



# EYNESHAM NEWS

Issue 46 - November 2020



## A pioneering Covid vaccine study

*Dr Ian Binnian, Research Lead GP, Eynsham Medical Group*

We are pleased to announce that EMG has been selected as a recruitment site for a large scale Covid vaccine trial. This will begin in mid-November and we will be seeking about 170 adult volunteers from Eynsham and Long Hanborough to participate. Like all Covid vaccine studies it is a 'double blinded' trial, meaning that half the group will get the vaccination and half will get a placebo injection of saline.

Vaccinations will take place at Eynsham Medical Centre. Some follow up visits will be required but any travel expenses will be paid. Follow up of volunteers is for two years and with any Covid like illness in that timescale you would see one of the medical team to be assessed.

We will be contacting eligible candidates directly, so there is no need to contact reception.

We look forward to the community's involvement in this important trial and the surgery's research team will make contact in due course.

## What's on in November

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*Fungi beside a footpath in the Garden Village site – photo  
© Nigel Pearce, his latest poem on page 6*

## Your flu jab – latest

*Eynsham Medical Group reports unprecedented demand and variable stocks of vaccine. Thanks for your continued patience*

**At risk' patients age 18–65:** we are contacting those at highest risk directly but more appointments may be released via our dedicated flu booking line 01993 880786. Please note, the line is extremely busy and is open from 10:00–14:00 Monday-Friday only. The greeting message will confirm if stock is available or not – listen carefully to avoid disappointment.

**Patients 65 or over:** please book via 01993 880786 as above or online via Patient Access if you're registered.

## Parish Council updates

Contact the Clerk, Katherine Doughty, on 07956 901622 / [epc.clerk@eynsham-pc.gov.uk](mailto:epc.clerk@eynsham-pc.gov.uk)

**Bartholomew Room Refurbishment:** After nearly two years we are able to start work. All being well, the Public Works loan will be a formality, as permission to borrow has been granted. Contractors are lined up to undertake work to the roof, guttering, windows, stonework, internal re-arrangement of the lower floor, redecorating, etc. We plan to provide regular updates on progress.



Planning ref 19/02555/LBC. A WODC grant of £26,950 from leaves £104,300 to be repaid over time from the increase in Council Tax. Project costs have now risen 5% – Ed.

**Consultation fatigue:** Council is working through several planning consultations, with drafts in the final stages. Responses are being published online under Strategic Planning – [bit.ly/eynsham-SP](http://bit.ly/eynsham-SP)

- WODC Garden Village Area Action Plan – We are pleased with the proposed climate action

and 25% biodiversity net gain policies. However, we consider the active and healthy travel policy gives insufficient attention to the A40 crossings and how to assimilate the area into the community.

- Grosvenor Garden Village Outline Planning Application – EPC deadline 10 November.
- Government consultations 'Planning for the Future' and 'Changes to the current planning system' – deadlines 1 and 29 October.

**Grants for groups:** The Parish Council allocates £2,500 each year for grants (usually from £100-£400) to local clubs, charities or voluntary organisations. The deadline for applications to cover 2021-22 is 23 November and grants will be paid out in April / May 2021. Please contact the Clerk for an application form, or download one at [bit.ly/EPCgrant](http://bit.ly/EPCgrant)

**Memorial Benches in The Square:** Next month we plan to replace the remaining wooden benches with recycled plastic benches. These are a fantastic, durable quality and will have new memorial plaques installed. Could friends / families who have benches dedicated to a loved one please contact the Clerk to discuss this.

**Traffic management:** The long-awaited provision of 6 one-hour parking bays and one goods loading bay in the village centre and double yellow lines on Back Lane / Clover Place and Queen Street (to be joint-funded by County Councillor Charles Mathew Priority Fund and Eynsham Parish Council) have finally cleared formal consultation – see [bit.ly/3j6U6cP](http://bit.ly/3j6U6cP)

OCC officers are now exploring an extension of the restrictions at the entrance to Orchard Close for safety and commercial access improvements.

