

EYNESHAM

Council & Community

NEWS

Issue 30 – April – May 2018

The traffic issue



Many thanks to Sue Chapman for this blast from the past, now also in the new Eynsham Image Archive – page 7

Hope springs eternal, says the poet – and what better time to count our blessings, as nature renews itself around us?

Thanks to a growing stream of contributions, these pages are more packed than ever. You can simply mess about in the garden (page 10), get involved with Eynsham in Bloom (page 12), or tour the local Artweeks scene (page 15).

And if you want to have a say there are pointers galore – write to your MP (page 2), cast your vote (page 5) or fill in our survey form (page 11).

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Local heroes

*As Eynsham News enters its sixth year, Pam Breeze commends her distribution team. Perhaps you'd like to get involved? Please contact her on 01865 880725/
eynshamnews@crazybreeze.com*

Grateful thanks to current distributors Janine Broome, Sue Butler, Sue & Norman Butler-Miles, Rachel & Michael Collins, Christine Cox, Celia Davies, Maureen Davis, Joan Day, Val Dhesi, Barbara & Graham Elliott, Roger Gascoigne, Anne Goodstadt, Norma Gummow, William Hodges, Jenny Hull-Lewis, Sue Hunt, Sandra Jinks, Ros Kent, Carole McAree, Denise McKemey, Liz Mosson, Lucy Newton, Angie & Ricky Parks, Jenny & Mark Pratley, Pamela Richards, Teresa Seeney, John Slatter, Pamela Thiele, Caroline Walker and Sue Winstone. My back-up team are Don & Sue Chapman, Margaret Key, Adrian & Wendy Swift and Bob Talbot.

I am also extremely grateful to the Rotarians who help deliver the bags to the team. And last but not least those who have been distributors in the past: I shall not forget their helpful input at the time.

I would love to hear from anyone who might be interested in joining our friendly team. It's not a difficult job but it is time consuming; and it needs to be done at the right time. We are all volunteers and no pressure is put on anyone; but the more of us there are, the more flexible we can be!



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Fixing the A40

*Witney MP Robert Courts invites your thoughts at
robertcourts.co.uk/surveys/local-residents'-survey*

I recently sent out surveys to every household in Eynsham asking for your views on local and national issues, your ideas for the future of Eynsham, and what matters you want me to raise on your behalf both in Parliament and elsewhere. I would greatly appreciate hearing more about what matters most to you. This will help inform my work with local authorities and colleagues as I continue to represent you both locally and nationally, as your MP.

As you may know, just before the new year, I presented to Parliament my petition calling for a long-term solution to the A40. In the Transport Minister's response to this petition, Jesse Norman MP highlighted how 'the A40 is likely to be on the Major Road Network (MRN)', a new programme which will make available substantial funding for roads in this network. I will campaign tirelessly for the A40 to be included in the MRN, as this would provide local authorities with the funding to find a solution to this problematic road.

Furthermore, I am aware of concerns regarding the proposed Garden Village and the effect this will have on local transport infrastructure, particularly congestion on the A40. I am working with authorities at both Oxfordshire County Council and West Oxfordshire District Council to finally fix this problem that affects so many of us. Indeed, I recently spoke on this specific matter in a debate on Housing, Planning and the Green Belt; in my speech, I made these points and highlighted the strength of feeling around this issue.

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 28 May – copy deadline Friday 11 May, though advance notice really helps if you'd like some room to spread.

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Money down the drain

Below, County Councillor Charles Mathew's recent appeal to the Oxfordshire Growth Board

The A40 from Barnard Gate to Cassington is subject to constant daily traffic jams on a rush hour basis and often more – and a source of constant and exasperated complaints from local residents.

Plans to install a Park & Ride at Eynsham for 500 (or maybe 1000) vehicles and a bus lane on the north side to Duke's Cut have been proposed, although not finally funded. There is also a declared wish to extend the dual carriageway from the Witney bypass to the Park & Ride and to mirror the bus lane on the south side. Local residents have been consulted on none of this; nor has the Housing Infrastructure Fund (HiF) bid, currently awaiting decision from Government, been consulted on. The total bill for these A40 plans amounts to £250m or more. Yet the housing planned for the Carterton – Witney – Eynsham corridor will negate any improvement.

The supporting documents produced some three years ago were seriously flawed in claiming that A40 through traffic was under 20%, when the true figure is probably double that; and plans based on wrong data will inevitably produce the wrong solution.

As the total funds involved reflect the almost identical estimated cost of a light railway or tram predominantly along the old railway line, from Carterton through Witney and Eynsham to Oxford (perhaps via Long Hanborough), surely that should be pursued in preference, as it would draw passengers off the A40 and eliminate the need to spend on that?

"The whole current proposal for the A40 is a complete waste of public money and Oxfordshire CC should be ashamed that they are ignoring all the evidence. Robert Courts also appears to be supporting this expenditure despite the facts."

– Parish Council Chairman Gordon Beach

Reopen the railway

Nigel Pearce and Eleanor Chance (Eynsham Planning Improvement Campaign / Eynsham Society) wrote in similar vein to the Oxford Times and our MP last month

FOLLOWING the announcement of the reopening of the Oxford-Cambridge railway line, it is surely time to consider reopening an Oxford-Witney line, perhaps extending it to Carterton.

We will not even need to build thousands of new houses to 'fund' it (as if that were the only way of doing so). The amount already set aside to be spent on the A40, including a bus lane and park-and-ride, is over £200m, which is well on the way to paying for a new light railway.

The planned bus lane is a good idea in theory but it does not start in the right place or go far enough.

The planned park-and-ride is again in the wrong place (it should be further west), and is totally inadequate. Even 1000 spaces will make hardly a dent in the 30,000 vehicles that travel the road each day. Any short-term relief will be quickly nullified by the occupants of the 1000 new homes that WODC plans to build along the A40 corridor. Add to that a new science/business park and the road will be at a standstill most of the day.

