



# Eynsham

## News

# Starling murmuration over Eynsham



This issue is  
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Pheasant  
Retreats

## Village Buzz

### Swooping starlings

Have you joined people out on Eynsham's street this January watching the huge flocks of starlings swoop, dive and change shape in the evening sky?

A big flock of starlings flying like this is known as a murmuration, and is one of nature's wonders.

Flocks like this can sometimes reach 100,000 birds—it is thought that they fly like this for safety, for finding roosting places together or for exchanging information (like good feeding places).

The flock that keeps appearing over Eynsham may look big, but nationally starling numbers have been dropping incredibly fast. The RSPB say numbers have fallen by more than 80 per cent in recent years. Sadly, starlings are now on the UK 'critical list' because they have declined so much.

For more information, go to [rspb.org.uk](http://rspb.org.uk) and remember, Eynsham has many people, young and old, active in conservation and rewilding—you can help!



Photo: Dave Hemprich-Bennett

### Starlings in the sky—or jets?

Mikee Pegram posted about the starlings on Facebook: "I know it's cool to look at, but they're in the trees of mine and my neighbours' gardens. There's poo on everything and the noise is so bad that I have to wear earplugs every night to go to sleep. Can't wait for them to fly south. It's a nightmare."

Liz Martin, replying to Mikee, said: "I don't hear the birds talking but the poo is awful. Any idea how long this goes on for, or with luck moves to pastures new?"

Editor—Mikee, Liz, the bad news is

that most starlings stay in the UK. The good news is that murmurations focus on winter time so won't last forever!



Denise presented a cheque for £644 to Marshall Leopold, representing the Eynsham Food Bank.

### A Good Cause

Denise Santilli reports that the Bartholomew Players regularly support local good causes. They donated the proceeds of the raffle from their November 2022 production of *Rutherford and Son* to the Eynsham Food Bank.

### An Eynsham Railway

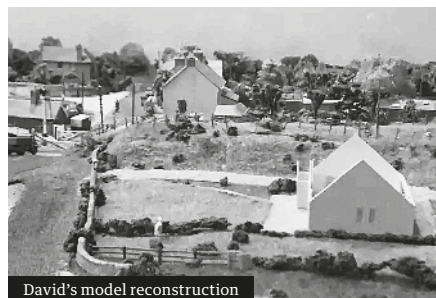
While the planners talk about maybe having a new Oxford-Eynsham-Witney railway, via Salt Cross, David Thomas is continuing to develop his detailed model of the old Eynsham railway.

Ever wondered where Station Road got its name? In this 1958 photo of the roundabout-area near the modern Fire Station, you can just see the old station in the top left corner, along with the level crossing at the bottom of Station Road.

The second picture shows David's reconstruction, in model form.



Eynsham 1958



David's model reconstruction

David says, "Over Christmas I have been working on the area that covers

Pinkhill Lane near the old level crossing. Linden House, a bungalow built in the 1950s and demolished 10-15 years ago had its garden behind the embankment. The model house is almost complete, roof to attach, lights to add. More to come in 2023!"

Details and photos from David's Facebook page, with permission

### Silent Y, Silent G

Since the 'What-sham?' article in our last edition, Eleanor Chance has been in touch with some even more interesting facts behind Eynsham's name: "In your last issue, you say that the 'y' in Eynsham was added by the Post Office to stop confusion with Evesham. In fact, the spelling of the name has varied greatly over time and the 'y' has been in (and out) of Eynsham since at least the 13th century. The first part of the name is probably the Anglo-Saxon personal name 'Aegen' and the 'ham' comes from 'hamm' which probably refers to meadow or meadow by a stream, or land in the bend of a river: giving us 'Aegen's ham'—the 'g' may always have been silent, as in Isle of Wight."

**Reader comment:** after last edition's article on the 'Eynsham' name, Richard Hall wrote to remonstrate with us:

"The words used in the piece to compare what you might say if you were 'Eynsham born and bred' or 'an incomer (or posh!)' were out of touch. Firstly, people who are lucky enough to be able to come and live in this community are not incomers these days, surely they are newcomers. Secondly, who even jokingly uses 'posh' as a term of ridicule towards very hard-working people who pay handsomely for houses to buy or rent? These are also the very same people who then go on to the support local businesses to thrive.

The publication of Eynsham News is clearly a major force for good in aiming to bring everyone together in the way that it does. But, on this occasion, in drawing attention to the distinctions between people, it rather did the opposite."

