



Eynsham

News



Merry Christmas!

This year's "Christmas Tree Festival" will take place inside St. Leonard's Church on December 2nd and 3rd. Doors will open at "Light Up Eynsham" on the Friday evening and there will be a "Pop up" cafe from 10am-12 on Saturday. For two days the church will be filled with sparkling Christmas trees, each sponsored and decorated by a family, school, uniformed organisation, village group or somebody who just loves Christmas! This year's festival theme is "Christmas around the World." There will be a vote taken for people's favourite tree. A visitors' donation will also be collected toward the Eynsham Larder.

Village Buzz

Take the train to Witney?

Witney Oxford Transport Group has announced that the developers for the Salt Cross Garden Village site are supportive of the proposed plans for a rail route from Witney to Oxford.

This isn't the 'old' route (through Eynsham) revived, but a new route which would quite closely follow the A40. 24km (15 miles) of new track would spur off the North Cotswold Line just north of Worton, running through new stations in Salt Cross, Witney and Carterton.

Oxfordshire County Council is waiting for a report (due in February 2023) from a rail consultant on the feasibility of the new rail route and is exploring its funding.

You can read more about the project at <https://witneyoxfordtransport.org.uk/>



Ruins of old Eynsham station
Credit: John Mann

Once upon a time in Eynsham

The former Witney Railway, including Eynsham station, opened on 14 November 1861.

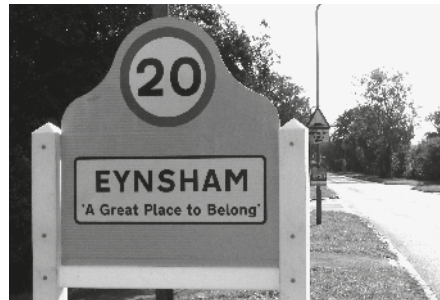
Eynsham had a single platform station, with a single, wooden station building, made of weather boarding with a slate roof. In 1892, a signal box was added, and a goods shed.

The station had two sidings for goods, with a crane. The biggest item carried was coal, but by the 1920s the station was handling up to 12,000 tons of freight a year.

During WW2 a second platform was built to increase capacity for troops and armaments, especially as the Normandy landings drew near; there was also lots of agricultural traffic and wagonloads of bones for the local glue factory!

The railway through Eynsham was closed to passengers in 1962, and to goods three years later.

Facts taken from Wikipedia, and the photo of the old station is by John Mann.



Hi-viz Hi!

Have you got used to Eynsham's new 20mph limit? Not too difficult on the narrow, wiggly bits, but not so easy on longer, straighter stretches?

The Parish Council welcome residents' input to help shape a project that will keep the village roads safer, less polluted and more amenable for use by a variety of road users.

Enforcement of the new limit is not by the Police, but by a village Community Speedwatch group. Community Speedwatch (CSW) is a national scheme, where hundreds of local, voluntary CSW groups take responsibility for enforcing speed limits in their area. In Oxfordshire, there are approximately 70 CSW groups, including in Eynsham, Freeland, Stanton Harcourt, North and South Leigh, and Cassington. It's likely that this number will increase as more parts of the country reduce their speed limits, in line with the County Council's ambitions to make '20mph the new 30mph'.

So, you may see your Eynsham CSW group (currently 9 trained volunteers) standing in hi-viz at the roadside, checking on our speed. They are always highly visible on the roadside, providing drivers with sufficient time to check and adjust their speed if necessary. Indeed, the intention is to act as a reminder in the first instance and volunteers report that most drivers' reaction on seeing them is to slow down.

If a vehicle is still speeding when they approach, their speed and vehicle identification details will be recorded and added to the national database

and Thames Valley Police will then send written advice to the vehicle's registered owner about their action. If the same driver is caught breaking the speed limit again within 6 months—or any driver is caught speeding excessively (50% or more above the limit)—the Thames Valley Police will pay a visit to the registered property.

What-sham?!

A friend of Eynsham News got in touch with us after he overheard a conversation in a village shop recently: "We've just bought a house here, how do you pronounce the name of the village!?"

If that person is reading this, then welcome to Eynsham! If you're Eynsham born and bred, it's "en-chum," if you're an incomer (or posh!), it's "en-shum" or if youth is on your side, then you might go for "The Sham." One thing you should never, ever do is to pronounce the Y.

In fact, the Y was added by the post office before postcodes existed to help stop confusion with letters for Evesham. But that's not the only change to the village's name over the years. You can see a beautifully calligraphed list of all the variations in the foyer to the Village Hall—they range from Ensham (with no Y!) to Eunesham and Heinesham to Eggleham!

Eynsham News, Your News

Eynsham News is a community newsletter which would not exist without input from all kinds of people in the village. You're always welcome to get in touch with your ideas, news, views and events by email to editor@eynshamnews.org.uk. But if you don't have access to email, you can now write to us with good old-fashioned pen and paper. Just label your envelope 'Eynsham News' and drop your contribution off at the library, either through the letterbox or to a member of the team who will kindly pass it on to us.

Please send in items for our next edition before 8 January 2023

Eynsham News, and our current sponsor, Pheasant Retreats, wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

At Eynsham News, our hope is that we keep our readers 'engaged' with all that goes on in our busy village. In this 'season of goodwill', we'd especially like to highlight the many support networks which are available to help everyone through this coming winter and on into 2023. Let's look after family, neighbours, the elderly, the vulnerable—but don't ignore the young, 'working' family down the street who may be in difficulty too. If you search Eynsham Online, or visit Eynsham Library where there is a display area for local groups, you will soon discover village organisations like Eynsham Good Neighbour Network, Eynsham Food Bank, Eynsham Day Centre (over 60s), and lots more! So, may we all have a 'Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year'—and let's look after one another!

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Director Lynda Woodcock says:

A very merry Christmas to you all and we wish you a happy and healthy New Year.