This is not a purely local issue; the A40 is a major 'ex-trunk' road from London to Wales. It is a national problem that the council's current building plans will only make worse.

We need to think more creatively about the A40 problem before rushing into measures that barely treat the symptoms, let alone the causes. For example, why not concentrate building and investment in the Carterton area, rather than further east, so that people travel in the other direction, or even walk to work?

POSTSCRIPT – Time For Direct Action WODC's Local Plan modifications do not address Eynsham's concerns about the A40, transport, infrastructure, houses that local people can afford, or heritage, history and biodiversity issues. EPIC will be taking a strong stand through direct action. Check out details at eynsham.me.uk





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

SUNDAY SERVICE Sunday Mass 10:00

Saturday Mass of Sunday 17.00

EYNSHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

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

Save the date! Three Churches Holiday Club – page 17

All are welcome to our Easter services – page 18

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8 Bridge Street Witney

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Contacts

This list will now appear in alternate issues, to make best use of space. The Eynsham Directory 2018 is still available at Eynsham Library and Eynsham Post Office

Allotments: John & Sara Bannister, 01865 880324

Bartholomew School: Witney Road, 01865 881430

Carnival: enquiries@eynshamcarnival.com

Chemist: Lloyds Pharmacy 64 Acre End Street,
01865 881283

Childcare: Health Visitors, 01993 881887

Chiropody: Baptist Church Hall 2nd Monday,
01865 880871

Dentists: 4 Cassington Road, 01865 880047

Dogs: WODC, 01993 861000

Electoral Services: WODC, 01993 861410

Fire Station: Station Road, 01865 881337;
emergencies 999

Flooding: early warning 0345 988 1188; sandbags
WODC 01993 861000
(out of hours 01513 432945)

Gas: enquiries 0845 835 1111, leaks 0800 111 999

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

Grass Cutting: Parish Council, 07956 901622

Hazeldene Close: roads & street lights Taylor
Wimpey, 01235 541900;
open spaces Remus, 0121 766 1480

Library: 30 Mill Street, 01865 880525

Market: St Leonard's Church Hall, 01865 880928

Medical Centre: Conduit Lane, 01865 881206

MP: Robert Courts, 58-60 High Street, Witney
OX28 6HJ, 01993 225020/
robert@robertcourts.co.uk – see page 2

Neighbourhood Car Scheme:

transport for health care, 07469 764174

Noise: WODC, 0151 3432945 (24 hours)

Pest Control: WODC, 01993 861000

Planning: applications WODC 01993 861420

Play Areas: Parish Council, 07956 901622

Playing Fields: Management Committee Sue Brown,
01865 464267

Police: incident reporting 101, emergencies 999

Post Office: 39 Mill Street, 01865 881159

Power Cuts: 105

Primary School: Beech Road, 01865 881294

Recycling: District Council, 01993 861025

Road Repairs: Oxfordshire Highways,
0345 310 1111 – emergency reports only

Social Care: (OCC), 0345 050 7666,
emergencies 0800 833408

Sports Centre: Back Lane, 01865 731090

Street Cleaning: WODC, 01993 861020

Street Lights: 24 hour fault line 0800 317802

Toilets: Back Lane Car Park, 01249 822063

Waste Collection: WODC, 01993 861020

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 3

County Hall: 01865 792422

WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Peter Emery: 01865 731199

Edward James: 01865 731009

Peter Kelland: 01865 880028

Council Offices: 01993 861000

YOUR VOTE MATTERS

MAKE SURE YOU'RE IN



District Council elections take place on 3 May. If you are not already registered, you need to apply by 17 April – it takes only a couple of minutes. Find your National Insurance (NI) number, then call WODC on 01993 861410 or visit gov.uk/register-to-vote

Garden waste subscriptions start in early April and cost just £30 per bin a year for a fortnightly wheelie-bin collection. To sign up, call 01993 861025 or visit westoxon.gov.uk/garden

WODC arts and heritage grants, ranging from £100 to £500, are now available to community groups. The deadline for applications is 9 April – call 01993 861080 or visit westoxon.gov.uk/grants

Halls for hire

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



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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
White Hart Function Room:	01865 883093

COMMUNITY FACILITIES GRANTS

The District Council is offering up to £50,000 for 'community led capital projects for the improvement /enhancement of existing community facilities and the procurement of new facilities/equipment such as village halls, play areas, sports club equipment'. Deadlines for application are 13 April and 14 September.

Interested? Check out the form at bit.ly/2tAcyX3

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A Garden Village near you: Dennis Stukenbroeker – Chair, Parish Council Planning Committee reports

Gladman Developments have moved ahead in the race with West Oxfordshire District Council (WODC) to cover Eynsham's open countryside with houses. It has submitted a planning application (18/00273/OUT) to WODC for its version of a 3000 home garden village on the A40 between Eynsham and Witney.

The outline planning application is initially for two roundabouts on the A40 to serve the new village. However, it also seeks general approval for up to 3000 dwellings, as well as a science/business park, two primary schools, an 80-room hotel, shops, medical centre, pharmacy, community centre, a pub and a cemetery. While mostly in South Leigh Parish, a significant part of the proposed development on both sides of the A40, including the science park, is west of Barnard Gate in Eynsham Parish. If outline consent is granted, all of this will need to be subject to a detailed full planning consent before construction can begin.

Gladman say the first homes could be occupied by 2021, with the rest of the village being built in stages over the next 10 years. The project occupies an area approximately twice the present size of Eynsham. However, consent is required from WODC, which is the local planning authority.

