



Evington Echo

Keeping you up to date with Evington's news

Issue 287

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In 2020, there wasn't a 'Best Front Garden' competition as part of the 'Evington in Bloom' assessment by East Midlands in Bloom, which usually takes place in July and then forms a part of the Evington Village Fete and Show. So instead, the Evington Echo is featuring some beautiful Autumn gardens, in Evington. If you have a beautiful Winter garden, please send in a photograph for the next edition.

**BEST
FRONT
GARDEN**

Designed by Jason Chauhan

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THE FUTURE OF LOCAL HOSPITAL SERVICES

Online meetings have been held to discuss the future of hospital services in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland, which is currently being consulted by Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Clinical Commissioning groups. Formal public consultation on these plans began on 28th September and will last until 21st December. To view these plans go to www.betterhospitalsleicester.nhs.uk, where there is also an online questionnaire.

When responding to this questionnaire, you may like to visit www.saveournhsleicestershire and the Leicester Mercury Patients' Panel Briefing Paper at www.dora.dmu.ac.uk/handle/2086/202

The 8-page glossy brochure from the NHS Trust hasn't been received by

everyone yet, so the consultation period isn't long enough. The proposal is to concentrate all acute hospital services onto two sites, the Royal Infirmary and Glenfield Hospital and close down Leicester General Hospital, selling off two-thirds of the land and leaving just 3 or 4 non acute services on the site, including a GP imaging facility, a Diabetes Centre of Excellence, an administration block and, possibly for 12 months and subject to consultation, a midwife-led unit. The St. Mary's Birthing Centre at Melton will be closed down. If the midwife-led unit at the General does not survive the trial, then all obstetrics and midwifery units will be located at the Royal Infirmary site. Taking 11,000 births a year, this will make the Royal Infirmary the largest maternity hospital in the whole of Europe. Campaigners are extremely concerned about the safety of locating all maternity services on one site.

At the Royal Infirmary the proposal is for all Children's Services to be in one place. The Glenfield Hospital will concentrate on elected care within a new build Treatment Centre. As for the General, the proposals begin with "We would like to create the following services (extra GP capacity, observation beds, community outpatients' department and an observation area) in a GP-led primary care urgent treatment centre."

Although this gives the impression there will be many new services of the site of the General Hospital, it is important to note that these services are not included in the £450m scheme's plans and have not been costed.

Campaigners have been asking for details of the plans for over two years, as they want to engage in an informed way. They are now concerned about the number of beds proposed in a situation of predicted population expansion and say that much more time should be given to public scrutiny. Campaigners welcome the investment but want more time to discuss Covid-19 and future pandemic preparedness and the wisdom of concentrating all maternity services on one site. They realise that there are all kinds of things that make it possible to treat people with fewer beds, but

question if this proposal has gone too far.

The UK is already behind other developed countries in the number of beds allocated, so some expansion in the number of beds is needed and also planning for contingency wards and change of use beds is needed. Capacity building needs to be right and have built-in pandemic preparedness with more single occupancy rooms. Retrofitting the hospitals will be more expensive. Therefore plans need to be scrutinised for convertible space and more generous space all round. The proposal to sell off the General was a pre-Covid design. In the plans there is a proposal to have a year's trial for a midwife-led unit at Leicester General Hospital. This is not long enough; it needs to be a 3-year trial. Who would go otherwise, knowing it was so soon to be closed? For mothers of low risk there are excellent outcomes from these midwifery-led units and all this needs a much fuller debate. Campaigners want the popular St. Mary's Birthing Centre in Melton to stay and question the wisdom and risks when all births are in one unit, except for a very few home births.

We need more time to look at these proposals, discuss our concerns and allow consultation and scrutiny from the public to get it right.

Helen Pettman

ADDY'S T-SHIRTS



Addy has been busy creating again and says "it's more colour in my world". She doesn't actually claim the base colours – using plain coloured t-shirts then un-dyeing them with a bottle of bleach! Don't you love the colour graduation – different in the most concentrated parts and at the edge of the bleach.



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Editorial

This week marks nearly nine months of living through the pandemic. I am trying to adapt, but it is difficult to cope when I can't pace myself and when the finish line moves farther and farther away and the number of deaths keep going up.

If you have problems like finding it harder to sleep; if you feel jumpy and irritable, hopeless, lonely and/or worthless; if you are feeling more self-doubt, anger or incompetence; if you're exhausted, losing the motivation to see friends, study, work, read, or take care of yourself, please understand that these and more can be symptoms that are 100% related to living through these times we are in.

Don't underestimate the impact of the pandemic, not to mention the political unrest on you and your friends and family. Our lives have changed, for some unimaginably, as we have struggled to address the threat of coronavirus.

We need to physically survive this pandemic; but we also need to survive it emotionally. Don't be afraid to scale back on what you expect out of yourself and friends, family, and others during this time. Give yourself time to breathe, to do nothing, to just be, to stop pushing. This is an emotional marathon and we aren't sure where the finish line is. Pacing is everything.

This issue brings you some ways Evington people are coping and celebrating. It shows you how people have had time for new hobbies, time to respond and time to tend their gardens, be creative, celebrate festivals, write stories and achieve some of the things they have wanted to do.

Please continue to write in and let the Evington Echo know what you think and do.

Helen.

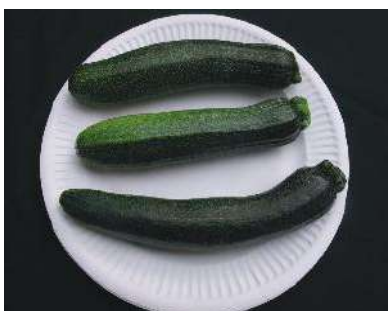
EVINGTON VILLAGE VIRTUAL FETE AND SHOW 2020

Here are a selection of exhibits from the horticultural section.

