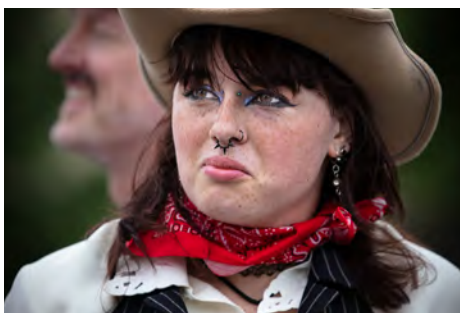




Eynsham

Carnival special



Village Buzz

Some great miles!

From 29 August, First and Last Mile will no longer be running the 411, 418 and 471 bus routes in Eynsham and nearby villages. Details are yet to be confirmed, but the services will continue under other operators.

FLM have provided real service to local communities, and they are disappointed that they are unable to carry on doing so. They would like to thank passengers, communities and their volunteers for all their support.

Temporary congestion charge

Oxfordshire County Council (OCC) is proposing a temporary congestion charge for cars in the city. There would be a daily charge of £5 for cars without a permit. The scheme would be run using automatic number plate recognition, and traffic signs would mark the locations of six charging cameras. For more information, go to bit.ly/3T98xlp. The survey is open until 3 August, and you can find it here: bit.ly/3ZSAUbf

Slip road closure

The slip road from the A40 towards Witney will be closed on 1 September for three nights and 1 October for five nights. We will keep you posted regarding further closures up to May '26.

Park and Ride update

OCC has now submitted a planning application to connect the 850-space site to the A40 and expects that the Park and Ride will be functional by 2027. Plans include a new junction and bus lanes, and upgraded walking and cycling infrastructure.

Stop Botley West

by Penny Franklin

West Oxfordshire District Council have called on the government's Planning Inspectorate (PINS) to cut 1750 acres (708 hectares) of the planned solar power station site. They concluded that only 740 acres (299 hectares) of proposed land for the site were suitable for solar panels. Send your views to PINS here: bit.ly/4kFr30J



Country Market goodies

Summer at Eynsham Country Market

by Jane Dyson

It has been a busy summer at ECM. We enjoyed taking part in Carnival and the Flower Festival in July. On 20 September, we will have a World Wide Kitchen market, with global recipes, crafts and garden produce (see page 13). ECM takes place in the Square on Thursdays, 9-10.30am. To join us, email: eynshamcountrymarket76@gmail.com

News from Bartholomew School

We have been delighted to welcome our new Year 7 students for their transition days, along with our incoming Sixth Form students. We look forward to seeing you all again in September and wish everyone receiving exam results in the summer the best of luck with future plans!

This term, we were honoured to receive two prestigious accolades: the SSAT Educational Outcomes Award 2024 for 'Exceptional Student Progress' and 'Exceptional Student Attainment', placing us in the top 10% of non-selective schools nationally.

As always, the end of term was busy, with Sports Days, the Art Show, the Summer Concert, residential trips and a wide range of extracurricular opportunities. To find out more about life at Bartholomew, visit bartholomew.oxon.sch.uk/256/ newsletters

The Bartholomew School run

From the autumn term, Pulhams will be running the bus from local villages to Bartholomew School from, taking over from First and Last Mile. Parents should note that for children younger than 16 living more than three miles away from their nearest school, this service is free.

Families with children who do not fall into this category—for example, because Bartholomew is not their nearest school—are required to pay for the service. Councillor Dan Levy advises that the cost under Pulham will be higher than it was under FLM. 'The FLM bus service,' he explains, 'was a regular one, and so the government's cap on fares applied. The Pulhams service is not a regular bus service and, thus, it does not. I believe Pulhams have put arrangements in place for payment in instalments.'

Eynsham is on the map—for deodorant!

Neve's Bees Bee Gentle Natural Deodorant has won gold at the 14th annual Free From Skincare Awards. The award was made after a month's evaluation by four experienced cosmetic testers and final expert judging sessions.

Julie Macken of Neve's Bees says the deodorant was created for people with sensitive skin or allergies, or for those who simply prefer to keep things simple and scent-free.

Village life—a small gripe

Would people kindly remember to take down posters promoting an event once the event has happened. So often, posters are left up after their 'use by' date!



Bencham blues

by Sarah Skipwith, mum to two brilliant bench-frequenterers

Signs at the entrances to Eynsham proudly proclaim our village to be 'A great place to belong'. And it is...if you have somewhere to go to enjoy this sense of 'belonging'.

Like so many parents-to-be, I moved to Eynsham as I instinctively felt that this would be good place to bring up a

family. I was right. I was overwhelmed by the amazing provision the village community offered for pre-school age children. Every day, the children could start to learn how to make friends—and their parents could socialise, share experiences and stave off feelings of isolation. There was a lot more on offer for adults to enjoy here, too.

But what about the ‘in-betweeners’? Imagine you are a teenager again. It’s Friday night and you can see all the adults heading out for a good time here or in Oxford. You are desperate to join in with that Friday feeling, but where can you go to experience it? Where can you hang out with your friends away from the stresses of home and school? The answer? A bench. There is a choice of benches dotted around the village, granted but, currently, this is the only real ‘venue’ available for 11- to 18-year-olds to congregate—and it just isn’t good enough.

Back in the day

It wasn’t always this way. There was a youth club in the village for nearly 50 years until funding was cut nationally for youth provision under David

Cameron’s government. At this point, the youth club was run by Oxfordshire County Council. Saving the day, Bartholomew School took over. They used Eynsham Youth Centre to provide services for young people.



