

EYNSHAM

Council & Community

NEWS

Issue 32 – August – September 2018

Shape of things to come?

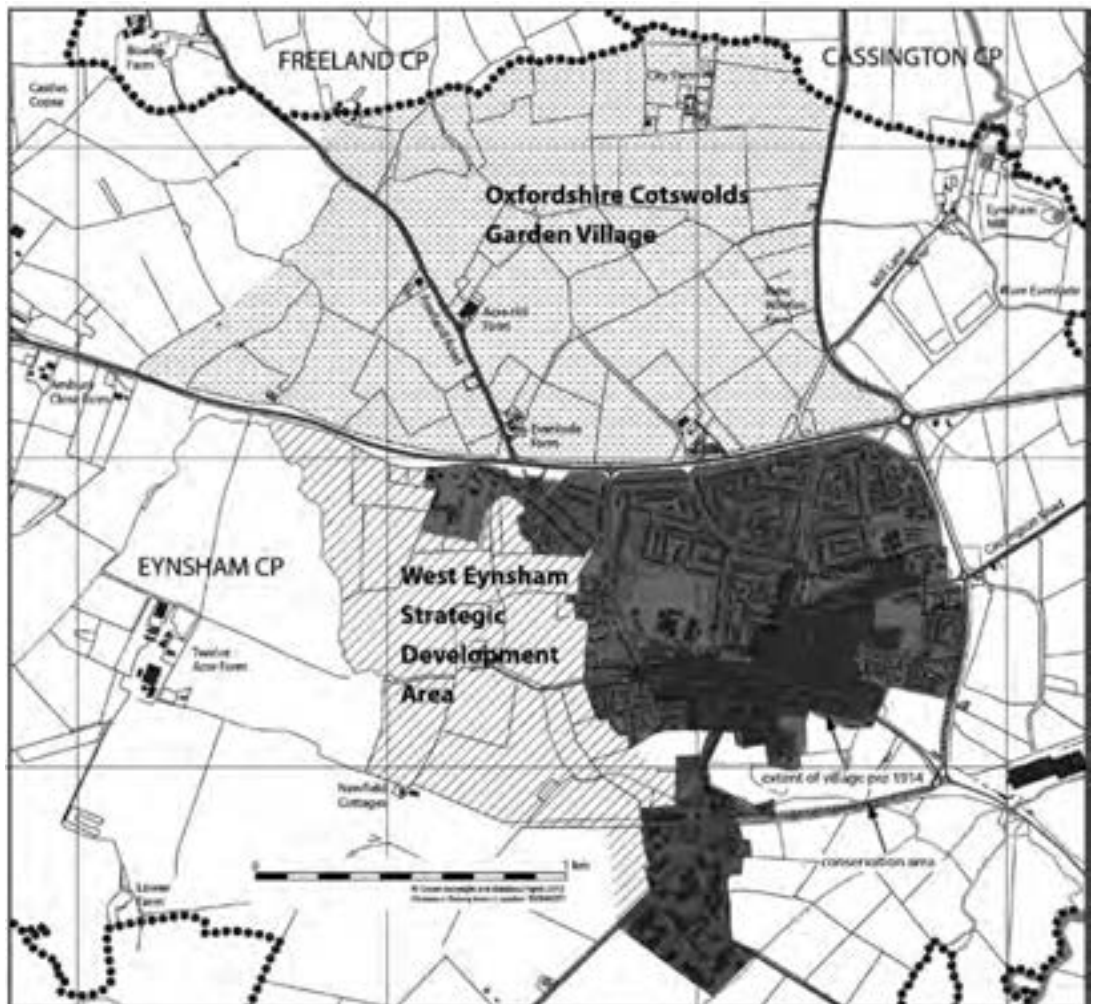
A century ago, in 1914, Eynsham was comfortably contained in a cluster of mediaeval streets – the darkest area shown on the map.

How things change! The village expanded north and west after World War II, most spectacularly in the decade 1961–71, when the population almost doubled to 4427.

Rounding off and infill has created the shape we know today, embracing 4648 souls in around 2000 houses at last census (2011) – though protests certainly happened along the way.

Does the county need more housing at the scale suggested now? And even if it does, why build so much of it on our doorstep? That's a starting point for some of us (page 2), while others are exploring potential benefits from this alternative future (pages 3, 11) and some are doing both (page 13).

You'll find almost every angle within this issue. We'd be interested in your thoughts.



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A fight for the future



On 15 July, 300 Eynsham residents braved blistering heat for an 'epic' march to celebrate our village and protest against the District Council's overblown plans for growth here as well as the appalling transport. The march closed the entire A40 from the traffic lights to the fuel station – photo © Ania Ready. Nigel Pearce reports for Eynsham Planning Improvement Campaign

Will the unique, historic village of Eynsham become another characterless town? A sprawling suburb of Oxford? That's what West Oxfordshire District Council's Local Plan will mean, as it stands. Eynsham residents told WODC they would welcome 750 more homes and a new primary school to meet local and district needs. But we were ignored. Instead, the Council wants to dump 3,200 new homes on us, mostly for people migrating into the area.



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Time is running out for us to improve the plans. The proposals for 'upgrading' the A40, and providing new educational and medical services, are inadequate. Building 3,200 houses (that's a minimum – it could be more) would spell disaster for our community, our environment, and our commute.

WODC's plans will guarantee far greater A40 congestion for all users, with even longer times spent in traffic, and irreversible destruction of the surrounding countryside. The massive development north and west our village will forever destroy some of the county's 'best and most versatile farmland', which the government says should be protected. And it will rip up species-rich meadows that have declined in the UK by 97% since the 1930s.

