

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

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Historic



Eynsham



What are these items? Where were they found? When do they date from? See page 6 for the answers.

Village Buzz



Can we stay ‘on the fence’?

Eynsham News tries to stay out of politics, but sometimes local events draw us all in. And, yes, the Park and Ride has become an ‘issue’.

You may have noted articles in the national press, poking fun at this odd situation of a big car park with no access and, as yet, no users.

Did you realise that the mockery has even reached Europe? Recently, the German news magazine *Der Spiegel* reported that “*Britische Stadt baut Parkplatz für 850 Fahrzeuge - aber keine Straße die dorthin führt*”... (rough translation, British town is building a parking lot for 850 cars— but there’s no road leading to it).

Our village Facebook page has had its fair share of comment too, sometimes sharp and critical, sometimes just humorous.

We asked our County Councillor, Dan Levy, for the bare bones, and here they are (with a bit of politics included!)—the bits in brackets are our additions to help explain things.

“The P&R scheme was planned, along with the A40 improvement works, by the (local) Tory administration that was voted out in 2021,” Dan says.

“Funding for the P&R came from a DfT (Department for Transport) fund and for the A40 work which includes

access junctions from a Homes England fund, related to Salt Cross/ West Eynsham. Two separate pots, from different government departments. Neither government pot built in inflation indexation.

“When the current administration was elected, we agreed to build the P&R (with DfT funding) to beat inflation, and this has been done ahead of time and under budget. That has saved several million pounds given rises in construction costs— people and material.

“The HIF2 (the A40 improvements) scheme, which includes the junctions into the P&R, bus lanes, improved junctions along the A40 and an upgraded bike path, is to be funded by Homes England. The scheme has had to be revised several times from the original design as costs have shot upwards. We expect agreement with Homes England soon.

“It would have been better if the schemes had been a single one with guaranteed funding from the government but that isn’t what the Tory administration had signed up to.

“No Oxfordshire taxpayers’ money has been spent on the P&R nor will be spent on the road upgrades.”



A day at the museum

by *Martin Flatman*

It is fun to work as a volunteer at the Eynsham Museum and Heritage Centre. You don’t have to be clever or know much about the village or its history. All you need to do is to give people a warm welcome.

You can learn all sorts of interesting things, not only from being at the exhibition, but also from visitors. Recently, one woman, who was born in Eynsham, pointed out that the museum had placed the site of Swanns Farmhouse in the wrong location on the exhibition video. The video placed the farmhouse where

Rainbow House is but, in fact, we were pointed to a property hiding behind a high laurel hedge just a little further up Mill Street, on the corner of Beech Road. It was lovely to be put right!

Volunteering makes for quite a relaxing two hours, interspersed with enjoyable chats with all sorts of people. If you would like to volunteer, we are always looking for new people. You don’t need to make a big commitment; anything from two hours a month is just perfect. Please contact me at frmartinflatman@gmail.com, if you would like to join the team.

Eynsham clean and tidy

It is sad to see how many people drop litter in our village streets or throw it out of cars as they pass through. What is great, however, is that so many people, rather than simply moaning about it, make a point of picking up the litter.

One couple can be seen regularly with their picking sticks on the eastern side of the village. Other individuals pick up litter, too, either as a purposeful act of kindness or as a kindness along the way as they go about their normal business. And then there are the Litter Pickers, who also put in so much effort to keep Eynsham clean and tidy. They meet at 1.45pm on the last Sunday of every month at the Baptist Church Hall, Lombard Street. Here, they have litter picking equipment to lend to people. Agreement is reached about who picks where and, one and a half to two hours later, everyone returns to the church hall to return the equipment. Those that wish to then stay on for tea, biscuits and a chat.

The writers of Eynsham

For a village, Eynsham has more than its fair share of writers of works of fiction, non-fiction and poetry, some for adults and others for children. The latest publications to be added to the collection are *Finding Colin* by Martin Flatman, *Bessie Quinn* by Ursula Howard, *Crossing Borders* by Jane Spiro and *Lately* by Stephen Yeo. The complete list of authors and their works is on Eynsham Online, go to eynsham.org.uk/eynsham-heritage

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Around the village



Our local sixth form

Most of us know that Bartholomew School always gets excellent reports from OFSTED, but most don't know that the school elects three presidents every year, who make up the Senior Team.

