



Eynsham News

Cheers for 75 Years

Carnival day on Saturday 1 July was a delight and the Carnival Committee would like to thank all the volunteers, sponsors, businesses, shirt racers, parade participants and spectators for making the 75th year truly remarkable!
Cont. p2...



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Village Buzz

Carnival Triumph

Eynsham Carnival Committee continue from front cover....

The day kicked off in a busy square with an energetic performance from Eynsham Morris. A bumper shirt race and parade followed, full of fantastic variety and creative entries. The sun came out for the afternoon on the field, with Titan the robot captivating spectators both young and old. Entertainment for all included birds of prey, aerial acrobatics, the tug of war and wellie whanging as well as music, the funfair and a wide variety of craft and food!

We want to capture your enthusiasm and keep this special day going next year—so far for 2024 we are still a skeleton team and will need more volunteers to help with the main organisation if we are to continue. We'll be meeting in the Autumn to discuss viability, please email enquiries@eynshamcarnival.com if you want to be involved.

Turn to pages 7-9 to see our carnival photo highlights.



New landlord Brad

The Queen's Head Reopens

It's great to see one of our village pubs back open. If you haven't been down to meet the new landlord yet, here's a little introduction:

"My name is Brad and I am 26 years old and I am taking on the pub myself. I have held many jobs including managing supermarkets, nightclubs and restaurants as well as having been a nightclub doorman and close protection operative for several years. I am originally from South London but have worked mainly in Hertfordshire as well as abroad.

"The reason for taking on The Queen's Head is I am looking for a venture with more freedom and the chance to run my own independent business rather than for a chain or big company. I love working in hospitality and believe that if you get the basics right with good food, good drink and a good atmosphere—you can make any pub successful! The fact that The Queen's is in a wonderful community-based Cotswold village in a gorgeous part of the country just makes it even better. We managed to open for Eynsham carnival which was a great success and once our internet and network are installed, we'll be open for drinks with the view to add a food and entertainment offering within the next few weeks."



WI Bunny Girls!

Eynsham Women's Institute 100

This year sees the 100th anniversary of the Eynsham branch of the Women's Institute and to celebrate Janita Le Fevre has created a collection of members' memories. There are tales from pancake races and a huge Alsatian named Stormy, to starring in The Archers on the radio and the WI Bunny Girls! A hard copy is available in the library, or you can get an electronic copy by emailing janitalefevre@yahoo.co.uk



Eynsham Community Primary School

School Gets Well-being Garden

Lucy Merry writes...

Eynsham Community Primary School are delighted to announce

that the school has been recognised for their innovation in relation to PSHE provision (Personal, Social, Health Education). Working alongside the amazing school PTA, the school has developed a well-being garden for children and teachers to use.

The garden was designed by Nina Turner (Bug Designs) and alongside some tremendous support from the PTA and parents, the garden is in use. It is a space where children can take a minute to reflect during PSHE lessons, read a story at lunchtime and gather their thoughts.

Mrs Bayliss and Mr Reeves took a group of children to London, to the Lyceum Theatre to collect our award. We have such a lovely community in Eynsham, and we are lucky to have this provision on offer to all our children.

Ancient Eynsham

All the digging over the A40 for the Park & Ride has uncovered some significant archaeological finds. One of the most exciting was an Early Bronze Age cremation burial of a child that contained a unique eagle-bone pin. The pin had most likely been made from the toe bone of a golden eagle.

Archaeologists also found evidence for a Middle Iron Age settlement at the site. Features included possible roundhouse buildings, post-built structures and probable livestock enclosures. They also found loom weights, used on a vertical warp-weighted loom, which suggest that textile manufacture took place here. The discovery provides insight into the organisation and use of a small, local Iron Age farmstead, which could have had a focus on textile production.

The archaeological finds will be carefully preserved for posterity, with the Oxfordshire Museums Service. A more detailed analysis of the archaeological excavation and finds is available on the Cotswold Archaeology website: bit.ly/AEA40

Please send in items for our next Eynsham News before 10 September



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Gig on the Green

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From around the village

Plans are Afoot!

*Village Show Chair,
Fay Taylor writes...*

Earlier in the year, the committee of Eynsham Village Show met for their first planning meeting and now have lots of exciting classes in all categories, which will take place on Saturday 16th September in the Village Hall and next door at the Scout HQ.

If you haven't entered before and would like to see what we get up to, do hop along to our pages on Eynsham Online to find the class list and entry form, photos, winners' list from 2022 and a FAQ document.

If you have any questions, please click on the 'contact us' button and we'll get back to you.

If you have joined us on previous years, we'd love to see you again, particularly those of you who have mini-competitions in various classes; we love that local friendly rivalry!

