

EYNSHAM NEWS

Issue 48 – January 2021

One more issue left?

The Eynsham community is growing rapidly and evolving and it would be great if Eynsham News could follow suit.

This is **your** opportunity to get involved and help to shape its future.



How can you help?

The team urgently needs people to take over as:

- **Editor**
- **Designer**
- **Fundraiser**

Any of these roles can be shared - the more the merrier.

We'd love to hear from you by Monday 18 January

- Email: eynsham.news@gmail.com
- Or call 07551 876285 for a chat with one of the team, on Thursday 14 January anytime from 14:00–17:00.

There will be a follow-up meeting on **Monday 25 January** for people who have expressed an interest.

Without your help, Eynsham News will fold after issue 49

Parish Council news and notes

Contact the Clerk, Katherine Doughty, on 07956 901622/
epc.clerk@eynsham-pc.gov.uk

It is a pleasure to be able to write some positive news.

Play areas: All 3 areas are having maintenance work undertaken in January. Of particular good news, Dovehouse ‘Come and Play’ will be able to re-open when the work is complete. The cableway at Oxford Road Play Area will hopefully back in use as well.

Eynsham Play & Activity Day: This year’s event organised by Oxfordshire Play Association was cancelled due to Covid. However, I am pleased to advise that a play day has been confirmed for Thursday 29 July 2021 at Oxford Road Playing Field (South). Eynsham Parish Council (EPC) has provided a grant of £1000 towards this highly valued community event. Put the date in your diary!

Grass cutting & weedkilling 2021–23: EPC has now appointed McCracken & Son to undertake maintenance of highway verges, play areas and public open spaces for the next 3 years. The company will be using a non-toxic, Glyphosate-free weedkiller applied twice a year. Additional roads have been added to our weedkilling map including Greens Road, Marlborough Place, Marlborough Close, Hanborough Close, Pelican Place, Wytham Close, Wytham View, Merton Court, Merton Close and Blankstone Close with the aim of maintaining the same standard of amenity throughout the village. Ubico will continue to empty litter/dog waste bins and litter-pick the play areas.

Repair of ‘The Linesmen’: EPC became concerned that ‘The Linesmen’ at Wharf Stream Way were becoming too split. Godfrey Phillips (who created the sculpture) met members to assess remedial work and I am pleased to report this is now mostly complete. Further information about the art trail can be found at bit.ly/eynsham-WSW

Developer contributions: EPC is seeking public opinion on its list of community projects that are submitted to local authorities for developer funding under S106 of the Town & Country Planning Act 1990. Some of the projects are contained in Eynsham Neighbourhood Plan. *Deadline for feedback is 19 January.* For details please see our SurveyMonkey consultation at bit.ly/3ahQcgF

Barnard Gate bus shelter: feedback is still welcome -do get in touch with your suggestions. – Ed.

Your council tax: Parish Councillors have approved a precept of £146,200 for financial year 2021/22 – up from £126,329 in the current year. This represents a 15.7% overall increase and £12.43 extra for a Band D household.

Planning and building updates

Bartholomew Room:

Refurbishment gets under way this month, after extensive work to pack away its contents. Don Chapman, who chaired the 1977 Silver Jubilee Committee which secured its purchase for the community, has a tale from early days – page 6.



Lord’s Farm: Less happily, the District Council has approved Oxford Preservation Trust’s proposed conversion of the attached barn on Queen Street to a 2-bedroom dwelling (19/03478/FUL). A note on the buildings and their bequest to the Trust by Margaret Foote appears in The Eynsham Record 9 (1992).

Salt Cross garden village: WODC has asked consultants to calculate the financial impact/viability of measures such as zero carbon homes, 50 per cent affordable housing and biodiversity requirements, as set out in its Area Action Plan, before this goes to the Planning Inspectorate in the spring. Consultation on WODC’s draft charging schedule for new developments (closed 21 August) generated 170 responses, including 160 objections. Meantime, the outline planning application submitted by Grosvenor Britain & Ireland on behalf of the landowners can still be viewed (along with responses) on WODC’s website at bit.ly/OCGV-out

What’s on in January

- 12 Traffic Advisory Committee 19:30
- 19 Full Council 19:30
- 31 Gatehouse Volunteers – page 5
- 31 Litter Pickers – page 5

And coming up in February...

