



Evington Echo

EvingtonEcho.uk

Keeping you up to date with Evington's news
Issue 299

The newspaper of Friends of Evington Charity No. 1148649
December 2022 and January 2023

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Gold for Evington!



Congratulations to all the Evington in Bloom, It's Your Neighbourhood (IYN) volunteers, volunteer gardeners and litter pickers. It's a Gold for Evington from The Royal Horticultural Society/East Midlands in Bloom. The best urban community trophy has been won 5 times by Evington, but it's the first time with a 'Gold'. Parks & Open Space services awarded Evington in Bloom a commemorative vase.

Read more about Evington's 'It's Your Neighbourhood groups' and their achievements on pages 8 and 9.

*Wishing all our readers a
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!*



The Friends of Evington Elected Trustees

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Editorial

CONSTITUENCY BOUNDARY REVIEW

Background information

Parliamentary constituency boundaries are reviewed about every eight years by

the Boundary Commission, which is independent of the Government, but must follow the rules of redistribution. Each constituency has an electoral quota based on the number of electors in the constituency, which needs to be between 69,724 and 77,062.

An important part of reviews is the public feedback on proposals. For this review we will be informed of the final decision on 1st July 2023, but if you want to find out more and respond go to:

<https://boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk/2023-review/> and reply before 5th December.

Proposal for Leicester City and its three constituencies

The latest proposal for Leicester City is to reconfigure it internally and not to propose that two Oadby wards join the City.

Leicester West (Liz Kendall MP) This constituency will stay as it is and gain Aylestone.

Leicester East (Claudia Webbe MP) The 3rd proposal is to move part of Evington ward into Leicester South.

Leicester South (Jon Ashworth MP) The proposal is to add part of Evington to this constituency and to move Aylestone ward to Leicester West. (The previous proposal was to add Westcotes ward but to lose

Spinney Hills ward to Leicester East and to split Evington ward.)

Evington ward

I was pleased that the latest proposal reported in the Leicester Mercury was to keep Evington ward together. Evington is an old Anglo Saxon word and with the proposal to split the ward there was the danger that the name would disappear, but more seriously, it would have divided our community.


We, the people of Evington, have much to celebrate, however there are plenty of challenges ahead with the climate crisis, the cost of living crisis and funding threats to our education system and more. The ways we communicate will be an integral part of working together to help one another.

Information in this article is courtesy of: Leicestershire Live
Boundary Commission for England
House of Commons Library

Please write in with your views. We have started conversations and wish to continue.

Also, please support our campaign for making sure there are easily accessible defibrillators in our Evington streets. See the advertisement for our Christmas Fayre fundraising on page 14.

Helen Pettman and the editorial team.



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but Christ Jesus the Lord"*

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CHRISTMAS DAY



REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY IN EVINGTON

Around 120 people gathered at the War Memorial on Main Street to take part in a service led by Rev. Anthony Lees-Smith, (vicar of St. Denys Church) and forty others, including young people from the 19th Leicester scouts and the 2502 Hamilton Air cadets, who are celebrating their 50th anniversary.

The service emphasised that people who fought in the two World Wars sacrificed their lives for our future. Poems read by young people were about taking up the torch for peace and justice.





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NEW ACTIVITIES AT EVINGTON YOUTH CLUB



The 'Girls Can' activity is free. The Chess and Table Tennis activities are part of the Youth Club's Saturday morning sessions and each young person is asked to contribute £2, which covers however many activities they wish to take part in. The club will consider applications for the chess challenge after 2nd December if there are still places, but there are only 10 spaces available and the 8th December will be the final deadline. info@evingtonyouthclub.com





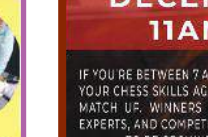


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LETTERS

SANTA'S FUN RUN

Dear Readers,

The Bodie Hodges Foundation (Charity no. 11510530) Santa Fun Run is back for its 4th year this December at Leicester Racecourse. Doors open at 12.00pm on Sunday 11th December and it starts at 12.45pm. Run, walk, scoot or roll either a 1km or 3km course. Afterwards enjoy a Christmas Fayre. £11 per adult. Children 3-15 years £6.

Santa suites are provided for fun run participants. Search Bodie Hedges Foundation for more information about this event. If you want to watch the Fun Run and then enjoy the Christmas Fayre, just turn up.

CAMPAIGN AGAINST LEICESTER'S WORKPLACE PARKING LEVY

Dear Evington Echo readers, Leicester City Council have scrapped the Workplace Parking Levy plan after a public consultation with around 4,000 replies against the plan. Arguments against it were particularly focussed on the costs to schools and NHS staff who couldn't afford it.

Cllr. Adam Clarke said, "We made a commitment in 2019 to consult on a levy in Leicester and at that time we could not foresee the political uncertainty and dire economic situation the country is facing today."

