



Eynsham

Carnival special

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School

The Shirt Race

**Long may
it reign!**

;)

Village Buzz

New Constituency, New MP

by *Martin Flatman*

Liberal Democrat Calum Miller was elected to represent our new Bicester and Woodstock constituency on 4 May. So, what do we know about our new MP? Here are some snippets you may find interesting.



Brought up in Scotland, Calum obtained two degrees from Oxford University. He read Philosophy, Politics and Economics as an undergraduate at University College before getting his Masters degree in International Relations from Nuffield College. After this, he became a civil servant for a while, but a role with the Blavatnik School of Government brought him back to Oxford.

Calum lives in Islip with his wife, four children, and one dog. Keen on sport, he is a junior team rugby coach at Gosford All Blacks RFC in Kidlington—and an enthusiastic cyclist. He can often be seen cycling through Eynsham, as he visits friends here, so he knows the village well. We wish him all the best as he takes up his new responsibilities.

Bartholomew School: 'Outstanding'

Bartholomew School are delighted to share the news that, following a full Ofsted inspection in May and the release of the official report in June, they have once again been judged to

be an 'Outstanding' school.

Craig Thomas, the headteacher, said, "This outcome is a true reflection of the hard work, passion and dedication of the staff in the school. A report like this is only possible when the whole community is united, and I am grateful for the support of parents, carers, students, governors and trustees, who are integral to Bartholomew's success. To achieve three consecutive 'Outstanding' judgements over the past 15 years speaks of a well-embedded, positive culture across the school."

OxTrail now live!

OxTrail, an art trail created to raise funds for Sobell House Hospice, is now live, capturing the imagination of many in Oxfordshire. Thirty large and 85 mini sculptures of oxen, each uniquely decorated by artists, schools and community groups, are part of the trail across the county.

Eynsham has its very own mini ox, 'Bart', on display at Eynsham Library. Bart was designed and painted by Year 7 students and the Art Club at Bartholomew School. Inspired by the work of local artist Jane Tomlinson, it features the colours of the school's uniform (including tie!), along with scenes of Eynsham and the school.



If you would like to take part in OxTrail, Sobell House have released an app, which features a map showing the locations of the ox sculptures. The app costs £2.00 to download to

a smartphone/tablet, and all proceeds go to Sobell House, a charity close to the hearts of many.

Mrs Furse, from Bartholomew School, said, "We are so proud of our 'Bart' and hope everyone in the community has a chance to see him whilst he's on display in the summer. The OxTrail app is great—there are rewards to collect, and it has an in-built pedometer to track steps, so this could be a great summer holiday activity!"

For more information about the OxTrail and Sobell House, visit oxtrail2024.co.uk



Making a difference

Since the First & Last Mile (F&LM) community bus started up in January 2022, their passenger numbers have increased, and they are making a real difference to local settlements!

Each weekday, they currently transport three minibus loads of children from Standlake, Hardwick and Stanton Harcourt to and from Bartholomew School. In between, the buses are used by people coming into Eynsham to go to food shopping, or to the medical surgery, Post Office, cafés and pubs. Passengers also connect with other bus services in Eynsham, Standlake and Long Hanborough, and with trains at Hanborough Station.

F&LM Director David Miles said, "Our regulars often tell our drivers where they are off to, including commuting to and from work, visiting friends and family or local tourist attractions, getting supplies for hobbies like gardening and DIY, and going out on walks in the countryside."

Our community bus is not only making an impact for passengers who use it but they are also supporting local businesses. To see their routes and timetables, visit firstandlastmile.org.uk

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Out and About

Cut your own

by Nick Clapton

A 'cutting garden' sounds rather genteel, doesn't it! It suggests a vision of a gardener elegantly drifting through acres of herbaceous border, a hand-crafted trug and pair of frighteningly overpriced (and spotlessly clean) secateurs in hand. Of course, the reality is very different – and much more accessible and flexible.



→ Dahlias,...



→ sunflowers...



→ and hydrangeas are all good for cutting

You can cut flowers all year long. In winter, everyone enjoys seeing snowdrops lighting up the gloom, but they can also bring a lot of pleasure in a tiny vase indoors, where the added warmth will bring out their unexpected scent. Picking the flowers won't harm the plant; the bulb will absorb more nutrients from its leaves and the soil, and this will help it to flower again the following year, and to produce little bulblets and, hence, more plants, too. As the seasons progress, other flowers can be cut for indoor enjoyment, too: bulbs such as

tulips and bluebells, for example, coupled with old stalwart shrubs like forsythia, to the summer onrush of annuals and perennials, plus, of course, roses.

Most summer annuals that respond well to 'cut and come again' can be grown relatively cheaply from seed – but you need to think ahead. Some seeds need to be sown in the autumn. Their young shoots, especially sweet peas, may then need supports, and protection from slugs and the like. The seeds of hardy annuals, such as cornflower, scabious, rudbeckia and snapdragon, can be sown in early spring. Tender annuals, like zinnia and cosmos, are best sown in late spring. Remember, all annuals want to flower once and then produce seed – their job done. By cutting the flowers, you delay the process.

The more flowers you pick, the longer the plant will bloom – and the more cut flowers you will be able to enjoy.

Many roses re-bloom very well after picking, but it's a good idea to cut the stem where there is a leaf joining it. There is often a dormant bud there, which will be encouraged to shoot and flower later. Should your flowers droop in the vase, try piercing the stem just below the flowerhead with a needle. Drooping can be caused by an air pocket in the stem, and this will help them to perk up again.