We are a locally run property business where we put our clients first. Pheasant Retreats is now in its 6th year and is managed by myself and my team. We have the autonomy of a privately owned independent business to work with you to ensure all the right decisions are made and that you receive the best possible advice and service over and above what you would expect from any company. I should know this, as I was a private landlord for many years, and can speak with genuine experience and knowledge of the whole lettings market. Whether you are a prospective landlord, tenant or one of our many existing clients, myself and the team are always on hand to provide any advice and support. We are fully supported and backed up by the appropriate regulatory organisations: ARLA, NAEA, Propertymark and The Property Ombudsman Service.

We run everything from our office on Corn St, Witney, so you will know exactly what is going on with your property at any given time. Our Property Management Service is run on site, so we stay close to everything. We will always source additional quotes if required, and all of our contractors are tried and tested local tradesmen.

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If you would like to find out what a 'pheasant experience' we can offer, please do not hesitate to contact us on **01993 772555** or email at **enquiries@pheasantretreats.co.uk**

Pheasant Retreats have their local office at 42 Corn St, Witney, OX28 6BS. Covering Witney, Eynsham, Carterton, Woodstock, the breadth of the Cotswolds and surrounding Oxfordshire towns and villages.



From around the village



Eynsham Cygnets

Lucy Merry writes

Eynsham Community Primary School are delighted to announce that the Pre-school (now known as Cygnets) have formally joined our school and we now have two-year-olds on roll! We welcome all our new Nursery families and staff. We are enjoying getting to know everybody in the setting. Mrs Teresa Seeney is the manager of the Cygnets room which is for 2-3 Year olds and Mrs Emily Neath continues to be the manager of the Ducklings room which is for 3-4 Year olds.

If you have a child turning two soon or are interested in sessions, please get in touch with the school to organise a tour or conversations with the leadership team.

The school will be running its second information session for new starters in 2023 on Thursday 1 December from 1.30-2.30pm. You can meet the team, see the environment and learning opportunities available. You can find out about your local school which has flagship status for Personal, Social, Health & Emotional education.

To book a place or to talk to the school about the pre-school, call 01865 881294 or email the school office on: office.2209@eynsham.oxon.sch.uk

Worried about Heating?

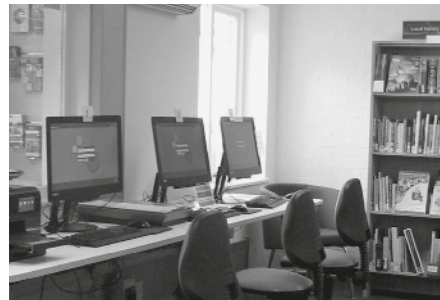
Are you worried about your heating bills this winter? Or do you know a neighbour or relative who lives in the Ancient Parish of Eynsham who is struggling to make ends meet?

Every winter, Eynsham Consolidated Charity provides a winter fuel grant to local residents who are in need of financial help.

Please apply in total confidence via the Clerk, Catherine Barton, by emailing eynshamcharities@gmail.com or writing to the charity at 60 Dovehouse Close, Eynsham, OX29 4EX.

Standby for News

The Eynsham News team are looking for volunteers willing to deliver the Eynsham News if the normal delivery person cannot make it. It would be very much ad-hoc, just when needed, so not every edition. It could be any of the delivery rounds (normally max around 100 copies to deliver) so an opportunity to discover all the nooks and crannies of Eynsham plus increase your step count! If willing to help, please contact: editor@eynshamnews.co.uk or leave your details with the library team.



Digital Divide

Age UK and Eynsham Parish Council can provide free 1-2-1 help if you are struggling to master your digital devices, at Eynsham Library. More info at bit.ly/30OILMB or pop into the library!



Happy Days

Mark Johnson writes

Our membership at Eynsham Day Centre has grown significantly in recent months—our new dynamic Co-Ordinator, Dawn, has organised fun-packed busy days for everyone to enjoy. The programme has expanded and, as well as regular activities involving exercise, music, arts & crafts, cookery, board games, we have

a number of visiting entertainers and lecturers.

Themed days, including our recent Halloween Bonanza, are very popular as are the delicious two-course hot lunches prepared each Monday on site by Stuart and Daniela from the Jolly Sportsman. Talks by local agencies are aimed to inform our members and offer advice to keep them safe as well as helping them make the most of their 'retired' years.



We love the local community getting involved whenever possible so please contact us if you feel you have anything to offer—all contact details can be found on our website (eynshamdaycentre.com). We have a very loyal and hardworking team of volunteers but do let us know if you might be interested in joining them - it's very rewarding work.

Please let any elderly relatives know that we are here for them. It is a very warm, welcoming, safe place for members to interact with one another and to provide a weekly focus in their lives. Taster days are always offered and thereafter we charge just £8 (£12 for couples) for a full day including lunch. Donations to offset our costs are always gratefully received as are fundraising efforts made for our benefit.

WI Appeal for Memories

Valerie Johnston writes

The Eynsham WI is having a busy autumn with talks and our highly successful October Harvest Dinner and Auction. We are now planning for our Christmas Dinner in Woodstock on the 13th December.

2022 is the WI's 99th year so we are gearing up for our 100th anniversary in March. So, a plea for help. Does anyone in Eynsham have photographs of the WI taken during the 20th

century that we could copy and display? Or are there stories about the WI? We would be really grateful if you would share them with us. Please contact us on eynshamwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk. We would also be grateful if any of you could advise us about obtaining a tractor/trailer/whatever to use in the Eynsham Carnival parade.

Conker Champion Crowned

Sarah Venn has been crowned the Conker Champion of Eynsham at the recent 39th annual Conker Night at the Queen's Head. The event was enjoyed by all and it raised £57.70 for Alzheimer's UK—time to get your practice in ahead of next year's championship!

Library News

Library Manager Jane Bruder writes
Thank you to everyone who continues to support the library and the events that we have held in recent months.

We have a new addition to the library's attractions as we are currently hosting a musical keyboard as part of the county library service's 'travelling keyboard' scheme. The keyboard will be available until Christmas and everyone is welcome to call in and play it during library opening hours. Headphones are provided to avoid disturbing other customers and there is also a wide range of sheet music to choose from.

