



EYNESHAM NEWS

Issue 41 - February - March 2020

Time to choose

'Do you want West Oxfordshire District Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Eynsham to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?'

You may be forgiven for thinking you can't face another referendum – Eynsham residents have been bombarded with consultations in the last few years. Is this one any different? And what difference will it make? You'll find a feature to help you decide on pages 6 and 7.

photo © Ian White

In this issue

- Lead stories 2 – 3
- Contacts and services 4 – 5
- Planning – special feature 6 – 7
- Public services 8 – 9
- Home front 10 – 11
- Over to you 12 – 13
- Local people 14 – 15
- Recreation 16 – 18
- What's On 19 – 20

STOP PRESS – Cassington Road: Smith & Sons (Bletchington) Ltd have submitted a notice to Oxfordshire County Council regarding their lands off Cassington Road – details at bit.ly/2taXIXn

The document seems to acknowledge existing rights of way but informal routes may be at risk. Registration of new routes calls for evidence of long-term continuous use – please consult your local councillors or check for updates at Eynsham Online. The deadline is 6 February.

Working together

Catriona Bass writes from Long Mead

Eynsham's Great Nature Recovery Project is off to a flying start. It's amazing how many people are up for wildlife-friendly plantings or pond creation (with a little collective hand-holding) in back gardens and elsewhere. The project is also a coming-together for the many of us who have been working away for decades, unaware of what others are doing.

So, our first task is to document what we have. The men of the Eynsham Morris have been out mapping all the veteran trees in the parish. The schools and scouts (and many others) will be surveying the streams and hedgerows to note rare species that have survived in our compromised landscape. There are surveys for birds and butterflies, with workshops to teach anyone keen to join in. There are tasks, too, for those who love their nature but whose fingers are nimbler on the computer than in the soil – a website to build, data to analyse and maps to annotate. This is a long-term project with something for everyone.

'Bigger, Better, More Joined Up!' is the only way for widespread nature recovery. We have wonderful, but isolated islands of diversity around us. We have wonderful, but isolated islands of diversity around us. Now we can work towards connecting them up and creating wildlife corridors through the parish, potentially joining the designated wildlife sites of Wytham Wood, Long Mead and the biodiversity

hotspots along the Thames. Fragmentation of habitat is accelerating the decline of UK species. But Eynsham, being on this extraordinarily rich stretch of the Thames, is uniquely placed to make a major contribution to nature recovery, with the potential to offer a model to other parishes.

Please email eynshamnature@gmail.com to join in, either as an individual or with your community group.



Back to the future: auction catalogue 1885

A RAY OF LIGHT for the proposed solar farm at Twelve Acre Farm recently. Construction traffic access is now via the A40, instead of Chilbridge Road, with a new OCC requirement for *left-turn movements only in the case of HGVs*. You can find the documents by searching 19/02516/FUL at westoxon.gov.uk/planning

Your free newsletter

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 30 March – copy deadline Friday 13 March, though advance notice really helps if you'd like some room to spread.

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

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Our great outdoors

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

FISHPONDS: A working party took place on 24 November, with the main aims of tidying up Shirley's Spinney and thinning out the cherry trees at the edge of the pond, which were encroaching on the reed beds and potentially endangering the archaeology of the site. The nine of us completed these tasks as well as doing a litter pick; replacing one of the flotation devices at the pond; and making safe a deep hole in the footpath which went right through into one of the badger tunnels.

As always, a huge 'thank you' to the team who turned out: John, Rachel, Hazel, David, Ray, Margaret, Ann and Gavin. Without the help of volunteers, the Fishponds would soon revert to wilderness and wetland and become far less accessible. Several passers-by stopped to comment and admire the work; it was nice to receive thanks and one has asked to be put on the list to be notified of future working parties. If any readers wish to be added (there is no obligation to take part), then please do get in touch.

For a full report and photos, as well as a bad poem about biscuits, please go to bit.ly/2FHPKYE

Regular visitors will no doubt have admired the amazing progress of the drystone wall at the northern edge of the site. I was chuffed to see that a small tunnel has been created for hedgehog access, which is wonderful!

FOOTPATHS: Footpath 206/6, which is supposed to run diagonally northeast from the Thames Water entrance across to Mead Lane, has been inaccessible for years. The landowner has been tracked down and has promised to make the route clear when crops grow in the spring. A new waymarker disc has been fixed to the footbridge at the south-western end of this path, showing the correct direction. However, the handrail of the bridge is loose so please take care when crossing (this has been reported to OCC's Countryside Service several times and should be fixed soon).

The Thames Water entrance itself has been badly churned up by lorries: we hope that TW will be willing to make good the access to FP 206/5 in due course.

I hope by the time you read this the winter flooding will have subsided completely. It was daunting to stand on the toll bridge at the height of the floods this winter and see that the well-known, benign landscape had become rather frightening. The countryside is ever-changing, which is part of its allure, but when it turns into something alien that's a different story.

Spending decisions

Nick Relf – Chair, Eynsham Parish Council Finance & General Purposes Committee

Every year the Parish Council sets its share of the overall council tax that householders pay. In past years we have tried to hold the increase at or around inflation but this year we have found ourselves facing a more complicated set of financial pressures. As a result, our share of Band D council tax will rise by 25%, from £50.40 to £62.83 for the year. Even with this increase the parish precept remains well below the average of equivalent councils across West Oxfordshire.

The biggest single contributor is the need to repair and refurbish the Bartholomew Room (budget at £125,000). We recognise that this is a valued asset by the community and it therefore is time for considerable work to be carried out to secure its future. To pay for this we are likely to take out a five-year loan which will be repaid from the increase in precept. The 2020/21 precept also includes professional fees of £56,040 for the pavilion rebuild project, with total cost now creeping toward £1.5m.

In addition, whilst the number of councillors has reduced, our workload is at an exceptionally high level. This includes responding to plans for the A40, the western development and the northern development – all of which is over and above the work the Council already does to keep the village a great place to live. We are having to consider paying more for employed staff as the burden continues to increase. If you are interested in helping the Council in any way, please contact the Clerk.

