download the form at Eynsham Online or contact the Clerk Katherine Doughty – details on page 5.

Our great outdoors

Sue Osborne – Chair, Fishponds & Footpaths Committees

FISHPONDS: You may remember, back in June-July, I reported a lot of duckweed on the pond. We have since received a report from a herpetologist (someone who studies amphibians) who believes that the pond is eutrophic: in other words, there is too much weed and it has died and sunk to the bottom, at which point bacteria start to digest it and use up all the oxygen. It is reckoned to be at Stage 2, which means the process has started but it is not too late to recover. We have sought further advice on this and hope to begin a treatment programme soon so that we can bring the pond back to full health. We will then devise a maintenance plan to keep it that way.

We are also aware that some of the boards on the bridge and boardwalk near the ramp are beginning to rot. Please take extra care when using them until we can get them repaired or replaced.

Sadly, the picnic bench on Harvey's House Mound had been completely destroyed by vandals. We know that this is a popular spot for picnickers so we are looking into having a new one installed as soon as possible. There is no further news on the potential dry stone wall work parties, but I will keep you informed!

FOOTPATHS: *Hand in hand with the river wound the path until twilight began to drive her dusky flocks across the west, and a light wind knitted the aspen branches against a silver sky' – Edward Thomas, Oxford*



It is time for the Footpaths Committee to undertake the biennial walk of all the footpaths and rights of way in our parish. This is done so that we can report any problems or obstacles (broken stiles or footbridges, impenetrable vegetation, fallen trees, etc.) to OCC's Countryside Service for attention. If you spot any such obstructions, please don't hesitate to let us know at any time or use the OCC contact form at oxfordshire.gov.uk/countryside

In Issue 26, I reported that two footbridges on Footpath 206/12 (north towards Freeland) badly needed attention. I'm very pleased to see that one of them has been repaired; but one still needs to be fixed (and another is becoming wobbly and difficult to negotiate) so I will be sure to let the Countryside Service team know as soon as possible. There will be photographs of the lovely circular walk from Eynsham to Freeland and Church Hanborough on the online Photo Map soon.

As you know, the new planting at the Wharf Stream Way had become very overgrown. An extremely kind resident (or residents) undertook to trim the area, for which we are incredibly grateful. I hope we can add this to our maintenance schedule so that it remains looking tidy and cared for.

In today's world, which sometimes seems full of uncertainty and fear, it's often difficult to believe that we can do anything to make things better. One thing we can do is to be nice to others and to protect, nurture and improve our own small spaces wherever possible. I'd like to thank all those people who volunteer, without prompting or reward, to help make Eynsham a great place to live



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Bin rage

WODC's new blue-lidded wheelie bins have had a mixed reception. Objections range from the colour ('offensive and out of character') to the size (though they will be cleared only half as often). Certainly the extra clutter on our streets makes a journey with a wheelchair or buggy, or with limited sight, more hazardous than before.

Cllr Peter Emery says, 'I have seen the consultation responses, from clipboard interviews and online, that informed the decisions taken. And for once the folk of West Oxfordshire got exactly what they indicated they wanted. Moral: be careful what you vote for/ make sure that you respond to consultations and get others to respond as well.'

WODC has offered one ray of hope: 'If a resident still thinks their bin is too big, we can replace it early next year when we will be having a delivery of a smaller 120-litre bin which will take up less space.'

Class of 2017

Paul Stammers reports from Bartholomew School

This year's cohort ensured that Bartholomew School's A Level exam results continued at the highest levels. Overall, 111 students took 301 exams.

- 77% gained the highest grades A*-C
- 55% gained grades A*-B
- 27% of all entries gained grades A* or A
- 99% of all entries gained A*-E grades

Six students achieved three or more grade A*/A: Elizabeth Hayman (4A*), Alexander Baxter (3A*), Lia Margiotta (2A*/1A), Samuel Wareham (2A*/1A), Paddy Hogan and Phoebe Mitchell (1A*/2A each).

This year, government changes meant AS Level results no longer counted towards A Level grades. No subject had more than a 20% coursework component and most courses were assessed entirely through exams.

Operational Headteacher Craig Thomas said, 'The school has consistently been one of the highest-performing state schools in Oxfordshire and these results mean most students will be able to attend their chosen university... These excellent results reflect our dedication to nurture students at all levels of ability.'

