



Evington Echo

www.EvingtonEcho.co.uk

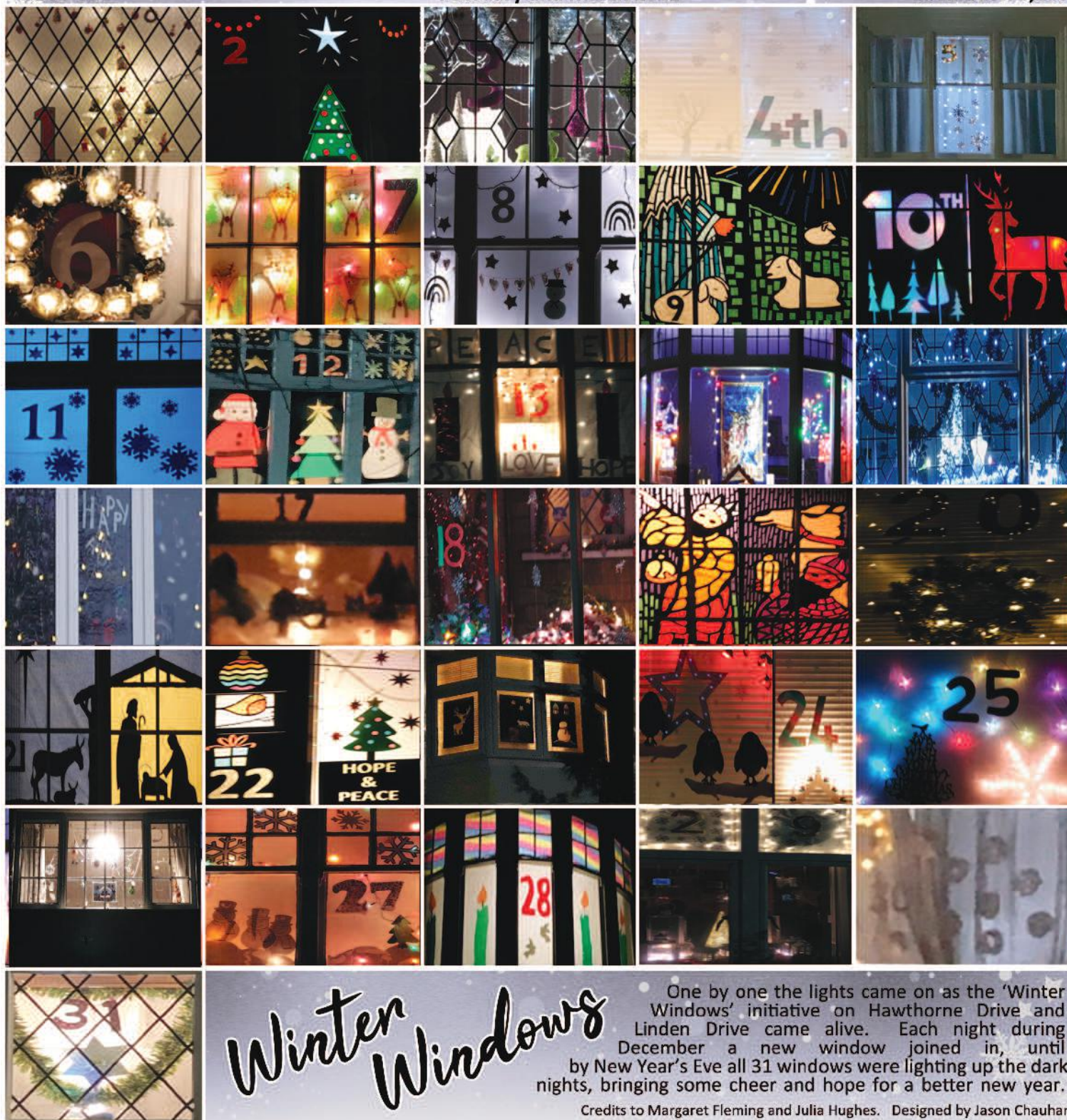
Keeping you up to date with Evington's news

The newspaper of Friends of Evington Charity No. 1148649

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Editorial

National lockdown continues, as I write this editorial. Not exactly cause for celebration. I suspect I am not alone in finding it rather difficult to tell the difference between the earlier lockdown in Leicester and this one.

The things in life that really matter, like seeing family and friends without restriction and fear of infection, remain a distant memory. A year has passed since Leicester became the first city in the UK to enter local lockdown. For Evington Echo readers socialising stopped dead. We couldn't see people in our homes. No friends round for dinner; not even a cup of coffee in the kitchen. Simple pleasures like these seem a lifetime away. Cafes, bars, and restaurants remain shut except for takeaways. Instead of a takeaway, I'd prefer to be eating with friends.

The vaccination programme brings hope. A return to a more normal way of life may be possible, but we aren't out of the woods. I miss the many fitness, social and craft groups. We used to have two pages of events in past Echoes.

2020 has been a challenging year. A horrifying and saddening year. But it has also been a year of happier moments. Some of the most significant stories of the year have been about the challenges overcome, the lives saved and the many acts of kindness that have made a difference.

This Evington Echo brings you local news from the perspective of Friends of Evington who manage the charity with objectives (really aims) to look after our environment (Evington in Bloom campaign and projects) and promote community (The Evington Echo is our main project during lockdown where we can highlight our own activities and those of others who also have these aims).

An important part of our work will be to make sure there is succession planning so that after the Evington Echo celebrates 40 years in June, we can put things in place for another 40 years. We also hope that environmental campaigning in Evington will achieve a better place to live for all residents.
Helen.

RSPB BIG GARDEN BIRDWATCH

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds holds a Big Garden Birdwatch every January. They invite people to spend an hour watching the birds in their garden and recording what they see. Everyone then submits their findings to the charity and they are able to build up a picture of how our garden birds are faring. With many bird species in decline, this information is really important to help them see what is happening. It's also a good reminder for us all to connect with nature in the winter months!



