



# Eynsham



*Celebrate*  
**Eynsham  
Village Show**  
Photos by Ruth Williams and  
Cordelia Singleton

This edition is  
*Sponsored by*  
**Cokethorpe  
School**

## Eynsham News really is 'Your News'

Eynsham News is a community newsletter run by volunteers. Would you like to develop your creative skills in writing, editing or preparing for print? Or maybe you would like to help with the 'logistics'—finances, advertising and arranging the big team who deliver all around the village. Please email [editor@eynshamnews.org.uk](mailto:editor@eynshamnews.org.uk), if you'd like to explore joining our team. We deliver free to every household in our village every two months. If you would like us to include information about your club, your church, your pub, your sport, get in touch by emailing [editor@eynshamnews.org.uk](mailto:editor@eynshamnews.org.uk). **It really is Your News!**

## Village Buzz



### Eynsham firefighters

by *Natalie Cutting*

The Eynsham firefighters were all looking forward to joining the Eynsham Carnival procession, but the siren sounded and they had to race away to assist with a road traffic collision. They were later seen on the Carnival field, however, battling Morris dancers and pirates to win the Rope Wars trophy!

All the crew at Eynsham are on-call (retained) firefighters, which means that they carry out this role alongside their full-time jobs. They receive full training and can choose the hours they are available to be called out. This enables local people to provide a valuable service to their own community.

Eynsham has a small, diverse and friendly crew, and currently has space for some new recruits! With a full crew, our local fire service can be available more often, which helps to keep our community safer. If you are interested in learning more about being a firefighter in Eynsham, visit [oxfordshire.gov.uk/oncallfirefighters](http://oxfordshire.gov.uk/oncallfirefighters) or contact Laurence on 07540 925022. And come to our Open Day on Saturday 4 October!

### Electric vehicle charging scheme

Eynsham already benefits from several electric vehicle (EV) charging points in the Back Lane car park. Now, if you would like to charge your EV at home but do not have a driveway, you can apply for a scheme to allow you to charge your vehicle outside your own home. For more info, see [bit.ly/4foP622](http://bit.ly/4foP622). To apply, go to [bit.ly/45AFqhH](http://bit.ly/45AFqhH)

### Local village bus services

From 1 September, West Oxfordshire Community Transport (WOCT) took over the 411/411s and 418 bus routes from First and Last Mile (see last issue). These routes link Eynsham, Freeland, Long Hanborough, Sutton, Stanton Harcourt, Bablockhythe, Northmoor, Standlake and Brighthampton. The new timetables for these services are available on Eynsham Online: [bit.ly/4g30CAL](http://bit.ly/4g30CAL)

First and Last Mile (FLM), in agreement with OCC, will continue to run the 471 shopper service from Bablockhythe to Witney on Wednesdays and Fridays for the foreseeable future. However, FLM is in critical need of donations to help to keep it going. To donate, please go to [firstandlastmile.org.uk/donate](http://firstandlastmile.org.uk/donate)

### Eynsham Youth Network

by *Carl Rylett*

For a couple of years, our village has been without a youth club. A group has got together to change this, but we would like more volunteers to help out. If you would like to get involved in supporting the development of a Youth Club (e.g. admin, publicity or helping run sessions) and in improving youth facilities in Eynsham, go to Facebook ([bit.ly/4kDaMIL](http://bit.ly/4kDaMIL)) or contact Carl Rylett at [eynshamyouthnetwork@outlook.com](mailto:eynshamyouthnetwork@outlook.com) or on 07887 543455

We would also like to hear any ideas from residents, especially from our village youth. What would you like to see?

### Watch out!

The Oxford 'temporary congestion charge' WILL begin operating 'in autumn 2025'. Find out when at [bit.ly/3JW1Q4F](http://bit.ly/3JW1Q4F)

### Eynsham Car Scheme Challenge

by *Celia Davies*

For over 50 years, the village has provided a Car Scheme service for residents who just can't get to their healthcare appointments by other means. For the past 10 years, the Car Scheme has been managed by Eynsham Good Neighbour Network (EGNN).

To continue, we must now try to do things differently. We have a team of about 20 regular volunteer drivers who are mainly older retired people supporting an even older generation! Most of our drivers now are in their 70s or even 80s.

One of our drivers works part-time and volunteers only on certain days of the week. Another works from home, and really enjoys the break and new company that doing a driving run brings. These drivers point the way to a possible future.

Can we create a team of drivers who drive for us less frequently, but who can fit it around home working? Are there enough of YOU out there who are not 9-5 commuters and who could pick up, say, just one drive a month? We would need a much bigger team to work this way. Could you be a new driver for the Car Scheme? Call and talk to us, if you think you could help. Eynsham Car Scheme: 07469 764174

## Village Sports

### Eynsham Roadrunners 10k Race

Eynsham Roadrunners was formed in 1986 and now has more than 150 members. They meet every Wednesday evening at the Pavilion for a social run of around 4-8 miles. This year's Eynsham 10k Race will be on Sunday 30 November. For more information and to register, go to [bit.ly/47Vbgr1](http://bit.ly/47Vbgr1). Don't delay—the event is filling up fast and is usually sold out a month before it takes place!

