

Eynsham News is published by a local, not-for-profit voluntary group.

Issue 67 | *March 2024*



Eynsham

This edition is
Sponsored by
The Eynsham
Churches

Winter floods

Elaine Rhodes captured Eynsham's underwater cricket ground, with a vibrant reflection in the flood water.

Village Buzz

Carnival Volunteers

It's not too far away! Mark your calendars for the 76th Carnival Day on Saturday, 6 July—it's also the Shirt Race which is not to be missed!

The Eynsham Carnival is a community organised event that relies on volunteers. The organisers will be reaching out to village groups for help on the day, including ticket sales. Any groups or individuals that are interested in helping can register to volunteer on the Carnival website: eynshamcarnival.com/volunteer/index.htm.

We have our pharmacy back!

Allied is now fully stocked and needs you to help them stay alive and well. We are lucky as many local pharmacies have closed due to lack of support.

Allied offers a free delivery service, run by Keith. Staff are professionally trained to a high standard providing a range of treatments and solutions; they can prescribe certain medications, treat minor conditions and assist with repeat meds. If needed, they can make a GP referral.

The Phone Book

The UK's well-known 'Phone Book' will cease to exist from March 2024.

The printed and online directory, with a circulation of over 19 million, offered access to residential and business information. Did you get your copy?

Online, there is a body of records and amazing historical images that can be accessed. newsroom.bt.com/image-library

Garden Net Zero Winner

Government planning inspectors had tried to 'water down' the net zero ambitions of West Oxfordshire District Council for the Salt Cross development. But in a High Court ruling, the judge, Mrs Justice Lieven, said the inspectors had got it wrong, issuing the stinging comment that, "if they had properly understood and applied national policy, then they might well have reached a different

set of conclusions."

This is a 'win' for action from communities and local councils. Councillor Andy Graham, leader of WODC, added: "We want this to be a ground-breaking, sustainable housing development, which is why we pushed for higher standards in regard to net zero carbon homes and energy efficiency."

Are you Gen Z?

By Suzie Chadwick

Yes, that's you 11-26-year-olds! Do you know Gen Z says it's sexy to go to the library and pick up a physical book to read? I'm sure it applies to all generations, so put down the electronic devices and go to Eynsham Library—feel young and sexy again! Services and facilities: eNewspapers and eMagazines, Books in other languages, Audio books, eBooks and eAudio, DVDs, Free wi-fi, Computers and Internet, Local studies collection, printing and copying. The library website has a renewal service, and you can book to use a computer too.

New children's homes jobs

Oxfordshire County Council are opening four new children's homes in late 2024 and they need people who can nurture vulnerable children and shape their future. The three existing children's homes are all OFSTED-rated good and have some aspects that have been rated good or outstanding.

If you think this could be for you—if you've got love to give and a passion for helping children achieve their best possible future—then look at the jobs on the website: oxfordshire.gov.uk/council/working-oxfordshire-county-council

Report Potholes

Oxfordshire's Fix My Street, which allows anyone to report potholes, faulty streetlights and a host of other street defects and queries, has been updated. There have been changes that allow more detail to be asked up front to make sure the query goes to the right department or council, making it quicker for teams to resolve. fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk

Botley West

The developer's latest consultation did not go well. Local MP Robert Courts said residents were "quite rightly furious" about "the lack of objectivity to questions on land use and special circumstances".

Residents have demanded a re-run of the consultation to include, this time, a readiness to listen to legitimate concerns.

You can join the call for a re-run by writing a letter/email requesting the consultation to be done again. The website stopbotleywest.com has more information.

The Rotary Club of Eynsham

Within the Eynsham community, the Rotary Club stands as a beacon of service and goodwill.

Founded in 1905 by Paul Harris in Chicago, Rotary initially served as a forum for professionals from diverse backgrounds to exchange ideas and foster goodwill. Today, Rotary International spearheads numerous initiatives aimed at addressing pressing global challenges.

From organising charity events and fundraisers to offering practical support to local schools and community projects, Eynsham Club members are dedicated to making a difference right here in the village as well as participating in Rotary International projects.

Tessa Hammond says, "If you share our passion for service and community and can spare 2 evenings a month, we invite you to join the Rotary Club of Eynsham.

"Whatever your age and whether you're a seasoned professional or a newcomer to Eynsham, there's a place for you in our friendly, informal and welcoming group. You'll have the opportunity to make meaningful connections, develop new skills, and most importantly, contribute to positive change in our community and beyond. We meet in the function room of the Swan on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month."

