

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

Issue 73 | *April-May 2025*



Eynsham



This edition is
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Eynsham
Churches

Artweeks—the UK’s oldest and biggest pop-up exhibition and open studios event—is coming to Eynsham in May!

→ Artwork: Jane Tomlinson

Village Buzz

Local government is important! It affects our lives very directly. Why don't you consider joining our Parish Council (see pages 8-9)? Here, Councillor Dan Levy gives us a heads-up on how the County Council may be changing in a way that will affect the future of our village, and MP Calum Miller represents local concerns in the Westminster Parliament. And their job is to work FOR YOU!

Dan Levy—the new Labour government has invited County Councils to consider merging with other neighbouring councils to form a Mayoral Combined Authority (MCA); these will cover a population of at least 500,000 people.

In Eynsham, we may become part of Thames Valley MCA, comprising Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire. The directly elected Mayor will have powers over public transport and inward investment. Our District Council (West Oxfordshire) and County Council would be replaced by Thames Valley MCA, with 750,000 residents. It would be financially stable and avoid splitting key functions like social services.

However, Oxford City want two authorities: an outer Oxfordshire and an enlarged Oxford City (and the City option would include Eynsham).

We expect the new arrangements to be in place by 2027, but we will still be having County Council elections in May 2025.



→ Calum Miller MP

MP update

by Calum Miller

I have been taking the time in Parliament to raise the issues you have told me matter most to you.

I know many residents are deeply

concerned by the proposals for the Botley West Solar Plant. I have been pressing the government on alternatives to such mega-projects on our landscape and that, where new schemes are permitted, they provide a significant community benefit. In January, my colleague Max Wilkinson's 'Sunshine' Bill was debated. The bill, which I co-sponsored, would help the UK drive a rooftop solar revolution requiring the installation of solar photovoltaic generation equipment on new homes.

I have also had a meeting with the Health Secretary to discuss capital funding of surgeries, and pressed the Prime Minister to seriously address the needs of Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services across our constituency.

Contact calum.miller.mp@parliament.uk

Are you 18+?

Get ready to vote in local council elections on Thursday 1 May 2025. Use the opportunity to have your say on local issues.

If you are voting for the first time or have recently moved house, you will need to register to vote by 11 April. See: bit.ly/3FsOPxq And remember to take ID with you when you go to vote—all the information is at westoxon.gov.uk/elections

Common Ground

by Anna Glynn

Common Ground is the working title of a community arts project to be rolled out across the village in the coming months.

Eynsham residents will be invited to donate stories of Eynsham's past. This could be within living memory or via inherited memory from parents and grandparents. For example—do you remember when the local farms were in operation, before they were turned into residential sites? Do you remember Biggar's bakery and the mineral factory? Were you told about memorable events and personalities?

Stories will be audio-recorded, shared with students at the primary

school to capture their responses, and then turned into a freely accessible podcast and audio walking tour of the village, alongside a library listening hub and exhibition.

Common Ground is a collaboration between Flintlock Theatre (Facebook: [flintlock theatre](https://www.facebook.com/flintlocktheatre)), Eynsham Museum and Heritage Centre, the Monday Club, Oxfordshire Libraries and Eynsham Community Primary School.

A trip down memory lane

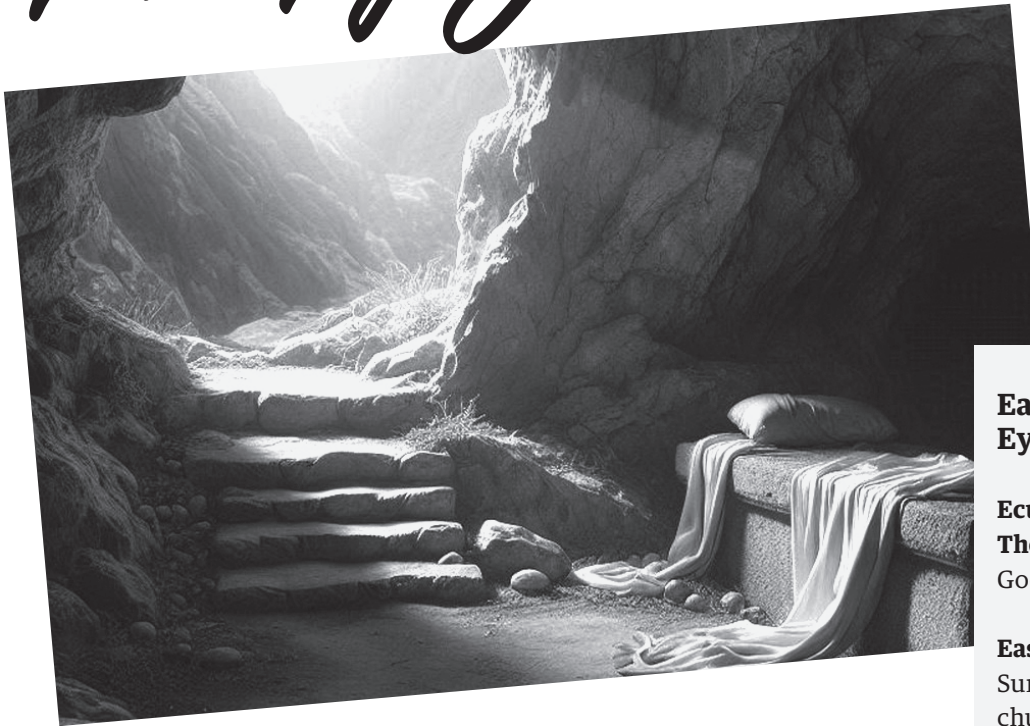
Bartholomew School was delighted to welcome former student Francis Hunt back to the school on Friday 7 March 2025, as he returned to donate memorabilia from his time as a student. During his visit, Francis enjoyed a tour of the school, met with Headteacher Craig Thomas, and shared fond memories of his school days.

