



Eynsham



**Season's
greetings**

to all our readers



Village Buzz

Help!

Eynsham News needs some new editing and writing help. If you'd like to put some of your time and skills into this local magazine, please email: editor@eynshamnews.org.uk



→ New creative space



→ millstreetarts.co.uk

Mill Street Arts

There is a big community vision for the new creative space on Mill Street.

Local artist and art-teacher, Alice Walker, has taken over the empty shop and has converted it into a space for all things arty and creative. It's early days yet but watch out for courses and events gathering pace.

Artist profile: Alice had an army dad and grew up in a variety of countries often returning to the Salisbury area. After school her love of art took her to Edinburgh College of Art where she studied drawing and painting for 4 years. After graduating she worked as art coordinator for Arts in Healthcare at Salisbury Hospital while continuing to make and exhibit her art.

Alice moved to Eynsham in 1999 when she married Simon Davies who was Youth worker for St. Leonard's Church. After a brief maternity cover teaching art, Alice decided to train as a secondary School art teacher and taught at Lord Williams's School in Thame before a career break to

have a family.

Alice continued to paint, participating in Oxford Art Weeks and, in 2011, starting to teach regular art classes in Eynsham. These classes developed over the years and are still running with many of the same members 12 years on—and having a creative base is going to bring many new developments.

Email info@millstreetarts.co.uk or visit website: millstreetarts.co.uk

News from the Museum

Our 'Lost Railway' exhibition ran from August to the end of November and was a great success. Thank you to those who made it so, including all the visitors from Eynsham and beyond who showed that interest in our history is still alive and kicking. We learned so much from people, particularly those for whom Eynsham's railway played a part in their lives, and we are very grateful for all the contributions and for those who joined our 'Friends' scheme. If you would like to help us further, go to our website, eynshammuseum.org.uk, and click on 'Support' or contact Steve Parrinder at 7 Abbey Farm Barns, off Station Road.

We are hoping to set up our permanent exhibition, telling the story of Eynsham's long and distinguished history, next year and if you have any items or information which you think could contribute to that story then please contact us as above.



→ Happy Christmas from the Rotary Club

Santa is coming to Town!

from The Rotary Club

This year Santa will be seen in and around the village in early December. His first event will be at the Eynsham 'Lights On' ceremony in the Village square on 1 December.

This year Santa will also be touring

Eynsham's streets on early evenings during the first three weeks of December.

Santa and the Rotary Club of Eynsham wish you a very Happy Christmas!

Carnival

The new Carnival committee are getting moving. They're looking for volunteers to help make it all happen. Please email enquiries@eynshamcarnival.com. The Carnival date is Saturday 6 July 2024.

Praise for long-standing village service

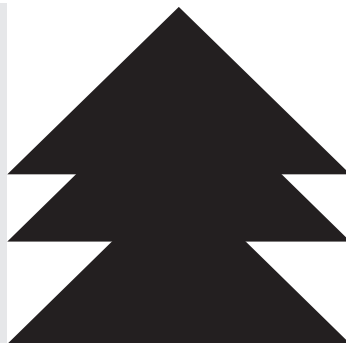
by Celia Davies

Eynsham Car Scheme drives residents who have no access to transport to their health care appointments. Twenty volunteers are ready to drive people to the Oxford hospitals, the local medical centre and many other health venues. Most people probably associate volunteer driving schemes with elderly people. But not all our regular clients fit that description.

Emma (not her real name) is in her mid-30's and has a young child. A disability she has had since birth means she cannot drive. In recent years she has also been diagnosed with a degenerative illness which is affecting her mobility. The knock-on effects of both conditions mean that she has at least two medical appointments most months, some in Witney, some in Oxford. Regular bus routes are great, but there is too much walking both ends for her to use public transport. If it weren't for the driving scheme, Emma would spend a fortune in taxis, which is not a viable option for her. She says, "Your drivers are a life saver for me. They are all so friendly and reliable, nothing is too much trouble for them."

Want to know more or to ask if we can help? Ring our number 07469 764174. If we can't answer right away, leave a message and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

How about joining us as a driver? It is very flexible—you only volunteer when you can. And you meet interesting people and sometimes learn new things about Eynsham and its history.



Don't miss
this year's
**Carols in
The Square**



Sunday 10 December, 4pm

Sometimes it's hard to get excited about Christmas, particularly as an adult. We know it's supposed to be the season of goodwill, time off work, celebrating with family and bright lights cheering drab streets. But often life gets in the way—do we really need to get presents/cards for everyone at work and in our (very!) extended group of family and friends? Will I spend Christmas alone this year? Can I even afford it with all the cost-of-living challenges? Do I even like turkey?!

