



# Eydon Village News

DECEMBER 2023

ISSUE 437

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**FOODBANKS CHRISTMAS APPEAL. FREE COFFEE MORNING, SATURDAY 9th DECEMBER**

Do come and join us for coffee/tea, cake and a chat in the Village Hall on **Saturday 9th 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 and they would be very grateful (see back page).

Everyone welcome. We look forward to seeing you.

## *Next Issue*

Deadline for future articles is the 3rd Friday of the month.

**Please email articles to:**

evn@eydon-village.co.uk

# PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS

The November meeting of Eydon Parish Council took place on Tuesday 14 November at 7.30pm in the Village Hall.

The Councillors present were: - Andy Partridge, Howard Carter, Kim Keeble, Roddy Owen-Smith, Chairman Keith Simmons along with Steve Fox the Clerk.

Two members of the public were in attendance.

During the meeting the amongst the items discussed were:

## Village Projects:

The Council reviewed and updated the Village Projects List.

Regarding the Village Design Statement, some suggestions from councillors had been received. In light of the West Northants Strategic plan is due to be updated and reissued, it was agreed that updating was needed. An article would be produced for EVN.

The Clerk advised that the new sign on the burial ground gates had been installed.

The Clerk reported back on his meeting with highways and the PC agreed that quotes for new village signs of various styles be sought to enable selection to be made, slow road markings at entrances to the village would be installed.

The Clerk advised that the legal work on the sports field access was continuing.

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Notes from St Nicholas



### Services for December 2023

**Sunday 3rd December**  
10.0/10.30 Café Church

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December**  
10.00. Holy Communion

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December**  
18.00 Carol Service

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Eve**  
21.30 Parish Communion

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Day**  
10.00 Christmas Celebration – short informal service for all, especially families

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

We are happy to arrange lifts to benefice services if needed

Churchwardens:

Sue Tresham

Tel: 260503

sueeyates@aol.com

—

Gary Denby

Tel: 264002

gdenby@btinternet.com

### Would you like to meet these characters?

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. If you have hosted the Posada before add to your flock! This year the box will contain books and activities and ideas for older children and grandchildren too. The Posada will then finish its journey at the Christmas Day service in church.



Come and meet the Posada at the coffee morning on the 9th in the Village hall. For more details call 01327 261164 or email: [lynandsimon@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:lynandsimon@hotmail.co.uk)

### December Bin Collections



Tuesday 5th December

Black bins



Tuesday 12th December

Blue and Green bins



Tuesday 19th December

Black bin



**Saturday 23rd December**

Blue and Green bins

*Those subscribed to the garden waste service are advised there will be a short break in collections from 23 December until 5 January.*

# WINTER CHAT GROUP

## Do you often find January endless and dreary?

If so, come and join us for a chat and a cuppa in the Village Hall from 2-4pm on Mondays, starting 8th January.

Let's cheer each other up whilst we look forward to spring.

No age limit by the way!



Jenny Forsyth

## PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS

(Continued from page 2)

The Clerk also reported that highways would be submitting an application for a footpath to be constructed from Hollow Way to the sports field. This initiative was highly probable to be picked up in West Northants 2024/25 budget as it was a road safety one, giving accessibility for villagers to a community asset. It was indicated that if the PC was inclined to donate towards the costs it was more likely to be agreed. The PC agreed to donate £2500 for this purpose, this expenditure was agreed to be included in the budget/precept proposal.

The Emergency working party presented a draft of its plan, the format was explained and accepted, more detail was needed, and further suggestions added. The plan was for all households to receive a synopsis and notable contact lists.

The Chairman and Andrew Partridge agreed four street signs for replacement, and the Clerk was instructed to pursue how this was to be done and whether mounting and logos could be undertaken by the PC.

Responses had been received for the Freedom of Eydon scheme, and the Chairman would circulate new draft documents.

### Co-option of Councillor

The council had received permission to co-opt, no volunteers had unfortunately come forward in response to the Chairman's EVN article.

### Eydon Village News Production

Again, no volunteer from the Village had come

(Continued on page 4)

## Eydon Village Library

Now the cold dark days are here and it's time to sit by the fire with a good book, this is to remind you, and let those new to the Village know, that the Village Library, by kind permission of the PCC, can be found at the back of the Church.

