



Eynsham



This edition is
Sponsored by
Pheasant
Retreats

Drama at the pub quiz...

See page 10

Village Buzz

Let's get volunteering! Whether your new year's resolution is to gift your time to a worthy cause, get out and about more, or learn a new skill; volunteering is a great way to start 2024.

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, get in touch with the team for more info by emailing editor@eynshamnews.org.uk No experience necessary, just a passion for your local community!



Roadrunner Graham Bridges wins England Athletics 'Club Leader of the Year'

Graham says, "Most of you are probably aware of the Eynsham Running Club. Our membership of 200 have been pounding the roads and lanes of Eynsham for the last 35 years.

"I joined shortly after moving to the village, so 2024 marks my 20th year with the club. It immediately felt like a welcoming group of friends who happen to enjoy running together.

Graham was nominated by Eynsham Roadrunners in the England Athletics 'Club Leader of the Year' awards, citing as a volunteer his 'dedication, enthusiasm, technical skills as well as the long list of positions held within the Club'. Graham was shortlisted, and then won for the Southeast.

The awards evening took place at Windsor, Slough, Eton and Hounslow Athletic Club, the home track of many

illustrious British athletes of the last 50 or so years, of whom the most famous is a certain Mo Farah.

Graham didn't get a chance to make an acceptance speech, but he would have said, "All I do for the club comes under the heading of labour of love, so it never seems like a chore, and how proud I am to be part of such a friendly club!"



Well done, Tony!

Tony Newport has been awarded the Croquet Association Diploma for services to Croquet.

Tony joined Eynsham Croquet Club in 2010. He won the Grass Roots National Competition in 2012 and subsequently won the Centre Stage Competition in 2013.

Tony took up the role of Club Secretary in 2011 and continued until his recent retirement due to family commitments. Many newcomers benefitted greatly from Tony's enthusiasm and coaching skills despite not holding a formal qualification. When Countryfile Live was held at Blenheim Palace, Tony was key to organizing the preparation of the area for the Croquet Court.

Tony also applied his organizational skills to the delivery and construction of a much-admired clubhouse. He masterminded the fundraising to complete the budget and then supervised the complete build to include the clubhouse built on a raised platform to avoid periodic flooding.

Tony's contribution has been immense and ECC is considerably stronger due to his enthusiastic contribution over the years.

Carnival Volunteers

The new Carnival Committee are getting in the swing. They need volunteers to help make it all happen, both helping to organise things now,

and on the day itself. Please email enquiries@eynshamcarnival.com. The Carnival date is Saturday 6 July.

Eynsham Good Neighbour Network

Marshall Leopold says EGNN offers:

- A volunteer driver scheme to taxi people to and from medical appointments. Call 07469 764174 to book or learn more;
- A volunteering and befriending support scheme offering a friendly face to those seeking one. Please Call 07443 564516 to hear what we do. We have a team of DBS certified volunteers with a range of skills.
- Eynsham Food Bank—please call 07450 328530 for help or to make donations

EGNN is actively seeking volunteers—particularly drivers—to support the whole range of our activities. You choose how much time you can spend and when. Regular activities or one off. They all make a difference. We are also keen to hear of situations where we can offer help and support. If there is a need just call one of the above numbers. We are here to help.

Eynsham volunteers needed

explained by Ella

Big Brothers Big Sisters supports young people between 7-11 years, matching them with a volunteer mentor. The programme has been running for over 6 years, and while we often have referrals from social workers to support young people in Eynsham, we do not currently have the volunteer capacity.

'Big Sibling' volunteers are matched with a child between the ages of 7 and 11 and will spend time with them approximately 3 times a month. This could involve going to the cinema, playing at the park, baking, visiting museums—whatever you are both interested in!

Big Siblings must be over the age of 18 (there's no maximum age!), have some experience working with young people, and have some time each month to do activities with your 'Little Sibling'.

For more information email Ella at: bigbrothersbigisters@oxfordhub.org

PHEASANT RETREATS

RESIDENTIAL LETTINGS AND PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

As demand for properties in Eynsham and the surrounding areas has increased markedly over the last year, Pheasant Retreats have been able to support our clients by ensuring a high standard of referencing leading to the right tenants being matched to the right properties.

This also means we are able to achieve the best rents in the area and have the tenancies extending for longer periods of time with lots of satisfied tenants making the property their homes.

Our process is hassle free, straightforward and we do all the work.