With thanks to Eynsham Parish Council for their grant last year, it has meant that we are able to run the show again in 2023. We hope to see you there!



Eynsham Abbey Cairn

Eynsham's Lost Railway

Eynsham Museum & Heritage Centre are putting on a temporary exhibition on Eynsham's Lost Railway with a working model. You'll be able to visit the exhibition in the Bartholomew Room in the village square on Saturdays, Sundays and bank holiday Mondays from August to October from 11am-4pm.

Also, the Eynsham Abbey 'cairn' at the end of Abbey Street has been repaired. For years this 'cairn', part of the Heritage trail, has been badly

affected by frost. A local resident, Richard Hall, and the Eynsham Museum & Heritage Centre arranged for its repair and the latter obtained a grant for the work from Councillor Dan Levy's discretionary fund. This was carried out by Tom MacBurnie of TJM Stone walling and included the removal of worn and damaged stone and the installation of new, using lime mortar.



Gareth and Andy

Players Charity Cheque

Gareth Hammond, Chairman of the Bartholomew Players of Eynsham, presented a cheque for £759 to Andy Mosson of Eynsham Consolidated Charities representing the proceeds of the raffle held during the Bartholomew Players' recent sell-out production of "A Bunch of Amateurs" by Ian Hislop and Nick Newman. The money will be split evenly between Bartholomew Educational Foundation and Eynsham Consolidated Charity.

Bartholomew Players have been providing high quality theatre to the local community for almost 50 years and are proud to support local charities whenever they can.

Eynsham Art Window Ends

At the end of June, the curtains closed on the Eynsham Art Window (EAW). It was started thanks to an idea by Eynsham artist Alison Holmans back in 2020, who also managed and curated the window, as well as displaying a huge variety of functional, creative and decorative pottery. She has some thanks for those involved and some news about what artistic endeavours are coming to the building next...

"A massive thanks to all the artists who supported the EAW from the start and who are actively making and creating. The Art Window may be gone but please continue to seek them

out and follow them to see what they are up to next.



Ali Berrett



Eric White



Alice Walker



Kevin Hinton

"There was Peter Shrimpton, Matt Black, Emma Hallmark, Eric White, Alice Walker, Lorna Marrison, Sheila Raven, Julie Sailing-Free, Kevin Hinton, Ali Berrett, Julia Loken, Paul Tomlinson and Jane Tomlinson. You can find almost all of them on Instagram and there are details of the artists on the EAW Facebook page, @EynshamArtWindow.

"But it is not the end of art at 66 Mill Street...the village will be pleased to hear that Alice Walker is taking over the building as her art studio and to run her art classes. It is an exciting progression."

Car Sharing

Sue Raikes writes...

Last year Green TEA piloted

EynCarShare using a national organisation HiyaCar to create ‘peer to peer’ sharing as an alternative to everyone owning their own car. Eynsham residents can offer their car for hire or hire a car for a few hours or more from an Eynsham resident. We are now ready to open it up to people with a driving licence and an Eynsham address.

It is pretty simple: you join HiyaCar offering or wanting to hire, and through this platform you can book a car or offer yours. Hiyacar arrange the payments and the insurance. Cars are typically about £40 a day. In addition, CoWheels is a national shared car scheme currently supported and piloted by Oxfordshire County Council. They have an electric car parked by the EV chargers in the Car Park which you can hire using your debit card. Please use it...we don’t want to lose it.

For more information please email me at sue.raikes@appleinter.net and I will send the link to join Hiyacar Eynsham Closed Loop (Eynsham residents only).



Forever Fields

One of the UK’s rarest and most ancient habitats lies on our doorstep in Eynsham—the 1000-year old Swinford Meadows, Long Mead, Yarnton Mead and Pixie Mead. They are known as Great burnet/meadow foxtail floodplain meadows. With over 40 species per square metre, they are one of the most biodiverse habitats in the country. But they are a habitat on the verge of extinction. Only 4 square miles remain (an area less than the size Heathrow Airport). Now, Swinford Meadows and Long Mead, which lie on either side of the Swinford Toll Bridge, are threatened by the Botley West Solar Park.

You’ll have seen in previous editions of Eynsham News that there

are plans to build Europe’s biggest solar farm in our back garden. It would result in a large number of fields around us and surrounding villages being turned over to solar panels for forty years in order to produce energy for homes and businesses. As well as the campaign against the development growing, now a group of local artists are coming together to ask local people to record their experiences of these fields through art, whether it’s painting, drawing, poetry, video or your own favourite medium. Eynsham artist Alison Holmans is one of those supporting the project called Forever Fields:

“As soon as I heard about this project, I was excited to get in touch with my artist friends, Julia Loken, Eric White, and Alice Walker from Eynsham as well as Jane Tomlinson from Freeland.

