

Eydon Village News

Issue 425

December 2022

Parish Council Chairman's Words

Firstly I want to mark the end of an era in Eydon — as Barry McRoberts (pictured delivering his entry in a fete cake baking competition) has decided to step down as Chairman of the Sports Field Committee, a role he has undertaken selflessly almost from its inception in 2006.

If you don't know Barry, he can be found on site most days; he cuts grass, fixes mowers, manages and organises grounds maintenance, repairs fences and maintains the pavilion. He fund-raises, organises and runs our Eydon Olympics, leads the sports field involvement in the fete, clears up after vandals so that young mums with children have safe and clean facilities on hand.

Barry marks out the cricket pitch, organises cricket matches, prepares the wicket and usually cleans up afterwards. It is Barry who organises any equipment maintenance that he can't do himself, gets petrol for the mowers and organises working parties when help is required.

Having taken on a field with a run down wooden pavilion, under Barry's chairmanship funds have been raised through community-wide efforts, to add: a hard court multi-use games area; a play park area for young children; a set of outdoor gym exercise equipment; a birds nest swing for older children; plus a petanque pitch and croquet sets for families and more mature residents.

Under his tenure funds have also been raised to purchase maintenance equipment, refurbish the pavilion, install a safe patio area in front of it and equip changing rooms, provide new outside toilets, disabled facilities and baby changing facilities as well as connection to power and water utilities which were not previously on site. The Sports Field is certainly set fair in its facilities for the future.

In his "spare time" Barry organises and promotes fund raising activities for various charities for which he has raised thousands of pounds.

Eydon is a better place with a stronger community spirit as a result of the enormous amount of time, effort and enthusiasm that Barry has put into our Sports Field over many years. We thank you Barry.

As that era changes we also have a change to report in that our Parish Clerk Andy Hartley has decided to take on new challenges and relinquish his role. Myself, the PC and the Village thanks Andy for all his hard work over the eleven years he has been in post.

We are in the process of organising the recruitment of a new Clerk, and taking the opportunity to review the arrangements and remuneration for this vital role. It will be advertised shortly.

I am pleased to report that Andrew Partridge has agreed to be co-opted to fill one of the two vacancies on the Parish Council meaning we are still one down, please consider if you can help the community by stepping forward to fill the position.

We are arranging a public meeting in the New Year to hear the plans Anglia Water are producing to improve our water services. We will let you know well in advance so that you can let them know your views!

Keith Simmons, Chairman of Eydon Parish Council, 01327 263014



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Next Issue

Any articles, diary dates, notices, photos, etc. welcomed!

send to:

**evn@texprep.co.uk
6 Halls Lane, Brackley,
NN13 6AN**

**DEADLINE: THIRD FRIDAY
OF EVERY MONTH**

PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS

The November meeting of Eydon Parish Council took place on Tuesday 8th November at 7.30 pm in the Village Hall.

The Councillors present were: Jonathan Walker, Howard Carter, Kim Keeble, Gordon Anderson, Chairman Keith Simmons along with Andy Hartley the Clerk. Andrew Partridge was co-opted to serve as a Councillor for the rest of the Council term. One vacancy still remains. There were no members of the public in attendance.

During the meeting amongst the items discussed were:

Water Supply

Further communications had been received from Anglia Water regarding the water supply. Some progress had been made in that investment in the infrastructure had been promised. It was not completely clear whether this was 'reinforcement' or replacement. Discussion was also took place regarding the arrangements when breaks in service occurred and supplies of bottled water and the tanker connections.

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Notes from St Nicholas



Services for December 2022

Sunday 4th December

No service at Eydon

Sunday 11th December

11.00 Holy Communion

Sunday 18th December

18.00 Carol Service

Saturday 24th December – Christmas Eve

21.30 Parish Communion

Sunday 25th December – Christmas Day

10.00 Christmas Celebration – short informal service for all, especially families

Sunday 1st January 2023

No service at St Nicholas

Sunday 8th January

11.00 Benefice Holy Communion
Revd. Paul's last service in the benefice

Please contact our Rector or a Churchwarden if you need further information or have any questions. We are happy to arrange lifts to benefice services if needed.

Revd Paul Trathen, 260204, paul.trathen@btopenworld.com

Sue Yates, 260503, sueeyates@aol.com

Gary Denby, 264002, gjdenby@btinternet.com

There is a notice on the board in the church porch which gives details of services in other churches in the Fiveways Benefice.

Eydon Garden Society

No longer active except for this!

Discounted Flower and Vegetable Seeds, Fruit Trees, Flower and Vegetable Plants plus Garden Equipment

If you want to order seeds, plants and garden equipment from Dobies, please ask Sue Yates at Oriel House, 59 High Street (sueeyates@aol.com). Tel: 260503 for a catalogue. Please give your address and we will deliver a catalogue to you.

