



# EYNSHAM ECHO

## PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Issue No. 129

### A Happy New Year from your Parish Council

2011 has been a difficult year for many people, and 2012 may still have many challenges.

However, many residents have worked harder than ever to continue to offer the activities which continue to thrive in our village. On behalf of the Parish Council I would like to thank all of the volunteers for the time that they give in providing clubs, societies and associations across all age groups in Eynsham. In 2012 we already have a number of events to look forward to, but none of them would happen without dedicated villagers. I know plans are already being made for the Jubilee Celebrations, which will involve a number of groups coming together to mark this occasion in the Square. I hope that as many people as possible will take part, and enjoy a memorable moment in history. If you are organising an event to celebrate the Jubilee please let the parish Clerk have the details so that we can include them in the Echo and on the website.

On behalf of the Parish Council may I wish you all a very Happy New Year.



### Footpaths Update

Sue Osborne, chair of the Footpaths Committee, thought you might like to see some recent improvements that have been made to Footpath 206/2, which leads from the B4044 to the Thames. Following a resident's comment about the steep, muddy slope from the road to the fields, The County Council have created some steps which make this part of the path much easier (and safer) to negotiate. Also, the areas around the kissing gates on the same

walk, which were previously very boggy, have been filled in with gravel which makes them more pleasant to use. As ever, if you come across any obstacles or hazards on any of your local paths,



January 2012

please don't hesitate to contact Sue who, along with the other members of the Committee, will do what they can to get them put right.

### Fishponds Update

The boundary wall of the fishponds at Station Road has been gradually deteriorating over the last few years and now there are some places where stones have become dislodged. Because of this the Parish Council has decided that repairs are needed. An order has been placed to have the wall repointed and the necessary repairs carried out. This will take place sometime during the spring and summer.

The Eynsham Road Runners are going to complete the improvements they have made to the north path in the spring by spreading gravel to the level of the supporting boards which will cover the mud. Walkers have made comments about the loose gravel on the south path so this time we will order gravel that compacts more. This should make it easier to manoeuvre push chairs.

Ivor Porter has completed the bird survey for 2011; the full details will be on the website shortly. It appears that the quantity of birds has decreased, which Ivor believes to be a common trend in this area, but the number of species seen on each visit has generally increased. This must be good news and possibly the result of the greater diversity of habitat we have created.

We will continue with the maintenance of the paths and ditches over the spring and summer. Volunteers are always welcome so please get in touch if you are feeling energetic and would like to help maintain this public amenity.

Verity Hughes, Chair Fishponds Committee.

### Planning

The Parish Council's Planning Committee continues to review planning applications submitted to the District Council. You will find a list of members and contact details on the parish council notice boards.



You can track current or recent applications via the WODC Planning Explorer - select Eynsham from the drop-down list of parishes - or sign up for email alerts at

My West Oxfordshire. There is a detailed account of the decision process.

Smaller and less contentious proposals are delegated to the planning department, unless the decision would be clearly contrary to the views of the Parish Council. However this exclusion does not apply for householder applications so you should contact your district councillor (details on page 4) for support.

It would be helpful if you could send a copy of any correspondence to the Parish Council – email [clerk@eynsham-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@eynsham-pc.gov.uk)

## Oxford Road play areas

The plans have been finalised and quotes for the work invited, so not long to wait now for the refurbishment. More details at Eynsham Online.



## Your New-look Website

Eynsham Online enters 2012 with easier navigation, improved printing and a bit of glamour too. The new website was launched last month after months of work behind the scenes. Key features are:

- A horizontal menu at the top, with easy access to your crowded Events Diary and the well-loved Directory pages - now combined under a drop-down heading 'Popular Links'. Don't miss the updated What's On Where with Street View.
- New headings down the side for a village calendar, an 'issues' section, a residents' guide and an introduction for visitors.
- Sub-levels for topics with several pages, such as Eynsham in Bloom, Halls for Hire (look under Features), Seasonal Recipes, Recent Events (20 at last count - see Gallery & Archive).
- Improved printing, with the menus removed to help you fit more information on less paper.

An enhanced News Archive includes a quick search by title. More suggestions are always welcome - on this or other matters!

## A new Noticeboard for the village

 The Parish Council is arranging for the installation of a new notice board in the heart of Eynsham – very similar in size and style to those on Mill Street, Witney Road and the Back Lane Car Park. Once listed building approval has been obtained, the board is to be wall-mounted on the Bartholomew Room, just off the Market Square, with the Parish Council's name on the header board alongside that of the sponsor. The existing boards have proved to be very popular and the Council hopes that this additional provision will help to minimise unsightly fly-posting – which in many cases is illegal.