**The Parish Council budget 2021/22** comes up for discussion shortly – focus on community & recreation facilities and traffic. You can have your say at any meeting and / or look for direct consultation in line with its public engagement policy. – Ed

## Living with change

There's a temptation to pull up the drawbridge at this time of year – even more so perhaps under Covid. Who can blame us, besieged as we are by traffic every day? Below, District Councillor Dan Levy has an update on the elephant in the planning room. **'A40 plans** are slowly evolving, though not necessarily into something that will work. The two streams of funding – from two separate



## It's all happening!



**Gatehouse Volunteers, 8 November:** New Covid-19 arrangements are now in place. Please supply sliced, un-filled loaves plus ham, cheese, tuna or hard-boiled eggs, packed separately. Gatehouse

can now also accept donations of clothing in good condition, particularly welcome in these wintry months. Thank you! And thanks to the Rotary Club of Eynsham for their ongoing support – *Raymond Elliot: 01865 881346*

**Grants for local people:** *Eynsham Consolidated Charity* can make grants to relieve need, hardship or distress. *The Bartholomew Educational Foundation* can make grants to students, apprentices, etc. aged under 25. The trustees meet four times a year – next on 9 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).

**GreenTEA Festival:** We have rescheduled our Trail (rained off in early October) to Saturday 14 November from 11:00–15:30.



We now have two indoor venues, as well as the trail outside. The venues will fully comply with Covid guidance with one way systems, plenty of space, and a maximum of one host and one group of five at each table or display. Please wear masks and observe the group of six rule.

You can download the map via the website or collect on the day from the venues. – *Sue Raikes*

**Litter Pickers, 29 November:** we now meet in the grounds of Eynsham Baptist Church at 14:00, to collect equipment, arrange routes etc. Newcomers are welcome as ever! – *Pam Breeze: 07971 174434*

**Nature Recovery success!** We are beginning to see the effective power of a 'bottom-up' local network that connects enthusiasts with experts and community groups, businesses and councillors to bring about positive change. Natural England has just recognised the ground-breaking nature of our model and have given us a grant to cover the next six months. They described being 'blown away' by what we have all achieved since January. Congratulations everyone!

The new grant will be used to run workshops for science teachers in the 7 schools of the Eynsham Academy Partnership, to run monthly surveys and to extend support to our parish councils and groups in neighbouring parishes. Watch this space! And let us know if you have an idea for doing something or would like to get involved: [eynshamnature@gmail.com](mailto:eynshamnature@gmail.com)

**Our great outdoors:** We are still hoping to receive more user evidence forms, to help protect Wharf Stream Way from the threat of gravel extraction. For more information, please see the noticeboards or visit [bit.ly/eynsham-WSW](https://bit.ly/eynsham-WSW)

On a more sombre note, we have reports of vandalism to the newly-restored section of dry stone wall at the northern border of the Fishponds site. If you see or hear of anyone causing damage to the wall (or indeed anything else), please report it immediately to the Police on 101, or to CrimeStoppers: 0800 555 111. Thank you for your help. – *Sue Osborne*

*'Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower' – Albert Camus*



Eynsham Pre-School had an exciting addition this month: 5 White Cloud Mountain minnows, which are almost extinct in the wild. They have provided many learning opportunities, with the children counting them and looking at their markings as well as feeding them. It's also great to help keep a species going!



The pre-schoolers have also been spending lots of time outdoors, splashing in muddy puddles, mixing stone soup and baking pine cone cakes. The autumn term is perfect for watching the changes in the weather and practising putting on clothes and doing up the fastenings. Helping children to be more independent is one of the many steps to getting ready for school!

If you would like to put your child's name down for next term please call 01865 883893 or email [manager@eynshampreschool.org](mailto:manager@eynshampreschool.org) – *Jackie Taylor*

**Eynsham Scouts** have adapted during the pandemic with some face-to-face activities in a programme blending Zoom and challenges via email. We have discovered ‘the Great Indoors’ and are once again tentatively trying ‘the Great Outdoors’ with a planned woodcraft day. Our Zoom AGM on 29 September was attended by parents and carers from all sections.



Grateful thanks to Hazel Petty & Alison Winstone, our retiring Group Chair and Treasurer, and to Sue Greenwood, who has been involved in many capacities and is finally retiring from looking after the Scout Hall.

If you have some time, enthusiasm and a zest for living, we would love to hear from you. The Executive Committee is the Group management team. Or you could join our pool of Assistant Leaders for the Cub packs. To find out, more please contact Group Scout Leader Alison Stevenson: 07779 027380.



