

Keeping you up to date with Evington's news The newspaper of Friends of Evington Charity No. 1148649

December 2018 and January 2019 Issue 275

Following the success of the communal painting of Evington House event arranged in the summer of 2017 and featured on the cover of the Evington Echo October / November 2017, Anthony Lees-

Denys Church n All Its Glory

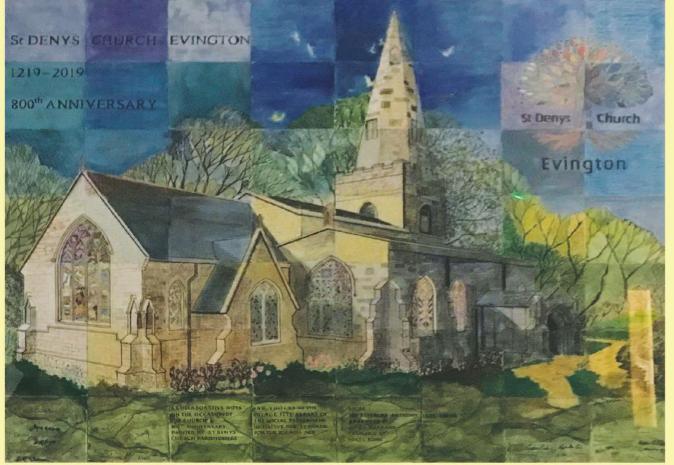
Smith, the vicar of St Denys Church. and Anita Barrand of L4As Social Prescribing Project approached volunteer local artist This cover picture shows the completed painting now mounted Nigel King to paint a picture of the church. and framed and hanging for all to see in St Denys Parish Centre.

painting event to commemorate the 800th anniversary of St Denys Church in 2019. At Evington Village Fete and Show in August, visitors and church parishioners together painted a large work

Circulation 5,900

formed from over 50 individual pieces.

He was then to arrange a similar communal More information on the 800th anniversary celebrations on page 8 - 9.



Coordinated and written by Nigel King Designed by Jason Chauhan



The Echo

Coordination and Editorial Helen Pettman

2204525

evingtonecho@gmail.com helenpettman@gmail.com

Advertisements.

2204525 evingtonecho@gmail.com

Diary - For community activities, send dates for diary to:

evingtonecho@gmail.com 2204525

Graphics

Jason Chauhan

Finance Nilesh Chauhan

Doug Gillain

Page editors, Reporters/Photography See names with articles

Distribution

2415153 Chris Hossack Harry Pettman 2204525 Ben Sherriff 2739709 074778766191

Terry Owen **Proof Readers**

Julia Hughes Addy Tyler Ralph Ireland

www.evingtonecho.co.uk evingtonecho@gmail.com

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This display, thoughtfully compiled by Marnie Karim, library staff and Echo volunteers, for the enjoyment of the community, recognises the global and local aspects of the 1914-18 war. As well as featuring Abdul Bux's wonderful gift of a crocheted blanket with 100 poppies, it includes: a book containing histories of local soldiers; 2014's unveiling of the restored war memorial and poppy bench; details of the buried time capsule containing projects by local school children; Aikifah Aboobaker's poem, 'Missing Heartbeats'; and details of community events funded by the Heritage Lottery's 'First World War - Then and Now' project. Suraiya Patel

EDITORIAL

YOUR ECHO NEEDS YOU!

As you will know, the Echo is produced and delivered by volunteers. We now require some more volunteers, over the age of 18. These volunteers would have a route to deliver to approximately 50 and 80 properties.

We are currently looking for people to support the delivery along or near the following roads:

Gamel Rd, Gamel Walk, Goodwood Rd Maisonettes (75 copies)

Chalvington Close, Yelverton Avenue and part of Marydene Drive (72 copies)

Byway Rd (61 copies)

Broadway Rd (95 copies)

Houses on Harwin Road and Coverack Walk (52 copies)

Headland Rd and Sidmouth Ave (75 copies) Evington Dr, Evington Close and Kilworth Drive (150 copies)

Stoughton Village (Open to negotiation).

We hope to be able to split the last one listed, as it is quite large, so if you could just help with part of this area this would be greatly appreciated.

We are often told how people enjoy the local reports the Echo contains and the information about local people and events. It would be a great shame if we were unable to continue to deliver in the above areas. The Echo is published, on average, every two months.

If nothing else, you will have a nice walk.



a family half hour walk?

If you can help please contact Mr Chris Hossack on 2415153 or me, Helen.

This issue gives us all lots to be proud of in The WW1 displays and Evington. remembrance, the 800 years of presence of St. Denys Church and their year long programme of activities, the successful environmental activities supported by Evington in Bloom, the new signage in the Arboretum recognising our history and the two pages of clubs, societies and events that take place (see pages 14 and

A Happy Christmas to all.

	Edition	Deadline	Published
	2019	(Friday)	(Thursday)
	Feb./March	18th Jan	7th Feb.
	2019	2019	2019
ı	April / May	15 March	4th April
	2019	2019	2019







ST PAUL'S REMEMBERS

(Commemorations for 100 years since the end of World War 1)

On 31st October, all pupils at St. Paul's Catholic School were busy learning about WW1 and helping to assemble acrylic poppies.

The inspiration for this project came from teachers Ruth Heatley, Zoe Walsh and Jimmy Chapman. They wanted to bring history to life through Design and Technology while raising money for the Royal British Legion and teaching all the pupils in the school to think about and remember the many people who gave their lives in this conflict.

This project was enthusiastically received by all pupils and staff. On this day, all the pupils watched videos produced by the Royal British Legion and wrote a thank-you letter, prayer or poem on the theme of thanking someone involved in the First World War for what they had done.

Throughout the lesson, all students had the opportunity to reflect on British values and their Catholic beliefs. Ruth Heatley commented, "It's been humbling to see all the students so engaged in what their ancestors

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have done for them, to give them better lives and a better world – it's so important the younger generations appreciate our shared history and never forget the great sacrifices past generations have made." All the activities of the pupils will go to form whole school displays.

