

EYNSHAM

Council & Community

NEWS

Issue 35 - February - March 2019

Alternative futures



A salute to the visionaries – image © Sue Chapman, story on page 4–5

Not so long ago, mass transit was transformed by a network of railways – only to suffer a thousand cuts in the Beeching era. More recently, the buses that brought our communities together were decimated by cuts to local government funding.

The necklace of new highways at the heart of the latest schemes is to be weighted down (or financed – take your pick) by thousands of new homes. Must we have roads to secure the housing? Are they in the right place anyway? And is talk of bus and bike lanes merely window dressing?

It would be good to think the planners are looking far enough ahead!

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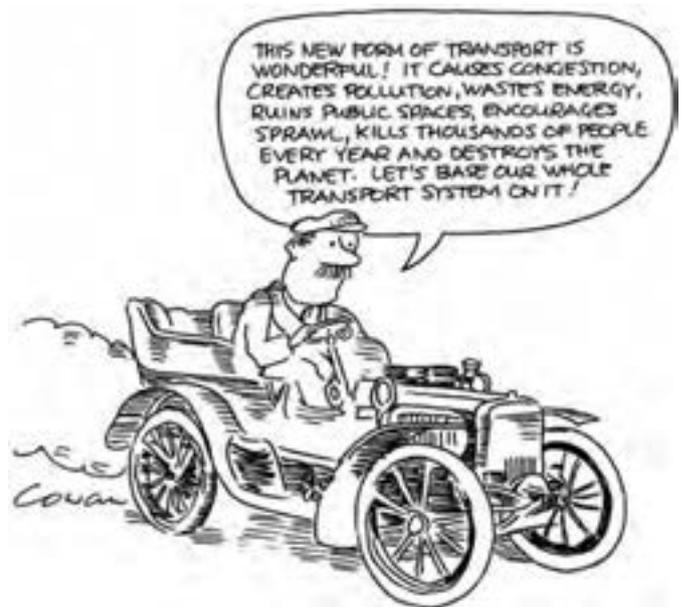
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Continued from page one...



Last summer George Monbiot launched a searing attack on lack of consultation about the proposed Oxford-Cambridge expressway, with major planning decisions not only made behind closed doors but based on premature lock-in of fixed ideas. This feels true on so many levels that it will be a recurring theme in 2019:

'By the time we are asked for our opinion, there will be little left to discuss but the colour of the road signs.'

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GET IN TOUCH! Local stories, snaps and snippets are always welcome – and corrections also, thanks! Next issue will be out on 25 March – copy deadline Friday 8 March, though advance notice really helps if you'd like some room to spread. Please note, this is one week earlier than originally proposed.

- Editor Joan Stonham, 28 Beech Road Eynsham OX29 1LJ: eynsham.news@gmail.com
- Assistant editor Sarah Medina: sarah.eynshamnews@gmail.com
- Distribution coordinator Pam Breeze: 01865 880725
- Advertising/sponsorship Sandy Hellig: 07551 876285 / sandy.hellig@gmail.com
- Treasurer Tom Smith: thomassmithwm@gmail.com

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Persistence pays off

An inspiring update on the B4044 Eynsham to Botley path from BikeSafe Trustee John Blackie

BikeSafe has been campaigning for building the B4044 path over the last 7 years. We have been very strongly supported by the people and councils of Botley, Cumnor, Farmoor and not least residents of Eynsham, Eynsham Parish Council and surrounding neighbourhoods.

In those 7 years BikeSafe has raised over £180,000 from the public – proving to amongst others Oxfordshire County Council that the campaign really does have enormous public support. The money has enabled BikeSafe to produce a professional design for the path, along with all the surveys and tests which such plans require. We are now in a position to submit an application for planning permission shortly.

The B4044 path was included in the A40 P&R and bus lane consultation. Oxfordshire County Council at the beginning of last December presented a public consultation at three venues, including Eynsham, for building the controversial A40 Park and Ride at Eynsham and a bus lane up to the Wolvercote roundabout in North Oxford. They included plans for the B4044 path, using the drawings and data produced by BikeSafe engineers, which BikeSafe was happy to provide. This has been a significant breakthrough for our campaign.

Some changes are needed to the OCC's current plans, which have been recorded by roughly 150 respondents to the consultation which closed on 6 January.

The OCC A40 plan has two phases. The B4044 path is in phase two which ends in 2030. Clearly BikeSafe's focus is to get the path moved into phase one – which OCC say 'can't be done' – or put at the start of phase two, so it does not get left to the end when it is possible the money could run out.

OCC's plans omit joining the B4044 path up to the A40 via the B4449 northbound. BikeSafe will be campaigning for the path from the Siemens roundabout north up the B4449 to the A40 roundabout; and for both roundabouts to be built to the so-called Dutch design, where people riding cycles are given priority right around the junction.

BikeSafe is very grateful for the personal and financial support which has been received from the people of Eynsham at all levels. But we are not finished yet. The campaign continues until we see the diggers moving in and the last part of the path is laid down.

Campaigners for a new cycle path to take account of the dangers from HGV traffic on the B4449 through Sutton to Eynsham may feel encouraged by this story! – Ed

The planning decision

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once known and recently rediscovered
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misused concepts
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manipulated data
omitted information
ignored objections
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docile consultants
and target addiction
driving the process
I would hope I could finally accept
it.

Nigel Pearce, February 2018



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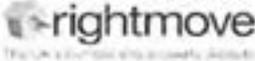
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Retired Priest: Fr Martin Flatman 07719 646790

SUNDAY SERVICE Sunday Mass 10:00

Saturday Mass of Sunday 17.00

EYNESHAM 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! Holiday Club 2019 runs 29 July to
2 August – page 16*

Where are they now?

