



Herald

Small foreshadow ghost of blooms to come
Of Spring
The snowdrop drips a melted frost
Remembering the tomb-like, iron, winter womb
Of waiting,
A single quiet note struck well,
Morning bell,
Before the rest, sunshine gay,
Paint the banks,
Light up the wayside paths,
Draw their cheerful youth from
summers past,
Sing.

Yevgeny Salisbury

This specially commissioned poem was penned by award-winning local poet Yevgeny Salisbury. Originally from Anglesey and now living in Leicester, Yevgeny is a performance poet, short story writer and novelist whose literary inspirations are nature, the urban environment and love.

Designed by Jason Chauhan

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 Proceeds for the show are donated to Together Against Cancer. Charity Number: 1123665.

A SPRING POEM BY AMY GERSTLER

In early March, after what seemed like an interminable winter, I was inspired by the first signs of Spring.

Snowdrops and crocuses in Evington Park are the first heralds of renewed light as bulbs send up shoots from their earthen tombs. These tombs are also the wombs from which new life springs. These indications of hope led me to seek out poetry on the theme of Spring. I chanced upon the poem below and contacted American poet, Amy Gerstler. To my delight there was a prompt reply which was the start of a series of emails between us. As you read this, a copy of this edition of the Evington Echo is winging its way via airmail to Los Angeles as per the poet's request.

Marcovaldo

Amy Gerstler shares the experience of the origin and evolution of the poem:

"Around 1989 I was asked to submit a poem to an anthology about gardens. In trying to come up with something on that theme, I fell in love, as many have before, with the variety and evocativeness of the common names of plants, so it was fun to pepper the first stanza with a few. In trying to figure out what to write, I did a little reading on notions about the Garden of Eden. Some theologians apparently believe that Eden contained a plant to cure every disease or complaint, which is a lovely, aspirational idea, one that made me remember Friar Lawrence's speech in Romeo and Juliet (Act II, Scene 3) where he extols the medicinal powers of plants.

So, I transplanted that idea into the poem. In this difficult current moment of war in Ukraine, I felt a sense of yearning when reading the lines, craving peace on Earth."

In Perpetual Spring

Gardens are also good places to sulk. You pass beds of spiky voodoo lilies and trip over the roots of a sweet gum tree, in search of medieval plants whose leaves, when they drop off turn into birds if they fall on land, and colored carp if they plop into water.



Suddenly the archetypal human desire for peace with every other species wells up in you. The lion and the lamb cuddling up. The snake and the snail, kissing. Even the prick of the thistle, queen of the weeds, revives your secret belief in perpetual spring, your faith that for every hurt there is a leaf to cure it.



Acknowledgement
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Hair by Jill



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UKRAINE HUMANITARIAN APPEAL

As a child I remember at this time of year my grandmother painting elaborately patterned eggs called pysanka ready for Easter.



She and my grandfather had welcomed the Ukrainian community in Bolton, many of whom had become displaced from Germany and Italy after the Second World War, and Ukrainians in turn welcomed them into their homes in such a way that they became part of their community and vice versa.

War is again having a devastating effect on the lives of ordinary Ukrainians and no doubt the people of Evington will be soon opening their doors to those looking for refuge. Right now, in Ukraine people are under attack and are being forced to flee their homes, leaving behind all they have.

Friends of Evington are looking at ways in which our local charity can help the international effort to provide food, water, shelter, healthcare and protection for those affected by the war in Ukraine. The Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) are raising funds to provide lifesaving aid to people fleeing the

conflict. The DEC is made up of 15 member charities including Save the Children, British Red Cross, CAFOD, Islamic Relief, Christian Aid, International Rescue Committee and Oxfam. All are experts in humanitarian aid. Each member specialises in different areas of disaster response and they come together to speak in one voice and make fundraising more efficient when a disaster occurs.

You will have seen news of charities and individuals collecting clothes, blankets and toiletries here to be sent overseas to Ukraine and countries receiving refugees. Although undoubtedly a worthy effort often this is not cost effective and shipping also takes time. What people give today might not be what people need tomorrow. Wherever possible, DEC member agencies buy items locally or from countries in the affected region. That's why making a cash donation is one of the most effective ways to support people affected by the war.

Friends of Evington are distributing collection boxes for the DEC appeal in shops, cafes, pubs and workplaces around Evington to go towards the effort.

All monies collected will go to the appeal. If you prefer to donate directly go to: www.justgiving.com/fundraising/friends-of-evington, where you can pay by card. Friends of Evington will match fund all donations so we donate £1 for every pound collected, funds permitting.

Thank you,
Paul Archdeacon, Chair of Trustees



EVINGTON VILLAGE FETE AND SHOW 2022



We are back after two years away and very pleased to be able to confirm that this year's event will be on Saturday August 13th on the Village Green.

The committee are busy putting together a wonderful event for all to share and we hope you will be there too, either as an exhibitor, a stall holder, a helper or just enjoying a great family day out.

Full details of the show schedules will be available in a few weeks time both on our website as well as in hard copy at Bennetts Hardware shop in the village.

Contact details:

To book a stall - Site Manager - Michael White 243 2042.

To volunteer stewarding help - Ben Sherriff 273 9709.

Show Enquiries

John Pelmore 270 9881.

General Enquiries -

Chris Hossack 241 5153.

We do need a volunteer to be Show Manager next year as John is retiring after this year, as well as a Health and Safety officer. Please be in touch if you can help. Tombola prizes can be left at Bennetts. At present I have no shortage of books!