### Eynsham Croquet Club

by *Sandra Jinks*

During the first week in August, a beautiful summer's evening, on our Cassington Lane courts, members of Eynsham Community Choir joined us for a taster session—and didn't they do well! The evening rounded off with a play-off competition, and the winner was presented with a bottle of wine. Please contact us, if you would like a taster session for your club or organisation. We always welcome new members, too! To find out more, see [bit.ly/40T3tWt](http://bit.ly/40T3tWt)

## Taking a pupil-centric approach

Cokethorpe is an established independent co-educational day school for children aged 4-18 years.

At the heart of Cokethorpe School's approach is wellbeing and finding the best in, and crucially *for*, every child. The combination of a strong pastoral system, small class sizes, and the ability to provide a bespoke learning environment for each child ensure the School is well-placed to fulfil these intents across its 150 acres of sumptuous parkland and myriad facilities.

Cokethorpe incorporates current educational findings into its teaching, ensuring strategies are both effective and evidence-based. By using innovative research-informed methods, lessons remain rigorous yet engaging, creating an environment where every pupil can succeed.

Acknowledging and embracing the diversity of children's talents, ideas and experiences, it is a place where every child is known, supported and recognised for their achievements, ambitions, pursuits, and passions. A sense of mutual respect, recognition and friendship is integral to the whole community, moving past the confines of year groups and houses.

Cokethorpe School is more than a place for your child to achieve their academic potential, to uncover new passions and explore possibilities beyond. Though it is all those things and more, what it really offers is a place for your child to feel they belong.



Find out more and book your tour at [cokethorpe.org](https://www.cokethorpe.org)

# Village Show 2025

## A history

by Jon Young

Given Eynsham's long history, you'd be forgiven for thinking that the earliest Village Show stretched back to the time of the 11th-century abbots (1st prize—Aethelmar—Bottle of Homemade Mead; 2nd—Abbot Adam — Funniest-Shaped Turnip).

In fact, Eynsham's non-profit-making Village Show has been awarding gongs for strawberry jam, homemade lemonade and—yes—funniest-shaped vegetables since 1991, when it was simply 'The Produce Show', celebrating wares from the local allotments.

Only 10 percent of plottolders took part—turning their noses up at exhibiting—and a combination of hot summers and general malaise threatened the show's future. However, through a brief series of name changes ('The Eynsham Garden Produce Show' and 'The Artist Formerly Known as The Produce Show' among them), the moniker became 'the Village Show', letting the direct link to the allotments lapse.

There are now 90 categories in the Village Show, covering everything from Fruit & Vegetables and Flower Arranging to Cakes, Jams, and Arts & Crafts. The next generation of Village Show participants is catered to, with categories for age 4+, including Decorated Pebble, Lego Models and Biscuits.

'We do try to encourage children to enter,' explains Village Show Chair, Claire Singleton. 'The Guides always enter and, this year, we welcome entries from the Brownies and Rainbows, too.'

In 2024, there were 384 exhibits from 90 entrants. However, as Claire explains, the wetter, hotter summers ('Last year was definitely harder on the gardeners') could change the types of produce entered.

## Village Show fun facts

Eynsham Village Show has thrown up a few interesting facts over the years:

- Photography has become the most popular category for Village Show entries. It's not all about carrots and apples!
- The Men Only baking contest is a recent addition to the show categories. It's become a competition between two friends and always attracts some of the most impressive entries.
- Some amusing entries in shows gone by included a gingerbread train that actually moved, some bottles of exploding cider and a sunflower the size of a 10p coin!
- 1997's show saw one of the lowest turnouts, with just eight plottolders and 30 entrants overall. Ten of those were from the local WI!
- As far as village records are concerned, Aelfric didn't win for Most Amusingly-Shaped Vegetable. However, early documents suggest he could rustle up a mean raspberry jam.

## Behind the Scenes

*It takes community to create a community event and, at the helm of Eynsham Village Show, there is a dedicated and enthusiastic team.*

### Claire Singleton joined the Village Show committee around 2015.

'I initially took on the Treasurer role—and was promptly handed a carrier bag of cash! One of my earliest tasks was to set up a proper bank account, which now allows payments to be made by cheque. This will be my second year as Chair—and most of this role involves coordinating everything to keep us on track.

'We begin planning the show categories and considering who might be our guest of honour around March, although we try to book the hall a year in advance. Things start to ramp up in early July, when we publish the schedule of classes and entry form, and confirm all the details. That said, it's really the few days leading up to the Show when things get properly hectic, entering all the submissions into the database and printing off the paperwork.

'The evening before, we all get

together to check the entries against the forms and to prepare an envelope for each entrant. On the day itself, we're up at 7am to set up tables and equipment, with our wonderful volunteers, ready for entrants to arrive at 9am. After the show, there's a manic clear-up, and we're usually home just after 6pm—feet up and enjoying a well-deserved glass of wine.'