More information from EPIC at eynsham.me.uk



EYNSHAM NEWS

is published by a local, not-for-profit voluntary group, set up solely to produce a community newsletter of broad general appeal. Free delivery to every household is arranged by volunteers. Eynsham News is also online, for family and friends around the country and overseas at eynshamnews.org.uk

Local stories, snaps and snippets are always welcome – and corrections also, thanks! Next issue will be out on 17 September – copy deadline Friday 31 August, though advance notice really helps if you'd like some room to spread.

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Dear Sirs...

The Eynsham News Group asked our parish, district and county councils, along with the developer, four questions with reference to Oxfordshire Cotswolds Garden Village. You'll find the first responses below. The County Council supplied a general statement only; extracts appear on page 11.

Q1. What has surprised you about the latest public consultation? What will you be doing about it?

EPC: Just how much of the Eynsham Neighbourhood Plan it includes – not that we are complaining! The Area Action Plan 'Issues' paper is potentially very positive and we hope that many people will support what it says.

WODC: Our six-week consultation is asking residents, businesses and organisations for their views on issues that will help shape the next stage of the garden village development, should the site come forward. Because of the importance of the above, we are pleased that the first public exhibition in Eynsham on 28 June was very well-attended and expect a high level of interest to continue until the consultation ends on 3 August.

A number of key themes are already starting to emerge including how to address the potential impact on the A40, the relationship of the new village to Eynsham and the need for timely provision of supporting services and facilities.

Grosvenor: We were pleased that over 300 people including local residents and groups were able to attend our recent consultation events. Given its significance we were expecting people to be very interested in our proposals and so were not surprised by level of passion, local knowledge and engagement we saw. It was encouraging that many people felt that, were the Garden Village to go ahead, they would be keen to engage with us to ensure that it will genuinely benefit both existing and future residents, which is also a major focus for us.

We want local voices to be reflected in the principles, vision and planning for the new community, so this was an important listening exercise for us. We will use feedback we received in June and from future consultation events to refine our design and consider how the Garden Village can deliver benefits for the broadest range of people possible.

Q2. Are the local councils and the developers working together? If so, please give some examples.

EPC: We have regular meetings with WODC and OCC in Witney, typically every month, and there have been one or two meetings with Grosvenor. It's clear that WODC and Grosvenor seem interested in making a good job of a Garden Village and not just a large housing estate; but there will be a lot of push-back from the land interests who may not be so concerned,

as the money to do it well comes at the expense of their windfall profits.

WODC: We are working closely with a number of stakeholders including those mentioned above. Their input early on is essential as the garden village is large enough to have its own range of supporting services and facilities, which will also benefit those who already live and work in Eynsham and the surrounding area.

Grosvenor: As a master developer and public/private sector partner, our entire approach is about collaboration. This is a complex project of substantial local significance that will take many years to deliver. We cannot do this alone and will always seek to work collaboratively to deliver the best possible outcome for the community. Ultimately we want to create a sustainable neighbourhood which people want to live and work in.

Since the very beginning, we have been working closely with all those who are critical to successful delivery of the project, including local authorities, local groups, residents and service providers. For example, we are co-ordinating with the County Council on their proposals for the Park & Ride and A40 improvements to ensure that these benefit the local area more broadly as well as the Garden Village.

EPC = Eynsham Parish Council

WODC = West Oxfordshire District Council

Our Q&A session continues on page 10.



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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 18



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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

Neighbourhood Car Scheme:
transport for health care, 07469 764174

Neighbourhood Watch: 07833 696643

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

EYNESHAM PARISH COUNCIL (EPC)

Richard Andrews (Vice-Chair): 01865 880106

Jane Baldwin: 01865 435129

Gordon Beach (Chairman): 01865 880979

Andrew Bickley: 01865 884496

Sue Brown: 01865 464267

Katy Crowe: 07711 994417

Patricia Crowley: 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

County Hall: 01865 792422

WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Edward James: 01865 731009

Peter Kelland: 01865 880028

Carl Rylett 01865 883643

Council Offices: 01993 861000

Halls for hire

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Baptist Church Hall:	07900 066471
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 next column	
White Hart Function Room:	01865 883093

Rooms for rent

*Opportunities for businesses or growing groups alike! Please contact Rachel Cassar: 07813 499987/
email bookings@eynshamvillagehall.co.uk*

The Village Hall Management Committee is suffering from significantly reduced revenue, due to the loss of two regular users. Thames Valley Police slimmed down to one room last year due to cutbacks in their budgets; and Acre End Preschool, which has used the Hall continuously since it was built in 2001, have sadly closed down this summer.

We therefore now have two vacant areas and are looking for suitable hirers as soon as possible – please get in touch for more details or to arrange a viewing:

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From the Clerk's desk

Katherine Doughty offers an overview of 'other' work that has been completed, is in progress or planned as part of her role. All council contact details are listed on page 5

COMPLETED

- The Council has appointed Ubico to undertake its grass cutting / weed-killing work for a 3 year period which will provide a consistent quality of work and better financial budgeting.
- We have undertaken a tree survey of Council trees in Dovehouse Close. This will inform the Council of work required in the coming months.
- A restructure of roles means that I no longer undertake the Council's financial work thereby really focussing my time on Council actions and governance. We are pleased to welcome Rachel Johnson as the Council's new Responsible Financial Officer. My working hours are to increase from September which will help to meet the growing demands of the job.