*Thank you, Richard! The Editor is a relative 'newcomer', but loves living in Aeganshamm.*

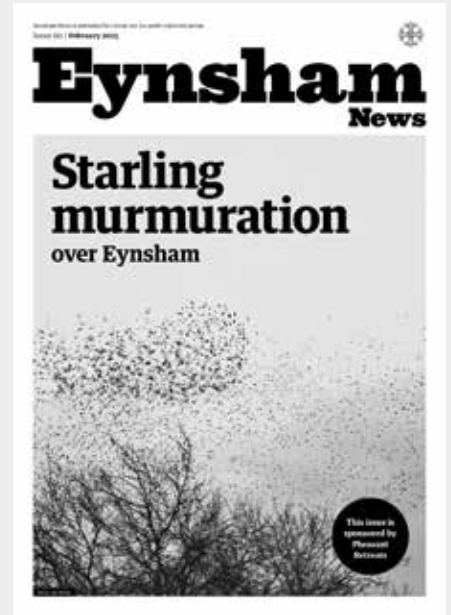


## Eynsham News, Your News

Eynsham News is a community newsletter, delivered free to every household in the village. It 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](mailto: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.

The financial support for our magazine comes from a local business or organisation that sponsors one—or several—issues, as well as from the 'small ads' on the back page. That support has also recently enabled us to help Eynsham Online develop as a local channel for village news and information.

**The sponsor for this issue of Eynsham News is Pheasant Retreats, a property business who have their local office at 42 Corn St, Witney, OX28 6BS. Their business area covers Witney, Eynsham, Carterton, Woodstock, the breadth of the Cotswolds and surrounding Oxfordshire towns and villages.**



### Director Lynda Woodcock says:

Pheasant Retreats is a small family run business and I am from Eynsham originally. Our aim is to always 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.



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](mailto: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

### Volunteering—your village needs you!

Volunteering—one dictionary's definition runs like this: 'Volunteering allows you to connect to your community and make it a better place.' Even helping out with the smallest tasks can make a real difference to the lives of people, animals, and organisations in need.



### Join the Committee

The committee needs a new generation of volunteers to help with a stonking 75th celebration, and to secure the future of this annual village party.

The 75th Eynsham Carnival takes place on Saturday 1st July 2023! The committee want to make it the best carnival yet, but for several of the organising team, it's sadly the final year that they can be involved.

So, new volunteers are needed to work with organising members in the run up to the next event and then take Carnival forward to its 76th year. There's a whole range of opportunities, both 'in the limelight,' and behind the scenes.

Get in touch: [enquiries@eynshamcarnival.com](mailto:enquiries@eynshamcarnival.com)

### Eynsham On Screen

Would you watch a video based in Eynsham? Want to get involved? Would you like to tell your story? Be our ace reporter? Operate the camera? Run the editing suite?

The new management team behind Eynsham Online is planning a series of short Eynsham videos, with the content wide open at present. Tell us what you want to see!

How about chats with local business owners—memories of older residents—nature notes from the allotments—

thrills and spills on the sports field—updates from the music scene?

The startling murmur over Spareacre Lane is but the latest example of wacky goings-on in Eynsham. We can do daft as well. There'll be kittens or goldfish, if you like.

The series will start happening as soon as a team comes together—and there's room for (almost) any age and background on the team, or teams.

Would you like to get involved? Have a word with Joan Stonham, email [online@eynsham.org.uk](mailto:online@eynsham.org.uk) or use the Contact form at Eynsham Online—all ideas and offers considered!



### Volunteer with Eynsham's Nature Recovery Network Three Years On, NRN Celebrates its achievements

*'The whole is greater than the sum of the parts'* is NRN's motto. A packed Village Hall on Friday 6th January showed what our communities can do when we come together for nature: one kilometre of newly planted hedgerow, nearly two acres of wildflower meadow, surveys of habitats and wildlife, greater understanding of nature through arts and sciences.

The NRN, which started life in 2020, is a local grassroots initiative which brings together individuals, community groups and organisations, local businesses and councillors in Eynsham and the surrounding parishes with an interest in understanding, protecting and restoring our local nature. Since it started, the network has helped to connect residents, enthusiasts and local experts and has initiated and supported projects including wildflower meadow planting and restoration, community meadows, hedge laying, the creation of a children's 'food forest' garden and welfare garden, wild arts workshops, river water quality monitoring, bird, animal and fungi surveys, care farming, to name but a few.

Friday's event was kicked off in great style by the Eynsham Morris

singers, and featured a performance by Laura Middleton and Rachel Fox of 'Unnamed', a song lamenting the 108 ancient woodlands which are being destroyed or damaged to make way for HS2, as well as a sneak preview of scenes from 'Taller than Trees', a new production researched, written and performed by the Small But Mighty youth theatre group evoking the natural world around us. The event was a wonderful opportunity to raise awareness of the many initiatives which are happening right now in our local area, encourage networking and to get more people involved.

