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Next Issue

Deadline for February newsletter is 24th January 2026

Please email to:

evn@eydonparish.gov.uk

Eydon Village News

JANUARY 2026

ISSUE 462

Oh Yes It Is! Pantomime Time

www.ticketsource.co.uk/eydon-players
Eydon Village Hall



Scan QR Code
for Ticket Info!

In Support
of...



GREAT
ORMOND
STREET
HOSPITAL
CHARITY

Eydon Players
Presents...

PETER PAN

29 - 31 JANUARY

PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS

The December Meeting of the Parish Council took place on 9 December 2025 at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.

Attendance:

Councillors Keith Simmons, Lisa Genovese and Howard Carter were present, along with the Clerk, Steven Fox.

One member of the public attended the meeting and Councillor Alison Eastwood.

Apologies: Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Andy Reynolds, Luke Alexander and Kim Keeble.

Amongst the items discussed were:-

Previous Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 November 2025 were approved and signed.

Council Membership and Governance:

The Clerk reported the resignation of Councillor Stewart, which was accepted. The Council will now seek to co-opt a member of the public. Councillor biographies on the Parish Council website have been updated.

Public Comments

A resident raised concerns regarding road maintenance in the parish. West Northamptonshire Councillor and Chairman Alison Eastwood explained that budget constraints and the age of the county's road infrastructure limit what can be achieved. The Clerk reported that during November ten potholes were logged in Eydon via the WNC reporting system, with six

(Continued on page 3)

Notes from St Nicholas



SERVICES FOR JANUARY 2026

Sunday 4th January

10.00 Morning Prayer

Sunday 11th January

9.30 Holy Communion

Sunday 18th January

19.00 Family Service

Sunday 25th January

8.30 BCP Communion
(Boddington)

10.00 Benefice Holy Communion
Eydon

Please contact the Rector or a Churchwarden if you need further information or have any questions

Rector Rev Clare Glover 260204
revclare@outlook.com

Churchwarden

Sue Tresham 260503
sueeyates@aol.com

Here at St Nicholas we have three services a month, across the first, second and third Sundays.

Each has its own character and style, but you are assured of a warm welcome at all of them! On the first Sunday of each month we have a service of Morning Prayer at 10.00, conducted according to the 1662 Book of Common Prayer. This is a traditional service, including three hymns, and lasts about half an hour. On the Second Sunday we have Holy Communion at 09.30. This follows the modern Common Worship liturgy and includes 4 hymns. It lasts for about 45 minutes. On the Third Sunday we are from January introducing a family service at 10.00. This will include hymns and language suitable for all ages. It's not a communion service, but does follow a set format. This service lasts about 45 minutes, with refreshments afterwards,

All are very welcome at every service in St Nicholas, and the children's table is well used! Although one service is called 'family service' that does NOT mean that only families are welcome, or indeed that families are not welcome at the other services! On the Fourth and Fifth Sundays of the month there are a mix of Book of Common Prayer and Common Worship services which rotate around the five churches in the benefice.

St Nicholas is part of the Fiveways Benefice alongside the churches in Woodford Halse, Boddington, Byfield and Aston le Walls. This means that there is a full programme of services across all the villages every Sunday and it's not far to go if you particularly want or need a specific service. The Rector and Churchwarden at Eydon will be pleased to help if you have any questions or need further information. Their contact details are above.

January Bin Collections



Tuesday 6th January
Blue & Green Bins



Tuesday 20th January
Blue & Green Bins



Tuesday 13th January
Black Bin



Tuesday 27th January
Black Bin

You will only receive garden waste collections if you pay for the service.

FIRST WEDNESDAY CLUB

The Police Crime Prevention Unit were due to give the First Wednesday Club a talk on how to prevent becoming a victim of a scam, and other crimes. Unfortunately, their representative was unable to come at the last minute because of a problem with her car. But the meeting went ahead because our Chairman, Richard Forsyth, at very short notice put together an excellent quiz that proved to be very popular, and entertaining.

We are planning to have the talk from the Police early in the New Year when a representative become available. Our next meeting will be on 4th February 2026 when we have our A.G.M.

A Happy New Year to you all.