December Bin Collections



Tues 6th December

BLACK Bin



Tues 13th December

BLUE and GREEN Bin



Tues 20th December

BLACK Bin



Tues 27th December

BLUE and GREEN Bin

For all the above dates all bins and the SILVER food caddie should be put out by 7.00 am.

There is an automatic 15% discount on plants, trees and equipment and the discount on seeds will be 50%.

With your catalogue you are given an order form with the unique EGS ordering number which gives you these discounts whether you order in the autumn or in 2022. You can use this code to order online too.

First Wednesday — The Treshams

The family of our speaker today Tom (Thomas) Tresham, goes back a very long way in English history. In fact, Lawrence de Tresham originated in 1302 and he came from the village of Tresham which lies in Gloucestershire between Tetbury and Wotton-under-Edge. Apparently Tresham is Anglo Saxon for three houses. Lawrence de Tresham had a son called Sir Thomas Tresham, but there is no sign of the knighthood being passed down to Thomas Tresham of Eydon!

Sir Thomas became a favourite builder for Elizabeth I and he designed and built many well known buildings, including Rothwell Market House, Rushton Hall and the Triangular Lodge.

However, it would appear that the Tresham family is most noted for its involvement in the Gunpowder Plot of 1605. This was a failed assassination attempt against King James I by a group of English Catholics lead by Robert Catesby. The plan was to blow up the House of Lords during the state opening of parliament on 5th November 1605. The plotters, 13 of them, hired Catesby's lodgings on the opposite bank of the Thames, from where their stored gunpowder (36 barrels) could be rowed across to the houses of parliament. How they obtained the gunpowder is not clear! The plotters, lead by Guy Fawkes of York, also included one Francis Tresham. The plot was thwarted by Baron Monteagle who received an anonymous letter warning him of an impending plot.

It is suspected that this letter may have been written by Tresham but this has not been proved and several others could have been involved including Monteagle himself. After the discovery of The Plot, Tresham denied all knowledge, but Guy Fawkes said otherwise! Tresham died in The Tower a few weeks later, it is said of a urinary infection. The others were all tried and executed either by hanging or drawing and quartering.

So the plot thickens. When asked if he had a family tree, Tom replied that he was working on it!

Would you believe the aforementioned letter (original) has just gone on display at the National Archives .

Richard Forsyth

Posada

The sheep are ready!

The Posada is ready to tour the village once again. If you would like to host the knitted nativity figures, and keep one of the cuddly sheep, do contact Lyn Evans.

This year the box will contain books and activities for older children and grandchildren too.

The Posada will then finish its journey at the Christmas Day service in church.

Also this year look out for a self guided family Christmas trail around the Churchyard in December.

For more details 01327 261164 or lynandsimon@hotmail.co.uk



PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS

It was agreed to arrange a date for a public meeting hosted by the Parish Council to enable the Company explain exactly what was planned including time scales.

The Chairman was to write to the Company with a suggested date.

Highways

Andrew Partridge reported on his meetings with our local Unitary Councillor Alison Eastwood. West Northants and Anglia Water regarding coordination of works on highways and infrastructure. He also reported action with highways on repair to the road infrastructure around the village and would continue to keep pressure on them.

Pathway from Village Green to the Church

It was agreed to add this to the grass cutting contract for next year. The Clerk was to write to the adjoining landowner regarding the dangerous state of the boundary wall.

Streetlights

The Clerk updated on the progress, all of the

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initial supply had been fitted and the remaining ones had been ordered to stabilise any price issues. No complaints had been received so far.

Burial Ground Gates

It was noted no progress had been made on the repair, the Chairman had found a possible contractor and would meet them soon.

Planning matters

Application no WNS/2022/1939//HPD East of Eydon farm, Moreton Road. A prior permission application for a single storey rear extension.

The Council had no objections to the plans but pointed out that the premises were covered by an Agricultural tie since 1990 — which allowed occupation for an agricultural worker.

The meeting closed at 9.20 pm. The next planned meeting of the Parish Council is at 7.30 on Tuesday 13th December.

*Keith Simmons, Parish
Council Chairman*

A Personal View — December 2022

Has 2022 flown for you? Despite the “hangover” from Covid, the political intrigues, a wonderful sunny and dry summer and the sadness of the Queen’s death, 2022 has for this correspondent passed very rapidly. Recently, I have spent some time thinking about holidays past, going back in my mind many years, and hoping for more to come.

In particular, I’ve been recalling games we used to play many years ago, whilst on holiday in an overseas hotel, guessing what other guests did for a living. On one occasion, it must have been more than sixty years ago, on a winter ski holiday we encountered a distinguished-looking very talkative individual, extremely hairy with full moustache and sideburns, colourfully dressed and always ready to offer his opinion on any subject in exchange for a drink or two.

William Watson-Smythe, as he introduced himself, started talking about professions. Who did what, and where? Was it enjoyable, and rewarding? Did it involve travel? But, he was somewhat reluctant till pressed, about his own job. His wife, or maybe it should be said the lady accompanying him, also kept very quiet. She was, nevertheless, a striking individual with flaxen hair streaked with a reddish dye, hour-glass shape and dressed leaving little to the imagination.

