



# Evington Echo

**EvingtonEcho.uk**

Keeping you up to date with Evington's news  
Issue 304

The newspaper of Friends of Evington Charity No. 1148649  
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## Evington Mela 2023





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## Editorial



Volunteers are needed to help Friends of Evington. We are looking for new volunteers to get involved with the Evington Echo, so we can build on the success of keeping Evington informed and aware of what is happening locally. We need people who can help with:

Graphic Design, Photography, Community Reporting, Story Writing, Finance, Advertising and Community Diary Management.

We are hosting two free workshops in October at a time and venue in Evington to be decided. The workshops will be facilitated by Dr. Rob Watson, who works across many community media platforms and recently wrote a Community Reporting Handbook for De Montfort University. Rob is an experienced teacher and highly knowledgeable facilitator. If you would like free training because you like the idea of being part of the Evington Echo team, please get in touch.

Friends of Evington is a charity that advances citizenship and community development in Evington, and is aiming to continuously improve our approach to keeping people in Evington informed and inspired, so you can contribute stories and/or take on other roles that reflect the

diversity of Evington and the changes that are taking place.

Volunteers for the Evington Echo are consulted and supported, and offered regular opportunities to get involved in projects that can lead to better career choices or personal satisfaction, and which help benefit local people in Evington.

Under 18s wishing to attend the course need an adult to accompany them. All volunteer jobs are guided by a team leader.

If you are interested, please contact Helen Pettman (Chair) on 2204525 or 07910431044 or email friendsofevington1@gmail.com

## Evington in Bloom

This year Evington in Bloom was awarded 'Silver Gilt'. It's a good result but down on last year's 'Gold' award because of difficulties, mostly beyond the control of the group, to do with involving young people. The judges' special award went to 'the grasslands management strategy evident across Evington'. The best front garden entry from Chris and Gaynor achieved a gold award with 90/100 marks.

The judges said afterwards that they particularly enjoyed meeting all the people who helped at the delicious lunch after the judging day on 4th July and they mentioned others who had helped that they regretted not meeting.

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## SAXAPHONE GROUP PLAYING IN EVINGTON PARK - 23RD JULY '23

Gerard McChrystal wrote to the Evington Echo as follows:

"Thanks to everyone who came down and braved the rain at Evington Park ☁️🌧️ and especially the lovely members of the audience who rushed over to hold their brollies over us when the heavens really opened. Thanks too to Dan Watson for stepping in as MD and James Palfrey for taking photos. It was touch and go for a while, but we're pleased to say that the rain didn't stop play. Until next time!"

Gerard McChrystal Sax Sax Sax xxx



### LEST WE FORGET...

#### Saturday 11th November

At 10.45 am on Saturday 11th November, Friends of Evington will be holding a Peace event in Evington. It will start with two minutes silence at Evington War Memorial, Main Street. Afterwards anyone attending will be invited to a nearby venue (to be decided later) for refreshments and talks from a variety of speakers.

E-mail: FriendsofEvington1@gmail.com

#### Sunday 12th November

On Sunday 12th November, St. Denys Church will organise a Remembrance Sunday Parade and a service at the War Memorial in Evington. The parade will start at 10.45am at the Memorial and end at St. Denys Church. Local groups who would like to join in the parade are warmly invited to contact the Vicar by email at vicar@stdenys.org.uk. The focus this year will be a real life story of a local airman who escaped Czechoslovakia, served in the RAF during the Second World War and is buried in the churchyard at St Denys. Afterwards refreshments will be served in the Parish Centre.

### CINDY'S GARDEN



Cindy's front garden on Wakerley Road is tended so carefully with summer bedding plants that are admired by passers by. Cindy says that the bright colours help to lift up people's lives. Well done Cindy.

There is such a variety of different gardening styles in Evington. As you walk around you will find gardens with just perennial plants where the intention is to combine colour, longer life and plants good for our pollinators. There are gardens that combine annuals and perennials, there are gardens for shrubs and trees, there are gardens for wildlife and some gardens have their own mixture of all of this.



### Courses at BYCS

The Bangladesh Youth and Cultural Centre's main office is at 32 Biddulph Street, LE2 1BF, with an action resource centre nearby. They are offering approved courses for everyone in language skills, numeracy skills, computer skills, vocational skills and some non-accredited courses.

For advice on education, training, employment or further information, please visit or contact BYCS on 2755855 (Email learn4life@bycs.org.uk) Registered charity no. 1075077.



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# Letters

Dear Editor,

## WIFI IN EVINGTON

In order to help keep our street free from fly tipping and other hazards, I downloaded an app. on my phone called 'Love Clean Streets'. This enables me to take photographs of any hazards I see that need reporting. It's a really good idea. However, in the Evington area, the wifi is so bad that I have to come home to send the photos and then it is more difficult for the Council to see the location of the hazard.

Does anyone else have difficulty with a poor wifi connection?

Name and address supplied

**Editorial comment:** Please write in (see contact details on page 2) if you are experiencing these problems. Your name won't be published unless you agree to this. If you write or phone in, then we have more information about the wifi situation in Evington and Friends of Evington could campaign for better.

Dear Editor,

## LARGE DOGS

Many of us agree that large dogs of certain breeds should always be kept on a lead when they are in parks or other spaces where the public go.