Claire had the highest points total!

It wasn't a set-up, but on the day Claire had the highest adults points total in the show! Here she is receiving the Gregg Chambers Memorial Trophy from Parish Council Chairman, Ros Macken.

### Tracey Fisk is the Village Show Treasurer.

'My role mainly requires a few weeks of my time around the date of the Show, when we need to pay for the hall and insurance, and to bank entrance fees. I joined the committee because I wanted to make sure that this great event for the village would carry on for generations. My whole family, from my parents to my children, have all entered the Village Show, and most of us have won something over the years. We want to encourage the next generation to join the Show, and we welcome new entries and volunteers anytime and every year.'

### Stella Scrivens has been a Village Show committee member for quite a few years now.

'My role is mixed, involving some admin and some advertising. I usually take and write up the committee meeting minutes. I also help with advertising the Show—putting up posters, and booking and arranging the Library window display.'

### Julie Jordan receives the entry forms and money through her letterbox.

'I usually help with decorating the

library window to promote the Show. I also usually sell raffle tickets on the day, after spending the previous evening and the morning of the Show setting up the tables, signs and so on with the rest of the team.

“It’s so lovely greeting all the participants with their entries on the morning! I love meeting so many old friends and making new ones, too. It never fails to surprise me how many talented people there are in the area. It’s a really fun day—one which is competitive, but also filled with lots of friendly banter!”



Fay receiving trophy

**Fay Taylor has been on the Village Show committee for about 21 years.**

‘I contribute to ‘what shall we have as classes’ discussions, help to find judges and volunteers, and update our page on Eynsham Online (bit.ly/45TJnNq). On the day before the Show, I also help Claire to input everyone’s entries onto the database. This really is a two-person job, as it has to be 100% correct—the certificates, cups and trophies all depend on it!

‘Being part of the Village Show has become such a regular feature in my calendar over the years, I can’t imagine not being involved! On the day, the Show has just the best atmosphere! Whether it’s people’s anticipation bringing entries for the first time ever, or the in-family and between-friends rivalries, the morning is full of expectation. I love the spirit of the judges, who are all volunteers and do such a fabulous job –and then the madness of getting all the results into the database so that all the certificates are ready for the 2pm opening. Then of course, entrants and the public get to see the outcome of everyone’s hard work, determination and creativity. It’s a great day and I can’t quite imagine my calendar without it!’



## Village Show Winners

### A Village Show newbie writes...

by Jon Young

Having recently turned 50, I have felt contractually obliged to make an effort to enter my own produce into Eynsham Village Show. However, deciding on which of the 80+ categories to enter was as difficult as growing onions, carrots and broccoli in one of England's hottest-ever summers.

I've never had issues looking after my chillis, however, and I carefully cultivated some prime vindaloes and Carolina Reapers especially for the show. It was touch-and-go whether my typically late-blooming jalapenos would make it to the Village Hall on time.

After some research, coupled with a few internal arguments with Google's AI, I discovered I'd been growing European Yellow Plums in my garden for the past three years (so, they weren't just rubbish apricots, after all). A bumper crop and a BBC recipe even I could follow resulted in a few jars of European Yellow Plum jam—another entry happily ticked off.

This was also my first year of growing carrots. Surely one of the easiest vegetables to grow, right? As it turned out, the carrot gods bestowed upon me about 50 potential entries for 'Funniest-Shaped Vegetable' category.

Lessons learned, and I'm already planning my assault on 2026's Village Show. Do I tackle the curiously-titled 'Men Only' cake bake category, or will I attempt growing more carrots that look like they've come out of a Carry On movie? Watch this space.

**On the day of the Show, most entrants receive certificates for their entries, but there are cups and trophies for a list of achievements.**



## Eynsham Show Cup Winners

The Onion Cup (best onion) **Peter Reynolds**

The Potato Challenge Shield (best potato) **Fay Taylor**

Fred Dinsdale Cup (best runner beans) **Tim and Helen Jordan**

The Vegetable Basket Cup (in memory of Colin Fisk) **James Fisk**

The Best Vegetable Shield (awarded for pumpkin or squash) **Clare Want**

Phill Porter Shield (best dahlia) **Daz Bibby**

EAA Shield (best veg, fruit or flower) **James Fisk**

WI Market Shield (best preserve) (for lemon curd) **Sinead Andrews**

Mum Baker's Baking Trophy (best apple pie) **Edward Mills**

Shirley Fisk Trophy (best Victoria sponge) **Georgina Benson**

Mens' Cookery **Colin Mills**

Dora Aires Shield (best overall cookery) **Sinead Andrews**

The Garden Flowers Cup (best vase arrangement of mixed flowers) **Sandra Harbour**