GCSE results were equally pleasing, with 90% of students getting between 9 and 4 in English Language and 85% getting between 9 and 4 in Maths. (This year, the grade scale goes up to 9 rather than A*.) Overall, 38% of students got the English Baccalaureate (comprising A* to C grades in English, mathematics, history or geography, the sciences and a language).

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Residents' parking

Thanks to District Councillors Peter Kelland and Ed James for their efforts to establish what is involved in a Residents' Parking Scheme (RPS).

Setting up an RPS, as suggested by Eynsham retail group, would take about a year, with steps along these lines:

1. Contact OCC Transport Planning Team.
2. Decide which roads will be included within the controlled parking zone (CPZ). This needs to be larger than the RPS because illegal parking will move further out as people will still park.
3. Call a meeting between Parish, WODC and OCC to agree viability and the question of who pays? This will effectively be down to the Parish because OCC has no funding for this type of scheme. Traders who will benefit from this scheme may also be asked to contribute. Once the finance has been agreed and the streets identified, the set-up, running and enforcement need to be agreed, along with annual permit fee (e.g. £100 per household). The restricted time and waiting time (e.g. 08:00 to 18:00 with two hours waiting) must also be agreed. WODC, as parking enforcer, might undertake to run this scheme but the Parish could run it if they thought the revenue income justified it; in this case enforcement might be undertaken by a contractor such as NFL Services, who contract to OCC.
4. OCC will send an informal letter asking for a response from each household within the CPZ. If the response justifies it (30%–50%) the scheme will go before the OCC cabinet for approval.
5. On approval a formal letter will be sent out with a form. It must be decided at what level a scheme can be imposed on those who do not respond or who object.
6. A letter will be sent explaining the new RPS and CPZ, and how they affect each household. Householders will be asked to apply for permits for themselves, family and visitors. The household must show evidence of occupation and details of vehicles they own, to prevent fraud.
7. The Traffic Regulation Order will need to be changed.
8. OCC will set up the CPZ. Two schemes can be used: a minimum impact scheme with small signs and few road markings or the conventional one with marked bays and road signs, which is more expensive to set up and to maintain.



Peter adds, 'I hope this gives an insight into the process; it may not be an easy undertaking but it is possible.'

Turn it off!

Poor air quality is a huge concern across the country. And while many journeys cannot be helped, pollution from stationary vehicles is just unnecessary. It isn't even cost-effective as ten seconds of idling uses more fuel than restarting your engine.



People in the UK are 64 times more likely to die of air pollution than those in Sweden and twice as likely as those in the US, according to World Health Organisation (WHO) statistics 2017. The National Institute of Health and Care Excellence (NICE) has called for no-idling zones – especially outside schools, hospitals and care homes – to reduce pollution levels for people most at risk. (The 'stationary idling' offence came into effect in 2002 and is covered by Rule 123 of the Highway Code, but has largely gone unenforced.)

An idling engine can produce up to twice as many exhaust emissions (with air pollutants such as carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide and particulate matter) as an engine in motion. So why not save fuel and save air pollution, too? Turn off your car engine when in stationary traffic – and waiting outside school, of course.

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SILENCE IN THE SQUARE
Saturday 11 November at 11:00
 Members of the Eynsham Branch of the Royal British Legion invite members of the village to join them in front of the War Memorial shortly before 11:00, to observe the 2-minute silence in memory of all those who have given their lives in war in the service of their country.



REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 12 November
 The Royal British Legion encourages all members of the village to join in a non-denominational Act of Remembrance at 11:00 at the War Memorial in the village square, following a service at 10:00 in St Leonard's Church. Details available online, but please note the date now. The Act of Remembrance is an opportunity for all to honour those who have given their lives for their country!

Home front

A recent grant of consent to raise the height of a mobile phone mast in the village raised a number of questions. Cllr Peter Emery asked Phil Shaw, a senior planner at WODC, for guidance; here is his response. Peter is happy to explain further – contact details on page 5.

'It is a complicated area but in summary... Masts under 15 metres high (subject to various exceptions) do not need planning permission but are subject to a separate 'prior approval' system, whereby WODC planning can comment on siting and appearance but not on issues such as safety, principle, need, etc. Time scales for dealing with these applications are generally only 28 days and unless we respond within that period a deemed approval is given. As such there is – presumably as Government intends – very little opportunity for public consultation or for elected Member oversight.

