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Deadline for June newsletter
is 22nd May 2026

Please email to:

evn@eydonparish.gov.uk



**MIDSUMMER
DANCE
PARTY**
AT EYDON VILLAGE HALL

**FREE
GLASS OF
PIMMS ON
ARRIVAL**

Featuring
**THE AL RYAN
BIG BAND**

**ENTRY TICKETS £15 ★ SATURDAY 20TH JUNE
7:30PM - 11PM ★ WELL STOCKED BAR**



Book via QR code or
<https://square.link/u/g8TXA0Ys>

Tickets also available at
Oboe Fine Wine.

Enquiries: Julie 07733 300447

**DANCE TO
THE SOUNDS
OF THE BIG
BAND ERA!**



PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS

The April meeting was held on 14 April at 19:30 in the Village Hall

Attendance:

Councillors, Keith Simmons, Andy Reynolds, Howard Carter, Lisa Genovese, Luke Alexander and Kim Keeble were present, along with the Clerk, Steven Fox.

The Council received apologies from WNC Councillor Alison Eastwood.

Previous Minutes:

The minutes from 14 March were Approved.

Council Membership:

The Council has one empty place and is keen to recruit an extra member. Anyone interested should contact

Keith.Simmons@EydonParish.Gov.Uk

Public Comment:

A representative of Crockwell Farm advised of their Planning Application intentions including development of a Padel court.

A member of the Public requested that the new Village History Sign on the Green be relocated. The Council resolved to review the location from a Health and Safety perspective but were not otherwise minded to relocate it.

The Owner of the wall running parallel to the Church Footpath which has partly collapsed advised the Council that they were continuing to seek quotes for its repair.

It was reported that a number of trees had been felled and/or significantly pruned in the Village. Most of the village lies within a Conservation Area and such actions generally require the consent of WNC

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Notes from St Nicholas



SERVICES FOR May 2026

Sunday 3rd May

1000 Morning Prayer

Sunday 10th May

0930 Holy Communion

Sunday 17th May

1000 Family Service

Sunday 24th May

1100 Holy Communion

Sunday 31st May (Woodford Halse)

1000 Benefice Holy Communion

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

Rector Rev Clare Glover 260204
revclare@outlook.com

Churchwardens

Lyn Evans 01327 261164
lynandsimon@hotmail.co.uk

Matt Wheeldon 07968 092503
majwheeldon@btinternet.com

We are pleased to introduce ourselves as your new churchwardens for the coming year. My name is Matt and alongside Lyn, I am very much looking forward to serving both the church and the wider village community.

Eydon's church has long been at the heart of village life, whether marking important moments, offering a place for quiet reflection, and bringing people together. We are keen to ensure that it continues to play a meaningful and welcoming role for everyone, whatever their background or level of involvement.

To do that well, we would genuinely value hearing from you. **What would you like from your village church? Are there services, events, or activities you would enjoy? Are there ways the church could better support the community, or simply be more open and accessible?** Whether your thoughts are practical, imaginative, or somewhere in between, we would be delighted to hear them.

We hope to maintain the traditions that matter while also exploring how the church can adapt and remain relevant for future generations. This is very much a shared endeavour, and your ideas and perspectives are an important part of that.

Please feel free to speak to either of us in person, leave a note at the church, or get in touch via the contact details on this page.

With best wishes,

Matt and Lyn, Churchwardens

May Bin Collections



Tuesday 5th May

Black Bin



Tuesday 19th May

Black Bin



Tuesday 12th May

Blue and Green Bins



Tuesday 26th May

Blue and Green Bins

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

PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS

(Continued from page 2)

Planning. The Clerk was asked to make this requirement known across the Social Media platforms.

Matters Arising:

The Chairman advised that he would seek to form a Working Group for review of the Village Design Statement after the Parish Assembly on 28 April.

The Council discussed the possibility of having a footpath constructed alongside the road from the Cemetery to the Sports Field. The Clerk was asked to obtain a guideline cost, with the intention of putting the project to a public vote.

Planning Matters:

There is a new application for work at 1 Blacksmith's Lane and this will be discussed at the next meeting

Highways and Footpaths:

The Clerk advised that 9 Potholes were reported in the month and that 8 were fixed. Anyone wishing to report Road or Footpath issues can do so using the WNC App or FixMySteet.Com.

