



EYNESHAM NEWS

Issue 49 – April - May 2021



Community spirit triumphs again

Following the call for volunteers in our last issue, I'm delighted to announce that a new team has come together to take our newsletter forward. They introduce themselves on page 8.

The new team is committed to continuing the publication as an independent, printed newsletter, delivered to every household and business for free. The deliveries, ably managed by Pam Breeze and Sue Hunt, continue as before.

Eynsham News was launched in April 2013, following discussions with the producers of two earlier newsletters – 'Eynsham Roundabout' from the 3 churches and 'Eynsham Echo' from the Parish Council – plus detailed guidance from residents.

Eight years on, the challenge is still to hold a balance among competing voices and to help the quieter ones be heard. For all the talk of social media, print is still the best communication tool available to ensure we reach everyone equally. It must also remain lively, relevant and interesting if it is to keep the community connected.

Our mission to '*support local charities, clubs and societies, businesses and public services*' has so far been entirely funded by local advertisers and sponsors. Welcome as this is, it has never influenced our content; Eynsham News is stronger because its views are not for sale.

It's been an honour and a pleasure to put together your first 49 issues. They could not have happened without coordinator Sandy Hellig and designer Paul Hughes (who were with me at the start and are also signing off) and recently Sarah Medina. Parting thanks to the modest and unfailing delivery teams and many contributors – and you the readers, who have put your trust in us. – *Joan Stonham*

photo © Ian White

Easter 2021 at our churches

Good Friday 2 April 10:00

THE THREE EYNESHAM CHURCHES

Ecumenical Service on St Leonard's Church Land

ST PETER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Abbey Street

Limited numbers apply for Covid-safe worship: 2 metre social distancing and face-coverings required.

Palm/Passion Sunday 28 March Saturday

(for Sunday) 17:00 Mass; Sunday 10:00

Maundy Thursday 1 April 20:00 Mass of the Lord's Supper

Good Friday 2 April 15:00 Solemn Passion

Easter Saturday 3 April 18:00 Vigil Mass

Easter Sunday 10:00 Mass of Easter

ST LEONARD'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND

The Square

Pre booking is required for services in church; contact the Church Office on 01865 883325

stleonardseynsham.org.uk

Maundy Thursday 1 April 20:00 Candlelit

Tenebrae Communion Service. As candles are extinguished, we remember the events leading up to Good Friday

Good Friday 2 April 14:00 Last Hour of the Cross

Easter Day Sunday 4 April 09:00 Easter Holy

Communion; 10:30 Easter Celebration on St Leonard's Church Land and online

EYNESHAM BAPTIST CHURCH

Lombard Street

All services can be accessed live on Zoom or phone 0203 481 5240 - Meeting ID: 753 5934 1499 - Password: 024518

Palm Sunday 27 March 10:30 Zoom service

Maundy Thursday 1 April 18:30 Zoom service

Good Friday 2 April 18:30 Zoom service

Easter Sunday 4 April 10:30 Zoom service

What's on in April

7 Bartholomew Room – page 7
12–15 Road closure Station Road
25 Gatehouse Volunteers – page 4
25 Litter Pickers – page 4

And coming up in May...

4 Annual Parish Council Meeting 19:30
6 County & District elections – opposite
9 Eynsham News deadline – page 8
14 Blood Donor sessions – Village Hall
17 Eynsham Charities Trustees

Parish Council news and notes

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

Since my last update, Eynsham Parish Council (EPC) has responded to a number of consultations and planning applications on behalf of the community and the ongoing workload continues to be demanding. You may be aware that Oxfordshire County Council approved its Park & Ride/A40 improvements planning application, a £37m project. EPC has requested the application is determined by the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government and we wait to hear from him.

EPC is looking to recruit an outdoor technician to inspect our play areas and undertake routine DIY tasks amongst other duties. A communications officer is needed to co-ordinate community engagement, undertake press / media work and create an online social media presence. Please contact me for further information and an application form.