'When a planning application is required – e.g. because the mast is over 15 metres high, or is in an Area of Natural Beauty – we are still precluded from raising health objections but all the usual planning issues can be considered. Our scheme of delegation requires that all such proposals are dealt with by the planning committee.'

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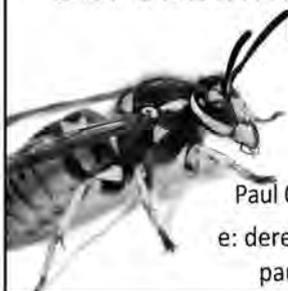
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Not a pretty sight

WODC is asking residents to keep an eye on the recycling banks at Back Lane car park and report when they are overflowing or if fly tipping occurs. Recently, large quantities of material have been left at the site – including mattresses, large amounts of clothing and general waste, which is unsightly, to say the least.

If anyone sees this happening, the matter should be reported to WODC, which is responsible for collection. For more information call 01993 861025 or visit their web page tinyurl.com/litter-etc

Safe and well

Did you know that Oxfordshire County Council's Fire and Rescue Service offers free 'Safe and Well' visits? A visit combines a home safety check to help reduce the risk of fire, such as checking and fitting smoke alarms, and helping you to make a fire escape plan. During the visit firefighters can provide advice and support to reduce any immediate risk from falls, fire, flood or power cuts – and advise on crime prevention, too.

If a loved one or friend would benefit from a visit, please let them know about Safe and Well visits. Call the Community Safety Helpline on 08000 325 999 or visit www.365alive.co.uk/safewell

Meantime, WODC is running free electric blanket safety checks in Witney on 4 October, as part of a joint home safety scheme with OCC. Appointments must be pre-booked (first-come, first served) on 01993 861000.

Flossie leads the way



Many people don't know that dogs can be blood donors, says Jennie Cook.

Flossie, my golden retriever, is now a fully fledged blood donor. It has taken three visits as she was a little nervous at first, but the last time we went she was fine. The staff are brilliant. They won't let a dog get upset and, after the donation is taken, the dog gets a bowl of dog meat, a special bandana, a treat and a toy. A photo of the dog wearing the bandana goes on Facebook. And one donation can save the lives of four other dogs.

I am very proud of Flossie and she is booked in for her next donation this September. There are donor sessions at Abingdon, Chipping Norton and Swindon. If you are interested, please ring 01509 232222 or visit petbloodbankuk.org

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Unlikely heroes

Story from Kathy Peltan, photo © Sarah Beynon

You've probably seen pictures of dung beetles in Africa dwarfed by the balls of elephant dung they pluckily push along. Almost everywhere there are animals, dung beetles are found. Some are highly specialized, such as an Australian dung beetle that feeds only on kangaroo dung. In ancient Egypt, people worshipped the scarab beetle, which was – yes! – a type of dung beetle. It's good to know that some of these unlikely heroes live in the fields around our homes.

Why heroes? Dung beetles dig underground tunnels, and carry animal dung down into the soil to house and feed their young. Their tunnelling makes it easier for plant roots to spread out, and the dung also feeds the roots, leading to healthy plant growth. Above ground, less dung equals fewer flies. And removing dung helps the environment, too. Cow dung kills grass and gives off the greenhouse gas, methane. So dung beetles are very good friends of the earth.



The dung beetles that live around Eynsham are much smaller than African dung beetles. In fact, you need a magnifying glass to see some of them. But it is still relatively straightforward to find these mini-wonders of the natural world.

