



Evington Echo

EvingtonEcho.uk

Keeping you up to date with Evington's news
Issue 302

The newspaper of Friends of Evington Charity No. 1148649
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Volunteers make bee posts for Evington's Arboretum



In April, eight of Leicester's environmental volunteers met in Evington's Arboretum to do a morning's work making two bee posts. The bee posts were built in the Orchard part of the Arboretum.

The volunteers register online with Leicester Environmental Volunteers, and they receive invitations they may be interested in from all over the City. Molly Page led this session and she prepared the tools and coordinated the activity.

It's more fun doing this together and it's a satisfying feeling to come away having helped improve a local area by making homes for solitary bees to pollinate a local orchard. Of course the bees can find their own homes in the Arboretum, but a bit of encouragement helps them.

Photos from the top:

- (1) Drilling the bee holes in the post
- (2) Digging the hole for the post
- (3) Firming in the post
- (4) Tidying and final touches
- (5) A view of the post within the Orchard.



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Can you help with the delivery of the Evington Echo magazine?. We are looking for one person to deliver in Baden Road (40 copies), a second person to deliver in Mayflower Road (71 copies) and a third person to deliver in Crantock Close and Barnstaple Road (60 copies).

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Editorial



This logo shows that the Evington Echo is subscribed to 'Media that Matters'; an independent Media Association that now represents 80 independent media publishers including the Leicester based 'Great Central Gazette'.

An Evaluation Day for Evington

Judges from East Midlands in Bloom called Jo Tarrant and Griselda Kerr will be visiting Evington on the morning of Tuesday 4th July to assess the Evington in Bloom campaign against the three pillars of community, environmental responsibility and gardening achievement. We are in competition with other similar urban areas in Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire and hope to win the shield again and be recognised for our cleaning and greening projects.

We held two hustings events in Evington. (see picture below). Thanks to Evington Village Hall Trust for providing a venue. From left to right you can see the candidates: Zuffar Haq, Nitesh Dave, Farida Patel, Ruma Ali, Baljit Singh, Naj Hassan, Deepak Bajaj and Jenny Joannou. Inset: Sue Hunter and Jatinder Singh who both came to the first hustings. The elected councillors were Zuffar Haq, Deepak Bajaj and Jenny Joannou.

This issue brings you news of Evington's councillor elections, residents enjoying getting together for the occasion of the King's coronation, lots of information about local groups and a group dedicated to improving Leicester. There are history articles and articles that give you much more information about the recently elected councillors in Evington and Stonegate. For the first time ever we have received an article that has actually been written by a robot. Artificial Intelligence is here to stay. What is good and what is bad? I would love to hear your views:

Helen Pettman.
2204525/07910431044.



The second hustings meeting held in Evington ward



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Lifting the Political Purdah in Evington

We can finally lift the media purdah imposed by pre-election convention by providing a summary of the political activity that took place during the campaign for local council and mayoral elections. Two hustings events were organised by the Friends of Evington during which local ward residents had the opportunity to meet candidates from Labour, Conservatives, Liberal Democrats, the Trade Union and Socialist Coalition and Independent candidates.

Whilst the Friends of Evington is bound by a constitution which requires party political neutrality, we recognise, as Trustees, that the decisions we consider are for public benefit, and we agree to discuss with our elected representatives are de facto, political decisions. Whether the issue is traffic congestion, litter or protection of green spaces - they are all political issues.

We welcomed the recent flurry of political activity in Evington as it gave us the opportunity to scrutinise the candidates who wished to represent us in the council chamber.

We sincerely hope our newly elected councillors, Zuffar Haq, Jenny Joannou and Deepak Bajaj will collaborate in a spirit of cooperation for the improvement and progress of Evington ward.

Harkesh Farma -
Assistant Editor



St. Denys Coronation Gathering

A hubbub of expectation and excitement bubbled up as folk gathered in St Denys church on a day that will for ever be etched in the national calendar: Saturday 6th May 2023. The drizzle outside did not dampen the mood as the church was a little island of sunny mirth. We created our own micro-climate of warmth and merriment in which to enjoy the historic occasion of the coronation of King Charles III.

We shared cake and hot beverages and raised a glass of wine to toast His Majesty. The most sacred moments of the multicultural ceremony were beheld with silent reverence and the lighter moments were shared with good humour.

Chatting to visitors it was clear that this celebration will be remembered for a long time. Reverend Anthony and the Ministry Team would like to thank all those who participated and contributed to the jolly ambience.

Harkesh Farma



Coronation tea at the Church of God with Evington Neighbours and Friends

This photo (left) shows some of us after we had enjoyed lovely food, a Coronation quiz and an appropriate Christian message given by an invited visitor from Nottingham.

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A Community Day at Crown Hills Community College

On Saturday 29th April 2023, the Federation of Muslim Organisations (FMO) hosted their first Community Social Day at Crown Hills Community College, where representatives from local organisations provided information on services across Leicester.

The free event showcased FMO's collaborative work connecting communities with key services, advice and opportunities within the city.