Several of Evington Mutual Aid's volunteers took part this year. After all, while we're all staying at home, it's the perfect time to watch the wildlife in our gardens! Nisha and her 21-month-old daughter made bird cakes to attract the birds to their garden. Anthony, the vicar of St Denys, was very



Heron on 'The Cedars' roof. Photo by Asher Gough

excited to have a green woodpecker visit while he was doing the birdwatch. And Sam even saw a heron! But that was sitting on the roof of The Cedars pub rather than in her garden, so she wasn't able to count it in her results. Between us all, we saw robins, magpies, starlings, nuthatches, great tits, blue tits, blackbirds, pigeons, green woodpeckers, sparrows, crows, and green parakeets. It was lovely to see so many people getting involved with this important citizen science project. If you missed it this year, please look out for it next January!
Hannah Wakley

Jeff Henry completed his bird watch on 30th January and recorded 2 robins, 2 magpies, 2 starlings, 1 great tit, 1 blackbird and 1 wood pigeon in their Evington garden. The birds came for the blow-worms and fat nibbles in their bird box, but the blackbird enjoyed the old chopped apple on the lawn.

EVINGTON ECHO DISTRIBUTION - CAN YOU HELP PLEASE?

Can you offer to help distribute the Evington Echo in the following areas:

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We're preserving and documenting the stories of all generations with a Gujarati background. We'd love to hear your migration stories and what Gujarati culture means to you and your family here in Leicester. You can share your story in any medium that you feel comfortable in: pictures, videos, voice recording or a piece of writing.

As a thank you for sharing your story you'll also be given the chance to win a £30 Amazon voucher (draw system).
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GUJARATI HERITAGE IN LEICESTER: MY GRANDPARENTS' STORY

By Simran Radia



When my grandparents, Sunil and Varsha Radia, came to the UK from Eldoret, Kenya in the Spring of 1994, I doubt they envisioned they would be as successful as they are now, with such a thriving business and so much fame in the Asian community of Leicester whilst staying humble and true to their roots.

Initially, my grandparents moved to London, where they found the cost of living too expensive, later moving to Syston in Leicester, where they rented a house. Having come from a massive cooking oil business in Kenya, business seemed to be a viable option for them in order to create an adequate livelihood to support their family. With that, they first decided to invest in some houses, followed by starting a homemade biscuits and nuts business, which quickly became very successful, thus giving them the confidence to make their final and most successful endeavour in business: frozen food. After a year of trial and error, they devised a perfect recipe for samosas, spring rolls and various other frozen foods and bought their own unit, registering their business in 1998, which we know today as Sara Foods. Something I have always been in awe of is the immense respect with which my grandparents treat their employees, almost as an extended family. No matter how much success has come their way,

they have stayed humble, spreading the warmth they bought with them from Kenya, feeding hundreds of people.

Social gatherings were commonplace back in Kenya and were always centred around food. On the contrary, in Leicester, they were rare, perhaps accounting for why my grandparents perceived the people here as rather hostile. The Asian community in Leicester was small too, in stark contrast to how it is now. As a result, there was much less awareness of festivals compared to Kenya. Understandably, language was a barrier as it would be for any immigrant and the dismal British weather proved to be shocking, having spent the most part of their lives living in a country centred on the equator. However, the true reason they moved was for education; although the basic foundations in Kenya are sufficient, there are many more higher education opportunities in the UK.

My grandparents have done a brilliant job of ensuring that we never forget who we are and where we are from by for instance, teaching me and my sister how to cook Gujarati food, or making sure that all of their grandchildren can speak fluent Gujarati. I am utterly grateful for the sacrifices they have made, leaving their extravagant lives in Kenya and moving here, for the sake of our futures.

More than anything, it is important to remember your roots, to cherish them because without them, you wouldn't be as lucky as you are today, with access to such brilliant education and opportunities. It is vital that you are welcoming of the many beautiful aspects of your heritage. There is so much I have learnt from my grandparents, especially hard work, perseverance and generosity, with which they have established a presence and a renowned business in a completely foreign country.

This article was written as part of Nupur Arts Youth Association's Gujarati Heritage Project. I hope you will consider entering your stories.



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OVER 30 YEARS EXPERIENCE

Letters

DEATH OF A TREE



The sound of a chain saw usually means a tree may be in peril. This was so, on 14th December 2020. A cypress/cedar tree, of great height (higher than St. Denys Church spire) and within the conservation area, having stood in Evington for probably 150 years plus, met its demise within six hours. Currently the trunk is left standing at approximately 10 feet.

I discovered that the tree had been condemned because it was deemed 'unsafe'. The decision apparently was made by an employee of the Council without a second independent opinion being consulted. And of course without any meaningful discussion and assessment of the environmental impact of the death of this tree on the wildlife, insect and air quality of the area.

It would appear that the tree was lost because of financial/insurance considerations. I am also increasingly concerned about the continuing loss of trees, shrubs and foliage from the front (and possibly the rear) gardens of what were once pleasant and well-kept areas in and around Evington. I know of at least three large trees which have disappeared around the Marydene Drive/Thurnview

area within the past 18 months, presumably because they were inconvenient to the home owners.

I am sure more trees are in peril. One probable solution would be for important trees to be listed. It is apparently possible for trees to be listed even if they are in private gardens if they are visible and after certain criteria has been obtained.

May I suggest that the homeowners responsible for these losses make donations to the Evington Arboretum and/or the Woodland Trust or consider planting new trees on their premises.

Also, shed a tear for the loss of a beautiful of tree, as I did.



Carole Sturgess

DOOR-TO-DOOR SCAM ALERT

Please be aware that criminals can pose as officials by knocking at doors and pretending they are (Any number of official people). If you are not sure, you can phone the police on 999 (emergency number) or 101 (non emergency number).

