



Evington Echo

EvingtonEcho.uk

Issue 316

October and November 2025

Circulation 6,000

Keeping you up to date with Evington's news

The newspaper of Friends of Evington Charity No. 1205219

Polesie Polkas in Evington

Read about the exuberant 45th anniversary celebrations of Polesie which took place in Evington on page 6.



Photographs with map designed by Julia Krupska

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Feb./Mar. '26	16th January	5th February
April/May '26	13th March	2nd April



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Editorial



We live in a time of technological change. We can't stop it. Media outlets like the Evington Echo will need to change or become a dinosaur. This magazine has been going for 44 years in print. It was innovative when it started, computerised early in 2002 and survived COVID when many other similar publications stopped

It was thanks to our loyal advertisers and volunteers that we got through this difficult time. Now we need partnerships and changes to get ahead of new technology and do more online. If you have technological skills and would like to help Friends of Evington (the charity that manages the Evington Echo and Evington in Bloom) and other projects, then please get in touch. (See contact details on page 2.)

Evington Echo's website is at www.evingtonecho.uk. To search for posts use the excellent search engine on the right hand side of the home page. There is much information there. Between 1st Sept. and 14th Sept. there have been 18 new, online posts as follows:

- *Greener Gardens Leicestershire
- *Leicester City Council Grassland Strategy
- *Road Closure along Church Road, Evington cancelled twice
- *Kids Garba in Evington 27th September
- *More than 310 churches to open for Ride + Stride in Leicestershire this year
- *New booking system for Downing Drive Surgery, Evington
- *Green talks – Campaign against urban pesticides use
- *Saturday Heritage Fair, Leicester 11th October 2025
- *Leicester Communities Together. Festival to showcase local services in Jubilee Square
- *Ombudsman reopens surgery case
- *University Hospitals of Leicester NHS league tables
- *Leicester International Music Festival r

eturns this September

*Green Gardens Leicestershire

*A survey for Black Communities in Leicester about Community sport and cricket

*Why the work replacing gas pipes on Church Road, Evington was stopped

*Leicester Communities Together Festival – Helen's report

Our special Evington in Bloom presentation event took place on 28th September. The results will be posted on the Community noticeboard in the centre of Evington Village. This event was a celebration of the people locally who do practical work in Evington around gardening.

The afternoon particularly highlighted the dedication of Malcolm Toon, who has spent over 30 years working on building containers, designing the project, fundraising, planting and caring for the local environment through the Evington in Bloom scheme. It was pleasing that our Evington councillors and the Lord Mayor supported this event of recognition. Finally I would like to thank our charity trustees, the Echo team and advertisers for their support in making this publication possible.

Helen Pettman

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CHILDREN'S GAMES AT THE CEDARS



Trustee of Friends of Evington, Harkesh Farma, organised traditional children's games at the Cedars over the weekend of 16th and 17th August. Four year old Mukel (pictured above) is helping advertise this event. Mukel is the personification of boyish exuberance. He was so enthralled by the weekend of family fun at the Cedars that he made several visits. He returned home with books, toys and happy memories.

Four year old Everly approached Harkesh (Hari) asking to take a photo of him and Harvey, a young participant, playing a

a giant Connect 4 game. He thought she was pretending to take photos with her plastic children's camera. Imagine his surprise when she carefully ripped off, from a roll of paper inside the camera, two monochrome photos which perfectly captured the ludic moment.

Well done, Everly, for pursuing your photography passion.



There was also a bric-a-brac stall at this event, thanks to the generous donations of Evington readers. The Friends of Evington hope to organise a repeat of this event next year.



Hari and Harvey playing giant Connect 4.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MOHOMMED

Mohammed is the winner of the Evington in Bloom's best front garden photography competition. Here are the pictures he sent in of his front garden.



APPEAL FOR FRONT GARDEN PICTURES

The competition has finished, but a website collection of front garden pictures is ongoing to promote our campaign for climate friendly gardens. Please send them in to evingtonecho@gmail.com

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LETTERS

A BIG THANK YOU

Dear Editor,
I would like to thank Cllr. Jenny Joannou and her team for help with contacting the Parks Dept. in Evington, and efficiently sorting out issues relating to the Cordery Road gardens that back onto Evington Park. Mark Humphreys in the Parks Department was also very helpful. I really appreciate good communication to resolve the issue we had so promptly.

