

EYNSHAM

Council & Community

NEWS

Issue 38 - August - September 2019



School's out and the traffic moves more freely, for a while at least – there are even parking spaces free. Eynsham gardens are flowering their socks off, with a little help from their friends. Lighter evenings offer time to take a breather, catch up with the neighbours or take a stroll along the footpaths, if you're not into more active pursuits.

Here we look back on a season well spent, from the hurly-burly of Carnival – where the Eynsham News team enjoyed meeting you! – via inspirational art in every field to a meeting of minds (if not opinions) on more planning issues than we ever wished.

We know you love the pics and puzzles – we love to share your stories, too.

Photo © Sue Chapman, story Alice Walker, page 11

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One week in July...

What a fantastic Carnival we had! Thanks to all who brightened the village beforehand with window boxes, bunting and hanging baskets. As for the floats: you did us proud, with some of the wackiest and most inventive yet. Congratulations one and all – you'll find the winners' list below, with Shirt Race results on page 15

Class 1 Children: The Jungle (Eynsham Guides); 2nd Marvel Superheroes (Eynsham Cubs & Beavers); 3rd May Day Queen & attendants (Eynsham Primary School)

Class 2 Adults/Family and Donna Jones Trophy:
Mad Hatter's Tea Party (the Singleton Family)

Class 3 Business/Community:

Disney Garden Party (The Landscape Studio);
2nd Once upon a time (Eynsham Women's Institute);
3rd Invisible Man (MW Construction)

Class 6 Children up to 7: Little Miss Muffet (Flo & May)

Class 7 Children 8-plus:

The Snail & the Whale (Silvia & Alex)

ROPE WARS: well done to Eynsham Morris and to the Eynsham Women's Cricket Team, winners of the mixed and women's competitions respectively.



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UNSUNG HEROES: A 'thank you' evening may be organised later in the year for the many groups and individuals who gave up their time to make the day a success. Now is the time to get involved in the committee working behind the scenes to help deliver Carnival 2020. We particularly need a new treasurer – please get in touch if you can help: enquiries@eynshamcarnival.com

FLOWER FESTIVAL: Thanks to all participants for the amazing displays and to St Leonard's Church for their support. Appreciative visitors donated £239.64 which co-ordinators Kathie Tanner & Shirley Day presented to Eynsham Pre-school (right) towards a climbing frame and outdoor activities.

A40/PARK & RIDE DEBATE: Just six days on from Carnival, the Village Hall was packed for a meeting with senior County Council representatives, to question the rationale behind the latest scheme. Our local MP Robert Courts was invited but did not attend. Setting aside such basic issues as Why this? and Why here? their proposals to remove *all* existing trees and hedges from the Park & Ride site – in the face of a climate emergency – go a step too far for your editor. You'll find pointers to the Parish Council's reaction on page 7 and many residents will have written in too. The saga continues...



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

GET IN TOUCH! Local stories, snaps and snippets are always welcome – and corrections also, thanks! Next issue will be out on 23 September – copy deadline Friday 6 September, though advance notice really helps if you'd like some room to spread.

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Opinions expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the News Group. We reserve the right to edit contributions. Inclusion of an advertisement does not imply endorsement of the product, service or event.

You had to be there!

But if you missed it here's a scene from the A40 public meeting (top right, © Adrian Airbib), plus a flavour of another magnificent Carnival – thanks to Ian Miller, Ian White and others. We love to share your photos – do keep in touch! See opposite for our contact details



Eynsham churches

ST LEONARD'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND

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

SUNDAY SERVICES

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

ST PETER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

www.stpeterseynsham.org.uk
Parish Priest: Father Mark Lagorio 01865 881613 /
stpeterschurcheyneham@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: Sheila Wood 01993 650263 /
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.

*Ride and Stride for Oxfordshire churches is on
Saturday 14 September – page 17*



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Contacts

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

Allotments: Andy Swarbrick, 07789 995111

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

EYNSHAM PARISH COUNCIL (EPC)

Gordon Beach (Chairman): 01865 880979
Patricia Crowley: 07791 973118
Peter Emery (Vice-Chair): 01865 731199
Ross Macken 01865 882415
Andy Mossom: 01865 880889
Nick Relph: 01865 464264
Carl Rylett: 01865 883643
Mark Zumbuhl: 01865 422207
Email formula: firstname.lastname@eynsham-pc.gov.uk

Cllrs Sue Brown, Katherine Crowe and Sue Osborne have chosen to have no postal address or phone number on the website; we have omitted them here pending clarification

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
Dan Levy: 07917 024212
Carl Rylett: 01865 883643
Council Offices: 01993 861000

WODC has set up a naming competition for the Garden Village to be built north of Eynsham. The prize will be two adult annual passes for entry to Blenheim Palace. Suggestions to naming.competition@westoxon.gov.uk by midnight on 31 August. For guidelines on suitable names visit thegardenvillage.org

Halls for hire

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



Baptist Church Hall:	07900 066471
Bartholomew Room/Sports Pavilion:	07956 901622
Cricket Pavilion	07872 103262
Primary School Hall & Sports Hall:	01865 881294
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



St Leonard's PARISH OF EYNSHAM

During the week beginning 24 June, Ground Investigation Services drilled bore holes and dug test pits to establish the load bearing and drainage capabilities on the land between St Leonard's Church and the Red Lion. This is the next step before any planning or building design can be considered.