Covid brought a halt to all Youth Centre activities. Post-Covid, activities were offered by ‘Eynsham Youthy’ for Year 6s and 7s, to help with the transition from primary to secondary school, but in 2023, this had to be closed down, due to lack of funds.

And now?

After marking hundreds of UK students’ GCSE English exam ‘persuasive speeches’, entitled ‘More needs to be done’ [for young people in their area] and aimed at

their local council, I casually posted on the Eynsham Community Facebook page about whether anyone in Eynsham thought that there should be a Youth Club. I was met with an overwhelmingly positive response. Support is unflinching for this crucial safe space for teenagers to be reinstated.

We currently have a large Facebook supporters’ group, and a group of teachers and parents who are keen to make this happen as soon as possible. The objective is to ensure that there are better facilities for all young people in the village, regardless of their financial circumstances. In the meantime, the in-betweeners are waiting—on the bench.

If you would like to get involved in supporting the development of a Youth Club and in improving youth facilities in the village for young people in Eynsham, please join the ‘Eynsham Youth Club’ Facebook group: bit.ly/4kDaMIL or reach out to our Parish and District Councillor Cllr Carl Rylett at carl.rylett@eynsham-pc.org.uk, who is now co-ordinating the restart of the Youth Club.



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Village Carnival 2025

Another year, another successful Carnival!

by Sarah Medina

With Eynsham Morris in fine fettle kicking off proceedings, the Carnival atmosphere was in full swing from 11am on Saturday 5 July. The Shirt Race that followed the dancing provoked wonder and admiration, as the creativity and engineering skills of the 54 teams taking part was on full display. (From Eynsham Abbey and the Flintstones to Star Wars and Dr Who, it seemed no era was missing. And the Dalek—taller than a single-decker bus—surely had to be the biggest ‘cart’ of all time!) And then to the Parade, with young and old travelling through the streets of Eynsham on foot and on floats as in days of old, making music, waving and smiling as they participated in this ancient tradition.

The afternoon was, of course, packed with activity down on the field, with food, drink, stalls, Hatwells Fair—and a lovely variety of acts. Music filled the Bands Tent, with Matt Russ playing acoustic rock and pop classics, Prevention bringing a blues and soul vibe, and Ducklington band The Honey Badgers performing rock and blues covers.

Physical prowess was evident in the arena. The Stagecoach Dancers performed to perfection, Mensanna Martial Arts put on an exceptional display, The Mighty Smith wowed with his feats of strength, and the Tug of War was a hard-won competition. Led by Phill and Emma of Ridgeside, lurchers, terriers and hawks demonstrated their skills. And the village’s dogs joined in the Dog Show, with training by The Nose Knows.

Eynsham Carnival is one of the oldest carnivals of its kind in the country. It has brought our community together on the first Saturday in July for 77 years—and long may it continue!



Thanks to all those who supplied photos especially Darrin Roles, Sarah Medina, Peter Taylor and Rolando Medina.



Eynsham
Shirt Race
2025!

Results

Womens

First: Martine Summers and Caroline Ogden
Second: Mareke and Charlie

Mens

First: Will Harrold and Ashley Roles
Second: Adam Fisk and Tom Brooker-Fisk

Mixed

First: Dave Church and Ella Pallett
Second: Richard Curtis and Sarah Venn

Fancy Dress Awards

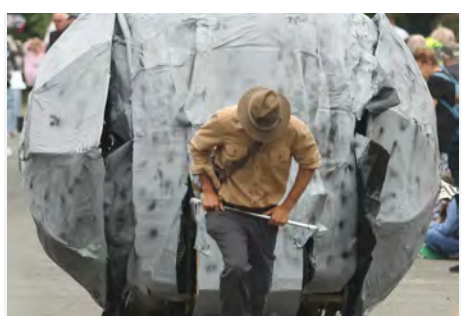
First: Dalek—Austin Darnell and Simon Darnell
Second: Flintstones—Matt Darnell and Jon Denton
Third: Thomas the Tank Engine—Alan Brown and Chris Cirel
Fourth: Doing it and Screwing it—Nic Saunders and Trish Partlett
Fifth: Big Breakfast—Rob Hedges and Karen Hall

Nut Award

Indiana Jones: Jim Newton and Neil Bailey

The full list of placings is on the Eynsham Shirtrace Facebook Page





Village Carnival Behind the Scenes

This year, we wanted to bring you a glimpse into what is involved in making Carnival weekend so successful. It isn't just the Carnival itself: it's the Shirt Race and the Flower Festival, too. Many people come together to make these events happen for everyone in the village (and beyond!) to enjoy. Thanks to all.

Behind the scenes at Eynsham Carnival

with Martin Flatman

The 77th Eynsham Carnival is over, but have you ever thought how it actually happens? As you may know, it is not organised by some big commercial company with paid staff and a big budget. Instead, the whole thing is run by a group of local villagers, who give up their time every year to plan the event and make it all work on the day.

But what do committee members do? The answer is that by each person doing their bit, the jobs can be handled without anyone being too overloaded. Below, you can read about some of the members' roles, why they got involved with Carnival in the first place and what they enjoy about the part they play.

Change on the committee is afoot. A few members are stepping back, leaving openings for new members. Specifically at the moment, we know that someone is needed to run the Queen's Disco in March 2026 (which is when the Carnival Queen and attendants are selected); a new Secretary is needed; and someone is needed to shadow the Treasurer, who will be retiring after Carnival 2026. Could you take on any of these roles or would you like to be part of the team in another capacity? If so, go to the Carnival committee AGM on Thursday 2 October or email the Chair, Peter Feakes, at peterfeakes@btinternet.com

Who's who and what do they do?