Groups represented spanned our local businesses, community groups, Parish Council, NGOs, and survey and restoration groups. They included Long Mead Wildlife Site, Green TEA Eynsham, Peace Oak Association, Eynsham Allotment Association, Wychwood Forest Trust, Eynsham Partnership Academy (schools), Eynsham Beaver Scouts, Market Garden, Neves Bees, FarmAbility, Windrush Against Sewage Pollution (WASP), Wild Oxfordshire, Green Appleton, Eynsham Swifts, and more.

To find out more and get involved visit: [nature-recovery-network.org](http://nature-recovery-network.org)



'The girl from the future' made of recycled materials.

### Deliver Eynsham News

We need some more volunteers to help on our delivery team. It takes a couple of hours, once every two months. **Please email [editor@eynshamnews.org.uk](mailto:editor@eynshamnews.org.uk) and help us connect to our community.**

## Join your village's organisations

### Eynsham Morris

We practice Tuesdays, at 7.30pm in Eynsham Baptist Hall. New local men and boys are welcome. Then at White Hart 9.15pm

Eynsham is well known for its long and unique tradition of English Morris dancing. Practices run between October and April, and the main dancing season starts in May through to September. For more information: [robinsawn@hotmail.com](mailto:robinsawn@hotmail.com)/07814 062 819

### Eynsham Community Choir

Your village choir welcomes everyone whether you're a complete novice, a little rusty or experienced. There is no need to read music just join in. Songs will be old and new from near and far. Something for everyone.

Choir leader is Emily Marshall, an experienced choir leader who has been running groups in and around Oxfordshire for more than ten years. Her ethos is that everyone can sing and make glorious acapella harmony together. Just walking through the door is your audition.

First session is free and subs' are £5.00 paid as a termly block once you join. Spring term runs 19th January –30th March and practices are on Thursdays at 7.15pm, in the Baptist Church Hall. [emilyschoirs.co.uk](http://emilyschoirs.co.uk)

### Eynsham Cub Scouts Update

Falcon Pack have now joined together with Eagle Pack and will be called 1st Eynsham Eagle Pack Cub Scouts. They meet on Monday from 7pm.

### Eynsham Choral Society

Eynsham Choral Society is a community choir. Founded in 1980, the choir has members from all over Oxfordshire and welcomes anyone who enjoys singing great choral music in a warm and creative atmosphere. No auditions are necessary. Rehearsals take place on Tuesday evenings from 7.30 to 9.30pm in Eynsham Primary School. The Musical Director is Stuart Dunlop, Director of Music at the University of East Anglia. Concerts include professional and semi-

professional soloists and orchestral musicians, and regularly receive good reviews in the local press. For more information see [eynshamchoral.org](http://eynshamchoral.org).

### Eynsham Garden Club

We have a varied programme of talks, outings, an annual plant sale in May and parties planned for 2023. Membership remains at £12 a year or come to a single speaker meeting for £3. We usually meet on the second Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm in the Village Hall in Back Lane. Members can get a 10% discount on plants at local garden centres.

Coming up soon: 8th February—Rob Jacobs—A Year Behind the Scenes at Waterperry, 8th March—Richard Harvey—Cotswold Gardens.

### WI 100

The Eynsham Women's Institute had an excellent Christmas dinner attended by thirty members—much eating, drinking and singing and good entertainment. And we are now gearing up for 2023; our Centenary. We are still looking for stories, memories and pictures of the WI over the years to display at our Centenary Meeting in March. If you can help please contact us on [eynshamwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk](mailto:eynshamwi@oxfordshirewi.co.uk) Happy 2023.

### Eynsham Road Runners

There are over 200 members of the Roadrunners. They meet every Wednesday at 6.30pm at the Eynsham Sports Pavilion on the Oxford Road.

There are various pace lead groups, from a social walking group to the fastest 7'30 minute-mile' running group and everything in between. The club also runs the "You Can Run" courses which are designed especially for new and returning runners. To find out more about Eynsham Road Runners visit: [eynshamroadrunners.org.uk](http://eynshamroadrunners.org.uk)

### Need, Hardship or Distress?

The Eynsham Consolidated Charity can make money grants, help to provide items or services, or back up help from other quarters. The Bartholomew Education Foundation makes money grants to people under 25—for books, equipment, travel, etc.

You can apply, either for yourself or for someone else who may be in need of help. Email the Clerk, Catherine Barton, [eynshamcharities@gmail.com](mailto:eynshamcharities@gmail.com), write to the Clerk at 60 Dovehouse Close, Eynsham OX29 4EX or visit [eynsham.org.uk](http://eynsham.org.uk) for more information. All enquiries are dealt with in absolute confidence.

## Volunteers needed!

Can you spare some time to help your local museums? We need help on Wednesdays and / or Sundays:

- in the café and shop,
- in visitor reception,
- with maintenance of the running fleet,
- restoring historic vehicles, and
- driving with a PSV licence.

If you are interested, please telephone Frank Collingwood on 01993 811003.

