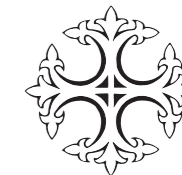


# Eynsham News



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## Rotary Club of Eynsham

is a friendly group who are determined to contribute to both local and international wellbeing. If you'd like to do more for your community, please come and join us. *Contact [terryglossop@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:terryglossop@hotmail.co.uk)*

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## The White Harts

Tracey and Ian would like to welcome you for a drink and a chat with some great beers at great prices. We have a function room for hire, and watch this space as we have three letting rooms being refurbished, we'll keep you posted.

### Please send in items for our next issue by 5th sept.

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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**With Covid restrictions easing, the community of Eynsham is thriving, as groups, societies and much-loved events finally make a re-appearance. Eynsham's Morris Men missed out on May Day dancing, but they were back in action on 31 May, starting in the square and moving onto pubs throughout the afternoon.**



This issue is sponsored by Pheasant Retreats

Eynsham Pre-School's scarecrow trail raised over £120, with more than 20 houses and local businesses taking part. There was a fantastic variety of scarecrows from traditional classics, to favourite characters including Minions, Willy Wonka and Pokémon. Pre-School Manager, Jackie Taylor, said, "We hope everyone had lots of fun following the trail. The winning scarecrow was the BFG which won its makers a meal for two at The Evenlode. Thank you to everyone who took part." Many more events are planned for the months ahead—turn to page 11 for further details.



© Mark Watson

## Village Buzz



### Holes in the Road

As residents of Evans Road will know, sewage spills have restarted, and Back Lane is being excavated all over again! Eynsham News sought comment from Thames Water, but they declined to comment while the work is still going on.

Speaking about the new road closure, local WODC councillor, Andy Goodwin, said: "It has been a very frustrating period. Thames Water have been very slow to react. We pushed for a comprehensive camera survey which has now been completed.

"From that survey they ascertained a problem with the drain close to where they dug in late May. As they fix this problem, they have been slow to put in the necessary pumping out of sewage, so sadly we have seen more spills.

"The residents of Evans Road have really taken the brunt of this and County Councillor Dan Levy and I are trying to hold Thames Water to account. We are meeting with them to formally raise these issues at a higher level, and demand a better service. We need to talk to the Environment Agency on their governance of Thames Water."



### Rabblers on the Rampage

We bring you greetings from The Mysterious Mothers of Mischief... "Since unleashing ourselves on the village in the spring, we undercover-

mischief-makers have been busily superspreading love and chaos—from interrupting local councillors in important meetings, hiding in a local clergyman's hedgerow, attacking the square with carnival bunting, and 'acquiring a scarecrow', through to delivering seeds for a giant pumpkin growing contest, rewarding some of Eynsham's best dads and community heroes, and leaving anonymous doorstep gifts.

We've even been set a mission by local 'Mutt of Mischief', Pip, to create a dog ball pit near the pavilion, which led to quite the debate in Eynsham's last Parish Council meeting! To help us continue our essential work, Eynsham's celebrated pub quizmasters, Deadly David and Rich Craven, will be hosting a fundraising quiz (p 11.) To get the scoop on our latest antics visit: [mysteriousmothersofmischief.co.uk](http://mysteriousmothersofmischief.co.uk) and to nominate someone for a little thank-you or boost, message us at [mothermischief@aol.com](mailto:mothermischief@aol.com)

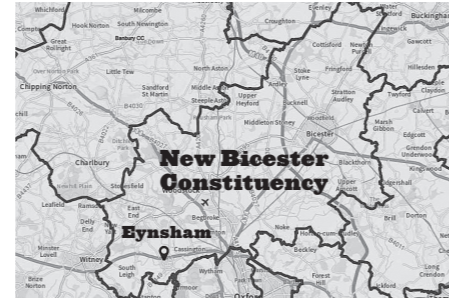


### Dog Watch

by Andrew Dilger

Astra, our whippet puppy, has a thing about poo. Despite being prim, she's developed a nose for the stuff on our walks around Eynsham. Horse poo, cat poo, even bird poo—she'll stop to savour its sweet bouquet. Sometimes she'll even taste it. Yuk! The poo of other canines is undoubtedly Astra's favourite. Apparently, its odour says a lot about the provider (but less about the owner).

More dogs bought during the pandemic seems to mean more dog mess. Eynsham's streets are full of it—with some really blatant examples. Are there really villagers who can afford a dog, but not the poo bags? Strangely, some folk do manage to bag it, but don't get as far as a waste bin. Sometimes you see full poo bags decorating branches by the roadside or along lanes. 'What a paradise Eynsham is,' thinks Astra the whippet. 'Here the poo grows on trees.'



### Proposed Electoral Constituency change for Eynsham

The Boundary Commission for England has published its proposals to redraw the electoral constituency boundaries. Their aim is to have similar number of voters in each MP's area whilst as far as possible, considering local ties, geographic factors, local government boundaries and minimising disruption. It may have been a bit of a surprise then when local residents found out that Eynsham is to move into the proposed new Bicester Constituency from 2023!