And added to this personal weariness, the news is worse in the wider world. Ukraine! Israel! Gaza! Easy to be cynical about a season that announces: "Peace on earth, goodwill to all".

The Christmas Child was born at a challenging time in history as well. Slavery rampant, brutality common, a Roman occupying power crushing dissent—not a good time to be a rebel! Yet in an amazing way, Jesus was a rebel. This baby's influence has lasted 2,000 years. Far longer than the oppressive Roman Empire. His message of hope, justice, peace and a new start has been embraced by millions around the world—a good number of them live in Eynsham. These ordinary people—with aches and pains, disobedient dogs and challenging relatives (just like us!)—have decided to follow Jesus every day and not just at Christmas.

Wouldn't it be great if the 'peace and love' message of Christmas could be lived out in the world each day of the year, not just annually? Perhaps we can sing along this year with Wizzard (those 1970s philosophers!)—"I wish it could be Christmas every day"—but with real hope that it might be true!

The churches of Eynsham wish you a Christmas filled with hope and

peace. They also send greetings from their Founder, who sends His love from a manger in Bethlehem!

Christmas Bells

*by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow
(1807-1882)*

I heard the bells on Christmas Day
Their old, familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet
The words repeat
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

And thought how, as the day had come,
The belfries of all Christendom
Had rolled along
The unbroken song
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!
And in despair I bowed my head;
"There is no peace on earth," I said;
"For hate is strong,
And mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!"

Then pealed the bells more
loud and deep:
"God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;
The Wrong shall fail,
The Right prevail,
With peace on earth, good-will to men."

Eynsham Christmas Tree Festival

We are delighted to announce that this year's Festival will take place inside St. Leonard's Church on 1-2 December. Doors will open at 'Light Up Eynsham' on the Friday evening and there will be a pop-up cafe from 10am-12 on Saturday.

For two days the church will be filled with sparkling Christmas trees, each sponsored and decorated by a family, school, uniformed organisation, village group or somebody who just loves Christmas!

This year's festival theme is

"Tidings of Comfort and Joy." There will be a vote taken for the people's favourite tree, which will be announced at our service the following day. A visitors' donation will also be collected toward the Eynsham Larder, which provides food for village members struggling in our current times.

Eynsham Church Christmas Events

Eynsham Baptist Church

Sunday 10 December
Service 10.30 am
Carols in the Square 4pm

Sunday 17 December
No morning service
Christmas Messy Church 3-5pm
Carols by Candlelight 6.30pm

Sunday 24 December
Service 10.30am

Monday 25 December
Christmas Day Service 10am

*Further details:
eynshambaptistchurch.co.uk*

St Peter's Roman Catholic Church

Details: stpeterseynsham.org.uk

St Leonards Church

Friday 1-Saturday 2 December
Christmas Tree Festival
(see article)

Sunday 3 December, 4pm
Christingle service

Sunday 10 December, 4pm
Carols in the Square

Sunday 17 December, 7pm
Candlelit Carols

Christmas Eve, 24 December
5pm Crib Service
11.30pm, Midnight communion

Christmas Day service, 10am

From around the village

Eynsham Through the Eyes of Its Young Residents

by Janet Gaukroger

Often, when we think of lifelong Eynsham residents, we picture the older generations who have seen the village evolve over the years. However, let's not forget that Eynsham is also home to many teenagers who have spent their entire lives here. We asked three young people, whose parents moved to Eynsham before they were born, to share their reflections on the village.

“Eynsham is a good place for children in primary school. There is so much to do, with lots of clubs and activities. Once you get past about 13 or 14, though, there is not much on offer.”

Growing up in Eynsham has its perks, especially for younger children. The village offers an array of clubs and activities, making it an ideal place for primary school kids. However, as teenagers, they feel the options become limited.

“It's been good growing up here, but I am looking forward to going to university and experiencing a bigger place.”

Despite the challenges, they acknowledge that Eynsham fares better than smaller villages in the area. Regular bus services provide access to nearby towns and cities, giving them more options for entertainment and meeting friends. They also understand the difficulty of providing sufficient clubs and activities and acknowledge the role of volunteers in making these opportunities available.

“After all, it takes volunteers to run them, and that's not easy.” “Eynsham is not a big enough population to support the different groups.” “It would be nice if there were some café venues in Eynsham that were open into the evening, where young people could go.”

As we look ahead to the future, it's clear that the perspective of our young residents can guide us in embracing the positives of village life while

welcoming the benefits that expansion can bring. Eynsham's identity will evolve, and it's up to all of us to ensure the enduring strength of its community spirit.