In these difficult times be extra vigilant and especially if you live in a City Council flat with just one front door.

INTERNET SCAM

I was offered a free top-quality mobile phone on the internet for free, but then they wanted my full details and £1. Payment had to be through giving my bank details. Never give your bank details away to anybody you do not know. Even your bank won't ask for them and give warnings about staying safe on-line. Helen

On Messenger and other social media sites you suddenly get a message-allegedly from one of your contacts-saying ... '(your name) it's you' or 'look at this!' ... usually a video...You inadvertently click on it, forget you're already logged into Messenger when it asks you to enter your username and password... then you're hacked! The very least that will happen is that it'll hijack your phone, subjecting you to infernal, continuous advertising, lock it up completely or automatically send the message onto all your contacts, then theirs, hacking the accounts of all but the most vigilant.... (if it does happen to you - immediately change your passwords!)

There is another one where scammers send you a new bank card when yours isn't due for renewal... someone took hers to the bank as it wasn't contactless and no use to her ... they said they hadn't sent it and if she'd put it into the cash point it would have emptied her bank account!

Answering the phone can also be a minefield... your internet is about to be cut off... you are to be given a tax refund... a robot has even informed me that there was a warrant out for my arrest! Telling me to press one to speak to my case worker! Don't ever press anything! Certainly don't turn on your computer if someone asks you to check anything! Hang up straight away!

Stay on your guard!
Addy

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EVINGTON VILLAGE FETE AND SHOW.

Due to the continuing uncertainty of the Covid pandemic and where we will be by August, there will be no fete again this year. We really hope that 2022 is the year we can return with a special event.

There will however be an online virtual show to include the following sections:

D Cut flowers, E Pot Plants, F Fruit, G vegetables, K Art, L Photography. Evington in Bloom: Front Garden.

Exhibitors will need to submit photos of the exhibits.

The show will not be judged and will be informal and non competitive.

Further details will appear in the April/May edition of the Evington Echo.

For further information or to register an interest please email John Pelmor jmpelmor@yahoo.co.uk or phone 270 9881. Chris Hossack Chair of Fete Committee.

EXTENSION TO EVINGTON LEISURE CENTRE



This picture shows extension work being undertaken for the Leisure Centre on Downing Drive for a new gym, a virtual spa and group exercise studio and a 70+ station gym.

A & L Landscapes

All garden work undertaken

Fencing Block paving

Decking Astro turf

Turfing Patios

Winners of

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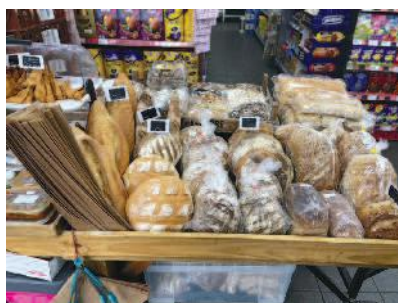
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NISA LOCAL

38-40 Main Street, Evington

Nisa Local has a new advert. (See foot of page). They are using 'Snappy Shopper' to help with home deliveries.

The owners, Richard and Lynn Kent have been working really hard to keep their shop well stocked and now they want to ensure the local community have a service that can deliver to homes very quickly. The photographs below show the wide range of products on sale.



MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Radio Leicester have been highlighting people who help in their local community throughout Leicestershire.

In Evington we have many people who work really hard to make a difference, including the many volunteers, for Evington Mutual Aid. However, for this 'making a difference' slot, the focus is on Vanessa Tarry who works tirelessly as a volunteer. Here are some of the things she does around where she lives.

Removes wet leaves and mud from the road and pavements when the LCC cleaning department can't access the leaves behind parked cars and when the pavements are slippery under foot for pedestrians. She also removes litter.

Politely talking to drivers so they do not leave their car engines running for excessive time causing fumes and pollution.

Keeping a look out for couriers' delivery so that residents who have shared communal areas don't have their parcels stolen by parcel thieves.

Keeping a look out for other hazards.

Helping an elderly resident with shopping, exercise and collecting mail. Vanessa makes sure she is complementing the work of carers by supplementing what they do with regular good neighbourhood activities which has enabled this elderly resident to stay in her own home for as long as possible.

C19 WINTER GRANT SCHEME

Carers Direct, Homecare, 50 Main Street, Evington Village (Tel: 2736066) is a referring organisation for the Winter Grant Scheme. C19 Winter Grant Scheme is for anybody (extremely vulnerable) who needs help who has been affected by COVID. If you let Carers Direct know then they may be able to help, after verifying the person's identity. The scheme is valid until the end of March 2021.

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We support the community by connecting people to local support and information. We are a distribution hub for the Evington Echo.

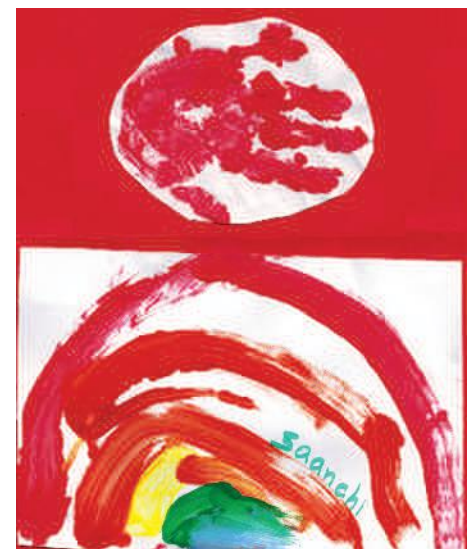
Free home deliveries in local area. Orders over £15

THINKING ABOUT THE PROBLEMS OF BULLYING DURING ANTI BULLYING WEEK

Many schools and other institutions give advice about bullying and always recommend that the victim seeks out a trustworthy adult and tells. Recently I heard about a middle-aged woman who had only just been diagnosed with autism, who had suffered terribly when she was at school and this had affected the rest of her life, despite parents fighting her cause.