Parish Council finance papers are available online at bit.ly/2PSIDAs

West Oxfordshire District Council is currently consulting residents on its spending priorities, with proposals to increase its share of council tax by an average £5 a year for 2020/21. The survey is open until 26 January at surveymonkey.co.uk/r/6NF6JDW – Ed.

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www.stleonardseysham.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.stpeterseysham.org.uk

Parish Priest: Father Mark Lagorio 01865 881613 /

stpeterschurcheynsham@gmail.com

Retired Priest: Fr Martin Flatman 07719 646790

SUNDAY SERVICE Sunday Mass 10:00

Saturday Mass of Sunday 17:00

EYNSHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

www.eynshambaptistchurch.co.uk

Minister: Revd Zoltan Biro 01865 881670

Church telephone / answerphone: 01865 882203

Church Secretary: 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.

Here's how to...

Are you frustrated by some activity (or inactivity) around the village? This new series is for you. Share a problem with Joan or Sarah! Our contact details are on page 2



FLY-TIPPING: Waste left lying around the District Council recycling banks in Back Lane car park has become a scourge. though offenders will be prosecuted if caught. Can Dix Pit really be too far, or too expensive? Rapid clearance may discourage copycats but WODC may not respond at once, so please report the 'tip' as soon as possible at bit.ly/bye2fly

To report full recycling banks call 01993 861000 or visit community.westoxon.gov.uk/s/general-enquiry

LITTER: There are 30 litter bins and 23 dog waste bins around the village. Eynsham Parish Council doesn't necessarily own all the bins but it does pay to have them emptied every day. If you find one overflowing, especially in windy weather, please email the location details to Parish Clerk Katherine Doughty – opposite.

And if you can spare an hour or two on the last Sunday of any month, Eynsham Litter Pickers welcome new volunteers. Bags and grabbers, tea and biscuits are provided. Enquiries to Pam Breeze: 07971 174434

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WASTE COLLECTIONS: Download your own waste collection calendar and / or sign up for email reminders at westoxon.gov.uk/beintheknow

Local councils

Our contacts list appears in alternate issues only, to make best use of space. The Eynsham Directory is always available at Eynsham Online

EYNSHAM PARISH COUNCIL (EPC)

Chairman Gordon Beach: 01865 880979

Parish Clerk Katherine Doughty: 07956 901622 email epc.clerk@eynsham-pc.gov.uk

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

- Fishponds Committee 28 January 18:30
- Communications Committee 28 January 19:30
- Planning Committee (if required) 11 February 18:30
- Full Council 11 February 19:30
- Finance & General Purposes 25 February 19:30
- Planning Committee (if required) 10 March 18:30
- Full Council 10 March 19:30
- Footpaths Committee 17 March 18:30
- Play Area Committee 17 March 19:30
- Traffic Advisory Sub-Committee 24 March 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

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

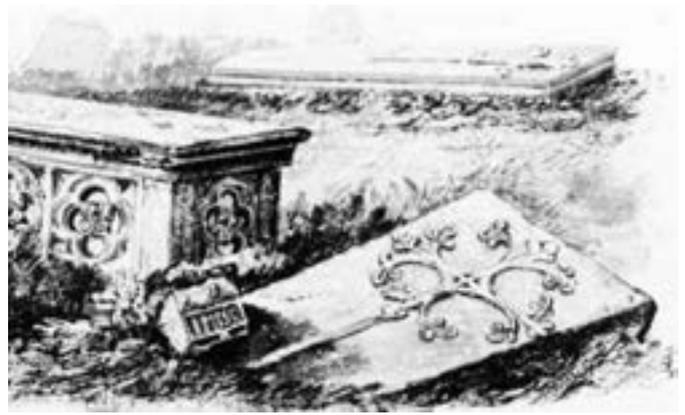
Halls for hire

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



Because you asked



The 'Eynsham Cross' in leaf-like ('foliate') style is based on this early 19th century illustration by JC Buckler of a carved tomb lid lying beside a mediaeval 'altar' tomb in St Leonard's churchyard. For more information see the Eynsham Record 23, 2006, pages 9–14.

The cross was adopted for the 'Eynsham Roundabout' newsletter from 1995–2013, for Eynsham Medical Centre in 1996 and for the Abbey millennial badge in 2005; and etched on an inner door for the lower Bartholomew Room in 2006. So its use in Eynsham News from 2014, at Eynsham Online from 2016 and on St Leonard's website from 2017 are keeping up tradition nicely! Visit eynsham-pc.gov.uk/image-archive-groups.aspx

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Planning

eynsham futures

What's it all about? What's in the Eynsham Neighbourhood Plan? Parish Council Clerk Katherine Doughty reports

There are 19 policies and a raft of intentions / aspirations – I have summarised the bare bones of the policies here. Please view the document at Eynsham Library in normal opening hours (page 9) or on the WODC website: bit.ly/35FNUC3

ENP1 Housing: Larger residential developments should include a mix of housing types and tenures to make balanced communities. The ideal community will include a range of ages, incomes, education and skills so that it could be largely self-sustaining. A key part of this policy is the 'consideration of a reasonable walking distance' to the village facilities.

ENP2 Design: All new development in the parish, including streets and public areas should be of high quality in keeping with its immediate setting and character. 'Building for Life' principles are supported along with protecting the conservation area, sustainable drainage systems, inclusion of green infrastructure and master-planning for larger developments.

ENP3 Community Facilities: Larger developments shall ensure that new residents have convenient access to appropriate community facilities including education, health, recreation and leisure. When larger development proposals have an impact on existing facilities, this may be addressed through direct provision or other mechanisms.

ENP3(a) Health Care Facilities: Support will be given to proposals that help to improve the quality and range of health care services. Where a new development is likely to affect existing provision, appropriate mitigation will be required and sought.

