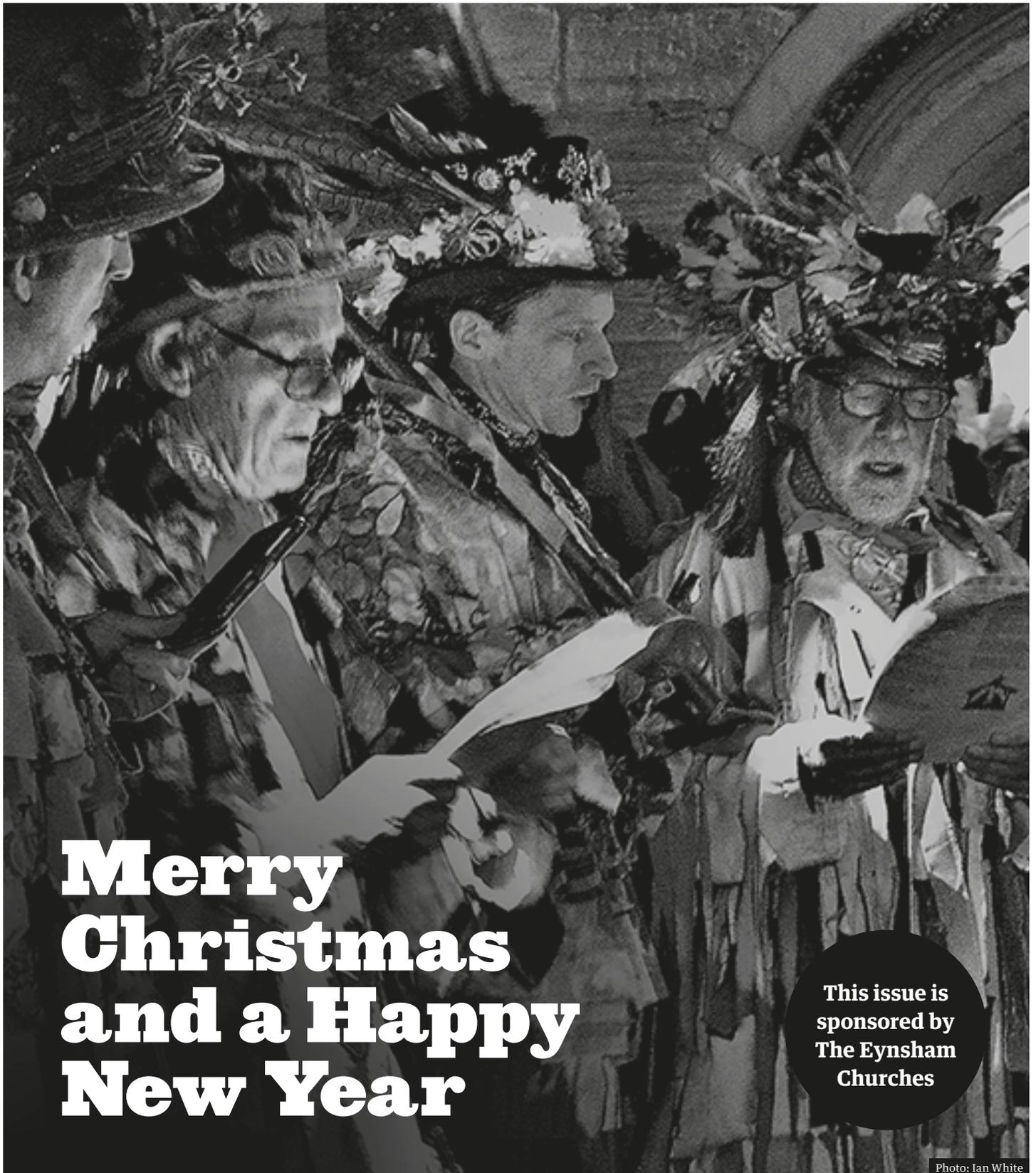
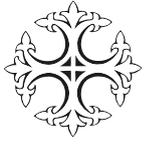


# Eynsham News



**Merry  
Christmas  
and a Happy  
New Year**

This issue is  
sponsored by  
The Eynsham  
Churches

## Village Buzz



Rob Brown

### Three Cheers for Rob

After almost 20 years of dedicated service to our community, CM Rob Brown retired from Oxfordshire Fire & Rescue Service in November. Rob had a busy final week in the job with nine shouts around the clock! He's a well-known and much loved member of our community and luckily will still be continuing to work at Evenlode DIY. His crewmates at the station wished him all the best for a well earned rest—thank you Rob!



Eynsham Croquet Club

### Champion of Champions!

*by Tony Newport and the Team*

Our village croquet team have won their national trophy play-off!

Mid-October, on a still autumnal

Wednesday morning, and there were fresh white lines and six white hoops plus a centre peg carefully measured into position on each of the two lovingly manicured courts. Coloured flags adorned each corner of both courts and a heavy dew enhanced what was already a beautiful setting for a hugely prestigious play-off final.

Eynsham won through to this final by finishing as champions of the northern section of their doubles league, fending off serious competition. Their opponents, Test Valley, had travelled from some way south of us for the big match.

The Eynsham team on the day comprised four members, although a total of eight players had represented the club in the previous league matches. By lunchtime pairs Neil and David, and Tony and Chris had scored an unassailable 4-0 lead, which was increased to 8-0 in the afternoon matches. Eynsham Croquet Club was crowned Champion of Champions!

As crestfallen as our opponents clearly were they remained with us as we celebrated with tea and cake, and reviewed what had been a number of far closer matches than the 8-0 result would suggest.



Mrs Edwards, Mr Reeves, Mrs Bayliss

### Little Villagers

Another exciting year has begun at Eynsham Community Primary School, and it has been lovely for children to be able to mix with other year groups at break and lunch times after last year's 'bubbles.' The children have done fantastically well in their work since the beginning of the year,

and are now fully established in their routines. The school is also currently undergoing some refurbishment work to develop two new classrooms for our eldest children in the school.

There has been so much learning going on over the course of this first term which we are really proud of. Excitingly, we are now able to take the children on school trips and have visitors into the school, which so far have included: a trip to Chedworth Roman Villa for the Year 3s, Year 4s having a workshop from Science Oxford on how sound travels and Year 1 have been to visit Woodstock Museum and learnt all about dinosaurs!

Mrs Bayliss has also become an executive Headteacher of Eynsham and Stanton Harcourt school, so Mr Reeves has stepped up to be Head of School at Eynsham and Mrs Edwards has become Deputy Headteacher. The final member of the Leadership team is Assistant Head Mr Jackson, who is also English lead for the Partnership. We look forward to sharing more of the children's education with you over the next few issues.