Denise Gunstone Memorial Trophy (best floral arrangement) **Roberta Early**

The Photography Challenge Cup **Lucy Bowden**

The Eynsham Carnival Cup (best child's 'Garden on a Plate') **Edward Mills**

The Wolvercote Trophy (best child's entry in the show) **Susanna Hetherington**

The Eynsham Scout Group Cup (highest points total in childrens' entries) **Isla Talbot**

Best Arts and Crafts Cup **Georgie Fisher**

Highest Point in Arts and Crafts **Amy Folwell**

The Eynsham Carnival Trophy (largest sunflower head) **Sarah Morris**

Bob Betteridge Cup (longest runner beans) **James Fisk**

Greg Chambers' Memorial Trophy (highest total of points overall) **Claire Singleton**

## Village Habitats

### Apple Day

by Sue Raikes and Sarah Couch

Our Apple Day and Green Festival at the Peace Oak on 11 October 2-4.40pm is our annual autumn celebration of Eynsham's community orchard. Have a go at apple juicing and tasting; try craft activities; play games; do a treasure hunt; look for fungi; and explore the field. Enter the GreenTEA food competition, with prizes and tasting (details by email at greentea\_food@outlook.com or online at [eynsham.org.uk/GreenTEA](http://eynsham.org.uk/GreenTEA)). Buy one of our unique family apple trees. Bring an apple and leaf for expert identification. And use your skills as we develop our new building—more than a shed. All activities are free!

### Nature Recovery Network news

by Catriona Bass

Long Mead Foundation (LMF) and Nature Recovery Network (NRN) were among the three finalists for the Biodiversity and Environment Category of the Oxford Climate Awards for the Thames Valley Wildflower Meadow Restoration Project.

On Friday 3 October, 6-9pm, you can help with bat surveys at Long Mead and in our Community Meadows down by Eynsham Lock. Experts Sylfest Muldal and Jennie Cadd will help us. Find out more at [nature-recovery-network.org](http://nature-recovery-network.org)



### Eynsham Swifts report

by Sarah Couch

We were delighted that the swifts returned in 2025 in similar numbers to last year and that three sites where roof work had been carried out still welcomed swifts. It shows what can be done with a bit of care. You can help by following Swift Conservation's clear advice on roof

repairs ([bit.ly/4fVV36Q](https://bit.ly/4fVV36Q)). It works! In total, we recorded 24 active swift nests, one more than last year. Two were newly recorded sites and swifts were investigating several others.

We also had a successful swift rescue. If you see a swift on the ground, it is in trouble. So, when Sally saw a stunned and stranded swift on Acre End Street, she scooped it up, looked after it and delivered it to Tiggywinkles Wildlife Hospital. We heard that the swift survived to fly another day.



Swifts are summer visitors to the UK

Our swift walk during Swift Awareness Week was so popular that we split into two groups. We were treated to some fantastic aerial displays. There were also some inspirational swift talks, including by the intrepid campaigner for swift bricks in new homes, Hannah Bourne-Taylor. [hannahbournetaylor.com](http://hannahbournetaylor.com)

### It's all over now...

by Nick Clapton

All that fevered activity of spring planting, the manic growth of summer (how many of YOUR plants got smothered by others being too enthusiastic? Several of mine did, which is a bore...), and, now—what precisely? It all looks a bit wind-blown, my once only slightly-nibbled hostas are reduced to pulp, the Michaelmas daisies are falling over, and the dahlias are distinctly unhappy.

There is a great temptation to tidy everything up but, in autumn, this is a lot of work. I always leave it till spring, by which time winter's ravages will have reduced herbaceous stems to light dry sticks (many of which may have harboured hibernating insects), and fallen leaves have mainly rotted away, which helps nurture the soil beneath. One thing to do now: sweep some

leaves into a heap in a quiet corner of your plot, creating a space where a hedgehog could hibernate.

Your garden can still be a great source of pleasure at this time of the year. The daisy family Compositae is one of the best for late flowers: some perennial sunflowers (like Helianthus 'Lemon Queen') keep going well into November, as do hardy chrysanthemums (I love 'Dixter Orange', but they are available in colours from white to mauve), and there are many asters and rudbeckias to choose from.

Colour from leaves and berries can also add a lot of interest. If you have plenty of room, Parthenocissus henryana (a 'Boston Ivy') turns the most wonderful flame red in autumn. On a smaller scale, many Japanese maples show dramatic leaf-colour change just before they fall, as does the Persian Ironwood tree (Parrotia) and many birches.

For fruit, there is little to beat a crab apple (I recommend 'Evereste'). And the berries of Cotoneaster shrubs often persist well into winter ('Cornubia' is an excellent variety).

For something seriously unusual, why not try an autumn-flowering snowdrop, Galanthus reginae-olgae? A native of Sicily and the Balkans, and named after the wife of King George I of Greece, that will be in flower by October, and will surprise everybody!

### Need, hardship or distress?

The Eynsham Consolidated Charity can make money grants or help to provide items or services for those in financial need. The Bartholomew Educational Foundation makes money grants to people under 25 for books, equipment, travel, etc.