For the week 29 July to 2 August the Three Churches Holiday Club will be using the land for their holiday activities in the mornings. There will be no parking permitted during that time.

A temporary fence has been erected on the land that demarcates most of the area belonging to the church, in order to make the area safe for the children to play in.

Chris Sugden



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Public services

Parish Council Clerk Katherine Doughty presents an overview of 'other' work completed, in progress or planned as part of her role. Email her at epc.clerk@eynsham-pc.gov.uk



Could you contribute to your Council? Eynsham Parish Council currently has four vacancies and ask that you consider whether you have some expertise or general interest that could be of benefit to the village. We would particularly welcome anyone with a planning or legal background to contribute to the Planning Committee and property projects. Perhaps you enjoy walking the local public rights of way and could contribute to the Footpaths Committee. If you're interested in nature, then please feel free to join the Fishponds Committee. Please email the Clerk for information.

COMPLETED

- **Bartholomew Room Refurbishment:** The schedule of works has been finalised and the project manager (Leys Longden) has been appointed. Tenders will be considered at the August meeting and funding streams continue to be pursued.
- **Dovehouse 'Come & Play':** Repair work has been undertaken to the toddler multi-play area. The Play Area Committee is mindful that equipment is starting to show signs of rot/wear and it will explore replacement wooden equipment in the coming months.

CURRENT

- **Pavilion Rebuild:** The revised plans were considered at a Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting on 21 May. The Committee and stakeholders prefer an arched roof design to the new two-storey replacement building which has a balcony overlooking the playing field and various green energy features. We anticipate considering final designs in August and submitting a planning pre-application towards the end of August/beginning of September.

PLANNED

- **Strategic Planning:** The Council is looking to formulate a strategic plan; to consider our priorities, how we work, future projects, etc.
- **Holidays:** Only Full Council and Planning Committee meetings are held in August. This gives members and employees a little time to recoup!
- **Christmas:** Looking ahead to review decoration arrangements/costs.

Some issues have been reported to me that I would like to raise with readers:

LOUD MUSIC: Everyone would like to enjoy the summer months in their garden or with their windows open without experiencing other people's anti-social behaviour. This is pertinent to those in the play areas who are choosing to play their music at loud volume. Could parents please remind their children to be considerate to others.

FOOTPATHS: When you need to take your bicycle along the footpaths, please dismount and push it rather than risk knocking pedestrians over. An example of this is Conduit Lane which is narrow even for pedestrians.

LITTER: The Council pays Ubico to empty play area and street litter bins every day. Most people use the bins, but some choose to ignore them, regardless of how close they are to one and throw their rubbish on the floor (perhaps assuming someone is paid to pick it up, which they're not). Please use the bins!

Our great outdoors

Sue Osborne – Chair, Fishponds & Footpaths Committees: sue.osborne@eynsham-pc.gov.uk

FOOTPATHS: Following several messages from residents and subsequent reminders to OCC, I'm very pleased to report that FP 152/5, which forms part of the Eynsham Mill circular walk, has now been cleared. Please see downloadable map and instructions for this very pretty circuit at tinyurl.com/eynsham-mill-walk (the cleared section is between points 4 & 5). People power really does help, so thank you very much to all those who take the time and trouble to send feedback.

The Linesmen, one of the artworks on the Wharf Stream Way, recently received a coat of Danish oil to help preserve and nourish the wood – thanks, Gav, for your help. We could almost hear the railway men slurping up the oil – which probably made a change from all those clandestine cups of tea! A small group of volunteers has also tidied up the Thames Water entrance of the WSW – thank you, Andrew, Liz, Margaret & Gav, for your hard work. It will be more welcoming now that the shrubs disguising the ugly fence have been cleared of nettles, brambles, thistles, bindweed, etc.

'No matter how slow you go, you're still lapping everyone on the couch' – Anon

FISHPONDS: Regular users will have noticed that the worn-out boardwalk at the eastern edge of the pond has been replaced. Shirley's Spinney has been strimmed (many thanks to Paul and Verity for their help) but the nettles are rampant again. We hope to cut them back at least once more this summer to give the saplings a chance of thriving but it's a bit like painting the Forth Bridge! The pond itself is healthy and when I last walked around the area, I saw hardly any litter or dog mess, which was very encouraging. An invitation to the next working party will be forthcoming this autumn, so if you would like to be added to the volunteers list, please do get in touch. There is no obligation to take part in any working party (usually Fishponds-related but sometimes involving footpaths); but the more people on the list the better chances of word getting around. Thank you to those who are already signed up.

Pop along to the Fishponds entrance on Station Road and admire the beautiful array of wildflowers that Robin Saunders has created – another labour of love. Ed

Planning

Katherine Doughty – Clerk to the Council

Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) has submitted a planning application (R3.0057/19) for a Park & Ride and A40 Bus Lane. Under the powers of The Town and Country Planning General Regulations 1992 s3, OCC is allowed to determine its own planning application in this particular circumstance, unless the Secretary of State steps in. Is the application news to you? Quite likely, if you didn't know anything about OCC's four consultation events held towards the end of last year or happened to miss the only event held in the village. But don't worry, the application details have changed substantially since those events so we're all trying to understand them at the current time.