Tom Tresham



Eydon Ladies met on 5th December 2025 for our annual Christmas meal, held again at the George and Dragon, Chacombe. Donning our paper hats, we enjoyed the meal, served by their friendly staff, in a cosy room just off the bar. We all had a great time with lots of laughter and conversation and as usual the evening ended far too soon. Before we left, Carrie thanked us all for coming with a special mention to Ruth for organising the evening and

all her hard work through the year.

Ruth has taken all the gifts that had been generously donated by members to the Women's Refuge. These will be distributed to ladies who are in a refuge at Christmas. The organisation wishes to pass on their grateful thanks for our generosity.

Our next meeting in the New Year will be held on Wednesday 21st January 2026 at 7.30 in the Village Hall. This will be our AGM followed by an informal social. The Chair will report on the activities in 2025, followed by the Treasurer's report for the year. Next the Chair will outline the programme for the coming year which we hope you will enjoy. After the formal part of the evening, we will socialise over a glass of wine.

This meeting is open to members and all ladies who are interested in joining the group. So, whether you have been in the area for a while, or have recently moved here please come along. Membership is still £30 for the year, when guests attend they pay £5 per meeting.

Ann Lane



Winter Welcome



Between 2:00pm and 4:00pm on a Monday, and starting on Monday 5th January 2026, we will be running a "Winter Welcome" in the Village Hall.

Everyone is welcome to come and share a cup of tea or coffee with friends. We will be running this for eight weeks up to, and including, Monday 23rd February 2026. We'd love to see you there.

Once again we thank Eydon Village Hall for supporting this initiative.

PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS

(Continued from page 2)

already repaired.

Matters Arising

The Clerk updated members on the proposed Supply Agreement with AJR Electrical. As a councillor now has an interest in the company, the agreement is intended to ensure transparency. This had been sent to the company.

Resolutions

The Council approved the adoption of a new IT Policy, subject to minor amendments.

Planning Matters

No objection was raised to the application at East of Eydon Farm. There were no updates on applications relating to Hollow Way, Preston Capes Road, Culworth Road (Dog Park), or Moreton Road.

Village Projects

Updates were provided on a range of village initiatives, including the cemetery tap (expected January 2026), Welcome Pack review, Village Design Statement (awaiting Local Plan), and Village History Signs (installation planned January 2026). Other projects were either deferred or awaiting updates.

Highways and Rights of Way

Highways issues were covered under public comments. There were no rights of way updates.

Financial Matters

The 2025/26 budget was approved, resulting in a 5% increase in the parish precept

(Continued on page 4)

PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS

(Continued from page 3)

for 2026/27.

Correspondence and Reports

The Social Media report was reviewed and noted. A verbal update was provided on the Community Sports Field.

Next Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will take place at 7:30pm on Tuesday 13 January 2026 in the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9:10pm.

Keith Simmons

Parish Council Chairman

Eydon Village Hall Centenary Celebrations



Live Music with Alice Armstrong

A big thank you to everyone who came along to see **Cool4Cats** for the Christmas bash, hope you all had a wonderful evening. Your generosity has helped us to raise funds for next year's Village Hall centenary celebrations, the first of which is not very far away.

Our first event brings Alice Armstrong, with her band, to the stage in the Village Hall. A multi award winning vocal talent who has received plaudits from those who know. A voice of quality coming to your doorstep at a fraction of the cost you would expect to pay elsewhere.

But don't take my word for it, catch up with what is being said and listen to her music by visiting her website, www.alicearmstrongmusic.co.uk

Date for the event is **Saturday 28th February 2026** and tickets are available now. Don't hesitate to get your ticket as we are giving first option to the village before putting it out to wider sales.

