



Evington Echo

www.EvingtonEcho.co.uk

Keeping you up to date with Evington's news
Issue 279

The newspaper of Friends of Evington Charity No. 1148649
August and September 2019

Circulation 5,950

**FRIENDS
OF EVINGTON
HEALTH FAIR**

ORGANISED BY
FRIENDS OF EVINGTON
PARK

**SATURDAY
21ST SEPT**
EVINGTON PARK
12 NOON - 4PM

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SPORTS**

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Community
Connectors



Leicester
Ageing
Together



Leicester
City Council



The Echo

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EDITORIAL

As you know, the Evington Echo is managed entirely by volunteers. Due to the retirement of two longstanding members, we now need two more volunteers for the following routes:

1. Mayflower Road (71 copies)
2. Kilverstone Avenue, Ballater Close and other roads in that area (92 copies).

The Echo is published every two months and is the only magazine with specifically local news. You can enjoy a nice walk and perhaps could find a friend or family member to help you. For holiday periods we have other volunteers who would cover the rounds.

If you can help, please contact Mr. Chris Hossack on 2413153, or me, Helen Pettman on 2204525.

The Evington Echo website has now been updated and the front page shows current blogs about Projects and Campaigns, Featured articles and Clubs and Societies. As usual there is a .pdf of the magazine that you can download. Go to www.evingtonecho.co.uk. If you would like your Club to feature, please send me your blog and a picture.

Helen

COMMUNITY SPIRIT THRIVES IN EVINGTON

Evington Village Fete and Show Evington Village Green LE5 6DN 10th August 2019 from 12.00noon – 5.00pm

There's lots to see and do as usual; just come along. There's the show tent highlighting a wide variety of local talent. The arena area has great entertainment. There are many stalls on the Village Green. Refreshments are available at the Village Hall and Parish Centre. You can enjoy music and a 1940s re-enactment in the Church. The History and Heritage exhibition at the chapel is not to be missed! See you there.

Evington Health Fair Evington Park LE5 6DE Saturday 21st Sept. 2019 from 12 noon to 4.00pm

This sponsored Health Fair will give you lots and lots of information about local groups and what they do. There will be many activities including sport, music, charity stalls, NHS information and support, crafts, youth groups and Leicester Ageing Together.

Edition 2019	Deadline	Published
Oct. / Nov	Fri. 13th Sept.	Thurs.3rd Oct.
Dec. / Jan.20	Fri. 15th Nov.	Thurs. 5th Dec.

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MISSING

PLEASE CHECK GARAGES / SHEDS



Have you seen Leo?

Leo went missing on 30th April 2019. He is a grey tabby, 2 1/2 years old, male. He is neutered and chipped. You could have seen him in your garden or even crossing from your garden to next door. If you have please could you contact 07902598911 or 2738735.



Dancers on the Village Green at last year's Fete and Show

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Would you like to take a plot on? Details of plots to rent available on the day

Rowlatts Hill Allotment Society
Blakenhall Road, Evington, LE5 4LD

<https://www.facebook.com/RowlattsHillAllotmentSociety/>

BELLA WRIGHT REMEMBERED



Friday July 5th marked the Centenary of the much remembered death of Bella Wright of Stoughton known as the Green Bicycle Case.

Bella, the twenty one year old eldest child of seven of a farm labourer, living in a then tiny cottage in Stoughton, left home one late afternoon in July 1919 by bicycle to post a letter and to visit her uncle and family in Gaulby.

On the way, she was seen in the company of a well dressed man with a squeaky voice and riding a distinctive green BSA bicycle. He was observed loitering in Gaulby while she chatted with her relatives and was then seen riding with her as she set off for home.

This was the last time she was seen alive. As dusk began to fall, Bella's lifeless body was found by a farmer herding cows just outside Little Stretton. The local doctor and a police constable were called and she was pronounced dead, seemingly from a road accident.

Her body was taken on a handcart to the tiny nonconformist chapel for safety overnight.

The attending police officer, Alfred Hall, felt there was more than met the eye and rising at dawn the next morning re-examined the site and found a discharged .455 bullet embedded in the road. Further examination of Bella's body revealed that she had been shot through the head and so began a protracted murder

hunt centred upon the gentleman on the green bicycle.

For months, nothing came to light until the following February, when by chance a green bicycle was accidentally dredged up from the canal in Leicester. Although the serial numbers had been carefully filed off, a smaller identifying mark was found and remarkably traced back not only to the dealer but to the purchaser of the bicycle, a Ronald Light of Highfields in the City.

Shortly after, a holster and ammunition matching PC Hall's find were also found in the canal and Light was charged with murder, the trial taking place in Leicester Castle.

Light's mother prudently engaged the most eminent barrister in the land, Sir Edward Marshall Hall KC, whose expertise resulted in a not-guilty verdict and Light was freed.

Bella had in the meantime been buried in a modest and unmarked grave in Stoughton churchyard.

However, a sense of tragedy, injustice and the sheer mystery of this case has caused it to live on, not just in Stoughton and with the poor girl's relatives, but throughout Leicestershire and beyond.

The story is atmospherically recreated in Antony M. Brown's excellent and very readable paperback 'The Green Bicycle Mystery.'

There is also a beautifully crafted exhibition currently being displayed by De Montfort University in The Heritage Centre within the Hawthorn Building on the Newarke in Leicester.