The online application contains 93 supporting documents mostly produced by AECOM for OCC. They cover a wide range of topics: air quality, biodiversity, cultural/heritage, noise/vibration, etc. Not only do the documents go into great detail (one is 438 pages long), there are also examples where the reports and findings are contradictory or utterly confusing.

Having tried to understand the documents as best I can in order to draft the Council's response to the application, there were some notable details that I needed to re-read. These include...

Appendix B Flood Risk Assessment (103 pages) ...comparing the topographic survey with the flood levels above demonstrates that for the worst case scenario, the A40 in proximity to the River Evenlode floodplain is considered to be at risk of flooding to a

depth of 1.4m... Additionally, the A40 adjacent to the River Thames floodplain is considered to be at risk of flooding to a depth of 0.5m.'

Chapter 6 Biodiversity (40 pages) – To summarise, the permanent loss of habitats due to the construction of the P&R and bus lane are noted as 9.79ha of grassland, 2.98km of hedgerows, up to 124 trees, 0.58ha broadleaved plantation and 0.61ha of dense scrub.

Appendix 6-K Biodiversity Impact Calculation (8 pages only!) – An overall deficit in biodiversity will be minus 12.33 biodiversity points which equates to a 22% reduction on the baseline. But OCC pledge to explore potential options to achieve an overall positive score through compensations/mitigations.

Perhaps this would all be more palatable if we really thought the scheme would meet OCC objectives by getting commuters out of cars; however given the valid concerns raised at the public debate on Friday 12 July (pictured below), this is doubtful. The Parish Council's response has been published online at bit.ly/eynsham-SP



Photo © Adrian Airibb for Eynsham News/Online. The three district councillors – Carl Rylett, Ed James and Dan Levy – have jointly submitted an objection to the A40 plans. They agree it is outrageous that OCC is allowed to give itself planning permission for a scheme which will have such a huge impact on Eynsham, as well as sharing the view that the scheme won't work – Ed

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 eynshamcharities@gmail.com

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On Sunday 9 June around 450 brave runners rose to the challenge of the first ever Run Wytham Woods 10K and fun run – Laura Stringer reports



The races, designed by members of Eynsham Roadrunners, sponsored by Siemens Healthineers and organized by Eynsham Primary School PTA, were the brainchild of director/ringleader Andy Goodwin, father of four girls at the school, and raised £4,000 to help fund much-needed school resources.

The 10K winners, Oliver Paulin and Helene Green, both smashed the race in great times given the terrain (37.49 and 43.47 minutes respectively); but there were also very competitive performances in the fun run, with triumphant wins by Lewis Reynolds and Bethany Jones. The unique ceramic medals (pictured), created by Alison Holmans of the Chicken Run Studio, were hugely popular with every runner.

Siemens' support included a science display after the race, which enthralled the children. Hosts Wytham Woods were delighted with the event: 'We're so impressed with how the runners tackled our challenging course – massive well done to all who participated... we were very happy to host you all.'

Next year's event will take place on 14 June – follow @RunWytham on Facebook or Twitter or keep an eye on runwythamwoods.org

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MASSIVE THANKS to the guys at Eynsham Cellars for their support on Carnival Saturday. Their sizzling BBQ raised over £200 for the PTA.

COMING SOON: Adam Hingley runs the Abingdon Marathon on 20 October for the PTA. 'I got talked into it again!' says Adam, 'But it's the best thing I can do to support this wonderful PTA and the brilliant work they do for our kids. Last time we raised over £1,000 thanks to your generosity. Whatever we can manage all goes to giving our kids a better time at school.' Any spare cash gratefully received at bit.ly/2JqEfP

Patients' Corner is taking a well-earned break; grateful thanks to Graham Maynard for his long innings as Patient Participation Group chair and our contributor – Ed

Citizens of tomorrow

On 24 May the Primary School Council, accompanied by Mr Reeves, Mr Catling and Mrs Howell, made a long but exciting trip to visit the Houses of Parliament

The day began with a tour of the building including the House of Lords, House of Commons and Westminster Hall. The children were brought in through the same entrance the Queen uses and were able to stand where the lords and baronesses debate in the House of Lords and where the Prime Minister and other MPs debate in the House of Commons.

On the tour they learnt all about debating, voting, the government and the monarchy in England. Later, they re-enacted the debating system used by the House of Commons. The main topic for debate was whether the NHS should lower the price of prescriptions. There was an extra level of excitement amongst the children and everyone else in Parliament throughout the day, because less than ten minutes after we arrived Theresa May announced her plans to resign as Prime Minister.

Jamie (Year 4) summed up perfectly, 'I loved it because it is so famous and seeing lots of things not everybody would get the chance to see. It was really fun and extra exciting, especially with all the TV crews. 10/10'.

EYNSHAM FIRE SERVICE had a great time at Carnival. At the front of our procession were the fire cadets – if you're 12–18 and keen to learn more, just message us @EynshamFireStation and we'll tell you all about it. As well as spreading important messages about safety on the road and in the home, we had lots and lots of fun... and if you didn't hear us telling everyone: **we're recruiting!** So if you're interested in becoming an on-call firefighter (that's paid, by the way) come on down to Eynsham Fire Station – we're drilling every Tuesday night.