Fliss Lacey

CONSIDERATE AND SAFE PARKING

Dear Editor,
It is extremely dangerous for cars to park on the grass verges, pavements or across driveways outside school entrances.

We have many schools in Evington and they all have campaigns and messages to parents to stop this anti social behaviour.

If you can't walk to school (or cycle), why not park in a safe place and walk from there?

Name and address supplied.

A HAPPY ENDING TO OUR KITTY CLUB SAGA.

The three feisty boys – Mylo, Winston and Fender - and little Miss Guinness have all



found forever new homes.

Mum Titch is making her permanent home with Dick and Snitch. Although Reg has been floating around, there will be no more kittens thanks to the generosity of Leicester Animal Rescue, who paid for spaying and microchipping.

Is Dick missing the chaos caused by fluffy bundles taking over his home? We'll leave you to figure that one out!

Dick and the Kitty Club

FRANK (FRED) HUTCHINSON

Fred died on 31st August 2025.

Many people in the Evington Area and beyond will remember Fred (as colleagues knew him). He was of course exceptional in many ways. He served City Boys School, (CBS), the City of Leicester School (COLS) and City of Leicester College (COLC) as a Woodwork, Design and Supply teacher for about 44 years! He was there during all the changes.

The Evington Echo will write an obituary in the December/January edition. If you have memories to share please send them to the Editor. (Contact details on page 2.)

FOOD, ART AND CRAFT MARKET

The Evington Echo has been sent information about a Food, Art and Craft Market at The Coplow Centre, Billesdon LE7 9FL on Sunday 12th October from 10.30 to 15.30. Delicious food, local art displays, crafts and handmade gifts, live music, family entertainment and inside and outside stalls.

EVINGTON LITTER WOMBLES AND SOUTH LEICESTERSHIRE LITTER WOMBLES

Evington Litter Wombles mostly meet on Wednesdays and usually tackle a 'grot spot'. Working together they find that a job that at first looked impossible can be done. Afterwards they enjoy a lovely lunch together at The Cedars. If you would like to join, then please go to South Leicestershire Litter Wombles on Facebook to find out when and where the Wednesday morning group are meeting and come along. Regular volunteers enjoy being part of these dedicated and committed groups.

HIGHLIGHTS OF GLASTONBURY

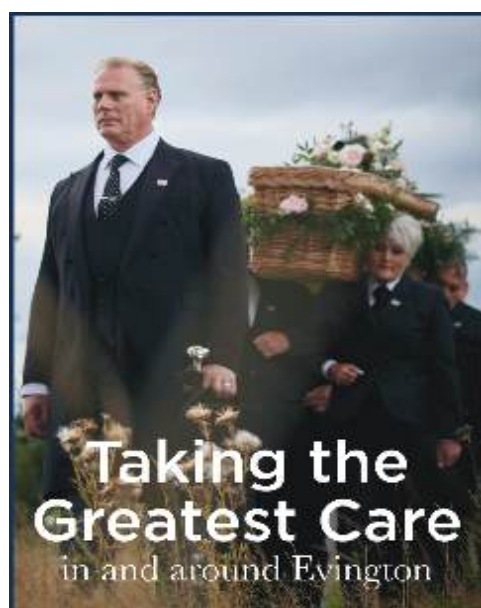
'English Teacher' look to be a very promising band, the standout track being 'R&B' which tore the place up and had echoes of the Buzzcocks.

Old Brit poppers Supergrass delivered a good set while 'Down In The Park' by Gary Numan, playing Glastonbury for the first time, smashed it, as did London jazz outfit Ezra Collective. It's a shame these two bands were on more or less at the same time.

You're going to get plenty of people that like Gary Numan and Ezra Collective; why put them on at the same time?

There was some funky drumming by the Cymande drummer, and The Prodigy rocked it on the closing Sunday. The festival took place between 25-29 June.

Steve Billingham



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EVINGTON GARDEN CLUB

Welcome to some news about the Evington Garden Club. Readers of the Echo will know that we meet regularly in the village hall on Tuesday afternoons.

The Club is a very long standing village institution and we very much welcome new, or indeed returning members. The Club has affiliate membership of the Royal Horticultural Society, which provides a range of benefits to Club members including discounted entry to RHS gardens, free gardening advice and a shared copy of the monthly RHS magazine, The Garden.

