

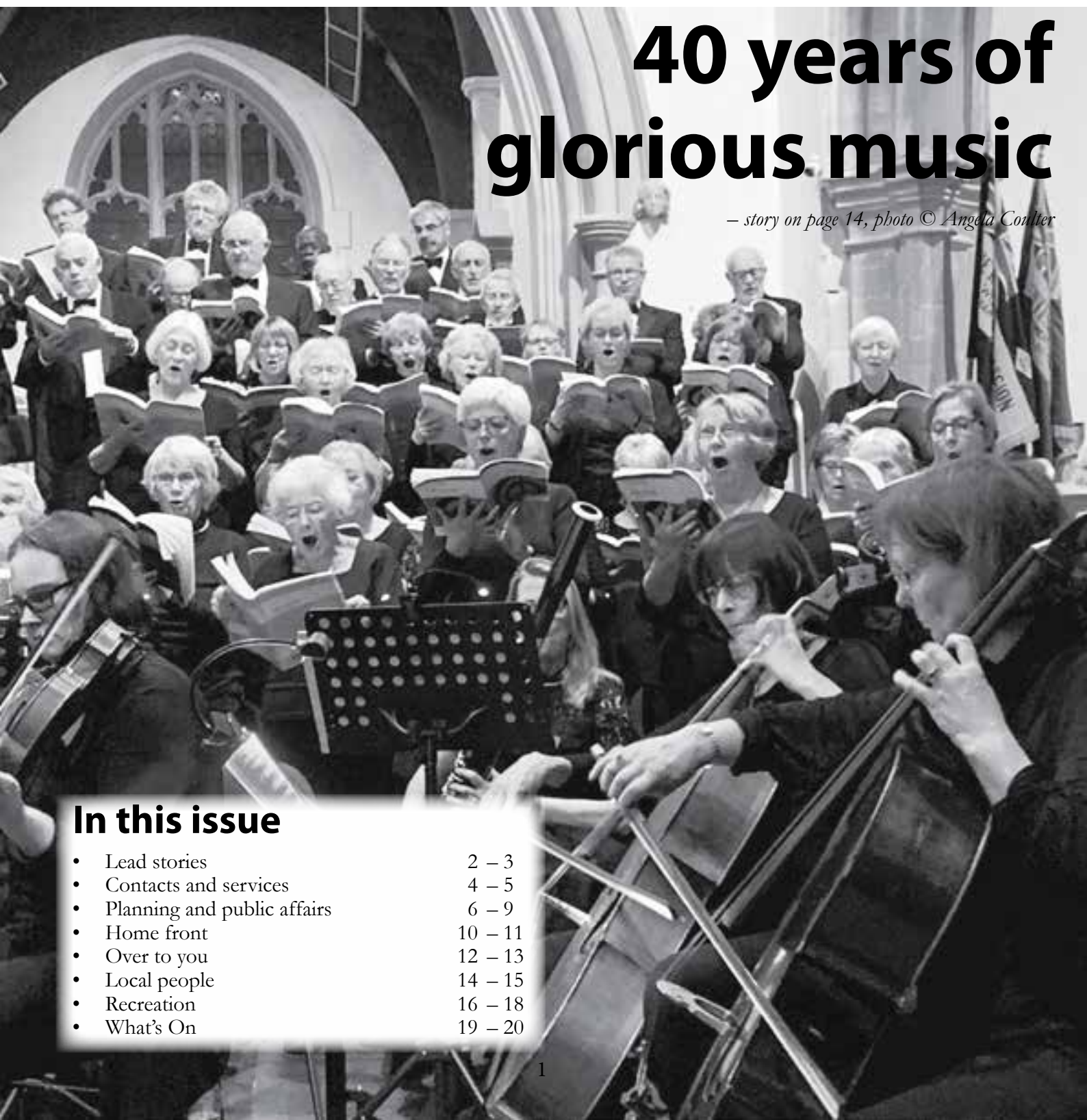


# EYNESHAM NEWS

Issue 42 - April - May 2020

## 40 years of glorious music

— story on page 14, photo © Angela Coulter



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## Still working for you

This issue marks the conclusion of seven successful years, reaching over 2,000 homes and 250 businesses every other month. Thanks to an enthusiastic group of volunteers, our only expenses are for layout and printing, though inevitably these have risen in line with housing numbers.

*We've relied entirely on our generous sponsors and advertisers to cover these costs until now. In these unprecedented times we are reviewing our publishing arrangements for 2020-21 and will bring you more news soon – you'll find more details on page 20.*

Warm thanks to Sandy Hellig, for managing our finances as well as advertising in 2019-20, and to the delivery team for turning out in all weathers. Best wishes also to Sue and Norman Butler-Miles, who have delivered every issue to Barnard Gate since 2014 but are now moving closer to the family. Sue has been at the heart of the Country Market too of course; while Norman reckons he has planted and nurtured trees on every farm in the parish – trees in the thousands in all.



## Your free newsletter

EYNHAM 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](http://eynshamnews.org.uk)

GET IN TOUCH! Local stories, snaps and snippets are always welcome – and corrections also, thanks! Next issue will be out on 25 May – copy deadline Tuesday 5 May, 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](mailto:eynsham.news@gmail.com)
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Opinions expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the News Group. We reserve the right to edit contributions. Inclusion of an advertisement does not imply endorsement of the product, service or event.

**"TABLE MANNERS" by Alan Ayckbourn**  
**– POSTPONED UNTIL NOVEMBER 2020**

Further to Government advice on 16/3/20 regarding the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and in the interest of public health and safety, The Bartholomew Players will be postponing their production of "Table Manners" by Alan Ayckbourn until 25 – 28 November 2020. If you have bought tickets for this production from Evenlode DIY which was scheduled for 13 – 16 May, please return them to Evenlode DIY for a full refund. We do hope you will be able to support this production in November 2020 instead. Please stay healthy and safe in the interim period.

**With Kind Regards, The Cast & Crew of "Table Manners".**

TWO COURSE SUPPER SUPPORT OF  
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7.30PM  
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THE BARTHOLOMEW PLAYERS © 2019 THE PLAYERS

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## Biodiversity action

*Monoculture begone! Parish Councillor Ross Macken writes – see also Wildlife on the margins, page 15*

Eynsham Parish Council is working with Eynsham's Nature Recovery Project to address climate and biodiversity concerns and the many proposals residents have put forward for the Nature Recovery Project. We want to explore ways of increasing biodiversity in the Parish. One popular measure is to encourage wildflowers and wildlife in the verges and other green spaces under EPC's management.