Andrew Partridge

DATES FOR YOUR 2026 DIARY



FEBRUARY
Winter Blues Night
Saturday 28th February



APRIL
Children's Easter Egg Hunt
Monday 6th April



100

100 Year Exhibition
Friday 17th April -
Saturday 18th April

100



100th Birthday Party
Saturday 18th April



JUNE
Midsummer Dance
Saturday 20th June



OCTOBER
Harvest Supper
Saturday 10th October



Children's Halloween Party
Saturday 31st October



DECEMBER
Christmas Street Fayre



WINTER BLUES NIGHT

Saturday 28th February
Eydon Village Hall | 7:30pm



WELL
STOCKED
BAR

LIVE MUSIC FROM
Alice Armstrong

WINNERS OF THE EUROPEAN BLUES CHALLENGE 2025

TICKETS £10

Book via QR code or
<https://square.link/u/WI9oLIp8>
Tickets also available at Oboe Fine Wine.
Enquiries: Andy 07827 965394



Music for a Winters Evening

On Friday, the 12th of December, over 100 people packed the aisles of St Nicholas church to see Kim Keeble - our resident Oboe player lead an 11 strong ensemble of world class classical musicians in a delightful recital of classical music in a fundraising evening for the church.

In the first half they performed pieces by Handel, Torelli - including a trumpet tour de force from Gavin Wells, a wonderful sonata by Galuppi for Organ played Solo by Trevor Burley, upon which many long term residents mentioned to me they were moved to tears by hearing our organ played so beautifully. Finishing with a Bach concerto.

Refreshments were then served and the second half included a very spirited performance of a Vivaldi concerto for two oboes, a Corelli piece written especially for Christmas, finishing with a fabulous rendition of Bach Brandenburg concerto no 2.

Thanks were then given to the Sponsors of the event EKFB (HS2 Contractors) and the Parish Council.

The evening was rounded off by a spirited rousing version of Hark the Herald Angels with the audience giving their all !

The full ensemble :- Kim Keeble - Oboe, Miranda Walton - Violin, Gavin Wells - Trumpet, Imogen Triner Recorder/Oboe, Trevor Burley - Cello/Organ, Barbara O'Reilly - Violin, Jeremy Sampson - Violin, Emily Groom - Violin, Emma Shepherd - Viola, Martin Henderson - Double Bass, Dr David Ponsford - Harpsichord.

All in all a magical pre Christmas treat thoroughly enjoyed by the assembled throng and raising £1,000 for the Church.

Keith Simmons



Christmas Eve Carols at The Royal Oak



Enormous thanks goes to **Ben Richardson** and **Sam Hallet** for organising the Christmas Eve Carols at the Royal Oak.

There was a fantastic turnout, with plenty of festive cheer and fun throughout the evening.

The raffle raised over £550 for the Air Ambulance.

Another highly successful Eydon event, made possible by the wonderful support of the community.

Meet the People of Eydon

Barry McRoberts has lived in Eydon with his wife Sue for 43 years.



What did you do, or what do you do for a living?

I grew up around engines—my dad ran a garage in Sutton Coldfield for about 40 years—so I picked up a lot of mechanical know-how early on. I used to serve petrol before and after school, and by the time I left at 16, it felt natural to go into that world. My first proper job was at a metal fabrication place, and I did a welding course one night a week to go with it.

From there, I landed a job with a Formula Ford team in Birmingham, making chassis and all sorts. Back then, you didn't go through karting like drivers do now—everyone came up through the national Formula Ford championship.

My first Formula One team was Theodore Racing from Macau, owned by Teddy Yip. He was quite a character himself. He owned a big chunk of the casino in Macau, and there were always rumours that the team was a way of moving money around for Hong Kong. He funded it for a few years, and we had some unusual sponsors along the way. The strangest had to be the Moulin Rouge in Paris. We actually had to take a car into the venue once—but we couldn't get it in unless we tipped the thing on its side. That was an experience!

Over the years I worked on four championship-winning cars—two Benettons and two Renaults—which meant long hours, but also being trusted to help direct the team. I got to meet a lot of incredible drivers, including Michael Schumacher and Johnny Herbert. Now Herbert—he was a real character. We had some brilliant parties back then. He was such a joker, always up for a laugh.

Eventually I retired from Renault, though I went back on contract for a while, working from home with motorbike racers.

What are your hobbies?

Well, I've always been into motorsport—cars and motorbike racing all over the UK and the Isle of Man, and I've done a few hill climbs too. I was into motocross for a while as well.

Outside of that, I used to play cricket every week with work, and I've always enjoyed cycling. I'd ride pretty much anywhere around the UK, usually doing 20 to 30 miles at a time.

I've also got a pretty wide taste in music. Back in the day I was really into McCartney and all sorts, and the last band I saw at the Birmingham Symphony Hall was Runrig—a Scottish rock band.