CURRENT

- **Play Areas:** We are currently in the middle of substantial maintenance work to all three sites. Oxford Road – play sand has been topped up. Dovehouse Close – new goalposts and sockets have been installed; goalmouth refurbishment needs additional work; play bark has been topped up, with a further 6 tonnes to be installed shortly. Old Witney Road – a new goalpost and additional socket will be installed in the coming weeks. (*New goalposts have been installed with sockets to allow them to be moved to a second position when the goalmouth becomes worn and refurbishment work more easily undertaken*).
- **A tree and shrub maintenance specification** is now being finalised, the work is to be undertaken in September/October, as soon as possible after the bird nesting season. The specification will aid maintenance work to be undertaken on a more regular basis in the future.

PLANNED

- **The Bartholomew Room and Pavilion** were recently surveyed to identify future required projects and potential costs. The surveys highlighted substantial work required to both properties; in the case of the Pavilion, so much work in the near future that a rebuild project was more financially appropriate. The Council is now at the starting blocks for both projects and is looking to appoint architects for the Pavilion shortly.
- **New play equipment** for Old Witney Road Play Area is under consideration with two companies.

The castle multi-play (one of the older units) is to be removed and new equipment for toddlers installed at that location. A new multi-play unit is to be installed on the outer edge of the play area for young children.

- **A new grit bin** at Hawthorn Road – difficult to think about during this hot weather!

Our great outdoors

Sue Osborne – Chair, Fishponds & Footpaths Committees

FISHPONDS: I wrote my report for the last issue a few weeks in advance, as I was going on holiday and didn't want to miss the deadline. I mentioned the imminent arrival of the new picnic bench and thanked residents for keeping the area clean and tidy.

As regular readers will probably realise, I try to be positive with my reporting: however, I felt utterly disheartened (and rather foolish) when I returned and discovered that the bench had been vandalised within a day of installation, and the surrounding area had regularly been strewn with rubbish since, some of which was too disgusting even to pick up. I am aware that many residents, as well as fellow councillors and the Clerk, help to keep our beauty spots litter-free, so heartfelt thanks to all those who have been stepping in to help.

It appears that we have people among us whose behaviour is, at best, thoughtless; at worst, despicable. They clearly do not care about either their environment or the feelings and enjoyment of others. This is evidenced not only by vandalism at the Fishponds, but dumped rubbish on the footpaths, damage on the playing fields and play areas, graffiti and other anti-social behaviours in general. I don't know how we can beat this, other than to educate, be vigilant, report any incidents such as the above and to lead by example if possible. Once again, to those excellent people who step in, unbidden, to help clear up after these contemptible louts – thank you.

FOOTPATHS

'... And where the Eynsham weir-fall breaks out in rainbow spray The Evenlode comes singing to join the pretty play' – RC Lehmann, Singing Water

A new, large directional roundel has been installed at the Thames Water entrance of the Wharf Stream Way art trail (near the allotments) which makes the route easier to navigate. I am very pleased to report that the travellers' mess has been cleared from the bridleway next to the Tesco garage, as has the builders' rubble from the footpath east of the B4449. More good news

– someone has very kindly stepped forward to fill the gap left by the retiring coordinator of the Wharf Stream Team (see previous issue for more info.)

As always, please report any problems in our countryside to me or any other member of the Parish Council – or directly to Oxfordshire County Council through the public rights of way reporting map at camsv.oxfordshire.gov.uk

Your comments please

Dennis Stukenbroecker – Chair, Parish Council Planning Committee

This is another attempt to get you to respond to West Oxfordshire District Council's consultation on its proposed garden village, if you haven't already done so. You've got until 17:00 on Friday 3 August. Yes, it does affect you.

WODC are calling it Oxfordshire Cotswolds Garden Village Area Action Plan – Issues Paper. 'Action Plan' (or AAP) sounds exciting but it's planner speak for a whole artificial Eynsham of 2200 homes on the other side of the A40. Our current Eynsham has about 2000 homes so it would more than double the population of the parish on its own. And add over 4000 more car journeys per day, most of which will have to use the A40 at some point.

Most of these consultations are just a ritual after the local authority has already paid expensive consultants and already made up its mind. But WODC haven't done all their homework yet on this one, so you've got a chance to tell them something, and they're actually asking for your comments. It also relies heavily on both the West Oxfordshire Local Plan and the Eynsham Neighbourhood Plan, neither of which have been formally adopted yet.

As consultation documents go, it's not that bad. Less than 80 pages (but no pictures) and reasonably readable. There are copies in the library but it can be easily accessed online. And it tells you how to reply. The Issue Paper covers various issues, such as the nature of a garden village, housing, employment, public transport, highways, design, and who looks after it once it's built. You'll find the garden village web page at westoxon.gov.uk/gardenvillage

You don't have to answer all 32 questions, unless you want to. You could just concentrate on the ones you know or care about, such as affordable housing (Q10), reducing the need for travel (Q16), green infrastructure (Q24), or education and healthcare (Q29). It's important that your views get recorded and WODC knows that a lot of the people of Eynsham care about what's going to be done to their parish.

OK, but what about the 1000 homes WODC want built to the West of Eynsham? That's different. That's

not an AAP, it's a slightly more sinister sounding Strategic Development Area. Watch this space.

Carl Rylett adds: 'WODC has voted to defer the application for 160 new houses at Thornbury Road, persuaded that the developers need to go away and improve their plans. Eynsham rightly expects any new housing designs to be exceptional, not bland or just about adequate – the bar has been raised. Many thanks to those who made comments – you've shown you can make a difference. Don't give into consultation fatigue – make your voices heard again and please respond to the consultation for the Area Action Plan for the Garden Village.'



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Churchyard update

Chris Sugden has kindly supplied this round-up from St Leonard's – which should interest most residents too

West Oxfordshire District Council has taken over responsibility for the 'new' churchyard with effect from 1 July so please direct future comments and enquiries to WODC, rather than to the Church: 01993 861000.