WODC's rival scheme proposes another garden village at Eynsham, north of the A40, for 2300 homes and a further expansion west of Eynsham of 1000 homes. This is partly funded by the Government and is included in the West Oxfordshire draft Local Plan. WODC's proposal has been delayed by a wait for approval of its revised Local Plan and an agreement between a coalition of landowners. Gladman says its proposal is on the land of only one landowner, believed to be the Eynsham Estate. If both Gladman's village and the west Eynsham proposal were to be

built, there would be a countryside corridor of under a mile between the two.

Eynsham Parish Council has not objected to the two roundabouts proposed by Gladman but has reserved its opinion on the garden village pending the full planning application. Witney Town Council has objected to the whole scheme. The WODC planning website has over 100 objections, mostly from South Leigh, including the parish council.

Gladman's application and the large amount of accompanying documents can be seen on WODC's website using the reference number 18/00273/OUT at westoxon.gov.uk/planning

Our great outdoors

Sue Osborne – Chair, Footpaths & Fishponds Committees

I am pleased to report that the bridge and boardwalk near the playing fields entrance to the Fishponds have been repaired. Unfortunately, the contractors' vehicle got bogged down and left some wheel ruts on the pathways but hopefully these will disappear in time.

As I write this, a new picnic bench is due to be installed on Harvey's House Mound. Work is also being undertaken at the pond itself – restoring the inlet and outflow channels for better flow; and removing the duckweed too. We hope this will go a long way to restoring the health and cleanliness of the water and that we shall soon see lots of wildlife returning.

If you'd like to join one of the Fishponds working parties, please let me have your name and email address and I will add you to my list of volunteers. Many thanks, as ever, to all who turn out to help in fair weather and foul.



'Keep calm and get some fresh air. Untamed oxygen in your brain is actually the best therapy for everyone. Get out there, focus hard on one little thing at a time. Distract yourself.'
Melanie Reid, tetraplegic

Further to my request for help last autumn regarding the proposed diversion of FP 206/30, which follows part of the old GWR railway line, I'm pleased to say that the proposal has been withdrawn. Thanks so much to all who sent in comments to WODC. I'm sure we cannot rest on our laurels but it is at least a victory for now!

The Parish Council has recently commissioned a new piece of artwork for Wharf Stream Way – this time from Will Glanfield – to be sited near the weir at the Thames (pictured) and to reflect the transportation of goods between the river and the Stream. A reminder, you can download the route at tinyurl.com/wswmap

We'd be grateful for information about the history of the Stream and its links to the Thames, the goods transported, etc., to inform and inspire the artwork. Will says 'One thing I really would like is any information on the type of boats that were used along Wharf Stream – especially images'.

Thanks to Siemens for clearing the section of FP 206/7 which runs along the north bank of the Wharf Stream beside their site, after some of the trees were brought down by snow and blocked the path. There is quite an adverse camber here and it can be treacherous when muddy, so I hope improvements can be made at some point. I know the 'Wharf Stream Elves' have also carried out a litter pick along here, as well as some clearance and fence repairs, so many thanks to them as always for their help.

Please feel free to carry some secateurs with you when you are out walking; OCC's Countryside Service assure me that it is permissible to cut back any brambles, etc., encroaching on a public right of way. The more we do as individuals, the more accessible our paths will be.

As always, please send any reports – positive or otherwise – to me or any other member of the Footpaths committee. Alternatively you can report problems directly to OCC at camsv.oxfordshire.gov.uk

Sadly, dog fouling around the village continues... do people really love their pets?

Goodbye to all that



A new 'Image Archive' is now open at Eynsham Online

Here you'll find the streets and shops and buildings, extreme/occasional events and odd-ball activities that form the background to our lives. So take a trip down Memory Lane and share your memories too! All contributions will be credited, all suggestions are welcome. Please have a word with Joan Stonham or use the Contact form at the foot of every page.

They work for you

The Annual Meeting for the parish of Eynsham takes place on Tuesday 24 April at 19:30 in the Village Hall. *This is a public meeting – do come if you can.* Here is your chance to catch up with representatives from the local Police and Fire Service, county, district and parish councillors, primary and secondary schools, Eynsham Consolidated Charity and Bartholomew Educational Foundation (see page 19), Playing Field and Village Hall managers and the Allotments Association.

Each public body has been invited to publish its own reports at Eynsham Online. Printed copies will be available in the Library a few days beforehand as usual, for residents who don't use the internet. Please contact the Clerk Katherine Doughty if you have any concerns about access – details on page 5.



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Governors' report

There's good news if you worried about construction traffic when work on the new tower block begins this summer, assuming planning permission is given. Paul Stammers reports from Bartholomew School

The proposals don't affect the Grade II listed building at the front of the school, so it's likely that Bartholomew will get the go-ahead to start the project in June 2018. Work is due to be completed by December 2019.

Members of the public, local councillors, parents and other stakeholders were invited to view and comment on the plans last December. Some asked about the impact of contractors' traffic and parking. The school has since agreed to create a temporary hardstanding next to the Multi Use Games Area so contractors can park on site rather than in nearby roads. In addition, the lay-by in front of the school will not be used by contractors during school arrival and departure periods; and there will be no deliveries to the school site during those times.

Heritage at risk

The Eynsham Abbey Heritage Trail 'cairns' in the recreation field have recently been vandalised. Last year a large carved abbey stone was carted away and the information board left lying on the ground. Tim Jordan repaired the cairn on that occasion with some help from me. In the latest incident, two information boards were prised from their cairns and completely removed.

It is a shame that a few people have little regard for our heritage; but perhaps it points up the need for a museum in Eynsham so that its significant history can be properly appreciated by the rest of us and by visitors.

Whether or how to repair the two cairns has not yet been decided. Meantime, if you have any information about the vandalism, especially the whereabouts of the information boards, please contact our PCSO or the Eynsham NAG – see opposite. *Steve Parrinder*

Library updates

Best wishes to Katherine Mercieca (shown), moving on after almost a decade, and welcome to new manager Clare Rednall – a familiar face already.

