



EYNESHAM NEWS

Issue 39 - October - November 2019



Can you take the heat?

Eynsham Women's cricket team relax at the clubhouse after hosting an Oxfordshire softball festival in ideal conditions on Sunday 25 August – photo © Ian Miller

Thanks again to everyone who has contributed to this issue. A warm reminder of the joys of sharing, in teams or families large or small – however disconcerted we may feel at times by all the politicking around us.

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Charity Race Night



Saturday 12th October, 2019

Eynsham Village Hall

Back Lane, Eynsham OX29 4QW

First Race 7.30pm. Doors open at 7.00pm

7 Video Races with Tote Betting,

Licensed Bar

Ticket Price £10 (includes 2 course meal - veggie option available)

Book your table in advance - Tickets available from DfY Evenlode,

Roy Wilkinson 07970 227364, Phil Spencer 01865 881025.

Alan Longford 01865 464179

ALL PROCEEDS TO LOCAL & ROTARY CHARITIES

Together again

The A40 / PARK & RIDE saga continues – you'll find the Parish Council reaction on page 7. CPRE Oxfordshire says the proposals will soon prove 'totally inadequate' for the wider Witney-Oxford corridor and is 'unconvinced of the logic' of a Park & Ride at Eynsham; Cyclox finds the cycling design for Eynsham roundabout 'certainly lethal'; Barton Willmore reminds the County Council that 'they need to assess the merits of the application objectively against national and local policy'; WODC points to 'inflexibility' and 'unexplored opportunity' – especially in the Eynsham area; Stagecoach has 'significant concern' that the Park & Ride site seems designed entirely in isolation, with no regard to committed development around Eynsham; and OCC's own ecology section notes that 'overall loss of biodiversity goes against all relevant national and local policies'. Responses from private individuals remain to be seen...

CONGRATULATIONS to Derek Malin on the success of September's 'Green Man Market' – raising funds for Eynsham Day Centre and Operation Agri, with tabletop sales bookable for other good causes too. Further markets are planned for October and November – see page 13



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 2 December – copy deadline Friday 15 November, though advance notice really helps if you'd like some room to spread.

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Garden Village

West Oxfordshire District Council has published a 'preferred options' consultation paper, setting out current thoughts on how the 'Oxfordshire Cotswolds Garden Village' site should be taken forward. Printed copies are available in Eynsham Library. Email your comments to planning.policy@westoxon.gov.uk or write to Planning Policy Team, West Oxfordshire District Council, New Yatt Road, Witney OX28 1PB. Deadline is 11 October. For background information and supporting technical studies visit westoxon.gov.uk/gardenvillage

Deadline for the Garden Village naming competition has been extended to 31 October. Email your suggestions to naming.competition@westoxon.gov.uk; for guidelines on suitable names visit thegardenvillage.org

Be a part of it!



Having wowed the crowds at Broadstairs this summer Eynsham Morris – this photo © Anthony Morris, Farmoor – are back with yet another wheeze. Why not treat yourself to a genuine Eynsham Morris T-shirt 'crafted in Oxfordshire, straight from the fields'? All profits are going to Eynsham Day Centre, not their beer fund! Limited edition, exclusive design – £15 at Evenlode DIY.

Keep it living! Eynsham is famous for its long and unique tradition of English Morris dancing. All members must have lived in the village at some time in their life. This makes us one of only two sides in England to achieve this closeness and the camaraderie that goes with it. We are still an all-male side.

Join us during our 'closed season' (October to April) on Tuesday evenings, 21:00-ish till closing, at The Newlands Inn, Newland Street. We also have our dance practice during the 'closed season'; the main dancing season starts in May through to September. If you like it – join us. If you don't – we'll still buy you a pint! For more information contact Robin Saunders: 07814 062819 / robinsawn@hotmail.com



A little sit-in by the Eynsham A40 in the first week of skirmishes in parliament attracted hoots and waves from passing motorists and captivated local media – this photo © Oxford Mail. Explanation? 'We're all worried about democracy in the UK; we want to talk to each other to understand each other's viewpoints; we want to express our sense of frustration and impotence in a positive, peaceful and engaging way. This is not about Brexit. This is even more fundamental than that. This is about the need to ensure that democracy is respected and protected.' All scarves will go to Oxford Gatehouse.

You shouldn't have to be an expert to understand what goes on in your name. Eynsham News works constantly to open up our local councils. For accessible details of MP Robert Courts's Westminster attendance, speeches and voting record visit theyworkforyou.com/mp/25593/robert_courts/witney



SAT 19 OCT 9.30 - 12.30	Get Dirty with a Handbuilt Pottery Workshop with Alison Holmans An introduction to key handbuilt ceramic techniques. You will make 2 to 3 unique items which will then be fired and available within 2 weeks. Just bring yourself and an apron. All Materials provided! To book this workshop contact Alison: acholmans60@gmail.com 01865 583155
SAT 2 NOV 9.30 - 12.30	Painting Plants in Water Colour with Julia Loken For all abilities. After a demonstration of various painting techniques, you will have a go at whatever takes your fancy - it can be big and bold, small and dainty, or anything in between. Materials provided. To book this workshop contact Alice: alicewalkerart@gmail.com 01865 582218
SAT 9 NOV 9.30 - 12.30	Landscape in Mixed Media with Eric White Improve your landscape painting techniques by loosening up and not being frightened to mix media such as acrylics, inks, pastels, pen and charcoal and even collage whilst having fun! Essential materials provided. To book this workshop contact Eric: ericj.white@yahoo.co.uk 01865 722989
SAT 30 NOV 9.30 - 12.30	Art for COMPLETE Beginners with Alice Walker This workshop really does start at the beginning guiding you gently through the very basics of drawing and painting. Lose your fears and gain new skills and confidence. All Materials provided. To book this workshop contact Alice: alicewalkerart@gmail.com 01865 582218
SAT 7 DEC 10.30 - 1.00	FUSED GLASS ART JEWELLERY TASTER with ROS DUFFY. After a short demonstration, you will make your own dichroic glass rectangle or square pendant. Once made, they will be kiln-fired and ready for collection from Eynsham in a week or two. All materials will be provided. To book this workshop contact Ros: ros.duffy@outlook.com 07762 350 085

