



EYNESHAM NEWS

Issue 44 - September 2020

Making a difference



Thanks to all who helped with litter picking over the summer – photo © Laura Stringer, story on page 7

Reopening the village centre

Eynsham Parish Council has supplied this follow-up to their note in our last issue.

‘In the first part of June the Council was asked by WODC to suggest measures that would safely allow non-essential shops to reopen. i) A village wide 20mph speed limit as well as ii) restricting through traffic in the older parts of the village (not shopping, residential or church traffic) were put forward as ways to make social distancing near shops and moving about the village safer.

‘The former is being looked at in more detail as many areas in the district/county have requested a 20mph limit. The latter was subject to a Temporary Traffic Regulation Order issued by OCC. The TTRO was to be introduced on 10 August.

‘... however, it has been recommended to Council meeting 18 August that the TTRO be withdrawn as its wording did not adequately reflect Council’s intentions. The council wish to thank all those who commented on the TTRO.’

We look forward to seeing evidence for the 20mph project, and communication on its progress – Ed.

Eynsham Library is reopened! You will see some changes inside and there is a limit of 6 customers at any one time. But you are warmly welcome to return books, collect your reservations, browse and borrow.

Computer use for up to 30 minutes, printing, scanning and photocopying are also available. We look forward to seeing you again soon :)

You will be asked to use hand sanitiser before entry, to wear a face covering in the library, to complete an NHS test & trace form and to maintain social distance from other customers and staff.

Our usual hours apply, apart from closing at 17:00 on Fridays. The ‘Openplus’ out of hours service and public events like Rhymetime are on hold.

A full range of e-books and online resources is available 24/7 via the County Libraries website. You can also search the catalogue, place reservations and renew your books at any time via your online library account. – *Jane, Pam, Zoe, Carole and Jan.*



A defining moment

Hundreds of EPIC supporters and Eynsham residents have been active over the last four years. We have supported our Neighbourhood Plan provision for just 750 houses to the west (which the Inspector rejected); challenged many aspects of the Local Plan at formal hearings; and demonstrated loudly against the building of 3,200 houses around Eynsham, bringing 5,000 more cars to the A40. Eynsham Society funding for banners and loudspeakers increased our impact. But the Local Plan was adopted in 2018. So EPIC is now working with GreenTEA, to ensure the new developments meet the needs of both existing & new communities and are exemplars for carbon neutral / energy positive build. Together we have...



- Worked constructively with developer Grosvenor and WODC planners on the Garden Village (GV) and West Eynsham (WE) development, contributing to workshops, design meetings and study tours and responding to public online consultations
- Engaged Eynsham in consultations for the GV and WE with guidance and templates for online responses plus fact sheets for grilling developers and WODC at face to face events
- Invited Grosvenor and WODC top teams to discuss priorities for the GV, alongside Peace Oak, Eynsham Society and other community groups. We suggested an independent Design Review Panel which Grosvenor agreed to, and we were represented, as a group, on the Panel.

Grosvenor's Outline Planning Application for the GV is now out for public consultation.

Although it has many laudable aspects, we think it falls short on several key issues including a clear commitment to Climate Action and the fundamental GV principles.

On the other hand, WODC's Area Action Plan (AAP) is more encouraging. It draws on the Eynsham Neighbourhood Plan and is the legal, controlling document for the GV. It is remarkably good, so we must make sure it doesn't get watered down and is strengthened where necessary. It will be out for public consultation soon, so we must seize this chance!

Now we're helping our community respond to the important and complex Garden Village Application. This is crucial, especially as local democracy may be eroded if the Government's new Planning Bill becomes law. If you want to help, visit Eynsham Online and HAVE YOUR SAY. We have guidance and a response template at bit.ly/OCGV-now

Official deadline for comments was 13 August but WODC will accept comments well into the autumn. Soon, we expect WODC's Supplementary Planning Document for West Eynsham



(1,000 houses west of Witney Road). It will not be as rigorous and exacting as the GV AAP. This development could significantly harm our community and we must be super vigilant. We will continue to help you make your voice heard.
– Angie Titchen

What's on in September

- 1 Full Council** 19:30 – *page 3*
- 5 ECM Outdoor Market** 09:30–12:00 – *p 7*
- 12 Ride & Stride** – ohct.org.uk
- 12–13 North Leigh Roman Villa** – *page 7*
- 15 Full Council** 19:30
- 16 Eynsham News** contributions 17:00
- 17 Flu jabs begin** – *page 3*
- 19 Nature Recovery Day** 10:30–14:30 – *p 4*
- 27 Gatehouse Volunteers?** 01865 881346
- 27 Litter Pickers** 13:45 Baptist Hall

... and in October...