Anyone wishing to check maintenance work in WNC can do so by visiting www.WNC.ai/wise

Other Matters:

A full set of Minutes for the Council are available from EydonParish.Gov.Uk.

Anyone wishing to receive news updates about Eydon should request to be added to the

(Continued on page 4)



EYDON LADIES

Eydon Ladies met on Wednesday 15th April 2026 at the Village Hall to hear from our speaker Andrew North on the topic of opera. Andrew, a retired lawyer, who has always had an interest in history and opera brought them together in 'The Story of Opera' through the ages. With photographs and music, we uncovered the changing trends in this fascinating genre of music.

One of the first ever operas L'Orfeo, performed in 1607 was written by Claudio Monteverdi, an Italian composer who used emotion and realism rather than the mythological and pastoral themes of the past. The structure of opera was then formed using the ABA method, A straight arias setting the scene, B different melody or rhythm to keep the audience interested, A back to A but with more improvisation.

Change continued through the ages, a German composer, Christoph Willibald Gluck added text to the music with singers, ballet dancers and women included. Operas were historically written or sung in Italian, German or French but nowadays are sung in any language. There are dividing lines between Baroque 1600 -1750, Romantic 1820-1900, Verismo and Bel Canto each building on each other. There were many composers - Mozart, Beethoven, Wagner and Rossini to name a few. In the 20th century we find Gilbert and Sullivan, Benjamin Britten (who wrote one for men only) and Stravinsky writing operas.

Andrew ended his talk with an aside noting that in most operas it was women who died at the end!

The next meeting will be in the Village Hall on Wednesday 20th May 2026 at 7.30pm. We will have the opportunity to taste and buy Gin from the Kineton based Pinnock Distillery. The evening will finish with Tea/Coffee and a raffle. This meeting is open to Ladies only, guests paying £5.



Allotment Plots Available in Eydon

Get 'em While They're Hot!

Did you know that among the various amenities in our little village is an allotment garden? Even better, it's located right in the centre, just off the High Street and there are currently several plots available for use by anyone who might fancy a go at "growing their own".

Renting an allotment costs a pound a year, you don't need to be an experienced gardener as there are often people on hand to offer friendly advice. It's fun, great exercise, a good way to enjoy social interaction, it's healthy and kids love it too.

The allotments in Eydon are in an idyllic spot, south / east facing and quiet.

If you'd like to find out more, then ping a message to either of: Lea Manoe : leansue@hotmail.com, Peter Keenan : bleatblybloid@gmail.com



PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS

(Continued from page 3)

Village email alerts list by contacting
Media@EydonParish.Gov.Uk

Next Meeting:

12 May at 19:30 in the Village Hall, all welcome.

Keith Simmons

Chairman

Asparagus Risotto by Georgia Hearn suggested by Annie Comyn

Serves 4

400g Asparagus
2 leeks - thinly sliced
300g Arborio Rice
2L Chicken Stock - hot
4 large very good eggs
1 lemon

30g flat leaf parsley
2 crushed garlic cloves
200ml White wine
50g Parmesan
Toasted pine nuts
Extra virgin olive oil



Remove woody ends from the asparagus, then cut off the tops. Add the stems and the parsley to a pan of boiling water and simmer for 5 minutes - plunge into a bowl of iced water. Repeat with the asparagus tips.

Saute the leeks in oil until soft but not coloured, add the crushed garlic and cook until fragrant.

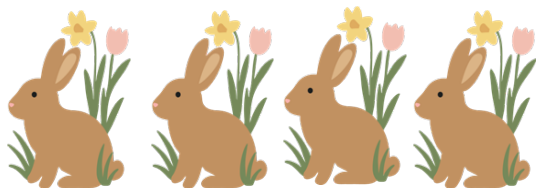
Add the rice, stir for a few minutes, then add the white wine and cook until soaked up. Add the hot chicken stock, one ladle at a time, and continue stirring and adding more stock until the rice is al dente.

While the rice is cooking, add the eggs to boiling water and cook for exactly 5 minutes and 45 seconds - blanch in cold water and peel.