As he explored the campus, Francis recalled his time helping to set up the kiln in the art department and painting stage sets—an early passion that later saw him working for the New Theatre, Oxford. He reminisced about Mr Sharp, the Headmaster at the time, and the portacabin classrooms used while the old tower block was being built. Among the memories, he also recounted the tragic accident involving a crane operator during the construction.

Francis was amazed by how much the school has grown, particularly the state-of-the-art classrooms in the maths and computing block. He was pleased to see the original art studios still standing, though he noted that the kiln—once tucked away under the stairs—now has a more fitting home in the art department.

Visits like these remind us how much our alumni mean to the Bartholomew community. Hearing stories from former students and seeing how the school has played a role in shaping their lives is always inspiring. In fact, Francis's visit has got us thinking—wouldn't it be wonderful to bring together more of our alumni for an event to celebrate our shared history? You can contact the school via alumni@bartholomew.epatrust.org

Happy Easter



**Roses are red,
Violets are blue.
I love Easter.
How about you?**

Longer days? Yes! Spring flowers? Sure! Chocolate eggs? Absolutely! It's a great opportunity to get outside a bit more, rediscover the word 'picnic'... and what a delight for so many of us to go to work and come home, all in the light.

For Christians this Easter, we celebrate all these things, but much more. This season is at the heart of our faith. We remember our Founder (Jesus) and all He did for us. Good Friday remembers His gruesome death on a cross. Betrayed by a colleague, denied by a friend, abandoned by almost everyone. Yet, this death was the greatest example of sacrificial love—dying for others, dying for us.

Easter Sunday showcases life, not death. Jesus' crucifixion signals the first instalment of the story, the

Resurrection its dramatic conclusion. Jesus miraculously defeats death, conquers the grave...and is alive today! Christians will be celebrating all this at Easter 2025.

It's a message of hope in a dark world. Many of us feel overwhelmed by our personal circumstances—fear of unemployment, advancing years and ill-health. Others worry for the future of their children (grandchildren), or about war in Europe or another pandemic. It's easy to give in to hopelessness.

Yet this Easter, the Churches of Eynsham will be celebrating this message of hope. All three of the churches offer a welcome to regular attenders and visitors alike. Please join us!

'Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore.' (Statue of Liberty)

'Come to me all who are struggling, weary and burdened. I will give you rest.' (Jesus)

Easter with the Eynsham Churches

Ecumenical Service in The Square

Good Friday 18 April, 10am

Easter Morning

Sunday 20 April. All three churches have morning celebrations

Other events during Easter week

St Leonard's Church

Palm Sunday 13 April 10.30am
Benefice Holy Communion
Maundy Thursday 17 April, 4-6pm
Easter Families@4
stleonardseynsham.org.uk

Eynsham Baptist Church

Maundy Thursday 17 April 12pm
A short mid-day communion and reflection in the church.
Easter Sunday 20 April 8am,
breakfast with communion in the hall, 10.30am service with Easter egg hunt for the children.
eynshambaptistchurch.co.uk

St Peter's Catholic Church

Saturday 19 April 8pm
The Easter Vigil
Sunday 20 April 10am
Easter Mass
stpeterseynsham.org.uk

Village Arts



Alison Holmans



Alice Walker



Paul Ellis



Ali Berrett



Eric White



Julia Loken



Matt Black

Calling all artists!

by Jon Young

Eynsham Parish Council has announced plans for a new Art Trail to be built around the village (see page 8). Local artists are being invited to submit pitches to create funded artworks to be included on the trail!

The Art Trail will be completed by August 2027 and Eynsham Parish Council is accepting applications right now. The deadline is 4 April 2025. Successful applicants will be told in May this year. Check out the Eynsham Parish Council site (Eynsham-pc.gov.uk/) for the full lowdown.

Top tips if you are pitching an idea for the Art Trail

Andy Goodwin: 'Look at the space first – the ideas will follow. Walk around the village and get inspiration! Be bold, be brave, and work out the practical details (especially on how you'll install the piece) before you move forward.'