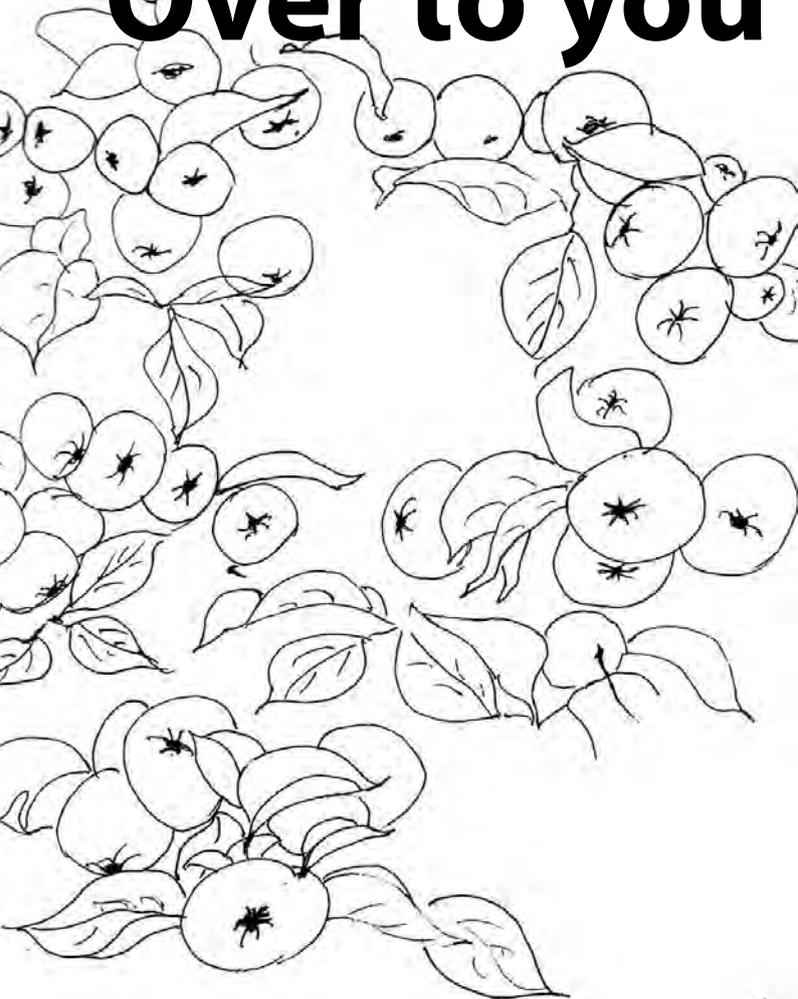
Start by going to a field where sheep have been grazing. Wear disposable gloves, take a light-coloured tray with deep sides (a large plastic food storage box would do), a sieve with a large mesh and a magnifying glass. Turn over some almost-dried dung and look at it carefully using your magnifying glass. You may see:

- dung beetles scrambling for cover;
- white larvae;
- tiny holes where the beetles have tunnelled through the dung;
- slightly hollow dung, which is a sign that the beetles' young have been feeding on it.

You can use the sieve to help break the dung up – very gently – into smaller pieces, crumbling it in the tray. Then look again and see if you can see more.

When cattle and sheep were first introduced to Australia, it led to piles of dung and clouds of flies – until they imported the right kind of dung beetles to help matters. So the next time you go for a walk, thank the little heroes beneath your feet – and imagine what our fields would be like without them.

Over to you



Jane Thompson has conjured up a seasonal apple trail for this month's colouring corner. She worked as a graphic designer before retiring fully in 2017; and is a long-standing member of the Eynsham Arts Group and a loyal attendee of Beth Wood's – and later Alice Walker's – village art classes

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FINGER ON THE PULSE

The public notice boards around the village are a brilliant way to keep in touch. Many thanks to the groups and individuals who help to keep them tidy, relevant

and interesting.

If you spot posters that are out of date, or taking too much space, please feel empowered to remove them! A modest size can be just as effective and won't outstay its welcome...

Mellow fruitfulness

Sue Raike introduces the GreenTEA Festival at Eynsham Village Hall on Saturday 14 October from 14:00–16:30... Every year, bigger and better!

This is GreenTEA's eighth autumn festival when we celebrate seasonal food, local growing and our very own Eynsham apples. Eynsham was renowned for its apple orchards and varieties from the 1930s to the 1950s – Eynsham Dumpling, Eynsham Challenger, Oxford Hoard – but the orchards are now gone, replaced with places which echo their former glory: Orchard Close, Fruitlands, etc.

GreenTEA is rescuing the original Eynsham varieties, grafting them and planting them on various sites around the village for public scrumping. We have now planted 30 apple trees in Eynsham and some of these are now bearing fruit.

Centrepiece of the GreenTEA festival is the Apple Share. Bring your carrier bags and take away apples donated by Eynsham folk who have plenty to spare... and taste the fresh juice. Bring your own apples for our expert to identify. Kids get wet whilst bobbing apples... and more.

And join us in other practical ways to reduce waste and cut our carbon footprint – tasting local and seasonal food, making decorations from junk, avoiding plastic, saving electricity, sharing transport... Have fun!

