



EYNSHAM

Council & Community

NEWS

Issue 29 – February – March 2018

Reasons to be cheerful



Many thanks to Ian White for yet another seasonal photograph; read more about the Fishponds on page 6

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Marking time in the very dead of winter, we know how things play out: longer days and milder weather, snowdrops breaking through. This spring we shall enjoy a carpet of purple crocus on the verges, planted in support of Rotary's End Polio campaign.

Which – if you are looking for comparisons – seems an excellent place to start. Big issues at any level can feel beyond us individually, yet all the evidence suggests we can make a difference together.

Looking back



The Rotary Club of Eynsham would like to thank everyone who gave so generously to Santa's collection in the weeks leading up to Christmas. Despite the cold weather we collected a handsome sum which will be allocated to the local day centres.

You may also have noticed that Rotary Club members were out again on 26 and 27 December, manning the buckets at the toll bridge. The monies collected will be allocated to international projects such as the End Polio Campaign and local charities. More details to follow.

Not long now until we begin to see the crocus shoots pushing up through the grass verges in anticipation of our End Polio Now purple crocus display.

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Looking ahead

The main concerns for Eynsham today are probably the Garden Village promoted by WODC; and the A40. County Councillor Charles Mathew, who offers his assessment below, is in discussion with local MP Robert Courts about what has become 'a rather complicated situation', including the fact that one District councillor has affirmed to his fellow members that he will not stand in May in the conservative cause.

Eynsham Neighbourhood Plan has been called into question by the Inspector/WODC and there are very strong feelings on the matter. Increasing the village by some 4,500 houses on the north and west by 2030, without any guarantee of infrastructure, is more than frightening and [you can] add to that the turmoil on the A40, the lack of a link road to Peartree from the A40 and a *minute* Park and Ride – Eynsham is already a car park for the S1 bus to Oxford – and the queues to the Swinford Toll Bridge. The £37m Department for Transport funding to support the County Council's proposed A40 bus lane has *not* been approved and the (repeatedly promised) business case for this has yet to materialise. I would urge residents to write to the DfT to question the sense and the viability of this project.

'There is only one sensible answer to the A40 and that is the building of a light railway on the old railway line wherever possible and diversions where not from Carterton to Witney to Eynsham and thence to Oxford (possible on the Hanborough line). It is in this way that you will cure the A40 tailbacks: by significantly reducing the number of cars on the A40 and therefore freeing up the problem.'

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 26 March – copy deadline Friday 9 March, though advance notice really helps if you'd like some room to spread.

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eynsham futures

Parish Council Vice-Chair Richard Andrews (01865 880106) has another update

The initial response from the Independent Examiner was frustrating to say the least. We are not allowed to include any policy which applies to specific locations (such as the west or north of the village) but it would (probably) be acceptable to have policies which applied to Strategic Scale sites (e.g. the west) and to New Settlements (e.g. the Garden Village).

We are not allowed to make 'Recommendations' to other bodies such as the District or County Councils as we cannot 'require' them to do anything outside the narrow remit of a Neighbourhood Plan. The whole point of Recommendations is that they are NOT requirements – if they were they would be in a Policy – but no, we have to rephrase all of them so it is the Parish Council who has to take action to persuade these other bodies to do what we would like to see happen.

Unfortunately this is the first time we have heard of these limitations. It is easy to reword the policies to comply with the new phraseology without changing the end result very much but then we have to go through the endless rounds of consultation and Strategic Environmental Assessment reports again.

The Parish Council has decided to continue with the examination process, so at least we know exactly what is not acceptable (so we can correct it) and we may have enough of the plan left to at least get something worthwhile for you to vote for and put officially in place before the large-scale development which we know is planned. We will probably have to 'revise' the plan soon afterwards, repeating the whole process of consultation, examination and referendum to put back, using slightly different wording, the things that will be struck out of the first version.

The big chill

The recent snow-fall has once again raised questions about why the snow isn't cleared in the village (apart from the OCC gritting routes shown). The Parish Council doesn't have staff available for this but we do have a few volunteers who help keep the village safe for vulnerable pedestrians who have to get to school or the shops.

One group of volunteers keep the slope up from Merton Close to the roundabout clear, using salt from the nearby bin – the Parish Council are most grateful to them. Another volunteer took up our offer of free salt to keep an area by the Mill Street pedestrian crossing free of ice. The offer of a free salt supply remains for any resident or shop-owner willing to use

it for the public benefit and we are still hoping that others will respond to the obvious need. Key locations are the lanes and pavements near schools, shops, medical centre and other places where people need to go, whatever the weather. Our concern is primarily for pedestrians but a few slopes on the roads may be suitable targets as well.



We supply written training at bit.do/gritting so you cannot be sued if you clear snow and ice sensibly. Please tell us where you will clear and we will supply the salt. There is no contract so you are not obligated to clear your patch every time but when you do, we will all be grateful. In the long term we would like to co-ordinate these activities but we first need enough volunteers! If this is something you can help with, please contact the Parish Clerk – *details on page 5*.



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www.stleonardseynsham.org.uk
Vicar: Duncan Fraser 07810 324088
Church Office & Secretary: Jan Macdonald
21 High Street 01865 883325 /
stleonards_stpeters@btconnect.com

SUNDAY SERVICES

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

ST PETER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

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

EYNSHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

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.

Our regular Contact columns will soon be restored in full; meantime copies of the Eynsham Directory 2018 are still available at Eynsham Library and Eynsham Post Office.

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Long Mead

Following her description of Long Mead Orchard for Eynsham News in 2014, we asked Catriona Bass to tell us more about this remarkable site. Here is her first instalment.



