

EYNESHAM

Council & Community

NEWS

Issue 28 – December 2017 – January 2018

On with the dance!



Many thanks to Ian White for this seasonal photograph. Below, Duncan Fraser, Vicar of St Leonard's Church, describes 'a new adventure of faith around Eynsham Square'.

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In 1984 the church and village community raised the equivalent in today's values of about £1 million to renovate St Leonard's. A generation later, the church congregation is as large as ever and needs more space and adequate facilities, especially for those with disabilities.

To that end on 30 November St Leonard's will complete the purchase of a significant part of the Red Lion car park as the site of a new church hall, office and other facilities. The existing church hall will be retained until the new site is fully operational.

The timing of the new building will depend on the rate at which we can raise the necessary funds and may take several years. The first step will be wide consultation with neighbours, users of the current hall, village needs and requirements (*continues overleaf*)

A new adventure

(continued from page one) over what should be provided. Our hope is that this will be a major new asset to the church and the village and those who visit the churchyard.

The new building is most likely to be sited towards the rear of the car park. It is also hoped that the new layout will enhance the role and presence of the village war memorial. Particular provision will need to be made for those with disabilities and older people. Parking will be by permission of the Parochial Church Council and permits can be applied for from the Parish Office: 01865 883325.

We have had a lot of support in the first steps of this venture from both the Bishop of Dorchester and Oxford Diocese, the planners, the Parish Council, the History Society and Hawthorn Leisure, the owners of the Red Lion to whom we wish all the best.



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As WODC plans to concrete over our district continue, our response is to focus on the road and transport issues. We have no room to move already, so all new housing – regardless of location – is problematic until the traffic is sorted.

There was a real buzz at our first drop-in on 28 October and lots of people signed up for action...

- talking to neighbours/adopting a street, to help get the message out;
- delivering flyers and helping get them seen – in house windows and on notice boards;
- supporting a rush hour demo beside the A40 or B4044 – more offers welcome!

Many thanks for all contributions to our war chest. We shall use these to print more flyers and posters; and run our own air pollution survey. A particular mention for the Eynsham Society, which has generously offered to pay for our first set of banners. We shall soon have a crowd-funding website. Meantime, please give what you can when you see our analogue collection tin!

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

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Rotary Club of Eynsham



Eynsham Rotary has been painting the village purple – photo © Harold Jerred, story Tessa Hammond

Rotary International is supporting the World Health Organisation / UNICEF campaign started in 1988 to rid the world of the scourge of polio. Thanks to global effort, the number of cases has fallen over 99%, from an estimated 350,000 in 1988 to 37 reported in 2016; and over 16 million people have been saved from paralysis.

Vaccinated children are identified by dipping a little finger in purple dye – so purple has been adopted as the campaign colour. And Rotary Club of Eynsham has been planting purple crocus – 5000 at Bartholomew School and 5000 on the verge at the toll-bridge roundabout. We hope that come February there will be a purple haze!



In October we also had a fine time eating pies – well, tarts – and puddings, with a couple of starters for good measure. This was a fun event and a bit of a trial run. As it was so successful, we hope to have another ‘Pudding Evening’ in the future.

We’re fast approaching Christmas and as usual Eynsham Rotary will be helping Santa on his way around the villages. We have decided to give all proceeds from this year’s collection to the local Day Centres, as they are suffering badly from budget cuts and we feel that they are a very necessary part of our village lives. Below is the schedule of which evening he will visit each area of Eynsham.

- Thursday 14 Eynsham Central
- Monday 18 Eynsham East
- Wednesday 20 Eynsham West
- Thursday 21 Eynsham Spareacre.

These routes and dates may be revised at short notice. Please check Eynsham Online for the latest news.

News in brief

Congratulations to Abbey Rentals, Cutting Edge Solutions, Eynsham Neighbourhood Team/The Drop-In, Eynsham Social & Sports Club, Kavanagh Accountants and turnITon Eynsham, whose coffee mornings raised a whopping £1093.54 for Macmillan Cancer Support plus a further £114.56 for Alzheimers.

A belated happy 80th birthday and best wishes to **Maureen Clapcott**, still presiding at The Drop-In, which is THE place to be on Friday mornings if you didn’t know already: just look in at St Leonard’s Hall anytime from 10:30–12:00.

Congratulations to **Margaret Hedges**, who harvested her very first pineapple in September after waiting for 7 years – an exploit that gained national recognition, as well as a column in the Oxford Mail. Having enjoyed the fruit with ice cream, she saved the top like a true plants-woman and we are pleased to hear it is growing!

A huge thank you to everyone who helped in any way with the Baphumelele stall at the One World Week sale on 21 October: making and selling cakes and bric-a-brac or selling tea & coffee all helped raise over £320.

A shout for **Adam Hingley**, whose sponsored run for Eynsham Primary School in the Abingdon Marathon raised almost double his target: £920 as we go to press.



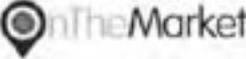
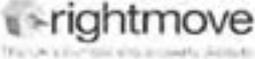
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Connections

Eynsham Directory

2018

published by Eynsham Parish Council with the kind support of
Abbey Properties and Rotary Club of Eynsham

The latest Eynsham directory, complete with a new street map, was delivered to every home in the village this month with support from Abbey Properties and the Rotary Club of Eynsham. So we are using this month's contact pages for some background on our cover. Ben Langdon's © photo taken in January 2010 is available for sale at mile91.co.uk Many thanks to Don Chapman for access to his political history to 1995; he is blameless for our updates beyond that!

When I first came to live in Eynsham in 1969, late-night motorists used to queue up and wait for the toll collectors to turn out the lights at 22:30 to avoid paying tuppence to cross Swinford Bridge. Most toll bridge users still resent having to stop and shell out the five pence it now costs to cross the river. It is not a matter of principle. They begrudge paying to cross a bridge that would be valueless except as a historical monument – were it not for the public road either side which they already maintain out of their taxes.

