



Evington Echo

www.EvingtonEcho.co.uk

Keeping you up to date with Evington's news
Issue 290

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Designed by Jason Chauhan

The Friends of Evington

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EDITORIAL

Friends of Evington has just received some fantastic news. They have been granted £10,000 from Awards for All (National Lottery Community Fund) for their Evington in Bloom project called 'Growing Evington for People and Pollinators'. Paul Archdeacon, Chair of Friends of Evington, said, "We still have a long way to go, but this will help us improve the projects we have and develop new projects to make a more sustainable future. With our partners and gardening members we plan to grow a diverse range of plants that will provide excellent habitats for our pollinating insects and enhance our streets and open areas."

Claudia Webbe, MP for Leicester East, came to view the project at the Garden of Hope on Gamel Road/Davenport Road and said, "First many congratulations to you for a successful bid. I am very impressed that you have taken on an unloved piece of land and started the process of transforming it into a lovely community garden for all to enjoy." She asked about other similar areas in Evington and spoke about how Leicester could be transformed through the well-structured processes set in place through Britain in Bloom and East Midlands in Bloom.



From left to right: Helen Pettman, Claudia Webbe, MP, and Paul Archdeacon.

EVINGTON VILLAGE SHOW 2021 ONLINE

SATURDAY 14TH AUGUST

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

D Cut flowers,
E Pot Plants,
F Fruit
G Vegetables
K Art
L Photography.
N Front Gardens (Evington in Bloom)

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

No entry fee or entry form is required. Selected photos will be published in autumn issues of the Evington Echo as last year.

Exhibitors will need to submit photos of the exhibits during the first week in August and email them as a jpeg file to John Pelmore or take prints to Bennetts. The closing date will be Saturday 7th August with viewing from 14th August. You can use the 2019 schedule and rules (on the website below) as a guide but please note the photography classes will be different this year (themes: plants, pets and wildlife, landscape, architecture, monochrome).

Exhibitors should look at the website for guidance on photographing the exhibits.

Full details are available on the website www.evingtonvillagefete.org.uk

For further information email John Pelmore jmpelmore@yahoo.co.uk or phone 270 9881. I can also send you a printed leaflet if you would prefer it. This leaflet will also be available at Bennetts. Chris Hossack Katherine Burns

Edition 2021	Deadline Thursday	Published Thursday
Aug/Sept	12th July	5th Aug
Oct/Nov	16th Sept	7th Oct
Dec/Jan	11th Nov	2nd Dec

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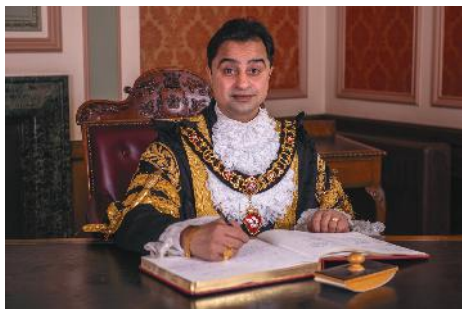
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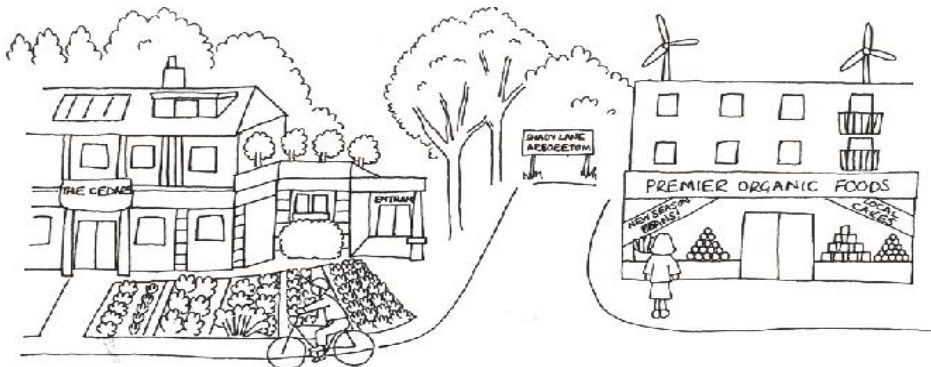
This ceremony took place online on Thursday 29th April at the Council Rooms. Speeches thanked Cllr. Annette Byrne for her dedication and commitment during two years of office as Lord Mayor, from 2019 to 2021. Cllr. Byrne raised over £18,000 for her charities. Her consort was another Evington councillor, Cllr. Sue Hunter.

The new Lord Mayor of Leicester, Cllr. Deepak Bajaj announced that the Lady Mayoress would be his wife, Shallu and his consort, Nisha, his mother.

The Lord Mayor will have five spiritual advisers from the Christian, Hindu, Muslim, Jewish and Sikh communities. Anthony Lees-Smith, vicar of St. Denys Church, Evington is his Chaplain.

His chosen charities are Silver Star Diabetes, and the Royal Anglican Benevolent Charity. Silver Star is a Leicester based charity that aims to raise awareness of diabetes. The Lord Mayor's fundraising will help them develop the first diabetes helpline based in the Diabetes Village here in Leicester. The Royal Anglian Benevolent Charity help those injured in the line of duty, those with long term disabilities, and others who are in need.

A VISION OF A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE



Fire up your imagination and come on a journey with me. We will be travelling not through space but through time - to Evington in 2031. Imagine that we have done everything we need to do to stop causing climate change and to protect natural habitats. In this future Evington, the air is clean and the number of hedgehogs is increasing at last.

What do you think life would be like in this sustainable future? What would have changed? What would have stayed the same? How would it feel to live here? What stories would we be reading in the Evington Echo?