Names of Evington residents supplied.

Dear Editor,

## CONGRATULATIONS

We love the way you celebrate local heritage and remove the barriers that more formal institutions can have that prevent people getting involved in creating their own history and stories. A HUGE WELL DONE.

Leicestershire Cares

Dear Readers,

## WORKING HARD IN EVINGTON



I've lived in Evington for over 10 years and I style these two people, Chris Hossack and Helen Pettman, as Mr. and Mrs. Evington because of all the work they do. They are pictured here after a wet morning's walk around Evington, on the Heritage trail, which ended at Nazar's Restaurant for delicious refreshments and a chat. I would commend these two for their custodianship of the village. Those that serve the most want to stay in the background.

David Bulbeck

PS The afternoon group had tea under the Mulberry Tree in Evington Park

Dear Readers,

## MORE GAMES OF RUMMIKUB WANTED

Thank you to all who so generously gave us yarn. I will let you know later where the articles made with it goes to.

Again I am on the scrounge!

We need more games of Rummikub to add to ours, to enable us to play Rummikub at the Cedars Pub on a Monday and Wednesday morning. So if you have any not wanted any more, please can you pass them on to us so that we can continue to expand and enjoy. We would welcome any newcomers.

Lesly Biro Mobile: 0753 8055 567.

## EVINGTON MELA - 10TH SEPTEMBER 2023

This event was organised by Best Community Charity (no. 1187864) and Friends of Evington (Charity no. 1148649) working in partnership. See pictures on the front cover.

The charities would like to thank their sponsors, A Safe Move Ltd., Eurowood Entertainment Ltd., Jaanu Café Restaurant Ltd., and Punjab National Bank.

Also many thanks to the stall holders and many volunteers who either helped out with the administration or on the day.



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## DOWNING DRIVE PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP COFFEE MORNING - PPG GROUP

Downing Drive PPG invite you to their befriending service.

This takes place on Monday mornings between 10.00am and 11.30am (except for bank holidays or when there is severe bad weather).

It is held next to Downing Drive Surgery at the Church of God, Downing Drive. Parking is free.

There are regular attendees who enjoy the support, company and chat.

The Church of God kindly offer this PPG group the use of one of the side rooms off the main hall. The room is bright and warm.

This befriending service is always glad to welcome people in for a chat and offer support where possible.

They encourage everyone to come and join them and the only cost is £1 for tea or coffee and biscuits (with free refills) to help running costs.

If you would like to join or find out more about what a Patient Participation Group do, then please contact the practice manager or the PPG chair on [downingdrivesurgeryppg@gmail.com](mailto:downingdrivesurgeryppg@gmail.com)

## MAYFLOWER SCHOOL REPORT AFTER THE APRIL 2023 CLOSURE BECAUSE OF CRUMBLING CONCRETE

After the summer term 2023, I am pleased to be able to report that the children at Mayflower Primary School are now occupying just 2-sites, instead of the previous 4.

Our youngest children from Nursery, Reception and Key Stage 1, are back at school, consequent to a number of safety works that were carried out by the Local Authority. They are thrilled to be back, and enjoying all of the wonderful facilities that are now available to them.

The children in Key Stage 2 remain at the Temporary Modular School (TMS) we have created at Judgemeadow, and have been made to feel very welcome indeed by Principal Jason Smith, and the wider Lionheart Educational Trust. These arrangements are in lieu of a Temporary Modular School that will be built on the Ethel Road Playing Fields.

Everyone is so looking forward to the time when all of our children and families can come back together again. Our thanks to everyone who has been supporting us, making a very challenging situation just a little bit easier.

Luke Whitney - Head Teacher  
Mayflower Primary School, Evington Drive, Leicester. LE5 5PH

**Evington Councillors' surgeries:**  
Councillors for Evington ward are Cllr. Zuffar Haq, Cllr. Jenny Joannou and Cllr. Deepak Bajaj. They are holding surgeries at the following places and times:

1st Tuesday of every month from 4.00pm to 5.30pm. Evington Library, 200 Evington Lane, LE5 6DH and 3rd Wednesday of every month at Coleman Neighbourhood Centre Balderstone Close, LE5 4ES from 10.30am to 12noon.

## North Evington Councillors' surgeries:

Councillors for North Evington ward are Cllr. Ravi Mahesh, Cllr. Sanjay Modwadia and Cllr. Dilip Joshi. They are holding surgeries at the following place and times: St. Barnabas Library, 2 French Road, LE5 4AH. 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month from 5.00pm to 6.30pm.

**Stoneygate Councillors' surgeries:**  
Councillors for Stoneygate ward are Cllr. Yasmin Surti, Cllr. Raffiq Moosa and Cllr. Manjula Sood. They are holding surgeries at the following places and times:

St. Philip's Church Hall, Evington Rd. LE2 1HN on the Second Tuesday of each month from 5.00pm to 6.00pm and Evington Muslim Centre (EMC), 5-7 Evington Drive, LE5 5PF on the 3rd Saturday of each month from 12noon to 1.00pm.

Editorial note: Please make sure you know which surgeries to attend.

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Cllr Zuffar Haq is pictured meeting authors Sofia Moti and Khaleel Hassam, who together with Sofia's 11 year old daughter, Ameera Moti, have written their first book 'Survival'.