EPC currently has 3 vacancies, 2 of which are to be filled by co-option. There is a by-election on Thursday 6 May for one seat (notices will be displayed in due course). If you feel able to contribute to the work of the Council, please contact me for more information.

EPC's new year commences in May and will do so without Gordon Beach who has been a member and Chairman for 25 years. I am sure you would wish to join us in thanking Gordon for his work and wish him well on his future endeavours. A new chair and vice chair will be elected at our annual meeting on 4 May, along with establishing committee structures and business for the year. A strategic plan is being drafted to help set out the Council's priorities for coming years. It should also be noted that County Councillor Charles Mathew is not standing for re-election in May. We owe Charles our thanks and appreciation for his support over many years.



Your chance to make a difference

County and District Council elections, Thursday 6 May

Register to vote by Monday 19 April: call WODC Electoral Services on 01993 861410 or visit www.gov.uk/register tovote – you will need your national insurance number. You can also call 01993 861410 for a pre-printed postal voting form – to be returned by Tuesday 20 April.



Andy Goodwin lives in Eynsham, with four daughters at Eynsham schools. He's active in the community, organising RunWythamWoods, volunteering at Hill End education centre, helping with Eynsham Christmas

voucher scheme, community tennis and starting girls' football.



Dan Levy lives in Eynsham and brought up his family here. He has been a District Councillor, elected by Eynsham people in 2019, and is WODC's cycling champion. He says that Eynsham is a brilliant village, with great shops,

pubs and people, and wants to keep it brilliant.

Standing for Lib Dems, together Dan and Andy will:

1. In light of Tory plans to more than double the size of Eynsham, demand affordable, low-carbon housing, community facilities and protection for the environment.
2. Demand infrastructure first and fundamentally address A40 traffic issues. Keep campaigning for a rail line from Carterton-Witney-Eynsham into Oxford and a safe cycling route into Botley.
3. Demand action to address flooding and stop pumping of sewage into our rivers, including a ban on building on floodplains.
4. Campaign against development of gravel pits east of Eynsham.
5. Support community integration and welcome newcomers.

We live here, we care for our community, we promise to listen and act on your behalf.

As County Councillor Charles Mathew and District Councillor Ed James stand down this year, 3 people (at last count) are seeking your vote for the County seat: Sean Grace (Conservative), Elsa Dawson (Labour) and Dan Levy (Liberal Democrat). District candidates are Sean Grace (Conservative) and Andy Goodwin (Liberal Democrat).

To help you assess them as people, they are listed by first name below.



Elsa Dawson: Has Covid 19 affected you and your family? I am only too aware of how the lives and mental health of many villagers have suffered, especially women, the elderly and those living with

disabilities, with sharply increased care needs.

I, together with other Labour Councillors, will aim to ensure that the County Council responds by building services which best support those most seriously affected by the pandemic. Expensive outsourced services will be replaced by more efficient, directly delivered ones, for example, a County Youth Service.

Contact me at: [facebook.com/eynshamdivision](https://www.facebook.com/eynshamdivision)



Sean Grace (standing for District *and* County) would like to extend thanks to Cllr Charles Mathew for his immeasurable service to residents over the last 16 years and hopes to build on his work moving forward.

Having grown up in the area, Sean has been actively coordinating the Covid-19 response in the village, pushing for pothole fixes, pressuring for the replacement of bins, and brings with him extensive experience of social care & local government through his work managing and advising finance teams across 70+ UK councils.

Having shown his ability to initiate action and get results, he aims to use his position to fairly represent Eynsham residents on the Conservative-led District and County Councils.

It's all happening!

Eynsham Car Scheme is now operating a limited service for those in the village who need transport to health care appointments, covering both vaccine appointments and appointments at Eynsham and Long Hanborough Medical Centres. For other venues, please ring us as usual and we will be able to advise. Phone 07469 764174.