Bullies do pick on people who are different, but they also pick on people who work hard and achieve things they want to have. Also they like to act first, anticipating someone will tell. If this isn't possible they are quick to react. This makes bullying both ubiquitous and hard to stop because bullies pick on one or two people and never everyone at once.

The pictures above were made by Saanichi Singh during Anti-Bullying week in January.



YOUNG PEOPLE TRAINED AS MENTORS IN NEW PROJECT TO PREVENT VIOLENCE

Schools across Leicestershire have started to implement an innovative leadership programme to prevent bullying and violence.

The Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP) Programme, which is funded by Leicestershire Police and Crime Commissioner Lord Willy Bach through the county's Violence Reduction Network (VRN), is being implemented in seven secondary schools including our local Evington school, Judgemeadow Community College, with further schools planned to take part.

The programme, which is based on a 'bystander approach', involves students in Years 10 and 11 becoming mentors and equipping them with the knowledge, confidence and skills to safely take action to prevent issues from escalating.

Supported by staff, mentors also facilitate sessions with younger students about issues that commonly concern young people and, through discussion, promote the values and attitudes which prevent bullying and violence. Mentors also act as role models and play an active part in creating a safe school environment.

THE COVID-19 WALKERS AND TALKERS

Goodness 2021, it's hard to believe that we have got here so quickly and we are continuing to walk. At the time of writing we are on day 294 of walking and, hopefully, getting even fitter.

It is surprising what you can infer from observing people, how they walk or cycle together and interact. A lot can be gleaned within a few seconds, from the moment that your attention is drawn to them to the short time that it takes to walk past them.

Sister and brother on their bikes. We observed her cycling down a road at speed, without an apparent care in the world, whilst her little brother was desperately trying to catch up. We felt sorry for him as he was clearly years younger, on a smaller bike, with shorter legs and was cycling as fast as his legs could pedal. This became a frequent observation. One morning we saw her waiting in the road and we were concerned that something might be wrong. However, we were delighted when we realised that she was

waiting for her young brother to catch up.

On another occasion we were both waiting at the same set of lights to cross London Road; it was the first opportunity that we had to greet them. It was obvious that they were going to school from their uniforms. However V asked S, in bewilderment, where they thought that they were going. S looked equally bewildered because it was obvious to her that they were going to school. V then looked quizzical whilst asking what they thought they were doing going to school over the weekend. S was now looking extremely perplexed whilst reminding V that it was Friday and most children go to school on Fridays. V was in 'confused.com' mode and had no clue about which day it was. (It's the impact of the sustained Leicester lockdown.) In a heap of laughter V then revealed that she was convinced that it was Saturday. S had always wondered what planet she lived on! We think that the siblings overheard the conversation, how could they not, as they smiled, or were they smirking?

The boy on the bike. One morning S had to step off the pavement quickly as a bike hurtled in her direction with no intention of moving onto the road. The rider looked like a teenager who was delivering newspapers. S glared at him, she is known for her 'look', but said nothing. A few mornings later as we were just starting our walk, we saw the same young man doing his delivery round again. This time he was cycling on the road and looked in our direction, warily. S made a point of smiling at him, thanking him for riding on the road and wishing him a good day. He looked a little surprised. We saw him several times and began talking with him, always telling him to stay safe and watch where he was going. One morning when he approached with his familiar peddling style, which involved not sitting on the saddle, we noticed to our surprise that he was wearing his school uniform. Our greeting chat that morning was about him staying focused at school, working hard and doing his best. He was a very polite young man and we hoped to get to know him better. One weekend we saw him cycling along a different road and realised that he had been for a morning cycle with his father. We asked him how he was settling back into school, how he was adjusting to more traditional learning again, whether anyone there had tested positive, how that had been handled etc. He must have felt that he was undergoing some form of interrogation but he answered everything very politely. We will observe his progress as the academic year continues and will always encourage him to work to the best of his ability.

Val Fisher and Suzanne Overton-Edwards

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LENT AND EASTER AT ST. DENYS CHURCH



Christmas may seem a long time ago already but with the outdoor crib scene and carols in the car park alongside the online carol service and virtual Beer and Carols, there was still joy and hope and a sense of coming together to mark Jesus' birth. Since then it has been harder, and for everyone's safety we took the decision to open the church only for funerals. We've continued to worship together online and over the phone, and we do all we can to keep everyone together with letters, phone calls, virtual coffee mornings and doorstep blessings!

Now we are looking towards Easter and there is still uncertainty around how we will celebrate but we know that we will somehow. As usual there will be a reflective service at 2pm on Good Friday and a celebration at 10.00am on Easter Day. For more details and updates, follow us on social media or contact office@stdenys.org.uk.

In the meantime, following last year's Footpaths course, we are running a weekly course called 'Caring for Creation' during Lent. There is also a new churchyard trail with audio reflections so do look out for that on your walks.

We have daily Zoom prayers in which we remember our key workers, those in our community who are struggling, those who are sick or have died, and those who are grieving. Get in touch if we can pray for you or if you would like to join us for any of our services or events.

NHS SURVEY

If you would like to fill in a survey for NHS Communications and Engagement Services for NHS England and NHS Improvement about patient access to GP services and NHS improvement, please contact Karen Matthew-Donawa (NHS Arden and Greater East Midlands Commissioning Support Unit. Tel: 01216110231. Mobile: 0792 0782522. Karen.matthew-donawa@nhs.net

EVINGTON EYE CARE, DOWNING DRIVE

The government announced a third lockdown which started on Tuesday 5th January 2021. As we move into this new lockdown we would like to reassure our patients that we are still open. (See advert below.) As a primary care provider, we will remain open during the lockdown and will continue to provide you with all your eyecare and eyewear needs. Hearing care services will also continue as normal during this time, with hearing check and wax removal appointments available.