Two of the best perennials for a cutting garden are dahlias and alstroemerias. Dahlias are tender, so you will need a frost-free storage place for them during winter. (After the first frost, dig up the tubers and keep them in, say, a couple of cardboard boxes in the garage, surrounded by dry compost). Alstroemerias, on the other hand, are as tough as old boots. I have a wonderful variety called 'Indian Summer' that flowers from May until November. Just remember, do not cut Alstroemeria stems; simply pull them instead.

I am very grateful to my colleague Pippa Browning at Eynsham Country Market for her professional advice about 'cut and come again' flowers. If you would like her help in designing your own cutting garden, please contact her:

pippa.browning@gmail.com

X: @pippasflowerpatch

Key

annual: a plant that lives, flowers, produces seeds and then dies in just one season

perennial: a plant that lives for more than two years

hardy: a hardy plant can survive some cold, wet and windy weather conditions

tender / half hardy: a tender, or half-hardy, plant will struggle to survive cold, wet or windy weather conditions

tuber: dahlias and some other plants grow from tubers, which look somewhat like bulbs, but usually larger and more knobbly

'Family' apple trees

The Peace Oak Association will have in the region of 20 apple trees for sale, ready for planting this October. They would make a wonderful early Christmas present!



→ Apple trees in the Peace Oak orchard



→ Harvesting apples for eating and cooking

These so-called 'family' trees have three apple varieties on one stem: a Laxton early eating apple that fruits in August; a Fiesta late eating apple; and a Kings Acre Bountiful late cooking apple. Both the late apples ripen in October/November and keep through until about March.

The trees have all been grown and grafted in Eynsham and will cost only £30 each (£5-20 cheaper than in nurseries). They are very suitable for

small gardens. To register your interest in one of these trees, please contact Sue Raikes (01865 883277) or Jonathan Ferrier (01865 881224), and we will add your name to our list.

In other Peace Oak news, at our recent Apple Drop event, members who help with the upkeep of the land learned how to thin out apples to stop branches from breaking. We were rewarded with pizza and garlic bread cooked on the open fire.

On Friday 2 August, we have spaces available on our Willow Work craft session. To book, visit peace-oak.eventcube.io. Priority is given to Peace Oak members, but anyone is welcome. There will be a fire to sit around and chat, even if you are not doing any crafts.

For more information about becoming a member, or if you are interested in joining the committee (four meetings per year), email us at peaceoakorchar@gmail.com

Blackberry delight

by Sarah Medina

We all know what blackberries (sometimes called brambles) look like –but did you know they are part of the rose family? Perhaps the thorns are the main giveaway but look carefully and you will see that the pinky-white flowers, too, have a look of wild roses about them. They are a wonder for wildlife, providing sustenance for butterflies and moths, birds and bees, and mammals such as deer, foxes and badgers. They are good for us, too, as they are packed with Vitamin C and antioxidants.



→ In Autumn, the hedges round Eynsham are a rich source not just of blackberries, but of sloes, too!

The end of summer is the time for blackberrying—and what a pleasure it is (free, too!). You can find blackberries in hedgerows of our country lanes, along the river, in woodlands, and even in parks and

gardens. There are about 400 species in the UK but, whichever you come across, make sure to pick shiny, dark berries that slip off the stems easily, as these will be nice and ripe. Pop them in a container, keep them in a cool place and give them a wash just before you use them. (Remember to leave some behind for wildlife!)

And what to do with them when you have picked some? You can eat them raw, of course, or make them into pies or crumbles (with or without other fruit added). You can make vinegar and wine, jam or jelly (search for recipes online or in print). Or you can make these delicious, simple cupcakes (or, as I grew up saying, ‘buns’!).

Blackberry Buns

You need

- 100g butter, softened
- 100g sugar
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 100g self-raising flour
- about 75g blackberries

Method

- Preheat the oven to 180 degrees C (160 fan / gas mark 4).
- Put cupcake liners into a 12-hole bun tin.
- Cream together the butter and sugar until light and fluffy.
- Beat in the eggs.
- Fold in the flour.
- Gently fold through the blackberries.
- Bake for 10–15 minutes.
- Leave to cool, then enjoy!

A few ideas for the holidays...

by Sarah Medina

The long summer weeks are now with us—and, with them, perhaps the question of ‘What do we do now?!’ We are fortunate to live in an area that has lots of options on the doorstep and, of course, we can use our own imaginations to come up with cheap, cheerful and engaging activities to do at home, too.

Good family fun can be had for free at the county’s museums (starting with our very own museum’s exhibition, ‘Rural Eynsham’!). You can enjoy a trip to the Oxfordshire

Museum in Woodstock and, if you are aged 11 or older, consider entering their Open Art Competition on the theme ‘representations of people’. The collections in the Oxford University Museum of Natural History, Pitt Rivers Museum and Ashmolean Museum are vast, and varied enough to satisfy all interests and all ages, for sure. Check out the museums’ websites, or pop in, to find out about their great programme of family activities for the summer holidays. And why not combine a visit with a picnic and a kick-about at the University Parks for a wonderful day out (or 20!).

You can make your own fun, too! How many people think, ‘I can’t draw!’ I know I do – and I can’t! But, skilled or otherwise, it’s fun to carry pencils and paper around with you when you go out. You can sketch the things around you—museum exhibits, the river, trees, weeds, food, each other!—and enjoy being in the here and now as you sit and observe carefully for a few minutes. Anyone can do it, young or old—kids love it when the adults have a go, too!