Forever Fields

by Alison Holmans

Worton Hall near Cassington was the venue for the 'Forever Fields' exhibition in November.

Forever Fields is a collection of people's creative response to our countryside, celebrating the beauty, productivity and biodiversity of the fields and settlements that will be lost for 42 years under solar panels if Botley West Solar Power Station is built!

Our countryside is valuable to us in myriad ways and 'Forever Fields' want this to be known and not forgotten. For more info go to foreverfields.co.uk

Eynsham Roadrunners

by Rosamund Hall

We are a diverse, friendly club with approximately 200 members. We welcome runners, walkers and joggers of all speeds, ages and abilities to our social run session every Wednesday evening at 6.30pm at the Eynsham Pavilion, with a variety of different pace groups covering from 3 to 8 miles and meeting back at the Pavilion for tea and cake and a chat afterwards.

We also have Tuesday training sessions, hill training in the beautiful Wytham Woods during the winter months or speed training sessions in Eynsham itself.

Membership costs just £5 a year, and we have a variety of other activities throughout the year, for example:

- You Can Run', led by one of our qualified club coaches. This is basically our 'couch to 5K' programme for those new or returning to running
- Club Championship: an annual series of local races from 2-15 miles with the club champions crowned at the end of the year
- Cross Country: 5 off-road events over the winter months
- 'Mota-vation' Series: 5 short local road races over the summer months.

To find out more, go to eynshamroadrunners.org.uk



→ Laura Stringer with Pam and Bob Thiele

Eynsham Foodbank Christmas Appeal 2023

Thanks to the incredible generosity of the Eynsham community, for the past three years households supported by the Eynsham Foodbank have received a box of Christmas treats to help see them through the festive season, as well as Amazon gift cards or presents for each child, and vouchers to be spent at retailers, pubs, and restaurants in the local area.

We know that financial challenges continue for many, but your continued support will be hugely appreciated.

Online donations are welcomed at gofundme.com/f/eynsham-food-bank-christmas-appeal-2023. You can also add some festive treats to the collection baskets in Co-op or The Market Garden before Friday December 1.

We are grateful to all the individuals, organisations and businesses that have supported our campaign in previous years, including Eynsham Dental Care, The Bayleaf, The Coop, Eynsham Rotary, The Curiosity Box and Blissful Bites, as well as the Foodbank's regular team of volunteers.

Please contact Laura Stringer at eynshamhelp@gmail.com if you'd like to know more or get involved. Neighbours helping neighbours is part of what makes Eynsham so special.

Any excess funds will go towards funding weekly food parcels in 2024.

Wildflower Planting

by Rachel Wilkins

The Nature Recovery Networkers (NRN) had an excellent afternoon of wildflower planting in Eynsham's Carnival Meadow on Sunday 22 October.

Long Mead's Catriona Bass and NRN's group of plant propagators brought along over 300 established wildflower plants in 9cm pots

including common knapweed and devil's bit scabious. The ground was soft, and it was satisfying to scrape through the grass roots with our trowels or spades and dig gently into the soil below—and amazing to discover a healthy population of worms!

We also planted 1000 snake's head fritillary bulbs, and the disturbed soil from planting was perfect to sprinkle yellow rattle seeds, an annual parasitic flower that weakens grass roots and therefore allows young perennial wildflower plants to better establish.

Catriona told us new meadows are planned in The Neyotts at Eynsham Lock, and on Changeable Furlongs in the fields beyond, to try to recreate the ancient wildflower meadows that had thrived there since Domesday until destroyed in the 1970s.

As we create new meadows, Long Mead's Thames Valley Wildflower Meadow Restoration Project is monitoring and learning the most effective ways of establishing and managing successful wildflower meadows. In the meantime, if you'd like to join NRN's Plant Propagation group, we meet every Wednesday on Long Mead (opposite the Talbot Inn) 10.30 to 3.00pm. Get in touch: nature-recovery-network.org

Monday Club

Looking for more members, volunteers and a coordinator.

Monday Club, at the Village Hall, has a warm welcome for anyone who might be lonely or might enjoy a happy day of gentle activities and a cracking lunch (supplied by Stuart and Daniela from the Jolly Sportsman). Taster days are free, and regulars pay just £10 for each session.

There are plans for evening bingo (Friday 8 December, 7.15pm), a Carol Service and special Christmas lunch.

Monday Club has a loyal and hard-working group of volunteers who give selflessly of their time and enthusiasm, and if you would like an opportunity to give back to the community in this way, please contact Mark Johnson on 01865 882924, email mjaoxon@gmail.com. There is also an opportunity for a new team leader

(more details on Eynsham Online, including a job description).