Socialists in Leicester are celebrating the recent news that the Labour-run City Council has been forced to scrap their plans to introduce a Workplace Parking Levy in our city. Trades Council Assistant

Secretary Michael Barker who played a role in both launching and building the trade-union backed Campaign Against Leicester's Workplace Parking Levy writes:

"This victory once again demonstrates where the true power in society lies, it lies in the hands of ordinary people. The collective pressure brought to bear upon our City Council, but most particularly upon its leader Sir Peter Soulsby, by the trade union movement, has forced the Council to dump their proposed £550 annual tax on workers. The good news in many ways reflects the workers' struggle in society which is seeing increasing numbers of workers moving into industrial struggle against the government. The growing popularity of new campaigns like 'Enough is Enough' illustrate that we are moving into new times where socialist change is seen as the only alternative to the bankrupt status quo, whether that's enforced by the Tories or Labour."

Transport and NHS campaigner, Zuffar Haq said, "I am glad the city's workplace levy plan has been scrapped. It would have had huge implications for lots of low paid NHS, school and other work place employees. Realistically the bus services need to be dramatically improved to offer a credible alternative to using a car. The city has a real, big problem with pollution, but the workplace parking levy would not have solved this. The only way to solve it is to get better transport services. Also the Council needs to reduce school traffic across the city by offering alternatives."

If you were running Leicester City Council how would you go about finding the funding and support to cut down on air

pollution and improve and encourage people to use public transport, walk or cycle?

Name and address supplied

CARE WITH SHOPPING

Dear Readers

Residents have pointed out that some local shops have advertised prices on their shelves and then when they go to pay at the till find that there is an increase in the prices of goods. With inflation happening so quickly, the shopkeepers may have made this mistake inadvertently. Shoppers, please take care and do politely point this out to the shop owners or managers if you find this discrepancy. Name and address supplied.

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REMINDER

The speed limit through the village is 20mph.

PAVEMENT PARKING

Dear Readers.

I whole heartedly agree with the letter published in the October/November edition about pavement parking. I use a mobility scooter and get very annoyed and frustrated when I find my way blocked by vehicles parked across the footpath or across a dropped kerb, especially on a busy main road.

It is very dangerous to bypass the offending vehicle by driving on the road and is something I am reluctant to do unless there is no alternative. On a number of occasions I have approached the owners of the property outside which the vehicle is parked to ask them to move it. This practice is either very thoughtless or they are not aware of the inconvenience and danger caused to the disabled person, who often has enough to cope with.

Please, please think before you park in such a way that impedes a right of way - you may be in a similar position one day!!! Name and address supplied.

BOOK REVIEW

WILLIAM AN ENGLISHMAN (1919)

by Cicely Hamilton
Persephone Books

Spoiler alert

William Tully is so boring his colleagues won't even waste an evening getting him drunk. When his mother dies and he is left enough money to leave his job, he embraces politics and works for socialism and women's suffrage. Young, narrow-minded and ignorant, he marries a similar person, Griselda.

William and Griselda decide to spend their honeymoon in Belgium, but it is 1914 and while they are there war breaks out. The couple, cut off from sources of news, initially assume that the cavalry formations the witness are merely 'autumn manoeuvres'. When the Germans invade, William and Griselda witness two civilians being blindfolded and shot.

Now William sees what life and death really are. German soldiers capture him and Griselda, who is raped and later dies after a road accident. William returns to London and tries to enlist. At first he is refused, being too short, but finally he is taken on in a clerical position in France, where he dies in a bombing raid.

A dramatic scene occurs towards the end. William attends a political meeting, but the speakers, who know nothing of war, seem unreal. A tall, arrogant man gives a glib speech that makes William erupt in a passionate rant about the war and the ignorance of the civilians at home: "It's hell and the mouth of hell - I've seen it."

This is a rewarding story of loss of innocence, hypocrisy and disillusionment in the truest sense of the word.

The author, Cicely Hamilton (1872-1952) founded the Women Writers' Suffrage League and wrote pro-suffrage plays. She was on war service in France and nursed soldiers wounded at the Battle of the Somme. She wrote several novels.

Cecilia Grayson
Cecilia Grayson is a retired translator and lives in Leicester.

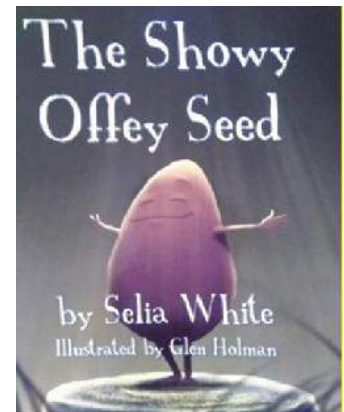
THE SHOWY OFFEY SEED

This beautifully illustrated book by Selia White is excellent to share with young readers. Also, like all good books, it can be enjoyed by both adults and children.

The Showy Offey Seed tells, in rhyme and alliteration, the story of a bragging and boasting seed starting his journey from seed to tree. This seed is completely unaware of the effect his behaviour has on others. It has a surprise ending.

