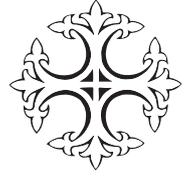


Eynsham News



It's our BIG...



New Team, Same Mission

After establishing Eynsham News in 2013 and running the newsletter for the village for 49 issues, Joan Stonham and her team have handed over the reins to a new group of volunteers. You can find out a bit more about us inside, but we would like to thank the outgoing team, and rest assured, Eynsham News will remain an independent, not-for-profit printed publication, delivered free to every household in the village. Your contributions are always very welcome.

The deadline for the August edition is 11th July.

This issue is sponsored by the Eynsham Society

Village Buzz



End of the Rainbow

After almost 45 years of serving our village, the Lau family have decided to retire and hand over the running of Rainbow House takeaway to a new family.

Louise Lau takes us back to when the story began...

“Many decades ago my grandfather took a brave step. He risked everything to create a better life for the ones he loved and moved his young family from Hong Kong to England. He spoke no English and knew very few people but this didn’t suppress the dreams of a man unafraid of hard work and filled with determination.

I’m not sure he imagined the success the take away would have. So many of you have walked through the doors over the last 44 years, but to see some get married and bring in your children and then your grandchildren is special. I guess that’s the bonus of setting up in (what was) a small village! Love was also found at The Rainbow House. Two young, shy teenagers found one another. Those teenagers were my parents, who got married and spent 33 happy years together.

Last year, aged 92, we sadly lost the man who started it all. So many of you lined the streets to pay respects and watched on as we said goodbye with a traditional Chinese funeral. He’d have been touched.

You all know the legendary front of house man, my uncle, Yip! But there are those in the kitchen. My father, my aunt, her husband, Yip’s wife, who stepped in after my eldest uncle and wife retired last summer and cousin.

Thank you to each and every one of you who walked through the doors.

You stayed with us through the good, the bad and the uncertain times. I’m/ we’re truly grateful.”

Mysterious happenings in our midst

Early on Easter morning villagers awoke to find packets of Mini Eggs deposited on random doorsteps—the start, it seems, of a sustained campaign of love bombing by a group claiming to be “The Mysterious Mothers of Mischief.”

Hampers, plants, drinks, cakes, chocolates, and sachets of sunflower seeds have since been left anonymously as thank you gifts or mood boosters. There have even been banners to welcome back businesses after lockdown or bid farewell to the Lau family at Rainbow House. The group’s Facebook page says the MMoM are: “Causing a little mischief while spreading a little love.”

Founder, “Mavis Hooplah” invites nominations or offers of help by email mother.mischief@aol.com or via Facebook Messenger. To support their cheerful antics, you can buy badges or keyrings at Eynsham Cellars, Evenlode DIY and The Queen’s Head.



May Day Morris

For centuries, Britons have been celebrating May Day as the start of summer. The singing on Magdalen Tower at 6am, maypole dancing, and Morris men have all been part of the festivities, until Covid got in the way! Every year since the early 80s, Eynsham Morris have been taking part in the Oxford May Day celebrations at first light and then on May Bank Holiday they dance in Eynsham Square at about 11am. For the last two years though, Covid restrictions have prevented this,

but our Morris men didn’t want to miss out again as it’s an important tradition for them.

So, a small group of them followed the rules and did a socially distanced secret tour of the village to welcome in the new month at dawn. They played tunes as they went but no dancing or crowds were allowed. Along the way they knocked on friends and family’s bedroom windows using a large head on a big pole, which was made by well known Headington Morris Man Michael Black, the man who sculptured the emperors’ heads outside the Sheldonian in Oxford.

They shouted “Happy May Day” through friendly letterboxes and surprised many more residents along the route, including some bemused passengers on the bus! Long-standing Eynsham Morris man Rupert Boulting was dressed as “The Green Man” and was joined by younger members of the side; Josh, Howard, Ruben and Pascall. Visit their Facebook page for details of where you can see them next.



Eynsham Country Market Re-Opens

Eynsham Country Market was back in full swing on Saturday 8th May with a special sale to mark their 37th year in business. Despite the torrential rain, customers turned out in numbers to support the Market. They were treated to a huge array of freshly baked cakes, biscuits, bread, savouries, fresh eggs, preserves, and three gazebos filled with homegrown plants, veg and fresh cut flowers. The homemade crafts, including knitted items and handmade cards were also very popular. The birthday cake was cut by George, of the Red Lion and the Market Manager, Judith Bowden.

Normal weekly Thursday morning markets resumed on 13th May outside the Red Lion from 9am-10.30am.

Sponsor's Feature

Did you notice the daffodils in the road verges on the outskirts of the village in April? Ever wonder who planted them? Well, it was the Eynsham Society! And they have very kindly sponsored our 50th edition of Eynsham News. Their Chairman, Eleanor Chance, tells us about what they've been up to in the village over the past five decades...