Place the asparagus, parsley, 100ml boiling water, 2tbsp oil, lemon juice and a pinch of salt in a blender and blitz until smooth.

When the risotto is al dente, add the parmesan. Once melted, add the asparagus puree. Stir through until combined.

Serve the risotto, add the asparagus tips, the eggs - cut in half, and sprinkle with toasted pine nuts and a grating of lemon zest.



On Easter Monday the sunshine finally broke through and every nook and cranny of the village was bustling with excitement, as the Easter Trail and Party to celebrate the centenary of the Village Hall, exploded into action.

More than twenty five local children, from one to ten, led their parents and grandparents in the search for eggs, and then back to the Village Hall for a lavish celebratory tea, and a variety of rabbit-heavy games.

Every street was cleared of chocolate within an hour, and rendered dog-friendly once more.

Huge thanks to the organisers, and to everyone who volunteered on the day to control, feed and entertain the happy hordes.

Sue Crofts

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

EYDON
2022 CLUB

Prizes

1st Prize: John Grindlay
2nd Prize: Judith Watson
3rd Prize: Pod Gordon (Cat)

Bonus Prizes

Cody Manoe (Dog)
Sophie Beaty
Howard Carter

Congratulations to all winners. If you missed out but would like to take part new participants are always welcome, please contact elaine.partridge2@btinternet.com for more details.

A reminder — trees in the Conservation Area

Most of Eydon lies within a Conservation Area, which means any significant work to trees requires prior consent from West Northamptonshire Council Planning Authority.



WNC Planning Portal: westnorthants.gov.uk/planning
Tel: 0300 126 7000

Meet the People of Eydon

Al Ryan



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

I talk for a living which, for an Irish person, is an easy occupation! I'm a radio presenter for BBC Radio 3 and a continuity announcer for Radio 4, which I've been doing professionally for just over 25 years. I sort of fell into broadcasting if I'm honest. I'd been studying music at university in Ireland and got involved with the campus radio station. One thing led to another and I ended up joining RTÉ Radio, (Ireland's national public service broadcaster), where I spent 11 years in Limerick working for RTÉ lyric fm - the classical music and arts station - before finding my way to the BBC.

My main role on Radio 4 as a continuity announcer is not only to introduce the programmes – which means driving the network and pressing play on programmes like The Archers and Desert Island Discs - but also keeping an eye on the clock to make sure not to crash the pips or Big Ben at the top of the hour! As part of my job, I get to read the iconic Shipping Forecast at 12 minutes to one each morning at least three nights a week, which is a great privilege. If you're ever struggling to sleep, put it on and you'll be out like a light in no time! I

I'm in Broadcasting House until 01:00am, when I put Radio 4 to bed and shoo the Radio 4 cat out, (affectionately known as Loose Ends!), before handing the network over to The World Service for the night and making my way home.

For Radio 3, I cover periods of leave on the Breakfast Show from Salford, as well as being one of several presenters who introduce 'Friday Night is Music Night', the world's longest-running live music radio programme, broadcast from theatres and concert halls all across the country. I also present 'Radio 3 in Concert' and the afternoon show 'Classical Live' throughout the year, and I'm very much involved with the BBC Proms too. Every day is genuinely different, which is what I love about it. It does involve an enormous amount of travelling though – I practically live on a train!

What are your hobbies? Music is a huge passion. I've been a lifelong jazz fan and love classical music too. I collect records and CDs and my loft is absolutely heaving with them! I've also accumulated a large collection of autographs, some from people whom I've been lucky enough to interview over the years. My most prized one is Louis Armstrong - I didn't interview him unfortunately, but it was a wonderful leaving gift from my colleagues at RTÉ. I enjoy reading - mostly classic crime, (Sherlock Holmes is a particular favourite), and I lead my own big band – more on that later!

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

No, I was born in Dublin and grew up in the village of Kilcullen in County Kildare, about 25 miles south of Dublin – great horse-racing country situated between three of the most famous Irish racecourses - The Curragh, Punchestown and Naas. I then spent

11 years working in Limerick, where I met my partner, Julie. We moved to England and went straight to Oxfordshire, and we've been in Eydon for nearly five years now. No plans to go anywhere else!