For the continuation of essential healthcare, "it is really important - unless your clinicians tell you otherwise, you should continue to use the NHS, get your scans, turn up for your appointments and pick up your treatments. If at all possible, we want you to continue to access these services, now and through the winter. Indeed, it's only by taking this action that we can protect the NHS for you."

We are committed to providing a safe environment for you. The team have all been wearing PPE since March, and the examination rooms and dispensing areas are thoroughly cleaned after each appointment.

On our website, you can see the full details of all the steps we have taken to keep you safe and for your peace of mind;
www.evingtoneyecare.co.uk/weareopen



DAILY GRATITUDE JOURNALING

I was introduced to writing a gratitude journal some years back. I thought I would share with you how I practice this.

Purchase an A5 new note book, some felt tips, colouring pencils and a nice new pen to write with.

Find a time of day daily where you can take 10 minutes out for yourself. Sit silently with your eyes gently closed.

Focusing on your breath take a few deep breaths in and out. Placing your hand on your heart area say silently to yourself 'thank you, thank you, thank you'

Then open your note book and start with the words 'I am truly grateful for' then finish the sentence with what you are grateful for. Try to write down at least five things you are grateful for daily. Some examples are 'I am truly grateful for my home it keeps me safe and warm. I am truly grateful for my hands so I am able to type this article. I am truly grateful for the food shopping I did this morning. I am truly grateful for my health' and so on.

As well as listing the gratitudes you can try writing 'I am truly grateful for' in the middle of the page and draw pictures for each gratitude. Be as creative as you like with your gratitude journal.

Do give it a try and feel free to get in touch with me through the social media links Indy Essence. I would love to hear from you.
Indy Samra

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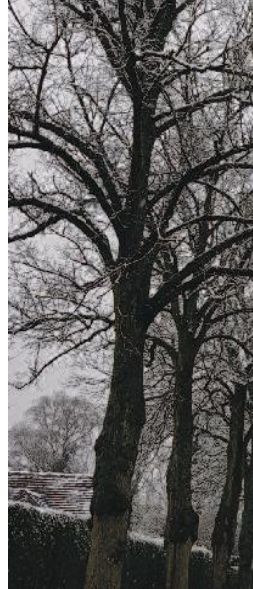
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A DAY OF SNOW IN EVIN



Photographers:
Mutual Aid photographers, Paul Archdeacon,
Harbhajan Lotay, Ian Adcock, Onkar Korotana
and Suresh Vaghela

GTON - 8th February 2021



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

THE FASHION INDUSTRY IN LEICESTER

By Simran Radia

Leicester East MP welcomes the steps that have been taken to improve Boohoo's practices following the Levitt Inquiry of 2020. However this MP remains concerned about whether Boohoo have committed to full transparency concerning supporting workers' rights and showing best practice in action.

Claudia Webbe MP is a member of the Environmental Audit Committee (EAC) which is examining Leicester's Garment Industry as part of the follow-up inquiry on fashion sustainability. She says the CEO of Boohoo answered questions as part of this inquiry and said, "It is very easy for us to take all our production offshore Lots of the fashion industry have moved offshore. We are still here and sometimes it feels like we get punished for it."

Claudia Webbe MP says it is true that the industry has moved offshore and that a conservative guess of loss of wages for garment workers worldwide, excluding China, and for the months of March, April May 2020, is between 3.19 and 5.79 billion dollars.

Boohoo can choose to ignore the plight of workers, but Claudia Webbe MP does not think it is right for corporate profits to be prioritised above human rights and wellbeing. It is to be hoped that Boohoo will accept responsibility for companies in their supply chain. However she argues that there should be a statutory regulatory framework in place to prevent exploitation within the supply chain both in Leicester and the UK and ideally worldwide.

It is also to be hoped that Boohoo will

terminate all contact with suppliers not paying the minimum wage and compensate for any past errors where their supply chains have paid less than half the minimum wage. As explained in earlier editions of the Evington Echo through my articles, which documented the evidence, dark factories in Leicester are a scandal.

FRED AT THE REPAIR SHOP



In December 2019 the BBC programme The Repair Shop sent their researchers to Leicester to search for people with items of great sentimental importance or emotional value that were in need of some loving restoration. The Repair Shop were invited to come to Evington by the charity, Friends of Evington, and The Vintage 187 Café, on Main Street agreed to host the event.

My husband Graham and I took along my very much loved Teddy Bear 'Fred'. Fred has been with me since Christmas Day 1961 when he was given to me by my parents. I was born with the disability Spina Bifida and as such I have been in and out of hospital many, many times and had numerous operations and each and every time Fred has been by my side. As a child I can remember waking up from surgery to see Fred and I with matching bandages!

He has been not only a constant companion, but also a huge comfort over the years. We even went to boarding school together and he still comes on holiday with us now.

As you can probably imagine Fred has been through the wars quite a bit and was looking a bit battered and forlorn by the time he met The Repair Shop researchers on that freezing cold December evening at the Vintage 187 café on Main Street, Evington. A couple of days later I received a call from the producer of The Repair Shop to say that she loved the story of Fred's journey and everything we had been through together and we were invited to take him down to the Weald and Downland Museum in Chichester, where the programme is filmed, the following week.



If you have never seen The Repair Shop on TV it is a barn that houses experts in all fields of restoration but the ones we were most excited to meet were Julie and Amanda known as 'The

Teddy Bear Ladies'. Before entering the barn we had microphones attached and then entered the barn as I nervously clutched hold of Fred. The Teddy Bear Ladies immediately put us at ease and we soon forgot about the camera man, sound guy and producer. I told them Fred's story and we chatted about how important it was to me that Fred could be given a much needed makeover. Although I loved him as he was, tattered and threadbare, lacking in stuffing and no longer white but a sad washed out grey, I really felt that he deserved some attention for putting up with me for all those years.