- 4 GreenTEA Festival** – *page 4*
- 31 Eynsham Village Show** – *page 7*

Be prepared

Eynsham Medical Group: Our staff and doctors have been working hard to arrange your flu vaccinations under Covid measures this year.

'At risk' patients under 65 will receive a text or letter inviting them to an initial clinic on 19 September, with further invitations & clinics to follow. *You must bring the text or letter with you, or you will not be vaccinated.*

A one-way system will be in place. Please follow queue markings in the car park, enter the surgery wearing a facemask and wait in the designated area to be called. The exit, marked by arrows, will be via a door in what is usually the waiting area.

Patients over 65 should book an appointment, initially for 17 September at Long Hanborough or 26 September at Eynsham. Call 01865 882206 as usual and select the option for our dedicated booking line. Please arrive at your appointment time to avoid any queuing.

Do not attend the surgery if you have any of the following symptoms: high temperature, loss of taste and smell, a new, continuous cough. Please call the surgery for a new appointment.

Thanks in advance for your cooperation and patience.

Don't get mad, get involved!

Do you feel frustrated by some activity (or inactivity) around the village? Chris Dorward (obituary on page 5) hit the nail on the head for many of us...

'We have the semblance of a debate over a great deal of things but at the end of the day... very little power' – *The Independent, May 1994*

A sense of powerlessness can be exhausting or depressing. Here are a few ideas for taking control.

Get a handle on the system: Local government is complicated and chronically short of funds – and increasingly reliant on volunteers, many of them embarrassed by its failings. Our Services AZ is a guide to the tangled responsibilities: bit.ly/eynsham-AZ

Eynsham Parish Council currently meets remotely via Zoom – us02web.zoom.us/j/85911349309 / tel: 0203 481 5237. Details are advertised twice a month on the notice boards and most discussion is public.

You will be invited to speak *on agenda items only* during the 'public participation' session. Enquiries: 07956 901622 / epc.clerk@eynsham-pc.gov.uk

Get busy on your patch: Someone else's litter is your problem too, pick it up and the problem's gone. Look out for neighbours you don't see too often. Help one of them cut a hedge (and improve your sightlines too). Move a bin off the pavement if they're out. Sign up as a much-needed volunteer driver (page 7). Join your friendly Covid-19 WhatsApp group for local opportunities, including fresh air and gentle exercise delivering Eynsham News: eynshamhelp@gmail.com

... Or lend a hand in St Leonard's churchyard – *this photo* © *Catriona Bass*.



Many Eynsham families have generations of relatives buried here, while many recent residents visit graves of those they greatly loved. So the churchyard needs to be kept tidy, well mown and weeded, both for those who visit family graves and for any who wish to enjoy its peace and tranquillity.

Whilst the churchyard 'belongs' to the village, it is historically the church that bears responsibility for it. Maintenance of the 'new' area (to the far south of the 'old' area with ancient monuments immediately behind the church) was taken over by the District Council following its official closure in 2017 – see page 8.

A small group of people currently meets on the last Saturday morning of each month to tend the older part (shown above). More importantly, a few people (not all of them church members) mow and trim it weekly – more often in the growing season. We hope to report on our biodiversity promotion efforts in a future Eynsham News.

New volunteers would be appreciated and welcomed. If you can help, even just occasionally, come and chat to one of the volunteers on the last Saturday of the month – unless it is cold and wet!

It's all happening!

Eynsham Carnival Committee will be regrouping in autumn to think about early preparation work for a possible Carnival 2021. If you would like to help – as a new committee member or on Carnival Day – please email enquiries@eynshamcarnival.com – *Harold Jerred, ECC Chair*

Eynsham Day Centre: Our Monday Club has been closed since the beginning of lockdown in March. We are very sorry not to be able to meet each week to enjoy fun, conversation, super games and entertainment and, of course, the delicious lunch. We have, however, been keeping in touch with our members and they are keeping strong and positive in these strange times.