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See details on page 7.**

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LETTERS BEGGING ON OUR STREETS

By Ian Morton

Dear Editor,

With regards to beggars on the streets, there are those who are genuinely homeless and destitute, but that doesn't apply to the rest. The two I saw begging were fake.

Something needs to be done about beggars as the situation cannot go on!

ENGAGE A BUILDER WITH A GOOD REPUTATION

By Bill Hayes

NEVER engage a trader 'blind'. Only engage those who have a good reputation, or can supply two or more (honest..!) references for you to check. NEVER engage one who knocks on your door: reputable traders do not do this. NEVER engage a trader who only has a mobile phone number; they are untraceable, a landline phone number shows that they have an address - a base to work from. NEVER engage a trader who has no postal address, for the same reasons as above.

FOR THE ATTENTION OF COUNCILLORS ABOUT E-SCOOTERS

By H. Uppal

Dear Readers,

E-Scooters have been in the news again with the air-ambulance air lifting someone to hospital following a collision in Oadby in recent days. This comes after several high profile accidents in Leicestershire in

recent years.

Is there any way of getting the police to monitor the streets around the schools, as I often see at least one e-scooter either using the pavements or the roads at school pick-up or drop off times? I've even seen a parent using one.

Is there a way of also getting a message out to schools?

Let me know if you can help. Please contact the Evington Echo at evingtonecho@gmail.com.

GIVING BLOOD

By Marlene Pyke
(Evington's little vampire)

Dear Readers,

I have been reminded through family connections how difficult it has been over the last two years for the Blood Bank Service of all local authorities to acquire as much blood as is needed for operations.

I would like to make a plea on their behalf for all previous and future blood donors to step forward; it is so easy and so needed and I am sure would be gratefully received.



CANDLE GAZING MEDITATION



Candle gazing is a well-known form of meditation. This meditation guides you to practise this as you gaze lightly at a candle flame.

As we know, some

candles can contain toxic substances which can release harmful poisons in the air so I strongly recommend looking for candles made from beeswax or soy wax. In preparation for this practice ensure that the space is quiet and relatively darkened. Place the lit candle in front of you on a table close to eye level. Set an alarm for 5 minutes.

Seated on a chair, make sure your feet are flat on the floor with your hands resting on your thighs or knees. Your spine must be nice and straight with the shoulders relaxed. You can always centre yourself by gently moving side to side. Tongue on the roof of your mouth which aids in keeping the jaw line loose whilst ensuring you have a slight smile as you gaze softly at the candle's flame. You can continue to blink if and when you need to.

Bringing your attention to your breath, take some deep breaths, inhaling and exhaling gradually and slowly. Once you have done a few rounds of deep breathing, return this to your own natural breathing rhythm, whilst continuing to gaze softly at the candle. If any thoughts come to mind release and let them drift away imagining them to be like clouds, continuing to keeping your awareness on the candle.

Once your alarm sounds gently blink your eyes a few times, wriggle your fingers and toes then withdraw your gaze from the flame bringing your awareness back into the room. Take in a deep breath and offer yourself some appreciation for doing this meditation today.

I would love to hear how you found this practice.

You can contact me through social media links Indy Essence.

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ERNEST CHARLES BEACH (ERNIE)

SEPT. 1933 - DEC. 2021

By Andrew Beach

Ernie and his wife, Betty, moved to Main



Street, Evington in 1963 after purchasing their house from Betty's father. Shortly afterwards Allan was born (1964), who was followed by Andrew (1967), unexpected twins Ann and Sarah (1970) and lastly Deborah (1972).

Ernie hadn't always lived in Leicester, but was born in Hereford in 1933 to single mother Olive, a situation that was unusual and to a degree frowned upon in those days. Ernie's father was estranged and this coupled with being a child living through the war shaped the person he became. He was shipped off to live in Stourbridge with his Auntie Stella during the war, and told the story of how a policeman accompanied him on the train journey. He witnessed Coventry burning in the distance as a boy – it's hard to estimate the impact this had on him at such a young age.

Ernie's passions in life developed at an early age – dogs, cycling and football (in that order). He also enjoyed reading,

gardening and listening to classical and swing music. As a boy he would cover distances of over 100 miles with his cycle club around the beautiful Herefordshire countryside, Malvern Hills and Black Mountains in the Brecon Beacons. He continued to cycle up to about a year before he died, his Alzheimer's (and not his fitness) limiting his capability to do so.

In 1954 Ernie was drafted to National Service to join the 13th Company Grenadier Guards and spent some happy times posted in Germany. On his return from National Service, his electrical engineering career meant he found his way to Leicester where he met Betty at the Palais de Danse in Humberstone Gate. I'd love to know how many Leicester couples met this way in the 60s.

Ernie played football for Oadby Town and Old Vics in the 1970s, often dragging his sons to matches to watch him, maybe in the hope that they would show some interest. They didn't. He was a very keen horticulturist and took much pride in his front and back gardens and sat out in the sun whenever he could. He was well known in Evington for the signs he used to display in his front garden, "Help the world – plant some flowers and get the bees buzzing" being one of them.

Betty died in 1997, and following this, Ernie found companionship and solace owning a number of dogs, Lottie being his longest companion of 16 years. She died a few months before Ernie and he was lost without her. They were inseparable and were often seen walking around Evington village and the arboretum – they both got slower together as they got older. Ernie died peacefully in Leicester General Hospital with his family around him following a short illness. He is survived by his five children and eleven grandchildren.