Why not treat yourself and your loved ones to some special time out this autumn with one of these talented local artists?
All workshops £30 per person. Booking essential.
Venue - Eynsham Sports Pavilion

Eynsham churches

ST LEONARD'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND

www.stleonardseyynsham.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.stpeterseyynsham.org.uk
Parish Priest: Father Mark Lagorio 01865 881613 /
stpeterschurcheynsham@gmail.com
Retired Priest: Fr Martin Flatman 07719 646790
SUNDAY SERVICE Sunday Mass 10:00
Saturday Mass of Sunday 17:00

EYNSHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

www.eynshambaptistchurch.co.uk
Minister: Revd Zoltan Biro 01865 881670
Church telephone / answerphone: 01865 882203
Church Secretary: 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.



All welcome

Monday 23 September 2019
13:30 Harvest at the Day Centre
in the Village Hall

EYNSHAM BAPTIST CHURCH
Sunday 29 September 2019
10:30 Harvest Service
Leader and Preacher:
The Revd Zoltan Biro

Monetary gifts to the Baptist
Missionary Society (BMS).
Gifts of produce suitable for donation
to the North Oxfordshire Food Bank
and The Gatehouse Project for Oxford's
homeless will be most welcome, please.

*The service will be followed by a Bring
and Share Lunch in our main hall.*

ST PETER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH
Weekend Masses for Harvest
CAFOD (The Catholic Agency
for Overseas Development)
Fast Day
Saturday 12 October 17:00
Sunday 13 October 10:00

The money we save from fasting will
be sent to CAFOD to help feed the
poor and hungry of the world.

ST LEONARD'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND
Sunday 22 September 2019
09:00 Harvest Holy Communion
10:45 Harvest for All-Ages

*Monetary gifts and focus on 'Open Doors'
Gifts of food for the homeless and
vulnerably housed adults in Oxford.*

*See also August Oasis report on page 15, invitation to another
Eynsham Christmas Tree Festival on page 18*

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Local councils

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

EYNSHAM PARISH COUNCIL (EPC)

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

EPC generally meets in the Bartholomew Room, The Square, and you are welcome to attend. Agendas are posted online and on the public notice boards; here are dates for the next few weeks:

- Traffic Advisory Sub-Committee
24 September 18:30
- Communications Committee 24 September 19:30
- Planning Committee 8 October 18:30 (if needed)
- Full Council Tue 8 October 19:30
- Fishponds Committee 15 October 19:30
- Full Council 12 November 19:30
- Planning Committee 12 November 18:30 (if needed)
- Play Area Committee 19 November 19:30

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



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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

Remembrance 2019

Members of the Eynsham Branch of the Royal British Legion invite members of the village to join them for one or both of the following events

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 10 NOVEMBER

Eynsham's traditional non-denominational Act of Remembrance on 10 November will take place at 10:55 in front of the War Memorial. This will be preceded by the parade of uniformed groups starting from the Scout Hall in Back Lane and leading to their annual church service in St Leonard's at 10:00. The congregation leaves the church at 10:45 to be joined by the congregations of the other two churches and as many members of the village as possible to observe the 2-minute silence in memory of all those who have given their lives in war in service of their country.

MONDAY 11 NOVEMBER 'Silence in the Square'

Shortly before 11:00 on Monday 11 November we assemble in front of the War Memorial in the Square to observe the 2-minute silence in memory of all those who have given their lives in war in the service of their country.

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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 Council. Please drop me an email if you would like some information.

COMPLETED

- **Planning:** We have recently responded to Oxfordshire County Council's (OCC) A40 improvements and Park & Ride planning application and asked the Secretary of State to 'call in' the application for determination (which would otherwise be determined by OCC themselves). The Council now has the 'Oxfordshire Cotswolds Garden Village Area Action Plan – Preferred Options consultation to consider and draft a response. All documents can be found at westoxon.gov.uk/gardenvillage and we encourage everyone to take part. The consultation closes on 11 October.
- **Committee meetings:** Following the quiet month of August, we are now back to a flurry of Committee meetings. All Council meetings are listed on the Events Diary online.

Individual committees are already drawing up spending proposals for financial year 2020-21, for consideration by the Finance & General Purposes Committee on 3 December. You are always welcome to go along; and will be invited to speak near the start of the meeting on any item on the agenda. Deadline for grant applications is 26 November – Ed

CURRENT

- **Pavilion Rebuild:** The Council approved plans at its August Parish Council meeting and these are now with the District Council for pre-application checking and advice. The plans may still evolve over the coming weeks depending on feedback.

PLANNED

- **Maintenance Work:** This is now a time for 'taking stock' and tidying up. I will shortly be reviewing all our areas to see what needs to be cut back and organise further tree surveys and management plans.
- **Grass Cutting Areas:** Grass cutting can often continue into October and beyond depending on the weather. A review of the grass cutting/weedkilling contract and the areas cut will be

undertaken. This is to ensure areas are not being missed and consider if other areas can have reduced cuts to promote wildflowers/nature. We will shortly be meeting with Cottsway to fully understand which areas it looks after and the level of service provided. We aim to ensure a consistent level of maintenance is provided throughout the Village.

- **Play Areas:** We have recently received our annual RoSPA Play Area Inspections which has highlighted some routine maintenance work required. Quotes will be obtained to repair equipment to ensure we continue to comply with appropriate safety standards. Is it time for the graffiti wall to be cleaned up, to provide a new blank canvas?