**OXFORD BUS MUSEUM**  
**Morris Motors Museum**  
**Historic Cycle Collection**

Old Station Yard, Main Road, Long Hanborough, Witney, OX29 8LA

Tel: 01993 883617, or when closed 01296 925797

Company Number 422899, Registered Charity Number 105835, Arts Council Registered Museum 1667

### Combe Mill

The Riverside Tea Room is open for visitor's every Wednesday right through to 23 October 23 from 10.30am-2.30pm. However, the Mill is currently closed for the Winter season whilst maintenance is carried out ready to welcome the visitor's when we open again for the spring/summer season. Our 'In Steam' themed events will start on Sunday 19 March and the theme is S.T.E.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths). Bring the whole family! Children now have free entry, adults £9.00, seniors £7.50. Parking free. More details at [combemill.org](http://combemill.org)

## 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](mailto:editor@eynshamnews.org.uk) to explore the options.**

## Village Delights

**Eynsham may only be a village but it isn't short of delicious eateries and business that can cater for all your foodie needs! We have many great pubs serving hot meals, cafés, convenience stores and plenty of talented people growing and making food locally too. Here are just three of the tasty local businesses on your doorstep:**

### The Market Garden

The Market Garden is your one-stop-shop for local produce at the heart of the village. Selling a comprehensive selection fruit and veg alongside 1500 lines including Eynsham produced cakes, preserves, local milk and dairy, free-range eggs and Hanborough Honey. There is also a wide range of wholefoods, laundry and bathroom refills, home-made ready meals and Fairtrade teas and coffees. And this wonderful selection started from rather romantic beginnings...

The first seeds of the business were planted back in 2007. As Jonathan started to cultivate the beginnings of an orchard in his family's small acreage in Long Hanborough, he decided to walk away from his 9-5 desk job in software programming.

After finding a job with a local landscaper, Jon enrolled one day a week at Abingdon & Witney College Farm Campus. Every Thursday he would arrive late, but eager to learn on this horticultural diploma. There his eyes met over a crowded classroom with those of blue.

Lucy was enrolled on to the course as part of her apprenticeship as a gardener at the beautiful grounds of Worcester College, Oxford. They soon formed a mutual bond over their passion for growing plants, the outdoors and local food. A romance bloomed and with it the beginnings of what would eventually become The Market Garden. Lucy explains how things blossomed...

"We started growing fruit and a variety of vegetables for friends and family on the land, sometimes having surplus after a glut. This is when Jon

decided to approach Corin at the old Eynsham Emporium. He knew there used to be a weekly vegetable stall which had recently stopped and thought perhaps we could fill the breach. In June of 2009 we set up our very first stall in the car park of the Emporium to a fantastic reception.

"Every Saturday we would arrive bright and early after a late night picking our produce and preparing the salad mix for sale the next morning. We were both still working full time alongside growing the veg on what had become our smallholding. After our marriage in September 2009, we both decided to leave the safety of our jobs and concentrate on the growing and markets full time. It was tiring work but very fulfilling. We were out there come rain, come shine, and on one memorable market day, come snow!



The weekly vegetable stall



Jon and Lucy

It was on days like this we would look wistfully over the road at the closed, dilapidated Taylors Racing and wonder: could we open a shop? Having hailed from a family of shopkeepers I had no doubt. But we had a battle on our hands. We were in competition for the lease with a kebab shop. Having set up a petition of support we were also incredibly lucky to have financial help in the form of a loan from loyal customers in the village, Ursula, Kate, as well as Eynsham Cellars. (Once again thank you!) This enabled us to offer six months rent in advance to our prospective landlords and this is what

swung it in our favour. After a lot of hard graft turning a nicotine riddled shell into a shop, in May 2012 we opened the doors of The Market Garden to the village—with the ribbon cut by local celebrity chef Sophie Grigson.

Over the years we built our little shop up to become a one-stop-shop for local produce, supplementing our own produce with those of other local bakers, makers and producers in the area. We prioritised local first, then British, then continental, preferring organic where the price was right. What we had not grown ourselves we sourced as locally and ethically as possible, with flavour and quality utmost in mind. At this point after six years of trading in this location we couldn't fit much more in the shop if we tried! We began looking at other locations to open up another branch, even putting an offer in for a lease in Woodstock. Fortunately, as it turned out, it was not to be. We later learned that year that Corin at the Emporium was looking to retire and wondered if we'd be interested in taking over her lease.

Well you can guess our answer! In 2018 we came full circle and moved into the larger premises while Corin continued to run the cafe side of things for the interim. This extra space allowed for us to expand our selection of fruit, veg and wholefoods; adding a deli section, as well as becoming the first shop in Oxfordshire to offer zero waste shopping and refills on a large scale. After a year we were ready to take on the cafe business as well, rolling our sleeves up to put our stamp on the space, reopening after refurbishment in November 2019. We had a few months to get into the swing of things - neither of us having had any experience in hospitality. Then lockdown.