WHAT DID THE PUPILS LEARN?

Three year 7 pupils (11 - 12 year olds) said, "We are upset that anyone should have risked their lives for the next generation. But we are proud that they would die for us." Another said, "I am sad and happy. Happy the soldiers made the sacrifice and sad they risked their lives. We would have done the same."

Three year 10 pupils (14 – 15 year olds) said, "The soldiers just didn't know what was happening. They were told different things. They must have been terrified. People from as far as India came to fight for others. They came regardless. Others, particularly women, helped make murder weapons. This can affect people. If WW1 happened today there would be protests because we have the freedom of the press. Then people didn't have a clue about what was happening. They were controlled and would not have wanted to look like cowards and they would have feared punishment. They were scared but brave."



11:15 SUNDAY SERVICE

MESSY CHURCH

ALL AGES 4:00PM 1ST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH

> KIDS ZONE AGES 5-11 TUESDAY 4:45PM - 6:00PM

THE ARK PARENTS, CARERS AND PRE-SCHOOLERS

> WEDNESDAY 9:30 - 11:30 COFFEE MORNING THURSDAY 10:30

PRAYER MEETING/HOUSEGROUP 7:45PM

> YOUTH ACTIVITY FRIDAY 7:30PM

For further details, contact Stephen Taylor 07902 946 004 Gamel Rd, Leicester LE5 6TB



Tuesday 25th December Christmas Day Service, 11:15am For further details, contact Stephen Taylor 07902 946 004

Peace Earth

Happy Christmas

from all of us at

Goodwood Evangelical Church

Gamel Road

Sunday 23rd December

5:00pm Carols by Candlelight

The Echo is printed by Spectrum Printing Services Tel: 2461717



A Remembrance collage made by children at Whitehall Primary School as part of a schools' competition run by Leicester Football Club to mark the Centenary of the end of World War 1.



A new flag pole was dedicated at St Denys Church on Remembrance Day. We are very grateful to the Evington Ward of the Leicester City Council for a grant towards this. We would also like to thank Mrs Phoebe Achurch for a generous donation, in memory of her husband Frank, which covered the remainder of

Ann Bennett Churchwarden



EVINGTON REMEMBERS

Including WW1 Armistice Centenary 1918 – 2018

On 11th November at 11.00am, about 300 people gathered at the War Memorial in Evington village to join in a service led by Rev. Anthony Lees-Smith and supported by 19th Leicester Scouts and Hamilton Air Cadets. Afterwards everyone was invited back to St. Denys Church and the Parish Centre for refreshments. They also witnessed the dedication of the new flagpole and saw the special WW1 blanket made by Abdul Bux and the WW1 sugar icing model by Pauline Sloan.













KENNETH RATCLIFFE 13th October 1919 - 6th October 2018



Ken, a long term resident of Evington who passed away peacefully in his sleep at the age of 98 (one week before his 99th birthday.) He leaves 2 daughters, 3 grandsons and 2 great grandchildren.

Ken's parents were the 3rd generation of traders in Leicester selling fruit and vegetables. The Ratcliffe's business, when founded at the beginning of industrialisation in Leicester, initially sold rabbits, these being the staple diet of the country people who moved at that time into Leicester for work. Later generations sold fruit and vegetables, rabbits losing popularity in the 50s. The original business was in Charnwood St. from which various branches of the family developed shops in other parts of

Ken initially joined the family business but WW2 intervened and Ken joined Leicestershire Regiment. He served in the Western Desert but it was the vivid memories of the battles in Crete, which ended in defeat and an ignominious retreat, that lived on in his

After the war, Ken returned to Leicester and the fruit trade, and married Kathleen, with whom he had corresponded through the war. In 1956 they brought a detached house on the new development of Downing Drive. He lived in this house for the next 60 years and he and Kathleen brought up a family of two girls.

Ken considered himself a 'founder member'

of The Dove, having been there with friends and neighbours on the opening night. He became a regular there, meeting with many local people and forging some good friendships over a pint of beer. This continued until he was in his early 90s, and difficulty walking stopped him making the journey.

In the 1960s Ken developed a second business from an interest in collecting antique guns, which he regarded as works of art. He restored the guns and began selling them to other collectors. He was completely selftaught. He was a practical man and was gifted in painting and wood carving and indeed anything that needed skill with his hands.

In 2015, it was decided that Ken could no longer manage in his own house, and his daughter moved him initially to a care home in Leicester, and later to a home in Norfolk much closer to where she lived. He was popular with the nurses on account of him being 'a real gentleman'.

Ken was kind, generous, honourable and above all stoical. The latter quality applies particularly in his latter years when he suffered increasing infirmities. He never grumbled or complained and remained in good humour,throughout his life, often saying "You can always think of someone worse off than vourself". His funeral was held at St Denvs Church, Evington in accordance with Ken's

Anne Tester (former neighbour and with help from his daughter)

THE COMMUNITY HARMONY SCARF

A visit to the Vintage 186 Café on Main Street, Evington may encourage you to have a go at

The photograph shows Pravin Patel modelling the Community Harmony Scarf for Evington. The idea of the scarf started in 2017 as part of a well-being programme for young people at Oadby Youth Centre. The project is spearheaded by Clare who drops in from time



to time to see how the project is progressing. In the end it is both a story about celebrating our community and also about communities coming together to make a scarf long enough to wrap around the whole world. At the grass roots level it's about bringing people together to have a little chat and choose ribbons. But It is also about us sharing stories and moments and wisdom because we all have interesting and important things to say.

Pravin Patel works as a volunteer distributor for the Evington Echo. He also helps out as a volunteer at other community events including Evington Village Fete and Show and the Place of Welcome on Tuesdays at Graceworks (Wycliffe United Reformed Church, The Common). He likes to help in the Café too.