Some diseased or dangerous trees in the older area are being felled by an established firm on specialist advice, with WODC approval; and the timber is being reused to teach wood turning. Churchyard working parties gather on the last Saturday mornings of each month from 09:30 for two or three hours, with coffee provided, to keep the grass, leaves and ivy under control. It's good (and healthy) fun so please do come and join us.

The number of hives in the churchyard has recently been reduced to three, with those closest to St Peter's moved to Farmoor nature reserve as they were causing a problem to people cutting the grass. The remaining hives are being kept, as they help the flowering plants; as an example to encourage others to keep bees; and as a reminder of their importance to our future well-being.

The bee population, on which we depend for at least 30% of our food, has declined by 70% over the last 50 years due to changes in farming methods, disease, climate change – and particularly the increased use of pesticides. Albert Einstein estimated that if the bee disappeared from the earth, the human race would survive for no more than four years. Without bees it would not be possible to feed the world's current population. Honey is the only food that contains all the ingredients to sustain life and is recognised for its medicinal qualities. Many believe that the consumption of local honey can help reduce the impact of hay fever.

'Unique among God's creatures, only the honey bee improves the environment and preys not on other species.' – Royden Brown

However, bees sting if they feel threatened and it is not advisable to approach hives too closely. More details from Dr Kevin McKemey: 01865 428791.

Patients' corner

Thanks to Graham Maynard for his regular report

This month the Patient Participation Group (PPG) has turned its mind to our local medical practice to explain how the Eynsham Medical Group (EMG) is hoping to create a better service for us in the future.

As many of you will be aware the practice is facing increasing pressures due to the rise in the local population and because of national financial issues affecting primary care. Taking account of this the practice tells us that continuing with their current way of working is no longer viable; and they must make changes to keep providing the best service they can.

To this end they are recruiting two paramedics to take on some of the work that is presently done by a GP but can just as well be done by a paramedic. As part of this change the practice is training its receptionists to 'signpost' patients to the most appropriate service, rather than always booking patients directly with GPs. So, in future, when you ring for an appointment you will be asked by the receptionist to tell them a little about the reason for your call and this information will ensure that they arrange the most appropriate care for you from the outset – be it from the GP, a paramedic, a nurse or even from another service in the area. Incidentally, patients with online access will still be able to book appointments online but are asked to consider all the options available before making an appointment with the doctor.

The PPG support what the EMG is doing and is aware that some may be reluctant to discuss medical issues with a receptionist, all we can say is that change is inevitable and the reception staff will be bound by normal rules of confidentiality, so please try to 'go with the flow' as it will be in the best interests of all.

We won the Lottery!

Eynsham Pre-school are absolutely delighted to announce that fundraising superstar Anna Colyer's huge efforts have paid off and our application to the Big Lottery Fund has been granted! This means that the pre-school will receive a grant to cover the costs of completely refurbishing our toilet facilities. This is fantastic news, as we have been aware for some time that these facilities are in need of updating and have been the focus of continuing fundraising efforts.

The grant will also support a fantastic initiative we are organising with Eynsham Day Centre, by ensuring appropriate disabled access into the pre-school for visitors from EDC. This is an exciting collaboration that both the pre-school and the Day Centre are looking forward to! *Rozzi Jennings*

Love your local shops

With such great stock and service on our doorstep it's time to celebrate Independent Retailer Month



Let's start with Hitesh and Anita, our friendly Post Office managers for over 16 years, who were invited to Buckingham Palace for tea on 31 May in recognition of their contribution to the community. They enjoyed tea on the lawn and came home feeling happy and proud.

Have you noticed the fresh fish van opposite the Post Office every Thursday morning? William Hill calls from around 09:00– 10:00 with a fantastic selection of fresh seafood, landed in Grimsby on Wednesday. If you can't get there, he will deliver to your house on Wednesday evening or Thursday morning – take your pick. He can supply most fish and seafood if you pre order. Just call William on 07900 581880.

The Art of Glass Studio in Swan Street is holding an Open Day on Saturday 28 July. Do call in and say hello to Ros Duffy, watch her demonstrate glass cutting and find out more about stained or fused glass. You will even be able to make your own small piece of fused glass art. Some local hand crafters are now selling their work in the Studio too!

Keep an eye on Harris's corner next month as Ellie Sanderson's bridal store moves in from Oxford, just in time for the autumn season. 'They say all good things are worth waiting for... we can't wait,' says Ellie.

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Home front

Continued from page 3... Our parish and district councils (EPC, WODC) and the developer answer questions on Oxfordshire Cotswolds Garden Village. Extracts from the County Council response follow.

Q3. Do you see the OCGV benefiting Eynsham residents; and if so, in what way?

EPC: If, as it should be, it is self-contained for day to day facilities such as shops, primary schools, play areas, allotments and village hall... then residents won't have to drive to Eynsham for necessities and find nowhere to park! Equally, with safe pedestrian crossings it will be possible for us to share facilities (like an extension to Bartholomew School) and for social interaction between the communities. It very much depends on how close to a true Garden Village it is and what happens to the A40.

WODC: The garden village is anticipated to be a major contributor to upgrading transport links that will help relieve traffic congestion along the A40 including the provision of park and ride and bus priority together with new opportunities for walking and cycling including to Hanborough Station. It will also bring other benefits to the local area, including job opportunities through the creation of new employment space, as well as helping to meet the need for new housing; and provide a range of new services and facilities including extensive new open space, schools and community facilities.