For more information, visit the website at rotary-ribi.org/clubs/homepage.php?ClubID=2080



What ‘eggs-actly’ are you looking forward to this Easter? Eggs-cited about time off work or school? Eggs-tra glad about catching up with family? Eggs-pectant about receiving chocolate in the shape of something which normally comes out of a chicken?!

All these things are great, but Christians look forward to this time of year because of events at the centre of their faith.

Good Friday has a Roman 1st Century cross with a willing Jesus offering His life for us—a sacrifice as a cure for your selfishness. Jesus’ body broken to deal with our brokenness.

Easter Sunday has an empty tomb and a Jesus who is alive. Death defeated and life embraced. Hope for us all in the face of the grave, and in our daily struggles, right now.

The churches in Eynsham will be celebrating these Easter themes in the week leading up to Easter Sunday.

In the meantime:

- May all your eggs be creme-filled!
- May time with family and friends be rewarding!
- May the Easter (Jesus) celebrations bring you hope and joy!

What they say about Easter Sunday:

“Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; He has risen.”

Luke: First Century disciple.

“Let all things seen and unseen, Their notes of gladness blend. For Christ the Lord has risen, Our joy that has no end.”

John: Eighth Century Syrian priest.

“Jesus being alive helps me live with strength for today and hope for tomorrow.”

Eynsham resident:

Twenty first Century Christian

A two-week Easter holiday?

Martin Flatman writes about Eynsham’s Abbot Aelfric

Eynsham’s archaeological dig in the 1980’s discovered that there were at least two Abbey buildings.

The one where Aelfric was Abbot was founded in 1005 but a larger Norman one was built in 1109.

Winters in the World, by Eleanor Parker, is a book that gives us a fascinating glimpse not just of Aelfric but of the Anglo-Saxon world that marked the beginning of our village.

Regarding Easter, Alfred the Great (848-899) decreed: “That labourers should be free from work for the whole week before and the whole week after Easter,” and we hear how everyone got involved in re-enacting the events with a procession waving branches on Palm Sunday, foot washing on Maundy Thursday and kneeling before a cross on Good Friday. Catholic churches still do this.

Aelfric would have read Bede’s claim that the name Easter is based on a pagan goddess called Eostre; but this is a puzzle because there is no other sign in the Anglo-Saxon world of such a goddess. *Winters in the World* suggests that perhaps the name sprang from Eastry in Kent where there may have been worship of a very local kind; but whatever its origin, Easter is the name that we inherit from the Anglo-Saxons for this Christian festival.

Easter at our Churches

Good Friday 29 March, 10am
Ecumenical Service in
The Square followed by
coffee and hot cross buns.

St Peter’s Catholic Church, Eynsham

Palm/Passion Sat 23/Sun 24 March,
Mass 5pm Saturday
and 10am Sunday
HOLY TRIDUUM

Maundy Thursday, 28 March 8pm,
Mass of the Lord’s Supper
Good Friday, 29 March 3pm,
Solemn Passion and Veneration
of the Cross
Easter Vigil Saturday 30 March,
8pm Vigil Mass
Easter Sunday 31 March,
10am Mass

St Leonard’s Church of England

Palm Sunday 24 March, 10.30am

Holy Communion

Maundy Thursday

28 March, 4-6pm

Easter Family Dinner

Craft, games and dinner for
all the family at St Leonard’s
Church Hall

Then at 7pm

Candlelit Tenebrae

Communion Service

As candles are extinguished,

we remember the events

which lead up to Good Friday.

Good Friday 29 March, 2pm

Last Hour of the Cross

Easter Day

Sunday 31 March, 10.30am

Easter Family Celebration

Eynsham Baptist Church

Maundy Thursday

28 March, 12 noon

Communion Service

Easter Day Sunday 31 March, 8am

Communion service followed

by breakfast

Then at 10.30am

Easter Celebration

All are welcome to any of these events

Around the village

Singing it out loud

by Hannah Shaw

You might have heard that singing is good for the soul—proven to strengthen group connections, improve memory and wellbeing and even lower stress—and with an abundance of musical groups including the Eynsham Choral Society, Acapella Sunday, Eynsham Abbey Singers and Fledgelings Sing (for young families), our village is clearly invested in the musical spirit.

Eynsham Community Choir

Considering this, readers may be surprised to hear that just over a year ago, the ten-year-old Eynsham Community Choir had dropped to only eight members post-covid and was verging on being closed down. But now, after just five months, there are as many as 50 people at each meeting and the group continues to grow stronger and louder.

Rejuvenated by the arrival of a new choir leader, Emily Marshall, they meet every Thursday in the Baptist church hall.