Please don't forget to log any highway problems on fixmystreet.com

Our great outdoors

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

FISHPONDS: I have little to report concerning the Fishponds, other than to say that the boardwalk, which was vandalised soon after being replaced, has been repaired and that the last time I visited, the whole site was virtually litter-free, which is fantastic. Whether this is due to our conscientious litter-pickers (see below!) or folk just being more aware of the environment around them – or a combination of both – I don't know, but thanks to everyone for their help.

The pond itself is looking healthy and clear: one of our Fishponds committee members recently spotted lots of freshwater shrimp, common water beetles, dragonfly nymphs and a great diving beetle, as well as damselflies and dragonflies – all this after about 2–3 minutes' observation. Do go along whenever you can and see how many different species you can spot as the seasons change, either in the water, on the ground, or in the air.

Enjoy our beautiful outdoors!

FOOTPATHS: Your parish council really does work hard to keep the public footpaths and rights-of-way around Eynsham clean, clear and accessible. This couldn't be done without input and help from residents and visitors, who report problems and often clear litter as they walk, and we can never thank them enough.

If every person picked up just one or two pieces of rubbish when out and about, it would make a huge

difference. It needn't – indeed, it shouldn't – be the whole focus of your walk, but these kindnesses could make a huge difference to the landscape we enjoy. It's satisfying, too, and the litter is slow to return. In turbulent, difficult and worrying times, whether personal or political, it can be very therapeutic to go for a walk. It calms the mind and soothes the soul, and if we do thoughtful things to improve our small part of the world, it can ease the feeling of helplessness against the bigger threats and fears around us.

'You're doing nothing when you walk...but having nothing to do but walk makes it possible to recover the pure sensation of being, to rediscover the simple joy of existing' – Frédéric Gros



Andy Mosson – Chair, Planning Committee

In the last issue we majored on the planning application (R3.0057/19) for the new Park and Ride and associated bus lane along the A40. The consultation period has now closed and several consultee submissions published on the OCC website make interesting reading – one of which is a Regulation 25 request from OCC's Principle Planning Officer for more information. The Planning Officer also suggests that a further period of consultation will be necessary to comment on this information (if supplied).

Eynsham Parish Council formally submitted our own objection and remain unconvinced that this project will do much to alleviate the problems of the A40. Although a Park and Ride may be of some help to commuters, building it at Eynsham is only for the convenience of OCC who own the land and better sites are being completely ignored.

The construction of a bus lane will help some commuters but is unlikely to take enough traffic off the road to benefit most commuters. Indeed, it will only benefit the minority who travel to Oxford City centre and will only hinder further the vast majority who use the A40 to go elsewhere.

Despite OCC planners' reservations about the scheme, Eynsham PC are still unhappy about OCC deciding its own planning application and have formally written to the Secretary of State for Local Government requesting that he 'calls in' the application

to be decided by his department rather than OCC. This letter, and an associated press release, can be seen online at bit.ly/eynsham-SP

THE PROPOSED GARDEN VILLAGE: The latest consultation into the Area Action Plan (AAP) outlining the proposals for the Garden Village is now in full flow. Those interested have until 11 October to respond. Eynsham PC has not yet formulated its comments but councillors are ploughing through the 118 page plus documents (13 technical study documents) in preparation. Not an easy task on top of all the other things going on. It is interesting that early in the document it refers to the selection of the site being positively influenced by its proximity to the key A40 corridor. It is a great shame those involved in writing the AAP failed to notice that, without major improvement, the A40 is totally unsuitable to support further development.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN: The independent examiner has completed her report into the Neighbourhood Plan and has made a series of recommendations. The Parish Council unsuccessfully challenged a number of these, particularly those where she did not agree with land parcels we wished to protect through designation of Local Green Spaces. As these parcels of land may not all be suitable for development and planning applications could be opposed if forthcoming, the PC has decided to accept the recommendations and allow the plan to move forward. It may be possible to revise the NP (if adopted) with a view to focusing on the omitted areas for later inclusion. It is now in the hands of the District Council to arrange a referendum of Eynsham villagers to seek their approval of the plan and allow it to be adopted.

A40 NURSERY DEVELOPMENT: The developers of this site have revised their planning application to slightly change the layout of the buildings, with a particular need to relocate a pumping station. This has given the Parish Council the opportunity to repeat its objections, especially the poor access to the site. We do not expect this to achieve anything, as the previous plan was approved at appeal and the changes proposed are fairly minor in nature.

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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Did you know?

Eynsham Youth Centre is alive and well – thanks to Lorna Reeves for the reminder. Email her at lreeves@bartholomew.oxon.sch.uk or follow @eynshamyouthy

It's the start of the new term so a new beginning for many. Come and support your local youth provision, we would love to meet you! Over the holidays we have been advertising our youth club on social media as we became aware that many people still don't realize that Eynsham has a fully funded, open access youth centre, run by professional youth workers.

Sadly government funding to youth services has been dramatically cut over the years. Eynsham is very lucky that Bartholomew School recognises this and funds three youth workers to run EYC in the grounds of the school, beside the sports centre. Being part of the school enables us to safeguard the welfare and wellbeing of the young people who attend, as we work in collaboration with the school on any issues that may arise. Likewise we are also here for any parents who would like any advice or guidance along the way.

If you'd like to find out more please feel free to come down for a chat and look around and let's use this valuable resource to its full potential. We are passionate about offering young people a safe space to come and have fun and meet up with friends in a supportive and inclusive atmosphere.

FLU VACCINATION clinics for over 65s are now bookable through our appointments system. Please contact our patient care advisors (receptionists) if you are over 65, or will become 65 before 31 March 2020, to book your appointment: 01865 881206.

There is a delay nationally in the vaccine for under 65s. We are expecting our delivery to come in on 19 November. Clinics for the under 65s will be available to book from the beginning of November for anyone under 65 and at risk. Please **do not** contact our patient care advisors before November to try to book, as the clinics will not be available to them.