“They all passionately paint, draw and talk about the natural world. They all recognise themselves as guardians on this earth and that the changes they make have impact on all life. They all see their art as a record of a moment in time, for present generations to see and relate to and future generations to see what it was like.

“The expected life span of the solar panels is 40 years after which it is said they will be removed. The expectation is that the land will then be restored to how it was. In 40 years time those who are children today will then be adults with families of their own. In 2060 there will only be a few who have a memory of what the land was like and they will be elderly. In 2060 those who are making the decisions today to erect the solar panels will no longer be here to take responsibility to put it all back as it was.

“You don’t have to be a professional to take part. Forever Fields is open to everyone: adults, children, individuals and groups. No previous artistic experience is necessary, we want your creative response to our local landscape. Together this will create a Digital Art Archive that will be used in the 2060s as a reminder to residents what may be lost and what

should be reinstated.”

If you’d like to take part, register your interest by 31 July at foreverfields.co.uk. To find out more about the solar farm proposals, visit botleywest.co.uk. To find out more about the campaign to stop it, visit stopbotleywest.com.

Worried About Costs?

Are you worrying about how to manage the cost of living? Or do you know a neighbour or relative who lives in the Parishes of Eynsham or Freeland (Ancient Parish of Eynsham) who is struggling to make ends meet? Eynsham Consolidated Charity provides small-medium sized grants to local residents who need financial help.

Under 25? Need help with Educational Costs? The Bartholomew Educational Foundation makes money grants to people living in the village of Eynsham who are under 25—for books, equipment, travel, etc.

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

Eynsham News, Your News

Eynsham News is a bi-monthly 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 are always welcome to get in touch with your ideas, news, views and events by email to editor@eynshamnews.org.uk. 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 deadline for material for our next edition is Sunday 10 September.

Family Page

Often, the most brilliant initiatives span the generations. Eynsham families are thankful for the effort and care that many dedicated individuals put into the organisations and groups that make Eynsham a place where children and parents can thrive. Here are just two examples:

Bump to One

Bump to One offers an opportunity for pregnant women, parents and carers of young babies up to the age of walking to meet, make friends, make social plans for the coming week, and share experiences. Having a new baby can be a daunting, exhausting and potentially very lonely experience so Bump to One meets on a Monday morning because this can often be the most difficult day for a new parent.

The group runs from 10.30 to 12.00 all year round (except bank holidays) in St. Leonard's church; babies love the acoustics and the different light patterns from the windows, and it is no surprise that fretful babies can often be easily soothed on arrival. Parents and carers are welcome to pop in at any point during this time, there is no set schedule. The kettle is always ready to go on, and there are plenty of chocolate biscuits to go round. Everyone is offered a warm welcome and a listening ear, and if baby hasn't slept all night, plenty of TLC and a chance to breathe. Sue Greenwood and Jenny Hogan have been running the group since 2004. Many parents have shared how the group offered them a safe sanctuary, warm in winter and the coolest place in Eynsham in the heat of the summer, a chance to feel normal, and for many now, lifelong friendships.

Rainbows Brownies and Guides

Eynsham Rainbows, Brownies and Guides have had an extremely busy term! The Rainbows and Brownies

have had lots of fun outdoors, learning how to explore safely, completing their RSPB "Feel Good in Nature" badges, litter picking, playing an evening at The Leys Adventure Golf, playing in the park, and taking part in Eynsham Carnival.



Eynsham Rainbows, Brownies and Guides



Eynsham Rainbows, Brownies and Guides



Eynsham Rainbows, Brownies and Guides

Meanwhile, the Guides have had a weekend away at a Guiding house in Gloucestershire, made fires using only 3 matches, spent a couple of evenings at the Peace Oak Orchard learning about nature, had an evening pioneering and successfully navigated their way around Eynsham using GPS, and will be going narrowboating in September.

If you are interested in joining either as an adult volunteer or a girl, please go to girlguiding.org.uk/join-us

Cygnets Spread their Wings

Nic Wilson writes...

54 years ago, Eynsham Pre-school was set up as a charity led by parents. It welcomed children to learn through play and exploration, helping them to thrive as they grew.

In September 2022, after careful parent-led Committee consideration, it formally joined Eynsham

Community Primary School. Now called Cygnets class, alongside the Ducklings, Robins and Kingfishers classes, it forms a continuous Early Years journey offering a wealth of stimulating and engaging experiences under the care and guidance of the former pre-school and primary school's dedicated, approachable and well-trained staff.

The Committee, pre-school and primary staff all worked closely together for a year before the change, to make sure that the transition was as fluid as possible. One of the key objectives was to ensure that the children continued to feel settled in a familiar environment, with the teachers that they knew so well. The team have since developed further, establishing a joined-up story-based curriculum which matches the approach in the rest of the school, through to age 11.