If you could have dinner with three people, dead or alive, who would they be? Peter Ustinov, a great actor, raconteur and mimic who always had a wonderful story to tell. Louis Armstrong, the king of jazz, who could perhaps play a little music after dinner, and the wonderful Laurel and Hardy – great favourites of mine who I'm counting as one!

What 3 items would you take to a Desert Island? A wind-up radio so I could listen to music and the Shipping Forecast. A fishing rod – practical and relaxing in equal measure. And my trumpet, so I could play a few tunes and perhaps attract a passing ship!

Who would play you in a movie about your life? Liam Neeson – we're practically twins, after all! It would have to be an Irish actor and Liam is very cool. I'm not sure how you'd tell us apart.

Describe yourself in one word. Banjaxed. (Irish for "wrecked" – look it up)

Fry up or Green juice Fry up. Completely. No question about it!

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

Spending time with friends and family is always a happy time – Christmas, in particular, is full of laughter and card games! Professionally, there's nothing quite like the moment you step in front of the BBC Concert Orchestra and say those five magic words: "Friday Night is Music Night" – the orchestra strikes up that famous signature tune and you almost forget yourself entirely. The first time I did it was nerve-racking and exhilarating in equal measure. And honestly? Getting on the train home to Eydon at the end of a long day - nothing makes me happier!

Who has been the biggest influence on your life? My parents who always were, and continue to be, tremendously supportive. Both are great radio listeners and the wireless was always on at home. My love of music and radio came from them. My Dad is a great storyteller and spinner of yarns, too - I think I've inherited the gift of gab from him.

Professionally, Gay Byrne was a major influence. He was a celebrated Irish broadcaster, best known for hosting the long-running and ground-breaking Late Late Show in Ireland, which also aired here on Channel 4. I was lucky enough to work with him as his radio producer in Ireland for many years, and we became close friends with a shared passion for jazz. When I moved over here and started at BBC Oxford, he would listen to my programmes and ring me afterwards with advice – what worked and what could be improved. That kind of mentorship was invaluable, and I miss both him and our long lunches in Dublin.

Tell us something people don't know about you.

I was a professional trumpet player and musician. Most people know me as a broadcaster, but when I have time I still like to play, as well as lead my own

15-piece big band, which we're bringing to Eydon Village Hall on **Saturday, 20 June for a Midsummer Dance!** Think Glenn Miller, Frank Sinatra, Duke Ellington and Ella Fitzgerald – all the great Big Band classics of the Swing era. It's going to be a fantastic night with some special guest musicians too - we're all really looking forward to it.

David Marshall Kench

1932 - 2026



David's father was Harold Marshall Kench, who grew up in the family home at Eydon. He wasn't involved in the family builders' business, but was apprenticed as a watchmaker. He enlisted in the army, being awarded both the Military Medal and the Victory Medal. After the war he returned to Eydon for a short while, eventually moving to Bournemouth where he worked for Harold

Finter, a clock and watch maker. He married local girl Dorothy Hazell in 1927 in the Wesleyan Methodist Church. They had two children Mary and, two years later, David.

In 1940 Mary and David were privately evacuated from Bournemouth to live with Fred and Maud Kench at 'Wayside', owing to the fear of the Germans invading. They both attended the village school for a while. David finished his primary education at Woodford Church School, owing to difficulties with the then schoolmistress at Eydon, before returning home in 1943 to attend Bournemouth Grammar School for Boys. On leaving school he returned to Eydon to take up an apprenticeship as a carpenter and joiner with his uncles, Fred and George, family firm of Thomas Kench. When his uncles retired David continued to run the firm for a few years, until with challenging trading conditions, the decision was taken to close down the business in 1969. David then worked as a Building Inspector for Northampton Rural District Council, then as their Planning Assistant before being made the Building Control Manager in 1974 for the new South Northamptonshire District Council. He continued in that position until his retirement in 1997.