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If you are thinking of letting your property in any area, please contact us today.

Find us at 42 Corn Street, Witney

www.pheasantretreats.co.uk · 01993 772555

From around the village



Forever Fields celebrates our precious lands

Thank you to Anthony Thompson, whose vision and backing orchestrated 'The Forever Fields Project' (foreverfields.co.uk) that culminated in an Art Exhibition.

Between 24-26 November, more than 1,100 people visited the art exhibition held at Worton Hall by the Forever Fields project team. Professional and amateur artists created 160 works of art, including paintings, photography, sculpture, audio-visual work, poetry and prose –all celebrating our local green spaces, which are under direct threat from the Botley West power station proposal. Collectively, the artists spoke of their commitment to our fields, to our wild places, to our settlements and to the biodiversity of nature.

It became clear during the exhibition that visitors were united with the artists in their rejection of the Botley West proposal. They could not see how the sacrifice of 11 miles of countryside—75% of it on green belt land—to a single industrial development of 2.5 million ground-mounted solar panels can be justified, especially when alternatives, such as wind power, produce more electricity without harming vital food production. They saw financial greed, rather than a sustainable energy strategy being developed.

Anthony commissioned 'CONNECTED', a willow sculpture by Andy Goodwin of 'Willow Coppice' (willowcoppice.com). As the centre piece of the show, the two interlocking three metre willow circles expressed the interdependence of 'Humans' and 'Nature' (see the

photo in the centre of pages 8-9) A large-scale video installation by Charlotte Holmes, also of 'Willow Coppice' had recorded the movements and sounds of wind in the crops and grasses, rainwater and birdsong and ran throughout the exhibition. 16 minutes long on repeat there was constant reminder of the exhibition focus, with a call of the cuckoo punctuating proceedings.

Before the exhibition opened, all the artworks were photographed and recorded for an archive. If Botley West goes ahead, it will last 40+ years before it is dismantled and the land relinquished. The archive will show how the landscape looked, felt and sounded, and what it meant to the people living, working and walking in it. It can be used to guide future custodians of the land as they help to repair the damage. The Forever Fields team is working on the best way to retain the archive, and how to make it freely and publicly accessible. Details will be shared in due course.

The exhibition was a resounding success—but there is work to be done yet; our fields remain at risk. Watch this space! We will let you know what we are planning next and how you can take part. You can contact us with any feedback or queries at: foreverfieldsproject@gmail.com



Eynsham Good Neighbour Network

A huge Thank You to the whole Eynsham Community for supporting the 17 November Concert at the

Village Hall to raise funds for The Good Neighbour Network.

The Community Choir, Eynsham Morris, The Chamberries and Ruben Lee-Roles gave outstanding performances and showed just how much talent we have in the village. The full house of just over 125 people had a wonderful evening and made it clear that they didn't want the evening to end!

Ticket sales, the raffle and bar sales together with generous support from sponsors and donors of raffle prizes ensured that the evening was also a great financial success. You, the Community, raised an astonishing £1,675 for this good cause. These funds will help us to continue our work within the community and to ensure that the Food Bank can continue to meet a rising need for support in these difficult times.

Thanks also to the organizing team so ably led by Kathie Tanner and comprising June Middleton, Fiona Newton, Emma Burgess and Yvonne Middleton. They and their team of helpers made the evening the huge success it was.

Bartholomew Players 'sail out to triumph' with their record-breaking production of 'Silver Lining' by Sandi Toksvig

The Bartholomew Players broke the audience record previously held by 'Calendar Girls' in 2013 with their recent sell-out production of 'Silver Lining' by Sandi Toksvig, welcoming a staggering audience of 444 people over four nights. The witty story of five old women trapped in a retirement home by rising flood waters and their ingenious, if not a little wacky, solution to build a raft using tables and water bottles to sail to safety raised huge peals of laughter from the audience. The witty one-liners from these octogenarians certainly resonated with the crowd who recognised many of the tribulations of dealing with old age!

The entire proceeds from the raffle at this production went to the Motor Neurone Disease Association (MNDA) Oxfordshire Branch in memory of our own very talented actor Gillian

Somerscales who died this year from this awful disease at the age of just 64.



Encouraged by the very generous raffle prizes on offer, including a family day-pass to Blenheim Palace worth £93, and a silent auction of an original oil painting by local artist (and Gillian's husband) John Somerscales, our generous audience were able to help us beat yet another record; we are delighted to be able to donate £1000 to the MNDA Oxfordshire branch and hope that this money will help local families affected by this debilitating disease.