John Pelmore



Rose by Jackie Newman



Courgettes by John Pelmore



Fuchsias by Jackie Newman



Redcurrants by Katherine Burns



Flowers by Jackie Newman



Dahlias by Katherine Burns

Leicester has a growing population; we know future pandemic waves are coming.

SAVE OUR NHS LEICESTERSHIRE

So why is the General Hospital being closed?

£450 million is being invested in our hospital services. But #NotEnoughBeds are planned. Get involved with our campaign!

Contact: secretary@saveournhsleicestershire.org or 07896 841 902

SAVE OUR NHS LEICESTERSHIRE PUBLIC MEETINGS

Save Our NHS Leicestershire is hosting a series of public meetings to discuss our concerns about major plans to reorganise our hospitals. All will take place online due to restrictions on social gathering. There may be more dates in the future for those unable to attend, but the consultation ends in December and there is little time to lose. We invite you to come along.

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Letters

REFLECTIONS ON THE LETTERS IN THE OCT/NOV 2020 ISSUE OF THE ECHO

Having lived in the Evington area for nearly 70 years, I wish to add my thoughts.

From where I live, the gentle droning of the little planes from the Aero Club is mostly soporific and characteristic of our Evington heritage. (Hopefully this is generally the case for those nearer the runways.) Louder were the Red Arrows which screeched over at the time of the Stoughton Air Show. Certainly the East Midlands air traffic re-routing nearer us has not been a problem for me.

The traffic problem which is a universal and endemic problem – that really needs a change of heart and attitude of drivers – it is those who drive like ‘bats out of hell’.

Yet the St. Denys junction needs some sort of control to lessen the possible danger, perhaps Nigel of St. Denys on his Harley Davidson could have an influence.

The bells of St. Denys have rung out for centuries reminding the parishioners of the succession of days, sometimes with historic celebrations – quite reassuring. We were also delighted by the Church’s production of ‘The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe’, last Christmas, just before the strike of Covid-19. (Apologies to bring that subject up.)

But what was normal has changed to abnormal or what some call the ‘new normal.’ For instance, in 1956, mum ushered me over The Common and pointed me to the school gates of Linden

School. Well I was 5 and a half and did as I was told. I went to meet Mr. Bews, the Headmaster, or was it Mr. Payne!!? My age is catching up with me. I arrived OK, but by that age I had roamed Evington Park and the Leicestershire Golf Course. In 1962/3 in the Big Freeze I had skated on Evington Brook and even sledged on one of the bunkers. On warmer days fished in the stream where perhaps Sir David Attenborough had fished.

However, one thing has not changed. The bells of St. Denys ring out and my faith sustains me. By the way, wasn’t Gillian Carr’s photo of a sunset really divine?

David Shepherd

SOME LCC INFORMATION

GENERAL PRACTITIONERS

You must ring your GP practice first and they will discuss how best to meet your health concern. You will be able to get an appointment to speak/see your doctor if necessary. The appointment may be by telephone, online, video call or physical face to face. If you need to attend a face to face appointment your practice will advise what you need to do in order to ensure your safety. If you need immediate help and you’re not sure what to do go to 111.nhs.uk or call 111.

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TEST AND TRACE SUPPORT

PAYMENT

If you are on a low income you can apply for a test and trace support payment of £500. To find out if you are eligible go to leicester.gov.uk/testandtracesupport.

SCAM

A scammer has cloned the old 2’s number of Leicestershire Police. He claims to have an arrest warrant for unpaid taxes and will execute the warrant unless the debt is paid.

Unfortunately an elderly person has fallen for the scam and lost a lot of money. Report to action fraud should you be contacted.

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SAD GOODBYE

Saying goodbye to our beloved Stoughton Farm Park is no easy way
Most people would have wished it to stay.

Destroying the fields and habitat
Just can't get me head around that.

Building on flood plain
Let's hope not so much rain.

Stared with an amazed look
At bulldozer lifting cement block

Preserve the Victorian Lake, home of the heron
Now not his safe haven

Black and white cows wonderful sight
Highland cattle sheer delight.

Save the 'Cow and Plough' from contractor
And the 'Fairy' white cottages
Still have the 'Wow Factor'.

The pub's community full of cheer
Made a happy atmosphere.

Farm Park opened by cousin of our Queen
For numerous animals to be seen.

Shady Lane will not be the same
But traffic was insane.

Oh! What the heck!
Poor Stoughton Farm Park hits the deck!

Fliss Lacey

LOST WEDDING RING

Dear Readers,
I wonder if you could help. I unfortunately lost my wedding ring when out walking my dog last

Wednesday and I was hoping a reader may have found it. I walked from Roundhill Road, Bodnant Avenue, Highway Road, Stoughton Drive and then across the golf course to the arboretum. It's a man's gold ring with a celtic design on it.
If you find it, please could you contact the Editor - contact details on page 2.
Andy

LEICESTERSHIRE GOLF COURSE

Dear Editor,
I should like the residents of Evington to be aware of what the planning department of Leicester City Council calls a major development planned for the Leicestershire Golf Club grounds in Evington.

It is proposed to excavate two large areas of the ground to the north and south of Evington Brook, the former to the north of Flat Spinney and the latter to the east of Flat Spinney. The spoil from these excavations is proposed to be placed on an area to the west of Flat Spinney and to the south of Evington Brook.

Sadly this will mean destroying the colonies of two rare, native species of plant, namely Dropwort and Spring Sedge, damaging increasingly rare examples of ridge and furrow grassland, and destroying the habitat of several other high quality grassland indicator species – Meadow Vetchling, Lady's Bedstraw, Sorrel and Great Burnet.