The other thing young ones like is getting their hands into what is usually adult territory: the kitchen. You could go foraging and make Blackberry Buns together. Or be brave and let the kids take over and prepare a meal for you. You could make things easier (and safer!) for them by doing a little pre-prepping (chop up some veg and prepare a dressing for a salad, for example, or simply put out a selection of picnic-y snacks). Then let them set the table, bring the food together into a dish, served with a glass of water –and tell them what a wonderful job they’ve done!

There really is always plenty to keep young ones occupied, at home or away. The library and the internet are hives of information about what’s on where and when, and about arts and crafts, nature activities and cooking –just for starters. Dig in—and have a very happy summer!

Remember! The deadline for material for our next edition is Sunday 8 September.

Out and About

Old friends return

by Hannah Shaw

Summer has finally (if damply) arrived and, with it, Eynsham's swifts, swallows and house martins have returned to swoop, soar and nest among our streets. Here's an update on how these spectacular migratory birds are doing—and a reminder of why we love them so much.

Eynsham Swifts: conservation update

Eynsham Swifts is a group, formed by Sue Chapman and Sarah Couch in 2017, of like-minded villagers with the aim of supporting the swifts, swallows and house martins that are, sadly, seeing a nationwide decline. Since its inception, the group have been active in awareness-raising, putting up nest boxes and protecting current nest sites in the village. They have conducted yearly surveys of the population of the birds, and their hard work has led to numbers starting to rise. This year, all three species have been spotted and lots of swifts have made their home on Acre End Street. The 2024 survey results will be published in full by the Nature Recovery Network in August, so do check them out.

You may have noticed the beautiful swifts made of willow appearing around the village. These have been handcrafted by villagers, with help from Willow Coppice, and given to houses with swift nests to mark and celebrate their residence.

Why we love swifts

Swifts have been coming to Eynsham for centuries, and we have grown very fond of them. Their screaming calls and playful flight above the streets have gained them the nickname 'devil birds'. They are the seventh-fastest bird in the world—with a maximum recorded speed of 72 miles per hour / 116 kilometres per hour—and it's not hard to believe it when they soar above you! They are very sociable and like to nest in groups, and juveniles will fly about calling to

and visiting the nesting pairs all summer long. What is amazing is that they will come back to exactly the same nest spots every year, having travelled all the way from Equatorial and Southern Africa, 22,000km away. Apart from when nesting, swifts spend their entire lives on the wing, and will even sleep while drifting high up in the sky. So, if you see a swift on the ground, it is probably in trouble; consider getting expert help for it, such as from Oxfordshire Wildlife Rescue.



→ A house martin leaves its nest and two chicks



→ A swift in flight, identifiable by its characteristic sickle/arch shaped wings



→ Swift nest boxes and a willow swift on a house off Queen Street. One nest box is occupied!

One of the biggest challenges facing swifts today is the destruction of nesting sites due to building work or demolition. Since they are used to nesting under eaves, gaps in roof tiles and cracks in walls, they are very vulnerable to the refurbishment of old buildings or to being blocked by repairs and scaffolding. New-build

houses rarely leave areas where swifts can make their nests, either. Tragically, if swifts are blocked from their nest sites, they can return year on year and attempt to fly back in, which often leads them to harm. This is why it is so important that if you have swifts nesting where you live or work, any building work should happen when the birds are away in Africa, and old nest sites must be maintained or restored. (For good advice on how to go about this, visit swift-conservation.org.) Swifts are incredibly tidy and hygienic nesters that cause no harm to the buildings they occupy.

As well as losing nest sites, swifts and many other summer migrant birds are faced with the decline in insects that they rely on for food, as a result of habitat loss and insecticide use. Populations of these insect-eating birds have dropped by 40% or more in the past decade. Changeable weather patterns and storms, increased by climate change, have also caused heavy losses during migration in recent years. Swifts are now on the Red List of endangered UK species—but the good news is that there is a lot we can still do to help them! Let's encourage them by installing nest boxes or, even better, nest bricks in the walls of our buildings. Then we will be able to appreciate these beautiful birds and their aerial acrobatics for many more years to come.

Many thanks to Sarah Couch, Sally Taylor and Sue Chapman, who have been a huge help in gathering information for this piece.



→ Eynsham Museum at the Bartholomew Room

Eynsham memories

by Martin Flatman

One of the fun things about being a steward at the Eynsham Museum and Heritage Centre is the number of village people who visit and share

their memories. During the exhibition 'Eynsham's Lost Railway', one person pointed to a photo of the garage that used to be next to what is now Evenlode DIY and said, "Look, there's my dad." Another pointed to the house by the old railway station and commented, "That's where I lived as a boy."

The museum now has a new exhibition, 'Rural Eynsham', open from 11am to 4pm at weekends and on bank holidays until the end of October. The exhibition includes lots of fascinating information about pre-1960s Eynsham. The model of the railway is still up and running, of course. How else did the milk in its churns get to Oxford! Your children may not know what a milk churn is. They will, if they come to the museum.

The exhibition gives lots of details about all the farms that were still part of the village in the 1950s. Maureen, who was a local teenager at that time, remembers the farms by the people who lived in them. Her memories are in her fascinating memoir in the museum, including recollections of cows ambling through the village and standing in the field that is now Newland Close.

Maureen writes of "young Billy Bantin", who ran Middle Farm where the Post Office now stands, whilst the "elder Bantins" ran Swanns Farm, where Rainbow House is located. The Biggars family owned most of the section of the village where Jessie's Art Shed and the Lyall & Co Café are now found, and the Pimms family owned the rest of it. Maureen's photo of Biggars the Bakers van is also part of the exhibition.