For the next issue, we invite you to imagine your life in this sustainable future and write an article for a 2031 edition of the Evington Echo to go in the next issue of the Evington Echo, which has a final copy date of 13th July. This could be about an event or a project that you imagine might be happening in this future Evington, or it could even be a history of the last 10 years and how we got to where we need to be. Your article can be long (500 words) or short. (under 100 words) or anything inbetween, and you can provide a picture or just words. Entries from children and adults are welcome! We will then print these in the next issue

to share everyone's vision of a sustainable future.

"We cannot create what we cannot imagine." Lucille Clifton

Hand written articles can be handed in at Bennett's Hardware Garden Supplies, 30 Main Street, Evington or you can email them to evingtonecho@gmail.com

SUNFLOWERS: TARGET 100

Evington Community Nature Reserve is a project that people can join in with, simply by devoting some space in their garden to nature. As a symbol of summer, we're asking people to grow sunflowers or wildflowers in their front garden (or both). We're aiming for 100 to be on display for Evington in Bloom. Joining in is easy - just follow our 'Three Steps to' guide online at littlegreenshoots.uk . Send us an email



(contact@littlegreenshoots.uk) or click on 'contact' on our website if you'd like a packet of sunflower seeds or wildflower seeds or both. If you don't have a front garden, plant the sunflowers in a pot, on a balcony, wherever you like. Jeff

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Letters

STOP CARS PARKING ON CYCLE LANES

Dear Editor,

I was cycling up Stoughton Drive recently from Gartree Road and decided to use the nearby cycle lane. What did I find? Cars parked on the cycle lane, blocking it!! Suffice it to say, I couldn't use the lane.

I really cannot see how motorists can park on cycle lanes or the pavement and just get away with it. Why aren't the police doing something? After all, such parking is illegal. Is this what we pay our council tax for?

Ian Morton

DOG SNATCHERS!

Dear Editor,

I have been told that dog snatchers are around this area. They operate in a variety of ways; making out they are from the council and offering to take your dog for about half an hour to get them chipped, promising you that they will return your dog, but don't! Asking if you want to breed your dog to make some money, then coming to your house to discuss; a lone person will be walking with a dog and get into conversation asking for your phone number without giving theirs to discuss breeding; tying black plastic ties around lamp posts which indicates to their contacts that a dog lives close by so they can watch the house (cut any plastic ties from lamp posts); smashing windows of your house to steal your dog. This activity apparently is more lucrative than drug dealing!!!! Please share with all your friends and loved ones!!!!
Name and address supplied

WATCH OUT FOR WHITE VANS

Dear Readers,

Please continue to watch out. There have been two white vans in Judith Drive at the end of April and they just look odd. They have no signage on them and are covered up.

Coincidentally, I lost a washing machine I had put out in my front garden for collection.

Phoned in comment

RAT RUNS

Dear Editor,

Sometime ago most of Evington became a 20mph zone. I notice that a large number of drivers still ignore these signs, worryingly drivers using side roads like Westmeath and Withcote Avenue and Davenport Road as rat runs to get their children to school, often driving at way more than 20 mph.

These limits are to protect the very people whose parents are going to end up hitting, or worse, killing a child. It's time to crack down on such reckless driving.

Ian Lewin

MRS. HELEN PETTMAN

Dear Readers,

I wish to praise Helen Pettman (Secretary of Friends of Evington, which includes her role of Editor of the Evington Echo) for her helpfulness. Although we haven't seen her out and about, she is there at the end of a phone.

Phoned in comment

OXYGEN TO INDIA

To donate money towards increasing Oxygen supplies to India through the British Asian Trust go to <https://www.britishtasiantrust.org/>



OUTDOOR SPECIAL SPOT

Now that summer time is approaching and all being well restrictions are slowly lifting, we can enjoy more outdoor time with friends and family. After a lovely picnic or walk why not try this relaxing practice. This can be appreciated by children and grown-ups. It is a lovely mindfulness practice which helps encourage positive wellbeing.

Find a special quiet open outdoor spot or favourite place. Become comfortable by sitting or lying down on the ground. If the ground is a little damp or wet a picnic blanket can be used. Everyone can sit or lie quietly in any position they feel comfortable. For example lie under or lean on a tree and stare up into its branches, sit on a beach looking out to sea or lie face down in a park.

Set a gentle sounding alarm for five minutes. Look around the spot in silence. Either focus on smallest details or just zone out. After the alarm sounds everyone in turn can discuss how the quiet time made them feel and what did they observe during this quiet time?

Why not try this practice on a number of occasions at a variety of different outdoor spots that you visit.

To enhance the practice you can even take a note book, pens, and crayons with you and journal the experience by either writing a few sentences or illustrating by drawing a picture. I would love to hear how you found this practice. You can contact me through social media links. Indy Essence.



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FOUNDERS OF THE EVINGTON ECHO BETTY BEST AND ANGELA STEVENSON (NEE PLOWMAN)



In 1980, a green circular dropped through some Evington letterboxes asking people to come to a meeting in Evington Library to discuss a community newspaper. Some people turned up, but by the second meeting there were only six, including Betty Vann, Jack Vann, Angela Plowman and Betty Best. "Enthusiasm was dwindling fast," said Angela, "but we were unfamiliar with Betty's enthusiasm."

Betty took on the role of editor (1980 – 1984) and Angela did the typing. They pasted up the Echo together on the floor of Betty's front room. Betty loved going out and meeting people, so the Echo provided her with the perfect opportunity to do just that. Whilst Betty interviewed, telephoned and composed, Angela also did some composing but also typed and typed. Together the early Echoes were crammed full of news, snappy titles and campaigns. In 1982, the City Council Planning Dept. had to 'watch out' when the Echo's stories about the Local Plan in 1982 caused some ruffled feathers.