The early days of the Eynsham Society

Ever wonder who plants the daffodils?

We don't just plant for springtime, most of the trees in the car park are also down to us too. They're some of the 1,000 trees we've planted around the village since the Society started in 1972. So, it's our 50th anniversary next year and hopefully we shall be able to celebrate with some more planting, and a really good party (pandemic allowing).

The aims of the Society are to protect the local environment by dealing with all kinds of amenity questions affecting the welfare of the village—new developments and roads, protection of old buildings and trees, traffic problems, public footpaths, and any other aspect of the protection and improvement of the village we live in and love.

Our annual agenda usually consists of a couple of local walks, 2 or 3 talks (sometimes on local topics, sometimes more general), 2 parties (a garden party in June and a Christmas party in December), occasional trips to somewhere of interest (ranging from Harwell to Berkley Castle).

Membership of the Society costs a mere £10 a year and is open to anyone who lives in the parish of Eynsham. Non-members are welcome to join our



Still going strong in 2020

talks (usually a fee of £3 at the door) and our trips if there are vacancies.

We give an annual award to a child at the Bartholomew School for their contribution either to the school community or the wider local community. We also have an occasional award (open to anyone) for excellence in the local community. We raise money for local charities and have recently given £250 to the Nature Recovery Network to be spent on wildflowers around the village. And, of course, we are financing this issue of the Eynsham News.

We have had to go into hibernation

for the past 12 months due to the pandemic, but, fingers crossed, may be able to resume activities within the foreseeable future when we would love to see members old and new. To contact us email: secretary@eynshamsociety.org.uk or phone the Chairman, Eleanor Chance 01865 881095 or the Membership Secretary 01865 880123.

If your club, society or business is interested in supporting the Eynsham News and sponsoring an edition, please get in touch with Sarah at ads@eynshamnews.org.uk who will be able to provide you with all the details.

Parish Council News



From the new Chair, Nick Relph

First, I need to introduce myself as the new Chair of your local Parish Council (EPC).

My family and I have lived in the village for over 35 years. By training, I am a Geography graduate and a qualified public sector accountant. My career was in NHS management including being Chief Executive in NHS organisations in the Thames Valley and London. I retired a few years ago but still work with the NHS occasionally.

I have been on the Parish Council for 11 years. I chaired the Finance and General Purposes Committee for many years and have been Vice Chair in recent years.

I was selected as Chair after Gordon Beech decided to stand down after many years of committed and successful public service. We shall miss his wisdom and experience enormously.

At the Parish Council annual meeting on the 5th May we made several significant decisions. We have spent a year operating without any Committees with all matters being dealt with by full Council. It was hoped this would help deal with the somewhat overwhelming number of major issues the village has faced. In hindsight we agreed that establishing three new committees would now be the best way forward so we will

have Finance and General Purposes, Amenities and Estates, and Planning Committees.

We want to make the Parish Council more accessible to residents so we will be moving all our meetings to the Village Hall. We will also welcome questions from members of the public on any general issues of concern as well as those relating to items on our agenda.

We are busy writing a 5-year strategy and one year plan and we will be seeking your input to help us set our key objectives and determine the overall direction of the work of the Council. We will have to continue to work with partners on the Garden Village, West Eynsham development, A40 Park & Ride and bus lanes, and to resist the threat of gravel extraction to the east of the village. And we will be refreshing and updating the Eynsham Neighbourhood Plan during 2021/22. We want to engage as widely as possible so that we create documents that have the widest possible ownership across the Parish. So please, when the opportunity comes, if you can, do get involved.

Work has been delayed on the Bartholomew Rooms, but we hope this will be concluded by the summer and that a thriving new community hub will have been created. We will also be focussed on fundraising efforts so that we can move apace to develop our plans for a new Pavilion on the Oxford Road site.

As you can see there is much to do. We remain short of councillors and would particularly welcome candidates from the Hazeldene and Thornbury Green developments and from Barnard Gate. If being a Councillor is not attractive, there are always opportunities to join one of the Committees or perhaps a working group (for example we will establish a task and finish group to develop plans for a village wide 20 MPH speed limit).

Finally, it is an honour to be elected Chair, but the Council can only work at its best with your help, input and support in whatever way works best for you. The upcoming challenges are very significant, and we need to work together to get the best possible outcome for all the current and future residents of the Parish.

Local Government & Current Affairs

Eynsham Elects

by Joan Stonham

Congratulations to Dan Levy, who took over from Charles Mathew as our County Councillor with a turnout of 49.93%; and to Andy Goodwin, who completes a Liberal Democrat trio for Eynsham on the District Council with a turnout of 50.39%.