A BIG thank you to our audience and sponsors for supporting the Bartholomew Players—without you, we would not be able to contribute so much to our local community.

From Murray Sutton

Irene (Rene) Sutton, formerly of Back Lane, passed away peacefully on 15 October 2023 at Miranda House, Royal Wootton Bassett where she had lived for the last 6 years.

Irene was a member of several clubs (the WI, History, Gardening, and Wives Fellowship) in the village and with her late husband Ray edited the first editions of the Roundabout magazine. Irene would also do the annual Red Cross Collection for Back Lane, often taking several evenings to do this as she chatted to every household.

During the 80s and 90s Irene was on the committee that organized the Annual St Leonard's Flower Festival

and would often come up with the themes for this annual village event.

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 to medium sized grants to 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 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 Country Market—looking forward to 2024

We hope our customers enjoyed a restful festive season whilst tucking into Christmas produce from Eynsham Country Market. We are most grateful for everyone's support in 2023 and we would like to thank the Red Lion for continuing to give us space in their garden for our shed. We are looking forward to an equally busy 2024 with lots of exciting markets and we hope our calendar will be available for customers in February.

Our first market of the year will be on Thursday 1 February in the Square from 9am until 10.30am. We will return with our ever-popular freshly baked goods and a range of fresh marmalades which are made during our January 'break'. Our craft stalls

will also be present, and we hope for kind weather in the months ahead.

We aim to hold themed markets throughout the year including Thursday 28 March when our Easter produce will be available. Our wide range of goods will include Simnel cakes, Easter biscuits and iced cookies, Easter crafts and gifts, and much more.

In 2024 we will be celebrating our 40th Anniversary and we are planning to hold a special Saturday market on 18 May from 9.30am until 12pm to mark the occasion. This will also be the date of our special plant market where our gardeners get the chance to sell their home-grown plants.

We are also planning several Saturday markets at the Recreation Hall in Long Hanborough and hope to work with Siemens again during the year to take our market further afield.

For the latest news please see our page on Eynsham Online, follow us on Facebook, Instagram or X, formerly Twitter, or email eynshamcountrymarket76@gmail.com. We are always looking for new producers so if you can bake, make preserves, grow 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 will be sure of a warm welcome.

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.

If you don't have access to email, you can now write to us with an old-fashioned pen and paper. Just label your envelope 'Eynsham News' and drop your submission 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 10 March

Kids and Grownups

by Claire Skinner

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

As we enter the New Year it's likely that we've all done a bit of soul-searching, looking at where we are and wondering what we can do to find more fulfilment in the year ahead. We asked a range of people in Eynsham what they were hoping for in 2024, and what changes they plan to make:

Starting the year well...

It's no secret that many people find January and February a struggle, with January's so called 'Blue Monday' labelled as the most depressing day of the year. We hope that these simple tips are helpful in helping to buck the trend, they can be adapted for all ages!

Be intentional—Like the residents below, set some goals for the month, and no matter how successful you are with them, set some more again next month. Children could aim to get to the library or donate some old toys to the charity shop.

Go outside—Make the effort to go out and get some fresh air and daylight each day, doctors also agree that taking a vitamin D supplement is

important during the winter months. Children could get to the park or make an obstacle course in the garden.

Remember your 'why'—When things feel monotonous or tough, remember the reason you are doing it, what the wider purpose is, and come back to why this particular thing matters. Talking this through with children is helpful; rather than dismissing their grievances, take time to give them the long view.

Take time to do something that gives you life—Even ten minutes each day makes a difference! Children could make a list of their top five activities and try and tick one off each day after school.

Jonathan, age 4 said...

"I want to see my Granny and Grandad more and eat more chocolate."

Phoebe, age 9 said...

"My first hope for the new year is that our government does more action against the climate crisis, instead of just saying they will do and not actually doing it. The second thing I would like this year is for there to be more NHS dentists so that people can afford to be healthy. My final thing I hope for the new year is that everyone, whoever they are, has fun and enjoys themselves!"

Liz, age 35 said...

"I want to make time to be more creative this year, perhaps by having a screen-free evening each week."

Arthur, age 40 said...

"I'm looking forward to getting back into a proper fitness routine, it's suffered a bit since I started working from home and then there was Christmas! It would be nice to get away somewhere a bit different with my family this year too, we haven't been abroad together in a few years!"