Both Betty and Angela had a gift when it came to getting other people to volunteer to do something.

Betty sadly died in February 1991, but Angela continued on the Echo team until 1992. She had helped for 92 issues. She had been a co-editor and secretary. She had to retire when it became impossible for her to continue because her toddler wanted to join in too.



Angela is in the front row with her toddler. This photo was taken of the Echo team to celebrate the 25th issue. The celebration that followed took place on the Village Green with many activities. Does the idea of an annual Fete and Show arise from here?

Editorial note: Angela, if you see this on the internet, please get back in touch.

EVINGTON IS NO PLACE FOR PEAT

Dear Evington Echo readers,

At our last meeting, we decided to run a 'Peat Free' campaign. We discussed peat being used as a growing medium in bags of compost sold at garden centres and the lesser known facts about peat locking away carbon and keeping it out of our atmosphere.

Over the last 10,000 years, UK peatlands have sequestered 5.5 billion tonnes of carbon - nearly 40 times the amount of carbon stored in our woodlands

Peatlands contain about half of the UK's stored carbon. Globally, peatlands store about half a trillion tonnes of carbon, trapping organic matter underwater.

Unfortunately, digging up the peat enables oxygen to get to it, so the organic matter starts to decay, releasing carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. The environmental damage caused by

extracting peat for compost is immense. It releases huge amounts of carbon into the atmosphere, contributing to climate change. Peat bogs are also excellent areas of biodiversity, so peat extraction contributes to habitat and species loss.

In 2011 the government published a White Paper with targets for the end of peat use in horticulture. The aim of this was for all compost available to amateur gardeners to be peat-free by 2020. Unfortunately, the targets were voluntary and most garden centres chose to ignore the issue and still sell bags of compost containing peat.

So, we are asking garden centres and shops to reconsider selling peat. Also our ask is that people visit their local garden centre and see what they are selling, then send them a letter (as we cannot do a face to face campaign at the moment), requesting them to reconsider their position. If you do send a letter perhaps you can let the Editor of the Evington Echo know by emailing or phoning her, so that we can keep a record.

Also, Evington has many local schools. Perhaps you could ask them to go peat free if they buy compost for any gardening projects. We have already had one positive response from a school. Let your Echo editor know if you get any more - then we can add their name onto our list.

We would like future issues of the Evington Echo to describe your actions in helping with this campaign. Leicester Friends of the Earth.

P.S. For those of you on the internet perhaps you could pledge to go peat free. <https://actionnetwork.org/forms/pledge-to-use-peat-free-compost>. Facebook users can also sign up to our Facebook group to share information about peat-free gardening.

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EVINGTON IN THE 1940S - AN INTERVIEW WITH TIM AND CHRISTINE MOFFATT BY SIMRAN RADIA



I had the utter privilege of interviewing Tim and Christine Moffatt about their memories of Evington in the 1940s. Despite the passage of almost eighty years, both Tim and Christine recall their memories in impeccable detail.

Having moved to Evington as a child at the beginning of the war, Christine was briefly educated at Evington Hall Convent Grammar, now St Pauls Catholic School. However, she was soon sent to boarding school from the age of ten to eighteen amidst fears that she might become a Catholic, after asking for rosary beads.

She reminisces in great detail about the shops scattered around Evington Village. Firstly, Mr Hulbert's Post Office, which is now a hairdresser's shop. Although Mr Hulbert was not particularly fond of children, in a time where technology was sparse, entertainment consisted of playing outdoors and painting – his post office was the one-stop for their supplies. Evington Park House was owned by

friends of Tim's parents – the Sawday's – before Evington Park opened to the public in 1946. Soar's garage would service cars while they were still in circulation whilst Mrs Brown's general store was where Christine's mother would make her grocery order: butter and cheese were sliced off from a big slab and wrapped up along with sugar, scooped out and put into a blue bag. Milk was all provided by Evington's very own dairy farm and delivered in a milk churn. Vegetables were grown by her father at home and pigs and chickens were kept in their garden to supplement their ration, meaning that the whole family was consistently well-fed, which Christine found to be 'boring yet wholesome.' Unlike now, nothing at all was prepacked or processed.

The war didn't affect her as a child much, but Christine implies that it must've really taken its toll on her parents due to anxiety about a Nazi invasion. Two Italians, from the Prisoner of War camp in Shady Lane Arboretum, would frequently come and help Christine's father in the garden; she remembers them as being remarkably kind.

Interestingly, the siren centre was situated where, now, Masjid Umar stands on Evington Road. For the children, it was vaguely exciting hearing sirens and eventually, Christine's father had an air raid shelter built at the side of their house.

Their closest encounter with a bomb was when one once fell across the fields near Shady Lane, leaving a crater. Finally, when the war ended, Christine recalls a huge celebration and bonfire at Evington recreation ground.

During the winters, Christine relished sledging down Stoughton Lane and Piggy's Hollow, which was safe due to the rarity of

cars. Indeed, cars had been invented, but the war meant that petrol was in short supply. Skating on the lake in Thurnby was a winter activity she too also took delight in. Winters were severe, almost unbearably cold, with snow every year. As a result of the lack of central heating, fires would be kept in every room.

Tim, on the other hand, lived in Great Glen during the war, where there was no electricity either; gas lamps were used instead. The radio, his only link to the rest of the world, worked by accumulator batteries that would last a week before having to be taken to be recharged at the garage. He recalls huddling around to listen to the radio, often to hear the King (George VI) bring news about the war or the church.

Tim and Christine's interesting insights offer an alternative light to view Evington in – an area once sprawling with fields - not the usual urbanised area we are so accustomed to living in. With cars, electricity, and ease of purchasing food, it is easy to forget that once, butter was bought from slabs and milk from churns. Evidently, life in Evington must've been incredibly different to how it is today.