For more information about the Community Scarf project and how you can get involved, contact Clare on 07732 774170 or email oadbyfsf@gmail.com or just go along to the Vintage 186 Café and ask to have a go at knitting.

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PAULINE HALL 1934 – 2018



If you have ever walked anywhere in Evington over the last 30 years or so, you will surely have met Pauline Hall. You would probably have just known her as 'the lady with the dog', but you will have met her. Add the words 'very chatty and friendly'. There you go. Now you remember her.

Pauline was always out and about all over Evington, faithful canine companion by her side; recently Sophie, her black Spaniel, and previously Ollie or Max, her two big Golden Retrievers. She would happily take the time to stop and chat with anyone she met along the way, especially if they asked about her dog.

Born Pauline Cobbin in December 1934, she grew up in New Parks, as the youngest of 6 children. From an early age her love of animals was obvious — she was besotted with her Spaniel, Dinah.

She married George Hall in October 1956 and moved to Rushey Mead, where they raised their son, Chris. Together, they spent many family holidays climbing hills in the Lake District. Apparently, she actually hated walking, especially where heights were concerned. But she persevered. Ironically, after all these years, walking is something she is remembered for...

As well as being a wife and devoted mother, Pauline spent many years working as an

administrator at Grahame Gardner Ltd (the school outfitters), then at Parmeko and Kempstons Printers, and finally, as a records clerk at Leicester General Hospital.

In 1986 she moved here to Evington, in Thurnview Road where she made so many friends.

After George passed away, Pauline's newfound independence took her off on foreign cruises- no more Lake District! (Less walking, fewer hills!) As well as joining many local clubs, she threw herself into knitting, card making and embroidery. She would spend hours hand-stitching or folding exquisite Christmas cards — a present in its own right! And her garden! Oh, how she loved that garden! The front, in traditional cottage garden style, was a joy to behold - a beautifully rampant riot of textures and colours.

Alas, after a fall, failing eyesight, frailty and a constant need for oxygen curtailed her sociable dog-walking. Whilst I was out walking Sophie for her, so many people came up to me, concerned about 'the lady with the dog'. It was astounding to discover just how many friends she had around the village, even if they didn't know her by name.

Even so, she remained active and cheerful, despite longer stays in hospital, where she knew everybody and regaled visitors with tales about the staff and patients, her new friends. She enjoyed the company of Chris and Lisa, and her four, ever-growing grandsons Tom, Josh, Niall, and Cameron. She could still enjoy the talents of her beloved Andre Rieu and Neil Diamond, and, albeit slightly out of focus, her old movies and musicals, whilst frantically knitting her famous, brightly coloured Humpty Dumptys and triangular Lenny The Lion doorstops, which were the talk of Glenfield Hospital. Dozens of her creations had already been donated to children's wards and she would knit one for anyone that asked, in return for a donation to LOROS.

Pauline fell asleep on September 18th 2018, aged 83. She was a kind and lovely lady and a true and loyal friend. She will be missed by so many people.



MAYFLOWER CHURCH COMMUNITY CENTRE - KEEP FIT



This Keep Fit business offers two free sessions every Wednesday from 6.15m to 7.15pm to introduce you to Sharon's circuit style of Keep Fit training. If you enjoy it you can book and pay for further sessions at Sharon's studio. To book call Sharon Dosanjh on 0753846672.









Our programme launched in October 2015. More than 800 people over 50 years old in the Evington area have been involved with **Leicester Ageing Together**.

As funding comes to an end, we are looking at ways of sustaining activities and support to help reduce social isolation.

- Do you have a family member living on their own?
- Is a neighbour on their own?
- Are you on your own?

Give & Take is a new project through Leicester Ageing Together that offers support to people over 50.

Our volunteers are able to;

- Visit at home for a chat and a cuppa
- · Accompany people to appointments, the shops or social outings
- Support to use a mobile phone, tablet or computer
- Offer respite service, giving a carer some free time

For more information, or to volunteer, call Emily 0116 249 8851 or 07846 516 017

The Silver Line. Arranges to call you at the same time each week, using the same volunteer, to build a rapport and friendship 0800 4 70 80 90

Contact the Elderly. Monthly afternoon tea parties for those who are 75+. Call Mary Robinson 01535 632 592

Many interesting local groups, organisations and events are detailed at the back of The Echo

'Listening Bench' Pilot scheme

Do you just feel you want a good old chat to someone?

Leicester Ageing Together is piloting a Listening Bench initiative at **Vintage 186 Café**, 11 Main St. Every Tuesday 10.30 – 11.30am. Look out for the sign and a person sitting on the bench alone! Come along, get chatting and feel good about it.



Anything Goes Social Group Open to new members – people over 50 who live in Evington and would like to try new activities, meet new people and go on day trips. At Evington Park House every Wednesday 10.30 to 12.30. Join us for a cup of tea, a slice of cake and a nice chat. Call Yasmin for more information on 0116 223 7367

www.leicesterageingtogether.org.uk hello@leicesterageingtogether.org.uk 16 New Walk, Leicester LE1 6UB

0116 249 8850

Leicester Ageing together is supported by the Big Lottery Fund using National Lottery Funding.

800 YEARS OF PRESENCE AND PRAYER

St Denys Church has been at the heart of Evington village life for such a long time and has seen the area change rapidly in the last century to become the wonderfully multi-faith and densely populated city suburb it is today.

On 9th October 2019 it will be exactly 800 years since the current Christian church was consecrated by the Bishop of Lincoln and today's church community are keen to celebrate such an impressive anniversary with everyone in Evington, of all faiths and

It is not just the village that has changed over 800 years. The church building too has been altered and expanded for changing times. The oldest part that still stands is the bell tower and some say this could even have been a chapel to the old manor house that stood in Piggy's Hollow. The font that is still used today for baptisms also dates from the early 1200s. The church served everyone in the local parish, from the lords of the manor to the servants and farm labourers. The north and south aisles were built in the 14th century to make room for a growing congregation and the roof was raised adding a layer of clerestory windows to let in more light.