Many people have already responded to the proposal online but if you haven't done so yet the deadline for reaction to the proposals is 2 August 2021 - go to [bcereviews.org.uk](http://bcereviews.org.uk). The BCE Review will be published online later this year and there will be a second consultation period in early 2022.

#### Increase your step count! -

Eynsham News is looking for help distributing the newsletter around the village. It is delivered just six times a year and we would aim to keep your round local to you. If interested please contact: [hello@eynshamnews.org.uk](mailto:hello@eynshamnews.org.uk)

### Sponsor's Feature

With lockdowns, self-isolation and working from home over the past 18 months, we now know more than ever how important home is. Whether you're looking for a new home to rent or if you're looking to let out your property to someone hoping to settle down in Eynsham, then what you need is a local lettings agent run by a husband & wife team from our lovely village.

# Making letting a 'Pheasant' experience

**Pheasant Retreats** was set up by Lynda Woodcock to offer a friendly but professional service to landlords and tenants in the surrounding towns and villages. She runs the business from their office on Corn Street in Witney along with her husband David, who deals with the financial side of things. David loves a bit of golf and pottering round in the garden, and when she isn't working Lynda loves exploring the countryside and spending time with friends—they both appreciate how lucky we are to be living in this part of the world and want to help other people find their perfect place here too.

One of the advantages Pheasant Retreats has over other property agents is that everything is done by a small and dedicated team. There is no call centre and you aren't passed round from department to department to get things done. They support other local businesses too, always using local contractors who they vet first—Lynda says "If I wouldn't use them in my own home, I won't use them for your investment!". They offer a no mark-up service on any maintenance and repair invoices and if you don't like the quotes they provide, they'll find alternatives for you.

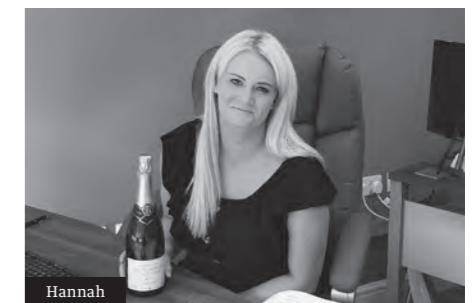
Lynda and David don't do it alone though! They're ably assisted by team members Hannah Morton and Charlotte Woodage. Hannah's a local lady who has been working in property for many years and who has great knowledge of the area thanks to her work and to her two children keeping her busy! Charlotte joined the team as a trainee negotiator, and being part of such a small but experienced and friendly team means she's been able to learn and grow her experience on the job.

Scores of local tenants give them glowing reviews, happy landlords consistently rate their service as five star and we at Eynsham News are very grateful of their supporting the village by sponsoring this issue! So, next time you're looking to move or are thinking of letting out your property, why not give Lynda and her team a call? **Pheasant Retreats: 01993 772555** [lynda@pheasantretreats.co.uk](mailto:lynda@pheasantretreats.co.uk)

We'd like to thank all our sponsors, advertisers and supporters who make Eynsham News possible. If you'd like to find out how you can help us, please contact Victoria at [hello@eynshamnews.org.uk](mailto:hello@eynshamnews.org.uk)



Lynda and David



Hannah



Charlotte



## From around the village

### Six Lifesaving Village Locations

This year's Euros got off to a dramatic start when Denmark's Christian Eriksen suffered a cardiac arrest on the pitch. His life was saved because the medical team were able to give him CPR and shock his heart into the right rhythm with a defibrillator (AED) within minutes. But would you know what to do if a loved one stopped breathing?

We're lucky enough to have six defibrillators in the village available for anyone who needs them. Five of them are in locked cabinets that you can get the code for by ringing 999. These are located at the Fire Station, Social & Sports Club, Village Hall, Library and Co-op. The sixth is available from behind reception at the doctor's surgery.

You can find a defibrillator near you and details of how to access it using the South Central Ambulance 'Save a Life' app [bit.ly/3h3JBcD](http://bit.ly/3h3JBcD). The Red Cross and St John's Ambulance both have free apps that will talk you through CPR too. Download them to your phone now—you never know when you might need them!

The defibrillator at the Village Hall was paid for by fundraising events run by Eynsham Rotary Club and as soon as Covid restrictions allow, they'll be offering training courses on how to use these devices with an approved trainer and three high-tech dummies funded by Tesco's 'Bags of Help'—great news!

### Rotary Scholars enjoy the English Bluebells

Eynsham Rotary Club has been hosting a Rotary Global Scholar, Kelsea, from California, who is studying at the University of Oxford. Kelsea is hoping to take back lessons from the UK about how legal advice can be more accessible to people on low incomes.