Selia is a local writer who told me she wrote this story as a poem first and later was persuaded by her friends and relatives to self-publish. What a learning experience that has been for her!

Helen Pettman



Paperback book £7.50

ebook £3.99 from Amazon.

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A TALK ABOUT THE RISE AND DECLINE OF MEDIEVAL VILLAGES IN LEICESTERSHIRE

This very detailed talk with slides was given by archaeologist, Peter Liddle, at the October's History and Heritage monthly meeting held at St. Denys Parish Centre. Peter began by explaining how archaeologists can infer how people lived from the rubbish they have left behind. He explained the history of pottery in Leicestershire and talked about the type of houses people lived in.



Peter said that if we were time travellers, then the one Century not to return to is the 14th Century. This was where everything went wrong. One generation would have suffered from famine in their childhood only to die later of the Black Death, which killed between half and two-thirds of the population. Once the population dropped, sheep farming was more attractive. Some villages were

deserted. However Peter emphasised that different places tell different stories. Great Bowden, for example, was not affected by the Black Death. If you didn't die, then life for peasants could get a bit better because they could get land and build up resources.

Peter spoke about specific areas and how enclosures happened and how the poor no longer had common rights. This was yet another excellent, fascinating and well researched talk. Why don't you consider joining this group? New members are welcome. Contact John and Pauline Sloan on 2412210.

e-mail: jandpsloan@gmail.com



Indy Samra is the founder of Apnapan Cancer Support Group. She facilitates mindfulness guided meditation and children's mindfulness. Indy enjoys writing and is a published author. She also on occasions contributes a wellbeing article for the Evington Echo.

Cancer has impacted Indy as immediate family and close friends have been diagnosed.

Apnapan is a welcoming and compassionate space for anyone who has been impacted by cancer including patients living with and beyond cancer,

their loved ones, carers, family, friends and the bereaved. It offers a very informal setting where everyone is given the chance to talk, or if preferred to observe and an opportunity to discuss feelings, work through challenges, share experiences and learn and support each other. It ensures everyone has the opportunity to be heard, be respected and valued. It encourages social interaction to help reduce isolation. The group also practice short mindfulness exercises in each session that will enhance positive mental health.

Indy is multilingual in Panjabi, Hindi and English; this will confidently encourage certain communities to join where language and cultural understanding may have deterred them from previously attending support groups. Apnapan symbolises unity, togetherness and support.

One of the groups meets at Wesley Hall Community Centre 76 Hartington Road, LE2 0GN on the last Tuesday of the month from 10.00am till 12.00pm.

A further two groups meet at Sue Young Cancer Support, Helen Webb House, 35 Westleigh Road, LE3 0HH on the first Wednesday of the month between 7.00pm and 9.00pm and Belgrave Neighbourhood Centre, Rothley Street LE4 6LF on the last Tuesday of the month 10.00am till 12.00pm

To be kept up to date do follow Our Apnapan on social media platforms.

If you would like further information please email Indy at

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CAMPAIGN TO FIGHT FOR THE FUTURE OF EDUCATION

In January 2017, many trade unions associated with education launched a national School Cuts campaign. The website associated with this campaign is www.schoolcuts.org.uk. It states that 81 of 99 schools in Leicester are presently in crisis and notes that our city is facing a £24.7 million annual shortfall in the funding we need to protect per pupil funding in real terms.

Education is in a deep crisis. Earlier this year, the National Association of Head Teachers confirmed that after carrying out a survey of its members they had found that 50 per cent of heads say their school will be in deficit this year, with almost all expecting to be in the red by next September, when their reserves run out.

The government acknowledges the extent of the problem, and in their recent green paper SEND Review (which was consulted on earlier this year) they explain how "spending is still outstripping funding. Two thirds of local authorities have deficits in their dedicated schools grant (DSG) budgets as a result of high needs cost pressures. By the end of 2020-21, the national total deficit was over £1 billion."

Deprivation levels remain high in the city and schools and colleges serving the most deprived communities are likely to be hit hardest. Education leaders have to make choices about what they can and can't afford to do and this could include cutting staffing provision for essential support to children with special educational needs

and disabilities. This is at a time when the achievement gap between poor pupils and their more affluent peers has hit a ten-year high.

ABANDONED KITTEN

Just a note to those who abandoned a very young black kitten at the Hilltop Allotments gate in a cardboard box on Sunday afternoon 4th September. The kitten has been found a good home. There are a number of charities who can take on and will rehome unwanted pets or help with the cost of neutering, eg. RSPCA, PDSA, Cats Protection.

THANK YOU RUPERT

The Evington Echo editorial team would like to thank Rupert for going to the trouble of writing to us and enclosing a picture which was posted in the Vintage 187 Cafe postbox. This postbox helps us to keep in touch with voices that don't often get heard.