The Thames crossing six-and-a-half miles west of Oxford at Eynsham was on the main route from Oxford to Witney, Gloucester, Cheltenham and the West Country before the A40 north of Eynsham opened in 1935. The bridge is a Grade II

listed building and a Scheduled Ancient Monument. Although the toll-house is on the Eynsham side, both banks of the river are in the administrative parish of Cumnor and were indeed part of Berkshire until the local government reorganisation of 1974. The ancient ferry, which enabled people to cross the Thames at this point before the bridge was built, belonged to Abingdon Abbey.

The ford did have a bad record. In 1636 three or four Welsh Sheriffs bringing Ship Money to Charles I drowned and their £800 had to be rescued from the river. In 1764 John Wesley narrowly escaped a similar fate when his horse lost its footing on the underwater causeway. George III allegedly got a royal ducking too.

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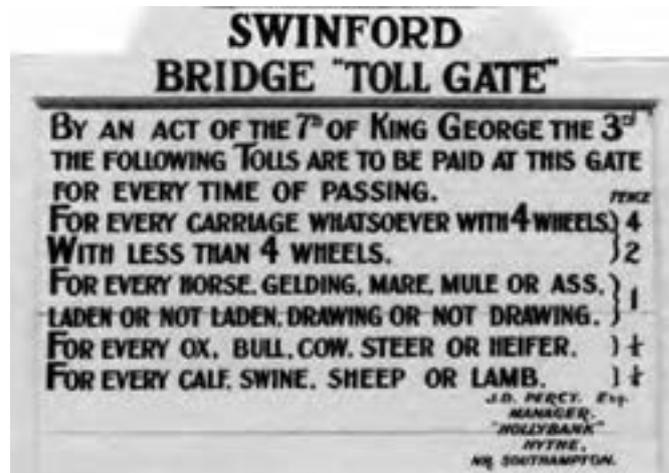
21 High Street Eynsham

Tel: 01865 880837

8 Bridge Street Witney

Tel: 01993 776486

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The celebrated English judge, Sir William Blackstone, masterminded construction of the bridge to replace the ferry between 1767 and 1769, in an effort to revive the ailing fortunes of the Fourth Earl of Abingdon. Sir William's 1767 Swinford Bridge Act was the cunning piece of legislation you might expect from a jurist whose works are still required reading on both sides of the Atlantic. In return for funding the project, the Earl along with 'his heirs and assigns' were to have a monopoly two miles up and down stream – a monopoly which continues to this day – and all revenues from the venture were to be tax-free. The Act did not compel them to rebuild the bridge, or to provide a ferry if it fell down or became dangerous, though they were at liberty to do both to protect their investment.



The toll house depicted by Samuel Ireland in 1792

In fact, the poor Earl of Abingdon went bankrupt, as a result of an ill-conceived attempt to establish the 18th-century equivalent of a motel on the Oxford side of the river; and it was left to his heirs and assigns to reap the financial rewards of Sir William's remarkable legal and business acumen. They seem to have done so more or less unhindered until the 20th century, when the disappearance of most toll-gates and turnpikes in Britain led to demands for the abolition of the remaining handful as anachronisms.

Yet Swinford Toll Bridge, fair or otherwise, seems to be here to stay. It was sold by auction to a private buyer for £1,08m in 2009, the County Council rejecting appeals to buy the bridge and scrap the tolls. Campaigns to set up smarter payment systems continue – notably from Cllr Charles Mathew whose crusade goes back to 2012 at least. The £11m that OCC allocated in January 2016 for a 'bus priority scheme on the approach to Swinford Toll Bridge, plus an element to review the operation the toll collection' has been quietly shelved – or diverted into a seemingly bottomless pit engagingly called Investing in the A40.

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').

Planning watch

Peter Emery, West Oxfordshire District Councillor for Eynsham, Cassington and South Leigh has been keeping an eye on potential developments

Developer Gladman advertised an open meeting at Eynsham Village Hall on 2 November, to discuss their proposal for a Garden Village at South Leigh. This was cancelled at very short notice, allegedly for fear of 'destructive elements'. A shame, as Eynsham residents lost the opportunity that Hanborough and South Leigh residents have already enjoyed to question the Gladman team. We understand the meeting will be re-arranged but have no date as yet.

By the time you read this, the WODC Cabinet will already have approved yet more changes to their Local Plan. The documents set out their reasons for rejecting the South Leigh Garden Village proposal in favour of 'Oxfordshire Cotswolds Garden Village' just over the A40 – and for rejecting the Hanborough site as an alternative to the Eynsham West development.

A four-week consultation period will run from 16 November to 14 December if you wish to comment; I certainly will be! Please feel free to contact me (01865 731199) or my WODC colleagues Peter Kelland (01865 880028) and Edward James (01865 731009) with any queries.

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Public services

Parish Council Vice-Chair Richard Andrews (01865 880106) has another update on the 20 MPH project. The new Eynsham Directory lists all council contact details – see page 4

We have received a final report from Design Consultants, with suggested measures to reduce traffic speeds and make a feature of the entrance points to the village. This work will need to be done in conjunction with any changes to parking, as parked cars are one of the ‘natural’ ways of slowing down traffic. There will also be some attempt to improve the look of certain locations through various ‘public realm’ projects.

The Parish Council’s plan is to implement a number of ideas as pilots, using road paint rather than expensive changes to road surfaces. That way we can find out what works and what people like – and don’t like – without spending too much money. The ideas that work can be implemented more permanently later, when the village gets its share of the money that will follow the housing development proposed for the village.

We will put suggested schemes online at eynsham-pc.gov.uk/Improve-Our-Streets when we have had a chance to prioritise the different ideas.

eynsham futures

THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN has been through its formal consultation and has been with the Planning Inspector, who has to decide if it is ‘sound’, for just over a month. We expect to receive the initial feedback just after this newsletter goes to print! There should be more to report by the end of the month and you will find an update on the Neighbourhood Plan page of the website.