When I say that I live on Horseshoe Island, which adjoins Long Mead, some Eynsham people who have lived in the village all their lives ask: 'Where's that?' and I have to explain that if you look upstream as you cross the bridge you'll see what looks like a clump of trees at the end of the meadow and that is Horseshoe Island. Other people reminisce excitedly about childhood adventures down on the island, fishing, smashing the windows of the little wooden house, which has been here since the 1960s, staying out late, getting drunk.

Every time Eynshamites visit, I acquire another piece of the puzzle of its 20th century history. Norman Butler Miles and Graham Podbery cut the hay on Long Mead over many years and, during one particularly rainy summer when the weather forecasters kept promising sun – and rain would come down just as we were starting to cut, Norman said: 'I can't be doing with weather forecasters – in the old days, if you could hear the steam engines at Wolvercote you knew you had five fine haymaking days ahead.' I was a bit slow and so he had to explain that you could only hear the Wolvercote steam trains if the wind was in the east, which meant that the weather would be set fair. Some years later, Anne Wrapson visited Long Mead with the Eynsham Society. She told me of the old man who had lived on Horseshoe Island in the 1930s and 1940s. He was a naturalist and taught Anne and her brother everything they knew about the wildlife and plants of the area.

From early spring, Long Mead is a blaze of colour as flowers appear whose names everyone used to know – oxlip, early marsh orchid, bird's foot trefoil, ladies' bedstraw, adder's tongue fern, red fescue, meadow foxtail, yellow rattle, great burnet. Great burnet with its red bobbly flowers that wave above the rest are thought to live for over 200 years. It is the main indicator of these now rare meadows.

Long Mead is part of the last three per cent of Britain's ancient floodplain hay meadows. Today,

only an area the size of Heathrow Airport remains due to postwar demands for intensified production. But they were once the most valuable land in Britain, their fertility being enhanced by the river silt carried in during floods. They even feature in the Domesday Book. These meadows allowed villagers to overwinter their livestock since they not only provided grazing but a hay crop as well.

Meadows like Long Mead remained the most sought-after land until the introduction of artificial fertilisers when, overnight, farmers could increase the richness of all their land. Grasses responded best to fertiliser, out-competing all the other plants, growing thick and tall and increasing hay yields enormously. So, in the last half-century, our meadows turned from a riot of colour buzzing with insects, butterflies and birds, to a quiet, rich, uniform green. Standing amid the flowers of Long Mead on a June afternoon, you understand that the richness has come with a loss. Farmers understand this too. As Graham Podbery says, although the hay yields are low from Long Mead, the mix of herbs it provides makes them a valuable feed for livestock.

I have owned Long Mead since 2000. It had slipped off the radar of environmental protection bodies and had narrowly escaped being dug up for a Thames Water main. I got it designated a County Wildlife Site and since then have been farming it traditionally, taking a late hay cut to allow flower seeds to set and ground-nesting birds to breed and then grazing it with cattle or sheep. I offer educational visits to school children, in association with Natural England, and work with Eynsham-based Love Care Farm and Wytham's Farmability to give adults with learning difficulties the opportunity to spend time in this extraordinary environment. I am about to embark on ten-year longitudinal study of the biodiversity of the site.

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
 Carl Rylett: 01865 883643
 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 – *see page 2*
 County Hall: 01865 792422

WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Peter Emery: 01865 731199
 Edward James: 01865 731009
 Peter Kelland: 01865 880028
 Council Offices: 01993 861000

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 Bartholomew Room/Sports Pavilion: 07956 901622
 Cricket Pavilion: 07872 103262
 Scout Hall: 01865 881787
 Social & Sports Club: 01865 881234
 St Leonard's Hall: 01865 881690
 Tolkien Room & garden: 01865 881613
 Village Hall: 07813 499987
 – *see page 9*
 White Hart Function Room: 01865 883093

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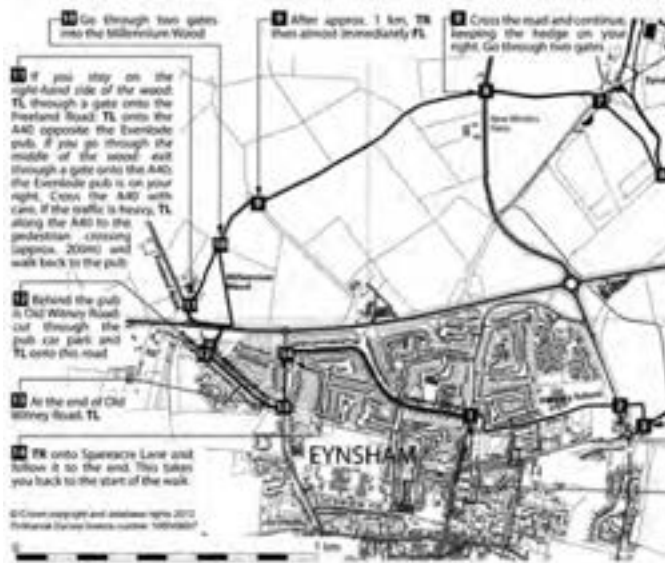
1 Abbey Street, Eynsham, Oxford OX29 4TB

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Public services

Eynsham Mill Circular Walk

A 3 mile circular walk, starting from Mill Farm, moving anticlockwise to include the old Carriage Road and the picturesque grounds of Eynsham Mill, returning via Eynsham Millennium Wood and the Eynsham pub. Mill Farm is so called because it was used to store the mill's produce.



Sue Osborne – Chair, Footpaths & Fishponds Committees

I'm pleased to announce that there is a new map of the 3-mile circular Eynsham Mill Walk, with directions, available to view, print or download from Eynsham Online. I hope you like using it – and that you enjoy the walk! You can find it at tinyurl.com/mill-walk

I'd like to extend my thanks to the kind person/s who laid a track of hoggins along the path at the beginning of the Wharf Stream Way. It has certainly made the rather waterlogged stretch inside the gate easier to negotiate.