Have you always lived in this area? Where were you born?

I was born in Sutton Coldfield, but I've lived in Eydon for about 43

years now with my wife, Sue.

If you could have dinner with three people dead or alive who would they be?

I'd choose Jeff Lynne from ELO—having a musical genius at the table would certainly make for an interesting evening. I'd also invite Mike Hailwood; with his experience racing both cars and bikes, I'm sure he'd have extraordinary stories to share. And finally, I'd include Alice Roberts. Her knowledge of archaeological digs across the UK would add a fascinating dimension to the conversation.

What 3 items would you take to a Desert Island?

A radio to stay connected, a rowing boat as a practical means of escape, and a mirror for signalling and starting a fire.

Who would play you in a movie about your life?

Robbie Coltrane

Describe yourself in one word.

Oh, that's a difficult one. I'm not sure what I'd pick—but my wife would probably say sociable.

Fry up or Green juice?

Italian Fry up !

What have been some of the happiest moments in your life?

Getting married is certainly at the top of the list.

I've also had some wonderful birthdays over the years, with big gatherings that brought together people from the village. We've held some great barn dances too, raising money for the sports field.

I have so many happy memories connected to the sports field—countless enjoyable events, and a real sense of community spirit. I feel genuinely appreciative of the friends who have supported its development and helped it grow.

One moment that still makes me smile was during the Eydon Cricket Match against The Royal Oak. Ian Smith, the final player, honoured a lost bet with Robin from a golf match and came out to bat wearing a rather striking yellow-pink dress. I remember thinking, is this a glimpse of the future? It was all in good humour and made for a memorable day.

Who has been the biggest influence on your life?

Definitely Sue, my wife.

Tell us something people don't know about you

Outside of work, three friends and I— all motorcycle competitors—started the Sutton Town Motorcycle Club.

We organised major events across Shropshire for around eight to ten years. Some of them were quite large, with as many as 150 riders taking part.

We often used a big farm on the far side of Ludlow, and we offered substantial prize money—£1,000 at the time. We held about seven events a year, and it became a real fixture in the area.

A Personal View...

January 2026



New Year Resolutions?

Looking back at my offering for January EVN 12 months ago, I resolved then to dust off my old stamp albums which had been undisturbed for decades. True to my word, they all came out and I spent some happy and nostalgic hours looking through the books. Then, they all went to an auction house for valuation and possible sale.

I was advised that they should make about £750 to £1,000, so I went ahead and they were catalogued for inclusion in a sale in May last year. Much to my surprise, they went for just over £5,000, so I had a welcome bonus!

A 2026 Resolution?

Visit one or two London Museums is on my list. I rarely go to the capital. In fact, I don't think I went to London at all in 2025. And even thinking about going to London stirs up various memories.

Recently, Countryside matters have been in the headlines.

On the one hand, it was announced that included in forthcoming Wildlife Protection legislation, will be a clause banning Trail Hunting with hounds. On the other hand, it was also announced that Inheritance Tax on farms & businesses will be modified to allow relief up to £2 ½ m., rather than the level of £1.0m. which was announced in 2024. Both these announcements were made after Parliament had shut down for the Christmas holidays.

The cynic inside me suggests that the two announcements were connected; one to take the emphasis off the other.

So, my memory of the last Countryside March (photo, right) flashed up, thinking of course that it will be most likely time to have another one? The previous March was on September 22nd 2002, nearly 24 years ago. A large group of us travelled by bus and train, to assemble at Hyde Park Corner, which was one of two starting points. We were absolutely stunned by the numbers, which were swelled when we met up with marchers from the other start point at Blackfriars Bridge. We marched in good discipline down Whitehall to Parliament Square, all 400,000 of us. It took about six hours to complete the route. I was told afterwards, that there was no litter and police presence was minimal. The train journey back to Banbury passed in a flash, as we exchanged banter and gossip about the memorable day. However, within two years legislation was passed to ban foxhunting so maybe the March just put the ban off for a little while.



However, this time, I sense that things might turn out just a bit different. The announcement of the proposed ban on Trail hunting suggests that Government wants to 'open consultations' on the proposals. There is a significant number of Members of Parliament on the government benches who sit for rural constituencies. Over 100, in fact. They will be looking to preserve their seats. I foresee a possible climb

down if enough pressure is exerted.