There is a good selection of books, also timer light to help you find your books. There is a Children's corner and a Young Adult selection. The Church is open everyday, but, please be aware of Service times, thank you.

For help or information - Lyn Evans or Sue McRoberts 261068

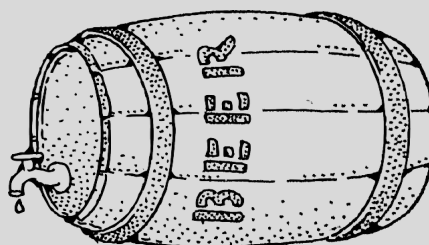


## Village Hall "Pub"

Kim and David are hoping to keep the "Pub" evenings going through the month of December on Fridays from 6pm to 9pm. They are also planning on opening during the **Christmas weekend and Boxing Day** for the Christmas Carols and Mummers, respectively for their performances,.

Kim and David would like to also express their sincere thanks to everyone for their continued support during the time that The Royal Oak pub is closed, and that they hope everyone is enjoying their Friday evening get-together.

*(Ed's note: I think the villagers who come along will express their thanks to Kim & David for the sterling effort that they have put in to give us somewhere to meet, chat and have a laugh on a Friday evening!).*





# PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS

(Continued from page 3)

forward for this paid position. It was agreed to re-advertise both positions.

## Highways and related matters:

Highways - Andrew Partridge reported that Kier (the contractor for road repairs) were more proactive now due to the pressure applied on them. Highways were the responsible body for agreeing and coordinating the closures which are causing havoc.

The Chairman and Andrew Partridge would meet to discuss with the local Councillor Alison Whitehead to attempt to get a coordinated approach, it was agreed information would be published online as much as possible.

## Councillor Training

This was continuing and was proving valuable to Councillors.

## Tree Survey

This had been carried out and was reviewed. No urgent actions were required, some medium risks were identified, and the Clerk was to arrange quotes to enable a plan and its impact on the proposed budget.

## Grass Cutting

Following a record number of complaints after the last cut, it was agreed to tender for the contract.

## Community Hub

The PC considered a request for funding to enable a weekly meeting to take place over the winter months in the Village hall. The PC agreed to donate £48 to enable it to be funded for 2 months on a trial basis.

(Continued on page 5)

## FIRST WEDNESDAY CLUB - THE CODEBREAKERS

In 2013 First Wednesday visited Bletchley Park, home of the WWII codebreakers, which we found to be extraordinary. So we had some connection with today's speaker Gillian Cane from Witney. She came to talk to us about the people who worked at B.P. of whom there were about 10,000 at the height of the war, 75% being women.



The Germans at this time were sending thousands of radio messages every day via their Enigma machines. Now these machines were very complicated and had plugboards, 3 wheels and 26 letters. The combination of this lot amounted to 158 million, million, million! So the Germans were convinced that their codes could not be broken.

However, before WWII Enigma machines were used by banks for security, but some Polish mathematicians found that the codes could be broken.

At the beginning of the war MI6 recruited some top brains, mostly from Oxford and Cambridge, to head up the codebreakers at B.P. Initially they found the work laborious and very time consuming. Alan Turing, one of the top men, devised a machine called The Bombe, to speed up the mechanical process. This machine was operated by women 24/7.

Gillian mentioned other important people at B.P. like Dilly Knox, Bill Tutt, Max Newman, Joan Clarke, Margaret Batey (wife of Keith Batey) and others who Gillian elaborated on. One of these was Tommy Flowers, a very clever Post Office engineer who designed the Colossus machine which was used to decode the Lorenz machine used by the German high command. Colossus was the first computer in the world.

It is said that the work done at B.P. shortened the war by 2 years.

**Gillian's talk was very well presented and much enjoyed by members. If you have not been to Bletchley Park it is well worth a visit.**

*Richard Forsyth*

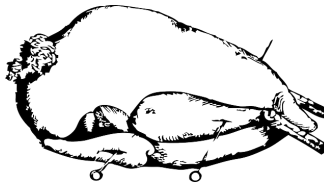
## Fish 'n' Chip Lunches

The December Lunch will be a FESTIVE lunch, on Wednesday December in the Sports Pavilion.