After some liquid priming, Watson-Smyth at last revealed the source of his fairly lavish spending habits. He explained that he was a hedgehog breeder and farmer. His hedgehog outlets were Parisian restaurants, where the baby hogs were specialities de la maison. They were cooked for several hours, in baked mud, two at a time. After cooking, the skins fell off and artisan customers and the like devoured the poor little creatures, at a considerable cost.

Watson-Smythe proudly told us that the animals were gassed with no pain, before being neatly packed in boxes of 12, and shipped daily by ferry from Folkestone to Calais, thence to the Paris market. He farmed these just outside Staines, on the Thames. He was able to come on a winter ski holiday, as the hedgehogs hibernated for about three months during the ski season.

I suppose his unlikely tale was swallowed hook, line and sinker. There was no adequate response. No-one could prove otherwise. Until some 18 months later. My family took me to visit a godfather who lived on the banks of the Thames at

Laleham, a village just downstream from Staines. It was the occasion of the annual regatta on August Bank Holiday. Who should be in the Members’ pavilion holding up the bar, but our ski chum, William Watson-Smythe.

I asked my godfather if he knew who the whiskered character was... “Oh, surely you don’t know him? It’s Bill Smith. He’s notorious in these parts. He runs a strip club in Staines!”



John Grindlay

Farewell to the Rector

In January we will say goodbye to the Revd Paul Trathen as Rector of the Fiveways benefice, the parishes of Aston le will be Walls, Boddington, Byfield, Eydon and Woodford Halse

Paul will be taking up a role within the Mission to Seafarers — as Port Development Manager, planting new chaplaincy welfare provisions into seaports around the world.

He and his wife Carole will be moving away from Byfield and living in her house in Luton.

His last service in Eydon will be the Christmas Eve communion service and we will bid farewell to him at a benefice service in Byfield on Sunday 8th January.

The Archdeacon of Northampton has already held his first meeting with the churchwardens of the benefice to set in motion the procedure for appointing a new rector.

We will keep you posted on this.

*Sue Tresham and
Gary Denby
Churchwardens*

Parish Council Vacancy

Due to the resignation of a Councillor we once again have a vacancy on the Parish Council and are seeking someone to fill the role.

If you have lived within the parish (or within two miles) for a year you are eligible to stand.

We also have a vacancy for the role of Village Clerk. This is a paid role — full details will be published soon.

Please consider this seriously — can you contribute to our community?

You can contact me as below if you want to know more about the responsibilities of either role.

*Keith Simmons Parish Council Chairman,
01327 263014 or keithsimmons@eydon-village.co.uk*

Table Tennis

Come along and join us on Wednesday evenings from 6.00 pm in the Village Hall to play Table tennis.

All welcome.

Kim and David

Railways Around Eydon

In the first half of the twentieth century, two railways came very close to our village. Although the closest it ever had to a station bearing the name, was Eydon Road Halt in Culworth.

It is now over sixty years since a railway came anywhere near the village, but there must be people who still live in the area who remember the railways, and perhaps even worked or travelled on them.

I am writing an article for the next book to be published by The Eydon Historical Research Group, and would be very interested to hear from anyone who remembers what part the railways played in the social life of the village and surrounding area.

You can contact me by phone 01327 260503, or by e-mail tomtresham@aol.com.

Tom Tresham

Foodbank Christmas Appeal

Please help people locally who are struggling to make ends meet and can't feed their families. We are putting together care packages for the elderly and hampers for families and would much appreciate donations of Christmas goodies, small presents and festive foods. Your donations can be left at any time in the food-bank box in the garage at Oriel House, 59 High Street or given on Saturday 3rd December at the free coffee morning at the Village Hall.

There is a list of items we would like to have on the notice board in the church porch.

A Thank You

It's time again to say thank to all the kind volunteers who deliver the Eydon Village News around the Village each month.

They are Chris and Dave Howes; Ronnie and Pauline Grant; Ann and Larry Johnson; Lea and Sue Manoe; Lyn and Simon Evans; Helen McNeill; Elaine Partridge; Tony Richards; Tony Hardy and Barry McRoberts.

Thank you all so much your help is much appreciated.

Sue McRoberts

Penny Fisher

David, Merriel and family would like to thank all of Penny's friends who attended the celebration of her life on Monday 7th November 2022.

It was shared by all those who loved her and knew her.

£450 was donated to charity.



Free Coffee Morning

Do come and join us for coffee/tea, cake and a chat at the Village Hall on Saturday 3rd December to celebrate St Nicholas Day from 10.00 – 12.00.

If you can bring a donation for the Foodbanks Christmas Appeal for hampers for those who have very little, we'd be very grateful.



Everyone welcome. We look forward to seeing you.