You can do more for the environment in other ways too, by dropping off your egg boxes and jam jars for Eynsham Country Market producers to re-use. ECM is open every Thursday (except in January) with home-made cakes, savouries, cookies, preserves & pickles, local eggs & honey, seasonal vegetables and garden plants. And proper coffee. Try before you buy with free chutney tastings on 12 October; and put in your Christmas orders from Thursday 9 November. Ed.

GRANTS FROM EYNSHAM CHARITIES

The Consolidated Charity can make grants to relieve need, hardship or distress. The Bartholomew Educational Foundation can make grants to students, apprentices, etc. aged under 25. The trustees meet four times a year, in February, May, late August or early September, and November.

If you need help, or know of someone who needs help, or want more information, write to the Charities' Clerk Robin Mitchell at 20 High Street, Eynsham OX29 4HB or email robinmitchell255@gmail.com during the month before the next meeting, if possible, though any urgent applications will be dealt with quickly between meetings if necessary. See also Eynsham Online for more details (search 'grants').

A bird in the hand?



Another lovely story from Moth Clark; photo © Pat Wixey

My wildlife summer had an unexpected highlight this year! It wasn't the screaming swifts or the wonderful warblers or the hunting hobbies, but a simple phone call.

Over the past 10 years or so, some of the wildlife experiences I've enjoyed most around Eynsham have been watching barn owls in the fields, at Chilbridge or between the cricket club and the Thames. But in the past year I have barely seen one; and my friends and dog walkers tell me they haven't, either.

So I was delighted when I had a phone call from local licensed barn owl specialist Pat Wixey and his right hand man Albert to tell me that a barn owl box to the east of the village contained four – yes *four!* – barn owl chicks. Previously, the box has been consistently visited by owls – but they've never nested before. Unfortunately, I was working so I couldn't join them at the box but Pat kindly sent me a couple of photos.

Since then, when I've managed to find the time to look, I still haven't actually seen any barn owls. However, Pat said they were well developed so fingers crossed that they fledged successfully!



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. 'Report a road problem' at www.oxfordshire.gov.uk or go direct to fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk

Watching swallows

Nigel Pearce writes from City Farm

Apples have been pressed into a frothy cloudiness, and a chiffchaff is hopping from rose bush to fruit tree, but the swallows have gone now, collectively withdrawing like fielders from a cricket season.

In spring the courtyard was a velodrome – they wheeled and whirled around the stonework, brushed faces at the half-open stable door, soared into the middle air and darted onto rafters in open-sided barns.

They greeted cats with warning cries, lined up on rooftops for explosions of chatter, skimmed the insect-heavy crops and watched us watching them. But now they are gone, leaving the incurable coldness of autumn.

*Dab-svedahnyah, lehta, dab-svedahnyah.**

**До свидания, лето, до свидания:*

Until we meet again, summer, goodbye. (An old Russian song)

Colours of the wind

In medieval Ireland, there were said to be 12 winds, their colours changing from deep crimson in the east, through verdant greens in the south west, to black in the north. Look up Saltair na Rann (Psalter of Quatrains) and roll the words around in your mind – as haunting, fantastic and beautiful as the shipping forecast!

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People



How they have grown! Thanks to Sue Chapman for this contribution and photo from the primary school in 1984

In the past Eynsham has benefited from the private planting of trees in our fine gardens. There are beeches and holm oaks at Beech Court Nursing Home, tulip trees at The Elms and the exotic ginkgo in an Acre End garden. The Gables has a false acacia planted in the early 1800s and a 'peace oak' planted to mark the end of the First World War.

Further afield, there is a clump of three beautiful 200-year-old oaks in the playing fields and another fine group of beeches west of Merton Court. Oaks and ashes surround most of our field edges.

But we must really thank the Eynsham Society members, primarily Robin Saunders and Dave Russell, who planted trees in the 1970s and 80s, and Tony Wood who expertly documented their sites. They planted a total of 1,044 specimens – a genuine extension of our village landscaping, financed by Parish Council grants. The Millennium Wood was a more recent initiative, with oak, ash, field maple, wild cherry and crab apple trees, plus a living willow sculpture in the central glade.

All our streets have been enhanced. The southern bypass has amongst others holm oak, red oak and ash;

Pink Hill Lane has an avenue of limes; and just north of the A40 there are four Turkey oaks. The Fishpond area has the 'Queen Mother's Clump' along with Scots pine, redwood, larch and Douglas fir.