Raising the roof!

by Emily Marshall

Eynsham Community Choir is a vibrant singing group with 30-40 people raising the roof at Eynsham Baptist Church Hall every week. 14 singers joined us this term, and new members are always very welcome—no experience necessary. £50 per term. Next term starts on 11 January 2024, but our doors are always open!

To hear us in action, look out for us at community events. This year, we'll be part of Light Up Eynsham in the Square/St Leonard's on 1 December. Next year, so far, we'll be wassailing with the Peace Oak Association on 13 January (4pm) and we have a for Valentine's Day, too.

More info: emilyschoirs.co.uk
Contact: Emily Marshall, 07969 522368



Salon survives Covid, and grows!

Tracy is the founder of Body Talk hair and beauty salon in Mill Street. Her first salon opened in 2000 on Hight St, and she relocated to Mill St in 2017.

"In 2020 Covid hit us. This was a very worrying time for all small business owners that weren't allowed to trade. I was lucky enough to receive a government grant which enabled me to keep my head just above water.

"The lockdowns brought their own problems with many people suffering with mental health difficulties. I was determined to keep myself busy. I have always been an 'arty' person, painting traditionally with oil paints; but I decided that I would learn a different form of art and so MYARTWORKS was born. It began with acrylic paint pouring, a method of art using acrylic paint and basically pouring it onto a canvas, wood or tile

to create different effects. From there, I ventured into jewellery making and now I am creating unique and bespoke items using resin, eco resin and polymer clay.

"So now my creative items can be found alongside hair and beauty treatments. I take my items to sell at craft shows and am thinking about offering courses so that other people can learn a fun craft as well as having a way of helping with relaxation and most importantly mental health."

The WI

The Women's Institute had a very successful Harvest Feast in October with a meal provided by the Committee, followed by an auction of food and crafts. For the first time we had a professional auctioneer, Mr James Lees, to do the honours and as a result significantly more money was raised than usual.

We are now getting ready for our Christmas Party which will be held in Woodstock on 12 December. Our first meeting of the New Year will be on 9 January at the Village Hall (7:30) and is entitled "Age Concern, Fitness into 2024"—an apt topic after the excesses of Christmas.

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 old-fashioned pen and paper. Just label your envelope 'Eynsham News' and drop your contribution off at Eynsham Library on Mill Street, 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 7 January.

Kids and Grownups

If you would like to contribute to these pages in Eynsham News, please email editor@eynshamnews.org.uk. Grannies, teenagers, children, and parents, no writing experience necessary!

True to the harvest season, there have been an abundance of fabulous events in Eynsham, organised by local residents, for local people of all ages. Thank you to all who took the time to host these brilliant events and bring our community together!



→ The Allotment Table

Harvest Happenings

by Janet Gaukroger

Eynsham Harvest Happening, in September, was a great success. Over 350 people of all ages came to the square to enjoy this free event organised by the churches of Eynsham. There was tea, coffee and cakes galore. Both grown-ups and children enjoyed writing or drawing something they were thankful for and hanging their leaf on the 'Thankful Tree'. The allotment table inspired curiosity and learning, and Operation Agri gave insights into agricultural challenges in the developing world. The mobile farm was a hit with children and adults alike! And having worked up an appetite, the barbeque proved popular. Will there be another one next year? Watch this space! But no need to wait that long to enjoy the community spirit—join us on Sunday 10 December at 4pm for Carols in the Square, a great way to get ready for Christmas.

New equipment at our popular play area

by Sarah Rees

Despite the chilly temperatures on a sunny Saturday in October, many

local families joined Parish Council staff and Councillors at the Old Witney Road play area for a grand re-opening. The play area had been closed for a period of renovation, during which some of the older equipment was removed and replaced with newer, more modern equipment. This was a Parish Council project to give the play area a long overdue 'facelift' and ensure it continues to be a safe and exciting place to play in for many years to come.

During the development process, we spoke to many local children about what equipment they would like to see, and we hope everyone is happy with the result. We certainly saw some enthusiastic responses during the two-hour re-opening event, although this may have also been due to the free ice cream provided by the invited ice-cream van!

Shortly after this event, we closed Dovehouse Close play area for a week of critical safety repairs. This is all complete and the play area is now open again. We greatly appreciate the patience of our community during these periods of closure as we work to keep our play areas in good shape for the many who enjoy using them.