Jane Tomlinson: 'Be ambitious, but think whether it will be still enjoyed in 25 years' time. Remember, it needs to be weather-proof too, and - as far as possible –vandal-proof. Finally, don't sell yourself short. If it's going to take 100+ hours of sweat to make your artwork, reflect that in the pricing.'

Artist events

by Laraine Saedi

Eynsham Art Group is hosting two talks by artists at Mill Street Arts.

The first, on Thursday 26 April, will be by ceramicist and sculptor Paul Drew. The second, on Thursday 26 May, will be by artist and musician Claire Christie Sadler. Both events start at 7.30pm. Tickets: £5 on the door (£4 for students). All welcome.

Eynsham's artists put on a show in May

by Jane Tomlinson

Eynsham's many talented artists are planning a series of exhibitions for Artweeks, Oxfordshire's annual visual arts festival. From 17 to 26 May, they will be opening their homes and studios to show their recent work.

Eric White will show more than 50 original pastel paintings of predominantly landscapes from his home on **Mill Street**. It will be Eric's 33rd Artweeks exhibition – a testament to his popularity and breathtaking skills with pastels.

At **Mill Street Arts**, four artists will showcase their work together. Alice Walker, Emma Hallmark, Paul Ellis and Matt Black find inspiration in local landscapes, skies, water, texture, colour, music and more, in a variety of expressive styles, including paintings, collages and printmaking.

On **Newland Street**, you can expect variety from the 12 potters of The Old Forge Pottery: wheel-thrown stoneware and porcelain, hand-built curios, mugs, bowls, jugs, teapots, tiles and even hand-modelled pets.

And there is even more pottery in **Tanners Lane**, where Alison Holmans creates beautiful, functional ceramics for daily use, along with quirky figures of birds and animals, and garden sculptures.

On **Acre End Street**, pop in to meet Hugh Pryor, and be amazed by the magic he can conjure with lighting to record movement in long-exposure photographs.

At **Abbey Farm Barns**, Julia Loken will show her glowing watercolours of plants and landscapes, and decorative patterns of natural forms. Julia has taken part in Artweeks almost since it began 'more years ago than I can remember!' she says.

Amble down towards **Twelve Acre Farm** to view the work of Alison Berrett, whose extraordinary ability with colour allows you to run wild through landscapes, coastline and skies.

Finally, nip over to **Pigeon House Lane, Freeland**, to see the work of siblings Jane Tomlinson and Paul Tomlinson. Jane's colourful paintings are of Mother Nature, and hand-painted maps, including, this year, her award-winning painting of Old Father Thames. Paul's exquisite ink drawings, washed with watercolour, are of characterful townscape.

Appointments are not necessary. Simply check opening times at artweeks.org. You will be made very welcome by each of the artists.

Village Habitats



→ Julie Macken bee hives, and Bella the dog

The bees of Eynsham

by *Martin Flatman*

There are 250 species of bees in the UK, but only one honeybee that lives largely in hives made by people. You can visit one thriving Eynsham bee-keeping enterprise online at bit.ly/4bR4ORN

Some of you may have seen Neve's Bees skincare products at The Market Garden. Their hives are near the village centre. The website gives lots of information about bees and how we can help them.

There is at least one other beekeeper in our village, based in Dovehouse Close with bee hives by the front door. As with all bees, the only danger is if you pass too close to the front of the hive. Do keep growing as many different flowers as possible this spring - for the bees as well as for all of us.

Eynsham Garden Club— a brief history

by *Nick Clapton*

(Committee Member since 2019)

After several years of informal discussion amongst keen gardeners, Eynsham Garden Club held its first committee meeting on 30 May 1984. Its first programmes retained a gentility that might seem almost quaint today. All committee members and speakers were known by title, initial and surname only, with Mrs J. Hyde as the first chairman. Meetings were held at Bartholomew School, and the annual membership fee was £3 (it's now £20).

Perhaps most old fashioned was the club's very name: Eynsham and District Horticultural Society—very grand. Meeting places varied, including the White Hart function

room and the Music Room, before becoming firmly established, in 2008, in the Village Hall.

Meetings have always followed a pretty regular pattern: the Annual General Meeting in January; monthly speakers; a fund-raising plant sale in May; one or two garden visits a year; and two social events.

Some very good speakers have featured more than once, including such well-known figures as Tim Walker, sometime keeper of Oxford Botanic Garden, and the highly entertaining Bob Brown, who founded the wonderful Cotswold Garden Flowers plant nursery in Badsey, just outside Evesham. Talks have been on subjects as diverse as hanging baskets, gardening further afield (including Greece, China and Japan), cacti, garden ponds, garden wildlife, vegetables and herbs, and, perhaps oddest of all, 'Dukes, Damsels, and Dandelions', given by Peter Sheasby on Wednesday, 18 May 1996. The second Wednesday in the month is the normal day for meetings.