Emily, who has been running singing groups around Oxfordshire for over a decade, puts the success down to “the energy and personality of the village”, with people's enthusiasm helping interest to spread by word of mouth. She encourages everyone to come along and try it out; “singing is for everybody—everyone is entitled to sing and every voice counts”. The songs are a joyful and eclectic mix, some famous and others obscure, ranging from classical to jazz and blues, vintage pop to gospel, contemporary and folk, and often songs from other countries—the choir has even sung in Ukrainian! So, there is sure to be something for everyone. Optional performances by the group have spread the joy to the wider community, recently appearing at the Peace Oak Wassail and helping to raise £1,675 for the Eynsham food bank as part of the village hall community concert in November.

Sue Raikes, part of the group's

committee, told us: “I have been in the choir for many years and through many phases. We sing better now. The atmosphere is lively, new people are joining, and the choir is a strong community within the wider village. We also have a good time at the pub after practising!”, while Julien, a new member, describes the choir as, “brilliant. The teacher is magical.”

In one practice, the choir began with a rousing and melodramatic Slovakian folk song (Young Rider, Apple Cheeked One), followed by a song with a story, The Bells of Norwich, which relays the uplifting message from a mystic nun Julian of Norwich that “Love, like the yellow daffodil is coming through the snow, all shall be well again, I know.” Each section of the choir has their own tune which comes together in a beautiful harmony, filling the room with sound

The final song of the night was the iconic and spirited Jolene, and every part of the choir certainly had fun channelling their inner Dolly Parton in their rendition.



→ The group grows stronger!



→ The Choir meets every Thursday

Here are some of the choir members' own highlights:

Tessa—“*when a song we've been working on suddenly comes together—it gives you goosebumps. It's a part of village life that brings us all together*”

Larry—“*Bright lively songs are fun*”, he also loves “*slower songs that create harmonies. It's brilliant having lots of people here now and there's less pressure on the singers in a bigger group.*”

Steve—“*The reformed choir has a real buzz about it. We have a brilliant choir mistress; she is fun and easy to follow*”

Emily Marshall—“*people who sing together laugh together.*”



→ Choir – it's for blokes as well

Want to get involved?

The group runs regular Saturday afternoon workshops for anyone to come along to, and the next one is the Big Spring Sing! on Saturday 24 April 2024, celebrating the joys of spring. Meetings are Thursday evenings, and while singing runs from 7:30pm to 9:00pm many people turn up from 7:00pm to chat and have tea, coffee and a bite to eat. You can walk in and try out the session for free, and, if you like it, joining is £50 a term.

The Eynsham Choral Society

The society meets on Tuesday evenings, 7:30 to 9:30 at the primary school during term time and welcomes “anyone who enjoys singing and would like to perform a variety of great choral music”. They have around 50 members, ranging from absolute beginners to accomplished singers taking on solo parts.

Their next event is Saturday 18 May 2024: Faure's Requiem and Cantique de Jean Racine, Rheinberger's Stabat Mater and Haydn's Te Deum for Empress Marie Therese, taking place in Saint Leonard's Church. For ticket details and how to join, visit eynshamchoral.org/ or email at info@eynshamchoral.org.

Acapella Sunday

sing at The Music Room off Queen Street (7:30-9:30pm every Sunday evening) and are “a group of fantastically enthusiastic people singing popular songs without instrumental accompaniment... singing without a safety net.”

Contact via Facebook, or via their page on Eynsham Online.

For Under 5s and their parents/carers, **Fledgelings Sing** is a great way to share some musical fun and meet other families. Sessions cost £2 per family including refreshments. "There will be lots of actions, some colourful props and the opportunity to play with toy musical instruments. Then the grown-ups get the chance for a chat over a cup of something".

It happens at The Scout Hut, Back Lane, Eynsham, OX29 4QW

T: 01865 881 787. Wed 10:30-1:30am during term time. Contact Marie Mills via Eynsham Online

Eynsham Abbey Singers

hold concerts in St Peter's Church, Abbey Street, Eynsham, in support of the Gatehouse charity and volunteers. Contact Marie Bridge at 15 Newland Street, Eynsham, OX29 4LB, or email via Eynsham Online.

Why is singing good for you?

By Nick Clapton who has been a

professional singer and singing teacher for 40 years but is "still learning how to get better at both"!

As you sit reading this you are breathing instinctively, small breaths of about half a litre, and you're doing that between twelve and fifteen times a minute. This is the breath of sleeping, reading, eating, talking, listening, watching TV, the little breath we don't notice we're taking, the one that is, fortunately, automatic.