AN ELECTION IS (probably) COMING SOON:

If you're not already registered, it takes only a couple of minutes. Find your National Insurance (NI) number, then call the District Council on 01993 861410 or visit gov.uk/register-to-vote

YOUR VOTE MATTERS

MAKE SURE YOU'RE IN



Eynsham Neighbourhood Watch needs YOU!

We are looking for a new co-ordinator to take over the running of our Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) scheme. We have a very active community and it would be great to get the scheme up and running again. It is very effective at helping tackle local issues, including anti-social behaviour and criminal damage. The scheme increases awareness of what is happening in the village and helps us look out for one another, especially the elderly and more vulnerable members of our community.

If you have a few hours to spare and would like to be the co-ordinator, or indeed volunteer to help, please contact PCSO 9800 Lucy James on 101 or email eynshamneighbourhood@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

Deadline for completing the Community Resilience Forum survey on policing priorities was 22 September; we hope to report the findings in our next issue – Ed



From the archives



'My dad taking his cows to a field down Chilbridge Road or over the A40. Looking north from Station Road, with Railway Inn on left, Swan on right'. Photo kindly supplied by Bill Bryant and dated August 1950 by the family of Leigh Marsden, who ran the shop at the time. Evolving as you see from veterinary and agricultural to dispensing chemist, with consulting optician (and photo processing) on the side. Diversification is nothing new...

More photos welcome! Have a word with Joan Stonham or use the Contact form at the foot of the page: eynsham-pc.gov.uk/image-archive-groups.aspx

SERVICE WITH A SMILE: 'The newish young man at the toll bridge at the moment is so cheerful, makes all the difference to the day. He deserves to go far. You catch more flies with honey than vinegar' – *Spotted: Eynsham, 15 August*

Retail roundup

For over two years Eynsham Retail Group has been investigating, via the Parish Council, the possibility of some on-street, timed, parking near our shops. This will benefit you, as customers who need to use your cars to access our shops when walking or cycling is not a viable option. It also will help maintain the viability of the shops and hence the vibrancy of the village as a whole.

We are delighted to say that after lengthy, positive discussions between residents, the Retail Group and the councils concerned, the Parish Council will be pursuing a 'Road Traffic Order' with Oxfordshire County Council. The details of the application include:

- 8 parking bays outside some of the retail units
- 1 loading bay
- All bays will have a 1 hour time limit, Monday to Saturday, 09.00–17.00.

We would like to thank County Councillor Charles Mathew and Eynsham Parish Council – the two councils will fund the costs equally between them.

If you have any questions about this application, please contact Sandy (at Cornucopia) or Robin (at the DIY).

Eynsham Traffic Advisory Sub-Committee meets again in the Bartholomew Room on 24 September and 19 November at 18:30 and you're always welcome to attend. Agendas are posted on the website and the public noticeboards – Ed

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fresh start

from Christians Against Poverty

St. Leonard's Church has partnered with award winning Bradford-based charity CAP since April 2014 (writes Elly Wastie). Eynsham residents continue to have free access to confidential debt counselling at home with a debt coach and volunteer befriender. Also, short budgeting skills courses for one-to-one or small groups including students preparing for university are available. All volunteers have current safeguarding certification.

The Debt Centre at 33A High Street Witney has seen 96 first client visits and 38 people becoming debt free through its work across local villages and in Eynsham. For more information call new enquiries helpline 0800 328 0006 for debt help; or for budgeting skills email jenniferclarke362@gmail.com – or visit capuk.org



Reginald Clarke on his Eynsham allotment, September 1954
– © JRV Johnson / Fox Photos / Getty Images

EYNSHAM ALLOTMENTS runs its Best Kept Plot competition every year, to encourage better gardening. Our first and second place winners take away trophies engraved with their names. You may not be aware but this has been going on for some time. The first place trophy is engraved 'Eynsham Allotment and Cooperative Society Ltd Members Challenge Cup' and was first awarded to J Russell back in 1930. This year's winners were Heather Horner ('loads of produce, huge number of healthy crops, flowers & veg, composting, abundance of growth'); second Frank & Jackie Skipwith; third Bridget Pitcher. The trophies were at Eynsham Village Show presented on 14 September, before the show's own awards, by our excellent judges Jon & Lucy from the Market Garden.
Andy Swarbrick

A nature recovery network



If you are wondering about the earth stripes that have appeared at Park Cottage, they are a new 7-acre wildflower meadow gift to Eynsham and local wildlife from Neves Bees (Julie and Ross Macken). A collaboration between them, Long Mead and BBOWI, Neves Bees have funded it and have had the courage to plough up their grass. Using flower seed from Long Mead's ancient hay meadow, the work was expertly carried out by Graham Podbery and Simon Webb.

These seven wildflower acres will add to Robin Saunders' wildflower meadow in Station Road, David Rivalin's meadow and other private patches. Listen out for the bees – and myriad other species whose loss has led to the decline of our best loved creatures and created problems for pollinating our food crops.

In May, the UN gave a dire warning: *"We are eroding the very foundations of our economies, livelihoods, food security, health and quality of life... It is not too late to make a difference, but only if we start now at every level from local to global. Through 'transformative change', nature can still be conserved, restored and used sustainably."*

We have seen a dramatic decline in familiar species at Long Mead. We no longer have hares or nesting curlew or crested grebes – even the rabbits have disappeared. Long Mead itself is a fragment of a vanishing habitat. In the UK, only 4 square miles of this floodplain hay meadow remains – an area the size of Heathrow airport. Yet, with climate change, it is critical for flood control, carbon storage, food security, as well as for biodiversity.