The building suffered during the Reformation and still bears the scars. The effects can be seen in the remnants of medieval stained glass, statue plinths without statues, and marks in the walls indicating where an old screen separating parts of the church was removed. In the 19th century the Burnaby family who lived in Evington Park House played a big part in restoring the church after it had fallen into disrepair. New stained glass windows were added at this time, and after the First World War a further memorial window and new porch were installed.

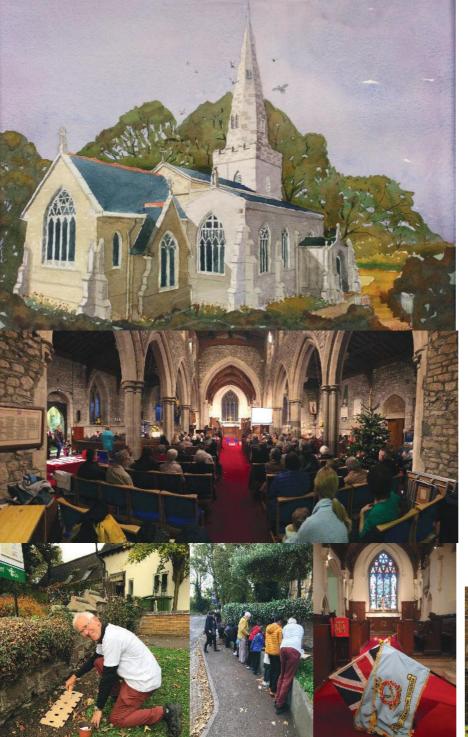
During the Second World War, the 504th US Parachute Regiment were based on Shady Lane and St Denys became their place of worship. The American flags at the back of church were a gift in thanks for the church's welcome during this time.

In more recent years, the back of the church has been reordered, with pews removed and red carpet laid, and the wonderful new parish centre was completed in 2013 for community use.

Through all these changes, the worshipping community at St Denys have continued to pray for all those living in the parish and to be here for anyone in need. That commitment to pray and to be present for all who need the church in Evington is still keenly felt by today's congregation.

Motivated by their Christian faith and the example of Jesus, they work for the good of the wider community in many ways with their own programme of regular groups and drop-ins, cooperating with other local churches and faith communities. 19th Leicester Scouts and 2502 (Hamilton) Air Cadets, supporting the Village Fete and Show and offering many school visits throughout the year. There are plans to appoint a youth and community worker in 2019 to build on this important work.

The current Vicar of St Denys (the 70th recorded!), Anthony Lees-Smith comments, "In a world that seems in constant flux, there is something miraculous about the continuity of presence and prayer offered by an 800 year old community that is just as alive and full of faith as it ever was, still believing that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and for ever."



PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

800 years of Christian presence and prayer is an amazing thing to be able to celebrate and an exciting programme of events has been planned to enable the whole community to get involved. The collaborative painting featured on the front cover, led by Nigel King and Anita Barrand is a great symbol of this in the way it brought so many people together on the day of the Evington Fete and Show to create a beautiful centrepiece for the parish centre. Nigel said "It proved to be a very enjoyable day and all enjoyed spending time in the lovely church and each other's company as well as the relaxing painting process. The finished work is dynamic and benefits from the wide variety of painting styles and colours interpreted by the hands of so many individuals." It is hoped this might inspire an exhibition of paintings of St Denys during the 2019 Summer Fete.

The 800th celebrations begin properly on New Year's Eve 2018 with a special service and pealing of bells, as well as mulled wine and mince pies.

With its stunning setting, St Denys has always been a popular church for weddings and on 16th February there will be a thanksgiving for all those who have been married in the church. As the spring unfolds, we look forward to seeing the impact of 800 daffodil bulbs flowering in front of the church, all planted by children from Mayflower, Linden, Oaklands and Krishna Avanti primary schools this October.

Throughout the year the church will be hosting a series of talks and concerts, including a unique performance of works by 18th century Evington landowner, James Sherrard MD.

Plans are underway with Heritage Schools Programme for an ambitious project involving many of the schools in the parish and there will be a special summer Welly Walk for families with young children.

In July, to commemorate the wartime links to the Shady Lane camp, a 1940s vicarage garden party will be held across the road from the church with music, stalls, games and afternoon tea

St Denys was the first Bishop of Paris and so in the early autumn, all are invited to join a pilgrimage to Paris and walk in St Denys's footsteps to find out more about this Christian saint after whom our parish church is named.

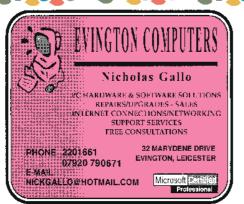
The culmination of the year will be a community production of C.S.Lewis's 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe' in November, directed by Evington schoolteacher and veteran of the Little Theatre, Michael Bull. Look out for casting auditions in late spring 2019! There are plenty of parts available.

And on St Denys Day itself, 9th October 2019, the Bishop of Leicester, Martyn Snow, will join the church and community in Evington to see some of the schools' work and enjoy a big birthday celebration and thanksgiving service.

Programmes, sponsored by Bennett's, are available in the church and in various places around the village. 800th anniversary T-shirts are also available for just £5! Anthony Lees-Smith













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CONGRATULATIONS TO EVINGTON IN BLOOM



This picture taken at the Leicester Environmental Awards Ceremony shows some of the volunteers who work with their 'It's Your Neighbourhood' groups and make up Evington in Bloom. The Bloom and IYN schemes were started by the Royal Horticultural Society and are now the largest growing environmental campaign in Britain.

The Evington in Bloom trophy - a silver tray - is being held by Cllr. Deepak Bajaj (Councillor for Evington ward) and represents both the support from Leicester City Council and the fact that once again Evington has been judged to be the best urban area in the East Midlands and won a Silver Gilt award in the regional competition and a Silver award in the National competition.