### Want More Village News?

Joan Stonham has set up the Eynsham Bulletin, a frills-free, monthly round-up of local headlines and diary items, delivered to subscribers by email. It's carefully coordinated with other newsletters—not least the Eynsham News—so just the thing to keep you in the loop if you haven't the time or enthusiasm to trawl through social media. Why not sign up for your copy today?

Email [online@eynsham-pc.gov.uk](mailto:online@eynsham-pc.gov.uk) or visit [eepurl.com/hJ39JL](http://eepurl.com/hJ39JL).

### Eynsham Library Opening Hours

Monday:	9.30am-1pm, 2-5pm
Tuesday:	Closed
Wednesday:	1-5pm
Thursday:	1-5pm
Friday:	1-7pm
Saturday:	9.30am-1pm
Sunday:	Closed



# Christmas Happy

**The facts of the Christmas story are well known: a manger with a baby in it, shepherds startled by an angel choir, wise men taking a wrong turn and ending up in a palace when the real action is in a stable!**

Less clear is what these events mean. Christians believe God sent His own son as a baby to show the world a better way—a kinder, less selfish, more joyful way. The Churches of Eynsham are Christmas Happy because it's a chance to celebrate some Good News. To join the story, not just tell it! To find ourselves worshipping with the shepherds, captivated by this amazing Child...transformed in the 21st Century by events in the 1st Century.



## **Eynsham has three churches**

**St Peter's Roman Catholic Church**  
*is in Abbey St.*

**The Parish Church, St Leonards Church of England**  
*sits right on the Market Square.*

**Eynsham Baptist Church**  
*is in Lombard St, so all three are right in the centre of the village.*

*Apart from 'Sunday church', there are all kinds of groups arranged by the churches throughout the week.*

*All three churches have halls and rooms which are often in community use and can be hired for special events.*



Photo: Ruth Williams

**Service of Baptism at Eynsham Baptist Church**

To see how you could join in with activities, or to contact any of the ministers go to:  
**[stpeterseynsham.org.uk](http://stpeterseynsham.org.uk)**  
**[eynshambaptistchurch.co.uk](http://eynshambaptistchurch.co.uk)**  
**[stleonardseysham.org.uk](http://stleonardseysham.org.uk)**

## From around the village

### Making the News

Join our small, welcoming team creating and supporting the Eynsham News in just a few hours a month! We'd love to hear from you if you fancy doing some reporting or editing, or if writing isn't your thing maybe you're good with organising people and systems. Unfortunately, our wonderful coordinator, Victoria is leaving the village in the new year, and that leaves the opportunity for someone new to join the team. We're a bunch of friendly people of all ages and backgrounds who want to support the village and keep the Eynsham News going—come and join us! [hello@eynshamnews.org.uk](mailto:hello@eynshamnews.org.uk)

### Community Bus

*Update from David Miles*

The new minibus services from Eynsham to Long Hanborough and Standlake were due to start in November, owing to unavoidable legal processes have had to be delayed. Services will now start no later than 4 January 2022.

There will be promotional events before the launch and we will have regular updates to make sure you know what's happening with the routes. First and Last Mile would like to thank everyone for their patience.

### Play the Ukulele

*By James Spencer*

Eynsham Ukuleles meets on Wednesday evenings at The Swan Hotel in Eynsham, and you are welcome whether you are a beginner or an advanced player.

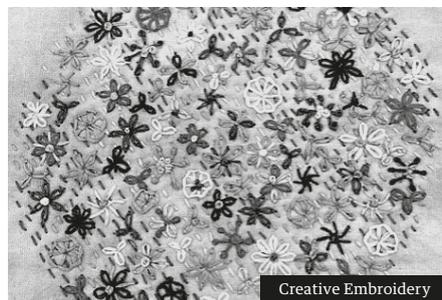
On Saturday 2 October, we took part in "Witney in Pink", Witney's annual festival in aid of Breast Cancer, and despite the rain, the group played a half-hour set to a very appreciative audience. Eynsham Ukuleles also plays regularly for nursing homes, Women's Institutes and other organisations and functions around

the area. For further information call James on 07472 7948 69

### WOT's that?

Witney Oxford Transport group (WOT) is a voluntary, cross-party, community group seeking practical solutions to West Oxfordshire's dire local transport situation. Their key campaign is focused on restoring a rail link between Oxford, Eynsham, Witney and Carterton.

In a survey in March, 21, 97% of West Oxfordshire residents said they supported 'exploring' the possibility restoring the Oxford-Witney rail link. Explore their ideas at [witneyoxfordtransport.org.uk](http://witneyoxfordtransport.org.uk)



### Learn Embroidery

There are still a few vacancies in Judith Gussin's 'Creative Embroidery' class for 2022. The class will be on Thursdays in the village hall, starting 13 January, from 13.30 to 15.30. A new project will be starting, and all abilities are welcome.

For more information see Eynsham Online website, email [judithgussin@talktalk.net](mailto:judithgussin@talktalk.net) or call 074 4356 1701

### Wheels for All

Oxfordshire County Council, together with Active Oxfordshire, are supporting the relaunch of the Junior Wheels for All initiative. Wheels for All is a national programme providing regular cycling opportunities for people of all ages with a disability or differing need.

Windrush Bike Project operates the sessions for 2-16 year olds, maintaining and helping people use a fleet of standard and specially-adapted bikes, recumbents, trikes, handcycles and wheelchair carriers.

Junior Wheels for All celebrated its first session on 16 October with several new riders attending. Feedback has been very positive, with

users praising the opportunities offered, and the benefits of being able to drop in and try, or even come every week. Sessions are every Saturday, at Wood Green School, Woodstock Road, Witney. You can book a one-hour session at [bit.ly/304N4lc](http://bit.ly/304N4lc). There's more info on the national scheme at [cycling.org.uk/wheels-for-all](http://cycling.org.uk/wheels-for-all).

### Winter Wicket

Did you know you can continue playing cricket over the winter?

Eynsham Cricket Club continues its activities throughout year. We have entered teams in the county Indoor League (to be played here in the village at the Bartholomew Sports Centre) for seniors and U15s, we will be running nets and practice for prospective players from the early spring and ladies' practice sessions will continue as well. If you would like to participate in these sessions then please do contact us.

There is lots you can do to become more involved in the club: In the summer we run thriving men's (Cherwell League) cricket, friendly evening and occasional Sunday fixtures, a growing ladies' section and junior cricket for all ages. In addition, volunteers for roles such as scoring, umpiring, supporting junior cricket, coaching and helping at the clubhouse are always welcome.