Last year, we launched two initiatives: (1) Our Thames Valley Wildflower Meadow Restoration Project aims to link up hay meadows between Oxford and the national nature reserve at Chimney as a 'nature recovery network' (Park Meadow is the forerunner); (2) Long Mead Biodiversity Research Project combines the knowledge of farmers and scholars to understand meadows and how they might be re-introduced into commercial agriculture, e.g. through targeted subsidies that recognise their added value to society or through research into meadow hay as a food supplement. Hay is currently uneconomical as it lacks the energy values of modern silage. But the old herb meadows were once known as 'hospital fields', where sick livestock would be grazed. If science can lend weight to folklore, meadow hay could regain its commercial value, especially as the demand for organic food increases.

Follow Neves Bees' example and get in touch with Catriona Bass: longmead.countywildlifesite@gmail.com. *Back Garden Wildflower Workshops* will run on Long Mead from June 2020. For a full report visit Eynsham Online: bit.ly/2m710XZ

In Eynsham

– 'For the Dandy family'
*Eynsham, West Oxfordshire,
midway between Oxford and Witney,
sacked by the Saxons in 571 AD,
now a quiet civil parish*

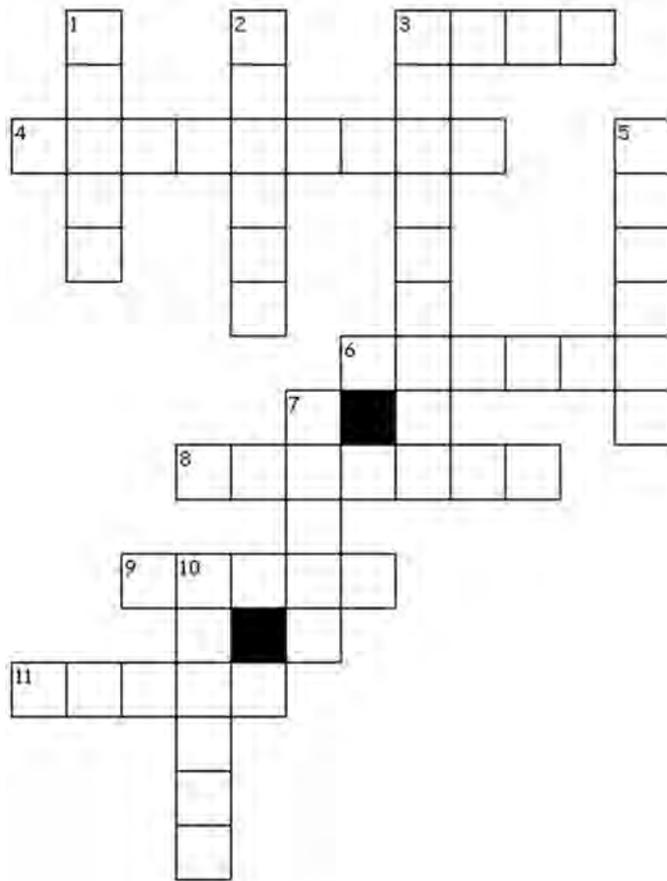
I lie in a general
practitioner's
bed reading
a Simenon
paperback.
A high window
in the hall
is open and I
pause to listen
to the low
warbling complaint
(*'My toe hurts,
Betsy'*) of a
wood pigeon
and smell a
pleasant,
unnameable
something
on the air

as children
squeal, at play
in a nearby
Neverland: life
gently asserts
itself here
on this cool
afternoon in an
old, familiar country
whose architecture
dies now of old
age, or natural
causes, or it does
not die at all.

Steve Lambert

Over to you

HARVEST CROSSWORD



Across

3. A plant grown in large quantities, often for food
4. A plant or part of a plant that is eaten as food
6. Someone who owns or runs a farm
8. The act of gathering in a crop
9. The small, hard seeds of a plant like rice and barley
11. The stems of plants like wheat, cut and dried for e.g. animal food.

Down

1. The amount or quantity produced in a crop
2. The season when harvest takes place
3. To prepare land and use it for growing crops
5. Waste matter from animals, used to help crops grow
7. A food with seeds and flesh that usually tastes sweet
10. A machine or a person that cuts and collects crops.

TAKE PART 3 OF THE EYNHAM QUIZ!

Check your answers on page 19

1. How far is it between Eynsham and Witney?
2. What did local volunteers plant at the Millennium?
3. What transport system ran between Eynsham and Witney from 1861–1962?

Many thanks to Silvia Battisti for our latest colouring corner – you can print the full-size picture at eynshamnews.org.uk

Below, she shares her Italian nonna Fiorella's recipe for a warming autumn soup



ZUPPA CO' L'OVA (soup with eggs) – serves 4

Ingredients

- 2 tbs extra virgin olive oil
- 1 onion, finely chopped
- 3 garlic cloves
- 1/2 tsp chilli flakes
- 2 tbs chopped parsley
- 540 ml tin diced plum tomatoes
- 2 tbs grated Pecorino or Parmesan cheese
- 4 slices of bread – stale is better!
- 4 eggs
- 1 litre water
- Good pinch of salt and black pepper

Method

- Heat oil in a large pan. Gently fry onion, chilli flakes and 1 tbs parsley for 2 mins. Add tomatoes, water, salt and pepper. Bring to the boil, then reduce heat and simmer for 25 minutes. Taste and adjust seasoning if necessary.
- Crack eggs and gently slip into soup (one at a time) and cook for about 3 mins.
- Rub garlic cloves onto both sides of the bread.
- Place 1 slice of bread in each of 4 terracotta bowls. Pour soup over the bread and top with poached egg. Sprinkle with cheese. Garnish with parsley and serve immediately.

Buon Appetito!

Repair Café

Bin it? No way!

DO YOU LIKE TO FIX THINGS?