The Council plans to adopt a staged approach, endeavouring to balance nature recovery with public amenity. It is consulting Eynsham's environmental experts (and members of the community with long-term experience of conservation) in developing a programme for biodiversity gain. For verge management, the Council will use elements of the management plan drawn up by Plantlife that has been adopted successfully by 25 county councils across the UK.

This year we will begin a trial in selected areas, where we will mow the verges in March and again in August. This will allow grasses and flowers to grow tall over the summer, so providing a habitat for butterflies, bees, small mammals and birds. Similarly, some areas of the parks and play areas will be left 'natural' (the playing fields will of course be cut in time for the Carnival in July).

Other projects under consideration include new planting schemes for the roundabouts and the planting of more trees, which will further mitigate climate change and will enlarge the mosaic of habitats within the parish. These projects are largely dependent on grant funding. Watch this space for future updates!



## Viral kindness

*We should have liked to bring you a round-up of events and activities affected by the Covid-19 pandemic but it has rapidly become apparent that this is unrealistic.*

*Anything proposed or promised here may have been postponed or cancelled by the time you read this – along with other services that we take for granted, perhaps.*

For up-to-date official information on Coronavirus visit [111.nhs.uk/covid-19](https://111.nhs.uk/covid-19) or call 111 if you cannot get help online

**BLITZ SPIRIT:** Let's hope we can find an occasional smile in the famous British sense of humour while helping our more vulnerable neighbours in practical ways. Eynsham Good Neighbour Scheme would be happy to hear from you: **07443 564516**. The little 'card' below is a further suggestion for popping through a letter-box; there's a handy print-size version at [bit.ly/3d6aRDx](https://bit.ly/3d6aRDx)

**HELLO! If you are self-isolating, I can help.**

My name is .....

I live locally at .....

My phone number is .....

**If you are self-isolating due to COVID-19 I can help with:**

<input type="checkbox"/> Picking up shopping	<input type="checkbox"/> Posting mail
<input type="checkbox"/> A friendly phone call	<input type="checkbox"/> Urgent supplies

Just call or text me and I'll do my best to help you (for free!)

Coronavirus is contagious. Please take every precaution to ensure you are spreading only kindness. Avoid physical contact (2m distance). Wash your hands regularly. Items should be left on your doorstep. #ViralKindness

You will find a useful list of local contacts on page 7 of this issue, while internet users can turn to a new Facebook page and WhatsApp group called **Eynsham Volunteers - Corona Virus Help**

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[manager@eynshampreschool.org](mailto:manager@eynshampreschool.org)  
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# Eynsham churches

## ST LEONARD'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND

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

### SUNDAY SERVICES

Holy Communion 09:00, Morning Service 10:45,  
Evening Service 18:00

## ST PETER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

www.stpeterseynsham.org.uk  
Parish Priest: Father Mark Lagorio 01865 881613 /  
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.



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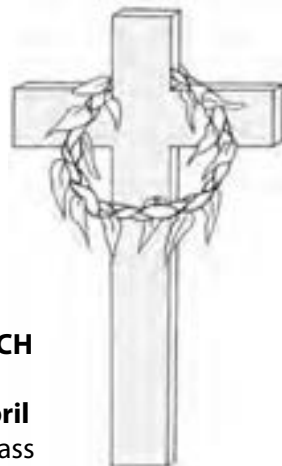
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# Easter at our Churches

**Monday 6 April 13.30 –  
Easter at the Day Centre**

(Eynsham Village Hall)  
**Good Friday 10 April 10:00**  
Ecumenical Service in  
The Square followed by  
coffee and hot cross buns  
in St Leonard's Church Hall



## ST PETER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Abbey Street, Eynsham  
**Palm/Passion Sat 4/Sun 5 April**  
17:00 Saturday (for Sunday) Mass  
10:00 Sunday Mass

**Maundy Thursday 9 April**  
20:00 Mass of the Lord's Supper

**Good Friday 10 April**  
15:00 Solemn Passion & Veneration of the Cross

**Saturday 11 April**  
20:00 Easter Vigil

**Easter Sunday 12 April**  
10:00 Mass

## ST LEONARD'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND

The Square, Eynsham  
**Palm Sunday 5 April**  
09:00 Holy Communion (BCP)  
10:45 Morning Worship

**Maundy Thursday 9 April**  
20:00 Tenebrae (from the Latin for 'shadows'):  
*a communion service in gathering darkness as we reflect  
upon the betrayal and arrest of Jesus*

**Good Friday 10 April**  
14:00 Last Hour of the Cross

**Easter Sunday 12 April**  
09:00 Holy Communion (BCP)  
10:45 Easter Family Communion

## EYNSHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

Lombard Street, Eynsham  
**Maundy Thursday 9 April**  
12 noon Communion  
19:30 Reflections and Communion

**Good Friday 10 April**  
19:30 A quiet reflective service

**Easter Sunday 12 April**  
08:00 A quiet reflective service and Holy Communion  
followed with breakfast  
10:00 Family service and Holy Communion to celebrate  
Easter. There will be an Easter egg hunt for children  
after the service.

*All are welcome to any of these services/events*

## Local councils

### EYNSHAM PARISH COUNCIL (EPC)

Chairman Gordon Beach: 01865 880979  
Parish Clerk Katherine Doughty: 07956 901622  
email [epc.clerk@eynsham-pc.gov.uk](mailto:epc.clerk@eynsham-pc.gov.uk)

### OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL (OCC)

Charles Mathew: 01865 882205  
County Hall: 01865 792422

### WEST OXFORDSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Edward James: 01865 731009  
Dan Levy: 07917 024212 – *page 11*  
Carl Rylett: 01865 883643  
Council Offices: 01993 861000

**ELECTIONS:** A poll for election of one councillor for WODC's Eynsham & Cassington Ward and an election for the Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner was scheduled for Thursday 7 May but has been postponed to 2021. Be sure you are ready when it happens! Call WODC Electoral Services on 01993 861410 or visit [www.gov.uk/register tovote](http://www.gov.uk/register tovote) – you will need your national insurance number.

**THE WASTE WIZARD** is a new online tool to kill the confusion around recycling. Type in your postcode and the name of any item to find out whether it can be reused, repaired, donated or recycled – and add more suggestions too: [oxfordshire.gov.uk/wastewizard](http://oxfordshire.gov.uk/wastewizard)



## 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
Swan Function Room:	01865 881225
Tolkien Room & garden:	01865 881613
Village Hall:	07935 832702

## Fly tipping update

*Patricia Crowley – Chair, EPC Communications Committee*

The pros and cons of the WODC 'Bring Site' (aka recycle bank) in Back Lane car park have been discussed again at the last two Parish Council meetings with very helpful input from the Litter Pickers group.