Policing priorities

The Community Resilience Forum (formerly Eynsham NAG) is running another residents' survey this summer. Would you want the police to prioritise the following in your area... or something else entirely?

- Parking
- Speeding
- Anti-social behaviour and youth problems
- Drugs

You can pick up a form in the Village Hall or email ron.hollis@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk – or download a copy from the website at bit.ly/eynsham-CPS

Retail roundup

CONGRATULATIONS

to James Berry on finishing his apprenticeship with Martin Golsby at Eynsham Butchers. It isn't everyone who makes the cut, which is probably just as well if you've ever seen those knives...



SPECIAL THANKS from the Shirt Race Committee to The Swan, Jolly Sportsman, Social & Sports Club, The Red Lion, The Queens Head, Newlands and The White Hart – for making sure all the racers had a drink waiting and supporting Shirt Race every year. It wouldn't be half as much fun without you.

THE QUEENS HEAD raised £1,570 for Oxfordshire Mind mental health charity on 21 June, through a festival with a difference. A day of live music, with 12 artists performing, was supported by DJs, pizzas, raffles, games and professional haircuts from Eynsham Barbers. There was also children's entertainment, including an ice cream van and a magician. Great stuff, Mark Crocker and George Lewis – and the people who came along.

ZERO WASTE HEROES Jonathan & Lucy Bowden continue extending their range of products to fill your own containers, saving you 10–20% in many cases. Why go further? With reusable approaches fast becoming the norm, we hope to expand on this vital topic in future.

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Home front

A follow-up on the transport theme from Sue Raikes: 01865 464021 sue.raikes@appleinter.net

We are very lucky to have such an amazing bus service from Eynsham to both Oxford and Witney – though I hear howls of protest from some who spend two hours a day just to get to work six miles away! I am also very aware of those who don't want to go to central of Oxford: maybe to work, or for appointments at the hospitals or Cowley. For them the solution may build on successful local action.

Loss of the route 18 bus prompted action by our neighbours in Sutton. The Eynsham Link is a WhatsApp group whose members can ask for and offer lifts – in most cases coming into Eynsham to catch 'our own' S1! The list has some 80 members and would welcome more. John, the coordinator, estimates that it creates about ten shared journeys per week. To find out more or join the group email Jbrown1uk@yahoo.com

liftshare.com
travel together

I have also investigated Liftshare – a national website where members can get regular or one off lifts from A to B. There are people in Eynsham, Witney and Oxford who use the site **liftshare.com**

GreenTEA is concerned about the carbon impact of car travel and looking at possible ways to reduce the effect of car journeys on the planet, in addition to the impact on air quality and mental health.

Would you consider signing up for shared journeys? For example: could you offer a lift to the JR every morning, or do you need a monthly lift to the Nuffield? We are trying to gauge potential demand for sharing journeys. If there is enough, we will arrange further consultation to look at the possible options.

Please get in touch if you have a car, or need a lift, or are interested in helping get something off the ground. I'd also like to hear your experience of other options, such as Liftshare. This doesn't commit you to anything – at this stage we need to find out what is happening and hear about people's ideas.

BUZZWORDS: Flyksam [Fleeg-skaam'], Swedish: a sense of guilt about travelling by air; flight shame. – Ed



The residents of Hazeldene organised their first street party one fine weekend in late June; many of them brought along food contributions and joined together on the field for the afternoon and into early evening – photo © Chris Potter; thanks to Margaret Keys for the report.

Why not share your stories with our readers? See page 2 for our contact details

A very arty place

Alice Walker celebrates 10 years of teaching art in Eynsham in September and she enjoys it more than ever!

Eynsham is home to painters, photographers, printmakers, sculptors, embroiderers, designers, silversmiths, crafters, glass artists and ceramists – with others involved in drama, dance and music. We have been known to host 10 or more different exhibition venues for Oxfordshire Artweeks – which is a lot for one village! Eynsham Arts Group has had to move its monthly meetings to a larger venue and its regular exhibitions in the Bartholomew Rooms are bursting with talent. To find out more please visit www.eynshamartsgroup.org.uk

At time when the arts are being squeezed out of the primary school curriculum, it is encouraging that the appetite for learning and using creative skills is as strong as ever. TV programs like 'The Great Pottery Throw Down' and 'Celebrity Painting Challenge' have done a lot to raise the profile and interest in the arts. Research has also shown that making art has profound benefits for mental health and other conditions such as dementia, art matters.

[please insert thumbnail of cover pic if space allows]

In my classes we explore all kinds of drawing and painting techniques and media (and even some sculpture and printmaking), from the traditional to modern, from first-hand observation to the imagination. In the summer, weather permitting, we go out sketching and even down to Sidmouth, Devon! Above all else the classes are places to inspire one another, to learn new skills to share our love of art. To find out more please visit alicewalkerart.co.uk

I feel extremely fortunate to be making, exhibiting and teaching art in Eynsham. My thanks and appreciation to all my loyal and inspirational supporters.



GOOD NEWS for Eynsham Swifts! We hear a lot about declining numbers of these summer visitors. But this year, Eynsham seems to be bucking the trend. Sarah Couch reports: email sarah.couch@nthworld.com

One warm evening in early July, a few happy swift enthusiasts did a survey of swift nest sites. We found at least 13 active sites as well as around 30 nest boxes. The middle of Acre End Street is a hot spot, with around 30 swifts swooping and screeching in joyous groups, making contact with the colony and prospecting for more sites. Let's hope they take to some of the nest boxes next year. Maybe they know how much we love them!