Organisations in attendance covered areas such as health, housing, education, wellbeing, and recruitment. Visitors had an opportunity to engage with apprenticeship providers and speak to different services about employment, advice, and educational opportunities.

Recruitment teams from Leicestershire Police, Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service, the NHS and Leicester City and County Council provided information on apprenticeships and employment opportunities. Visitors were offered the chance to ask questions and learn more about roles and development programmes within the services.

The University Hospitals of Leicester Trust recruitment and community engagement teams were joined by other groups within



the trust to provide information on Sickle Cell Thalassaemia, and Aortic Aneurism. Patient engagement teams gained valuable public input on patient experience which will have a direct impact on improvements within the Trust.

Connecting the community with services to raise awareness and provide support was central to the event where visitors were offered skilled guidance by charities in attendance.

Advice on benefits, education, and mental health was provided by the Shama Women's Centre. Other charities present included LOROS, who provided guidance and support for those impacted by cancer. Rainbows offered information on the respite care and assistance they provide to families of terminally ill children.

Representatives from the women's team at Leicestershire Cricket spoke to visitors about how to get involved, and those feeling energetic had the chance to get sporty at the event! Both children and

adults enjoyed participating in some fun and friendly boxing taster sessions with the LMA Academy and Atlas Boxing & Fitness Club. Participants donned a pair of boxing gloves and practised their stance to get a feel of the sport.

The event would not have been complete without some information on sustainable living, provided on the day by Green Guardians, a Muslim organisation set up to educate the community about the environment and conservation. Visitors were encouraged to make a green pledge to re-use and recycle more.

Zubeda Gangat, Event Lead at FMO, summed up the day where "a huge range of service providers and agencies came together to offer their expertise and most importantly saw the benefit of this for the community".

For more information on the FMO and future events visit fmo.org.uk

Fazila Bhana

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LETTERS

No dogs in the fenced play area in Evington Park

Dear Editor,

I feel strongly that the rule of no dogs in the fenced play area in Evington Park should be enforced. Dogs have the rest of the park to run around in. Dog mess runs risks to children and can even cause blindness if left and children come into contact with it. It is particularly bad if dogs are not on a lead, because the owner might miss scooping up the mess. Park Services, please put up a large notice and ban all dogs from the children's play area.

Name and address supplied.

Re Closure of Ash Field School's Residential Department

My name is Oliver Flitcroft. I am a disabled person now living in the Lake District as a disability rights campaigner /consultant. I used to be a pupil at Ash Field between 1984 and 1992. I am dismayed and angry at the proposed closure of the residential department, and offer my thoughts.. The residential department (or resi as we used to call it) was a vital extension of the school. It was here that pupils learnt independent living skills, took part in various social activities, and were able to develop as individuals, with the support of the fantastic care staff; it also provided respite for parents and carers. The reality is that if the department was to close not only would it be detrimental in terms of wellbeing for all concerned it would of course increase pressure on an already understaffed and under-funded social services department . Not only would this increase financial pressures, it would actually mean that the fantastic staff that work within the residential team would lose their jobs.

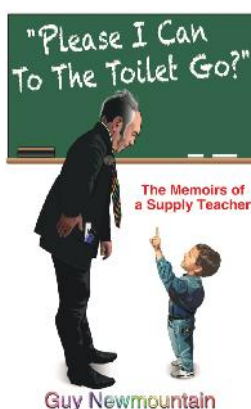
The skills and experience that I learnt as a pupil helped shape the person I am today.

Ollie Flitcroft BA Hons (aged 48)
Former Pupil Ash Field School

HYSTERICALLY FUNNY AND EVOCATIVE - A BOOK BY GUY NEWMOUNTAIN

Around 18 months ago, the Evington Echo wrote a feature article about a local resident, Guy Newmountain and his animation film *The Man With The Eye at the End Of His Finger*. Well this short animation film has gone on to win half a dozen international film festival awards. After the tedious job of colouring pixel after pixel, Guy said he would never make another film again.

However, I am pleased to let you know that Guy has now written an autobiographical book "Please I Can To The Toilet Go?" about his life as a supply teacher.



This self-illustrated book has many anecdotes about Guy's real-life experiences and everything is true. Guy encounters many unpredictable situations, for example, large scale disruptions, bullying, and

ridiculous workloads, but in seeing the humour and tackling problems with ingenuity he pulls through to mostly enjoy all the challenges.

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In the classroom he finds many ways to create a sense of drama - "you are something of a showman anyway as a teacher", he wrote. He has a handy tool - a bag of objects and some unusual magic word he describes in one anecdotal chapter.

This is a book that I couldn't put down. It is available online through Amazon, Waterstones and W H Smith websites. To order it from Waterstones in Leicester tel: 251 6838 or W H Smith, tel.: 262 6252 and ask for the title or ISBN 97810358079873. Helen Pettman

YOUR GARDENS

For 2023, Friends of Evington/Evington in Bloom are inviting residents who receive the Evington Echo through their doors to contact us if they would like a horticultural expert to visit with a view to appreciating and making suggestions about their private gardens.