Friday 5th and Saturday 6th July saw a steady stream of visitors make their way to St Mary's Church in Stoughton and it was a privilege to welcome them, provide some refreshment and to chat with several of Bella's relatives in remembrance of this poor local girl.

We are sure that her memory will live on.

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www.choosehowyoumove.co.uk



This website gives you an on-line planning service, so you can enter your postcode and plan your journey.

Also there is information about, heritage, walking and cycling events.

1. You could register for an adult cycling course.
2. You could find out about Greyfriars Open Streets. (See article on page 5.)
3. You could find out how your business can promote sustainable travel choices for people who need to reach you. This information may be required as part of a planning application.
4. There are resources for schools to promote active and sustainable travel plans.
5. Walking and cycling festivals and events are advertised.
6. There is lots of information on exploring Leicester and Leicestershire with an extensive library of walking leaflets.
7. There are driving pages with traffic and parking information including Leicester's Park and Rides. You can also find out about how to car share.
8. You can explore Leicester and Leicestershire by bike with free maps to download.



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Letters

PROPOSAL TO BUILD 310 HOUSES NEAR STOUGHTON FARM PARK

Dear Editor

Thank you for informing me about the application 18/00178/OUT to build 310 houses opposite and on the old Stoughton Farm Park site on the Gartree Road.

This application was recommended for approval in April 2019 subject to conditions but has not yet been approved. The case officer confirmed that there were many objections so it is unlikely that further objections at this late stage would carry much weight unless they raise serious new issues that have not already been considered.

Sadly CPRE (Campaign to Protect Rural England) Leicestershire were not made aware of the original application and therefore did not respond.

The plan was criticised by Highway Officers of Leicestershire County Council because of the traffic implications for Shady Lane.

At the very least we need a bit more protection for Shady Lane. We don't want the road straightened or widened or anything. As an absolute minimum we want the trees and bushes (why remove bushes and keep trees) to remain as they are so we maintain a lovely approach to the village.
DW

Editorial note: To join the CPRE go to: <http://www.cpreleicestershire.org.uk>. Then check 'How you can help' for further details.

22 BUS

Dear Editor,

A neighbour of mine was in Main Street, Evington Village on Tuesday 2nd June at 12 noon and in the space of five minutes he saw six 22 buses pass on their way out of Leicester. He saw just five passengers; none on four

buses, three on one bus and two on another bus. This is ridiculous when other areas, particularly rural areas, are crying out for buses.

On the contrary, the evening and Sunday services are almost non-existent. Perhaps they could put a less frequent service during the middle of the day (is meant to be every 12 minutes) and provide a decent service in the evening. Currently the last First Bus 22 is at 19.25 with an hourly Centre Bus 22A until 22.45. On Sundays it is even worse - the last 22 is at 18.28 and there is no Centrebus service whatsoever! Lots of people do not drive - especially our teenagers - who always rely on parents to come and fetch them!

Addy Tyler.

BOLLOCKS TO BREXIT

Dear Editor,

On 29th June 2019 we launched 'Bollocks to Brexit: an Anthology of Poems and Short Fiction'. The launch was held at the University of Leicester. Most of the people who read at the event live in and around Leicester. A good number also came from other places further away.

One person who'd read about the event from the local paper also brought a poem of his own that he shared with all present.

Most of the poets who were present read their poems and shared reflections on the poems and on Brexit. The readings and the reflections convince me it was right to bring out the anthology the way we did.

One person who attended the launch said, "What an amazing evening. Everyone treating each other with respect. I loved it."

The readings and reflections also convince me that the format of the launch can work and that through launch events like the one we had yesterday, we can broaden the space that is there in public discourse on Brexit. All we now have to do is have more launch events in more villages, towns and cities around the UK between now and October.

Many thanks to Corinne Fowler and the Centre for New Writing for the space for yesterday's launch. Many thanks to Neil, Corinne and Joel for the introductory remarks and for the clarity with which they show why 'Bollocks to Brexit', the poetry anthology, is a proper response to the mess the UK is in. Many thanks also to the poets who contributed to the anthology, and to those who read at or attended the 29th June book launch. And many thanks to Jay for taking care of the books, the poets and the readers at the event.

The launch went well.

Ambrose Musiyiwa

LEAFY LOVERS' LANE



SHADY LANE The way it used to be prior to the Great War. Just a narrow track where of a summer evening, young men and women of the village would walk, lean over the bridge and talk of the future.

They could not have visualised the amount of traffic which would one day thunder along this quiet and peaceful country lane, beloved of lovers.

Reported in Evington Echo – January 1982

The article goes on to predict a larger car park and many more cars using Shady Lane. The final paragraph says:

"One often hears of a community waking up to find that an amenity provided for their benefit has, in fact, brought further problems by careless planning."

New houses are much needed for the people, but surely it need not be done in a way which will destroy the history and character of Shady Lane.

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GREYFRIARS OPEN STREETS 2019



This is a series of free events celebrating some of Leicester most attractive and historic street. Greyfriars Open Streets has been running since the end of April and will run with a theme each month until October 2019. 1.00pm - 4.00pm. in the old part of Leicester around Greyfriars.

The themes are:

25th August – King Richard III

29th September – War Time

27th October – Victorians

Some of the roads in the city's historic Old Town area will be closed. For more information go to:

www.choosehowyoumove.co.uk

EVINGTON EXOTICA!