This photograph also shows Helen Pettman, the Evington Echo editor holding the Cllr. Baliit Singh Award which marks the City Council's praise for seven years of Evington in Bloom's successful entries into the East Midlands in Bloom competition from 2012 to 2018.

The main recognition for these awards has to go to the many people who promote the three pillars of the Royal Horticultural Society for Bloom activities. (Community participation, environmental responsibility

and gardening practices). The IYN groups represented in this picture are all in Evington ward and they are showing their certificates and prizes.

*Graceworks - a gardening project at Wycliffe United Reformed Church (Outstanding – Level 5)

*Friends of Piggy's Hollow (Outstanding – Level 5) *Downing Drive Friends and Neighbours (Outstanding – Level 5)

*Evington Village Green (Thriving – Level 4) *Grow and Thrive - allotment project at Rowlatt's

Hill allotments - (Advancina – Level 3)

*The Burnaby Gardens - gardens in Evington Park - (Advancing - Level 3)

There was also a Silver Gilt award for a private garden in Church Road in the Best Front Garden competition , a Silver award for 'The Dove' in the best pub competition and a Gold award for Mayflower Primary School in the Best School Garden Competition. Babooji Odedra and the Gujerati gardeners received the Judges' award for the renovation works at the Burnaby Gardens.

WHAT THE JUDGES SAID:

Evington has a broad-based community and Bloom projects have engaged an exceptional number of groups in a beautifully positive way. This is a place where everybody feels they can

make a positive contribution in whichever way they would like: the overall result is a very inclusive and encouraging culture.

Evington in Bloom is made up of a remarkable eight 'It's Your Neighbourhood' groups. Each of these groups make a robust and sustainable initiative.

Graceworks project is a real shining example of how a community garden can be created; learning about Aquaponics was a real treat.

Piggy's Hollow is a fascinating landscape and it will be very beneficial for next year's judging to see interpretation boards in situ and learn more about what the management plan has in store for the habitats on the site.

At Downing Drive it was encouraging to see the erection of birdboxes and the creation of dead hedges to attract wildlife. The group maintain planters by the shops and organise litter picking activities and brook cleaning.

There were some well-placed containers of seasonal bedding in Evington village, with complementing colours and textures. The grouping of the planters was particularly effective. There were well-placed signs of exceptional quality about the history and architecture of the village.

It was pleasing to see some horticultural content within the park incorporating the tree

The group must be commended for its successful fight for public toilets in Evington

Mayflower Primary School garden has an excellent ethos and the children really understand about growing their own food and looking after the environment.





NATURE'S AUTUMN **PAINTBOX**



I love Autumn. It's definitely my favourite season. Fantastic natural shades are everywhere: an amazing palette of flame reds and burnt ochres fall from the trees and swirl around my feet.

But here's where my passions really lie; pumpkins. Also squash and gourds; they are all part of the same family (with courgettes and cucumbers – the cucurbits.) Pumpkins come in such an astounding range of colours, shapes, sizes and textures! Pictured is just a small (!) selection of my collection that adorns my kitchen worktop on an almost year-round basis. They can store for months - I admire them until they start to go a little soft, then they end up in the pan. Some are grown by myself and fellow allotmenteers at Evington Hilltop; others acquired from various supermarkets and Cattows Farm pick-yourown-pumpkin field (at Heather near Coalville) in the run-up to Halloween.

So where to start? Well, my favourites are the intricately crumpled, orange, green and white, stripy Turk's Turban (like an Afghan hat) and the steel-blue Crown Prince squashes. No way could you carve these - they are so solid! But the flesh is so rich and flavourful, not watery, and the most intense orange. Definitely the best to eat. (Pumpkin soup?

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Thai Red Pumpkin curry? No, wait. Mmm ... Pumpkin Pie!) Then you have the crinkly, flat

Patty Pan squash and pleated Acorn squash. lovely to look at with flesh more like a courgette. Weird. wonderful and warty Knucklehead and other peculiar gourds are more for show, with their knobbles, lumps and bumps proving attractive at that spooky time of year. Then you will definitely recognise the bottle-shaped Butternut squash with its great eating qualities and the traditional Halloween

pumpkin, grown for size and ease of carving rather than flavour. Oh. ves - size ...I'd forgotten about that. Some can be enormous -Dill's Atlantic Giants (the world record holders) can easily reach the size of a Mini! ("Luckily not on your allotment," says Mr Tyler. No room for those in the kitchen!) I'm told my passion is verging on an obsession - I have ceramic and

So, hopefully, you'll never look at a pumpkin the same again. And remember (to mis-quote The Dogs' Trust) – a pumpkin is for life (or at least all year) – not just for Halloween! Addy Tyler

HOWARD'S WONKY CARROTS

Recently Howard, a local resident and avid park walker (no dog), started growing flowers and vegetables which has now grown into an obsession, so much so that his partner Christina hardly ever sees him (no complaints from her).

His produce includes some rather oddly shaped carrots which, as you can see from the photograph, appear to be something that could feature in a horror movie or a really bad nightmare. However they taste delicious and you just have to ignore the way they look!



growing oddly shaped vegetables he also has branched out into making pickles and chutney from his produce. I can vouch for his red tomato chutnev as he actually parted with a jar of it for me to sample

and it was amazing. At this rate we could have another cottage industry in Evington. Keep on growing.

Kally Kordova

A GOOD DAY'S WORK



Through 'Leicestershire Cares', Nylacast apprentices found out about the community gardening plans for Evington in Bloom's 'Grow and Thrive' project at Rowlatts' Hill allotments and they completed a day's work clearing brambles, putting down weed suppressant fabric and bark chippings and making a compost bin. Their group challenge was to renew the wood surround to three raised beds. Thank you Nylacast for being such a great

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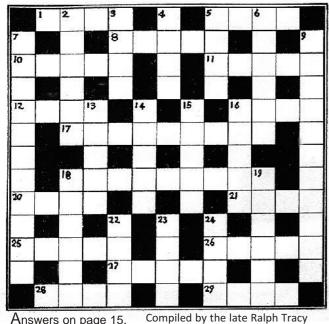
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Answers on page 15.