There will be quiz, some gifts and prizes!

All ARE welcome, but will be on a "first come", as places limited.

Please book now with John Grindlay, 01327 260303, or 07836 502756, or email [john@grindlay.org.uk](mailto:john@grindlay.org.uk).



*John Grindlay*

Its the time of year to say Thank You to all the kind volunteers who deliver the Eydon Village News around the village each Month, come wind, rain or even snow....

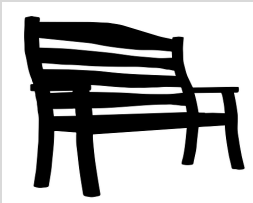
They are:

Chris and Dave Howes, Ronnie and Pauline Grant, Ann and Larry Johnson, Lea and Sue Manoe, Lyn and Simon Evans' Helen McNeill, Richard Collins, Sue Crofts, Elaine Partridge, Tony Hardy and Barry McRoberts. Thank you all so much, your help is much appreciated.



*Sue McRoberts*

## Memorial Bench - Sports Field



Gwen Bishop, who was the Best Friend of the Sports Field, sadly passed away a little while ago. Gwen, who is still greatly missed, has left a donation to the Sports Field and this included a provision for a bench which will be located in the Sports Field by the garden gate. This will be in place very shortly.

*Barry McRoberts*

# PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS

*(Continued from page 4)*

### Budget/Precept

The finance and general purposes Committee had met and set out an initial proposed budget. The Chairman outlined this proposal and the various implications for setting the precept request for 2024/5 and resulting reserves position. Particularly in the light of the decision to contribute towards the proposed footpath and pending tree work.

### Planning Matters:

There were no planning matters to be considered.

The meeting closed at 10.00 pm.

The next planned meeting of the Parish Council is at 7.30 on Tuesday 12th December in the Village hall.

Keith Simmons  
Parish Council Chairman

## Woodford Halse Community Library

### Events at WHCL in in December and January

#### Children's Sessions:

Rhymetime 2.30-3.00pm Tuesdays during term time

Storytime Saturday 10.30-11am

Both the sessions above are suitable for young children and their carers and are free of charge. No booking is needed. There is also a children's craft table with activities for children to complete during library opening hours. This will include Christmas themed crafts during December.

#### Activities for adults:

Fortnightly Crafting Group - Tuesday 10-12noon December 12th, January 9th and 23rd

Monthly Games Afternoon - Wednesday 2-3pm December 20th and January 17th

Monthly Book Club - 10-11am Thursday December 21st and Thursday January 18th

The Library Choir is always looking for new members. Thursday evenings (in the library) 7-8.30pm

## Eydon Ladies



Eydon Ladies met on Wednesday 15th November 2023 in the Village Hall for their last formal meeting of the year. The evening (with 25+ ladies eager to join in) had the festive theme of 'Christmas Baubles'.

Lindsey Fox and Juliet Nichols treated us to a short history of Christmas Baubles where we learned that they were first made in Germany over 400 years ago. Although it was 1800 when they were first displayed in Britain by royalty, it was Queen Victoria who introduced the tradition we all enjoy today.



The evening continued with a workshop where Lindsey and Juliet guided everyone through the design of their own decoration. There were beads, feathers, ribbons and stickers of all colours and even googly eyes if you wanted to make an animated bauble! Once everyone had called on their artistic flare there was time to sit back and talk over mulled wine and mince pies. Thank you Lindsey and Juliet for a most enjoyable and relaxed evening.

Although the 'Christmas Baubles' event was the last formal meeting of Eydon Ladies, many members will be celebrating Christmas on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2023 with dinner at The Star in Sulgrave.

Our first meeting for 2024 will be on **TUESDAY (note the change of day!) 16<sup>th</sup> January 2024** at which we will hold our AGM and outline the programme for the new year. We look forward to a full year of events in 2024 and welcome all Ladies who wish to join us.