Neville Osborne has been a committee member for four years,

having been invited to join the team. His role is obtain sponsorship finance by talking to local businesses—work which starts in a January. He also helps with various tasks on the day.



Harold Jerred joined the committee in 2017 after having volunteered on Carnival Days for some years. He was Chair until after the 2023 Carnival, but remains responsible for the legal aspects of organising the Carnival, which involves tasks such as submitting an event plan with associated risk assessments to the district council, and making sure that insurance is in place for various events. This role normally takes about two hours a week between March and June. Harold has found it highly satisfying working with like-minded, passionate members of the committee in keeping a historic local event live and kicking despite all the barriers thrown in the way.

Sasha Arbuckle joined the committee three years ago. She wanted to get involved after enjoying attending Carnival for many years. Sasha's role is to book stalls for the day.



Gill Parry has two Carnival-related jobs: to find advertisers for the programme, and to recruit and manage about 35 volunteers to sell tickets and staff the entry gates on Carnival Day. The first job only takes about two hours, but the second takes longer, partly because it can be hard to recruit volunteers in the first place.

She normally starts her Carnival work in March. Gill moved to Eynsham in 2020 and, after Covid, decided to get more involved in village life, partly to meet people and also to find out how things are done here. She gets a great deal of personal satisfaction from doing a job well.

Janet Stewart joined the committee in 2018 after retirement; she wanted to get involved in local activities and, Carnival being fun, it seemed a fun place to start. As Treasurer, she is responsible for all aspects of the Carnival's finances: keeping the accounts up to date; paying invoices as required; monitoring payments from sponsors, stall holders and other sources; providing a short monthly finance report to the Carnival Committee, and a longer report to the AGM. For most of the year, she just has to keep an eye on things and pay a few invoices. More time is required from May onwards, and it builds to about a couple of hours a day in the two weeks before Carnival Day itself. For Janet, the best part about being involved in Carnival is seeing all the months of preparation come to fruition as the whole thing seemingly magically comes together on the day!

Helen Rhodes has been a committee member for two years. She responded to a call for new members because she believes it is important to keep this whole-village celebration going on. She is responsible for designing the Carnival programme, posters, tickets and sponsor certificates, as well as for duties as Secretary. Programme work involves choosing fonts and colours; creating graphical elements; designing page layouts, using content gathered or written by the content creator; and creating the files for the printer. Programme planning starts in March/April, but most of the work happens at the end of May, ready for printing in early June. In total, it is one to two weeks' work (full time). Helen did not have any professional experience in graphic design, but had played around with a graphics software package. She says there has been a lot to learn, but she has enjoyed it.



Lina

Lina Deatherage joined the committee three years ago as a way to get involved and give back to the village. Her responsibilities are online ticketing sales (including researching ways to digitize parts of Carnival's operations and setting those systems up) and social media (creating content and graphics). She usually works on tasks during her lunch break or whenever she has a spare half hour, having created a content calendar as soon as Carnival finishes—there are always great photos to show off! Lina loves being part of the big day and getting to know the other people who help make Carnival happen.



Clive

Clive Tanner was committee Chair for 20 years. Although now retired from the role, he has been advising and helping for the past two years—and he is Field Director on Carnival Day. Clive has been responsible for many and varied tasks for Carnival, such as buying and maintaining equipment, liaising with the funfair, putting up and taking down signage, bunting, rubbish bins and portable toilets. He would spend about 12 hours a week from April on planning Carnival, forego holidays in June and use two days of his annual leave for the Friday and Monday of Carnival weekend. Sleep on Carnival weekend was hard to come by! For Clive, the best part of being involved is was seeing all the people on a packed field on Carnival Day. And he says that all his work for Carnival would not be possible but for the great committees he has sat

around the table with over a pint or two once a month.

**In addition to the responsibilities mentioned below, there are committee meetings most months, and committee members get involved on the day itself in a whole host of ways.*

Behind the scenes at the Shirt Race

The Shirt Race is a lively and unforgettable Carnival Day tradition, which has been run since 1958. But what exactly is it? Start with two people in fancy dress, and add a cart, pram or other non-motorised contraption, embellished to within an inch of its life—and a few pubs—and you start to get the picture!

One team member sits in or on the cart whilst the other one runs and pushes it. At each pub on the route, the runner downs half a pint of ale—and then swaps places with the teammate. Repeat eight times to the finish line.

Every year, the number of teams taking part varies, but it is usually between 40 and 60. For some, it is all about the mad fun! Others race for a winner's trophy—one each in the Mens, Ladies and Mixed Pairs categories. The Darnells' Nut Award is coveted, too—awarded for the most over-engineered (that is, elaborate!) homemade mode of transport. The judges are completely anonymous.

So, who is behind the Shirt Race? The committee is made up of nine people, who have worked together for many years now. Their constitution requires there to be a Chair, Secretary and Treasurer, but they all work closely together, starting with an AGM and Post-Race meeting in September, and then picking up planning the next race in January. Fundraising meetings happen throughout the year, too. The team consult and work closely with the Carnival committee in planning road closures, and they organise marshals to cover the Shirt Race and the Carnival floats.

The Shirt Race brings hilarity and joy to the village come rain or shine. Thanks to all of those who make it happen—organisers, marshals and runners alike.



Flower Festival Behind the Scenes



Behind the scenes at the Flower Festival

Eynsham Flower Festival, held in St Leonard's Church, is a longstanding tradition in the village. Individuals, groups and organisations are all free to enter. Each year, there is a given theme to follow, and the funds raised from the event are given to an Eynsham charity.

Who organises the event?