Help us to help you

You are always welcome to come along to meetings of the Parish Council or its Committees – generally held on a Tuesday in the Bartholomew Room. Here’s what’s coming soon. Please contact the Clerk Katherine Doughty if you have any concerns about access: 07956 901622 / epc.clerk@eynsham-pc.gov.uk

- Planning Committee (if required) 5 Dec 18:30
- Parish Council 5 December 19:30
- Fishponds Committee 30 January 18:30
- Communications Committee 30 January 19:30
- Parish Council 2 January 19:30
- Traffic Advisory 23 January 19:30



A warm welcome to new Parish Councillor Carl Rylett

My wife and I have lived in the village for four years, having decided it was an excellent place to bring up our young son, who started at Primary School in September.

I have worked in IT for eighteen years in a wide variety of roles – from systems analyst to data migration and application support – in the sectors of insurance, food certification and company pricing strategies.

I look forward to getting involved with helping young people, inspired by seeing my son start to grow up. Other interests of mine are the natural environment (I studied environmental science at university and now enjoy walking and bird-watching); keeping up with new technologies; and history (mainly by writing and hosting a podcast on the history of Europe).

Our great outdoors

Sue Osborne – Chair, Fishponds & Footpaths Committees

FISHPONDS: As you read this, another party of volunteers will have helped with some clearance and maintenance. I hope Shirley’s Spinney will have been tidied up, the dipping platform at the pond will be free of grass and weeds, and the culvert under the playing field entrance inspected and – well, this was the plan! – unclogged. I look forward to providing a fuller update of our efforts in the next News.

Repair to the bridge and boardwalk near the ramp should be scheduled soon; and a survey of the pond is

to be undertaken to provide a clearer picture of how to make – and keep – it healthy. There will also be a replacement picnic bench on Harvey’s House Mound, for families and friends to enjoy again in warmer weather.

I am pleased to report that litter and dog mess have been at a minimum recently. Thanks to all who help to keep this a pleasant place for everyone.

FOOTPATHS: *‘It looked like the world was covered in a cobbler crust of brown sugar and cinnamon’ – Sarah Addison Allen, First Frost*

Public consultation on the proposed diversion of the ‘railway’ section of footpath no. 206/30, off Station Road, ended on 16 November. Many thanks to all those who took the time and trouble to respond.

Eric White, whose art graced the cover of Issue 27, held a spectacular exhibition focusing on the landscape under threat from the proposed development north of Eynsham.

A circular walk taking in much of the area is downloadable at tinyurl.com/eynsham-cwnorth and the Online Photo Map includes all the stiles, footbridges and gates along this route, plus some pretty views (like this of mine), at tinyurl.com/eynsham-pm



We have commissioned the first in what we hope will be a series of maps for some of our lovely circular walks, to download at Eynsham Online soon. As always, please send any reports – positive or otherwise! – to me or other members of the Footpaths committee.



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Planning

Dennis Stukenbroeker – Chair, Planning Committee

Eynsham’s industrial area on Stanton Harcourt Road has received a boost from Long Hanborough based geophysical (and unexploded bomb) consultants Zetica Limited.

The company, which is relocating to Eynsham, acquired the former Information Press site on Southfield Road in May and has now submitted a planning application (17/02975/FUL). The proposed works include partial demolition and renovation of the existing buildings, new landscaping, solar panels and an employee gym. The full planning application is available at westoxon.gov.uk/planning

Zetica conducts electromagnetic and ground penetrating radar surveys for the construction, rail and utilities industries in this country and international customers in the USA, Australia, China, the EU and the Middle East. The move has the ‘full support’ of WODC’s Business Development Officer William Barton, who said, ‘They are an important and innovative company.’ More about Zetica and their job vacancies at zetica.com

The big chill

Once again, the Parish Council needs volunteers who are willing and able to shovel snow, spread grit and generally be available to help keep pathways clear if we have ice or snow this winter. We already have the grit and the tools – we simply haven’t the person-power!

If you are willing to help, please contact the Parish Clerk (details opposite), providing a phone number in case you are needed. We will provide basic safety advice and you will be covered by our insurance if you are available to help us when the need arises.

A word of general advice on clearing snow: no one can be sued *unless they actually make things worse!*

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Governors' report



Paul Wilding took over as chair of the Primary School governors in September, at the start of the current academic year, though that feels like a long time ago...

I enjoy having a role where I can contribute to an important part of village life. I moved to Eynsham six years ago with my family and have been made to feel very welcome here, so it's great to be able to put something back into the community.

The outcome of the Ofsted visit earlier in the year has been the main focus for the school since September. Everyone associated with the school was disappointed with the 'Requires Improvement' judgement in the Ofsted report, although on reflection it was felt to be fair. The report identified some good areas of practice such as our Early Years provision and approach to Safeguarding; and noted that there was already a promising start to areas identified as requiring improvement. The school also had a reasonable set of results, broadly in line with national averages, at the end of the last academic year. Our ambition is to do much better than this.

Governors, the school leadership team and the Eynsham Partnership Academy (EPA) are all working well together to drive forward the required improvements identified by Ofsted. One of the joint Chief Executive Officers of the EPA, who is also the EPA's Primary School lead, is spending one day a week in the school to support this work. We have worked together to produce a development plan. This plan focuses on rapidly improving the quality of teaching and behaviour and ensuring consistency across the school.

At the same time, the normal life of the school goes on, with children receiving a rich and varied education. Currently, we are excited about a new initiative that places high-quality, rich texts at the centre of the curriculum. Teachers and leaders have researched a number of books that provide different layers of meaning, rich vocabulary and strong plot in order to plan units of work to inspire and engage the children, and strongly develop their reading, writing and general cognitive development.

All the governors really value the efforts being made by the school leadership and staff to improve the school and the quality of education provided to our children. We would also like to thank the parents and wider community for your continued support.