The election process for the 2024-25 school year started in spring 2024. All those in Year 12 who wished to stand for election created one-minute presentation videos, as well as posters that could be put up around the school. Voting was open to all students and teachers.

Two of those elected for 2024-25 were twin brothers Robert and Edward Loader, who live in Hazeldene Close. Edward vowed that he would have his hair cut if he was elected—and he did! The third person elected as president was Ila, who lives in Cassington. Congratulations to all three!

The Senior Team meet every week, and they run an Instagram account for swift communication. One of their first tasks this term was to run an 'Icebreaker' event, so that new people joining the sixth form from other schools could get to know each other and everyone else. The team also run social events, organising their own finances for ticketing and for hiring halls, DJs or bands, as needed. They run a Fantasy Football League at the school, well as doing the more ordinary job of occasionally speaking at school assemblies and to a meeting for new parents.

Thriving in Nature: an opportunity

Do you fancy some hands-clean paid work for nature?

Our Nature Recovery Network and the Long Mead Foundation have won one of only six grants for Oxfordshire called 'Thriving in Nature'. This is a fantastic recognition of the success of all our collective efforts to understand, restore, and protect the land and the wildlife around us. It also shows the efficacy of our pioneering model of linking up our local experts with our local enthusiasts and connecting up all our local organisations to work together. We have shown that the whole is much, much greater than the sum of the parts!

We know who we are: Beavers, Scouts, Primary School students, Bartholomew A Band students, Bartholomew sixth formers, Eynsham Society, Eynsham Online, Peace Oak, FarmAbility, Bridewell, GreenTEA, Eynsham News and Eynsham Parish Council, as well as our other connected communities. And, equally important, all of us who contribute, time and again, as individuals!

Of course, the really valuable thing is getting out into the landscape, and understanding what plants and wildlife are still hanging on around us - and getting our hands dirty by creating the habitat that will help them survive. However, in order for us to be able to do this at the scale we do (and, with the newly leased land along the river to restore, the scale is growing), there is more back-room work to facilitate our spades in the ground.

So, if you are committed to protecting and restoring nature, and would like some paid work, please get in touch. We have funding for 20 hours per week and it can be for one or more people, depending on skills. You will need experience in some or all of these: admin, fundraising, coordination, communications and data entry. We will prioritise those already involved in NRN. Please email catriona.bass@nature-recovery-network.org with your CV by 4 October.

Football news

by Tom Roberts

Eynsham Association Football Club

is thrilled to announce the comeback of our men's team and the exciting expansion to 11 youth teams spanning eight age groups. All of our teams will be competing in Oxfordshire's football leagues this season.

We are incredibly thankful for the generous support of our local business sponsors, committed volunteer coaches and managers, and all the supporters who join us on match day. If you'd like to be involved, please check out eynshamfc.co.uk.

Calling all producers!

Can you help Eynsham

Country Market?

Eynsham Country Market celebrated 40 years of trading with a special anniversary market at the Square in May. To mark the anniversary, we produced a lovely cookery book, with recipes from former and current producers. (This is available to buy at the weekly market for £6.50) Many of the baked goods at the market were taken from the book. Our chairman, Nick Clapton, did the honours and cut a special 'recipe book' cake, made for the occasion, which we shared with our customers.

July was a busy month, too, when we took part in the Carnival parade, the Flower Festival and ran a busy craft stall on the field. We followed on with a very popular 'Holiday Specials' market on 20 July. However, despite our continued success, we desperately need more producers. We are a thriving co-operative enterprise made up of local people who sell their home-baked, hand-crafted and home-grown produce. We would love you to join us. Come and sell your own goods through our well-established organisation.

It costs only 5p to join the Country Market and you only pay commission on the actual goods that you sell each week. To join, you will require a Level 2 Hygiene Certificate, which you can complete online. You will also need to register your kitchen with West Oxfordshire District Council. Help is

available to get you started, including full, free label training to meet trading standards requirements.

This is a great way to meet people, make some extra income and get involved in a local organisation. We look forward to hearing from you and to welcoming you to our friendly team of producers. Please call us to discuss getting involved on 01865 435343, or email eynshamcountrymarket76@gmail.com. You can also visit us at the market in the Square on Thursdays between 9.00am and 10.30am or follow us on Facebook.