At the stall there were other second hand or pre-loved books for sale and suitable for the 9 to 12 age group.

There was also a list of books Sofia Moti would recommend. Sofia wants

to encourage reading. "A book is a dream that you hold in your hands", and she helps parents to support their children in finding books they will enjoy.

### SURVIVAL

This book is a tale of loss, struggle and further struggles to survive. It is a sensitively written story and, with support, it has been written by children for children. The book traces the thoughts, feelings and actions of two siblings, Asla, aged 5 and her brother, Carson, just a little older because he is at secondary school. ISBN 978 – 1 – 3999 – 5682 – 6. It is published by Aspire Publishing, Leicester at £5.99.

### THE GOAN SPORTS CLUB

This club organises community events such as bazaars, kids' arts club and sports clubs. The aim is to encourage people from all ages and communities to do physical activity by engaging in sports and events. This picture shows their stall at Judgemeadow Community College where visitors could take part in Carrom.

For more information: goansportsclub@gmail.com Mobile 0759 7054805.

## ISLAMIC RELIEF RAISE FUNDS FOR THE MOROCCAN EARTHQUAKE APPEAL



On Saturday 16th September, Islamic Relief held an event at Judgemeadow Community College in order to raise funds for the Moroccan Earthquake Appeal. Many stallholders collaborated with Islamic Relief and many of the stalls were also promoting local charitable activities. This community college's extensive indoor and outdoor space made an excellent venue. The organisers thank Judgemeadow and their governors for all their help in facilitating this event.



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**TONY HIRD**  
**14.12.1917 – 08.06.2023**



Tony Hird lived in and around Evington for all of his long life.

He was the oldest child of Harold and Gwendoline Hird and they lived together on Kedlestone Road. His grandfather was also called Harold and worked at Steels and Busks, an engineering factory on Temple Road.

Tony went to the City Boys' Grammar School on Humberstone Gate. During the war the building was deemed to be unsafe because of the bombs, so they shared Wyggeston Boys' School, with the boys alternating lessons every other week to be either in the mornings or afternoons.

Tony enjoyed sport and adventure and was in the 9th Leicester Scouts with his friend Geoffrey Simson and the three Attenborough boys, Richard, David and Jonathan. They went to Yorkshire camping and did the Three Peaks Challenge.

Tony helped his Uncle Herbert on Saturdays in his estate agency business and often went on holiday with this uncle and his aunt. Uncle Herbert's partner had a daughter called Sheila, who Tony married years later.

At the age of 19, Tony was called into the army and was with the royal artillery, guarding the convoys that came into Pembroke Docks in Wales. Whilst in the army he played the piano in a 4-piece band and also played twice a week in the sergeants' mess. This meant he could never go home!

After two years in the army, Tony went on a road trip with his friend, David Herbert, whom he sat next to in alphabetical order at school. They drove to France and Italy. Tony had never been abroad before. This started a life-long interest in travel.

Although Tony initially worked in property, he decided on a career change and studied as a quantity surveyor on a 4 year part-time course in Leicester on Building and Quantities, completing this course successfully in 1951. 1951 was also

the year he married Sheila, who he had met again on a bus.

Tony had a long career as a surveyor, working with both the City and County Councils. He supervised the task of 'rebuilding Britain' after the 2nd World War, when Leicester built nearly 1,000 houses each year in the public sector. Tony also supervised the planning and construction of swimming pools in both the City and the County.

Tony was a family man, providing stable homes for his wife and two children, Barbara and Andrew. He built his own house on Roundhill Road, then built a house on Hawthorn Drive and a bungalow in Evington Lane, opposite Gisborne Court.

For the last 50 years of his life he lived in a Jelson house in Fairford Avenue, off Biggin Hill Road. His children remember him as an outdoor man, taking them on camping trips as far away as Costa Brava in Spain. They had short camping breaks at East Runton in Norfolk and remember sailing at Poole in Dorset. They also remember the many cycling and swimming outings and the allotments on Ethel Road where Tony grew Brussel sprouts, leeks and potatoes.

"His was a very fulfilling life" said Barbara, his daughter. "He will be greatly missed". Barbara

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## Farewell Riyaz Jassat and welcome Hassnain Safdar and Sarfraz Riaz



After 32 years in practice, I have decided to step down and hand over to two highly qualified Optometrists, Hassnain Safdar and Sarfraz Riaz. They come to Evington Eyecare with a wealth of experience.

Hassnain had his first ever eye test as a child at Evington Eyecare by myself believe it or not and having studied at the City of Leicester College, he is excited to be back serving the local community. Throughout his Optometric career, he has worked in a variety of practices around the region. Now he splits his working week at Evington Eyecare and as a specialist Optometrist at a cataract hospital in Leicester. He is currently working towards a prescribing qualification to be able to prescribe drops and medications for a range of acute and chronic eye conditions.

Hassnain loves tennis and international

cuisine and being fluent in Urdu/Hindi, Punjabi and French will enable him to foster better patient interactions with the diverse community here in Evington.

Sarfraz is a family man with 5 children and has lived in Evington nearly his whole life and is delighted to have the privilege of taking over Evington Eyecare and serving his own local community.