Customer service adviser Pam Kendall is now ably supported by Carole Kemp. And there are spaces in the Book Group! – contact Linda Dodds: 07929 718864.



Little by little

In spring 2015, Nick Lewis found that wheelchair access round the village isn't all it might be. Hurray! The Post Office now has a splendid ramp. What progress with our other public buildings?

The Parish Council still meets up a narrow flight of stairs in the Bartholomew Room. After a flurry of discussion about installing a lift or finding an alternative venue, the only visible change is an invitation on the agendas to 'contact the Clerk if you have concerns regarding accessibility' – which doesn't encourage anyone to look in on a casual basis. For the price of a web-cam they could broadcast every public meeting to any web-connected device, increasing community awareness and engagement at a stroke.

Access to the Village Hall is still denied to a wheelchair user or anyone not strong enough to pull the entrance door. An automatic door (similar to the one installed at Eynsham Medical Centre in 2011) would solve the problem; but even a door bell would help.

Perhaps they will respond through Eynsham News

Parking matters

An update from Eynsham Retail Group: Abbey Rentals, Body Talk, Cornucopia Cooks, Evenlode DIY, Eynsham Cellars, Eynsham Emporium, Eynsham Post Office, Golsby Butchers and The Market Garden

We are all aware that parking in Eynsham is an issue. We carried out a four-week survey in the streets outside our businesses in February, following a suggestion from district councillor Edward James. The outcome surprised us – we had expected many of the cars to be 'park and riders'; in fact most were people who live or work in Eynsham and, most importantly to us, shoppers. We do know that many shoppers fail to find a parking space, however; and to this end we are asking the Parish Council if we could have one or two 30-minute timed parking spaces outside some of the retail businesses, so you can pop in for your paint, steak, wine, veggies, parcel posting, gift, etc.

Being a chatty group of people, we have learnt that there are areas in the village that do have 'park and riders'. One of our 'brainstorming' sessions came up with the following solution: a polite notice obtainable from shops in the Retail Group, which you can place on the car windscreen suggesting they use the Playing Fields car park. For this to become a reality, the Parish Council will have to agree to the car park being used – and Stagecoach to agree to pick up and set down there.

We welcome any thoughts, further suggestions, etc. – just pop into one of our shops and let us know.

Would you like to join our group? asks PCSO Helen Keen

Eynsham Neighbourhood Watch is a new scheme that welcomes all residents from the village. It is there to increase awareness about what is happening around us and to make sure we are looking out for each other, especially the elderly and more vulnerable members of our community. By working together as a group, we can help to tackle local issues, including anti-social behaviour and criminal damage, which can help to reduce crime.

If you would like to join the scheme, please email helen.keen@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk giving your name, address and phone number. You can also follow our Facebook page: **eynshamnhw**

Eynsham policing took a hit recently, as PCSO Sandra Syphas and Sgt Liz Bell left the force. We're in excellent hands with Helen and with Eynsham NAG (Neighbourhood Action Group) but they need all the help they can get! The NAG welcomes new members – please call Ron Hollis: 0777 046 6237 – Ed



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evenlodediy@hotmail.com



Gatehouse is a drop-in centre for the homeless and vulnerably housed, based in Oxford. It has been supported by the three Eynsham churches and the village as a whole

since it opened in 1988. The Rotary Club of Eynsham currently provide a year-round service of delivering the consignment of food and clothing, which we collect every 6 weeks of the year, to Woodstock Road. We are most grateful to them – and for all the provisions regularly received from supporters in the village.

The Director of Gatehouse will be giving a talk on 17 May at 19:30 in the Tolkien Room and all are welcome. The talk will also refer to the question of homelessness in Oxford generally. Raymond Elliot

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Home front

'Local very amateur gardener' Caroline Cayzer has a few tips if you're thinking of gardening for the first time – or even returning to gardening; image © Julia Loken

All you will read about gardening implies you must have a perfect pest-free plot, with flowers and veg all year round. But a garden is a place to recover, think straight, enjoy with your nearest and dearest and generally just mess about! Even if you have a very small patch, or space for only a few pots, growing things will bring much joy. For the nervous beginner, especially in a new home, digging the garden will be useful, to find what is buried – my first new-build had broken concrete fence posts and rolls of roofing felt! It will also tell you something about the soil, so you can work out what will grow best. If the garden has simply been neglected for lack of time, fret not, just choose one bit to tackle. Check where the sunshine falls, so you can match the plants you love to the place they like; and check other people's gardens to see what grows well with them – think tall hollyhocks, day lilies, creeping campanula, every kind of perennial geranium, early hellebores defying snow.



Eynsham is a brilliant place to start gardening – join Eynsham Garden Club for moral support, pick up local plants at the spring gardening sales (Sats 12 May and 2 June mornings in the Square), pick up tools and compost and 'garden bits' from Evenlode DIY. They have lovely spring bedding plants too. Eynsham Open Gardens (page 12) will be a great source of ideas, inspiration and home-made teas.

For design, there is no limit to what you can do! Some of your garden could be edible. Your climbing plants could be runner beans growing up canes, bright red beetroot leaves could brighten your flower border and mini tomatoes could grow in a large hanging basket. Or, like me, you can just 'stuff stuff in' where there is space – tall at the back, short at the front! But whatever you do, remember it is for your enjoyment and delight and it does not have to be perfect! 'Times' health editor Chris Smyth says 'A few minutes of gardening helps cut risk of dying early' – which has got to be good!

Hawfinch invasion



Did you see them? Moth Clark reports a rare treat

Hawfinches are stunning birds and the UK's largest finch. They're noticeably larger than greenfinches and sport an enormous bill that can crack cherry stones! They're colourful too, with an orange-brown head, black eyestripe and bib, dark brown upper parts with hints of blue, and pink-orange underparts. Males are brighter coloured than females.