Chose to do hard things—As counter-intuitive as it sounds, practicing mind over matter makes us more resilient. You could turn the shower too cold for the last minute, do some exercise even when you don't feel like it, start something you've been avoiding for a while, or start something new. For children, understanding the reason behind this one is important otherwise it will just seem like a punishment. If they're up for a challenge they could eat a vegetable they dislike, tidy their room, set the table...good luck!

Do something kind everyday—Regular acts of kindness without an agenda benefit our sense of wellbeing. Get into the habit of going out of your way to be kind each day and notice your mood improve. Children could make a get-well card and drop it round to a friend or neighbour or share a toy.

The National Trust

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. For more information look on the website www.oxfordcnt.co.uk, email oxfordcnt@gmail.com or ring 07444100273

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

Remember! The deadline for articles, ads and announcements for the next Eynsham News is 10 March. Send copy to editor@eynshamnews.org.uk

Plots and Gardens

by Nick Clapton and Peter Taylor

January starts another year with mud-and-floods to challenge even the most hardy, experienced gardener.

Part of Eynsham Allotments is submerged, and everything seems lifeless, but it won't be long before Spring is with us again and it's time to get organised for the year ahead.

In the veg patch, January is for 'getting ready'—spreading manure or compost, pruning established fruit trees, mending fences and fruit cages, and planning this year's planting including starting some seeds off, for example broad beans, cauliflower, leeks and many other vegetables, though this can roll over into February too.



→ Allotments submerged

By March, some seeds can be sown outdoors maybe with cloches for weather protection or a little delay in sowing if the weather is especially bad. Or plant shallots and onions sets rather than seeds. These are usually available—along with seed potatoes—at Evenlode DIY, or Freeland Nurseries.

Nick says “January to March is a great time to plan for the colours, shapes and scents of the coming spring and summer.

There are huge amounts of resources available in print and online, so find out what appeals to you in terms of planting, colour, formal or informal, lawn, paving, gravel and so on, and then start fleshing out those ideas.

Do a drawing of your plot putting in any existing plants (plant-

identifying apps can be great) and mark where north as this will show you where your shady areas are. Gather pictures of gardens or plants you like, always remembering important details of size, flowering time, and whether they like sun or shade. This might sound like a lot of bother, but it's far better to know before you go to the garden centre and part with your cash (and, yes, I always spend more than I intended).



→ Nick Clapton

Some other garden planning ideas:

1. Herbaceous plants don't really “do” straight lines but prefer curves and soft shapes—design your borders with this in mind.
 2. Few things look worse than a rectangular lawn surrounded by meagre borders. Plan deep borders with wide curves and preferably with some sort of paving between them and the lawn to help avoid edging problems.
 3. A boundary fence always looks better clothed than bare. Try growing a rose up it, then a clematis or two up that. Many established gardens have fences held up by plants, rather than the other way round.
 4. Especially with herbaceous perennials (that die down to nothing in the autumn, but “come back” in the spring) always plant in groups of three or five if possible. This always looks better than odd ones dotted about, the horticultural equivalent of hiccoughs.
- Want to get going now? Well, so long as the soil is not actually frozen, container grown plants can be planted at any time of the year, though waiting for another month or so until the soil begins to warm up gives them a better chance.
- Finally, remember it's your garden, so always feel free to ignore anyone's advice, especially mine!”



Projects Progressing

*An update on
Parish Council activities*

As Eynsham gradually moves closer to the warmer days of Spring, our Councillors and staff continue to remain busy, driving forwards with some of the many projects that we hope to develop in the coming year. Here's a taster of what you can look out for:

Parish Council Properties

Following the transfer of Village Hall management responsibilities back to the Parish Council on expiry of the lease with the Management Committee, we are reviewing various aspects of management, including how the building is used, the hire fees, the health and safety requirements and any necessary refurbishments/improvements.

An ongoing and exciting project is the Sports Pavilion re-build. We're currently working with West Oxfordshire District Council (WODC) to ensure the Pavilion is in the West Oxfordshire Playing Pitch Strategy, which will help unlock funding streams and project support. We also continue to discuss S106 requirements with developers/WODC to support this project. There will be another period of consultation with residents in the community to re-consider designs and ensure the proposals are appropriate and financially viable, so keep an eye out for that.

Shared Spaces

Wharf Stream Way is a popular place for residents to walk and we're currently liaising with Smiths of Bletchingtondon to have the current permissive section of footpath changed to a Public Right of Way. This would provide for a more permanent use and require certain standards be met.