We know that finding space for cars is inevitable nowadays, but a new pair of eyes might help you.

There would be no obligation to action any suggestions, but just a verbal and/or written, confidential report. If you are interested in this please contact Helen Pettman on 2204525 or 07910431044.

Please note, this is a small scale trial and if successful and useful we would need more volunteers to help with the administration.

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COUNCILLORS FOR EVINGTON WARD

Friends of Evington had the opportunity to meet two of the newly elected councillors from the Evington. Ward to discuss their priorities for collaborative work in their term as councillors.

The Cedars kindly hosted a meeting on Tuesday 9th May with Liberal Democrat Councillor Zuffar Haq MBE and Conservative Councillor Jenny Joannou, both newly elected in the recent local elections.



Zuffar Haq's family have had links with Leicester for over a century, residing within Evington and its surrounding areas. Zuffar's father joined his grandfather in serving as an air raid warden in Clarendon Park in 1938, which was followed by work in a munitions factory during the second world war. Zuffar was presented with an MBE in 2009 by our new King, then Prince Charles, and has extensive involvement in charity work and the health service. He is a member of the Leicester Mercury Patients Panel and Chairman of the Leicester Patients group and previously serving as vice-chair of Leicestershire Crime Stoppers. This involved work related to crime statistics and the impact of crime on the public. Zuffar's hands-on approach has led to his projects benefiting the most vulnerable in our community, something he aims to continue in his time as councillor and a true community champion.

Councillors don't come more local than Jenny Joannou – an Evington resident of seventy years, born and bred in the ward she has been elected to serve. Jenny has over thirty years' experience working within the teaching profession and the Magistrates Court. Known for her keen gardening skills and appreciation of green spaces, Jenny has previously led campaigns to stop developments in and around Evington that has the potential to impact local schools and recreational spaces. Jenny is keen to support elderly members of the community by promoting initiatives that encourage residents to support each other.



Both newly elected councillors aim to work together with the re-elected Conservative councillor Deepak Bajaj, to ensure continued harmony of the community as a priority, coupled with the need to tackle issues at the forefront of constituents' concerns.



Deepak, who was otherwise engaged on the day, has served as a Labour councillor in Evington for 16 years, and has recently been elected as a Conservative councillor. He lent his support for new schools and changes that have taken place at the General Hospital. He has backed local community groups and the Evington Fete and Show as well as working with charities and food banks across the city. Deepak works with the Commissioner for Responsive Policing and is aware of the

necessity to address traffic problems and anti-social behaviour in and around the ward.

Common objectives shared by Zuffar and Jenny are to address parking and traffic at busy times of the day and to create a safer and greener Evington that can be enjoyed by all. Engagement with the diverse community across all ages and backgrounds formed a key aspect in the councillors' recognition of the need for community projects and for hubs designed to serve as places where constituents can find support, courses, pursue hobbies and socialise to promote empowerment and mental health of the community in Evington and beyond. Friends of Evington are ardent advocates for accessible and valuable community spaces that uphold principles of sustainability and look forward to working with the councillors to achieve this.

Zuffar and Jenny also spoke of the wealth of life experience and skills they bring to their roles and how this will benefit them in serving the community that elected them. Despite being members of different political parties, both councillors saw the importance of placing the community's needs central to their work by creating dialogue and utilising social media, and methods more suited to the different generations within the constituency to achieve this.

We look forward to seeing the benefits of their aims in Evington, and the opportunity to work together in achieving them.

Fazila Bhana

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COUNCILLORS FOR STONEYGATE WARD

The newly elected Labour councillors for the Stoneygate ward met with the former editor of the Evington Echo – Fazila Bhana, to discuss their community-oriented goals for the next four years.

Manjula Sood, Yasmin Surti and Rafik Moosa Mohammed have firmly established the focus for their term as councillors. Their community-oriented goals and desire to uphold the core values of the party form the basis of their plans for their time in council.



With a wealth of experience in community work, Manjula Sood's in-depth knowledge of the community she has lived in for many years has given her a tangible insight into the needs of the constituents she has been elected to represent. Having brought up and schooled her children in the locality, Manjula has a real connection to the ward. As a former councillor and the first Asian female Lord Mayor in the UK, Manjula has assisted and supported families in Leicester for many years. Manjula has served as Chair and member of the Leicester Council of Faiths, working with all faiths and none to encourage and foster harmonious community relations, and she aims to continue this successful work into her new term through vital collaboration with charity organisations and public services.



Yasmin Surti works within the NHS and was the first female to be elected to the Executive Committee of the Federation of Muslim Organisations, where she has spent over three decades

working to forward her objective of cross-faith and cross-community relations. Both Yasmin's employment and voluntary work has involved working with vulnerable and disabled people locally and nationally. Yasmin is a keen advocate for equality and diversity and has championed many initiatives in recognition of the need to empower communities to enable continued harmony and prosperity. The key factor envisaged by Yasmin for success is to remain accessible and visible to constituents.