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Childcare choices

Working parents of children aged 3 or 4 may be entitled to 30 hours free childcare per week. This includes those who are self-employed and some parents on zero hours contracts – so don't miss out! Apply by the beginning of December for a January 2018 start. To find out if you are eligible visit childcarechoices.gov.uk

Digital help

Do you want to make a difference to the lives of people in your community? You could teach basic digital skills to in the library and fit it around your busy life. Help people access jobs or online services, become more independent and less isolated! Volunteer as a digital helper at oxfordshire.gov.uk/digitalhelper

Festive recycling

Waste collection dates shift after all bank holidays, returning to normal on Monday 15 January 2018.

- Extra recycling can be put out in your black boxes, open cardboard boxes or clear bags.
- Extra food waste can be left out in your kitchen caddy for weekly collections too.
- Garden waste collections resume on 9 January. Please cut real Christmas trees to fit inside your licensed garden bin, after removing decorations, pots, wire, etc. Enquiries: 01993 861025.

On the street

Over Halloween weekend a number of people around Eynsham reported anti-social behaviour – stones being thrown, knock and run; and a large pumpkin thrown through a window of one poor family could easily have injured one of their children. *PCSO Helen Keen reports*

The police team have also noticed a lot of graffiti appearing around the village, mainly on bins and signs. The graffiti is being done with a black marker pen and appears very childlike. This is criminal damage and is making the village look untidy.

Over the weekend of 4 November a large industrial bin beside the Sports Pavilion on Oxford Road was damaged by fire. As yet it is unknown if this was deliberate or accidental and investigations continue. The old toilet block on Oxford Road north side has also been damaged further by children climbing on the roof. We have spoken to a number of children about this but if anyone has information, or is concerned about any of these incidents, please contact us via 101.

Parking matters

Eynsham retail group met in October and had their usual lively debate on parking. We have noticed that inconsiderate parking is on the increase (leaving car engines running, parking on double yellow lines and use of disabled spaces by non disabled drivers). Ideas on polite 'nudging' to change this growing culture were discussed – watch this space.

You can still contribute to the discussion at **Eynsham Online > Village Info > Parking** – or drop us a line and post it through the letterbox at Cornucopia Cooks (opposite the Co-op).

We managed to find time to cover other subjects such as social media use and group advertising. Suggestions welcome for our group hashtag. Trish's favourite so far is #HeartOfEynsham



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The exquisitely beautiful Venetia Stanley (1600–33) is said to haunt her carefree childhood home of Eynsham Abbey. She later married Sir Kenelm Digby, alchemist and privateer, who is said to have slowly murdered her with viper wine, a beauty tonic from Venice. Many thanks to Anne Avery for sharing this local legend; her note on the Colours of the wind was 'borrowed' without a credit in our last issue!

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Home front

Feeling chilly? Winter is almost upon us and, with it, cold days and colder nights. Would you like to have your home thermally imaged this year? GreenTEA can do this for you, free of charge, in less than an hour. Thermal imaging will identify areas of your home where heat is escaping; and we will advise you on how to prevent it – keeping you warmer and your bills down. If you would like to make an appointment, please contact Andy Swarbrick on 07789 995111.

Join our team! We are looking for more volunteers to help to carry out thermal imaging in the village. All training will be given, and it only takes a few hours over a few evenings. If you are interested, please contact Andy Swarbrick (as above).



Eynsham
Museum
Fund

Steve Parrinder makes a final appeal regarding the Abbey stones

It must be four years now since I made my first appeal and I am very grateful that so many of you (77 to be precise!) have been willing to let me photograph stones and other artefacts from the 'lost' abbey of Eynsham in your houses and / or gardens. There have been many really interesting finds that have had a major impact on what is known about the huge monastery that once dominated Eynsham's landscape.

My researches, and a book on the history and architecture of the abbey, are nearly at an end but some of you may still have bits of worked or sculpted stone or other artefacts in your possession which I have not recorded. If you think you may have something that could have come from the abbey, and would be happy to let me photograph it, do call me on 01865 880976 or email steve_parrinder@hotmail.com

Please be assured that I am not interested in collecting material, just recording it, and if you wish to remain anonymous that's fine. Proceeds from the book will be put towards the Eynsham Museum Fund which has already attracted a lot of support.

Free health checks!

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

One objective of the PPG is to encourage everyone to take greater responsibility for their own health. Over the next year, free NHS health checks will be offered to 900 selected Eynsham Medical Group patients aged 40–75. Last year, uptake of these checks was only 30% – hence this article!

These health checks aim to prevent premature death from stroke, kidney and heart disease or diabetes by picking up on warning signs that you may be at higher risk of getting any of them. If you do fall ill, not only you and your family, but the NHS budget and the primary care system, suffer the consequences. At the health check, you are given tests, lifestyle advice and possibly medical treatment to reduce your risk level. Remember, some warning signs of disease are ‘silent’ – so you can feel well even though you have a problem.

It is fair to say that a health check may leave you falsely reassured or unnecessarily worried by the results, especially if they are based on factors you can’t control such as illnesses that run in your family. However, long-term studies prove that these tests detect serious problems and reduce the risk of getting them.

- For every 27 people checked, one is diagnosed with high blood pressure.
- For every 110 people checked, one is diagnosed with type 2 diabetes.
- For every 265 people checked, one is diagnosed with kidney disease.

The risk factors for heart disease or stroke are often the same for other illnesses, including preventable cancers and respiratory illness. Therefore, by picking up hidden health problems and tackling them early, you can help yourself to live longer and have better health.

So, if you are invited to a free check, please go – you know it makes sense!



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Breaking all records

Eynsham Village Show 2017 has been and gone and it's time to take stock, says Fay Taylor-Ball

We were absolutely delighted to see more entries than we have ever had before. Thank you to everyone who either entered or came along to support this traditional village event and congratulations to John Singleton, who won the Gregg Chambers Memorial Trophy for highest total points awarded.