LEICESTER AND DISTRICT RAMBLERS

Leicester and District Ramblers organise walks that suit young and old and new to established walkers. There are easy walks around 4-5 miles, long Saturday hikes in the Peak District, etc. short walking holidays, moderate and strong walking groups. Newcomers welcome. Follow Leicester and District Ramblers on Facebook.

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REFLECTIONS

Dear Readers

How have you been keeping?

It's hard to believe that more than a year has gone by since lockdown started. 23rd March 2020 was the day of BJ's announcement about the pending lockdown. At the time of writing we have been walking for 411 days. Had anyone set us that challenge we would have laughed loudly, probably with an occasional snort of derision. However, it is amazing what one can achieve when something is broken down into manageable chunks, in our case the size of the chunk is a day. The weather has never been a deterrent whether it has been raining, shining, foggy or snowing. On reflection we think that it was about setting a standard of keeping calm and carrying on.

The first time that it rained, Suzanne left her home and sat in her car for a while trying to decide whether to drive to Val's house or return to her warm cosy bed to continue sleeping and having pleasant dreams. After a few seconds thought she decided to drive to Val and make a decision then. On arrival, Val appeared looking slightly pained, or was it confused, saying that she had not expected to see Suzanne because of the rain. Clearly they would get wet, but, as Suzanne explained, they would return home cold and soaked and could then get warm and soaked in a hot shower. This is a bit of a ramble.

We met J&S very early in the lockdown. We had clearly spotted them and they had seen us. After two sightings we greeted each other and by the end of the 3rd occasion we knew each other's names. We heard that J was a very good baker who experimented with different types of cakes and used S as a guinea pig. However, S looked very happy having that role and was clearly encouraging J to continue with her baking. There were several months during which we did not see either J or S and naturally we were rather concerned. In 2021 we were doing what had become our standard route and in the distance we saw 2 women walking. We noted them and something about their gait made us think that they could be J&S. As we were uncertain we did not wish to shout out their names when most of the good folk in the area would have been slumbering.

The next day we were on our return

journey striding along Aber Walk and approaching Francis Street when we literally bumped into J and S. Well you can imagine our joy. We laughed, chatted and tried to sort out the world's problems and, most importantly, exchanged mobile numbers. A sign of progress in this pandemic is that we are delighted to inform you that we have agreed to meet for an outdoor Tiny Bakery Breakfast which will be consumed whilst seated on St Mary's Triangle.

To those of you who are reading this, we hope that the past year has been a reasonable one for you without members of your family or friends contracting COVID-19 and suffering as a result, or worse. Let us hope that the remainder of this calendar year and beyond will be kinder to everyone.

Walk and talk in peace and joy.
Val Fisher & Suzanne Overton-Edwards.

A HISTORY OF THE LAND THAT IS NOW BEING DEVELOPED FOR 310 HOMES OFF GARTREE ROAD

Until it was put up for sale in 1913, most of Evington village belonged to the Powys Keck family who lived in the big house called Stoughton Grange, which was on land Evington people called Stoughton Farm Park or 'The Farm Park'.

Stoughton Grange remained unsold and was eventually pulled down in 1926.

Besides the 466 acres which included Evington, the Powys Keck family owned another area of land of more than ten square miles, and mostly all grassland. This land was offered for sale separately from the House in 1913. The only prospective large buyer for the land was the Co-operative Wholesale Society, Manchester, who wanted it for dairy farming, but since this was a sporting estate, the owners withdrew it from the sale.

In 1919, the Co-op made another offer and this time it was accepted. The Co-op land started from the left-hand side of Shady Lane and was divided into 12 farms of about 500 acres each. About half of it was used for dairy farming - the milk being sent to a depot in Uttoxeter - and the other half for arable farming consisting mostly of winter wheat, winter barley and oilseed rape. The whole estate used to be managed from an office in Stoughton

village and was Leicestershire's largest farming enterprise. A separate Stoughton office also housed the headquarters of all the Co-operative Wholesale Society's farms throughout England and Scotland. It was then the biggest farming concern in Great Britain!

The farm at Stoughton was developed as a Farm Park, but sadly closed down in 2001 after a dreadful outbreak of Foot and Mouth disease across the UK.

In 2006-7 The Co-operative Society published hugely unpopular plans for a 15,000-home eco-town scheme called Pennbury on land in the Stoughton area. This plan was dropped in 2009 after a two-and-a-half year local campaign against the development.

In 2014, 4,700 acres of land were purchased by the Wellcome Trust (the second highest spending charity in the UK) and this included Oadby Lodge Farm Estate of 3,860 acres. The land was bought as an investment and is used for arable, fruit and veg. crops. The Co-op retained 300 acres, including land where the 'Stoughton Farm Park' used to be, and still retains some buildings including the Cow and Plough pub and some shops.

It is land that is both opposite and adjacent to this former 'Stoughton Farm Park' which is being developed.



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EVINGTON IN BLOOM

Who or what is Evington in Bloom?



We are a diverse range of groups and volunteers who come together to work with the Council and lead Evington's entry into the East Midlands in Bloom competition. We are in the urban area group.

So what else is involved?



The other main elements are Environmental Responsibility and Community Involvement. Each count for 30% of the total marks

So if the community count so much, where does the Council get involved?



In our Urban area group, it is a partnership and by working together, the whole ward is improved. The Council couldn't succeed without the community and the community would struggle to achieve the successes it has without the Council's support.

Isn't this competition just about flowers?



Most certainly not! Whilst flowers in particular under Horticultural Excellence count for 40% of the marks, the competition is about more than just flowers.