*A giant frieze illustrating Eynsham's history was the highlight of a Jubilee exhibition in 2007, spreading all around the Bartholomew Room walls. The original report below, and our cover image, only hint at its scope and scale. Yet every panel is lost. Do ask around and check your storage spaces! **Someone must know where they are.***

It is widely believed that nothing is more doomed to failure than a co-operative venture involving a group of artists. Yet this problem does not seem to have arisen among the ten Eynsham artists who created a giant frieze illustrating the major incidents in our history. You could almost imagine it had been done by one person.

The frieze was the idea of Mrs Margaret Garland as focus for the Jubilee exhibition in the Bartholomew Room, which has been arranged jointly by Eynsham Arts Group and Eynsham History Society. Each artist was responsible for one or two of the scenes; and these were all traced from the drawings on to a sheet of white calico, with suitable captions.

The frieze begins in 500 BC with the establishment of an Iron Age settlement in the village, then leaps a thousand years to 571 AD when the Saxons built a ford over the river at Swinford and captured Romano-British Eynsham. Next comes the first reference to Eynsham Abbey, built in 1005: the scene below illustrates the monks fleeing from the Abbey in 1066 after the Battle of Hastings.



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The market, for which Eynsham was long famous, has its origins almost as long ago: it began in 1100 with a charter from Henry I. A scene in 1186 records Henry II's nomination of Hugh from Burgundy as Bishop of Lincoln – a diocese including Eynsham Abbey.

A century later, in 1296, we have an artist's impression of serious fighting at Eynsham's Pentecostal fair between local folk and Oxford undergraduates who had come to join in the fun. This outbreak of animosity between Town and Gown resulted in the death of several students – though the artist may have used a little too much imagination in involving monks in the fight.

After Richard II's visit to the Abbey in 1390 and a view of St Leonard's Church in 1580 and of Market House in the 17th century comes an attempt to capture the beauty of Venetia Stanley, whose family held the Abbey and its lands from the dissolution under Henry VIII until the Commonwealth in 1649. Venetia married Sir Kenelm Digby, author of the first printed cookery book; and the exhibition includes a brass rubbing of her father's memorial tablet in St Leonard's Church.

John Wesley's visit to the village is recorded in a scene depicting the near-fatal accident he had at Swinford. He was on his way to preach at South Leigh and Witney when his mare slipped at the causeway and he nearly drowned. Five years later he would have had no problem for by then the fourth Earl of Abingdon had built the Swinford Toll Bridge which of course still stands today.

Sadly, the same does not apply to the railway whose arrival in 1861 is recorded in the last scene of the frieze [our cover image]. It was closed some years ago and its former route now forms part of the new [B4449] road skirting the village.

Photo © Sue Chapman; story © Don Chapman – first published June 2007 in the Oxford Times/Witney Gazette under the pen-name Anthony Wood

Local councils

EYNSHAM PARISH COUNCIL (EPC)

Chairman Gordon Beach: 01865 880979
Clerk Katherine Dougherty: 07956 901622

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

Fuller contact lists appear in alternate issues only, to make best use of space. The Eynsham Directory is always available (and continuously updated) at Eynsham Online. For enquiries about the next print please contact the Parish Council Clerk

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:	07935 832702*
White Hart Function Room:	01865 883093

*New Bookings and Accounts Clerk for Eynsham Village Hall is Stephanie Norton. Our best wishes for the future to Rachel and Paul Cassar, as they moved out of the area in December.

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An overview from Dennis Stukenbroeker – Chair, Parish Council Planning Committee and Parish Transport Representative

If you were hoping for a new 2,300 home Garden Village to spring up on the other side of the A40, or for the west side of Eynsham to blossom into a 1,000 home suburb any time soon, you may be disappointed. Similarly, if you thought the Garden Village and the West Eynsham expansion would be seamlessly integrated into the improvements to the A40, you will be very disappointed indeed.

Over the last couple of months Eynsham Parish Council (EPC) has had meetings with developers Barclay Strategic, who want to control the master plan for the West Eynsham development, and Grosvenor, who represent the land owners involved in the Garden Village, and to which West Oxfordshire District Council (WODC) seems to have ceded control of the Garden Village development.

More recently, Odele Parsons and Raymond Cheung of Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) Highways Department attended EPC's January meeting to update us on OCC's proposed Park & Ride in Eynsham, the improvements to the A40, including partial dualling of the A40 and the introduction of some partial bus lanes, and a 50 mph speed limit.

OCC is in a push to complete its A40 project before March 2021 to secure the Government funding for it but has yet to submit a planning application to WODC. The Parish Council learned that because no definite plans have been agreed for the Garden Village or West Eynsham, though both are in the recently adopted WODC Local Plan, the A40 highway improvements will ignore them. This means that the new Park & Ride roundabout will have to be dug up

again, or another roundabout or two built, along with other significant roadworks to provide access after the current A40 roadworks are finished in 2021. Lots of roadworks, for a long time.

Both Grosvenor and Barclay Strategic told the Council they have experienced delays in their preparation for planning applications because of uncertainty and lack of information from OCC regarding the Park & Ride and A40 improvements.

Grosvenor told EPC it has formed a trust of all the Garden Village landowners involved, excepting the Millennium Wood, the petrol station and the concrete recycling plant. It is currently stacking up surveys and consultants' reports in preparation for a planning application to WODC. Barclay Strategic is still assessing the physical constraints of the West Eynsham so-called Strategic Development Area (SDA). It is drawing up a master plan for the consortium of builders involved, as well as consulting with schools, Eynsham Medical Centre, and other parties, including the Parish Council.