## Every Little Helps

The Parish Council's communications committee is still working with the County and District councils to make it easier for you to find your way around the village – by replacing street name plates, installing new signs for the car park and village hall or simply cutting back encroaching vegetation.

A new set of signs for the village hall is due to arrive in the next few weeks.



Meantime, anything you can do to keep the path clear outside your own property would help us all. Why not get out and cut back that hedge before the birds start nesting?

## Eynsham Directory 2012 Diamond Jubilee edition

The Parish Council is arranging for the publication of a new Eynsham Directory later this year – they would like your help in ensuring all the information is up to date. The Directory will cover:



- 100+ clubs, classes, societies and support groups
- 250+ local businesses – every service you can imagine on your doorstep!
- all you need to know about our public services, especially local government.

If you run a local business or group please check your entry now! This is free publicity and the Directory will be widely distributed. Just go to Eynsham Online [www.eynsham-pc.gov.uk](http://www.eynsham-pc.gov.uk) and click on 'Popular Links' at the top of the page for the Business Directory or Local Groups – or use the Site Search. There's a Contact link at the top of the page for updates and amendments. If you don't have access to the internet, why not call in at the Library? Please help us to get the details right.

## Library update

Following on from the public consultation on the county's libraries members of your Parish Council will be meeting with Library managers this month to look at how Eynsham Library can best serve the needs of its customers in the twenty first century.

## Graffiti Day

Eynsham Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG) and Eynsham neighbourhood policing team would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who contributed towards Eynsham's first graffiti day.





Special thanks go to West Oxfordshire District Council, Eynsham Rotary Club and Eynsham Parish Council for donating the funds to run the day. Thanks also to Timms of Brize Norton for donating the boards for the graffiti and Steve Wheeler for taking the photos.

We could not have run the day without the enthusiasm and dedication from Helen Le Brocq and artist James from Oxfordshire Youth Arts Project - and of course the young people who turned up to have a go.

I would like to run a similar two-day event in February half term holiday. Bicycles seem to be the mode of transport for youths in Eynsham and the villages, so they'll be decorating and maintaining their bikes so they are safe and seen.

## Winter Playtime – Free sessions

Two qualified Play Rangers, along with a van-load of equipment, are still at Oxford Road Playing Field every Thursday afternoon, encouraging children and young people to make more use of their local outdoor space. Darker evenings have inspired a new programme based around safe use of fires, as Senior Ranger Helen Morrison explains: The youngsters collect the wood, build the fire and light it; then use the fire to toast marshmallows, make popcorn, and bake bread dough. We have recently taken the cooking a step further, as the children have been preparing and cooking vegetable soup. This has allowed us to introduce discussions about healthy lifestyles and healthy eating.

Sessions run from 3:30-6:00pm with lots of light-up equipment for darker evenings. All sessions are FREE OF CHARGE.

No registration is required. The activities are designed for ages 5-16. Younger children are welcome if accompanied by a parent / carer. For more information call 07515 191724 or visit the website.

## Your local Fire Station

Watch Manager Frank Peterson has an end-of-year report: "We have attended 173 calls to date this year, so I expect that we will finish on about 180. These have been a mixture of fires, road traffic accidents, floods and other special service calls. Events of note this year included:

April - fire on Acre End Street

July - farewell party at Eynsham Youth Centre

November - attendances on the repatriation route.

We have met or exceeded all our targets in 2011.

Our most recent performance indicators show that there were no fire deaths; while calls to road traffic accidents, fires in homes and commercial properties, arson-related incidents, and to deal with faulty smoke alarms in homes have all decreased against the targets.

We are still trying to recruit more firefighters at Eynsham as currently we are three people under establishment. I am pleased to say that we have had at least three expressions of interest as a result of your news item and feature in the Parish Newsletter.



I am also keen to establish a twice-yearly 'open doors' day to raise awareness, increase community involvement and disseminate safety messages - details to follow. In the meantime you are welcome to drop in at Eynsham Fire Station on Tuesday evenings (drill night) or call 01865 881337 and leave a message".

## Dog Walking in Eynsham

As we enjoy the recent wonderful mild weather we have a timely reminder from local PCSO Helen Keen. You must keep your dog on a lead around farm animals and you may not be able to take your dog at all on some areas. Please adhere to any official signs. You do not have to put your dog on a lead on public paths, as long as it is under close control. But, as a general rule, keep your dog on a lead if you cannot rely on its obedience. By law, farmers are entitled to destroy a dog that injures or worries their animals. If a farm animal chases you and your dog, it is safer to let your dog off the lead - don't risk getting hurt by trying to protect it.



Take particular care that your dog doesn't scare sheep or lambs, or wander where it might disturb birds that nest on the ground and other wildlife - eggs and young will soon die without protection from their parents.