- 1–3 Road closure opposite 27 Mill Street
- 2 Full Council 19:30
- 8 Eynsham Charities – page 7
- 4 First Market of 2020 – page 5
- 14 Eynsham News deadline – page 8

A network of people for nature recovery

How it all began... Catriona Bass reviews the first 12 months

One evening, as the autumn mist was rising on Long Mead meadow, we sat with representatives of Cumnor and Eynsham parishes in our outdoor classroom (a medieval pavilion tent). The happy coincidence that our Local Wildlife Site straddles both parishes provided a perfect opportunity to explore a new model for nature recovery, one that could address two major challenges of the environmental crisis – scalability and sustainability.

Several key facts nagged at us: more people in Britain belong to environmental organisations than in any other European state, yet we remain among the most nature-depleted countries in the world (189th out of 218). Environmental organisations control a mere 2% of UK land and are mostly confined to projects within their own sites. And only 4% of Oxfordshire retains any special wildlife value.

By contrast, during the decades that we have been managing Long Mead, we have witnessed local people's concern for nature in our beautiful Upper Thames floodplain. Local environmental groups and dedicated individuals are unflagging; but in the end these efforts are focused on a tiny area: most of us have handkerchief gardens – or less.

So, our question was: how do you scale up nature recovery in an inclusive way? Can local environmental work in the villages along the Upper Thames join up with landscape-scale nature recovery projects such as Long Mead's *Thames Valley Wildflower Meadow Restoration Project* and BBOWT's *Living Landscape*?

The solution that emerged on our wildflower meadow that misty evening was a place-based network of people. Living in the same place and sharing a long-term commitment to it, we can create a nature recovery effort that is greater than the sum of its parts.

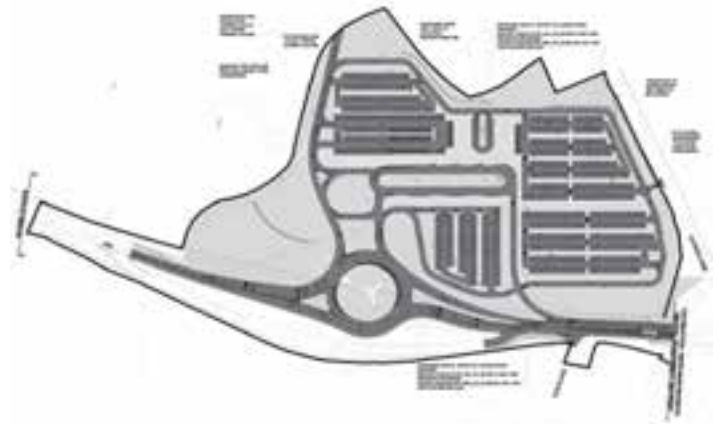


The bottom-up approach of our new Nature Recovery Network links enthusiasts with ideas to local experts, thus building a cadre of skilled people in the community and in local government. By creating a joined-up community dedicated to mapping, protecting and restoring the

local environment in all its diversity, we can make informed, best-practice interventions to ensure biodiversity gains are sustainable over the long-term.

One year on, the network has spread through neighbouring villages. Find out more and join us at nature-recovery-network.org

Going round in circles



County Council proposals for the A40 Park & Ride and bus lane (R3.0057/19) are back with many clarifications and updates: bit.ly/38ksDkF

The plans show no material change, with devastating impact on existing biodiversity; and pay lip-service only to links with Salt Cross/Eynsham West. It's the wrong solution to the wrong problem, says parish councillor Mark Zumbuhl. Dualling the stretch from Witney to Eynsham may simply shift the bottleneck west. And new plans for the approach to Wolvercote roundabout seem unlikely to improve the flow of traffic while the vital A40/A44 link remains unfunded. Deadline for your comments is 11 January.