A particular treat has been the opportunity to enjoy the music of the wonderful Woodentops, to whom we are very grateful. Larry, John and Paul have been playing outside the houses of various members and in the Square, where we have been able to listen and sing along, and meet up for chats at a safe distance! We do not know when we shall be together again in the Village Hall on Mondays but, meanwhile, we will keep on supporting each other and be grateful for our families and friends. – *Karen Stay*

Growing Green in Eynsham: Green TEA's Annual Festival on 4 October 11:00–14:00 will take the form of a walking trail. Start in the Square with our traditional apple giveaway and apple juicing, and pick up your map. This will take you around 10 sites showing the work of Green TEA and other organisations contributing to a greener, more resilient community, including a veg plant swap, quiz, nature recovery and wildflowers, communal growing, Eynsham give away, electric bikes, energy for the future and more. – *Sue Raikes*

Helping hands: Eynsham's two charity shops are open again, hours as follows:
Mercy in Action: Mon–Sat 10:00–16:00,
Sun 10:00–15:00
West Oxon. Animal Rescue: Mon–Sat 10:00–15:45

Nature Recovery: Eynsham's second Nature Recovery Day on 19 September 10.30–14.30 will focus on creating wildflower areas in gardens and public spaces in the village. Join us at the allotments to learn about growing native plants for pollinators and to collect some free seeds. Volunteer in St Leonard's church yard, Fishponds car park and Dovehouse Close to learn about how to create a wildflower meadow. Tell us if you'd like planting advice in your own garden. To register your interest, email eynshamnature@gmail.com – *Sue Raikes*

Support for unpaid carers: If you are looking after a loved one or friend, Action for Carers Oxfordshire is here to support you. We have a dedicated team, based all around the county, who are working hard to ensure that family carers receive long-term specialised support and practical advice, and we are making sure that we stay in contact for a regular chat to reassure carers they are not alone. And if someone you have been caring for has moved or is moving into residential care, our team is here to help support you through the challenging and emotional times. For more information, email carersreferrals@carersoxfordshire.org.uk or call our Carersline on 01235 424715 – *Matt Carter*

Being active!

Eynsham Roadrunners:

Whether you want to run-walk or win races, you'll get a very warm welcome at Eynsham Roadrunners. We're a friendly club offering



you encouragement and practical support to reach your running and health goals. We've recently returned to socially distant and pre-registered club running. We meet every Wednesday, with speed training on Tuesdays, and a busy calendar of running and social events throughout the year. Most events are currently on hold, due to coronavirus, but we've found new ways to stay connected. Our virtual events and challenges include live Pilates for Runners, a 5k surrogate parkrun and a series of summer running events. To find out more, go to bit.ly/30dN4Mg or email at eynsham.err@gmail.com.

We'd love to welcome you to our club.
– *Alison Craggs*

In memory of

Christina (Chris) Dorward died on 23 July, aged 93. Chris and her family moved to Eynsham over 50 years ago. In the 1970s, Chris worked as the Principal's and College Secretary at Hertford College, and studied for a degree. A rational thinker, Chris modernised the administrative



structure of the office and worked on behalf of non-academic staff to improve their conditions. Around this time, Chris's interest in politics grew. She became a stalwart of the local Liberal Democrats and was elected several times as a district councillor. Always considered down-to-earth, she was remembered with affection.

In her 70s, Chris started to have health problems and slowed down a little – travelling more and enjoying her grandchildren. Her husband Lloyd died in 2012, and Chris is survived by her son Mike and family, and by her daughter Pat.

Acts of kindness



Free apples and blackberries!

Hello. We have just brought the little plot on Clover Place opposite the car park by the doctors' surgery. The apple tree is full and ready for picking – and there is also an abundance of blackberries.

Look for the notice on the gate for times we will be open for

picking. We'll try to be there to meet people and say Hi, if we can. We will have to give the old girl a well-deserved hair cut after fruiting. But don't worry – we will be keeping her. – *Gilly Edginton*

Eynsham Face Mask Line: After several months of mask-making, I have decided to call it a day. Making them had almost become a full time job! To date, I have personally made 587 masks and, between them, Jane Duff and Sue Butler made a further 79. A total of £1012 has been raised for the Eynsham Food Larder. A warm thank you to everyone who has supported this venture. Though hard work, it has been very rewarding. – *Julie Jordan*

Did you know ...?