Our programme this year to date has included a fascinating talk on Animals and Plants in the jungle – probably not the form of gardening most of us go in for, but an amazing insight into a different environment. We had a talk on the National Gardens Scheme in May. These are gardens opened each year for charities such as Macmillans, the Hospice movement and Parkinsons. There are many gardens involved in the scheme in Leicestershire and the range of styles and plants, often in quite small gardens, should stimulate our efforts in Evington!

Most recently we had a guided visit round the University of Leicester Botanic

Gardens and a talk on highlights from the Chelsea Flower show which emphasised again the range of plants and gardens grown by British gardeners, both professional and amateur, and the immense amount of preparation that goes into showing at Chelsea.

Our autumn meetings are on 21st October (A Seasonal Talk) and 18th November (Great British Gardens).

Do come and join us. We are a friendly bunch. No need to be a green-fingered expert. The annual subscription is currently a very modest £12. But if you want a taster, or to see whether it is for you, do come as a visitor (£2 per talk).

For further information, please check the list of meetings on the back page of the Echo.

Jane E. Everson

NEW BOOKING SYSTEM FOR DOWNING DRIVE SURGERY

From Wednesday 1st October 2025, Downing Drive surgery will have a new booking system for all patient GP appointment requests.

Instead of calling at 8.00am to book, patients will complete a medical triage form. From this form the doctor can decide what your next steps are. (Remember for urgent help, call 999. For urgent health concerns call 111.) The triage form should not be used for life threatening emergencies. NHS England requires all GP practices to offer online consultation methods between 8.00am and 6.30pm. The advantages for this new triage system are:

*Avoids the 8.00am scramble to book an appointment
*Avoids the unfairness for patients who couldn't book at 8.00am
*Allows easier access to healthcare professionals.

The triage form will be available for medical queries from 7.00am to 6.30pm, Monday to Friday and 24/7 for administrative queries, e.g requests for prescriptions, sick notes, test results and other non-medical questions. All forms submitted will be reviewed by a GP and actioned within 48 hours, Mon. – Fri.

If you require an interpreter, you can call the practice. If you do not have internet access then ask a family member or friend or call the reception team at your GP practice.

Patients can also be referred internally for: Podiatry, Opticians, Community pharmacy, Local mental health services, Eye casualty and Dentistry.

Contact the Surgery for Nurse appointments (Smear tests, blood tests, annual reviews, immunisations, etc.) and other help that you might need to access services.)



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Upcoming event:
Saturday Heritage Fair
At Leicester Adult Education College
Belvoir Street
Saturday 11th October from 10.00am to 3.00pm
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Come and say hello

Leicester's brilliant Heritage Fair is back for its 5th year. It's completely free for all the family. This fantastic event is bringing together Leicester's heritage community to celebrate the stories of our city. Alongside stalls in Hansom Hall there'll be workshops and talks throughout the day – something for everyone.

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45TH ANNIVERSARY CONGRATULATIONS TO POLESIE



Polesie is a Leicester-based Polish folkloric society which has a base on Wakerley Road in Evington where they rehearse. They have song and dance troupes for adults and children and a band of musicians.

It was founded in 1980 by Ania Krupska, who continues to be the artistic director and choreographer to this day. Ania studied Polish dance choreography in Lublin and Rzeszów in Poland. She has also had the honour of being Artistic Director of the 6th Polish GB Folklore Festival in High Wycombe in 2006 and of the 10th anniversary festival at De Montfort Hall, Leicester in 2018.



In 1985, Polesie's band of musicians, or 'Kapela', was formed by Adam Lewszuk and in recent years has expanded to become one of the largest homegrown musical bands to accompany a UK Polish dance troupe. Polesie also has a children's group, called Miode Polesie.

The cultural society's name derives from the pre-war eastern Polish region of Polesie (pronounced Polish-eye.) which is now a part of Belarus. It is also one of the largest forest areas in Europe. Many émigré Polish families from Polesie settled in the East Midlands following the Second World War.



Performers past and present reunited – filling the vast auditorium at Judgemeadow. The anniversary was celebrated with a repertoire brim-full of jaunty folk tunes with equally energetic musical accompaniment from the house band.