We plan to install a new noticeboard for Thornbury Green and are waiting on permission from Taylor Wimpey to place the new board in the centre of the area.

Development and Design

During the review of our Neighbourhood Plan it emerged that a Design Review Panel would help us thoroughly assess development proposals. We have discussed the idea informally with one of the West Eynsham developers, who welcomed the idea. Further work needs to be done on the governance, with plans for implementation in 2024.

Dates for your Diary

20 Feb, Full Council Meeting – 7.30pm

19 Mar, Full Council Meeting – 7.30pm

16 Apr, 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*



Image →

'Connected', donated to the village by the Forever Field project.

A Note from the Chair



We have ongoing problems with HGVs hitting the Jolly Sportsman pub as they try to turn right from Mill Street. We already have 7.5T lorry restrictions on Witney Road, Cassington Road and Station Road, but lorries are allowed to pass for access.

We've been working with the County Council Highways and Trading standards to improve the situation. There are a number of options, including various physical restrictions, improved signage (we already have one new sign on Mill Street) or further lorry restrictions.

It seems there is no simple solution and some of the options are very expensive and take time to put in place.

We'll keep you informed as we progress; we're determined to get a solution before someone gets seriously hurt. In the meantime, if you see a driver attempting the turn, please ask them politely to reverse back to Thames Street. They can be reported to Trading Standards, but enforcement rates are very low. In cheerier news, we're working with the District Council to create a new art project using Thornbury Green developer monies. More detail to follow on this. We're also thrilled to have had a willow sculpture (pictured left), 'Connected', donated to the village by the Forever Field

project. It was created by local artist Andy Goodwin and is being temporarily stored on Oxford Road as it awaits a permanent spot in the village.



Q&A with our Clerk: Katherine Doughty



How long have you worked for Eynsham Parish Council?

It's been 6.5 years so far but I have been a Parish Clerk for 19 years at various local councils. I also previously worked for NMR Instruments (part of Oxford Instruments) which used to be located at Station Way; I seem to be drawn to Eynsham! That role was a fascinating insight into amazing technology and engineering.

Why do you enjoy this role?

Because I enjoy helping to make Eynsham an enjoyable and attractive place to live. Or, at the risk of being controversial, a 'great place to belong.' The 'marmite' slogan strikes a chord with residents because it really does echo how they feel, whether young or old, new or long-term residents. Doesn't everyone want to belong somewhere and be part of a great community? If my role in the Council enables that, then I think I'm doing the right thing.

How long have you lived in Oxfordshire?

All my life. I grew up in Minster Lovell and have always lived in and around Witney.

How would you describe your approach to your work?

Local governance is about enabling and supporting the community to fulfil its aims in a sustainable way. I am about to embark on the final year of a Community Governance degree, which helps with this.

What do you like about Eynsham as a community?

Here are my top five:

- *it strives for high environmental*

standards (we're going to be focusing more on this in the coming years at the Council).

- *it values its past (e.g. the Eynsham Museum opening and the buildings/heritage preservation).*
- *It's very arty (well done to Mill Street Arts on your new hub!)— although I'd love to see more art in the village centre.*
- *It's quick and easy to access green spaces and the countryside (although we are continuing to review the disability access of footpaths to improve where we can).*
- *I feel safe when I'm out and about, regardless of the time.*

What's the most challenging aspect of your role?

I'm often working on three things at once, so juggling my work priorities is challenging. I don't like to let anyone—or our standards— down, so getting everything done in the right timeframe is difficult.

I also think it's important for all employees to be in the village as frequently as possible to easily identify required tasks, engage with the community we work for and see the effect of our efforts, but that brings a pressure.

What would you like more people to know about the Parish Council?

That we are not like Handforth Parish Council or Vicar of Dibley-esque—and that we need more Councillors! It's a very friendly Council and everyone is respectful and civil. If you have some time, energy and enthusiasm to put into your community and help make some decisions, we'd love to see you.

What do you do for fun?

In my spare time I like to socialise with friends, swim, play the piano (a little!) and bake cakes. I also help tend some rare plants in Minster Lovell, where I used to live, as a member of the Wychwood Flora Group (part of the Wychwood Forest Trust).

These pages have been supported by Eynsham Parish Council

Contact: epc.comms@eynsham-pc.gov.uk or visit www.eynsham-pc.gov.uk. Find us on Facebook and Twitter too!