Dan says: "It is fantastic to be elected by the people of the village you live in—thank you! I am excited to join the County Council, to represent the people and voices of Eynsham. There is a huge number of things on my to do list, starting with addressing the proposed A40 changes. You can contact Dan on 07852 748362 or dan.levy@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Andy says: "I have been overwhelmed by the level of support and engagement in local matters. It's great to see the significant increase in voter turnout, it all demonstrates Dan and I have understood the concerns of the local community. We are determined to work hard to bring these issues to the table at both councils." You can contact Andy on 07969 441 321 or andy.goodwin@westoxon.gov.uk

Thanks also to Sean Grace, whose contribution to our community during the pandemic has been enormous and much appreciated. For full results and voting figures from 2005-2019 visit bit.ly/eynsham-elects21

This year's count was complicated by Covid and held over several days. Working for OCC communications when the web was in its infancy, I took pride in publishing results through the night ahead of the Oxford Mail.

There were no nominations for the vacant seat on Eynsham Parish Council. An election will be held in the next month or two if two or more people stand. You may apply to join the Parish Council in between elections, as there are four vacancies at present.

We'll keep you up to date with council news and plans at all levels throughout the year.

Remote Policing

Thames Valley Police has announced the closure of counter services at Kidlington and Witney with effect from 30 August. The nearest will be St Aldates, Oxford (08:00-20:00, daily). "These changes do not affect police officer numbers...you will not experience any difference in [our] ongoing commitment to visible policing," says the press release. For all enquiries please call 101; in an emergency always call 999.

Better Bin Days

WODC are investing £140k in technology to go in the lorries that collect our rubbish. It will help cut the number of missed collections and reduce carbon emissions, saving £50k per year. The kit will make collections safer for crew, pedestrians and road users too, and will allow crews to log problems as they go and be alerted to any special collection requirements before they arrive.

Ongoing Developments



© Mark Watson

Salt Cross

In October 2020, West Oxfordshire District Council (WODC) ran a public consultation of the draft Salt Cross Garden Village Area Action Plan (AAP). In response, nearly 100 residents from Eynsham and surrounding villages signed a Community Letter Response prepared by EPIC and GreenTEA.

Examination of the District Council's Area Action Plan starts on 28 June and if you want to get your head around the issues, the Inspector has published a guidance note, a list of 'matters, issues and questions' and an indicative timetable for the hearings at bit.ly/AAP-exam.

Although the deadline to speak at hearings has passed, you still have until

midday on Friday 4th June to make your own personal, written response to Rosie Morton, rosemary.morton@publicagroup.uk or c/o WODC, Planning & Strategic Housing, Elmfield, New Yatt Road, Witney, OX28 1PB.

OCC Salt Cross update

A Planning Inspector has been carrying out an initial assessment of the draft Area Action Plan for the Salt Cross garden village. The Inspector is also looking at supporting evidence documents and will be confirming a date for the hearing in the near future. The date will be made public when it has been fixed, six weeks before the hearing is due to take place so giving required notice time to all parties concerned.

A40 Roadworks

Oxfordshire County Council will soon be undertaking extensive consultation about the A40 improvement works. Construction of the new Park and Ride is expected to begin in 2022 along with the bus lane to Oxford. If you have any direct queries, contact 01865 792422 a40corridor@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Abbey Green

Thomas Homes have started the groundwork on their development on the site of the old A40 Garden Centre/Nursery, opposite where the new Park and Ride will be built. There will be around 70 2-5 bedroom homes with a green open space area. You can see a plan of the development and register your interest at www.thomashomes.co.uk/our-developments/future-sites/abbey-green



Thornbury Green

by Alex Moore from Rock Kitchen Harris, PR for Taylor Wimpey
We're excited to see the community growing at Thornbury Green, with

more residents moving in and a limited number of homes left to sell.

Emma and Mark moved here with their young son after deciding that they wanted to embrace a more rural way of life.

Emma said: "We're enjoying living at Thornbury Green and being in Eynsham; it's a great village and feels like a perfect fit for us. We do feel like a part of a wider community."

"One key factor in our move was being close to Bartholomew School, but the stunning layout of the development is also a massive plus."

Taylor Wimpey were also pleased to host a plant sale for residents on 15th May, organised by Eynsham's churches.

Eynsham News New Team

Hello!

"Hi" from the new team behind the Eynsham News! We're a small, friendly bunch of villagers who all wanted to make sure the newsletter would continue to share news to every household around Eynsham. We're all pretty different in terms of our backgrounds, our time in the village and in experience contributing to a publication like this, but we've been helping each other along to get things up and running and hope to keep the Eynsham News going from strength to strength (and even meet each other in person one day soon!). If you'd like to join the team, drop us an email!

Victoria Cox – I've lived in the village for three years and I'm currently enjoying maternity leave, following the arrival of our baby son in early April. I've joined the team as Eynsham News Coordinator and can be contacted on hello@eynshamnews.org.uk with any general enquiries.