When you sing, you need to take much larger breaths, six or seven times larger. This isn't 'unnatural', since the body is perfectly capable of taking larger breaths in stressful situations like running for a bus, cycling up a hill, or running away from an angry goat/lion/spouse. The only odd thing for a 'singing breath' is taking that larger amount of air in a conscious way and in a situation that isn't stressful. The closest analogy is probably the breath one takes when about to swim - your body knows it will need air to do this, and knows to breathe before arriving in the water, rather than after, in

order not to drown.

The rhythm of the music you are about to sing should be in that 'big breath'—it doesn't take but a moment to fill your lungs, making blood pump round your body, which in turn enhances the production of positive hormones such as endorphins and dopamine, which help with relaxation and well-being, and of oxytocin, the hormone of belonging, goodwill to your fellow humans, and the one released when a mother sings to her baby or you look affectionately at your dog. Singing is also a natural de-stressor, reducing the secretion of cortisol.

Another great thing about singing is that you cannot control the noise you make. You've been making noise since you arrived on this planet, and brain wave patterns when we sing are very different from those when we talk. Singing should be about where the music and text are going, not "am I doing it right?" (whatever that means)

So, fill those lungs, say those words, and let the singing happen!

The Music Room



The Music Room is owned and managed by Adam and Alice Short, who moved to Eynsham in July 2023 with their son, Max. It is a unique village space available to hire. Alice told us, "The Music Room creates a warm and welcoming environment lending itself to numerous activities. Our regular users include local choirs, yoga classes, sound meditation, community group meetings and more. We have also welcomed several other functions from Christmas parties, wine tastings, children's parties, family lunches, and music recitals. "We aim to provide a friendly, personal and affordable service and we pride ourselves on being able to support many local start-up businesses, community activities and charity events. "We look forward to welcoming you to The Music Room. Please get in touch and we can work with you to make your event at the Music Room a success."

themusicroomeynsham.co.uk

Get outdoors

On the pitch

by *Martin Flatman*

Football for Tinies—If you walk down the Bitterell on a Sunday morning, or visit the Play Park on the North Playing Field, you will have probably seen a happy group of Reception and Year 1 boys and girls having great fun. Everyone has a ball, and all abilities are included; and it is good to see them exploring various football skills as well playing other games. They are the most junior part of the Eynsham Football Club and this, the youngest group, meet on Sundays between 10 and 11. If you know of someone who would like to join in, or if you have any questions then please contact Tom Roberts tom.roberts47@gmail.com. The next stage up, the Under 7's and Under 8's, play in the Oxford Youth League on a Saturday and train on a Monday.

Football Success—In fact, there are lots of active youth football teams in our village. Look up the website eynshamfc.co.uk/ and you can see that the Under 14's team is top of their league; but there are teams for teenagers at every level up to the Under 21's. They are also in the process of trying to get some girls' teams going, so watch this space! On their website they write: "We are a Chartered Standard Football Club, committed to providing amateur football opportunities for everyone from the village and throughout the surrounding area. This season our junior and youth teams play in the Oxfordshire Youth Football League. If you are interested in playing the beautiful game, please email eynsham72@gmail.com".

Plots and Gardens 2

by *Nick Clapton & Peter Taylor*

Pollinators please!

Pollinators are all those creatures who keep the circle of life going by moving pollen from one flower to another, fertilising the plants and leading to

the growth of fruit or seeds. Bees, insects and even some animals do this as they visit flower after flower, plant after plant. Of course, the nectar they collect feeds the bees and insects themselves, but it also feeds us when we harvest the fruit that is produced.

We can help pollinators by growing plants that attract and feed them—and by growing those 'favourite' plants near our food crops, we can help them get fertilised too.

One of the great excitements for the keen gardener is the appearance of new varieties of plants, often unusual forms of familiar flowers: double primroses, many-petalled roses, and the like. There is one problem with some of these: pollinating insects can't always get their noses (or rather proboscis) into them to drink nectar and acquire the pollen. So, one way to be certain of attracting pollinating insects to your garden and allowing them to do their very important work is to plant varieties of plants that have simpler flowers. For example, make sure that at least some of your roses have open, flat-faced flowers, often reminiscent of wild types. Excellent examples are the scarlet-flowered climber "Soldier Boy", the bush rose, "Canary Bird" which is smothered in small flowers of a soft yellow, or "Fru Dagmar Hastrup", which grows to only 4 feet (1.2 metres) and smells wonderful.