2020 was without doubt a challenging year and we would not have gotten through it without the support of the community and the army of volunteers who enabled us to continue to deliver food to the vulnerable who needed it. We thank each and every one of you. Ultimately, this is what the business is all about—you the community.

Having recently celebrated our 10th birthday in 2022—another tough year with family bereavement, break-ins and the global economy—we reaffirm our belief now more than ever that local food is the only way forward for a sustainable future.

Thank you for supporting the small and independent businesses in the village—we all put our heart and soul into what we do. So, here's to 2023—another year amongst the fantastic, thriving community that is Eynsham.

## Blissful Bites

Another Eynsham foodie business you might not know about doesn't have a shop front but it does have lots of loyal customers. Blissful Bites is run by Becky Treadwell who's lived in the village all her life, in fact her whole family has since her great grandparents moved here from down the road in Long Hanborough!

Becky runs Blissful bites singlehandedly from home making delicious cakes cookies, brownies, eclairs, muffins, scones and even wedding cakes! In fact any sweet treat you want, Becky will give it a go! She does Valentine's, Easter and Christmas themes and you can even have your cake gift wrapped in recyclable and biodegradable packaging. You can pick your treats up from Becky, have them delivered up to 20 miles away or even have some products sent by post to friends and family further afield.

The business started in 2020 after Becky was made redundant due to covid-19. She'd had a bit of an obsession with baking since her dad used to bake bread and cakes with her when she was little and it all grew from there. She not only delivers cakes and treats to happy customers but has also supported the Mysterious Mothers of Mischief with donations too as well as supplying Eynsham food bank with Christmas treats and donating to various local fundraisers and giving away her baking as prizes. She's a supporter of the carnival too and plans to have a stall again at the 75th carnival this summer!

Family means a lot to Becky and as well as her grandparents growing up in the village, her grandad's sisters also had sons in the village who still

live here along with some of their families too! And she gets to be a part of a lot of people's family celebrations across the villages through her baking—getting to play her part in the big days, a little gesture between family and friends or just a treat for yourself is what makes all the hard work worth it for Becky.



Delicious muffins



Becky Treadwell

The rising cost of living has an impact on bakers as much as the rest of us but Becky still has exciting plans for 2023 and hopes to be selling her goodies in some local businesses very soon—her personal recommendations are for the Ice Cream Cookie Dough Bites!

If all that talk of cake has made you hungry, you can get in touch via email: [blissfulbites.bakery@outlook.com](mailto:blissfulbites.bakery@outlook.com) Facebook @blissfulbitesb or Instagram @\_blissfulbitesbakery

## Eynsham Country Market

Eynsham Country Market would like to thank all our wonderful customers for their support during 2022; it proved to be an extremely busy and productive year but we could not do it without the support of the local community. Our highlights for the year include a plant sale in May, a Jubilee Themed Market in June and then our very popular special market, 'Baking Around Britain', in September. In November we were lucky enough to be nominated for, and to reach the finals of, the Inclusivity Award from the Plunkett Foundation Local Business Awards. Two members of

ECM attended the awards ceremony in London in November and received a lovely 'runners up' certificate from Charlie Ross (of Bargain Hunt and Antiques Road Trip fame). This award has spurred us on to continue to work hard in 2023 to provide quality, locally made produce for the community.

We have lots planned for 2023 and we hope to provide special produce to celebrate Valentine's Day, Easter and Mother's Day. Our special Saturday markets will return including a Coronation Themed Market on 29th April, Plant Sale on 27th May and 'Baking Around Britain' in September. For the latest news please see our page on Eynsham Online, follow us on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter or email [eynshamcountrymarket76@gmail.com](mailto:eynshamcountrymarket76@gmail.com). We are always looking for new producers so if you can bake, make preserves, grow your own veg, or make hand-made crafts, please get in touch. If you do not do any of these things but would still like to join our friendly team as a volunteer, you would be very welcome.



Runners Up Certificate



A wide range of produce

The Country Market is held on Thursday mornings in the market Square selling homemade cakes, savouries, cookies, preserves, honey and pickles, vegetables and garden plants in season, and eggs. You can order in advance for collection by 09:45 and we are happy to make up gift boxes too. There are also crafts, cards, woodwork, stitched and knitted goods, with tea and coffee available from the Bartholomew Room too.



# Parish Council Budget

## All the details for the next Financial Year

In line with our commitment to be transparent, we'd like to explain more about the Parish Council budget for 23/24, particularly as the annual charge for a band D residence in Eynsham will rise from £77.84 to £100.85. This is an increase of 44p extra per week or 29.6%, but remains lower than similar-sized parishes, such as Bampton and Woodstock. When residents' costs are escalating generally, we recognise this is challenging and want to explain why it's happening.