Covid has meant most meetings have been over Zoom but her hosts were able to arrange a trip for her to take tea in an English country garden

and enjoy the bluebell woodland in Pinsley Wood. Kelsea returns home next month but the Club are intending to keep in touch.

### Eynsham Car Scheme

Eynsham Car Scheme provides volunteer drivers for residents who need help with transport to health care appointments. Usually they ask for voluntary donations to help cover costs (but never let this put you off if you need to get somewhere), but they can offer trips for vaccination appointments for free, thanks to a generous grant from the County and District Councils working in conjunction with Volunteer Link-up Witney. To arrange a lift call 07469 764174



### Heroes Still Helping!

By Laura Stringer

The pandemic has interrupted all our lives, but it has also united people in a common cause. For Eynsham, the setting up of the Heroes, working with the Eynsham Good Neighbours and hundreds of local volunteers has been a highlight. Whilst many will remain understandably cautious about lifting restrictions, and Covid's economic consequences will inevitably continue, we are confident that Eynsham's community spirit will endure beyond the pandemic.

For support with food call Bob Thiele at Eynsham Community Larder on 07738 063083. For help with shopping, prescriptions, or errands, email [eynshamhelp@gmail.com](mailto:eynshamhelp@gmail.com) or call 07443 564516. Donate to the Larder online at [bit.ly/3yUta8t](http://bit.ly/3yUta8t) or add to the collection baskets at Co-op, Spar, The Market Garden and Tesco.

### New Charities Clerk Wanted

Applications are open for the position of Clerk to the Eynsham Charities

starting next year. The Clerk is paid an honorarium in return for providing administration services to the trustees of the Eynsham Consolidated Charity (ECC) and the Bartholomew Educational Foundation (BEF) who meet four times a year.

The ECC gives grants to persons in Eynsham and Freeland who are in need, hardship or distress whilst the BEF gives grants to persons in Eynsham under the age of 25 who require financial assistance with their education and the Clerk is the first point of contact for applications to both.

Contact Chairman, Andy Mosson, [andy.mosson@btinternet.com](mailto:andy.mosson@btinternet.com) for further details.

### Village Flowers

The tubs in the Market Square are lined up for a refresh in the run-up to the Great Big Green Week (p 11). With support from Green TEA volunteers, not to mention the Red Lion for the new planters across the way, they will ease the eye as we sit out the building work and do their bit for local insect life as well.

Would you like to help with other tubs around the village? Could you lend a hand—or use a hand—to tackle a patch on your street? No garden makeovers, just a couple of hours to brighten up the pavements for us all to enjoy... and maybe kick-start Eynsham Garden Club back to normal times. Contact Sandra Jinks with your offers or suggestions: 07817 279766.

### Village bus route returns

First and Last Mile CIC are a new community transport operator which aims to restore bus services from Standlake to Eynsham via Stanton Harcourt, and Long Hanborough to Eynsham via Freeland. Subject to agreement and funding, services should start in the autumn. Volunteers are needed to fill various roles including driving, cleaning, admin and publicity. If you are able to help in any way, get in touch with Director and volunteer David Miles at [dtjmiles@gmail.com](mailto:dtjmiles@gmail.com). Keep an eye on their Facebook page for the latest information and updates.



### Working with Children and Animals!

It's been an exciting few weeks for Eynsham Pre-Schoolers. Older children have been busy getting ready to move up to primary school and they've had visits from their teachers, been reading stories about starting school and practicing many of the skills they will need.

Children have also been nurturing their enthusiasm for living things, growing herbs and veg, making a bug hotel and watching caterpillars transform into butterflies. The children's faces when four Painted Ladies emerged from the chrysalides were pure joy! As a special end of year treat, Farmer Gows came to visit. The excitement level went through the roof when the animals arrived and the children saw a goose peaking in at them through the window. She was accompanied by an enormous turkey, chicks and hens, but the highlight of the visit was bottle feeding a pair of lambs.

### The Women's Institute Returns

While members have tried to keep in touch during lockdown, the WI has not been able to hold regular meetings and events. Normal meetings will resume in September with a talk by Mike Brook, 'Musing from the amateur stage'. Government and Covid willing, this will be held at St Leonard's Church Hall at 7:30 pm on 14 September. They look forward to seeing all our members together and we would very much like to welcome anyone who is interested in seeing what the WI is like.

### Rainbows, Brownies and Guides

All the units in Eynsham have made the most of meeting outdoors this term. 1st Rainbows and 3rd Brownies have been pond dipping and had a party to celebrate Eynsham Carnival,

the day before it should have happened! 1st Brownies have completed their "Explore" skills builder badge, making their own compasses and learning how to read a map. The Guides have been to Peace Oak Orchard, making popcorn and s'mores over a fire.