Our special Saturday markets run from 9.30am to 12pm on the following dates:

Halloween & Harvest:

Saturday 26 October, Long Hanborough Recreation Hall
Thursday 31 October, 9-10.30am, Eynsham Market Square

Christmas:

Saturday 30 November, Long Hanborough Recreation Hall
Saturday 7 December, Eynsham Market Square



Croquet taster

by Sandra Jinks

On a very cold, windy and wet afternoon in the first week in September, several members of Eynsham Garden Club put down their spades and got to grips with croquet mallets at the courts in the village. Avoiding the heavy showers, a fun time was had learning the game and scoring winning hoops, accompanied by a lot of friendly banter. Alan Jordan was our champion, winning some delicious chocolates with a super shot through the final hoop. It was a proper English game, finishing, of course, with tea and biscuits.

Eynsham Food Bank update

by Bob Thiele

We just want to thank everyone who continues to support the Eynsham Food Bank. Over the summer, we have seen a steady demand for our service, with equal numbers of households coming and departing. Presently, we are supporting more than 50 families, and we have assisted some 200 households to the point where they have been able to progress beyond needing our service. Our costs have remained constant at around £500 per week.

We continue to need your support for food gifts in the local shops' drop-off baskets together with financial donations. We would also welcome new volunteers to join the team to help stack, pack or deliver the food parcels. If you may be able to assist in any of these, please contact me on 07450 328530.

Lastly, a special thanks to all our regular donors. It is a great help to have some predictable income. If you can help in this way, our bank details are: Eynsham Good Neighbours Network; sort code 40-35-34, account number 14162870.

Bartholomew Players: 'Absent Friends'

'Absent Friends' is a play by the renowned playwright Alan Ayckbourn, which premiered in Scarborough 50 years ago. A tea party has been arranged for the recently bereaved Colin by 'friends' and acquaintances. However, Colin's acceptance of his situation and of his fulfilling time with his fiancée only serves to highlight and widen the rifts in the other relationships.

In an interview in 2021, the playwright described this play as an "unflinching tragi-comedy which explores the death of love." Although first staged in 1974, it has been regularly revived, making it one of the most popular plays in the Ayckbourn play canon. When asked if the play was still relevant today,

Ayckbourn replied, "I think a lot of it is still very relevant. Human nature doesn't change. We just adopt different hairstyles."

'Absent Friends' is John Casey's debut as a director for Bartholomew Players. The play will both amuse you and invite you to reflect on modern British life.

Venue: Eynsham Village Hall, Back Lane, Eynsham, OX29 4QW

Dates: Wednesday 27 November through to Saturday 30 November

Doors open: 7.00pm

Performance: 7.30pm

Price: £12.00 (no concessions)

Tickets are available in advance online at trybooking.co.uk/DVGG; from Denise Santilli (call 07721 744020 or email bart.players@gmail.com) Alternatively, you can purchase tickets from Evenlode DIY or buy on the door.

New members interested in acting or working backstage with us are very welcome. We are an award-winning, friendly company. Please contact us by email (bart.players@gmail.com) or via our website (bartholomewplayers.co.uk)

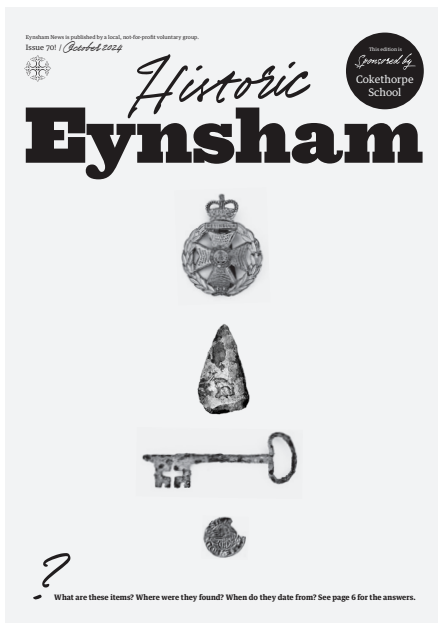
Eynsham News, Your News

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 10 November.

Out and about



From the museum

by Sarah Medina

Can you guess what these items are? Where they were found? When they date from? (See below for the answers.)