Someone asked me recently: 'Why is there always a piece about the Fishponds in Eynsham News?' I was surprised by the question, but it set me thinking (which is usually a good thing). Primarily, I hope the notes may inspire people to go out and enjoy the spaces around them. Also, they are to thank those who help to keep those spaces lovely; and to encourage others to do the same. New people are coming into the village all the time, as visitors and residents, and it's useful to let them know what's available – and to raise awareness about the work the Parish Council does to try to make the village a nice place to live. On that note, here is a Fishponds update!

A morning of spinney-clearing and culvert-unclogging was planned on Remembrance Sunday. We stopped at 11:00 to observe the two-minute silence and the bugling of The Last Post came floating across the meadow from the church – a poignant moment.

By 13:00, five sturdy volunteers had chopped down all the nettles in the spinney, cleared the culvert at the playing field end, scrubbed the dipping platform at the pond itself and trimmed some of the encroaching

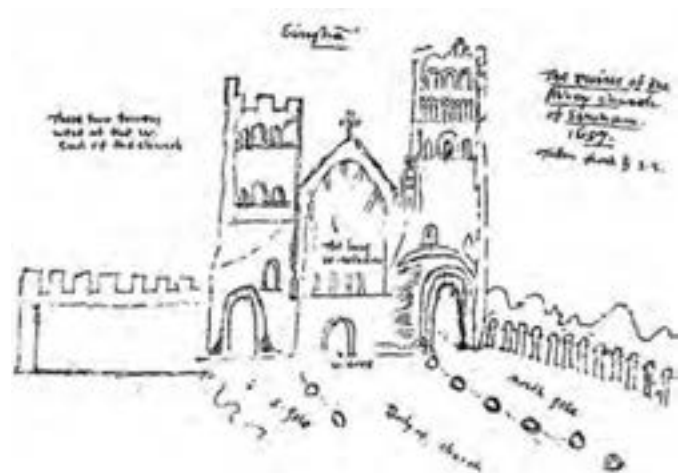
sedges, and replaced the log 'seat' at the viewpoint in the blackthorn clump. At the beginning of the morning, I never would have believed that we could have managed to get so much work done.

A thousand thanks, as always, to everyone who came and mucked in. It never ceases to amaze me how generous with their time and energy people can be, even on a day as special as Remembrance Sunday. If you would like to be involved in future working parties, please send me your contact details and I'll add you to my list of volunteers.

From the archives

Dennis Stukenbroeker – Chair, Planning Committee explains how Eynsham Abbey was discovered

The Benedictine abbey was a towering presence from the 11th to the 16th century, dominating the tiny village of Eynsham that clustered on the north side of it. Then came Henry VIII's Dissolution and it was closed. In 1538 the abbey was acquired by Sir George Darcy, who sold off the lead from the roof. Over the following centuries the abbey became a ruin, stone being sold, or just stolen, for building material. How many of you have a bit of the abbey incorporated in your house, or propping open the shed door?



Anthony Wood's well known 1657 sketch shows the ruined façade still standing but the abbey gradually disappeared below ground level and an unsuspecting visitor to St Leonard's churchyard would not know what had been there. Gravediggers regularly hit masonry. Between 1962 and 1975 minor archaeological digs in the vicinity showed important archaeological deposits survived but the exact location of the abbey still remained a mystery.

St Leonard's, and the Parish Council, were looking for a new burial ground as the churchyard would soon be full. This had been going on for some years and

St Leonard's Rev Peter Ridley was becoming impatient. In 1982, the neighbouring St Peter's church agreed to sell St Leonard's a strip 264ft long and 33ft wide on the boundary between them. This was scheduled ancient monument land, even though nobody knew exactly where the abbey was. The Oxfordshire Archaeological Unit (OAU) also became interested in the site in 1982.

With the County Council, the District Council, the Department of the Environment, the District Valuer and the parish council, two churches (and a couple of bishops) and their solicitors involved, this was going to take some time. Particularly since the church wanted the parish council to buy it and maintain it and the parish council thought it should be the responsibility of the church. The parish council finally agreed to buy the strip of land for the church and assist in maintaining it. Negotiations about maintenance began between the parish council and St Leonard's parochial parish council.

By December 1983 the sale still had not gone through and Rev Ridley was again becoming impatient. By September 1984 Rev Ridley had run out of burial plots and was becoming extremely impatient. St Peter's was wondering if the sale would happen. Maintenance was finally agreed and the sale of the strip of land for £1350 was completed in January 1985, by which time Rev Ridley had left the parish.

OAU was now free to excavate in advance of the site's use as a cemetery but the first trench was not dug until 1989 and the excavations went on until 1992. The site turned out to be mainly the abbey kitchens, dining room and lavatories but the abbey was built on a standard plan so the archaeologists could extrapolate the rest of the design. The full archaeology report was published in 2003. Visitors now have helpful signs in St Peter's and St Leonard's churchyards, showing where they are in relation to Eynsham's ancient abbey.

This cemetery extension is now full. The Parish Council has, for several years, been looking for another burial ground.

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

- Communications 30 January 19:30
- Fishponds Committee 30 January 18:30
- Planning (if required) 6 February 18:30
- Parish Council 6 February 19:30
- Planning (if required) 6 March 18:30
- Parish Council 6 March 19:30
- Footpaths Committee 20 March 18:30
- Play Areas 20 March 19:30

Play areas

Best wishes to Ron Powell, a familiar face around the play areas, who has sadly and reluctantly made the decision to retire due to ill health. He writes...



'Firstly I would like to thank you for the Emporium gift voucher which was very much appreciated. I will certainly enjoy many coffee mornings there – and no doubt a cake or two as well.' (Ron also received a voucher for Eynsham Cellars).