Special thanks to The Cuckoo's Nest Framing Workshop and Gallery, for sponsoring our photography classes this year. This financial support enabled us to purchase new display boards to show off the photos as best we could. Again, we had a record number of entries – but Lesley Willetts' butterfly in flight won the cup.

Here are your photography challenges for next year:

- Green
- A Blast from the Past
- Clouds
- Little Creatures
- Down by the River.

A list of all the winners of cups and trophies will be online soon, to help everyone celebrate. Meantime, an advance notice: **Saturday 15 September 2018** is the date for next year's show.

A time to reap...

This update from Andy Swarbrick, Chair of the Eynsham Allotment Association (EAA)

During this glorious autumn, plot holders have been reaping the benefits of all their hard work over the year. The allotments have been replete with a huge variety of fruit, vegetables and flowers. Damage to crops has been successfully reduced, as reported earlier, by external deer and rabbit fencing – thanks to funding from Tesco and the Parish Council, and to the hard work of many EAA members. We are grateful to all who contributed.

On a less happy note, travellers have moved into a site next to the allotments. We are monitoring the situation and liaising with the authorities, as necessary. The Parish Council is dealing with the matter.

Our AGM took place on 19 October and last year's committee was re-elected. We look forward to another year working to ensure the smoothing running of the Allotment Association.

Opportunity! A small number of plots have recently become vacant. If you are interested, please contact Andy Swarbrick on 07789 995111.

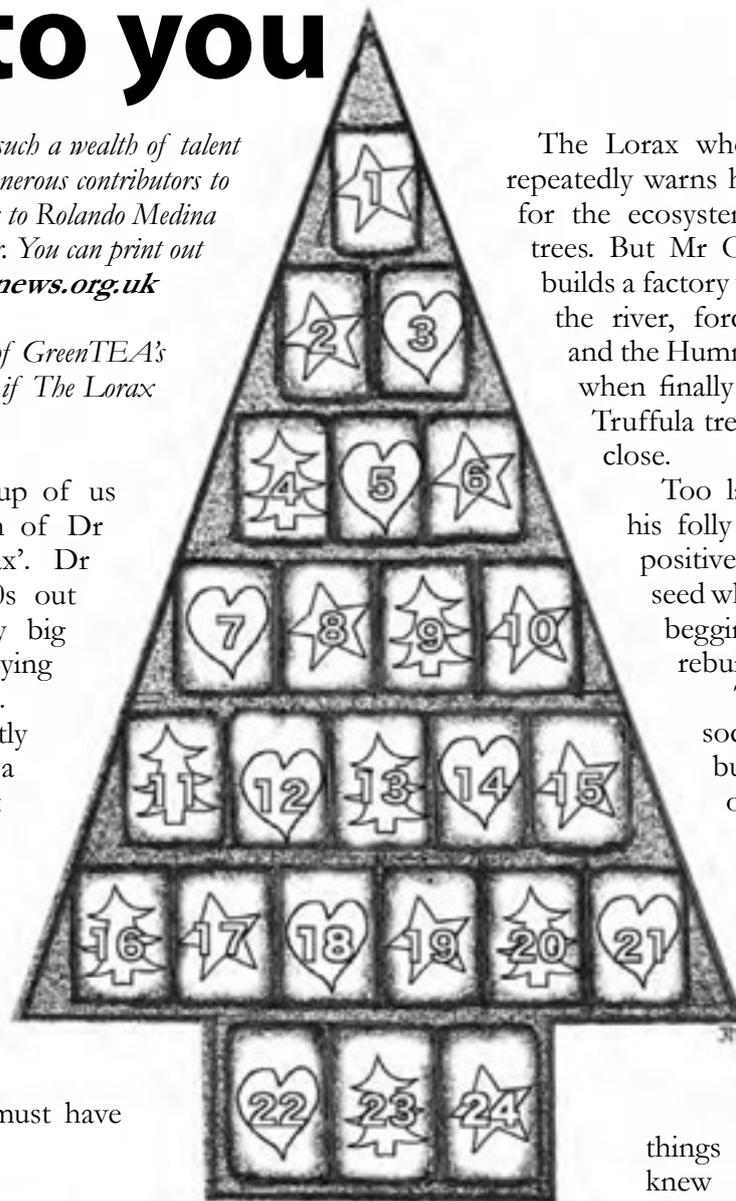
Over to you

How fortunate we are to have such a wealth of talent in Eynsham – and so many generous contributors to Eynsham News! Many thanks to Rolando Medina for this original advent calendar. You can print out a bigger version at eynshamnews.org.uk

Below, Helena Nielsen, Chair of GreenTEA's Hearts & Minds group, asks if *The Lorax* has anything to teach us

The other evening a group of us watched a film animation of Dr Seuss's book 'The Lorax'. Dr Seuss wrote it in the 70s out of anger about the way big corporations were destroying the environment for profit.

An entrepreneur, aptly named Mr Once-ler, starts a business selling a garment called a thneed made from the silk-like foliage of a Truffula tree. As his greed grows, he finds more and more uses for this versatile garment, persuading the gullible public that they must have each new item.



The Lorax who 'speaks for the trees' repeatedly warns him of the consequences for the ecosystem of cutting down the trees. But Mr Once-ler is greedy so he builds a factory which pollutes the air and the river, forcing the Swomee-Swans and the Humming-Fish to migrate; and when finally he chops down the last Truffula tree the factory is forced to close.

Too late Mr Once-ler realises his folly but to give the story a positive ending he has one last seed which he gives to the Lorax, begging him to plant it and rebuild the lost environment.

The parallels with present society are pretty obvious but especially so at this time of the year. I wonder how many of us will receive Christmas presents that we don't need or even want. And eat and drink more than we want just because it's expected of us.

But we can choose to do things differently. A family I knew in Derbyshire decided to spend the weekend without using any electricity. So instead of being locked into electronic media, the family played board games, went walking and had picnics and a barbecue. Did this provoke a mutiny? On the contrary, the youngest asked if they could repeat the experiment the next weekend!