Being an Optometrist for two decades, he has a wealth of experience when it comes to detecting eye diseases and prescribing eyewear. Sarfraz has also been involved in supervising and training the next generation of student Optometrists. It has always been his dream to work in his own practice where personalised care and being valued as an individual count highly. His hobbies and interests include theology, spectating and playing sports

especially cricket, and working out.

Building upon the already well-established reputation of the practice, they hope to enhance the clinical scope and patient-centred care offering the best for all age ranges, in particular specialist glasses and contact lenses for children with increasing myopia (short-sightedness). Furthermore, there will be investments in the latest software which will include 3D OCT scans of the eye and Optomap ultra-widefield imaging as part of the new 'Evington Eyecare Plan'. The plan will include enhanced eye examinations, discounted glasses, contact lens schemes, dry eye clinics, blepharitis management and much more. so watch this space.

As best friends and colleagues, they bring over 30 years of experience, having practiced in a variety of settings across hospital and community practice. Pop in to say hello and book an appointment, they look forward to seeing you soon!

My farewell to you all.

It has been a wonderful journey following through 3 or 4 generations of patients in many cases! I shall now have more flexibility to pursue both professional and occupational interests. These include testing eyes at HMP Gartree on a part time basis as well as branching out as an independent ABTA approved travel agent (watch this space!), continuing with my passions, such as football, by getting more opportunity to follow my beloved Leicester City football club as well as playing actively with the Leicester walking football group at Judgemeadow. Other interests I would hope to expand on is badminton and foreign travel including multiple trips to the Holy Land with a tour group as well as endless lazy family vacations!

I personally will miss the day-to-day interactions with the amazing community I have had the pleasure to serve over the years and thank each and every one of you for the loyalty shown both to me and to the practice. I am certain that you will be in safe hands with both Hass and Saf who have come on board now.

Warmest wishes and best regards to all.

Riaz Jassat

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## Evington Village Fete and Show 2023



The Show attracted 50 more entries than last year, although still well down from 2019 pre-Covid. The judges thought the standard was high and applauded us for keeping the show running when so many villages have stopped.

The Lord Mayor Dr Susan Barton really enjoyed meeting everybody on the stalls and in the marquee, as well as the Blood Bikes where she met up with a former pupil.

It was great to have the Silver Swans dance for us this year after the extreme heat of last year. The magician and Punch and Judy performer was excellent again and it was good that we were able to have the bouncy castle despite a little rain at one time.

Food provided in both the Village Hall and the Parish Centre was delicious. The church was a great attraction for Evening Prayer sung by the Cambridge choir, and the chapel put on their display of the history of Evington Village.

Huge thanks to all who visited the event, the businesses which so kindly donated prizes for the show, the raffle and the tombola, to all the stall holders who made the Village Green such a spectacle, the Milk Float team and the Farm Park with their animals, for all those volunteers who worked so hard to make it a success and especially to the Air Cadets who give of their time and energy.

Chris Hossack

## Presentations

### Section A: Children and young people:

Children aged 8 and under  
Winner: Jarvis Brown

### Children aged 9 to 12 years

Joint Winners: Florence and Evie Hudson

### Section B: Floral Art

Winner: Janette Pearson

### Section C: Cut Flowers

Joint Winners: Janet Drew and Freda Neill

### The Gillian Farrow Memorial Cup Section D: Pot Plants

Winner: Jzu Lze

### The Evington Challenge Section F: Fruit

Joint Winners: Keith Moore and Julia Thistlethwaite

### The Co-op Horticultural Cup Section G: Vegetables

Winner: I. Berndt

### Councillor O'Brien's Cup Section H: Bakery

Winner: Freda Neill

### Councillor Johnson's Cup Section J: Preserves/Wine

Winner: I. Berndt

### Councillor Bajaj's Cup Section K: Art

Winner: Douglas Adlam

### The Morton Photography Cup Section L: Photography

Winner: Oswald Waye



### The Wallet's Handicrafts Cup Section M: Handicrafts –

Winner: Janette Pearson

### The Barbara Raven Floral Cup Floral Art and Cut Flowers

Winner: Jze Lzu

### Best in Show

Winner: Jackie Hopkins:

### Best in Section prizes

Section B: Janette Pearson

Section C: Janet Drew

Section D: Jzu Lze

Section E: Julia Thistlethwaite

Section F: Melanie Wakley

Section G: Jill Barkhada

Section H: I. Berndt

Section J: Jackie Hopkins

Section L: Sam Letts

### The Sheila White Memorial Trophy - Most points overall

Winner: Janette Pearson

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### BETTY HITS 90!

Many readers might know Betty Illingworth from Crantock Close, who celebrated her 90th birthday on 6th August with a party tea in the Church of God annexe at Downing Drive. Betty has been a member of the church for many years. She and her husband Jack were baptized and added in 1992. Sadly, Jack died in 2006 but both have been a great witness and served our church, our community and Evington neighbours extremely well during their time with us. While Jack was still with us, both he and Betty began preparing and packing the Christmas shoe-box gifts for children run by the Samaritan's Purse charity. Until

recently, Betty has continued this work since Jack's departure and over many years has sent off several thousand boxes.