UPDATE: TARGET FOR PLANTING TREES - 222 FOR 2022

By Jeff Henry

There has been a fantastic response from Evington residents to the drive to encourage people to plant new trees in their gardens. You may remember that this was an initiative from Evington Community Nature Reserve, supported and funded by Friends of Evington. The aim was to plant at least 222 new trees in the gardens of Evington. The varieties on offer were all native trees: bird cherry; crab apple and hazel. We are delighted to say we are very close to achieving our target and, in the next issue of the Evington Echo, we will let you know how many trees have been planted in total.

EVINGTON COMMUNITY NATURE RESERVE

This project was set up last year by Evington residents Jeff and Suzanne Henry and is supported by Friends of Evington. The plan was to ask local people to devote a little more of their gardens to nature. So far, many people have committed to grow more wild flowers, sunflowers and now small, native trees that will be loved by birds, bees and butterflies, along with other beneficial insects.

Here are some simple ways you can join in:

Allow part of your lawn to grow a little wilder.

Sow some wildflowers – any time in March or April is fine.

Cut out trimming a hedge or some shrubs until they have flowered and (maybe) fruited.

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GARDENING AT SEDGEBROOK OPEN SPACE, DOWNING DRIVE



These photographs taken in February, show local volunteers making dead hedges in the woodland area.

Using branches in this way is good for wildlife – it is somewhere for small mammals and birds to shelter from predators and from the wind and rain. It is also good for insects and other pollinators.

UPDATE: SEDGEBROOK COMMUNITY GARDEN

By Jeff Henry

Friends of Evington are now very close to confirming, with the council, a site agreement for a new community garden on Sedgbrook Open Space. This is being funded through our 'People and Pollinators' grant from the National Lottery Community Fund. Although it is organised by Friends of Evington, any local residents are welcome to join in by signing in on the day.

As part of the preparation for the project, a small group of residents worked with the Leicester Environmental Volunteers to clear some of the scrub from the woodland on the edge of the park. We had a great time and think we made a big difference to the tidiness of the site. Our work also improved the clarity of lines of sight from Downing Drive, which should reduce the likelihood of antisocial behaviour taking place.

Once the site agreement is confirmed, we can start developing the garden. We will let people know which days we're working on the project, where to meet and what to bring etc. To see our outline plans and get more details, visit the Evington in Bloom section of our web-site www.friendsofevington.com.

EVINGTON IN BLOOM PREPARES

Evington in Bloom is preparing to enter the Royal Horticultural Society/East Midlands in Bloom competition for 2022 and this year we expect two judges to come during the first fortnight in July.

There are new RHS criteria and priorities, for example - locally grown plants, using home made compost, eliminating the use of peat and biodiversity in planting. Working in various partnerships, particularly with LCC Parks Department is our strategy.

u3a learn,
laugh,
live

If you find yourself at a loose end, wondering what to do, you could give a thought to the Leicester u3a, one of more than a thousand similar u3as scattered across the UK.

The u3a was founded 40 years ago as the University of the Third Age with the aim of encouraging self-help among older people. Despite its name it is not a University. There are no classes, no exams and it offers no degrees or other qualifications.

Many of its 365 members are happy just to go to the monthly general meetings at Christchurch on Clarendon Park Road to hear a talk and enjoy a cup of coffee afterwards. But at the heart of the U3a are the 67 groups, which meet at different locations in Leicester (often in members' homes) and which cover a wide variety of interests from outdoor activities to philosophy. There are groups for walkers that range from country rambles to 'parks and tearoom strolls'. Other outdoor activities include Boules, Ten pin Bowling and Croquet. Indoor activities include Bridge, Cryptic Crosswords and Mah Jong. If you are keen to brush up your foreign language skills there are groups where you can practice conversation in various languages.

These are just a few of the activities available. The great thing about the u3a is that if you can't see a group that covers your particular interest you can simply start a new one. If enough like-minded people are interested the group is in business.

For more about the Leicester u3a visit the website:
<https://u3asites.org.uk/leicester>



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THE EVINGTON ECHO INTRODUCES A NEW SERIES OF ARTICLES ON EVINGTON'S TREASURED BUILDINGS

By H Farma

Many of us have heard of listed buildings but what is a local heritage asset?

This question is answered in a new series of articles starting in our June/July 2022 edition. The series will feature some buildings in Evington which appear on the City Council's local heritage asset register.

Unfortunately, inclusion on the register does not afford the same level of protection as listed status. However, the register is used to inform planning decisions. The architectural, historical and cultural significance of the buildings will be described with accompanying photographs. It is hoped that better knowledge and more public awareness will help to safeguard these treasures in Evington for generations to come.

As recently as January this year new heritage sites were designated by Leicester City Council. They include the old stationmaster's house in North Evington which is believed to be the last surviving Great Northern Railway Station building in Leicester.

Deputy city mayor and city council heritage champion, Councillor Adam Clarke, said: "The addition of 30 new locally important buildings and structures to the list shows our continuing dedication to protecting the city's architectural heritage."

"The local heritage asset register is an important way of recognising the buildings, places and other landmarks that are important to the people and history of

Leicester."

All new entries on the local list were considered by a panel made up of Cllr. Clarke, local historian and chair of the Conservation Advisory Panel, Richard Gill, and former chair of the Leicestershire and Rutland Society of Architects, Nils Feldman.