If anyone is in need of some digital support with using a smart phone, tablet or laptop, the library is part of a scheme in partnership with Age UK whereby a trained volunteer is available on Wednesday afternoons to provide one to one assistance. If you would like to book an appointment, please call in to the library or ring us on 01865 880525

We know that many customers are keen to start using the library again for extended hours under the Open Plus system. There are still some issues to be resolved before we can re-instate the service but we will let you know as soon as we have a confirmed date for this.

Rutherford & Son

Bartholomew Players next

performance will be a powerful Edwardian Classic that tells the story of John Rutherford, a patriarchal owner of a northern glassworks whose world is crumbling. By ruling both factory and family with an iron will, he succeeds in alienating his family and they turn against him. Written and first staged in 1912, Sowerby's first-rate drama, draws the audience in to a world gripped by the divisive issues of class, gender and generational conflict. Even today we can recognise societies where women are still second-class citizens, tolerance is alien and authoritarianism prevails.



Performances will be at the village hall on Wednesday 30 November, Thursday 1, Friday 2 and Saturday 3 December. Doors open 7pm for 7.30pm performance. Tickets are £10 and available on the door and in advance from Denise Santilli, 07721 744020, bart.players@gmail.com, from Evenlode DIY or via bartholomewplayers.co.uk

Tasty Treats

Jane Dyson writes

Eynsham Country Market would like to thank everyone who turned out to support our special 'Baking Around Britain' Market which took place in beautiful autumn sunshine on 24th September. We had a range of regional and traditional recipes on sale including Anglesey Cakes, Bara Brith, Bakewell Tart, Cumberland Rum Nicky, Devon Clotted Cream sponge, English Cherry Cakes, Dundee Cakes and many more. Even our preserves had a regional theme with jar of Wensleydale Chutney and Pershore Plum Jam on sale. Our craft and garden produce stalls were equally popular and the whole occasion had a festive atmosphere. If you liked that event, our next Saturday market will

be our Christmas Market on 3 December, 9.30am to 12pm. We will have samples of seasonal produce for you to try and an order form for those of you who wish to place an order to be collected on our last market before Christmas on Thursday 22 December. Thank you for your support.

Award Winning Meadow

We are honoured and delighted to have received the Oxford Preservation Trust's Green Award 2022 for the Thames Valley Wildflower Meadow Restoration Project. It is very much the collective success of all of us who have contributed to the survival of this threatened habitat: those of us in Eynsham and beyond who have been hand-propagating rare meadow species and planting them out in the local meadows that we have restored. These include Eynsham's Beavers and Scouts, Eynsham and Cassington Primary School students, Bartholomew's Year 11 students, Long Mead's carefarming participants. The very many of us who have turned out on multiple occasions to sow, plant and tend the Playing Field's Carnival Meadow and Eynsham's other meadows in the Churchyard, Fishponds, Dovehouse and Peace Oak and several private greens. Those, locally, who have help fund and facilitate these meadows, including the Market Garden, Eynsham Society, Rotary Club and Eynsham Parish Council. And those local farmers who have offered their land and helped us with the restoration process, particularly Graham Podbery and Chris Strange.

Making the News

We always welcome contributions to the Eynsham News, whether it's just an idea, an article or a whole series and we're always looking for more people to join our small team.

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, you can give as much or as little time as you'd like.

Email: editor@eynshamnews.org.uk to explore the options.

Eynsham Green Week Success

Catronia Bass writes



In the last week of September, Eynsham was buzzing with environmental concern. GreenTEA—ever our conscience and support on sustainable living—treated us to the Great Big Energy Saver, in partnership with the Evenlode DIY, Low Carbon Hub and Project Leo. We were offered advice on how to keep our homes warm and invited to join an inspiring expert-led discussion on how Oxfordshire might get to Zero Carbon by 2050 and how Eynsham might develop a Zero Carbon Energy Action Plan. The Swap Shop and Repair Café continued their amazing work, helping people to save their belongings from landfill. Find them on the Eynsham Website.

The experts and enthusiasts of the Nature Recovery Network (NRN) demonstrated the importance of knowing our nature in order to protect it. Landscape historian, Sarah Couch, took people on a tour of Eynsham's ancient trees, helping them assess their age, understand their past and imagine their future, in an era of climate change. Ornithologists Allen Stevens and Sally Taylor took 20 budding birders to the Fishponds to start them on the path to knowing their birds. We hope they will soon join our band of experienced bird surveyors in monitoring Eynsham and its environs. Dr Maarten van

Hardenbroeck taught us how to survey the extraordinary, almost invisible, world of invertebrates in our streams and to understand how they enable us determine the quality of our water. Renee Watson led us on a fungi foray around the Fishponds and we found the extremely rare *Volvariella caesiointincta*. And what a find it was! It has only been recorded once before in Oxfordshire. Eynsham's inspirational artist, Alice Walker, encouraged us to look so intently and creatively at our fungi finds that they turned into art.

And even more—Eynsham's wonderful Market Garden raised funds to buy over 1000 snakeshead fritillaries for Eynsham's new Carnival Meadow in the Playing Fields. Please join us to plant them on 27th November, 2pm to 4pm, or simply enjoy the carpets of beautiful snakeskin flowers that will emerge in the Playing Fields in spring.

Come and celebrate our nature successes in and around Eynsham 6 January at 6pm in Eynsham Village Hall. Bring your ideas and questions for our experts. Show off your personal or collective achievements. Pick up free seeds, plants and trees. Drink, eat and meet like-minded people, plan and make pledges for future projects. We are hoping that the songsters of the Eynsham Morris will serenade the glories of nature for us!

Save Money, Save the Planet



Green TEA teamed up with Evenlode DIY in the Great Big Green Week to show you how you can save energy in your house—keeping warm and reducing the bills. Tricia from Evenlode DIY has been passionate about LED lighting for a long time and she says “If you only do one thing, replace all your light bulbs with LED lights—it will save you money and help save the planet.”