To enquire, in absolute confidence, email the Clerk, Catherine Barton: [eynshamcharities@gmail.com](mailto:eynshamcharities@gmail.com)



**Remember!** The deadline for content for Eynsham News 77 is 2 November 2025. Send copy to [editor@eynshamnews.org.uk](mailto:editor@eynshamnews.org.uk)



# The more the merrier.

*Increasing our Councillor count  
is good for Eynsham*

Eynsham Parish Council was thrilled by a recent flurry of interest in becoming a Councillor. In the past six months we've had one returnee and three new joiners, swelling our Councillor numbers and improving the discussions we have and the decisions we make, helping us achieve more for the community.

## Why is more better?

It's been long-established that a more diverse team makes better decisions and is more productive. When we have more people on the Council, we automatically have greater diversity. This is additionally important for a Parish Council because we aim to represent the views of a diverse community.

Having more Councillors also helps us on a more basic level. We have more people available to undertake tasks such as putting up the Christmas lights, running a traffic survey, or helping with maintenance at the Fishponds. It really is the more the merrier!

## Why didn't we have elections?

We've had vacancies since the local elections in 2023. This permits us to co-opt new candidates to join the Council for the remainder of the Council term (until 2027) without holding an election.

This doesn't mean we don't scrutinise co-option candidates and discuss their suitability before their application is voted on at a full Council meeting. All applicants complete an application form and must meet the eligibility criteria. They are interviewed and attend a full Council meeting so we can meet them before they are co-opted. It's straightforward, but it follows due process.

Importantly, all our Councillors are bound by our Code of Conduct, which can be found on our website. We require all Councillors to uphold the highest standards of behaviour and treat all members of the community with respect and dignity. There is no tolerance for anyone who contravenes our Code of Conduct.

## We still want you!

At the time of writing, a few vacancies remain—isn't it time you joined us? Being a Councillor is a unique experience. It's an opportunity to learn about local governance and make a tangible, positive impact on your community. Email [epc.comms@eynsham-pc.gov.uk](mailto:epc.comms@eynsham-pc.gov.uk) to arrange an informal chat. We hope to welcome you to the team soon!

*Dates for  
your diary*

## Full Council Meetings:

**Tuesday 16 September 7.30pm**

**Tuesday 21 October 7.30pm**

**Tuesday 18 November 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 say a big thank-you to all who responded to our Strategic Plan consultation. We were able to gain some extra responses by writing to 200 randomly-selected homes across the village. Your views have helped us finalise the content, which will guide us over the next three years or so.

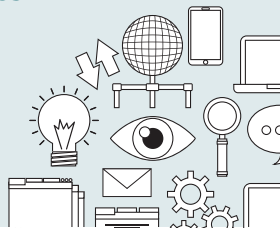
One of the issues that is at the top of our agenda is the negotiations on accessing more burial ground. Discussions are progressing and we hope to be able to share some positive news soon.

I want to recognise and applaud the work of the First and Last Mile team, who ran two local bus services until September this year. After several years of hard work developing the routes, another operator is taking over from First and Last Mile. We hope the new operator can match up and do as good a job.

At the time of writing, Thames Water were once again completing sewer repairs in Back Lane, with the road closed near the Village Hall. These repetitious closures and repairs are frustrating for us all. The Parish Council continues to pressure Thames Water to repair the main properly, but it's not an easy task getting them to commit the resources. We'll keep you updated.

Finally, thanks to the generosity of 3D Aluminium, our local specialist window manufacturer, our Village Hall now has a pair of new security doors and new windows, as well as a front door that can be opened automatically, improving the accessibility of the building. The Village Hall is just getting better and better as a venue—why not consider hiring it for your next event?

## From the Clerk's Desk



What a summer! The sun has given us some glorious days and I experienced my first Eynsham Carnival! It was a fabulous event and I enjoyed seeing so many of you relishing the Eynsham community spirit.

We're fortunate to have such a vibrant community, but the Parish Council is also aware that we must make sure our village and its activities are accessible for everyone. Accessibility features highly in our revised Neighbourhood Plan and our Strategic Plan.

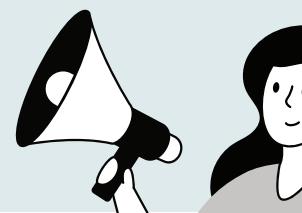
Recently, Councillors have been working with the County Council and local bus companies to identify potential new bus stop locations on Oxford Rd. This would improve access to our recreation grounds and other facilities and locations in the south of the village.

Councillors and officers have also met with counterparts from Cumnor parish to address issues with accessing the Thames Path, just over the Toll Bridge. We're hoping to find a quick and efficient solution by working together.

Improving accessibility does not always mean new infrastructure—it can be as simple as keeping footpaths and communal areas clear. Everyone can play a part by ensuring gardens aren't encroaching onto pavements or junctions. Please trim any overgrown hedges, shrubs and trees.