### More services

Over the last five years, we've steadily increased Council resources, including hiring more staff and upgrading our IT systems, allowing residents to attend meetings online. This has helped us better serve the community and respond to increased demand on our services.

This demand includes a need to meet greater levels of compliance and fulfil various public requests for projects/improvements, with the main demand on our time being from the multitude of planning applications and local development projects. We respond to every consultation at every step and regularly meet with key decision makers to ensure local views are clearly expressed. This is a very time-consuming process for our officers, often involving reviewing hundreds of pages of documents. Hiring additional officers has helped.

### Big projects, high costs

Like many other organisations, we face rapidly escalating costs. Energy costs have doubled and our employee salaries for our four staff members have risen by around 7% (as decided on a national level—we have no say in this). Councillors remain voluntary positions without pay/allowances.

We have also recently corrected serious structural issues and modernised facilities at the Bartholomew Room. This was funded via a Public Works Loan, to be repaid over the next eight years.

### Careful consideration

High levels of cash reserves resulted in us avoiding passing the full cost of this increased spending to residents until now. Our cash reserves have reached a normal level and it's crucial that we stop running with deficits. In the coming financial year, our income will match our expenditure.

The budget was debated with the full council and we explored all the options, including cutting our services to avoid a cost rise for residents. We decided that maintaining our services, albeit with cost-saving changes wherever possible—and making a one-off but significant increase in the charges was the better option.

We hope you can understand the decisions made. You're welcome to contact the Council if you'd like more details or to discuss further.





## A Note from the Chair



You will no doubt have heard about the proposed Botley West Solar Farm, which would impact land close to Eynsham. Whilst many of us are extremely concerned about the climate emergency and recognise the need for alternative fuel sources, the scheme as proposed doesn't feel like the right solution.

If built, this solar farm will be the largest in Europe and within the top ten in the world. Usually, projects of this scale are found in uninhabited places, but this will be close to many towns and villages. There will be a significant loss of farm land—not ideal when the UK faces food security issues—and Green Belt areas, which protect us from industrial development.

While the developer is currently consulting with local people, there seems to be limited detail and little clarity on the full scale or the long-term ownership. Frustratingly, the size of the Solar Farm means that national Government will determine the application, not our local planning teams.

I've spoken to many people across our Parish and other areas this project impacts; many are unhappy. We need to work together to ensure that our concerns are heard at the highest levels. We have started discussing what collaborative action we could take and will share details when we have them, for those residents keen to take part. If you have any thoughts to share on this topic, feel free to send them to us via [epc.clerk@eynsham-pc.gov.uk](mailto:epc.clerk@eynsham-pc.gov.uk)

## Dates for your Diary

21 Feb & 21 Mar 7.30pm Full Council Meeting  
**7 March 7.30pm Annual Parish Meeting**

## From the Clerk's Desk



I'm delighted to report that Eynsham Parish Council has received a Foundation Award from the National Association of Local Councils. This award recognises that we've achieved good practice in governance, community engagement and self-improvement. It also recognises that we go above and beyond our legal obligations. It's a team effort to achieve these standards and something we should be proud of. Only two other councils in Oxfordshire have such an award.

In addition to our Councillors, the Council team consists of:

- **Parish Clerk** - I'm the only full-time employee. I am responsible for ensuring the instructions of the Council are lawful and are carried out.
- **Responsible Financial Officer** - Known as the Section 151 Officer in larger councils, Rachel ensures the financial administration is undertaken in accordance with the law and good practices.
- **Deputy Clerk** - Committee Clerk for Amenities & Estates and Finance & General Purposes committees. Richard oversees inspections and maintenance of our play areas.
- **Communications Officer** - Sarah is responsible for the council's engagement with the community.
- **Maintenance Operative** - Dan undertakes weekly play area inspections and general maintenance tasks.

The Council and staff work hard for the community and strive to make Eynsham a great place to be, but we can't do this without your support, so thank you!

## Meet a Councillor: Carl Rylett



### When and why did you join?

*I joined in 2017 because I wanted to help keep Eynsham as a wonderful place to live, and hopefully be able to make it even better.*

### What do you enjoy about it?

*I enjoy working with local people and seeing how the decisions we make as a Council have a direct impact on our community. I've also welcomed the chance to connect with different groups within Eynsham, like the Day Centre.*

### What is the biggest challenge?

*The village faces immense challenges with the planned Garden Village and West Eynsham developments, as well as the changes to A40. But one pleasant surprise has been the incredible level of expertise of some of our residents who are engaging with these.*

### What are you passionate about?

*I'm looking forward to helping set up a Youth Council to encourage young people to get more involved in making decisions which affect their community.*

### What has been your favourite Eynsham activity?

*It's difficult to choose, but it's probably being involved with the Nature Recovery Network. I find their events really bring the community together to help our local wildlife.*

### What do you do as a profession?

*I work for a large company which publishes scientific and medical research. I've worked in IT for over 20 years, in several different countries, and am currently in the field of data analysis and reporting.  
[carl.rylett@eynsham-pc.gov.uk](mailto:carl.rylett@eynsham-pc.gov.uk)*

These pages have been supported by Eynsham Parish Council

Contact: [epc.comms@eynsham-pc.gov.uk](mailto:epc.comms@eynsham-pc.gov.uk) or [Eynsham-pc.gov.uk](http://Eynsham-pc.gov.uk). Find us on Facebook and Twitter too!