With just a small adaption to the plans, the Dropwort and Spring Sedge could be saved. I have pointed this out to the Chairman of the club, but we have not met to discuss this. Several local residents have placed objections to the original proposal.
Russell Parry

OSY RAISING MONEY FOR LOROS



I have really gone to town - well all round Leicester, doing 8 more Marathons like the London, Edinburgh, and New York Marathons. Not as good as the real places, but in lock down it gives me something to do, and to get some great Medals.

Now in December, I will have 2 more back-to-back Marathons for Texas, (been there, done it) but not in Texas but good old Leicester. But the main plan, like the last 6 years, is to go to stand beside the Leicester City Clock Tower, dressed as Polar Bear Osy, collecting for LOROS, no running there, just holding charity bucket for LOROS, who like many charities are much in need.

I have booked for Sat 19th Dec. and then Christmas Eve Dec 24th.

Love to see people come over, and have their Smart Phones out for pictures with Polar Bear Osy. Don't worry, (as you can see from the photo, the Polar Bear will be wearing a face mask lol all safe). Come visit, oh and drop some cash into his bucket.
Please. Osy

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go op

SELF-LOVING & KINDNESS MEDITATION



This edition I would like to bring you a short self-loving & kindness meditation.

We all need a sense of self-worth, and inner fulfilment, and feeling secure. These need to be our underlying core beliefs, but we don't always have these as our core beliefs. We really need to send these messages to ourselves, so I want to invite you to take a moment, and we're going to send some messages of loving kindness to ourselves. Let's cultivate a little self-compassion and little kindness towards ourselves.

Find a nice quiet space where you won't be disturbed.

Take your attention to your breath, no need to change the rhythm of your breath. Become more and more relaxed with each breath. Keeping you breathing at your own natural pace.

Repeat the following phrases silently in your own mind.

May I be safe, and protected
May I be healthy and strong
May I experience love and joy
May I live my life with ease
And may I be at peace

Take a nice deep breath in and out. Then return to your normal breathing rhythm. Focus your attention on your heart centre. Our heart is the centre of love, compassion, and joy. Knowing we can always return to that place of knowing I am enough and I am loved. Whenever you feel ready, gently open your eyes and bring your awareness back into your room.

I hope you enjoyed this short meditation. Under the current circumstances I do now host meditation classes on Zoom. If you wish to join then please contact me through the social media links searching Indy Essence.

LAST DANCE OF THE MOONCURSER A NEW NOVEL FOR 2020 BY A LOCAL AUTHOR

This the latest book by local author Jeffery Tarry, is set in London. It's the year 1777 and the fear that now surrounds you is too great to be frightening and you don't know the difference between being alive and not being alive - what is it - this most chilling thing of all...? It's the Last Dance of the Mooncurser.

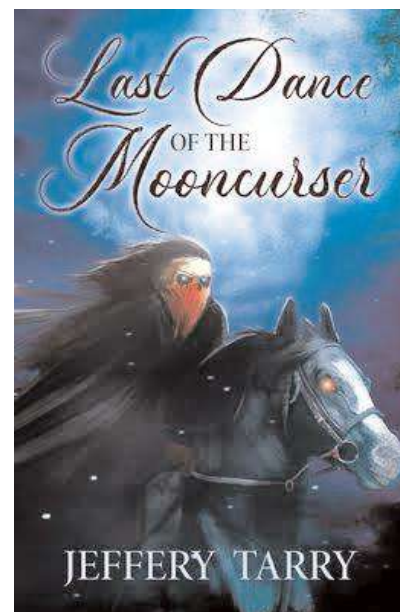
This is a gripping story of highwaymen, vengeance, betrayal, love and friendship.

The author's sister Vanessa Tarry writes, "When my elder brother started this novel, it drew paranormal activity to his Leicestershire house. A poltergeist

was there from 2008 to 2010, during all the time he was researching and writing. The crime and punishment and court proceedings in the 18th Century were cruel to our eyes. It is quite difficult to explain but the writing in the book seemed to mirror itself with the fear that came to the house."

You can now purchase this book in the following ways:

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HOLD SOMEONE IN YOUR THOUGHTS THIS CHRISTMAS



This year we aren't able to invite you in to dedicate a candle to someone in your thoughts, but A.J. Atkinson & Son (Oadby) together with E.C. Gilbert (Gr. Glen) will be dedicating all the candles in the porch to everyone affected by Coronavirus this year.

As usual we will be making a donation to Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Rutland Air Ambulance. If you wish to make a contribution you are welcome to do so by going on line to our website and following the steps or posting a cheque made out to DL&R Air Ambulance c/o Christmas Candle Appeal, 12 London Road, Oadby, LE2 5DG. The donation will be open from 1st December

ST DENYS CHRISTMAS PLANS

With so much uncertainty, we are being as creative as possible with our Christmas celebrations this year. Look out for a very special outdoor Christmas trail to explore around the churchyard as well as the Knitted Sheep Trail returning this year in local shop windows. You'll also find recorded material including the carol service appearing on our Youtube Channel. Just search for St Denys Church Evington on Youtube.

Sunday 6th December at 10.00am – Christingle via Zoom (raising funds for the Children's Society)

Tuesday 15th December at 7.00pm – Virtual Beer and Carols night (raising funds for One Roof Leicester)

Sunday 20th December – Candlelit Carol Service will be available online

Christmas Eve 4.00pm – Crib Service

Christmas Eve 11.30pm – Midnight communion

Christmas Day 10.00am – Communion service

We hope that services will resume after the current lockdown on Sundays at 3pm and that some of the Christmas services will take place live but places must be booked through the Administrator as space will be limited.