'I enjoyed 13 years working for Eynsham Parish Council, visiting the play areas six days a week, making sure they were clean and tidy also carrying out other small jobs when needed. Along the way I met many people, parents and children; I got to know them very well and saw many of the children grow up. Thank you all for your support and good wishes.'



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Forget that fine!

Thanks to Chris Sugden of St Leonard's for taking up the cause of drivers held to ransom recently at the Red Lion car park. The pub owners, Hawthorn Leisure, confirm that any parking charges levied here were totally illegal. If you have paid already, you can claim a refund from the enforcement company ZZPS on 01932 918916/customerservices@zzps.co.uk

The car park is now owned by St Leonard's Church and parking will be for specific categories by permission of the Parochial Church Council. Permits can be applied for from the Parish Office: 01865 883325/
email stleonards_stpeters@btconnect.com

Governors' report

Paul Stammers shares news from Bartholomew School's governing board

Months of lobbying by parents, governors and the school has paid off – the County Council has stopped the shuttle bus between Long Hanborough and Bartholomew. In addition, OCC has agreed to buy seats on the Combe, North Leigh, East End bus route so there is a single journey to and from school. The change avoids students having to be ferried to Bartholomew so early and wait while the shuttle collects other children, with staff being tasked with supervising them.

Staff, former students and governors attended the formal naming of the sixth form study centre in December. The building, where students can work independently during non-contact time and which acts as an extra exam hall, is now the Hamilton Centre, in honour of former headteacher Andy Hamilton. He took early retirement last August, having been head for 12 years and becoming the Chief Executive Officer of the Eynsham Partnership Academy.

Work to replace the ageing tower block near reception is due to start after the exams this summer, enabling a better use of space as well as looking more attractive. The new block should be finished in January 2020.

Little by little

- Smaller households can now opt for smaller (120 litre) waste and/or recycling bins. Please contact the recycling team on 01993 861025.
- Residents can now report a missed bin collection via WODC's new online form: westoxon.gov.uk/missedbin

On the street

THERE IS TOO MUCH TRAFFIC
FOR BILLY TO WALK TO SCHOOL ;
SO WE DRIVE HIM.



'I cycled past three schools this afternoon. Outside all of them was a line of parked cars with their engines running, in which parents were looking at their phones. Generating a great cloud of smog. The madness of our times.' – *George Monbiot, 11 January 2018*

A familiar story, perhaps? What isn't so common is people speaking up about it. Our only hope for improvement is if it became socially unacceptable – not only to leave the engine running but even to park around school. Does anyone dare to be a trend-setter?

Shopping matters

We were sorry to see the closure of Natural Bread at Christmas. Its owner Claire Véry says she has always had a particular affection for the Eynsham shop because it was the first to be opened by her late husband William in 2008; the decision was made 'with a heavy heart, due to a significant rise in running costs'. A selection of their best-selling sourdough loaves is still on sale at Golsby Butchers on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Let us hope that another retail outlet can be found for this corner – and that enough of us keep up a daily shopping pattern, to support our local shops.

The closure of Mille-Fleurs in January is arguably more significant – representing a blow to the variety in our retail 'mix'. Rachel's shop represented a unique 'offer' for the village; every posy however modest was carefully chosen, presented and packaged with love. She has been surprised how many people have looked in to say they are sorry to see her going – including some she hardly knew. Thankfully, Paul Cassar's original cards are going on sale across the road at The Emporium, so helping to keep our village distinctive. And Rachel remains the booking contact for the Village Hall: 07813 499987/email bookings@eynshamvillagehall.co.uk

More cheering news next door, as the 'community' window at the Post Office is due to be restored. Hitesh explains that its loss amidst the refurbishment arose from a misunderstanding; the boards may take a lot of work but they are effectively a village 'hub'.

Volunteering

As a Community First Responder

Do you want to experience the reward of helping with a medical emergency without changing your career? We currently have over 650 Community First Responders, who provide life-saving first aid in the crucial minutes before an ambulance arrives, and we're looking for more people who want to experience the ultimate in community volunteering.



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Home front

Thanks to Grant Paton for another annual report from his weather station at Odell Cottage

2017 was much drier than usual, with 545.0mm precipitation against the expected 672.6mm. January was 8% drier than average and February was 15% drier but April was the driest month, with only 9% of average precipitation. Temperatures were quite variable, with January 30% below average (a low of -5.6C was recorded on 22 January) and February 18% above average. March topped even this, 29% above average. The hottest day was 21 June, with a recorded 35.6C.

It is much too early to speculate on prospects for 2018; if past records are anything to go by it looks likely to have average temperatures but be a good bit drier.

With the annual RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch on 27–29 January, Sarah Medina has a timely reminder about food for our feathered friends – thanks to Rolando Medina for the illustration



At this chilly time of year, when nature's provisions are scarce, providing food (and water) for garden birds is not only thoughtful; it can be life-saving.

Fat balls – perhaps more pleasantly called 'bird cakes' – are easily made and do the trick perfectly: they provide much-needed energy and also help birds to stay warm. Here's one way to make them.

What you need: Used yoghurt pot(s), string, scissors, lard, bowl, spoon, combination of dry ingredients -- bird seed, raisins, peanuts (avoid if you have nut allergies), oats, breadcrumbs, grated cheese.

What to do: Thread a length of string through a hole in the bottom of the yoghurt pot(s), and secure with a knot. Bring lard to room temperature, then break into small pieces and place in bowl. Mix through dry ingredients until well-combined. Pack yoghurt pot(s) with mixture and set for 1–2 hours in the fridge. Remove, carefully cut away the pot, and tie your bird cakes in the garden. Enjoy the birds whilst they enjoy the treat!