Not for the first time, the Council is to ask WODC to relocate or remove this facility. Mindful that this facility is useful to some, and not wanting to push fly tipping elsewhere, *please note that every item that can be deposited at the 'bring' site – and much more – can now be collected by the household kerbside service.* You can get assistance to manage your domestic bins if necessary and larger bins are available if required. Eynsham is only 4.3 miles from the County Council household recycling centre at Dix Pit, Stanton Harcourt OX29 5BB (5UX for satnav users), which is staffed 7 days a week.

Back Lane car park is an important 'through' route for the Village Hall, doctors' surgery, the Scout Hall and the retail outlets in the centre of Eynsham. Many feel this is not the site for poorly managed, unsightly recycle bins.

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# Public affairs

*Thanks to Parish Council Clerk Katherine Doughty for this report on current consultations and to EPC Planning Committee Chair Andy Mosson for the update on other planning matters*

**PARK & RIDE and A40 IMPROVEMENTS – Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) Planning application R3.0057/19ou:** OCC is the applicant and the planning authority for this application which is confusing. Residents should cast their minds back to last summer when thousands of pages of supporting documents for the application were consulted on and responses were submitted. A month or so later, a Regulation 25 (of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2017) was issued by the Planning Officer requesting further information is submitted before OCC assess the impacts of the proposals. Since then, no documents have been uploaded to the website.

When the Environmental Impact Assessment and its supporting documents have been received by the Planning Officer, they will be uploaded to OCC's website and a further consultation period of at least 30 days will take place. The Planning Authority may request the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities & Local Government 'call in' the application for its determination. Eynsham Parish Council will be requesting a 'call in'.

## **OCC MINERALS AND WASTE LOCAL PLAN**

**Part 2 – Site Allocations:** OCC's recent consultation has now closed for site allocations which includes land in between Cassington Road and Siemens. It is anticipated the following timetable will be pursued:

- Consider consultation responses; further evidence gathering and assessment; preparation of revised document for publication – March-August 2020
- Publish proposed submission plan for representations (Regulation 19) – September 2020
- Submit plan to Secretary of State – January 2021
- OCC will not be publishing the consultation responses online.

## **OXFORDSHIRE COTSWOLDS GARDEN**

**VILLAGE:** West Oxfordshire District Council (WODC) advise the final draft Area Action Plan will report to Cabinet and Council in April with a view to undertaking a 6-week statutory period of consultation thereafter. Submission for independent examination would then follow around June/July 2020 with hearings expected to take place in late summer/autumn.

Grosvenor advise that an outline planning application public exhibition and application submission will be undertaken in the spring. The application is anticipated to be determined in the Autumn.

**WEST EYNSHAM STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT AREA:** The draft West Eynsham Development Framework Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) is expected to be considered by WODC Cabinet on 18 March for consultation shortly thereafter.

## **eynsham futures**

**NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN:** Since the last newsletter we have, of course, had our own referendum regarding the Neighbourhood Plan. It was heartening for all those who contributed to the plan that there was an exceptional (30.5%) turnout and that a large majority supported the plan so it has been adopted. One advantage of having a neighbourhood plan is that the village will get a larger share of the Community Infrastructure Levy; ironically, the District Council are proposing a zero percent levy on the proposed major developments so this will only help us on small scale developments. That proposal will go for consultation; yet another chance for residents to tell West Oxfordshire what they think!

**AURORA SOLAR FARM:** At the time of writing, the planning application (19/02516/FUL) for a solar farm at Twelve Acre Farm has not been decided. However, it is expected that this will have been to the District Planning Committee by the time the newsletter is delivered.

The Parish Council has also commented on many smaller planning applications recently, including for a replacement building on Horseshoe Island and for a development on Stanton Harcourt Road industrial site.

**Horseshoe Island** (19/03003/FUL) is on the Thames towards Pinkhill Lock and has featured in the Eynsham News in the past. The current owners wish to build a nature study centre to allow school parties and others to study the preserved meadows on the Eynsham side of the Thames and this planning application was approved.

**The Industrial Site** application (20/00140/FUL, not considered at time of writing) is for several small industrial units on a derelict area off Stanton Harcourt Road. This plan would be an improvement, though the County Council has some reservations about the access, especially for larger vehicles. In principle the Parish Council would favour this development but would like to see satisfactory access arrangements in place.

## Our great outdoors

Sue Osborne – Chair, EPC Fishponds & Footpaths Committees: [sue.osborne@eynsham-pc.gov.uk](mailto:sue.osborne@eynsham-pc.gov.uk)

**FISHPONDS:** We were planning to remove the sedges around the edge of the fishpond early this spring as they are encroaching on the open water, but we have been advised that life in the pond has already sprung into action due to the mild winter. The work has therefore been postponed. This may fit in with the Eynsham Nature Recovery Project: we are beginning to consider different kinds of maintenance to create different kinds of environment (see page 3), so we may be rethinking some of the ways in which we restore and preserve the wildlife within our green spaces. We are learning that, rather than doing more, *not-doing* might bring more benefit to nature.

After a quiet couple of months, with seemingly interminable rain in the wettest February on record, it is good to know that the days are lengthening, the flora and fauna are burgeoning, and summer isn't too far away. Enjoy our beautiful countryside and remember the benefits of lungsful of fresh air...

**FOOTPATHS:** Following reports to OCC's Countryside Service, the footbridge on Footpath 206/6 (which leads diagonally northeast from the Thames Water pumping station to Mead Lane) has now been made safe by the removal of the loose handrail. A new waymarker disc has also been added to the bridge, showing the correct direction of the path across the field.

Also, Thames Water have been taking steps to improve the surface at the pumping station entrance, although this has had to be renewed several times due to heavy lorries accessing the site regularly.

There are ongoing discussions relating to the possible gravel threat on the permissive section of Wharf Stream Way. Whatever the outcome, the intention is to try to get that section made into a public right of way by submitting user evidence forms to prove that the path has been walked for many years. We will be providing further guidance and instructions through the website and elsewhere, as we need as many people as possible to help protect this route for the future.