Over twenty years after being planted, a pip from a loquat fruit has finally borne fruit of its own!

My ten-foot Eriyobotria Japonica tree at the bottom of my garden flowered for the first time after last year's hotter than usual temperatures - as did other people's - and I have just picked its four fruit! Absolutely beautiful taste too - quite a tangy, crisp flavour, a bit like apple/apricot/orange - even better than I remembered! So chuffed!



Loquat fruit



Loquat fruit

Addy Tyler

ADVERTISEMENT FOR IBO – PARCELS AND PALLETS

IBO is a new advertiser who lives in Evington village and has been delivering parcels for 19 years. It is run by Barvinder Singh, a local resident. Now Barvinder wants to concentrate on the local area to support Evington Echo readers who may wish to have an easy service to send parcels of any size to all places (UK and International).

You can either have your parcels collected or dropped off at his address, 25 Ingarsby Drive. Call for a free quote or go on-line to view the website: www.parcelspallets.co.uk

See the advert on page 3.

Editorial comment: Please support our local businesses

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HERITAGE OPEN DAY GUIDED TOUR OF EVINGTON 21ST SEPTEMBER 2019

The theme for this year's Heritage Open Day is 'People Power'.

The first thing that springs to mind is political activism – demonstrations, marches and sit-ins. All these forms of protest are one definition of 'People Power'.

But for Heritage Open Days (HODs) it is a far wider and gentler form of power. It is local communities telling the stories they want told, shaping the perceptions of their place and playing a role in ensuring their heritage is celebrated and maintained.

There will be two, 2-hour tours led by Chris Hossack, starting from St. Denys Church on Church Road at 11.00am and then again at 2.00pm.

The tours will visit Piggy's Hollow (a moated site), Evington Chapel and finish in Evington Park, where the Friends of Evington/Friends of Evington Park are holding a Health Fair from 12noon – 4.00pm. You can do both events by visiting the Health Fair prior to or after these tours.

After your visit, if you have anything to say about the 'People Power' theme, please leave feedback on the tour or write to evingtonecho@gmail.com.

Having our own charity that directs an independent community newspaper is 'people power', so please write about what you find. If you haven't got access to the internet then please drop off your comments at Bennetts' Home and Garden stores.

England's biggest
FREE September 2018
www.heritageopendays.org.uk
visitleicesterinfo/heritageopendays

heritage open days **Heritage Festival**

13th - 22nd Sept.

**A GUIDED TOUR OF EVINGTON
WITH CHRIS HOSSACK**

Starting point: St. Denys Church
Finishing point: Evington Park
Date: Saturday 21st Sept. 2019
Time: 11.00am - 1.00pm
Repeat time: 2.00pm - 4.00pm

This tour meanders through the heritage village of Evington, visits Piggy's Hollow and Evington Chapel and finishes at Evington Park House, where there is a Health Fair in the park from 12noon - 4.00pm. No booking needed.

Tel: 2204525
07910431044

Please support our local shops and businesses



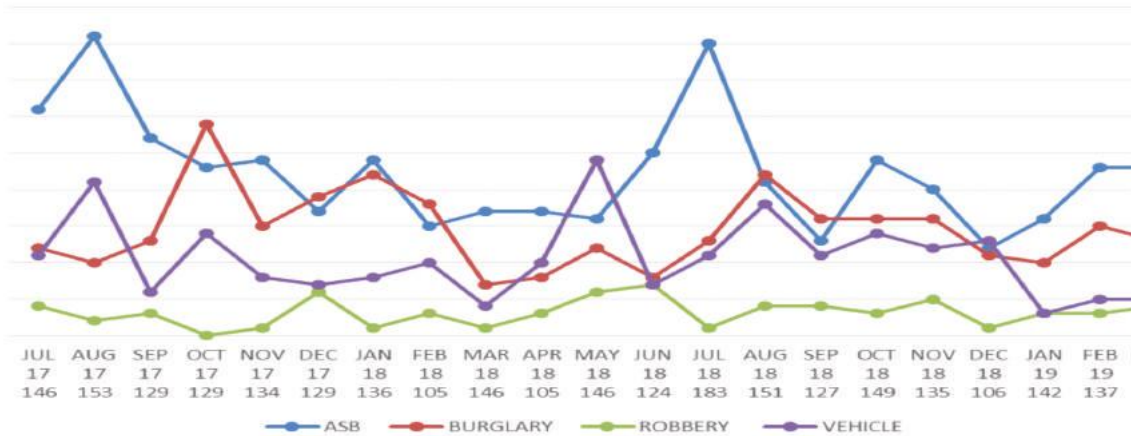
REPORTED CRIME

The figures below show the reported crime for Evington over a 21 month period. These figures follow our usual seasonal trends, such as an increase in anti-social behaviour for July and October which coincide with summer holidays. Vehicle crime also spikes at this time of year, especially when people leave their windows open in the warmer weather. Please ensure you take extra care around your vehicles' security! Make sure doors and windows are locked and do not leave any valuables on show. For the latest crime figures in your area, please see <https://www.police.uk/>

CURRENT POLICING PRIORITIES

We are currently focusing on reports of anti-social behaviour and drug use in the Ethel Road area whilst ensuring vulnerable residents in the area have the relevant support in place.