Alongside new varieties of herbaceous plants include some well-tried forms and species, such as the nettle-leaved bellflower *Campanula trachelium*, which has white and blue forms. Many pollinating insects visit open daisy-flowered "composites", of which there are so many it's almost impossible to know where to start—try *Rudbeckia* "Goldsturm" a very reliable yellow daisy at about two foot six (75cm). On your fences and walls honeysuckle is a must, and one of the best is *Lonicera halliana*, virtually indestructible and often semi-evergreen—its scented flowers even have a way of showing you that they have been pollinated by changing colour from white to cream-yellow.

Many fruit trees hum with bees early in the season, as do crab apples,

one of the best of which is *Malus* "Evereste", while later in the year that humming transfers to ivy, whose flowers are a valuable late source of nectar, and in winter mahonia can provide the same. At the turn of the year, there is little more charming in the garden than a brave bumble bee blundering about in a patch of snowdrops.

Hedging is another good place for pollinator-friendly plants such as hawthorn and wild rose, and a mixed, "native" hedge is a much more attractive prospect than regimented, clipped conifers. Mixing in other thorny species like sloe and blackberry alongside hazel and guelder rose, will ensure an invader-proof barrier that is also wildlife friendly.



On the native front, meadow planting has been much promoted in recent years, not least in being "easy" and "low maintenance". A word of warning: it isn't! Digging over a patch of soil and just chucking in a packet of "Wildflower Seeds Mixed" probably won't work. Vigorous grass seeds will also germinate, as will other nasties, and you might just end up with a confused, weedy mess. Though it's more expensive, planting good-sized plug plants of wild species is a much better bet, and there are nurseries that specialise in supplying these (a quick internet search will reveal several). If making a meadow in an area of already-existing grass you'll also need to plant yellow rattle, parasitic on grass, which will allow other plants to become established. Also, meadows do not happen overnight, but require careful maintenance over many years—have a look at the meadow areas of the wonderful garden at Great Dixter to see how it's really done.

Not all pollinators are pretty butterflies and bees. Britain's climate

is too cold for fig wasps to survive, but in warmer countries the one literally cannot survive without the other. If you sit in your garden late of a summer's evening you may well hear the rapid fluttering of an elephant hawkmoth moth pollinating honeysuckle, while Scottish gardeners should be especially grateful to even the common housefly, since it acts as a useful pollinator in northern latitudes, where bees are often scarce.

On a veg plot or allotment, you can attract pollinators by growing flowers as well as crops. That's quite a simple idea. But you can take it one step further by experimenting with **companion planting**, which is **an organic method of maintaining a natural balance in your garden by growing plants together that are mutually beneficial**. Planted together, certain plant combinations can aid pollination, prevent disease and keep pest numbers down.



→ Companion planting



→ Caterpillars love nasturtium

Put 'companion planting' into a search engine and you'll find heaps of ideas. Have you ever seen how those big fat caterpillars love nasturtium leaves? So, plant nasturtium round your cabbages, kale and cauliflower, and the butterflies will head to the nasturtium first. In the same way, herbs like mint, chives and basil can help protect your tomatoes, sweat peas can help your beans and marigold will help protect your courgettes. Nature has many 'built-in' answers if we take time to find them.



→ Bartholmew students with their unpainted Ox

Join OxTrail Fundraiser for Sobell House Hospice

Bartholomew School has joined the inaugural OxTrail fundraiser to raise funds for Sobell House Hospice. Drawing inspiration from successful initiatives like the Cotswolds Hare Trail and the Wallace and Gromit trail, this event marks a first for Oxfordshire, promising an exciting venture for the community.

The OxTrail, set to unfold over eight weeks in the summer, features 30 life-sized oxen artfully crafted by local artists, alongside 85 mini versions imaginatively designed by schools and youth groups. To kickstart the fundraising efforts, Bartholomew School organised a non-uniform day, raising an impressive £1,250 in donations.

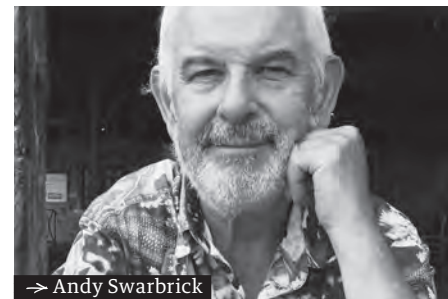
Among these mini marvels, our own 'Bart,' made a grand entrance at the end of February. The School's Art Department has launched a spirited competition, inviting Year 7 students to unleash their creativity in designing the school's entry for the trail, taking inspiration from the local community. Anticipation runs high as Bartholomew School eagerly awaits further updates regarding the trail, with hopes that the community will enthusiastically partake in the adventure during the upcoming summer holidays.