A GUINNESS WORLD RECORD ATTEMPT



On Sunday 18th November, a large group of dancers from Attitude4dance, which is based at Evington Village Hall, participated in The Performers

Project Tapathon Guinness World Record Attempt.

This event raises money for children in need and is a Nationwide event organised by the Performers' Project Team. Whilst raising money for Children in Need, the record attempt is to have the most amount of tap dancers dancing the same routine at the same time. It is an exciting event.

We are still waiting to hear if it was a record but Attitude4dance raised nearly £300. Well done to all. Classes are taught from age 3 upwards in a variety of genres. Please contact us for details on 2716783.

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EXPRESSWAY PROPOSAL

Transport bosses have set out their case for building a major bypass round the eastern and southern side of Leicester making an A46 Expressway. It would loop from the Hobby House

precise route has not been released.

ARE YOU AGED BETWEEN 11

AND 25? CAN YOU

CONTRIBUTE TO THE POLICE

AND CRIME PLAN?

The Police and Crime Commissioner's Youth

Commission Members have launched a Police

and Crime Survey and want to hear from young

people aged 11-25 about crime and policing in

their area. The information provided by young

people will help to shape the delivery of the

Police and Crime Plan and feedback will help to

improve policies and services. Link to complete

https://www.leics.pcc.police.uk/Have-Your-

Sav/Consultations/Youth-Commission-Police-

The consultation closes on 16 December 2018.

If you would like a paper copy of the survey to

A. J.

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80,000 little hats for smoothie bottles. Can you help? For each be-hatted smoothie bottle sold, Age roundabout in Syston round the city and join UK receives 25p to help the M1 at a junction near Whetsone. The support older people. For

more information contact 2992233. (Ideas and knitting patterns at thebigknit.co.uk

AGE UK - CAN

YOU HELP THIS

CHARITY?

Age UK also have a campaign to make someone's Christmas special. This Christmas hundreds of older people will have to stay in hospital because they are not well enough to go home. Could you donate a present? To

www.leicestershospitals.nhs.uk/makingchrist masspecial or contact Nikky Miles on 2992233. (Last donation date is Friday 14th December







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EVINGTON PARK BOWLING CLUB

We enjoyed our 2018 Season Dinner and Presentation of Competition Trophies at Scraptoft Golf Club in November. Our Guest of Honour - Mr George Babalov - of Bowls Development Alliance encouraged us to expand our local membership. The event was the culmination of a sunny and hot summer of friendship and fun, and playing bowls - which is what you get at our Club, we trust!

So, come and join us - we are particularly looking for those under-represented at our Club - young people, woman and those physically and perhaps visually disadvantaged. But we are looking for more men as well, the more the merrier for 2019. The new season starts in April and Monday evenings are a good time to get some useful instruction, free of charge. Just drop in and expect a warm welcome. David Shenherd

LEICESTER BLACK CABS

Leicester Black Cabs have been helping people get around Leicester for over eight years. They have a large fleet of Hackney carriages, all with disabled access. The service is flexible and prompt and the rates are reasonable with no surcharges. You can be assured of a courteous, careful driver who uses a safe and spaceous vehicle.

The owner, Khalid, who lives in Evington, says, "I want to give a good service to everyone. Our cabs also specialise in wheelchair access so that people with mobility problems can get where they want and need not be isolated. Access into the Black cabs is via the ramps which allow comfortable boarding. There is easy access both for people with mobility problems using a wheelchair or those not using one."

Black Cabs will be advertising on the back page of the Evington Echo for the next year. For a Black Cab ring 44-222-44.

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BLOOMING EXOTICS!





Global warming and climate change can hardly be described as a good thing, but it could possibly be having a few interesting, positive side effects.

In my garden I have two Loquat trees, (Eriobotrya Japonica), both lovingly nurtured from pips from rarely encountered fruits over 20 years ago, (then abandoned down the end of the garden in the shade beneath the apple tree, where they have hung on for dear life and have fought to become beautiful, evergreen trees over ten feet tall!) They have never flowered. Until now. They are covered in clusters of star-shaped flowers, with a delectable honeysuckle-like fragrance. I can't imagine that flowers in November will actually lead to anything, but I have my fingers crossed for the luscious fruits, similar to a smoothskinned apricot, with a crisper, apple-like taste and texture, that I have seen growing wild in

I don't know if these surprise blooms are due to the trees' possible maturity (both at exactly the same time), or those scorching temperatures we endured this summer. Think it may be the heat, as others elsewhere in UK have reported unexpected flowering too. Many friends have also reported (and shared!) bumper crops of figs and other exotic fruits. Who knows? Will have to wait and see.

VINTAGE 186 CAFE BAR SUPPORTING LOCAL PEOPLE

Community links are being forged in our lovely new village cafe. In addition to delicious food, the chatting and listening and community scarf projects, the gift shop supports local crafts people whose varied creations are for sale at bargain prices - ideal Christmas presents! The monthly Open Mic evening (third Wednesday of the month) showcases local musicians who can turn up and play or just enjoy listening. Ditto the Jazz on a Thursday lunchtimes.

For other varied events see vintage 186.com or their facebook page.

THE STORY OF PARKS SHADY LANE ARBORETUM



This new sign in open space by the Arboretum car park on Shady Lane, highlights Evington's hidden history. The panel focusses on the camp for the US 82nd Airborne Division in 1942. This housed the 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment which took part in the airborne assault on the Waal bridges in Holland two year later. From 1944 there were huts for the Italian and German Prisoners of War who were then employed on local farms or as

Other parts of the board mention Piggy's Hollow and the Arboretum. Leicester City Council are grateful to the Heritage Lottery for funding for this 'Story of Parks' project.