If you would like to share your own narratives and knowledge of the featured Evington assets listed below then please email Assistant Editor Harkesh Farma (harkeshfarma@hotmail.com)

Our new series will explore:

Victoria Regina post box, Evington Lane.
The Tram Shelter West of Humberstone Park, Uppingham Rd.
1920s Arts and Crafts inspired Co-Op building No. 234 -249 Uppingham Rd.
Natural House, Stoughton Lane.
Humberstone Park House, Lodge and Stable Block.
Hadley House, Leicester General Hospital, Gwendolen Rd.
The old stationmaster's house in North Evington.

EVINGTON ECHO DISTRIBUTORS WANTED

We are looking for new distributors for the Evington Echo for Norwood Road, Horton Road and Byway Road (131 copies) and Colebrook Close and Walk, Buckfast Close, Teighmouth Close and Tavistock Drive odd numbers (94). If you could help with this six times a year, please contact Chris Hossack on 2415153.

BUTTERFLIES ON NEW WALK

Emma Lee co-edited the anthology "Welcome to Leicester" (Dahlia Books, 2016). Her most recent poetry collection is "The Significance of a Dress" (Arachne Press, 2020). She's a member of Leicester Writers' Club and also writes short stories and book reviews.



Butterflies on New Walk
She jumps from one to another, imagining her small Wellingtons are displacing water in huge splashes, sparking a rainbow in the sunshine.

She can't yet read the plaque to Henry Walter Bates whose Amazon collections stock New Walk Museum's archives and supported his papers on insect mimicry before manufacturing dust from his family's business clouded his lungs.

I watch her small journeys from one butterfly to the next: her confidence her small body will carry her, still reaching her target when taking a detour around someone else.
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How a childhood dream came true JACK ON THE BOX



. Jack Millard, 17 from Leicester says he couldn't believe he made it onto Countdown - a longtime dream of his.
Pictures: Courtesy of Jack Millard, St. Paul's R.C. School and Channel 4

Readers, fingers on buzzers please for your starter for ten. The familiar jingle of the opening credits of a certain teatime gameshow is heard every weekday at 2:10pm on C4. It was the first programme to go to air on Channel Four in 1982. The studio is dominated by an enormous clock set to count down from 30 seconds. What is the name of the show?

Jack Millard is a young man who knows this and much besides. He took part in filming three Countdown episodes on September 23rd and three on October 4th last year. As the circumstances were exceptional, he was allowed 2 days leave of absence from the sixth form where he is a Year 13 student of A levels in Psychology, Business Studies and English Language. I had the pleasure of visiting St Pauls RC School to interview 17-year-old Jack, ably supported by his friend Phoebe.

"My childhood dream to appear on TV as a Countdown contestant all began when my grandad showed me my first episode ten years ago." recalled Jack as he paid tribute to his maternal grandfather, Robert Brownbridge, who had lived in Evington for about 40 years until 2010 when he moved to Oadby. (Echo readers may remember this erstwhile Evingtonian.)

Jack realised at the age of seven that he loved anagrams and working with figures to reach a target number. "This is a zeal that my grandad and I shared so we'd sit down together daily for thirty minutes of avid viewing. As I love words and numbers it's the perfect vehicle for me to showcase my skills. In fact, when I'm out and about I tend to see anagrams in car registration plates and when I read words generally."

His preference however is the numbers game as he prefers numeracy. It requires players to reach a target number using 6 randomly selected numbers. His usual choice is one large and five small numbers but in his sixth and last game he had to take a risk by choosing four large numbers to try to retake the lead as he was 28 points behind.

When Jack applied for Countdown in February 2021 it was the day after the announcement that Anne Robinson would be the new host after the retirement of Nick Hewer.

Ann Robinson is an idol to myself because she used to host another show I love called The Weakest Link. I was obviously very excited when I found out I would meet Anne. I know that her public persona is the Queen of Mean but as a person she was very pleasant with me. She was very interested in my studies especially A Level psychology. We spoke a lot about this but of course much was edited for reasons of timing."

Jack's favourite studio guest is Shirley Ballas, the Head Judge on Strictly, who appeared in an episode alongside him. As one of the millions of fans of Strictly Come Dancing it was especially exciting for Jack to meet Shirley. She spoke about the early part of her dancing career and about life on Strictly. Jack has kept fine company indeed, having also hobnobbed with Christopher Biggins. "He was a lot of fun and he had good personal chemistry with Anne. He brought laughter and jests to the set with his pantomime anecdotes." His favourite lexicographer is Susie Dent and his favourite arithmetician is Rachel Riley.

Having been spurred on by his success as a player from the comfort



Mrs Conaghan, Principal of St. Paul's presents Jack with the Principal's Pen.



Pictures: Courtesy of Jack Millard, St. Paul's R.C. School and Channel 4

of his own armchair he decided to try his luck and test his skills under the bright lights of the recording studio. Jack discussed the application process saying that he applied during the first February to March lockdown. His chaperone, Phoebe, intervenes at this point recalling the day that Jack declared he'd had an important phone call from C4. It was the much-awaited response from the producers about the application and audition. The audition was a mini version of an episode in which he had to play six letter games, two number games and a conundrum.

He specified that there was no official rehearsal. "You arrive as a contestant in the studio and sit in your chair. Ann is the first to arrive and she gives you a pre-interview. She broaches subjects for further discussion during the actual filming. Having been acquainted, the recording begins and anything that has already been discussed may pop up again in the studio chat. Unfortunately, there was no live audience due to COVID restrictions, but I was allowed to bring one studio guest. I asked my mum and naturally she was thrilled." His friend, Phoebe, initially incredulous, is enormously proud of Jack.