NE17 Reported Crime



IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Your opinions and concerns matter to us. Please get in touch to report the following ways:

Phone: 101 (non-emergency) 999 (emergency)

Report issues online at <https://www.leics.police.uk/>

You can also follow us online: Facebook@spinneyhillspolice Twitter @LPspinneyWard

UPCOMING EVENTS

Your local policing team will be attending the following local community events. Please feel free to pop by to discuss any issues and get crime prevention advice:

Saturday 10th August 2019 Evington Village Fete & Show 12.00noon – 5.00pm

Saturday 21st September 2019 Evington Health Fair Evington Park 12.00noon – 4.00pm.

There will also be various pop-up knife crime events throughout the summer to raise awareness and provide education around the issue. Please see our website and social media accounts for further details.

POLICE HQ - ST. JOHNS, ENDERBY, LEICESTER LE9 2BX TEL. 101 www.leics.police.uk

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**"SPEAK SO YOU
CAN BE
HEARD...THE TIME
MIGHT COME
WHEN YOU NEED
TO" - MARTIN
STERN**

My recent visit to the 'Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe' in Berlin, commemorating the millions of minorities unjustly killed during Nazi rule, was heart breaking. I was therefore overwhelmed by the chance to speak to Martin Stern, a

Holocaust survivor, at WQE College, Leicester.

Stern, born in the Netherlands, told WQE College of how he was merely a five-year-old boy when taken as a Jewish prisoner in 1944, after being harboured for two years by a brave man, only a six-minute walk from Anne Frank's home. The arrest of an innocent child highlights the unjust contempt Jews were held in under the Nazi Regime; Stern impressed upon his audience, "Jews were not citizens. They had no rights". Intense Anti-Semitism meant Jews were dragged onto pavements, jeered at, segregated and discriminated against through the 2000 Nuremberg Laws that sliced rights away, leaving Jews impoverished subjects to the state.

"Hundreds of synagogues all over Germany and all over Austria burned down. Fire brigades turned up. They watched." - Martin Stern

As a prisoner in Westerbork transit camp, Stern lived in constant fear that his name would be read from a list, sending him to his doom. He watched fellow prisoners being loaded into cattle trucks by emotionless men, and prayed he would not be next. Even at five years old Stern wondered "how such ordinary looking men could do that to another set of people". The juxtaposition of "ordinary men" being involved in such extraordinary crimes of

hate led to contemplation about the fragility of freedom - one is never immune to violence, oppression or abuse of power.

As well as discussing the human failures that led to the Holocaust and speaking of the cruel, dehumanising conditions during, Stern acknowledged that kindness could still be found. When transported from Westerbork to Theresienstadt, a prison town north of Prague, a Dutch woman, imprisoned for marrying a Jew, cared for both Stern and his one-year-old sister. Courageous and compassionate, the woman risked murder for the children, stealing food and guarding them from Nazi brutality. Ultimately, by taking the siblings into her care, she saved their lives; Stern and his sister were missed off the list of children in the camp who were sent to die at Auschwitz. They outsmarted the Nazi system.

Genocide is still a part of today's world. To combat it, Stern preached, "Education is key". We must be educated on history's darkest chapters and the human race must learn about itself in a way that has not happened yet, to eliminate mass violence through understanding human behaviour. We must learn to live with those different from us and we must practice empathy and kindness. We must reflect on the past and modify the present to ensure humanity moves towards a positive future. A wall at Sachsenhausen concentration camp reads, "the future cannot exist without commemorating all those, regardless of their nationality, who were killed at that time with complete contempt and hate".

Since the Holocaust, Stern has studied at Oxford University, started a family, rediscovered his Jewish faith and now uses his experience during the Holocaust to educate others. He anticipates a radiant future, with his optimism bolstered by Professor Steven Pinker's book 'The Better Angels of our Nature'. The American psychologist proved the percentage of humans killed by humans is declining century-by-century and Stern

believes this trend will continue as long as education conquers ignorance.

"There is hope." - Martin Stern

By Deepali Rose Foster (18 years)
6th June 2019

**SOAR VALLEY MUSIC CENTRE
MOVES TO MAYFLOWER**



Soar Valley Music Centre is a music charity which has been based in Belgrave for over 40 years but has now relocated to Evington where they are based at Mayflower Methodist Centre. They are keen to get the Evington community involved in their activities in line with their ethos of 'Music For Everyone'. Amongst the opportunities on offer are their Junior and Senior Orchestras which rehearse on Thursday evenings and are open to anyone of the correct playing level without audition. They also offer music lessons in schools and a full programme of after-school instrumental lessons at Mayflower, as well as music theory, GCSE and A Level music courses for children and adults. For the last couple of years, they have also been running adult beginner group string lessons (now an improvers class) and the Soar Valley Sinfonia, a group for adults who have previously played an instrument and would like to resume playing again in an informal, sociable environment. For more information about the Music Centre or any of the activities on offer, please contact them on office@musiccentre.co.uk or call 07976 268563.

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THE 1940S TEA PARTY



Held on 6th July, The Vicarage Garden Party had a 1940s theme and a reconstruction of the time when the 82nd Airborne Parachute Regiment, stationed in camps by Shady Lane, said farewell on 13th August 1944 and presented St. Denys Church with their flag.

If you missed this, come to the Village Fete and Show on 10th August (12noon - 5.00pm) and see a repeat re-enactment. The annual Village Fete and Show is a 'not to be missed' community event for Evington.