David met Brenda Eaton of Wroxton when they were both members of the motor cycle club in Banbury and they married in Wroxton Church in 1956. They had two children, Alan born in 1958 and Linda born in 1962. The family lived in a cottage at 41 High Street in Eydon then moved for a time to Wardington while they built Orchard House, on the corner of Lime Avenue and Culworth Road in Eydon. Linda recalls at least eight moves (she says it was one of the penalties of having a father who was a builder) among them was the renovation of Rose Cottage in Blacksmiths Lane before building another new house at 26 Lime Avenue. They then moved to Nether Heyford for a while before returning to Eydon in 1976, having been given the opportunity to purchase David's aunt Alice's cottage at 20 High Street from her executors.

David followed a long family tradition of active involvement in village life. He was a stalwart member of Eydon community life for many years in spite of his house moves. He took on an active role in the Men's Club, being secretary for a while from 1958. The same year he also became chairman of the village hall, until 1970, having been on

the committee for some time prior to that. In 1979 he was secretary for a year before being elected as chairman again in March 1980, later taking on the role in the 1990s. In addition, he was made a Trustee of the Village Hall in 1961 and remained a Trustee for approximately 50 years.

David was a Parish Councillor for decades and always an active supporter of village events. As someone with a sound knowledge of planning and building, he frequently advised on matters relating planning applications as well as the maintenance and refurbishment of the village hall. David was also an active member of the congregation at St Nicholas Church, taking on the role of churchwarden for many years.

David's knowledge, expertise, archive of photographs and memory for events and people was invaluable to Eydon Historical Research Group. One of the founder members, he made an immense contribution to the information the group now holds about the village and its inhabitants over the centuries. He has written numerous, well researched articles which have been published in the group's booklets, and his legacy enables the group to continue to research and publish booklets about the village and to help people who are investigating their family trees. He will be greatly missed.

Carrie Bedford

Eydon Plant Fair

Saturday 16th May

10am-12pm

On the grass leading up to church

Refreshments in church

Proceeds to St Nicholas Church





Claire's 6,835 Mile Bike Ride from Portugal to the Arctic for Motor Neurone Disease

Eydon Ladies who attended Andrew North's super talk about Opera in April will know that member Claire is cycling the Atlantic Coast Cycle Route (EuroVelo 1), which is 6,835 miles (11,000 km), from the south of Portugal to 300 miles north of the Arctic Circle.

She's doing this as a solo woman in her late 60s, travelling with her trusty bicycle, Margaret.

So far she has ridden through Portugal, Spain, France, England, Wales, Scotland and half of Ireland, a total of 4,523 miles (7,279 km). Next comes Norway: 1,851 miles (2,980 km) with the equivalent elevation of climbing Everest nearly four times from sea level. This will be the most challenging part of the journey, with long unlit tunnels, steep climbs, remote stretches with few services, tricky ferry timings and a strict 90 day visa. She will be wild camping, carrying and cooking her own food, and generating her own power with a solar panel for navigation and safety.

She is doing this in aid of Motor Neurone Disease, in honour of her father, who gave her the love of adventure.

If you'd like to follow Claire's journey as it unfolds - the stories, shifting landscapes, wildlife encounters, weather, the people she meets, the highs and the lows, you're very welcome to follow her Facebook page [One woman, one bike, one wild Atlantic coast | Facebook](#)

Please help Claire and support her incredible fundraising efforts for people affected by Motor Neurone Disease - she would be incredibly grateful. Support Claire's ride for MND. [Claire McCombe is fundraising for Motor Neurone Disease Association](#)

And if you know anyone who might enjoy following her adventure, or who wants to support the cause, please do feel free to share her Facebook and / or funding page.

Every share helps the story travel a little further.

Carrie Bedford

FIRST WEDNESDAY CLUB - Combating Crime

We had a visit from the Northamptonshire Police crime prevention unit this month. I had asked them to come last December, but because of matters beyond our control, this had to be postponed at the last minute, so we were very pleased to welcome, Detective Constable Jo Barlow and Detective Sergeant Dave Reed to give us advice on how to avoid being victims of crime, especially scams via the phone and the internet.

They explained that it's a very wide subject and they could only cover a small part of it, so I will be inviting them back again to tell us more about this very important subject.

The best advice they gave us was if an offer seems too good to be true it is almost certainly a scam.

Be very wary of all cold calls, even if they look as if they come from your bank, or a reputable organisation you have dealt with before.