→ Peace Oak Craft Club

Apples and more

by Sue Raikes

Over a hundred people of all ages came to the Apple Day and Green Festival at the Peace Oak Orchard off Newland Street in October. People brought their apples and a local expert from Waterperry captivated us with the wonderful names of the old Eynsham varieties...Old Fred, Eynsham Dumpling, Peggy's Pride and more. Apple pressing to make juice is not for the faint hearted...but the results are delicious!

The Peace Oak Craft Club offered willow weaving and wood turning. Eynsham Nature Recovery Network

inspired us with tales of birds and bugs in our brooks. Green TEA held a competition and stall promoting a Plant Based Diet with delicious tastings for all after the judging. Children decorated bunting and went searching in the woods for bird pictures. Local architects Taw Fitzwilliam demonstrated how to retrofit or build sustainably, and we gathered ideas about how to improve our shed!

For more about how to get involved with The Peace Oak Orchard and Green TEA see Eynsham Online or contact Sue Raikes, sue.raikes@appleinter.net

We love to give some exposure to the children's groups and clubs that make Eynsham such a fun place for our children to learn and grow. This issue we hear from Fledglings Sing, a group aimed at pre-schoolers:

Fledgelings Sing

Fledgelings Sing takes place every term-time Wednesday 10.30-11.30am in the Scout Hall. It is a Stay and Sing activity for under-fives, using a variety of songs and activities including favourites such as Wheels on the Bus, the Hokey Cokey and Sleeping Bunnies along with colourful props and toy musical instruments.

There is a routine, of course, starting with It's Time to Say Hello and some simple finger songs, moving onto more active songs before introducing the Prop Box, and standing-up songs that keep us on the move. Finally, we conclude with the soothing guitar and a quiet moment. Afterwards, we spread out a blanket for the little ones to engage in free play with the musical instruments, and simple refreshments such as rice cakes and water or squash are available. This is the time for the grown-ups to catch up and have a chat.

It costs £2 per family per session so there is no extra charge for families with more than one child. Families are asked to book a day or two before each session as it helps enormously with the preparation. New faces are always very welcome, get in touch via Eynsham Online, Messenger on Facebook, or email at fledgelingsing@gmail.com

Get ready for Christmas with Eynsham Country Market

The nights are drawing in so our thoughts are turning to Christmas and preparing for the festive season. Eynsham Country Market is here to help with your Christmas shopping by holding two extra Saturday markets with a Christmas theme in addition to our usual Thursday markets. On Saturday 2nd December we will be in the Square from 9.30am until 12pm with a huge range of Christmas bakes and cakes including Stollen, Christmas cakes, mince pies, Christmas puddings, sweets, cookies, and many other treats. We will also have preserves, local honey and eggs. Our craft stall will be full of wonderful hand crafted cards, felted festive decorations, sewn Christmas stockings, bunting, hair bands, children's clothes, knitted items and much more. All our customers will be treated to a free mince pie, and tea and coffee will be available in the Bartholomew Room.

If you can't make that event, we are holding a similar market in the Recreation Hall, Main Road, Long Hanborough on Saturday 9th December from 9.30am-12pm. As we have access to a full size kitchen in Long Hanborough, we will also be serving hot bacon rolls with our tea, coffee and cake.

There is a Christmas produce order list which you can find on Eynsham Online (<https://eynsham.org.uk/org-news.aspx?oid=692>) or you can pick up a copy from the market every Thursday 9am until 10.30am between now and 7th December when we call last orders. You can also get in touch by emailing: eynshamcountrymarket76@gmail.com

We would like to thank all our customers for their unwavering support over the last year. It has been an extremely busy year with plenty of extra markets and activities, including Baking Around Britain, The Coronation, Bonfire Bakes, our special Plant Sale, Mother's Day and Easter Markets, none of which would

have been possible without your support. Our thanks go to Siemens who have allowed us to hold two markets in their factory this year, and we look forward to being there again on 5th December. Our last market of the year in the Square is Thursday 21st December when we will have all our Christmas orders ready for collection. After a brief break, we will be back on Thursday 1st February 2024.

We would like to wish you all a peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

The National Trust

from Caroline Walker

Did you know that there is a local Oxford Centre for The National Trust? A friendly group of people who enjoy a range of activities, including a winter lecture series, regular coffee mornings in Oxford, day coach trips to National Trust and heritage properties, a walking group and coach holidays in the UK.

Membership is from £10 a year.



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Budgets, bridges and buses.