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Healthy resolutions

*A new year update from Eynsham Patient Participation Group
– Graham Maynard reports*

Anyone who has tuned into the media recently will be aware of ‘winter pressures’ on the NHS as it responds to seasonal challenges like flu and norovirus, the special needs of an older population and those of younger people who occasionally take partying a bit too far! Oxford University Hospitals are experiencing high attendances at emergency departments so, following national guidance, the Director of Clinical services has decided to postpone around 115 planned but non-urgent operations a week at three of our hospitals (John Radcliffe, Churchill and Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre). Whilst this decision is regrettable it is understandable; so what can we all do to help?

Unfashionable though it may be, each of us can play our part in staying healthy and helping the NHS at this difficult time. Sometimes it’s challenging long-term things like skipping junk food and eating more healthily, walking to work rather than driving; but the simplest of short term measures can also make a real difference – for instance taking extra care when out on icy pavements by wearing sensible shoes, leaving more time to get to work on dark mornings, making sure that bike lights are working properly.

If you still end up needing help there are many ways to get the ‘right’ care at least cost to the NHS. A wide range of common winter issues can be treated at home using the contents of a well-stocked medicine cabinet and taking plenty of rest. Additionally, you don’t need an appointment to see a pharmacist; and the NHS 111 service is also available to provide medical advice without putting untoward pressure on local GPs, minor injury units and A&E. It’s often said but true: a substantial proportion of the people attending A&E are sent away with little or no treatment because they don’t need it!

So this edition of Patients’ Corner is no more complicated than asking you to make 2018 a year when we think about the health consequences of our actions and use NHS services as intelligently as possible.



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Eynsham Dental Care



Another helpful update from our sponsor

Local Dental Care

Eynsham Dental Care is a well established dental practice in Eynsham. They are owned by husband and wife team Cathy and Rob. The practice is easy to reach with a convenient car park and they continue to provide the highest quality professional care. Owner Robert Hughes explains: “I have been a dentist here in Eynsham for 18 years and have at least 20 more years to go! I am proud of the care we provide in the surgery and the emergency cover enjoyed by our patients at weekends, bank holidays, Easter and Christmas.”

What makes Eynsham Dental Care different to other dentists?

“A lot of practices are now owned by big corporations behind the scenes. This shifts the emphasis from care to profits and usually leads to more frequent changes in staff and your dentist,” Dr Hughes explains. “We are owned and run by myself and my wife Cathy McClelland and will always remain a family run practice. This is why our patients feel their care is personal and professional, and they see the same friendly faces at every visit.”

Free children’s dentistry places to be restricted?

Eynsham Dental Care currently provide all care for anyone under 18 completely free of charge. Cathy McClelland continues: “We have had to fight hard to keep dental care free under the NHS for under 18s. However, we are probably looking at a funding cut in April this year and are unsure whether we can keep these NHS places open beyond this time. We will continue to care for our all patients registered with us before Easter, so please come along and ensure your place into the future – and tell your friends!”

Robert Hughes and Cathy McClelland are clearly passionate about dentistry and their practice. To find out a little more about them or book a visit, call reception or click on to their website.

- W: www.eynshamdentalcare.com
- E: info@eynshamdentalcare.com
- T: 01865 880047

Over to you

Many thanks to Lorna Marrison for this cosy scene – the tapestry cushion a challenging contrast to the tabby cat. You can print out a bigger version in the Colouring Corner at eynshamnews.org.uk



Planning a new year clear-out? The next GreenTEA Swap Shop will be on Saturday 17 March at the Sports Pavilion on Oxford Road, open to the public from 10:00-11:00... and some new rules will apply. Swap Shop can no longer accept certain articles (mainly DIY and building materials), due to Oxfordshire County Council's decision to charge for their disposal – see oxfordshire.gov.uk/chargeablewaste

But please do bring all the usual small household items, clothes, books, CDs (not videos or cassettes), all manner of crafty things, tools and jigsaws and games – we are there to accept your pre-loved bits

and pieces from 09:15 – please do not leave things earlier. Remember – one person's rubbish really can be another person's treasure!

The Swap Shop team warmly welcomes new members. If you would like to get involved contact Eleanor Chance on 01865 881095.

Can you help?

The Parish Council is arranging for a new 'photographic archive' at Eynsham Online. The focus is not on people, who are so well covered in several books by Martin Harris and more recently on Facebook, but on the streets and shops and buildings, extreme/occasional events and odd-ball activities that form the background to our lives. Once you pause to think, even in the last 10 years it's amazing how much has changed. All contributions will be credited, all suggestions welcome. Please contact Joan Stonham or use the form at eynsham-pc.gov.uk/contact.aspx



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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...

Do you enjoy baking, cooking or growing and fancy an income from selling your goods?



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We are currently looking for more producers to join our friendly team. Our market is open every Thursday from 09:00-10.30 in St Leonard's Hall. If you are interested, please call Sue Butler-Miles (01865 880928), or look in at one of our markets for an informal chat and a coffee.

Dementia friends

On Thursday 30 November, 1st Eynsham Cub Scouts Eagle Pack (ages 8-10) joined the growing number of young people helping to create a dementia-friendly generation as part of the Scouts/Alzheimer's Million Hands partnership. Vanessa Gregory reports.

A Dementia Friend is someone who has gained a basic understanding about what it is like to have dementia and the small ways they can support someone living with the condition. With over two million people expected to develop dementia in the next 10 years, the majority of today's under-18s are likely to be affected by the condition in their lifetime.

The session really helped the cubs understand what life is like for a person with dementia and how we can help. We are also hoping to organise a community dementia-friendly activity in the village.

Alex Williams of the Alzheimer's Society, who introduced the session, said 'The young people who learn more about dementia today are our future customer service managers, bus drivers, police officers, MPs and HR directors, who will have more patience with someone living with dementia or can influence policies to better support people with dementia and carers.'