Okay! So you work together.
That's great, a Big Society you might say! What successes have you achieved?

After an entry in 1997, Evington in Bloom can trace its new beginning to a 9m diameter bed on Evington Village Green, which was part of the group raising money for play equipment. It entered the 'It's Your Neighbourhood' competitions from 2007 to 2011 and achieved outstanding success. In 2012 the Council and East Midlands in Bloom encouraged the volunteers to form a charity called Friends of Evington and enter the competitions as Evington in Bloom.

What other recognition have you had?

We have won Silver and Silver Gilt awards every year since 2011, except for 2020, when the competition was cancelled. We have represented East Midlands in Bloom as an urban area in the Britain in Bloom competitions in 2016 and 2018. In 2018 we took part with our partners in the Royal Horticultural Society's documentary film about Bloom groups and represented Leicester.

Do you work with local schools?

In 2020 we won Leicester City Council's Sustainable Schools Award for 'Getting Growing'. This year we are supporting Oaklands Primary School with a project to involve pupils in growing food in bespoke gardens on site.

Anything else?

There have been awards for the Best Front Garden, Mayflower Primary School and Judgemeadow Community College.

THE IMPORTANCE OF GRASSLAND MANAGEMENT

Most authorities (ours included) are moving towards a more relaxed method of grassland management in general terms. We in Leicester are creating and improving the biodiversity of our grasslands, in parks, nature areas and on roadside verges. There are several ways we can achieve this:

Relaxed mowing frequencies, i.e. annual cutting, wildflower sowing and bulb planting.

Firstly, let's look at why we are bothering to do this.

As you are aware all the vegetables and fruit we consume must originate as a flower that has to be pollinated to form a fruit. This sometimes may only be to produce seed for the next crop or because we eat that fruit.

In Gt Britain there are about 25 species of bees that feed on nectar and are very important pollinators. Research has shown that six of the known species have been in decline over the last 50 years, some by as much as 80%. It has also shown that the habits of some bees and other pollinating insects have altered significantly due to our activities and global warming. If we observe their activity, we can see that bees are now active earlier and later in the year than ever before, often when nectar is in very short supply. We are working on a national Bee Road project that can connect the pollen richer areas together to create navigational routes from site to site, giving sustenance along the way.

It is said that up to 90% of wildflower meadow habitat has been lost because of

altering water tables, development, farming methods, climate change and other factors I have not thought of.

Whilst we cannot right all the problems by altering grassland management methods, we can have a positive effect. By not cutting so often and so short, it is shown that we can over a significant period reduce the fertility of the soil and encourage wildflowers to re-colonise our grasslands. This may be a herb rich sward of daisies and buttercups, that are both very useful.

Longer grass also has the benefit of providing seasonal habitats for many other invertebrates and pollinators that are not only essential to us, but are vital within the food chain of large insects, birds and other mammals that help to maintain a balanced ecosystem and in turn reduce dependency on chemical use by growers (domestic and commercial).

The most ignored benefit of more relaxed grassland is carbon sequestration, unlike most carbon sinks, grassland holds the captured carbon in its roots, even in the event of fire. That leads to the speculation that being in direct line with exhaust pipes, grasslands may well be the first line of defence.

The grassland policy is continually being enhanced and extended to fulfil the aims, but it is not as simple as just letting the grass grow unmanaged. At some stage it must be cut to control undesirable consequences such as blocked vehicular sightlines and bramble, sucker and tree seedling encroachment. Coupled with the unescapable fact that longer grass is more expensive to cut (takes longer and has more wear and tear on equipment) and generates many customer complaints.

It is said that historically we are the envy of the world because we have the ideal climate to grow the perfect lawn. Since the introduction of the lawn mower, that has been the goal of many and the measure of good horticulture and whilst I will not argue that, I would question whether it is wise to try to implement that as a blanket practice.

Given the above reasoning and the increased cultural demands caused by climate change on short grass, change is inevitable, but needs management to ensure a consensus of method and opinion to avoid a hotchpotch of different verges within a road that the man on the mower will not be able to differentiate between and neither will the viewing public..

Mike Eaton (Leicester City Council's Horticultural Adviser)

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FESTIVAL OF ARCHAEOLOGY RETURNS IN JULY



The Festival of Leicestershire and Rutland Archaeology will be running throughout July this year, from July 3rd to August 1st. The county festival is part of the UK's biggest archaeological event, the national Festival of Archaeology.

With lockdown restrictions easing, this is the perfect time for people to get out and explore their local places, discover the archaeology and rich heritage that is all around us and uncover the stories, sites, buildings, places, people and events that make our local communities so special.

Events, both on the ground and online, are planned across Leicestershire and Rutland, in our towns and villages, in museums and at our heritage sites.

The Festival brings together local archaeological organisations to showcase all that is great about our local archaeological heritage and we want you to help us celebrate local sites, stories and the people who lived and shaped our local places.

Over 40 guided walks are organised with more being confirmed daily. These cover a huge range of sites from prehistoric to industrial.

There are live digital talks by some of the counties' leading heritage experts.

There are self-guided walks to enjoy at your own pace.

There are online archives of past talks.

Also there are many more family friendly activities, exhibitions and hands on events.

Local organiser, Peter Liddle, commented "last year was a disappointment as the pandemic led to most of our events being cancelled but this year we're back! We have fabulous sites locally and we plan to show people a different dimension to popular beauty spots like

Bradgate Park, Beacon Hill and Abbey Park where the archaeology may go unnoticed – until our expert guides point it out. Numbers will be restricted to aid social distancing and everything will need to be booked in advance. There will also be a number of self-guided walks for people to follow at their own pace and time. Talks will largely be online with archaeologists from the University of Leicester and other experts speaking about a range of local subjects."