"I can speak for everyone. My family knows Jack and we watched the episodes together; we're all impressed by him." Jack used his knowledge of psychology to cope with the nerves by deep breathing, calm music and visualisation techniques. It was time to be put under the spotlight again when I decided to turn quiz master and test Jack's knowledge of his specialist subject. His five surprise just-for-fun quick-fire questions were:

1. Who was the first Countdown host?
2. Who was the first celebrity in Dictionary Corner?
3. Who first facilitated the numbers game?
4. What was the title of the original French version of Countdown?
5. Jack is an apterite but what is it?

Answers below. Try to beat Jack who got 3 questions correct out of 5.

At the time of this interview the last episode on the 23rd of December had not been broadcast but Jack revealed that the finalists had been announced. Having qualified in eighth position he was pipped at the post by another contestant who had managed to qualify as a finalist. The final was filmed in October and broadcast in December 2021, ending that series.

I believe that this is not the last time that readers will hear about Jack Millard as he has resolved to return as a contestant in a decade. There are several precedents for return visits to Countdown including the contestant that beat Jack who had returned.

1. Richard Whiteley
2. Mary (Possibly Mary Craig, although her surname was never given. She was the first lexicographer, and the first woman to appear on Channel 4, unknown to many, who think that Carol Vorderman was the first woman.)
3. Carol Vorderman
4. Les Chiffres et les Lettres.
5. An apterite is a player of Apterous which (apart from being a wingless insect) is an online game with rounds including numbers, letters and conundrums.

A COMPLICATED PLOT BY JOHN TORRINGTON



This map has been put together from many photos of the two maps John found. X marks John's house on Romway Road, where John found these interesting documents.

If you are a home-owner have you ever looked in detail at the deeds of your property? I did so recently and got a surprise which knocked my cotton socks off. Finding life in a small terraced house too small for four adults to swing the proverbial, my father and I looked for some other houses which could be suitable and jointly bought 29 Romway Road. I remember my delight in finding myself suddenly the owner of my own trees! Could life be any better? And all in 1970 for £4250. The deeds record all the previous owners as follows:

From 1967 – Andrew David Short and his wife Margaret Eleanor, originally of Cowley Road, Oxford, having come to Leicester to work in the Physiology Department of the University. Price paid £3550.

From 1948 – Leonard Arthur Morling and his wife Ivy Violet, previously of Fosse Road Central, Leicester, a local government officer whose mortgage for £1687 was arranged by the NALGO Building Society.

From 1939, a few months before the War, Albert William Wood, a company director of 'Rosebank', Thurnby moving to Romway Road for the sum of £780.

From 1931 – Frederick John Nuttall Statham, formerly of High Road, Burton on Trent in the County of Stafford, a photographer, for £800, via mortgage of The Market Harborough Building Society.

It was at this point that the big surprise arrived. Mr. Statham bought the house from C. W. Hartshorn Limited, a property

company created and owned by Charles William Hartshorn, of Windsor Avenue, Leicester, baker, who had in turn acquired the entire area of land which we now know as the Way Roads estate. This transaction is recorded in a long and detailed document of fearsome complexity, including, for illustrative purposes, two large fold-out hand-drawn maps with specific areas of colour-coding referred to by the conditions of the sale.

This is the story –

1. By the will of George Anthony Legh Keck, dated 30th September 1859, the Vendor (see 2) became tenant for life in possession of the estate known as 'The Stoughton Estate'.

2. By indenture of 19th October 1913, Thomas Charles Leicester Powys Keck of 39 Palliser Road, Barons Court in the County of London, Esquire (Vendor) Charles Marriott of Cotesback near Lutterworth in the County of Leicester, Esquire and Charles Thomas Palmer of Newland House near Coleford in the County of Gloucester, Esquire (Trustees) and Sir John Tudor Walters of 'The Wayside' Oadby in the County of Leicester Knight, M.P. (Purchaser) agree to the sale of "all those lands, hereditaments and premises situate partly in the County Borough of Leicester and partly in the Parish of Evington, in the County of Leicester, containing by estimation 99 acres, 3 roods and 24 perches or thereabouts partly in the occupation of Hugh Jones and partly of Arthur Beardsmore and as to certain plantations then in hand" (etc. etc.)

It was witnessed that in pursuance of the said agreement the sum of £12,187

16s. 0d be paid by the Purchaser to the Trustees by the direction of the Vendor.

3. By conveyance of 26th May 1927, The Right Honourable Sir John Tudor Walters of Hobart Place, Eaton Square, London, one of His Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council agreed to the sale of the land to Charles William Hartshorn of Windsor Avenue in the City of Leicester, Baker, at the price of £21,036 12 and the said Charles William Hartshorn had agreed to sell the said property to the Company (Post Office at 140 Melton Road, Leicester) at the same price of £21,036 12s 2d which (I hope) brings us full circle, ready for the sale of 29 Romway Road to Frederick John Nuttall Statham on 21st July 1931.

4. Except – of course – for the entire process of developing the land, now known as The Evington Parks Estate, for residential purposes. The deeds contain very detailed conditions to satisfy the rights of existing tenants and the requirements of the City of Leicester to which it forms borders. These specifications, including an intriguing reference to Alonzo Castle, are of an obscurity which defeated my enthusiasm for further textual archaeology.