David Farley – I'm the Eynsham News designer and I have 25 years' experience working in advertising and branding. I moved to Eynsham in 2018. One of my favourite design quotes is 'anyone who would letter space lower case would steal sheep'.

Ellie Rowling – I've wanted to get more involved in village life for years

and didn't want to lose the Eynsham News, so I decided to see what I could bring to the editorial team. When I'm not playing village newshound, I love spending time in the garden and exploring the surrounding countryside.

Sara Rushworth – I moved to the village toward the end of last year and have received a very warm welcome, particularly from fellow dog walkers! My background is in marketing and business development so was keen to contribute to the community by putting this experience to use by taking on a role helping with advertising and sponsorship.

Peter Taylor – I'm part of the editorial team—I moved to Eynsham from Oxford with my wife, Denise when we retired—we enjoy living in the village!

Mary Turrell – I have lived in the village for nearly 50 years. During the time our children were at the local schools I was involved with the PTA and was Chairman of the Primary PTA for 3 years. I am now retired and have joined the Eynsham News as Treasurer, but previously worked for 19 years as Assistant to the Bursar at the European School in Culham.

Mark Watson – I've been in Eynsham since 1970 and have been one of the Carnival Public Address Announcers since about 1980. You may also know me as a former presenter and producer on BBC Radio Oxford where I did many things including the travel news and events guides. I want to help village clubs, groups, businesses and other organisations to thrive by publicising and reporting on their events and letting you hear about activities you could become part of.

From around the village

Eynsham Litter Pickers

We currently meet in the grounds of Eynsham Baptist Church. Our next meeting will be on Sunday 30th May meeting at 2pm for registration and to collect equipment and arrange routes. Please remember to bring your masks.

We're hoping to start meeting on the last Sunday of the month again soon.

Last minute changes or cancellations will be posted on the Church Gate and newcomers are most welcome. Enquiries to Pam Breeze: 07971 174434 or email: pam@crazybreeze.com.



Poppy Appeal Thanks

The Royal British Legion would like to thank all those who contributed to the 2018-19 Poppy Appeal in Eynsham. They received a certificate for achieving the highest percentage increase over the previous year within Oxfordshire. Poppy Appeal Organiser for Eynsham, Julie Jordan said: "A tad late, but better late than never! Of course, I didn't achieve this without the help of the Eynsham branch of RBL and, more importantly, the people in the village who bought poppies and donated so generously. Thank you everyone."



A new look for Eynsham Community Primary School

A new logo has been unveiled for Eynsham Community Primary School to celebrate its ongoing improvements and "Good" OFSTED rating.

School Manager, Lisa Denbow, says, "A huge thankyou to Assistant Head, Mr Jackson, for incorporating the children's ideas along with staff suggestions. The new logo represents a phoenix-type bird soaring to success, which is our wish for every child in the school." The logo will also feature on a smart new navy blue school uniform, launching in September 2021. Look out

for it on a school run near you.

Eynsham Primary School PTA is hoping to welcome past, present and future pupils and their families to a Summer Social and BBQ on the school site on the evening of July 9th to raise funds for the school. Further details to be announced on Facebook and on Eynsham Online.

Eynsham pre-school

The pre-school children have spent lots of time learning outside and experiencing many different types of weather; from sun and rain to hail and sleet (sometimes all in one day!).

They are fascinated with living creatures, so we have arranged an outside visit from a therapy pony and later in the term we will be looking after caterpillars and watching them transform into butterflies.

Our older children are busy getting ready for school; developing their physical skills and practising their mark-making, eagerly writing their names on their creations. They especially love the new light-up boards.

Staff, parents and volunteers worked hard to give the garden a Spring make-over with a fairy garden, mud kitchen, real boat and new sand for the enormous sand pit.

Unfortunately, many of our fundraising events have had to be postponed this year but as Covid restrictions start to lift please look out for our posters. Our next events will be a Scarecrow Trail starting 31st May and a garage sale in the summer.

We believe that children learn best when we give them real life opportunities and plenty of hands-on learning. If you would like to visit or register your child, please email manager@eynshampreschool.org or call Jackie on 883893.

Patient Charity

This year marks the 25th anniversary of Eynsham & Long Hanborough Medical Care Group.

Thanks to generous donations and fundraising, it has provided extras not available from the NHS, from air conditioning the waiting rooms to 24-hour blood pressure monitors. The most popular—and costly—provision

has been a van and part-time driver to deliver prescriptions to the house-bound. Demand for this, much accentuated during Covid, means the trustees are in constant need of your support. You can contact the charity's treasurer, Dr Ian Binnian, on 01865 881206 / ian.binnian@nhs.net or visit the Virgin Money Giving page bit.ly/3hbDP9u



Hedgehogs

Eynsham's hedgehogs are very much in need of protection from the rigours of human activities, so Eynsham's Nature Recovery Network has established a Hedgehog Group, run by Neil Bailey, and Judy & Don Reid.