Changing horticultural fashions were reflected in the first appearance in the programme of the word 'organic' in 2000, whilst modern technology in the form of an email address for the club was first used in 2004, and a full-colour front cover arrived with the programme for 2011.

Our present Chairman, Simon Harbour, has been the Chair since 2012, but has announced his retirement at the end of this season, so change is afoot. His service to the club is only beaten in longevity by Verity Hughes, who has been Treasurer since 2006. Membership is holding steady above 50, so we are flourishing (though we would like more younger members), and, entering our fifth decade, look forward to a bright future!

Opening Eynsham's gardens

by *Suzie Chadwick*

Do you have a garden you would like to show off? The National Garden Scheme gives visitors unique access to private gardens and raises donations for nursing and health charities through admissions, teas and cake. See: bit.ly/3FnIhjr

But Eynsham used to have an annual Open Gardens event, and it would be great to have it again.

What do you think? We'd love to cover it in Eynsham News!



→ Restoring local meadows

Nature Recovery Network: Five years young and thriving!

by *Anna Parrinder*

Nature Recovery Network has kicked off its fifth year with enthusiasm. We have been focused on our Meadow Restoration and 'Hedge in Time' projects, with over 100 hardy souls braving the icy cold to plant 4,500 hedgerow whips in just one afternoon in January.

Alongside this, the network has been busy restoring Neyotts - the land just across the Thames from Eynsham Lock—to its former glory as a diverse wildflower hay meadow. Our meadow restoration and plant propagation group meets regularly on Wednesdays (as well as Monday mornings from April).

If you want to get involved, all are welcome to these friendly groups, plus there are plenty of opportunities for us all to join in with the NRN's work over the coming months. We never cancel an event, whatever the weather!

We will be toasting our fifth year with a big Midsummer Nature Celebration on Saturday 21 June, featuring music, arts and crafts, guided walks, talks and dancing, all in a meadow blooming with rare plants! Please get in touch with your ideas on how you and your group can help us celebrate nature, and pop it in your diaries now.

We will be running a Celebratory Nature Photo Competition, with an exhibition of the winners on 21 June, so get clicking with your phones or cameras. See more at nature-recovery-network.org/events

Village Fitness

You Can Run!

by Alison Craggs

The next Eynsham Road Runners 'You Can Run' course starts on Saturday 10 May. This is a 10-week 'Couch to 5k' programme for new and returning runners. In a small, friendly group, with the help of qualified Leaders in Running Fitness, you will see that you can run 5km! For more information, go to bit.ly/4bOP9Cr. To register your interest, email eynsham.err@gmail.com.

Oxonian Cycling Club!

by Steve Legge

Oxonian Cycling Club, based in Eynsham, is the perfect place for riders of all abilities to enjoy the sport. Founded in 1927, the club now has 180+ members. The primary focus is on road cycling, with weekend club runs, weekly time trials and cyclo-cross. Many members also take part in road racing, touring, off-road adventures and even track sessions.

Club rides start at The Red Lion at 9am on Saturdays, and take you through the beautiful Oxfordshire countryside on quieter lanes—always with a café stop to refuel and chat. Rides are led by experienced members, covering about 50 miles at a pace that suits the group. No one gets left behind! For more information, go to: oxoniancc.co.uk

Young Lives vs Cancer

Ginta Chukwu is cycling from London to Amsterdam in June 2025 to raise funds for Young Lives vs Cancer, a charity that supports kids and young people fighting cancer. To find out more, and to donate and help provide vital support, go to bit.ly/3Frnxav

Croquet members' perseverance

by Sandra Jinks

With our croquet courts flooded and unplayable since September - we approached the Parish Council for available ground that we could use temporarily. They now rent us an area suitable for two small courts in the recreation field across from the Pavilion, where we play on Tuesday

and Thursday afternoons, 2-4pm (fine weather permitting).

Please wander down to see us—and to play. Club mallets are available. We hope, soon, to welcome you at our courts and club house in Cassington Lane, where our play extends to include Saturday afternoons 2-4pm.

Eynsham News, your news

Eynsham News is a community newsletter, delivered free to every household in the village every two months. It would not exist without input from all kinds of people in the village. You are always warmly welcome to get in touch with your ideas, news, views and events by emailing editor@eynshamnews.org.uk

If you do not have access to email, you can also write to us with an old-fashioned pen and paper! Just label your envelope 'Eynsham News' and drop it 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 4 May.



Cokethorpe
SCHOOL

Open Morning
Saturday 17 May

cokethorpe.org

Exceptional Breadth | Individual Focus



Village Lives

Eynsham today has residents from around the globe, and that produces a richness of cultural diversity. Families from different countries naturally have different traditions, especially when it comes to key celebrations in the calendar year. Below, we see what different European families in the village might be eating over Easter, perhaps alongside our ubiquitous Easter eggs and hot cross buns!