On the bright side, OCC has unanimously adopted Cllr Charles Mathew's call for a long-term strategy to include 'serious consideration of a rail link from Carterton, Witney and Eynsham to Oxford.' And the government 'Restoring Your Railway Fund' offers up to 75% of costs for making a business case, if the bid is sponsored by a local MP as well as local councils.

Meantime, November's head-on collision near Willow Cottage Nursery has prompted an online petition. It calls on OCC to 'reduce the speed limit, exclude aggregate lorry traffic and facilitate cycling' on Lower Road: details at chnng.it/hvRBq6HB

And in case you wondered, GreenTEA's statement in our last issue to the government announcement that (petrol & diesel) combustion engines will be withdrawn by 2030 refers to new cars, of course.

It's all happening!

The Eynsham Art Window at 66 Mill Street (next to the vet) is a bright new exhibition space for artists of Eynsham and nearby villages. The display will change every month so there will always be something new to see and enjoy. It's not a shop but all the artists' details are on view so you can contact them directly. Check it out on Facebook [@EynshamArtWindow](#)

If you would like to show your work (there is a small charge to cover costs), please contact Alison Holmans: achholmans60@gmail.com

Busy Bees Baby & Toddler Group are looking for one or two volunteers to take over running the group when it reopens. We will show you everything you need to know and support you for as long as you need it. Please contact us on Facebook / via Christina.

Eynsham Country Market takes a break in January and will be back on Thursday 4 February from 09:00–10:30 outside the Red Lion. – *Judith Bowden: 01865 435343 / eynshamcountrymarket@virginmedia.com*

From digital to print: We are delighted to announce that, thanks to a generous grant from the Rotary Club of Eynsham, we will be publishing our online blog, 'Eynsham Lockdown: the story of our village during the 2020 sars-cov-2 pandemic', in book form. We aim to have copies for sale by the end of January. The books will cost £5 each and all proceeds will go to the Community Larder. – *Sarah Medina & Lucy Badger*

Gatehouse Volunteers, 31 January: Please supply sliced, un-filled loaves plus ham, cheese or tuna, packed separately. Warm clothing in good condition is also welcome. Thanks again to the Rotary Club of Eynsham for their support. Please note, the collection point is now **15** Newland Street, next to Raymond Elliot's house. – *Marie Bridge: 01865 604262*

Litter Pickers meet again on Sunday, 31 January at 13.45 in the Baptist Church grounds, to establish routes and collect equipment. – *Pam Breeze*

Oxford Sport & Traditional Martial Arts enables students as young as 3 to gain confidence, become strong, make friends and have fun! Continuously reinvented during these unusual times, OSTMA welcomes new students on an ongoing basis. They receive a free month's tuition to give the programme a go. If you would like to book yourself or your child in from January 2021, please get in touch. – *Claire Maden: 07540 316188 / cmmartialarts@live.co.uk*



The diggers are out as you may have noticed in Holewelle Field above the Fishponds – perhaps with some concern! We are just releasing the stream from the Holewelle spring that used to run in a series of underground pipes down to the Fishponds open water.

Instead, we are creating a meandering stream with shallow pools and rivulets to provide a range of new, natural wildlife habitats. Plus, we won't have to keep dealing with blocked pipes! – *David Rivalin & the Parrinders, image © RP Parrinder*

The diggers are out – 2: Although it will be several years before any construction, Polar Technology has been granted a Diversion Order to take existing footpath 206/30 running behind the current factory onto a more pleasant route through the north field and back to the old railway line heading west. Ground works are starting soon and your co-operation during the next few months is gratefully appreciated. Map and more info at bit.ly/2KnNZpf – *Scott Roberts*

Reports from around the village



1st Eynsham Brownies continued meeting on Zoom through November's lockdown. For their 'Skills for my Future' badge they thought about different jobs, sewed a pencil case, compared the tastes of different food brands and cooked a tomato sauce as a base for a meal. They ended term with a Christmas-themed escape room!