There are many caring people in the village who provide for the hedgehogs by putting out food, water, and specially built houses for them to pass the daylight hours or to hibernate. Our main aim is to coordinate all the areas of the village to which hedgehogs have access and create a Hedgehog Highway map covering those gardens and green spaces.

We have organised help for people to connect with their neighbours' gardens by making CD-size holes in their walls or fences, and you will soon see our wheelie-bin stickers around the village which we hope will help calm excessive speeding. For your garden to be included in the map we'd love to hear from you—don.reid130@gmail.com for details.

Rainbows, Brownies and Guides in Eynsham

We were all really excited to get the news before Easter that we could meet face-to-face again. So far they have made flying rockets, thought about different ways of communicating, including learning British Sign Language to spell their names, done an I Spy around Eynsham, and generally just enjoying

being together again! It's not the same meeting on Zoom during the lockdown, but we did have fun!



Our Great Outdoors

by Sue Osborne, EPC.

"The earth had donned her mantle of brightest green; and shed her richest perfumes abroad. It was the prime and vigour of the year; all things were glad and flourishing." *Charles Dickens*

It's great to see that our footpaths, bridleways and green spaces continue to be well-used and enjoyed during these ongoing strange times. At last, the diagonal route across the field northeast of the allotments to Mead Lane has been marked in the crop (FP 206/6), so it's walkable once more. An ivy tree which had fallen across the bridleway at the back of Eynsham Primary School (BP 206/8) has been removed so that horses can now get through. The little hawthorn tree that was planted near Hawthorn Road to commemorate Armistice Day had been accidentally strimmed, so some strong new protection has been put around it to help it survive; likewise, the shrubs that were planted along the verge at the Thames Water entrance of the Wharf Stream Way have had some wood chippings put around them in the hope of suppressing some of the nettle growth, which we hope will allow them to get established and improve the look of the verge.

Shirley's Spinney, at the Fishponds, has also received some TLC: a small band of volunteers gathered on 8th May (a miraculous window appeared in the rain, so we didn't get soaked despite the weather's best efforts!) to pull up nettles and add wood chippings to the bases of all the saplings. It was lovely to see all the thriving plants emerging, with their spring leaves and buds burgeoning. Many thanks to John, Chris, Sue B.,

David and Gavin for all their heroic efforts.

If you would like to be added to the Parish Council list of volunteers for outdoor activities, please do get in touch. There is never any obligation, but the sense of camaraderie and satisfaction in doing work like this is heartwarming!

Memories from an Eynsham Evacuee

Ken Brown came to Eynsham as an evacuee from London in 1940, at the age of four and here he shares his memories.

"I still remember bits of the East End going up in flames. I was a bag of nerves when I came to the village due to the constant bombing and enemy planes; each time a plane came over, I ran in screaming, thinking bombs were dropping."

First Ken's family was billeted in the White House, in Mill Street, and then moved to Star Cottages, in Witney Road.

"We had an outside toilet for the whole block of seven families and a heavy mat at the base of our front door to stop the draft coming in," recalls Ken.

"I was only about eight or nine years of age at the time so my memory is not unique."

During the war years, the village didn't even have a fire engine, just a pump unit that was housed beneath the Bartholomew building. Ken's first school was in Station Lane. "We had nothing like sweets, everything was on ration. The nearest we got to sweets was when mother cooked a treacle pudding and we queued up to lick the spoon. We often had rabbit stew to eat, but chicken was a delicacy only at Christmas. Once we had goose, and mother made sure we kept the grease as it had medicinal uses. A rub down with goose grease and a wrapping in brown paper was a safeguard against Winter ills!"

You can read this and previous editions of Eynsham News online by visiting eynsham-pc.gov.uk/ or issuu.com/eynsham1



Dog Watch

by Andrew Dilger

'Pandemic puppies' have become a nationwide phenomenon. In January, my family and I got a whippet called Astra (as in Zeneca!). Since then, we've been regulars at the Jubilee field where Astra's puppy pals include Buddy the Border Collie, Nacho and Honey the Labradors, Fidget the Dobermann and Joni the Podenco!

More walks mean we've also discovered some of Eynsham's 'hidden trails'. My personal fave is the tree-lined track between Dovehouse Close and the B4449. Who knew it was even there? It pops out at Cassington Road and then you can pick up the Wharf Stream Way or loop back behind the allotment. Perfect for off-lead practice with the puppy. You can also have a good nose at what everyone's growing now that spring is here.

Join me over the next few issues as I share more insights—fun, friendly, unfaillingly local—into my time as a newbie 'dog-watcher'. Woof!

Eynsham Lockdown e-book!