The Leicestershire and Rutland Festival is part of a national Festival of Archaeology organised by the Council for British Archaeology and is supported by the Leicestershire Fieldworkers, the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society, the Leicestershire Industrial History Society, University of Leicester Archaeological Services and many other local heritage groups.

Information about the Festival and a full list of events can be found at <https://leicsfieldworkers.org/festival-of-archaeology/>. E-mail Mathew Morris on mim9@le.ac.uk

The programme will be continually updated as more events are confirmed.

If you are not on the internet and wish for more information please contact Peter Liddle on:
07758194353 or 2214508

EVINGTON MOAT GUIDED TOUR

Tuesday July 27th: 7pm

Meet at the Church car park in the centre of Evington village, LE5 6FA

Join Peter Liddle and Chris Hossack to visit 'Piggy's Hollow', one of the best moated site complexes in Leicestershire

You will find this moated site next to Evington Parish Church, (St. Denys Church) which will also be open.

The complex includes the site of the manor house, fishponds and a mill dam.

A hidden gem!

To book call 221 4508;
Peter.liddle51@gmail.com
Adults £4, children FREE



GARDEN OF HOPE

Take a walk along Davenport Road and, at the junction with Gamel Road, take a turn into the space between two rows of houses. Here you'll find the Garden of Hope. We understand this site to be where the original builders of the local estate kept their materials and tools. It had become a bit of a dumping ground until a local resident, along with Friends of Evington and Evington in Bloom cleared it and developed the garden.

You can approach the garden by taking a short walk up the slope, along the bark-covered pathway. Ahead you will see a large wooden planter, surrounded by the semi-formal flower beds, planted out with perennials loved by pollinators. There are a couple of benches for visitors to sit, relax and have a chat and, with the south-facing aspect, it's tempting to stay a while and soak up the sunshine. Behind the benches there's a fence beyond which is a small area of woodland.

Currently, as part of Evington in Bloom, we are wilding up the grassy margins at the sides of the garden and the woodland to the rear, as a contribution to Evington Community Nature Reserve.

Before sowing wildflower seeds, the borders were weeded, the grass alongside mowed, and the soil raked to blend the edges of the border and grass. The idea is that over time, the grassy margin and border will become one wildflower margin, with just a path mown alongside.

In the meantime, we're mowing the grass and removing the clippings as often as possible, to control the growth of the grass before sowing more seeds in the autumn.

As Covid restrictions are lifted, we look forward to other volunteers joining in with this exciting development. Why not pop by and have a look?



I TREAD CAREFULLY BETWEEN THE BUSHES

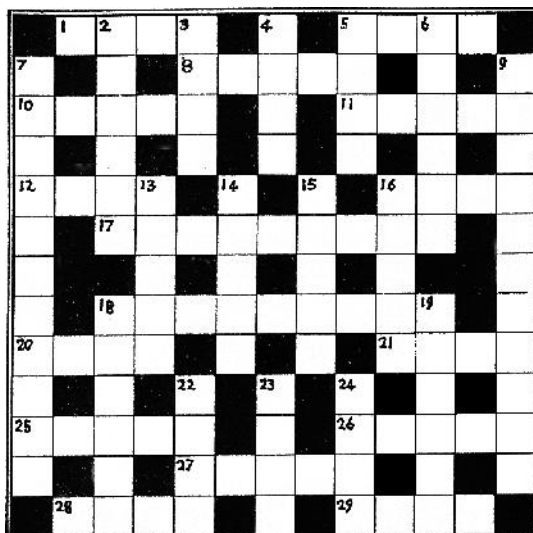
.... It was a struggle to get here with all the narrow roads but I felt like I needed to be somewhere away from that old house, so I carried on driving in my beat up, rusty Beetle. It used to be my grandpa's and Mum was about to get rid of it last year but thankfully I got my licence and convinced her to let me keep it. I work extra shifts at the diner now to pay for the fuel but it's worth it.

This place seems like it hasn't been visited in a long time. I'm just trying to get past this mountain and find a spot to watch the clouds pass by above my head. I haven't done that in a long time. Not since dad moved away and took the trampoline with him. I would sit there for hours; waiting for mum to call "Dinner's ready!" and sure enough there would be a lovely hot meal waiting for me already set on a plate on the table. Then Dad met Carrie.

I'm almost there, wherever 'there' is, the path is almost invisible. I think I see water. It must be a lake. I carry on walking then freeze in my tracks, overwhelmed by the beauty of the picture in front of me. The candy-floss clouds seem animated over the wide and beautiful mountains, four of them overlapping each other and sinking deeper into the sky. There's a light mist hanging in the air over the lake and the water is my favourite navy blue and it's waves bring a calm from deep inside me.

I continue watching the view as I make my way over to the very edge of the lake where the water meets the rocks and place myself on the stones.

I wait a few moments and let the view sink in and for a moment all the muscles in my body loosen and I feel the weight lift off my shoulders as if it were joining the



mist and drifting off into the sky. A few moments passed and then all the memories came flooding back to me and it felt as though a blanket of misery was swiftly laid upon me again.

I remembered my Dad's angry face as he snapped back at my mother and with a glimpse towards my door, he caught my eye, sneaking a look at the source of the noise that had awoken me from my hours long nap, causing him to walk off without hesitation, passed my door down the steps and straight out the main door. I watched, with tears blurring my sight, from the view of my bedroom window as he stood at the open door of his car staring back at the house, one foot already inside, one hand holding the car door open and the other arm sitting atop the roof. At least he waited before he left and the blue of his car disappeared from view. My mum's silence for the days that followed were agonising but worse was the sound of her sobs during the night when she thought I wasn't listening.