So many people have supported the pre-school. I chaired the Committee for five years, and I want to thank everyone who ran it and contributed; staff, volunteers, and fundraisers. Keeping it open for 54 years and enabling it to prosper and subsequently join the Primary School, has been a true community effort. Thank you!

We're thrilled that the Cygnets staff and children have settled with their Primary School family. The children's enjoyment of learning through discovery will flow through their early years, and beyond. I adore seeing their smiling faces when I visit them as a school governor—it's a joy-filled school!

Summer Holiday Fun

Some local children let us know what they're most looking forward to over the summer holidays. Write in and let us know the best things you get up to!

Ivy writes: "I'm excited to go glamping with Mummy and Jamie"

Martha writes: "I can't wait for the summer holidays because we are going to the seaside! Hopefully we won't have any homework!"

Zac writes: "I'm going fun places, like SOAP (South Oxfordshire Adventure Playground) in Oxford"



Carnival 2023

Many thanks to all of those who contributed photos to our carnival special including Eynsham Carnival Committee, The Shirt Race, Yip Lau, Darren Roles, The White Hart and The Red Lion.

Carnival Parade First Place Winners

- Class 1: Children's Float and/or Walking Group - Alice In Wonderland, 1st Eynsham Cub Scouts
- Class 2: Adults & Family Float and/or Walking Group - Jungle Book - Reading Family
- Class 3: Business - Happy Birthday NHS
- Class 4: Donna Jones Trophy (awarded from classes 1-3) - Jungle Book - Reading Family
- Class 5: Mixed Group 2-9 Persons - Launchbury Girls
- Class 6: Children Up To 7yrs - Diddly Squat Piddly Squat
- Class 7: Children 8yrs and Above - Mario

Shirt Race Results

Women

- 1st: Martine Summers and Caroline Ogden
- 2nd: Tash Smith and Kelly Huggard

Men

- 1st: Gavin Carter and Lewis Sigsworth
- 2nd: Will Harrold and Ashley Roles

Mixed

- 1st: Emily Fisk & Tom Bocker
- 2nd: Richard Curtis and Sarah Venn

Shirt Race Fancy Dress Awards

- 1st: Jaws - Neil Bailey and Jim Newton
- 2nd: Eynsham Toll Bridge - Ian Edwards & Alan Cook
- 3rd: The Pool - Emma Riley & Kate Langbourne
- 4th: Tweedledee and Tweedledum - Daniel and Marcus Reading
- 5th: Royale Family - Paula Finch and Lucy Callens

Nut Award (most overengineered):

Panda-monium - Richard Onion and Will Clarke





75th Ann





Anniversary!





Grants for great causes

Meet the new ‘faces’ receiving grants for 2023

Each year the Parish Council awards grants to local organisations, projects and activities that contribute to the wellbeing of our community. While we have some organisations that pop up each year, such as Oxfordshire Play Association and First and Last Mile, for 2023 we welcomed two new ‘faces’ and we’d like to tell you a bit about them.

Witney Baby Bank

Founded by Rosa Bolger, a working mum, during the lockdown of 2020, Witney Baby Bank (WBB) provides critical supplies, such as nappies and menstrual products, to parents and families who are struggling. While Rosa is well supported by volunteers and organisations, she remains hopeful of “a future where we no longer need to exist.”

During 2022, more than 250 deliveries were made to West Oxfordshire families, with over 14,000 nappies and formula for over 6,000 bottles supplied. WBB also runs an annual Christmas Gift Appeal, reliant on gift donations and an army of volunteers. In 2022 more than 600 youngsters received a gift—perhaps their only one.

Volunteer delivery drivers are always needed while businesses would be welcome to make a donation. More details are available on the WBB Facebook page, or on witneybabybank@gmail.com



Citizens Advice West Oxfordshire

Our local branch (pictured) of this national charity (CAWO) is based in Witney and provides expert, professional advice and support on a huge range of issues for all ages, from fuel debt and rent arrears to relationship and family problems.

The charity was founded over 80 years ago but remains critical. Teresa Archer, CAWO Chief Officer, says they are seeing how “devastating the impacts of the current cost of living crisis have been for families that have never experienced such hardship before. We continue to do all we can to guide and support people.”

In the past financial year, CAWO helped 215 clients in the Eynsham and Cassington ward, with an income gain of £183,424 (total) and over £67,000 of debts written off.