HASKOVO IN BULGARIA VIPS VISIT LEICESTER



Having been preparing over a year for a third Haskovo Chamber of Commerce business delegation to visit Leicester, they were finally welcomed to Leicester in April 2019. Judgemeadow Community College welcomed the Deputy Mayor, Velin Balkanski, the Mayor's PA, Julieta Terzieva and the Head teacher of the Foreign Language School in Haskovo, Deyan Yanev. The Bulgarian school has been connected with the Judgemeadow Community College for some years. This year the visit-focused on education and tourism, but the tour included an overview of the city's economic strategy and the LLEP's (Leicester and Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership) involvement in local Enterprise Zones.

Over the three days the visitors looked at the Depot Workspace building, the Curve Theatre, Gallowtree Gate, the Open Market, the Highcross Shopping Mall, the Outdoor Pursuits Centre, Foxton Locks, the National Space Centre, the King Richard III Visitor Centre, Leicester Castle and the Castle Motte, Leicester Guildhall, Leicester Cathedral, Abbey Park, New Walk Museum and East Midlands Airport.

The delegation met with the Lord Mayor and the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Leicester (a member of the LLEP) and enjoyed a Regional Dance Festival at Judgemeadow.

Hosts were John Townsend, Fred and Viv Rankin and Rita D'Silva.
John Townsend

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WHITEHALL'S SINGING SUCCESS

Whitehall's choir recently made it through to the finals of the Leicestershire Schools' Choir of the Year competition; one of only five primaries chosen from the whole county! They performed in front of hundreds of (paying!) people at the Haymarket Theatre!

The 13 girls, mostly new to choir this year, have enjoyed performing at school and entertaining residents at Spencefield Grange, Pilgrims' Gardens, and Goodwood Evangelical Church's coffee mornings

Coached and led by Stephen Taylor and assisted by me, they gave fantastic renditions of 'We Can Change The World' - written by Mr Taylor. They also sang in Hebrew 'When You Believe' - a powerful, passionate song from 'The Prince of Egypt' telling of the Israelites' hopes of being freed from slavery in Egypt by Moses.

Despite not winning, it was an amazing accolade to get to the finals. As well as positive feedback from judges we were all inspired by watching four massed secondary school choirs - noting ideas for improvement. Big thanks and well done to the girls (let's have some lads too next time please), Mr Taylor who enabled us to actually have a choir, Miss Kenny for all the choir organisation and Mr Ellam for his technical expertise with recording our competition entry. Addy Tyler

PLEASE ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE MYSELF



My name is Steph and I live on Oakside Close in Evington. I was born in my parent's bedroom at number 32 Downing Drive in 1961 on the day of a late summer heat wave. My mum was a barmaid at The Dove and my dad was a chartered accountant. Shortly after birth I was diagnosed with the condition Spina Bifida and my parents were given little hope that, even if I was to survive - I may never even sit up.

Let me explain as best I can in simple terms. Spina Bifida is a neural tube defect where the spine does not develop properly in the womb causing a gap in the spine. In effect, the neural

tube doesn't close all the way. A sac of fluid containing part of the spinal cord and nerves will leak through the opening and they become damaged. This causes varying levels of paralysis along with other complications such as bowel and bladder malfunctions, muscle weakness and loss of sensation in affected areas. There are varying degrees of severity based on where on the spine the defect has occurred. For some babies this could mean brain damage and to others minor impairments. The spectrum is as colossal as the function of the spinal cord.

Since 1991 women are encouraged to take Folic Acid as a preventative measure and are given detailed scans at 20 weeks of pregnancy for early detection. A breakthrough arrived in the UK in 2018 when surgeons successfully removed a foetus detected by scan as Spina Bifida, repaired the defect and returned it to the mother's womb allowing her to give birth to a healthy baby. This operation had been performed in America and other parts of Europe for several years and finally is now available through our NHS. So far a total of five operations have taken place in England.

And so, as you can tell, despite the early prognosis I did survive! Not only that but I have just published a book to tell the world about my life. This is by no means intended to be a book of self pity or of being a victim. It's a story of changing times and acceptance, in the medical world, the law and in people's minds. The book is honest, humorous and at times bittersweet. The title is "Crotch Height Perspective" as I believe this suggests to you an insight into how it is to see everything around you at Crotch Height from a wheelchair. I hope if you read it I will make you smile, frown and maybe shed a small tear but above all I hope to show you that we are all still people on the inside, no matter what you see on the outside.

Crotch Height Perspective is available in e-reader version and in paperback on Amazon.co.uk Steph Derham

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24TH LEICESTER SCOUTS' FAREWELL



These pictures show a farewell party for 24th Leicester Scouts as they plan to relinquish their site on Evington Drive, which is needed for development. The group will move to St. Philip's Church in early September. The group have been meeting on Evington Drive for the last 53 years.

The flag was lowered by a scout, watched by all the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts and under the supervision of scout leader, Peter Scott.

THE LIFE AND TIMES OF THE ELEPHANT MAN – JOSEPH MERRICK (1863 – 1890)



Joanne Vigor-Mungovin

Earlier in the year, Joanne Vigor-Mungovin talked to the Evington History and Heritage group about the Life and Times of the Elephant Man.

She had published a book after becoming hooked on history and finding out that a distant relative of hers, Tom Norman, was the Victorian showman that took Joseph Merrick around the country.