UK resident hawfinches are mainly only found in certain parts of southern England, but they are not common and usually difficult to find. In winter some extras come in from Europe, but in Oxfordshire they appear only occasionally – most often at Blenheim Park.

This winter, failure of their usual food supply in Northern Europe brought an unprecedented invasion of hawfinches to the UK, and we had our fair share in West Oxfordshire! Over the winter they appeared at Barnard Gate, Northmoor, Wootton, Blenheim Park and Kingston Bagpuize – just to name a few that I know of.

I went to see them at Northmoor and Barnard Gate but to my astonishment and delight, on 8 February I heard they had turned up in centre of Eynsham, being seen regularly from Tanner's Lane to Newland Close. They are still around as I write in early March. We even saw some from our office in the attic! I hope you were lucky enough to see them too – amazing birds and a privilege to witness on our doorstep!

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The traffic issue

Have your say and win £25 from Eynsham News!

Eynsham can expect a significant amount in 'developer funding' from new housing to the north and west of the village – as and when that happens. How would you allocate the money? Here's a traffic-related shopping list from Eynsham Draft Neighbourhood Plan, based on earlier consultations with residents:

- Parking in the village centre
- Traffic management and cycle paths
- Smartening the entrances & retail areas.

CAN WE WORK OUT WHAT MATTERS MOST? Tell Eynsham News what you think!

The Parish Council seems to feel the choice is made already: it has spent £5284 researching a village-wide 20mph zone, to include 10 'intervention points' at an estimated cost of around £500,000 – more details at eynshamnews.org.uk



One ray of hope lies in their written promise: 'A 20mph zone is a big decision and won't be implemented unless there is clear support in the village.'

TELL EYNSHAM NEWS WHAT YOU THINK!

We'll publish the results (no names) in our next issue and pass them on to the Parish Council, to inform future funding decisions. After all, it's your money.



My top concern with Eynsham traffic is (please choose ONE, or add one of your own) – one vote per person!

- [..] Village centre parking/congestion
- [..] Traffic speeds on entry/exit roads
- [..]

MY NAME:

TEL / EMAIL:

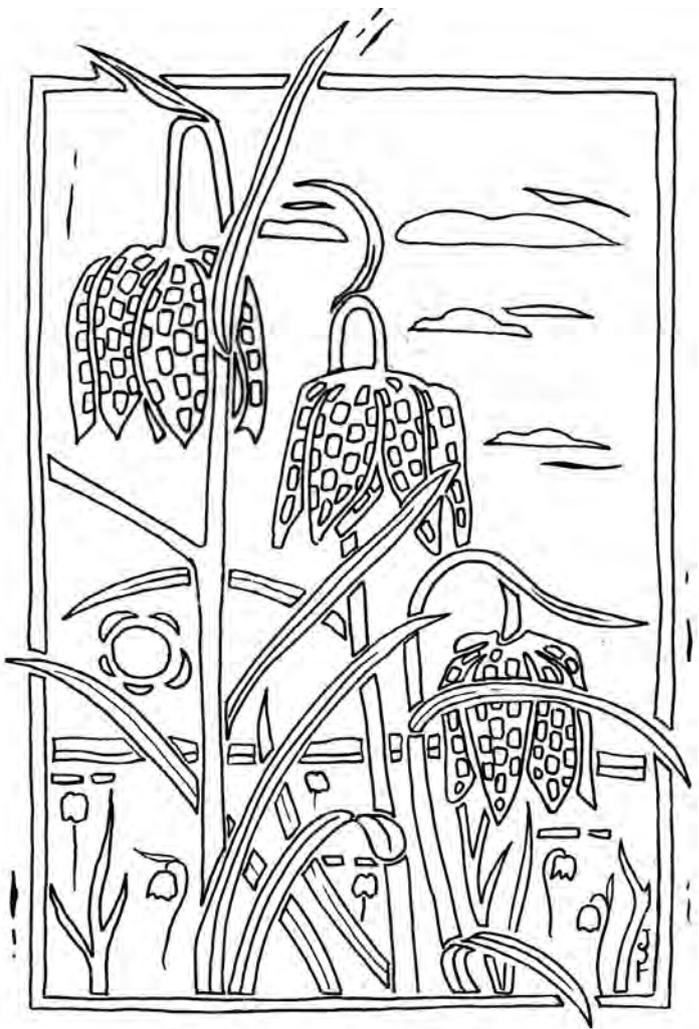
Please pop your form through the letterbox at Cornucopia Cooks, 1 High Street, or hand it in at any shop with a poster in the window. All returns by 30 April will be entered into a draw for a £25 voucher, to spend in any of our independent retailers.

Over to you

PLEASE HELP OPEN GARDENS! Several Eynsham gardens will open on Saturday and Sunday 9–10 June this year, including some new ones. We have many enthusiastic gardeners, as well as people willing to do the advertising and hand out display boards on the day; but no-one is brave enough to do the job of taking the minutes at our meetings and then writing them up. Here is a little thing you could do for the village. We meet only some 4 times every other year for about an hour, so taking the minutes isn't going to take too much of your time. Our next planning meeting, which anyone is welcome to attend, is on Monday 26 March at 20:00 at 138 Spareacre Lane. *Martin Flatman: 07719 646790/jmartinflatman@gmail.com*

GROUP PUBLICITY: The Village Hall Management Committee is holding another Community Day on Saturday 9 June, to coincide with Open Gardens weekend. We hope that people will 'kill two birds with one stone' by visiting gardens and calling into the Community Day on the same trip around the village. We are now inviting all clubs, societies and other organisations who wish to publicise themselves to contact us as soon as possible, so that table spaces can be reserved. Entrance will be free and refreshments will be available but a nominal charge of £5 per table is requested towards our overheads.