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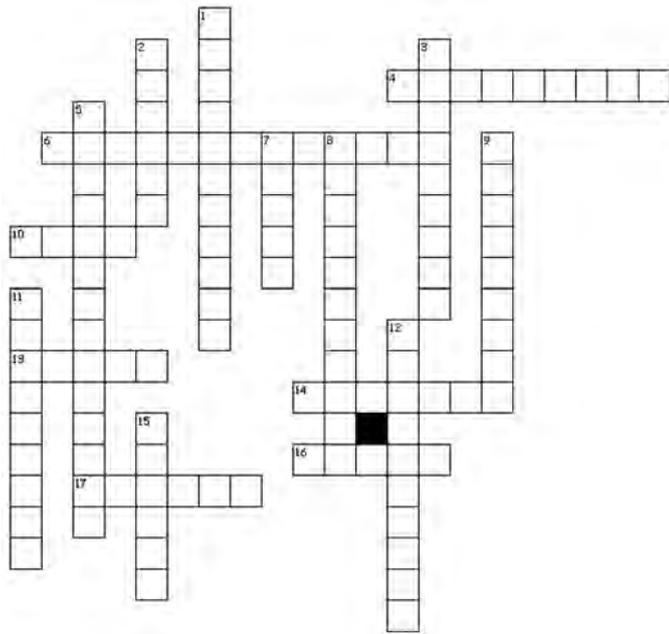


FINGER ON THE PULSE

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...





Christmas crossword

Many thanks to Sarah Medina for this seasonal effort! Answers on our website eynshamnews.org.uk – but don't give up too soon!

Across

- 4 What is the name of the traditional Christmas cake eaten in Italy?
- 6 What is the name of the most famous Christmas ballet?
- 10 What is a baby reindeer called?
- 13 Which Thomas invented the Christmas cracker in 1847?
- 14 Who was crowned King of England on Christmas Day 1066?
- 16 How many swans were swimming in the famous Christmas carol?
- 17 Which country donates London's Trafalgar Square Christmas tree to Great Britain each year?

Down

- 1 Which Christmas plant is native to Central America?
- 2 Which fruit is traditionally used to make a Christingle?
- 3 Which star sign does somebody born on 25 December fall under?
- 5 Who wrote A Christmas Carol?
- 7 Which red-breasted bird is associated with Christmas?
- 8 Which Roman Emperor set the date of 25 December for Christmas Day?
- 9 In which city was the baby Jesus born?
- 11 What is the common name for the popular Christmas plant viscum?
- 12 Which traditional Christmas drink is made with warmed red wine and spices?
- 15 In which current-day country was St Nicholas born?

Can you help?

OASIS needs a new secretary/co-ordinator; please contact Lin Miller on 01865 881780 or email rdavidmiller@yahoo.co.uk

Do you have good administrative and computer skills and would like to get involved with the Eynsham churches' work with the over 60s? It involves attending 3–4 committee meetings a year and taking minutes, booking speakers, compiling and producing brochures /application forms, arranging insurance and generally co-ordinating events. We have a separate treasurer and bookings clerk. There are three OASIS events a year: the Spring Tea, August OASIS and the Carol Service. You will liaise with and have the full support of the committee, which is drawn from the 3 village churches.

Sporting sisters

Lucy and Ellie Millington continue their success in the sporting arena with Lucy recently having been picked for the GB Elite Hockey Talent programme, after playing in the England under 21 team earlier this year. Ellie, meanwhile, has qualified for the Commonwealth Trials and Swim England Winter Nationals taking place in Sheffield this December having just become south east regional champion in the open 50m butterfly event.

Your stories and snippets, comments and corrections are always welcome for Eynsham News and we welcome photos too – see page 2 for our contact details. Next issue will be out on 29 January 2018 – copy deadline 12 January.

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People

In the first of an occasional series on local people's 'passions', Sue Raikes talked to Sarah Medina about all things earthenware and stoneware.

Sue's love of pottery was initially triggered more than two decades ago, when she accompanied her step-son Simon to evening classes at Bartholomew School so that Simon could include some three-dimensional art in his portfolio for a university application.

Long after Simon graduated from university, Sue continued to develop her skills in classes within and beyond the village. The time came when 'one-on-one' tuition was required – and 'hours and hours of practice' – to learn to throwing properly.

'Throwing' involves converting a lump of clay into shapes like a bowl on a potter's wheel. After throwing, pots are 'fired' in a kiln at very high temperatures, then decorated using combinations of chemicals – with intriguing names such as bone ash and ball clay – to create a range of different glazes. A final firing completes the pot and Sue describes the transformation as 'a form of alchemy'.

Sue had always envisaged a community kiln. After a long search around the village, she eventually set up the Old Forge Pottery, a shared workshop for amateur potters on Newland Street. She equipped it with everything needed to create beautiful earthenware and stoneware pottery. Over the years, the community of potters has grown to 12. Each has at least two years' experience and contributes to the cost of running the workshop and buying materials.

Sue loves this art form that comes from 'taking clay and minerals out of the earth, and using fire to completely transform them.' She enjoys spending time with other potters and describes them as 'very generous' people who, when they get together, 'talk nothing but pots'. In following her own passion, she has enabled others to follow their own.



Eynsham resident Anthony Abrahams, one of the Old Forge community, shares his own passion below.

When I retired as a GP 17 years ago, my wife had already started pottery classes at the college of further education. I decided to try the same – and found it an absorbing hobby (we have both always loved ceramics). We still use daily the butter dish I made as my first pot.

Weekly evening classes absorbed both of us, with completely different styles. I found the two hours limiting and, finally, I found a potter who was prepared to give me private classes. Eventually I found that she had another pupil, who was hoping to start a community pottery. After five years I moved to Eynsham and Sue opened the Old Forge Pottery, which I joined.

I continued to make functional pots – mainly bowls – and experimented with different combinations of glazes. It is a very satisfying hobby, and I wish I had started earlier.