## Events Preview



### New Year Resolution 2023

Wholesome Plant Diet: Healthy, Sustainable, Ethical Food Choice, by Milly Chen, Food Lead at GreenTEA

My new year resolution for 2023 is to eat more wholesome plant-based food. I started this journey last year and it was one of the best choices I made. Up until then, I had meat, fish or processed animal products in most meals. I guess I did this out of habits.

Then, I became more aware of environmental damages of animal farming and health benefits of wholesome plant-based food. What drove me into action was having chicken in our garden, seeing how lively they are. As my why grew, the how was not obvious at start as I didn't know what to cook instead. After trying, I realised it is not as hard and our food bills reduced.

With other GreenTEA fellows, we will drop in at the Eynsham Market Garden on Sat 11th Feb 2023 3-5pm, with recipe books/ingredients examples and recipe sheets to give away for anyone who might be interested. Hope to see you there.

### National 'Fix it!' movement

In January, BBC News reporting that 'fixing things' is becoming a national phenomenon ([bbc.in/3ZEpTbA](https://www.bbc.com/news/health-61344444)).

Across the UK, a small army of people are stopping broken gadgets and pieces of equipment going to landfill and instead setting out to repair them.

Eynsham has its own 'Repair Café',

every couple of months, in the Village Hall. The next one is on Saturday 11 Mar 2023, 2pm-4pm. Just turn up with your broken item!



### The Coronation?

Are you planning a Coronation event –let us know by 12 March to be listed in our next edition.

### Do you value your right to vote?

Some legal changes have taken place which you need to know about before the next elections, which are local elections scheduled to take place in May 2023.

From May 2023, anyone who wants to vote in person must produce an accepted form of photographic ID to prove their identity before they will be issued with a ballot paper.

So, to vote you first have to be on the electoral register AND bring with you

to the Polling Station a suitable form of photographic ID. The most commonly used photographic IDs would include:

- *Passport issued by the UK, any of the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, a British Overseas Territory, an EEA state or a Commonwealth country*
- *Photographic driver's licence issued by the UK, Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, or an EEA state (including provisional)*
- *European Economic Area (EEA) photographic ID Card*
- *UK Biometric Residence Permit*
- *An identity card bearing the Proof of Age Standards Scheme hologram (PASS card)*
- *A Blue Badge*
- *A concessionary travel pass funded by HM Government or local authority*

You will have to produce the original document, not a copy. Expired documents will be accepted if the photo is still a current likeness of the elector.

### But I have no photo ID!

First, the good news—if you don't have an accepted form of photo ID, as long as you are on the electoral register, you will be able to apply, free of charge, to the Electoral Registration Officer for a Voter Authority Certificate, which is a document showing your name and photograph, proving your right to vote.

The bad news? The application process is not yet open so if you need a Voter Authority Certificate you need to keep an eye on [westoxon.gov.uk/about-the-council/elections-and-voting](https://www.westoxon.gov.uk/about-the-council/elections-and-voting), or call West Oxfordshire council. But if you arrive at the Polling Station in May without photo ID, you won't be able to vote!

### 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](mailto:editor@eynshamnews.org.uk) to explore the options.**

## Events Diary

### See more at Eynsham Online

#### Litter Picking

29 January 2023 at 1.45pm

Meet at Eynsham Baptist Church Hall to collect equipment and arrange routes.

Newcomers are very welcome—enquiries to Pam Breeze 079711 74434

#### Royal British Legion

'Meet and Greet'

1 Feb 2023 7pm at The Queen's Head

Info: ginge1@netvigator.com

#### Eynsham History Group

Monthly meeting; 2 Feb 2023 7.30-9pm

St Leonard's Church Hall

Dr. Stephen Burt will speak on

"250 years of Oxford Weather"

#### Acappella Sunday in concert

5 Feb 2023 5pm-7pm,

Eynsham Village Hall

A collection of toe-tapping harmonies spanning the decades.

Advance Tickets: £9 from Evenlode DIY shop. £10 on the door. Cash only. Kids under 16 free.