ENP3(b) Infrastructure and Utilities: Utility networks shall demonstrate adequate capacity for the needs of new residential developments without causing problems elsewhere.

ENP3(c) Education: New developments shall, as appropriate for their size and nature,) contribute to the expansion or new building of educational facilities.

ENP4 Green Infrastructure: New developments should integrate all aspects of design, connectivity and the natural environment. Consideration should

be given to the setting of new development and the relationship between village and countryside.

ENP4(a) Enhancing Biodiversity: Includes a number of measures that seek to contribute to the achievement of increased biodiversity with the ENP area.

ENP5 Sustainability: Climate Change: Particular support will be given for proposals that help meet the intentions of the Climate Change Act 2008.

ENP7 Sustainable Transport: Includes helping to protect village roads. Masterplans are to include public transport improvements, safe access for a new school(s) and the Manual for Streets or OCC Guidance is used for the design and construction of new roads.

ENP8 Connected Place: Integration of New Developments with the Village: The village should be connected and integrated with new developments, having regard to the walking distances set out.

ENP9 Parking: New developments should not exacerbate existing parking problems within the existing village centre and should ensure adequate and appropriate parking for new residents.

ENP10 Building a Strong Sustainable Economy: New developments shall support the existing and potential scale of local employment in the Eynsham area.

ENP11 Retail: New retail development should preserve or enhance the existing range and scale of local shopping opportunities.

ENP12 Local Green Spaces: Six areas in Eynsham that have been designated and recognised for their specific values and will therefore have added protection against inappropriate development.

ENP13 Trees: This policy aims to help preserve existing healthy mature trees and have trees lost or in poor condition replaced, in relation to development.

ENP14 Sustainable Growth: New development should protect the character and community of Eynsham and seek to establish similar qualities in any new settlement such as the proposed Garden Village.

ENP14(a) Strategic Development Area and 'Garden Village' – A series of measures aimed at protecting existing and new residents.

ENP15 Eynsham Village Centre: Development proposals shall have regard to the need to sustain and to create opportunities to improve qualities of Eynsham, its historic centre and conservation area.

‘What is this Referendum about and how should I vote?’ Eynsham Planning Improvement Campaign responds

This referendum is a vote *for* or *against* the Eynsham Neighbourhood Plan. It is **not** a vote on planned 3,200 new homes in the Garden Village and West Eynsham.

Our Neighbourhood Plan, created by Eynsham residents from 2014–2017, contains policies on housing, community facilities, green infrastructure, climate change, education, transport, parking, economy and more. See Eynsham Online, hard copy in the Library.

So, do you want West Oxfordshire District Council to use the Neighbourhood Plan for Eynsham to help it decide planning applications in the neighbourhood area?

If you want to have community control over future planning applications and our community to get 10% extra ££££ from developers, vote YES. If you are happy for our community to give away control and not get that extra money for community facilities, vote NO.

Voting YES to this question provides us with some protection against developments that do not meet Eynsham’s policies and needs.



WODC will be legally bound to consider our Plan for each planning application. Voting NO removes this protection.

Garden village latest

Over 200 people attended Grosvenor’s exhibition on the Oxfordshire Garden Village Masterplan Framework in November, incorporating the consultation process so far, responses to the site topography, proposed infrastructure upgrades, how the scheme will address climate change and indicative location of the key amenities. The project team is now analysing how the Outline Planning Application must respond to the feedback, with submission expected in spring 2020. Please do provide your comments if you have not already; the boards are still on view at oxongv.co.uk

Choice of name for the new development has been beset by transparency concerns and is now to be discussed in a District Council Cabinet meeting. Parish Council proposals are ‘North Eynsham’, ‘Eynsham Garden Village’ and ‘Tilgarsley’ – Ed.

Vision and reality

Your Editor reflects on the Referendum question. cover image © Jane Tomlinson



What a choice to face! There is only so much money to go around, so the appeal of an additional charge on developers may wilt as it impacts on the economic viability of a development. But the referendum calls for no minimum turnout; and under ‘first-past-the-post’ it could pass or fail by a single vote. Sounds familiar?

Over six long years the neighbourhood planning team was forced to play catch-up with changing legislation; blindsided by county and district ambition; dogged by big developers; and stripped of many ‘local green spaces’ at the examination stage. Any resulting inconsistencies could come back to haunt us – and current national / local policy may protect us better, as the examiner remarks. Local resident Bob Hammersley (quoted in italics below) points to ‘silly restrictions on retail development’ for example.

We value local retailers for the strength of their offering. Using planning policy to deter competition is unnecessary; and might well deprive us of exciting new outlets that a larger village could attract.

Parish Council ‘intentions’ raise further questions. Who will monitor these? And with limited funds, how do we balance a goal of ‘improved parking for residents and visitors in the historic village centre’ with ‘a plan to make the entire built-up area of the village a 20mph limit’ – for example?

- *The ‘will of the people’ by the back door?*
- *Absurd to reduce this to a binary choice, rather than vote issue by issue.*

But that’s how the process works. Whatever the outcome, Eynsham citizens seem to face yet more tough choices, an equally heavy workload and a need for constant vigilance in years ahead. Check the documents at Eynsham Library or westoxon.gov.uk/eynsham – background at Eynsham Online.



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Get involved!

Eynsham Medical Group has two groups of patient volunteers who aim to work with us so that we can provide you with the best possible care.

The Patient Participation Group (PPG) works to improve two-way communication and to encourage patients to take more responsibility for their own health. It is looking for more members, so if you feel you could support these objectives please contact the chairman, Roy Thomas, by leaving a note for him at the surgery with your name, phone number and / or email address – or by emailing roy.thomas@associatedagencies.co.uk

The Virtual Patient Reference Group (VPRG) operates entirely by email, to help people with busy lives to be active members. It has become less familiar since the advent of the PPG but we would like to raise its profile again. Please feel free to join the group and tell us how you feel it could link in with the PPG's activities. You will find the sign-up form on our website at bit.ly/eynsham-VPRG



It's been a very busy couple of months. In November we had our routine Ofsted inspection. The inspectors were impressed by our 'calm, safe and stimulating environment', commenting that 'staff are kind and nurturing' and recognising that we 'prepare children well for their eventual move to school'. You can read the report at reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/16/134436 December began with lots of fun Christmas art and craft activities; and watching the Baptist Church's Nativity was a wonderful treat! Term ended with a magical visit from Father Christmas.