Having lived in Stoneygate with his family for over twenty-five years, Rafik Moosa Mohammed has been a member of local community groups and groups aiming to encourage

cohesion and community collaborations. As a trade union convenor with comprehensive business experience, Rafik understands the necessity to balance the needs of local residents and businesses and celebrate community areas such as Evington Road. Rafik is keen to collaborate with groups representing youth to facilitate the continuation of thriving communities.

The three councillors have utilised easily accessible means of communication with their constituents by creating a WhatsApp

group to provide information and updates and encourage the reporting of environmental issues using the Love Clean Streets App, downloadable from app stores.

The two demographics the councillors aim to work with are the youth and elderly to help and educate, by providing support through challenges presented by the cost-of-living crisis and other issues. Youth empowerment is envisaged through plans to provide workshops for young people to encourage community engagement, awareness of local and national governance and create life-long skills. Close collaboration with the police is also a key aim to address behaviour contrary to the value of community harmony.

The Friends of Evington look forward to achieving shared community goals in collaboration with all councillors serving the readership of the Evington Echo.

The Stoneygate councillors can be contacted through twitter and Instagram at 'Stoneygate labour' and by email. Requests to be added to the WhatsApp groups can be made through the social media platforms and directly by email.

Photographs of Evington and Stoneygate councillors are credited to Leicester City Council

Fazila Bhana



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Evington Bowls Club's Charity Event



Every year, the President leads on organising a charity event at this Club. This year the President is Harry Pettman and his chosen charity is the Leicester Samaritans. Harry explained that only seven branches in the UK have 24/7 volunteers answering the phone continuously day and night, and one of the seven groups is Leicester Samaritans. A lot of people can get quite desperate between 2.00am and 4.00am, so having someone to call matters.



This event welcomed older and long term members who no longer bowled: Ken Ginns, Tony Bagley and Pat and Peter Jackson. The event began with a bowls match between members and finished with tea and food members brought in to share in the Bowls' pavilion, and what a feast!

The pictures show:

(1) Bowling on one of the two greens in Evington Park. The surroundings to this Bowls Club are stunning.

(2) Harry Pettman (President) with a display board about the Leicester Samaritans.

If you would like to join the Bowls Club in Evington Park and find out if this is a hobby for you, then come along to the club in Evington Park on Mondays between 5.30pm and 7.30pm

The first three sessions are free. For more information contact Harry Pettman on 2204525 or Min Ingram on 4828285.

Oaklands School's Polytunnel

Things are growing up at Oaklands, thanks to a generous donation from Friends of Evington to support our learners to access gardening and outdoor learning. The wonderful unique children at Oaklands all have special educational needs and complex difficulties, which can make it difficult to get out and about to parks and public spaces. Therefore, developing an unloved part of the school to give children experiences of gardening and exploration of the natural world has been incredibly valuable. All children have access to the growing area every week and some children have also opted for a Friday afternoon *Eco club* where they

help look after our school guinea pigs and chickens, as well as tend to fruit and vegetable plants.



They can also enjoy the fantastic polytunnel donated by FofE. This all-weather space is brilliant and means that we can offer lots of different kinds of learning activities year round to capture our young learners' imagination and interest. Thank you so much Friends of Evington.

Ingrid Spencer, Deputy Head, Oaklands School, Whitehall Road.

Who has heard of Leicester's 'Champion of the People'?

The streets of Spinney Hill, the Cottesmore Hotel (now a Hindu temple), Braunstone Gate ...these places are, at least by name, familiar to many locals in Leicester and surrounding villages.



Few people know that many well-known streets, estates and buildings are the works of Orson Wright, "One of the main builders of Leicester in the Victorian age" according to the

historian Peter Cousins.

During his talk at the Evington History and Heritage monthly meeting, his audience, although fascinated by his prosperity and achievements, admitted they had never heard the name.

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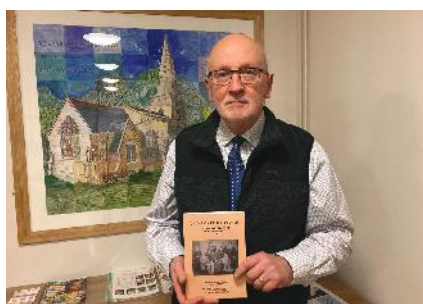
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Whereas most folk from Evington attribute the architectural history of their area to Arthur Wakerley, many of the places they have plausibly attended, or at least come across, are attributed to this great builder, named at one point "Champion of the People". Indeed, Orson Wright, then councillor for the Fairfield Ward, South Wigston (his hometown) in 1894, was applauded for providing housing and jobs for many.

Samples of Orson Wright's work are present in many well known places in Leicester and its surroundings. Amongst his numerous constructions, the most well known is probably the Grand Hotel, erected in 1898, which is incidentally marked by the initials OW. Moreover, 2. Orange Street has a plaque in memory of this restless builder.