DISTRIBUTORS WANTED

A big thank you goes to all our volunteer distributors of the Evington Echo. We always want to spread the load.

Are you able to help with the following rounds?

1. Sedgebrook Road, Hardwich Road, Delaware Road and Bathurst Road (81 copies)
2. Broadway Road (95 copies)
3. Hatherleigh Road (45 copies)

This is a bi-monthly commitment and the Evington Echoes will be delivered to your home for you to walk out and push through doors. If you can help, please contact Chris Hossack Tel: 2415153 or by email to chris_hossack@yahoo.co.uk

40 YEARS AGO - DECEMBER 1982 IN EVINGTON

This 12th edition of the Evington Echo pointed out that roast turkey, plum puddings and Christmas trees were introduced to England in the reign of Queen Victoria by her husband Prince Albert.

Local people met at Judgemeadow Community College to discuss the Leicester District Local Plan and opposed unanimously any development plans for the Goodwood Road reservation. There was discussion about housing developments and vacant properties. The proposal for new facilities for Sport at Evington Pool was also on the agenda. The Garden for the Disabled was fully laid out and opened in Evington Park. After 11 issues a resident described the Evington Echo as useful, giving a sense of identity to the area.

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A GOLD FOR EVINGTON AND IT'S YOUR

A Community Effort

The 'Gold' award for 'Evington in Bloom' was won by all the volunteers associated with gardening projects in Evington, and too many people to name! Evington in Bloom has entered this competition nine times. (It wasn't held in 2020 and 2021.) They won the shield for the best urban area in the East Midlands five times but this was the very first time the judges have given Evington a 'Gold'.



One of the borders looked after by Evington in Bloom volunteers.

At the Friends of Evington AGM, Helen and Val showed the silver tray and certificate (See front cover), and Jeff listed the gardening activities at: The Garden of Hope, Headland Road roundabout, Marydene Drive/Spencefield Lane junction, Carers Direct garden, Evington Park, the Burnaby Gardens, the Cedars pub entrance, containers and beds along Main Street, the Village Green embankment, Sedgebrook Community garden, Piggy's Hollow, Containers and beds on Downing Drive, Village Green, Village garden, War memorial and St. Denys Church Jubilee garden. Readers are probably aware that a lot of the gardening groups have also registered as 'It's Your Neighbourhood' (IYN) groups and get assessed separately.

Celebrate IYN groups

So now is the time to celebrate the amazing results of Evington's IYN groups assessed by East Midlands in Bloom judges. IYN groups aren't in a competition with each other, but are graded as: Establishing (Level 1), Improving (Level 2), Developing (Level 3), Thriving (Level 4) and Outstanding (Level 5).

Three groups achieved Level 5 Outstanding and they were: Friends of Piggy's Hollow (for the first time), Friends and Neighbours Downing Drive (for the second time) and remarkably Sedgebrook Community Gardeners received a Level 5 Outstanding in their first year of entering the competition.



Piggy's Hollow



The shrub bed, Downing Drive



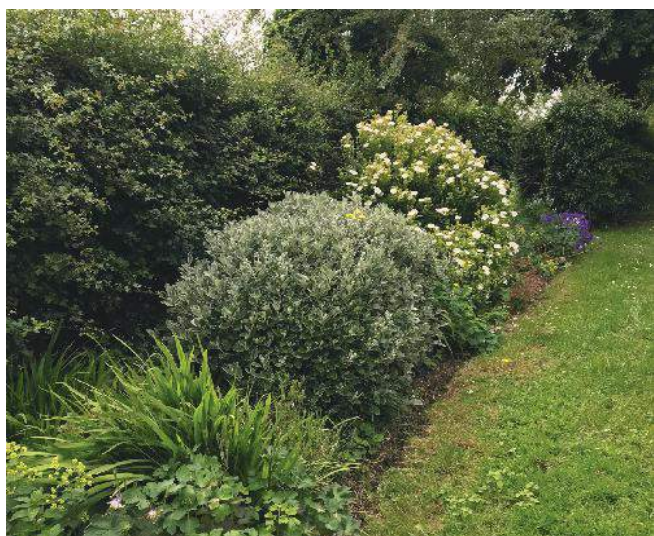
The blue bed Sedgebrook Community Gardens

NEIGHBOURHOOD GROUPS IN EVINGTON

Three groups achieved Level 4 (Thriving). They were Nurturing Roots, Evington Village and Hall and the Horston Hill project. The very new group gardening at the end of Mickleton Drive received Level 2 Improving.



Gardening with Nurturing Roots



The long border Evington Village Green



Horston Hill border

What is an IYN (It's Your Neighbourhood) group?

This question was explored through discussions at the Moot Meetings held at the Vintage 186 café and facilitated by Rob Watson. They were recorded as podcasts at evingtonecho.uk. (see article on page 10).

Any group of people who wish to be an IYN can register with East Midlands in Bloom, but they must have the land owner's permission for their project(s).