Betty is well-known in Evington for her witness and dedicated service to the area. She displays her Christian character in putting God first, others next - and self-last. She worked with "Evington in Bloom" which included turning some waste ground near our hall into a lovely garden. She helped set up and run charity stalls for events in the local Evington Park; she delivered the monthly "Evington Echo" local news magazine which brought her into contact with many neighbours over the years. She has been influential in bringing many of those neighbours along to church meetings, to our coffee mornings and monthly teas. A busy lady indeed!

Betty says she's "well past her sell-by date," which might hold some truth at 90 years, but she's still vivacious and very active. She used to belong to a local dance fitness group and the Evington Swimming club, where she was able to befriend people and witness for her Saviour. She may be small in stature, but Betty has a big heart. Always cheerful, always positive and she shows the joy of the Lord! And at ninety she can still bend forward and touch her toes! Well done Betty, you're amazing.



Very, very many congratulations Betty, and we wish you many more happy and active years to come!

Our pictures show:

1. Betty cutting her cake alongside her son Paul and his wife Sarah.
2. Betty with 'Tall Paul' one of our frequent supporting visitors.

3. Some of Betty's many neighbours and friends together with church members at Betty's Birthday Tea. The Leicester Church of God

Editorial comment: The picture below shows Betty at the 2017 Evington Fete and Show enjoying running a stall for charitable giving. Thank you Betty for all you have done. You have been a brilliant Echo distributor over many years too.



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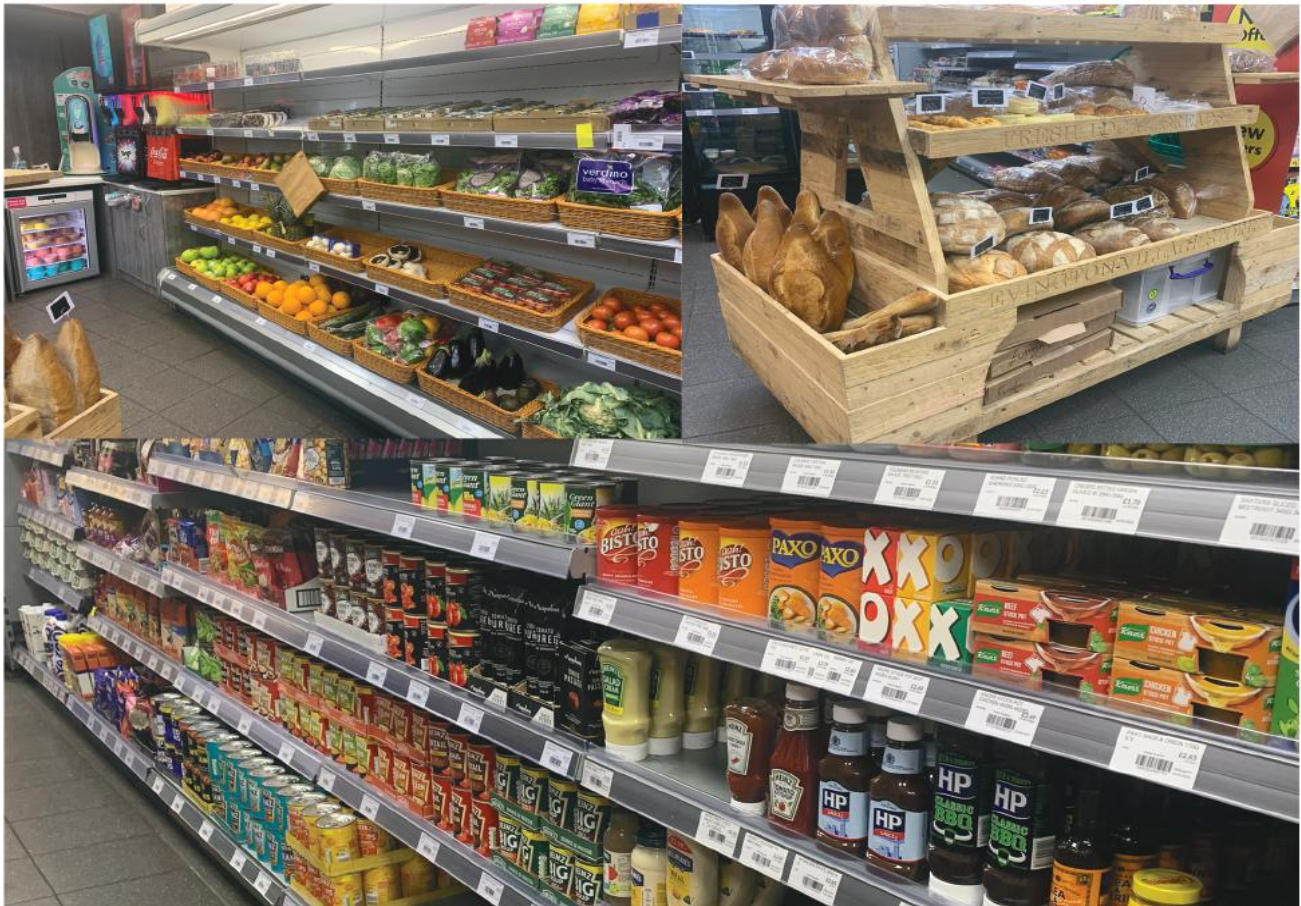
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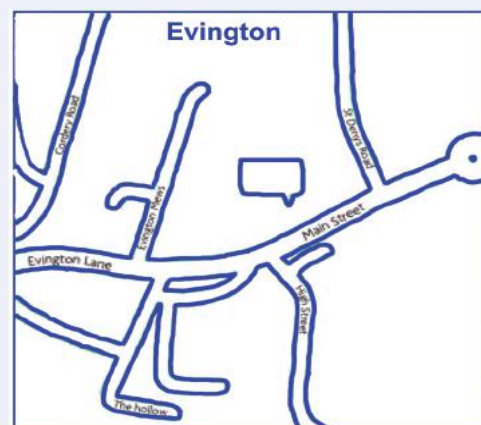
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**Nigel Anderson Graham King**  
**14 June 1943 – 6 March 2023**