*A record of all matters discussed at Council meetings is available at Eynsham Online or by contacting Parish Clerk Katherine Dougherty.*

**DATE FOR YOUR DIARY –  
Annual Parish Meeting,  
Tuesday 21 April at 19:30 in the Village Hall.**



## Key contacts

*A useful reference tool in such uncertain times. The Directory is continuously updated at Eynsham Online*

**Allotments:** Andy Swarbrick, 07789 995111  
**Bartholomew School:** Witney Road, 01865 881430  
**Carnival:** [enquiries@eynshamcarnival.com](mailto:enquiries@eynshamcarnival.com)  
**Chemist:** Lloyds Pharmacy 64 Acre End Street, 01865 881283  
**Childcare:** Health Visitors, 01993 881887  
**Chiropody:** Baptist Church Hall 2nd Monday, 01865 880871  
**Dentists:** 4 Cassington Road, 01865 880047  
**Dogs:** WODC, 01993 861000  
**Electoral Services:** WODC, 01993 861410 – *page 5*  
**Fire Station:** Station Road, 01865 881337; emergencies 999  
**Flooding:** early warning 0345 988 1188; sandbags WODC 01993 861000 (out of hours 01513 432945)  
**Gas:** enquiries 0845 835 1111, leaks 0800 111 999  
**Good Neighbour Scheme:** free volunteer help at home, 07443 564516  
**Grass Cutting:** Parish Council, 07956 901622  
**Hazeldene Close:** roads & street lights Taylor Wimpey, 01235 541900; open spaces Remus, 0121 766 1480  
**Library:** 30 Mill Street, 01865 880525 – *page 9*  
**Market:** St Leonard's Church Hall, 01865 435343  
**Medical Centre:** Conduit Lane, 01865 881206  
**MP:** Robert Courts, 58–60 High Street, Witney OX28 6HJ, 01993 225020 / [robert@robertcourts.co.uk](mailto:robert@robertcourts.co.uk)  
**Neighbourhood Car Scheme:** transport for health care, 07469 764174 – *page 10*  
**Noise:** WODC, 0151 3432945 (24 hours)  
**Pest Control:** WODC, 01993 861000  
**Planning:** applications WODC 01993 861420  
**Play Areas:** Parish Council, 07956 901622  
**Playing Fields:** Management Committee Sue Brown, 01865 464267  
**Police:** incident reporting 101, emergencies 999  
**Post Office:** 39 Mill Street, 01865 881159  
**Power Cuts:** 105  
**Primary School:** Beech Road, 01865 881294  
**Recycling:** District Council, 01993 861025  
**Road Repairs:** Oxfordshire Highways, 0345 310 1111 – emergency reports only  
**Social Care:** (OCC), 0345 050 7666, emergencies 0800 833408  
**Sports Centre:** Back Lane, 01865 731090  
**Street Cleaning:** WODC, 01993 861020  
**Street Lights:** 24 hour fault line 0800 317802  
**Toilets:** Back Lane Car Park, 01249 822063  
**Waste Collection:** WODC, 01993 861020

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[jan@kavanaghsaccountants.co.uk](mailto:jan@kavanaghsaccountants.co.uk)

1 Abbey Street  
Eynsham  
OX29 4TB



### BARTHOLOMEW SCHOOL

is inviting applications for a Community Governor. In particular, the Governing Body is currently seeking skills and experience in the areas of communication, marketing, alumni development, STEM / business expertise and premises / site management. However, people from all walks of life are encouraged to apply.

Governors act as 'critical friends' to the senior leadership team and provide valuable strategic input into decision making about the curriculum; they monitor students' achievement and review exam results. They also help to allocate financial resources to keep the school safe and fit for purpose – for more information visit [bit.ly/3aTYmbY](http://bit.ly/3aTYmbY)

If you are interested, or wish to suggest someone, please email [office.4054@bartholomew.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:office.4054@bartholomew.oxon.sch.uk)

**EYNSHAM FIRE STATION** is recruiting! If you are interested in becoming an 'on-call' firefighter with us, please feel free to pop along to our station on a Tuesday night between 19:00 and 21:00. Alternatively if you just want a chat or further information; please call or email our watch manager James Newton: 07557 733115 / [james.newton@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:james.newton@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

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**EYNSHAM**  
**PRE-SCHOOL**  

It's beginning to feel a bit like spring here. We have had some very special visitors – an incubator full of eggs. To the amazement of the children, within a couple of days we had 10 fluffy, chirpy chicks to care for. As they grew a little stronger the children were able to feed and handle the chicks, learning about life cycles and caring for living things. Truly magical moments were enjoyed by all. We will be doing lots more experiential learning about life cycles this term as we look forward to raising some caterpillars and watching what happens to the frogspawn. Alongside this, we have been busy preparing the garden and planting seeds of all types. The children check every day to see if they have grown.

Our fundraising events continue and these remain essential for the ongoing development and sustainability of the Pre-School, so do look out for posters around the village and check our website for regular updates [www.eynshampreschool.org](http://www.eynshampreschool.org). I look forward to seeing as many people as possible at our Easter Fun Day on Saturday 18 April. For more information about our events or the Pre-School you can contact me (Jackie Taylor) at [manager@eynshampreschool.org](mailto:manager@eynshampreschool.org) or call 01865 883893.

# Heart of Eynsham

Introducing new Library Manager Jane Bruder

I have now been in my new job for around three months and would like to say a big thank you to colleagues and customers for the warmth of your welcome and the support you have given as I settle in to managing the library. It is very clear how much the library, its staff and the services we provide are valued and appreciated by the community.



I wanted to let you know that we are planning some new initiatives and events including author talks, sales of discontinued books, smoking cessation and IT support drop-in sessions; and a children's craft day during the Easter school holidays. All events will be publicised in the library and at Eynsham Online. If you have suggestions for events or speakers you would like us to consider, please call in for a chat.

**Eynsham Rocks!** A flying visit to Eynsham library by Stephanie Fulton, who was manager from 2003–2008 ('my favorite job ever!') and now runs a small rural public library in southern Arizona. 'The place looks fantastic after its remodel and it was so nice to meet Jane your new manager. What a great thing the after-hours access is too! I was so happy to read that Eynsham News is online and will certainly be keeping up.'



**ALL CHANGE ON MILL STREET:** Welcome to Miss Nae's new beauty parlour, near Eynsham Medivet; and best wishes to the nattily named Eynsham Hare unisex studio as it transitions from Barbershop on Lombard Street to Harris's corner – scene of alehouse, baker, estate agent, and butcher in earlier years. [eynsham-pc.gov.uk/image-archive-groups.aspx](http://eynsham-pc.gov.uk/image-archive-groups.aspx)

**WEATHER WATCH:** Many thanks to Grant Paton for his 7th and last report from Eynsham weather station – do contact him if you would like to keep it running: [senbrea@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:senbrea@yahoo.co.uk)

In general, 2019 was a great deal wetter than average, with more rain than expected in the last four months, especially in December. The highest rainfall recorded was in December and the lowest in January. Altogether there were 163 days of rain. The wettest day was 20 December when 101.1 mm fell. For some unknown reason only 14 days were recorded in May.