I pointed out to both developers that none of the plans I had seen so far showed where the 3,200 houses were actually going to go. Except for developer Pye's application for five bungalows at Fruitlands, which is in the SDA and was refused by WODC last December

News in brief

Katherine Doughty reports on 'other' work completed, in progress or planned as part of her role. Call her on 07956 901622 or email epc.clerk@eynsham-pc.gov.uk

- **Sports Pavilion:** A public meeting was held at the Pavilion in December to discuss the Pavilion rebuild project, to meet the architects and review the first draft plans. The next step will be to review the feedback and amend the drafts.
- **Dovehouse Close:** Work has been completed on the EPC woodland, where we have embarked on a 10-year management plan which includes removal of some trees to promote lower growth; and surgery to others to extend their life and wildlife value.
- **Eynsham Park & Ride/A40 bus lane:** Our response to OCC's consultation highlights lack of 'joined-up thinking' on future infrastructure needs; inappropriate location of the Park & Ride – it is felt this should be at Witney not Eynsham and the bus lane should start at Witney not Eynsham – unsafe Cuckoo Lane junction design; and residents' noise concerns. Our response can be found on our Strategic Planning page bit.ly/eynsham-SP
- **Process:** EPC currently meets on the first Tuesday of every month (as does the Planning Committee

when required). This will change to the second Tuesday of the month with effect from May to aid the production of financial reports. May marks the beginning of the new Council year – particularly important in 2019 as Parish Council elections take place on Thursday 2 May.

- **Bartholomew Room:** Specification is being finalised for refurbishment, with a view to tenders and grant applications as mentioned in issue 32. Work is needed on the roof and guttering and stonework on the south side, as well as general improvements inside.

All Parish Council meetings are held in the Bartholomew Room and you are welcome to attend; here are dates for the next few weeks. The agendas are posted online and on the public notice boards. Recent decisions have included allocations to EPC committee projects, grants to community groups and hire charges for EPC-managed venues in 2019/20. The details, and their impact on your council tax, have not yet been made public – Ed.

Fishponds Committee 29 January 18:30
Communications Committee 29 January 19:30
Full Council 5 February and 5 March 19:30
Footpaths Committee 19 March 18:30
Play Area 19 Mar 19:30
Traffic Advisory Sub-Committee 12 Mar 19:30

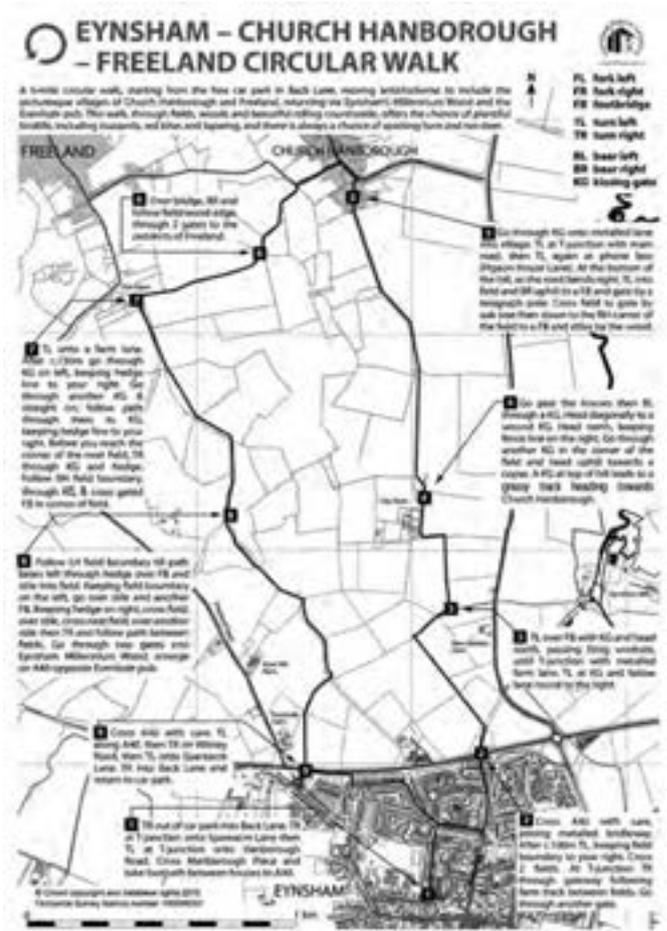
Our great outdoors

Sue Osborne – Chair, Fishponds & Footpaths Committees

Around ten volunteers turned up for our fishponds working party in December, managing between them all the jobs we needed and more. The dipping platform is now clear; the boardwalk more accessible; the spinney has been strimmed and wood chip spread to help suppress nettle growth; vegetation has been cut back, leaves raked, litter cleared – the list goes on! In addition, an experienced dry stone waller, with a couple of keen helpers, has partially restored a short length of the wall, which shows how fantastic it could look if we had time. I hope it may have whetted some appetites...

Many thanks to everyone for so much hard work, in changeable weather. I'm always humbled by people's willingness to get stuck in, for nothing more than a chocolate biscuit or two and a sense of satisfaction for having helped to maintain a beautiful area.

We have a maintenance plan in place for the Fishponds up to 2025, but we are looking beyond this now and would be interested in your views on future improvements, or projects you would like considered. Please let me know if you have any ideas. And if you'd like to be added to my 'volunteer list', please get in touch.



As promised in the last issue, a 6-mile circular walk, heading north from Eynsham, is now available online as a map to print and take on your way. It runs through much of the lovely countryside which will be decimated if the new 'Garden Village' goes ahead.