Eynsham Cricket Pavilion and field, on the Cassington Road, is also available for hire for all sorts of events. Please contact Allen Stevens [tastevens44@gmail.com](mailto:tastevens44@gmail.com) for more information.



### Village Square Flower Pots

*Report by Sandra Jinks*

We hope you are pleased with our improved village square surrounding the newly refurbished Bartholomew Room now our work on the flower

pots and paving has been completed. Our thanks for donations received, as without them we could not have begun to improve this important community social hub and visitor area. Grateful thanks to Eynsham Rotary Club, the Greens Family in memory of Keith Green and Rosemary Wilsdon, Evenlode DIY, Lyall & Co, Heart of Eynsham Barbers, Jessie's Art Shed, and Verity Hughes.

For the refurbished pots in Mill Street, grateful thanks to: Esther Clifton, Will & Laura Jefferies, and Simon Hopcraft, who are also happy to be looking after them. Thanks to Martin Flatman and neighbour who have taken on the task of planting and caring for a community flowering tub in Hazeldene. Again thanks to the working party of Robin, Gill, Verity, Shirley, Jessica, Martin and Dave.

### **Sharing Winter Warmth**

Last year many Eynsham and Freeland residents generously donated their unwanted Winter Fuel payments either to the Eynsham Consolidated Charity to be "recycled" to needy villagers to help meet their winter heating costs, or to the Bartholomew Educational Foundation, another village charity which supports villagers under the age of 25 with their educational needs.

If you know of anyone in the villages of Eynsham and Freeland who may benefit from support with their winter heating costs, do please let Robin Mitchell at Eynsham Charities know.

The Government Winter Fuel Payment, which everyone who is eligible receives automatically in December, is not means-tested. Not everyone feels that they should receive it; but the payment could help someone else in real need.

Payments by cheque can be sent to the Clerk, Robin Mitchell, payable either to 'Eynsham Consolidated Charity' or 'Bartholomew Educational Foundation' and addressed to 20 High Street, Eynsham OX29 4HB.

Payments may also be made directly to the Charities' accounts: Eynsham Consolidated Charity sort code 09-01-51, a/c 25159404 and Bartholomew Educational Foundation

sort code 09-01-51 a/c 53159405

The trustees thank all last year's donors most of whom remain anonymous, having made their donations by bank transfer. Please note new email address for enquiries: [eynshamcharities@gmail.com](mailto:eynshamcharities@gmail.com)



### **Award Nomination**

One of our great independent village businesses, Jessie's Art Shed, has been nominated for a Business of the Year award! The awards celebrate independent businesses who are transforming high streets, keeping our local communities 'home towns' not 'clone towns' and showcasing true innovation and uniqueness. Jessie's business was chosen from over 100 nominees to get to the first round of voting. If the Art Shed makes it to the final then voting will open on 9 December—take a look under the High Street category here and show your support! [bit.ly/30jrjvNJ](https://bit.ly/30jrjvNJ)

### **Eynsham Christmas Vouchers**

At the time of writing, our Eynsham Community Larder Christmas Appeal has just hit £500—we are so grateful for your support, and hopeful that we can still build upon this sum to allow us to give Eynsham Christmas Vouchers—to spend in Eynsham's excellent independent shops, pubs and eateries—and a hamper of Christmas snacks, treats and essentials to help make the festive season a little easier for the 40 households supported each week by Eynsham Community Larder.

Donations to the Christmas appeal are welcomed at [bit.ly/3F49LVI](https://bit.ly/3F49LVI) or in our collection baskets in Co-op, The Market Garden, Spar, and Tesco. Any surplus will be ploughed back into the regular Eynsham Community Larder—collaboration between Eynsham Heroes and Eynsham Baptist Church.

We also hope to make Eynsham Christmas Vouchers available to purchase by everyone at Evenlode DIY, so everyone can shop local to help local this Christmas! Look out for posters in shop windows and announcements on social media soon.

### **A Word of Thanks ...to the Churchyard volunteers.**

The churchyard at St Leonard's in Eynsham is currently being maintained extremely well by all of the volunteers who do this regular work. As someone who has frequented the churchyard for too many years to mention, I want to say that it is looking the best it has done so for many, many years.

Heartfelt thanks to all that have helped to provide such a good service to the community—Christine Batts.

### **Post-Lockdown Era Support**

Whether you're lying low, under the weather, self-isolating, in need of a hand, or just looking for volunteers to support a community project, Eynsham Heroes and Eynsham Good Neighbour Network are still here to help. Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you need anything, or would like to volunteer:

E-mail Eynsham Heroes at [eynshamhelp@gmail.com](mailto:eynshamhelp@gmail.com) for help with shopping, prescriptions, or errands (or call the Eynsham Good Neighbourhood Network on 07443 564516).

To join your local neighbourhood WhatsApp group to connect with people on your street or ask for support e-mail [eynshamhelp@gmail.com](mailto:eynshamhelp@gmail.com)

For support with food call Bob Thiele at Eynsham Community Larder on 07738 063083. For transport to medical appointments call 07469 764174 (volunteers urgently required!)



Jan with fellow member Mary

## Warm Welcome

By Jan LeFevre

What a wonderful thing is the Eynsham W.I.

How unnerving it is to move to a new place. After 47 happy years in my cottage, tending my fruitful vegetable plot, garden and orchard, and part of a small Essex fishing community, I had moved to Eynsham, to be near my daughter.

Clearly, I needed to make new friends and find a useful part in this rural village.

To prove to my daughter that I was not going to be a burden, I joined many societies, two book clubs and the W.I. to meet the women in the village.

Weekly child minding occupied some hours, like many retired grandparents find as part of their lives! But I needed to try and find new friends and feel accepted in Eynsham.

Then we all had to face lockdown.

I was now in a one-bedroom flat with no garden. So, like many others, I took long walks down our beautiful lanes and bent the rules with an early morning hour and an afternoon one too.

Many days I talked to no one except on zoom or the telephone back to Essex friends. My daughter and husband being key workers could not visit me except shouted encounters out of my flat window which were welcome, but rather public!

Through the summer of 2020, the pre-Christmas lockdown and spring

of 2021 I met W.I. members out walking or shopping and found a friendship I had not expected. Each time, a member who recognized me, from the few meetings that I had been to, before covid, came across the road and stopped to chat. Not just the expected 'How are you' 'I'm fine' type of encounter, but real conversation about the village, the people, the wonderful nature around us and the future.

These warm meetings kept me from isolation and sadness.