The three women behind the Flower Festival—**Caroline Taylor, Debbie Gerrans and Janet Thomas**—have been close friends since their children were at Eynsham Primary School. Caroline and Debbie were members of the PTA and Janet taught at the school. As part of their roles, they had supported the Flower Festival over many years. When, in 2023, they realised that the Flower Festival had stopped, they decided to reestablish the tradition.

This year, working closely with the Carnival committee, they adopted the Carnival theme: Circus. The money raised will support the Eynsham Consolidated Charity, which distributes grants to help people in the Parish of Eynsham who are in need, hardship or distress.

You can email Caroline, Debbie and Janet at eynshamflowerfestival@gmail.com

And how did the Circus theme inspire participants?

Eynsham Community Choir

Four choir members volunteered to create ECC's first-ever contribution to the Flower Festival. They met in early June to chat about how to incorporate

the Circus theme into the display, whilst also representing and promoting the choir itself.

The starting point was that flowers and foliage would be absolutely central to the display. These would be donated by fellow singers and delivered the evening before 'set-up' day. Because it was likely that a variety of sizes, shapes and colours would be likely to come their way, the floral display would need to be naturalistic, rather than formal.



Ideas were put forward as to what the display would look like, though it turned out that plans needed to be flexible! Flowers in bud vases were woven between large jugs full of flowers and foliage. On the pillar behind the table and around the table itself, bunting in bold circus colours was hung. Below the table bunting, paper doll chains with musical notation were strung, reminiscent of a high-wire act—and also of people singing together. Finally, a poster was displayed, and information leaflets were laid out on the table for people to take away—all designed as circus entry tickets.

ECC meets on Thursday evenings in the Baptist Church Hall. It is open to anyone who loves to sing. Refreshments are available from 7.15pm; singing starts at 7.30pm and finishes at 9pm. It costs only £50 per term—and you can come and try out a session for free.

Mercy in Action

When Sophia, the Manager of Mercy in Action, was given the theme for this year's Flower Festival, her mind went immediately to The Greatest Showman. 'We've got mannequins!' she said, and there began the creative process with the rest of the team. The key was to combine the Circus theme with the flower display, whilst

making people aware of the charity shop and its work.

The mannequin-turned-circus ringleader would be there to welcome people in and, in Sophia's words, to 'get the circus going'. Above him, over the archway, would be a lush display of ivy and flowers—artificial flowers only, as these are a feature in the Mercy in Action shop.



Nearly everything used in the display came from donations from Eynsham people: from the clothes rail, an acrobatics costume and a leopard-print jumpsuit that they cleverly converted into a...leopard! From the toy section, marionettes, a hula hoop and the Cabbage Patch doll that became Mystic Meg, sitting with her crystal ball and waiting to tell people's fortunes. As donations came in, inspiration followed.

Last year's sign decorated with paper flowers would be reused this year, with key facts about Mercy in Action: 'Did you know we also have a food pantry in Oxford? We can accept food donations in Eynsham.' 'Helping in the UK and Philippines.' 'Do you Gift Aid with us? We get an extra 25p per £1. Pop in to sign up.'

More volunteers are desperately needed at the shop for either 9am-1pm or 1-5pm shifts, once a week. You can register your interest at mercyinaction.org.uk/volunteer—or pop into the shop for a chat.

Village Habitats

Keep your garden blooming

by Nick Clapton

'High summer' should be a time for relaxing in the garden, enjoying the fruits of one's labours earlier in the season or in years past. However, recent warm, dry weather brought a lot of plants into flower early, and a lot of shrubs are already 'over', anyway. A sea of green may be calming, but can also be dull, and even tatty.

There are solutions: many herbaceous plants have flowering stems with a leading shoot, but also side shoots lurking lower down. When the leading shoot has finished flowering, cut it back to where the stem divides, and you will get more blooms from the side stems (this works with salvias like 'Caradonna', echinaceas, and many others). Astroemerias are different; more flowers will only come if the whole spent stem is removed by pulling it out.

Deadheading (removing spent flowers) is also essential to keep displays of annuals going, since the whole point of their existence is to flower and make seed. Stop this by deadheading and they'll keep going for a lot longer. You can also still buy bedding plants in local plant centres—by now, possibly at reduced prices. Use them to refresh containers or fill gaps in your borders. If you have hanging baskets, be especially vigilant with deadheading, or they can become messy as the season progresses.

Shrubs that flowered before Midsummer's Day need pruning now. Rather than giving them a wholesale 'haircut', cut back each stem that has flowered to a new shoot lower down, and, if it's an old plant, remove one or two of the older stems right to the ground—then feed the whole thing to encourage new growth.

Lastly, plan ahead for next year: consider hardy fuchsias, hardy salvias (which will flower from June till November, with luck), repeat-flowering roses, late-flowering clematis, rudbeckias, Michaelmas

daisies, liatris, and autumn-flowering bulbs like colchicums and crinums. Then you won't have to look at the whole garden sometime in August, and sigh, 'It's all over'.



Ground ivy tea



Elderflower fritters

Activity at the Peace Oak Association

by Les Swarbrick

June Drop took place on Sunday 8 June. Activities, apart from thinning the apples, were numerous. We were able to try foraged tea made from ground ivy. Led by Milly, the ground ivy was collected and then brewed. As well as that there were tasty elderflower fritters, children's games and a barbecue!

We have been running a series of fortnightly craft evenings, including Greenwood Carving, Making Willow Balls, Coiled Pots and Fun with Fibres. Still open for booking (both for 8 August) are Making Leaf Platters and Get Knotted! Discover the Wonderful World of Knots (peace-oak.eventcube.io). The annual Apple Day will be happening on 11 October.

If you are interested in joining the Peace Oak Community, go to our page on Eynsham Online.