There is an Open Weekend at the Old Forge Pottery, 33a Newland Street, on Saturday 25 and Sunday 26 November from 11:00-16:00. The potters will enjoy showing you what they do and items will on sale – in perfect time for Christmas!

If you would like to share a passion, do contact Sarah Medina at sarah.eynshamnews@gmail.com

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Much missed

Raymond Sutton 13 February 1931 – 15 October 2017: an appreciation from Sandra Jinks

Ray and Rene were our friends and neighbours in Back Lane for over 50 years until their move a few months ago to Wootton Bassett. We have missed them and sadly received the news that Ray had peacefully passed away a couple of days before their 64th wedding anniversary.

Ray was an active member of Probus (serving terms as President & Secretary), of the Masons and of St Leonard's Church, as well as enjoying short mat bowling and Garden Club. With enthusiasm he would lead a group of friends many Sunday afternoons rambling Eynsham footpaths.



Interestingly, drawing on his experience as a printer, compositor and typesetter he was part of the first group working on *The Roundabout* which predated *Eynsham News*. The family remember the dining room table at that time continually being awash with papers!!

Acquiring a video camera, Ray, on returning each year from their holidays, would invite us over to watch what he had recorded accompanied with an assurance that we did not need to endure too long a session, but we were always pleased to accept and more than happy to be his audience for the whole evening.

Ray was a quietly thoughtful, considerate and kind family man, with a cheeky sense of humour who will be sadly missed by Rene, his family and friends.

Steve Wheeler

Our thoughts are also with the family of Stephen John Wheeler (16 January 1955 – 10 October 2017). His first job in Eynsham was at engine reconditioning firm FJ Payne; he then served 20 years at Oxford Instruments, while playing (and coaching) rugby at weekends – and honing his skills as a part-time freelance photographer, mainly for the Oxford Mail. His sports photography took over from a passion to a full-time job in 2005; and he was generous in sharing his local grass roots coverage with Eynsham Cricket Club and Eynsham Online.

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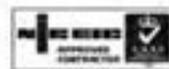
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Recreation



EYNSHAM UKULELES provided the entertainment at the annual get-together of Witney's Talking News Charity on 20 October – this photo by the group's official photographer, Beth, age 8. New players are welcome in the White Hart any Wednesday from 20:00; enquiries to James Spencer: 0747 279 4869

FLINTLOCK THEATRE wowed their audience in an open dress rehearsal of 'Four Score Years and Ten' at the Music Room recently. Imagine the surprise on entering the venue to find tables laid with vintage china, scones, cake and hot tea. The actors, seated among the audience, portrayed the words of six real-life octogenarians and nonagenarians, in a performance replete with dignity, poignancy and humour. Fully funded by the Arts Council and with tickets free to audiences, this warm and thought-provoking play subsequently went on tour. With work of such a high standard, we look forward to future performances by this local group.

OASIS remains as popular as ever and we had several new attendees this August. We enjoyed collage and card making, a Fair Trade food tasting by our local Co-op Manager and tips on writing one's life story. There were also fascinating talks on Wytham Woods; how sound effects are produced; and stone masonry. We were treated to a lively musical finale from Larry, John and Paul, well known local musicians! As usual participants enjoyed freshly cooked two-course lunches each day, plus afternoon tea and cake. Thanks to everyone who helped make it all such a success.



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The OASIS Carol Service on Thursday 7 December at 14:00 in Eynsham Baptist Church will be followed by afternoon tea. *Lin Miller*

BUMP TO ONE is a friendly, fun and safe group created exclusively for parents-to-be and parents (or grandparents) of new babies up to the age of one. Established 14 years ago and run by two experienced mums, Sue and Jenny, both with a background in the health profession, more than 300 babies have been part of the Bump to One 'family' over the years.

Bump to One meets in St Leonard's Church every Monday morning from 10:30–12:00, except on Bank Holiday Mondays. The church provides a beautiful space with a really peaceful vibe; people of any faith or no faith at all are welcome. Sue and Jenny are on hand to promote discussion or information sharing – feeding, sleeping and nappies are all popular, although far from exclusive, topics – and to offer delicious refreshments, including Monday morning biscuits which have 'no calories in them whatsoever!' Occasional talks are offered, too: in July, for example, Ruth Webster, a consultant anaesthetist at the JR, ran a very popular session on recognizing a sick baby and basic life support. All this for 50p per session.

Sue and Jenny see Bump to One very much as a springboard for more informal friendships. Many close friendships have been formed; and members chat and organise other get-togethers on WhatsApp. Formed before the Children's Centre was set up – and still running now the Children's Centre has been closed – Bump to One is **the** place to go. Sue and Jenny look forward to welcoming you. For more information, please contact Sue Greenwood on 01865 464238 or visit eynsham-pc.gov.uk/Bump-to-One

EYNSHAM COUNTRY MARKET has free coffee and mince pies for all customers on Thursday 7 December. Our last market of 2017 is on 21 December and we reopen on 1 February, after our normal break in January, with tastings of new season's marmalade on 8 February. *Sue Butler-Miles: 01865 880928*

LEGGETT DANCE SCHOOL runs ballroom and Latin classes for children aged 5 plus and adults at the Primary School, on Monday evenings in term time. Come, have some fun and meet new people! Partners are not necessary and absolute beginners welcome. You get the chance to learn a variety of dances such as waltz, tango, quickstep, cha cha, samba and jive. We have been lucky enough to take part in local demonstrations and shows. Dancers also have the opportunity to work with a partner and compete around the country, from Reading to the amazing Blackpool Winter Gardens. *Enquiries: 07982 679858/leggettdancers@outlook.com*



BARTHOLOMEW PLAYERS present: 'The Constant Wife' by Somerset Maugham from Wednesday 29 to Saturday 2 December in the Village Hall. Tickets £9 (concessions £8) from Evenlode DIY and on the door. As usual, we are partnering with a local group for our Charity Supper Show on Friday night. This time the Eynsham Museum Fund (see page 10) will assist us in organising the evening in return for a share of the profits. We look forward to seeing you!