- **Call for volunteers!** We'd like to start a Repair Café in Eynsham. Why not volunteer with us and put your skills to good use?
- **What is a Repair Café?** It's a community pop-up event, where people who like to fix things meet people with things to repair. With tea and cake! ☺ We want to help people to use things for longer, thus saving money and reducing waste.
- **What fix-it skills are needed?** Electrical, sewing, darning, mechanical, gluing, bikes, IT, sharpening, welding... You can also help run the event, welcome people and ensure it goes with a swing!
- **Please get in touch!** Call Helen Gavin on 01865 285544 or email RepairCafeEynsham@gmail.com

GREEN MAN MARKET: New to Scout HQ, from 14:00–17:00 on 13 October and 9 November. Bring and buy sale/tombola/raffle/Traidcraft/tabletop sale (£6.00 a table), tea and coffee. For more information or to book a table call 07785 220105 or leave a message and I will get back to you. *Derek Malin*



EYNSHAM DAY CENTRE offers a day of activities, entertainment, good company and a two-course meal – all in a warm, safe, relaxed, environment – from 10:00 to 14:30 every Monday except Bank Holidays at the Village Hall. Registered Charity: 1182282

- **Volunteers needed!** We are a voluntary service offering activities and friendship within our community. If you feel that you might like to help, then please get in touch.
- **New members welcome!** The day includes arts and crafts, boccia, some gentle seated exercise, bingo, various board games, a singalong, bowling, quizzes, talks; and often we have live musical entertainment in the afternoon. If you know someone who might like to come and join us (or maybe yourself), then please call us for more details.
- **Contact:** Coordinator, Karen 07887 974468, Secretary, Jane 01865 882924 or visit eynshamdaycentre.com



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People

BIG APPLE BAROQUE: Retiring collection for 'All About Elizabeth' on 27 July raised a welcome £500 for the parish's charitable projects. Their next concert in St Leonard's Church will be on 23 November, featuring little-known but splendid 17th and 18th century German seasonal music. People enjoy German Christmas markets – why not the music to go with it?



THE LOST ABBEY OF EYNSHAM – cover image © Peter Lorimer. 'Eynsham was one of the few religious foundations in England in continuous use from the late Saxon period to the Dissolution in 1538. Its first abbot was the internationally renowned scholar and teacher, Aelfric, and it was frequently visited by medieval kings... This book aims to rescue Eynsham Abbey from obscurity by summarising its history and examining its material remains, most of which have never been published before'. This 300-page paperback is lavishly illustrated, with almost 300 photos, drawings and tables. ISBN 9781789692501, a labour of love by our 'own' (since 2012) Steve Parrinder, on sale at £45 or direct from Steve for £40 including £10 donation to Eynsham Museum Fund: steve_parrinder@hotmail.com



Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers in Eynsham are all looking for new leaders. If you are interested please contact Sinead Andrews at bampton.eynsham.district@outlook.com or register your interest at girlguiding.org.uk

EXTINCTION REBELLION: You may have heard of us from recent events in Oxford and further afield. XR is a world movement of people concerned about the climate catastrophe. We are a new 'affinity group' for West Oxford, with members based in Eynsham, though still linked to XR Oxford. We run monthly meetings in/around Eynsham to discuss how we might work together, and with the wider movements, to further the aims of XR. If you'd like to learn more about XR and what you can do about climate change, please email Sue at smralphs@gmail.com

EYNSHAM SOCIAL & SPORTS CLUB: Our next big event will be on 5 October with Rick Sheehan – Tribute to the stars – members £5, non-members £10. Lots of laughs and dancing to be had. Tickets from the club or email charmawatson@mail.com

SEND IN YOUR STORIES! Get in touch with Joan or Sarah to share your experiences – we can help you write if it helps! See page 2 for our contact details.

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Adam Hingley runs Abingdon Marathon on 20 October for Eynsham Primary School PTA. 'Here's the deal. I run 26.2 miles. You donate to the PTA via my sponsorship page. Those lovely people give the money to the kids. It might be for paper and pens. But it might be to help a kid who struggles to feel confident realise the joy in a musical instrument. Or maybe a day trip. One magical day for a kid whose home life is difficult. Whatever. If you can spare a little cash... please do.' bit.ly/2JqEfpE

EYNESHAM CHURCHES HOLIDAY CLUB – supported by Bartholomew Educational Trust and Eynsham Parish Council – was another spectacular success. Full report and photos at bit.ly/eynsham-hc

AUGUST OASIS: Thanks again to the wonderful volunteers from the Eynsham churches who make possible these three days of meeting old friends and new. Thanks also to Eynsham Parish Council, Midcounties Co-operative, Waitrose and WATS.ON of Eynsham for generous supporting grants this year. Our activities ranged from cheese tasting or making gift bags to crafting glass light catchers with Ros Duffy, through watercolour painting (Alice Walker) to brass rubbing (Dave Maycock). There were talks from Richard Wood on Bridewell Gardens, from Tony Hadland on his agricultural family and from Martin Harris on local literary connections; a musical finale from the Woodentops, which had everyone smiling and joining in; and well-chosen words from Zoltan Biro, Martin Groves or Nick Page to bring each day to a close. The OASIS carol service is on Thursday 5 December at 14:00 in Eynsham Baptist Church and is followed by tea and cake. We look forward to seeing you there. *Jane Hale*

SWAP SHOP: 12 October at the Cricket Pavilion. Please bring all the usual small household things, plus clothes, books, CDs (not videos or cassettes), all manner of crafty things, tools and jigsaws, toys and games – we are there to accept your unloved bits and pieces from 09.15-10.45. Please do not leave things earlier. Photos of larger items may be put up on a board with details. Enquiries to Eleanor Chance: 01865 881095.