Read more at alzheimers.org.uk/youngpeople



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News in brief

CHURCHYARD: St Leonard's PCC has discontinued burials in the newer (southern) part of St Leonard's churchyard with effect from 11 October 2017. The Parish Council has transferred its responsibility for maintenance of the churchyard to the District Council and continues searching for a suitable new site.

EPIC: As you are probably now all aware Eynsham Planning Improvement Campaign is fighting for appropriate development in the Eynsham area, accompanied by appropriate infrastructure. Look out for us in the new year – on the A40 and in the Oxford Times – come and join us! Write to 84 Evans Road, Eynsham OX29 4QS or email epic2031@gmail.com

We always welcome your stories and snippets, comments and corrections for Eynsham News and we welcome photos too – see page 2 for our contact details. Next issue will be out on 26 March – copy deadline Friday 9 March.

Open gardens


Gardens in the village will be open to the public on 9–10 June this year. We already have quite a few people who are going to open their gardens, but do remember that no garden is perfect, so if you would like to open yours between 14:00 and 18:00 on those dates, do let me know and I will come and see your garden, and see if we can fit you in. We would also love to hear from anyone who would like to help us run the weekend. Our next meeting is on 12 February at 20:00 in the Tolkien Room at St Peter's Church, Abbey Street. *Martin Flatman: 07719 646790 / jrmartinflatman@gmail.com*

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People

Sarah Medina returns to local people's 'passions', this time with a rapid round-up of crafts. If you would like to share another story, do contact her at sarah.eynshamnews@gmail.com

From appliqué and basket-making to weaving and wood turning, there are crafts to suit every individual, no matter their interests, gender or age.

According to the Heritage Crafts Association, whose President is HRH The Prince of Wales, some crafts are endangered (e.g. braiding), critically endangered (e.g. paper marbling) – and even extinct (e.g. gold beating). Fortunately, many crafts are 'currently viable' – in fact, alive and kicking.

The livelihood of some Eynsham folk depends fully or partly on crafts such as stained and fused glass, picture framing and jewellery design. Some of us simply enjoy quietly making things at home using wool, fabric, paper and other easily accessible materials.

Yet others enjoy the companionship of a group – where conversation flows seamlessly as hands and minds are busy crafting. One local group has been meeting fortnightly for over a decade. We gather in each other's homes, taking it in turns to provide cosiness, tea and biscuits. (*Ever heard of hygge? – Ed*)

Between us, over the years, we have turned our hands to a variety of crafts – knitting, crochet, embroidery, rug-making, patchwork, wreath-making and felting, to name but a few.

What is the attraction? Our members talk about connections – with tradition, with others in the group, with the recipient of their project – the satisfaction of making something from nothing – and the relaxation engendered by a total break from the 'day job'.

The beauty of crafting is that you don't have to be an expert to enjoy, learn and grow from it. And the sheer variety of craft projects makes it endlessly interesting. So – what might appeal to you? And... where did I put my hook...?!

Two public groups meet in Eynsham on a Thursday, if you want to try your hand: Craft & Coffee at Eynsham Emporium from 10:00–12:00 (eynsham-pc.gov.uk/Craft-Coffee) and the Creative Embroidery Group in the Village Hall from 13:30–15:30 in term time – eynsham-pc.gov.uk/Creative-Embroidery-Group



Eynsham WI meantime are planning to commemorate the centenary of Remembrance Day in November 2018. We intend to make a large display of hand made poppies on the outside of the Bartholomew Room in the Square. We are asking for help to make as many poppies as possible. We can provide patterns for the crochet and knitted versions.

Please help us to make this an appropriate and fitting display to mark this day of Remembrance. More details and patterns available from Ann Wotherspoon on 01865 882011 or Lin at linmiller25@gmail.com. There are also patterns available on the British Legion website.

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Goodbye, sir



*Chris Ward reflects on her husband Peter Ward
(18 May 1931–30 November 2017)*

‘On Monday 18 December ex-pupils and colleagues and indeed the village said their farewells to the very highly respected Peter Ward (or was that Daggie).

‘As a teacher at Bartholomew School for over 30 years, English and drama became a major part of his life and his gifts in this area led him to stage and take part in many plays and musicals during that time.

‘After his retirement at the age of 58 we were lucky enough to travel to many interesting places such as China, Russia, Canada and America. We became heavily involved in bowls, both of us serving as President of the South Oxford Bowls Club. Pete became Chairman of the Eynsham Day Centre and his gentlemanly ways won the ladies over.

‘That was until his mind began to fail as Alzheimer’s set in, a wicked illness and it was very difficult to witness such a brilliant mind slowly fail and die. But I’m happy to say with your kind donations after the service we have been able to send over £835 to The Alzheimer’s Society. Thank you all for your kind words and cards.’

Ray Evans’ tribute at the thanksgiving service spoke for many: ‘As a teacher at Bartholomew School for more than 30 years children showed him the greatest respect, enjoying his fine example of living in a school with high standards which set them up for life. They could have no better teacher. He was their friend and so many pupils valued that friendship as they went out into the world. To Peter, life was a challenge, always setting himself new goals and striving to achieve them. His fulfilled life is an inspiration. What a pleasure it has been for Jill and I to know such a wonderful person, who has contributed so much to the tapestry and rhythm of life. Peter was a loving husband to Chris, a proud father of Nick and Clifford, a devoted grandfather to Jack, Greg, and Louis and a dear friend to so many. Peter will be sadly missed. We cherish so many happy memories.’

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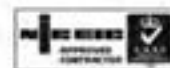
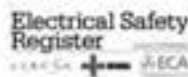
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New members welcome - see Eynsham Online: Eynsham Community Choir for more information. Email: eynshamcommunitychoir@gmail.com Telephone: 01865 880151

Recreation



Looking forward to the summer holidays? Make sure you book the day off to join in the unmissable village party – Eynsham Carnival will be back on Saturday 7 July! (this photo © Tom Brown, Witney Photo Group).