### Cycle Safety Trainers

The volunteer team of cycle safety trainers at Eynsham Primary is looking for new members. Our team runs two lessons each week through school term on Tuesday and Friday afternoons teaching groups of 9- and 10-year-olds the basics of cycling safely on the road. We teach a series of lessons designed by experts from the Oxfordshire Fire Service that enables kids to negotiate on-road cycling in the village. To find out more about volunteering contact Marie Ayres [ayres\\_marie@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ayres_marie@yahoo.co.uk)

### News from the Library

Jane, Pam, Carole and Jan have enjoyed welcoming people back to the library since it reopened and opening hours are now:

Monday 9.30am-1pm & 2-5pm, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 1-5pm, Saturday 9.30am-1pm

The Open Plus out of hours service remains suspended but will hopefully re-open later in the year and they hope to start holding events and activities soon. Local groups wishing to publicise their activities in the window display are encouraged to pop in for a chat.

The Summer Reading Challenge is back too. This year's theme is 'Wild World Heroes' with an emphasis on all things related to the animal kingdom and conservation issues. The challenge runs throughout the summer holiday period. All participants collect stickers and other rewards as they progress and all challenges completed by 11 Sept will be entered in a prize draw.

### Eynsham Churches

As restrictions lift, our churches are starting to get back to face-to-face services too and are open to all. **Eynsham Baptist Church** Face-to-face meetings start again on 25 July at 10.30am. More details at

[eynshambaptistchurch.co.uk](http://eynshambaptistchurch.co.uk) or call 01865 882203. The church hall can be booked by contacting Rebecca Carley, [rccarley@outlook.com](mailto:rccarley@outlook.com)

### St Peter's Catholic Church

Sunday Mass is at 10.00am and Saturday Mass is at 5.00pm and is a quieter and more reflective service with parish priest Father Mark Lagorio. More details at [stpeterseynsham.org.uk](http://stpeterseynsham.org.uk)

### St Leonard's Church (CofE)

The face-to-face programme will take off again in the next few weeks. For up-to-date information, go to [stleonardseynsham.org.uk](http://stleonardseynsham.org.uk), or call Louise Parker on 01865 883325.

Some activities in the church are already running: 'Bump to One' is a weekly parents and babies group, providing support and friendship to new families. All welcome every Monday in St Leonard's Church from 10.30am-12.00pm.



### Green Fingers

During the pandemic, the waiting list for an allotment in the village has jumped. At present the waiting time is likely to be up to a year, but some residents in the village might like to explore the idea of connecting people who have gardens and need help, with people who are keen to help but have no garden.

Stephen Yeo offers up the first opportunity: "We would like to offer some inner-Eynsham, allotment-type growing space at our house in Acre End Street.

We are looking for someone to take over five conveniently-sized, easy access beds and use them as their own growing spaces. We can't manage them much longer ourselves because of advancing age and back problems."

If you are interested in exploring this possibility, email Stephen Yeo at [stephen.yeo@phonecoop.coop](mailto:stephen.yeo@phonecoop.coop) There are more details about Eynsham Allotments at: [bit.ly/2VBJr3T](http://bit.ly/2VBJr3T)

## Council News

### Plans to Offset Development Damage

By Nick Relph, Chair

Eynsham is currently threatened from all sides: the Garden Village to the north, the West Eynsham Strategic Development Area (SDA), and the threat of gravel extraction to the east. In response, the Eynsham Parish Council (EPC) is working on a mitigation plan to offset some of the damage that will be caused by developments.

We're aiming to create our own 'green belt' around the village, working with landowners to create a network of land that, with partners, we can develop to enhance biodiversity, offsetting any loss.

As part of this, we think two major non-negotiables are worth campaigning for:

- **No development south of the Chil and no 'rat run' spine road through the West Eynsham development**
- **No quarrying to the east of the village, to maintain our historic links to the River Thames and protect the Oxford Green Belt and the local flood plain**

What do you think? We're hosting a village meeting in the autumn to discuss some of these issues. How strongly should we be resisting development? And will you help us? A united alliance of village organisations would be a powerful force and help us to secure the best outcome we can for the village and wider parish. Please join us in the autumn to share your views.

### 20's Plenty for Eynsham

Last December, Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) unanimously agreed that all new residential streets will be limited to 20mph. A fund will be made available to calm existing streets in towns and parishes where needed and if requested.

EPC started investigating a village-wide 20mph limit in 2015 without realising that these were county-wide concerns. Eynsham residents make regular use of the streets, but the

increase in vehicle traffic puts us at risk. By reducing the limit to 20mph, we can halve a car's stopping distance without great inconvenience: it's only 60-90 seconds quicker to drive through the village at 30mph compared to 20mph.

Slower cars should also encourage more walking and cycling, improving health and reducing isolation, while also making our village 'greener' by reducing pollution and burning less fuel.



EPC's current plans include 'gateways' to Eynsham (at Hanborough Rd and Witney Rd) and a village-wide 20mph limit. We are also seeking to reduce the speeds on some of the faster 'B' roads nearby from 50mph to 40mph, and on the Cassington Rd (between the roundabout and the A40).