POTTERY STUDIO OPEN WEEKEND

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Recreation



Eynsham Arts Group will be running a BIG DRAW alongside the GreenTEA Festival. Started in the UK in 2000, this is now an annual international event – see thebigdraw.org It has nothing to do with ‘good’ or ‘bad’ drawing skills – this is for everyone to come and enjoy ‘making your mark(s)’. Both apples and expressing yourself in drawing are good for your health and we’ll be drawing apples! Beth Wood

For more inspiration, check out the workshops on page 3 and visit Eynsham Arts Group’s autumn show; and don’t miss *Water, Woodlands and Pathways* – paintings by Eric White in mixed media and pastel at the Bartholomew Room in the Square on 2–3 November. ‘After two years focusing on the Garden Village site, I have turned my attention to the water, woodlands and footpaths around Eynsham to include the Thames, the Wharf Stream, Fishponds, Wytham and much more in a delicious blend of colour, texture and tone.’ Open Saturday 10.00–17.00 and Sunday 11.30–17.00.

GreenTEA FESTIVAL: all welcome on Saturday 19 October from 14:00–16:00 in St Leonard’s Hall and the Bartholomew Room for our regular apple juicing and giveaway. GreenTEA stalls will feature our work on energy, food, transport and waste:

- aiming to make the proposed Garden Village an exporter rather than consumer of energy
- reducing meat and dairy in our diet – with alternatives and tastings from The Market Garden
- sharing lifts – and idea whose time has come?
- a Repair Shop to mend or alter items, rather than throw away – read more on page 13.

There will also be games for adults and children; news of work by Long Mead county wildlife site to improve biodiversity on the banks of the Thames; and a book swap to support Refugees Welcome in Eynsham.

Sign up for monthly environmental updates from GreenTEA by email and you’ll never miss a thing! bit.ly/the-brew

LOVE ACTIVE LIFE: Chair-Dancing sessions run in the Scout Hall, Back Lane on Thursdays from 11:00–12:00 all year round. Zumba Gold runs in the Scout Hall on Wednesdays from 13:30–14:30 with choreographed moves rooted in Latin American dances. No partner needed! Great for getting your heartrate up and feeling energised. Newcomers are welcome to both – £5 a time and first session free, supported by Age UK. For bookings/enquiries please call 01235 849403 or email info@generationgames.org.uk

BALLROOM & LATIN DANCE for beginners is ideal for any over age 16 who wants to learn to dance and have fun. No partner needed! £6pp or £10 per couple. Wednesdays 19:00–20:00 at Eynsham Primary School. Enquiries to Hannah: 07982 679858 / email leggettdancers@outlook.com

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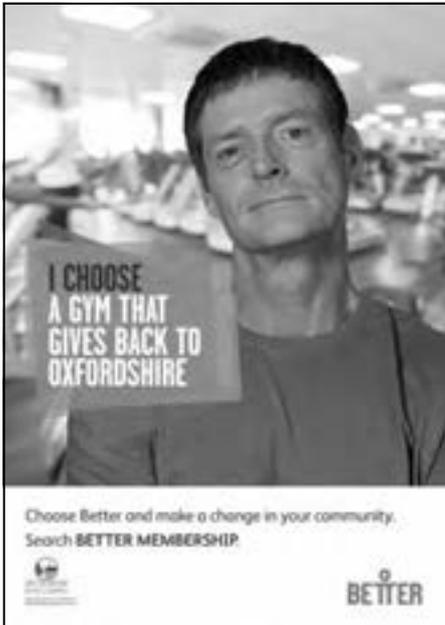
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The Baptist Church Lombard Street, Street, Eynsham, OX29 4HT



At Better, we're all about giving back – to you and the local community.

We've delivered several community projects over the past few months, with a view to increasing sports participation within Eynsham, and continue to do so with the following projects currently available:

- Why not try Pickleball on Saturdays 2pm–4pm? This is a new racquet sport played in the Sports Hall develops on the skills used in badminton and short tennis. It is suitable for all abilities and the first session is free.
- Walking football sessions are planned to start in October. To register your interest, or to find out more about walking football in West Oxfordshire, please contact Will James on 01865 731090 or email GoActive@GLL.ORG
- Basketball try-outs session on a Friday evening between 6pm and 8pm which is open to 11-16yr olds with the first session free
- Rugby League sessions for primary school children in association with Radical Rugby on Sunday mornings.
- We have also teamed up with Elite Youth Sport who run a holiday camp during the school holidays.
- We also run many fitness classes including Yoga, Pilates, BoxFit, Bootcamp, Circuits, Cardio Powerpump and Total Body Conditioning. Use your free day pass to come and try one out.

Our memberships come with no contract and no hidden extras. You'll enjoy inclusive access to the gym, as well as discounts on fitness classes, racquet sports and crèches. So, there are plenty of ways to have fun, socialise and change your health for the better.

If that wasn't reason enough to join, the profit we make goes back into the business, unlike other leisure centres. It's thanks to your support that we're able to improve our facilities and services for the whole neighbourhood.

So, when you join Better, you're not just looking after yourself, you're looking after the health and well-being of everyone in the community.

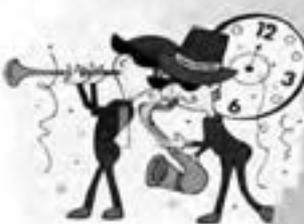
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EYNHAM UKULELES face the judges for Ukulele Society of Great Britain Band of the Year in October, with videos of their best pieces – results to be announced in early November. Hear them for yourself at Eynham Day Centre on 30 September or any Wednesday evening at The Swan Hotel in Acre End Street.