They are just a few of the objects featured on the website of the Eynsham Museum and Heritage Centre (eynshammuseum.org.uk). Every month, you can explore a new 'Object of the Month'—and look back at all those that have featured to date. Each one is a fascinating glimpse into life in our village at a different point in history.

There's much more to discover on the website, too, including all the news (current and old), exhibition details, a brief history of Eynsham, everything you need to know to visit the museum and ways you can support our work.

And whilst you are online, do check out our social media, too. We are on Facebook (facebook.com/eynshammuseum) and Instagram (instagram.com/eynshammuseum). We'd love you to follow and like us, but you don't have to be signed up as a member of either Facebook or Instagram to see what we have posted there.

The objects (from the top) are:

A Royal Green Jackets infantry regiment cap badge, found by metal

detectorists in the Fishponds in the 1990s.

A hand axe that was found in 1924 in a gravel pit near where Eynsham Station used to be. It is in the region of 130,000 years old.

A door key dating from medieval times. It was found in the garden of a house in Abbey Place, only a few metres from what was the western part of Eynsham Abbey.

A silver penny dating from the time of King Cnut, who ruled areas of northern Europe in the early 11th century CE. The coin was found at the site of Eynsham Abbey.

The big sleep

by Nick Clapton

As the nights draw in and ultra-violet light is less abundant, most plants begin to slow down in anticipation of winter dormancy. Decades ago, there was an absolute mania for 'tidying up' everything in the garden at this time of year since, in winter, there wouldn't be much to look at or even much reason to go into the garden. Fortunately, taste and horticultural opinion about this have both changed in more recent years, and in any case, cutting down flowered stems of perennials in autumn, as we were once advised, can be a lot of work: they're still green and heavy, being full of water. It's far better to leave them to die back naturally. During cold weather, they can provide hibernating places for beneficial insects, so if you can bear a little horticultural disorder, leave such tidying until the spring, when these stems will be feather-light and much easier to deal with.

Home-made compost

Your deciduous trees and shrubs will, of course, be losing their leaves soon. Sweep these up, put them in some bin bags into which you cut a few holes, and store them in an out-of-way place, preferably one where they'll not get too wet. Over the winter the leaves will rot down and can be used to mulch garden beds next spring, or crumbled up in home-made potting compost. In addition, try making some piles of leaves in the odd corner of your plot; a hibernating hedgehog or toad, or maybe even a grass snake,

would be very grateful!

Your lawn might still need mowing occasionally (raise the cutting height somewhat). And autumn is also a good time to aerate and apply a fertiliser, especially if your lawn is looking a bit tired after this strange summer.

Some tender love

Unlike hardy perennials, tender ones like dahlias, begonias and pelargoniums actually require attention now. Sometime in October, frost is still likely, so be ready to get your pelargoniums into a protected place right away: a cold greenhouse or a cold frame, in which they can be covered in horticultural fleece, should work, or a garage with at least a little natural light. They will need occasional watering during the winter to keep them ticking over. Should your house be blessed with large window-sills, pelargoniums, given good light, will happily keep growing and even flowering indoors all winter.

I only have dahlias and begonias in large pots outdoors, and I find that covering these in bubble insulation sheets helps them to survive winter well. If yours are in the ground, however, dig up the tubers as soon as the first air frost has occurred. Remove the blackened stems, knock off any clinging soil and transfer them to a large container (a cardboard box is fine) in a frost-free place; I am told that a cellar is best, though few of us have those nowadays. Label the tubers, so they don't get mixed up, and cover them well with dry compost (spent compost that you might have used for other summer displays is perfectly adequate). Sometime in late April or early May, you will notice a tiny green shoot poking out, showing they are ready for another growing season.

Wind rock and roll

One other job that can pay dividends next year is to check any of your shrubs for wind rock. This is particularly important with regard to recently planted trees and large roses, especially standards. Wind can disturb the soil at the point where the plant's stems meet the ground, and, should ice collect there, it can cause severe damage. Make sure the earth

at this point is firm and check that any staking is solid. Never support a large shrub or a tree by ramming a stake into the ground vertically close to the stem but, rather, stake it at a 45-degree angle, attaching it to the stem with a rubber or plastic plant tie (used tights also work well, apparently!). Please do not use wire, as it can so easily damage the stem by rubbing or scraping at the bark.