Another key thing you can do yourself is to reduce the heat loss from draughts in your house. Evenlode DIY has draught excluders for doors and letterboxes. They stock radiator foil, for putting behind your radiator, lagging for pipes, film for windows and a small

thing with a big impact—radiator keys to keep your radiators fully efficient for pennies!

For Green TEA advice go to Eynsham Online and look under Energy. They also have a thermal imaging camera which shows where you are losing heat. For the use of the thermal imaging camera contact lucymdickinson@yahoo.co.uk

Insulating your loft is a priority and Evenlode DIY have the contact details of people who can help, there is lots of advice on the internet and Cottsway tenants can get help and advice from their landlord.

Cosy Homes will do a whole house survey and advise on what actions to take cosyhomesoxfordshire.org

Europe's Biggest Solar Farm

Eynsham resident, Charlotte Holmes, explains the size and scale of the latest solar farm planned for our local countryside.

Many of you will have been surprised by a leaflet in the post which outlines an ambition to create a vast solar farm in West Oxfordshire, which would feed into a new National Grid substation to the west of Botley. The development has been prepared by German consultancy Photovolt Development Partners, with support from landowners Blenheim Estate and Merton College.

Titled Botley West, much of the solar project would cover fields and pasture stretching from Eynsham to Oxford Airport (or perhaps more succinctly, from Eynsham north as far as the eye can see) and would become the largest solar project in Europe.

The proposal is that Botley West solar farm will cover approximately 1400 hectares (nearly 3500 acres) at least 1000 hectares of which will be panels and infrastructure—almost 2500 acres. For context, Britain's largest solar project to date, Shotwick Park in Flintshire, Wales, is spread over 250 acres.

There has never been anything on this scale before in the UK. Europe's biggest solar farm, a mega project Nunez De Balboa, in arid southern Spain, is made up of more than 1.4 million solar panels and would be dwarfed by this current proposal for Oxfordshire.

Power for up to 330,000 homes

The proposal is that the energy from Botley West would feed directly back into the National Grid and provide power for up to 330,000 homes nationally. To make sense of that number, the county of Oxfordshire including Oxford City is made up of approx. 260,000 homes.

Granted it will provide clean energy and help support Oxfordshire's target of achieving carbon net-zero, but so could solar on new housing, for example the Salt Cross Development or Blenheim's new housing near Woodstock, but so far developers are not interested. In other development, the Eynsham Park and Ride might have had a solar roof. Will this improve your access to clean energy, yes, you can buy the energy from a clean energy supplier via the National Grid. Will it make your energy cheaper, debatably, no.

The development proposal literature talks about enhancing biodiversity, which seems an impossibility when so much land is covered over, though studies on the long-term impact of this are in their infancy. The proposal describes "creating wildlife corridors"; a misnomer, since they already exist and solar farms require more fencing.

Villages are gently greyed out

Maps are provided for the proposed farm's three sections, but are hard to understand in so far as villages are gently greyed out, and labelled in an approximate fashion, if labelled at all—for example Church Hanborough and Begbroke aren't referenced, despite being in immediate proximity to the proposed middle site, Cassington and Bladon are omitted altogether from the downloadable Concept Plan drawings, despite bordering the proposals.

It is highly unusual to propose such an extensive farm in immediate proximity to so many villages. In West Oxfordshire alone the proposal will directly impact upon Tackley, Wootton, Glympton, Bladon, Woodstock, Long Hanborough,

Church Hanborough, Rousham, Yarnton, Begbroke, Eynsham and Cassington, as well as west Botley, Cumnor, Chawley, Filchampstead and Farmoor to the south.

The development literature states "Solar farms are temporary in their nature and are quick to build, as well as quick to remove. Typically, solar farms will have a lifespan of between 35 and 40 years." It promises that after this time the land will be restored to agricultural use, however is this commitment binding, or could the infrastructure create brownfield land in the greenbelt, increasing the landowners' land value and the potential for development into housing?

Is it nimbyism, or a shirking of our environmental responsibilities in a time of ever-deepening climate crisis not to support this extraordinary development? Perhaps, but the loss of greenfield, both high quality productive pasture used in food production, and land rich in biodiversity, alongside the loss of amenity and access to this historic landscape seems to some devastating.

Bypasses local planning approval and local consultation

The scale of this proposed solar development means it is classed as a Nationally Significant Infrastructure Project (i.e a new power station) there's a process for consultation, but it's decided upon by the Secretary of State and bypasses the usual local planning approval and local consultation. It has come as a surprise to all of us including Oxfordshire councils and our MP. Eynsham is not included in the list of "community information events" however, you can still have your say and explain what this development would mean to you. How to submit your comments can be found on the developer's website: botleywest.co.uk/Home-Botley-West.html. You can submit comments by telephone on 0808 175 3085 or writing simply to 'Freepost BWSF'. You have until 15th December 2022.

Their target is to commence building in the summer of 2025.



“ Eynsham has a big space in my heart ”

Eynsham Parish Council recently welcomed two new Councillors. Unusually, the pair are related; a mother-and-daughter duo who will bring a fresh perspective and enthusiasm to enhance the work of the Council.

Beth Partlett and her mother Ann—both long-term residents who were born in Eynsham—had been urged by a family friend to join the Parish Council. “We came to a few meetings first to see what it was all about,” Beth explains, “and quickly realised this was something we wanted to be part of.”

Making a difference

The Partletts are driven by a love of Eynsham and they’re determined to help preserve it. “Eynsham holds a big space in my heart,” says Beth. “I really care about the village and its future, so I wanted to be aware of what was happening and help keep it the best it can be.”

Ann echoes her daughter’s thoughts: “We’ve lived here a long time and my children are looking to stay in the area, so I want to help keep it a good place to live. I may not like all the changes that are happening, but we need to protect what we have here as best we can.”

We still have vacancies for new Councillors; why not join the Partletts?

Contact our Clerk (epc.clerk@eynsham-pc.gov.uk) for more information.