The map above shows the extent of the Stoughton and Evington Parks Estates in the Way Road area, prior to development.

Editorial Note: This land wasn't listed in the 1913 inventory when 6,700 acres of land was put up for auction. The Stoughton Estate was bigger than I had realised.



By Helen Pettman

This illustrated talk to the Evington History and Heritage Society (Feb. '22) was by Matthew Morris, Project Manager at the University of Leicester Archaeological Services

The title of this talk was 'Searching for the Knight's Hospitaller'.

Matthew Morris explained that this park covered 240 acres, situated by Beaumont Leys, a new town that needed a sense of history. Inside the Park there is an area on the City side, called Castle Hill, which had been left untouched and unknown. Could it be Roman? Could it be an Iron Age Hill fort? Could it be a manor site with the Order of Knights of the Hospital of Saint John of Jerusalem, commonly known as the Knight's Hospitaller?

The excavation of this site took place between 2016 and 2021. A geophysical survey had revealed nothing. So the first part of the excavations needed to answer the question, 'Is this an Iron Age Hill fort or a medieval manor or both?'. Some trenches frustratingly revealed no answer, but a bank ditch revealed it wasn't Iron Age, but had been secured for winter grazing for sheep.

Matthew Morris carefully explained all the steps taken at the dig to eventually reveal a timber onto stone foundation cruck building – a medieval manor house that was probably very similar to the Guildhall in Leicester. But the site was actually a farm that was abandoned in the late 14th Century. The finds showed a high ratio of bowls and jugs with the star find, a Henry II penny.

The Knights Hospitaller was a medieval

military order which also cared for the sick, poor and injured pilgrims to the Holy Land. They arose after the First Crusade (1096 – 1099). They had a base in Jerusalem, then Rhodes and in 1530 established a base in Malta. The Hospitallers splintered and scattered into various groups after 1798, but their legacy is to be found in the present-day organisations of St. John's Ambulance and the Knights of Malta.

So this site has revealed itself as a complex belonging to the Knights Hospitallers that contained a variety of buildings and functioned as a monastic sheep farm which helped fund the Knights Hospitaller's campaigns in the Holy Land and also looked after the sick.

In 1338, an inventory revealed there were 116 hospitallers, 34 knights, 24 chaplains, 40 sergeants, 106 dependents, 400 servants, 70 secular priests and 50 sisters.

Matthew Morris gave thanks to all the students and volunteers who helped with this excavation. Without them it would not have been possible.



Matthew Morris was also the project manager when the remains of King Richard III were discovered in a Leicester car park.

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MORE REFLECTIONS

by Val Fisher and Susanne Overton-Edwards

I have found myself thinking about the many and varied things that we have learned as a result of Covid-19, the disease itself, the impact on society and the extent to which any good aspects will be retained, rather than forgotten and consigned to the scrap heap. From our perspective we have committed to walking on a daily basis and, fortunately, have managed to maintain that now for 720 days, at the time of writing. It has got to the stage of calculating the number of walking days by subtracting from the 2-year mark rather than what I believe little people call counting on. This article is being written in early March and the biennial anniversary will be on 23rd March 2022. Those of you who enjoy a quick bit of mental arithmetic will be able to calculate exactly when the last touches were being made to this article.

So much has happened within this period of time to almost feel unimaginable. Technology has nudged its way closer to the fore of our minds through using the NHS's track and trace app, ordering refreshments in cafés and restaurants, meeting and socialising via Zoom and Microsoft Teams (other conferencing software and collaborative tools do exist). There seem to be apps for everything. I have wondered if I need one to remind me to breathe!

WFH (working from home) in addition to enabling the creation of a new acronym, has become a common feature of working life for many. In some organisations it had existed for numerous years but has not been a widespread feature of most people's contracts. However, it is refreshing that some employees, dependent on their area of work, now have greater flexibility.

Scientific developments have continued to be phenomenal. Scientists and the NHS have been thanked and praised very publicly for their efforts, achievements and sacrifices. We all need to continue remembering our individual responsibilities as we transition into a more sociable way of life. Our advice would be to test, test, test with a large dollop of common sense!

Some parents and carers had to support their children to learn more at home. The range of new experiences has been vast. I am sure that we have all learned a lot, have had an insight into the lives of others, have thought more deeply and reassessed what we value in our lives.

New friends have been made, a few are departing to other areas of the country and, sadly, two have died. Neither of us have had Covid-19. In the grand scheme of life we have got off very lightly, so far, in comparison to others and for that we are very grateful.

SUDOKU

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NEIGHBOURHOOD PATCHES



St Denys Church have been working in partnership with the VitaMinds mental health project delivered by Equality Action to create spaces where members of the community can make friends through making art. Printmaking and collage workshops with Anita Barrand have already taken place bringing together people from Evington's different faiths and cultures.

The next workshop will be on Saturday 9th April with artist Kirsty Whitrow when we will be using APPLIQUE (see photo for sample patches). Kirsty has been working as a professional free-lance artist for over 30 years, in a varied field of creative art forms, ranging from large scale mural projects, school and hospital residencies, mosaic making, fine art painting.

All the patches that are created will be stitched together to make beautiful wall hangings for the new 'Faith and Friendship Tent', a safe and movable space for sharing stories and building friendships.

The Tent will be launched at St Denys as part of the Platinum Jubilee celebrations on 4th June. For more information, or to book a FREE place for the workshop on 9th April, contact Anthony on 2155500 or vicar@stdenys.org.uk.