We have mapped the nest sites and boxes – please let us know if we have missed any! You can find it online at bit.ly/eynsham-swifts

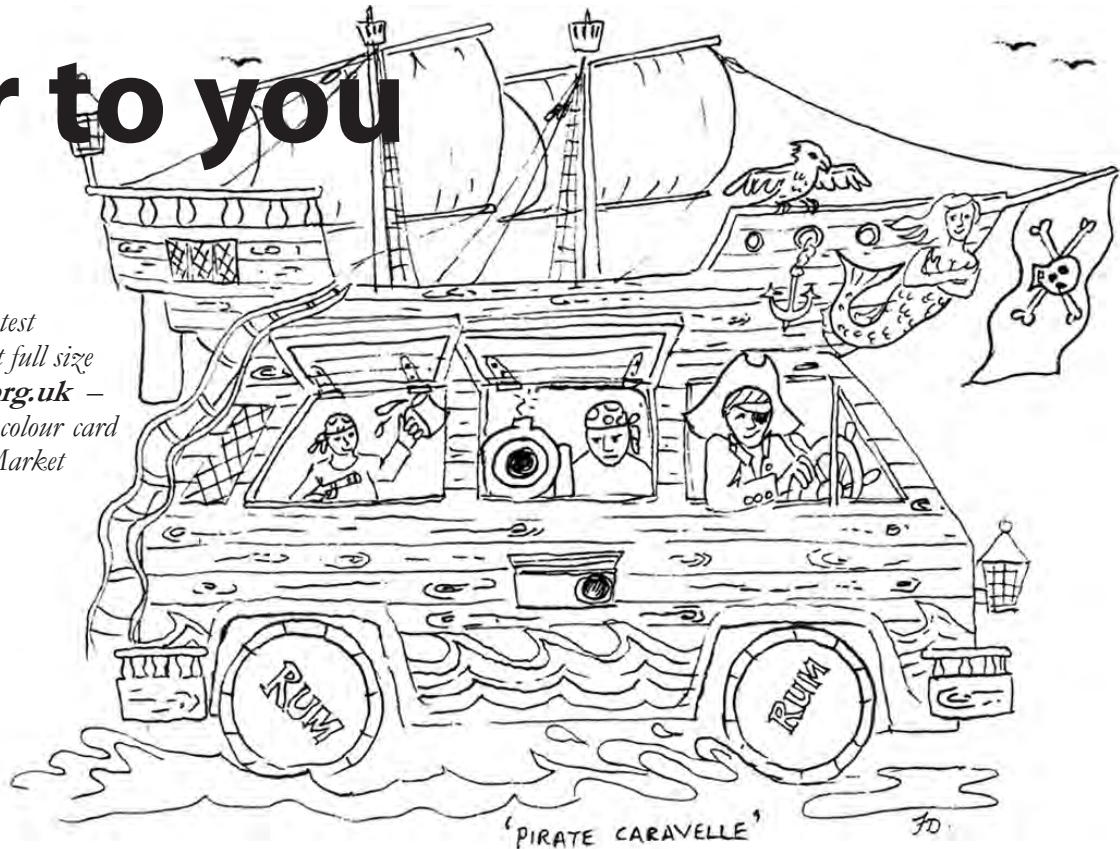
BURYING A YOUNG BIRD

*picked up
upside down beneath the window that broke its neck
turned over
wings neatly folded into rigid coat tails
a lizard's eyelids round and tightly shut
laid to rest among espalier roots
in hope of bearing swallow-fed fruit.*

Nigel Pearce, July 2019

Over to you

Summer holidays ahoy! Many thanks to Jane Dyson for our latest colouring corner. Print it full size at eynshamnews.org.uk – or buy an original full colour card at Eynsham Country Market



50-WORD STORIES

We are delighted to publish this mysterious '50-word story' by 8-year-old Freddie Dawbarn. Email your story to sarah.eynshamnews@gmail.com or deliver to Cornucopia, 1 High Street, Eynsham (opposite the Co-op).

One day last summer, I was taking my dog for a walk around Fishponds when I saw a flying spaceship in the sky. At first, I didn't know what it was – then I thought it was like a plane because it was really loud like a plane. But it was a giant spaceship

TAKE PART 2 OF THE EYNSHAM QUIZ!

Check your answers on page 18

1. What was founded in Eynsham in 1005?
2. Which scholar was the first abbot in Eynsham?
3. How much does it cost for a motorbike to cross the Toll Bridge?

MESSIN' ABOUT ON THE RIVER!