And now we are back with monthly meetings, Harvest Festival, speakers and Christmas meal, full of laughter and warmth.

I salute my Eynsham W.I. members for helping me to survive these harsh times.

## WI News

from Valerie Johnston

The WI heard a fascinating talk by Carol McKay about emergency services in Oxfordshire during our November meeting. Some of us expected this to be a rather dry subject but it was exciting and informative. The WI Christmas Party will take place on 14 December with the bus arriving at Back Lane at 6:15—Secret Santa presents welcome. And the big news for the New Year is that we will be moving our meeting venue to the Eynsham Village Hall. The first meeting will be on 11 January.

## Dog Watch

by Andrew Dilger

Like lots of newbie dog-owners, I'm worried about having to quit the domestic idyll and return to the office/real life. How will our dogs cope without us? How will we cope without them?

So I've started separation training with Astra the whippet to reduce anxiety. It starts small—5-10 minutes—and then builds up. Leaving the radio on can help, but some breeds may bark at Jeremy Vine. Astra also has a 'genius-level' puzzle toy by Nina Ottosson which she's yet to crack. Then there are friends and professionals you can recruit to walk the dog for you. The lovely Marianne

Paton can often be seen shepherding a pack of other people's pooches around Eynsham. It's even possible to get help at low-cost via sites like borrowmydoggy.com or rover.com



Astra with puzzle

If all else fails, there's doggy daycare ('Happy Tails' in Farmoor has good reviews) or smuggling Astra into work. Wish me luck!

## Monday Club

By Mark Johnson

We are happily back in action and offering our full service each Monday. Do consider joining us—we offer a day of fun, collegiality and activity with visiting entertainers in the afternoon. A splendid two course hot lunch, prepared by Stuart and Daniela (from the Jolly Sportsman) is one of the highlights! We charge a nominal fee of £8 (£12 for couples), which represents excellent value. Contact us via the website (eynshamdaycentre.com) or by contacting our secretary Jane (janej777@hotmail.com, 01865 882924). If you would like to try us out then a taster day is available, free of charge. Karen and all the volunteers look forward to welcoming new members to our happy team soon.

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)

# Not so

# Merry Christmas

There's no doubt that the past couple of years have taken a toll on all of us, whether it's physically, financially or mentally and while many people will be looking forward to a merry Christmas, not everyone will be in the mood to celebrate. If you or someone you know is struggling with stress, anxiety or depression there are lots of places you can turn for support.

Often the best place to start is with your GP—they will talk you through your options and can refer you on to other services if necessary. But if you don't want to go down that route, the Eynsham Medical website has a list of loads of useful resources you could try: [bit.ly/3Fdt9Qu](https://bit.ly/3Fdt9Qu).

You can also refer yourself for free NHS counselling through Talking Space Plus without needing to go to your GP. They have offices in Witney and offer phone-counselling too, as well as group sessions and online support for anxiety and depression. You can refer yourself online [bit.ly/2V2rjzR](https://bit.ly/2V2rjzR) or call them on 01865 901 222.

If you're able to afford to pay towards your own therapy, then have a look for a registered therapist on one of the regulatory body websites such as BACP or UKCP—both have therapists working in Eynsham as well as loads in Witney. If you can't quite afford to pay full price, there are various organisations offering reduced rates to those on lower incomes—check out OTS Witney Therapy, Health Hub Oxford or Plain Talking Oxford.

There are lots of charities that offer free support over the phone or online, often around specific issues such as eating disorders, abuse, self-harm or addiction, but if in doubt the Samaritans are always there, 24/7, to listen non-judgmentally. You can

email them at [jo@samartians.org](mailto:jo@samartians.org) or call free on 116 123 and if talking feels too much, they even have a free app on their website full of tips to help you get through the worst moments.

If it's loneliness and isolation getting you down, then there is help available here in the village. Eynsham Good Neighbour Network not only offers practical help but they

can offer a bit of company by telephone or even a socially distanced chat in the garden, for anyone who fancies seeing a friendly face. You can contact them on 07443 564516.

Mental health troubles aren't limited to adults unfortunately, and accessing support for children and young people can be tricky. Your GP is the best first port of call again or you School Health Nurse or a teacher

can refer you to CAMHS who offer support to anyone under 18. The Oxfordshire CAMHS website has lots of advice for parents and children to help support your mental health as well as crisis contact details: [bit.ly/3AHZUsd](https://bit.ly/3AHZUsd). And Young Minds is a charity website with great advice for young people and for parents struggling to know where to start with talking to their children about mental health: [youngminds.org.uk](https://youngminds.org.uk)

So whether you're the one struggling or you're supporting someone you care about, keep talking, keep accepting help and keep on keeping on.

## Shirt Race 2021



# Wet & Wild

**The return of the  
Shirt race, albeit without  
the Carnival, brought  
some village life back to  
the streets...**

Photos supplied by Eynsham Shirt Race



### 2021 Shirt Race Results

#### Men's Winners

1st Daffyd Warburton/Nick Hardwick  
2nd Will Harrold/Ashley Roles

#### Ladies Winners

1st Julie Walker Smith/Martine Summers  
2nd Tash Smith/Kelly Huggard

#### Mixed Winners

1st Emily Fisk/Thomas Brooker  
2nd Emma Goldring/Chris Jordan

#### Fancy Dress Winners

1st SlowSpeeder, Phil and Dean Evans  
2nd Gingerbread Choo Choo, Tom Smith/Jordan Huggard  
3rd Cruella DeVille, Emma Goldring/Chris Jordan  
4th ABBA, Jon Denton/Matt Darnell

5th Morris Men, Howard and Josh Humphris

#### Nut Award

Octoberfest Table, Jim Newton/Darren Catell

BOOK  
YOUR **FREE**  
CLASS  
TODAY!



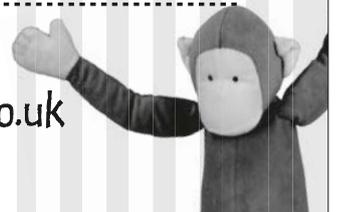
## Award winning music classes for babies & young children

New Classes at Eynsham Scout Headquarters every Thursday!

E: [banbury.bicester@monkeymusic.co.uk](mailto:banbury.bicester@monkeymusic.co.uk)

T: 01865 428420

Nurturing a lifetime of music [www.monkeymusic.co.uk](http://www.monkeymusic.co.uk)



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FIND US ON FACEBOOK





Eynsham Parish Council held its first, new-format parish community event last month. It was an opportunity for residents to review and comment on plans and projects for the parish as the Council shape a new Strategic Plan.