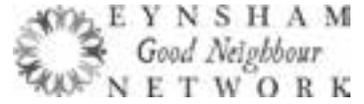
*Thanks to Jane Dyson for this seasonal sketch; coloured cards on sale at Eynsham Country Market on Thursdays*

**Milly the Kitty (5):** We cats can’t laugh out loud, which suits me – I like to be dignified at all times. My human Dad says I’m stuck up, so when he gets home he takes off his socks and throws them at my head. At first, I was outraged! Now we both laugh, though he thinks it’s just him sees the funny side – and I get to keep my dignity. – *Lesley Francis*

## Looking out for one another

### Coronavirus cases rising:

At the time of writing West Oxfordshire is still in the lowest tier of Covid-19 alert level, but cases in the area are on the rise, so we all need to continue to be cautious. Should you need to self-isolate or shield, don’t forget the Eynsham Heroes Covid support network hosts 10 neighbourhood WhatsApp groups offering mutual aid. Email [eynshamhelp@gmail.com](mailto:eynshamhelp@gmail.com) or call 07443 564516 for assistance with shopping, errands or prescriptions, or for details of your local support network.



**Eynsham Community Larder** delivers weekly food boxes to anyone struggling to make ends meet in the current crisis. No referral necessary – just contact Bob Thiele on 07738 063083 to discuss your needs. To make a financial donation to support your neighbours in need, go to [bit.ly/eynsham-CSF](https://bit.ly/eynsham-CSF)

### Volunteer drivers needed!

Eynsham Car Scheme is taking clients to health care appointments again after a lockdown break. And now that the NHS is starting to catch up with normal work, our trips are increasing. But, with many of our regular drivers shielding, we need more volunteers.



Would you like to help? No regular commitment – just read the email list of journeys needed each time it comes out. If you can offer one or two drives a month it would mean we don’t have to turn down people who need our help. Full support and training given, including keeping Covid-safe. **07469 764174.**

### The Woodentops return:

We would like to extend a big thank you to John, Paul and Larry, great music and entertainment, not quite a Covid cure but we all felt better at Mill Street Mews! – *Pat Woodman*



## In memory of...

**Ruth Spencer** died on 15 September after a short cancer illness. A true friend and a wonderful organiser, generous with her exceptional energy and talents – she will be sadly missed.



Ruth was born in Durham and trained as a science teacher in Leeds, where she met Philip. She continued teaching as his work took them to remote and extraordinary places; and typically did far more – making costumes for the panto at a women's open prison in York, or organising charity work with the British Women's Society in Karachi.

When the Spencers settled in Eynsham in 2008, Ruth rolled up her sleeves again. Always calm and cheerful, she produced tasty meals for groups large and small, planted bulbs on verges, spread gravel at the Fishponds, painted sheds for the Primary School and worked with Santa's Sleigh. As Chair of our Rotary Communities Committee, she organised financial help for needy individuals and local causes like the Day Centre with meticulous attention to detail, courtesy and efficiency.

*Thanks to all for your sympathy and condolences and kind thoughts about Ruth, on behalf of myself and my family. – Philip Spencer*

### **Roger Gascoigne:**

The British Legion branch standard bearer lost his battle with cancer on 19 September. Always on the A40 when a cortege passed, he carried the banner not only in Eynsham but throughout the county when called upon. He will be greatly missed in the RBL Eynsham branch.



Roger was also a much admired long-term member of Eynsham Roadrunners and, together with Sheila, helped the club to function in its unique and friendly way. He ran with and welcomed new members, marshalled at many events and enjoyed his weekly Park Run until very recently. The club

ran in Roger's honour on the Saturday he died. We will miss him greatly and recall his kind, warm and welcoming nature for many years to come.

Other groups around the village are indebted to him also, including Eynsham News Group for his tireless support with deliveries. He marshalled at Carnival, helped at our Day Centre and drove for the Eynsham Car Scheme too.

## Marking time in Eynsham

**Caravanserai:** Quails on a country lane, mid-migration. *Many thanks to Nigel Pearce for this poem.*

They first passed this way in spring, their eye masks striped against the elements, and weary from their journey over desert and sea. With thoughts of birth and death they sought refuge on farms with nearby sources of water, careful to be seen by few. Self-contained.

They came again in autumn in a group of three, more visible this time, more like pilgrims on their way to Canterbury, looking well fed; an exaggerated upright posture, accelerating gait and flecked apparel. Slightly comical.