We look forward to sharing further news of the OxTrail and pictures. At the end of the trail Bart will come back to Bartholomew School and many of you will be able to meet him! sobellhouse.org/oxtrail

On a diet

When Andy Swarbrick moved to Eynsham in 2012, he had been a vegetarian for over 30 years. A keen environmentalist, Andy joined GreenTEA so he could get to know like-minded locals while trying to

reduce Eynsham's carbon footprint. His Eynsham accolades include chairing the allotment committee for 10 years and running the First & Last Mile buses, which he does to this day. After a health scare, Andy adopted a whole-food, fully plant-based diet after a painful process of elimination and reintroduction. This is his story:



→ Andy Swarbrick

"I have had arthritis since 1976, aged 23. After being told nearly every joint in my body was that of a 50 year old, arthritis-wise, it settled down and was largely manageable with anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs). That changed dramatically in 2015 when it developed into full-blown rheumatoid arthritis—and very much out of control. I had to retire on grounds of ill-health, modify my home, and use a wheelchair to get around. This was my own "annus horribilis".

"Searching the web, I came across the 'Paddison Program', which appealed to me as a non-prescriptive solution. The programme began with an (almost) total dietary elimination, but was soon followed by a re-introduction of foods with sufficient nutrients. This proved to me, beyond doubt, that what I had been eating was at least contributing to my arthritic pain.

"This whole process lasted 6 months, from April 2016 until early October. My resulting diet has stood the test of time; nearly 8 years later and my diet has hardly changed. It is a diet consisting of plant-based whole foods, with minimal processed foods and (unfortunately) no nightshade plants (tomatoes and white potatoes).

"Through adhering strictly to this diet, I have been able to substantially reduce all my medication and even walk from Eynsham to South Leigh and back! For me, this is a miracle, and testament to how important diet is for my health."



Our Budget

for 24/25

Transparency is one of our commitments; this includes talking about the Budget.

Each year, much debate and analysis goes into preparing the budget. The decision to increase the annual charge is never taken lightly and we'd like to explain why this is happening. The annual charge for a band D residence in Eynsham will rise from £100.85 to £123.84; an increase of £22.99 in total, or 44p per week. This will appear as a 22.8% increase on your council tax bill, although we remain a 'cheaper' place to live than nearby parishes based on the 23/24 data, such as Witney, Bampton and Chipping Norton.

Why is it going up?

The number of Councillors continues to fall; we are just nine of a possible 15. As a result, we rely more heavily on our officers to complete activities. Workload has also increased due to the Village Hall now being under our management. To cope with this, we're bringing our Deputy Clerk in full time (previously part-time).

Much like other organisations, we also continue to see rising costs in areas such as energy, materials, sub-contractor costs and salaries. We also have to find extra funds for additional responsibilities such as reinstalling and emptying a number of public waste bins in the village, previously handled by the District Council.

To try and save money on contractor fees, we've decided to move more maintenance activities 'in-house', using our own staff, which allows us to respond more efficiently to issues. To facilitate this, we will lease a vehicle for moving staff and equipment around the parish, which will reap benefits in the future.

Finally, as we increase our annual expenditure, we must also increase the reserves that we hold to cover an unexpected event (such as fixing a boiler). We have budgeted for this too.

New for 24/25

Maintenance team and vehicle, full time Deputy Clerk, Art Trail, new play equipment, Village Hall management, Sports Pavilion project

What's the alternative?

If we'd decided to maintain the Parish Council tax as per last year, we'd have had to reduce the work we do. We felt it was important to maintain key activities in Eynsham so have opted for a moderate rise, while seeking to find cost savings where possible.

Residents could help us by considering becoming a Councillor. Contact us to find out more about what's involved; it's interesting, varied and great fun! Any questions can be emailed to epc.comms@eynsham-pc.gov.uk.

A Note from the Chair



I previously mentioned the art project in my last column—I can now share more detail. Working with the District Council, we are using some developer funds from Thornbury Green to create an Art Trail in the village. This will be a circular walk (starting at Thornbury Green) with exciting, all-weather pieces of art along the route. The art will be created by local artists and organisations and gradually added to the trail. Our first sculpture will be placed on the Oxford Road roundabout soon. There will be an opportunity for community involvement in creating new art for the trail; keep an eye out for more details on this.

It was a pleasure to see many of you at our recent Annual Parish Meeting. Thank you to all those who attended. It's been a few years since we changed to our new format for the APM, making it less formal and creating more networking opportunities.