The new year has been a time of reflection for Pre-School and we would like to take this opportunity to give our heart-felt thanks to the many individuals and organisations that have supported us since our plea for help back in September including Eynsham Choral Society, Eynsham Morris, Bartholomew Players, Green Man Market, Fragile Lands and many, many others. We are truly grateful for all your fundraising efforts, donations and ongoing support.

We have a few more events coming up... save the date for our Easter Family Fun day at the Village Hall on Saturday 18 April. For more information about the Pre-School you can contact me (Jackie Taylor) at manager@eynshampreschool.org or call 01865 883893.

The advertisement for Eynsham Dental Care features a large, stylized logo at the top with the letters 'mh' and 'ww' in a grey, rounded font, followed by the words 'eynsham dental care' in a similar font. Below the logo is a dark grey banner with the text 'Outstanding, Convenient Dental Care' in white. The main body of the ad is a light grey background with a black and white photograph of a smiling man in a white shirt and tie. To the left of the photo, there are four lines of text: 'Experienced, caring team', 'Accessible local location', 'Easy Parking', and 'Monthly payment plans From £15.91'. At the bottom, there is a dark grey banner with the phone number 'Tel: 01865 880047' and the website 'www.eynshamdentalcare.com'. At the very bottom, there is a small logo of a hand holding a tooth, followed by the text 'Your care in our hands' and a Facebook 'Like Us On Facebook' button.

Learning together

Last term saw Eynsham Primary continue working with the local community to strengthen our links. This has provided the children with a wealth of exciting opportunities & experiences to enhance their learning.

This has included the school opening its doors for a fish and chip supper whilst we watched the school documentary film produced by the BBC back in the late 1960s. In addition to this, Foundation stage visited the Baptist Church to develop their understanding of Christianity, Year 4 sang at Beech Court Nursing Home, Year 3 have become reading buddies at Eynsham Pre-school. Year 2 have visited the Fire Station as part of their history topic 'The Great Fire of London' and Year 1 have been developing a love of reading by visits to the library. Singing Squad performed in St Leonard's Church at 'Light Up Eynsham' and children across the school have attended various sporting festivals at Bartholomew School.

During this term Year 5 will be visiting the Day Centre to join in their music and movement session and Year 6 have plans to link up with JACK FM. Also staff from Pearsons have volunteered to come in and listen to children read and give up their time to work with the Eco Club on an allotment project.

Thanks to all the businesses that have supported our school so far this year – and those that continue to do so. If you have a community link that you feel would be of interest to the school, please contact the office on 01865 881294.

CALL THE FIRE BRIGADE! Colin Jacob and Stuart Smith are delighted to report a total £1,500 in proceeds from this remarkable book has already been shared among Alzheimer's Society, SeeSaw grief support charity and the Blenheim head & neck cancer unit at the Churchill Oxford Hospitals Charity. Evenlode DIY has been incredibly supportive and has sold the books for no financial gain. A few copies are still available and all further profits will also be donated to charity.

EYNSHAM LIBRARY: A warm welcome to Jane Bruder, our new Library Manager from the start of 2020. We look forward to her contributions for future issues of Eynsham News. The Library is open on Monday 09:30–13:00 and 14:00–17:00, Wednesday and Thursday 13:00–17:00, Friday 13:00–19:00 and Saturday 09:30–13:00, with out-of-hours access available to registered users. Interested? Just call in and ask!



Moving stories

Chris Dodds of Abbey Rentals reports the end of an era

Abbey Rentals started in the 1990s, more by accident than design, when we took on a handful of rented properties on what we thought of as a short-term basis. However, this changed to long-term as we took on more properties, Jane joined the business, we opened the office on High Street and the business went from strength to strength. We built up a portfolio of around 100 properties in and around Eynsham that we managed and many more where we found tenants for landlords.

We have enjoyed working in Eynsham and meeting so many people and introducing many others to the village but we decided last year that it was time to hang up the keys and retire. We are sad that we couldn't find a buyer to take over the office but pleased that Scottfraser have taken on the staff who now all operate from Witney.

Thank you to those who have sent cards and messages of congratulations and good luck on our retirement and those kind enough to send gifts. We have been overwhelmed by the response to our news. We will miss the buzz of the office but look forward to a more leisurely pace of life, although we are constantly being told by friends who are already retired that they have never been busier!

Congratulations to Renée Watson, Founder & Head of Explosions at The Curiosity Box, for her richly deserved appointment as Entrepreneur of the Year at the Inclusive Tech Alliance Awards last November – Ed.

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GET HELP WITH HOME REPAIRS: There are services and funds available to help home owners and private tenants stay independent, safe and well in their homes; and Oxfordshire County Council has developed a referral service to help residents (or carers) access the right organisations in their area, to get the help they need.

The type of help that can be provided includes new boilers, repairs to boilers, loft or cavity wall insulation, access to a local and trustworthy repairs service and general advice on how to stay safe, well and affordably warm in your home. For more information or to make a referral visit oxfordshire.gov.uk/homerepairs



Eynsham Good Neighbour Network exists to support anyone in need in the village. Volunteers can help with a variety of tasks including local shopping, minor household repairs or form filling. They can even stop by for a cup of tea and chat.

Call the Network on **07443 564516** to leave a message at any time or you can speak to one of the coordinators between 10:00 and 14:00 on weekdays.

The Network would love to visit more people in village so please share details with anyone they might be able to help.

SHARING THE WARMTH:

There's still time to 'recycle' your Winter Fuel Payment if you don't need it!