In March, we sadly bid farewell to a much-loved friend: Nigel King. He was a very popular and well-regarded man, reflected by the sheer number of people who

came to pay their respects. After valiantly battling cancer for many years, he passed away peacefully at LOROS, surrounded by his loved ones.

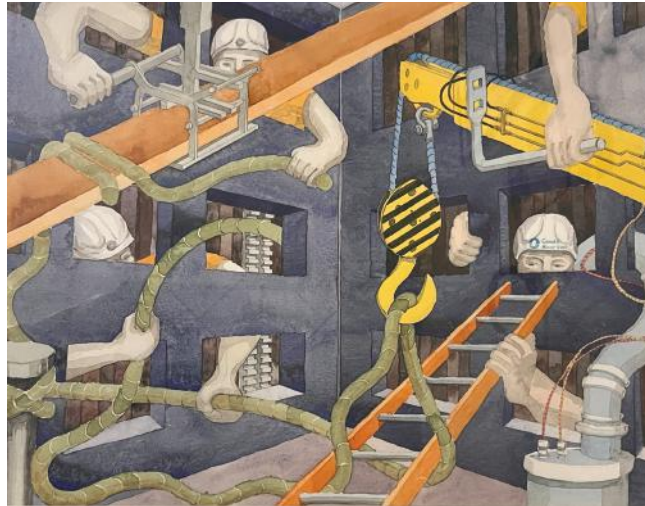
Rev. Anthony Lees-Smith, leading the celebration of Nigel's life, told that he was born in 1943 to teachers Vi and Arthur in Sunderland. Growing up happily in Bedford with his younger sister, Diana, he enjoyed playing with many friends and listening to the music of the day on the King's record player – the first of his peers to buy records by Buddy Holly, Fats Domino and others. The seeds for travelling the world were sown very early on; he would pore over books full of blue skies and sandy beaches in preparation for his parents' emigration to Australia. Although that never materialised, wanderlust had firmly taken root...

Inspired by his art teacher father, Nigel was always creative. He studied Architectural Design at Leicester and then Manchester, where he met the love of his life and future wife, trainee teacher, Margaret. One day, Nigel was surprised to spot Margaret, standing on the saddle of her bike, peering in through his window! She was trying to see into the house as there was a room to rent – being a perfect gentleman, Nigel invited her in for a proper look – as they say, the rest is history!

Following university, Nigel spent much of his 20s on an epic voyage, hitch-hiking and taking ships, trains, planes and automobiles across Turkey, Afghanistan, India and Indonesia to Darwin, Australia. He worked as a ship's cook, fruit salesman, road construction worker and driver to fund exploring the marvels of 'down -under' - Ayres Rock, Alice Springs, The Great Barrier Reef and Sydney, before (briefly) returning to his career as an architect and family life in England.

Marrying Margaret in 1978, they had a blissful marriage in the fun and relaxed atmosphere of 70s and 80s London, with Nigel working on the development of St Katherine's Dock and the restoration of Kensington Palace.

However, the lure of travelling the world proved too great; in 1982 they spent 7 months trekking in Sri Lanka, India, Kashmir and the Himalayas. Another idyllic lifestyle followed, with Nigel working as a handyman at a picturesque woodland barn, near Margaret's mother's German family near Hamburg.



In 1987, the couple and their new son, Robert, settled in Ingarsby Drive in Evington, next door to Margaret's parents, Hella and David. Nigel worked for many years at County Hall, with Margaret teaching, most recently at Whitehall. He was a devoted husband and father; he cherished his family. Happy times were spent camping in UK and Europe and tending their family allotment at Evington Hilltop.

Unfortunately, their retirement plans were marred when both Margaret and Nigel were diagnosed with cancer. Sadly, Margaret passed away shortly after, in 2013. Nigel had cared for her devotedly despite being ill himself, and was obviously devastated. However, he managed to pick himself up by throwing himself into his art and his allotment (recently shared with and passed onto Robert's partner Joanna.)

A talented artist, Nigel was a keen member of Leicester Sketch Club, Crown Hills, Oadby and Houghton Art Societies. He took over the reins of Peter Sumpter's art class following Peter's death, giving it a new twist during covid restrictions. Unable to meet in person, Nigel set a topic for the class, forming inspiring collages of the group's

artworks. He also co-ordinated the community collage celebrating St Denys Church's 800th anniversary. He often had paintings accepted into the Leicester Open Exhibition; recently colourful paintings of local garage mechanics at work and renovations underway at Foxton Locks. He loved experimenting with different art styles, including abstract art, lino and screen printing. He was also a keen photographer and birdwatcher.