The Evington connection was through Joseph's mother, Mary Jane Potterton, who was born in Evington. She died of pneumonia when Joseph was 10 years old.

Joseph's father, William Arthur, had left his family of five children in London to fend for themselves when he married Mary Jane and came to live in various houses in Leicester. Joseph must have received an education at the Baptist Chapel in Leicester where his mother was a Sunday School teacher and he might have met Thomas Cook who worshipped there.

As a child, Joseph earned some money for the family by walking the streets selling cigars. He was beaten if he didn't earn enough money. The Victoria motto was "Spare the rod and spoil the child".

Joseph checked into the Leicester Union workhouse, aged 16. As a Class I resident he was allocated 6 oz of bread and 1½ pints of gruel for breakfast, 1½ pints of soup for lunch and 6 oz of bread and 2 oz of cheese for supper. He spent 4 years in the workhouse before joining Tom Norman's show as a freak man, where the tale of his deformities were explained as occurring when his mother, while pregnant, had been frightened by an elephant.

Joseph's deformity meant that he slept sitting up. If he lay down, the weight of his head

would have broken his neck. After writing her book, Jo's investigations led her to believe that the flesh of Joseph was buried at the City of London Cemetery. "I felt a bit like Philippa Langley after she worked out where Richard III was buried".

Jo's book is called 'Joseph: The Elephant Man'. First editions are nearly sold out. The second editions will be updated with her latest discovery.

SUMMER READING CHALLENGE 2019

29TH JUNE – 31ST AUGUST

These pictures show the launch of Space Chase – the Summer Challenge that promotes reading for children aged 0 – 15 years. Pop into Evington Library to get your starter pack.





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MEET THE AUTHOR – THE BUILD UP, PLANNING AND EVENT



Milo and Nita

The idea

I'm Milo the cutest little dog ever and the ruler of Evington Park. One day and, for no apparent reason, an idea popped into my head. Why not hold a 'Meet the Author' event? Since I have been writing for The Evington Echo my fame has spread far and wide. I'm sure that



Bobby and Kally

my fellow writer Bobby has experienced the same reaction since he began his writing. People try to pat Bobby too but then they regret their actions as Bobby has a tendency to react badly to a pat, and not just on the head but a pat anywhere and may launch into a full frontal attack. Anyway, I thought we could then get to know our readers and give them a chance to meet us in the fur. Bobby said that he thought that this would be a good opportunity to get some treats as well, that guy is always thinking of food.

That's it! I will organise this event with a lot of help from the greatest organiser in the world, Nita. Her Xmas Doggy Do's are the talk of Evington.

The Build up and planning

The venue was easy to decide on as Nita had always held her Xmas Doggy Do's at The Evington Park House, as this had a large room with a kitchen attached to it. I would need to draw up a list of the food that was needed and more importantly a list of the treats that would be needed for us hungry dogs and a very greedy Bobby. The excitement was increasing with only forty-three days to go before the event of the year.

Only forty days to go before 'Meet The Authors'. Today I received the finished poster from Nita, it was brilliant; she is a genius. I wish I was in charge of time then I could whizz the days by and make the event happen sooner. But if I did this I would not have the event to look forward to. What a dilemma.

'Meet the Author' – The Day Itself

Well at long last it had arrived. My Mum had bought me a fabulous red bow tie with a bell to wear for the day, how smart I felt wearing it. When we got there things were already being prepared and my mate Pippa was overseeing

operations from her vantage point - the window seat.

The first dog to arrive was little Simba, she was greeted far too warmly by Uncle Howard. Then there was Cooper, a fine large specimen of a dog. What a combination they made. They were followed by Daisy, the well-travelled dog who is always nipping off to Spain, that Daisy sure loves her food, she headed straight for the treats table. Next was Tia; what an enthusiastic dog she is and she can take any amount of fuss.

Frank came in next, now he sure knew how to attract attention, the bark on him made everyone look. The only way to stop the barking was to keep giving him treats. Stella arrived next, she is a lovely girl and is so good natured. Poor Stella has only got one tooth left. Next to arrive was Gatsby who tends to use me as a hurdle sometimes. I don't know if Lilly May is coming but if she is she had better watch out for Gatsby as he has got a bit of a crush on her, well more like a lot of a crush.

Daisy was the next arrival. Daisy has a quiff that nearly rivals Rollo's quiff. Tillie then arrived, she so loves her food does that girl, I have often seen her with her head in Uncle Howard's bag looking for a treat.

Then Rollo, of the quiff fame, arrived with his Dad. Rollo had had a special grooming session for the event. My, he did look so smart with his new shorter hair style look. I could swear that the quiff had been trimmed as well. The party was in full swing now. There was talk of me and Bobby sitting next to each other and having our photo taken, but lucky for me this never came about. It is amazing how all the dogs got on so well with each other and there was no trouble or mess.

Both Bobby and I would like to say a big thank you for making 'Meet the Author' a great event. We must do it again sometime.

Written by Milo with a little help from Uncle Howard

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EAST MIDLANDS IN BLOOM JUDGES VISIT EVINGTON



On Thursday 11th July, judges Jo Tarrant and Julie Walker came to Evington, toured around Evington for three hours, and then enjoyed hospitality at the Parish Centre next to St. Denys Church.

It is important for all projects to be evaluated and this also affords an opportunity to thank all the volunteers who helped. The assessment is also part of a competition with other urban areas in the East Midlands and we were assessed on community building, looking after the environment and gardening achievements.