You can do so much on and along Eynsham's River Thames in summer. Can you find 10 possible activities in this word search? Check your answers on page 18

G	D	K	G	O	B	G	U	F	N	U	S	G	G	L
I	N	Z	A	N	E	H	I	U	Q	L	W	N	N	N
L	B	I	J	Y	I	H	M	Z	O	E	I	I	I	W
A	D	M	T	F	A	H	P	C	A	G	M	L	Y	P
P	P	D	Q	A	U	K	S	O	N	Y	M	C	R	K
A	K	Y	D	Z	O	G	I	I	P	W	I	Y	R	Z
D	O	G	D	S	U	B	K	N	F	Z	N	C	E	W
Y	D	C	J	G	B	C	W	S	G	N	G	C	B	Y
S	A	F	N	D	I	I	N	O	V	V	A	W	K	M
V	M	A	W	N	G	Z	T	K	R	M	V	S	C	J
G	J	C	C	J	K	V	F	V	P	R	U	M	A	Z
O	K	I	C	A	N	O	E	I	N	G	A	O	L	L
G	P	M	F	C	V	K	N	K	T	J	M	N	B	J
Q	V	B	B	N	J	G	G	N	I	K	L	A	W	Y
D	J	V	A	Y	Y	H	F	V	A	E	O	U	K	M

When the weather is fine you know it's the time
For messin' about on the river.
If you take my advice there's nothing so nice
As messin' about on the river.

– Tony Hatch/Josh MacRae

Fred learns a lesson

Thanks to Donald Coleman for another contribution – our apologies for not printing it in full

Fred the tortoise loves the morning sun. When he wakes up feeling the warmth on his back, he's ready to enjoy each adventure the day might bring. But this morning, it was raining. And Fred felt just like the weather: miserable. 'Rain is of no real use at all,' he grumbled. Fred only hoped that, later, the day would get better.

The day did brighten up and Fred marched down the garden to where plums were dropping from the old fruit tree. Soon he was full – and very sleepy. Just then, an especially juicy fruit fell – Plop! – right onto the middle of his shell. Unfortunately for Fred, a swarm of very unfriendly wasps soon followed, keen for a taste of the delicious juice.

At first, Fred thought he was snoring, but he soon realised there were wasps buzzing around his back and head. Wherever he moved, they followed. His thick skin saved him from their stings, but they were very annoying.

Polly, the cat next-door, came to visit. 'Please help me get rid of the wasps,' pleaded Fred. Polly suggested removing the plum juice by rolling over. Fred angrily explained, 'Cats can roll over – but tortoises can't! Once, the gardener had to turn me the right way up, otherwise I should have stayed there, still waving my legs in the air.'

Fred stomped into a flower border but the sweet scent of the plum juice remained, meaning the wasps still followed him. Fred became ever-more irritated. He was even angrier when a colourful butterfly fluttered around his head trying to get her share.

Suddenly, an enormous cloud opened overhead, drenching Fred and making his shell glisten. Every trace of plum juice was washed away and, with it, the wasps and the butterfly. Polly went home. Peace reigned once more. 'Well, well... perhaps the rain does have its uses, after all,' thought Fred.





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People



A journey through the Rioja region just had to include a sample of the local wine...

On 10 May, after months of planning, 68-year old Adrian Pinnock set off on his bike heading south to catch an overnight ferry from Poole to Cherbourg. He then started the long ride south through France via the Pyrenees into Spain and on to Algeciras, to catch another ferry across the Gibraltar Straits to North Africa.

He completed the 2,668 km route in 40 days of cycling, with three punctures and only two wet days. All this riding solo without any back-up vehicle for support, so carrying everything on his bike including tent, sleeping bag, cooking stove, water, food supplies, etc.

Asked what the best bit of the trip was, he said 'Quiet, just you the road and the bike especially in the mountains, not even a plane overhead, just the cow and sheep bells clanking in the meadows'. Quite a contrast to Eynsham!

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Eynsham resident Lesley Francis, author of published novel 'Taking a Chance' and others alongside it, talks about storytelling and the faraway places it takes her as she sits in the comfort of home

As a youngster I was passionate about recording my thoughts, ideas etc., in the sadly mistaken conviction they were unique. In later life, still scribbling, I also loved gardening, hiking and dancing – that is, till MS put an end to all that kinda stuff.

Now an oldster, I'm using my daft thoughts, feelings and ideas to produce novels. I sit here with my laptop, occasionally watching the life of dear old Eynsham go past my window. Some people wave, one beautiful friend even blows a kiss, but although I may seem a bit isolated, my life is filled to capacity with the actions and adventures of my characters.

It's simply marvellous for someone unable to move unaided to have total power over their lives. I can make them garden for Chelsea, hike the Pennine Way or even dance the Can-Can, then tip their smugness upside-down and make them dance to a different tune ... just like me.

MORE STORIES PLEASE! Do get in touch with Joan or Sarah if you'd like to share your experiences – we can help you write if it helps! See page 2 for our contact details.

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The pottery studio

The Old Forge Pottery is a working space, where 10 potters make and fire their own work. We are not a shop; but most of us have pieces for sale which are on display in the window. Some of us throw on a wheel and we make unique bowls, jugs etc with our own glazes. Others make more sculptural pieces – decorative, unique but not usually functional!

Eynsham folk may remember the Old Forge as a real working forge with a blacksmith shoeing horses, mending machinery or creating decorative wrought iron. The premises still belong to the family of blacksmiths who worked here through several generations. The forge, tools and equipment are still in place. We opened in 2006 as a workshop for amateur potters. We've grown since then – in number and in expertise!