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The time then came to hand Fred over to the ladies and it was at that moment that I had a slight feeling of what it would have been like for my own Mother all those years ago every time she had to leave me at the hospital in the hands of the Drs and Nurses. We said goodbye to Fred and I told him he'd be fine as we left and made the long journey back to Evington.

A week later we were back at The Repair Shop to see the newly refreshed and made over Fred. We had a nervous wait outside the barn in the bitter cold January evening and then it was time. We entered and immediately saw the Teddy Bear Ladies standing in front of a table with a blanket placed over a small mound. We talked about how much we had missed Fred as it was the only time in my life that I could really remember him not being close by.



Then it was time for him to be revealed and there he was! So clean and fluffy with a new bright yellow ribbon around his neck. When I'd left him there the week before he'd had a blue scarf on to cover the poor stitching by myself that was

holding his head on. Now he was completely restored and looked just as I remembered him from when I was a child. I was so pleased to get him back that I didn't let go of him all the way home.

It was only when the programme aired on 21st September 2020 that we actually saw the makeover take place and how thorough and kind the ladies and the presenter Jay Blades were to Fred.

All in all this was a most amazing and emotional experience.
Steph Durham



DOG THEFTS - BE VIGILANT!

There has sadly been a massive increase in dog thefts, due to the increased desire for dog ownership over lockdown.

Reports have included people coming to stroke your dog but snatching the lead, white vans with a RSPCA logo approaching dog walkers, 'confiscating' dogs that 'match the description of a stolen dog', 'tagging' lamp-posts near to houses with dogs ...

In my street, occupants of a small white van were challenged when seen going into people's front gardens - right up to the windows - the man had a dog lead in hand saying he had lost his dog ... Unfortunately, dogs are easy to locate ... they bark!

Stay on your guard - if you witness anything suspicious like vehicles hanging about or driving up and down, note down the vehicle registration, description, etc. and ring it through to the police. Pets give us great joy, but these reprobates are turning that to heartbreak for many.

Addy Tyler

FINDING LAND FOR HOUSES

Grant Butterworth, Leicester City Council Head of Planning, said there had been 921 comments about the various sites for potential housing development in the draft local Plan and petitions totalling 4,000 names. There were five strategic sites under consideration, 1. The Western Park golf course 2. Ashton Green at Beaumont Leys 3. to the north of the A46 4. west of Anstey Lane and 5. two-thirds of the Leicester General Hospital site. Planning permission would be needed for any changes on both the strategic sites and smaller sites. These strategic sites will take a large number of homes.

The Evington Echo has kept readers informed of the smaller pockets of land suggested within the consultation in the Evington area .

The council say space for around 29,000 new homes will be needed in the city over the next 16 years and plans are for nearly 5,000 more homes to be built in the city centre. Neighbouring districts will be asked to take a share of the homes targetted within their own boundaries. Building work is underway for 300 homes opposite and adjacent to the old Farm Park, Stoughton.



Picture courtesy of the Leicester Mercury

The picture above shows Climate campaigners' cardboard model of what they want Leicester to look like in the future. The model shows how houses could sit alongside well thought-out green spaces that are accessible to all and are both pollinator friendly and people friendly.

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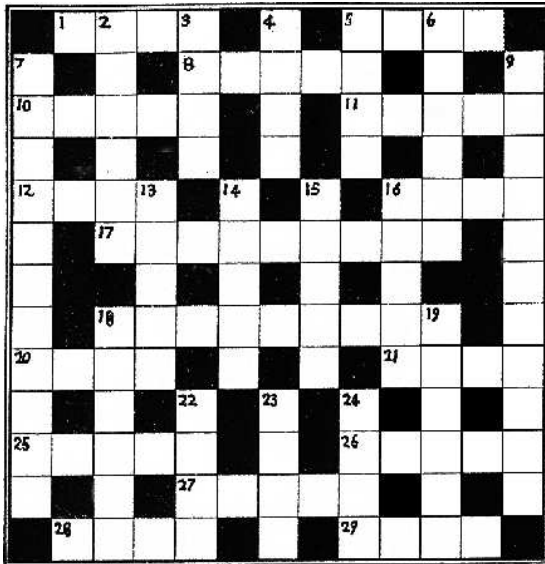
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Welcome to our meetings

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

www.evingtonchapel.org.uk

For further information contact: 0116 2412087



THE HAWTHORNE AND LINDEN LIGHT UP

During these terrible dark times Margaret Fleming and Julia Hughes came up with a brilliant idea to put some light back into our lives. The basis of their idea was to get the residents of Hawthorne Drive and Linden Drive to decorate their front windows over the festive season. I thought that I would give this my best shot and decorate both my two front windows to the best of my ability.

I asked Skye and her parents to help. Skye never fails to amaze me with her artistic talents, she can produce a work of art using the most basic of materials. I gathered a few things together, including the furry animals that I had given Christina over the years. I thought they would look good because they were brightly coloured. I placed these in a row along the window shelf and then got out a lot of fairy lights, tinsel and other decorations that we had acquired over the years.

Skye proceeded to rearrange the furry animals and used lots of fairy lights and tinsel. And what an improvement she had made by arranging them together.