CAWO is seeking volunteers and full training is provided. Importantly, don’t hesitate to contact them if you need help yourself. They are impartial, professional and confidential. More details are available: citizensadvicewestoxon.org



Citizens Advice Witney Branch



Dates for your Diary

No Meeting in August

19 Sep, Full Council Meeting – 7.30pm

17 Oct, Full Council Meeting – 7.30pm

Meetings are open to the public and take place at Eynsham Village Hall, with remote access available via Microsoft Teams

A Note from the Chair



I'd like to share some updates on the status of our various local developments, starting with the West Eynsham SDA. The developers have proposed a Masterplan Addendum which includes two areas of current green space being allocated as potential development space. We objected strongly to this proposed change and, thankfully, the District Council's Scrutiny Committee voted to reject the addendum. The same proposal now goes to the District Council Executive for consideration—we hope it will once again be rejected.

The campaign group Rights:Community:Action has launched a legal challenge to the Planning Inspectorate's suggested modifications to the Garden Village Area Action Plan. The area of concern was the 'watering down' of ambitious net zero targets and the potential precedent this could set for similar developments nationally. The legal challenge relies on crowd funding so please donate if you're able to.

A scoping report for the Botley West Solar Farm has been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate. As part of due process, we have been consulted. The Parish Council feels that the proposed solar farm is too large and too close to residential areas and raised our objections to the current plans. We will keep you updated as things progress.

Finally—and considering all the above—we're working hard on revisions to our Eynsham Neighbourhood Plan to strengthen requirements around local developments. We hope the updated document will be ratified before more detailed developer planning applications are lodged.

Footpath news from the 'Sues'

We both love to walk our local footpaths and have recently been hard at work trying to improve the accessibility of some of these. In collaboration with Oxfordshire County Council (OCC), we have now created a route to the Thames (near the Talbot Inn) that is more accessible than it was, suitable for pushchairs and off-road wheelchairs.



Wonderfully, this enabled Cllr Sue Brown's husband Steve (pictured) to access the Thames from Eynsham for the first time in 12 years. We hope it will help many others too.

Our next focus is on improving paths around the Fishponds and the surface of routes along the river. We also hope to make more footpaths easier for all to use—let us know if you have any suggestions. We'd like everyone to be able to use these paths as being out in nature is great for physical and mental health.

If you're not sure where to go, our Footpaths page of the Parish Council website (it's part of the Amenities & Estates Committee—under the Council Business tab on the website) has downloadable maps available as well as guidance on how to report footpath problems yourself, either to the Parish Council or direct to OCC (take a look at the 'About' tab on the website).

Have a happy summer of walking! If you have any footpath questions or concerns, please contact the Sues—that's Cllr Sue Osborne or Sue Brown.

Why do it?

Our Councillors explain why they enjoy being on the Parish Council

"I enjoy giving some of my time back to the village. I also like meeting others in the village; there are a huge number of people with knowledge and expertise who are willing to get involved and help with activities."

Ross Macken, Chair

"I get to see how our democracy works through real life examples. Parish Council work is issues-based and few Councillors have declared political affiliations. I welcome having different opinions around the table."

Tricia Crowley

"I think the greatest pleasure is in achieving small things which enhance village life and improve our community. Being involved with village activities can be very rewarding."

Andy Mosson

"The best thing is working with my amazing fellow councillors. As no one gets paid for being a councillor, they have all given up their precious time and we're united by a common desire to serve the community. It's an inspiring group to be part of."

Milly Chen

"I've really enjoyed working with local people and seeing how the decisions we make as a Council have a direct impact on our community."

Carl Rylett

"I enjoy feeling like we are doing our best for this wonderful parish."

Sue Osborne

We're recruiting for new Councillors. Contact the Council for details.

Groups, clubs and activities...

There are plenty of groups, clubs and activities in the village and not just for little ones. As children head back to school, September is a great time for all of us to think about taking up a new interest and making new friends. Here are some of the groups around the village opening their doors to new members:



10 June, St Leonard's Church

Making Beautiful Music

Liz Bickley writes...

Eynsham Choral Society's spring concert on 10 June in St Leonard's Church was a great success. The music was Haydn's glorious oratorio *The Creation*—covering God's creation of the planet out of chaos: the stars, skies and seas, plants, animals and Adam and Eve.

The Oxford Players orchestra was beautifully balanced and tuneful, with many dramatic moments as well as lyrical sections. The thundering tympani were very apt as we had experienced a tropical downpour in Eynsham during the Saturday afternoon. The choir were accompanied by three wonderful young soloists: Soprano: Luci Briginshaw (Archangel Gabriel and Eve), Tenor: Richard Dowling (Archangel Uriel), Bass: Ed Ballard (Archangel Raphael and Adam), and the audience, who filled the church, thoroughly enjoyed the music. We had obtained a license for an interval bar which was a great success adding to the happy atmosphere.

The society thanks local businesses who sponsor us by advertising in our concert programme, and our patrons and audience who have supported us through the last few tricky years. We hope to see you all again at the end of the year for *The Messiah* (part 1) and Vivaldi's *Magnificat*.