It's a busy end to 2023

Despite being in the last weeks of 2023, the Parish Council remains busy as we try to get key projects reviewed and finalised. Here's a taste of what we're up to:

Money talks

Our most crucial task currently is setting out the Budget for the coming financial year—April will be here before you know it! We plan carefully to ensure the money we receive will be used effectively for the community (more on this in the Clerk's column). One aspect of our spending is providing Grant Aid for local organisations who do fantastic work supporting people across the Parish. At the time of writing, we are reviewing applications and will soon be able to share some of the names and projects of the groups who will be receiving a grant in 2024.

Play resumes

It was most satisfying to complete two play area projects in October. The Old Witney Road play area has had some superb new equipment installed (celebrated with a well-attended opening event) and Dovehouse Close has undergone critical safety repairs. We appreciate residents' understanding during the closures and hope you're all satisfied with the results.

Transport issues

Local transport is an important topic for our community. The extended closure of the Botley Road for station development works is one major issue and we invited a representative from the project to speak to us at a Council meeting. If you missed it, his slides are available on the website.

In November, our Councillors attended the transport committee meeting run by the County Council to hear the latest news and share any concerns residents had. One piece of encouraging news is that the Oxford Tube bus connection to London now stops on the A40 near to Eynsham.

Have a bright Christmas!

One of our favourite projects is supporting the Christmas light display that makes Eynsham look so festive each year. We hope you will be able to join the fun and see the big switch-on at Light Up Eynsham!

Dates for your Diary

19 Dec, Full Council Meeting – 7.30pm

16 Jan, Full Council Meeting – 7.30pm

20 Feb, 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:

tinyurl.com/3m6f2xja



Images → Old Witney Road play area



A Note from the Chair



Residents may recall that the Eynsham Neighbourhood Plan referendum took place in January 2020. As nearly four years have elapsed, it's time to review and update this important document.

As always, we encourage residents to take part and help us create a plan that is best for the community.

Much of the plan will remain the same, but we are making a few important additions and changes. One is to strengthen the language (*will* instead of *may*) and improve the formatting to make the document clearer. We are also looking to add in a village Character Assessment and Design Code, as well as proposals for more Local Green Spaces.

At the time of writing, we are preparing for an event in the Village Hall for residents to review the new Plan and ask questions (22 November from 4pm) but would welcome input via email or post from those who could not attend.

The next exciting event on our calendar is Light Up Eynsham on 1 December. The event is run by Eynsham Community Primary School PTA and raises valuable funds. As always, the lights, decorations and Christmas tree are provided and set up by the Parish Council team. We hope you enjoy what we've done this year!

Finally, don't forget that the Parish Council only exists thanks to a small band of representatives that give up their time to look after and improve our village. It's fun and rewarding being a Councillor—and very easy to become one. If you're keen to get more involved in the village, get in touch!

Ross Macken

From the Clerk's Desk



During a recent Clerk's conference, discussing local councils reminded me that many people are unfamiliar with how it all works. We are the first tier of local government, most closely aligned to residents. Established in 1894, we hold elections every four years (2027 will be the next).

In Eynsham we are responsible for the skate park and three play areas; the Sports Pavilion and Village Hall. We own the allotments and Bartholomew Room, but both are leased to community groups. We maintain the Fishponds and Dovehouse Close woodland, 16 litter bins and cut Dovehouse Close grass verges and some highway verges.

The Council is proactive on all planning matters and aims to influence future development plans. We have four committees, seven employees (only one full time) and an office at the Village Hall. To fund Council activities (Councillors are unpaid), we have a precept budget: this is approx. £216k for 2023/24. For residents, we cost about 77p per week (Band D property), a comparable rate to Burford, Freeland and Charlbury.

Councillors commit to a Code of Conduct and to ACTing in a certain way to serve the community: being Approachable, Collaborative and Transparent. We achieved the National Association of Local Council's Foundation quality award last year.

Would you like to join us as a Councillor? Email ross.macken@eynsham-pc.gov.uk or epc.clerk@eynsham-pc.gov.uk for further information.

Meet our staff: Rachel Brown



Get to know our new Responsible Financial Officer

How long have you worked for the Parish Council?

I've worked for Eynsham Parish Council since April 2023, but have worked in local government for over 15 years as a town and parish clerk and also in Adoption Services.

Why did you apply?

I love working in the parish council sector and enjoy being able to use my knowledge of financial processes to help the community.

What is the biggest challenge?

It can be a challenge to keep in touch with the rest of the team as I tend to work unusual hours to fit around my other commitments!

What do you do outside work to relax?

I enjoy baking, spending time with my family as well as a bit of amateur dramatics (it's behind you!)

What do you think makes Eynsham a special place?

Eynsham has a great community spirit and there seems to be a lot going on. My children love the skate park too!