It will was shame when the window displays were taken down, so maybe Margaret and Julia can come up with something else. Howard

ACROSS		
1	RESCUE	(4)
5	FOOTWEAR	(4)
8	FIGURE	(5)
10	COMBINE	(5)
11	ENLIVEN	(5)
12	ANGER	(4)
16	TOO	(4)
17	INTRICATE	(9)
18	IMPASSIVE	(9)
20	PIVOT	(4)
21	HURL	(4)
25	KEEN	(5)
26	MUNICIPAL	(5)
27	STADIUM	(5)
28	PROP	(4)
29	FACIAL FEATURE	(4)

DOWN		
2	RETALIATE	(6)
3	WHIRLPOOL	(4)
4	FEVER	(4)
5	PACE	(4)
6	PROPHET	(6)
7	CURTAILED	(11)
9	SCIENCE OF FLYING	(11)
13	RUN AWAY TO MARRY	(5)
14	ASSISTS IN CRIME	(5)
15	CONCISE	(5)
16	LOFT	(5)
18	DISEMBARK	(6)
19	SCULTS	(6)
22	CHAFE	(4)
23	SO LET IT BE	(4)
24	SCRUTINISE	(4)

Compiled by R. Tracy Solutions p15

TAKE CARE WITH YOUR PARCELS

The lockdown means many more people are using delivery services. It's not just for Christmas now. Packages are often dumped on doorsteps or in apartment lobbies, inviting casual thieves, who look for opportunities. Please be aware that this type of theft is also happening in the Evington area.

POLITICIANS

There are three MPs in Leicester East, but the Evington Echo is only distributed in wards served by Claudia Webbe MP mostly (see advert on page 15) and Jon Ashworth
jon.ashworth.mp@parliament.uk
Tel: 02072193000 To contact councillors in your ward in Leicester City Tel: 4546360 or search www.leicester.gov.uk and use the search button for councillors. The City Council website will give you the latest information on Coronavirus. If you aren't on the web then use the 111 on-line Coronavirus service to get help.

POEMS IN ISOLATION

Penny Dreadful was vaccinated in Northampton in the nineties. He enjoys washing his hands and staying at home. He is often to be seen on socially-distant state-approved walks around the outskirts of Leicester.

His recent book is called Covid-19 poems in isolation, which includes 19 poems that seek to find sense in lockdown and the beauty of the mundane. The verses are full of humour and wit and seek to put a fresh take on a summer like no other.

This is poem 6.

No tender embrace, or relative small-talk.

A sing-a-long without the linger of blown-out candles

Sharing token text message, or a call broken not by awkward silence but poor connection

Nullity petitions signed on a scrabble board and kitchens rearranged.

Share a starry night, or a grey Sunday morning with a round of tea in two kettles, miles apart

And gaze upon old photographs

The ISBN number for this book is 978-1-78830-908-0. It is available directly from the publishers Olympia (02037553166 or info@olympiapublishers.com) or from all good book retailers at a cost of £4.99.

A PAINTED CROCODILE

This picture shows the crocodile painting on the pavement along Downing Drive particularly reminding students at City of Leicester College to stay two metres apart.



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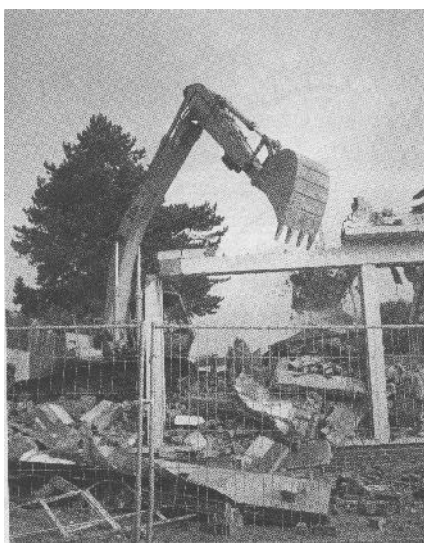
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MEMORY LANE – HIGH STREET, EVINGTON



Recently I downloaded the above photo of High Street Evington (c. 1960) from a free national site called 'Memory Lane'. www.memorylane.co.uk This website enables you to download, share and add photos to the archive. If you log on you can get weekly updates.



The photo above by Graham Morton, an Evington Echo photographer, shows Errington's Garage showroom at the end of the row being demolished in 1999.



Graham Morton, also took pictures of a fire on 9th January 2004, when the old cottage that used to be next to the old Errington's site, was on fire. It appears that the site manager for the flats had been burning some rubbish. At one point, there were six fire engines in High Street dealing with the smoking thatch.



Old cottages after the fire in 2004.

WHAT HAS SLAVERY GOT TO DO WITH LEICESTER'S CARIBBEAN CARNIVAL?



Every year, until this year, one of the biggest yearly festivals in Leicester has been the Caribbean Carnival, which has taken place every July as a day of procession and music. This year - the 35th year - the festival went virtual with the theme 'Eradicating racism through One Love' and explained what slavery had to do with the festival.



The enslaved Africans who worked on the plantations in the Caribbean created what we know today as Carnival. They took a mixture of European and African elements and added their own influences from the new slave culture. The enslaved Africans came from many different places in Africa and the slave owners mixed the slaves from different ethnic groups so they could not communicate easily and did not share a common culture. Carnival began on the plantations owned by the Portuguese, Spanish and French because the enslaved Africans were allowed to take an interest in the Christian Festivals of Easter and Lent.

So after Covid, the virtual festival discussed continuing with this 35-year tradition or incorporating the Black Lives Matter campaign for year round awareness.

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EMMA THE QUEEN OF MATTRESSES

One advert that I keep seeing is for a mattress that is manufactured by a firm called Emma, or is it the mattress that is called Emma. I'm not sure which it is but never mind, as it really is not of any importance. Well in the advert the viewers are told that Emma was the most award -winning mattress in 2019. I am sure that this is true as would the company lie to us? What puzzled me is who were the judges of these most prestigious awards and where did the prize giving ceremony take place. Also what were the prizes? I had this impression of a beauty parade of mattresses being wheeled in front of the panel of judges for them to see. And at the end of it all Emma being crowned the queen of mattresses. I so wish I could have been there to witness this most momentous event.

The Emma advert also tells us that you can try Emma out for 200 nights and if you are not completely satisfied you can get your money back. Does it really take 200 nights to decide whether a mattress is alright or not? This sounds like a pretty risky offer being made by the manufacturers.