Eynsham Library: We have missed seeing you all but look forward to opening again on Monday 12 April, if all goes well. Thanks to everyone who has returned books via the letterbox book drop. This is still open and existing loans have been extended to mid-April. All County Libraries online resources and e-book and audio books remain available to registered customers. – *Jane Bruder*



Gatehouse Volunteers, 25 April: Please supply sliced, un-filled loaves plus ham, cheese or tuna, packed separately. Please note, the collection point is now 15 Newland Street. –

Marie Bridge: 01865 604262

In December, Raymond Elliot retired after almost 30 years as tireless organiser of Eynsham and district Gatehouse volunteers, succeeded by Charles & Marie Bridge (next-door!). Raymond is hugely grateful for all the support given by so many, including the three churches, the Rotary Club and individual contributors. Read soon online how he and Revel began at the deep end as 'washers-up and minglers'.

Hop to the PTA Easter Trail: If you're looking to entertain the kids this Easter, Eynsham Primary PTA's popular egg hunt is back. Join famous dog detective, Sherlock Bones, to help solve the Mystery of the Missing Egg! It's a great way for children of all ages to explore our lovely village in the spring, with a chocolate egg for every hunt completed. Trail sheets (£2) available until 11 April at Evenlode DIY.

It's OK to croquet: Between lockdowns last year Eynsham Croquet enjoyed a full season of socially distanced play on the best lawns ever. Membership was up and sessions were oversubscribed – fresh air, exercise, social interaction, different and on your doorstep! Now past the flooding (getting used to it by now), members are in full swing preparing the lawns for opening on 29 March. If you are interested in something new, call in past the Club

at the Cricket grounds and give it a go. We play on Tuesday and Saturday 14:00–16:00 and Thursday 10:00–12:00. You will get a warm welcome! – *Roger Booth*

Eynsham Cricket Club: Spring has sprung and cricket is in the air!!! Structured nets and practice start at the ground on Wednesday 31 March from 18:00–19:30, new players welcome. In April we launch a full list of friendly midweek and Sunday matches, with openings for new members and young players too. Enquiries: eynshamcc@gmail.com

Junior cricket has thrived here, offering cricket to a new audience and a massive social scene for parents on Friday nights. Rules allowing, this resumes in May for boys and girls aged 7 to 15. Enquiries to eynshamyoungcricketers@gmail.com – *Patrick Arnold*

Eynsham women hope to get back to cricket in the next few weeks. We are a friendly bunch of mixed ability women and girls, playing softball friendlies and hardball league. If you fancy playing or just learning the game email eynsham.womens.cricket@gmail.com – *Ian Miller*



Martial Arts is on the way back. Time to burn off that lockdown energy! Classes return mid-April at the Village Hall, spaces available for new starters, free for 4 weeks! Contact me for further information. I look forward to hearing from you – *Claire Maden: 07540 316188 / cmmartialarts@live.co.uk*

Litter Pickers meet again on Sunday, 25 April at 13.45 in the Baptist Church grounds, to establish routes and collect equipment. – *Pam Breeze*

Reports from around the village

Bartholomew Players: Sadly, the constraints imposed by Covid have made our May 2021 show unviable. Limited numbers due to social distancing, the ongoing risk of infection during rehearsal, the burden of health & safety measures all mean that it is impractical to deliver our usual theatrical extravaganza. Watch this space for developments – we really hope (and will do our best) to have an autumn show! – *Denise Santilli*



Congratulations to Beaver Scouts Jacob, Samuel, Lukas and Oliver on achieving the Chief Scout's Bronze Award! Anyone wearing this Award must be adventurous, have helped their community and

have learned about the world. They've also gained skills, worked as a team, and joined in with Beavers steadily for about two years. It's just as well that all that hard work is really good fun! – *Chris Baker*

Eynsham Carnival Committee is sad to announce that this year's Carnival date, 3 July, is too early in the 'Road Map' to normality and therefore Carnival is not feasible this year. We still hope to help organise a community event later, in tandem with Eynsham Shirt Race, so keep an eye on our Facebook page or Eynsham Online for updates. We can't wait to hold Carnival again in all its glory and make 2022 a year to remember!