We must protect what we have but, to continue this success story, we must insist on ambitious 'greening infrastructure' on our new estates. That means open spaces, hedges and, above all, trees. *Plus, of course, some provision for long-term maintenance! Ed.*

THE PEACE OAK ASSOCIATION is a new trust (registered charity 1172221) recently set up to own and manage a two-acre site formerly part of the garden of The Gables as a shared growing space, orchard and forest garden. Our vision includes encouraging young and old to appreciate and enjoy growing, harvesting, learning about plants and trees whilst having fun on a treasured open space in the village. We hope the field will also be used by youth and school groups.

We shall be opening up for members from 2018 with a minimal membership fee of about £10 a year. We hope that members will participate in the care and development of the site and attend working parties. Come and find out more on our stall at the GreenTEA Festival on Saturday 14 October or contact Sue Raikes: sue.raikes@appleinter.net

Could do better?

Apologies for the gremlin that crept into our last issue and thanks to all who pointed out the errors. We hope they didn't cause too much confusion.

Check your entries now for the new-look Eynsham Directory, coming to every home this autumn! Every group and business is entitled to a listing but we need your help to get it right. Don't wait for us to call or email you, the online version is the starting point: eynsham-pc.gov.uk/cats.aspx



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Man of many parts



Caroline Cayser offers a personal note on Ken Sheffield, who died in July at the age of 86.

Ken (and previously the lovely Pam) was a very good neighbour to me for 30 years or so. Any technical problem I could not sort, he would willingly help with – and he always had the exact right tool for the job. We all enjoyed the roar of his (own-build) snazzy green sports car, or sometimes the vintage motor-bike, as he accelerated up the Bitterell and Queen Street. The sports car accompanied his funeral – a fitting tribute to his skills as an inventor. Ever the musician, even whilst in hospital, Ken would play his concertina or mouth organ whenever you arrived, just to cheer things up. The lively presence of the Donkey House Band at his very well-attended thanksgiving service was homage to his musical brilliance and collection of Scottish dance tunes. Eynsham Morris also danced in the Square, to recognise his playing for them. We already miss Ken in the Bitterell. We so appreciated his son and daughter-in-law, Tim and Sam, and their family moving in some time ago to look after him – as we know he did, too.



EYNSHAM HISTORY GROUP meetings resume on alternate Thursdays at 19:30 in St Leonard's Hall; enquiries 01865 882400.

- 21 Sep Mark Davies, *Daniel Harris: jailor, builder, architect...*
- 5 Oct Don Chapman, *Wearing the trousers: fashion, freedom and the rise of modern women (cover photo above)*
- 19 Oct Alan Ledger, *Jane Austen and the Cotswolds*
- 2 Nov Ruth Buckley, *Anglo-Saxon Oxford*
- 16 Nov Mike Heaney, *Collections of Percy Manning*

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Eynsham Community Choir
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New members welcome - see Eynsham Online: Eynsham Community Choir for more information. Email: eynshamcommunitychoir@gmail.com Telephone: 01865 881151

Recreation

AUGUST OASIS: Another lively and entertaining time was had at August OASIS for the over-60s, organized by Eynsham's three churches. Our thanks as always to the army of volunteers who work so hard to put on this event which is much anticipated each year. There was the usual friendly atmosphere as well as talks about Fair Trade food, Wytham Woods, how to write your life history, the world of sound effects and the life of a stone mason, as well as collage and card making. And of course delicious lunches and cakes. The three days were finished off in fine musical form by local musicians Larry Poole, John Richards and Paul Rhodes with songs ranging from 'Putting on the Style' to 'I'm the King of the Swingers' and everything in between! The OASIS Carol Service will be on Thursday 7 December. *Lin Miller*

MAKER FUN FACTORY: A hapless inventor whose inventions either do not work or have no useful purpose, by name Professor Farley Eustace (think about it) was a daily visitor to the Eynsham Churches Holiday Club from 24–29 July in the Village Hall and Scout HQ. Fifty children took part in the week with a team of over 30 teenagers, sixth formers, university students, teachers and seniors drawn from St Leonard's, St Peter's and Eynsham Baptist Church.

We have had some wonderful responses from parents. One mum said she had never seen her child so enthusiastic about anything before – except Father Christmas! For children who would like to take part next year, our dates are planned to be the first full week of the school holidays: Monday 30 July to Friday 3 August. You can contact us on eynshamhc@gmail.com

FREELAND ORCHESTRA will be sharing their winter concert with three local wind groups (WOW, WOC & WOL) in St Leonard's Church on Saturday 25 November at 19:30. Lots of classical favourites along with well-known hits from films and musicals; tickets on the door.