The Committee are already planning for 2018 and to get us started the Eynsham Carnival Family Disco will be held on Saturday March 10 at the Village Hall from 18:30–21:00 with a licensed bar. Entry is £1 per child/adult. The Carnival royalty, King and/or Queen and male or female attendants, will be chosen on the night. There are 3 categories for candidates: male or female attendants aged 6–9 and 10–14, King or Queen aged 14-plus. No need to apply in advance, just turn up!

The Shirt Race will be celebrating its 60th year this year and we'd love to support them with a really bumper parade. Like to enter a float but not sure how? Watch this space for a simple guide on how to do it this year in the next Eynsham News.



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EYNESHAM CRICKET CLUB have joined the Cherwell Cricket League in 2018 and we are looking for players of all abilities to join us as the club continues to grow and prosper. If you would like to join a successful, forward thinking cricket club with a friendly and relaxed atmosphere, please email sam@eynshamcc.org or send me a text/WhatsApp on 07841 901446. We look forward to hearing from you! Nets are booked for 14, 21, 28 March and 4, 11 and 18 April from 20:00–21:00 at Eynsham Sports Hall, all new players welcome!

EYNESHAM SCOUTING REUNION: It is 100 years since scouting officially began in Eynsham and the scout group will be celebrating in many ways this year. The first is a reunion for all members of the group who were in uniform or on the committee. It's a relaxed two-course buffet meal in the Scout HQ Back Lane on Friday 23 March at 19:30 costing £15 each. A chance to catch up with old friends, share memories and see some of the group's history. If you would like to come along, email markw@eynshamscoutsarchive.org.uk or Sandra on 01865 464341 (evenings and weekends only) by 23 February and we'll send you more details. Please also let anyone you know who might like to attend who doesn't live in the village any more and help us make this the best reunion so far.

Mark Watson



EYNESHAM SHIRT RACE: As well as the normal fund raising activities this year, we are planning a 60th Birthday Bash to celebrate our wonderful event and bring it to the attention of a wider range of people. The Birthday Bash – in the White Hart on 2 June – will feature music from local bands, a range of food and a display of photographs from the last 59 years, plus a film show of several previous Races. Entry will be free.

To commemorate this milestone, the committee are currently preparing a publication featuring pictures and history of the Shirt Race. We would like to ask the people of Eynsham to help with this. If anyone has photos, stories, anecdotes or memories they would like to share with the wider public, please leave your details and a brief note explaining what you have at Evenlode DIY. Someone will call and arrange to either scan the pictures or discuss your stories, so they could feature in our publication.

Peter Shrimpton – Chairman, ESR



MATURE MOVES: This popular class is mainly for over-sixties. We move to music of all types, both seated and standing, to promote muscle strength and balance (reducing falls as well). Come along, have fun and make new friends! Thursday 14:00–15:00 in the Scout Hall (term time only). Just £4, first class FREE, supported by Age UK. *Olwen Radburn: 01993 773432*

OXFORD ORGANIC GROUP meets again on Thursday 25 January at 19:30 in St Leonard's Hall. Catrina Fenton, head of the Heritage Seed Library, is coming to speak about the collection and conservation of lesser known vegetable varieties. Gardening news and plants and produce for sale. All gardeners very welcome. *Christine Briner: 01993 868693*

PILATES SPACES AVAILABLE! We are a small, friendly group that meets on Thursday at 10:45 for a beginners' Pilates class in the Tolkien Room. If you are interested, or want to know more, please phone Michelle on 01993 891900 or 07921 775565.

ST PETER'S CHURCH ANNUAL PANCAKE FEAST: Saturday 10 February from 10.30–13.30 in the Tolkien Room. Come and enjoy our delicious savoury and sweet waitress served pancakes. There will also be a raffle and cake stall.

TRAVELLING TRENDS: Hout Bay, South Africa had a very difficult 2017 with a serious fire and subsequent unrest. Despite this, Mike Nightingale Fellowship is heartened by the spirit and resilience of the remarkable people and is more determined than ever to help them forge a better future life for themselves. We have booked the Village Hall on Saturday 3 March at 14:00 for a fashion show, featuring the best high street trends at competitive prices. It will be open to ladies of all ages, with a £5 admission fee including light refreshments. This will be a fun afternoon for anyone keen for lovely clothes at bargain prices! *Margherita Pierini*

WEST OXFORDSHIRE RAMBLERS plan a circular 13 mile walk to South and North Leigh, East End, Freeland and Church Hanborough on Saturday 17 March, with a pub stop (of course). Non-members welcome. We meet at Back Lane car park at 09:30.

Rosemary Clegg: 01865 880105

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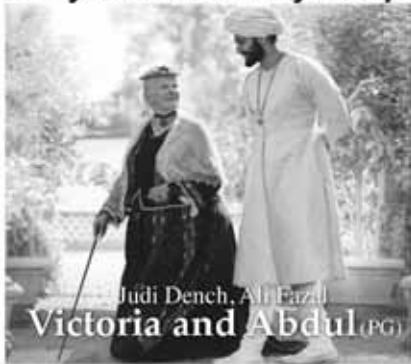
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Cinema at Eynsham Village Hall

Friday 23rd February 7:30pm



Friday 30th March 7:30pm



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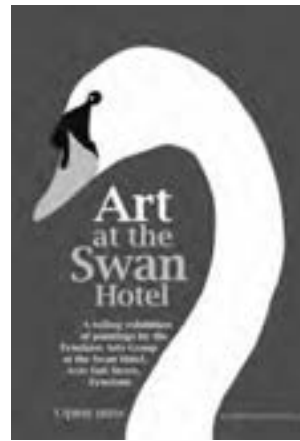
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Eynsham Arts Group
Chairman Eric White
introduces a new
partnership venture

Although Eynsham has been home to a thriving Arts Group since 1970 there still remain local residents who are completely unaware of our existence and the fact that we hold regular exhibitions in the Bartholomew Room in the centre of the village. With a growing membership and well-attended monthly meetings the group has gone from strength to strength in recent years; and the number of group exhibitions has grown from three to five each year, if the weekend print exhibition is included. All that was lacking was an exhibition space in which members could display their talents on a more permanent basis. To the benefit of all, that gap has now been filled thanks to Gordon and Kay Richardson at The Swan Hotel on Acre End Street.