All of the 2022 Evington IYNs are gardening on Leicester City Council land, with the exception of land owned by the Village Hall Trust. All of them have site agreements with Leicester City Council through Parks & Open Space Services managed by Leicester Environmental Volunteers Department.

They all contribute to 'Evington in Bloom's entry and most decide they want to share with Friends of Evington's insurance, which the Council accept as an umbrella cover for these gardening activities on their land.

Other than that IYNs are very varied, with their different focuses on choice of plants, choice of ways to bring people together, and other social activities and discussions about fundraising. The Friends of Evington charity which manages Evington in Bloom will help if asked, but will not intervene, as IYN groups are independent and make their own decisions.

So congratulations to Evington gardeners and thank you!

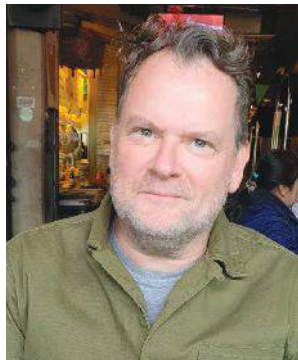
Other awards from East Midlands in Bloom

Grace Davidson received the Judges' award for the Jubilee garden in St. Denys Church car park.

Jeff and Suzanne Henry received a Silver Gilt award for their front garden.

Mayflower Primary School and Judgemeanow Community College's Ace project were chosen by Evington in Bloom to enter the best school garden competition for fruit and vegetables. Mayflower Primary School won this competition coming first – an amazing achievement. No other schools were placed, but both schools were delighted with their detailed reports.

ROB WATSON



Rob Watson is a director from Decentered Media and has been helping the Evington Echo team with their websites.

He has been seen a number of times around Evington making an impressive podcast of Evington's judging day when East Midlands in Bloom judges evaluated Evington in July this year. Since then, he has been instrumental in promoting and recording four more podcasts for Evington Moot.

Rob says "I have been working on a number of projects that have incorporated podcasting and radio programming, making them from a community perspective." The common thread that runs through them is Rob's mantra "Don't leave a good conversation in the room". The process of making these podcasts also enables Rob to engage in community development and personal empowerment, encouraging others to be aware of the importance of sharing their experiences and what they learn. Harkesh Farma said, "Rob Watson has been a breath of fresh air for Evington generally and for the Evington Echo in particular. His professional practice and theoretical knowledge are deeply rooted

in the principle of communities reporting themselves." His discussions have helped the Evington Moot participants realise that they come to temporary consensus agreements and then move on to the next temporary consensus agreement, improving by listening and actively participating.

Rob is proactive with supporting others in their efforts to develop community media projects. One of those was the Citizens Eye Community News Agency that ran in Leicester between 2008-14. The former Editor, John Coster said "Rob was one of the biggest supporters throughout the project's lifetime. Always encouraging, always connecting, he knew the daily struggles that grassroot organisations have. It was great to be included as a case study in Rob's PhD. He thought we represented something worth replicating. It was a real pleasure to work with him."

Rob gained his professional qualifications at De Montfort University with an MA in Media Studies and a PhD in Community Media. He has been a principal lecturer at De Montfort University from 1997 to 2018, a Chair of Governors for a Leicestershire school and he is now an adviser for many organisations. He was a Director for the Community Media Association from 2014 to 2019 and is now a Director for Decentered Media from 2018 to present.

He promises to continue to help the Evington Echo team with the technology needed to run and record further moot

meetings and to keep discussing ways of helping local communities.

SAVE LOCAL BBC COMMUNITY RADIO

Rob Watson's latest podcast at Decentered Media is about protecting local voices. His media discussion is about the cuts to the BBC local radio stations in England. "What do we want to ask MPs about the BBC and the role of local radio in England?" he asks.

In Leicester, BBC Radio Leicester will be limiting their original content. So after 2.00pm, Radio Leicester will combine with Northampton and at the weekends Leicester will combine with Nottingham and Derby.

"I like to keep up with the National news and I regularly listen to Radio Leicester for local news. I don't want BBC Radio Leicester to be the same as the National news programmes. I think they have an important role to play in encouraging and supporting local community channels that are focused on a place."

Rob explained it with this analogy: "You want stimulation, so you can either buy a stimulating food for a quick fix or you can cook your own food to share it with friends and family and chat together."

Doing stuff locally and telling our own the stories on Local radio helps build up a sense of belonging to a place."

Helen Pettman

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TRACING YOUR FAMILY TREE – A story about Roger Alford

How far can anyone now living in Evington trace back their ancestors to anyone who also had an Evington connection?

Anthony Yates is dedicated to tracing his own family tree. He has an Elizabethan ancestor whose cousin was Roger Alford, and Roger Alford was granted the manor of Stoughton Grange by Queen Elizabeth I.



This large Elizabethan House stood on the land near the Cow and Plough pub, off Gartree Road. and was demolished in the 1960s.