1st Eynsham Guides managed one outdoor, socially-distanced, session in December and had a chance to say goodbye to the Year 9 girls who were leaving at Christmas. It's hard to believe that some have been in Guiding since they were 5! We hope they will join us in Rangers, who sadly are unable to meet at present, later in the year.

3rd Eynsham Brownies and 1st Eynsham Rainbows also managed to meet after the lockdown and both groups had a lovely walk around Eynsham to look at the Christmas lights. – *Sinead Andrews*

Eynsham Community Larder would like to thank everyone who contributed towards their Christmas appeal or bought Eynsham Food Vouchers. As we write, almost £5000 has been raised and the food

collection baskets in Co-op, The Market Garden, Spar and Tesco have been filled to the brim. In December, over 40 special treats packages, including Christmas foods, Eynsham vouchers (to spend in participating local shops, pubs, restaurants and cafés), Curiosity Boxes, Amazon vouchers and other children's gifts were delivered to over 40 local households in need of a bit of help. Thanks so much to everyone who helped to make this happen. The remaining funds will be used for weekly food deliveries in 2021.

Winter walks: I'm very pleased to report that the section of Footpath 206/7 which runs from the Talbot between Siemens and the Wharf Stream has undergone a major upgrade. Previously, it was muddy and overgrown with an adverse camber, making it unpleasant and treacherous to negotiate in wet conditions. Now the path is level, firm and easy to follow – a vast improvement. Also, the hitherto 'lost' section on Footpath 206/10 now has brand new marker posts and directional discs. This is the icing on the cake after the long battle to get the path reinstated through a Definitive Map Modification Order, helped by evidence of its use from residents. Thanks to everyone involved in both projects. – *Sue Osborne*



Thanks also to Martyn Cattermole, for negotiating a short-term fix to a muddy section of the Thames Path upstream of the toll bridge; and for his ongoing one-man (and dog) litter blitzes too – *Ed*.

Best wishes to Pete Butler, 70 years young last month and a fixture at Evenlode DIY for the last 10 years. And best wishes to Mark Watson, who has signed off his final traffic report on Radio Oxford.

Welcome back to PCSO Helen Keen, who needs no introduction on her return from over the border in Woodstock. She is working from home at present but 101 calls for Eynsham Neighbourhood will reach her – just ask for C9862.



Congratulations to Carl Rylett, whose coverage of key battles from the ancient Greeks onwards has just topped the list of 'must follow' European history podcasts. We can't wait to hear what he makes

of the 2020 fish wars! historyeurope.net

Spotlight on Eynsham people



Did you know that Eynsham Online hosts a 'Who's Who?' of interesting people in our community? In 2021 we are looking to add to our roll call of notable neighbours, kicking off with a rare Australian gem... *Renee Watson.*

Where are you from and how did you come to live in Eynsham? I was born in a small town in rural New South Wales, Australia. I came to the UK between degrees and never made it back! I arrived in Oxford to work on a cancer research project in 2001; and moved to Eynsham in 2008 when we found our beautiful little wreck of a cottage.

What do you do for a living? I am the founder and Head of Explosions at The Curiosity Box. We are just behind the Co-op and we make fun, hands-on science experiment and engineering kits for families and schools.

What do you hope to achieve with The Curiosity Box? My mission is to give 1 million children a wonder-filled experience of science. We are nearly half way there. I am particularly interested in reaching children from disadvantaged backgrounds and helping them to discover the science that is part of their everyday lives.

What are the benefits of having a small business based in Eynsham? It brings me such joy to be able to cycle through the village to work, stop off at The Market Garden or Lyall & Co., have a chat with fellow villagers and arrive at our lovely HQ feeling very much part of a community. We employ quite a few local people and it makes me so happy to see the enjoyment they get from coming to work. I really believe that a workplace built on trust, openness and a clear purpose can be life-changing.