Eve Hollis: 07721 004646/eve.hollis@gmail.com



Many thanks to Julie Sailing-Free for adapting her original linocut for Eynsham News: the snakeshead fritillary (Fritillaria meleagris) also know as the chess flower, frog-cup, guinea hen-flower or chequered lily that stars in spring meadows. You can print out a bigger version at eynshamnews.org.uk

EYNSHAM IN BLOOM COMPETITION:

We are back again after a very successful competition in 2016, encouraging you to 'get those gloves on' and do a spring spruce-up of our village front gardens and business fronts, ready for judging middle to end of May, in time to announce our winners over the Open Garden weekend of 9-10 June. We are very pleased to have Rachel (formerly of Mille-Fleurs) to be our Finals Judge. *Sandra Jinks: 01865 880835*

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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?



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.

Patients' corner

Eynsham Patient Participation Group goes electronic! Graham Maynard reports

One year on, our PPG has represented your views (from responses to our paper questionnaire) to the Surgery and other organisations in West Oxfordshire – especially those concerned with musculoskeletal services, medicine prescribing and expanding primary and social care services. Early last year we also reported a problem with the village branch of Lloyds Pharmacy and they responded well! We now have a new manager and a stronger team in a much-improved shop. Arguably there is still some way to go, so we have invited the Pharmacy Manager to attend our next meeting in April.

We received almost 100 largely complimentary responses to the paper questionnaire, about 80% from elderly patients. A few complained about the time it takes to see a doctor of choice, though most thought the triaging system for urgent appointments worked well. Almost everyone rated checking-in and reception arrangements highly and felt the waiting room and call-forward arrangements were fine. Importantly, everyone thought that the quality of care provided was good.

However, we also wanted the views of a wider community, so our Northmoor representative ran an online test in his area. Here 63% of respondents were 25–64 years old and only 45% rated the appointment booking system highly; and most comments were about the time it takes to see a doctor. In short, a different approach to data gathering produced quite different results. So, because we want the best and widest possible information, we are launching a Facebook page and making online questionnaires available to all. We also hope to work with young people's groups to ask how well local primary care provision meets their specific needs.

Meanwhile, our new, very short online surveys cover only 4 topics and should take under 3 minutes to complete. If you are an EMG patient or carer, please help us to improve the service you receive by completing our surveys soon. The first is at surveymonkey.co.uk/r/VX32M6T

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Peace oak orchard



There should be a good apple harvest in the orchard this year, says Sarah Medina – her © pic above

On a crisp, mid-January evening, 40-plus Eynsham folk and Morris friends convened for music, jollity and apple-based food next to a spectacular bonfire. Warmed by mulled apple juice and cider, we drove out the bad spirits, walking around the apples trees whilst banging and shaking everything from pan lids to tambourines, and accompanying the racket with our voices. We then encouraged the good spirits by placing cider-soaked bread on the trees. We hope this 'wassailing' will ensure an excellent crop and become a new Eynsham tradition!

Wassailing goes back a very long way – and the Peace Oak Association's aims are also rooted in the past. As well as preserving the orchard as a quiet, open space, it will protect in perpetuity a dozen or more of the 70-odd varieties of apple developed in Eynsham by the Wastie family and donated to us by Frank Wastie.

The POA welcomes new members. Family membership is £10 per year. Please contact Kate Ferrier: 01865 881224 / kateferrier45@gmail.com

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People

Rick Taylor, a campanologist at St Leonard's Church for six years, and before that for 13 years in Cumnor, tells us about his passion for – yes, you've got it! – bell-ringing

Can you think of a pastime or hobby that combines good physical exercise with a moderate mental challenge while upholding an ancient English tradition? The art and practice of bell ringing encompasses all of these attributes and many more. I really enjoy bell ringing and I know for sure that other ringers would agree: what it means to me is friendship, heritage, teamwork, fascination, music, a social activity and a service to the community.

In many countries, such as Russia, fixed bells are hit with hammers or clappers ('clocking'). Or they may be swung through a small arc (chiming). By this method the small, lighter bells ring rapidly (ting-ting-ting) while the big ones make a more leisurely Bong! Bong! Bong!

In 16th century England the practice began of hanging church bells on wheels, to swing full circle (with a mechanism to stop them going right over). Thus by momentarily holding a bell with its mouth 'up', the ringer can control the speed at which it sounds, regardless of its weight. This led to 'change ringing', whereby the order in which the bells are rung is repeatedly changed, either by calls from a conductor or by a memorised sequence or method. Most of these methods have quaint names, such as Grandsire Doubles, Canterbury Pleasure and Old Oxford Delight.

I am one of a small but enthusiastic band of ringers at St Leonard's. We have a number of 'trainees' of different ages and stages of learning, and we would welcome more people to join us in this very enjoyable pastime. Please feel free to come along to one of our practice nights (Mondays at 19:00, except bank holidays) to watch and find out more. There is no obligation, but if you wish to learn, it takes a few

BELLS OF ST. LEONARD'S EYNHAM					
	cwts	qtrs	lbs		
Treble	3	3	23	F	John Taylor & Co. 1875
2nd	4	1	7	E ^b	" " " "
3rd	5	0	0	D ^b	R.K. (James Keene) 1653
4th	5	3	3	C	John Taylor & Co. 1895
5th	7	2	0	B ^b	R.K. (Richard Keene) 1675
Tenor	9	1	24	A ^b	John Taylor & Co. 1895

weeks to master the physical handling of the bells, after which you can proceed to whatever level you want – most of us are fairly modest achievers. You don't have to be church members or even religious, and when appropriate precautions are observed it's perfectly safe.