If you pass the window and see someone there, do knock and we'll invite you in. Otherwise you can ring the number in the window to make an appointment. We are having an open weekend 30 November/ 1 December with lots of lovely things to buy for Christmas. Sue Raikes: 01865 464021



Massive thanks to everyone who took part in our brilliant 61st Shirt Race. Well done to the winners (below) and a massive thanks to everyone who donned a yellow vest and marshalled the race and the procession. Hopefully you will all be happy to do the same next year. Please keep in touch at @EynshamShirtRace

MENS: 1st Ashley Roles & Will Harold; 2nd Dave Church & Josh

LADIES: 1st Lucy Treadwell & Bianca Landau; 2nd Kelly Huggard & Natasha Smith

MIXED: 1st Emily Fisk & Tom Brooker; 2nd Chloe Hayes & Paul Hayes

FANCY DRESS: 1st ET The Extra Terrestrial – Nic Saunders & Trish Partlett; 2nd The Greatest Showman – Jim Newton, Richard Feather, Neil Bailey & Darren Cattell; 3rd Stan and Ollie on the Piano – Chris Cirel & Alan; 4th Vintage Pilots – Rob Hedges & Karen Hall; 5th Christmas Chronicles – Kaye Liversage & Megan Treadwell

NUT AWARD: Sean The Sheep on Holiday Outtakes – Austen & Simon Darnell

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Recreation

ALL ABOUT ELIZABETH: In March 1603 the Queen's musicians were summoned to cheer her as she hovered between life and death. They were not exactly short of repertoire, as for 44 years she had been celebrated throughout the land in poetry, often unfortunate, and music, often dazzlingly good. 'Big Apple Baroque' and friends

recreate the moment in a programme of vocal and instrumental gems of the age, including Byrd, Bull, Morley, Weelkes, Tomkins and anon. Saturday 27 July in St Leonard's Church from 19:00. Admission free; retiring collection for the parish's charitable projects.

ALL HANDS ON DECK: Micron Theatre presents a love story between the Royal Navy and their loyal 'Jenny Wrens' – full of dots, dashes, semaphore and song – School Piece, Cassington Road on Friday 2 August at 19.30. No tickets required; a cash collection will be taken after the show.

BARTHOLOMEW PLAYERS are delighted to announce that their production of 'Dangerous Corner' has scooped the Pat Redhead Drama Award at the 2019 NODA (National Operatic and Drama Association) London Theatre Festival. If you have ever thought of joining a local amateur dramatics group, here is an award-winning reason to do so! We meet at the Village Hall every Wednesday except July and August from 19:30-22:00 and welcome all new members – not only on stage! Email bart.players@gmail.com or visit bartholomewplayers.co.uk

EYNSHAM COUNTRY MARKET is going from strength to strength: innovation has certainly paid

off. Our evening markets venture (now offering card payment and café with waitress service) came 3rd in a competition for the best success story at the national AGM in April, so we were inspired to run five more this year. 2019 also gives us the wonderful opportunity to celebrate the centenary of the Country Markets movement; so in July we held a vintage tea for over 70 people, closely followed by an evening market and a barbecue.

Eynsham will be the hub of national preparations shortly, as the movement has hired St Leonard's Hall to co-ordinate a stand for markets from all over England and Wales at Countryfile Live from 1–4 August. We hope to see you there! *Judith Bowden*

EYNSHAM DAY CENTRE's new coordinator, Karen Stay, says members and volunteers alike have made her feel most welcome and every Monday from 10:00–14:30 is a very enjoyable time. She tells us more...

We have a really varied programme, with board games, arts and crafts, singing, dancing and quizzes. Our seated exercise session in the morning is great fun – equipment ranges from scarves, elastics, balls, boxing gloves to a parachute! – and we often have a good old sing-song with song sheets during the day. Mid-day lunch is a two-course meal; then in the afternoon a musician may come to entertain us, or a visiting speaker, or we might play some games like Boccia.

So all in all, a fun-filled day, in a safe, spacious and comfortable environment. We do have some space for new members, so you or a family member are most welcome to come and see for yourself. We are always looking for volunteers too and should love to hear from you. Call Karen on 07887 974468/target. meuk@gmail.com or visit eynshamdaycentre.com

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More information: juniors@eynshamnetball.co.uk
Please email to confirm your daughter's space on the email above.

We Look Forward to seeing you Eynsham Netball Club Juniors !!

RIDE + STRIDE for Churches

Walk or cycle round local churches from 10:00–18:00 on Saturday 14 September for Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust. Half the sum you raise goes to your own designated church: ohct.org.uk/ride-stride

SING ALONG WITH SUE: new to the Village Hall 3rd Thursday of each month starting 15 August from 10:30–12:00. For people who enjoy singing, are living with dementia, or want to make new friends. An uplifting morning singing along to pub singalongs. Cost £2.50 includes tea/coffee and cake. Supported by Age UK. Enquiries to Sue Richmond: 07827 235414

SUMMER IN THE LIBRARY: Pop into Eynsham Library on Thursday 1 August from 10:30-11:00 or 11:30–12:00 for an entertaining and intriguing half hour of science sorcery: an interactive show for ages 6–11 plus parent/carer. Spaces are free but please book.



This year's summer reading challenge is inspired by the 50th anniversary of the moon landing. Read books, solve clues, dodge asteroids, collect stickers and win a medal! Continues to 14 September.