If these familiar locations catch one's attention of this master architect, it is his impressive career path that generates interest to many curious minds. In his book entitled 'Champion of the People', Peter Cousins retraces the 'breathless story' of a man who "left school without a penny". A man, who, as a boy, helped farmers in various tasks in fields, became in less than 25 years a prosperous builder and businessman, dedicating the rest of his spare time to a political career and family life (he had 11 children).

The book can be purchased directly from Peter Cousins, by email or phone: petercousins@ntlworld.com, 07702 127313.



Peter Cousins with his new called 'Champion of the People' which is about Orson Wright.

Alexander Portlock

Evington Park House



The first picture above shows Evington Park House (referred to as Knighton House) during the time it was a VAD (Voluntary Aided Detachment Hospital) during World War 1. The second picture shows this house, probably around the 1930s. There is a debate about the front entrance's location, but I expect it changed with all the additions to the house over the centuries.

Parts of the present building have been dated back to the late 17th Century. When John Burnaby bought the house in 1836, he extended it to suit his retirement needs and to give space for his wife and unmarried daughters.

The loggia, now called the Sun Lounge room, was built on by Thomas Sawday, extending the house further to the right as you look at it. It was Thomas Sawday who built the pillared entrance we see today that isn't shown in either of the pictures above. The internal layout was changed as well, probably during this time. Thomas Sawday sold the House to Leicester Corporation in 1947 quite cheaply and on the understanding it would be for public benefit. After that it was referred to as Evington Park House.

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Embracing Community Life: A Midlands Perspective on Getting Stuck In!

Ay up, me duck! It's time for a good ol' chinwag about our beloved Leicester 'ood and why getting stuck into community life is as essential as a brew in the Midlands. Our neck of the woods ain't just bricks and mortar, it's a ruddy mosaic of characters, stories, and proper good times. So, gather 'round, and let's 'ave a natter about why rollin' up yer sleeves and gettin' stuck in is a must for our wellbeing.

First things first, let's talk about the green-fingered wonders of gardening. There's nowt better than tending to a patch of earth and watchin' it bloom like a right beauty. Whether yer got a massive allotment or just a window box, there's always room for a bit of growin'. So, let's get our mitts dirty, swap gardening tips, and make our community bloom like a garden at its best. We'll create little pockets of calm where we can 'ave a cuppa, admire nature's handiwork, and catch up on the goss.

But community life ain't just about flowers and foliage, it's about preservin' our heritage and sharin' our knowledge.

Our neck of the Midlands is chock-full of history, and there's a whole world to discover right under our noses. So, why not 'ave a gander at organizin' walks to explore our local history? We'll uncover hidden gems, hear stories of our ancestors, and keep our roots alive for future generations. Let's raise a glass to our past, give it the respect it deserves, and pass down our history like a well-kept secret.

In this whirlwind of technology, let's not forget the simple pleasures of gettin' stuck into a good book. Picture this, a cosy little book club where we gather with like-minded folks, lose ourselves in stories that'll take us places, and 'ave a proper natter about it all. It's a chance to forge new friendships, broaden our horizons, and dive headfirst into worlds beyond our own. Together, we'll create a little haven for bookworms, spread the joy of reading, and keep the Midlands' love for literature burnin' bright.

Last but not least, we need to 'ave a natter about community reporting. Each of us sees the ins and outs of daily life in our dear Midlands. By sharin' our observations, concerns, and successes through community reporting, we give ourselves a voice and lift up our community.

Let's set up a platform where we can shout about our achievements, discuss the things that matter to us, and connect

with one another. Our voices are like a chorus of angels, and by gettin' stuck in and sharin' our thoughts, we'll make sure they're heard loud and clear.

Right, me mates, it's time to get stuck in!

Let's create a community that thrives on the bonds we build, the stories we tell, and the seeds we sow. By gettin' stuck into gardening, delvin' into our local history, joinin' book clubs, and sharin' our thoughts through community reporting, we'll weave the fabric of a stronger, livelier Midlands.

Remember, it's up to us. No matter how small the contribution, it matters. So, let's crack on and shape the destiny of our community, like a proper Brummie taking charge.

Together, we'll make our Leicester 'ood a beacon of unity, a celebration of diversity, and a shining example of what it means to get stuck into community life, Midland style!

What do you think?

Written by a robot (unedited)!

Chat GPT

Editorial comment

Thanks Mr. Robot. This is very good. All I need to do is to find someone born and bred in Leicester to edit out the expressions that come from Birmingham. (Joking!)

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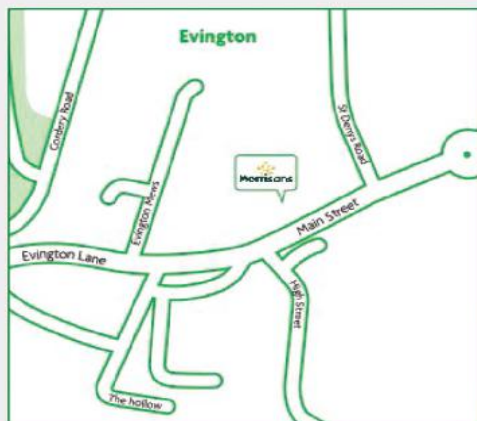
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LEICESTER COMEDY FESTIVAL

In February the curtain fell on the 30th edition of Leicester Comedy Festival. This Festival began as a De Montfort University student project and has grown into one of the biggest independent festivals in the UK and the biggest comedy festival in Europe.