Never give information to a caller unless you are positive, they are who they say they are. Remember banks will never ask for personal information over the phone, and certainly not ask you to transfer money to a different account. One secure way of checking if a call is genuine is to call the company, bank etc. on another phone, and never on the line you have received the call, unless you have replaced the receiver for at least 30 minutes. Scammers will often keep the line open, so calling back just after you have finished the call you are still connected to the scammer. They usually get fed up after 15 minutes and try someone else, but be on the safe side.

Scammers will often try to hassle you into doing something. So, if you receive an offer that you must accept now or you will lose the chance of a great bargain, hang up the phone or bin the letter, and delete the e-mail.

The Police publish leaflets on how to avoid crime, but if you suspect you have become a victim of a fraud, here are some things you should do:

Report fraud to Report Fraud on 0300 123 2040

Notify your bank immediately on 159 if any of your bank details have been obtained by fraudsters.

Optionally forward scam text messages to 7726

Send suspicious emails to report@phishing.gov.uk

Always use the gov.uk website to find and access genuine government services and information online.

For cyber safety guides and fraud leaflets email cyberprotect@northants.police.uk

Stay safe.

Tom Tresham

CONTACTS AND LOCAL SERVICES DIRECTORY

Accommodation

B&B & Events

Crockwell Farm
info@crockwellfarm.co.uk
01327 361358

Rectory Barn

2 bed 2 bath
john@grindlay.org.uk
07836502756

The Vyne

2 bedrooms
imogenbutler@outlook.com
01327 264886

Clubs & Societies

Eydon First Wednesday Club

Richard Forsyth
01327 264235
randjforsyth@gmail.com

Eydon Historical Research Group

Simon Evans
01327 261164

Eydon Ladies Group

Ruth Kukla
01327 264109
ruth.kukla@hotmail.com

Eydon Players

Matthew Tasker
07717 796665

Eydon Sports Field

Henrietta Nelson
nelsonhenrietta@gmail.com

Eydon Knits

Sue Lodge
01327 261535

Eydon Art Group

Lyn Evans
01327 261164

Eydon Village Hall

David Fitch-Peyton
01327 262383/07773 381745

Byfield Tennis Club

01327 264542

Medical

Byfield Medical Centre

01327 265841

Cropredy Surgery

01295 758372

Councils / Politicians

Councillor Alison Eastwood

07967 867726
alison.eastwood@westnorthants.gov.uk

Eydon Parish Council

Cllr Keith Simmons, Chairman
01327 263014

Cllr Luke Alexander

Cllr Andy Reynolds

Cllr Kim Keeble

Cllr Howard Carter

Cllr Lisa Genovese

Contact via e-mail protocol:

firstname.surname@eydonparish.gov.uk

Parish Clerk - Steve Fox

clerk@eydonparish.gov.uk

West Northamptonshire Council

0300 126 7000
customerservice.snc@westnorthants.gov.uk

Crime / Police

Neighbourhood Watch

Currently vacant

Crimestoppers

0800 555111

Police

Emergency 999, Enquiries 101

Food & Drink

Dodds Manor

Jonathan and Angela Walker
jonathan@doddsmanor.com
07747 018414

Oboe Fine Wine

David & Kim—01327 262383
sales@oboefinewine.co.uk

Harley Café

01327 260818

Media

Eydon Website

www.eydonparish.gov.uk

Eydon Village News

evn@eydonparish.gov.uk

Facebook Page

Eydon Village Newsfeed

Eydon Village Newsfeed Whatsapp

07771 146412

St Nicholas Church

Churchwardens

Lyn Evans
01327 261164
lynandsimon@hotmail.co.uk

Matt Wheeldon

07968 092503
majwheeldon@btinternet.com

Tradesmen

Electricians

AJR Electrical Services
Andy Reynolds 07970 192858

Plumbers

L.J. Plumbing & Heating
Luke Johnson 07540 495667

Other Local Businesses

Belziadeth Jewellery & Art

Lizzie Coulter
01327 262609
www.justartandjewellery.co.uk

Solid Fuel / Logs

Leadbeater Logs
Clancy Leadbeater 01295 760562