The divorce took place a couple months later and my mum became severely depressed so I had to learn to take care of myself at the age of fifteen. Three years later and she's gone.

After the funeral Dad insisted I come live with

ACROSS		
1	ROTATE	(4)
5	REVERSE	(4)
8	GIANTS	(5)
10	OPEN	(5)
11	GONE BACK	(5)
12	FIXING DEVICE	(4)
16	BRITISH COMPOSER	(4)
17	EATERS OF HUMAN FLESH	(9)
18	DESERTED	(9)
20	PAYMENT FOR SERVICES	(4)
21	INTELLIGENCE	(4)
25	MORE FROZEN	(5)
26	DESCENDANT	(5)
27	ENTRAILS	(5)
28	CONGEAL	(4)
29	COOKING EQUIPMENT	(4)

DOWN		
2	TYPE OF JUSTICE	(6)
3	MEMO	(4)
4	GRATIS	(4)
5	EMPLOYER	(4)
6	STOPS	(6)
7	BOGUS	(11)
9	PUBLICIZING	(11)
13	YOUNG SHEEP	(5)
14	FOOLISH	(5)
15	DETEST	(5)
16	FOREIGN	(5)
18	OF THE AIR	(6)
19	CHOOSE	(6)
22	HORSES GAIT	(4)
23	NOT RIGHT	(4)
24	NORWEGIAN CAPITAL	(4)

Compiled by R. Tracy Solutions p15

him but it didn't take much convincing because I didn't care. So now I'm here alone and 'grieving' but the real her was barely even there after the divorce. I think I'd lost her then already.

I make my way towards the car because my thoughts caused the sunset to speed itself up and the darkness surrounds me now. I nearly reach the car when there's a sudden movement behind me in the bushes.

I have a feeling I'm not alone anymore.

Aqsa Noormohamed



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EVINGTON LEISURE CENTRE

At the time of writing (30th April) the ongoing work to build a new gym is on target and should be completed by the end of May.

Swimming lessons for children will be happening by the time you read this and without any unexpected changes, all leisure facilities in Evington should be open by 21st June, if not before.

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 p.12) 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 also give you the latest information on Coronavirus. If you aren't on the web then use the 111 online Coronavirus service to get help.

POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

The new Police and Crime Commissioner for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland is: Mr. Rupert Matthews, (Conservative) who won the election on 6th May after the second preferential votes were counted.



In his acceptance speech Mr. Matthews, who was a former MEP, said "Fighting crime will be a priority alongside working with the local community to make

Sir Robert Peel's (Creator of the Metropolitan Police in 1829) vision a reality."

POLICING PRINCIPLES

There are 9 Peelian principles of policing by consent issued to every Police officer from 1829 after Home Secretary Sir Robert Peel first established the modern

police force. In modern language from Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary these are:-

1. The basic mission for which the police exist is to prevent crime and disorder.
2. The ability of the police to perform their duties is dependent upon public approval of police actions.
3. Police must secure the willing co-operation of the public in voluntary observance of the law to be able to secure and maintain the respect of the public.
4. The degree of co-operation of the public that can be secured diminishes proportionately to the necessity of the use of physical force.
5. Police seek and preserve public favour not by pandering to public opinion but by constantly demonstrating absolute impartial service to the law.
6. Police use physical force to the extent necessary to secure observance of the law or to restore order only when the exercise of persuasion, advice and warning is found to be insufficient.
7. Police, at all times, should maintain a relationship with the public that gives reality to the historic tradition that the police are the public and the public are the police; the police being only members of the public who are paid to give full-time attention to duties which are incumbent on every citizen in the interests of community welfare and existence.
8. Police should always direct their action strictly towards their functions and never appear to usurp the powers of the judiciary.
9. The test of police efficiency is the absence of crime and disorder not the visible evidence of police action in dealing with it.

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14 YEAR OLD RAISES £1,000 FOR CANCER RESEARCH



Jemima Lamont from Evington decided she would like to shave off 14 years of hair for her birthday ... just because she wanted to.

So that others would benefit she has donated her hair to the Little Princesses Trust, which makes wigs for children and besides this she has raised over £1000 for Cancer Research.



Meraki Hair on Queens Road kindly braided her long locks and gave her the star treatment.

Jemima is shocked at how much difference can be made and just for doing

something which was initially for herself.

Jemima's fundraiser page is <https://gofund.me/646ff99e>
Charlotte Lamont (Jemima's mum)



ERIC SNOW OF
SPENCEFIELD LANE

As a follow up to the last Evington Echo quoting an original article by E.E. Snow from 1981 I have looked into the Snow family history.

William Henry Snow, grandfather, was born about 1840 in Smethwick, a suburb of Birmingham, and rose to become foreman engineer of the Leicester Tramways, overseeing the change from horse-drawn to electric trams. He was a largely self-educated radical and nonconformist, 'a very striking example of the superior Victorian working man'.

In 1897, Ada Sophia Robinson had come from Stamford in Lincolnshire to work as a seamstress in Leicester and married William Edward Snow. The couple lived in Leicester, up until 1904 with William's parents, doubtlessly to save money. When pregnant with her second child, they got their own home at 40 Richmond Road in Aylestone Park, which was semi-detached, one of a pair built in 1860 and called Albert Villas, (since demolished) after Prince Albert.

William E. Snow worked as a clerk and cashier in a Leicester shoe and boot establishment to earn a living. His great love however was music. He was an Associate, then a Fellow, of the Royal College of Organists, and worked as an organist and choir master at local churches, and gave piano lessons for some extra money. Sometimes alluded to as a

'distant' father to his 4 sons, in contrast to their mother who closely supervised their studies, insisting they could 'better themselves' through education, William was a typical Victorian-era white-collar office worker, struggling to make ends meet on an inadequate salary, doubtlessly in a job he did not love.