Amidst the slight untidiness, think of planting evergreens that have a good 'profile' in winter. They can look striking when outlined in frost. Miniature conifers can look horribly out of place in distinctly un-Nordic Oxfordshire, so why not try *Sarcococca* (Christmas Box), clipped yew and small-leaved ivies.

And last, but not least, now is the time to clean your garden tools, chuck out all your container bedding (and clean the containers), tidy the shed, and dream about next year.



Village personality: Fay Taylor

by Julia Shay (reprinted with permission from *Eynsham Online*)
Fay Taylor is the outgoing Chair of Eynsham Village Show. In August, she was kind enough to let me interview her.

Fay came to Eynsham in 1992, having grown up in Kidlington. She is a keen allotmenteer and crafter, and remembers taking part in the Village Show when it was still held in St Leonard's Church Hall and the Red Lion function room.

Fay has always supported Scouting in Eynsham and a small team from the Scouting group decided to keep the Village Show going when it was threatened with closure. They moved it to the Village Hall and introduced some new classes, such as photography. Subsequently, the show was revamped, and the process of development continues. They would

love more children to enter, and currently rely a lot on the Guides and Scouts to support the children's classes.

Fay's day job is as a trainer at the UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology near Wallingford. Her career trajectory is quite unusual, having moved from Fashion and Textiles to being a trainer via working for the Ministry of Defence. She also ran her own business for 14 years. After a difficult time during the Covid pandemic, Fay was offered her current post, which she absolutely loves.

Fay loves the diversity of Eynsham, and welcomes the new people and ideas that growth will bring. She is also aware that this will entail dealing with traffic and other infrastructure difficulties. She is a very enthusiastic person and has 1.5 allotments! She knits and crochets, and has been involved with Guiding all her life, including contributing to their national training programmes. She is currently training for the Abingdon Marathon in October, has begun drawing, and would really love to study Criminology!

Thank you, Fay, for letting us find out a bit more about you.

Remembrance 2024

by Royal British Legion
Eynsham Branch

Wreaths for Remembrance Sunday

Organisations wishing to lay wreaths on Remembrance Sunday, please order them as soon as possible online from The Poppy Shop, (poppypshop.org.uk) and notify the Poppy Appeal organiser (Ginge Ayres) to add to the laying list. Email ginge1@netvigator.com

Poppy Appeal 2024

This year's Poppy Appeal launches on 25 October, with poppies available in shops, pubs, and restaurants soon after that. Street distribution of poppies by the Eynsham Detachment of The Rifles Army Cadet Force will take place on Saturday 2 Nov.

A large range of poppy-related items is available all year round from The Poppy Shop.

Remembrance Sunday

Sunday 10 November 2024

The Act of Remembrance will take place at the War Memorial at Market

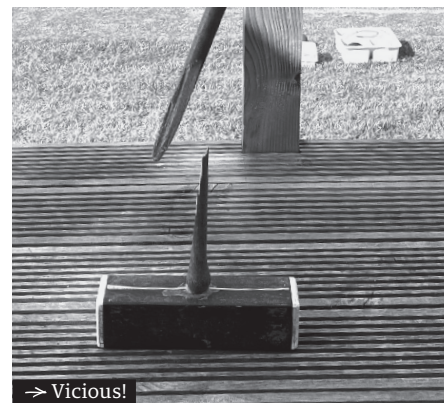
Square at 10.45am. There will be a two-minute silence at 11.00am.

Armistice Day

Monday 11 November 2024

The Act of Remembrance will take place at the War Memorial at Market Square at 10.45am. There will be a two-minute silence at 11.00am.

All are welcome to attend Remembrance events. Please wear a poppy and suitable clothing for November.



The broken mallet

by Sandra Jinks

We at Eynsham Croquet Club are a friendly bunch, although the game has a reputation of being vicious on occasions! As if to evidence this, here is a photo of damage recently incurred when a member exercised the skill of jumping his ball over an opponent's ball that was stuck in the winning hoop so his would go through and take the score—all very legal play. I would just say that the club mallet had seen better days and this was a triumphant end to its life!