We welcome new members when we resume in September—soprano, alto, tenor and bass (you can try out singing with us without commitment and find out which voice is best for you). We rehearse on Tuesdays in school term time at Eynsham Community Primary School from 7.30pm-9.30pm, from 5 September 2023. Open rehearsals: 5 and 12 September—just turn up and see if you enjoy it!

Please email info@eynshamchoral.org for more information, or see eynshamchoral.org



Bartholomew Players volunteering

The Curtain Calls!

The Bartholomew Players volunteered with tickets sales and collection at this year's Eynsham Carnival and took the opportunity to dress up and advertise for new members. The Bartholomew Players always welcome new members in acting or backstage roles and are particularly keen to take on new sound and lighting people—full training will be given! They start rehearsals for their November production of "*Silver Lining*" by Sandi Toksvig in September. If you are interested in joining, please contact bart.players@gmail.com and have a look at the website bartholomewplayers.co.uk to see photos of past productions.

It's Play Time

John Dowling of Eynsham Theatre Club writes...

After a two-year break because of Covid we have been on our first theatre trip to Stratford on Avon to see *Cymbeline*, Shakespeare's last and little-known play.

It was an hour and a bit's drive through the English countryside to the Shakespeare Theatre door. Christine and I brought a picnic meal from home and ate it on the terrace overlooking the Avon, with the swans and boats in the peaceful heart of England.

It was an inspired production. It starts rather like a Shakespeare

“comedy”; banishment, wager, stolen bracelet, travesty etc but gradually slips from one improbability to another. It was all brilliantly set, a magnificent thorn-clad Welsh cave, a hold-your-breath candle-lit boudoir, a spectacular stylised Roman battle, all acted with Stratford panache. And then the coach was right there outside the theatre to whisk us home, dropping people off at spots convenient for those who live along its village route, ending where cars are parked at the Medical Centre. It couldn't be easier, it could hardly be bettered as a night at the theatre.

We have now booked tickets to see, Agatha Christie's *And then there were none* in Malvern on Thursday 26 October (matinee performance).

Are you interested? Why not become a member and join us on this and many more theatre trips in the future! Coach travel is arranged from the village and tickets are discounted as we travel as a group. Membership is free for 2023 only. Contact: Maureen Davis on 01865 880586 or maureen@chilbridge.plus.com

Beautiful Summer Wind

Julia Shay writes...

A very enjoyable evening was had by all in June at the concert by the Eynsham-based groups: WOL, WOCI and WOC (West Oxfordshire Learners, West Oxfordshire Clarinets Intermediate and West Oxfordshire Clarinets) under the inspiring baton of local teacher and music impresario, Wendy Marks.

One of the lovely things about these concerts (apart from the dedication, hard work and enthusiasm of the amateur players of all ages) is that Wendy talks her audience through the pieces, and on this occasion had chosen to highlight the work of several women composers, including Debbie Wiseman, who has written for film and TV as well as recent royal celebrations.

WOL, a predominantly adult group, includes wind players of different sized saxophones and clarinets, flutes, oboes and trombones with many players having only recently begun to perform. WOCI are slightly more experienced clarinet players,

and WOC, the advanced group, includes FIVE different sizes of clarinet!

It was WOCI's first public performance and they rose to the occasion admirably. They played a wide variety of music, including Handel, Haydn and Mozart, but I most enjoyed *Smile* (originally a tune by Charlie Chaplin) and *Moon River*. Both these pieces were difficult, involving slow, quiet passages, but were beautifully played. Hopefully we will be able to see these players progress and develop over future performances.

New wind and brass players of all ages are welcome at WOL, WOC & WOCI on Wednesday evenings in the village. More details at OxfordWoodwind.co.uk and under Directory/Music at Eynsham Online.



Friendly Faces

Some residents of the village have been here for generations and others have only been here a few weeks, but we can probably all agree that we're lucky to live here. Over the next few issues of Eynsham News we will be getting to know some of the people, old and new, who make up Eynsham.

Janet Gaukroger tells us about two families who have recently chosen to travel a very long way to be part of our community...

In the last few years over 144,000 people from Hong Kong have made Britain their home. New Eynsham residents Thomas and Kat, with their three children, and Angel and Qing, with their three children and Qing's mother, are among them.

“Things were changing too much in Hong Kong. We did not have the freedom we had before. The government was controlling many things, including education.”

“We decided to come here for the sake of our children. We did not know

what their future would be.”

In January 2021 the British government offered British Nationals Overseas in Hong Kong the opportunity to come here, along with their dependents. They were given the right to live and work here for five years, after which they can apply to become citizens.