Grosvenor: At every stage of our work we seek to fully understand the impact on, and benefit for, existing and new communities. The Garden Village will bring new facilities to the local area which will be accessible to all. By delivering these hand in hand with new housing, we can ensure that services in the Garden Village complement those existing in Eynsham, as well as providing new, shared facilities. Examples of new facilities include health, education, open spaces, parkland and play spaces.

Q4. Do the infrastructure proposals rely on funding still to come, or is this already in place?

EPC: Not really. The Garden Village could pay for its own road access; though the outcome would be poor with traffic slowed by the extra junctions and limited pedestrian interaction because the road is so difficult to cross. On the other hand, if money for improving the A40 can be coordinated with the GV, there could be big improvements. For example, putting the new road in a cutting behind the Millennium Wood... [and] under Cuckoo Lane eliminates the junction, with slip road access to the new dual-carriageway to Barnard Gate, so through traffic flows easily and the old A40 is

an easily crossed access road and bus lane.

WODC: The proposals will need to be informed by further evidence on supporting infrastructure and any identified improvements are likely to be provided/funded through a combination of different sources. Some of this is already in place including £35m towards park and ride and bus priority, with the remainder to be secured as the site is taken forward including directly through the development.

Grosvenor: The scale of the Garden Village means that it can provide funding towards key local infrastructure, such as healthcare and education provision, affordable housing, improved local transport and walk and cycle links to local rail services and the wider area.

More broadly, we are working closely with the authorities on the area's strategic infrastructure needs which we cannot influence, or invest in, alone. This includes government funding for increasing public transport accessibility along the A40 corridor.



An Area Action Plan is legally enforceable so getting it right is really important – please check it out and have your say!
www.westoxon.gov.uk/gardenvillage

Oxfordshire County Council says 'Congestion on the A40 and its junctions causes daily problems for road users and has been described by business leaders as one of the biggest barriers to economic growth and prosperity in West Oxfordshire... We know that the proposed park and ride and bus lanes scheme is not enough... The A40 strategy will therefore be further developed... Timing of infrastructure provision is critical, and ensuring that infrastructure is in place to support development at the appropriate time will be a key aspect of our work with West Oxfordshire.'

County Councillor Charles Mathew remarks 'In the light of 14,950 new houses in WODC's latest Draft Plan... I have tried to persuade OCC over the last two years to review the various alternatives to their plans for A40 'improvements'.'

– more at eynshamnews.org.uk

Point of view

This 'resident in the 30-ish professional bracket' may be speaking for many, so deserves some anonymity

I don't think that putting thousands of houses on the other side of the A40 is the answer to Oxfordshire's housing need. But contesting it on grounds of traffic (which is apparently the main concern) diminishes the issues at stake. Traffic/congestion needs dealing with everywhere; and there's no solution available that doesn't involve stopping everyone driving – which people seem unwilling to do.

Agreed, a huge increase in houses would probably make traffic worse. But it would also have a huge impact on the infrastructure and resources of the community. Some of this would be undeniably good, with greater investment from a larger customer base helping our businesses thrive. And government supported services like schools and healthcare are likely to suffer seriously unless proper investment comes from somewhere.

The argument that Eynsham would be dramatically changed by this development (and that this is inherently bad) doesn't sit well with me. In the past 40–50 years huge areas of the village have been developed and masses of houses built; and I don't think many people would say it's been a bad thing. Obviously it's all about scale but this resistance to change just screams to me of a relatively well off (baby boomer?) generation which knows that housing is needed but doesn't want it near them!

In my lifetime it seems the demographic of Eynsham has changed. Fewer young people are able to stay and several of the older generations have moved on (for various reasons). In their place we have a new wave of families, many of whom commute to Oxford or London. This has driven property prices up and up – both rented and to buy – making it next to impossible for young people to live here without help of some kind.

So back to the big development. Do I think it's the right thing? Probably not. *But it might provide housing that is closer to affordable, if only because of its scale.* Developments like this have to provide services – and they have to accommodate a range of age groups and pay brackets – or local authorities and official consultees just refuse their applications.

Smaller developments don't have to do these things; and we've seen so much of them in the past ten years – with little or no infrastructure to match. Isn't this a more pressing issue for the village than a huge development which could take 20 years to be even part way finished? I can't help feeling we are all losing out, as the 'shape' of the community shifts towards only those who can afford it. Doesn't this pose as big a risk as a few thousand houses over the road?

Over to you



A delightful contribution to our colouring corner from Bonnie Coburn! You can print out a bigger version at eynshamnews.org.uk Bonnie has just completed A-levels (including art) and is now taking a gap year in South-east Asia, with a deferred entry for Brighton University to study architecture.

GRANTS FOR LOCAL PEOPLE: *Eynsham 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

ONE BORN EVERY MINUTE: Remember Bob McIntyre's wise words on computer scams in our last issue? Local people are still falling for these tricks, so do yourself a favour:

- Major companies such as Microsoft and BT do not ring home users to tell them they have a problem.
- These friendly people are only interested in finding something of value to them.
- If you weren't expecting the call – no matter how plausible they seem – put the phone down.

ON HAZELDENE MEADOW, despite extremes of weather, the yellow rattle made a late start. However it did begin to show in May, flowered in June and has now set seed. The meadow will be cut in September and left for a couple of weeks before being raked and cleared. This will allow all seeds to remain behind so they can germinate.

Arcadian, the maintenance company, have given us a very generous donation to buy meadow wildlife seed. It will be distributed among those residents who sowed the yellow rattle last year so they may appreciate the fruits of their labours. Hopefully the surviving yellow rattle will feed on more grass roots and the wildflowers will multiply and flourish. *Margaret Keys*

The statuesque old larch tree on Queens Lane was felled in early June. It is not clear why it was felled, or how old the tree was, though one local remembers it as a mature specimen in the early 1960s. Local resident and artist Jane Tomlinson said: 'I admired this beautiful tree every day, and never failed to enjoy its distinctive zig zag branches which added real character to the lane. I'm very sad it has gone.'