Another long-term Eynsham resident, Dot, agrees with Maureen that the village playing field was once called Monkwood. Dot believes that it should still be called Monkwood, rather than the new-fangled Queen Elizabeth II Playing Field or the even-more-modern Carnival Field!

For more information about Eynsham Museum and the 'Rural Eynsham' exhibition, visit: eynshammuseum.org.uk.

We'd love to hear more about old Eynsham. If you have village

memories you would like us to publish, send them to editor@eynshamnews.org.uk.

Eynsham Women's Institute

Eynsham WI meets on the second Tuesday of each month in the Village Hall at 7.30pm (except August and December). Why not come and join us, and make new friends, listen to interesting talks and learn new skills? We organise a summer garden party, a Harvest supper and a Christmas dinner, along with other activities throughout the year. Posters on the village noticeboards give information about each month's speakers and events.



The WI has more than local interest and impact. Nationally, the WI has a long history of campaigning on a wide range of issues. Every year, members can propose 'resolutions' that they want the organisation to campaign on, and these can be brought before Parliament. The 'Keep Britain Tidy' campaign was one such WI resolution.

You are invited to come to any one of our meetings as a guest to see if the WI is for you. There is a £4 charge for guests, and you may visit twice as a guest before deciding whether you would like to join. Please come along; you will be very welcome.

Wendy Thompson (President)
E: elliott.smith70.15@gmail.com
T: 01865 881144

Eynsham Judo Club has closed

It is with regret that Oxfordshire Judo Clubs, of which Eynsham Judo was a founding member, is coming to an end. Jonathan Gerrans has decided to retire and finish the many village, town and school clubs.

Eynsham Judo club was started by

Sensei Simon Goddard in 1972 at the Sports and Social Club, Swan Street. Since then it has been held in the Sports Pavilion and Eynsham Primary School.



It was the first of many clubs that formed the Oxfordshire Judo Clubs and probably the longest continuous running children's sports club in Eynsham. Sensei Jonathan took over the running of the many clubs and schools in the early 2000s, expanding the area and number of children involved.

Jonathan was a student at the club in 1972, as was his friend and colleague Sensei Derek Malin, who attended the first class and the last on Thursday 4 July.

Judo classes will continue at the Faringdon Judo Dojo from September, and more details can be found at faringdonjudoclub.com

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 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 8 September.



Eynsham Carnival 2024!

✦ All photos on this page are used with permission from Darrin Roles.



Eynsham Carnival 2024

by Suzie Chadwick

This year's Eynsham Carnival got off to a soggy start, but a good crowd nonetheless gathered in the Square to support Eynsham Morris. The Morris dancers' colourful outfits, and cheery jigs and song, did much to brighten the morning and bring smiles to everyone's faces. Afterwards, the Morris Men gathered for a well-earned rest outside The Swan. I chatted to Rob, one of their newest members. A newbie tradition, he had been given the task of filling the dancers' tankards with beer... from a common or garden watering can! He was very pleased about how everything had gone.

"It was my first time volunteering to be a marshal for the Shirt Race/ Carnival. When I offered myself up, I made it clear I'd have a mini-marshal with me!...Despite the rain, we had a GREAT time! Dear Starter-Upper is now my daughter's new 'best friend'. [She] would quite like to take her in for Show and Tell on Monday..."
—Lindsey Auton

Thankfully, the weather brightened for the Shirt Race (run yearly since 1958!). The streets along the route were lined with well-wishers, clapping and cheering on the runners in their fancy dress and their amazing vehicular creations. And what a show it was! From Batman & Robin to Mr Blobby & Noel Edmonds, Spanish matadors to cheeky jailbreakers, and to Eynsham politics and history, creativity and humour were the name of the game!

The Carnival Parade came next, led by the excellent Bournemouth Youth Marching Band (a big thank you to them for travelling so far to join us). The Carnival Float followed, carrying the Carnival Queen and King, and their four attendants, looking elegantly regal in shades of purple. And yes, you read it correctly: Eynsham now has a King—a nod to our new King Charles III, perchance, as well as to modern sentiments. Thanks to Keith Pimm of Bartholomew Players, who built the

hitherto missing second throne for the float. It was so grand, in fact, that the Queen took it for herself!

"The best thing about Carnival was waving to people and people waving back to me!"
—Lucia Halsey, age 7
(Carnival Attendant)

And then there were many young and old, individuals and groups, all wearing magnificent costumes. On foot or on floats, everyone had gone out of their way to create a feast for the eyes. Onlookers laughed, cheered, waved and called out to the people they knew, and to those they didn't. Participants returned the affection. The whole village smiled.

To mention just a few of the incredible participants in the Carnival Parade...

- The youngest children were all ready for this year's Olympic Games in their excellent Olympic-themed outfits.
- Thomas the Tank Engine, which had to be covered with cling film for protection from the rain, was accompanied by children in matching Thomas outfits. Luckily, the little ones were not in need of the same cling film treatment!
- There was a blast from the past for many older Eynsham folk, and a visual treat for the young ones, with Bill and Ben, and Little Weed, from the BBC children's TV series 'Flower Pot Men', which first aired (in black and white, of course) in 1952.

As the parade headed down to the playing field, crowds followed. Volunteers, including the Bartholomew Players, were on duty selling or checking tickets and guiding people in the right direction. They said that early sales were slow, as most people had bought their tickets online—great news! In the field, Eynsham Primary School headteacher Virginia Bayliss soon officially declared the Carnival open.