If you phoned the suppliers after 195 days asking for a full refund, what would you say? She was too lumpy. Surely this would have been apparent from day one. She was too hard or soft. Again this would have also been obvious from the start of sleeping on her. Well I am at a loss to think of any reason that one could find that would not have been apparent from night one of sleeping on Emma. But it does show a great deal of confidence by the manufacturers in their product, good old Emma. May Emma give us all a good nights sleep and let us hope she receives a lot more awards in 2021. After all she is providing such a valuable service to the sleeping public.

If they do take your 200 day old Emma back and give a refund I wonder what they do with the rejected Emma's. Recycle them maybe, or donate them to charity, if that is allowed under Health and Safety regulations. I must do a bit of research into this and come back and let you know. That's if anyone out there has even the slightest interest.

Howard Edwards

DISASTER IS ONLY A PHONE CALL AWAY

As I had not spoken to my friend Rekha for a few days I thought that I would give her a phone call and see how she was. Then it happened, Rekha asked if I had followed up her advice, more like nagging in my opinion, about cleaning the washing machine thing that catches all the gunge. How I wished I had lied and said that I had taken her advice. Instead I told the truth and admitted that I had not got around to it yet. After a certain amount of tutting she told me that I really should do so. The machine had worked perfectly well for the last twenty years so why change things now? When the call ended I set about cleaning the thing. Due to twenty years of not being touched the screw was bit was a little hard to turn, I am so glad I had listened to her about putting a container there to catch this little trickle of water. What came out stank to high heaven and quickly filled the kitchen with its foul odour. Smiggie, my dog, was loving this new game and it was all that I could do to stop her drinking the stuff. Eventually the gunge stopped flowing and I removed the filter and all the gunge that it contained.

Feeling so pleased with myself I called Rekha back to tell her of my triumph. In my mind that was that and I had completed the task in hand. This was not to be as Rekha informed me that next I had to do a hot wash to thoroughly clean the machine. Finally Rekha reminded me that the filter and screw bit should be put back in before starting the machine as if not, all the water would flow straight onto my newly laminated floor.

Having put the filter and screw back into place I looked for the hot wash setting. This completely eluded me so I settled for the quick wash setting instead; in my opinion I did not think that there could be that much difference between the two settings. I pressed the start button and then heard the sound of water flowing into the machine. Once filled the machine started to rotate as it normally does. Then disaster struck. Suddenly all the lights on the machine started to flash, it reminded me of a disco show. Then the machine started to make rather unusual noises. It did this for a short period of time and then the trip switch on the electric board blew and the machine stopped, as did the power to everything else on that circuit... I went into the cupboard that contained the electric board and reset the trip switch. Power was restored again but the machine was now officially deceased.

I had to phone Rekha back and tell her what had happened. When I did this she just burst into laughter, so much so that she was totally

incapable of speaking to me for several seconds. She told me that twenty years was a very good age for a washing machine and that it had had a good life, but now it was time to move on and find a replacement for it. I then told her that my next job was to get all the water out of it. Luckily for me it was only water and not a full load of washing. So in some ways she might have done me a big favour, inadvertently. So after that phone call I set about the task of emptying the machine of the water.

I put the container into position and gently undid the screw. The water started to trickle out, which Smiggie found most appealing. That dog will drink anything. When the container was nearly full I stopped the flow and emptied it into a bowl. I continued this for quite a period but the level of water in the washing machine did not seem to be going down very quickly. I never realised just how much water was needed for one wash. By now I was getting pretty fed up and bored with the whole operation. After a few more containers of the water being transferred to the bowl the inevitable happened. I did not manage to screw the bung back in and all the water came flooding out onto my newly laminated floor. Smiggie thought that it was a great game and was really getting into the spirit of things. She thought that she was being so helpful by drinking as much as she could. I just looked at my sodden floor in despair.

Once I emerged from my state of shock I remembered that I was getting rid of a lot of old bed sheets. The sheets absorbed the water in no time. Then it was just a question of pulling out the freezer and fridge and getting up the water they were hiding. What a performance this all had been and all due to one phone call. After the great clear up my joggers were soaked as were my trainers and socks.

The next thing I had to do was to get a new washing machine. I could have called Rekha for some advice on the matter but I decided against this after the first phone call that had started this whole sorry tale. I went onto Google. I was amazed at the vast variety of washing machines there were. You can get machines with eighteen different wash cycles. Who needs that many wash cycles? I'm sure Rekha could tell me so I will avoid asking that question. I only ever used one wash cycle and my washing seems to be fine, to me. Some of the machines had so many knobs and buttons I would not have known where to start. One day when I have a few hours to spare I might ask Rekha, as she is so knowledgeable on these things. I settled for the machine with the least buttons and washing cycles.

Howard Edwards

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Leicester General Hospital, affectionately called 'The Palace on the Hill' when, in its former guise as North Evington Poor Law Infirmary, it was opened in 1905.

(Picture Courtesy of Leicestershire Live).

During the pandemic the General Hospital has also been used as a mortuary and a vaccination centre.



Not content with just gingerbread men, Sam and Addy made an entire village, complete with octopus!

CROSSWORD ANSWERS - grid on page 12

Across

1. SAVE, 5. SHOE, 8. DIGIT, 10. BLEND, 11. ELATE, 12. RAGE, 16. ALSO, 17. ELABORATE, 18. APATHETIC, 20. AXLE, 21. CAST, 25. EAGER, 26. CIVIC, 27. ARENA, 28. STAY, 29. NOSE

Down

2. AVENGE, 3. EDDY, 4. AGUE, 5. STEP, 6. ORACLE, 7. ABBREVIATED, 9. AERONAUTICS, 13. ELOPE, 14. ABETS, 15. BRIEF, 16. ATTIC, 18. ALIGHT, 19. CARVES, 22. FRAY, 23. AMEN, 24. SCAN.

CLAUDIA WEBBE MP FOR LEICESTER EAST www.claudiawebbe.org

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