STOP PRESS

A 6-week consultation on the West Eynsham 'Strategic Development Area' has just been announced; suggested deadline for response is Friday 7 September.

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£10 per class - Please bring your own mat

Arising Cat

Village show

Get your pens and pennies out! says Fay Taylor-Ball. *This year's show will be on Saturday 15 September and we look forward to seeing you.*

I'm writing this in the middle of July – sitting in the garden first thing in the morning before the sun shines again and brings more glorious weather, as well as more watering on the allotment!

The weather has been perfect for getting out with a camera and the cooler evenings have been great for baking and crafting – in addition to watching the footie of course! – so there really is no excuse not to enter a few things in the show.



Down by the river – just one of many recent photos by Ian White – a reminder of the photography classes?

The Class List and Entry Form is available from Evenlode DIY and the library, as well as the website eynshamvillageshow.info and on our Facebook page. If you can, please do print off your own copy.

Men, you have your own baking class – ‘Something Ginger?’ should whet your appetite and unleash your culinary creativity, and there's plenty of time to try out your recipes. You can of course enter all the other classes too.

There are lots of classes for children too, of course, so do encourage them to get involved in this annual village event – you never know, your little one might just win a prize!

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Check our websites for dates, times and venues of classes and 1-1 sessions in Eynsham

A zero-carbon village?

Sarah Couch writes from the GreenTEA Energy group

Despite our many misgivings and our protests, plans for the ‘Garden Village’ north of Eynsham are rushing ahead. On the face of it, this will be hugely damaging to the environment and lead to yet more pollution and ever more CO₂. The challenges are many: increased traffic, congestion and pollution, loss of valuable farmland and wildlife, added strain on power and water, huge amounts of noise, disruption and energy spent in building inefficient homes to name a few.

But are there opportunities too? If all this development goes ahead, GreenTEA is determined to make sure it is an exemplar of zero carbon living that makes a positive contribution to the existing community and to our environment. For instance, we have fantastic expertise in Oxfordshire which could help make the site a net generator of clean energy – perhaps powering Eynsham too. The government has reduced building standards; but we could press for innovative solutions to construction as well as renewable energy. A network of good, clean and attractive public transport is at the top of many people's priorities.

If you agree, please demand the highest standards of energy efficiency, clean energy generation, green transport and cycle routes in any of your responses to the Garden Village plans.

We will be exploring some of these ideas at the GreenTEA festival on 29 September.

Deadline for your feedback on ‘issues and options’ for Oxfordshire Cotswolds Garden Village is 3 August. Please check it out in the library or online! – Ed.

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People



Top marks to the Shirt Race teams, with Shaun the Sheep – above © Ian Wright – a worthy winner of the Darnells Nut Award. The Shirt Race entry in the Flower Festival was outstanding too: 60 half-pint glasses (one for every year) filled with flowers, foliage and herbs.

The sun shone on yet another fantastic Carnival day, thanks to the many businesses, groups and people who helped make this day so successful. We've room here only for the Tug of War winners:

- Mixed comp – Absolute Tuggers
- Ladies comp – Prosecco made us do it again
- Best dressed team – Eynsham Land Girls.

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FRONT GARDEN COMPETITION: Our thanks to those who have spent so much time and effort on their gardens; to our judge Rachel Cassar for the expertise and attention she has given to the competition. Presentation of trophies and certificates will be on 15 September at the Village Show, with photos by Lindsey Willetts. Sandra Jinks

- **Best Enclosed Front Garden:** New House, Tanners Lane; runner-up Old School, Station Road
- **Best Open Plan Front Garden:** 1 Orchard Close; runner-up 17 Back Lane; highly commended 39 Hanborough Close
- **Best House Front:** 19 Hazeldene Close; runner-up 6 Blankstone Close
- **Best Business Front:** St Peter's Church; runner-up The Evenlode Inn.



FLOWER FESTIVAL in St Leonard's Church on Carnival weekend was very well supported, with 42 entries from all around the village – some for the very first time. Donations of £200.60 will be divided between SeeSaw (grief support for children & young adults) and August Oasis for senior citizens. *Kathie Tanner*

For sheer exuberance and ingenuity, this must have been the finest festival ever. Kathie's 'Anniversaries' theme inspired displays on every scale, on national and local subjects. Yet another instance of the community coming together – if only we could bottle this! – Ed.

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Received with thanks

Catherine Baker reports from Christian Aid Week, 13–19 May

As a village, we've been taking part in the annual Christian Aid Week fundraising effort for over 30 years. That's an awful lot of donation envelopes delivered and collected – and with about £2000 raised every year, it represents a great deal of money, too. This year, once again, Eynsham residents and members of the three churches took part in a house-to-house collection around the village. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of the many volunteers, our fundraising total this year topped the £2000 mark again at £2030.00. This is no small achievement in a time of falling incomes for many – so great thanks are also due to all those who gave so generously.

This year, the theme of Christian Aid Week was 'Together we're stronger than the storms' The focus was on Haiti, where many people are still struggling with the devastating after-effects of Hurricane Matthew which struck back in 2010. The money raised in Eynsham during Christian Aid week will go to support Christian Aid's work with the poorest of the poor, not just in Haiti but right across the world.

BARTHOLOMEW PLAYERS: Chairman Gareth Hammond has presented a cheque for £300 to Tess McCormick, Chair of Eynsham Primary School PTA, as their share of profits from the 'Safari Party' charity supper show in May. The school will put the money towards refurbishing their classrooms.