A few days ago, on Boxing Day, many thousands of country people attended hunt Meets up and down the country. Locally, the Grafton hunt met at Easton Neston (Towcester), where a substantial crowd of around 1,000 enjoyed the spectacle in brilliant sun (photo below). A foretaste of the year to come?



A Happy New Year to you all!

John Grindlay

Boo's Chicken and Mushroom Pie

Serves 6

For the Pastry

225g Unsalted butter, diced
350g Plain Flour
Salt
1 Medium Egg
1 egg yolk blended with 1 tbsp milk

For the Filling

80g unsalted butter
45g plain flour
300ml chicken stock
200ml crème fraîche
1 tsp Dijon mustard
2 tsp finely chopped tarragon
Black Pepper
2 tbsp olive oil
2 shallots, peeled and chopped
2 garlic cloves, peeled and chopped
400g mushrooms, trimmed and sliced
500g cooked chicken, shredded
100g cooked ham and cut into thin strips

Pastry: Rub the butter into the flour, add salt and the egg and bring to a dough with a drop of water. Wrap with cling film and chill in the fridge for at least 1 hour.

Filling: Melt 50g butter, stir in the flour then gradually stir in the stock and crème fraîche. Simmer for 10 mins, stirring occasionally. Season with salt, pepper, mustard and tarragon.

Heat remaining butter and a tbsp of olive oil. Add the shallots and garlic then add the mushrooms and fry for a few minutes until lightly coloured. You may have to do this in two batches. Stir the mushrooms, chicken and ham into the sauce and let cool.

Heat oven 210c (190c Fan oven), gas mark 7. Thinly roll out 2/3 of the pastry on a lightly floured surface and line a deep 1.5 – 1.7 litre pie dish. Trim any excess pastry and fill the pastry case with the filling. Roll out the remaining pastry and lay the lid in place. Press the edges together scalloping them using your fingers. Cover the pie with egg wash and bake for 45 – 50 mins.

Eydon 200 Club Starts again in February 2026

The Eydon 200 Club is a licensed lottery (Licence No. LN/201000617), which donates **50% of the funds it raises equally to St. Nicholas Church and Eydon Village Hall**. In recent years, each recipient has received at least £400 per year. The other 50% of funds is used for prizes

Entry costs just £12 and gives you a chance each month to win one of 3 cash prizes. Make as many entries as you like, for your family, friends and pets. The more people taking part the more prize money there is to share so last year there were several extra bonus prizes every month.

The 200 club draw takes place at the end of each month, starting in February.

Entries must reach us by **Wednesday 25 February 2026**. You can sign up by returning your form to Lucy or Elaine or via email to the address below. Pay by cash, cheque or bank transfer.

Your support is greatly appreciated and good luck to you all.

Elaine Partridge, 28 High Street
Lucy Braddyll, 44 High Street

or email to elaine.partridge2@btinternet.com

I/We wish to participate in the Eydon 200 Club draw
and enclose £12 per entry for the year commencing February 2026

Name(s):

Amount paid:

Address:

Preferred numbers (1 -200)

(numbers are allocated on a first come, first served basis)

Email address (if not already provided; in order to contact you via email next year):

Payment: **cheque / cash / bank transfer** (please delete as appropriate)

Cheques payable to **Eydon 200 Club**

Bank details - Account Name: **Eydon 200 Club** Sort Code: **09 01 53** Account Number: **75685480**

If paying by bank transfer please send your details via email to elaine.partridge2@btinternet.com

Payment by cash or cheque, with this form, to Lucy @ 44 High Street or Elaine @ 28 High Street

* * * * *

Here are the results of the draw held at the end
of November congratulations to all the winners:

**EYDON
200 CLUB**

Prizes

1st Prize:	Sue Manoe
2nd Prize:	Emma Horton-Wright
3rd Prize:	Mackie Gordon (cat)

Bonus Prizes

Moth Braddyll (Dog)
Howard Carter
Margot Nelson
Marley Partridge (Dog)

*New participants are always welcome, please contact elaine.partridge2@btinternet.com
for more details*