Gordon approached us last autumn with the offer of wall space in their two dining rooms to host a permanent rolling exhibition of artwork by group members; with over 30 metres of hanging space available it was an offer we could not refuse. A discreet hanging system was put into place and the first artworks were installed ready for the launch on 23 November. The exhibition can now be enjoyed by all those who frequent The Swan and can be viewed at leisure by all who dine there. Gordon and Kay are keen to be at the heart of the community and to support local artists and musicians. I am sure that anybody who has yet to visit one of our exhibitions will be amazed by the wealth of local artistic talent; and this more permanent offering can only serve to make our mark even more emphatically on the Oxfordshire arts scene.

If you are interested in joining Eynsham Arts Group, or would like to find out more, then visit our website at eynshamartsgroup.org.uk – Even better, come along to one of our meetings at 19:30 on the last Wednesday of each month in the Bartholomew Room (only £2 on the door for non-members) where you will be warmly welcomed.



The Parish Council is preparing an introduction to the building's history and the wall panels, to help make Council meetings more 'visible' to residents. If any readers have anecdotes or illustrations or suggestions, they are warmly invited to contact the Clerk – page 5.

What's on

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

January

- 25 **Oxford Organic Group** – page 17
- 26 **Community Cinema**, Village Hall 19:30.
- 28 **Litter Pickers**, Baptist Hall 13:45.
- 31 **Arts Group**, Bartholomew Room 19:30. AGM

February

- 1 **History Group**, St Leonard's Hall 19:30.
Stanley Jenkins, *Oxfordshire Military History*
- 2 **Bartholomew School PTA** 19:00 Music Quiz
- 3 **GreenTEA**, Eynsham Emporium 10:30-12:00.
- 4 **Gatehouse Volunteers**: home-made sandwiches & cake for the Oxford shelter – also warm gloves, caps and scarves. Enquiries: 01865 881346
- 10 **PANCAKE FEAST** – page 17
- 12 **Open Gardens** – page 13
- 13 **Women's Institute**, St Leonard's Hall 19:15 prompt. Keith Jansz, *Painting by Mouth*
- 14 **Garden Club**, Village Hall 19:30. Pauline Pears, *Saving Seeds*. Enquiries: 01865 880342
- 15 **History Group**, St Leonard's Hall 19:30.
Sue Honoré, *Family DNA research*
- 21 **Carers' Group**, Eynsham Emporium 11:00.
- 21 **Eynsham Society**, Village Hall 20:00. AGM
- 22 **Organic Group**, St Leonard's Hall 19:30.
- 23 **Community Cinema** – page 18
- 25 **Litter Pickers**, Baptist Hall 13:45.
- 28 **Arts Group**, Bartholomew Room 19:30.
Peter Bellingham, *Cartoon Demonstration*

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').



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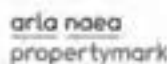
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March

- 1 **History Group**, St Leonard's Hall 19:30.
Tony Hack, *Wiltshire Medieval Graffiti Survey*
- 3 **GreenTEA**, Eynsham Emporium 10:30–12:00.
- 3 **Travelling Trends** – page 17
- 3 **Primary School PTA**, Race Night 19:30.
- 9 **Copy Deadline**, Eynsham News – page 2



- 10–11 **Art Show**, Bartholomew Room 10:00–16:00.
- 10 **CARNIVAL DISCO** – page 16
- 13 **Women's Institute**, St Leonard's Hall 19:00.
95th Birthday Party with Riverhead Ceilidh Band
- 14 **Garden Club**, Village Hall 19:30. Howard Drury,
Famous Woman Gardeners
- 15 **History Group**, St Leonard's Hall 19:30.
Nicholas Clapton, *The castrati singers*
- 17 **Ramblers Group** – page 17
- 17 **SWAP SHOP** – page 12
- 18 **Gatehouse Volunteers**: home-made sandwiches
& cake for the Oxford shelter.
- 21 **Carers' Group**, Eynsham Emporium 11:00.
- 23 **SCOUTING REUNION** – page 16
- 25 **Litter Pickers**, Baptist Hall 13:45.



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.

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Toll bridge blues

*An alternative view from Rick Taylor –
more charitable than your average commuter, perhaps!*

**Some motorists regard it as a nuisance:
It causes them delays and lengthy queues.
They view it with a feeling of repugnance
And it gives them apoplexy or the blues.**

*It's the toll bridge o'er the River Thames at Swinford
That we have to pay a fee to get across.
When we're heading on our weary way to Oxford
You may think a 5p toll is a dead loss.*

*But the money's used to pay for all that's needed
To keep the bridge's structure in good nick
So reluctantly it has to be conceded
That it isn't just a money-grabbing trick.*

*The guys who man the toll booth are real jolly;
And we pause to have a friendly little chat –
A tonic if you're feeling melancholy,
But if life is going well we'll talk of that.*

*There's no quick way around it, and although it is a bind
Waiting in the queues to cross the bridge each day,
We like the cheerful repartee; and so we do not mind
As we pass and then go gladly on our way.*



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