Temperatures for the year were average, with a mean of 11.25°C. The highest temperature recorded was 37.6C on 25 July and the lowest -6.5°C on 31 January. The highest gust of wind recorded was 60.2 mph on 21 July, from the west-northwest. Pressure, as ever, varied – from 970.7 on 27 November to 1065.7 on 28 December.

This year, collecting the correct data has been very difficult and at times I have suffered ill-health. In consequence, I am giving up the weather station but the equipment and records are available if you can use them.

**WORKING FOR YOU:** The Annual Parish Meeting in the Village Hall on 21 April at 19:30 is facilitated by the Parish Council but affects every resident of Eynsham – do come if you can. Representatives from the local Police and Fire Service, county, district and parish councillors, primary and secondary schools, Eynsham Consolidated Charity and Bartholomew Educational Foundation, Playing Field and Village Hall managers and the Allotments Association are invited to report.

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# Home front

**A DIFFERENT WAY TO BUILD A HOME:**

Many people struggle to find their own house, even at 'affordable' prices. Join GreenTEA in the Village Hall on Wednesday 22 April at 20:00 to learn about a new approach to community-led and community-owned housing. Fiona Brown from the new Collaborative Housing Hub and Deborah Wyatt from WODC will be talking about opportunities to create better, affordable, sustainable homes and stronger communities – including the Garden Village. *Brief* AGM at 19:30.

**EYNESHAM CAR SCHEME** aims to provide transport to health care appointments for people in the village who have no alternative. But demand has been increasing and we would urge people to give us as much notice as possible and to use family and friends where they can. And if there is anyone out there who could spare time to drive for us or become a co-ordinator, taking the phone calls and allocating the rides – we would love to hear from you.  
**Tel: 07469 764174**

**GATEHOUSE** wrote to Raymond Elliot after January's volunteer run: 'Thank you so much for all the lovely things that were dropped off from your group today – there was so much cake which was incredible and will last us well into the week. Home-made cake is always popular and I always do a little happy dance when we get some. Plus all the sandwiches and the fruit and the clothes (and the chocolates! – the list could go on!). We couldn't do what we do without you.'

**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 in February, May, late August/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](mailto:eynshamcharities@gmail.com)

**VOLUNTEER WITH AMI:** Oxford Computer Consultants in partnership with local voluntary organisations has developed a new website to help reduce loneliness and social isolation. Visit [withami.co.uk](http://withami.co.uk) and enter your postcode for a map of local people and their needs (you can also look at shared interests, like gardening). Each person in need is registered with a voluntary organisation who will interview and DBS check prospective helpers. After this you can start helping as little or as much as you like.

# Getting around

District Councillor Dan Levy – contact details on page 5

As everyone will have noticed, there is a lot of development planned for Eynsham. This will put additional pressure on our roads, and especially on the A40. The plans to dual the A40 up to the Park & Ride won't help people in Eynsham much.



While cars will continue to be a fantastic benefit, we need to encourage people to use less polluting and less congesting forms of travel. The Park & Ride and associated bus lanes on the A40 might encourage people onto buses.

I remain sceptical, given that the S1, S2 and S7 service is already available to anyone who wants to use it. *And unless there are bus services from the outlying villages, now abandoned by removal of the County Council subsidy from the route 11, people are still going to drive. And once in your car, are you really going to park in the Park & Ride or just keep going, particularly if your destination is not the City Centre?*

We need to make sure that the Garden Village is designed for pedestrians and people on bikes, and not a place where you need a car. I will keep reminding the developer that people need to cross the A40 safely and directly between the villages.

And so to bikes. What gets people cycling is a perception of safety. Not mixing with cars and lorries. That is why people choose the off-road A40 route to Oxford and why campaigners put so much effort in to protect it from OCC's original plans. *The path on the north side is meant to be improved along with the bus lanes, but unfortunately is threatened by the Oxford North development near Wolvercote – while the path most people use on the south of the A40 is threatened by the outbound bus lane.*

There are two vital missing links, which as WODC's cycling champion I am urging OCC to build. We need the B4044 off-road path to Botley; and a safe cycle path to Hanborough Station from Eynsham and the Garden Village. These will be part of a proper, safe cycling network, linking Hanborough to Bladon, Eynsham and on to Oxford. There is now the real possibility that money might be available to build the network – it's low cost and high return compared with building yet more roads. Segregated facilities are absolutely key.

And despite its rejection by the ruling party on WODC, I will still campaign for a light rail link from Witney.

*The origins of ESSC are firmly rooted in the 1914–1918 Great War, says Michael Cross*



At a public meeting held

on 21 November 1919 there was overwhelming support for a proposal to build a War Memorial Hall, partly as somewhere to go 'instead of the public house'. 'Promises of subscriptions' totalled £120.14.6d and the task was set to find a site. Another group was meanwhile meeting as the 'Soldiers and Sailors Club', initially in the White House on Mill Street courtesy of Mrs Stevens.

In less than a month promises to the War Memorial Fund grew to £314.0.9d: a lot of money in the gloomy post-war period but well short of the estimated £2,000 needed to buy a site and build a hall. It was instead agreed that a granite cross be erected 'with the names of the men who died for their country, and for us, inscribed on the base'. The Soldiers and Sailors Club meanwhile had evolved into the 'Comrades of the Great War' and set about fundraising for their own clubroom with whist drives, dances and other 'amusements'. By early 1921 they had raised £120 and were seeking to buy a hut to use as a reading room.

In April 1921 the War Memorial Cross was unveiled with a small sum of money to spare. As the two groups were pursuing similar objectives, the War Memorial surplus was donated towards the purchase of a 'hut or recreation room' in November. Things moved quickly and in June 1922 a public meeting was held in the 'Village Hut' to enrol members. Subscriptions were set at 1/- entrance fee for adults and 6d for those between 14 and 16. The 'hut' was formally opened on 18 October 1922 by James Mason of Eynsham Hall and was now known as the 'Eynsham Institute and Club!'. The account books from these early days survive and show that £28.13.9d was received from the 'Hut Fund' and a loan of £200 from Mr Mason.