We hope you're all enjoying this approach as much as we are; it's a useful and interesting update on Parish activities.

Finally, we were delighted that the High Court found that Government Planning Inspectors were wrong to remove net zero targets from the Salt Cross Garden Village Area Action Plan. This shows that communities can challenge the Government and developers over poorly-considered schemes and win.

From the Clerk's Desk



The Parish Council's Strategic Plan originally listed 49 tasks/projects; half of these have now been completed or pursued as far as possible. The Council is now turning attention to the next key projects on the list, some of which I have listed below.

The Sports Pavilion remains a top priority and will be actively progressed. We discussed the rebuild project with Leisure Projects Officers at West Oxfordshire District Council and it is felt that a redesign (and some downscaling) is needed to make it financially achievable, while retaining opportunities for extending according to business demand in the future.

We are also planning a new village Art Trail and seek to replace old equipment at Dovehouse Close Play Area, although the latter will require grants/crowdfunding. We are also continuing to investigate potential solutions to the problem (and damage) of HGVs coming through the village.

To help improve biodiversity and the standard of village amenity, the Council hope to create a grounds maintenance team. This will also help to control spiralling contractor costs.

These are just some of the many projects ongoing at the Council. We continue to seek additional Councillors to help us pursue all this work and represent the community in local government. If you're considering it, contact us to chat.

Q&A: Richard Wilkins, Deputy Clerk



How long have you worked for the Parish Council?

Since September 2021, just over two and a half years.

What other roles have you had?

I have a full-time position (a job I've had for 17 years) alongside working part-time with the Parish Council. Good news: I will be shifting to work full-time with the Parish Council from April!

What do you enjoy about your work?

I enjoy working with a great team (staff and councillors) to provide services to Eynsham that all residents of any age can access and enjoy.

What's the most challenging part?

Not having enough hours in the day to complete tasks and so having to prioritise the workload can be challenging, especially as everything is important to residents.

What project are you most proud of so far?

This is easy: the Old Witney Road Playground renovation. The project involved liaising with various stakeholders, which was a challenge at the time, but the result was fantastic.

What do you like about Eynsham?

From day one, I was made to feel welcome. I also have to mention the Eynsham Carnival: wow what an event! It felt like the whole village came together.

You can contact Richard on epc.office@eynsham-pc.gov.uk

Dates for your Diary

19 March, 16 April, 21 May – 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

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 Diary

See more at [Eynsham Online](#)

Eynsham Community Choir And The Woodentops

Sat 23 March, Village Hall, 7.30pm.
Tickets £12.50 in aid of Rotary Club
charities. Tickets from DIY or
trybooking.com/UK/DDQM
Roy Wilkinson 01865 883916

Eynsham Country Market

Thu 28 March, 9am, Market Square
Special Easter Market

St Leonards Families Easter Dinner

Thursday 28 March, 4-6pm in St.
Leonard's Church Hall
Email, Rabea Meango:
slpfamilies@gmail.com

Acoustic Club

Sun 7 April, 5 May, 8pm the Swan Hotel

Film: The Chosen

8 April, 7pm Season 1 Episodes 5 & 6

The Wedding Gift and

Indescribable Compassion

13 May 7pm Season 1 Episodes 7 & 8

Invitations and I Am He

Both events in The Tolkien Room,
St Peter's Church. Please note both
dates changed from the first Monday to
avoid Bank Holidays. Refreshments
provided. All very welcome.

Garden Club

Wed 10 April, 7.30pm Village Hall
Bob Brown—Too many plants, too
little space. Everyone welcome. £5

Small and Mighty youth theatre Present 'Orchestra'

Sat 27 April, 11am, at the North Wall
in Oxford

Eynsham Repair Cafe

Sat 11 May, 2 to 4pm, in the Scout Hall.
All about fixing things—sewing,
electrical, bikes, jewellery and wood.

Eynsham Choral Society Spring Concert

18 May, 7.30pm, St Leonard's Church,
Eynsham. Tickets in advance via
choir members, website, and
Evenlode DIY—£15 per ticket which
includes a programme

Bridewell Gardens

Thu April 25 to Sat April 27
Plant Sale 10am-1pm

Garden Club Plant Sale

Sat May 11, 9am, Market Square

Freeland Orchestra

Sat 11 May at 2pm at
St Leonard's Church
Mendelssohn's Italian Symphony,
Overture to The Merry Wives of
Windsor by Nicolai, music from The
Tsar's Bride by Rimsky-Korsakov
Tickets on the door £5 and free for
Under 18s. FreelandOrchestra.org

Wind Concert

Sat 11 May, 7.30pm,
St Leonard's Church.
Four Wind Groups, conducted by
Wendy Marks.
Handel, Tchaikovsky, Holst; John
Williams, Frank Sinatra, Glen Miller,
Les Miserables and Wallace and
Gromit! Tickets £5 and free for under
18s. OxfordWoodwind.co.uk

Bartholomew Players 'A pack of lies'

Wed 15-Sat 18 May

Eynsham Country Market 40-year anniversary

Sat 18 May, 9.30am until 12pm
in the Square

Plant sale, crafts, baking and
refreshments—launch of recipe book.