What is your favourite rainy day science activity? I think my favourite would have to be pocket rockets. All you need is something that fizzes (fizzy vitamin C tablets are ideal) and a container with a push on lid. Put the fizzy tablet with a bit of water into the container and wait for the pressure to build up and launch the container into the air! You can use this as the basis for so much experimenting. To find out more, read Renee's full interview at bit.ly/3nz47T7



Many thanks to Jessie Whealy of Jessie's Art Shed for this month's colouring corner – an exotic llama, why not?! Download a bigger pic and check out the archive on our website eynshamnews.org.uk

Millie the Mog: You find me in deep doos this month. Well how was I to know those two bacon rashers were vital ingredients for a pasta sauce? Looked like left-overs to me! They shouldn't leave tempting things like that where I can get at 'em should they? Mm, delicious though. – *Lesley Francis*

Alfie the puppy: I have been venturing a little further on my walks in December and discovering all sorts of interesting things, especially on the evening walks.

What are all these flashing lights and funny animals shining brightly in peoples gardens? I'm not sure what is going on but some of my doggy friends have told me that if I'm lucky I might get some new toys to play with and some special meat in a few days' time. I'm really excited about that.

Tale of a time capsule: Reading of work on Bartholomew Room (page 2) reminds me how the village came to own it, thanks to funds raised from the 1977 Silver Jubilee. Local stonemason William Brown kindly agreed to carve a memorial tablet on

the wall for free. Behind it he was to insert a time capsule, containing items suggested by the children of Eynsham Primary School. My final selection follows...

'A rubber, a watch battery, a BMX badge, a piece of Velcro, a piece of Sellotape, a pressed flower, a bit of newspaper, a bit of toilet paper, a halfpenny piece, a stamp, an elastic band, a digital watch (if someone has a broken one), a hair from Mr Keates's head (I think whoever thought of that should pluck it out!), a picture of the children (if there is one), a drawing of Mr Tickle and a piece of writing by one of you about the things in the box – [which has] to be small and thin.'

On Saturday 20 October 1984 some of the children watched Mr Brown insert it and returned to see the unveiling. I wonder if any of them still live here and remember the occasion? – *Don Chapman*

A happy hedgehog story: I live in the village centre and am happily retired, walking, gardening and enjoying nature to the full. A few years ago my family gave me an outdoor trail camera and I have had such fun with it. I noticed hedgehogs coming into the garden at dusk so I made them a feeding box, with access too small for visiting cats, then a hibernation box deep in the shrubbery. I now have a record, photos and videos, of life with a family of hedgehogs.

This year's activity resumed in April and a hoglet appeared at the end of June, a tiny wee thing but seemed quite happy. In September I noticed it feeding during the day on seeds from the bird feeder – not natural as hedgehogs are nocturnal – breathing fast and looking quite unwell.



Eventually I took him in a box to 'Little Foxes' animal sanctuary. It turned out he weighed only 200g and would not have survived the winter. But next day they reassured me that he was eating and drinking and would be released into the wild next spring. Meantime, the parents are hibernating happily, I think! – *JM*

Lizzie's view of zero carbon Eynsham 2030

The lifestyle that GreenTEA is working for – part 1

I have lived in Eynsham for over 30 years and it is hard to remember how different things were just 10 years ago. After the depths of the pandemic there was momentum to come back better and greener. The Smart and Fair Futures energy project (with Project LEO) kick-started the move towards a zero carbon energy system; and you don't need to be rich to see the benefit.

We wanted to downsize when the children left home but didn't want to leave the village, so we decided to move to a new home in West Eynsham. All the homes here and in Salt Cross are 'zero carbon' – that means they are super insulated, blissfully warm, needing hardly any energy to heat with all the energy coming from renewables anyway. And our community-owned energy company are always there to help you be smart with your energy use and save money. We have solar pv (photovoltaic) panels built in and what's really clever is that if we have more energy than we can use, we get a good price for it. We sometimes even get paid to use electricity when there is lots in the system.



Also, we didn't really need our own car any more, so when all the electric vehicle chargers went in, we joined a car club (*post-Covid, of course!* – Ed). The cars charge up from solar power produced locally during the day and at night their

batteries put electricity into our local smart grid when everyone wants to cook dinner; it makes cars really cheap to run.