The Institute was quickly equipped with 100 chairs from Cook and Boggis, linoleum from Cape & Co; and billiard tables – one purchased from The Golden Cross Hotel and a second from the Kings Arms. Three tables of unknown vintage are still at the Club and maybe these are two of them. Another smaller billiards table was later purchased for the 'Ladies room'. The new committee elected on 6 April 1923 faced many important decisions, from drainage guarantees and boundary fencing to arrangements for the ladies. *Eynsham Women's Institute's 109-plus members were meeting here each month from February 1923 – Ed.*

# Over to you

## KNOW YOUR BINS PUZZLE!

Read and complete the text with the words below. Then decide where to put Milly's waste by drawing a line from each picture to the bins below. Check your answers on page 18.

cat food tin cat biscuits pouch box

Milly is an adorable Eynsham kitty who loves mealtimes!

Whether her food comes from a plastic

1 \_\_\_\_\_

or a metal

2 \_\_\_\_\_ Milly is happy.

But what she enjoys most are

3 \_\_\_\_\_ from a cardboard box.

However, because Milly is getting older, she sometimes leaves a little

4 \_\_\_\_\_

and even a few

5 \_\_\_\_\_

Where should you put Milly's waste?



Thank you very much to Jennifer Harland for our colouring corner this issue. Remember: you can download and print the full-size picture at [eynshamnews.org.uk](http://eynshamnews.org.uk)

## MAKE YOUR OWN NATURE WREATH



Here's a delightful wreath to make using twigs or fine branches blown off the trees in our recent blustery weather. Have a look in your garden or as you go for a village walk. I used silver birch twigs from my front drive, and added some foliage from my garden. Simple but effective!

### What you need

- At least two twigs about 50cm long
- Some string
- Foliage, flowers or ribbon

### What you do

- Place the thick end of one or more twigs over the thin end of another or others. Bind them firmly together with string. Now form them into a circle and bind the ends together. You may need to tie string to other parts of your wreath to secure it in the final shape you want. (I didn't manage a perfect circle, but I think it looks lovely as it is!)
- Decorate your wreath by winding foliage around all or part of your wreath. Ivy is a good choice, but most things would work. I used a little euonymus. Flowers and ribbon would be pretty, too, and you could even draw and cut out some paper chicks or eggs to stick on for Easter.
- Hang on a door or wall, indoors or out – and enjoy your handiwork!



**FREE FILM SCREENING**, Village Hall 4 April 19:30–20:00 (doors open at 19:00). Hanborough Environment Group is proud to collaborate with Together Films to present a feature documentary that offers new hope in the climate crisis. Award-winning director Damon Gameau takes us on a global journey to meet innovators and change-makers to discover what the future of the planet could be by 2040, if we embraced the best solutions already available.

The film is rated 12A and aimed at a broad family audience. Feel free to bring popcorn! Find out more at [whatsyour2040.com](http://whatsyour2040.com)

**NEWLAND FILMS** is looking for two young, male actors to work on an upcoming short film 'Tiny Mad Animals' to be shot entirely in Eynsham. The film deals with the issues of friendship and growing up. We need two boys aged around 12–15 to represent in flashback the younger selves of the two main protagonists. They wouldn't be required for more than one day and we intend this to be shot over a weekend in late April. Please contact [tonistaples@hotmail.com](mailto:tonistaples@hotmail.com)



Helen will be at the Market Garden Café with her sewing machine on Friday 17 April from 17:00–18:00 and would be happy to do small repairs and mends, for free. Do you have something that needs mending? Why not bring it along?

The next (big) Repair Café will be on Saturday 18 April at the Scout Hall from 14:00-16:30. Please email [repaircafeeynsham@gmail.com](mailto:repaircafeeynsham@gmail.com) or call 01865 285544 with enquiries or to volunteer! More info: [eynsham-pc.gov.uk/Eynsham-Repair-Cafe](http://eynsham-pc.gov.uk/Eynsham-Repair-Cafe)

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# People



**COVER STORY:** As the Eynsham Choral Society (ECS) prepared for its 40th anniversary summer concert, Kate Ferrier and Sally Moyes talked to Sarah Medina. Very sadly, due to the Coronavirus pandemic, they have now had to postpone the event planned for 16 May, where music by Haydn, Rheinberger and Fauré were to be performed.

Thanks to founder members Kate and Jonathan Ferrier and friends, ECS evolved from a carol-singing party to a 100-strong community choir whose bi-annual concerts have been selling out for many years.

At its first concert in spring 1980, the choir sang a Bach cantata and motet. Its second concert comprised an anthology of church music and writings. In September 1980, the choir appointed its first permanent conductor, Chris Banks, and two months later, it performed Rossini's *Petite Messe Solennelle*.

Since that inaugural year, ECS has consistently attracted high-calibre conductors, orchestras and soloists for its concerts. Kate and Sally said that the choir was fortunate to have Alison Wilson as its conductor for 12 years, ably supported by Roger Clarke, the rehearsal pianist who still accompanies the choir today.

ECS is looking for new singers (especially men!). No audition required. Please contact the Secretary, Janine Broome, via Eynsham Online if you are interested. They would love to have you join them!

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Alison Berrett, whose 'Seascapes of the Soul – Unleashed' won the Unison non-member award at the Pastel Society annual exhibition. Her pastel drawing on paper was completed after an inspiring trip to St. Ives in February 2019.



'The drawing captures the energy and emotion felt as I watched the spring tides crash on the sand over a period of days,' said Alison.

## THE 'MILLIONS MISSING':

I am but one. One of the 250,000 so-called 'millions missing' in the UK – people whose ME means that they are 'missing' from all or chunks of normal life. People with ME may look 'well'; symptoms are invisible, but constant and complex. They include severe fatigue, pain, nausea and 'brain fog'. Doing 'too much' leads to a 'crash', or exacerbation of the ME. There is no known cause of ME, nor cure. This year, 11–17 May is ME Awareness Week, and I am fundraising for the ME Association, which invests in biomedical research into ME. Please look out for information and collection boxes in village shops and cafes. Thank you so much for your support.



*If anyone in Eynsham with ME would like to connect with others in the same boat, please email Sarah Medina at sarah.eynshamnews@gmail.com*

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# Life on the margins

Robert Crocker writes from his 600-acre mixed farm between Freeland, Long and Church Hanborough and Eynsham. Follow his diary at [bit.ly/farming-today](http://bit.ly/farming-today)



For centuries, farming and nature enjoyed a symbiotic relationship. Every farmer, by default, a conservationist. The pace of farming allowed nature to adapt and thrive but now, things are very different. Our natural world is under threat from decades of industrialisation and our indifference to the delicate, natural balance that once existed. Intensive farming has played an undeniable part in the demise of our wildlife. Through the 1960s and 1970s wholesale removal and fragmentation of habitats, indiscriminate use of crude pesticides and artificial fertilisers initially set in motion, a collapse of many species. Most of the early chemicals have long since been withdrawn from use; practices such as aerial application of fertilisers and sprays outlawed and straw burning banned.