For full details, sign up to our mailing list by contacting the Parish Administrator on 0116 2415605 or admin@stdenys.org.uk.

REMEMBRANCE

St. Denys Church



After many different contingency plans, we needed to put our full lockdown plans into operation.

After speaking with the cadets, they prepared a video and on Sunday 8th November this was shown on social media and via a live Zoom service led from St. Denys.

We decided not to do anything at the memorial itself so as not to attract a crowd.

After the service, a representative of the squadron informally took their wreath to the War memorial. On 11th November we offered a short act of remembrance on Zoom from the church, led by Nigel, the curate. The cadets' video can be seen on the church YouTube channel and highlights the war graves in the churchyard.

Editor's Comment

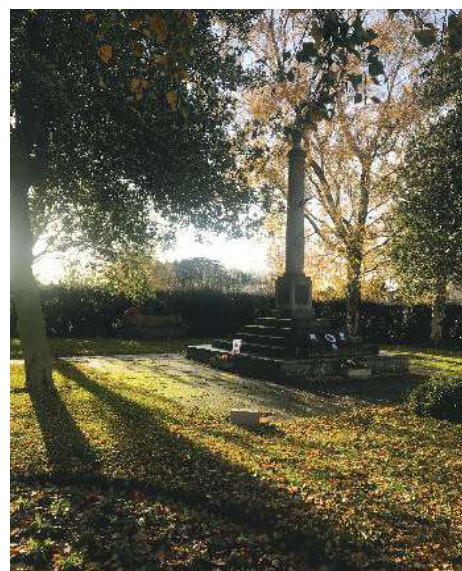
In 2019 we held two very different services at the War Memorial. On Sunday 10th November, the service remembering

fallen soldiers was organised by St. Denys Church. On 11th November many leaders from different faiths and others came together for the Peace and Remembrance event that was organised by Friends of Evington following an advertisement in the Evington Echo asking for speakers.

Local primary and secondary schools in Evington also sent representation and took part. It was getting rather cold standing around the War Memorial so we enjoyed the hospitality of St. Denys Church for the talks.

Different speakers emphasised the important of Peace, which isn't just a wish or a prayer but is at the core of our determination.

The war memorial records our failure to live in peace. Our challenge is to work for Leicester's varied community to live well together.



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MAYFLOWER PRIMARY SCHOOL WINS A SPECIAL AWARD



MAYFLOWER PRIMARY SCHOOL ALLOTMENT

The days draw in. The weather closes in. But the staff and children have no intention of staying in! That's because we have our allotment to keep us interested and occupied.

Hannah Boydon, who has been at the forefront of environmental work at Mayflower for many years, writes:

"Over the past months, with the help of Mr Archdeacon, we have visited, planted, cleared and enjoyed interacting with the great outdoors. We have discovered so much about 'growing our own' and the importance of natural plants over processed products. We have chatted about all this at home, sharing our knowledge and understanding with the adults, hoping to create mini allotments in our back gardens!

On the night of Monday 9th November at approximately 7.30pm our enthusiasm, expertise and endeavours were recognised as the school was crowned 'Growing Champions' at the Leicester Sustainable Schools Awards Ceremony. We were very excited.

There are lots of people, big and small, who deserve a 'pat on the back' for this, none more so than those involved with the 'Friends of Evington'. Without their input and financial support none of this would have been possible. We hope they can see just how much this has meant to this large part of the Evington Community. We can't thank them enough. Congratulations also go to the chair of Friends of Evington, Paul Archdeacon, who was the runner up for the Volunteer Award for Sustainable Schools' Projects."

Some children at Mayflower commented as follows:

"We're so proud of our allotment. The vegetables are so fresh and tasty and we get to eat them" Maryam A.

"Going to the allotment is really exciting. We all want to see what has grown and what we can pick". Mu az

"It's really nice to see all the greenery at the allotment." Zain A.

Knowing that some of the vegetables in our school dinners are from the allotment is amazing. They taste better! We even took some home to eat." Safa

This allotment project was supported by grants from Friends of Evington and LCC Get Growing grant.

Mayflower Primary School also recognise the support from the Royal Horticultural Society and East Midlands in Bloom for enabling local volunteers and providing free resources through their Campaign for School Gardening. This website can be viewed at www.schoolgardening.rhs.org.uk

THE SPECIAL AWARD

This special awards event was hosted by Lee Jowett, LCC Environmental Education Coordinator, and keynote speakers included Judy Ling Wong CBE, President of the Black Environment Network (BEN), and James Cashmore, Director of Food and Farming, Soil Association, who presented the awards.

MARKING SPECIAL OCCASIONS IN EVINGTON - AUTUMN/WINTER 2020

We have been in some form of lockdown since March. By the time you read this we may have just finished a month of national lockdown, which has made it impossible to bring families and friends together, so marking events this year is very different. Here are some ways Evington people have celebrated at home. Evington Mutual Aid now invite you to decoate a window for Christmas and enjoy Winter walks in Evington. On your walks you can view the decorated windows and take part in St. Denys Church's sheep trail. You may also like to follow the Evington History and Heritage trail. Pick up a leaflet from Bennett's or go on line at www.evingtonecho.co.uk



Evington Mutual Aid invites you to Decorate a Window for our Christmas Window Walks

To keep up our spirits during the winter lockdown, we encourage everyone in Evington to decorate a window for Christmas during December.

Join the Facebook event:

'Evington Christmas Window Walk'

To share photos and let us know how many decorated windows you find.