Eynsham Community Larder continues to support over 35 local households (roughly 47 adults and 68 children) with weekly food boxes, essentials and seasonal treats, vouchers and gifts. Thanks so much to the people of Eynsham for your generosity. With the impact of Covid and economic downturn likely to be felt for some time to come, demand is expected to continue and the cost of running this operation is significant. Regular donations are welcomed in the collection baskets at Co-op, Spar, The Market Garden and Tesco or give online at bit.ly/eynsham-CSF

As life returns to normal, the Larder may need to relocate from Eynsham Baptist Church. If you can offer a suitable space (free of charge) for the Larder's medium-term future, please do get in touch with Bob Thiele on 07738 063083.

Eynsham Lockdown blog: Huge thanks to everyone who bought or contributed towards the Eynsham Lockdown Diaries, especially the editors, Sarah Medina and Lucy Badger. Print copies (generously funded by Eynsham Rotary) have raised over £500 for the Eynsham Community Larder. If you didn't manage to get a copy of your own and want to know what your fellow Eynshamites got up to in 2020, the books will be in Eynsham Library soon.

Eynsham Preschool: This month the children have been celebrating signs of spring. We have enjoyed making bird feeders, painting daffodils for St David's Day, looking out for rainbows and

drawing around shadows when the sun finally came out. We have also had some 'eggs-tra special' visitors – a batch of hens' eggs to incubate and gently care for. We believe that children learn best from real life opportunities and plenty of hands-on learning. If you would like to visit or register your child, please call Jackie on 01865 883893 or email manager@eynshampreschool.org

Schools rally to students in lockdown: A massive thanks to the leadership team and staff at Eynsham Community Primary and Bartholomew School, who rallied to support children of all ages with their remote learning in the most recent lockdown. Pupils at both schools – and their families – benefited from innovative live teaching and support using Google Classrooms, while schools remained open for the children of keyworkers. Bartholomew also created a sophisticated programme of virtual extracurricular activities, BartsXtra, including choirs, cookery classes and interesting talks.

Mrs Bayliss of Eynsham Primary also took to the streets each week to personally deliver Headteacher's Awards – at a distance – to recognize pupils' achievements and put smiles on their faces.

– *Laura Stringer*



Lizzie's view of zero carbon Eynsham 2030

The lifestyle that GreenTEA is working for – part two

Hello again. I hope you read my piece about Eynsham's energy transformation in the last issue. So here I am with my partner and two children in our lovely warm house, built 8 years ago in West Eynsham.

Today I'm off to the village centre for errands, socialising and arranging things. It's about five minutes on my electric bike, so I do all my shopping locally. I put my kettle in my bag as it doesn't seem to be working – the repair shop will soon fix that! And I want to pick up the equipment for painting Georgia's bedroom – everything is available to borrow from the Library of Things, next to the books.

I've stuff to drop off at the second-hand shop – and I usually find something there for one of the kids – clothes, books or games. Nearly all my

crockery and glasses come from there – it helps them and me. There are five local charities that benefit from the shop – you can choose which one your money goes to but they're all worthwhile – from the car share and preschool to the community gardens and ponds. The food bank closed when we introduced a minimum income, so that no-one now is on the breadline.

I am a member of Eynsham Hub which houses lots of small businesses. I get two sessions a week and share admin help, Wi-Fi, meeting rooms, etc. for the care company that I set up five years ago. It's also the base for Eynsham Heroes to sign up for my two hours a week volunteering. It's July so produce from the community allotment is available at the Veg Share.

The noticeboard by the church has all the what's on details. There's always something on at the Village Hall which was built for the millennium... those people really had a vision. – *Sue Raikes*

A home education homily

Did you breathe a sigh of relief when the schools re-opened on 8 March and you could get back to a more normal life? Home education doesn't look like what most families endured in lockdown: the beauty of it is that we can tailor the education we provide to each individual child.