This offer came at a price—there was a charge for the five-year visa, a mandatory surcharge to enable them to access the NHS, and they had to prove they had the means to live and support their family for at least six months. Was it worth it? The answer from both couples, and their children, is a resounding ‘yes’.

Why Eynsham? The Oxford area seemed a good location to both families (who did not know each other before coming here). Both had apartments in Hong Kong which they sold, so they were able to buy here. Most of their children are in secondary school, so the Bartholomew School's outstanding rating made Eynsham the obvious choice.

When asked what they missed about Hong Kong, all six children immediately said, “the food!”. Grandparents and cousins came a close second. They all like school better here. Why? “Less homework!” Also, the teaching style here makes school more interesting.

Both families have been remarkably resilient in transitioning from a huge city in Asia to an English village. They really like living in Eynsham, have found people to be very friendly, and are looking forward to becoming more embedded in village life. Everything about coming here has been as they expected, or even better—except for the weather!

Well done, Eynsham, for welcoming these newcomers. Thomas, Kat, Angel, Qing (pronounced ‘Ching’) and their families, along with several other Hong Kong families who have moved here, really appreciate it.

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 and help us connect to our community.

Events Preview

August Oasis

Oasis is a time of fun, food, and company for the active & not so active over 60s, organised by Eynsham's three churches. It's back again in August for one day only, but with a choice of dates in order to allow as many people as possible to come along. This year, you can choose between taking part on Tuesday 15 August, or Tuesday 22 August, 10.15am-3.45pm.

Oasis will happen in the Baptist Church and Hall, Lombard St (next to The Bayleaf). The cost is £8, or £15 for a couple, and includes refreshments, activities, and lunch.

Application forms are available from any of the Eynsham Churches, The Eynsham Library or Evenlode DIY. Pre-booking is essential—places are limited. Unfortunately, transport and personal care cannot be provided. For more information, call Sue Butler, 01865 881 690.

Charity Sale

We're lucky enough to have two charity shops in the village, raising money for charity, recycling for the environment and giving us some great bargains. There's the West Oxford Animals Rescue Centre (WOARC) on Newlands Street (open Tues-Sat 10am-3pm) which raises money to rescue and rehome unwanted, stray and injured animals in the local area. And there's Mercy In Action on Mill Street (open Mon-Sat 9am-5pm and Sun 10am-3pm) who work in the UK and the Philippines to tackle poverty, injustice and inequality through housing, food, education and care.

On Saturday 2 September, WOARC will be holding a grand picture sale at their shop in Eynsham from 10.30am-3pm. There will be fine art, paintings and drawings with many signed and collectable items. They also have some old books on the history of Eynsham for sale. The pictures have been valued by an independent art expert with prices starting at £40 and some great bargains available. All proceeds will go to support their work caring for

domestic and wild animals in need of help in Oxfordshire.

Steaming Events

Margaret Gruber writes...

Combe Mill steaming events are well under way and we're looking forward to seeing you all. Combe Mill is a late 19th Century Restored Water Mill on Blenheim Palace Estate by the River Evenlode, all machinery running 'In Steam'. Volunteers will be on hand with lots of interesting information. Come along and see the blacksmiths in the forge and you might just be able to make a poker. The tearoom will be open, along with BBQ, gift shop and tombola. Dog on leads most welcome.

On 20th August we have 'In Steam—Models & Collections'. We have invited Exhibitors to bring along the models they have made and collections of

interest. Exhibitors will be from Local Clubs. Special Attraction in the afternoon will be Kencot Ukulele Players.

On 17th September we have 'In Steam—Crafts & Skills'. We have invited crafters from the local area including the Oxford Guild of Weavers, Spinners & Dyers (who will be bringing their big wheel), Finstock Craft Club, Fused Glass and much more. (Combe Mill cannot be held responsible for attractions that cancel).

Adults £9.00, seniors £7.50, accompanied children FREE. Open 10.30am to 5.00pm.

Also open every Wednesday for 'self-guided tours' with volunteer around and tearoom open. Adults £5.00, seniors £4.00, accompanied children FREE.

Save the date!!



EYNSHAM HARVEST HAPPENING

Sunday, September 24, 3:00-5:00 in the square

mobile farm, allotment bonus table,
BBQ, and more!