Roger Alford was private secretary to William Cecil of Burghley, Queen Elizabeth's Secretary of State. When William Cecil's father had died, there were other claimants who tried to stop Cecil coming into his inheritance. It was Roger Alford who presented Cecil's case to the courts securing his family wealth and title, and his eventual political career.

When boy-king Edward VI was dying,

Roger Alford compelled Cecil to sign the document naming Lady Jane Grey as his heir. When Mary Tudor took power, Cecil sent Alford to reassure Queen Mary that he, Cecil, had been on Mary's side all along!

By the time Elizabeth was queen, Alford was an MP and wrote the official history of the Lady Jane Grey affair, putting Cecil in a favourable light.

In 1575 Queen Elizabeth granted Roger Alford the manor of Stoughton Grange. This was former monastic land that came to the Crown in Henry VIII's dissolution of the monasteries.

Roger Alford would have enjoyed the income from the estate, and probably visited, but there is no evidence he actually lived there. He died five years later in 1580.

Researched by Anthony Yates

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ANTHONY EVERSON
1946 - 2022



Anthony Everson, a long time resident of Evington, passed away peacefully in his sleep on October 18th 2022. He was 76. He had suffered from Parkinson's and dementia for a number of years, but his death came nonetheless as a shock since he did not seem to be failing.

Anthony was born and brought up in Wimbledon. After attending school there, he went to Edinburgh University to study Latin and Greek. He trained as a teacher of the classical languages and taught first in Glasgow at Jordanhill College School and then in Worcester at the Royal Grammar School and later at the Sixth Form College. When the school system was reorganised in Worcester, he retrained as a librarian at Loughborough University and worked in specialist and civil service libraries in London, travelling each day from Leicester. As those who visited the Everson home know, Anthony was a great lover and buyer of books, but also very practical – he made all the bookshelves needed for the large collection.

Anthony and Jane moved to Evington in 1983 and settled in Wakerley Rd. In retirement Anthony enjoyed the house and garden. He was a regular swimmer at Evington baths and loved walking and relaxing in Evington Park and the arboretum which he discovered in retirement. Anthony and Jane were able to celebrate their Golden Wedding in July, and had achieved almost 40 years as residents of Evington. Anthony was an assiduous reader of the Echo and had kept all the issues from when he moved to Evington! Anthony's funeral has taken place at St. Thomas More Catholic Church, followed by cremation.

The messages of sympathy received have been very touching and a great comfort to Jane. It is good to know that Anthony was clearly much loved and highly regarded by all who knew him. May he rest in peace.
Jane Everson

**'TIGHT KNIT' 1980's themed
comedy production by The Cast-
Offs Drama Group.**

After a 2-year gap due to Covid, the Cast-Offs drama group performed a very successful and original play at Mayflower Church Hall on the first weekend in November 2022 and it was very well received by a full house both at the Friday evening performance and the Saturday afternoon matinee too.

It was a 3 Act play, written by one of the cast, and was set in the 1980s with many familiar 1980's records being played throughout the play. The first act was in a sock-making factory starring employees

(including a union rep.) making socks with the background music being Queen's record 'Another one bites the dust' played as they worked as a team producing socks of many bright colours. The first act ended with the unfortunate news that the factory faced closure.

Act 2 took place in the works canteen, The canteen staff also received the news that the socks being manufactured were not ordered by a genuine company. They decided to switch to making legwarmers and work hard for themselves. The canteen staff danced to 'Making your minds up' There were other 1980's hits ending appropriately with Lionel Ritchie's hit 'All Night Long'.

Act 3 took place on the following Saturday morning in the market area, including the stall with the legwarmers. It was interesting to see the interactions between these employees outside their normal working hours. After many twists in this tale someone who ran a chain of dance schools bought all these legwarmers and put in an order for more.

All in all a thoroughly enjoyable play and everyone is already looking forward to next year's production. This year the supported charity is 'Florentina's Footsteps' raising money for a 4-year old girl with neuroblastoma, a rare and aggressive form of cancer for which the treatment required is not available in the UK so she is having to have treatment at the New York cancer centre in the USA. The money raised at this production will be added to the money already raised.
Stephen Thompson

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EVINGTON KARATE CLUB



John Broughton founded Evington Karate Club over 20 years ago with the aim of teaching traditional karate in a friendly but disciplined class. Students originally trained for several years at the General Hospital Sports and Social Club and then moved for a short while to the Evington Boys Club before moving to its permanent home at the Evington Leisure Centre where training takes place every Friday night, from 6.00pm to 7.00 pm.

Over the years John and his instructors have taught karate to thousands of students. Many students have attended for years and have reached black belt and are still training. This is a very inclusive and friendly club with several families all training together including brothers, sisters, mothers and fathers.

Students can attend from 6 years of age onwards. John was determined that the training would be suitable for anybody of any ability who wanted to learn a martial art.