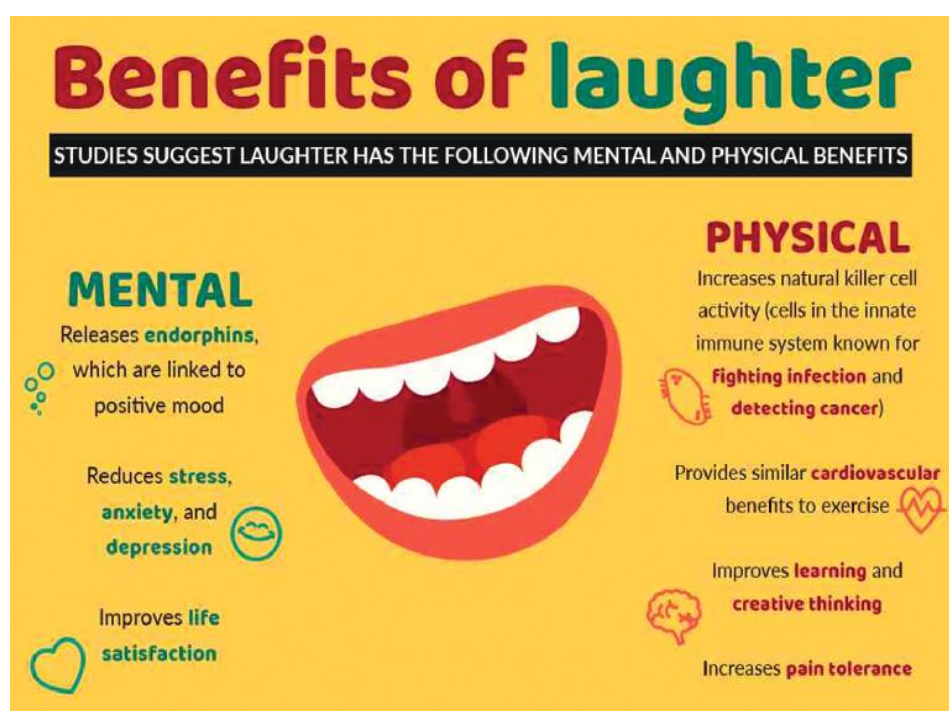
Throughout this time, one man has remained a tireless constant: the festival's Founding Director Geoff Rowe, who took the difficult decision to make the 2023 festival his last.

As an aspiring writer and performer of comedy, I was hugely supported by Geoff when I staged my first play, 'Beyond The Pail', at Upstairs at the Western as part of the 2016 festival.

Countless others will have benefited from Geoff's wise guidance and generous time over the last thirty years, as they have taken their first steps on the exciting but often daunting journey of staging, in front of a live audience, the material which they have spent so long creating.

Big Difference Company, the registered charity which produces the festival, enhances local communities through festivals, cultural events and projects all year round and promotes the restorative power of comedy in people's lives. In this and in so many other ways, it is impossible to overstate the impact which Geoff's work has had on the cultural landscape of Leicester and Leicestershire. Without him, thirty years of laughter would have gone unheard. In 2013 Geoff was awarded the British Empire Medal for his services to comedy: Geoff has truly made a Big Difference.

When I spoke to Geoff, he said, "Supporting new and emerging talent has always been a vital part of the annual Leicester Comedy Festival. We have done this in various ways over the years, and supported loads of people who have



wanted to take to the stage. I'm so proud that some of these have gone on to become household names in the comedy industry, but some have yet to reach those heady heights. All of them are important and part of the fizzy mix that makes the festival what it is.

"I'm certain the team now behind the festival will continue this in future years. If you have ever wanted to take to the stage, I would recommend getting in touch with the team.

'Leicester Comedy Festival has become an enormous, friendly monster, taking over the city and county each February.

"People are often surprised when they find out that the event is produced by a registered charity; so the event is absolutely not for profit. It therefore can only continue to develop and remain relevant if people continue to support it.

"There are a host of ways in which people get involved; as volunteers, sponsors, venues, promoters, performers and people who organise fundraising events and make donations. This community that has built up around the festival helps ensure the grin extends as far as possible and is of huge importance. If you want to support the festival, in any way at all, do also get in touch."

Without question, the future is a bright

one. With a regular tally of around 900 individual events in around 100 venues, there is no shortage of demand to perform at Leicester Comedy Festival.

The city has come to be seen as a superb place to start out, to grow, and to return to. The festival commands tremendous loyalty from those who have had a connection with it over the years and, blessed with a wide range of main partners, funders and sponsors, it has the support to ensure that it continues to grow and develop.