ANOTHER LOCAL WINTER WINDOWS INITIATIVE

Hawthorne Drive and Linden Drive are also fostering some socially distanced yet neighbourly cheer during December with their own 'Winter Windows' initiative. 31 houses, will each decorate one of their windows to help light up the dark winter evenings. This is a way to bring some festive warmth to the end of a grim year, and, in the process, get to know their neighbours. A different window will be revealed each day, until all the windows will be lit up for New Year's Eve amid hopes for a better 2021.

ST. DENYS SHEEP TRAIL

As Christmas draws near, we remember the story of Jesus' birth, and the different visitors who came to see him. Among the visitors were some shepherds with their sheep. Last year sixteen sheep went missing on a shopping trip to Evington, and this year they have lost ten others who are hiding in the various shops and facilities in Evington. All sheep have name tags, so from December please have a look for them and make a note on the application form, which you can then return to Bennett's Home and Garden store, or post in St. Denys church post box.

Name of sheep / place

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Eid ul Fitr



Contributions are welcome. Send them to the Editor or take to Bennett's Hardware Store.

LEICESTER'S DARK FACTORIES

Multi-million-pound money laundering and VAT fraud scandal in Leicester's garment factories

By Simran Radia

Leicester's so-called 'dark factories' have had many of their secrets unveiled over the past couple of months, including how little their workers are paid and how they may have helped fuel Leicester's local outbreak, forcing the city into lockdown. It therefore comes as no surprise that these factories have been involved in more shady business.

A BBC investigative programme reported that a network of clothing manufacturers in Leicester were involved in money laundering and VAT fraud. The illegal activity was first brought to light at a civil court case involving a dispute between bosses of two clothing wholesalers.

Money laundering is the process by which a large sum of money is made to look like it has in fact been legitimately earned, when it has been earned through criminal activity. In other words, criminals take 'dirty money' and effectively 'launder' it to make it 'cleaner.'

Rostum Nagra, the company director of a Leicester-based supplier, was accused of taking over a firm belonging to a business associate and transferring all the assets to his own company, Rocco Fashion Limited. During the case, Nagra's business records, which were noted in a 'cash book,' containing scraps of paper and handwritten coded notes, were examined. These notes had been kept separate from

the firm's accounts. In turn, they revealed how Nagra had arranged for the production of false invoices as part of a fraud scheme with a network of fake Leicester garment factories.

When the company director would receive an order from Select Fashion, he would arrange for the garments to be made more cheaply by a CMT supplier. He would then pay in cash, with the transaction hidden from his company's official accounts and records. The Rocco Fashion owner would place a fake order for the same goods with another company, which appeared to be a garment factory, but in reality, was simply a shell company. The company would then provide an invoice at an inflated price, far higher than that really paid to the genuine CMT supplier who was making the clothes. Crucially, the fake invoice included an added 20% VAT charge.

Nagra would pay the inflated amount into the shell company's bank account. Almost immediately, the money would then be withdrawn from the bank account in cash and returned to Nagra, apart from, usually, half the VAT, with which he would pay his accomplices off. It is untraceable what happens to the cash next.

Nagra denied involvement, but the judge in the court case concluded that Nagra had run a "fraudulent scheme to launder cash for his own benefit." There is no indication that Select Fashion was aware of the fraud within its supply chain. Another company mentioned in Nagra's court case T&S Fashions was also investigated. Although it didn't appear in the Rocco Fashion owner's cash book, the judge implied that it was one of fourteen

other companies that 'may have been involved in laundering cash.'

T&S Fashions had allegedly provided invoices to Rostum Nagra charging above average prices for items of clothing. Its biggest customer was Boohoo, which it dealt with through another company. Boohoo claimed that it had concerns about 'unauthorised subcontracting' by suppliers and is apparently taking action. Boohoo has previously said to the BBC, that it would never knowingly conduct business with anyone acting outside of the law.

A local MP has described such activity as 'endemic' in Leicester's garment industry, and Meg Hillier, chair of the Public Accounts Committee, said the fraud appeared to be the 'tip of the iceberg' and that it could represent 'hundreds of millions of pounds' in lost tax revenue. She said HM Revenue and Customs must tackle fraud within the Leicester textiles industry.

First sweatshops and now money laundering; it appears that some of Leicester's garment factories are enticed by crime.

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ARTIFISCAL INTELLIGENCE

Penny Dreadful

Normally, if you sit and watch oil paint dry you'll be wasting your time. Those viscous strokes of lustrous colour scintillate the mind's eye, so much so that you not only get lost in the painting but swear you could swim in it. The heterogeneity of linseed oil comes in its organic beauty providing its characteristic aptitude for its role in the artistic world and beyond. But in these times of health crisis; of fiscal stimulus packages, furlough and fomites, it seems those in charge of harvesting and distributing flax have other priorities than saving some for the artistic community.

There is only enough budget for tempura as the oils are needed elsewhere and if you pad the gentrified streets of cultural quarters the smell of rotten eggs lingers in the air. Those floor-to-ceiling canvases, old masters, are cracking from their wall-space. Portraits hang dehydrated in their galleries afflicted with atopic eczema. The pond at Giverny has crusted over. As for those paintings still sitting in the studios and workshops; the monomers just bump around with no hands-to-hold, no chains to link and it seems the pigments start to weep. The man who lives at No. 11 has no regard for our creative communities; those scroungers, and radicals and bon vivants.

At present, we cannot wrap our arms around our fellow artists. We have to lie to them and repeat the mantra "everything is going to be alright". My manifesto is this. Let's support our local community projects with the gusto in which we weekly beat tattoos on our pots and pans on doorsteps, let's invest in independent business and help the

fledglings fly, and let's follow in the footsteps of our estranged European cousins and consider the arts as an essential sector.