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CONNECTION TOGETHER - LOCAL ROTARY CLUB



We were delighted to welcome President Raji of the Rotary Club of Ibadan Elebu Metro, Nigeria, his wonderful wife and three children to Leicester. We presented a banner from the Rotary Club of Leicester Novus as a mark of fellowship. (District 1070 and District 9125).

Rotary really is a way to connect the world!

FIVE WAYS THIS OLD DUFFER WILL TRY TO REDUCE HIS CARBON FOOTPRINT IN 2022

By Jeff Henry

Part Two - Take the Heat Out of the Situation

Yesterday I got a nice surprise when Severn Trent Water sent me an email to say that my monthly water bill was going to be five pounds lower than for the last year - bonus!

The only reason that I could think of for this significant change was the reduction in the number of showers I have been taking - sounds smelly but read on.

There is a very reasonable basis for my decision to take a shower every other day, rather than daily, and that is to reduce heat. Before explaining this potentially anti-social change to my hygiene routine, I should mention that I am retired and not in daily need of the invigoration a morning shower used to bring to my working day. However, that is not the driving force behind my decision. The point is I am trying to reduce my energy consumption, and, therefore my carbon footprint, so any activity that generates heat is a big area to tackle. This is true for warmth generated by gas or electricity (unless you have solar panels and a storage battery).

"Hang on a mo", I hear you cry, "aren't we meant to 'sweat the small stuff' and make the little changes that can add up to make a big difference in the battle against the climate crisis?" Well, actually, no - at least not just that - not if we want to make a significant difference. For example, being careful to switch off our nice new LED lamps (10 watts of power) is a good thing. If, on the other hand, we continue to overfill our electric kettle (3000 watts), use a tumble dryer (1800 watts) or spend too long in the shower (9500 watts) the small improvement is not going to have much of an impact.

Another interesting example involves how we dry our hands after washing them. At home, we're very likely to use a towel which, after several dries, we will wash. Washing machines use heat but, if we throw in the towel as a part of our weekly wash, its addition has little effect on our energy use. At work or in public conveniences we may face what seems a difficult choice: do we use the hot air dryer or go for a paper towel? Well, here's

where 'sweating small stuff' is not really worth the effort of thinking about it. It turns out the manufacture of paper towels and transporting them from the manufacturers and then, after use, to landfill, uses a similar amount of energy to producing the dryer and powering it from the mains.

Finally, it's worth bearing in mind that the time we use an electrical appliance makes a big difference. A warm hand dryer (2500 watts) that only runs for about 30 seconds will use a tenth of the energy a kettle might use when it boils water in five minutes. Mind you, just to hammer home the idea that we need to reduce heat, a cold blower (500 watts) will dry hands almost as quickly and with one fifth of the energy use of a warm one.

So, here's a carbon-footprint-reducing energy plan (not rocket science):

- keep a general eye on how much heat we're generating and try to generate less;
- if possible, take showers rather than baths but...
- reduce the number of showers we have and shorten the time taken;
- keep the number of washing loads to a minimum by filling the drum and stick to 30 degree washes;
- use the 'eco' settings on washing machines, dishwashers etc;
- dry clothes on a clothes' horse or outside in dry weather;
- when using a kettle, only put in the amount of water needed;
- where possible, use a lid on cooking pans and try to simmer rather than boil;
- reduce waste heat by keeping doors closed and improving insulation.

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THE NT LEICESTER ASSOCIATION

The National Trust Leicester Association has an evening meeting on Tuesday 12th April. A short AGM will be followed by an illustrated talk on Burghley House Gardens by Joe Whitehead.

The meeting will be held at Braunstone West Social Centre, St Mary's Avenue, Braunstone West, LE3 3FT commencing at 7.30pm. Visitors are welcome at all meetings.

There will also be an afternoon meeting on Wednesday 27th April at St Guthlac's Memorial Hall, Holbrook Road, Leicester, LE2 3LF commencing at 2.30pm. Gill Castle will present an illustrated talk entitled "The Ups & Downs of Doing Good". Refreshments are served at all meetings. The association also has a coach outing to Berkeley Castle in April and a Walking Tour of Desford with a local guide in May. The Association is a social group for all NT members in Leicestershire and full details can be found on the Association's web site at www.leicesternt.com

Alan Tyler, NTLA Publicity Officer.
Tel: 2229133

EVINGTON GARDEN CLUB

The Club continues its Tuesday afternoon meetings in the Village Hall, unless otherwise stated, enabling travelling during daylight hours.

All indoor meetings commence at 2.30pm in the Village Hall. Doors open 2.00pm.

The early summer subjects are as detailed below.

April 19th. "The Leicester Line Canal." by Mary Matts.

May 17th. "Spring & Summer Colour in the Garden." by Mark Goddard.

June 16th. (Thurs.) "An organised afternoon visit to a Nursery." Details to be advised.

Visitors to meetings are asked to pay £2.00.

Why not join the club and pay £12.00 p.a. membership fee?

For any queries please phone Peter Jackson on 2735487.

MY WORD POETRY GROUP



We meet at Blends Café, Downing Drive on Tuesdays from 4.00pm to 5.30pm.

We explore poetry by reading, writing, performing and publishing.

This group was set up for people who didn't think they could write poetry, but wanted to learn. We explore all genres of poetry; everyone's level is acceptable and we encourage participants. We have a programme and we have published a calendar and a book.