What were your earliest ambitions as a child?

I always wanted to be a tap-dancing doctor, although probably not doing both at the same time!

Could you help us tend to Abbey Fishponds? We're seeking volunteers!
Email: ep.comms@eynsham-pc.gov.uk

Events Preview



→ Friday 1 Dec, 5.30pm in the Square!

Light Up Eynsham!

Everyone is welcome to Eynsham's annual community Christmas lights event on Friday 1 December from 5.30pm in the Square.

This year promises to be the best yet, with carols and Christmas songs from the Eynsham Primary Singing Squad, Eynsham choirs and the Eynsham Morris (all inside St Leonard's Church), mulled wine, hot dogs, hot chocolate and festive fayre, and a mass countdown to the turning on of Eynsham's enchanting Christmas lights, with Father Christmas and some very special guests.

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

The Eynsham Repair Cafe

The next session will start 2024 off with an event on January 6, from 2-4pm in the Scout Hall (Back Lane, OX29 4QW).

Bring along items for minor bike repairs, sewing, darning, jewelry, small electrical repairs, and tool sharpening. Follow the Repair Cafe on Facebook or Eynsham Online.

The Repair Cafe acts as a skill share too, with volunteers keen to share with others the skills they need to repair their own things. So, if you want to learn how to repair that puncture on your bike, change the fuse in your lamp or darn your own socks come along to the next event on 6 January 2024.

Eynsham Choral Society

Hallelujah! A concert including Messiah Part 1 plus the Hallelujah chorus, and Vivaldi's Magnificat RV610 will be given by Eynsham Choral Society on Saturday 9 December in St Leonard's church at 7.30pm. Tickets will be on sale for £15 each at Evenlode DIY two weeks before the concert or check our website <https://eynshamchoral.org>.

Eynsham Choral Society's numbers have increased this term; new singers are always welcome—rehearsals are at 7.30pm on Tuesday evenings at Eynsham Primary School.

And in the New Year?

Freeland Wine club 26 January 2024
Chardonnay: The Winemaker's Grape

Led by Wine Club member Sam Newman, this session will explore wines made purely from chardonnay grapes—in different styles, and from different locations around the world. Chardonnay is sometimes known as "The Winemaker's Grape" because so much of the character of the end product is down to decisions made by the producer, rather than simply the grape itself.

To book or to register to get invites to all meetings please email FreelandWineClub@gmail.com



→ Bartholomew Players upcoming production 'Silver Lining'

Ever fancied being someone else? Then join the Bartholomew Players!

The Bartholomew Players were formed in 1975 and have been providing high quality amateur theatre to Eynsham and the surrounding community for almost 50 years! New members are always welcome. If you've ever fancied being someone else, then acting is a great way of taking on a new persona. If you've never experienced the buzz of pulling off a dazzling performance

and getting acclaim from an appreciative audience, Bartholomew Players can give you that opportunity.

There are also opportunities to work behind the scenes, on set-building and decorating, sound and lighting, props, costumes, make-up, prompt, publicity, front-of-house, and refreshments.

Membership fees are £20 a year (less for concessions). Rehearsals are on Wednesday evenings from 7.30pm, in Eynsham Village Hall. E-mail bart.players@gmail.com or visit the website bartholomewplayers.co.uk

Events Diary

See more at Eynsham Online

Sustainable Christmas Market

Sat 2-Sun 3 December,
10am-4.30pm, At Mill St. Arts

Eynsham Country Market

Sat 2 Dec, 9.30-12noon
On the Market Square

Christmas Show and Sale

Sat 2 Dec, 10am-4pm
Old Forge Pottery, Newland St.

Combe Mill Christmas Fayre

Sun 3 Dec, Blenheim Palace Sawmills,
Combe, OX29 8ET. 25 stalls with lots of
goodies and gifts from local traders

Make a Christmas Wreath

Sun 3 Dec, 2-4.30pm
Eynsham Primary School
Cost £40. Email lucy.merry@eynshamapps.co.uk

Eynsham Acoustic Club

Sun 3 Dec, 8-10.30pm at The Swan Hotel

Open Morning Eynsham

Primary School

Wed 6 Dec, 9.15am
For reception starters in Sep 2024
To book your visit, Tel: 01865 881294.
www.eynsham.oxon.sch.uk

Garden Club

Wed 6 Dec, 7pm at the Village Hall
All welcome to the Christmas Party
Contact Simon Hall or committee
members for more details

Christmas Market

Thu 7, Dec, 7-9.30pm at the Market
Garden and Cherry Tree Café
Stalls, mulled wine, festive food
and entertainment