ALTAR

shredded phosphorescent ladder in the denier of evening thigh
cascades turquoise tensile ribbons
of aerial silk
smeared colophony on the cosmic axis
athwart scapes and sides
ruptured menthol dabs on sodden cellulose
rests in an ash tray grove

PENNY DREADFUL is an artist, performer and writer. He is co-founder of the art collective Idiot Savant. His upcoming collection entitled COVID: 19 Poems in Isolation is coming soon to high-street and on-line retailers. News and updates available on www.idiot-savant.co.uk and www.facebook.com/pennydreadfulpoet.

WINTER WALKING



There's something so rewarding about winter walking, once you've made the effort to force yourself out of that comfy chair! There are those familiar easy walks on the doorstep. Evington Park, the Golf course and the Arboretum. Further afield is a lovely circular walk from Evington to Houghton, Thurnby and back to Evington. This walk takes a good 3 hours.

EVINGTON ARBORETUM

The Arboretum was established by Leicester City Council in 1970 and opened by David Attenborough. At the moment, the bare trees stand starkly against grey skies. Between 1970 and 1973 over 500 individual trees were planted, many donated by organisations and members of the public. The trees were planted in family groups. For example in the south west corner near the Evington Brook you will find poplars and willows. The Arboretum is a haven for birdlife and now is an excellent time to see such a variety of birdlife - before the leaves on the trees obscure your view.

PIGGY'S HOLLOW

A part of the Arboretum that clearly shows it was a moated site.





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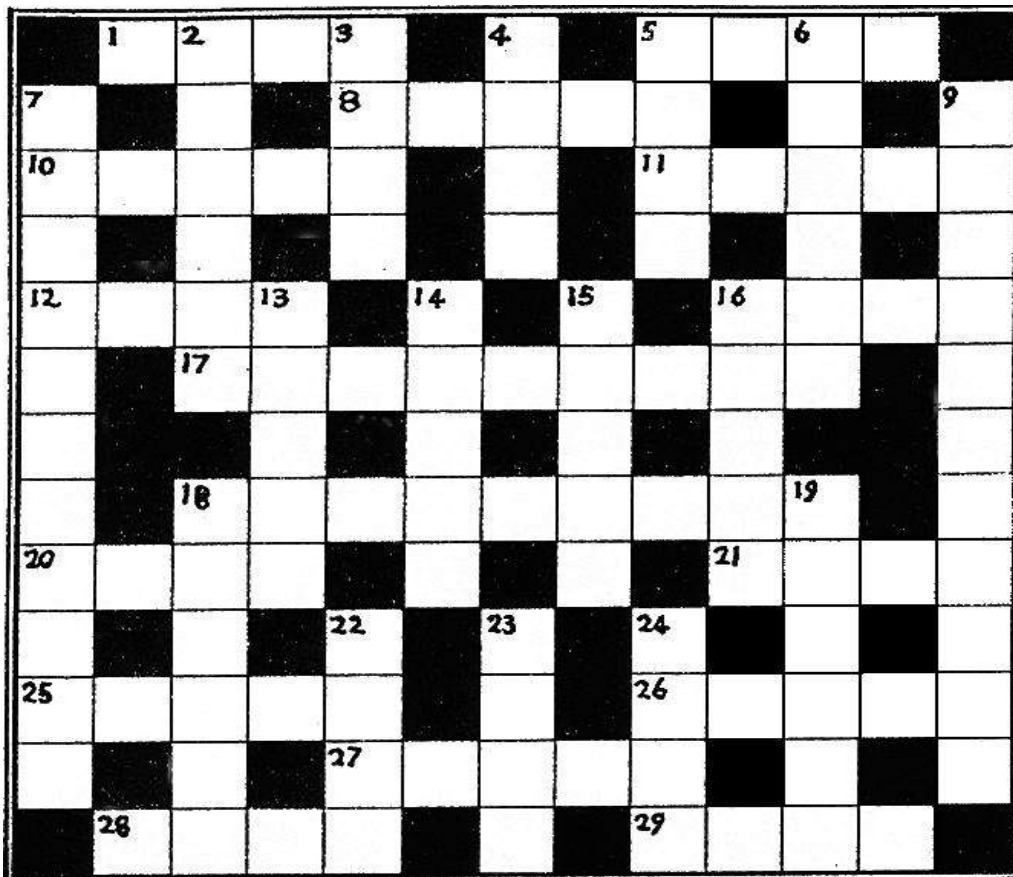
Welcome to our meetings

Sunday : 11am and 6pm
Wednesday : 7.30pm
Other meetings as announced

www.evingtonchapel.org.uk

For further information contact: 0116 2412087

"We preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord"



- 3 ACROSS**
- 1 SIMPLE (4)
 - 5 CELESTIAL BODY (4)
 - 8 APPROXIMATELY (5)
 - 10 DETEST (5)
 - 11 IMMATURE (5)
 - 12 NUB (4)
 - 16 DREAD (4)
 - 17 DICTION (9)
 - 18 RETINUE (9)
 - 20 NURSE (4)
 - 21 WAY OUT (4)
 - 25 THE SEA-EAR (5)
 - 26 BELIEF (5)
 - 27 BENEATH (5)
 - 28 CONTORT (4)
 - 29 DISENTANGLE (4)

- DOWN**
- 2 STICK (6)
 - 3 MEASURE OF LENGTH (4)
 - 4 JACKET (4)
 - 5 EYE INFLAMMATION (4)
 - 6 COMMON SENSE (6)
 - 7 COMPUTATION (11)
 - 9 ANNOYANCE (11)
 - 13 ANTELOPE (5)
 - 14 THESPIAN (5)
 - 15 SHOP (5)
 - 16 SMITHY (5)
 - 18 COATING OF TEETH (6)
 - 19 OUTSTRIP (6)
 - 22 ESSENCE (4)
 - 23 FIGURE (4)
 - 24 UNBLEACHED LINEN (4)

Compiled by R. Tracy Solutions on P. 15

REARRANGE THE LETTER TILES TO NAME ALL OF SANTA'S
REINDEERS

X	E	N	R	P	D	A	S	N	N	E	H	E	R
Z	E	N	C	O	D	O	N	C	E	P	I	D	
C	E	R	P	H	V	I	L	I	T	R	B		
R	A	N	D	A	M	E	T	D	O	L	R	U	
C	U												

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B	E	A	K

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THE LOCAL PLAN 2020 TO 2036

A public consultation is ongoing about this local plan until the 7th December, and may be extended.