All the instructors are 3rd Dan black belts and very experienced. Of course karate is a martial art and so is very good for self-

defence, but the training is as much about fitness, flexibility and stamina. John said, "We also find that as we teach traditional karate the same way that the founder taught karate over 100 years ago, the students gain from the disciplined classes, which also helps them with their confidence and concentration."

Evington Karate Club, as its name suggests, is a club not a business so the prices are cheaper and students only pay on the night they train. They hold three gradings a year and students are only graded when they are ready. Too many clubs rush students through gradings far too quickly. The gradings are designed to be achievable but testing for the students. John strongly believes that a belt that is worked for means so much more to a student. To reach any belt is an achievement to be proud of and this helps and motivates all their students in their journey towards a black belt and beyond.

John was born and raised in Evington and has lived most of his adult life here and he is proud that Evington Karate Club has been based in Evington for over 20 years and hopefully will continue in Evington for many more years to come.

For more information about this Evington Club either call at the Leisure Centre at 6.00pm on a Friday night or ring John on 07729 411242.

If you are a new or established writer, please do contact the Assistant Editor, Harkesh Farma email: FriendsofEvington9@gmail.com

SEASONAL VANES

Seasonal vanes,
how changed
those leafy spreads
which so recently ranged
across the heavens
breathing carbon in,
oxygen out,
in generous exchange
worthy of hallelujah's shout.

Standing now
by mainways, byways,
wizined, wind-chapped,
fortune fallen,
visible mishaps
haggard, beggared,
death's stand-ins,
brittle arms outstretched,
beseeching change.
Wayne Carr From Corona Times & Other Climes New Generation Publishing.

Wayne writes: "I have been writing poetry since at least sixth form days, sensing that poetry should be of use and knowing that special occasions such as birthdays, weddings, falling in love, share the need to be celebrated. I write on many different subjects: narratives, love, nature (especially trees), history and family are all sources of inspiration.

"A big thank you to the Echo for giving local writers a platform. I take this opportunity to say that one writing group, Scribblers, meets monthly in Evington library and welcomes new members. The Scribblers' next meeting is Thursday 15th December at 10.30pm.

Everyone is warmly invited to participate at the book launch as listeners or indeed readers of their own prose or verse (see advert below called Poetry Please).

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SAVE ASHFIELD RESIDENTIAL DEPARTMENT

At a meeting held on Tuesday 25th October, Leicester City's Children, Young People and Education Scrutiny Commission voted to oppose the City Council's controversial plans to withdraw funding for residential services at Ash Field Academy, a school for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) in Evington, Leicester.

Leicester City Council's proposal is part of a city-wide review of funding for SEND. The consultation on the future of Ash Field's residential service began on 26th September and will run until 18th December, with a decision expected in early 2023.

If its proposals go ahead, the Council will begin to withdraw funding for the residential department in September 2024.

Unison Leicester City branch, which represents staff in the department, are working alongside parents and ex-students in a campaign to defend the provision. Hemant Parekh, a parent of a former Ash Field student, spoke at the meeting and appealed to the City Council to look again at its proposals. He said: "You may cut the funding today and think this will save us money. But the ripple effect that you will have on society later on down the line will be far more costly. "Imagine if my son couldn't do the basic skills that the residential department taught him. He would have turned into an

adult who is far more of a burden on the system. This is what we will be faced with "You cut the funding to the residential service, it will be a lifeline you cut, to the community, to the extended families and to the system for many, many years to come. "Think about what you are doing because it will have an impact."

BBC Radio Leicester interviewed a representative from the school shortly before the scrutiny committee meeting, who said, "We are in the middle of a cost of living crisis, with living conditions already deteriorating; we are in one of the poorest cities in the country, and the City Council is choosing to attack services that are provided for some of the city's most vulnerable residents. I think people are really disgusted by that."

Sam Randfield, the Unison's Assistant Branch Secretary for Schools in the city, was interviewed on BBC East Midlands. He said: "On the issue of special education funding in particular, they [the City Council] need to stand up to central government and they need to demand better on behalf of the children of the city. There is simply no way around it."

Ash Field's residential department is funded through the High Needs Block (HNB) – a pot of money that is reserved for education, on which the council has overspent.

The scrutiny committee, which is the main body overseeing proposals made by the council, voted unanimously to oppose the cuts to Ash Field's residential budget. The

committee also called on the council to explore funding the service through its General Reserves, a precondition for which would be for the school to consider opening up the provision to the wider community.

Around 30 people attended a lobby outside of City Hall ahead of the meeting, calling on the City Council to drop its plans. More than 2,000 people have signed a petition demanding that the funding remains in place. The online petition can be accessed here: bit.ly/AshField.

Tom Barker

DEMENTIA COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS

South Asian Help Action are inviting people from South Asian backgrounds to become Dementia Community Champions in Leicester. Training and resources given. For more details visit www.alzres.uk/DCC or Tel 03001115555

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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 aged 11+. 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.