Hordes of people settled in to watch a variety of arena acts. Stagecoach dancers and the Strawberry Fayre Majorettes put on

incredible displays of musicality and high energy. The Bournemouth Youth Marching Band, who had led the parade so admirably, played to the crowds. Roping Radicals Acrobatics wowed with their physical prowess and skill. And talking of skill, the Strigidae Gundogs Display Team demonstrated a huge degree of rapport and discipline.

On the field and in the craft tent, there were a record 56 stalls to enjoy. The food stalls were many and varied, selling delicious sweet and savory treats from around the world (with Indian, Caribbean, French, Italian bites alongside traditional British goodies). There were drinks stalls aplenty, too, with tea, coffee and soft drinks, and The Jolly Sportsman and Eynsham Cellars selling beer, wine and other boozy beverages.

Some stalls were educational, some were tempting. There were lots of lovely things to buy as gifts for yourself or others, made by small, local businesses and individuals. Even Thames Valley Police had a stall, staffed by our very own Police Community Support Officer, Helen Keen. I talked to PCSO Keen, and she said that she was sorry that she couldn't be at our Village Hall Police Office more often than every few weeks, but she had to look after other villages, too.

Children, of course, are so very much at the heart of Carnival Day—and they were catered for beautifully with the Plate Smash, Crazy Golf, Go Karts, and Last Man Standing at the usual 'end of the field' where, every year, the fairground is found.

What a day! Rain, sun, and everything in between...all irrelevant, as everyone was here simply to enjoy themselves. Friends and family, Eynsham folk and visitors alike... we all saw our community shining.

Eynsham News would like to thank all the volunteers who put in so much effort to make Carnival 2024 such a successful event. We really hope you enjoyed the day as much as we did.

Shirt Race fun

by Martin Flatman

Loads of people turned out to see some other people making wonderful 🎨

→ Thank you to Darrin Roles, Yip and Witney Photo Group for these pictures!



fools of themselves in all sorts of imaginative ways at the Shirt Race on Carnival Day. Your intrepid reporter positioned himself at The White Hart in Newland Street just before the race finishing post with its chequered flags.

I loved all the entries, but one that stood out was the £51-million Park & Ride bus, with a No Access Road sign, reminding us all of the craziness of that whole project. Biased as I am as an Eynsham Museum steward, I must also mention two entries inspired by the 'Eynsham's Lost Railways' exhibition that so many have visited over the past year: two magnificent steam trains.

It is great to see that so many stepping out of the seriousness of day-to-day life to have and create a bit of good old-fashioned fun!

But why is it called the Shirt Race? Answers welcome!

A day in the life of one Carnival Committee member

by Gill Parry

5.00am Carnival Day. I woke to hear rain hammering on the roof of my car outside. The sky was a uniform leaden grey and the prospect of being down on the carnival field by 7.00am became less appealing with each passing minute. But I eventually dragged myself out of bed, pulled on several warm layers topped by my waterproof outdoor clothes and boots, had a hurried breakfast and headed out, the rain still falling and the ground increasingly muddy underfoot.

7.00am When I reached the field, there were already some hardy souls at work putting up orange barrier fencing around the arena, erecting tents and setting out chairs, all working purposefully and—amazing, considering the weather—with a great deal of good humour. The good old British spirit had obviously kicked in and we were all going to make the best of things.

11.30am After a quick dash home for a hot shower and second breakfast to keep me going for the rest of the day, I returned to the field and the buzz was building, the field filling with pop-up gazebos and vans. My

next stop was the village Square to sell tickets. People were gathering for the Shirt Race while the Morris were putting on their usual joyful and vigorous display. Umbrellas, waterproofs and boots were the order of the day, though there were some optimists in T-shirts and shorts!

1.00pm The colourful, boisterous procession of floats, individuals, Shirt Race 'prams', Morris Men and people in various forms of fancy dress made its way past me on the Oxford Road down to the field, pulling a huge crowd in its wake, all flooding down to enjoy what the Carnival had to offer. Then, for the next couple of hours, I was dashing from one ticket desk to another, helping, where I could, to keep people moving through, scanning QR codes (brilliant innovation this year!) and taking people's hard-earned cash from them for tickets.

4.00pm With the ticket sales and collection over for another year (THANK YOU to all my marvellous, cheerful volunteers—you know who you are!), and all the money delivered to the treasurer, I had time to notice the atmosphere on the field. One of real happiness and fun. Kids, dogs, people young and old chatting with friends and family, loud music blasting out, tempting smells in the air of all sorts of food being cooked, bought and eaten, super-looking craft stalls (I promise myself I'll find time to look next year) and, in the main arena, the Bournemouth Youth Marching Band entertaining the onlookers. And the sun had come out!

7.30pm Finished at last, most of the stuff on the field cleared away by the still-cheerful committee and volunteers, we made our weary way to the White Hart for a well-deserved drink and the fantastic music of Jeff Denton. It was truly the best ending to Carnival Day that you could imagine. The garden was packed with people, many still in their Shirt Race outfits, all bopping away to Jeff's brilliantly entertaining singing. Another great Carnival over. How lucky we all are to be able to enjoy this superb event each year, bringing the village together and creating

such happiness. And how lucky I am to be able to be part of it.

Photos credited 'DR' are used with permission from Darrin Roles

Profile: Photography has been a significant part of Darrin Roles' life for as long as he can remember. Growing up with a father who was a photographer, Darrin was immersed in the world of capturing moments and telling stories through the lens from an early age. This deep-rooted passion has shaped his career and honed his skills over the years.