Easter foods

by *Martin Flatman and Rabea Meango*

Our Polish neighbours have a lovely tradition in which they make up a basket of coloured hard-boiled eggs, smoked sausage, butter, sweet bread and salt. Then, even if they are not churchgoers, they bring it to Church to be blessed on Easter Saturday, before eating it on Easter Sunday morning. Ukrainians do something very similar.

In Portugal, people enjoy a sweet Easter bread with boiled eggs in the middle, and almonds coated with sugar, dusted in cocoa powder, icing sugar, cinnamon or caramelised sugar. They also eat a fluffy sponge cake and, in the northern region, a meaty Easter bread.

In Spain, Potaje de Vigilia is a chickpea, salted cod and spinach stew, eaten throughout Lent and often on Good Friday. In Holy Week, they have 'Easter Flowers'—a sweet and crunchy aniseed-flavoured treat that is put into a flower-shaped mould and then fried. Traditionally, godparents give their godchildren a cake on Easter Sunday, with either chocolate figures or hard-boiled eggs baked into it or placed on top.

In Germany, people make a sweet Easter bread with orange and lemon zest, raisins and almonds, and eat it warm with butter. On Maundy Thursday ('Green Thursday'), they eat 'Green Sauce', made of sour cream, spices and different herbs, with boiled potatoes and hard-boiled eggs.

Eynsham Good Neighbour Network experience...

by *June Middleton*

Nancy heard about EGNN and their collaborators Eynsham Heroes during lockdown 2020: 'They were a lifesaver, fetching prescriptions and doing local shopping, as I was housebound for some time as a vulnerable person.'



As things opened up, Nancy became independent again. But then, she says, 'I had a fall and needed to contact EGNN again. They have been marvellous. They have taken me to the bank in Witney and to the coffee cafe at my Witney Church. This means I can meet up with my friends. EGNN have also arranged to start taking me to the Monday Club, so that I can spend time out of the house and meet new people.'

Eynsham Foodbank is five

by *Bob Thiele*

In March 2020, a few of us thought some sort of food delivery service might help people who were housebound or financially struggling due to the pandemic. None of us envisaged we would still be here today!

In five years, we have delivered 10,000 food parcels to 250 households—made possible largely by Eynsham folk. Individuals and local organisations have donated about £100,000. We have also received grants from WODC and other charities. Our fantastic team works so

hard behind the scenes—all for free. We thank each and every person who has supported our work.

Current running costs are now some £1500 per month. If you would like to donate, either as a one off or as a regular gift, our account details are: Eynsham Good Neighbours Network S/C 40-35-34 A/C No. 14162870. Contact Bob Thiele: 07450 328530.

Thanks to all volunteers who help in the village

From a local resident for over 40 years who, due to health reasons, is unable to volunteer anymore.

Many newcomers to Eynsham are amazed how many events take place in the village! These are usually run by volunteers—those dedicated people who open the hall, turn on heating and lights, arrange tables and chairs, wash up cups, and then clear it all away!

Please don't say 'I am too busy' or 'I do not have time.' Just give an hour a week or a month to keep these groups going: like guides and scouts, choirs, football, plant sales, swap shop, and many more. Although a donation might be needed to pay for hall hire, heating and equipment, many activities are free.

So do offer to help and a big thank you to all volunteers! You are much appreciated, even if not given thanks on the day! We are all grateful.

Shirley Ann White (1934-2025)

by *Kate Corbett*

Shirley White, a longstanding resident of Eynsham, died recently at the age of 90. Originally from the Forest of Dean, in 1963, Shirley and her late husband Michael moved to the 'new' Evans Road development, where they lived with their children Chris, Joss and Kate. They then moved to Millmoor Crescent, which was very handy as Shirley taught at the primary school and the attached playgroup in the 70s and 80s.

Shirley was an active member of Eynsham WI, the Wives Fellowship and the local history group, and she was an avid supporter of the local library. In her later years, she was often seen at the Baptist Church for Songs of Praise.



Art *for Eynsham!*

Local artists and community groups create public art.



Eynsham Parish Council is excited about creating a new Art Trail for Eynsham, in partnership with West Oxfordshire District Council. This unique project will create a trail of artworks designed by local artists with community involvement, in response to different sites and spaces around the village.

Celebrating local talent

Eynsham is fortunate in having a thriving artistic community and some beautiful public spaces that many residents visit and enjoy. An Art Trail is an ideal way to celebrate all this: we will create a circular walk through our parish to Thornbury Green that will become an additional attraction for local people and visitors.

Our chair, Ross Macken, said: ‘this is a super exciting opportunity for us to showcase the artistic talent here in Eynsham, while also getting the community involved in creating the art and exploring all the corners of our village.’

Get involved!

‘We want to hear from aspiring new artists as well as our established ‘professionals’,’ continued Ross,

urging everyone to consider getting involved. ‘It doesn’t matter what age you are, or how much experience you have; please get in touch if you have a great idea for a piece of exciting art.’