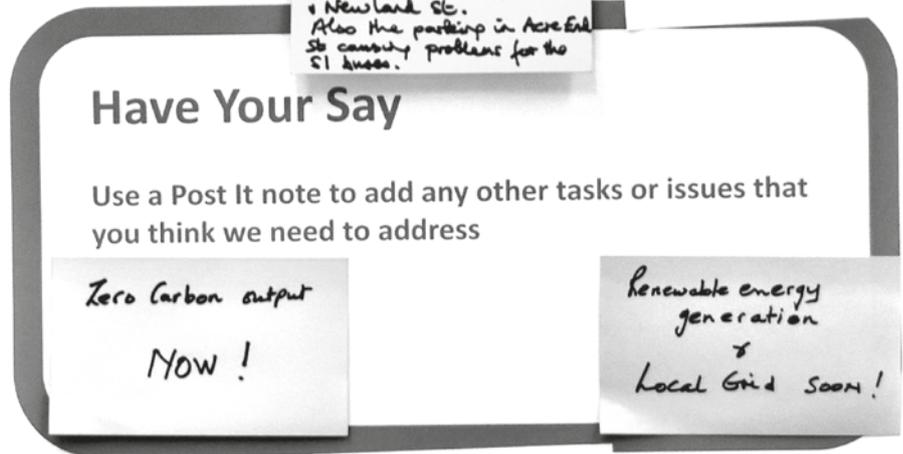
The Village Hall was buzzing on Saturday 6 November as parish residents mingled (safely) with councillors to review the plans for the Council over the coming years.

Fuelled by a steady supply of cakes (delicious creations of the Eynsham Country Market baking team) and tea, attendees learnt more about the draft strategic plan—what the Council is aiming to do and how—and shared their thoughts.

More focus on nature recovery - protection + expansion for green spaces and waterways.

We are concerned about parking within the village making several junctions a blind exit - eg. Mill St + Newland St. Also the parking in Acree St causing problems for the St buses.

Please clean the car park lamp Post  
+ Dog Bin 11 hours  
as per



Zero Carbon output  
NOW!

Renewable energy generation  
&  
Local Grid soon!

Have climate change response at the top of every agenda - to enable Eynsham to reduce its Carbon-foot print (inc. SV + W. Bn)

Climate Change response priority for all Agendas  
How / Strategic

# Did you have your say?

We invited residents to review our priority areas and vote for the projects felt to be most important. These cover a wide range of valuable activities, from establishing a Youth Council and rebuilding the Sports Pavilion, to implementing 20mph speed limits and creating a circular village walk.

The Council also sought input on our ‘vision for the parish’. Of a selection of three, the most popular has proven to be ‘Making Eynsham a great place to belong’. We are also committed to do so in a manner that is Approachable, Collaborative and Transparent (ACT). Please call us out if you feel we aren’t ACT-ing in this way.

While there was plenty of information to read and opportunities to indicate preferences, the informal

environment also encouraged discussion on general topics. We welcomed hearing some of the concerns residents have. Frequent topics of discussions included development projects (Garden Village and Eynsham park and ride), the speed limit reductions and the future of the Bartholomew Room.

If you weren’t able to attend, you can find out more on Eynsham Online and share your comments before we finalise the plan via the survey. At any time, you are welcome to contact us via email ([epc.clerk@eynsham-pc.gov.uk](mailto:epc.clerk@eynsham-pc.gov.uk)) and you can keep up to date with Council activity by following us on Facebook (@EynshamParish Council) and Twitter (@EynshamPC) or signing up to our new e-newsletter via the website.



This was the first of (we hope) many of these new-style, less formal community events. We want the experience of engaging with the Council to be easier and more appealing. We correctly guessed that free cake is always a good incentive! Thank you to all who attended and shared their views—you have helped us focus on the things that matter to you. We hope to meet more of you in due course.

## A note from the chair



It is an exceptionally busy time for the Council and its staff; lots of irons in the fire to keep us occupied in the months to Christmas and beyond. One exciting activity is the creation of our first ever strategy; read more in our main article.

We are also working with Oxfordshire County Council on the A40 and Park and Ride projects, with more plans for both due soon.

The Garden Village development has gone very quiet whilst we await additional work from West Oxfordshire District Council on phasing, following which the Inspector will decide what the next steps will be.

There is certainly movement on the West Eynsham development. Collaborating with our partners across the parish, we are pushing hard for greater consultation on the developer's masterplans. We must ensure that this development goes beyond the existing standards, especially in the green standards, to protect our parish.

More details on all of the above—and more—will be shared online and via our new social media channels. As ever, feel free to drop me a line directly if there is anything on your mind that the Council may be able to help with. Email [nick.relph@eynsham-pc.gov.uk](mailto:nick.relph@eynsham-pc.gov.uk)

## Meet a Councillor: Katy Crowe

**When and why did you join the council?**

*I joined in 2016 which, looking back now, was pretty ambitious as my twins were only 18 months old! I wanted to do something that got me out of the house*

*but was also keen to represent Eynsham's parents/families on the council.*

### What have you enjoyed most?

*It's great to hear what's happening in the village, plus I enjoy specific projects we do, such as redeveloping Witney Road Park a couple of years ago. This year I'm excited about working on the Christmas lights—it'll really brighten up the square!*



Katy Crowe

### Why do you like living in Eynsham?

*There's a real sense of community and I like the fact that it's small enough to feel you belong. It's really vibrant for a small place and there are lots of activities to take part in, plus it's so close to Oxford.*

### What is your day job?

*I'm Marketing and Communications Officer for HENRY, a charity that supports families to give their children the best possible start in life. I really enjoy my job and feel like the work makes a real difference to families.*

**Hear more from Katy on Eynsham Online.**

## From the Clerk's Desk



Council business continues to keep us fully occupied—and we now have four staff members to help. It's great to build a team and we all have our own tasks.

We recently appointed Richard Wilkins as Deputy Clerk, who joins us

from Littlemore Parish Council. As well as supporting the Finance & General Purposes and Amenities & Estates Committees, Richard is working on the Pavilion Rebuild Project.

One of my key tasks is working with Cllr Nick Relph (Chair) on revising Eynsham's Neighbourhood Plan. This involves support from Community First Oxfordshire and working alongside West Oxfordshire District Council to ensure compliance with the Local Plan.

In the summer, we were joined by Sarah Rees, our Communications Officer. She has set up the Council's Facebook page and Twitter account to help us engage better with you. We aim to launch an e-newsletter soon as well—have you signed up?