Bridewell Gardens

Open Days 11am-4pm: 12 May, 9 June,
14 July, 15 September

Entrance: donation £5 for mental
health. A pop-up café, plants,
produce, organic sparkling wine from
our vineyard for sale. Bridewell's
walled garden & organic vineyard
are at OX7 3DT

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

Eynsham Choral Society

Tuesday evenings at Eynsham
Primary School. eynshamchoral.org

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!

Warm Welcome Wednesday

Company and conversation
From 10.30am to midday,
St Leonard's Church

Busy Bees baby and toddler group

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

The Team

Editor: Peter

editor@eynshamnews.org.uk

Content Creators: Jon, Hannah,
Nick, Martin, Suzie, Will

Advertising: Sarah

ads@eynshamnews.org.uk

General Enquiries

editor@eynshamnews.org.uk

Printing: Holywell Press

info@holywellpress.com



Details of all events were correct at the time of going to press but may change. Please check with the organiser before going. Send your events news for our June edition, before 5 May 2024 (about 70 words long) to: editor@eynshamnews.org.uk

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.

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.



14039900282



→ Thirsty work...

Village Quiz Round Up

By Jon Young

White Hart's quizzers chase league title. We're midway through the Oxfordshire Quiz League, and after 13 games things are hotting up for The White Hart.

Over a dozen pubs are competing head-to-head, all answering the same set of quiz questions, all delivered the same day of the quiz.

Questions can be from the Periodic Table and Marvel superheroes to Children's Laureates and 1960s pop.

Each host pub supplies sandwiches.

The White Hart boys went up against the tournament leaders, The Plough, from Wolvercote, who achieved the winning score 79 to 72. In the spring, The White Hart are well-positioned to take top spot in the second-tier Championship league. Search 'Oxfordshire Quiz League'

Q1: What was the title of Stephen King's first novel, published in 1975?
 Q2: What was the surname of Jane in Edgar Rice Burroughs' Tarzan books?
 Q3: What was the title of Ian Banks' first novel, published in 1984?

A1: Carrie A2: Porter A3: The Wasp Factory

Regular Quizzes in Eynsham Evenlode

1st Sunday of the month

Rich Craven's White Hart Quiz

1st Wednesday of the month

The Swan—Music Quiz

2nd Monday of the month

The Swan—Rotary Club

General Knowledge

4th Monday of the month

Classified Ads

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

Abbey Rentals

Residential Property Rental & Block Management Services covering West Oxfordshire. Private landlords wanted. For a free, no obligation discussion on renting out your property, contact Robin anytime...VAT Free Fees
 01993700009 abbey-rentals.co.uk

Beech Court Nursing Home

"A home from home" for your elderly relations. 37 Newland Street, Eynsham, OX29 4LB. 01865 883611

P Bruno Car Repairs

Oxfordshire's friendliest, family-owned & run garage since 1989. Servicing and repairs for cars & light commercial vehicles. Class 4 MOT testing, collection and delivery service and courtesy cars.
 01865 883413

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

The Clean Oven Company

07379 689804

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

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

Top Power Wash Services

Pure water window cleaning system, gutter hoovering with gutter-camera, fascia, patio, drive, path roof and conservatory cleaning. 01865 507406

The Pet Nanny – your local pet care service.

Dogs, cats or smaller pets. Drop ins or walks, tailored to your needs. DBS checked. Insured. Canine first aid trained. Contact Jen Wilkins
 07778153292 wilkinsjennifer73@aol.com

Visit Body Talk Salon

for all your hair & beauty needs. Established over 20 years, the professional & friendly staff wish you a warm welcome. Find us at 37 Mill Street or call 01865 880820

Paton Financial Planning

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

If you would like to support us by advertising here regularly, or as a one off, please email Sarah on ads@eynshamnews.org.uk for deadlines and prices.



Remember! The deadline for articles, ads and announcements for the next Eynsham News is 5 May. Send copy to editor@eynshamnews.org.uk