With diverse elements such as the Leicester Mercury Comedian of the Year Competition, the UK Pun Championships (having now celebrated their tenth anniversary), Silver Stand Up Competition (for comedians aged over 55) and The UK Kids' Comedy Festival, Geoff and his dedicated team have ensured that Leicester Comedy Festival has never rested on its Stan Laurels. (I'm not sure if it's a pun but at least it's wordplay!) As The Guardian puts it, Leicester is 'the place to watch big name comics and get a taste of the future'. That will never change. Nor will the public's need to laugh.

So we know that there will always be comedy – and we can be sure that it will always have a home in Leicester.

Henry Dawe with Geoff Rowe.

THE BOUNDARY COMMISSIONERS OF ENGLAND

The Boundary Commissioners website can be found easily with any search engine.

The consultation on the proposed changes is now closed. The proposals for Leicester's wards involve just one change: that part of Evington will move out of the Leicester East constituency and join the Leicester South constituency. This part includes the Leicestershire golf course, the Arboretum, Evington Village, Evington Park, Linden Primary School and Ashfield Academy to name a few places. The northern boundary is part of Ethel Road and Gwendolen Road. The Western boundary cuts across Spencefield Lane.



3Apnapan Cancer Support Group welcomes people living with and beyond cancer, including their care givers, family, friends and those unfortunately bereaved.

We offer an informal embracing space to come together and connect with those that understand and where you can share sentiments, feelings or purely observe.

No pre-booking is required; however a polite request is to ask you to please try to arrive on time if possible. The sessions are free to attend, though donations are welcome.

Other coaches and facilitators will be only part of the sessions ensuring we always

have the opportunity for a chai and chat.

First Wednesday of each month
7.00pm to 9.00pm Wyggestons
160 Hinckley Road Leicester LE3 0UX

Third Saturday of each month
3.00pm to 5.00pm
Crown Hills Community College
Gwendolen Road Leicester LE5 5FT

For further details contact Indy on:
07438 633812

Email ourapnapan@gmail.com

Shama Women's Centre

39 – 45 Sparkenhoe Street

This centre works with women to address health inequalities in Leicester and Leicestershire. The team at Shama provide a safe space for women from a range of cultural and social backgrounds to come together to share their stories, learn together and support one another. Shama Women's Centre provide classes in Art and Craft, Make-up, Baking and ESOL, Chai and Chat, Counselling, Befriending and Benefits advice.



This picture shows a stall at an open day in February, advertising a craft activity. Benefits advice is for men and women over 65. See the poster on page 14.



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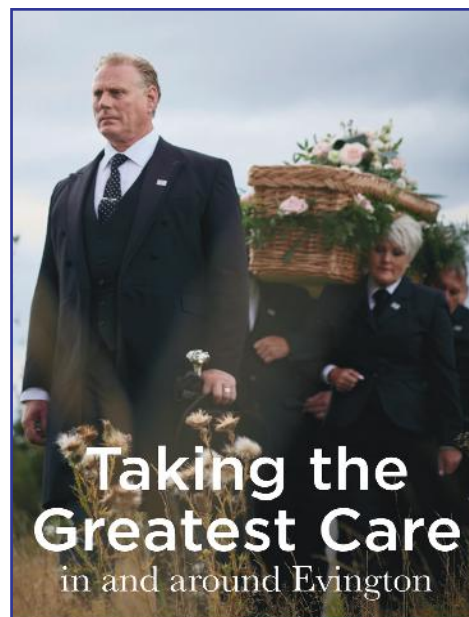
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Church of God Downing Drive

We have a regular neighbourhood tea on the first Sunday of most months at 5.00p.m. Many of us also come to our coffee morning on the first and third Friday of each month at 10.30am. Anyone who comes along to these events can be sure of a very friendly welcome. We'd love to see you!



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Humberstone Heights and Belgrave WI

(Meeting at Evington Village Hall)

Eight members of this WI attended the Annual Council Meeting of the Women's Institutes held at Leicester Grammar School at Great Glen. They had a surprise presentation awarded to them for increasing the most members for the year 2022. That increase was down to some ladies from Evington and Oadby joining our WI group that is held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month, in the afternoon, 2.00pm to 4.00pm. We have speakers on different subjects, sometimes craft afternoons, tea, coffee and biscuits are served and we all have a lovely friendly afternoon. So if anyone would like to join us at Evington Village Hall, a warm welcome awaits you. Come and join in. Josie Rawlis, President.

Evington Village Fete and Show 2023

Two months to go and it will be time for the fete on August 12th on the Village Green. We have a great show lined up for you and look forward to seeing you there.

All the details are in the brochure available at Bennett's hardware store 30 Main Street, or on the new website <http://www.evingtonvillagefete.uk>. Any unwanted items suitable for the tombola can be taken to Bennett's.

Chris Hossack

A Gentle Exercise Group



At the portacabin at the back of
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**For more information contact
Mary on 07952 775449.**

Leicestershire Calligraphers

This group was founded in 1989 and continues to welcome people of all levels of ability. The Society aims to promote an interest in calligraphy and how it can be used in modern artistic forms.