We know residents have concerns that we will work to address, engaging with Thames Valley Police on enforcement and anti-social driving, while seeking to minimise additional street signage.

An OCC public consultation is planned for the end of 2021. At the time of writing, full details remain unconfirmed. Updates will be shared on Eynsham Online and we welcome your thoughts via any of the councillors or by emailing [epc.clerk@eynsham-pc.gov.uk](mailto:epc.clerk@eynsham-pc.gov.uk).

### Like That? How About...

If you support the idea of the 20mph limit in the village, you might be interested in the steps GreenTEA are

already taking towards a slow pace in the village. The group is about helping people transition to a more sustainable lifestyle which builds strong communities, is less dependent on fossil fuels and keeps us within the planet's resources.

We believe a 20mph limit would be appropriate for parts of Eynsham and have purchased some '20's Plenty' stickers from campaigning organisation 20's Plenty for Us ([20splenty.org](http://20splenty.org)); you may see these stickers on wheelie bins around the village.

We also need to have fewer polluting vehicles on our streets. GreenTEA is planning a day during Eynsham's Great Big Green Week in September to introduce Park & Charge Oxfordshire ([parkandchargeoxfordshire.co.uk](http://parkandchargeoxfordshire.co.uk)) who will bring electric vehicle charging points to Eynsham so that all residents, and shoppers from nearby villages, have local access to EV charging facilities, not just those who have off-street parking. We also want to test support for an electric car club based at the village car park.



### Drawing A Line

Road markings around the village were recently repainted, to highlight junction priorities as well as parking and waiting restrictions. Short-term parking only outside the central shops should give everyone a better chance; our PCSO even turns up to enforce things from time to time. The Highway Code has a helpful explainer at [bit.ly/2UFktA1](http://bit.ly/2UFktA1)—though you must wonder sometimes how much clearer they could make it!

The deadline for submitting news, events and stories for the next edition of Eynsham News is 5 September.

Almost sixty years ago, in June 1962, the last passenger train called at Eynsham station. Freight trains continued on the Oxford to Fairford branch line until the early 1970s, after which the railway closed for good, having opened in 1861. Over time infrastructure and buildings were removed, but now it is back in miniature as it might have been in the late 1950s.



## Eynsham Railway Returns!

by David Thomas

This has been my lockdown project. The model is not yet complete, and it is small: built in N gauge (2mm to one foot) and presently just 3m long by 60 cm wide. That is enough to model the full station and yard, as well as neighbouring farmland and houses. The model is fully functional: the trains run, signals work and houses

light up. It is also portable, so that perhaps when complete it can be displayed in Eynsham for all to see.

It has taken a lot of research to get this far. Maps have been a useful resource, as have the brilliant people who have responded to posts I have made on the Eynsham Pictures, Past and Present, Facebook page. I still

have to build the intricate second platform, but I lack detail on Tor Cottage and the station yard. I would love to hear from anyone with old photographs of Station Road, the station yard and any aspects they could share with me. I can be contacted at [eynsham.station@gmail.com](mailto:eynsham.station@gmail.com), via Facebook or on 07818542421.

### Advertorial

## Proud to be serving our community

It's been 15 months since Eynsham Day Centre was last able to open but as Deputy Chairman Mark Johnson tells us, they have worked hard to keep in touch with everyone...

Regular phone calls, newsletters and distanced meetings in the Square, as arranged by our Co-ordinator Karen have helped us to stay engaged with everyone. Behind the scenes, there has been close collaboration with the various agencies with which we are associated.

As the thick fog of lockdown begins to lift, we are looking forward to starting the process of opening up our Monday Club in the Village Hall. We aim to offer the same activities,

entertainment and a hearty two-course lunch—great value at just £8 per session. We would like to encourage senior citizens in our community to be a part of this happy and special organisation and we are looking for one or two volunteers to join our team.

Following the retirement of our cook, we are also looking for someone to come forwards to help. This post is remunerated and involves shopping as well as cooking on the day.

Please contact us if you are interested in volunteering, becoming a member or even cooking our lunches!

**Contact Jane Johnson (Secretary)**  
E: [janej777@hotmail.com](mailto:janej777@hotmail.com)  
W: [eynshamdaycentre.com](http://eynshamdaycentre.com)



## Ongoing Developments

### Government grant for housing plans – from W.O.D.C.

Salt Cross Garden Village has been awarded £250,000 in Government funding to help with housing development. West Oxfordshire District Council was successful with a funding bid through the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's Garden Communities Programme. Cllr Jeff Haine, Cabinet Member for Planning, said, "We are looking at building state-of-the-art zero carbon housing on what will be an exemplar development for the UK fitting with many of our key priorities including meeting housing needs and building strong local communities. It is good news that our efforts are being recognised and supported by central government as the planning process continues."

Announcing the funding, Housing Minister Christopher Pincher highlighted the work being done to support the delivery of 2,200 homes at Salt Cross, noting the key role of local authorities in delivering 300,000 new homes a year nationally. Cllr Haine added, "The Minister has commended the ambition shown by West Oxfordshire and is delighted that this funding will help deliver our ambitious plans."