Raising money for the DEC's Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal

#### Eynsham Acoustic Club

5 Feb 2023 9pm-10.30pm

Monthly, first Sunday, at the Swan Hotel

#### Eynsham Garden Club

##### Monthly meeting

8 Feb 2023 7.30-9pm at Eynsham

Village Hall. A Year behind the Scenes at Waterperry, by Rob Jacobs

#### Wholesome plant diet drop in session

11 Feb 2023 3-5pm at Cherry Tree Café

An informal friendly space for anyone interested in learning more about wholesome plant-based diet, obtaining practical tips or sharing their own experiences

#### Eynsham WI

14 Feb 2023 7.30-9.30pm at

Eynsham Village Hall

Boudicca: What she can teach modern women—Jan LeFevre. Competition: something beginning with 'X'

#### Eynsham Kids Clothes Swap Shop

18 Feb, 9.30-11.30am, St Leonards Hall

For ages 0-8 and Maternity clothes.

Also on 25 March

#### Gatehouse volunteers

19 Feb, 2023 9am-1pm

Drop off your donations at 15 Newland Street, but not before Sunday morning please. Info from Marie, phone 01865 604262 or email via Eynsham Online

#### Eynsham Society AGM

22 Feb 2023 8-10pm Eynsham Village Hall

#### Trustees' Quarterly Meeting

27 Feb 2023 7.15pm at the Bartholomew

Room. Eynsham Consolidated Charity and Bartholomew Educational Foundation

#### Eynsham Arts Group

##### March Exhibition

8-12 March 10am-4pm at Sports

Pavilion. A sale of recent work by a group of talented local artists.

Including original paintings and an array of cards and gifts, all at very affordable prices

#### Bugs in Brooks

11 Mar 10am-12noon at Long Mead

Quarterly Community Survey, Eynsham's Nature Recovery Network! Local expert, Dr. Maarten van Hardenbroek, will help us survey ponds and streams. Sign up on the NRN website at [nrn.nature-recovery-network.org/events/50](http://nrn.nature-recovery-network.org/events/50)

#### Repair Cafe

11 Mar 2023 2-4pm at Eynsham Village

Hall. Repairers for electric items, sewing, bikes, sharpening and more will be offering their services at this community event. Cafe with hot and cold drinks, biscuits and cakes, while you wait

#### Eynsham Carnival Family Disco

11 Mar, 7.30-9pm Eynsham Village Hall.

Entry £1, Licensed bar

Selection of the 75th Carnival Queen and Attendants

#### Quiz Night, Rotary Club of Eynsham

18 Mar 7.30-10pm, Eynsham Village Hall

Fundraising for local and Rotary International Charities

## Eynsham Churches

#### Eynsham Baptist Church

Lombard Street, Eynsham OX29 4HT

**Main Sunday event at 10.30am**

Website: [eynshambaptistchurch.co.uk](http://eynshambaptistchurch.co.uk)

Church Telephone Number:

Tel. 01865 882203

Church e-mail:

[eynsham.baptists@gmail.com](mailto:eynsham.baptists@gmail.com)

To book the church Hall Tel:

07554012535

Email: [rcarley@outlook.com](mailto:rcarley@outlook.com)

#### St Leonards CofE

On the Market Square

**Main Sunday event at 10.30am**

Website: [stleonardseynsham.org.uk](http://stleonardseynsham.org.uk)

Church Administrator: Louise Parker

Phone: 01865 883325, Email:

[stleonards\\_stpeters@btconnect.com](mailto:stleonards_stpeters@btconnect.com)

The Church Hall can be booked

for events

#### St Peter's Roman Catholic Church

Abbey Street, Eynsham OX29 4HR

**Sunday Mass at 10am**

Website: [stpeterseynsham.org.uk](http://stpeterseynsham.org.uk)

Church Office: 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 April edition (about 70 words long) to [editor@eynshamnews.org.uk](mailto:editor@eynshamnews.org.uk) before **12 March 2023**

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.

**Editors: Ellie, Peter and Claire**  
[editor@eynshamnews.org.uk](mailto:editor@eynshamnews.org.uk)

**Advertising**  
[sarah.ads@eynshamnews.org.uk](mailto:sarah.ads@eynshamnews.org.uk)

**General Enquiries**  
[editor@eynshamnews.org.uk](mailto:editor@eynshamnews.org.uk)

**Printing: Holywell Press**  
[info@holywellpress.com](http://info@holywellpress.com)

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  
07832699798. [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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[theburnsidepartnership.com](http://theburnsidepartnership.com)  
[info@theburnsidepartnership.com](mailto: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](http://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](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](http://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](http://www.monkeymusic.co.uk/area/bicester-bloxham-chipping-norton-kidlington-witney)

## **Paton Financial Planning**

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[www.patonfinancial.co.uk](http://www.patonfinancial.co.uk)

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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)*

## **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](http://Swedrawcreative.com) or email [Helena@swedrawcreative.com](mailto: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](http://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