The consultation sets out key growth and development objectives for the City of Leicester over 15 years. It follows the 2019 Government's published National Planning Policy Framework.

To view the documents go to www.consultations.leicester.gov.uk Click on consultation hub to find this local plan. Remember to scroll down to see all the pdf documents. There is also a link to encourage you to give your views.

In Evington various on-line meetings have been happening to respond to the local plan. These meetings have either focussed on Climate change or the sites in Evington that have been flagged up as possible areas for housing.

In Evington ward, these include:
Land at Leicester General Hospital (Strategic site 1044).

Then the non-strategic sites are:

Sedgebrook Road Open Space (Site 663). For housing on half of the land.

Kingscliffe Crescent Open Space (Site 1006). For partial building.

Judgemeadow Community College Playing Field (Site 559). For land between Biggin Hill Road and Stoughton Lane, subject to safeguarding of the EDDR route.

Linden School Playing Fields (Site 604). Part fronting Headland Road.

Land adjacent to Evington Leisure Centre (Site 684). The part fronting Downing Drive, retaining open space at rear.

Land North of Gartree Road (Site 715).
Rowlatts Hill School Playing Fields (Site 653). Strip adjacent to Lily Marriott Gardens.

Amenity land between Coleman Road and Goodwood Road (East of Hazelnut Close and Ellwood Close). (Site 962).

Friends of Evington was represented at a meeting with other Evington residents with representation from Evington Mutual Aid, Friends of the Earth, a European project about schools, and the Diocese of Leicester's Climate conference.

THE COVID-19 WALKERS AND TALKERS

Hello, we're back and still walking. At the time of writing we are on day 233 and still thoroughly enjoying it.

This time we thought that we would write and tell you about the relationships that we have observed between dogs and their owners. It is amazing what you can tell in the few seconds. We do not know anything about dogs but we have become great dog observers and to the point where we think that we can identify whether it is the dog or the owner that needs to go to dog training school.

A dog called 'W' has a beautiful chestnut-coloured coat that looks like silk. He has beautiful long ears and seems to be a very intelligent. His owner, A, has told us that W is very in tune with nature and loves trees. This is reflected in his name which we are not revealing for safeguarding and GDPR purposes; we can't afford to be sued! W and A clearly have a relationship of mutual respect and trust and they are both very calm. We don't think that we have ever seen him off of his lead, but A frequently stops and allows W to explore. A looks like an interesting character who is frequently dressed in shorts, regardless of the weather. We got to know his name on the first day when we saw him without his shorts. Don't get too excited readers because he was wearing a pair of long trousers. He said that it was a sign of winter approaching as the weather was cooler.

We love little F who we think is a cross between a Cavalier King Charles Spaniel and a Poodle, a Cavapoo. We first encountered F and its owner T when we nearly collided with them on our way back to Evington from Victoria Park. By way of an apology we stopped and talked with the owner. Her dog was excited and clearly wanted to get to know us. We rarely pet dogs but on this occasion F won our affection. How could we not respond? We both instinctively bent down and petted him fondly. This 3-month old delightful, friendly dog had

won our hearts. But readers, we have to remind you that we know nothing about dogs. We tried very hard to look intelligent during these conversations. It was on our second meeting that we noticed him in the distance. His owner was in a deep conversation with another dog owner. F probably saw us before we even noticed him and he was straining on his lead, completely ignoring his new dog friend, who his owner was keen to introduce him to. She had shared that she wanted him to have more dog friends as he was more familiar with humans. However, F knew that two of his biggest fans were approaching and he was not about to miss any moments of adoration. We did our duty as fans.

During the summer we were walking across the golf course. It was in the early days of "stay home, stay safe and save the NHS" (do you remember those days?). There was almost a novelty value to walking through the golf course. A man was looking slightly perturbed and it soon became apparent that he was looking for his dog. He then began to call its name; there was no canine response. Then he became rather flustered and was yelling for his dog. The dog appeared in the distance, stopped for a split second, glanced over its shoulder to observe its shrieking owner and then cantered off at speed away from the one who fed and cared for it. The dog had tasted freedom and was determined to make the most of it. We were willing the dog on because, surely, it would come to an abrupt end very soon. The score? Dog 1, man nil! That owner definitely needed to go to dog school.



Photo by Addy Tyler

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MIDWIFE-LED BIRTHING UNITS

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Midwife-led units provide better experience for low-risk mothers as they are more likely to enable women to give birth 'normally' without interventions such as induction, forceps, epidurals or caesareans.

The public consultation proposals to revamp services across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland propose centralising main maternity departments at the Royal Infirmary. (See p.2).

The plan to close the successful St. Mary's Birthing Centre, near Melton, and have a 12-month trial at the General Hospital would be a mistake for the following reasons:

1. St. Mary's has an established reputation for providing good quality care and is valued for its post natal care.
2. St. Mary's is accessible to women on the eastern side of Leicestershire and Rutland.
3. It offers choice.
4. If the NHS are correct and say too few babies are born at St. Mary's, then this needs better advertising to mothers, who have complained they were unaware of the options.
5. Midwife-led units are cost-effective even when run at a third of capacity.
6. The trial for a midwife-led unit at the General Hospital needs more than a year to judge its viability. The 500 births a year is unlikely to be met in the first year.