Once you get hooked you'll have an absorbing skill to last a lifetime, which gives hours of pleasure and opens doors worldwide. Although the vast majority of towers with change ringing bells are found in the British Isles, there are many in the former colonies – I have personally rung in Australia and Canada – and you will usually receive a welcome at any of them. Our Tower Captain is Pete Butler, 07594 603634 and Dove's Guide for Church Bell Ringers is a useful online source of information: dove.cccb.org.uk

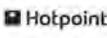
If you would like to share another 'passion', do contact Sarah Medina at sarah.eynshamnews@gmail.com

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Artweeks



Six Eynsham artists are taking part in Artweeks 2018, offering a variety of painting, sculpture, embroidery, and pottery around the village. The official brochure details opening times and Jane Tomlinson's latest © map will guide your steps. Where to start?

Julia Loken is showing botanical watercolours at her home in Tanners Lane (© sample on page 10); her inspirational garden will be open too. There will also be local landscapes, such as favourite footpaths around Eynsham. Julia has lived here for 50 years and is very sad to think that some of these precious places may well be threatened by housing developments.

Across the way, Alison Holmans makes quirky animals and garden features, wheel thrown and hand built bowls and other functional items in stoneware clay – drawing on her New Zealand heritage and the chickens the pottery is named for. As the weather warms up, she will be firing raku pieces.

Nick Lewis is participating too, with an exhibition at 7 Willows Edge. The paintings and prints will be sold to the highest bid, which he thinks will add a bit of spice to the exhibition! Also on show (not for sale) will be his study in acrylic of a local ditch over the year. Some of the paintings are included in a blog at disabilityarts.online – search Nick Lewis.

Peter Shrimpton is displaying some of his striking, contemporary metal sculpture in the Swan Function Room; while Eric White's mixed media and painting, on show at 28 Mill Street, focuses on the proposed site of Eynsham Garden Village.

Then one week later, on 17 May, Eynsham Arts Group members open a 10-day exhibition in the Bartholomew Room, with a wide range of affordable art, from framed original paintings to greetings cards. A treat in store, to judge from the standard of entries at their print exhibition in March.

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

Recreation



© Ian Bone

Interested in entering Carnival? There are 8 classes with prizes & trophies to be won...

STEP ONE – get preparing! You can parade as a community group or business or with family or a set of friends. You can walk or enter a decorated vehicle – be it a motorised float, horse drawn carriage or mobility scooter! All participants, motorised or not, must be insured for public liability on the day. Community groups may find your current insurance covers this but please check. Going for a fancy dress prize? Previous entrants have ranged from medieval jousts to Star Wars characters via Ghostbusters, Alice in Wonderland and Peter Pan. It's up to you!

STEP TWO – turn up on time. Floats, walking groups and fancy dress entrants assemble in Back Lane car park by the medical centre at 11:45, along with any classic vehicles whose owners wish to take part. Make yourself known to the carnival officials in pale blue t-shirts. Judging of floats and fancy dress takes place at 12 noon.

STEP THREE – enjoy yourself! The parade complete with lead car, carnival royalty, Eynsham Morris and other groups weaves its way through the village, cheered by enthusiastic on-lookers, arriving on the Carnival Field about 45 minutes later – when prizes are awarded. For more information email enquiries@eynshamcarnival.com or visit www.eynshamcarnival.com



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ALL STARS CRICKET an 8-week programme for boys and girls aged 5–8 returns on Friday evenings 18:00–18:45 from 11 May, followed by a weekly BBQ – sign up with Cindy Creasey: 07717 436833/ email cindycreasey@googlemail.com We'll also have a team in the Oxfordshire U9 Kwik Cricket friendly competition and our U11 and U13 teams will play in leagues this year; all teams are for boys and girls. In May and July the club will also be running week-long sports camps for juniors. Please join us on Facebook: fb.com/groups/eynshamccacademy

ANYONE FOR (TABLE) TENNIS? The Village Hall Management Committee has been considering whether a table tennis club could be a popular activity in the Hall. We understand that a number of league players might be interested in the facility but an enthusiastic person or group, ideally with some experience, would need to run the club on a voluntary basis. If you are at all interested, either in helping to run it or simply playing, please contact Eve Hollis: 07721 004646 or (preferably) eve.hollis@gmail.com

BARTHOLOMEW PLAYERS: The Safari Party is a fast-moving, hilarious comedy by the author of Calendar Girls. We have assembled a very talented cast to bring the colourful characters to life; and Eynsham Community Primary School PTA are helping organise the Charity Supper Show in return for a share of the profits. We look forward to seeing you! *Denise Santilli*

CROQUET DOES 'COUNTRYFILE LIVE'



Another impressive update from Roger Booth

Summer 2017 was very successful for Eynsham Croquet Club. Our Open Day in May was the busiest for some years, attracting nine new members to the Club. The Witney U3A has been a good source, along with new interest from Eynsham.

The Club was asked to organise a demonstration croquet court at the BBC Countryfile Live at Blenheim Palace in June, where we introduced hundreds of visitors to the game including Anita Rani and Matt Baker, both presenters on the TV show. So successful was the display that we have been asked to repeat the display this year but on an even bigger scale. If you visit Countryfile Live, be sure to visit us and have a go.

In the Southern Division Croquet League we finished runners up to High Wycombe, only losing the top spot on hoop difference (the equivalent of goal difference). There were some very close games and we learned a lot from the competition which will stand us in good stead this year.

Last summer the courts stood up really well thanks to our regular maintenance and cutting regime. The winter court has been in excellent condition and will be used as a reserve court this summer to accommodate our increased membership. This year we will be introducing an evening session for golf croquet to accommodate more players.