We are pleased to announce that, after the sell-out success of Eynsham Lockdown, Lucy Badger and Sarah Medina have now released a free e-book version!

To download your copy, simply go to <https://leanpub.com/eynshamlockdown> and follow the instructions. There is a link on the page to the Eynsham Community

Larder; please consider a donating to them in lieu of paying for the book.

A printed copy of the book has also been placed in Eynsham Library for community use.

Car Share

Want to save or make money? Take another look at your car, says Tricia Crowley.

You've heard of Airbnb for holiday lets. Love or hate it, Airbnb has revolutionised the way people book short term holiday and short stay accommodation, making money for the owner and saving money for the holiday maker or lodger.

Now there are equivalent operators for private cars. These are 'carpooling' companies that connect drivers with empty cars, cutting out the middleman. Insurance and breakdown cover are provided for the duration of the hire period. Potential income generating or possible transport cost savings make these 'carpooling' or 'peer-to-peer' car companies so exciting. Examples include Turo.com, Getabout.com and HiyaCar.co.uk

But which one is the best for Eynsham residents? Try them and let us know what you think.

If I didn't have a car, how much could I budget for car hire? Private cars are far more expensive than other transport modes (walking, cycling, public transport). Excessive use of the beloved motor car also brings other health-related costs such as weight gain and air pollution.

The Money Advice Service suggests it costs UK motorists an average of £3,500 a year (£292 a month) to run their cars after purchase and cites depreciation cost of £350 a month for a typical medium-sized family car bought new three years ago. You can work out the cost for your car with their calculator bit.ly/MAS-ccc

The RAC says around three million cars in the UK are used less than once a week. A third of these are virtually new—a year or two old at most. That's a very expensive weekly outing and lot of money disappearing on your driveway or parked on the roadside.

In Oxford, companies such as Co-

wheels and Zip car operate on local streets but sadly they don't have current plans to start offering cars in Eynsham. There is also a good array of traditional car hire companies in Oxford but these, though very competitive price-wise, are more useful for infrequent longer term lets.

That's why these new peer-to-peer sites are so exciting. It may now be possible to live in West Oxfordshire without 24/7 access to your own personal (but expensive) car and still be able to use a car sometimes. Or maybe to have friends, family and neighbours contribute towards the cost of your under-employed (less than 6 years old) car by listing it on one of these sites.

Eynsham is Back in Business!

Now that indoor dining and drinking is allowed, all of Eynshams pubs, restaurants and cafés are back open and ready to welcome you in along with the Social & Sports Club. Most venues are advising that you book ahead if you want to guarantee a table (no standing allowed at the bar just yet) and if you aren't feeling quite up to getting back out and about just yet, plenty of our great local eateries are still offering takeaway and delivery services.

The one sad exception is the Newlands pub which has closed permanently. The good news though is that Ian and Tracey have moved just up the road to take over the White Hart so you won't have to go far to see their friendly faces!

Garage Wanted

"Do you have an unused garage, or room in your garage for a small car? I'm looking for a garage to rent in Eynsham or nearby, ideally with power supply for very occasional use. Willing to pay reasonable rate. Please contact Rachel on 07817 503466 if you think you can help. Thank you."

You can also now contact us on Facebook! Search for our page under Eynsham News.

As some semblance of normality begins to return, Eynsham Heroes Coronavirus Support Group and Eynsham Community Larder have been reflecting on their work over the past year and discussing with Eynsham Good Neighbour Network how best to make use of the Eynsham Heroes' broad social network to harness the goodwill of the village and ensure ongoing support for those in need.

Laura Stringer writes...

Since the start of the first lockdown, when Sean Grace first took the lead on co-ordinating Eynsham's Covid response, the Eynsham Heroes' hard-working admin team (with support from the 10 neighbourhood WhatsApp groups) has answered over 1700 emails, delivered more than 700 prescriptions, run countless errands, and done an invaluable job at connecting people with others nearby for mutual support.

The associated Eynsham Community Larder, a group of volunteers overseen by Bob and Pam Thiele of Eynsham Baptist Church, has also delivered over 2000 food parcels, supporting over 35 households (50 adults and 54 young people), raised over £14,000 in community donations, thanks to the contributions of over 115 generous donors, many of whom still donate regularly, and countless other contributors to our collection baskets, generated an additional £5,250 through the Christmas Boxes appeal and sale of Eynsham Christmas Vouchers.

While these vital community services will continue for the foreseeable future, the Eynsham Heroes group is also now working with Eynsham Good Neighbour Network to recruit volunteers for other initiatives, including building "Stand Up Gardens" – potting table-style gardens made with upcycled scaffold boards, which help

Harnessing the goodwill of the people



those who cannot bend easily to grow flowers and vegetables despite the physical restrictions they may have. If you're interested in getting involved in this project (or others) please e-mail eynshamhelp@gmail.com for further information.