You are warmly invited to the Eynsham Village Show!

by Claire Singleton

We are pleased to announce that, thanks to a generous grant from Eynsham Parish Council, the 2025 Eynsham Village Show is scheduled for Saturday 13 September. We extend a warm invitation to all, in and

outside of the village—and regardless of previous participation.

The show will open to the public at 2pm. You do not need to enter to enjoy it! Come for tea and cake provided by the Cherry Tree Cafe, look at everyone's contributions and participate in the raffle, which will be drawn at 4pm alongside the prize giving.

There will be the traditional fruit, vegetable, crafting and baking categories - and much more. For keen photographers, this year's photography categories include Rainbow, In the Garden, Hats, Majestic and Friends for Life. The category for original Lego models is open to both adults and children, and the highly anticipated 'Men Only' baking category will, this year, be Coffee Cake.



Baking at the Village Show



A traditional Vegetables entry

Because of the growth of our village in recent years, last year, we welcomed many new participants. We hope to see them return—and to greet additional new faces. For the full schedule and entry form, follow the QR code to reach our website.



Entries must be submitted by 8pm on Thursday 11 September, with setup from 9am to 10.45am on 13 September. We look forward to seeing you as we continue this esteemed local tradition.



Budget wrap-up

Looking back at FY2024/25

At our May Council meeting we officially ‘signed off’ the previous Financial Year by approving the financial statements for FY24/25. This gave us an opportunity to review the year. Despite the increased costs we’ve faced, we’ve managed to invest in some great assets for the community and found ourselves (inadvertently) with a small surplus, which we will keep in reserve.

Let’s talk figures

Our budget predominantly comes from the precept we get from council tax but in the last year we managed to ‘top up’ our budget with £46,704 of section 106 contributions and grants. Section 106 contributions is money that is allocated for the community as part of the planning process for local developments. It’s a silver lining of sorts.

We used this additional money to help fund four new noticeboards (£10,000), an accessible roundabout for Old Witney Road play area (£32,000) and an upgrade of the Village Hall kitchen (£28,514). Additional grants allowed us to improve the lighting, too.

We’ve recently received £30,000 from the 12 Acre Solar Farm development and look forward to

spending this to enhance community assets further.

People matter

As you will see from the figures listed above, managing and maintaining our community facilities is expensive. We’d budgeted to expand our grounds maintenance staff so we can carry out more tasks in-house, but this didn’t come to fruition. The £18,000 surplus has been reallocated to the play area reserve.

With regard to staffing and administrative costs, we underspent by over £16,000, mainly because we were without a Clerk for a few months while recruiting. The surplus has been moved to our reserves.

Finally, we were pleased to spend £11,250 on supporting local organisations via our grant aid policy

and investing in our well-used green spaces in FY24/25. We are fortunate to have a vibrant, interesting community in Eynsham, not to mention some attractive green spaces. We want to ensure all thrive for many years to come.

Any questions about the Parish Council can be directed to epc.comms@eynsham-pc.gov.uk

Dates for your Diary – Full Council Meetings:

Tuesday 19 August 7.30pm (tbc.)

Tuesday 16 September 7.30pm

Tuesday 21 October 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



I'd like to start by welcoming our newest [at time of writing] Councillor, Charles Amos. Charles was co-opted at the May Full Council meeting and has prior experience with a town council and a background in finance, both of which I'm sure will be very helpful.

We still have five more Councillor vacancies and will be making a significant effort to fill these places during 2025. We could achieve so much more with a full remit. Our stall at the Eynsham Carnival was focused on the role and we hope some of you have been tempted to find out more...

If you have even a passing interest, please come along to our non-committal information session in September. The Council Curious session will take place at the Village Hall from 7.30pm on 23 September and focus on sharing details and answering any questions you might have.

You'll also be able to meet some of the existing Councillors and find out their experiences. I can assure you that we are a friendly, motivated and fun group. You'll see none of the disrespectful behaviour that we all recall from the now (in)famous Jackie Weaver video!

Can we tempt you to join us? Even if you ultimately decide not to be a Councillor, you'll still learn something and meet some nice people. Book your place by emailing us via epc.comms@eynsham-pc.gov.uk

If you want to help us shape our longer-term plans for Eynsham but aren't ready to be a Councillor, keep an eye out for our Neighbourhood Plan consultation. We've been working on reviewing the Plan and will share a revised draft soon to hear what the community thinks. Watch this space.

From the Clerk's Desk



One of the various things on my desk this week was the results of the project we undertook with Oxfordshire County Council to make Old Witney Road safer.

The project, which started in 2022, sought to reduce vehicle speed and make the road safer for pedestrians and cyclists. Three years on, the recent traffic survey results have been compared to those collected in 2021/22 and show a decrease in vehicle speeds; success!

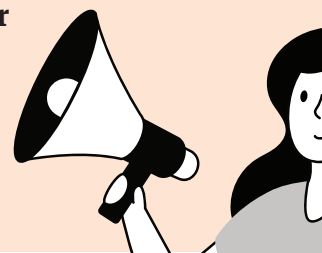
The results also demonstrated an increase in vehicle journeys during the same period, from 244 to 631 across a seven-day average. This is likely due to the construction of the Abbey Green Development.

The increase in traffic further highlights the need to improve accessibility throughout the village to support walking and wheeling (cycling, scooting, use of mobility aids) instead of driving. These changes will improve wellbeing, help reduce emissions and boost the connectivity of village facilities, for existing residents and those in the new developments.

We're working closely with the County Council to identify where improvements can be made. Our Councillors were out walking the streets with the team, covering over 11 miles! We logged areas where vegetation needs trimming, where pavements are too narrow along busy roads and locations for creating better road-crossing points.