All are welcome to try this social and addictive game on Saturday 21 April 13:00-17:00 at our Open Day on the Cricket Club field. Please wear flat shoes. *Roger Booth: 01993 837808/rogerboothbrsb@sky.com or visit eynshamcroquetclub.org.uk*

EYNSHAM CHORAL SOCIETY returns to St Leonard's Church on Saturday 12 May for their spring concert – this time Haydn's *Creation*, with professional soloists and the Oxford Players orchestra – conductor Stuart Dunlop. *Angela Coulter: 01865 731626*

ON WITH THE DANCE! Ballroom and Latin-American classes for adults are available, either in classes or private lessons. I started teaching junior classes when I was 17 and am very proud of all the students who achieved 100% success in the International Dance Teachers' Association examinations in February. Now it's time for the grown-ups! Dancing is great fun and good exercise – contact *Sarah Ayers: 01865 881208/dance@seayers.plus.com*

SHIPWRECKED: The third Eynsham Churches Holiday Club is taking place from Monday to Friday 30 July-3 August at Eynsham Primary School, from 09:00-12:00 each morning for children of primary school age. We are grateful to the Parish Council and Bartholomew Educational Charity for their financial support. For more details and application forms please email eynshamhc@gmail.com or visit tinyurl.com/eynsham-hc



WEST OXFORDSHIRE RAMBLERS set off from Back Lane car park twice this month, non-members welcome as usual. On Sunday 22 April we meet at 09:30 for a circular 13 mile walk to Freeland, East End, Combe and the Hanboroughs, with a pub stop (of course). Hopefully there will be bluebells. On Saturday 28 April we meet at 10:00 for a 10.5 mile linear walk across the Thames and through Wytham Woods, then to Godstow for a walk by the river to Osney, returning to Eynsham by bus. *Graham Williams: 01865 881005*

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Friday May 25th @ 7:30pm



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Easter at our churches



Good Friday 30 March 10:00
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Ecumenical Service in The Square, followed by coffee and hot cross buns in St Peter's Catholic Church.

ST PETER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Abbey Street, Eynsham

Palm / Passion Sunday 25 March

17:00 Saturday (for Sunday) Mass

10:00 Sunday Mass

Maundy Thursday 29 March

20:00 Mass of the Lord's Supper followed by watching at the Altar of Repose

Good Friday 30 March

15:00 Solemn Passion

Saturday 31 March

20:00 Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday – Mass at 10:00

ST LEONARD'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND

The Square, Eynsham

Palm Sunday 25 March

09:00 Holy Communion (BCP)

10:45 Morning Worship

Maundy Thursday 29 March

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

Good Friday 30 March

14:00 Last Hour of the Cross

Easter Day Sunday 1 April

09:00 Holy Communion (BCP)

10:45 Easter Family Communion

EYNSHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

Lombard Street, Eynsham

Maundy Thursday 29 March

12 noon Communion

19:30 Reflections and Communion

Good Friday 30 March

19:30 A quiet reflective service

Easter Day Sunday 1 April

08:00 A quiet reflective service and Holy Communion followed with breakfast
10:30 Family service and Holy Communion to celebrate Easter. There will an Easter egg hunt for children after the service.

All are welcome to any of these services.

What's on

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

March

- 26 **Open Gardens**, planning session – page 12
- 28 **Arts Group**, Bartholomew Room 19:30.
Sue Graham, *Playful self-expression*
- 29 **Oxford Organic Group**: 01993 868693
- 30 **Community Cinema**, Village Hall 19:30.

April

- 5 **History Group**, St Leonard's Hall 19:30.
AGM plus Steve Parrinder, *Eynsham Abbey*
- 7 **GreenTEA**, Eynsham Emporium 10:30–12:00
- 10 **Women's Institute**, St Leonard's Hall 19:30.
AGM & social evening
- 11 **Garden Club**, Village Hall 19:30. Roger Umpelby,
Savagery and sex in the garden
- 13 **Blood Donors**, Village Hall 13:15 / 16:15
- 18 **Carers' Group**, Eynsham Emporium 11:00
- 18 **Eynsham Society**, Village Hall 20:00. Talk,
Lower Windrush Valley Project
- 20 **Community Cinema** – page 18
- 21 **Croquet Club**, Open Day – page 17
- 22 **Ramblers Group** – page 17
- 24 **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING** 19:30 – page 7
- 25 **Arts Group**, Bartholomew Room 19:30.
Nick Rous, *The art of maps*
- 29 **Gatehouse Volunteers**: home-made sandwiches
& cake for the Oxford shelter.
Enquiries: 01865 881346
- 29 **Litter Pickers**, Baptist Hall 13:45.

GRANTS FROM EYNESHAM 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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May

- 3 **WODC ELECTIONS**, Village Hall – *page 5*
- 5 **GreenTEA**, Eynsham Emporium 10:30–12:00
- 5–13 **ARTWEEKS** – *see page 15*
- 11 **Eynsham News** copy deadline – *page 2*
- 8 **Women's Institute**, St Leonard's Hall 19:00
Oliver Hill, *Inheritance Tax*
- 10 **OASIS**, Baptist Hall 14:30. Re-union Tea.
Enquiries: 01865 881690
- 12 **Garden Club**, Market Square 09:00.
Annual Plant Sale. Enquiries: 01865 880342
- 12 **Choral Society** – *page 17*
- 16 **Eynsham Society**, all day arboretum visit.
Enquiries: 01865 880563
- 16 **Carers' Group**, Eynsham Emporium 11:00
- 16–19 **Bartholomew Players** – *opposite*
- 17 **Gatehouse Talk**, Tolkien Room – *page 10*
- 17–27 **Arts Group**, Spring Show – *see page 15*
- 25 **Community Cinema** – *page 18*.

These listings are open to all community groups and we welcome photos too. Other pages are always open for stories and snippets, comments and corrections – see page 2 for contact details. Next issue will be out on 28 May – copy deadline 11 May.



Visit Eynsham Online at eynsham-pc.gov.uk

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Wed 16th - Sat 19th May
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