Cake with the Chair

Despite their enthusiasm, both women had a few concerns about becoming Councillors. For Beth, she was cautious about the time commitment as she already has three jobs, one of which is running her own business. Ann, on the other hand, “was concerned I wouldn’t understand how everything works and so wouldn’t be able to contribute.”

After a meeting (and a reassuring slice of cake) with Council Chair Ross Macken, they both felt more at ease and decided to commit.

Settling In

There has been a lot for the Partletts to process during their first few months. Ann admits, “it was a bit daunting at the first few meetings, as the discussions are quite important and serious, but we are gradually feeling more confident.”

They’ve been helped along by the support from the other members of the Council. “Everyone is very kind and always happy to have a chat about anything we have concerns about,” Beth says. “We definitely made the right decision to join the Council—and our family friend is finally satisfied!”

Meet our two
new Parish
Councillors



Ann Partlett



Beth Partlett

A Note from the Chair



We currently have 11 Councillors out of a maximum of 15. The more Councillors we have, the more we can get done—and it's relatively simple to join.

Firstly, unless we have more than 15 people standing, you don't need to be elected. If you express an interest, you'll be invited to meet with one of us (probably me!) so we can learn more about you and explain the role. We also recommend attending a meeting to see what's involved. If you're still keen, the Council will approve your co-optation at a meeting and, after signing a few forms, new Councillors are ready to go.

Legally you need to be 18 or over, on the electoral register and live or work within three miles of the parish. Beyond that, we just seek passion for our village and some spare time (evenings mostly). All the details about being a Councillor can be learnt as you go, supported by the great existing team we have.

Our Councillors are a range of ages, from different backgrounds and with varied jobs and interests. This diversity is just what we want—it's the best way to represent the village. And that's basically what we do: we represent residents during consultations and review all planning applications for the Parish. In addition, we manage local open spaces and parish buildings, as well as getting to interact with many village organisations and take part in fun stuff like putting up the Christmas lights.

If being a Councillor sounds interesting, please get in touch with me on ross.macken@eynsham-pc.gov.uk or visit the website.

From the Clerk's Desk



We head into the final months of the year with our focus on money as it's budget setting time. The Council will be considering community grant applications, maintenance tasks and projects for the coming financial year while also bearing in mind increasing costs for utilities and materials.

With the employment of our new Maintenance Operative, we will be undertaking maintenance tasks quicker than previously and will be saving money in some operational areas. We will report on this further in the New Year.

I hope that by the time you read this, Conduit Lane will be re-opened and the Xmas decorations will be starting to appear in Market Square, courtesy of the Parish Council and its volunteer team. Despite the festive feeling, the 'work' isn't complete and we have plenty of meetings between now and Christmas: Traffic Working Group (13 Dec, 6.45pm), Planning Committee (13 Dec, 7.30pm) and Full Council (20 Dec, 7.30pm).

All our meetings are held in the Village Hall and agendas are available online (Eynsham-pc.gov.uk). Most meetings can be joined via a link in the agenda so you don't have to brave the cold to join us. Remember, all meetings open with a public participation session during which you can ask us anything. In the meantime, you can contact me on epc.clerk@eynsham-pc.gov.uk.

Dates for your Diary

20 Dec 7.30pm Full Council Meeting
17 Jan 7.30pm Full Council Meeting
21 Feb 7.30pm Full Council Meeting

Meetings are open to the public and take place at Eynsham Village Hall.



Meet a Councillor: Tricia Crowley

When did you join the council?

I joined in November 2014 initially and served until March 2021. Then I had a break and re-joined in July 2021.

What has most surprised you since you became a Councillor?

How important it is to have competent, progressive district and county Councillors to protect the community and achieve constructive change.

What the biggest misconception about the Parish Council?

Many people don't realise that town and parish councils are the first, not the lowest, level of local government.

What's your favourite community activity?

I'm impressed by the numerous things other residents do to help mitigate and make us more aware of the Climate Emergency. I'm also big fan of the Shirt Race, Carnival Parade and the weekly Country Market.

What was your profession?

I worked in Public Health research (management/communications), international emergency aid and development (project manager / logistics) and in a public library as a library assistant.

How do you like to spend your spare time?

Social cycling /walking, keeping up with friends and family, or simply 'watching the grass grow'.

tricia.crowley@eynsham-pc.gov.uk

More... Village Buzz



Full House

On Saturday 29 October, a capacity audience, seated cabaret style with drinks and snacks from the bar, enjoyed an evening of anecdotes and showbiz stories from Bartholomew Players' patrons, Laurence Marks and Maurice Gran. They are the BAFTA-winning writers behind such TV hits as *Birds of a Feather*, *The New Statesman* and *Shine on Harvey Moon*. The audience were treated to amusing accounts of how the pair got their early breaks, their time in Hollywood and encounters with giants of comedy over their long career. At the end of the evening, Laurence and Maurice happily took questions from the audience and signed copies of their book *Shooting the Pilot*.

Village Websites

Did you know that Eynsham Online and Eynsham Parish Council now have separate websites?

Eynsham Online: eynsham.org.uk

Eynsham Parish Council:
eynsham-pc.gov.uk

Eynsham News carries a Parish Council feature in every edition (see p8-9), but here are two useful features of the Eynsham Online site.

Click through to the 'Directory' on the homepage, and you'll be able to find 'Sports and Fitness—Outside' where a whole range of sports open up which you—or your children—can play locally. Football, tennis, cricket, croquet, netball, running—and you'll also see one of those oh-so-valued volunteering opportunities:

Playing Fields Managers

The Managers are responsible for the football pitch playing areas only, on the north and south side of Oxford Road,

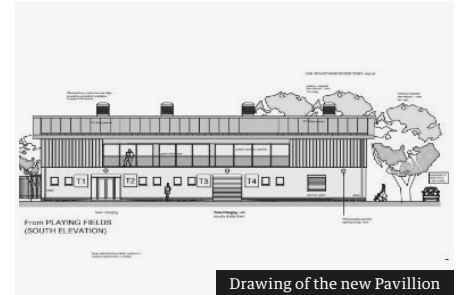
not the children's Play Areas or the Abbey Fishponds. We are always looking for new committee members – please get in touch—email the clerk at epc.clerk@eynsham-pc.gov.uk or call 07956 901622.