As talks with Eynsham Good Neighbour Network continue, we hope to soon announce more projects for which community help will be gratefully received.

Need help?

Eynsham Community Larder is open to anyone in need of one-off or regular help – contact Bob Thiele on 07738 063083 or eynshamhelp@gmail.com

For help with shopping, prescriptions, or errands, email eynshamhelp@gmail.com / call EGNN

on 07443 564516 or feel free to email us to join your neighbourhood WhatsApp group for mutual aid.

If you need help getting to an essential medical appointment, call the Eynsham Neighbourhood Car Scheme on 07469 764174.

For the Larder

Regular donations are welcomed in the collection baskets at Co-op, Spar, The Market Garden and Tesco or give online at <https://uk.gofundme.com/f/eynsham-heroes-community-support-fund>.

The Larder will eventually 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.



The Shirt Race is back for 2021...

The Eynsham Shirt Race Committee are looking to hold the 2021 Shirt Race later this year, on Saturday 2nd October at 2pm. Eynsham Carnival will be backing them and giving them their support. They have spoken to all the pubs and sponsors and they are all on board to have the event back this year, restrictions permitting.

Nic Saunders said: "We could not do this without the support of these guys...Eynsham Cellars, the Sports & Social Club and the Eynsham pubs; The Jolly Sportsman, The White Hart, The Queens Head and the Red Lion. These guys have all suffered over the last year and we want to put on a great event for everyone to enjoy and to help support these important places

in our village." Over the coming weeks and months, more details will be revealed on their Facebook page about other things that will be going on over that weekend. Nic added, "I'm sure the Shirt Racers will be as excited as we are to get those prams back out and on the road. Get your thinking caps on, excitement pants out and let's make the Shirt Race 2021 the biggest yet. Don't forget; You're never too old to have fun; You're never too unfit to have a go; You really don't have to run; You do have to have to laugh!"

Eynsham Village Scarecrow Competition

31st May-6th June

Eynsham Pre-School are again

running their popular village scarecrow trail. Lots of households have already made and registered their creations and you can follow a map of their locations which is available for £2 at Evenlode DIY or Eynsham Cellars. How many can you spot this year?

Lock to Lock 4K Open Water Thames Swim challenge

20th June, 7:30am-12noon

A mass swim downstream in the River Thames from the start at Eynsham Lock to the finish at Kings Lock. If you are interested in entering visit swimoxford.co.uk/event-4k-2021 or it will be quite a spectacle to watch and give them your support.

Eynsham Community Quilt

26th June, 11am-1pm

Come and see the big reveal of our new Community Quilt at The Baptist Church Hall in Lombard Street. Entry is free and all are welcome to pop in to view this wonderful piece of collaborative crafting made by villagers to capture our journey through the Covid pandemic.

The Big Eynsham Garage Sale

18th July, 10am-1pm

If you would like to have a stall in your front garden or driveway listed on the map to raise funds for Eynsham Pre-School at a cost of £10, email admin@eynshampreschool.org by 25th June. You can browse the stalls on the day and support them by purchasing a map in the village square for £2.

Eynsham Scouting Reunion

Scout HQ, Back Lane

18th July, 2pm-4pm

Having had our last two annual meals postponed due to Covid, this year we are trying an informal meet up in the Scout HQ garden. It's FREE and open to any past or present member of the

scout group over 18. No need to book but please bring your own cold drinks, snacks and a chair. Hot drinks will be available.

Queen's Fest

31st July, 2pm-til late

The Queens Head are having a free music festival in aid of SNNAP. There will be a Gin Bar, Pizza, a raffle. And music from: 5 O'Clock Somewhere, Quartermelon, Danny Mellin, Sarah Derrick, Lucille Jackson, Floella and more, plus Vinyl Matt and Mojo. See their Facebook page for more details.

Mikron Theatre: A Dog's Tale

Eynsham Cricket Ground, Cassington Road. 5th August, 7:30pm-10pm

Join Mikron Theatre for their annual village visit to see their latest production 'A Dog's Tale'. A comedy exploring the extraordinary world of heroic hounds, pampered pedigrees and naughty nobblers through the halls and history of Crufts. A Bar and BBQ will also be available. Tickets must be obtained in advance and are free but Mikron are asking for donations to help fund their productions. Please book via their website www.mikron.org.uk

Registrations open for rescheduled Run Wytham Woods

After the disappointment of three successive postponements due to Covid restrictions, registrations are now open for the second Run Wytham Woods 10K and Fun Run (sponsored by Siemens Healthineers), now taking place on Sunday 10th October 2021. Following the huge success of the first race in June 2019, which raised over £4000 for Eynsham Community Primary School, Race Director Andy Goodwin can't wait to welcome you back to the woods. Race numbers, professional chip timing and results will be provided and all runners will get a beautiful handmade ceramic keepsake medal from Eynsham's Chicken Run Studio. If you think you've got what it takes to tackle one of these two trails through glorious autumnal woodland, visit runwythamwoods.org. Limited places available.