Tar's Grave: *Lucy Badger tells an ancient story, with her thanks to the late Brian Atkins for his article 'Tar's Grave' in the Eynsham Record 1996* Tar's Grave lies to the north of Eynsham, within the proposed Garden Village site to, the east of Evenlode and Acre Hill Farms. According to legend, the grave marks the burial place of an 18th-century travelling sailor who hanged himself. 'Jack Tar' was a term used for British sailors, 'Jack' being a common name, and 'Tar' because sailors reeked of tar used to waterproof ships and their clothes, and to braid their pigtails. So, how did the legend come about? A 1615 map labelled this area 'Torres Grave Mere'. It has been suggested that this was a corruption of 'Tilgar's Mere', which marked the boundary between Eynsham and Tilgarsley – Tilgarsley being a settlement named after Tilgar, an early Anglo Saxon. It was depopulated in the 14th century after the Black Death. So, from 'Tilgar's Mere' to 'Torres Grave Mere', to 'Tar's Mere' – and the legend of the burial place of the hanged sailor.

A passion for ...

... allotmenting *It's Organic Food Month – and Eynsham plotholders Julia Hyde and Daz Bibby tell us about their passion for plants*

Growing each and every vegetable starts over a year in advance. We choose the plants we want, order the seeds, store them away and then ... forget all about next year's veg.

Uh-oh! It's March and we remember we should be sowing the seeds. Every windowsill boasts a seed tray. Some get knocked off in over-exuberant curtain opening. Some dry out. Others leak down the wall and onto the floor. But some do grow!

Lockdown: Never before was so much effort put into our little seedlings. Lots of digging, and they make it into the ground. But seedlings in the ground does not always equate to a veg crop. Many creatures great and small from above and below ground relish eating them.

It's getting warm. Surely the beans and the three-plant vineyard will be safe. Nope! A May frost gets them. But ... four stalks of asparagus doubles our crop from last year. You only ever need one courgette plant, but we plant five – just in case. This year, all survive. Courgette, anyone? Ah – too late! Marrow, anyone? We love growing our own food – but we don't always end up with exactly what we planned!



Deliciousness!

How to make delicious use of seasonal fruit? Try these two recipes by Lucy Badger and Lucy Bowden, respectively

Apple tray bake – delicious and vegan, too!

100g dairy free spread

100g caster sugar

200g self-raising flour

4 apples peeled, cored and grated (I used Granny Smiths but you could use Bramleys or any eating apples)

Juice of ½ lemon

1 teaspoon ground cinnamon or mixed spice (or a bit of each)

2–3 tablespoons water

2 teaspoons demerara sugar

- Preheat oven to 180°C.

- Peel, core and grate apples, and toss in lemon juice. Set aside.

- Cream caster sugar and spread, then add rest of ingredients except demerara sugar. Add enough water to make a thick cake mixture.

- Spoon into approx. 20cm x 15cm tin, greased and lined with baking parchment – and flatten the top.

- Bake 30–35 minutes or until firm to touch and golden brown. Sprinkle with demerara sugar and extra cinnamon while warm.

- Cool and cut into slices.

Thanks to Graham Rice for this month's topical **Colouring Corner**. To print at full size, go to eynshamnews.org.uk



Blackberry dressing – a tart, refreshing salad dressing

50g freshly plucked blackberries

2 tablespoons olive oil (I recommend Honest Toil)

½ tablespoon balsamic vinegar

½ tablespoon local honey

1 tablespoon water

Simply whizz up in a blender and store in the fridge until use. Can be made with strawberries or raspberries for a sweeter dressing (omit the honey).

Time to relax ...

Millie the Kitty (2): A sketch by Lesley Francis

I'm inclined to turn my back on anyone that annoys me. There's one visitor we regularly get who makes too much noise and disturbs our nice peaceful home. It makes my fur bristle and sets my whiskers a-twitching, so he gets the full treatment. Still, he doesn't like me either – says I'm standoffish. Suppose that makes us quits.

Book reviews: *September reading? Here are two reviews, the first with thanks to Jaqueline Mitchell*

The Reluctant Fundamentalist by Mohsin Hamid: A page-turning read, cleverly plotted ... and short!

The Sound of a Wild Snail Eating by Elisabeth Tova Bailey: A beautiful observation of nature – and life with a chronic illness.

Food puzzle: Reorder the letters to make seasonal fruit and veg.

Hint: they are in alphabetical order! (Answers below.)