ONE WORLD WEEK: 26 October from 10:00–12:00 in the Baptist Hall. An opportunity to buy Christmas cards, wrapping paper and small gifts from charities – Sobell House, Save the Children, Oxfam and Traidcraft, with cakes and good quality bric-a-brac in aid of Baphumelele Children’s Home. Come and browse – enjoy refreshments and a chat. For more information or offers of help please speak to Angie Cox: 01865 880563 / angie@jolyoncox.net

PEACE OAK ASSOCIATION:  The majestic oak tree that has given us its name was planted 100 years ago, to commemorate the end of the First World War. We hope you will join us for our annual open day on Saturday 5 October from 14:30. Find out who we are and what we do, experience this lovely piece of land that is preserved in perpetuity, and see the collection of Eynham varieties of apples we have planted and grafted. There will be a celebration of trees in poetry circling the Peace Oak, plus music, apple picking and juicing and food. We shall also be planting a beautiful tree to last the next 100 years. Lots more info on our web page bit.ly/eynham-POA

WOMEN’S INSTITUTE: Although there was no WI meeting in August members took part in a skittles evening, a country walk and a boat trip – all much enjoyed. Our evening meetings for the next two months are listed on the What’s On pages opposite. As usual we will be meeting for social mornings on the third Tuesday of each month at the Red Lion at 10:00 and all WI members and non-members are welcome. If you wish to know more, keep an eye on the WI display case in the Square or on other display cases around the village. Valerie Johnston

EYNHAM CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL returns to St Leonard’s Church on Friday 29 November noon-19:00 and Saturday 30 with a café from 10:00–12:30. Each tree will be sponsored and decorated by a village group, uniformed organisation, family, school... or just someone with spare decorations! There will be a chance to vote for the people’s favourite tree and visitors’ donations will be shared among local Eynham groups and charities. Why not invite a friend or family member and bring some extra sparkle to the start of the Christmas season this year?



What's on

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

September

- 21–29 **Arts Group Autumn Show**,
Bartholomew Room 11:00–16:00
- 25 **Arts Group**, Music Room 19:45.
Alison Berman, *Sculpture*
- 29 **Litter Pickers**, Baptist Hall 14:00.
- 30 **Eynsham Ukuleles**,
Eynsham Day Centre 13:15

October

- 3 **History Group**, St Leonard's Hall 19:30.
Sheila Allcock, *Homes fit for heroes*
- 5 **GreenTEA Café**, Eynsham Emporium 10:30
- 5 **Peace Oak Centenary** – page 18
- 5 **Social & Sports Club**, Tribute Act – page 14
- 6 **Acoustic Club**, Swan Hotel 20:00
- 8 **Women's Institute**, St Leonard's Hall 19:00.
Harvest Supper & Auction.
Enquiries: 01865 882011
- 9 **Garden Club**, Village Hall 19:30.
Duncan Coombs, *Winter Colour and Interest*
- 10 **Evening Market**, St Leonard's Hall 18:00.
New season chutney
- 12 **Swap Shop**, Cricket Pavilion 10:00 – page 15
- 12 **Rotary Race Night** – page 2
- 16 **Carers' Group**, Red Lion 12:00.
- 17 **History Group**, St Leonard's Hall 19:30.
Simon Wenham, *Morris's Motoropolis*
- 19 **GreenTEA Festival** – page 16
- 26 **One World Week Sale** – page 18
- 27 **Gatehouse Volunteers**:
home-made sandwiches & cake for the
Oxford shelter. Enquiries: 01865 881346
- 27 **Litter Pickers**, Baptist Hall 14:00
- 30 **Arts Group**, Music Room 19:45.
Becky Paton, *Mosaics*
- 31 **Allotments Association AGM** 19:00

OVER TO YOU ANSWERS

Across: 2 crop 4 vegetable 6 farmer 8 harvest 9 grain 11 straw. Down: 1 yield 2 autumn 3 cultivate 5 manure 7 fruit 10 reaper.

Harvest Crossword:

1 – Six, 2 – Eynsham Wood, 3 – A railway

Eynsham Quiz:



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November

- 2 **GreenTEA Café**, Eynsham Emporium 10:30
6 **Eynsham Society**, Village Hall 20:00.
John Ashdown, *illustrated talk*
7 **History Group**, St Leonard's Hall 19:30.
David Day, *Pendon Museum*
8 **Day Centre**, Village Hall 19:30.
Bingo evening with raffle – no entry charge
10–11 **REMEMBRANCE 2019** – page 5
11 **Eynsham Charities**, Trustees meet – page 7
12 **Women's Institute**, St Leonard's Hall 19:30.
JaneMcHarg, *Christmas Garlands*
13 **Garden Club**, Village Hall 19:30.
Roger Umpelby, *Aliens in the Garden*
15 **Eynsham News** copy deadline – page 2
20 **Carers' Group**, Red Lion 12:00
21 **History Group**, St Leonard's Hall 19:30.
Ben Simpson, *An Englishman in America*
23 **Big Apple Baroque** – page 14
24 **Litter Pickers**, Baptist Hall 14:00
27 **Arts Group**, Music Room 19:45. Social and Quiz
27–30 **Bartholomew Players** – Abigail's Party
28 **Evening Market**, St Leonard's Hall 18:00.
Christmas Tastings
29–30 **Christmas Tree Festival** – page 18
30 **Old Forge Pottery**, Open Weekend – page 15

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 2 December – copy deadline 15 November. We reserve the right to edit contributions.

Visit Eynsham Online at
eynsham-pc.gov.uk



Our sponsors

Thanks again to Bartholomew Sports Centre, the Eynsham Churches and Eynsham Dental Care for their generous support in 2019–20 – features continue.

We still have space for local businesses, if you would like to advertise regularly or as a one-off in the current year. For sizes, costs and deadlines please contact Sandy Hellig: call 07551 876285, email sandy.hellig@gmail.com or visit eynshamnews.org.uk

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ARE YOU "HANDY"?

Bartholomew Players
are looking for help with building the set of our
forthcoming production "Abigail's Party"
in Eynsham Village Hall on
Saturday 16th November.
If you can wield a drill and/or climb a ladder,
why not come along and help out?



Contact Gareth on:
07890 970479 | bart.players@gmail.com
www.bartholomewplayers.co.uk

Cinema at Eynsham Village Hall

Rocket Man Friday 27th September – 7:30pm

Friday 18th October – 7:30pm



Friday 22nd November – 7:30pm