Local artist Andy Goodwin, who has created what will be the first piece of art for our trail—Connected (pictured)—with the Willow Coppice team, advises applicants to ‘think about the spaces and let your imagination form your ideas, then think about more practical considerations of installation and maintenance. We grow and harvest our materials, think about the environment in what you make...’

Apply now

Get in touch with us as soon as you can if you’re interested in creating an art work. Ideally these works should be outdoor installations, able to survive in ‘the elements’ with minimal maintenance.

Visit the Art Trail webpage (eynsham-pc.gov.uk/ArtTrail) for full project details, the design brief, and a downloadable application form. You can also apply digitally via <https://forms.office.com/e/zPhsE9nsrg>. The deadline for applications is April 2025. Good luck!

‘this is a super exciting opportunity for us to showcase the artistic talent here in Eynsham’

Dates for your Diary – Full Council Meetings:

Tuesday 15 April 7.30pm

Tuesday 20 May 7.30pm

Tuesday 17 June 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



We were delighted to have such a good turn-out at the Annual Parish Meeting on 4 March. For those who haven't attended an 'APM' before, we update residents on Parish Council activities and future plans. This included sharing more detail about the Budget for the new Financial Year and highlighting some of our achievements from the past FY. The materials we shared on the evening are available on our website if you'd like to find out more. We were joined by many of the fantastic organisations that operate in our parish and had a fun evening networking over a glass of wine.

Special thanks to Barry and the team at WRFM who advertised the event and were recording on the night. Witney Radio is a fantastic community radio station that is broadcast across Eynsham (and beyond) and the team work hard to promote our local activities. Tune in on 105.3fm.

We've secured funding from West Oxfordshire District Council to replace some of the rather old and tired wooden notice boards across the village. These are used to advertise Parish Council activity, but also all have space for anyone to promote local events. Expect to see the new boards appearing in the next couple of months.

Finally, I have exciting news: we've been the recipients of a £30k community grant from the 12 Acre Solar Farm. We've set the funds aside whilst we decide the best way to spend the money. We're looking for a project/s that will benefit our residents and be suitable considering the fund has been generated from solar power. Let us know if you have any great ideas.

From the Clerk's Desk



It's lovely to see the signs of Spring, but these also make me realise how quickly the past few months have flown by.

Since I joined in January it has been a flurry of activity in the Village Hall, with contractors installing new flooring in the toilets and the small hall being repainted. The Village Hall is made up of two halls and kitchens. There are many regular hirers, but our spaces are also available for ad-hoc parties, meetings, training sessions, performances or a family get together. We offer discounted rates for residents of Eynsham and regular hirers, so if you're considering the space, get in touch. You'll soon be able to use our new Hallmaster booking platform which makes the process so easy and quick. Keep an eye on the website.

Residents who joined us at our 2025 Annual Parish Meeting will have seen the space 'in action'. Thank you to everyone who came along. I enjoyed meeting you all.

February saw the final details of the Eynsham Art Trail released. You can read more about this in our main article. I'm excited about this project and am looking forward to reviewing applications soon. Make sure you submit yours before 4 April.

Finally, I would like to make a personal plea to you to consider joining us as a councillor. It's a chance to use your experiences, skills and knowledge to represent and serve your community. You only need a few hours a month to spare but, in that time, you can make a real difference. We can provide support, guidance and training. Email me on epc.clerk@eynsham-pc and say 'yes' to being more involved with your community!

Q&A: Why do it?

Why do our Parish Councillors donate their time and enthusiasm to support our community? Many have busy working lives and families, too! Here's what they said:

'I think the greatest pleasure is in achieving small things which enhance village life and improve our community. Being involved with village activities can be very rewarding.'

Cllr Andy Mosson

'The best thing is working with my amazing fellow councillors. We're united by a common desire to serve the community and it's an inspiring group to be part of.'

Cllr Milly Chen

'I enjoy giving some of my time back to the village. I think Eynsham is a great place to live and hope that, through my efforts, it may get even better.'

Chair Ross Macken

'As someone who loves living in Eynsham, I think it's great to have a hand in helping to improve our community on behalf of residents.'

Cllr Sue Osborne

'My aim has always been to protect what is great about Eynsham, exporting what works so well to future developments in our immediate area and ensuring the existing community is well connected to resources in the region.'

Cllr Tricia Crowley

'The essential reason is to serve the community and help to keep the village a great place to live and work in.'

Cllr Carl Rylett

If you'd like to join this inspiring group of people, visit our website or email epc.comms@eynsham-pc.gov.uk

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, too!

Village Events April-May

Eynsham quizzers

by Jon Young

Eynsham's quizzing community goes from strength to strength. Three of the village pubs have enjoyed full houses and sold-out quizzes in recent months.

The newest addition is the monthly pop quiz at Kingsley Café. A whopping 16 teams turned out for February's quiz, all fighting for a 1st prize of £100. Rounds included general knowledge, the 1960s and everything in between.

Keep an eye on the Eynsham Quizzers page at Eynsham Online for all pub quiz action in the village. Kingsley Café is introducing some brand-new themed quizzes in the summer, so stay tuned!