Every week a member leads the session. This provides a good mixture of poetry activities. Feedback about our sessions, both positive and negative is always welcome.

From time to time we have been asked to perform poetry sessions for other groups and we often publish 'folds' of poetry.

All new members will find a warm welcome at Blends. There is a maximum of twelve participants for this group. If you would like to join or try out a session, please contact Dorothy on 07804495527 before the session.

The cost is £3.00 a session.



EVINGTON PARK BOWLS CLUB LE5 6EA

The members of Evington Park Bowls club are looking forward to the new season of bowling (April – Sept) in the beautiful surroundings of Evington Park. We are a friendly club open to visitors and new members who will find a warm welcome. We play friendly and competitive matches with other local clubs, and have other club activities. The club is open to the public on:

Mondays 5.30 – 7.30 pm

Tuesdays 10.30 – 12.30 am and 2.00-4.00 pm

Wednesdays 2.00 -4.00 pm

We offer free tuition and use of equipment (Mondays and Wednesdays) and the first year's membership is free.

There will be open sessions on Monday 11th April 5.30 pm and Wed 13th April 2.00 - 4.00 pm. If you would like to meet new people and enjoy exercise in the fresh air, come and have a go! Just wear casual dress and flat shoes. For more information see www.evingtonbowls.org.uk

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Silver Swans Ballet Classes

(Over 55's) for Beginners through to Advanced - Thursdays mornings at Evington Village Hall. For details please contact Vanessa on 07765 407323. nelliebeeballet@hotmail.com

19th Leicester (Evington) Scout Group

We have three sections according to age: Beavers for ages 6 to 8, Cubs for ages 8 to 10, and Scouts for ages 10 to 14, all meeting at our HQ on Davenport Road. If your child is interested in joining you can contact us in any of the following ways:
Phone - 2209017
Email - info@evingtonscouts.org.uk
Facebook - search for Evington Scouts and send us a private message.

Evington Garden Club

19th April. The Leicester Line Canal by Mary Matts.
17th May. Spring and Summer Colour in the Garden by Mark Goddard.
For more information see the article on page 14.
For any queries please phone Peter Jackson on (0116) 2735487.

My Word Poetry Group

Tuesdays at Blends Café Downing Drive
4.00pm to 5.30pm

See article on page 14.

Evington Park Bowls Club

Monday 5.30 - 7.30pm
Tuesdays 10.30am - 12.30pm and 2.00 - 4.00pm and
Wednesdays 2.00 - 4.00pm
See article on page 14.

Evington Local History and Heritage Group

We meet in St Denys Parish Centre at 7.00pm on the second Thursday of the month except this April due to Easter. Single talk £3. Year Membership 10 meetings £20 or Family Membership £30. Further details from Chris Hossack 2415153.
Programme April - June
April 7th. Richard Graves. Mary Attenborough, mother to David, Richard and John.
May 12th. Members evening. Bring your own contributions.
June 9th. Susan Barton. Park to Parks. The story of Western Park and area.

Nordic Walking

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Bhangra Classes

Mondays: At Judgemeadow Community College for adults and children.
Saturdays: at Hamilton Com. College for adults.
Tel: Preet on 07525153284 for more information.

Evington Women's Institute

Second Tuesday in the month 2.00pm - 4.00pm.
Evington Village Hall.
Tel: Barbara Garlick on 07713804407.

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Wednesdays 9.30am - 11.30pm. The Ark. Parents, carers and pre-schoolers..
Thursdays 7.45pm Prayer Meeting.
For further details contact Stephen Taylor on 079022946004.
www.goodwoodevangelicalchurch.org.uk

St. Denys Church

Wednesday 13th April. 7.30pm. Holy Week devotional service of a performance of The Crucifixion (music by John Stainer) with choir and soloists drawn from across Leicester and Leicestershire. To include congregational hymns. Retiring collection for the work of St. Denys Church. All welcome.

Good Friday 15th April. 10.00am. Children's Activity Morning and 2.00pm Last Hour Reflective Service.
Easter Day 17th April. Communion at Dawn and at 10.00am; 4.00pm Evensong with Leicester Cathedral Choir.

Open church every Thursday 9.00am -12.00 noon. All welcome.

Monday Meet 2.00pm - 4.00pm at the Parish Centre on the 1st and 3rd Mondays every month.

Toddler Group - See poster on this page below..

For more information: visit St. Denys website www.stdenys.org.uk.



May Day Sale

Evington Village Hall.

Bank Holiday Monday 2nd May.

10.30am - 3.30pm.

If you would like a stall or more information

Tel: 2418056.

Platinum Jubilee Celebration

Saturday 4th June 12.00 -4.00 pm with 1950s teas, games, stalls and the opening of the Jubilee Community Garden. More information on page 14.

Leicester Riverside Festival

4 JUN AT 12:00 - 5 JUN AT 15:00 at Bede Park.
Spread over four areas this free two-day festival features fun on and off the water.
Many activities including a fun fair, food stalls, arts & crafts, beer tent, acoustic music stage with great live bands and music for all ages, street market with arts, crafts, tasty street food plus the Ride Leicester cycling area. narrow boat rally, boat trips, canoes, boat rides, demonstrations and the opportunity to view and buy work from local artists at Art on The River. There are children's activities with an eco and environmental focus.

SMALL ADS

Trade and professional rate £2.50 for up to 25 words. All other ads. 50p for maximum of 25 words including telephone number. 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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(Baptist)

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Wednesday : 7.30pm

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