Thank you to all residents who took part by marking areas of concern via the online map. All your input will be taken into consideration and a plan will be developed, to be shared later in the year.

Councillor's Corner



What is a Food Forest Garden? Cllr Milly Chen explains.

In autumn 2021 we started work to transform a vacant allotment in the Old Witney Road play area into a Food Forest Garden—but what's that? A food forest garden is designed to mimic a natural forest. Once established, it requires minimal work. The plants are mainly perennial, arranged in different layers (fruit trees, berry bushes and ground cover) and the intention is to grow food sustainably.

I got the idea from Martin Crawford, who has written a book about creating food forest gardens and established the Agroforestry Research Trust (www.agroforestry.co.uk). I was fortunate enough to have a guided tour of the food forest gardens he's created and was completely inspired!

Ours is a small Children's Food Forest Garden and the local primary school students have been involved from the start, courtesy of their supportive teachers: Mr Reeves initially, and now Mr Williams. The students have been helping on the site and learning how to grow with nature and where food comes from.

I must also mention nearby residents Victoria and Sam and local gardener David who are generous in donating their time and effort to develop the area. We've also had lots of residents joining us at community working sessions. It's all very much appreciated.

The Food Forest Garden is for everyone to enjoy, no matter your age. Why not go down and take a look? It might inspire you to join our next session! Keep an eye on the website for dates.

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, X and Bluesky.

Village Bites

Anyone for a cuppa? Part 2

The second part of our look at Eynsham's cafe culture, with Sarah Medina and Jon Young



Jan and Lewis

Lyall & Co. (11 High Street)

Lyall & Co. is one of Eynsham's oldest cafes. In addition to sourdoughs, drinks and pastries, it also sells its own line of Colombian and Brazilian coffee.

Lewis Wills says, 'When we first opened Lyall & Co., the village had a quieter rhythm—fewer young families, less through-traffic, and more of a traditional pace to daily life. Since then, we've seen the community gradually evolve: more people working from home, a rise in weekend visitors and a subtle shift toward a younger, more cosmopolitan demographic. It's still very much a village, but it's a village that's connected—to the city, to global coffee culture, and to changing expectations around quality and service.'

With this change, says Lewis, 'we're seeing more people in their 30s and 40s moving out of cities, bringing with them a taste for good coffee and a desire for design-led, community-driven spaces. However, it does come with a risk of cafes becoming cookie-cutter versions of each other, especially as trends spread quickly via Instagram.'

'At Lyall & Co., we've tried to stay grounded. We serve specialty coffee, yes—but our roots are in the village. That means we balance quality with familiarity. You can get an exclusive V60 with an infused process, but also a classic croissant with a cappuccino.'

At its heart, Lyall & Co. has always been about two things, Lewis explains: 'exceptional specialty coffee and a deep-rooted sense of community.'

From the beginning, our goal was to create a space where people could expect the same high standard every time—not just in the cup, but in the entire experience. Whether you're a first-time visitor or you come in every morning, we want you to feel seen, welcome and well-served.

'Our philosophy is simple but unwavering: go the extra mile. That might mean sourcing a certain coffee, remembering a regular's favourite pastry, or making sure that even the quietest moment in the cafe still feels considered and cared for.'

'Over the years, we've evolved. But through it all, we've held onto that core belief—that consistency, kindness and quality never go out of style. Lyall & Co is more than a cafe—it's a dependable part of the day, where quality never slips and the welcome always feels genuine.'



Shaek

The Meet Point Coffee (corner of Newland Street and Queen Street)

When Shaek Zaman opened The Meet Point Coffee in 2022, he had a vision. Despite questions about whether it was viable to sell coffee at weekends on a street corner—in a village with several established cafes already—he had confidence in his plan. Now, there are Meet Point Coffee cafes in Summertown and in Bloxham, and the Eynsham Meet Point has just expanded.

What makes Meet Point stand out? Shaek explains, 'As a coffee business, what makes us different is that we create our own unique blend of coffee. It's our own speciality, our own roast. But we keep our prices reasonable.'

Furthermore, Meet Point is unique in selling Indian street food—homemade by Zena, Shaek's mum, and complemented by his wife Alexandra's baked goods. In July, a horse box replaced the Meet Point tuk-tuk. With

solar panels, it is completely off grid for sustainability. It has a full kitchen, meaning they can now offer their full menu: a dozen regular Indian street foods, plus specials, and a large selection of sandwiches, toasties and salad bowls—and cakes and pastries.

We wondered what the link is with Ready Steady Spice. Shaek and Anam (of Ready Steady) have been firm friends since childhood. 'After Covid,' says Shaek, 'I asked Anam if it would be OK to use the front space. He said yes, and the district council were happy to give us a licence.' The two businesses support and complement each other greatly.

And what is it like running an outdoor cafe? 'It can be up and down depending on how bad the rain is! But, in winter,' Shaek explains, 'we have fire pits or heaters, thermal blankets and heated gilets, all for customers' comfort. And people can go into the restaurant, if they'd like to.'

The Meet Point open-air setting definitely has a plus side, too—and not just on sunny days. 'The Meet Point is on the go—you can pick up and go,' says Shaek. 'We have many regulars—including big groups of cyclists and horse riders. And you can't take a horse into an indoor cafe, can you!'



In its 24th year!

Snax (24 Mill Street)

Snax opened 23 years ago and has been giving sustenance to Eynsham people of all ages ever since. Pass by and you will often see queues of school students alongside workers from Eynsham's numerous businesses, all waiting to buy a reasonably priced but delicious lunch. Snax offers a wide choice of sandwiches and jacket potatoes with cold or hot fillings, pasties, sausage rolls, Scotch eggs and salad boxes—all freshly made on the premises—and there is always a daily special. Drinks and snacks are also available, alongside tasty sweet treats.