Meanwhile, the Area Action Plan, which sets out the planning policy for delivery of Salt Cross, proceeded to the next key stage. WODC responded to Planning Inspector Darren McCreery's questions as part of the hearings which were held virtually from 28 June - 9 July. He heard representations from a range of parties including residents and community groups looking to have their say on how the garden village could look.

Mr McCreery is now considering all representations, making his deliberations and writing his report with the results expected in around six weeks. Anyone wanting more details should see [bit.ly/3emcijnl](http://bit.ly/3emcijnl). Facebook recordings of the proceedings can also be viewed via the web page.



### Aurora Solar Farm

by Joan Stonham

Construction of the access roads is well under way, with all traffic entering the site from the A40. This phase should be complete by mid-September. The site is bisected by footpath 206/18 heading west to South Leigh, directly to the west of Twelve Acre Farm. Concerns over landscaping and biodiversity should be much allayed by the provision of some 2,300 metres of new native hedgerow planting plus 246 metres of new treeline over time. Discussions with Eynsham and South Leigh Parish Councils, Councillors Carl Rylett and Dan Levy, GreenTEA and the Low Carbon Hub Oxford have also secured a 'Public Right of Way Enhanced Amenity Area' which will open up views over an extensive wildflower meadow to the south.

The company behind the project is UK Solar Farms. They give more details on their website; "Aurora Solar Farm will produce clean renewable electricity with a capacity of approximately 32MWp which could power just over 10,000 local homes. The electricity produced on this solar farm will be exported to the local distribution network with surplus electricity being stored onsite in batteries, which will charge at times of low demand and export power back onto the electricity grid at times of high demand or when solar irradiation is low." To view information and updates on the construction, visit [bit.ly/3yYiLSA](http://bit.ly/3yYiLSA)

### Thornbury Green Events

The team at Thornbury Green hosted two community events in May. On 15 May they welcomed Eynsham churches as they held a plant sale for the new residents. Plenty of people bought plants to brighten up their new gardens, and the sale raised over £750

for the churches' holiday club.

The following weekend, Green TEA (Transition Eynsham Area) were Taylor Wimpey's guests for a tree planting event. The group planted three apple trees in the open space area for new residents to look after and enjoy as they grow.



Taylor Wimpey told us, "We are grateful to both groups for taking the time to connect with Thornbury Green and help new residents feel like part of the Eynsham community."

At the time of writing, they had just seven homes left for sale at Thornbury Green.

### Witney Talking News

Do you know someone who is blind, or visually impaired? Witney Talking News is a free service with spoken items from the Witney Gazette and other local news publications. These are posted out to our listeners every week on a memory stick to play on a special player which we can provide. Sticks are then posted back to us (free of charge) for recording again the following week. We record every Thursday evening at High Street Methodist Church in Witney. If you know someone who could benefit from this service, or would like to join us for reading, admin or packing sticks for dispatch, please call 01993 444986 or go to [wtn.org.uk](http://wtn.org.uk)

You can read this and previous editions of Eynsham News online at [Eynsham-pc.gov.uk](http://Eynsham-pc.gov.uk) or [issue.com/eynsham1](http://issue.com/eynsham1)

### Art in the Window

by Alison Holmans

During the first lockdown in 2020, Alison Holmans, ceramicist and potter at the Chicken Run Studio in Eynsham, conceived the idea of an Art Window at the heart of the village.

The Eynsham Art Window at 66 Mill Street, began to take shape in December when Industrial Sculptor, Peter Shrimpton, fixed a unique hand-made metal sign above the window. Then, Alison, assisted by her friend local artist Jane Tomlinson, hung the first exhibition in the Window including works of art in various media. "It has been so great to have somewhere for artists to show art safely during Covid," says Alison, "and the response from Eynsham residents has been wonderful. Making

art accessible to everyone is my passion. Even people who think that art isn't for them have told me how much they enjoy what they see."

The display changes every month, showcasing different artists. By April, it was clear that the Eynsham Art Window, now popular with both artists and locals, was going to become a permanent fixture in the village and signs were erected. As the Window is a non-selling space—you can only 'window shop'—if you want to buy something you've seen in the window, you can contact the artist directly.

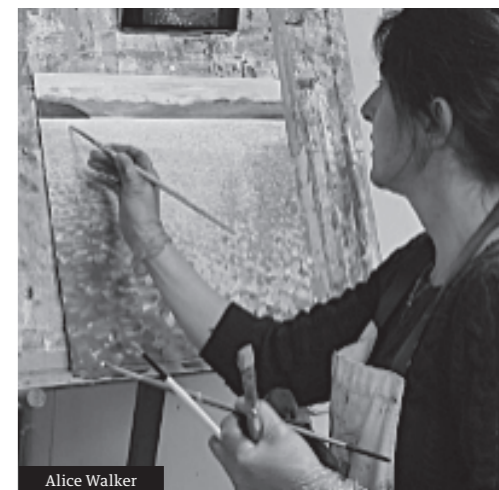
Eynsham Art Window is on Facebook and Instagram, and shows each artwork individually with more information about each. Search and follow 'Eynsham Art Window' and enjoy local art every day!