Many people who visited St. Denys Church on the day of the Fete and Show in 2022, were delighted to see the exhibition of calligraphy showing work from beginners upwards.

This group meet locally at Evington Village Hall in Church Road, Evington from September to June. They mainly meet once a month on Saturday afternoons. For more information go to www.leicestershirecalligraphers.org.uk or telephone Liz on 2856436.

Monday Meets at St. Denys Church

This is a friendly group for anyone who would like some company, is feeling lonely or going through bereavement. You are very welcome to join us, however you are feeling, and bring a friend. Come for ten minutes, the full two hours or any anything in between. Enjoy a cup of tea or coffee in a relaxed atmosphere and meet others in a similar situation. Chat with our trained volunteers, or come and enjoy some time in which to relax.

We meet on the 1st and 3rd Monday of the month except January from 2.00pm to 4.00pm in Evington Parish Centre, attached to St. Denys Church.

For more information contact the Administrator at office@stdenys.org.uk or tel: 07803828454.


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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: 2760457
Email: chrisandpeterhardy@btinternet.com

Evington Youth Club (EYC)

Open Saturday mornings from 10.30am - 12.30pm to all young people between 8 and 19 years. Table tennis, Chess club, Boxercise, etc. Cost/contribution £2 per session. Girls Can is on Tuesdays from 3.30pm - 4.30pm. evingtonyouthclub.com/new-activities

Evington Local History and Heritage Group

The local history group's next meeting is on Wednesday 21st June then monthly on the third Wednesday of the month between 2.30pm and 4.00pm. - St. Denys Church Parish Centre LE5 6FA. Free parking available. Membership £20 a year for 10 meetings, £3 for visitors per session. For more information contact John and Pauline Sloan. Tel: 2412210. email: jandpsloan@gmail.com

Evington Garden Club

Meetings are held at Evington Village Hall on Tuesday afternoons and will resume on Tuesday 15th August.

There is a Summer afternoon car trip locally to include tea and cakes (for £8.00 per person). Details from 2215513 and all are welcome to what is always a most enjoyable outing.
Patrick O Callaghan (Chair).

Exercise Sessions in the Portacabin at Evington Leisure Centre

The Calming and Gentle exercise group used to meet in Evington Park House. Now they are meeting in the portacabin which is at the rear of the Leisure Centre. They meet on Thursdays between 11.00am and 12.00 noon. Sessions cost £2. Contact Mary on 07952 775449. See advert on page 14.

Evington Park Bowls Club

This club welcome new members on Monday evenings. Tel: Harry Pettman on 2204525 or Mrs. Min Ingram on 4828285 for more information. See article on page 8.

Women's Institute in Evington Village

Humberstone Heights and Belgrave Women's Institute hold their meetings on the 2nd Tuesday of the month from 2.00pm to 4.00pm at Evington Village Hall. Everyone is welcome with a view to joining. A very friendly welcome awaits you. For more information contact Josie Rowles Tel: 0792 220577.

Evington Social Club

Every Wednesday from 11.00am to 1.00pm at The Cedars, Main Street. Evington.
Tel: Renuka on 07514 202579.

Evington Library

Quilling and Crafts

This group now meet in Evington Library on Thursdays from 2.00pm to 4.00pm. Pop in to see what they do.

Walk in Parent and Toddler group. Tuesdays from 10.00am to 12noon.

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 07448 732696.
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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 Family History Group

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. Beginners welcome. For more details contact Judith Walmsley on 2764409.

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For further details contact Stephen Taylor on 079022946004.
www.goodwoodevangelicalchurch.org.uk

Leicestershire Calligraphers

We meet on a Saturday afternoon once a month. For more information see the article on page 14.

Evington Village Fete and Show 2023

Saturday 12th August 2023 on Evington Village Green from 12.00noon to 5.00pm. For more information see the article on page 14.

Rummikub Club

Monday morning at The Cedars In Evington at 11.00am and we play the game Rummikub.

Rummikub is a tile based game with elements of the card game rummy and mahjong which can be played by 2-4 players.
Cost £1.50.
For further information please contact Lesly on 2419096.

St. Denys Church LE5 6FA

Monday Meets

We meet on the 1st and 3rd Monday of the month except January from 2.00pm to 4.00pm in Evington Parish Centre, attached to St. Denys Church.
Monday Meet. The next Monday meets are on 19th June. (See article on page 14.)

St. Denys Café Church

Every Sunday at 3.00pm. Coffee, tea, juice, fellowship, friendship, worship, songs, praise and prayer.

Musical Toddler Group

Free event in the Parish Centre, attached to St. Denys Church. All preschool children welcome. Fridays 10.00am.

For St. Denys Church and Evington Parish Centre activities, parking is available opposite the church.

Leicester u3a Learn Laugh Live

For more information about Leicester u3a contact publicity@leicesteru3a.org.uk

My Word Poetry Group

This friendly group meet on Tuesdays at Blends Cafe Downing Drive 4.00pm to 5.30pm. Tel: 0780 449 5527 for more information. All welcome.

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