Spring Clean

The Great British Spring Clean runs from 28 May to 13 June. What better time to join the Eynsham Litter Pickers—or do your bit around the village on your walks?

R C C W S B S O T P H E V H H
F V H T X R O I E C O T N U Q
D I E I E C W F R H L I G I S
O P D W L A W C U O I S P S W
B O O K S D O H T C D S M G D
E L I V F F R A A O A T Z H K
F S W P F J D E N L Y A A A Y
F R I E N D S J N A S R Y N Z
C S E C T J K Y T T J S L W D
G I L G R F Z L R E F Q I V T
K Z S E R E T H G U A L M U F
T U E U E G X L B X Z K A Q A
C H H V M P D E W T A C F R D
N O I T A S R E V N O C N G V
P I C N I C S E N I H S N U S

Please send your events news for our August and September issue (about 60 words long) to editor@eynshamnews.org.uk before 11th July 2021

Please note—details of all events were correct at the time of going to press but may change if the Government's Covid rules are modified. Please check with the organiser's social media before going.

Gratitude word search

by Sarah Medina

It is well-known that recognising and being grateful for the good things in life, no matter how tiny they are, makes people happier. Some people with a 'gratitude habit' write down three things each day that they are thankful for. Can you find 20 things in the word search that people may add to their gratitude lists? What would you add to yours? **Words can go in any direction, and they can share letters as they cross over each other.**

Answers on page 12

Share your life, change a life

Could you give someone the opportunity to live the fullest life they can live? Help them grow in confidence? Encourage them to become more independent?

The Shared Lives scheme matches people who need additional support to be independent, with carers and their families. Become a Shared Lives Carer for Oxfordshire County Council in a rewarding home-based, paid role—oxfordshire.gov.uk/sharedlivescarers

Roman Villa Volunteers

Congratulations to volunteers at North Leigh Roman Villa who have been awarded a Commendation by the Heritage Alliance for outstanding heritage voluntary work in 2020.

During the summer, the volunteers led a series of successful open mosaic days, hosting over 1,250 visitors which is nearly twice as many as the previous year. Visitors generously donated nearly £1,000 to benefit the site, and in spite of covid restrictions the team of volunteers gave over 1000 hours of their time—great work!

Community Grants Available

SSEN (the people who run the electricity network) have launched a £200k fund to support local communities and applications are open for community groups and charities until 10th June 2021.

If your group enhances community facilities, services and communication, or improves community participation then find out more at ssen.co.uk/resiliencefund

Word Search Answer

R C C W S B S O T P H E V H H
F V H T X R O I E C O T N U Q
D I E I E C W F R H L I G I S
O P D W L A W C U O I S P S W
B O O K S D O H T C D S M G D
E L I V F F R A A O A T Z H K
F S W P F J D E N L Y A A A Y
F R I E N D S J N A S R Y N Z
C S E C T J K Y T T J S L W D
G I L G P R E T H L R E F Q I V T
K Z S E R E T H G U A L M U F
T U E U E G X L B X Z K A Q A
C H H V M P D E W T A C F R D
N O I T A S R E V N O C N G V
P I C N I C S E N I H S N U S

If you would like to advertise regularly, or as a one off, we have a range of options for local businesses. For costs and deadlines contact Sarah at ads@eynshamnews.org.uk

Alan @ Eynsham Chiropractic Clinic

McTimoney Chiropractor
01865 882992. alan.chiro@gmail.com

Greens Funeral Services

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Evenlode DIY Eynsham's Tardis

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How can I create a week that makes me feel ALIVE?

Are my ideas and dreams possible? Contact denise.witchalls@gmail.com we need to talk! FREE Coaching to explore your potential. 07771642600

Gosy Homes Oxfordshire

A one-stop retrofit service helping homeowners reduce energy use, reducing bills and carbon emissions. cosyhomesoxfordshire.org
0300 303 1269

The Burnside Partnership

Specialist Award-Winning Local Private Client Lawyers and Tax Experts
theburnsidepartnership.com
info@theburnsidepartnership.com
01865 987781

You will see some web addresses in the Eynsham News that start 'bit.ly' and might wonder why they're all so similar. These just use a link shortening service to save you having to copy long strings of numbers and letters!

Eynsham News is published by a local, not-for-profit voluntary group, set up solely to produce a community newsletter of broad general appeal. Free delivery to every household is arranged by volunteers.

Local stories, snaps and snippets are always welcome—and corrections!

Opinions expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of the News Group. Inclusion of an advertisement does not imply endorsement of the product, service or event.

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