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MONDAY CLUB AT EYNSHAM DAY CENTRE

A very warm welcome awaits you on this fun day out! Every Monday, except bank holidays, we meet from 10:00–14:30 in the Village Hall. This club is open to any member of the community aged over 60 who enjoys plenty of fun and good company.

The day can be as relaxed as you wish but, after tea or coffee and biscuits, there are various morning activities including gentle exercises with fun games, art and craft, knitting, scrabble, dominoes or whatever takes your fancy! This is followed by a delicious two course hot lunch which is lovingly prepared at the centre. In the afternoon we are treated to a great variety of musical entertainers and visiting speakers, or we might be enjoying quizzes, bingo or bowling. After all this fun, probably with some singing and dancing, we finish with tea and cakes.

No doctor's referral is needed to join this friendly group and you are very welcome to pop in and see us at any time or contact our co-ordinator Linda Young: 01993 701082/07766054602.

We should also like to hear from anyone who would like to be a volunteer helper or who could assist us in keeping the centre open with some fundraising ideas, as our government funding has been withdrawn.

MATURE MOVES: This popular class at St Leonard's Hall has transferred to the Scout Hall in Back Lane from 14:00–15:00 (still on Thursdays in term time). The new venue offers ample parking and your first class is free!

Enquiries to Age UK trained teacher Ohven Radburn: 01993 773 432 / email ohven44@tiscali.co.uk

OXFORD ORGANIC GROUP autumn meetings begin on Thursday 28 September at 19:30 in St Leonard's Hall with judging the Potato Bucket Challenge. Please bring along your buckets for sorting, weighing and judging – to be followed by a general discussion on failures and successes this growing season. Each month we decide a new topic to discuss and sometimes speakers are arranged. Please just come along. *Enquiries to Christine Briner: 01993 868693 p.briner@virgin.net*

A NEW CHALLENGE? SOME 'YOU' TIME?



ART CLASSES: A new class for all ages and abilities runs on Wednesdays in term time 14:00–16:00 at the Sports Pavilion. *Enquiries to Alice Walker: 01865 882218 / email alice@alicewalkerart.co.uk*

CREATIVE EMBROIDERY: This group starts again on Thursday 21 September 13:30–15:30 in the Village Hall (small hall) and runs in five week blocks. Our theme this term is pattern, inspired by Klimt. *Enquiries to Judith Gussin: 01608 641295 / email judithgussin@talktalk.net*

EYNSHAM WI has pulled out all the stops this year to prove it's not all Jam & Jerusalem! Having scooped a first with a Mad Hatter's Tea Party in the Carnival parade, our autumn programme ranges from beer, sausages and marmalade (our speaker for September), via harvest supper to the rags-to-riches tale of how a Thames fisher-girl became a viscountess in November, with more socials and outings to follow. We meet on the second Tuesday of the month in St Leonard's Hall – visitors and new members welcome. *Enquiries to Ann Wotherspoon: 01865 882011.*

NAMASTE YOGA is a therapeutic group for people with MS who wish to practise yoga in a gentle and easy-paced class. We work on the floor or using chairs, adapting yoga to suit our energy levels on the day. Sessions finish with a relaxation period, using mindfulness techniques to alleviate stress. naMaSte yoga is kindly sponsored by the Eynsham Rotary Club and WOMSS. This welcoming, inclusive group meets in the Village Hall on Thursdays in term time from 11:15-12:15, starting on 21 September. *Enquiries to organiser Wendy Logan 01865 883732 or tutor (British Wheel of Yoga Diploma) Eleanor Wadge: 01865 863316.*



WEST OXFORDSHIRE RAMBLERS plan a 6-mile leisurely walk on 19 September, along the Thames Path to Oxford with a pub stop (of course), returning on the S1 bus. Non-members welcome. We leave Back Lane car park at 10:30. *Rosemary Clegg: 01865 880105*

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pretty courtyard garden and a great pop quiz afternoon every Sunday with nibbles and a fun general quiz every third Thursday in the month with a cash prize.