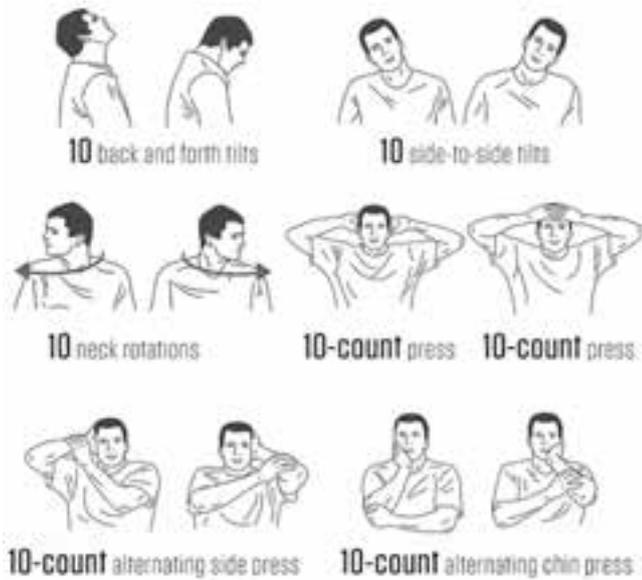
**Keep looking up!** Our Grade II\* listed church, St Leonard's, has a historical feature usually overlooked by parishioners and visitors. Mass dials, or scratch dials, were primitive sundials, cut or scratched into the walls of churches by medieval priests, to tell them when to celebrate mass. They were common on English churches up to about 1600, when more modern sundials, then clocks, took over.

I surveyed St Leonard's for the British Sundial Society in 2007 and came up with 11 dials, giving some the benefit of the doubt. The environment hasn't been kind to them but you can still see some examples.

Look at the buttresses on the wall of the late 13th century south aisle for inscribed circles or semi-circles, or partial rings of pock marks and some radial lines from a hole in the centre. The priest put a stick, or his finger, in the hole to cast a shadow on the sundial. These were probably originally whitewashed with the lines and dots picked out in black, with the important masses in red. There are also two on the east end of the church, on a block of stone probably reused for a renovation.

– *Dennis Stukenbroeker*

## Loosen up when you can't get out!



Relieve tension and stiffness in the neck with these NHS-recommended stretches. Perform each move slowly and smoothly; and breathe deeply and regularly. For best results, try to do this routine at least once a day – three sets, up to two minutes between sets.

## Notice board

**Eynsham Library** is now open from 13:00–17:00 on Monday, Wednesday and Friday and from 09:30–13:00 on Saturday – hours adjusted in response to Covid. You can return books at any time via our letter box and contact us in person with your queries on 01865 880525 / [eynsham.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:eynsham.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk)



Above, a blast from the past. Did you know our library began life in 1958 as a fire station? This photo © Kenneth Hicks probably dates to nearer the handover in 1985. Stuart Smith & Colin Jacob recount the ups and downs of Eynsham fire crews in their richly-illustrated history 'Call the Fire Brigade!' – a few copies still on sale at Evenlode DIY.

**Halls for hire:** The following venues are now available for hire, subject to satisfactory completion of a risk assessment and adherence to new procedures to keep them as Covid-safe as possible.

More details on enquiry.

- Bartholomew Room & Sports Pavilion: Rachel Johnson, [epc.rfo@eynsham-pc.gov.uk](mailto:epc.rfo@eynsham-pc.gov.uk) /07956 901622
- Baptist Hall: David Miller (until 31 December), [rdavidmiller@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:rdavidmiller@yahoo.co.uk)
- Music Room: Dave Ferrier, 07971 470745 / [david@ferrier.li](mailto:david@ferrier.li)
- Scout Hall (weekend & daytime): Catherine Baker, 01865 881787 / [catherine@bakereditorial.co.uk](mailto:catherine@bakereditorial.co.uk)
- Village Hall: Stephanie Norton, 07935 832702 / [bookings@eynshamvillagehall.co.uk](mailto:bookings@eynshamvillagehall.co.uk)

## Colouring corner



*Guy Fawkes is said to have been carrying this iron lantern when he was arrested in the cellars under the Houses of Parliament on the night of 4–5 November 1605. Many*

*thanks to Beth Wood for*

*spotting it in the Ashmolean Museum and re-interpreting it for Eynsham News!*

*Download a bigger version from our website [eynshamnews.org.uk](http://eynshamnews.org.uk)*

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## Eynsham News – living with change

We are proud of the team work behind Eynsham News. We have published continuously in the face of Covid, adapting month by month to help you keep in touch. Every element is provided, sorted and delivered to 2,000 homes – whatever the weather – by a small army of local volunteers, with print costs funded by our sponsors and advertisers.



The paper used is recyclable and completely sustainable; and our printers donate a percentage of its purchase price to The Woodland Trust, to plant native woodland in the UK.

*We are now accepting sponsorship & advertising from outside the parish, to help us continue this service. If we have no new advertisers our income will run out in March.* We shall review the situation in the new year.

Meantime, your contributions are welcome as ever! 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 Sunday 15 November. Any events at Eynsham Online will be included automatically :-)

*Sign up for online previews at [eepurl.com/g8JfOT](http://eepurl.com/g8JfOT)*

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