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

Keith Cordona is a new advertiser for a local property maintenance business which is offering a service to Evington residents. If you have problems with your house and want advice, why not give him a ring on 07468 513

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Page 12 **Support Your Local Businesses** Page 13

CLUBS, SOCIETIES. CLASSES AND EVENTS

AT EVINGTON VILLAGE HALL LE5 6FA

Bookings at the Village Hall. Tel: 07517167048.

EVINGTON GARDEN CLUB

Indoor meetings are held from 7.30pm until 9.15pm on the third Tuesday of the month in the Village Hall. Free adjacent car parking. Visitors to meetings £2. Tel: Peter Jackson on 273 5487 for further information.

Tuesday 11th Dec. 'An Old Fashioned Christmas.' An illustrated talk by Felicity Austin.

Tuesday 15th Jan. 2019. 'Kew and Syon Gardens.' An illustrated talk by Val Williams.

LEICESTERSHIRE CALLIGRAPHERS

We meet monthly, usually on the third Saturday afternoon, to practise the art of beautiful writing. Non-members are welcome for a fee of £3.50 per meeting. Tel: 285 6436 or email: leicscalligraphers@gmail.com

BABY SENSORY

Wednesdays 9.00am - 1.30pm. Contact Anna Chaggar on 07813203048.

SILVER SWANS BALLET FOR OVER 50S

Thursdays 10.30am - 11.30am. Contact Vanessa Burzynski on 07765407323.

MONDAY YOGA 11.00am - 12.00 noon. Steph Yelts. 07525000511.

TUESDAY BHANGRA BLAZE. 6.00pm - 7.00pm. Preet Patel. 07525153284.

THURSDAY SILVER SWANS

10.30am - 11.30am. Vanessa Burzynski Tel: 07765407323.

MINI PROFESSORS 10.30am - 11.30am on Fridays. Deepti Gumbe. 07709343045

INDIAN MUSIC GROUP Tuesdays 3.45pm to 4.45pm. Tel: 07541888528.

RECOVERY ASSISTANCE DOGS Fridays 1.30pm - 2.30pm. Tel: 07932433148 or 2623946.

RECORDERS Meet twice a month on a Saturday afternoon 2.30pm - 5.00pm.

AT EVINGTON PARK HOUSE LE5 6DE

(If you are new to an activity at Evington House and you find the front door is closed, just ring the door bell and your group leader will answer it. Please make sure you are no more than 15 minutes early for your chosen group.)

ANYTHING GOES SOCIAL GROUP

Weds. 10.30am - 12.30pm. (See page 7)

BILAL YOGA For happiness and good health with Kausar Bux. Calming exercises and controlled breathing for people of all ages. Work at your own pace. Beginners welcome. Wednesday 2.00pm - 3.00pm. £1 a session.

THURSDAY YOGA GROUP

Thursdays 10.30am - 11.30am. £1 a session. This is a led session.

CROCHET FOR ALL

Tuesdays 10.00am to 11.30am. Learn to crochet with Abdul Bux. £1.50 a session. Just come along.

BURNABY GARDENS, EVINGTON PARK LE5 6DE

KEEP FIT WITH GARDENINGThursdays at 11.30am

Please ring the doorbell at Evington House at 11.30am. After that please join the gardening group behind the house in the Burnaby gardens.

Thursdays 11.30am - 12.30pm. All tools provided. Afterwards, approx. 12.30pm - 1.30pm, enjoy the rewards of a free lunch in the Sun lounge room in Evington House.

For more information and to book a lunch contact Helen on 2204525/07910431044.

AT EVINGTON LIBRARY EVINGTON SCRIBBLERS

Evington Scribblers meet fortnightly in Evington library on Thursdays from 10.30am to write poems, stories and articles. New members are welcome and friendly feedback given. Enquire at library for dates of meetings.

EVINGTON PHILOSOPHY CLUB

Meet fortnightly at the same time as the Scribblers Club. Enquire at library for dates of meetings.

EVINGTON TODDLERS GROUP Tuesdays from 10.00am - 12.00noon.

READING BUDDIES

Every Saturday 11.00am - 1.00pm. A fun, free activity to help children aged 5-11 years with their reading. Operated on a first come first served basis.

AT ST CHAD'S CHURCH AND PARISH HALL, COLEMAN ROAD

ASIAN LUNCH CLUB

Wednesdays 11.00am - 2.00pm. Contact Suresh on 07801101308. Lifts may be available.

AT EVINGTON YOUTH CLUB

The Common (the road by the Library). **YOUTH CLUB**

Fridays for 8-14 yrs, 6.30pm - 8.30pm. Wednesdays Girls' night 5.30pm - 7.30pm. Tel: 273 5542 or 235 1572.

WHY NOT COME ALONG TO BINGO AT EVINGTON YOUTH CLUB?

for a game of Bingo, a cuppa and a chat. Everyone welcome. Eyes down. Monday evening 7.45pm - 9.15pm Maureen and Bill. Tel: 273 5542.

AT THE PARISH CENTRE (CHURCH ROAD) EVINGTON LOCAL HISTORY AND HERITAGE GROUP MEETINGS

Meetings held from 7.00pm - 9.00pm on the second Thursday in the month at St. Denys Parish Centre. Contact Chris Hossack on 241 5153, chris hossack@yahoo.co.uk

13th December Virginia Wright. Christmas Customs. Some familiar and some more unusual. Let's get in the Christmas spirit!

10th January 2019. Sandra Moore. What business is it of yours? Performance storyteller creates a show by introducing us to some of the business people laid to rest in Belgrave cemetery, including a button manufacturer, chemist, railway entrepreneur, horse dealer, to name but a few.

MONDAY MEETS

1st and 3rd Mondays every month. 2.00pm - 4.00pm in the Parish Centre. For anyone who would like some company, is feeling lonely or going through bereavement. Enjoy some time in which to relax. Next meetings are on 17th Dec., 7th and 21st Jan. and 4th Feb.