If you spot an area that needs further attention, please report it to the County Council via Fixmystreet, ([fixmystreet.org](http://fixmystreet.org)). This is an online portal that is free to use and sends a report directly to County Council officers. The same portal can be used to report potholes, non-working streetlights or blocked drains.

## Meet a Councillor: Jon Crowe



### Why have you joined the Parish Council?

*My wife was a Parish Councillor. Once she had stepped down, we often said that I should take her place one day—that day has now arrived!*

### What do you hope to achieve?

*To play a part in making sensible, pragmatic decisions that balance the conservation of the village's important heritage with its ongoing evolution.*

### What issues do you care about most?

*I care a lot about both sustainability and wellbeing.*

### How long have you lived in Eynsham?

*Since early 2008. I moved to Oxford for a job in summer 2000. I was keen to put down proper roots outside of the city, within reach of the countryside, and Eynsham fitted the bill perfectly.*

### What do you enjoy about Eynsham?

*To me, Eynsham is a 'Goldilocks' village: not too big, not too small, but just the right size, with great amenities, great community, and beautiful countryside all around.*

### Do you work?

*I'm a publisher at Oxford University Press. I also do a bit of (publishing-related) university teaching and co-author a student textbook with another Eynsham resident.*

### How do you like to spend your spare time?

*I always like to have some kind of garden-based project on the go. But I also enjoy simply getting outdoors with my wife and daughters.*

**[jon.crowe@eynsham-pc.gov.uk](mailto:jon.crowe@eynsham-pc.gov.uk)**

These pages have been supported by Eynsham Parish Council.

Contact: [epc.comms@eynsham-pc.gov.uk](mailto:epc.comms@eynsham-pc.gov.uk) or visit [www.eynsham-pc.gov.uk](http://www.eynsham-pc.gov.uk). Find us on Facebook, X and Bluesky.

## New in the village

### Charity shops

by *Martin Flatman*

The Animal Sanctuary charity shop has re-opened in the village, so we now have two charity shops again.

On 30 August, a small crowd gathered for the opening. Because it is a little way down Newland Street, it is easy for some village people not to realise it is there—and that's a pity as supporting it helps the work of the Sanctuary, based in Stadhampton, which never refuses dogs, cats and rabbits that do not have a home. See [oascharity.org.uk](http://oascharity.org.uk).

They have lots of things to buy, but they always need re-saleable pre-loved items to sell—though they ask that we call ahead to make sure they have room. Cody, their new manager, will welcome anyone who would like to volunteer to work in the shop.

### Eynsham Museum's new exhibition

Eynsham Museum opens again on Saturday 27 September with a new exhibition. With generous support from several charities and fundraising activities, the museum has bought display cabinets, so that items that have been in store can now be displayed securely. The upstairs room also has new lighting to highlight the history of our village.

### Eynsham quizzes ramp up for autumn

Lynn Lewis's new charity quiz at The Swan is proving very popular, and makes full use of the function room and projector. All proceeds on the night go towards Helen & Douglas House, a charity close to Lynn's heart.

The White Hart and Red Lion quizzes attract good crowds, while the Kingsley Café will be hosting two themed quizzes per month following the success of their Film & TV quiz during the summer.

All quiz news can be found on the Eynsham Quizzers Facebook page or on Eynsham Online.

## Village Arts

### The Last Escape

by *Mike Venables*

An acclaimed one-man show and darkly comic mystery, 'The Last Escape', with actor Rafe Blackthorne, will begin its national tour on 1 Nov, 8pm at Eynsham Village Hall. Prepare for razor-sharp storytelling and a highly entertaining evening. For more info, go to [rafeblackthorne.com](http://rafeblackthorne.com). Tickets £10 from [bit.ly/4lMeCQt](http://bit.ly/4lMeCQt)



### Bartholomew Players present...

by *Denise Richard*

As part two of our 50th anniversary celebration, on 26-29 November, we are delighted to present the classic comedy 'The Government Inspector' by Nikolai Gogol, adapted by Philip Goulding. Gogol was born in present-day Ukraine and the play was first performed in 1836. Goulding has brought it closer to home by setting it in Victorian England. Director Gareth Hammond says, 'The play is a timeless satire of corruption in officialdom and skewers the hypocrisy, snobbery and self-importance that exist in society everywhere, exploring the universal theme of human vanity.'

New members interested in acting or backstage are very welcome. We are an award-winning, friendly company. Please contact us via [bart.players@gmail.com](mailto:bart.players@gmail.com) or [bartholomewplayers.co.uk](http://bartholomewplayers.co.uk)

### Your community choir open its doors again

by *Sarah Medina*

Eynsham Community Choir is opening its doors again to new singers and old. The autumn term runs until 11 December, with two 'half term' breaks (on 2 and 23 October, respectively). Fees are £60 for a 12-week term. First session free! You are assured of a very warm welcome, so do come along and give it a try. Thursday evenings, 7:15-9pm, Baptist Church Hall.