Most people's concerns with home education seem to focus on a perceived lack of social interaction, but nothing could be further from the truth. There are hundreds of home educated children in Oxfordshire, and in more normal times many weekly groups (run mostly by parents) range from bushcraft to sports to art classes to Minecraft social meet ups. There is also an active and supportive online world of home educators, which I have found particularly helpful over the last year. Home educated children are often more present in the local community than their compatriots in school and, in this sense, the 'home' in 'home education' is somewhat of a misnomer.



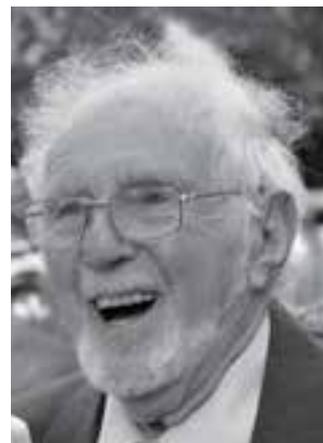
On the downside – fitting in work with children around all the time can be challenging and we rarely get time 'off'. But for us the benefits easily outweigh the negatives. No alarm clocks, duvet days when it's blowing a gale outside, reading together in the garden when it's sunny,

exploring nature, holidaying (in more normal times) during term time, with no one else timetabling our lives. And if you think you need loads of resources, or fear you are not 'qualified', I have learnt that all you really need is a library card, a pair of walking boots and a leap of faith. It has been so wonderful to see our children learning because they want to, rather than because they are made to. And if it at any stage isn't working, they can always go back into the system. – *Victoria Thomas*

Spotlight on Eynsham people

Norman Hayes

passed away on 26 December 2020 aged 92. Originally from Eccles Manchester he was drawn to the beauty of the Oxfordshire countryside and started his first teaching job in Eynsham in the early 1960s. The ethos of child-led learning was perfect for Norman. He was so happy to share his passion for art, the natural world and storytelling with the children.



As well as being a well-loved teacher, he was an accomplished artist. Many Eynsham families have pencil portraits of their children that he did at school fêtes and many more have his watercolour paintings on their walls. He held exhibitions every year, often at the Bartholomew Room in The Square as part of Artweeks. He also showed his work in his home town of Manchester and as far away as France and the USA.

After retiring he travelled around Europe, New Zealand and Canada painting. He was a kind, generous and humble man who loved to chat with the people he met. He will be remembered fondly by his family and friends far and wide. His family would like to thank everyone who came to share their memories of him in The Square on the day of his funeral. – *Katherine Jefferies*

Roger Gascoigne – postscript: Eynsham Royal British Legion members would like to record that Roger volunteered for service in the Royal Air Force at the age of 16. Some 25 years later he completed a full career, having been awarded the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal. His participation in the life of the village, and in particular as Standard Bearer in the RBL Eynsham Branch, reflect fully the spirit of that award. – *Mike Stephens*

Planning and building notes

The Bartholomew Room was acquired for the village in 1983 with funds raised by residents for the 1977 Jubilee; and the Parish Council has managed it on our behalf. With refurbishment costs still escalating, the Council seems keen to hand it back. Local groups have been invited to take it over on a 10-year lease and ensure it remains open to the public. 'The Council will relocate for its business purposes but will remain as owner of the building'. It has already been declared a community asset on recent VAT advice. A great opportunity to create a community hub in the heart of Eynsham, or a white elephant? – you choose! Contact the Clerk by midday on Wednesday 7 April if you're interested.

Salt Cross garden village: West Oxfordshire District Council's draft Area Action Plan has now been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate, along with the supporting viability assessment – documents and representations at bit.ly/AAP-exam. Consultation on the outline planning application has also now closed and the responses are online at bit.ly/OCGV-out

West Eynsham: WODC's draft masterplan is still unpublished. Follow progress at bit.ly/38NKjGp

Time to relax

SKYLIGHT

Transferred – for good reasons – to an upper room with restricted view of an upper world through dusty glass, askew.

From treetops in highest relief against the sky birds traverse, near and far too rapid to identify.

But starlings spiral and sink together out of sight below to squabble over feeders on a stick tree in the wall-bounded hollow.