ST DENYS CHURCH ACTIVITIES

(Venues are at St. Denys church or the parish centre next to the church unless otherwise stated)

Tuesday 11th December Carol Singing at The Cow and Plough. 7.00pm.

Monday 17th December. Radio Leicester 'Sing Christmas' at The Dove. 7.00pm.

Saturday 22nd December. 2.00pm. Christmas Dog Walk starting from the Parish Centre.

Sunday 23rd December. 6.00pm. 9 Lessons and Carols by Candlelight.

Christmas Eve. 4.00pm. Crib Service. 11.15pm Midnight Communion.

Christmas Day. 10.00am. Informal Family Communion.

New Year's Eve. 11.45pm. Ringing in of New Year with a special celebration to mark 800 years of the church. There will also be a short service and mulled wine & mince pies.

Sunday 6th January. 6.00pm. Informal readings and carols for Epiphany.

Saturday 12th January. 9.30am - 12.30pm. Valuation Day in the Parish Centre - Come and have your treasures valued by an experienced auctioneer. £1 per item. Refreshments available.

Saturday 2nd February. Auction Sale in the Parish Centre for Church Funds. The church will receive 20° fof the sales (or you can donate the other 80° fig you wish). Catalogues will be available at £1. Viewing is from 8.30am and the sale will start at

10.00am. Please phone Nigel Dearman on 07764 466045 if you have any items for sale or for further information. Collection is available. Entries already include brass, copper and glassware. Bric a brac. Collectors' Items. Costume jewellery, Pictures and prints. Coins and medals. Garden tools. Larger items can also be accepted.

Everyone is welcome at all these services and events.

AT EVINGTON CHAPEL LECTURES 2018/19

Saturdays at 7.00pm, God willing.

A Taste of the Puritans

8th December. The Bruised Reed. Richard Sibbes. Mr. Paul Watts.

26th January. The Pilgrim's Progress and the Holy War. John Bunyan. Mr. Roland Burrows.

23rd February. The Mystery of Providence. John Flavel. Mr. David Cooke.

23rd March. A Lifting up for the Downcast. William Bridge. Mr. Richard Brooks.

Further information:

www.evingtonchapel.org.uk Tel: 241 2087 All meetings are held in the upper lecture room in Evington Chapel, Main Street, Evington LE5 6FH (Lift available.)

AT ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH stjoseph-leicester.btck.co.uk ST. JOSEPH'S TABLE

10.30am - 3.30pm every Tuesday and Wednesday. Hot and cold food available in the Parish Centre: light bites and home bakes, jacket potatoes, salads, cream teas and more.

AT CHURCH OF GOD, DOWNING DRIVE

CHARITY COFFEE & CHAT Meets 10.30am - 12.00 noon every Friday morning at The Church of God Annexe on Downing Drive. Come and relax with friends and neighbours and support good causes.

NHS DOWNING DRIVE SURGERY COFFEE MORNINGS

Meets Monday mornings 10.15am - 12.00 noon. Church of God, Downing Drive.

"We preach not ourselves,

but Christ lesus the Lord"

AT GOODWOOD EVANGELICAL CHURCH, GAMEL ROAD

MESSY CHURCH

Sundays. For further details contact Stephen on 079 0294 6004.

THE ARK TODDLER GROUP for 0 – 4 years and carers. Goodwood Evangelical Church, Gamel Road. Wednesday in term time. 9.30am – 11.30am. £1 family per session. Tel: Stephen on 079 0294 6004.

COFFEE MORNING Thursdays 10.30am.

KIDS ZONE 5 - 11 yrs. Tuesdays 4.45pm - 6.00pm.

YOUTH ACTIVITY Fridays from 7.30pm.

AT GRACEWORKS (WYCLIFFE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH, THE COMMON)

(Between the Library and Linden Primary School)

A Place of Welcome. Every Tuesday 12.30pm - 2.30pm. Open for everyone. Come along for friendship and hospitality, a free lunch of soup and bread, someone who will listen and chat. Children's area/breast-feeding friendly. You will be made most welcome.

YOUTH GROUPS AT OTHER LOCATIONS SCOUT GROUPS

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E-mail: enquiries@evingtonscouts.org.uk Website: www.evingtonscouts.org.uk Tel: Howard Sloan on 220 9017.

9TH LEICESTER, STOUGHTON ROAD
Tel: Pauline Burton on 273 6411.

24TH LEICESTER (ST. PHILIP'S AIR SCOUTS)

Evington Drive. Tel: Peter Hardy on 276 0457.

HAMILTON AIR CADETS Hamilton

Community College, Keyham Lane, LE5 1RT. For 13 - 17 yrs. Monday/Thursdays 7.00pm - 9.30pm.

Tel: 07968 159844 Email: JoinUs@2502SqnATC.com Website: www.2502atc.com

CONTACTING POLITICIANS

For information about meeting the politicians in Evington ward, North Evington ward and Stoneygate ward tel: 454 6360.
For MP Keith Vaz tel: 266 8008.
For MP Jon Ashworth tel: 262 7297.

EVINGTON CHAPEL (Baptist)

Welcome to our meetings

Sunday: I I am and 6pm Wednesday: 7.30pm Other meetings as announced

www.evingtonchapel.org.uk

For further information contact: 0116 2412087

NEPTUNE SWIMMING CLUB

Evington Pool. Tel: Evington Leisure Centre 299 5575.

MARVELLOUS MEDICINE TALK

Thursday 13th December 6.00pm - 7.30pm. Diabetes in children and young people. Lecture Theatre, Clinical Education Centre at Leicester General Hospital.

Speaker: Dr. Rem Sundaram, Consultant Paediatrician and Paediatric Diabetologist.

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Suresh on 07974 306016,

email: suresh.mistry1@ntlworld.com



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