Although operations are now more sophisticated, with applications of chemicals and fertilisers carefully targeted, their sheer scale and speed gives nature little chance to adapt and evolve. Monoculture creates vast no-go areas and wildlife is pushed to the margins.

*Today, for most modern farmers, the management of the wildlife that inhabits our farms, biodiversity, healthy soils, field margins, hedgerows and clean water are as important as our crops and animals. Profit can no longer be at the expense of nature.*




**XR DEMO AT SIEMENS:** At daybreak on 31 January, we (Eynsham Area Extinction Rebellion members) were outside the Eynsham Siemens plant to ask the respected local employer for help. Our plan was to ask managing director Ralph Seidler to send on two letters to the CEO of Siemens in Germany, asking him to pull out of the devastating Australian Adani coal mine project. He listened to us in an open and friendly way and agreed to send the letters on. We have told the truth peacefully and shown we care!  
*Angie Titchen*

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# Recreation



**ARMY CADETS:** Did you know that Eynsham Army Cadet Detachment is 50 years young this year? Too many young people are missing out on the challenges and adventures that could transform their lives. The ACF strive to rebalance this. We challenge our cadets to do more, try more and push their comfort zones. We inspire them to aim high and go further in life. By pushing cadets out of their comfort zones, we can allow them to grow and develop the skills and life experiences that they will need in the future.

To find out more about what the Army Cadets has been offering Eynsham's young adults (age 12–18), search 'Oxfordshire ACF' online or keep an eye out for further articles. Military background or not, if you are interested in helping young adults develop the skills for modern life, we always welcome new adult volunteers. Email Mark Thompson: 2038thomps@armymail.mod.uk

**BLUEBELL WALKS:** West Oxfordshire Ramblers have two circular walks starting from Back Lane car park – non-members welcome. On Sunday 19 April at 10:00, a 9.5-mile meander through Wytham Woods after crossing the Thames weir. Lunch at delightful Wytham village shop. Registered assistance dogs only. Enquiries 01993 881880/07770 940551. Then on Sunday 26 April at 09:30, a 13-mile walk to Freeland, East End, Combe and the Hanboroughs, with a pub stop. Enquiries to Graham Williams: 01865 881005

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**BRIDEWELL GARDENS** registered mental health charity (1158456) at Wilcote OX7 3DT have a plant sale on Saturday 25 April from 10:00–13:00. Then the walled garden and vineyard is open on Sunday 17 May from 13:00–17:00, with refreshments, plants, produce, and Bridewell sparkling organic wine on sale. Entry by suggested donation £5. For more information please call 01993 848238 or visit [bridewellgardens.org](http://bridewellgardens.org)

## CONGRATULATIONS

to Amaya Arnold who was chosen to be 2020 Carnival Queen at the Carnival Disco in March – pic © Ian Bone. Laura Batts is her deputy and the attendants are Tierney Brown, George Reynolds, Darcey Beesley and Imogen Rhodes. Thank you to all who attended the disco



and made it such a great success. Now only three months to the big day! Give us a shout if you can help us on Saturday 4 July, even if just for an hour – enquiries@eynshamcarnival.com

**EASTER FAMILY FUN!** Egg-citing times at Village Hall on Saturday 18 April from 12:00–16:00 with Harry the therapy pony, Eynsham Fire Service, a rodeo bull, bouncy castle, games, craft stalls, BBQ and slush puppies. All proceeds to Eynsham Pre-School, who are also organising Eynsham's first ever **Village Scarecrow Festival** from 24-31 May. Register your scarecrow by 13 May or go hunting for them in the village with our scarecrow trail clues. Prizes for best scarecrow and for one lucky hunter, chosen at random from completed entries. More info: admin@eynshampreschool.org



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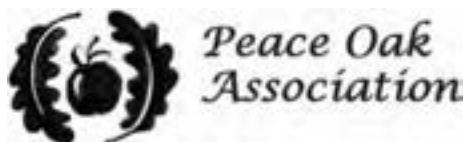
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The Baptist Church Lombard Street, Street, Eynsham, OX29 4HT

**EYNESHAM DAY CENTRE** ('Monday Club') is held at the Village Hall every Monday except bank holidays from 10.00–14.30. We have gentle seated exercise sessions, followed by arts and crafts, sing songs, board games and quizzes – or you are welcome to sit and chat! A tasty two-course lunch 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 safe, friendly, warm and comfortable environment. New members are welcome – and volunteers, of course! Contact Karen, our coordinator, on 07887 974468/target.meuk@gmail.com or visit [eynshamdaycentre.com](http://eynshamdaycentre.com)

**INTRODUCING PROBUS:** Are you a retired or semi-retired, professional or business-man? If so, Eynsham Probus Club is organised for you and welcomes new members. We meet on the second Tuesday of the month at The Swan for lunch and socialising. Why not join us for lunch as a visitor? You may well know some of our members. Our Hon Sec David Jones on 01865 881724 will be happy to answer any questions!



Our Open Day on 18 April 12:00–16:00 will feature the Oxfordshire Bodgers demonstrating and encouraging hands-on woodwork. Expect pole lathes, shave horses, and carving alongside stalls offering cakes, books and maybe even the odd plant. On site to ensure no one starves will be the 'Edge Eatery' run by local lad Tom Pickett. There will also be opportunities to explore the site and talk to members about it and our objectives.

**ST LEONARD'S CHURCH** is holding a grand plant sale in Market Square on Saturday 2 May from 09:00–12:30. Locally raised bedding plants and herbs will be available, plus jars of Eynsham honey. Coffee and cakes will be served in the Church Hall, where the sale will take place if it is wet. Proceeds are towards the cost of developing the new land beside the church for a new church centre. *Chris Sugden*

**STRENGTH & BALANCE:** this new class focuses on simple flexibility and mobility exercises, using a chair for support. We meet in the Baptist Hall on Wednesday 14:30–15:30 in term time. Just £4 per session and your first class is free, supported by Age UK Oxfordshire. Enquiries: 01235 849403

**ZUMBA GOLD** still runs in St Leonard's Hall on Wednesday 13:30–14:30 *all year round* – apologies for the error in our last issue. Your first class is £2.50 then £5 on a pay as you go basis. Contact Claire Payne: 07796 051506 / [revivaltherapies@live.co.uk](mailto:revivaltherapies@live.co.uk)

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## VE day – 75 years on

Thanks to our Social and Sports Club for hosting, Eynsham is holding a special event on bank holiday Friday 8 May to celebrate 75 years since Victory in Europe Day and to remember all those involved in World War Two. We're planning on a WWII history exhibition, with afternoon teas and wartime records. Although entry will be free, we hope to collect for Eynsham Museum Fund and the Royal British Legion.