Taking up folk dancing at Burton Overy, he became friends with Jennifer. They had many shared interests including theatre,

cinema, concerts and visiting the Botanic Gardens, as well as trips throughout Britain, bringing much happiness to them both during Nigel's last years.

Welcoming grand-daughter Emily into the world in 2019, he loved helping her draw and paint, passing his skills onto a new generation. He embraced her enthusiasm for 'helping' at the allotment and her passion for collecting

worms and creepy-crawlies! He was a real family man!

Personally, I have had the honour of Nigel and Margaret's friendship for the last 18 years – they were both true friends. Nigel was always so inspiring and creative - he always had something interesting to discuss and offered fascinating insights into the wider world. I will miss our chats and his warm, welcoming nature – he had such a lust for life! He was always upbeat and never complained despite countless bouts of chemotherapy. He had boundless enthusiasm for trying new things – when a challenge arose, he always said, "I think I can handle it."

Nigel will be fondly remembered for his sense of principle, his creative mindset and above all, his generosity and kindness of spirit. That kindness was reflected in everything he did and said. He was a gentle, modest, community-focused man who put the needs of others before his own.

Our thoughts go out to Robert, Joanna, Emily and Jennifer. Nigel will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him.

Addy Tyler – with assistance from Nigel's family and Rev. Anthony Lees-Smith

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## Report from Cllr. Zuffar Haq, Councillor in Evington.

These are some of the tasks I have undertaken during the last few weeks.

\* Supported by my team, my Saturday surgery for residents continues to take place 11 o'clock at the Eden café on Main Street, in Evington.

\* I have attended council meetings and surgeries for residents, at the Evington library and the Coleman Neighbourhood Centre.

\* Following a meeting with residents, I arranged for the council to clear and tidy an overgrown, unsightly area on Balderstone Close and Coleman Road.

\* I met with NHS hospital bosses. Included in the discussions was 'What is happening with the General Hospital site?'

\* I visited Coleman School to look at the

accommodation on land at the back of the school, which is being provided for pupils of Mayflower School, whilst work is ongoing at Mayflower.

\* We are collecting surplus fruit donated by residents from their fruit trees, to support food banks, who are desperate for donations, which will help people during this cost of living crisis.

\* I accepted an invitation to attend and support a Sickle Cell Awareness Day event in Leicester.

\* Myself, Councillor Bajaj and Councillor Joannou met with the Principals of St Paul's and Krishna Avanti schools to talk to residents and parents about how we can improve the traffic situation on Spencefield Lane and in the area. There are lots of suggestions to pursue and research to be done about the situation.

\* I Continue to support individual residents with problems or concerns.

\* I met with the Principal of Judgemeadow College and a group of faith and community leaders to have a guided tour of the building and the excellent facilities on offer at the College.

\* I continue to meet with Headteachers and Principals of schools in the Evington ward to support and strengthen relationships with them and to work with them to improve any issues or problems they have.

It was good to see people enjoying themselves, when I dropped into the Evington Mela event on Evington Village Green.

Also congratulations to the Fete and Show committee for their successful event.

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## EVINGTON VILLAGE SCHOOL

In Memory of Michael Daly

I am very grateful to Michael's family for passing on documents collected by him. Before he died, Michael was working on a history of the Evington Village School and was searching for pictures and other information.

Michael writes: "The site of a very early school in School Lane was recorded in the old village records as dating from 1768 to 1770. In 1841 there was a school

"Promoting Education of the Poor in the Principle of the Established Church". It was financed by Miss Henry Burnaby who inherited Evington House in 1850 and lived there for the following 30 or more years as the owner. Miss Henry Burnaby was an unmarried daughter of Colonel John Burnaby who had bought Evington House and extended it considerably for his dream retirement home.

The school was very popular and by 1846/47 it was extended – a gallery was removed and a 2nd classroom for infants was added. Also in the pictures above you see the school house on the left for the Headteacher.

Old Evington Village School became a Church of England school in 1903. Miss Henry Burnaby visited weekly for almost all her life and on high days and holidays invited pupils to tea in the grounds of Evington House. She presented a harmonium to the school which was still there when Michael was a pupil between 1937 and 1945.



*This sketch is copied from an overexposed photograph and shows the old wall in front of Evington Village School*



*This photograph, which Michael located, shows the school in the process of being demolished*

When Michael was at the school, Miss Lottie Wilkinson was the headteacher and taught juniors in the main larger classroom. There were two other teachers for nursery and infants in the smaller room to the rear of the building. Miss Wilkinson taught five individual year groups in one classroom and was excellent, said Michael.

If you have any records or memories of the old school, please get in touch (Details of contacts on page 2.)

Helen Pettman.

## ST. DENYS MUSIC FESTIVAL 2023

14th October at 3.00pm. Classical Indian Music workshop. Sarangi and tabla with local musicians from String Beats.

Tickets £10 on the door.

Free or concessions for under 18s.

Office contact is 07803 828454 or 2713812.