Please do consider passing on your Winter Fuel Payment to either the **Eynsham Consolidated Charity**, sort code 09-01-51, account number 25159404 or the **Bartholomew Educational Foundation**, sort code 09-01-51, account number 53159405.

Cheques made payable to *either* of these charities can also be sent to the Clerk, Robin Mitchell, 20 High Street, Eynsham OX29 4HB. *Please note new email address for enquiries: eynshamcharities@gmail.com*



Post haste

Frank Collingwood recounts a golden age

The first mail coach from Bristol to London in 1784 was an object of glamour and wonder. The system spread rapidly across England, with timings tightened further.

By 1836, mail was collected and sorted every day in London and a coach left Charing Cross at 19:30, reaching Oxford at 02:38 next morning and Eynsham at 03:20. It went on to Witney, Cheltenham and Gloucester, reaching Carmarthen at 20:00. The return journey passed through Eynsham at 23:35 arriving in London at 07:05 in time for morning deliveries. Night life in Eynsham is nothing new! At least 12 stagecoaches also passed through Eynsham daily, carrying passengers and goods but no mail.

Mail coaches were operated by the General Post Office, who gave out contracts for individual services. Livery for the upper part of the coach black, while the door and lower panels were maroon. The wheels were what is now known as Post Office red. The doors bore the royal coat of arms, the title Royal Mail and the name of the town at each end of the route.

Timekeeping was paramount. Mail coaches did not stop or pay at turnpikes such as Eynsham toll bridge. A change of horses was made about every eight miles (at Oxford, Eynsham and Witney for example), with 4-5 minutes allowed – less if the coach was late. However, within 60 years mail coaches were obsolete as the mail transferred to the new-fangled faster railway: Brunel's Great Western Railway reached Oxford in 1844.



The model mail coach above can be seen at Oxford Bus Museum next to Hanborough Station on Wednesdays and Sundays from 10:30-16:30 all year round. We have 35 buses, 20 Morris cars, 50 historic cycles and 300 photographs on display, with free parking, a play area, café and shop. Tickets cost £5 for adults, £3 for 5-15s (under-fives free). More at oxfordbusmuseum.org

Eynsham dental care



Is there a place in modern society for old-fashioned values?

This question was put to Dr Robert Hughes of Eynsham Dental Care. 'Oh definitely,' said Dr Hughes, 'I think we need to rediscover our values and ethics of past generations and apply it in today's society.'

Eynsham Dental Care has been providing care for the residents of Eynsham and West Oxfordshire for over 35 years. Led by husband and wife team Rob Hughes and Cathy McClelland, they are keen to continue their balance of dedicated patient care with modern day dental techniques.

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

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

CARING FOR INDIVIDUALS: 'Bottom line is that we care,' Dr McClelland stated. 'If you have an emergency, we will see you the same day. On a weekend, Bank Holiday, Christmas or Easter we provide emergency cover too.'

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

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

Over to you

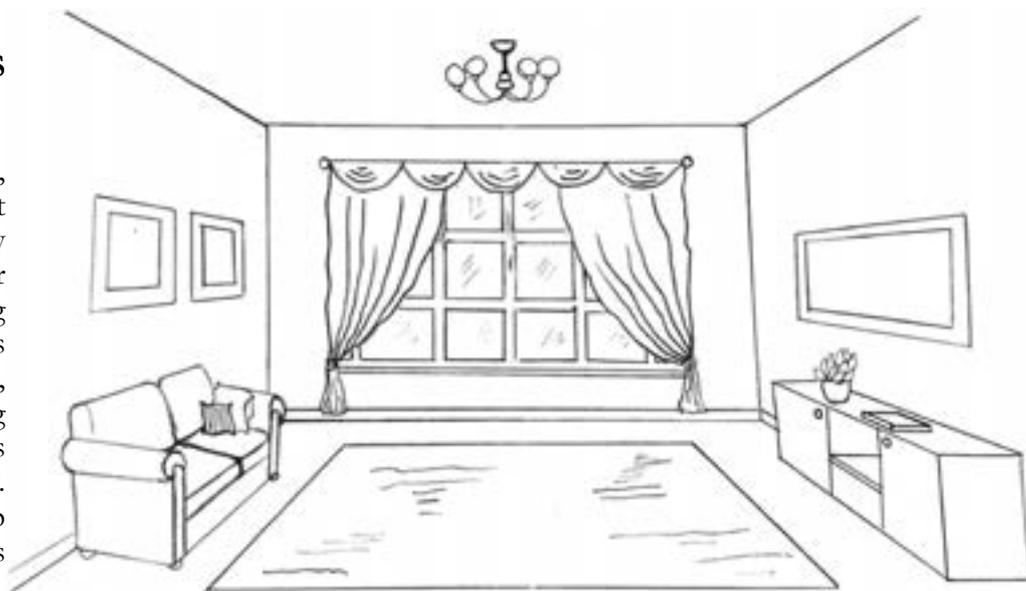
Thanks to Rolando Medina for this month's colouring corner – and to Sarah Medina as usual for bringing us the page.

SMALL PLEASURES IN WINTERTIME

Some people like it hot, others like it cold... but not so many of us particularly enjoy grey, damp winter days that can seem to drag on forever. With Christmas and New Year behind us, we can't wait for spring to begin. Yet it really is possible to enjoy winter. Even small things can help us to experience brightness on the greyest of days.

Enjoy a warm drink of something you fancy, from hot chocolate to a herbal infusion, coffee or a simple cup of builder's tea. Feel your body warm through and your mind relax as you savour a small pleasure.

Snuggle up on your favourite chair or sofa with a warm throw or hot water bottle. Watch or listen to a programme; or read a good book or magazine. Feel the pleasure of being cosy indoors whilst the weather does what it will outside.



Enjoy the feeling of fresh, cold air on your face. Wrap up in warm clothes and go for a long or a short brisk walk – or spend just a few minutes standing outside your door. Whatever you can manage, some fresh air will revive your mind and body, and perhaps bring back some happy memories of playing outside as a child in all weathers.