OPEN GARDENS: A very successful weekend raised £1595 – helped of course by great weather before it got too hot and dry. Keeping a balance in the bank for our next event in 2020, we plan to give £440 to each of the nominated charities: Abingdon Riding for the Disabled, Eynsham Day Centre and Eynsham Fire Service. Our thanks to all who opened their gardens and to the other people who helped to make the weekend such a happy occasion. The grounds around the Holy Well created a lot of interest – an excellent project, with lots of new trees for Eynsham. *Martin Flatman*

RWIE: The Refugees Welcome in Eynsham exhibition at the Bartholomew Room in June raised £486 from the cake stall and £186.50 from the donation box – £672.50 in all – while Nick Lewis's Artweeks auction raised an amazing £850. Many thanks for all your support.

SHIPWRECKED: Thanks to generous volunteers and customers, our plant sale & coffee shop in June raised £1600 to enable us to offer this week's fun to children of primary school age at very reasonable cost.

Apologies for running out of space for the promised tribute to Eynsham Croquet Club founder Brian Hitchins: it's online at eynshamcroquetclub.org.uk – Ed.



Votes for Women by Eynsham Women's Institute – this photo © Ian Wright – was a winner in the Carnival Parade and a popular subject at the Flower Festival too

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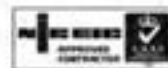
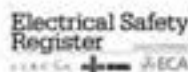
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Recreation



BRIDEWELL ORGANIC GARDENS

Reg. Charity 1158456: The walled garden and vineyard at Wilcote (OX7 3DT) will open on Sundays 16 August and 14 September from 14:00–16:00. Suggested donation £4, children free.

Refreshments, plants, Bridewell produce, products and our own organic wine will be on sale. Tel: 01993 868313/864530 or visit bridewellgardens.co.uk

COME AND GIVE IT A TRY!

Short mat bowls offers gentle exercise and pleasant company as you play. We have some bowls to lend and all you need a pair of flat/smooth soled shoes or slippers to play. Sessions in the Village Hall on Tuesday 18:45–20:45 and Thursday 14:00–16:00 from 5 September after the August break. Just pop in and see us, you will be made most welcome. *Maureen Davis: 01865 880586*



CRAFTERNOON in aid of Mind 29 July 14:00–17:00 at The Swan Hotel is an opportunity to spend a few hours ‘crafting’ with friends or on your own. We all know how difficult it can be to find ‘me’ time but you’ll also be raising funds for the mental health charity, Mind. Free to come along but we’ll be asking for a donation and probably have a raffle too. We’ll have The Snug (away from the bar) to ourselves, with tea and coffee provided free by The Swan – and cake too, for a donation. You are more than welcome to purchase something stronger from the bar!! *Fay: 07730 954497*

MATURE MOVES exercise class now runs from 11:00 to 12:00 in the Scout Hall on Thursdays during term time – first class free, supported by Age UK. Why not try it out? *Olwen Radburn: 01993 773 432*

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EYNSHAM COUNTRY MARKET features Sicilian street food in a special event on Thursday 30 August from 18:00–20:00 in St Leonard’s Hall. Try Irene’s freshly cooked Sicilian arancini (and much more) to eat in or take away. Choose from a wide selection of baked goods, preserves and crafts and meet our friendly producers. We’ll be introducing a new ordering service for our fresh local produce, for collection at a time to suit you on Thursday evenings. *Contact Judith Bowden: judithbowden@virginmedia.com*

Family fun

The summer holidays are a great opportunity to be active – and have fun in the process, says Sarah Medina

The holiday swimming course at Eynsham Primary School for beginners age 3-plus runs from 30 July to 3 August inclusive: call 07870 662483 or visit oxfordswimmingacademy.co.uk

But there’s so much more you can do for free...

Why not get kids to set themselves an obstacle course challenge? It can be done on their own, with family or with a group of friends. Challenges can be set according to age – from little ones to adults. The challenge can run from a few minutes to a few hours, as a one-off or throughout the summer holidays! Keep scores as to who has completed what – and offer a small prize for completing the whole challenge.

Start by brainstorming ideas for the obstacle course. Indoor and outdoor activities all count. Here are some ideas to get you going:

- Throw a ball into bowls or boxes, starting big and getting smaller
- Bounce a ball ten times on a racquet
- Dribble a ball between two points
- Balance an egg/potato on a spoon and weave through cones/obstacles
- Play skittles using plastic bottles
- Crawl under a string stretched between two chair legs
- Lay a rope in a curvy shape and ‘walk the tightrope’ on it.

FUN IN THE LIBRARY: Two summer-long events bring reading into the home. The children’s Summer Reading Challenge has a ‘Mischievous Makers’ theme, celebrating the 80th anniversary of Beano. The challenge is to read six library books of the children’s choice between 14 July and 15 September. They will collect stickers as they read and win a Beano wristband, medal and certificate on completion of the challenge. In ‘Oxfordshire Reads’, adults can recommend two books on a library postcard and be entered into a county-wide draw to win amazing prizes.

On Friday 10 August, two special events are running at the library. ‘Sketch a story’, from 10:30–11:30, is a free workshop for children aged 8+ with Amanda Beck. ‘Mischievous Monster Mayhem’ is for ages 4 to 8 and is a free session with stories and craft. Places on both events are limited to 20, allocated on a first come, first served basis.

Sign up and find out more at Eynsham library.

PUZZLE CORNER: Unscramble the letters and write the UK birds. Then unscramble the letters in circles to reveal the final bird! Can you identify the birds in our Colouring Corner on page 12 as well?