Village Arts



A new war memorial

The Horsa sculpture

by Charlotte Holmes

For the 81st anniversary of D-Day, Harwell Science and Innovation Campus unveiled The Horsa Sculpture, a new war memorial created by sculptor Charlotte Holmes, who is based in Eynsham. The sculpture was inspired by the iconic Horsa Gliders which took off from RAF Harwell in June 1944, and it honours the pilots for their pivotal roles in the D-Day landings. The sculpture is open to the public. To read more about it, go to bit.ly/4k7ODCc and bit.ly/4lonD2j

Good neighbours

by Amelia Hawbaker

The Good Neighbour scheme of the Eynsham Good Neighbour Network continues to help and support anyone in need living in Eynsham. This programme reflects the nature of our village; we have kind people with busy lives who are willing to help in many ways. We're grateful for our existing volunteers—and we welcome new volunteers. We recently welcomed Sam to our team!

We need more volunteers who would be willing to visit someone who may be a bit isolated or drive someone to a social occasion (not medical).

If you can help, please call 07443 564516.

Eynsham Morris

by Martin Flatman

Did you know that Eynsham Morris's dances go way back into the village's past?

In the early 20th century, Cecil Sharpe—a famous English folklore expert—described Eynsham Morris as one of the best he had ever seen.

But they had not danced publicly for about 25 years until, in 1979, Dave Townsend, an Oxford folk musician, persuaded some Eynsham men to revive things. Dave did lots of research to make sure that what was revived were the genuine old dances—and on 5 May 1980, Eynsham Morris danced again.

Nowadays, they practise on Tuesday evenings between October and March in the Baptist Church Hall. They always welcome new members. Their website (eynshammorris.org.uk) says they only recruit people who were born or live in Eynsham but, in fact, they accept people from any of the villages linked to Bartholomew School.



Eynsham Yarn Bombers

The Morris...in wool!

Did you see the Eynsham Yarn Bombers' vibrant additions to two Royal Mail pillar boxes in June and July? They used their creativity and skill to knit two groups of Morris dancers, complete with the Green Man. What an accolade to Eynsham Morris!

Fancy a bit of drama in your life?

by Denise Richard

Come and join Bartholomew Players! Current members come from Oxford, Witney, Hanborough and Cassington, as well as Eynsham and other villages.

We have just had a very successful run of 'Present Laughter' by Noel Coward. One reviewer commented, 'It's easy to forget that this is a community theatre group performing in a village hall, and if the Players continue to produce plays to such a high standard, then I think they can look forward with confidence to the next 50 years.'

Our next production, on 26-29 November, will be 'The Government Inspector' by Nikolai Gogol, adapted

by Philip Goulding—a timeless comedy of errors poking fun at human stupidity and petty bureaucracy. If you would like to help backstage in this show, please email Gareth Hammond at bart.players@gmail.com

New members are very welcome! Rehearsals are on Monday and Wednesday evenings from the beginning of September 2025. Visit our website: bartholomewplayers.co.uk

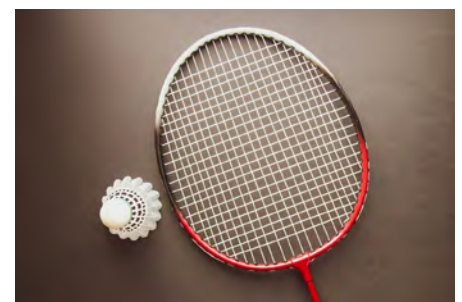
GreenTEA Food Team

by Milly Chen

In May, the GreenTEA Food Team engaged about 25 boys and girls (aged 8-10) at Eynsham Cubs group in making 'rainbow salad', delicious and packed with nutrients.

Milly explained the benefits of wholesome foods and the importance of a balanced diet to cover our body's nutritional needs. Les ran a fun quiz with the children and helped them to understand the nutritional value of different plant foods, encouraging them to make healthy choices. Andy showed the children how to make wholemeal couscous in an easy step. And with Helena's help, the children prepared a range of ingredients.

It was a wonderful evening, and we would like to thank the Cub leaders (Owen, Rose and Caroline) for having us!



Eynsham Badminton Club

by James Fisk

Are you interested in joining a friendly badminton club (not in any leagues)? We play all year at Bartholomew Sports Centre on Thursday evenings for two hours, and we are looking for new members with some experience of playing. The cost per quarter is about £60-70. If you are interested, please contact me via Eynsham Online (bit.ly/3GnGiNo).

Village Events August-September

We are happy to advertise regular village events, but we need those who organise them to submit new copy for each issue—otherwise, we end up printing out-of-date details.

Poetry Exchange: Pilgrims of hope

30 July, 5.30-7pm at The Red Lion
Bring a poem or short text to share that interests, challenges, inspires or intrigues. Meetings are the last Wednesday of every month, and we reconvene in September after a short summer break. All welcome—readers, writers, listeners and all.

Baby weighing

During the Summer period, end of July-September, baby weighing scales will be available on a Monday morning in St Leonard's Church 10.30am-12pm during the The Bump to One session. Free to drop in; no charge.