Get creative! Use the long nights to enjoy a long-loved hobby – or start a new one. What you do doesn't have to be perfect! Enjoy the process as much as – or even more than – the end result, and you will while away many an hour lost in creativity.

Let family and friends know you care. Make a phone call and have a chat. Write a notecard or a letter. Invite them to enjoy that warm drink with you. You'll enjoy the connection with loved ones as much as they will.

And remember, if all else fails, remember that the shortest day is well and truly behind us, and before we know it, the signs of springtime will reveal themselves to us all here in our lovely village of Eynsham

THE BEAUTY OF A WINTER'S DAY

In the last issue, we asked you to send in your winter-themed haiku. We are delighted to publish these lovely contributions from Nigel Pearce, Catherine Baker and Una Blake (top row) and Dennis Stukenbroecker (bottom row).

the world of leaves leaves (can you believe it?) leaving globes of mistletoe	in silken white fog a tree breathing out flowers vanishes again	stark and chill surrounds crunching steps a track behind as beasts shelter sap drains
that north wind grains of snow snake down the road	sheep cold sunlight their long shadows	the only light seems frozen itself hanging moon

EYNESHAM IN BLOOM: Fourteen generous residents opened their gardens in aid of local charities and good causes in 2018. *We still need someone to run Open Gardens 2020 – or it will not happen.* Martin Flatman: 07719 646790 / frmartinflatman@gmail.com

EYNESHAM REPAIR CAFÉ will be back again on a Saturday in March – date TBC. Also coming soon will be a regular Friday early evening repair session at the Market Garden Café! Please contact Helen on repaircafeeynsham@gmail.com or 01865 285544 to volunteer or if you have any enquiries! More info: eynsham-pc.gov.uk/Eynsham-Repair-Cafe

GATEHOUSE SOUP RUN: The annual delivery from Eynsham to The Gatehouse shelter for homeless people in Oxford will be on Tuesday 4 February. If you can prepare a couple of one-litre blocks of frozen soup for collection that morning, we will provide the labels and full instructions. Please contact Beverly Rostron: beverly.chandler@btinternet.com

GreenTEA has now been active for 11 years, encouraging and supporting Eynsham residents to eat less meat and dairy, insulate our homes and other measures to reduce our carbon emissions. But is this enough when the director of Greenpeace has ‘never seen the gap bigger between the inside and the outside’ of the climate talks in Madrid?

The climate emergency requires international action as many countries particularly in the global south are already facing the consequences of global warming. And yet those countries with the highest emissions continue to place obstacles in the way of an agreement or refuse to take responsibility for causing the emergency.

Therefore, while continuing our local work, myself and GreenTEA are actively supporting the student strikes and Extinction Rebellion. Research by Erica Chenoweth shows that non-violent protests in the past century have always been successful if at least 3% of the population are actively involved, so let me finish by asking you to consider your own responsibility.

‘Treat the Earth well: it is only loaned to you by your children.’
Helena Nielsen

PHOTOGRAPHY CHALLENGE 2020: No time like the present to start brushing up your technique and expanding your oeuvre for September’s Village Show. The subjects offer something for everyone...

- Whiskers
- The Sky’s the Limit
- White
- Festival Fan
- Shoes



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People



Congratulations to Mrs Rose Campbell, who turned one hundred on 7 January! Rose was born in Eynsham and has lived here all her life. Photo © Cottsway

OFFICIAL SECRETS: thanks to husband & wife team Dave Maybrick and Toni Staples for a peek behind the scenes of this unnervingly topical film, screening at the Village Hall on 27 March – page 20

‘Official Secrets’ began as most jobs in the film industry do, with a phone-call from Toni’s agent. A meeting with the producers ultimately seals the deal and then the process of preproduction begins, turning the script into a series of logistical decisions that will hopefully make a complex puzzle into a piece of big-screen art.

‘Official Secrets’ was less complex than some films, co-ordinating people and locations, no stunts or

special effects. For availability reasons, films are rarely shot in story order and actors have to figure out where in the story they are on any given day. In the case of top drawer talent like Keira Knightly and Ralph Fiennes they make it look easy.

‘Supernova’ was also a dream job, two months in the lake district with Colin Firth and Stanley Tucci, a lovely script and sublime performances. These jobs are short lived and very intense but rarely dull. A chance to run away with the circus and when it’s over, to come back to the comfort of home.

The films we make ourselves aren’t as grand yet as either of the above, but we love doing them and hopefully people enjoy watching them. Our film ‘AKA’ – publicity still below – is currently touring film festivals all over the world.



DENNIS & EDNA MASON, who lived in Eynsham from 1972–2018, both passed away last year. They loved the local community spirit and friendly vibe and returned that through their own involvement here.

Dennis was born in Scarborough in 1928, when times were tough and families stuck together to survive. His experience of national service in the late 1940s left a lasting impression too. Having messed up theological studies at Durham University, where he met Edna, he got a job with The Yorkshire Penny Bank before moving south to marry. On transfer from Barclays Bank in Botley, he set up a new branch in

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Eynsham on the later Emporium site – the © Oxford Mail photo shows it recreated as a cake in 1974. He even had exotic visitors from Japan and Saudi Arabia, who preferred a genial and gentle manager in Eynsham to the corporate services in Oxford. He was finally ordained an Anglican clergyman at 57, just before retiring from the bank. He continued being active, whether as Father Christmas for Eynsham Playground Association, supporting Eynsham Boxing Club in the 1970s or, with Edna, in the infant Eynsham Choral Society.



Edna (née Stew) was born in 1931 in Witney, while a fire raged in Smith's Mill behind their house in Bridge Street. She had some great tales to tell of her childhood in the war, such as diving into a ditch when Italian fighter planes were dogfighting above. A fascination for local history bore fruit in a series of contributions to the Eynsham Record. It also took her to chairmanship of the local history society and helped her shape their programme of talks. In the 1970s she played an active role in the gravel extraction protests of the time.