We were thrilled when one of our children decided to move his family back to Eynsham. Now they are living in our old house – but with grants and advice from our council and community energy company, it is much cosier than when we lived there – and the new electric heat pump works well too.

These days there's healthy competition to see how low your bills are and kids love checking the energy displays round the village to see if today is a zero-carbon day. It's amazing how ingenuity is infectious once people can see the benefits. People thought back in 2020 that we were going to miss the 2030 carbon reduction targets, but we've done it! –

Sarah Couch

Quick contacts

We plan to include a fuller list in our next issue – Ed.

Eynsham Parish Council Chairman Gordon Beach 01865 880979, Clerk Katherine Doughty 07956 901622 email epc.clerk@eynsham-pc.gov.uk

West Oxfordshire District Council Cllrs Edward James 01865 731009, Dan Levy 07852 748362, Carl Rylett 01865 883643, offices 01993 861000

Oxfordshire County Council Cllr Charles Mathew 01865 882205, County Hall 01865 792422

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

Eynsham Baptist Church Minister Revd Zoltan Biro 01865 881670, office/answerphone 01865 882203, web eynshambaptistchurch.co.uk

St Leonard's Church of England Vicar Revd Duncan Fraser 07810 324088, office 01865 883324 / stleonards_stpeters@btconnect.com, web stleonardseynsham.org.uk

St Peter's Catholic Church Parish Priest Father Mark Lagorio stpeterschurcheynsham@gmail.com / 01865 881613, web stpeterseynsham.org.uk

Eynsham Good Neighbour Network 07443 564516 / eynshamhelp@gmail.com

Eynsham Community Larder Bob Thiele 07738 063083 / eynshamhelp@gmail.com

The larder is open to anyone in need of help – difficult times can strike us all. If you, or someone you know needs some support, don't hesitate to contact Bob.

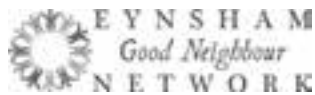
Sharing winter warmth – reminder

Eynsham's oldest charities, especially Bartholomew Educational Foundation, will make good use of your Winter Fuel Payment, if you can spare it. The trustees meet again on 8 February.

Cheques made out to either 'Bartholomew Educational Foundation' or 'Eynsham Consolidated Charity' can be sent to the Clerk, Robin Mitchell, 20 High Street, Eynsham OX29 4HB – email enquiries to eynshamcharities@gmail.com

You can also pay directly to the Charities' accounts: Bartholomew Educational Foundation sort code 09-01-51 a/c 53159405; Eynsham Consolidated Charity sort code 09-01-51, a/c 25159404.

Looking out for one another



Don't forget, the 'Eynsham Heroes' are still ready to help with shopping, errands, prescription collection, or just a chat. Please don't hesitate to ask for any help you need – there are plenty of willing neighbours standing to attention.

Email eynshamhelp@gmail.com / call 07443 564516 or feel free to email us to join your neighbourhood WhatsApp group; it's a great way to offer or request help from people on your street.



'If winter comes, can spring be far behind?' – Shelley

Eynsham News – still supporting you

The Eynsham News Group is an independent, not-for-profit organisation, promoting local charities, clubs, societies, businesses and public services via a printed newsletter, delivered free to every resident in the parish since April 2013. The 'Eynsham News' is also online, for family and friends around the country and overseas: eynshamnews.org.uk

Our next copy deadline is Sunday 14 February, for delivery around the village from 27 February 2021 – *there will be no issue at the end of January.*

Please get in touch by email or pop a note through the letter box at 1 High Street (opposite the Co-op).

Editor Joan Stonham: eynsham.news@gmail.com
Treasurer Sandy Hellig: sandy.hellig@gmail.com

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.

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The Burnside Partnership – Specialist Award-Winning Local Private Client Lawyers & Tax Experts www.theburnsidepartnership.com | info@theburnsidepartnership.com | 01865 987781