With a little more exploring, you will discover that the Parish Council now has planning permission to replace the Sports Pavillion, now fifty years old, with a new, two-storey Pavillion which will not only provide better sports facilities, but also more amenities for village organisations to use.

Back on the 'Directory page', if you click 'Recreation' you will be able to access walks all round Eynsham, along with a library of local maps and suggestions for places to visit a little further afield.

In these times where so many of us are trying to save fuel, eat healthy and exercise well, these pages of Eynsham Online open up all kinds of possibilities right on our doorstep.

Want a river walk? Click 'Four-mile walk south of Eynsham, returning via the River Thames', which will offer you a map and clear instructions to follow—try it before the river tops its banks for the winter!



st.leonard's church 10.30am-12noon

Simply a place for company and conversation; an opportunity to meet with others; or to quietly read and think or work. Coffee, tea, board games, wi-fi available.

and, of course...

...everyone
welcome





Photo: St Leonards/Duncan Fraser

‘The hopes and fears of all the years ...’

I wonder how you will look back on 2022; the year of two monarchs perhaps? The year of three Prime Ministers? The year of four Chancellors of the Exchequer. But also, the year of a long, hot, and dry summer; of terrible drought and famine in Somalia; of on-going war in Ukraine; and of global economic turmoil, energy crisis, and continuing climate emergency.

At this time of year, we often reflect on the past and anticipate the future, and the late Queen’s father, King George VI, in his Christmas broadcast of 1939, as the dark clouds of war deepened across Europe, quoted from a poem by a relatively unknown British poet and writer, Minnie Louise Haskins. The Gate of the Year was apparently drawn to his attention by the then 12-year-old Princess Elizabeth. The opening lines read:

And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:

“Give me a light that I may tread

safely into the unknown.”

And he replied:

“Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God.

That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way.”

So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night...

The whole poem is inscribed on the gates of the King George VI Memorial Chapel at Windsor Castle, where the late Queen was recently buried with her parents and Prince Philip. Many faith communities celebrate festivals of light and for similar reasons: to affirm the hope that darkness will not have the final word, but as John’s Gospel puts it, in words that will be read in carol services in our village and around the world: ‘The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.’ (John 1.5)

The same thought is found in the popular carol ‘O Little Town of

Bethlehem’, written by an American bishop, Phillips Brooks, in 1868. No doubt many of us will sing again this year:

**O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee to-night.**

The three churches in our village, St Leonard’s, St Peter’s and Eynsham Baptist Church, welcome all to share in our Christmas celebrations; but more importantly, to share the faith that in Christ, ‘the hope and fears of all the years’ have been met, and that, however dark the times may seem, the light of Christ continues to shine with the hope of joy, peace and love.

A very Happy Christmas and peaceful and hopeful New Year to one and all!

Helping the Community

With Christmas fast approaching, it's a time of year where many of us think of others around us in need. But there are plenty of ways you can help out in Eynsham all year round, whether you have time, money, skills or resources to share. If your project or charity needs a boost, let us know and we can spread the word.

Eynsham Foodbank Update

Bob Thiele writes

A big thank you to all who have made pledges to support the foodbank by making a regular donation. So far, we have support close to £500 per month which is a great start. It would be fantastic if we could get this to over £1,000 as our costs are now close to £2,000 per month.

If you would like to support your local foodbank in this way, then the account details are as follows:

Name: Eynsham Good Neighbours Network
S/C 40-35-34

A/C No. 14162870

If you have any questions about supporting the foodbank or would like further information then please call me on 07738 063083. If you are in need of support from the foodbank service, please call our dedicated phone number on 07450 328530.

Foodbank Christmas Appeal

Laura Stringer writes

Thanks to the incredible generosity of the Eynsham community, for the past two years each of the 50+ households supported by the Eynsham Foodbank has received a box of Christmas treats

to help see them through the festive season, as well as Amazon gift cards or presents for 65+ kids, and a wad of vouchers to be spent at retailers, pubs, and restaurants in the local area. We know that things are challenging for everyone this year, but if you have anything to spare to help make Christmas a little easier for those in particular need, your continued support will be hugely appreciated.

Online donations are welcomed at: bit.ly/3UR0B79. You can also add some festive treats to the collection baskets in Co-op or The Market Garden before 5 December.

We are also really grateful to all the individuals, organisations and businesses that have supported our campaign in previous years, including Eynsham Dental Care, The Bayleaf,

Eynsham Rotary, The Curiosity Box and Blissful Bites, as well as the Foodbank's regular team of volunteers. Please contact Laura Stringer at eynshamhelp@gmail.com if you'd like to know more or get involved. Neighbours helping neighbours is part of what makes Eynsham so special.

Any excess funds will go towards funding weekly food parcels in 2023.

Sharing Winter Warmth

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.

LET'S MAKE SURE THERE'S ENOUGH FOR EVERYONE THIS CHRISTMAS

Eynsham Foodbank

Christmas Appeal

ADD SOME CHRISTMAS TREATS TO THE BASKETS IN CO-OP OR THE MARKET GARDEN BEFORE SUNDAY 5 DECEMBER OR GIVE ONLINE AT WWW.GOFUNDME.COM/F/EYNSHAM-FOODBANK-CHRISTMAS-APPEAL-2022

gofundme

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 and, in which, the requests for grants currently exceed the amount of money available to help.

So please do consider passing on your Winter Fuel Payment to either the Consolidated Charity or the Educational Foundation.

Payments may be made directly to the Charities' accounts:

Eynsham Consolidated Charity

S/C 09-01-51, A/C 25159404

Bartholomew Educational

Foundation S/C 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.