Events Preview



The Joy of Quiz

by Jon Young

There's a quizzing revolution going on in Eynsham. Jon Young investigates the post-Covid boom in local pub quizzes.

What was your lockdown pleasure? For some, it was walking (remembering to stay two metres apart, of course), taking up that long-forgotten hobby from your youth, or watching Indian street food videos on YouTube. (OK, maybe that was just me.)

For me, it was playing online quizzes, and once the restrictions were lifted, I couldn't wait to get out and play and run pub quizzes once again. A good pub quiz highlights just what is so special about our village: well-run, well-attended events that attract players from across a range of ages and backgrounds.

The longest quiz night?

Eynsham now has nearly half a dozen regular quiz nights in operation, with pubs and organisers careful not to clash. Any week of the month, you can compete to work out the answers to humdingers like these:

- 1) Who was the first ever Radio 1 Breakfast presenter?*
- 2) In which county does the M25 start?***
- 3) Who was born in 1958 in South America before moving to the UK and settling in Notting Hill? They had their big TV break in the 1970s before appearing in a popular 1914 film.***

And the style and range of quizzes is broad, to say the least. The Swan hosts both a general knowledge and music quiz during the month—complete with full use of the overhead projector!—

while both The Red Lion and Evenlode have jumped into the space with quizzes that span a range of topics.

"I started writing music quizzes with my late father back in the early 90s," says Rich Craven, who has been running a quiz at The White Hart for 10 years.

"There's a nice crowd of people who enjoy having their general knowledge and often patience tested over a few drinks."

The White Hart is also home to one of the village's longest-running quizzes. The pub's quiz team, co-captained by Eynsham Runners head honcho, Graham Bridges, competes in the Oxfordshire Quiz League which has been pitting pub against pub for decades.

Every Thursday, county pub teams do battle in a head-to-head format with some seriously fiendish questions on the table. One team boasts a player who appears regularly on ITV's The Chase. The competition each season is as fierce as the questions, and many of the players have been taking part for 20-30 years.

Your starter for 10

With pubs now keener than ever on broadening their appeal, it's never been a better time to get your quiz team together. Entry fees are low (around £1-£2 per person), and cash prizes are usually offered on the night.

Even the local schools are getting involved. Bartholomew School has held charity quizzes for up to 100 people over the past year, while Eynsham Primary School will host a fundraising quiz of its own in the spring.

The task for quizmasters like me is keeping things fresh (the new buzzers are in the post) and attracting new players. So, if you've ever fancied playing quizzes, or you're looking for a new quiz to try, contact one of the Eynsham pubs today.

Jon Young is an editor and writer who runs two quizzes a month at The Swan. He's also a fresh-faced member of the White Hart quiz league team.

ANSWERS
*Tony Blackburn **Kent ***Paddington Bear

"A good pub quiz highlights just what is so special about our village"

Quiz calendar

The White Hart

When: 1st Wednesday of month

Prize: Cash/Lucky Dip

The Swan Music Quiz

When: 2nd Monday of month

Prize: Cash prize / LPs

The Swan Rotary Club Quiz

When: 3rd Monday of month

Prize: Cash/jackpot bonus

The Red Lion

When: 2nd Monday of month

Prize: Cash/jackpot

The Evenlode

(the pub, not the DIY TARDIS)

When: TBA Prize: TBA

Oxfordshire Quiz League

(Details on Facebook)

The Chosen

Have you heard about the groundbreaking historical drama, 'The Chosen', which has been watched by millions of people? The series is based on the life of Jesus seen through the eyes of those who knew him. Set against the backdrop of oppression the drama shares an intimate look at Jesus' revolutionary life and teachings.

You are warmly welcome to come and watch the first season in The Tolkien Room next to St Peter's Church on the first Monday of each month, at 7pm. This season is set in Galilee where Jesus starts to build a group for his ministry, inviting people from different backgrounds to follow him. Please note that the April session will be on Monday 8 April as some people may have prior commitments for Easter Monday, 1 April.

The trailer, called The Shepherd, was shown in The Tolkien Room in November and was well received by all who came along. There was also time for a chat over tea, coffee and cake. Looking forward to welcoming you on Monday 4 March at 7pm...and there will be tea, coffee and cake!