We would like to thank Leicester City Council's parks department for co-operative working and our local councillors for £650 ward funding. Our big thanks go to the volunteers, including the Evington in Bloom team, for helping to improve many areas including Evington Park, Evington Village Green, Sedgebrook Open Space and the shopping streets – Main Street, Downing Drive and Gamel Road. The following chart shows our IYNs (Registered It's Your Neighbourhood Groups) and community groups that are part of the campaign.

We would also like to thank our partners who work with us to improve areas of land at Wycliffe United Reformed Church, St. Denys

Church, The Church of God and the local allotments. Also thanks go to the many businesses who help with watering and encouragement.

This year the expectation is for higher marks and a silver gilt award for Evington. If we want 'Gold', which is possible, then we need more 'It's Your Neighbourhood' or community groups to set up their own projects in their own streets. If you are interested then first check out online what 'It's Your Neighbourhood' groups are about. Then find two or three other people who may like your improvement ideas for your street or project. Discuss your project with someone from the Evington in Bloom team and check it out with land owners. This environmental campaign can make a difference in an area and bring about improvements.

EVINGTON GROUPS GARDENING

IYN GROUPS



Graceworks



Piggy's Hollow



Evington Village Green



Burnaby Gardens



Friends of Evington Park



Nurturing Roots



The Horston Hill Project

COMMUNITY GROUPS GARDENING



Downing Drive Friends and Neighbours



Church of God gardens



St. Denys Church



Gamel Road gardeners



Evington Village Hall gardeners



Evington Village gardeners



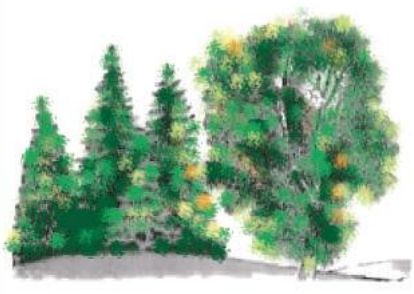
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BARROWS IN THE PARK



Evington Park played host to the City Council run 'Meal Barrow' competition on Saturday 29th June.

The competition was part of the 'Grow Your Own Grub' competition run by the City Council for Leicester schools.

This year 22 schools entered the competition that is split into three sections:

(1) Students from each school design a three-course menu that is assessed by the school catering section and graded according to nutritional value and originality.

(2) Students must then grow at least four of the main ingredients of the menu. Most of the ingredients are grown by the pupils at school in a surprising array of containers and gardens and in a wheelbarrow known as 'The meal-barrow'.

(3) The gardens were assessed by the parks departments Horticultural advisor and graded accordingly and 18 'Meal-barrows' were brought to Evington Park for public voting on Saturday 29th June.

Comments from the 'Public Judges' included amazement at the range and imagination of the children involved and "I never realised so much could be done in such a small space!"

Results from the three sections will be conjoined and the overall winner will be announced at the commencement of the next school term. All schools will be awarded certificates ranging from Gold to Bronze.

Mick Eaton
Horticultural Advisor Leicester City Council.
Parks and Open Spaces

WAITROSE IN OADBY IS CLOSING

The Waitrose store in Oadby is set to close. On Thursday morning, 18th July, while other staff covered, the Oadby staff were called into a meeting to inform them of the closure.

Last month the Blaby store closed and the three staff who were reallocated to Oadby are now about to lose their jobs all over again. The store will be sold to Lidl.



Picture courtesy of the Leicester Mercury.

LEICESTER AGEING TOGETHER



The LAT programme aims to support older people's active involvement in their local communities and for their views and participation to be more highly valued. In Evington, Community Connector, Debbie Harris, is supporting older people to run a Health Fair in Evington Park on 21st September 2019.

"Without Deb's support, this event wouldn't have been possible. She gives legitimacy and professionalism to our ambitions."

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EVINGTON GARDEN CLUB

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20th August 'They Think It's All Over Autumn in the Garden'. - Stuart Dixon.

17th Sept. 'People, Plants, Pleasure and Passion.' An illustrated talk by Don Witton.

LEICESTERSHIRE CALLIGRAPHERS

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BABY SENSORY

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

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

SELF DEFENCE GROUP

Wednesdays 8.00pm - 9.00pm.

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 AND/OR IN EVINGTON PARK

(If you are new to an activity at Evington House and you find the front door is closed, just ring the door bell.)

ANYTHING GOES SOCIAL GROUP

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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 and includes standing, sitting and floor work and ends with relaxation and stretches.

CROCHET FOR ALL

Tuesdays 10.00am to 11.30am. Learn to crochet with Abdul Bux. £1.50 a session. Just come along and enjoy learning or practising a skill in a friendly atmosphere.

LISTENING BENCH

For more information about this developing project contact Debbie Harris (Community Connector) on 07517 450726.

ART IN THE PARK

Tuesdays 1.30pm - 3.30pm. Tel: 2126614.

GARDENING FOR HEALTH IN EVINGTON PARK

Thursdays 11.30am - 12.30pm. All tools provided. Enjoy being outside with company and helping improve the park. Meet at 11.30pm in Evington House 2204525/07910431044.

LIGHT LUNCH IN EVINGTON PARK HOUSE

1.00pm - 2.00pm - Free for gardeners. Contact Helen on 2204525/07910431044 .