I urge as many people as possible to try this route while the fine, uninterrupted views can still be seen. However, please be aware that three stiles need repair on the western leg of the walk. I have reported them (again) on OCC's public rights of way map and contacted OCC's Countryside Service directly. I hope these problems will be fixed very soon; in the meantime, please take care. Download the map at bitly/eynsham-cwnorth

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Patients' corner

Graham Maynard delivers timely advice once again

A COLD OR THE FLU? Flu normally comes with far more severe symptoms than a cold but there's no hard-and-fast way to distinguish the two. However, one classic sign of flu is the rapidity at which symptoms start. You get a cough and a headache, your temperature rises and you feel like going to bed, *all over a relatively short period of time*. It's the speed of onset that helps to differentiate flu from a common cold.

If you've come down with flu, it's natural to want to spare those around you from catching it. You're infectious for a day or so before the symptoms appear; but probably not extremely infectious until they have developed, as it's the coughing and sneezing that accompany the illness that makes infecting others more likely. The length of time you're infectious for often depends on age. If you're six or seven, it's likely to be quite short – perhaps four days or so – whereas elderly people may have the infection for as long as two weeks. However, soon after the symptoms clear you'll be less infectious. There will be traces of virus in your system, but you won't be spreading it.

How to protect yourself: For the best chance of avoiding flu, it's sensible to get a vaccination. Whilst this may not offer complete protection, it remains the best way of protecting yourself and even if it doesn't stop you contracting flu, it's likely to stave off its worst effects. It's also worth keeping away from people who have it. If someone sitting on the train next to you is coughing and sneezing, carefully move away and sit somewhere else.

Please also use a handkerchief or the crook of your arm, rather than your hand, to catch a cough or sneeze. The virus can survive on your hands for the rest of the day; and if you shake hands you'll pass it on.

Lastly, what to do if you do feel awful? Simply take to your bed with some hot drinks and paracetamol based 'over the counter' medication. Only call NHS 111 or ring the GP if you're worried about your baby's or child's symptoms, you're 65 or over, you're pregnant, have a long-term medical condition, have a weakened immune system or your symptoms don't improve after 7 days. *Remember, GPs don't recommend antibiotics for flu because they won't relieve your symptoms or speed up your recovery.*

FEEDBACK & CLARIFICATION: *The last Eynsham News prompted welcome enquiries about ONS housing targets in relation to WODC's Local Plan. We have limited space to address the issues here but have responded individually – Ed*

A different approach

Ron Hollis offers a new way to get involved in local life

Eynsham Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG), the area liaison group with Thames Valley Police, is to be renamed the Community Forum Group (CFG) in 2019. Broadly the CFG will continue to liaise with TVP; but a different approach is to be developed in view of recent budget cuts and their impact on policing in the Eynsham area. It is hoped that the new approach will also encompass an expanded role in community affairs.

The first CFG meeting will be on 18 February at the Bartholomew Room in The Square and aims to determine the role of the Group, at least for its early months.

Any local business or charity or individual resident will be welcome to join as the Group develops. If you wish to participate, please call me on 07770 466237 or email ron.hollis@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

Grants for groups

Voluntary and community groups are invited to apply to West Oxfordshire District Council for grants of £1,000 to £5,000 to help meet running costs in the coming financial year. The activities/projects must support the Council's own priorities and the closing date for applications is Friday 1 February. Download the application form at bit.ly/CRG-2019

Preschool matters



Early years education in Eynsham has taken a bit over the last two years, writes Anna Parrinder: the much-loved Orchard Children's Centre closed in 2017, then Acre End pre-school in 2018. Though Ofsted-rated 'outstanding', charity Eynsham Pre-School is now in danger of having to reduce its services, because our funding simply doesn't cover our substantial running costs. We are therefore appealing to the community for help. Please consider donating at gofundme.com/help-eynsham-preschool

Your time or services could be just as valuable. If you can help with building repairs or fundraising please get in touch: committee@eynshampreschool.org

New kid on the block

Thanks to Trish Saunders for another update from the Eynsham Retail Group

So the apprentice becomes the master? James, Martin's apprentice at Golsby Butchers, has beaten off competition at MEAT (Ipswich) for



one of four places on a two-week course at the Danish butchery college in Roskilde, Denmark.

This is a fantastic opportunity for him to learn new skills. Why not pop in and put him to the test?

LYALL & CO: A warm welcome to Lewis Wills, proprietor of the new café on the corner of High Street and Market Square, who has teamed up with old friends Jessie Whealy and her husband to bring a new look to the village centre. Opening in January may have felt a 'brave' move but they've had no time to sit on their hands so far. Jessie has been running after-school art classes and holiday workshops in Standlake for children aged 4-13; we fancy she will find several kindred spirits around the village if she hasn't come across them already.

POPPY APPEAL: Our thanks to all Eynsham shops and offices that hosted Poppy appeal boxes and products; thanks also to generous buyers and to the distributors for their time. Julie Jordan reports that a very welcome £3,401 has been collected already, with more donations to come in. Times are changing, however: the widespread use of 'swipe' cards for modest purchases means that fewer people now have any change for charity boxes. Set against that, fortunately, are a generous few who will dig out a banknote for this worthy cause.

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Home front

Ever been had? Thanks again to Bob McIntyre for a salutary reminder that even people you might think 'clued up' are vulnerable at times

Despite the warnings, people are still being caught by the scammers: one client for £13,000 (yes!) recently. If *anyone* calls you out of the blue – from your bank, BT (particularly), Microsoft, HMRC and so on – put the phone down *immediately*.

A particularly insidious trick is a call or recorded message from HMRC saying that you owe money and if you don't pay, they'll start court proceedings. HMRC are still in the brown envelope era, so this is a SCAM.

Another recent one is an email from TV Licencing telling you they've (somehow) lost your details: *Please follow the link and put in the requested info*'. Another SCAM.