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7. We need a spectrum of provision and choices.

References:

Search 'Save St. Marys Birth Centre' on Facebook.

www.change.org/p/university-hospitals-of-leicester-nhs-trust-save-st-mary-s-birthing-centre

Visit:

www.betterhospitalsleicester.nhs.uk to complete a questionnaire online or call 2950750 or email beinvolved@leicestercityccg.nhs.uk to get a paper copy posted to you or get further help in filling in the questionnaire.

CHANGES IN EVINGTON VILLAGE



Bennett's is open, but with a sign only allowing two people in at a time and wearing masks. Across the road, the Cedars is closed during this time of National Lockdown. Only take-aways are allowed to be open.

THE VINTAGE 186 CAFE



This picture shows the Vintage 186 Cafe, in Evington Village, with Jo, the owner wearing a face mask and the tables all screened off. Jo is running her cafe as a take away. On 18th November East Midlands Today came to Evington and followed local resident Doreen as she walked around the park and village making herself keep a positive attitude. Doreen explained that she had lived alone for the last seven years, and needed to keep busy doing things and greeting people.

In the past Doreen was a regular attendee at the many clubs and activities that we had in Evington.

Every day Doreen calls to buy a drink from Jo. The cameras filmed Jo serving Doreen at the front of the cafe. "Supporting local businesses is so important in these difficult times" said Doreen.

CLAUDIA WEBBE MP FOR LEICESTER EAST HAS SUPPORT INFORMATION ON HER WEBSITE AT www.claudiawebbe.org.

My website contains updated, useful resources about Coronavirus, foodbanks, help for the elderly, mental health isolation support, Citizen's advice information, supermarkets with discounted times for the elderly, mental health isolation support and much more.

Under 'My Local' tag, you can read and download information about two ongoing consultations, about the reorganisation of hospitals in Leicestershire and the new draft local plan, which sets out key growth and development objectives for the City of Leicester over the next 15 years.

In Parliament I have raised issues about Clean Air targets, support for children and families, the Covid-19 outbreak, the NHS and US Trade Deals and Black Lives Matter.

Address: Member of Parliament for Leicester East, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

Email: claudia.webbe.mp@parliament.uk

Mobile: 07973 816885 Freephone 08007999870

Constituency Office: 218 Uppingham Road, Leicester LE5 0QG



SMIGGIE BITES



Why, to Smiggie, is a stolen J-cloth, found on the garage floor, so much more fun than the oh so many toys she has around her to play with. That J-cloth was the enemy; it had to be tossed in the air and then given a good shredding. I clear up the mess while being ably assisted by the ever-helpful Smiggie.

A new obsession that Smiggie has developed is a desire to look up telephone numbers. Who she wants to call is anyone's guess. Maybe she wants to call her mates Milo and Daisy. Once she sees the magazine rack she will dive at it, as it contains the phone books, then tip it over and then start to scour the pages. In her frustration at not being able to find the numbers she wants she will then resort to violence. I will be very lucky to use those phone books ever again. What those phone books have ever done to her heaven only knows. But still she looks as if it is all great fun.

Now a trip to the garden is always a new adventure to Smiggie. She cannot end any trip to the garden without finding something to bring into the house. The messier the find, the more fun she seems to get out of it. Rotting vegetation around the kitchen floor! I must admit that she does try in her own way to help me clear it up.

The time that Smiggie can spend

demolishing a used carton is endless. When I am eating the contents of a trifle carton, her little eyes never leave me; she is almost willing me to give her the carton. The nearer the bottom of the carton I get, the more excited she gets. In the end she can contain herself no longer and she makes an almighty lunge at me. Once I give her the carton it is straight into her bed with it.

As for me and my clothes, these are always fair game to Smiggie and always worth a full-on assault. I was not sorry when she passed her nineteen weeks of age and her razor-sharp baby teeth were replaced by teeth that were far less damaging to my skin and anything else that got in their way. But it still did not prevent her from having a go at my clothes, especially when I am trying to get into them. To Smiggie a stolen sock is such a pleasure and something that needs to be taken outside where she hopes I will follow her. Some habits never change.

Howard Edwards

AGE UK'S LAST ORDERS PROJECT

Sales of alcohol from local stores and supermarkets have jumped in 2020 with more people than ever choosing to drink at home.

Age UK Leicestershire & Rutland's Last Orders Project is working alongside Turning Point to provide free support for anyone over the age of 50 in relation to alcohol or substance misuse. If you would like a confidential chat with our team about yourself or a loved one, please contact Jackie on: 07734960241 or email hollie.hughes@ageukleics.org.uk

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This scarecrow is part of St. Denys Churchyard trail about harvest. He will be recycled for a Christmas trail!

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CROSSWORD ANSWERS - grid on page 12

Across

1. EASY, 5. STAR, 8. ABOUT, 10. ABHOR, 11. YOUNG, 12. CORE, 16. FEAR, 17. ELOCUTION, 18. ENTOURAGE, 20. TEND, 21. EXIT, 25. ORMER, 26. CREDO, 27. UNDER, 28. FLEX, 29. UNDO.

Down

2. ADHERE, 3. YARD, 4. COAT, 5. STYE, 6. ACUMEN, 7. CALCULATION, 9. AGGRAVATION, 13. ELAND, 14. ACTOR, 15. STORE, 16. FORGE, 18. ENAMEL, 19. EXCEED, 22. CRUX, 23. BODY, 24. ECRU.

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