Oxford Centre for the National Trust

'Caring for our National Trust gardens and plant collection' by Pam Smith, Senior National Consultant for Gardens and Parklands at the National Trust on:

Tuesday 22 October, 10.30am, Magdalen Auditorium, Longwall St., Oxford. £7 members, £10 non-members (includes coffee)

'Histories of childhood: uncovering new heritage narratives' by Dr Gillian Lamb and Dr Sian Pooley on:

Tuesday 19 November, 10.30am, Magdalen Auditorium, Longwall St, Oxford. £7 members, £10 non-members, (includes coffee).



Space for all

*Our Village Hall is
a great community space!*

Considering its size, Eynsham is fortunate to have such a large, well-appointed and modern Village Hall at its heart. The building is Parish Council property—we have an office and host our meetings there—but it’s also a great community space.

Who’s at the Hall?

Many local groups have regular bookings, such as the Cadets and the Bartholomew Players, the WI and the embroidery group. There are also regular classes, such as yoga and pilates, and a monthly film club.

A long-term, regular user is the weekly Day Centre. Director Jane Johnson says that they simply “could not operate anywhere else in the village”. The hall provides “plenty of space for all our activities” and the kitchen and toilets are key when hosting older people. “We cannot and would not want to be anywhere else!”

Claire Maden has been holding her childrens’ martial arts classes at the Hall since 2011 and finds the space to be “ideal. It’s clean and of good size. Also, we’re able to store our mats on site. The hall is central in the village, so people who live in Eynsham can easily walk and there is parking nearby.”



What’s available?

There is a large hall with a stage, a smaller hall, and a kitchen available for hire. We cater to regular bookings but also welcome one-off bookings for events such as weddings—we often have good availability during the weekend.

Lucy Merry organises the Eynsham community New Year’s Eve party in the main hall. She said: “The hall is a great central location to host it. It gives parents with young families an

opportunity to celebrate in a safe space where children are welcome and can have fun dancing the night away. The facilities offered tick every box for our annual event.”

In need of a space?

If you think the Village Hall might be suitable for your class, activity or event, get in touch! More information (including hiring costs) is available on the website. To book, email bookings@eynsham-pc.gov.uk.

Dates for your Diary—Full Council Meetings:

Tues 15 Oct 7.30pm

Tues 19 Nov 7.30pm

Tues 17 Dec 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



The autumn is here, school has resumed and our Councillors are back at 'work' after an August break. There is always a lot for the Full Council to discuss, but even more currently as a reduced staff capacity means we have paused our committee meetings, with all matters discussed by all Councillors.

Our staff team is missing a new Clerk as well as a new Maintenance Operative and we're actively recruiting. If you know of anyone who is good at DIY and is seeking a part-time role locally that supports our community, encourage them to contact us.

We've been contacted by Eynsham Medical Group to spread the word about their autumn vaccination clinics for covid and flu. These are scheduled for Saturday mornings in October and November in Eynsham and Long Hanborough (exact dates on our website). Eligible patients will receive a message explaining how to book a slot. Make sure you do so you can stay well this winter!

Residents may be interested to hear that the BBC's Escape to the Country team filmed at our skatepark at the end of August. We've asked the production team to let us know when the episode will air and we'll let you know via our website if you'd like to catch it on TV!

Finally, we are planning to hold another Fishponds Working Party session on Saturday 26 October for anyone who would be interested in spending a few hours helping us maintain this lovely local green space. We can provide free biscuits! You can express an interest by emailing us via epc.comms@eynsham-pc.gov.uk

From the Clerk's Desk



The Clerk's desk is currently being manned by our Deputy Clerk (that's me; I'm Richard!) as we continue to recruit. To ensure the Parish Council remains operational during this transition, we are focusing on delivering the top ten projects we have on our to-do list. We have also reduced the number of meetings; we have monthly Full Council meetings, but no committee meetings. All matters are discussed and voted on at Full Council.

The upgrades to the Village Hall lighting to improve energy-efficiency are taking place imminently. We appreciate that the week-long closure will be an inconvenience to those who regularly use the space, but the long term gains will be worth it.

We have a new noticeboard on the Thornbury Green estate, which is available for residents to use. Please use the noticeboard considerately to ensure there is space for everyone.

Steph, who is responsible for room bookings at the Village Hall, recently swapped her day job for a session volunteering at the weekly Monday Club, as part of our new staff volunteering policy. The Monday Club provides activities and lunch for those aged over 65 and Steph has fond memories of her Nan attending. She greatly enjoyed getting involved and commended the regular volunteers. You can read more about her experience on our website.