If an email asks you to 'log in' somewhere, be alert:

- 1 **Sender's email address** may look right but don't be fooled. I can be dtrump@whitehouse.org in two easy clicks!
- 2 **Subject line** such as 'action required' or 'security alert' should be treated with suspicion.
- 3 **Spelling, grammar and style** errors make it more likely to be a scam, particularly if they seem too casual for an official correspondence.
- 4 **Links in the email** may take you to a fraudulent site. If you use a mail program like Outlook, put your cursor over the link: a little box opens and shows the address; if you email through your browser (Edge, Firefox, Chrome), put your cursor over the link and look in the bottom LH corner of the screen to see the address.

You can report email from fraudsters to Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040. If you've allowed scammers into your computer, *get it checked at once* as they can carry on watching you without your knowledge!

On the streets

People often refuse to clear icy pavements because they have 'heard stories' of people being sued when they did – though none of these is real and a few simple guidelines will ensure clearing is safe and effective. You can find the Parish Council guide at bit.do/gritting

If you could help to keep a few treacherous around the village clear of snow and ice, please contact the Clerk (page 6) and she will arrange the salt supply for a safe and effective job.

Weather watch

Did you ever know such variety? Thanks to Grant Paton for another annual report from his weather station at Odell Cottage. You can keep an eye on his website at bit.ly/2C3MZ1o

Overall, 2018 was drier (27%) and warmer (7%) than the Brize Norton Average despite 'The Beast from the East' in February and March and Storm 'Emma' also in March. The first quarter was much colder (21%) and slightly wetter (4%) with the wind mainly in the east, but this was more than offset since the second, third and fourth quarters were each milder and drier than expected.

The mean temperature for the year was 11.6 °C. Lowest temperature was -6.5°C on 28 February and the highest was 32.9°C on 26 July (only 1 July 2015 was higher, at 35.5°C).

The highest rainfall recorded was on 31 May with 29.1mm. There were 132 days of rain and 233 dry days. The longest dry period (32 days) was in July/August and the longest wet period (9 days) was in December. There were 44 days of air frosts; mainly during January (7), February (18) and March (8) but 9 were in November and December.

The average wind speed was 6.2mph and the dominant direction was in the South overall, though the wind was in the WSW on 53 days, followed by NE (mainly May) 40 days and SW 36 days. The highest gust was recorded at 45.6mph (W) on 18 January. The pressure achieved a low of 965.3hPa (on 9 November) and a high of 1032.5hPa (on 21 March).

I have been collecting Eynsham data for more than five years, and after consultation, I have decided from this January to use, as my average, the Eynsham Five-Year Average. This is only slightly different from the 30-year Brize Norton average (1981–2010) that I have been using up to now but significantly more accurate.

Below: winters of yesteryear: lock keeper Bill McCreadie on the frozen Thames – photo © Maureen McCreadie



Eynsham Dental Care

Can a modern business have traditional ideals?



This question was put to Dr Robert Hughes of Eynsham Dental Care. 'Yes' said Dr Hughes, 'In fact it is a must.'

Eynsham Dental Care has been providing care for the residents of Eynsham and West Oxfordshire for over 35 years. Led by husband and wife team Rob Hughes and Cathy McClelland they balance old fashioned customer care with cutting edge dentistry.

'We retain the core values that we believe every good healthcare professional should have.' Dr Hughes went on to explain the ethos of Eynsham's dental practice.

Personal Service: 'We like to get to know our patients and respect them as individuals. Unlike many dental practices now, Eynsham Dental Care is not part of a larger profit making company.' Cathy and Rob own the surgery themselves and will continue to be dentists here in Eynsham for twenty more years. 'We are only interested in providing the best service we can, personal to the individual.'

Caring: 'Bottom line is that we care', Dr McClelland stated. 'If you have an emergency, we will see you the same day. If it on a weekend or Bank Holiday, then we have that covered too.'

High Standards: 'Not all dental practices are the same,' Dr Hughes said, 'We invest our time in keeping up to date and using the best approach to care while retaining the traditional pride in our work.'

Community: 'We love Eynsham and try to give back to our community', added Dr Cathy McClelland. Eynsham Dental Care supports local events and charities and are proud sponsors of Eynsham Cricket Club. 'We also promise to continue to provide care for children completely free of charge under the NHS.'

Eynsham Dental Care is open every weekday and has someone on call when they are closed. They also provide dental advice on Twitter and Instagram and have 5-star reviews on Google and Facebook. Search for them online, go to www.eynshamdentalcare.com or give their reception team a call on **01865 880047**.

Over to you

As usual, 2019 started off with good intentions. I wonder how many resolutions have now been abandoned, asks Helena Nielsen of GreenTEA

A friend told me recently that she was tired of hearing about climate change. Sounds familiar? The world's scientists agreed in 2018 that we have only twelve years left to keep global warming to 1.5C and thus limit a climate change catastrophe, yet she saw little evidence of any action.

Behaviour change IS possible. In the past, people adapted rapidly to regulations on seat belts, smoking and drink-driving, on speeding and on plastic bag use. If you want to act to help the planet, the United Nations has set up a climate action tool to explain what you can do and how you can record your actions, **ActNow.bot**

Perhaps the most effective action is to add your voice to Sir David Attenborough's plea at the COP24 [24th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change] talks in Poland: *'Leaders of the world you must lead. The continuation of our civilisations and the natural world upon which we depend, is in your hands.'*



EYNSHAM Good Neighbour NETWORK

EGNN are preparing to add an extra service to the existing support we offer to our community. June Middleton & Fiona Newton explain

Currently, volunteers visit local people at home, offering practical support with small household tasks and friendship to those who might now be finding it difficult to get out and about. From 1 February, we are launching a car lift service. This will be separate from the current car scheme which deals solely with medical appointments.