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Complete the story!


Write 300–500 words, taking up where this passage ends. Extra points for inventiveness!

I knew the risks when I agreed to do this. At least, I thought I did. No matter how much preparation you do, how many nights you lie awake thinking of all the possible outcomes, you never really know what will happen until the moment you put the plan into action. I am at that moment now. My feet are on the stairs, and I’m watching them move up the dusty wooden slats, feeling disconnected from what I’m doing as if I’m at home watching this on TV. Maybe my brain is relieving me from the sense of being in control, because I can’t turn back now, even if I wanted to – it’s already too late.

My hand stretches out and grasps the door-handle, trembling slightly. I turn the knob and push the door open...

Send your entry – with a note of your age – to gabrielschenk@gmail.com with the subject ‘Eynsham News Story’ by 24 August. The winner will be printed in our next issue. How cool is that?

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Eynsham Roadrunners

Whether you're already a keen runner who pounds the streets on a regular basis, or just like the idea of an occasional run with like-minded people, Eynsham Roadrunners are a friendly and welcoming group with members of all abilities, ages and motivations. The idea of joining any club can be daunting but from the very first time you contact ERR you are made to feel at ease.



As well as being a respected running club at county level and participating successfully in many local competitions (including our very own Eynsham 10k), it is, perhaps, the social side of the club which really makes it stand out from the crowd. The club meets at 18:30 every Wednesday at the Sports Pavilion, but, in addition, a separate social committee puts on a series of events throughout the year which all members are welcome to take part in. A Salters Steamer trip, a weekend walking in Snowdonia, canoeing along the Thames and a quiz night are just a few of the events planned for the second half of this year.

Whether you have aspirations to be the next Mo Farah, or simply want to get a little more active, then ERR are worth a punt. Anyone is welcome to come down to the club to give it a try to see if it is for them before committing to becoming a member.

Interested in joining us? Please contact Charmian Maskell: charmianmaskell48@gmail.com 07792 347242 or visit eynshamroadrunners.org.uk

SHIPWRECKED: Eynsham Churches' Holiday Club 2018 runs every morning from 30 July to 3 August at the Primary School. Details and booking forms via email eynshamhc@gmail.com or at tinyurl.com/eynsham-hc

WEST OXFORDSHIRE RAMBLERS meet at Back Lane car park on Tuesday 18 September at 10:30 for a leisurely 6.5 miles/10.5 km walk along the Thames path to Oxford, returning on the S1 bus – with a pub stop. Non-members are welcome as usual
 Enquiries: 01865 880105/07539 794759



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What's on

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

July

- 25 **Arts Group**, Bartholomew Room 19:30.
Claire Christine Sadler, *Graphite Pencil and Charcoal*
- 25 **British Legion**, Village Ha ll 19:30
- 28 **Art of Glass Studio** – page 9
- 28 **EYNSHFEST!** – page 7



- 29 **Crafternoon for Mind** – page 16
- 29 **Litter Pickers**, Baptist Hall 13:45
- 30 **July–2 August SHIPWRECKED!** – page 18

ROAD CLOSURES

- The A40 Eynsham to Witney will be closed for up to 5 nights 23–27 July (20:00–05:00) for patching and resurfacing works.
- Swan Street/Abbey Street will be closed for up to 5 days from 3–7 August for repairs to an underground duct, with limited access for frontages/emergency services.

August

- 4 **GreenTEA**, Eynsham Emporium 10:30–12:00
- 8 **Eynsham Society**, local walk 14:00
- 8 **Garden Club**, Village Hall 19:30.
Philip Aubury, *Labour saving gardening*
- 10 **Fun in the Library** – page 17
- 15 **Arts Group**, sketching at The Ashmolean 10:30.
Enquiries: 07779 238225
- 15 Carers' Group, Eynsham Emporium 11:00
- 16 **Bridewell Open Gardens** – page 16
- 22 **British Legion**, Village Hall 19:30
- 28–30 August **OASIS**, Village Hall 10:15–15:45
- 30 **Evening Market** – page 17
- 31 **Eynsham News** copy deadline – page 2



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September

- 1 **GreenTEA**, Eynsham Emporium 10:30–12:00
- 2 **Gatehouse Volunteers:** home-made sandwiches & cake for the Oxford shelter.
Enquiries: 01865 881346
- 2 **Acoustic Club**, The Swan 20:00
- 10 **Age UK**, Eynsham Emporium 10:00
- 11 **Women's Institute**, St Leonard's Hall 19:30.
Sue Drage, *Recycling with a difference*
- 11 **Play Area Committee**, Bartholomew Room 18:30
- 11 **Traffic Advisory Committee**,
Bartholomew Room 19:30.
- 14 **Bridewell Open Gardens** – page 16
- 15 **VILLAGE SHOW &
FRONT GARDEN AWARDS**
- 19 **Carers' Group**, Eynsham Emporium 11:00
- 28 **Community Cinema** – *opposite*

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.

With so many fantastic entries it was very hard to choose the best! The winner was Tilly Coyne age 5, 2nd Sammy Fredericks age 7, 3rd Imogen age 5. Tilly will receive a £25 Argos voucher and the runners-up a £10 voucher each.

Next issue will be out on 17 September – copy deadline 31 August and one week earlier for our holiday story competition (page 17).



Visit Eynsham Online at eynsham-pc.gov.uk

Our sponsors

Thanks again to Eynsham Dental Care and the Eynsham Churches for their generous support in 2018–19.

We still have a few advertising spaces for local businesses in the current year. Please contact Sandy Hellig for more details: 07551 876285, email sandy.hellig@gmail.com or visit eynshamnews.org.uk

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