1 splape _____

2 tobetroe _____

3 ercostugte _____

4 gfsi _____

5 aepgsr _____

6 eakl _____

7 bokrhail _____

8 kesel _____

9 separ _____

10 mupsl _____

11 mpiknup _____

12 uhassq _____

1 apples 2 beetroot 3 courgettes
4 figs 5 grapes 6 kale 7
kohlrabi 8 leeks 9 pears 10
plums 11 pumpkin 12 squash

... and reflect

A steward at ease of lockdown by Nigel Pearce

In the first half hour as many cats
as people came to church, now open
for silent prayer or half-hearted search
for prey. A pigeon cooed and a kite
flew overhead. A potted graveside
plant blew over in spirited wind.

As time passed, a dripping tap became
a trickle into the sanitised
interior; one parishioner
stayed on to mow turf between the tombs.

All this the steward saw as stillness
in relief. Even so, his thoughts turned
to the comfort of home-grown courgettes.

And for our younger readers

My hobby: Immanuel Sanghera is 14 years old and goes to Bartholomew School. He has High Functioning Autism and, for years, he has loved creating figures out of polymer clay, baking and painting them in great detail. Immanuel specialises in Marvel and DC comic book characters. He starts by creating thin 'stickmen' using wire and, to this base, he adds clay to form the muscular anatomical level. He continues to add to it and to bake, glue and paint the rest of the character in sections. You can see five of Immanuel's amazing creations here. Check out lots more at eynshamnews.org.uk



Children's book review: *Flying Tips for Flightless Birds* by Kelly McCaughrain is an exciting book about twins Birdie and Finch who are in their family's circus school. When the school runs out of money, they decide to put on a show to raise some. When Birdie has a freak accident, Finch has to face up to his feelings and find a new partner whilst Birdie recovers. – *Maisie Hatton*

Thank you, young litter pickers! Thanks to those Eynsham children, who helped with litter picking over the summer, finding everything from discarded 'Saturday' Y-fronts to endless energy drink cans. 'Seriously, why wouldn't you pick up litter as you walk?' said Lottie Stringer, aged 10, 'It's a really easy way to make a difference to our planet.'

Eynsham Country Market has a Saturday market on 5 September from 09:30-12:00 in The Square. Call 01865 435343 or message [@EynshamCountryMarket](https://www.instagram.com/EynshamCountryMarket)



North Leigh Roman Villa's 3rd-century mosaic tile floor is on show 12–13 September, from 11:00–16:30. FREE entry, last chance this year to meet the team!

Reminders

Eynsham Car Scheme urgently needs volunteer drivers to take patients with no other options to their health care appointments. Please call 07469 764174.

Our great outdoors: User evidence from people who have walked the 'permissive' section of Wharf Stream Way before 1992 is still welcome. Call 07956 901622 for a printed form or visit bit.ly/eynsham-WSW

Photography challenge: There's still time to grab that winning shot for this year's Village Show. Pick 'Whiskers'; 'The Sky's the Limit'; 'White'; 'Festival Fan'; or 'Shoes' – or try your hand at them all.

Your free newsletter

Sign up to our mailing list at eepurl.com/g8JfOT

Eynsham News is delivered free to every home in the parish so it's a great way to share your recent triumphs, current concerns and plans.

Get in touch by email or pop a note through the letter box at 1 High Street (opposite the Co-op). Our next deadline is Wednesday 16 September. Any events at Eynsham Online will be included automatically :-)

Warm thanks to Sarah Medina, who bows out of the recreation pages from this month but promises to keep her much-loved puzzles coming.

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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.

Because you asked...

Eynsham Community Larder can support *anyone* who is struggling to make ends meet, on a regular or one-off basis. Call Bob Thiele: 07738 063083 or email eynshamhelp@gmail.com



FixMyStreet covers ditches, drains, flooding, overgrown hedges (they count as 'highway obstructions'), potholes, streetlights and more. Pin a problem to the map, with photos if appropriate, and it will be forwarded to the relevant authority. Check other issues in the area and keep an eye on progress too at fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk

Low flying aircraft: RAF Brize Norton's pandemic response has involved more flights at home & abroad – and a spike in noise complaints. 'Bear in mind that more people may have been around to notice; and opportunities for realistic night training are limited on lighter nights. Flight plans are checked daily to ensure they remain the minimum ... to meet formal training objectives.'

St Leonard's Churchyard: the newer (southernmost) area behind St Peter's is managed by WODC and cut every two weeks in the growing season. Enquiries: 01993 861000. The older area is tended by local volunteers (page 3). Contact the Church Office: 01865 883325 Monday-Thursday 09:00–13:00 or email stleonards_stpeters@btconnect.com

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