They had 4 sons:

William Harold Snow, b: 1898 in Leicester, Leicestershire (Died young)

Charles Percy Snow, b: Oct. 15, 1905 in Leicester

Edward Eric Snow, b: Mar. 13, 1910 in Leicester

Philip Snow, b: Aug. 7, 1915 in Leicester

They were educated at Alderman Newton's school and had a deep love of cricket. Ada Sophia (Robinson) Snow augmented the family's income through dress-making, using the extra money to help pay for her sons' going to private grammar schools on their way to a University education. She died on April 25, 1944 at 72 years old. She passed away at the Coningsby Nursing Home, 350 Aylestone Road. Her husband survived her by 10 years, dying at age 85, on October 23, 1954, in Leicester.

Eric, as well as being a successful businessman, became the librarian and historian of the Leicestershire County Cricket Club. He served the club in many non-playing capacities, including forty years as librarian and thirty years on the committee, and wrote two histories of the club. His first History of Leicestershire Cricket, published by Edgar Backus in 1940, is still the authority on the club's earlier years. This was followed by Leicestershire Cricket 1949-77 published by Hutchinson in the Centenary Year. He also wrote a history of Sir Julien Cahn's XI and a biography of the writer Oppenheim who lived at the Cedars. He was a fount of knowledge on Leicestershire lore, and cricketing in general. His elder brother was C. P. Snow, Lord Baron Snow of the City of Leicester, the writer, scientist and government minister under Harold Wilson; and his younger brother Philip represented Fiji on the International Cricket Council, when working in Fiji for 14 years before returning to become bursar at Rugby School for 25 years.

Eric died on 18 September 1998, the day before his beloved Leicestershire won the County Championship.

Chris Hossack

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MAKING PIZZAS

While making pizzas, Howard had a brilliant idea – a pizza making competition for the children, Aaryan, Reuben and Skye.

These children are so competitive, they will love it and especially as Howard has offered his usual chocolate based prize and will get all the ingredients ready.

Howard gathered the dough, garlic, tomato sauce and a variety of sliced, colourful Mediterranean vegetables, all chopped up and separated into individual Tupperware pots. He came round to explain the competition rules. He then left saying that it was a pity Smiggie couldn't be there as she would love to Hoover up the food that hit the floor.

I have always wanted to get the kids more involved in cooking, so this competition was a lovely thought. Thank you Howard.

Anyway, as it happens everyone in my household loves pizza, so when I told the kids they will be making their own and about Howard's involvement, they were more than willing to give it their best.

My daughter, Skye, especially was not giving it a second thought and had already concocted in her mind what she was going to do, how she was going to do it and what toppings she was going to be using, what colour it will be and so on and so on, until eventually I had to stop her in her tracks as it wasn't going to be until later in the evening and as it was only mid- morning, there was plenty of time. The boys were listening to all this and decided to keep their ideas a secret. Skye more than anything wanted her pizza to look like a unicorn. She was going to use peppers as the mane and olives as the eyes and onion as the mouth.

Reuben saw Skye's pizza coming out of the oven and all of a sudden had a change of heart. He was seriously going to have to up his game if he was going to have any chance of winning this competition. I lost count how many times he did and then redid and still he didn't like it, so did it yet again. Eventually, I think as he knew Howard was going to be the judge of the best pizza, he decided to do something in relation to what Howard loves, i.e. gardening, planting, flowers, etc. so Reuben's pizza looked something like a garden with flowers. He used the peppers as stems and for the flowers.

Aaryan loves pizza but it has to be very plain, i.e. cheese and tomato, so he didn't want to go all adventurous with the wonderful array of different toppings, as he knew he would only have to pick them all off again before he could eat it. So in his mind he was more worried about what it was going to taste like rather than what it looked like. In the end, he opted for a plain face with only olives for the eyes and onion for the mouth.

Howard couldn't decide on a winner, so they were all winners. Onkar is still

deciding which pizza tasted the best. Having sampled the results he is thinking about turning it into a money making enterprise called 'Coplow's Novelty Pizzas'!

Kally Korotana



WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

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Nordic Walking. In Evington Park and Knighton Park. For more information contact:
ministryofnordicwalks@gmail.com
Tel: 07502 576764.

Festival of Archaeology 2021 from 3rd July to 1st August.
Tel: 07758194353/2214508 or
peter.liddle51@gmail.com

Evington Moat Guided Tour. Tuesday 27th July at 7.00pm. Meet at St. Denys Church car park on Church Road.
Booking: 2214508 or
peter.liddle51@gmail.com. Adults £4, Children free.

Friends of Evington/Evington in Bloom judging day is during the first fortnight in July. For more information contact Helen Pettman on 2204525/07910431044 or
friendsofevington1@gmail.com
Gardening volunteers welcome.

SMALL ADS

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

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FOR SALE: Golf kit: Clubs, bag, trolley, etc. etc. Suit beginner, sensible offers, will split. Also Bowls bag £10. Tel: 2413150.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS - grid on page 12

Across
1. SPIN, 5. UNDO, 8. OGRES, 10 OVERT, 11. EBBED, 12. NAIL, 16 ARNE, 17. CANNIBALS, 18. ABANDONED, 20 FEES 21 NEWS 25. ICIER, 26. SCION, 27. OFFAL, 28. CLOT 29. OVEN.

Down
2. POETIC 3. NOTE, 4 FREE, 5. USER, 6. DEBARS 7. COUNTERFEIT 9. ADVERTISING, 13. LAMBS, 14. INANE 15. ABHOR 16. ALIEN, 18. AERIAL, 19 DECIDE 22. TROT, 23. LEFT, 24. OSLO.

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