Location: Based in Eynsham, Darrin serves the surrounding areas, offering his expertise to a diverse clientele.

Specializations: • Event Photography: Capturing the essence and excitement of various events, ensuring every moment is documented beautifully. • Commercial Photography: Providing high-quality images that enhance brand identities and help businesses stand out. • Portrait Photography: Creating stunning portraits that reflect the true personality and essence of his subjects.

Contact Darrin via email on darrinroles@icloud.com or call 07717 803235



Eynsham
Carnival
2024!
The trophies

Men's trophy winners

1st: Adam Fisk & Thomas B-Fisk
2nd: L. Treadwell & Ben Liversage

Women's trophy winners

1st: Caroline Ogden & Martine Summers
2nd: Lilly King & Eleanor Perks

Mixed trophy winners

1st: Richard Curtis & Sarah Venn
2nd: Karen Hall & Rob Hedges

The Darnell's Nut Award

The Mutt's Nuts

Fancy dress winners

1st: Richard Feather Memorial
2nd: Bob the Builder
3rd: War of the Worlds
4th: Dad's Army
5th: 19th Hole



What's co-option?

Local expertise to support Council decisions

Not everyone who is passionate about local issues is able to commit to being a Councillor, yet may still want to use their experience, knowledge and expertise to help inform decisions and create positive change in our community.

The best option? Co-option!

The Parish Council has various committees that discuss specific areas such as planning or transport. These committees undertake the Council's projects and priorities through delegated powers. Local people can become co-opted 'non-Councillors' to join a committee, sharing their views to help the Councillors in discussions.

Ideally, a co-opted member would be someone with experience and expertise in the committee's focus area. By contributing experience/knowledge on council matters, a co-opted member can provide insights and informed suggestions to help Councillors make the right decisions for the community.

How to be co-opted?

Becoming a co-opted member of a committee is a similar process to becoming a Councillor. If a committee is of specific interest, we'd recommend attending a few meetings. Introduce yourself and your expertise to the committee, as well as Council Chair Ross Macken. The committee would then take your application to full Council for a vote.

Co-opted members must follow the same Code of Conduct as our Councillors; the same qualification criteria apply too (find these on our website). We also ask co-opted members to complete a Register of Interest form. However, co-opted members don't usually have voting rights and don't need to attend full Council meetings, unless they want to as a public participant.

What do co-opted members have to do?

Co-opted members attend their regular committee meeting; these are held on weekday evenings in the Village Hall. Ahead of each meeting, agendas and supporting papers will be sent out to read and review in advance of the discussion.

What's it like?

It can be very rewarding and interesting—a great fit for a certain type of person. Find out more in the Q&A with Jon Bright, a co-opted member of the Planning Committee, on the next page.

To express an interest or ask any questions, contact epc.comms@eynsham-pc.gov.uk

Dates for your diary

17 Sep	Full Council Meeting	7.30pm
15 Oct	Full Council Meeting	7.30pm
19 Nov	Full Council Meeting	7.30pm

All meetings are held at the Village Hall. Public attendance welcome, in person or online via a link within the agenda. Check the website.

A Note from the Chair



Residents may have heard via our website or at Eynsham Carnival that we are planning to take grass-cutting responsibility back in-house rather than using contractors. This will allow us to control the quality and quantity of cutting, and promote biodiversity. To achieve this, we need a cut-and-collect grass mower. We've applied for a Westhive grant towards the cost and set up a crowdfunding page on SpaceHive. We know that money is tight for some, but for those who do have a bit to spare, we'd welcome any donations. To make a donation, visit the website spacehive.com/eynsham-biodiversity-boosting-mower

Another consultation on Botley West Solar Farm plans closed on 28 July. We'll keep you informed when we learn what the next steps are for this project.

Communication is key for EPC; we are always keen to engage with you, our community. To that end, you may now hear from us on the radio! We've teamed up with the community station WRFM and are starting to record some short snippets. Our first recording was with Steve from Eynsham Museum and Heritage Centre, and a second was made at Carnival. Keep an ear out for more on 105.3 FM.

We have ordered a new noticeboard for Thornbury Green. As with other boards, this will be available for local organisations' use, but not commercial advertising or business cards.

We're sorry to bid farewell to our hard-working Clerk, Katherine. We wish her well in her next role and will introduce our new Clerk in due course.

From the Clerk's Desk



I'd like to update you on a few ongoing projects:

New Burial Ground—The land is 'tied up' in financial negotiations regarding West Eynsham Strategic Development Area, which represents a disappointing position with the County Council as landowner. It is likely that the land will become available to us when legal matters progress, but this will take some time. Thanks to Annie at Greens Funeral Services and Rev. Duncan at St Leonard's Church for their ongoing investigations into extended use of the churchyard.

Neighbourhood Plan—The Council's Planning Committee continue to work with Community First Oxfordshire (CFO), and they are now finalising the Design Code and firming up on policies. (We have been paying for CFO's services using a Government grant.) The Design Code is particularly important for the new developments because it will help shape site layouts and appearance of new homes. The final version will be subject to a Parish referendum.

Village Hall—We have received a substantial grant from FCC Community Action Fund to replace all the lights with low energy fittings, helping to reduce energy costs and usage.

Finally, I must announce that I am leaving the Council at the end of July after seven years. I am preparing to take on a larger role as a Town Clerk. It's been a pleasure working with everyone and I will miss being part of this wonderful community.