### News from The Nook @ Jessie's Art Shed

The Nook opened on 8 September and offers therapeutic small group and one-to-one creative writing and art sessions for young people (7-18) who are struggling in school or with life events. Ali and Hannah, dedicated and experienced teachers, are passionate about using creativity to support young people's social, emotional and mental wellbeing.

For more info, go to [thenookoxfordshire.com](http://thenookoxfordshire.com) or email [ali.thenook@gmail.com](mailto:ali.thenook@gmail.com)

### Portrait artist Tom Croft

by *Laraine Saedi*

Eynsham Arts Group is pleased to announce a talk by well-known portrait artist Tom Croft. Tom has appeared on Sky Arts Portrait of the Year, he did portraits for NHS heroes and has painted portraits of notable figures, including Mark Haddon and Wayne Rooney. 30 October, 7.30pm, Mill Street Arts. Non-members very welcome. £5 on the door. £4 for students.

### Artweeks exhibition

by *Alison Holmans*

On 1-2 Nov, 10am-4pm at The Chicken Run Studio. Artweeks artists Eric White (paintings) and Alison Holmans (pottery) are holding a joint exhibition. Affordable prints, cards, decorations, ceramics and exemplary pieces of the artists' latest works—with plenty of time to commission before Christmas! A free exhibition, with complementary cake and hot drinks.

## Other Village Events

To see an up-to-date village calendar, please go to **Eynsham Online**—[eynsham.org.uk](http://eynsham.org.uk)

To include your event listing in the next issue, please email [editor@eynshamnews.org.uk](mailto:editor@eynshamnews.org.uk) by Sunday 2 November. For regular events, please submit new copy for each issue, so we don't print out-of-date details.

**Sun 28 Sept 1.45pm,**  
*Baptist Church Hall*  
**Eynsham Litter Pickers**

**Thurs 2 Oct 7.30pm,**  
*St Leonard's Church Hall*  
**Eynsham History Group**—Graham Twemlow talk: 'Celebrating the Natural Beauty and Architectural Heritage of Britain'

**Sat 4 Oct 10-11.30am,**  
*Eynsham Scout Hall*  
**Swap Shop Treasure Hunt**—All items free (but a £1 per family donation helps us to cover the cost of hall hire)

**Sat 4 Oct, 9pm, The Red Lion**  
**90s Disco Night**—Hosted by Rich and Deadly. Dress up optional

**Sun 5 Oct 8pm, The Swan Hotel**  
**Eynsham Acoustic Club.** Every first Sunday of the month

**Mon 6 Oct (and then weekly) 2.30pm**  
**Rhymetime**—A selection of action songs and nursery rhymes for babies and toddlers to enjoy with their parents/carers. Free

**Wed 8 Oct 7.30pm, Village Hall**  
**Eynsham Garden Clu**—A walk through the gardens of Blenheim with Joff Elphick

**Thurs 9 Oct 7.30pm,**  
*Eynsham Scout Hall*  
**Eynsham WI**—Harvest Supper and Auction with James Lees. Visitors welcome; £4 contribution

**Sat 11 Oct 7.30pm, Village Hall**  
**Rotary Club's Evening of Musical Entertainment**—Three well-loved

local musical groups, raising money for local and international charities.

**Wed 15 Oct 8pm, Village Hall**  
**Eynsham Society**—Brenda Gratwicke talk: 'Ukraine: what the papers don't tell you'. Non-members welcome (£4 at the door)

**Fri 17 Oct Red Lion**  
**Age UK Lunch at the Red Lion**  
—Contact Sue Richmond: 07827 235414 / [suerichmond@ageukoxfordshire.org.uk](mailto:suerichmond@ageukoxfordshire.org.uk)

**Sun 26 Oct 4pm, The Music Room**  
**Under Wytham Wood:** A rehearsed reading by Eynsham Writers. Free entry; donations to Eynsham Good Neighbours

**Mon 27-Tues 28 Oct Hill End**  
**Wild Days**—Holiday camp for ages 7-12 to explore, play, and connect with nature. See [bit.ly/46iXrAr](http://bit.ly/46iXrAr)

**Tues 28 Oct 7.30pm, Red Lion**  
**Rotary Club speaker meeting & meal**  
—Every fourth Tuesday of the month. Open to all

**Wed 29 Oct 5.30-7pm, Red Lion**  
**Pilgrims of Hope**—Poetry Exchange—A monthly evening to share poems that inspire, intrigue, challenge or delight

**Wed 29-Thurs 30 Oct Hill End**  
**Autumn Family Days** conker collecting, campfires & s'mores, nature art and woodcraft. Explore our 67 acres of woodlands and grasslands

**Fri 31 Oct 9pm, Red Lion**  
**Halloween Disco**

**Fri 31 Oct 7pm, Courtyard Bar, White Hart.** **Open Decks at the White Hart**

**Sat 8 Nov 2-4pm, Eynsham Scout Hall**  
**Eynsham Repair Cafe**

**Sun 9 Nov 11am, Market Square**  
**Remembrance Sunday**—Also In the Square at 11am on Armistice Day, Tuesday 11 November