EYNESHAM ARTS GROUP members offer their own unique interpretation of 'Light and Shade' in original paintings, cards and printed items, all at very reasonable prices and just in time for Christmas. The show runs 18–26 November 10:00–16:00 in the Bartholomew Room.

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



EYNESHAM CHORAL SOCIETY Christmas concert takes place on 2 December at 19:30 in St Leonard's Church, with orchestra and soloists conducted by Stuart Dunlop. Tickets £12 (concessions £10) from Evenlode DIY. The works selected are JS Bach – *Gloria*; Brahms – *Der Englische Gruss*; Bruch – *In der Christnacht*; and CPE Bach – *Magnificat*.

WEST OXFORDSHIRE RAMBLERS plan a circular 5 mile walk around Eynsham on Tuesday 19 December, with a stop for mulled wine and mince pies. Non-members welcome. We meet at Back Lane car park at 10:30. *Rosemary Clegg: 01865 880105*

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Sunday 10 Dec

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Wednesday 13 Dec

10:15 Nativity Play for the under 5's

Sunday 17 Dec

18:30 Carols by Candlelight

Christmas Eve – Sunday 24 Dec

23.30 Midnight Communion

Christmas Day Monday 25 Dec

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Christmas Eve – Sunday 24 Dec

17:00 Mass (especially suitable for children)

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12.00 Midnight Mass

Christmas Day – Monday 25 Dec

10:00 Christmas Morning Mass

New Year's Day – Monday 1 Jan

10:00 Mass

01865 881613 stpeterseynsham.org.uk

ST LEONARD'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND

Sunday 3 December

17:00 Christingle

Monday 11 Dec

18:30 Scouts and Uniformed Carols

Sunday 17 Dec

19:00 Carols by Candlelight

Christmas Eve – Sunday 24 Dec

17:00 Crib Service

23:30 Midnight Communion

Christmas Day – Monday 25 Dec

08:30 Holy Communion

10:00 All Age Christmas Celebration

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THE THREE CHURCHES

Thursday 7 Dec – Oasis Carol Service

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Monday 4 December

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Wednesday 13 December

19:30 Carols at The Swan



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What's on

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

November

- 25–26 **Arts Group**, Christmas Show – page 17
25–26 **Old Forge Pottery** – page 14
25 **Freeland Orchestra** – page 17
26 **Litter Pickers**, Baptist Hall 13:45.
29–30 **Bartholomew Players** – page 17
30 **Oxford Organic Group**,
St Leonard's Hall 19:30

December

- 1 **Primary School PTA**, Christmas Fair 17:00
2 **GreenTEA**, Eynsham Emporium 10:30–12:00
2 **Choral Society** – page 17
4–10 **Library Closure**
6 **Eynsham Society**, Village Hall 20:00.
Christmas Party
7 **OASIS** Carol Service
7 **History Group**, St Leonard's Hall 19:30.
Scandals in High Society
12 **Women's Institute**, Back Lane Car Park 18:15.
Coach leaves for Christmas Party
13 **Garden Club**, Village Hall 19:00. *Christmas Party* – note earlier start. Enquiries: 01865 880342
14 **Santa's tour begins** – page 3
19 **Ramblers Group** – page 17
19 **Eynsham Morris**, Carols at the Queens 20:00
20 **Carers' Group**, Eynsham Emporium 11:00
21 **Christmas Crafts** in the Library
24 **Gatehouse Volunteers**: home-made sandwiches & cake for the Oxford shelter. Enquiries: 01865 881346
26 **Eynsham Morris**, Boxing Day Dance 12:00

January

- 6 **GreenTEA**, Eynsham Emporium 10:30-12:00
9 **Women's Institute**, St Leonard's Hall 19:30.
Cotswold laughing yoga club.
10 **Garden Club**, Village Hall 19:30. AGM
12 **Eynsham News** copy deadline – page 2
17 **Carers' Group**, Eynsham Emporium 11:00.
Enquiries: 07557 430875
18 **History Group**, St Leonard's Hall 19:30.
Martin Buckland, *The Invisible Brick*
25 **Oxford Organic Group**,
St Leonard's Hall 19:30



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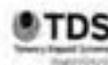
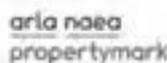
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LOOKING FOR A LOCAL GIFT?

- You can donate to the Wychwood Project ‘tree for life’ appeal at wychwoodproject.org
- Copies of the latest Eynsham Record – with notes on the tiles and wall paintings of Eynsham Abbey – are on sale at Evenlode DIY and in the Library for a very reasonable £4.
- Jane Tomlinson’s arty tea towel – celebrating everything we love about Eynsham – will take the sting from washing up.
- Treat yourself or the kids to an adventure at The Curiosity Box or the Art of Glass Studio.



Visit Eynsham Online at eynsham-pc.gov.uk

Our sponsors

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

A family affair!

An update from our sponsor Polar Technology Management Group

September was a busy month for local business SST Technology as they moved from Sutton to Eynsham. SST are now settled into their new state of the art 45k sq ft premises adjacent to their sister company Lentus Composites, who both fall under the Polar Technology Management Group umbrella. Eynsham is now home to a dynamic group of innovative engineering companies with a lot more to offer.

Earlier this year, the Polar group received planning permission for a new site – namely, Horizon Technology Park. Remaining in Eynsham, the new site is set to make the future exciting and bright for both SST and Lentus!

Lentus Composites recently won the Composites UK Innovation in Design Award and the Cotswold Life EMI Technology Innovation Award 2017 for their bike frame project with Cervelo. SST Technology were also finalists for the Cotswold Life EMI SME Manufacturer of the Year Award 2017.

To achieve these accolades we need the best people in our teams, so if you want to be part of it please get in touch: email info@polartechnology.co.uk or visit sstubetechnology.com or lentuscomposites.co.uk

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