Meet a Co-Opted Member: Jon Bright



Why not a Councillor?

I didn't have enough time. I'm still working a little as well as being a Trustee for Community First Oxfordshire. I also volunteer with two other organisations and have family commitments. I like to travel, too, so would end up missing meetings too often.

How and why co-option?

I became a co-opted member in 2022 and the process was very easy. I had been managing Citizens Advice in the south of the county and wanted to find something to give me a sense of purpose, but without so much responsibility. The Planning Committee appealed as I have some background in that area.

Are you enjoying it?

It's been a really positive experience. I enjoy working with the Parish Councillors, who are very committed to the village. I'm particularly interested in the bigger development projects happening locally, and it's satisfying to be able to review the planning applications and share my views in discussions. I've also been involved in writing a 'character assessment' of the village that feeds into the new Neighbourhood Plan. This will help the Parish Council influence housing and other developments in the future.

What was your profession?

My last job was Director of Citizens Advice in Oxfordshire South & Vale. Previously, I worked for central Government as a Director in the Department of Communities and Local Government.

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 X (formerly Twitter), too!

Events Preview

Summertime in the library

by Jane Bruder

Call in to Eynsham Library over the summer months to enjoy a lovely selection of events and activities.

Summer Reading Challenge 2024

This year's challenge runs from 6 July through to September. The theme for 2024 is 'Marvellous Makers', with an emphasis on all forms of creativity. Children up to age 11 sign up at the library and then read six books during the summer. They receive rewards after each two books they read, and a medal and certificate when the challenge is complete. There is a mini challenge for under-4s.

'Marvellous Makers' crafts

On Wednesday 14 August, 2.00pm-4.00pm, Alice Walker (of Mill Street Arts) will be running a crafting event based on the Summer Reading Challenge for children aged 7-11. Places are limited, so please book ahead in person at the library or by emailing eynsham.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk

OxTrail

Come and meet Bart, Eynsham's own mini ox sculpture! Part of OxTrail, a countywide art trail created to raise funds for Sobell House Hospice, Bart was decorated by students at Bartholomew School. Can you recognise the scenes they have created on Bart? Read more on page 2, including how to find and enjoy the rest of Bart's herd!

Rhymetime

Our weekly Rhymetime sessions for babies and toddlers will continue throughout the summer at 2.00pm on Mondays. Join us for half an hour of action songs and nursery rhymes, and a chance to meet other parents and carers.

Canine friends

On Thursday 1 August, between 1.00pm and 3.00pm, drop in to meet some amazing guide dogs and to hear

more about the work of Guide Dogs UK from volunteers.

Give (Eynsham Community) Choir a chance!

by Sarah Medina

A new term at Eynsham Community Choir will run at the Baptist Church Hall from 19 September to 12 December, with a half-term break on 31 October. The format is tried, tested and popular: tea and biscuits at 7.15pm, followed by singing from 7.30pm-9.00pm.

Everyone is welcome; there is no need to read music, let alone audition. We sing old songs and new, and songs from near and far—something for everyone. It's always lively, and we laugh a lot as we learn! Come and give it a try... The first session is completely free. Then, if you decide to join, the fees are £50 per term.

It really is a friendly, warm community. After practice, everyone is welcome to adjourn to The Queens Head for a post-choir social. In June, there was a highly successful choir social at Eynsham Croquet Club. Sixteen members of the choir were taught some croquet basics and then enjoyed a game—with much laughter and smiles throughout—followed by pizza. And, in July, our end-of-year session was a 'Pimms and Sing' social evening, held at The Pavilion, with 'bring and share' foods, and not-to-be-missed summer Pimms and strawberries.

We really hope to see you in September and grow our community choir further. Until then, have a happy summer!

Eynsham Village Show 2024

Thanks to Eynsham Parish Council for their generous grant, the local tradition, the Eynsham Village Show, is set for Saturday 14 September, 2.00pm-4:00pm, in the Village Hall and Scout Hut.

Get involved by entering one of the many classes and/or by enjoying other people's entries, along with delicious tea and cake provided by the Market Garden. Enter the raffle, too, which is drawn at 4.00pm, around the same time as the prize giving.

How does it all work? Look at the class list and choose the class or classes you would like to enter into (there is no limit!). Complete and send in the entry form. Submit your entries by 8.00pm on Thursday 12 September, for setting up between 9.00am and 10:45am on the show day.



→ A Lego model entry in a previous Village Show



→ Firrst-prize sheep looked as good as they tasted!

As well as the traditional fruit, vegetable and baking classes, there are many more to choose from:

Are you interested in photography? This year's five categories are: Britain at its best!; Sea view; Instrument; Black & White; and Unusual.

Do you enjoy building original Lego models? There is an adult's class as well as one for children.

And not forgetting the category that always causes much excitement and competition! This year, the 'Men only' baking class is asking for a Swiss Roll.

Class lists and entry forms are available from Evenlode DIY and Eynsham Library. However, if you can download and print them yourself from the website (bit.ly/3VWpQ9Z), we would really appreciate it. If you have any questions, please check out our Hints and Tips on the website or contact us there and we will get back to you.

Whether you are new to the village or have been here a while (or longer!), and whether you have entered before or not, you are very welcome, and we hope that you will find a few classes to whet your appetite. We welcome entries from people from outside the village, too.