I would love to hear more stories about my parents! Please email jane.mason@tiscali.co.uk

RECEIVED WITH THANKS

- The Woodentops and Friends held a sell-out concert on 9 November, which raised an amazing £1020 towards the construction of women's clinic in a desperately poor area of eastern Uganda. More details of the project from June or Larry Poole: 01865 375130 or hcajune@aol.com
- Eynsham Community Choir's Christmas Concert at St Leonard's on 12 December raised £325 in donations for Eynsham Pre-School.

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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Recreation



ACAPPELLA SUNDAY invites you to brighten your winter nights with a smorgasbord of toe-tapping songs spanning the decades and sourced from throughout Europe and beyond. Saturday 25 January, 20:00 in the Village Hall. We'll be singing songs from Prince, Edith Piaf, Amy Winehouse, The Coral, Ben E King, Four Tops, and many more. Something for everyone! Tickets £7 from Evenlode DIY include a glass of wine or soft drink and nibbles, kids under 16 free.

BARN DANCE: Come and 'have a ball' on Valentine Day with Oxford Village Band and caller Dave Townsend. The Mike Nightingale Fellowship promises a night of fun at the Village Hall on Friday 14 February, from 20.00-23.30, tickets £10 from Evenlode DIY. Great prize auction, raffle, best carnival mask prize. Proceeds will go to deprived children in South Africa. Thanks to Eynsham Croquet Club for generous donations at the annual BBQ on 9 October, which raised nearly £400 including Gift Aid. *Margherita Pierini*

CARNIVAL DISCO: Calling all disco divas and party princes! Eynsham Carnival Family Disco will be held on Saturday 7 March from 18:30-21:00 in the Village Hall. The 2020 Carnival royalty and male or female attendants (aged 6+), will be chosen on the night but there's no obligation to enter. Come along and bring the family for a dance and a few drinks. Entry is £1 per person with a licensed bar. Carnival this year is on Saturday 4 July - save the date! For more details contact enquiries@eynshamcarnival.com

EYNESHAM COUNTRY MARKET returns to St Leonard's Hall on Thursday 6 February from 09:00-10:30 with our traditional marmalade tasting. You will be sure of a warm welcome and a hot cup of tea or coffee to enjoy whilst you browse our selection

of freshly baked cakes, savouries, preserves and crafts. New producers are always welcome! Please call Judith Bowden on 01865 435343 or look in any Thursday morning for a chat.

EYNESHAM DAY CENTRE ('Monday Club') is held at the Village Hall every Monday except bank holidays from 10.00-14.30. We have crafts, games and quizzes, seated exercises if you fancy - though you are welcome to sit and chat! A tasty two-course mid-day meal then afternoons are over in no time, with musical entertainment or a speaker, followed by tea/coffee and cake. So really something for everyone, in a warm, safe, and comfortable environment. New members are welcome - and volunteers, of course! Why not come and check us out? Contact Karen, our coordinator, on 07887 974468 / target.meuk@gmail.com or visit eynshamdaycentre.com

NEW HORIZONS (formerly Eynsham Carers Group) now meets for lunch at 12:00 on the fourth Tuesday of the month in The Red Lion. Contact Sian Whitlock: 07827 235448 / sianwhitlock@ageukoxfordshire.org.uk

THE PEACE OAK ASSOCIATION hosts a talk by Hugh Warwick, ecologist, author and spokesman for the British Hedgehog Preservation Trust on Friday 21 February at 19:30 in The Scout Headquarters, Back Lane. All welcome, entry £5, proceeds to the POA and British Hedgehog Preservation Trust. Refreshments with donations to the POA.



ST PETER'S CHURCH PANCAKE FEAST Saturday 22 February, 10.30-13.30, in the Tolkien Room. Come and enjoy our delicious savoury and sweet waitress served pancakes. There will also be a raffle and cake stall.

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THE DROP IN: Possibly Eynsham's best-kept secret, though plenty of people turn up every week! Everyone is welcome at St Leonard's Hall on Friday morning from 10:30–12:00 for coffee / tea and cake (usually home-made) and a chat. Occasional helpers are welcome too! Contact Joan & Mike Northcott: 01865 880299

NEW! MEN'S DROP-IN: If you are looking for somewhere to stop by for a chat and a cuppa (or a cold drink) then why not join us at the Red Lion? We are there every Tuesday between 14:30 and 16:30. There is no agenda just an opportunity to meet and converse or play cards etc. More information if required from Bob Thiele (Eynsham Good Neighbours Network): 01865 426203

ROTARY CLUB OF EYNSHAM: A very happy new year! And a very **BIG** thank you to all who donated so generously to Rotary charities over the Christmas holiday. Santa's sleigh expeditions were thoroughly enjoyed by elves and residents alike, though the weather could have been kinder! We do apologise if some families who expected to see Santa were disappointed. There was at least one evening when everything just got **too** soggy!



Between Santa's tours and the charity collection at the toll-bridge we raised a considerable sum towards next year's charities (including more defibrillators in and around the village) so if you know of any clubs, groups or local good causes who are in need of financial help, please do contact us to see how to access our funds: bit.ly/eynsham-rotary

We're looking forward to seeing our 'Purple for Polio' crocus appear in February. As well as the patches of colour near the toll-bridge roundabout, we should see some appearing at the A40 traffic lights. We wish everyone a very happy, healthy and peaceful 2020. Our next event will be a film and supper night on Saturday 14 March. Choice of film still to be decided, but we will announce it via Eynsham Online as soon as we can.

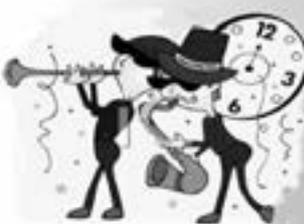
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WINTER WALKS: Thanks to Rosemary Clegg for this update from West Oxfordshire Ramblers – and to Gavin Robinson for the seasonal photo.