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

Events Diary

See more at Eynsham Online

Acappella Sunday in concert

3 Feb, 7:30-10pm at *The Village Hall*
A musical treat with Brize Norton Military Wives Choir, singing a collection of toe-tapping harmonies spanning the decades. Refreshments will be available, please bring cash. Advance tickets: £10 from Evenlode DIY shop. £11 on the door. Kids under 16 free.

Acoustic Club

4 Feb, 3 March, 8pm at *the Swan Hotel*

Eynsham Repair Café

9 March at *the Scout Hall, OX29 4QW*
Sewing, (creative) darning, small electrical repairs and tool sharpening. Wood repairs, bike repairs (small puncture, gear checks, etc.). Do check online closer to the date for the full list of repairs offered by our amazing team of volunteers. Arrive early to avoid disappointment! Drinks and cakes are available while you wait.

Film: The Chosen

4 March 7pm in *The Tolkien Room, St Peter's Church*
Season 1, Episode 2, Shabbat
All welcome. Refreshments provided

Eynsham Women's Institute 101st Birthday Party

12 March at *the Village Hall*
If you are new to Eynsham a WI meeting is a good way to meet some of your neighbours!

Garden Club

13 March, in *the Village Hall*
A talk given by Ian Paxton called 'Chillies'. New members and visitors always welcome (Cost for visitors is £5)

Classical Music Concert, in aid of Flexicare

15 March, 7pm, at *the Natural History Museum, Oxford*. More info from Flexicare.org/events. A magical 'Night in the Museum' classical concert. The Ivel Trio, comprising of flute, cello and piano will perform amongst the dinosaurs in the stunning University of Oxford Museum of Natural History.

First 'In steam' event at Combe Mill

17 March, 10.30am-3.30pm
The theme is 'Science at the Mill' Until 17 March, The Mill is closed for maintenance, but the Tea Room will be open on Wednesday 6 and 13 March, 11.00am to 2.30pm. Come along and enjoy a cuppa, ham roll or a nice piece of cake, all are most welcome, including dogs! Parking free 'Open Wednesdays' start 20 March, 10.30am-3.30pm for self-guided tours, with volunteers on hand to talk about Combe Mill and its history. Adults £5.00, Concessions & Children £4.00

Ecumenical service for Good Friday

29 March, 10am, on *the Square*
Followed by hot cross buns for all

Easter Sunday Services

31 March, 10am at *St Peter's / 10.30am at St Leonards and Eynsham Baptist*

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 & toddler group

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

Eynsham Community Choir

Thursdays 7:15pm for tea, 7:30pm-9pm singing, Baptist Church Hall
An open, welcoming village choir with a big heart. No experience necessary. Info: emilyschoirs.co.uk

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 April edition (about 70 words long) to editor@eynshamnews.org.uk before 10 March 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 necessarily those of the News Group. Inclusion of an advertisement does not imply endorsement of the product, service or event.

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



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Events Diary Cont...

School dates

Check online for INSET days and early finishes!) EPA: bit.ly/EPA2324
Bartholomew: bit.ly/Bart2324
Spring Term ends 28 March
Summer term begins 15 April

2024 at St Peter's Roman Catholic Church Abbey Street, Eynsham

Passion/Palm Sunday Masses

Saturday 23 March 5pm
Sunday 24 March 10am

Maundy Thursday

Mass of the Lord's Supper
Thursday 28 March Mass 8pm

Good Friday

Solemn Passion & Veneration of the Cross, Friday 29 March 3.00pm

Holy Saturday Vigil Mass

Saturday 30 March 8pm

Easter Sunday Mass

Sunday 31 March 10am

Copy Deadline for Eynsham News 67 Sunday 10 March

One last thing...

Back in voice

by Sarah Medina

A new term of singing is about to begin, starting on Thursday 11 January and running through to 28 March. You are warmly welcome to join us; no experience needed and no need to read music. We sing beautiful songs from far and wide, in many styles, including folk, vintage pop, lullabies, shanties, gospel and more.

Last term, we performed at a couple of lovely community events. There's no pressure to perform at gigs, but it's a lot of fun! Next, we'll be singing at the Peace Oak Wassailing event on Saturday 13 January at 4:30pm. Do come and watch us—or, better still, join us in voice! More info: emilyschoirs.co.uk
Contact: Emily Marshall, 07969 522368

Classified Ads

Abbey Properties Independent Estate Agents

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Alan Craft @ Eynsham Chiropractic Clinic

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chiropractorcraft.co.uk

Beech Court Nursing Home

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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

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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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