Events Diary

See more at [Eynsham Online](#)

Meet the Guide Dogs

1 Aug, 1-3pm, Eynsham Library
Drop-in; no booking required

Willow Work craft session

2 Aug, 7-9pm, Peace Oak Orchard
(access via Cobbetts Close,
off Newland Street)
To book, visit: peace-oak.eventcube.io

Oasis—activities for older folk

13 August, Eynsham Baptist Church
Run by the three Eynsham churches

Marvellous Makers crafting with Alice Walker

14 Aug, 2-4pm, Eynsham Library
Book in person at the library or email
eynsham.library@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Eynsham Garden Club

14 Aug, 7.30pm, Eynsham Village Hall
Popular speaker Timothy Walker will
talk about scent in the garden

'Models and Collections' exhibition

18 Aug, 10.30am-5pm, Combe Mill
Adults £9.00, concessions £7.00,
accompanied children free

Eynsham Repair Cafe

7 September, 2-4pm
Scout Hall, Back Lane

Eynsham Village Show

14 Sep, 2-4pm
Eynsham Village Hall
No booking required

'Crafts and Skills' exhibition

15 Sep, 10.30am-5pm, Combe Mill
Adults £9.00, concessions £7.00,
accompanied children free

Harvest Happening

22 September
A 'Harvest Happening' on the Square
BY St Leonard's, St Peter's Church and
Eynsham Baptist Church

Harvest Sunday

29 Sep, 10.30am
Eynsham Baptist Church
With a bring-and-share lunch

**Regular events—many of the regular
children/parents groups operate in
term time and will restart in
September**

Eynsham Yoga Club

Tuesdays 6.15-7.15pm
The Music Room, Queen Street
Hatha Flow Yoga, £12 per class or
5-class pass for £50
Thursdays 7-8pm
(from 12 September)
The Music Room, Queen Street
Restorative Yoga, £12 per class or
5-class pass for £50

Summer Sound Meditations

The Music Room, Queen Street
9 Jul 7.30-8.30pm £16/£19
28 Jul 5-6.30pm £20/£25
13 Aug 7.30-8.30pm £16/£19
25 Aug 5-6.30pm £20/£25
3 Sep 7.30-8.30pm £16/£19
22 Sep 5-6.30pm £20/£25
All booking: bit.ly/3LbDm4K

Worried about costs?

Are you worrying about how to
manage the cost of living? Or do you
know anyone else in the parishes of
Eynsham or Freeland (the 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.

To apply for both these funds in
absolute confidence, email the Clerk,
Catherine Barton at
eynshamcharities@gmail.com
Or write to the Trustees via the Clerk
at this address: c/o Bartholomew
Room, The Square, Eynsham, Witney
OX29 4HW.

Eynsham Library Opening

Monday:	9.30am-1pm, 2-5pm
Tuesday:	Closed
Wed/Thr:	1-5pm
Friday:	1-7pm
Saturday:	9.30am-1pm
Sunday:	Closed

£100 Evenlode Pub Quiz Returns!

The beautiful Evenlode gastropub
has relaunched its monthly quiz
nights, with summer drawing to a
close. Quizzes are hosted by
Eynsham quiz regular Jon Young
the first Sunday of the month and
carry a £100 cash prize for
winners. There are also bonus
chocolate giveaways during the
night! Did you also know you can
now keep tabs on all of Eynsham's
quiz events and news via the
Eynsham Online website? Just
visit eynsham.org.uk/Eynsham-Quizzers for a full list of
upcoming events.

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**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 October edition before 8 September
2024 (about 70 words long) to: editor@eynshamnews.org.uk**

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not-for-profit voluntary group, set up solely
to produce a community newsletter of broad
general appeal. Free delivery to every
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Local stories, snaps and snippets are always
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Capture paper which contributes to the
Woodland Trust's tree planting programme.



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Come and sing the classics

Do you enjoy singing lovely music with others? Do you want to develop your voice and skills? Then come along this autumn, and learn to breathe, sing and create with Eynsham Choral Society and our musical director, Stuart Dunlop.

Rehearsals start at 7.30pm on Tuesday 3 September, in the main hall at Eynsham Primary School. Join us for a free trial!*

We will be singing Christmas music by Vaughan Williams, Berlioz and Respighi. There is no need to audition. We will simply lend you a score and help you to find your section: soprano, alto, tenor or bass.

**We especially need more singers in the tenor range!* eynshamchoral.org
eynshamchoral@gmail.com

Eynsham Churches

Eynsham Baptist Church

Main Sunday event at 10.30am

Lombard Street, Eynsham OX29 4HT

eynshambaptistchurch.co.uk

01865 882203

eynsham.baptists@gmail.com

To book the church hall, call

07554012535 or

email: rccarley@outlook.com

St. Leonard's CofE

Main Sunday event at 10.30am

On the Market Square

stleonardseynsham.org.uk

Church Administrator:

Louise Parker 01865 883325

stleonards_stpeters@btconnect.com

The Church Hall can be booked

for events

St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church

Sunday Mass at 10am

Abbey Street, Eynsham OX29 4HR

stpeterseynsham.org.uk

01865 881613. The 'Tolkien Room' is

available for hire 01865 423655



Remember! The deadline for articles, ads and announcements for Eynsham News issue 70 Sunday 8 September. Send copy to editor@eynshamnews.org.uk

Classified Ads

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

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01865 884405 / eynshamcellars.com

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07778 298312 grimebusters.co.uk

The Clean Oven Company

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1 Abbey Street, Eynsham OX29 4TB.

01865 884400 / pellmans.co.uk

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

The Pet Nanny – your local pet care service.

Dogs, cats or smaller pets.

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Contact Jen Wilkins 07778153292

wilkinsjennifer73@aol.com

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