- Tuesday 18 February meet at 10:30 in Back Lane car park for an easy leisurely 6 mile walk with views across the countryside to Witney via South Leigh. A quick stop to see the medieval wall paintings in South Leigh church. Optional pub stop for lunch, return by S1 bus. Enquiries: 01865 880105
- Saturday 21 March meet at 09:00 in Back Lane car park for a 14-mile circular walk through South Leigh, North Leigh, Freeland and Church Hanborough – with a pub stop. Enquiries to Graham Williams: 01865 881005



Work by local artist Alison Berrett has been selected from over 800 entries for The Pastel Society's annual exhibition at Mall Galleries in The Mall from 5–16 February. Vote Alison as Visitors' Choice if you attend!

ZUMBA GOLD still runs in St Leonard's Hall on Wednesdays 13:30–14:30 in term time. First class is £2.50 then £5 on a pay as you go basis. Contact Claire Payne: 07796 051506 / revivaltherapies@live.co.uk

ROAD CLOSURES

- Station Road closes 07:30–16:00 for resurfacing / patching from 17–21 February inclusive. Suggested alternative route: B4449, Oxford Road, High Street, Acre End Street and vice versa.
- A short section of Lower Road will be closed 24 hours a day for resurfacing / patching from 16 March to 3 April inclusive.

What's on

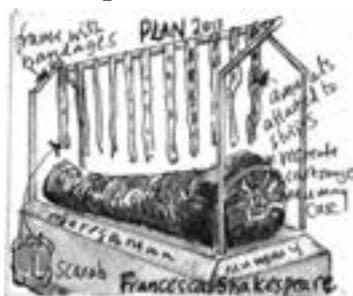
All events, dates and times are printed in good faith but please confirm them on posters or online. Parish Council meetings are listed on page 5

January

- 26 Litter Pickers, Baptist Hall 14:00 – page 4
- 28 Carers' Group, Red Lion 12:00 – page 16
- 29 Arts Group AGM, Music Room 19:45
- 30 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REFERENDUM, Village Hall 07:00–22.00 – page 3

February

- 1 GreenTEA Café, Wholesome Earth Café 10:30
- 2 Acoustic Club, Swan Hotel 20:00
- 4 Gatehouse Soup Run – page 13
- 6 Country Market – page 16
- 6 History Group, St Leonard's Hall 19:30.
Ciaran Walsh, *The strike of 1909 at Ruskin College*
- 11 Women's Institute, St Leonard's Hall 19:30.
John Richards, *A night at the movies.*
Enquiries: 01865 882011
- 12 Garden Club, Village Hall 19:30. Howard Drury,
March into May
- 14 Valentine Day's Barn Dance – page 16
- 19 Eynsham Society AGM, Village Hall 20:00
- 20 History Group, St Leonard's Hall 19:30.
Steve Parkes, *Cotswold Sheep*
- 21 Hedgehog Talk – page 16
- 22 Pancake Feast – page 17
- 23 Litter Pickers, Baptist Hall 14:00 – page 4
- 25 Carers' Group, Red Lion 12:00



- 26 Arts Group, Music Room 19:45.
Francesca Shakespeare, *The Museum as muse*
- 28 Community Cinema – page 20

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 30 March – copy deadline 13 March. We reserve the right to edit contributions.



Arts & Crafts Workshops this Spring in Eynsham

SAT 1 FEB 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. Materials provided.
To book this workshop contact Alice: alicewalkerart@gmail.com 01865882218

SAT 7 MAR 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 Julia: julia@loken.co.uk 01865 881404

SAT 14 MAR 9.30 - 12.30
Painting Buildings in Mixed Media with Eric White
Improve your 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 28 MAR 10.30 - 1.30
Vibrant Faces in Water Colour with Suzy Wright
We will be getting colourful in this workshop. Starting with line drawing and marks then going into bold watercolour, not holding back with colour and having a good fun time.
To book this workshop contact Suzy: grangeheadstudies@gmail.com 07938809175

SAT 4 APR 10.30 - 1.00
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: schholmans60@gmail.com 01865 883165

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March

- 1 **Gatehouse Volunteers:** home-made sandwiches & cake for the Oxford shelter – also warm gloves, caps and scarves. Enquiries: 01865 881346
- 1 **Acoustic Club,** Swan Hotel 20:00
- 5 **History Group,** St Leonard's Hall 19:30.
Annette Mayer, British politics 1918–22
- 7 **GreenTEA Café,** Wholesome Earth Café 10:30
- 7 **Carnival Disco** – *page 16*
- 10 **Women's Institute,** St Leonard's Hall 19:00.
97th birthday party, Eugene Matthias, Magician
- 11 **Garden Club,** Village Hall 19:30.
Sue Bedwell, Bulbs throughout the year
- 13 **Eynsham News** copy deadline – *page 2*
- 14 **Rotary Film & Supper Night** – *page 17*
- 19 **History Group,** St Leonard's Hall 19:30.
Julie Ann Godson, Memories of the Vale
- 21 **SWAP SHOP,** Sports Pavilion 10:00–11:00.
Enquiries Eleanor Chance: 01865 881095
- 24 **Carers' Group,** Red Lion 12:00
- 25 **Arts Group,** Music Room 19:45.
Jill Colchester, Still Moving

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 a few spaces for local businesses to advertise 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

ADVERTISING CO-ORDINATOR

Eynsham News relies on the support of advertisers to help cover costs, with any surplus being used for charitable purposes within the village. This role would be to primarily keep in touch with all the regular advertisers and attract any new local businesses. The busy period is at the start of the financial year, March/April, when booking the spaces can take around 10 hours, but after that it should take about an hour a month. The role is very flexible so up to the individual to take on the opportunity and make it theirs.

This role could help you meet new people, plus develop new skills and experiences and looks great on a CV when applying for new jobs or universities. For further information please contact sandy.hellig@gmail.com

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Dave and the team at The Evenlode look forward to welcoming you soon

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Cinema
at Eynsham Village Hall
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Renee Zellweger

JUDY (12A)

Friday March 27th - 7:30pm



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