SWIMMING LESSONS are back at Eynsham Primary School, suitable for ages 4 upwards (Stages 1–4) and beginners welcome. 09:30–12:00 Monday 19 – Friday 23 August (5 day course, £50) and Tuesday 27 – Friday 30 August (4 day course, £40). Call 07870 662483/
abigailhouse@oxfordswimmingacademy.co.uk

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TENNIS FOR ALL AGES: Weekly Cardio, Rusty Racket and Pay & Play sessions for adults continue at Bartholomew School (via Back Lane entrance), with a summer holiday course from 5–9 August (5 sessions 16:00–19:00, £90) for children aged 4–16. Visit Excel Tennis Academy: bit.ly/eynsham-tennis

WEST OXFORDSHIRE RAMBLERS meet at Back Lane car park at 19:00 on Saturday 10 August for a moderate 12 miles/19.3 km circular walk to Pinkhill Lock, Bablock Hythe, Cumnor, Fitchampstead and Swinford Lock (with a pub stop). Non-members welcome, enquiries: 01865 881005. Then on Tuesday 20 August at 10:30 for a Leisurely 6.5 miles/10.5 km walk along the Thames Path to Oxford, returning on the S1 bus. Enquiries: 01865 880105.

The **WOMEN'S INSTITUTE** summer started well with a talk by Jane Abbot on alpacas and felt making (sadly a live alpaca did not attend) and the annual garden party. Chris Batts, our president, also hosted a cream tea with a bring & buy which was enjoyed by over 40 members and their friends. No meeting in August but on 10 September we have a talk by Richard Anderson and an antiques quiz in St Leonard's Hall. We have recently started a social morning on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 10:00 at the Red Lion. Non-members are welcome to join us and knit or sew (not obligatory) and chat. Do come if you would like a relaxed cup of coffee and a chance to meet new friends. Valerie Johnston

JUST SAYING...



The 250th anniversary of the toll bridge falls on 4 August 2019. More old photos, please!
eynsham-pc.gov.uk/image-archive-groups.aspx

OVER TO YOU ANSWERS

1 – Eynsham Abbey, 2 – Aelfric, 3 – It's free:
Eynsham Quiz:

Playing on the river! word search answers:
blackberrying, swimming, walking, kayaking, camping, cycling, picnicking, canoeing, narrowboating, 01865 881229

What's on

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

July



- 26 **PLAY & ACTIVITY DAY**, Oxford Road
11:00-15:00
- 27 **Big Apple Baroque** – page 16
- 28 **Litter Pickers**, Baptist Hall 14:00.
- 28 **Bridewell Organic Garden** open afternoon
14:00-17:00. Enquiries: 01993 848238
- 29–2 August **Eynsham Churches Holiday Club**
- 31 **Arts Group, Music Room** 19:45. Lihua Yuan,
Chinese Painting

August

- 1–4 **Countryfile Live**, Blenheim Palace – page 16
- 2 **All Hands on Deck** – page 16
- 3 **GreenTEA Café**, Eynsham Emporium 10:30
- 4 **Gatehouse Volunteers**: annual shutdown.
Enquiries: 01865 881346
- 4 **Acoustic Club** 20:00
- 11 **Allotments Summer Social** 14:00
- 14 **Garden Club**, Village Hall 19:30. Philip Aubury,
Garden Ponds and Water Features
- 10 **Ramblers' Group** – opposite
- 20 **Ramblers' Group** – opposite
- 21 **Carers' Group**, White Hart 11:00.
- 25 **Litter Pickers**, Baptist Hall 14:00
- 27–29 **OASIS Activity days**, Village Hall 10:15–15.45
- 28 **Arts Group** visit to The Ashmolean 10:00.

ROAD CLOSURE: a temporary (24-hour) closure will apply to a section of Freeland Road from 12 August to 6 September, whilst essential mains pipe renewal works are carried out. Extensive diversions will be in place.



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Sundays: 11 - 12pm: Ages 4 - 7 12pm - 1pm: Ages 8 - 11	

For more information or to book please visit our website or contact us:
07734 059769 | info@exceltennis.co.uk
www.exceltennisacademy.co.uk/eynshamtenniscoaching

September



- 1 Acoustic Club, The Swan 20:00
- 6 Eynsham News copy deadline – page 2
- 7 Garden Club, outing to RHS Wisley 09:00
- 7 GreenTEA Café, Eynsham Emporium 10:30
- 10 Women's Institute – page 18.
Enquiries: 01865 882011
- 14 Historic Churches Trust Ride & Stride
- 14 VILLAGE SHOW, Village Hall & Scout Hall
14:00–16:30. Pick up your Class List at Evenlode
DIY or visit bit.ly/eynsham-VS
- 15 Gatehouse Volunteers: home-made sandwiches
& cake for the Oxford shelter.
Enquiries: 01865 881346
- 18 Carers' Group, White Hart 11:00
- 21–29 Arts Group Autumn Show,
Bartholomew Room 11:00–16:00

These listings are open to all community groups and we welcome photos too. *Other pages are always open for stories and snippets, comments and corrections* – see page 2 for contact details. Next issue will be out on 23 September – copy deadline 6 September. We reserve the right to edit contributions.

Visit Eynsham Online at
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Cinema at Eynsham Village Hall

The Cinema is closed for
summer break during August

Friday September 27th - 7:30pm



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