Finally, we have recently said goodbye to Dan, who has been our Maintenance Operative since 2022. Having Dan on the team has been of great benefit to the Council and he will be missed. We wish him well in his new role.

Councillor Q&A: Cllr Carl Rylett



Carl wears two hats: he joined Eynsham Parish Council in 2017 and became a District Councillor in 2018.

How did you get elected?

I was co-opted to become a Parish Councillor since there was a spare place on the council; theoretically an election is held every four years, but if there aren't more than 15 standing, we are all successful. Standing for election for the district involves running a campaign for which I am supported by the local Liberal Democrat group. Eynsham Parish Council is non-political.

Why did you seek both positions?

The essential reason for both is to serve the community and help to keep Eynsham a great place to live and work in. The differences with district are the wider remit of responsibilities and also working with my Liberal Democrat colleagues to further policies and principles.

What are the biggest challenges?

At first, for both, there is a lot to learn, especially around the wider topics, such as planning. And I'm still learning all the time.

What is the most enjoyable aspect?

When my actions help to make a real difference. Sometimes that's at district level, helping to push through policies, while at other times, it's helping individuals.

What else do you do?

My day job is in IT. I spend my free time either with my family or on personal hobbies. I host a podcast on European history, although this is currently on hiatus.

Events Preview



→ A friendly running club

The Eynsham 10km Road Race

by Alison Craggs

Eynsham Roadrunners are delighted to announce the return of the Polar Group Eynsham 10k on Sunday 24 November 2024. The race helps to raise money for charity and for Bartholomew School.

The route will consist of two laps of Eynsham village, finishing in the grounds of Bartholomew School, as in previous years. The race will be chip-timed and will have full medical back-up. There will be category prizes and T-shirts for finishers.

You can enter online via the Race Nation website here: bit.ly/3XJFS9E. The race usually fills up quickly, so please enter early to avoid missing out.

For more information about the race, please visit bit.ly/3MMHTvk. And if you would like to find out more about our club, please go to eynshamroadrunners.org.uk or contact us at eynsham.err@gmail.com

We are a friendly running club and would love to welcome you, whether you are running to make friends, keep fit or compete in races.



→ Some Oxford varieties

Apple Day

Peace Oak and GreenTEA invite you to our Apple Day at the Peace Oak Orchard (entry through Cobbetts Close, off Newland Street) on Saturday 12 October from 2.00pm to 4.00pm.

There will be lots to do, including:

- Apple picking, tasting and juicing.
- Bring your own apples to be identified by experts.
- Craft demonstrations: green woodworking, willow weaving and more.
- Activities for children, including a Treasure Hunt.
- A GreenTEA plant-based food competition. Bring your dish, taste delicious food and discover new recipes!
- Talking about bees.
- Nature Recovery, experts on wildflower meadows and more.
- A Funghi Foray.

Also, look out for our sale of Family Apple Trees. There are three apple varieties on one stem: an early eating apple, a late eating apple and a cooking apple. The trees have been grown and grafted at the Peace Oak, and are suitable for small gardens. £30 each.

As Earth Stirs

by Sarah Medina

Songs & words for wintertime with Eynsham Community Choir, Saturday 30 November, 7.30pm-9:20pm, St Leonard's Church.

Join us for a benefit concert for Nature Recovery Network and the Peace Oak Association. This will be a mellow evening of song, verse and more in a celebration of winter and the wonders of the natural world. Look out for more details closer to the time (bit.ly/3Tu31ue).

Sustainable Arts & Crafts

by Alison Holmans

Save the date (30 November-1 December) for Eynsham's Sustainable Christmas Arts and Crafts Fair at Mill Street Arts. This exciting hub for art will be packed to the rafters with a host of talented artists and makers, all with a strong connection to Eynsham and a focus on sustainability. You can support local makers whilst finding genuinely personal handmade Christmas presents for your loved ones.

There will be something for

everyone, including fine art, ceramics, leatherwork, carved wooden spoons, pickles, jewellery inspired by the past, Mandala pebbles and stars, flower decorations, willow work and cards.

The icing on the cake will be Eynsham's own baking queen Renata Swatek of Vanilla Passion. Stay and enjoy a hot toddy to wash down some of Renate's baking delights. You will be able to take some away with you or put in a Christmas order with Renate.