Everyone knows how unpleasant dog mess is and it can cause infections, so always clean up after your dog and bin it. Photograph © Helen Peacocke

## Well done!

We hear from Eve Hollis that the Eynsham British Legion annual poppy appeal raised more than £3000



## Notice Boards & Echo deliveries

We need volunteers to keep the noticeboards up to date in Mill Street and Witney Road. Volunteers are also needed for delivering the Echo please! A small payment is made for Echo delivery. For more information please contact the Clerk.

## Your Parish Councillors

Mr Gordon BEACH (Chairman)	01865 880979
Mr David ROSSITER (Vice-Chairman)	01865 881568
Mr Richard ANDREWS	01865 880106
Mr Andrew BICKLEY	01865 884496
Ms Sue BROWN	01865 464267
Mr Alan COLLETT	07505 137564
Mr Peter EMERY	01865 731199
Mrs Verity HUGHES	01865 880243
Mr Andy MOSSON	01865 880889
Ms Sue OSBORNE	01865 880285
Mr Nick RELPH	01865 464264
Mr Paul STALEY	01865 881807
Mr Dennis STUKENBROEKER	01865 880609
Ms Jackie TINSON	01865 880830
Dr Fred WRIGHT	01865 881496

## Your County Councillor

Charles Mathew: 01865 882205

## Your District Councillors

Peter Kelland	01865 880028
Larry Poole	01865 375130
Margaret Stevens	01865 882384

## Vacancy for a Grounds-Person

Eynsham Parish Council wishes to employ a Grounds-person. The main duties will be to cut and strim grass within the Village using a Kubota tractor and deck and various hand held machinery.

There will be other duties to be carried out as requested by the Clerk to the Council.

The hours to be worked are demand led, but will be approximately 400 hours per year, largely between April and October.

The salary will be on Scale Point 11 £7.66 / hour (£14,733 pro rata), rising annually by a single point up to Scale Point 13 £8.03 / hour (£15,444 pro rata).

The closing date for applications is 12 February 2012. Application forms can be obtained from Malcolm Anderson, Clerk to the Council, 13 Bailey Road, Oxford OX4 3HU. Telephone 01865 716943 or e-mail [clerk@eynsham-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@eynsham-pc.gov.uk)

## Heat Loss mapping

Eynsham householders should be better informed to beat the cold this winter.



The District Council has invested in a camera which it loans out to local groups. GreenTEA will have the camera in January for use around Eynsham. So how does the Mapping Work? A Thermal Imaging Camera can 'see' where heat is leaking out of houses often identifying where simple improvements can cut uncomfortable draughts and ever-increasing fuel bills.

- A simple survey can be done from the street without disturbing people.
- More pictures can be taken from all sides if people ask for a full survey.
- A simple report will point out areas for improvement.
- People will get leaflets telling them how to get subsidised insulation via WODC.
- Surveys have to be done on dry winter evenings when a house has warmed up - typically between 19:00 and 21:00.
- GreenTEA will try to survey all the houses which express an interest but cannot guarantee to do so - they are dependent on the weather and only have the camera for a limited period.

## Funding for Olympic hopefuls

Budding young athletes in West Oxfordshire are being urged to apply for funding that helped an Eynsham teenager potentially become one of the youngest competitors at next year's Olympics.

Hannah Green, aged 16, was awarded an overall grant



of £1,200 towards her training costs as a synchronised swimmer last year. The former Bartholomew School pupil is currently the number one ranked junior in the UK and has been selected for the Great Britain Team from which the swimmers for the Olympics will be selected. Hannah said: "The funding was a huge benefit to me as it eased the pressure of financing my training from my parents and meant that I could focus on my goal of competing at an international level and hopefully at next year's Olympics."

The West Oxfordshire Sports Awards are run in partnership with GLL Sports Foundation and offer grants of up to £1,250 to support young sportspeople who are currently competing at county level and above.

The grants are available to athletes aged 12 or over who live within the West Oxfordshire district area and applications open from December 20 until February 20 next year. Applicants will be notified in April 2012 on the outcome of their applications.

The copy deadline for the next issue is 10<sup>th</sup> April 2012. Please note that items submitted after the deadline will not be included.

Contributions should be sent to Parish Clerk Malcolm Anderson, 13 Bailey Road, Oxford, OX4 3HU

Tel: 01865 716943 or email: [clerk@eynsham-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@eynsham-pc.gov.uk)

Lots more information and updates at Eynsham Online: [www.eynsham-pc.gov.uk](http://www.eynsham-pc.gov.uk)

Printed by Information Press (incorporating Blenheim Colour), Southfield Road, Eynsham.