We are looking for drivers who can give people lifts to more social events, such as shopping, visiting friends or garden centres, etc. Petrol costs will be covered. There is no need to be tied to a set number of hours or even a regular commitment. Giving even a very occasional lift will be welcome. If you are interested in becoming a driver or need more details – or if you would like to book a lift – please call EGNN on 07443 564516.

EYNSHAM DAY CENTRE: This vibrant and welcoming 'Monday Club' for senior citizens needs a new treasurer for the new year. We are enormously grateful to Sue Winston for all her support in the past. No huge financial expertise is required – just enthusiasm and the desire to be a valuable member of the devoted team of volunteers. Please contact the Secretary, Jane Johnson, to discuss this opportunity: janej777@hotmail.com. Our website for all news, photos and information is eynshamdaycentre.com

'If winter comes, can spring be far behind?' The Eynsham Image Archive is still open to contributions – have a word with Joan Stonham or use the Contact form at the foot of every page at eynsham-pc.gov.uk/image-archive-groups.aspx

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Step at a time

Once you have insulated your home, stopped up those draughts, donned your thermals and turned down the thermostat, what next to save energy, save money and save the planet? Sarah Couch has some fascinating tips

- 1 Switch to a green energy supplier such as Good Energy, Co-op energy or Ecotricity. Quote the code ETT1 and Ecotricity will give GreenTEA a donation!
- 2 Install smart radiator valves, so you can control which rooms you heat.
- 3 Avoid electrical 'standby': borrow a GreenTEA energy monitor to trace hidden electricity loss.
- 4 Choose LEDs when you replace light-bulbs.
- 5 Use Wi-Fi rather than mobile connections and demand that your internet server and data centres use green energy or choose a green host. Clear out spam and redundant emails and avoid large attachments. Filesharing websites are more energy-efficient. *The energy used in our digital consumption is set to have a bigger impact on global warming than the entire aviation industry.*
- 6 Fix rather than replace your devices with sessions at Makespace, Oxford: therestartproject.org
- 7 Invest in the Low Carbon Hub's Community Energy Fund 2019 ('good for people and good for the planet') and earn interest at lowcarbonhub.org/community-energy-fund
- 8 Avoid red meat (especially beef) and try delicious vegan food at least once a week – the Market Garden has all the ingredients you need.
- 9 Use public transport or cycle, rather than drive, at least once a week. When you must replace your car, choose an electric car or bike.
- 10 Avoid crypto currencies! The online currency Bitcoin uses vast amounts of electricity: at the height of the speculative frenzies in 2018, it was set to produce an annual amount of CO2 equivalent to 1 million transatlantic flights

RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS: We can't always use public transport but there's a simple way to help the world go round next time you're crossing the toll bridge in a car. Try paying the charge for the car behind you – and check the reaction in your rear mirror if you can. Two smiles for just 5 pence is pretty good value: I was at the receiving end last month and enjoyed the experience! – Ed

Surviving Winter

How about recycling your Winter Fuel Payment if you don't need it?

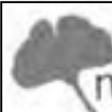
THE EYNSHAM CONSOLIDATED CHARITY exists to help local people in need, hardship or distress. Every January the trustees make cash grants to needy individuals to help with their heating costs.

The Winter Fuel Payment, which everyone who is eligible receives automatically in December, is not means-tested. Not everyone feels that they should receive it; but the payment could help someone else in real need to meet their fuel bills, so the trustees invite anyone who wishes to donate their payment to send it to the Charity.

Any donations of the Fuel Payment will be used to help those who may struggle to meet their fuel bills.

Payments can be sent to the Clerk, Robin Mitchell, by cheque payable to 'Eynsham Consolidated Charity' and addressed to 20 High Street, Eynsham OX29 4HB, or to the Charity's account: sort code 09-01-51, account number 25159404. *Please note new email address for enquiries: eynshamcharities@gmail.com*

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

QUEEN'S HEAD READERS have **ninety** books and counting beneath their belts they celebrate the 10th anniversary of their monthly Sunday evening meetings this August – *Jennifer Harland reports*

Our idiosyncratic choices are the result of democratic discussion, perhaps a favourite author long forgotten and resurrected by the media, or a wish to learn more through fiction about contemporary France, Egypt or Peru. We might decide to catch up on classics from schooldays by the likes of Ernest Hemingway, Harper Lee or Jane Austen. Recent authors have included Michael Frayn, Penelope Lively and Matthew Kneale.

We rarely all agree on the success of any title but part of the pleasure of membership is sharing the frustrations and joys encountered. We may be delighted or disturbed, infuriated or inspired – but memories are jogged from our own experiences, which would otherwise remain unshared. Sometimes we wonder why an author was driven to write a certain book so his/her biography might be the next month's read.

One thing we have learnt: 500 pages is too much to cram into a month! We source our choices from second-hand booksellers, library or internet. We have an annual Christmas dinner followed by the film of a book read in recent months. We take a month off in summer, when one of the notorious 500 page-plus beach reads could be an option.

We meet over a drink in The Queen's Head at 19:30 on the first Sunday of every month (bank holidays by arrangement) and are usually home in time for the BBC Sunday serial at 21:00. There is no subscription or committee but members take turns to introduce a book and liaise with other members by email. New members are welcome. Come and join us, this could be just what you need! Please contact Jennifer Harland on jharland007@gmail.com / 07973 684157 / 01865 880872

THOMAS EARLY: The family of Thomas Early would like to thank everyone for their kind messages and support following his tragic death in November.