24th Leicester (St Philip's) Air Scout Group

We welcome new members, both boys and girls, to our group of Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. We meet on Monday evenings at St. Philip's Church Hall. For more information, please contact:
Phone: 2760457
E-mail: chrisandpeterhardy@btinternet.com

Evington Family History Group

Do you want to know who your ancestors were and what they did for a living? Did they serve in the forces? Are you interested in their social history? If so, a group has been set up so that we can explore our family history and offer mutual support when we come up against those brick walls.

Meetings are at St. Denys Parish Centre, Church Road, Evington, Leicester, LE5 6FA every Wednesday 10.00am to 12.00 noon. Car parking is available in the Church Car Park opposite the Church.
For more details contact Judith Walmsley on 2764409.

Evington Local History and Heritage Group

The local history group's next meeting is on Thursday 8th December at 7.00pm at St. Denys Church Parish Centre LE5 6FA. Come along and take part in another of these popular meetings that take place on the second Thursday of the month.. Free to members, £3 for visitors.

For more information contact John and Pauline Sloan. Tel: 2412210
email: jandpsloan@gmail.com

Evington Garden Club

For an interesting and entertaining afternoon the club meets on the third Tuesday of the month, in the Village Hall, starting at 2.30pm until 4.15pm.
Doors open 2.00pm. Free parking in the adjacent car park.

The first three meetings for 2023 are:-

- 17th January - 'Vegetables for Small Gardens' with Jeff Bates.
- 21st February - 'Jobs to be done after Winter' with Helen Osbourne.
- 21st March - 'Gardening for all-year-round interest' with Neil Harris.

New membership would be most welcome. Visitors £2. Annual Membership £12.
For any queries please phone Peter Jackson on (0116) 2735487.

EVINGTON SCRIBBLERS

This writing group meets monthly in Evington Library. See the article on page 13. The next meeting is on Thursday 15th December at 10.30am

My Word Poetry Group

Tuesdays at Blends Cafe Downing Drive
4.00pm to 5.30pm Tel: 0780 449 5527. All welcome.

St. Denys Church LE5 6FA

'Monday Meet' meet every first and third Monday in the month, 2.00pm - 4.00pm in St. Denys Parish Centre. All welcome for chat, friendship, and refreshments.

'Coffee, Cake and Fellowship' meet every third Tuesday in the month, 10.00am - 12noon in St. Denys Parish Centre. All welcome to meet socially for a time of chat, friendship, and refreshments..

Cruse Bereavement Group meet every Tuesday evening, 7.30pm - 9.30pm in St. Denys Parish Centre and the church. Counselling and comfort offered in a friendly environment.

Youth Club alternating with Youth Music Group meet every Friday during term time, 7.00pm - 8.30pm in St. Denys Parish Centre and Church respectively.

Christmas Services in St. Denys Church

11th December 3.00pm - Christingle. All welcome especially families with young children
18th December 6.00pm - Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols with full choir and organ.
24th December (Christmas Eve) 4.00pm - Crib service for all, families welcome.333
24th December (Christmas Eve) 11.15pm - 'Midnight' Holy Communion.
25th December (Christmas Day) 10.00am - Family, informal Holy Communion.
Qyan Arnachellum
Administrator, St. Denys Church, Evington

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Saturdays: at Hamilton Com. College for adults.
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Tai Chi

Thursdays 10.00-11.30am.
Mayflower Methodist Church. £8.25 per session. For further information, contact Laraine on 0777 943 4742.
Email: larainetucker@icloud.com

Silver Swans Ballet Classes

(Over 55's) for Beginners through to Advanced. Thursday mornings at Evington Village Hall. For details please contact Vanessa on 0776 540 7323.
iebeeballet@hotmail.com

Evington Women's Institute

Second Tuesday in the month 2.00pm - 4.00pm. This group meet in Evington Village Hall. For queries please contact Barbara Garlick on 0771 380 4407.

Evington Social Club

Tel: 0751 4302570 for more information.

Evington Rummikub club (A Board game)

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Sue Young CANCER SUPPORT in Leicester and Rutland

For more information about this Cancer Support group see the article on page 6.

Evington Library

If you would like to access Evington Library outside of regular opening hours then go to this link for more information:
<https://www.leicester.gov.uk/your-community/libraries-andcommunity-centres/libraries/library-plus>

Evington House Yoga

at Mayflower Methodist Church
Ethel Road, Leicester LE5 5E

Mondays 6.00 - 7.00pm with Manjula (Ladies only).
Wednesday 6.00 - 7.00pm with Manjula (Ladies only). For more information tel: Manjula on 07985761370.
manjula.odedra.yoga@gmail.com

Leicester Community Concert Band

A traditional concert

Let's Celebrate - It's Christmas

7th December at 7.30 start
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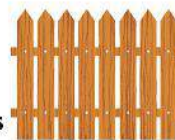
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