Eynsham History Group

Thu 7 Dec, 7.30-9pm, St Leonard's
Church Hall
Ursula Howard will speak on "My
Family in the Garden City Movement"

Christmas Market at Long Hanborough

Sat 9 Dec, 9.30am-12noon
by Eynsham Country Market

Eynsham Choral Society, Christmas Concert

Sat 9 Dec, 7.30pm, St Leonard's Church

Carols in the Square

Sun 10 Dec, 4pm

The Eynsham Repair Café

Sat 6 Jan, 2-4pm, Scout Hall

Garden Club AGM

Wed 10 Jan, 7.30pm
In the Village Hall

Nature Recovery's Hedge Planting

Sat 13 Jan 2024, 10am-1pm
Meet on Eynsham Playing Fields
(north side)

Regular events

Bump to One

Mondays from 10.30am to midday in
St Leonard's church
For mums-to-be, and mums with kids
up to age 1

Walkie Talkies

Mondays 10-11.30am (Term time),
St Leonards Church Hall
Local playgroup led by volunteers
from St Leonard's Church, who
provide support to parents and young
children. Suitable for 0-4's. Only £1
donation per family!

Eynsham Choral Society

Tuesday evenings at Eynsham
Primary School. Details at
eynshamchoral.org

Warm Welcome Wednesday

from 10.30am to midday,
St Leonard's Church
A place for company and conversation,
everyone welcome

Busy Bees baby and toddler group

Every Friday in term, 9.30-11am,
Baptist Church Hall
£2.50 per family, including drinks
and snacks

School dates

(Check online for INSET days and
early finishes!) EPA: bit.ly/EPA2324
Bartholomew: bit.ly/Bart2324
Spring Term 9 Jan-28 March
Half term: 12-16 February

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: rccarley@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 December edition (about 70
words long) to editor@eynshamnews.org.uk before
7 January 2024

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
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Inclusion of an advertisement does not imply
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This newsletter is 100% recyclable in your
normal recycling bin. It is printed on Carbon
Capture paper which contributes to the
Woodland Trust's tree planting programme.



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Eynsham Good Neighbour Network

Eynsham Good Neighbour Network is here to help those in need living in the village. The Network has a team of volunteers with a range of skills—all have DBS certificates.

Coordinator June Middleton says, “We can help with shopping, prescription collection, minor household repairs, garden tidying, offer transport for local visits to shops or friends, visit for company and more –just ask us—our telephone number is 07443564516.”

Don't miss this year's Carols in The Square



Sunday 10 December, 4pm

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

Help!

Eynsham News needs some new editing and writing help. If you'd like to put some of your time and skills into this local magazine, please email: editor@eynshamnews.org.uk

The last word...

A Great Place to Belong!

By local resident, Verity Hughes
I have been an “incomer” in this village for 30 years. When I first arrived and I passed people in the street nearly everyone looked me in the eye and most said hello. This is a good place to live with a wonderful community spirit; let's make it a friendly and “great place to belong.”

Classified Ads

Advertise your business here,
email: ads@eynshamnews.org.uk

Abbey Properties Independent Estate Agents

Selling homes in Eynsham since 1983. Unrivalled experience of the local property market.
01865 880697 / abbeyprops.com

Alan Craft @ Eynsham Chiropractic Clinic

Chiropractic and bodywork for injuries and day to day pain. Rehab and prehab supportive exercise and coaching. Based in the Witney Road
07832699798 / Alan.chiro@gmail.com
chiropractorcraft.co.uk

Beech Court Nursing Home

“A home from home” for your elderly relations. 37 Newland Street, Eynsham, OX29 4LB. [01865 883611](tel:01865 883611)

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The Burnside Partnership

Specialist Award-Winning Local Private Client Lawyers and Tax Experts
theburnsidepartnership.com
info@theburnsidepartnership.com
[01865 987781](tel: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](tel:01865 884405 / eynshamcellars.com)

Evenlode DIY Eynsham's Tardis

29 High St., Eynsham OX29 4HE
[01865 881392](tel: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](tel: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](tel:01865 726983 / 01993 868924) / 07778 298312 grimebusters.co.uk

Pellmans LLP

Your local solicitors. 1 Abbey Street, Eynsham OX29 4TB. [01865 884400](tel: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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[01993 700009](tel:01993 700009) / www.letting.it

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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](tel:01865 880820)

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Your local wealth manager—we specialise in pension planning, investment planning and protection. Fiona Paton Loader, fiona.loader@sjpp.co.uk, [07780 566468](tel:07780 566468) www.patonfinancial.co.uk

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