Alison Berrett



Alison Holmans



Alice Walker

# Eynsham's Art on view



### Art in the Meadow

by Alice Walker

Recently members of Alice Walker's art class were fortunate enough to visit Long Mead Meadow -where Eynsham meets the River Thames, south west of Swinford Bridge.

Long Mead is part of the last 3% of

Britain's ancient floodplain hay meadows. Today, only an area the size of Heathrow Airport remains, but they were once the most valuable land in Britain. They even feature in the Domesday Book. These meadows allowed villagers to overwinter their livestock since they not only provided grazing but a hay crop as well.

The soils of these meadows store carbon more effectively and securely than trees and, since they are still part of 21st century agriculture, they offer a real (and currently overlooked) opportunity to mitigate climate change while also supporting food production and enhancing biodiversity. Long Mead has recently launched the Thames

Valley Wildflower Meadow Restoration Project to try to create a connected meadow network along the Thames.

The Meadow is ablaze with colour and activity at this time of year: a rich tapestry of grasses and wildflowers, home to and visited by a rich abundance of birds, bees, butterflies and invertebrates. We found so much inspiration for our sketching and were very grateful to Catriona Bass for sharing her Meadow and its story with us.

To find out more about the vision and projects of Long Mead Meadow visit: [longmeadwildlifesite.org.uk](http://longmeadwildlifesite.org.uk) Contact Alice Walker at [alice@alicewalkerart.co.uk](mailto:alice@alicewalkerart.co.uk)

## Events Round-up



# Croquet at Eynsham

by Roger Booth

After the flooding in December and then again in February, followed by lockdown and snow showers in April, you may think that Eynsham croquet players might have been put off playing over the last few months, but not a bit! As soon as we were allowed to reopen after lockdown, 23 players turned up on our opening session which was a record turnout. It did not take long for members to get back in the swing and start running hoops again and enjoying the social company and banter that we have all missed during Covid. We have welcomed six new players to the club but sadly, we bid farewell to Marion Hitchins, a founder member of the club who has done so much for us over the years, and we wish her well for her move to the Bristol area.

On the competition side, our Golf Croquet team has played 3 and won 3 in the Southern League and The Association Croquet team are second in their league. But it's not all competitions! Croquet is played all year round in all weathers, it is fun, sociable, competitive and addictive. If you are interested then turn up at a session and you will be made welcome. No experience is necessary, the basics are easy to pick up, we will soon have you knocking balls through the hoops! We welcomed Alloyed Ltd from Kidlington for an evening taster session to this great game; if your firm wants a competitive team building session or your club just wants a taster session then get in touch. Follow us on Facebook and at [eynshamcroquetclub.org.uk](http://eynshamcroquetclub.org.uk)

## Eynsham Village Show 2021

by Fay Taylor

Rapid planning is now underway for the Eynsham Village Show, which we hope will go ahead on Saturday 11 September in the Village Hall and Scout HQ. The Class List from last year's plans is being amended and we're working hard to catch up, now that it seems the Show is likely to be a viable event (but please be patient with us if we need to make any amendments to our plans!). Follow our Facebook page to keep up to date and please spread the word. To help with our printing costs, both the Class List and Entry Form will be available for you to download and print from [eynsham-pc.gov.uk/Eynsham-Village-Show](http://eynsham-pc.gov.uk/Eynsham-Village-Show). Remember to click on 'events' so you are looking at the correct year!

## Eynsham's Great Big Green Week

by Laura Stringer

The organisers of the Great Big Green Week are looking for groups of friends, families, individuals, businesses, and community groups to contribute to Eynsham's Great Big Green Week - taking place from 18-26 September. This is part of a massive national event to showcase and celebrate our commitment to creating a better, greener future, and to demonstrate to our leaders that we care about our planet in the lead up to the 2021 UN Climate Change Summit (COP 26).

You could create a window display, make a nature-inspired artwork or upcycled sculpture, sing a song at an open-mic afternoon, write a poem, film a video about the wildlife in your garden, stage a performance, run a workshop, or show off your solar panels, green tech or allotment. The possibilities are endless!

We already have plans for music, food, theatre, games, electric vehicles, green energy, green crafts, art and trails, plus lots more to be confirmed. If you have any ideas or want to get involved, email [biggreenweekeynsham@gmail.com](mailto:biggreenweekeynsham@gmail.com). For the latest information go to [bit.ly/3el02zF](https://bit.ly/3el02zF)

## Events Diary

See more at [Eynsham Online](http://Eynsham Online).