**We always welcome new members and anyone wishing to join our merry band should contact Ruth Kukla (Treasurer) on 01327 264109 or send an email to:**

**[ruth.kukla@hotmail.com](mailto:ruth.kukla@hotmail.com).**

### ***Eydon 200 Club***

Here are the results for the October draw, congratulations to all the winners:

#### **Main Prizes:**

1st prize: Steve Matthews

2nd prize: Jenny Forsyth

3rd prize: Pepper & Bella Holman (dogs)

#### **Bonus Prizes:**

Ruth Kukla, David Fitch-Peyton

Victoria Wilkins, Andy Partridge

Rosie Ward



***It's just after King Charles's 75<sup>th</sup> birthday as these notes are written. The occasion reminded me of some very old papers I fell upon some years ago.....***



## ***A Personal View... December 2023***

The rather battered and rusty black tin trunk is still under my desk today. In 2009 I had a call from a solicitor's office in Coventry. They were moving premises and didn't know what to do with this trunk. It was stencilled with the name of a previous senior Partner with whom I used to go fishing prior to his retirement and emigration to the Algarve. I was asked to remove it and give it to the owner, as we were regular visitors to Portugal.

Having got the trunk to Eydon, the lock needed little persuasion. Inside there were only a few papers, some old books on Coventry's history, and a substantial bundle tied in a brown envelope. This parcel turned out to be twenty ancient documents handwritten mainly on parchment. These dated from 1601 to 1660. They mainly related to events and military instructions at the time of the Civil War, the execution of Charles I, the removal of Charles II, and the time Oliver Cromwell was Protector.



To remind ourselves of some relevant dates;

Charles I was only 48 years old when he was executed in 1649. The Civil war put paid to him, and Oliver Cromwell ran the country immediately after the execution, until 1658.

Oliver Cromwell ruled for 9 years, 1649 to his death in 1658. His son, Richard then became Lord Protector, but resigned almost at once in favour of Charles II.

Charles II was 54 when he died in 1685. He resumed his reign after Richard Cromwell, and it is said he was poisoned, but that has not been proven.

The Tin Trunk papers refer in detail to military appointments, some signed by Oliver Cromwell. One authorises the sacking and part demolition of Kenilworth Castle on February 1<sup>st</sup> 1650. This has never been fully restored since. They appear to have been collected by a Captain Hawkesworth, who was appointed by Cromwell as governor of Warwick Castle. The picture is the appointment document.

In the summer of 2009, the BBC recorded an Antiques Roadshow programme at Bletchley Park. I went, and Clive Farahar examined the Papers, in a cursory manner as I thought and advised they could be worth a thousand, maybe two or three. So, a week or two later I took them to a charity Bonhams valuation day, near Banbury. They got very excited about the old documents, and the very next day two further experts from Bonhams arrived in Eydon for a further look. The advice was to put them in a specialist sale, to be held in March 2020.

I kept the owner in Portugal advised of progress, as he wanted to sell them. Apparently, I was not allowed to take them out of the UK without a license, as they were of historical importance.

**On March 23<sup>rd</sup> 2010, I went to the auction in Bond Street, where they sold for something in excess of twenty thousand pounds.**

*Very sadly, the owner died just a few weeks before the sale, so he didn't get to enjoy the proceeds. However, his family invested in a new roof on their Algarve villa.....*

L<sup>d</sup> ffayrfax. Bro: Hawkesworths Com: for Governer of Warwick Castle febr. 7/48

[Seal.] Thomas Lord ffairfax Comander in Cheife of all the forces raised and to be raised for the defence of the same These are therefore to will and require yo<sup>u</sup> to make yo<sup>u</sup> p<sup>re</sup>sent repaire to the sayd Castle and taking the same into yo<sup>u</sup> Charge as Governo<sup>r</sup>. w<sup>ith</sup> all the forces towers and places of strength in and about the same together w<sup>ith</sup> all the Magasin Ordnance Armes and Amunicōn thereunto belonging yo<sup>u</sup> are to keepe and defend the same for the service of the parliam<sup>ts</sup>. & Kingdome & likewise to exercise yo<sup>u</sup>. inferio<sup>r</sup>. officers and souldiers of the sayd Castle in Armes Comanding them to obey yo<sup>u</sup> as their Governo<sup>r</sup>. for the sayd service and yo<sup>u</sup> likewise to observe and follow such orders and direccōns as yo<sup>u</sup>. shall receive from my selfe according to the discipline of Warre Given under my hand and seale the 7<sup>th</sup> of february 1648.