Joined-Up Thinking

Joan Stonham writes

Grateful thanks to the Eynsham News team for a generous donation towards the running costs of Eynsham Online. The website and the printed news are complementary, as they both support the village and its businesses, so this tangible collaboration is very welcome. Thanks also to a recent donation from GreenTEA, our technical charges are covered for the coming year and we can start firming up on our plans.

Eynsham Online is an entirely independent service, run by volunteers. It's (probably) the busiest website in the area, with almost 4,000 users a month. Every local group or business is entitled to a free listing, which can be as simple or sophisticated as you like. Do look around and see for yourself at eynsham.org.uk

The website isn't everything, however. Eynsham Online CIC, our Community Interest Company, aims to work with individuals, groups, businesses and professionals towards

a 'connected community'—on the ground and face to face, where appropriate.

Would you like to help us make the vision a reality? Scan the QR code to keep in touch or visit bit.ly/3NuILnQ



On Yer Bike

Eynsham Primary school are looking for volunteers for the Cycling Proficiency scheme. We run lessons every Tuesday and Friday afternoons during term time. You don't need a bike, just a basic knowledge of the Highway Code. DBS check required (at school's expense). For more information please call the school office on 01865 881294 or email ayres_marie@yahoo.co.uk



Repair Café

The next Repair Cafe will take place on Saturday January 7! The event will take place at Eynsham Village Hall, from 2 to 4pm.

While we are sad to say goodbye to Anna Parrinder, who has brilliantly coordinated the events for the last year, we are really happy that a few volunteers have come forward to help to continue to run the repair cafe! We will be working towards having a repair cafe every two months in 2023. Keep an eye on the newsletter for the dates of the next ones! And do not hesitate to get in touch: repaircafeeynsham@gmail.com

Fresh Blood!

Annd Parrinder writes

Eynsham Carnival needs some fresh blood!

It will be the 75th Carnival in July 2023 and for several of the organising

team, it's sadly the final year that they can be involved. We are looking for new volunteers to shadow these people in the run up to the next event and take Carnival forward to its 76th year!

Chairman—would you like to gain real world experience of event planning & management? Could you be the face and voice representing us? Shadow our chairman Harold

Field Marshall—do you enjoy hands-on tasks and getting things done? Could you coordinate a team and take charge of the layout of the event? Shadow our Field Marshall Clive.

Secretary—do you love organising people and getting the word out? Could you be the first port of call for new enquiries? Come to our sociable meetings and help keep us all connected!

Programme Designer—have a flair for design? Would you relish the chance to redesign our programme? Learn how to prepare and order print by shadowing our designer, Eve.

Publicity Coordinator—do you enjoy writing news updates? Would you like to delve into a photo and news reel archive dating back 75 years? Or are you a whizz at instagram reels or tiktok memes? Join our publicity team!

We'd also love some help modernising certain aspects of Carnival, so if you can't commit to a role but would like to help us to set up contactless payments, online ticket sales, revolutionise the parade or implement your big idea please get in touch: stalls@eynshamcarnival.com

Shape Young People's Future

The Bartholomew School Governing Body are looking for three Academy Appointed Governors to join their successful, supportive team. We are seeking professionals with experience and expertise from a range of sectors. If you are open to an opportunity to make a difference, share your knowledge and expertise and develop your strategic management skills, please get in touch with Lucy Dickinson, Chair of the Governing Body at: governors@bartholomew.oxon.sch.uk. Full details can be found on our website: bit.ly/3ElPayP

Festive Events Preview



Light Up Eynsham!

From Eynsham Primary School

Everyone is welcome to Eynsham's annual community Christmas lights event on Friday 2 December from 5.30pm in the Square. This year promises to be the best yet, with carols and Christmas songs from the Eynsham Primary Singing Squad and the Eynsham Morris (now inside St Leonard's church), even more mulled wine, hot dogs, hot chocolate and festive fayre, and a mass countdown to the turning on of Eynsham's enchanting Christmas lights, with Father Christmas and some very special guests.

Proceeds will go to Eynsham Community Primary School PTA to help fund much-needed resources for the children. Thanks to St Leonard's Church, the carnival committee, the parish council, the Rotary Club and the Red Lion for your support.

Eynsham Big Carol Sing

Market Square

Sunday 11 December
4-4.30pm

And are you thinking about starting your online Christmas shopping? Did you know that you can earn money for your local primary school for free simply by shopping via Amazon Smile or Easyfundraising? It's really easy and there's no extra cost or commitment required! Simply go to smile.amazon.co.uk, search for Eynsham Primary

and then continue with your Amazon shopping OR sign up to Easyfundraising.org.uk and shop from over 3500 participating retailers via their site!

Christmas at the Mill

Coombe Mill Christmas market will be on Sunday 4 December from 11am–4pm. Bring the children to 'Listen to a story with Santa', browse the variety of market stalls, BBQ, mulled wine & chestnuts, tea room, raffle, tombola and gift shop. Combe Mill's blacksmiths will be in the forge to make pokers, there will be viewing in the mill. All funds raised will go to Combe Mill Society. Free Entry & Car Parking.



Oxford Bus Museum

Father Christmas will be visiting the museum in Long Hanborough on two Sundays, 11 and 18 December. There will be gifts for children, and rides on historic busses at 12.15 and 2.15pm each day.

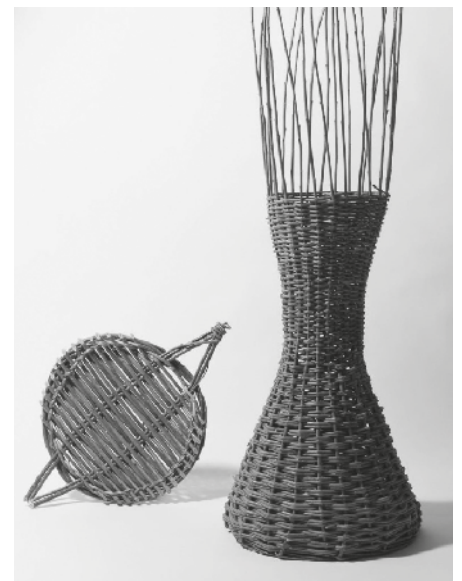
Heavenly Choirs of Angels

Liz Bickley writes

Come along to hear beautiful music and sing some carols, at 5pm on Saturday 10 December. Tickets are £5, and this is a short Eynsham Choral Society concert with the choir singing pieces by Mozart, Schütz and Dvorak in St Leonard's Church, Eynsham. A lovely way to get into the Christmas atmosphere!