Rachel Johnson has been our Responsible Financial Officer since 2018. She ensures Councillors are fully appraised and advised on all financial matters. She also manages the booking of our facilities and a host of compliance/budget/resourcing issues.

We have a gap in our team, though. Could you fill it? We're recruiting a Maintenance Person (15 hours p/w) for tasks such as play area inspections, litter picking and minor repair works to street furniture. Please check our website ([eynsham-pc.gov.uk](http://eynsham-pc.gov.uk)) for further information.

## Dates for your Diary



**Tuesday 7 December 2021**  
7.30pm  
Full Council Meeting

**Tuesday 4 January 2022**  
7.30pm  
Full Council Meeting

**Tuesday 1 February 2022**  
7.30pm  
Full Council Meeting

# A

# Massive

## Great Big Green Week in Eynsham

Back in September, Eynsham's Great Big Green Week was a remarkable demonstration of Eynsham's great green endeavours to tackle the climate and ecological emergency and a passionate call to action for our leaders attending COP26.



Indigo, Ava, Polly and Sky



Over 200 people—including community groups, local businesses, experts, individuals, and families—came together to put on around 60 events, to entertain, inspire and inform our community. An estimated 2000 participants from Eynsham and beyond joined in, leading to the biggest spike in traffic Eynsham Online has seen since its inception, as well as showing the world how we much want a greener future.

We kicked off with local farmer Robert Crocker's moving rallying cry, "Farmer Spare The Hedge" performed by Farmer Crocker himself with accompaniment from Eynsham Community Choir and Eynsham Morris, followed by a rousing speech about the simple things we can all do to help combat climate change by local businessman and parish councillor, Ross Macken: reduce meat and dairy consumption, buy less stuff, fly less, and use more active forms of travel, such as walking and cycling. There were also lively performances from Eynsham Morris and The Horns of Plenty, we gave away plant-based food made from surplus allotment vegetables, held a repair café, craft events, litter picking, and nature yoga sessions. The talented young performers of the Small But Mighty Theatre company wowed us with their enchanting production of Shakespeare's nature-inspired play, A Midsummer Night's Dream.

Children were inspired by the Low Carbon Hub's giant grid game, Big Green Day Out competition (won by Elan McManus, Theo Wright and Millie & Charlie Stringer) and 20 environmental science activities from The Curiosity Box. An eco trail around the village showcased local green initiatives, gardens, allotments and art installations. We visited the solar farm under construction at 12 Acre Farm, heard about the innovative plans for smart and fair green energy

around Eynsham, learned about Eynsham's thriving Nature Recovery Network, swift project and hedgehog highways, and bathed in nature at the Peace Oak. There was a real buzz around the village at events like the electric vehicle day and the highly competitive mini formula E races, where a group of 4 young 'Eynsham Wolves,' Sky & Indigo Goodwin and Ava & Polly Aspinall triumphed with their cleverly pimped electric car. A survey run by Trisha Crowley found encouraging interest in car clubs and car sharing which helps reduce the number of cars—and saves resources, carbon emissions and costs.

On a more reflective note, we held a talk tent chaired by Rain Newton-Smith, Chief Economist at the CBI, and a stellar cast of speakers of all ages offering inspiration and insights on the climate and ecological emergency, green building, nature recovery, the future of energy and sustainable lifestyles. Residents shared personal experiences of actions to help the planet, among them car sharing and living car free. Highlights included teenager Lara Hynes, who spoke movingly about her worries for her future and the lack of action, and Eynsham's Market Garden who championed their waste-free local food.

We were amazed at the response from the community and were inspired by the level of concern about climate change shown during the week. The organizing team has since written to Boris Johnson, Alok Sharma and Robert Courts, telling them about our huge efforts and what we expect from them in return. We also had a letter published in the Oxford Times on the climate consensus.

We have also worked with the Eynsham Partnership Academy and the winners of the Great Big Green Day Out competition to host Eynsham's own version of COP26 at Bartholomew School.

This is only the beginning, and we plan to build on these efforts to grow Great Big Green Eynsham in the coming year. Keep up with our activities on Eynsham Online or Facebook.

Well done Eynsham!

## One World Week

On 30 October, the 'One World Week' sale took place. The venue had been the Market Square, but it was moved into the Baptist Church Hall because of the weather. The sale was to support organisations like Asylum Welcome, Sobell House, the Poppy Appeal, Busy Bees and Baphumelele Childrens' Home, in South Africa.

Why this particular home in such a far-away place? The Childrens' Home was 'adopted' by Eynsham Baptist Church when one of the former 'junior church' members, Matt, lived and worked for a year in Zoar, a rural, impoverished village in Karoolande. Baphumelele was set up by Rosalina Mashale, a trained primary school teacher, who had been disturbed to see young children going through rubbish looking for food. In 2001 Baphumelele was registered as a care

centre for abandoned, orphaned and abused children, many of whom were HIV positive. Rosalina and the Board of Baphumelele have been raising funds for better facilities since then.

The Baptist Church decided to make Zoar Initiatives and the Children's Home a special overseas project and began fundraising in 2003. They would like to thank everyone who has supported the fundraising over the past ten years.



# Outside our comfort zone

Eynsham Residents are often keen to look beyond their village.

## Refugees Welcome in Eynsham

RWE are an informal group supporting the Syrian families who came to live in Witney in 2016 as part of the government scheme during the Syrian crisis. Then the government committed to bring in 20,000 vulnerable refugees, selected in refugee camps, to be housed and supported by local authorities. West Oxfordshire accepted six families and two more came later.

So while we feel shocked and worried about the chaos in Afghanistan we should remember that we do know how to do this. The key is the safe route, avoiding traffickers, leaking boats, homelessness and arrests. The next is to give local authorities the responsibility to house and support them, funding organisations like

Asylum Welcome to offer specialist support, and encouraging local people to give practical help and friendship.

The six families that RWE have supported are doing well. The children are thriving, with perfect English, and doing well in school. Most of the men now have at least part-time work. The women speak fluent English, support each other and are increasingly confident in dealing with doctors, teachers and other organisations.

Let's do the same for Afghanistan. There is talk at national level about a quota and a selection process. RWE could offer the practical help with furniture, the support with English and the friendship that we did before.

To find out ways to help, contact RWE through [sue.raikes@appleinter.net](mailto:sue.raikes@appleinter.net). More info at [westoxon.gov.uk/refugeesupport](http://westoxon.gov.uk/refugeesupport).

## Help Needed Now

We are looking for 3 or 4 bedroom homes to help support the vulnerable families coming in through the scheme. If your property is used in the scheme rent would be paid in advance and direct to landlords. There are also set up costs for furnishings available.