This FREE event is
brought to you by the churches in Eynsham

Events Diary

See more at Eynsham Online

Royal British Legion

Meet and Greet

2 August, 7pm, Red Lion

For members and anyone interested in joining—please come along

Eynsham Acoustic Club

6 August, 8-10.30pm, The Swan Hotel

Gatehouse Volunteers

6 August, 9am-1pm, 15 Newland Street

Garden Club Monthly Meeting

9 August, 7.30pm, Village Hall

Unusual bulbs and how the get into your garden by John Armand

August Oasis

15 & 22 August, 10.15am, Baptist Hall

A day out for the over 60s with food and activities—booking form from Eynsham Online, churches or Evenlode DIY/Library

Royal British Legion Members

Afternoon Tea

19 August, 3-7pm,

The Underwood's garden

For members and partners only - please bring a plate of food to share and suitable drinks

Roman Villa Open Days

19 & 20 August, 11am-5pm, North Leigh

The mosaic site at the roman villa is open to visitors for free

Picture Sale

2 Sep, 10.30am-3pm, West Oxford

Animal Rescue, 35 Newland Street

Sale of fine art, paintings, drawings and collectable artwork in aid of charity—prices start at £40

Eynsham Acoustic Club

3 Sep, 8-10.30pm, The Swan Hotel

Ride and Stride

9 Sep, 9am, Around the village

Oxfordshire Historic Churches' fun day out for all the family

Garden Club Outing

9 Sep, 9.30am-4pm, Village Hall

Details TBA

Bugs in Brooks Survey

9 Sep, 10am-12 noon, Long Mead

Get involved in the Nature Recovery Network's survey of our ponds and streams

Eynsham Repair Café

9 Sep, 2-4pm, Village Hall

Village Show

16 Sep, Village Hall

Entries from 9-10.30am and then open to the public for viewing from 2-4.30pm with refreshments, raffle and prize giving

GreenTEA Tasting & Recipes

16 Sep, 2-4pm, Village Hall

(at Village Show)

Wholesome plant-based dishes for tasting and recipe ideas for inspiration

Eynsham Harvest Happening

24 Sep, 3-5pm, Market Square

Mobile farm, allotment bonus table, BBQ and more—free event from Eynsham Churches

Busy Bees baby and toddler group

Every Friday in term, 9.30-11am

Baptist Church Hall

£2.50 per family, including drinks and snacks

Copy Deadline for Eynsham News Sunday 10 September

Bartholomew School dates

Check online for INSET days and early finishes!

EPA: bit.ly/EPA2324

Bartholomew:

bit.ly/Bart2324

Autumn Term:

4 September – 20 October

October Half-Term:

23 October – 27 October

Autumn Term:

30 October – 20 December

Christmas Holiday:

21 December – 5 January

Eynsham Churches

Eynsham Baptist Church

Lombard Street, Eynsham OX29 4HT

Main Sunday event at 10.30am

Website: eynshambaptistchurch.co.uk

Church Telephone Number:

Tel. 01865 882203

Church e-mail:

eynsham.baptists@gmail.com

To book the church Hall Tel:

07554012535

Email: rcarley@outlook.com

St Leonards CofE

On the Market Square

Main Sunday event at 10.30am

Website: stleonardseynsham.org.uk

Church Administrator: Louise Parker

Phone: 01865 883325, Email:

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

Church Office: 01865 881613.

The 'Tolkien Room' is available for hire 01865 423655

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 August edition (about 70 words long) to editor@eynshamnews.org.uk before **10 September 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.

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Noisy Neighbours

There's been a lot of joy and jubilation around the village with the coronation and the carnival in recent months, but sometimes one man's celebration is another's irritation. We've been sent a reasonable and polite request to remind everyone that as a rule, noise should be kept to a minimum between 11pm and 7am—that includes building work, music, dogs and parties, particularly outside in the summer months. It's not about trying to ruin anyone's fun, it's more about trying not to ruin anyone's sleep. If you know you've got a big night planned for a special reason, why not try warning your neighbours in advance and maybe inviting them along!

If you have a serious problem with noise near you and need help and advice, then the district council is your best first port of call: bit.ly/WODCNoise, 01993 861000

A40 Upgrade

Oxfordshire County Council has agreed on proposals to upgrade the A40 between Witney and Oxford including a bus lane eastbound from Eynsham Park & Ride to Oxford and part of the way westbound. There will be more official crossings and improved shared walking and cycling paths.

In light of global inflationary pressures, the A40 improvements programme has been under review since autumn 2022. The county council has been working with partners to review funding for the whole programme. The government's housing infrastructure fund (HIF2) will be used to construct this proposed stage.

Public consultation and stakeholder engagement on the plans will follow which could include a dual carriageway extension from Witney to Eynsham Park & Ride.

Eynsham Library Opening Hours

Monday: 9.30am-1pm, 2-5pm

Tuesday: Closed

Wednesday: 1-5pm

Thursday: 1-5pm

Friday: 1-7pm

Saturday: 9.30am-1pm

Sunday: Closed

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The Burnside Partnership

Specialist Award-Winning Local Private Client Lawyers and Tax Experts theburnsidepartnership.com 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.

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. 01865 883611

Pellmans LLP

Your local solicitors. *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: tessajhammond@gmail.com*

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