'Under Wytham Wood'

by Jane Spiro

We are an Eynsham-based circle of writers that first met to celebrate the centenary of the Peace Oak in 2019, and have continued ever since, writing and talking about poetry.

We have created our own Eynsham-grown voice play, including a cornucopia of people and places, evoking a loving soundscape of village life. Our inspiration was Under Milk Wood, Dylan Thomas's day in the 1954 life of a Welsh village, though our village sits under Wytham Wood in 2024.

We will perform a rehearsed reading of 'Under Wytham Wood' in The Music Room on Saturday 26 October from 4.30pm to 6.00pm. The event will include candlelit refreshments as the last daylight of summertime fades.

Free entry with donations to the Eynsham Good Neighbour Network at the door.

Events Diary

See more at Eynsham Online



Rotary
Club of Eynsham

Working with the community, for the community

Charity Quiz Night

Saturday 19th October

7.00 for 7.30 start

Eynsham Village Hall

Bring your own team of 4-6 members or join another on the night.

Prizes for the winning team

Tickets £5.00 - snackboard per table included

Available from Evenlode DIY or from

roywilkinson4@gmail.com - 01865 883917, 07970 227364,

spencer633@btinternet.com - 01865 881025, 07309 730808

https://www.trybooking.com/uk/DUVP



Bar and Raffle

Fundraising for local and international Rotary charities
<https://www.rotary-rsbi.org/clubs/homepage.php?ClubID=2889>

Garden Club

Wed 9 Oct, Village Hall

Mandy Bradshaw: Beyond the garden gate—my guide to Cotswold gardens (changed from advertised speaker). Please bring photos of your garden so we can choose the cover picture for next year.

Combe Mill

Sun 20 Oct

'In Steam' Wood craft and autumn market. Wood Turners Club, vintage demonstrations, come along and see how it was done in the day. Adults £9, seniors £7, accompanied children FREE, open 10.30am to 5pm. Free parking. Dog on leads most welcome.

Garden Club

Wed 13 Nov, Village Hall

Sarah Couch: A remarkable survival: the Sherborne estate, past and present.

Eynsham Community Choir

Songs & words for wintertime

Sat 30 Nov, 7.30pm-9:20pm,

St Leonard's Church

Combe Mill, Annual

'Christmas Market'

Sun 1 Dec, 11am-4pm

One World Week Sale

Sat 26th Oct, on the Square

Zumba® classes in Eynsham

Wednesdays at 9.30am and Fridays at 7.30pm (term-time), Baptist Church Hall. Get fit and have fun, no need to book, £7 on the door. Everyone's invited! Info: bethstephensonsemail@gmail.com

Bump to One

Mondays from 10.30am to midday in St Leonard's church

For mums-to-be, and mums with kids up to age 1

Walkie Talkies

Mondays 10-11.30am (term time), St Leonard's 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 £1.50 donation per family!

Eynsham Choral Society

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

Warm Welcome Wednesday

Company and conversation

From 10.30am to midday, St Leonard's Church

Busy Bees baby & toddler group

Every Friday in term, 9.30-11am, Baptist Church Hall

£2.50 per family, including drinks and snacks.

Eynsham Community Choir

Thursdays 7:15pm for tea, 7:30pm-9pm singing, Baptist Church Hall

No experience necessary. More info: emilyschoirs.co.uk

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 rcarley@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

Eynsham Library Opening

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

Tuesday: Closed

Wed/Thur: 1-5pm

Friday: 1-7pm

Saturday: 9.30am-1pm

Sunday: Closed

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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 August edition, before 10 Nov 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.



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EYNSHAM CARNIVAL

**A special invitation
from Carnival
chairman,
Peter Feakes**

**Join us at the
Eynsham Carnival
Community
Group AGM**

Thursday 17th Oct at 7.30pm
The Swan Hotel Public House

The Carnival committee needs
new members, and we'd like
some younger members too!
There's plenty to do to prepare
for 2025.

There will be a free drink
available to all who turn up 



Remember! The deadline for
articles, ads and announcements
for the next Eynsham News #69
10 November 2024. Send copy to
editor@eynshamnews.org.uk

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[01865 884400](tel: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.

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Contact Jen Wilkins [07778153292](tel:07778153292)
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