HEALTH FAIR

Saturday 21st Sept. 12.00 noon - 4.00pm in Evington Park. See advert on front cover and watch out for the publicity leaflets with more information.

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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.

EVINGTON TODDLERS GROUP Tuesdays from 10.00am - 12.00 noon.

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AT ST. DENYS CHURCH / 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 except for August. Contact Chris Hossack on 241 5153, chris_hossack@yahoo.co.uk

17th September Welcome back to Jo Instone-Brewer to tell us about the geophysical survey of Piggy's Hollow.

HERITAGE OPEN DAY - 21ST SEPTEMBER

Two guided walks through Evington with Chris Hossack starting at St. Denys Church at 11.00am and then again at 2.00pm and finishing at Evington Park House where refreshments are served as part of the Health Fair Event. www.evingtonecho.co.uk

MONDAY MEETS

1st and 3rd Mondays every month. 2.00pm - 4.00pm in the Parish Centre.
Monday 19th August.
Monday 2nd September.
Monday 16th September.
Monday 7th October.

LION, WITCH AND WARDROBE REHEARSALS

Every Monday and Thursday at 6.30pm at the Parish Centre except for 12th and 15th August and 9th and 30th September.

SUNDAY TEA AND TALK AT 3.00PM

18th August and 25th August.

For more details of St. Denys Church services, and group activities that are open to all, contact 2713812. www.stdenys.org.uk

AT ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH 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.

AT GOODWOOD EVANGELICAL CHURCH, GAMEL ROAD MESSY CHURCH

First Sunday of the month at 4.00pm. For further details contact Stephen on 079 0294 6004.

THE ARK TODDLER GROUP

Evangelical Church, Gamel Road. Wednesday in term time. 9.30am – 11.30am. £1.50 per 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 CAFE BLENDS ON DOWNING DRIVE MY WORD POETRY GROUP

Tuesdays 4.00pm - 5.30pm. See article on page 12.

AT JUDGEMEADOW COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Monday. Yoga. 10.00am - 11.30am. Gentle Yoga and relaxation - get your week off to a positive start with a friendly group and experienced tutor. Brenda Kirby. 07841 880 800.

AT MAYFLOWER CHURCH COMMUNITY ROOMS YOGA

Mondays 6.00pm - 7.00pm (Ladies only). Wednesdays 6.00pm - 7.00pm (Ladies only). Saturdays 10.00am - 11.00am (Yoga for all). £2.50 per session. For Ladies only, contact Manjula on 07448 732696. For Saturdays contact Suresh on 07974 306016.

DOWNING DRIVE FRIENDS AND NEIGHBOURS

Join us for litter picking sessions on the last Thursday of the month. Picking sticks provided. Meet outside Cafe Blends at 10.00am. ddfandn@gmail.com

AT LEICESTER GENERAL HOSPITAL -

LEICESTER'S MARVELLOUS MEDICINE TALKS These talks take place from 6.00pm to 7.30pm in the Lecture Theatre, Clinical Education

Centre. Thursday 22nd August. Caring for frail patients. Learn about the General Hospital's Meaningful Activity Service for patients with dementia and about the newly developed dementia Cafe and Social space.

Wednesday 18th Sept. Preventing Amputation. George Davies and the Leicester Vascular Limb Salvage Clinic. Speaker Mr. Robert Davies (Consultant Vascular Surgeon) and Professor Robert Sayers (Professor of Vascular Surgery).

YOUTH GROUPS

SCOUT GROUPS

19TH LEICESTER, DAVENPORT ROAD

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)

From September this group will be meeting at St. Phillip's Church. See article on page 10. For more information 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

NEPTUNE SWIMMING CLUB

Evington Pool. Tel: Evington Leisure Centre 299 5575.

LARGER EVENTS

LET'S RIDE, LEICESTER.

Free Cycling Festival for everyone. Sunday 25th August. Music, Local street food and live stunt show. Cycle as much or as little as you want. No cars on the road. letsride.co.uk

A TALK ABOUT URBAN BUZZ WITH MICK EATON

Tuesday 27th August from 7.00pm - 9.00pm at Graceworks (In the garden behind Wycliffe United Reformed Church) Find out more about how the City Council's Park's Department is developing habitats for our pollinating insects and other small animals. Please book your place. Tel: 2204525.

OPEN DAY AT ROWLATTS HILL ALLOTMENTS

18th August 2019 from 10.00am - 2.00pm. Free entry. See advert on page 2.

EVINGTON VILLAGE FETE AND SHOW

10th August 12.00 noon - 5.00pm FREE ENTRY. See article on page 2.

GREYFRIARS OPEN STREETS

25th August, 29th Sept. and 27th Oct. from 1.00pm - 4.00pm. See article on page 5.

SMALL ADS

Trade and professional rate £2.50 for a maximum of 25 words. All other rates; 50p for maximum of 25 words including telephone number, except for adverts selling items over £1,000, which will cost £5 for a maximum of 25 words. Please write clearly and leave your ad. with payment, in an envelope marked Small Ads at Bennett's Home and Garden Supplies, 30 Main Street.

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FOR CRIME PREVENTION ADVICE

Meet your local police at Evington Village Fete and Show and Evington Health Fair.

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.

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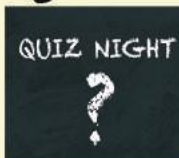
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