A wagtail opposite, between-whiles, performs its passeggiata with pirouettes upon the tiles.

And when a rooftop sunset cranes the neck, a long shadow snags the eye's periphery as old Avery plods along beside the fallow.

Nigel Pearce, November 2020

'Edible' Eynsham! Take a metaphorical, foodie stroll around the village and imagine our buildings as food! What flavours and textures spring to mind as you look at them – smooth ice cream or crusty French bread? Layers of lasagne or puffy Yorkshire pudding?

Great Aunt Nellie's Christmas cake was plain, serviceable, fruit cake with no fancy topping but a wonderful gooey layer of marzipan baked inside. Our house is like that. Solid rustic stone exterior, dull even, but it opens to something much more interesting.

Taking the cake metaphor further...

- St Leonards Church – a modest, 3 tier wedding cake.
- 47 Mill Street – a fondant French fancy.
- The Library – a Battenburg. Smooth and plain outside but full of life and colour within!

Try it on your next walk around Eynsham. Houses as fruit and veg, a variety of cheeses... And if you notice a strange woman staring at your house, I'm not being nosey just salivating!! – *An anonymous Eynsham fan, with thanks to Will Self, Radio 4, Sunday 6 December 2020*

Millie the Mog: I'm still wondering why I got a blue-leather collar with a bell on it for Christmas! I thought everyone knew we cats like to be quiet, not qualify as Morris dancers. Anyway, I scratched and scratched at it till they took it off, and now it's buried behind next door's shed. – *Lesley Francis*



*Thanks to former Bartholomew student Emily Cobb for this Easter drawing!
To download a bigger pic and check out the archive, just search
'Eynsham Colouring Corner' online.*

Looking out for one another



EYN SHAM Don't forget,
Good Neighbour the 'Eynsham
NETWORK Heroes' continue

to help anyone shielding or self-isolating with shopping, errands, and prescription collection. We are also in discussion with Eynsham Good Neighbour Network about continuing and expanding community services post-pandemic. Please don't hesitate to ask for any help you need – there are over 600 willing neighbours standing to attention. Email eynshamhelp@gmail.com / call 07443 564516 or feel free to join your neighbourhood WhatsApp group if you haven't already. It's a great way to offer or request help from people on your street, or simply connect with your neighbours.

Eynsham Community Larder is open to anyone in need of one-off or regular help – difficult times can strike us all. If you, or someone you know, need some support, call or text Bob Thiele on 07738 063083 or email eynshamhelp@gmail.com

Introducing the Eynsham News team

... for Issue 50 and beyond!

Following a call for volunteers in the last issue, we are pleased to announce that a new team has formed to take this publication forward. The copy deadline for Issue 50 is Sunday 9 May 2021, for delivery at the end of May, and the new Editorial Team (Ellie Rowling, Peter Taylor and Mark Watson) are looking forward to hearing from you. To send your news and events for inclusion in the next issue, please contact editor@eynshamnews.org.uk or pop a note through the letter box at 1 High Street (opposite the Co-op).

The new team is seeking a Treasurer to help manage the group's finances. It is envisaged that this role will take a few hours per month. If you have a background in accountancy, finance or book keeping, and would like to help a small, friendly, community organisation, please get in touch with Victoria Cox at hello@eynshamnews.org.uk for more information.

We look forward to hearing from you!

Printed in Oxford by Holywell Press

Local businesses in Eynsham

Alan @ Eynsham Chiropractic Clinic

McTimoney Chiropractor

Contact : 01865 882992 alan.chiro@gmail.com

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Businesses serving Eynsham

Cosy Homes Oxfordshire: A one-stop retrofit service helping homeowners reduce energy use: reducing bills and carbon emissions. www.cosyhomesoxfordshire.org | 0300 303 1269

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

Freeland Pre-school provides high quality education for 2–5 year olds. Friendly environment, large garden, outdoor explorer sessions in local woods. 01993 882945 / freelandpg@hotmail.co.uk



*Looking back ... and looking forward –
photo © Colin McMaster*