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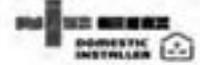
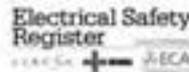
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Recreation

BARTHOLOMEW SCHOOL PTA Music Quiz is back on Friday 1 March – doors open at 19:00. Full bar service; bring your own nibbles and food. Tickets £7.50 per person or £40 for a team of 8 are available from the School Office: 01865 881430/email parents.4054@bartholomew.oxon.sch.uk

CARNIVAL returns to the streets of Eynsham on Saturday 6 July! This year's Carnival Queen/King and attendants will be elected at the Carnival Disco on Saturday 9 March in the Village Hall. There are three categories: male/female attendants aged 6–9 and 10–14, King/Queen aged 14-plus; no need to apply in advance. Entry 18:30–21:00 with a licensed bar.

Are you part of a local community group? Like to be showcased at Carnival? Did you know you could be reimbursed for your group's support on the day? Support from individuals is also very welcome – get in touch at enquiries@eynshamcarnival.com

EYNSHAM ACOUSTIC CLUB offers a friendly and entertaining evening on the first Sunday of every month in the back room of The Swan in Acre End Street – ask at the bar if you're not sure where to go. The club was set up as a supportive place to gain acoustic performance experience, so all standards are welcome and we're also pleased to see non-performers come along to enjoy the atmosphere. There's just a £1 contribution per person for use of the room. *Paul Rhodes: 01865 731787*

EYNSHAM CARERS GROUP would like to thank Rotary Club of Eynsham for the generous donation for our annual Christmas lunch. Johnny, Gervaise and Kat did us proud and we had a lovely meal. There was a tinge of sadness, as we greatly missed our dear friend Pamela Richards whose enthusiasm and care for the group over the years has kept us going.

We now meet at the White Hart coffee lounge on the 3rd Wednesday of the month from 5:30–6:30pm. Newcomers are welcome. Enquiries to Vicky Tomlinson on 07557 038276 or Bergljot Nornes: 07468 862175.

EYNSHAM CHURCHES HOLIDAY CLUB: Join us for 'the next best thing to Christmas' (as noted by an Eynsham mum) each morning from 29 July to 2 August – the first full week of the summer holidays – for Foundation year to Stage 6. Fun and exciting activities led by a fantastic team of energetic teens, teachers, youth and children's workers and many more. Games, food, Bible stories, songs and other activities. If you would like booking details, please email eynshamhc@gmail.com

EYNSHAM COUNTRY MARKET returns from the Christmas/new year break on Thursday 7 February from 09:00–10:30 in St Leonard's Hall. New season's marmalade will be available! Look out for details of our next evening Market, to be held at the end February or early March. We look forward to seeing you again. *Judith Bowden*



FRIENDS OF EYNSHAM SCOUTING stop for a photo break on their annual winter walk. This year 33 members of the group tackled a 5 mile route in and around the village on Sunday 6 January 2019 ending, of course, at a suitable hostelry for a well-earned rest and a pint. Thanks to Ian White for the photo – keep an eye on his Facebook page for more!

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EYNESHAM SHIRT RACE presents PRAMBASH 2019 at Eynsham Sports & Social Club on Saturday 2 February from 19:30, featuring music from Wolfbait and WineStain and headlining The Dirty Earth Band – tickets just £5 from Evenlode DIY. *This is a ticket only event* so get down and grab them before they are gone. Best way to start February, whether you have been on Dry January or just need a fun night out. Come and support the Shirt Race and get those dancing shoes on. *Nic Saunders*

OXFORD ORGANIC GROUP: at its AGM in December OOG reluctantly decided to close, as no one was available to take over key roles. *Sarah Couch*

ROTARY CLUB OF EYNESHAM would like to extend a very BIG thank you to all in Eynsham and surrounding villages for the very generous donations, both to Santa on his annual tour and at the toll bridge. We are very grateful for your support and look forward to putting the collections to good use for local charities and good causes. Santa would like to apologise to our neighbours in Freeland for failing to make his appearance there. (This was due to unforeseen issues with the reindeer! (I'm afraid we were unable to find a driver for the evenings allocated.) Looking ahead, we wish you all a very happy 2019 and take this opportunity to alert you to our next fundraising event – a Barn Dance at the Village Hall on Saturday 16 March, details on page 2! *Tessa Hammond*

ST PETER'S PANCAKE FEAST returns on Saturday 2 March from 10.30–13.30 in the Tolkien Room – a popular annual tradition. Come and enjoy our delicious savoury and sweet pancakes, served to you at your table. Just turn up for a late breakfast, brunch or lunch and enjoy. There will also be a raffle and cake stall.

WEST OXFORDSHIRE RAMBLERS meet at Back Lane car park on Tuesday 19 March at 10:30 for a leisurely 6 mile via South Leigh stopping briefly at the medieval church with its wall paintings and on to Witney – returning to Eynsham by S1 bus, with a pub stop at the end. Non-members welcome, enquiries: 01865 880105. There's a longer, circular walk to South and North Leigh, East End, Freeland and Church Hanborough (with a pub stop, of course) on Saturday 9 March – enquiries to Alan Cobb via their contact page

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Cookery corner

Butternut squash and chicken liver risotto – a tasty seasonal recipe from Sandy Hellig

- 325g butternut squash, peeled and diced into approx. 1.5cm dice
- 225g chicken liver, roughly chopped
- 35g butter
- 1 onion finely diced
- 250g risotto rice
- 100ml white wine (or 100ml extra stock)
- 1 – 1.3l chicken or vegetable stock (preferably no salt)
- Salt, pepper and nutmeg
- Piece of Parmesan rind (optional)
- 6 sage leaves, chopped
- 12 sage leaves for garnish (optional).