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Friday 24th November 7:30pm

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Friday 29th September 7:30pm

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Eynsham Churches



Everyone Welcome

Harvest Services

Monday 25 September 2017

1.30pm at the Day Centre in the

Village Hall &

3pm at Beech Court Nursing Home

Eynsham Baptist Church

Sunday 24 September 2017

10.30am Harvest Service

Leader and Preacher:

The Revd Zoltan Biro

Monetary gifts to the Baptist Missionary Society (BMS). Gifts of produce suitable for donation to the North Oxfordshire Food Bank and The Gatehouse Project for Oxford's homeless will be most welcome, please.

The service will be followed by a Bring and Share Lunch in our main hall.

St Peter's Catholic Church
Weekend Masses for Harvest
CAFOD (The Catholic Agency for
Overseas Development)

Fast Day

Sat 5.00pm Oct 7th &

Sun 10.00am Oct 8th

The money we save from fasting will be sent to CAFOD to help feed the poor and hungry of the world.

St Leonard's Church of England
Sunday 24 September 2017
9.00am Harvest Holy Communion
10.45am Harvest for All-Ages
Focus on 'Tearfund'

What's on

All events, dates and times are printed in good faith but please confirm them on posters or online

September



- 16–24 **Arts Group**, Bartholomew Room
10:00–16:00. Autumn Exhibition
- 19 **Ramblers Group** – page 17
- 20 **Carers' Group**, Eynsham Emporium 11:00.
- 21 **History Group**, St Leonard's Hall – page 15
- 22 **Arts Group**, Bartholomew Room 19:30.
Alice Walker, *Show and Tell*
- 23 **VILLAGE SHOW**,
Back Lane 14:00–16:00
- 24 **Litter Pickers**,
Baptist Hall 13:45



October

- 1 **Gatehouse Volunteers:** home-made sandwiches & cake for the Oxford shelter.
Enquiries: 01865 881346
- 5 **History Group**, St Leonard's Hall 19:30.
Wearing the trousers – page 15
- 7 **GreenTEA Café and Swap Shop**, Sports Pavilion
10:00–11:30
- 14 **Apple & Energy Festival** – page 12
- 14 **Women's Institute**, St Leonard's Hall 19:00.
Harvest supper and auction
- 11 **Garden Club**, Village Hall 19:30. John Page,
Glorious gardens. Enquiries: 01865 882417
- 19 **History Group**, St Leonard's Hall – page 15
- 18 **Carers' Group**, Eynsham Emporium 11:00.
- 19 **Allotment Association AGM**, White Hart 19:00.
Enquiries: 07789 995111
- 20 **Arts Group**, Bartholomew Room 19:30.
Arthur Green, *Bookbinding and Conservation*
- 21 **One World Week Sale**, Baptist Hall 10:00–12:00.
- 21 **Starts and Tarts** – page 20
- 29 **Litter Pickers**, Baptist Hall 13:45



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November

- 2 **History Group**, St Leonard's Hall 19:30.
Ruth Buckley, *Anglo-Saxon Oxford*
- 3-4 **Garden Village Art Show** – page 2
- 4 **GreenTEA**, Eynsham Emporium 10:30–12:00
- 8 **Garden Club**, Village Hall 19:30.
Christine Leary, *My organic garden*
- 10 **Eynsham News copy deadline** – page 2
- 11 **Silence in the Square** – page 10
- 12 **Gatehouse Volunteers**. Enquiries: 01865 881346
- 12 **REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY** – page 10
- 14 **Women's Institute**, St Leonard's Hall 19:30.
Julie Ann Godson, *A Thames fisher-girl*
- 15 **Carers' Group**, Eynsham Emporium 11:00.
Enquiries: 07557 430875
- 15 **Eynsham Society**, Village Hall 20:00.
John Ashdown, *Buildings of Britain*
- 16 **History Group**, St Leonard's Hall 19:30.
Mike Heaney, *Collections of Percy Manning*
- 25 **Freeland Orchestra** – page 16

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 27 November – copy deadline 10 November.

STOP PRESS: Eynsham Cricket Club has lost the First-Tier tribunal appeal against the imposition of VAT on the new pavilion build. The judgement against the club was based solely on the fact that the club was providing 'social facilities' (similar to Friday night BBQ for junior cricketers and families) as well as sporting facilities for the community. The club will be appealing this decision; more news to follow in our next issue.



Visit Eynsham Online at eynsham-pc.gov.uk

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Thanks again to Eynsham Dental Care, Polar Technology Management Group and the Eynsham Churches for their generous support in 2017–18. Relevant features continue.

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