### Mikron Theatre A Dog's Tale

5 August 7:30-10pm,  
*Eynsham Cricket Club,  
Cassington Road*  
Mikron Theatre are back at Eynsham Cricket Club with our latest production 'A Dog's Tale'. A bar and BBQ will be available. Tickets must be obtained in advance. As usual they are free but we are asking for donations to help fund our productions. Please book via [mikron.org.uk](http://mikron.org.uk)

### Mischievous Mothers Quiz

7 August 3pm, *White Hart*  
Come and support the Mysterious Mothers of Mischief, who send thank yous to Eynsham people and spread a little love. Join in a fun fundraiser quiz hosted by Deadly David and Cheeky Craven.

### Eynsham Garden Club

11 August, 7pm, *Village Hall*  
Covid rules permitting we intend to meet on 11 August, at 7pm in the Village Hall; the speaker will be Duncan Coombs on "Alpines and Rock Gardens".

### Eynsham WI Walk

17 August 10:30am-1:00pm,  
*Farmoor Reservoir*  
WI morning walk at Farmoor Reservoir. Meet in reservoir car park at 10.30 a.m. (there may be a parking charge). Suggested donation of £3.00 for WI funds. Friends are welcome. Weather permitting.

### Eynsham Litter Pickers

29 August 2-4pm,  
*Baptist Church Hall*  
We now meet in the grounds of Eynsham Baptist Church, to collect equipment and arrange routes etc. Newcomers are very welcome. Enquiries to Pam Breeze: 07971 174434. Last-minute changes or cancellations are posted on the Church notice board—please check there beforehand too. We will also be picking on 26 September.

### Eynsham Village Show

11 September 2-4pm, *Village Hall*  
This annual event showcases the talents and skills of people in Eynsham and beyond. We have sections on: fruit, vegetables and flowers, floral arrangements, cookery, photography, arts and crafts, 'Fun for All', and lots of children's classes too. It's always a day of fun and enjoyment with teas and cakes available too.

### Flock Comedy

17 September from 7.15pm, *Village Hall*  
A night of stand-up comedy in aid of Eynsham Nature Recovery Network, featuring Nick Page (as seen on Britain's Got Talent), Earl Okin, Samantha Day and Harry Stachini. Bar from 7.15, Comedy starts at 8pm. Tickets must be purchased in advance costing £15 from Eynsham Cellars or at [flockcomedy.com](http://flockcomedy.com)

### Eynsham Community Quilt Big Reveal

18 September, 11am-1pm, *Baptist Church Hall, Lombard Street*  
Come and see the Eynsham Community Quilt which was made by villagers during the lockdown to capture our journey through the pandemic. Free entry. All welcome!

### Eynsham Scouting Reunion

18 September, 3-6pm, *White Hart Garden or Function Room*  
Postponed from 18 July due to Covid restrictions, this time we will try to meet at the White Hart to catch up with friends who were part of Eynsham's Scout group. Food will be available and former members of the group may also wish to bring a partner or guest.

### Eynsham's Great Big Green Week

18-26 September  
The Great Big Green Week is a collaboration between local community groups, businesses, individuals, families and friends, which aims to showcase and celebrate green endeavours to tackle climate change and protect the environment in our village and beyond, and inspire people to show the world we want to do better. Events and locations will be posted on line and locally ASAP.

### Eynsham Cinema

24 September, 7:30pm, *Village Hall*  
We're back and start the season with the film Official Secrets (15) starring Keira Knightly and Ralph Fiennes. It follows the true story of Katharine Gun who defied the government and leaked a memo to the press concerning Britain's help in blackmailing United Nations council members to vote in favour of the Iraq War. For more details see [countryscreens.co.uk](http://countryscreens.co.uk)

### Blood Donor Sessions

1 October, 1:15-3:30pm and 4:15-7:30pm, *Village Hall*  
Do something special and help someone in need! Contact Centre 0300 123 23 23 or just turn up at the Village Hall.

### Eynsham Shirt Race

2 October, 2-10pm  
Unfortunately, not at Eynsham Carnival as usual, but the race is on, restrictions permitting. Watching, running or pushing, it's great fun! If you've never entered before, this could be the one for you. Get making those costumes and prams. Eynsham Morris will also be dancing and there may be other activities on the day. More details ASAP on social media.

### Run Wytham Woods 10K and Fun Run

10 October, from 10.30am,  
*Parking and Start in Wytham Village*  
Ongoing restrictions forced the cancellation of many of Eynsham Community Primary School summer fundraisers, but the PTA committee remains optimistic that this rescheduled event (sponsored by Siemens Healthineers) will take place. Get your training shoes on for an autumnal challenge through glorious woodland. Limited places—register at [runwythamwoods.org](http://runwythamwoods.org)

**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 altered. Please check with the organisers social media before going.**

Please send your events news for our October and November issue (about 70 words long) to [editor@eynshamnews.org.uk](mailto:editor@eynshamnews.org.uk) by 5 September.