- 1 Gently melt the butter in a thick bottomed saucepan.
- 2 Add the diced onions and sauté until translucent – approx. 5 minutes.
- 3 Add the squash and rice and stir gently until all glazed with the onions and butter.
- 4 Add the chicken livers, chopped sage leaves and seasoning, again stir gently.
- 5 Add wine if using, or 100ml of the stock. Gently stir until all liquid has been absorbed.
- 6 Add the Parmesan rind if using (this gives a depth of flavour; should be removed at the end of cooking)
- 7 Continue adding the stock gradually over low heat, stirring regularly. When the rice tastes cooked (just a hint of a crunch), the mixture should look a little too moist. Switch off heat and allow to rest for 5 minutes before serving. Check and adjust seasoning if necessary. The rice will absorb a bit more liquid, making the risotto look creamy, but not too moist.
- 8 If you are using the sage leaves for a garnish, heat a little oil in a frying pan and when hot, place the leaves in the pan. Turn as soon as they become translucent, do not allow them to brown. Remove from pan and place on kitchen roll to drain. Serve on top of risotto.

You can add grated Parmesan to this dish – stir it in at the end of cooking – though it has plenty of flavour without.

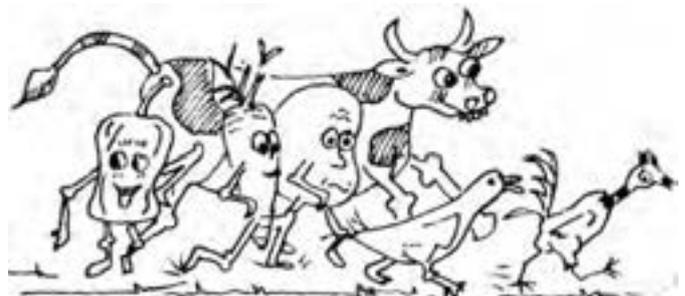


Image © Bill Middleton – from the Eynsham Cook Book

What's on

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

January

27 Litter Pickers, Baptist Hall 14:00.

February

2 GreenTEA Café, Eynsham Emporium 10:30

3 Acoustic Club, 20:00 – page 16



7 Country Market, St Leonard's Hall 09:00.

First Market of 2019 – image © Suzy Wright

7 History Group, St Leonard's Hall 19:15.

Nigel Lambert, *The Otmoor Riots*.

Enquiries: 01865 882400

12 Women's Institute, St Leonard's Hall 19:30.

Kevin Little, *Fishman: dolphins, foxes and fish*

13 Garden Club, Village Hall 19:30. Michael Brown,

The Language of Flowers

17 Gatehouse Volunteers: home-made sandwiches & cake for the Oxford shelter – also warm gloves, caps and scarves. Enquiries: 01865 881346

20 Carers' Group – page 20

20 Eynsham Society, Village Hall 20:00.

AGM. Enquiries: 01865 880563

21 History Group, St Leonard's Hall 19:15.

Tony Cullen, *Soldiers of the English Civil War*

22 Community Cinema – page 20

24 Litter Pickers, Baptist Hall 14:00

27 Arts Group, Music Room 19:30.

Suzy Wright, *Textiles*.



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March

- 1 Bartholomew PTA Music Quiz – page 16
- 2 Green TEA café, Eynsham Emporium 10:30
- 2 PANCAKE FEAST 10:30 – page 17
- 3 Acoustic Club, 20:00 – page 16
- 7 History Group, St Leonard's Hall 19:15.
Nigel Swietalski, *Algernon Blackwood*
- 8 Eynsham News copy deadline – page 2
- 9 Swap Shop, Sports Pavilion 10:00–11:00
- 12 Traffic Advisory Sub-Committee – page 7
- 12 Women's Institute, St Leonard's Hall 19:00.
96th birthday party with *Pandemonium*
- 13 Garden Club, Village Hall 19:30. Howard Drury,
March into May. Enquiries: 01865 880342
- 16 Eynsham Rotary Barn Dance – page 2
- 19 Ramblers' Group – page 17
- 21 History Group, St Leonard's Hall 19:15.
Joanna Snelling, *Corpus Christi Library*
- 27 Arts Group, Music Room 19:30.
Sally Wyatt, *Abstracted Landscapes*
- 29 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. We reserve the right to edit contributions.

Next issue will be out on 25 March – copy deadline 8 March. *Please note, this is one week earlier than originally proposed.*



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 - features continue.

We still have space for local businesses, if you would like to advertise regularly or as a one-off in the coming year. Please contact Sandy Hellig for more details: 07551 876285, email sandy.hellig@gmail.com or visit eynshamnews.org.uk

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Swan
EYN SHAM

Pub Food served all day
Sunday Roasts from £12.50
Mondays: Fish and Chips and a pint £12.00
Thursdays: Curry and a pint £10
10% discount for over 60s on food

BT and Sky Sport
Pool Table, Darts, Aunt Sally and Quiz Nights

Art Exhibition by Eynsham Art Group

Live music including Jazz, Folk and Rock

Large Meeting Room and
refurbished Function Room

B&B, Beer Garden and free parking

21 Acre End Street, OX29 4PE 01865 881 225

At the heart of the community

Cinema
at Eynsham Village Hall
Friday 22nd February - 7:30pm

THEY SHALL NOT GROW OLD
Directed and Produced by PETER JACKSON
The film shows the human face of WWI by using state of the art technology to restore the original archival footage.

Friday 29th March - 7:30pm
Rowan Atkinson, Ben Miller, Emma Thompson

JOHNNY ENGLISH
STRIKES AGAIN
Johnny English is forced to come out of retirement to find a mastermind hacker with hilarious results.

Tickets available in advance from the 'Nice People' at Evenlode DIY