To Maio<sup>r</sup> Joseph Hawkesworth Governo<sup>r</sup> of Warwick.  
By the power and Authority to me given by both Houses of parliam<sup>ts</sup>. I doe hereby Constitute and Appoint yo<sup>u</sup>. Governo<sup>r</sup>. of Warwick Castle and Comander in Cheife of all the forces raised and to be raised for the defence of the same These are therefore to will and require yo<sup>u</sup> to make yo<sup>u</sup> p<sup>re</sup>sent repaire to the sayd Castle and taking the same into yo<sup>u</sup> Charge as Governo<sup>r</sup>. w<sup>ith</sup> all the forces towers and places of strength in and about the same together w<sup>ith</sup> all the Magasin Ordnance Armes and Amunicōn thereunto belonging yo<sup>u</sup> are to keepe and defend the same for the service of the parliam<sup>ts</sup>. & Kingdome & likewise to exercise yo<sup>u</sup>. inferio<sup>r</sup>. officers and souldiers of the sayd Castle in Armes Comanding them to obey yo<sup>u</sup> as their Governo<sup>r</sup>. for the sayd service and yo<sup>u</sup> likewise to observe and follow such orders and direccōns as yo<sup>u</sup>. shall receive from my selfe according to the discipline of Warre Given under my hand and seale the 7<sup>th</sup> of february 1648.

Handwritten on parchment.

The signature is clear.

The seal is most excellently preserved and is the same as on No. 8.

T: Fairfax

*John Grindlay*

## Eydon Village Design Statement (VDS) - Help Shape the Future of *Your* Village

This well produced [document](#) was prepared and introduced in 2011 by a dedicated team of Parish Councillors and village volunteers co-opted into a sub-Committee of the Parish Council.



It was adopted by West Northamptonshire Council (previously South Northants) as an official supplementary planning document.

It has been generally well received by the planning Authorities and is still a primary planning document taken into account whenever planning applications are made within the Village and allows authoritative local input to the West Northamptonshire Strategic Plan.

This strategic plan is currently under review by the West Northants Unitary council and as mentioned, our own document is now 12 years old and the Parish Council has decided it is time to review and update the VDS to allow it to

continue to protect the Village from inappropriate development and potential loss of its open spaces and views, but also to give guidance on future development.

**To enable us to undertake this task the Parish Council is asking you the residents to:**

Read the document and email any views you may have for consideration - we promise to read them all and consider them.

Volunteer to sit on a new sub-Committee to review the document fully and either amend it by adding new appendices or produce a completely new version.

***The Council has selected myself, Jonathan Walker, and Howard Carter to sit on this committee, but we really would welcome input from interested parties from the Village to enable this to move forward in a constructive, inclusive, and transparent way.***

***Please consider volunteering to assist with this crucial task and contact me directly at:***

***[keith.simmons@eydon-village.co.uk](mailto:keith.simmons@eydon-village.co.uk) or call 01327 263014***

**Keith Simmons—Chairman, Eydon Parish Council**

## FOODBANKS and CHRISTMAS

**We have been continuing to support the Daventry foodbank over the past few months with donations collected from the box in the church.**

The community larder in Woodford is trying to put together food parcels for the vulnerable for the Christmas season. Here are the details:

For the weeks leading up 18th Dec, we are trying to put together food hampers for the elderly we care for and selection boxes to hand out to the children.

We will also be providing Christmas Meals on 23rd December for those who will find themselves alone on Christmas Day or families that are struggling to fund their Christmas meals.

**We would like to supply everyone with some extra items to accompany their Christmas Day meal ie:**

**These are the things we are looking to collect:**

Selection Boxes, Christmas crackers, Luxury Biscuits - sweet, Luxury biscuits – cheese, Christmas cakes/logs, Christmas, puddings, Cranberry sauce, Stuffing mix, Mince pies, Boxes of chocolates, after eight mints/sticks etc.

**If you feel able to give some of the items on his list, please bring them to our **coffee morning** in the village hall on 9th December or leave them in the collection box in church.**

You can also always leave them with us at Oriel House, 59 High Street

Please feel free to contact me with any questions

*Sue Tresham*

*01327260503/sueeyates@aol.com*