The White Hart

1st Wednesday of the month

Prize: Cash/Lucky Dip

Host: Rich Craven

The Red Lion

2nd Monday of the month

Prize: Cash/Jackpot

Host: Peter Moore

Kingsley Café Pop Quiz

3rd Thursday of the month

Prize: Cash/Choccy bonuses/

Wine. Host: Jon Young

Save the date! Carnival— 5 July 2025

by Peter Feakes

This year's Eynsham Carnival will take place on Saturday 5 July 2025. We are looking for volunteers to help with road closures and ticket tables, and to be marshals for the Shirt Race. To volunteer, email Peter at peterfeakes@btinternet.com. The Flower Festival will be held in St Leonard's Church on the same day as the Carnival.

Shirt Race marshals

by Tracey King

To ensure another great race, we need approximately 35 volunteers to marshal the Shirt Race and Carnival parade route between 11am and 2pm.

If you can spare the time, please let us know by contacting us on Facebook or email (stevensking@icloud.com) – or give one of the committee members a shout. It's the best seat in the house to watch the race and see the floats! In return, you will have a free ticket to the carnival field and the chance to wear a hi-viz!

Eynsham Museum opening

by Sarah Medina

The 'Rural Eynsham' exhibition and 'Eynsham Past and Present' photographic display will be opening again at 11am on Saturday 5 April. Museum opening hours are 11am-4pm at weekends and on bank holidays (apart from Easter Sunday) to the end of October.

More volunteer stewards are needed to welcome visitors to the museum. You do not need to be a history buff or an expert on the village to become a steward, nor to give up a lot of your time. Every hour helps! If you think you can help, we would love to hear from you. Please email info@eynshammuseum.org.uk

Events Listing—to have your event included next time, email editor@eynshamnews.org.uk by 4 May.

Eynsham History Group

Thur 3 Apr, 7.30pm,

St Leonard's Church Hall

Gareth Winrow will talk on 'Stories of Middle Way in Summertown'. Preceded by AGM and followed by refreshments.

Eynsham Choral Society—

Dvořák's Stabat Mater

Sat 5 Apr, 7.30pm, St Leonard's Church

Stabat Mater was written in 1876-77 and is based on a 13th-century text attributed to Jacopone da Todi: 'There stood the sorrowful mother, by the cross, weeping.'

The Oxford Players orchestra and four soloists will join Eynsham Choral Society for the concert. Tickets are available in advance via choir members, Evenlode DIY and by email request (eynshamchoral@gmail.com). £15 per ticket, including

a programme.

NRN Meadow Restoration Day

Sun 6 Apr, 2-5pm

nature-recovery-network.org/events

Eynsham Acoustic Club

Sun 6 Apr, 8pm, The White Hart

A friendly evening of folk music. All welcome.

The Eynsham Society

Thur 10 Apr, 5.30-9pm,

Baptist Church Hall (Note: not on the usual Wednesday.) A Q&A session with new MP, Calum Miller.

Eynsham Women's Institute

Thur 10 Apr, 7.30-9.30pm, Eynsham

Scout Hall. Annual Meeting to elect Committee and President, followed by drinks and nibbles.

Combe Mill 'In Steam'

Sun 20 Apr, from 10.30am, Blenheim

Palace Sawmills, Combe, OX29 8ET

April's theme will be 'Military Vehicles', with visits by the North Oxford & Cotswold Military Vehicle Trust and Home Guard display. Children can enjoy the revamped 'Tinkering' area, with all our mill machinery working and being demonstrated by our volunteers. Adults £9, Seniors £7.50, Children are now FREE. Dogs welcome.

NRN Bat Survey Team

Wed 23 Apr, 7.30-9pm

Come and join in; no experience needed. nature-recovery-network.org/events

Eynsham Art Group

Thur 24 Apr, 7.30pm, Mill Street Arts

Illustrated talk by Paul Drew, a ceramicist and sculptor. £5 on the door; £4 for students.

Age UK Lunch Club

Fri 25 Apr, 12-1.30pm, The Red Lion

A chance to meet and eat in friendly company. Menu prices starting from £4.80. Contact Sue to book your space: 07827 235 414

Cake and book sale

Sat 26 Apr, 10am-4pm, Bartholomew

Room. Marguerita Pierini writes, 'Eynsham Museum opened to the

public in August 2023. As we do not charge for admission, we need to raise funds to pay our bills and for new exhibitions. We are holding a Cake and book sale at Bartholomew Room and the Square on Saturday 26 April, 10am-4pm. Please come along and support us!

For more information, go to:
eynshammuseum.org.uk

Eynsham Litter Pickers

*Sun 27 Apr, 1.45-3.30pm,
Baptist Church Hall*

Meet at the Baptist Church Hall to get kitted up before we go out, generally in pairs, in the village. Return to the hall for tea, biscuits and a chat. Help to keep our village as tidy as possible.