We are specifically looking for properties where the rent is within the Local Housing Allowance. Any properties will need to be safe and so we would ask for the correct gas safety and electrical safety certificates, a fire risk assessment and EPC compliance.

**If you are interested in being part of a family's new beginning contact Paula Massey who is coordinating West Oxfordshire District's housing response. Please email: [paula.massey@publicagroup.uk](mailto:massey@publicagroup.uk)**

## Events Preview



# Christmas on Eynsham Square

## **The Lights Are On!**

Light Up Eynsham is back! On Friday 3 December, the village is invited to gather in Market Square to celebrate the first switching on of the new and improved Christmas lights, generously provided by Eynsham Parish Council.

Everyone is welcome for carols around the tree with Eynsham Morris, a sausage sizzle, mulled wine & hot chocolate and of course a visit from Santa & the Rotary club. St Leonards Church will also be opening its doors for the annual Christmas Tree Festival.

Bar & BBQ from 5:30pm. Lights on at approximately 6pm. Organised by Eynsham Primary School PTA. Proceeds will go towards much needed projects at Eynsham Community Primary School. Thanks in advance to Eynsham Carnival Committee for lending us their security fencing to help keep everyone safe.

Please do not attend the event if you have any symptoms of Covid-19.

## **Eynsham Christmas Tree Festival**

*in St Leonards Church, on the Market Square*

After going "Walk about" on a trail style Tree Festival last winter, we are delighted to announce this year's "Eynsham Christmas Tree Festival" will be back in the Church. Our 2021 event will take place on the 3rd and 4th December, and coincides with "Light Up Eynsham".

For two days the church will be filled with sparkling Christmas trees, each sponsored and decorated by a school, uniformed organisation, village group... or somebody who just loves Christmas! So pop along on Friday evening to check out the display, or join us on Saturday morning for a more leisurely wander around, when a cafe will be available. Decorate a tree biscuit, vote for your favourite tree or simply guess which carols inspired their decorations.

Should you require more details, please contact Carmen Fraser on [slpfamilies@gmail.com](mailto:slpfamilies@gmail.com)



## **Eynsham Country Market Special Christmas Market**

*4 Dec, 9.30am-12pm*

Outside the Red Lion, on Eynsham Square. Fresh, festive produce, crafts, seasonal plants and decorations  
Free mince pies for customers

The last Market of the year  
*21 Dec, 9-10:30am*

## **Big Eynsham Carol Sing**

*18 Dec, 4.30-5pm Eynsham Square*

Organised by Eynsham Baptist Church

## **Christmas in the Square**

*11 Dec, 10.30am-12 noon*

Crafts, stories, activities for kids and adults. Organised by Eynsham Baptist Church

## Events Diary

### Old Forge Pottery

Open Studio in Newland St.,  
27-28 Nov, 4-5 Dec, 10am-4pm  
Sales and 'just looking.'

### Eynsham 10k Race

28 Nov, 8am-2pm at the Sports Pavilion  
Return of the 'Polar Group Eynsham 10k'. Race incorporates the Oxfordshire 10k county championship. The route will be 2 laps of Eynsham village finishing in the grounds of Bartholomew School as in previous years. More info at [eynshamroadrunners.org.uk](http://eynshamroadrunners.org.uk)

### Pop-up Sustainable Christmas Market

28 Nov, 10am-4pm at Sports Pavilion  
Local, ethical and Christmas gifts.  
More details at [willowcoppice.co.uk](http://willowcoppice.co.uk)

### Willow weaving workshop

28 Nov, 10am-4pm at Sports Pavilion

Make your own creative and sustainable Christmas decorations in locally grown willow and wood

*Morning:* make a tree centre piece in willow and hazel, and lots of tree hanging Christmas decorations.

*Afternoon:* make Swedish Christmas Stars, Christmas Tree stars, and multiple hanging tree decoration stars. For info and to book a place email [Charlotte.willowcoppice@gmail.com](mailto:Charlotte.willowcoppice@gmail.com)

### Eynsham Litter Pickers

28 Nov, 1:45pm-4pm at  
Baptist Church Hall.

With Covid still in mind, we now meet in THE GROUNDS of Eynsham Baptist Church, to collect equipment and arrange routes etc. Newcomers are very welcome as ever. Enquiries to Pam Breeze: 07971 174434

### Eynsham Community

#### Primary School Open Morning for Reception Sept 2022,

1 Dec 2021, 9:30-11am

Contact the school office on 01865 881294 if you have any questions or wish to make a phone reservation.

### Eynsham History Group

2 Dec 7:30-9pm

St Leonard's Church Hall Martin Harris will talk on "Christmases past."

### F Bartholomew School Carol Service

5 Dec, 7pm

### ull Parish Council Meeting

7 Dec 7:30-9:30 at Village Hall

Eynsham Parish Council welcomes Eynsham residents to join its monthly meetings at the Village Hall. Meeting agendas are published the previous week and stipulate items for discussion and agreement.

### Eynsham Garden Club

#### Christmas Party

8 Dec, 7-9pm at the Village Hall

Members plus their guests

### Christmas Market at The Market Garden

9 Dec – Late night opening until 8pm

Eynsham Cellars with a mini wine tasting, The Curiosity Box featuring fun science in a box and other local craft stallholders, plus Christmas carollers and Wholesome Earth Café will be serving mulled wine, mince pies & other festive treats

### Eynsham W.I.Christmas Party

14 Dec 6:15-10:30pm, meeting at

*Eynsham Car Park* The Christmas Party is in Woodstock. Coach leaves Back Lane Car Park at 6.15 p.m. prompt. Masks/face coverings are recommended while travelling on the coach.

### You Can Run Course

8 Jan 2022, *The Pavillion*. Eynsham Roadrunners start their next 'couch to 5k' designed especially for new and returning runners. For more info, go to [bit.ly/3204obU](http://bit.ly/3204obU)

### Eynsham Garden Club

12 Jan 2022, 7.30pm at the Village Hall

Speaker Catriona Bass on Restoring Thames Meadows  
Programme for 2022 will be available.

### Eynsham Cinema

28 Jan, 7:30pm *Eynsham Village Hall*

No Time to Die (12A)

Featuring Daniel Craig

### Christmas in the Eynsham Churches

#### St Peter's Catholic Church

24 Dec, – Mass at 5pm and 8pm.

25 Dec, – Mass at 10am.

No Christmas Day evening Mass.

26 Dec, – Mass 10am.

#### Eynsham Baptist Church

11 Dec, 10.30-12 noon – Christmas in

the Square. 19 Dec, 6pm – Carols by

Candlelight. 18 Dec, 4.30-5pm – Big

Eynsham Carol Sing in the Square.