The Choral Society will be singing Dvorak's Mass in D major on Saturday 28 January at 7.30pm. It's a change for us to perform our main concert in January and we very much hope that you will put the date in your diaries, and have a New Year event to look forward to.

We will also be performing in May 2023—The Creation by Haydn. New singers welcome. Rehearsals start on Tuesday 31 January, 7:30pm at Eynsham Primary School. For details please see our website eynshamchoral.org/



Eynsham's Got Talent

There will be a Christmas Craft Fair at the Sports Pavillion on Saturday and Sunday 3 & 4 December from 10am-3.30pm. This is going to be a celebratory, eco-friendly festive festival, with gifts and decorations by a host of talented local makers. There will be willow weaving, ceramics and leather work, woodturning and blacksmithing, live demos as well as a range of bookable crafting sessions, Glögg (a delicious Swedish recipe for mulled wine) or hot chocolate and more! Details and craft session booking at willowcoppice.co.uk

Events Diary

See more at Eynsham Online

Rutherford & Son, Bartholomew Players

Eynsham Village Hall
Wed 30 November-Sat 3 Dec
Tickets £10, visit
bartholomewplayers.co.uk

Eynsham History Group

St Leonard's Church Hall
Thu 1 Dec, 7.30pm

Christmas Tree Festival

St Leonard's Church, Fri/Sat 2 & 3 Dec

Light Up Eynsham

Market Square, 2 Dec, 5.30pm

Christmas Market

Market Square
Sat 3 Dec, 9.30am to 12pm

Christmas Craft Fair

Sports Pavillion
Sat/Sun 3 & 4 Dec, 10am-3.30pm

Eynsham Acoustic Club

The Swan Hotel
Sun 4 Dec, 8pm

Eynsham Garden Club

Village Hall
Wed 7 Dec, 7pm
Christmas Party for members and
guests—booking essential

Choral Society Concert

St Leonard's Church
Sat 10 Dec, 5pm
Tickets £5, songs, carols and pieces by
Mozart, Schütz and Dvorak

Eynsham Big Carol Sing

Market Square
Sun 11 Dec, 4-4.30pm

Eynsham Morris Dance Out

Mon 26 Dec, from 12 midday
Market Square

Royal British Legion

The Swan Hotel
4 Jan, from 7pm
Come and meet RBL local members

Green Tea

Village Hall
Fri 6 Jan, 6pm
Come and celebrate our nature
successes in and around Eynsham

Eynsham Repair Café

Sat 7 Jan, 2-4pm
Eynsham Village Hall

Eynsham Garden Club

Village Hall
Wed 11 Jan, 7.30pm
AGM

Eynsham Churches

Eynsham Baptist Church

Lombard Street, Eynsham, OX29 4HT

Main Sunday event at 10.30am

Special for Christmas:

Sun 11th Dec

10.30 am All Age Family Service
3pm Tea in EBC Hall
4pm Carols in the Square

Sun 18th Dec

10.30am Communion Service
6pm Carols by Candlelight

Sun 25th Dec

10 am Christmas Day Service
Web: eynshambaptistchurch.co.uk
Tel. 01865 882203
E-mail: eynsham.baptists@gmail.com
To book church Hall Tel: 07554012535
Email: rccarley@outlook.com

St Leonards CofE

On the Market Square

Main Sunday event at 10.30am

Special for Christmas:

Fri and Sat 3rd Dec

Christmas Tree Festival

Sun 4th Dec

4pm—Christingle

Sun 11th Dec

4pm—Carols in the Square

Sun 18th Dec

7pm—Carols by Candlelight

Christmas Eve Sat 24th Dec

5pm—Crib Service

11.30pm—Midnight Communion

Christmas Day – Sun 25th Dec

8.30am—Holy Communion

10am—All-Age Christmas Celebration

Web: stleonardseynsham.org.uk

Church Administrator: Louise Parker

Tel: 01865 883325

E-mail: stleonards_stpeters@btconnect.com

The Church Hall can be booked
for events.

St Peter's Roman Catholic Church

Abbey Street, Eynsham
Witney OX29 4HR

Sunday Mass at 10am

Special for Christmas:

Christmas Eve—Mass at 5pm & 8pm

Christmas Day—Mass at 10am

Web: stpeterseynsham.org.uk

Tel: 01865 881613

The 'Tolkien Room' is available for
hire: 01865 4236

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 May edition (about 70 words
long) to editor@eynshamnews.org.uk
Before 8 January 2023

Please send in items for our next issue by 8 January 2023

Eynsham News is published by a local, not-for-profit
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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
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planting programme.



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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*

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*

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info@theburnsidepartnership.com
01865 987781

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*

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.

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

Greens Funeral Services

Established in 1866, Independent Funeral Directors. 01865 880837
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

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*

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

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1 Abbey Street, Eynsham OX29 4TB
01865 884400 / 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*

SweDraw Creative

I draw graphite portraits, paint children's art, print children's blankets and clothes, paint mugs etc. To see my work/ to order, please visit Swedrawcreative.com or email Helena@swedrawcreative.com

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 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.

Letting It Limited

Residential Property Rental & Block Management Services covering West Oxfordshire. Private landlords wanted. For a free, no obligation discussion on renting out your property, contact Robin anytime...VAT Free Fees 01993 700009, www.letting.it

Eynsham Library Opening Hours

Monday:	9.30am-1pm, 2-5pm
Tuesday:	Closed
Wed/Thr	1-5pm
Friday:	1-7pm
Saturday:	9.30am-1pm
Sunday:	Closed