Have you any photos that we can copy and return – or that you can scan (JPEG, minimum resolution 300dpi) and email to us – and/or stories about World War Two (especially VE day), whether from this area or wherever in the world your family was? We hope to use these in the exhibition and to produce a booklet. Please do contact Charmaine Watson at the Club (01865 881234) or Jennifer Harland email jharland007@gmail.com or Martin Harris email martin.harris321@gmail.com

### SAVE THE DATES...

**Eynsham History Group** is visiting Mottisfont, near Romsey in Hampshire, on Wednesday 3 June. This is a National Trust property with a fascinating 18th-century house to explore and extensive garden to stroll around. The garden also features the national collection of old-fashioned roses, which should be flowering in June. This is a full day visit by coach leaving Eynsham at 09:00 and returning at 18:00. The cost is £14 for NT members and £28 for non-members. The few remaining places are offered on a first-come basis. For bookings or enquiries please contact Philip Spencer: 01865-881025 / spencer633@btinternet.com



**Eynsham Churches Holiday Club** presents Surfer's Bay at St Leonard's Church on 22–26 July 09:00–12noon. Save the dates to join us on this year's exciting adventure, exploring water-themed Bible stories through craft, games, drama and more. Don't forget your sun-cream! For more information email eynshamhc@gmail.com

### ANSWERS TO 'KNOW YOUR BINS' PUZZLE!

Rubbish bin – pouch; Food waste bin – cat food, cat biscuits; Recycling bin – tin, box

# What's on

All events, dates and times are printed in good faith but please confirm them by phone, on posters or online – especially in view of the Coronavirus outbreak.

## March

- 29 **Litter Pickers**, St Leonard's Hall 13:45.  
Please note change of venue this month!

## April

- 1 **Eynsham Society**, Village Hall 20:00.  
Catriona Bass, *Long Mead Local Wildlife Site*
- 2 **History Group**, St Leonard's Hall 19:30.  
Nicholas Clapton, *English music 1897–1945*
- 4 **GreenTEA Café**, Wholesome Earth Café 10:30
- 4 **FREE FILM – 2040** – page 13
- 5 **Acoustic Club**, Swan Hotel 20:00
- 8 **Garden Club**, Village Hall 19:30.  
Timothy Walker, *Bordering on Insanity*
- 12 **Gatehouse Volunteers**: home-made sandwiches & cake for the Oxford shelter.  
Enquiries: 01865 881346
- 14 **Women's Institute**, St Leonard's Hall 19:30.  
AGM and Social. Enquiries: 01865 882011
- 17 **Community Cinema** – page 20
- 18 **Repair Café**, Scout Hall – page 13
- 18 **Peace Oak Open Day** – page 17
- 21 **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING** – page 9
- 22 **GreenTEA**, new approach to housing – page 10



- 24 **Blood donors**, Village Hall 13:15/16:15
- 26 **Litter Pickers**, Baptist Hall 13:45
- 28 **Carers' Group**, Red Lion 12:00
- 29 **Arts Group**, Music Room 19:45.  
Karen French, *Sacred Geometry*

## May

- 2 **St Leonard's Plant Sale** – page 17
- 2 **GreenTEA Café**, Wholesome Earth Café 10:30
- 5 **Eynsham News** copy deadline – page 2
- 7 **Primary School Parade**
- 8 **History Group**, VE Day Exhibition – page 18
- 12 **Women's Institute**, St Leonard's Hall 19:00.  
Al Sylvester, *Mountain Rescue*
- 13–16 **Bartholomew Players** – page 2
- 16 **Garden Club Plant Sale**, Market Square 09:00.
- 24 **Gatehouse Volunteers**. Enquiries: 01865 881346

**Artweeks in Eynsham and Freeland 9-17 May 2020**

Beautiful creations by these awesome artists!

- 1 **Alison Barrett** - paintings & collage
- 2 **David Longley** - water & acrylic, Eynsham (OX20)
- 3 **Alison Williams** - water, charcoal & ink
- 4 **Angela Cohen** - mixed media
- 5 **Alan White** - water, collage & mixed media
- 6 **Harriet Jago** - paintings & mixed media
- 7 **Julia Liles** - watercolor
- 8 **John Tordella & Paul Tordella** - painting & collage
- 9 **Kevin Wilson** - painting & collage
- 10 **Laura Marston** - collage & painting
- 11 **Wendy Spence** - collage & painting
- 12 **Eynsham Arts Group** - mixed media

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 25 May – copy deadline 5 May. We reserve the right to edit contributions.

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# STOP PRESS

With coronavirus at the forefront of people's minds and impacting on everyone's lives, we at Eynsham News are working to see how we can best keep you informed and entertained until life returns to normal.

At this time of year, we would usually be actively contacting Eynsham businesses to invite them to advertise in or sponsor the newsletter for 2020–21. We shall now wait to do this until the unprecedented situation changes – but do get in touch if you would like to make a booking in advance.

Please contact Emma Roebuck:  
call 07455 529887,  
email: [emma@oxdesigners.com](mailto:emma@oxdesigners.com)  
or visit [eynshamnews.org.uk](http://eynshamnews.org.uk)



Emma is a graphic designer and illustrator, recently moved to Eynsham with her husband John and two children. Emma's business Ox Designers specialises in commercial design and brand and she's really looking forward to taking over the helm from Sandy to manage EN's advertising. We are delighted to welcome Emma to the Eynsham News team and are very happy to be working with her.

## Our sponsors

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

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

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[www.theevenlode.co.uk](http://www.theevenlode.co.uk) | [f](https://www.facebook.com/TheEvenlodeEynsham) [@TheEvenlodeEynsham](https://www.instagram.com/TheEvenlodeEynsham)

**Cinema**  
at Eynsham Village Hall  
Friday April 17th - 7:30pm

HELEN MIRREN IAN MCKELLEN  
**THE GOOD LIE** (15)

Friday May 19th - 7:30pm

**1917** (15)

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