County Council Elections

*Thur 1 May, 7am-10pm,
Eynsham Village Hall*

This election will be held on the new election boundaries determined by the Local Government Boundary Commission. Northmoor and Stanton Harcourt will be part of the new Eynsham Division. Remember, bring ID!

Dawn Chorus Walk

Sat 3 May, 5.30-8.30am
nature-recovery-network.org/events

Eynsham Botanical Survey

Sun 4 May and Sun 25 May, 1.30-5.30pm
Join NRN's Botanical Survey Team.
nature-recovery-network.org/events

Bartholomew Players present:

'Present Laughter' by Noël Coward
*14-17 May, doors open 7pm,
Eynsham Village Hall*

This year is one of what Coward's estate has called C125—a two-year celebration of the 125th year since his birth. It also marks the 50th anniversary of the formation of Bartholomew Players. There will be new members of the cast and crew, as well as some more familiar, experienced actors.

Price: £14 (no concessions). Tickets available: online from trybooking.com/uk/EJYG; in advance from Evenlode DIY; from bart.players@gmail.com; from Denise Santilli on 07721 744020; or on the door.

bartholomewplayers.co.uk

Eynsham Repair Cafe

Sat 17 May, 2pm, Eynsham Scout Hall

Benefit performance of 'Under Wytham Wood'

*Sun 25 May, 4pm,
St Leonard's Church Hall*

The Eynsham Poetry Group will put on a repeat performance of their much-acclaimed play, 'Under Wytham Wood'. Doors open at 4pm for 4.30pm. Performance: 50 minutes. Drinks available. All profits to Eynsham Museum. Tickets £5, on sale at the museum during opening hours and from Evenlode DIY.

Spanish Retreat in Eynsham

*Sat 28 May, 11am-4pm,
The Music Room*

Practise Spanish in a relaxed and joyful atmosphere. Come ready to have meaningful conversations about contemporary social and cultural topics, with games and debates. Aimed at upper-intermediate and advanced Spanish students. Tea, coffee and a Spanish lunch provided. For more information and to register, email Antonio and Rosa: thespanishretreat@gmail.com

Eynsham Art Group

Thur 29 May, 7.30pm, Mill Street Arts
Talk by Claire Christie Sadler, artist and musician. £5 on the door; £4 for students.

Regular Events

Eynsham Community Choir
*Thursdays, 7.15pm refreshments,
7.30pm singing, Baptist Church Hall*
A relaxed, informal choir. All welcome! First class is free. Info: Emily Marshall, Musical Director, 07969 522368

Eynsham Country Market

Thursday in The Square, 9-10.30am

Eynsham WI

The WI is open to all women over 18 and exists to give women a voice, to provide the opportunity to make friends, to educate and inform, and to be encouraged to get involved in things which matter to them—to

'make a difference'.

Eynsham WI meets on the second Thursday of each month (except in August) and visitors are always welcome—we just ask for a contribution of £4.00. We have speakers on a wide range of subjects, a raffle and refreshments. There are other events held throughout the year, such as a garden party, harvest supper, walks and outings.

Zumba® classes

Fridays, 9.30am, Eynsham Village Hall. Two left feet welcome! First class is free.
bethstephensonsemail@gmail.com

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 0-4s. Only £1.50 donation per family!

Warm Welcome Wednesday

*Wednesdays, 10.30am-12pm,
St Leonard's Church*
Company and conversation

Busy Bees baby & toddler group

*Fridays (term time), 9.30-11am,
Baptist Church Hall.* £2.50 per family, including drinks and snacks

Viva Verdi!

Join Eynsham Choral Society summer season, singing some familiar opera choruses. Rehearsals: Tuesdays from 29 April-20 May. Great fun, good music, concentrating on Italian pronunciation. £30 for the 4 weeks or £7.50 per session. More details at eynshamchoral.org

Combe Mill Wednesdays

*Wednesdays from 19 March-end
October.* Self-guided tours and tea room open. Adults £5, Seniors £4, Children free

Oxford Flower Club

*24 Apr, 1.30pm for 2pm start,
Cumnor Village Hall*

Demonstration by Michael Bower MBE: 'If Spring is Here, Summer Can't be Far Behind'

Classified Ads



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

Correction! On the front cover of the February issue (72), we erroneously identified the Neyotts Meadows by Eynsham Lock as Long Mead. It is the Neyotts Meadows that have been leased for community nature recovery. Our apologies to Nature Recovery Network for the mistake.

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.

The Team

Editors: Peter and Sarah M
editor@eynshamnews.org.uk

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

Advertising: Sarah R
ads@eynshamnews.org.uk

General Enquiries
editor@eynshamnews.org.uk

Printing: Holywell Press
info@holywellpress.com



Details of all events were correct at the time of going to press but may change. Please check with the organiser before attending. Send your events news (about 70 words long) for our June edition (issue 74) before 4 May to editor@eynshamnews.org.uk



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to do more for your community,
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Contact: tessajhammond@gmail.com

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