Eynsham Morris

With visiting team St Albans Morris
2 August, 3-11pm on the Square

NRN Botanical Survey Workshop with botanist Camilla Lambrick

3 Aug, 1.30pm. Great for improving or learning plant ID skills
Register: <https://nature-recovery-network.org/>

Eynsham Acoustic Club

3 Aug, 8-10.30pm at The White Hart

The White Hart Pub Quiz

6 Aug, 8-10.30pm at The White Hart
Rich Craven's long-running quiz.
£2 pp, Teams 6 max

Summer at Eynsham Library

Rhymetime every Monday 2-2.30pm, Actions, songs and rhymes suitable for babies and under 5s.
6 Aug, 2-4pm: Summer Reading Challenge Craft event at Mill Street Arts, led by Alice Walker. This will tie in with the theme of this year's reading challenge: 'Story Garden'. Booking required. *15 Aug, 1.30-3.30pm:* Guide Dogs UK visit.

20 Aug, 2-4pm: Drop-in session with the Nature Recovery Network.

30 Aug, 10.30am-12pm: Fire Service visit on the Library forecourt.

Red Lion pub quiz

11 Aug, 7.30-10.30pm
£2 pp (teams of 6 max.)

Oasis for Senior Citizens

12 Aug, 10am-3.45pm at Baptist Church Hall. Activities and food for the over 60s. Pre-booking is essential as places are limited. Brochures available from any of the three churches, or Eynsham Library.

Rotary Club of Eynsham

12 Aug, 7.30-10pm at The Red Lion
Business meeting

Eynsham Garden Club

13 Aug, 7.30-9pm at the Village Hall
Talk by Dominic Hamilton on Painswick Rococo Gardens

Age UK Lunch Club

15 Aug, 12-1.30pm at The Red Lion
Contact Sue to book your space:
07827 235 414

Kingsley Cafe Music Quiz

21 Aug, 7.30-10.30pm at Kingsley Cafe
£3pp entry fee, 6 per team
Ring 01865 884488 to reserve a table

Eynsham's Rural Past Exhibition

25 Aug, 11am-4pm, Eynsham Museum (Bartholomew Room). Free
Eynsham's development as a rural community from the Middle Ages to the 20th century, though the model railway will still be there!

Rotary Club

26 Aug, 7.30-10pm at The Red Lion
Every fourth Tuesday of the month Rotary Club meets to share a meal and enjoy a talk from an invited speaker.

Poetry Exchange:

Pilgrims of hope
27 Aug, 5.30-7pm at The Red Lion

Eynsham Litter Pickers

31 Aug, 1.45-3.30pm, meeting at Baptist Church Hall
A very satisfying service to the

community, helping to keep our village as tidy as possible.

Eynsham Repair Cafe

6 Sep, 2-4pm, at the Scout Hall.
Sewing, (creative) darning, small electrical repairs and tool sharpening. Wood and bike repairs (small puncture, gear checks, etc.). Arrive early to avoid disappointment! Drinks and cakes are available while you wait.

Eynsham Women's Institute

11 Sep, 7.30pm
Coleshill, Nerve Centre of British Resistance, talk by Gillian Cane. Competition. An item beginning with P. Visitors always welcome; contribution £4. Regular meeting second Thursday of each month, 7.30pm, Eynsham Scout Hut

Eynsham Village Show

13 Sep, 2-4.30pm in the Village Hall
Eynsham's traditional village show; Class List and schedule are out!

Eynsham Country Market

20 Sep, 9.30am-12pm, a special market in the Square
World Wide Kitchen—global recipes. Homemade focaccia, pasta dishes and hummus; sweet bakes including pecan pie, brownies, biscotti and Scottish shortbread. Plus a large range of crafts and garden produce.

Potting on and planting out with NRN

Sep 21, Eynsham's Wildflower Meadows, Long Mead
Get your hands dirty and help to restore and link up meadow habitat along the Thames.

Eynsham Arts Group

25 Sep, 7.30pm, Mill Street Arts
An illustrated talk by Paul Ellis
Entry fee is £5 on the door for non-members, and £4 for students.

Poetry Exchange:

Pilgrims of Hope
24 Sep, 5.30-7pm, Red Lion

Bartholomew School

25 Sep, Year 7 Open Evening
27 Nov, Sixth Form Open Evening

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.

Send your events news (about 70 words long) for our November edition (issue 76) before 7 Sept to editor@eynshamnews.org.uk

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Abbey Properties

Independent Estate Agents selling homes in Eynsham since 1983. Unrivalled experience of the local property market. 01865 880697 / abbeyprops.com

Cokethorpe Enterprises

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1 Abbey Street, Eynsham OX29 4TB. 01865 884400 / pellmans.co.uk

Beech Court Nursing Home

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

Rotary Club of Eynsham

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

Zetica Limited

Geophysics on your doorstep. Check our website for details. zetica.com / zeticarail.com zeticauxo.com

Paton Financial Planning

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

Eynsham Cellars

Award winning wine, beer, spirit and cider retailer. Carefully chosen selection. Free delivery. Sale or return & free glass hire for parties. 43 Mill Street. 01865 884405 / eynshamcellars.com

The Clean Oven Company

Eynsham based. Reliable friendly service. Single and double ovens. Ranges hobs and extractors. We also clean BBQs. Give us a call on 0737 9689804

Evenlode DIY Eynsham's Tardis

Glass, timber, keys cut, tool sharpening, paint mixed, hardware, ironmongery, decorating materials, garden and pet supplies. 29 High St., Eynsham OX29 4HE 01865 881392

Eynsham Good Neighbour Network

EGNN exists to support anyone in need in the village. It has three branches:

Good Neighbours
07443 564516

Eynsham Car Scheme
07469 764174

Eynsham Food Bank
07450 328530

Contact us, if you need help.

For more information, go to: bit.ly/4aiNohD

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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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 Sept-Oct edition (issue 76) before 31 August to editor@eynshamnews.org.uk



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Eynsham