24 Dec, 7pm – Communion Service.

25 Dec, 10am – Family Celebration.

#### St Leonards Parish Church

3-4 Dec, – Christmas Tree Festival.

12 Dec, 4pm – Christingle.

19 Dec, 7pm – Carols by Candlelight.

24 Dec – Crib Service.

11.30pm – Midnight Communion.

25 Dec, 10am – All-Age Christmas

Celebration. Please be aware that

some events may need to be ticketed.

Details are correct at time of print.

Details of all events were correct at the time of going to press but may change. Please check with the organisers' social media before going. Send your events news for our February/March edition (about 70 words long) to [editor@eynshamnews.org.uk](mailto:editor@eynshamnews.org.uk) before 9 January 2022.

#### Please send in items for our next issue by 9th January 2022

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! Items submitted may or may not be included and edited.

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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This newsletter is 100% recyclable in your normal recycling bin. It is printed on Carbon Capture paper which contributes to the Woodland Trust's tree planting programme.



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## **Abbey Properties Independent Estate Agents**

Selling homes in Eynsham since 1983. Unrivalled experience of the local property market.  
01865 880697 [abbeyprops.com](http://abbeyprops.com)

## **Alan @ Eynsham Chiropractic Clinic**

McTimoney Chiropractor  
01865 882992. [alan.chiro@gmail.com](mailto:alan.chiro@gmail.com)

## **Bartholomew Sports Centre**

offers a wide range of activities and facilities to suit everyone including a fully equipped gym, a range of fitness classes, 4-court sports hall and AstroTurf pitches. *Find out more at [better.org.uk](http://better.org.uk)*

## **Visit Body Talk Salon**

for all your hair & beauty needs. Established over 20 years, the professional & friendly staff wish you a warm welcome. *Find us at 37 Mill Street or call 01865 880820*

## **Breathing Class**

Improve your breathing, develop control, enhance the connection through weekly sessions. Classes on Tuesdays, 7-8pm at The Music Room, Queen St, Eynsham. *Info and bookings: Darrin 07717803235 Gemma 07971529242 [gemmaferrier77@gmail.com](mailto:gemmaferrier77@gmail.com)*

## **P Bruno Car Repairs**

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## **The Burnside Partnership**

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[theburnsidepartnership.com](http://theburnsidepartnership.com)  
[info@theburnsidepartnership.com](mailto:info@theburnsidepartnership.com)  
01865 987781

## **Cosy Homes Oxfordshire**

A one-stop retrofit service helping homeowners reduce energy use, reducing bills and carbon emissions.  
[cosyhomesoxfordshire.org](http://cosyhomesoxfordshire.org)  
0300 303 1269

## **Evenlode DIY Eynsham's Tardis**

29 High St., Eynsham OX29 4HE  
01865 881392. Glass, timber, keys cut, tool sharpening, paint mixed, hardware,

ironmongery, decorating materials, garden and pet supplies.

## **Eynsham Cellars**

Award winning wine, beer, spirit and cider retailer. Carefully chosen selection. Free delivery. Sale or return & free glass hire for parties. 43 Mill Street. 01865 884405 [eynshamcellars.com](http://eynshamcellars.com)

## **Freeland Pre-school**

We provide high quality education for 2-5 year olds. Friendly environment, with large garden and Outdoor Explorer sessions in local woods.  
*Contact us on: 01993 882945 or [freelandpg@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:freelandpg@hotmail.co.uk)*

## **Greens Funeral Services**

Established in 1866, Independent Funeral Directors. 01865 880837 [mail@greensfunerals.co.uk](mailto:mail@greensfunerals.co.uk)

## **Grimebusters**

Eynsham's local carpet, rug and upholstery cleaners. Specialists in low moisture carpet cleaning. Unbeatable results, most carpets dry within the hour.  
01865 726983 / 01993 868924 / 07778 298312 [grimebusters.co.uk](http://grimebusters.co.uk)

## **Beech Court Nursing Home**

"A home from home" for your elderly relations. 37 Newland Street, Eynsham, OX29 4LB. Tel: 01865 883611

## **Massage for Sport, Work and Life's Aches, Pains and Injuries**

Holistic Massage for Stress, Tension and Emotional Holding. *Contact Denise Witchalls 07771 642600*

## **Maylarch**

**Environmental Ltd** currently has vacancies for Demolition & Asbestos Removal Operatives—no experience necessary, full training given. *Please call 01865 883829 to apply or search online for "Maylarch Jobs."*

## **Visit Miss Naes Beauty Parlour**

Our treatments for: Semi-permanent Makeup, eyebrows, eyelashes, facials, nails. New clients welcome. Evening appointments.  
64 Mill Street. 07869409068.  
[@missnae.beauty](http://missnae.beauty)

## **Monkey Music classes**

Witney Burwell Hall: Tues  
Eynsham Scout Headquarters: Thurs

Classes available for 3 months to 3 years old. FREE first class.  
[www.monkeymusic.co.uk/area/bicester-bloxham-chipping-norton-kidlington-witney](http://www.monkeymusic.co.uk/area/bicester-bloxham-chipping-norton-kidlington-witney)

## **Pellmans LLP**

Your local solicitors.  
1 Abbey Street, Eynsham OX29 4TB  
01865 884400 / [pellmans.co.uk](http://pellmans.co.uk)  
Business, Employment, Property, Wills, Probate, Trusts, Tax, Powers of Attorney.

## **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)*

## **Top Power Wash Services**

Pure water window cleaning system, gutter hoovering with camera—gutter, fascia, patio, drive, path roof and conservatory cleaning. 01865881628 or 07340827550

## **The Old Forge Pottery**

33a Newland Street is a shared workshop for local potters. We are hosting two Open Weekends with lovely unique Christmas gifts. Open between 10am and 4pm on Sat 27th Nov & Sun 28th Nov and Sat 4th Dec & Sun 5th Dec

## **The White Hart**

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.

## **Soma Clinical Pilates**

Movement to support physical & mental health. Mondays 9.30am Intermediate & 10.30am Foundation at The Music Room. *Contact: Jane McDonald [pilates@somaobb.com](mailto:pilates@somaobb.com), 07930 343156 [www.somaobb.com](http://www.somaobb.com)*

## **Soma Craniosacral Therapy, Myofascial Release & Hot Stone Massage**

Treatments to support physical & mental health.  
*Contact: Jane McDonald [pilates@somaobb.com](mailto:pilates@somaobb.com), 07930 343156 [www.somaobb.com](http://www.somaobb.com)*