**Wed 12 Nov 7.30pm, Village Hall**  
**Eynsham Garden Club**—Katherine

Shock: 'Oxford's Turrill Garden'

**Thurs 13 Nov 7.30pm,**  
*Eynsham Scout Hall*  
**Eynsham WI**—Jonathan Cox, Detective and Author of Nostril Series. Competition: An item beginning with Q. Visitors welcome; £4 contribution

## Regular Events

**Eynsham Community Choir**  
Thursdays, 7.15-9pm,  
Baptist Church Hall. All welcome!

**Eynsham Ukuleles** Twice weekly:  
Sun 12pm & Wed 8pm, The Swan Hotel

**Eynsham Country Market**  
Regular market on Thursdays  
9-10.30am, Market Square

## Eynsham Churches

**Apart from services, Eynsham Churches run groups for kids, mums and parents, and the elderly, and their church halls are often available to rent for events. Use the details below to do your research.**

**Eynsham Baptist Church**  
Main Sunday event at 10.30am  
Lombard Street, Eynsham  
Witney OX29 4HT  
[eynshambaptistchurch.co.uk](http://eynshambaptistchurch.co.uk)

**St Leonard's CofE**  
Main Sunday event at 10.30am  
21 High Street, Eynsham  
Witney OX29 4HE  
[stleonardseynsham.org.uk](http://stleonardseynsham.org.uk)

**St Peter's Roman Catholic Church**  
Sunday Mass at 10am  
Abbey Street, Eynsham  
Witney OX29 4HR  
[stpeterseynsham.org.uk](http://stpeterseynsham.org.uk)

## Eynsham Library Openings

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

## 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](http://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.

## The Team

**Editors: Peter and Sarah M**  
[editor@eynshamnews.org.uk](mailto:editor@eynshamnews.org.uk)

**Content Creators:** : Jon Young, Nick Clapton, Martin Flatman

**Advertising: Sarah R**  
[ads@eynshamnews.org.uk](mailto:ads@eynshamnews.org.uk)

**General Enquiries**  
[editor@eynshamnews.org.uk](mailto:editor@eynshamnews.org.uk)

**Printing:** Holywell Press  
[info@holywellpress.com](mailto:info@holywellpress.com)



**The deadline for copy for Eynsham News issue 77 is Sunday 2 November 2025. Email [editor@eynshamnews.org.uk](mailto:editor@eynshamnews.org.uk) Details of all events were correct at the time of going to press, but may change. Please check with the organiser before attending.**



14039900282

Send your events news (about 70 words long) for our November edition (issue 77) before 2 November to [editor@eynshamnews.org.uk](mailto:editor@eynshamnews.org.uk)

## Classified Ads

### The Mala Touch

Therapeutic massage & reflexology – relief from chronic pain, fatigue & stress. Over 25 years' experience, intuitive, compassionate, fully insured. 07957 343889 / [thematatouch.co.uk](http://thematatouch.co.uk)

### P Bruno Car Repairs

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

### Top Power Wash Services

For all your exterior cleaning Roof cleaning. All power washing Gutter cleaning. Render cleaning Conservatory cleaning 01865 507406 / 07340827550

### Greens Funeral Services

Established in 1866, Independent Funeral Directors. 01865 880837 [mail@greensfunerals.co.uk](mailto:mail@greensfunerals.co.uk)

### Abbey Rentals

Residential Property Rental & Block Management Services covering West Oxfordshire. Private landlords wanted. For a free, no obligation discussion on renting out your property, contact Robin anytime...VAT Free Fees 01993700009 / [abbeyrents.co.uk](http://abbeyrents.co.uk)

### Abbey Properties

Independent Estate Agents Selling homes in Eynsham since 1983. Unrivalled experience of the local property market. 01865 880697 / [abbeyprops.com](http://abbeyprops.com)

### Cokethorpe Enterprises

A one-stop shop for your conference, away day, and team-building days of all shapes and sizes, advertising, sponsorship and sumptuous wedding venue. [cokethorpe-enterprises.co.uk](http://cokethorpe-enterprises.co.uk) 01993 892338

### Pellmans LLP Your local solicitors

• Residential Property, Conveyancing and Leases • Wills/Probate/Trusts/Tax/Powers of Attorney - home visits available • Commercial Property, Conveyancing and Leases/Business/Companies.

1 Abbey Street, Eynsham OX29 4TB.  
01865 884400 / [pellmans.co.uk](http://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

is a friendly group who are determined to contribute to both local and international wellbeing. If you'd like to do more for your community, please come and join us.

Contact: [tessajhammond@gmail.com](mailto:tessajhammond@gmail.com)

### Zetica Limited

Geophysics on your doorstep. Check our website for details. [zetica.com](http://zetica.com) / [zeticarail.com](http://zeticarail.com) [zeticauxo.com](http://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](mailto:fiona.loader@sjpp.co.uk), 07780 566468 / [patonfinancial.co.uk](http://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](http://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