## ST DENYS OPEN CHURCH

Thursdays is Open Church. at St. Denys. For more information contact the Pastoral Warden, Kimberly at [pastoral@stdenys.org.uk](mailto:pastoral@stdenys.org.uk)

## LEICESTER AND RUTLAND GARDEN TRUST

On November 23rd at 7.30pm the Leicester and Rutland Garden Trust have Chris Beardshaw giving a celebrity lecture at Leicester University. The funds raised from this are awarded to local schools who have a project to develop part of their grounds. Chris needs little introduction as a celebrated designer, plantsman, and broadcaster. He has clocked up over 35 years' experience in the horticultural world. Many will know him from his long broadcasting career.

These days he is heard by millions as a panellist on BBC Radio 4 Gardeners' Question Time where he regularly faces a live audience of gardening enthusiasts! The venue is the Bob Burgess building on the new Welford Road site of Leicester University.

Full details on the website: [lrgt.co.uk](http://lrgt.co.uk)

## SHOP CHANGES

The Cooperate Store on Downing Drive will become a Tesco Express at the end of November. No jobs will be lost.



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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](mailto: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](mailto: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.

### Evington Local History and Heritage Group

Wednesday 18th October Meeting 2.30 - 4.00pm  
Wednesday 15th Nov. from 2.30pm to 4.00pm. Robert Jenkins on The Base Hospital. 'The Story of the 5th Northern General Hospital and its satellites during the Great War'. Meetings are on the third Wednesday of the month between 2.30pm and 4.00pm. at St. Denys Church Parish Centre LE5 6FA. Free parking. Membership £20 a year for 10 meetings, £3 for visitors per session. For more information contact John and Pauline Sloan. Tel: 2412210. email: [jangpsloan@gmail.com](mailto:jangpsloan@gmail.com)

### Evington Garden Club

Evington Garden Club's 2.30 pm start on the 3rd Tuesday of the month continues to attract new faces and all are welcome  
Coming up on Oct 17 Jeff Bates will advise re Vegetables for small gardens.  
On Nov 21st following a brief AGM it's nurserywoman Angela Holland (back with some plants for sale) to give her 'Seasonal Talk'.  
We celebrate Christmas on Dec 19 with the return of Richard Adam's 'Gardens home and away' consisting of slides and music (with accompanying seasonal goodies provided) to end the year with a flourish.  
All welcome to all meetings. Just turn up or check @ 2215513 Patrick O Callaghan

### Exercise Sessions at St. Denys Church's Parish Centre (Note the new venue) This group is affiliated to Friends of Evington.

They meet on Thursdays between 9.30am and 10.30am. Cost £2 Visitors welcome  
Contact Mary on 07952 775449 or just pop in to see if this group is for you.

### Women's Institute in Evington Village

Humberstone Heights and Belgrave Women's Institute hold their meetings on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

### Pre Christmas Kwanzaa

African Caribbean Centre  
Maidstone Road. LE2 OUA.  
Saturday 2nd December  
12.30pm - 5.00pm

### 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.  
[manjula.odedra.yoga@gmail.com](mailto:manjula.odedra.yoga@gmail.com)

### Nordic Walking

Walking using these long poles is a great way to improve your mental and physical wellbeing. Contact: [ministryofnordicwalks@gmail.com](mailto:ministryofnordicwalks@gmail.com) or phone Penny on 0750 2 57 6764.

### Bhangra Classes

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

### Tai Chi with Nassar Butt

Fridays 09.00 -11.30am.  
Evington Village Hall. For further information, contact Nassar on 077992242150.

### 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.

### Goodwood Evangelical Church Gamel Road Leicester LE5 6TD

11.00am. Sunday Service. All Welcome.  
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For further details contact Stephen Taylor on 07902946004.  
[www.goodwoodevangelicalchurch.org.uk](http://www.goodwoodevangelicalchurch.org.uk)

### Silver Swans Ballet Classes

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Thursday mornings at Evington Village Hall.  
For details please contact Vanessa on 0776 540 7323. [iebeeballet@hotmail.com](mailto:iebeeballet@hotmail.com)

### Lest We Forget

See article on page 2.

### 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.

### 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.

### Leicester Secular Society

Meetings are at the Secular Hall at 6.30pm every Sunday 75 Humberstone Gate LE1 1WB. Highlighted meetings are:  
8th October: See page 2 advert  
22nd October: Leicester Co-operative Commonwealth  
3rd December Plant Atlas (£3 donation if you can)  
*The Leicester Secular Society advocates of an inclusive, plural society with freedom of belief and respect for individual rights.*

### St. Denys Church LE5 6FA

#### Monday Meets

We meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month except January from 2.00pm to 4.00pm in Evington Parish Centre, attached to St. Denys Church. LE5 6FA

Musical Toddler Group meet on Fridays from 10.00am to 11.00am at the Parish Centre. All preschool children welcome. Led by Sarah Gregory (Community worker) More information at [vicar@stdenys.org.uk](mailto:vicar@stdenys.org.uk)

Youth Club and Music Night Meetings  
Alternative Friday evenings from 7.00pm to 8.30pm at the Parish Centre. Play pool, table football or challenge your friends on the Wii.. On music evenings it's singing, playing instruments and worship.... Contact: [stdenysyouth@gmail.com](mailto:stdenysyouth@gmail.com)

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### Wanted handyman for house and garden Evington village area. Tel: 2410332.

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