There was not an empty seat at this ticketed event and the predominantly Polish audience of adults and children was interspersed with non-Poles from various backgrounds. In this way, the gathering typified the best of Leicester. This was wholesome family entertainment at its best in an ambience of warmth and conviviality.

What a joy to mingle with performers and their supporters during the interval. It was also the ideal moment to exchange some words with Leicester Lord Mayor Teresa Aldred who, in her speech, praised Polesie for upholding Polish culture amongst the diaspora in Leicester.

The event was co-funded by the Polish Consulate General of the Republic of Poland and the Consul General expressed, in Polish, his great appreciation to the Polesie Rodzina (Polish family). This family comprises the organisers, dancers, singers, musicians, front of house and behind-stage staff, costumiers, stage designers and event publicists. The parents of young dancers were thanked for their support and encouragement of the next generation of Poles who have made Leicester and the East Midlands their home.

May Polesie and the Polish diaspora continue to flourish.

Harkesh Farma

Acknowledgements:

Ania Krupska (consultation)
Julia Krupska (front page design)
Malgorzata Cucko (photography)
Sebastian Checinski (photography)
Matt Short (photography)





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11th October Tesco Ethel Road from 2.00 - 3.00pm. Beat surgery - Special focus Hate Crime

28th October Tesco Downing Drive from 10.00 - 11.00am Beat surgery

3rd November Eden Café, Main Street, Evington 10.00 - 11.00am. Beat surgery

24th November Evington Library 10.00 - 11.00am. Beat surgery

9th December Tesco Downing Drive 11.00am - 12.00noon Beat surgery

21st December Tesco Ethel Road 2.00 - 3.00pm Beat surgery

LITTLE PALACE – 25 YEARS IN EVINGTON VILLAGE

Congratulations to the Little Palace on Main Street who celebrated their 25th anniversary recently; long may it continue. Collin and Iris are 'proud to serve the community'.

The chef's steak with mushrooms and bbq sauce comes recommended. Chunks of beef, lovely soft mushrooms and the bbq sauce tastes absolutely divine. Available with chips for £9.40.

Value for under a fiver: The chips, egg fried rice and curry sauce in a tray is good value for £4.90.

Oo'ar Mi Duck: Roast Duck with pineapple and chips is another highlight; lean, juicy, succulent, tender pieces of duck, chunks of refreshing pineapple with a sweet and sour sauce and a generous amount of chunky, crispy chips for £10.60. An exquisite, melt in your mouth.

Keeping on the pineapple theme what about pineapple fritter for a sweet? (£2.80) Pineapple in a batter covered in a syrup which will melt in your mouth. Tantalise those tastebuds.

All dishes available from Little Palace, 34 Main Street, Evington, Leicester LE5 6DN.

Steve Billingham

ANSAAR

Ansaar (Charity no. 1119290) work with adults with learning difficulties in Leicestershire at their base at 112 Melbourne Road. Leicester. They encourage informal learning through activities that support literacy and numeracy. The activities are designed to develop confidence, promote positive wellbeing and encourage integration in the wider community. Ansaar are also a disabilities confident employer and campaign for people with disabilities to have informed choices.

They deliver the 'Be-Inspired' Project aimed at supporting adults with learning disabilities through activity-based sessions. Their sessions encourage informal learning through activities that promote literacy and numeracy. All their activities are designed to be fun, culturally appropriate and develop confidence, promote positive wellbeing and encourage integration in the wider community. Ansaar facilitates gender specific (male only and female only) sessions that allow adults with learning disabilities to express themselves in a safe, protected and non-judgemental environment.

They are proud to be a Disabilities Confident Employer and to champion the rights of learning disabilities people and carers by campaigning for their rights to have informed choices. If you would like more information on their services or would like to donate to Ansaar please contact 0116 262 1000 or email: office@ansaar.org Website: www.ansaar.org

BBC ONE DIY SOS FROM LEICESTER

Series 33 Episode 1 on Friday 3rd October 8.00pm.

Evington volunteer, Gerry Goode helped and reported back.

See her report at evingtonecho.co.uk under the title above.

Community Sport & Cricket Survey: Black Communities in Leicester



Humberstone Heights and Belgrave Women's Institute are holding two events in October
Both events are at Evington Village Hall LE5 6FE



Fundraising Fashion Show and Shopping Event

on Saturday 18th October 2.00pm onwards

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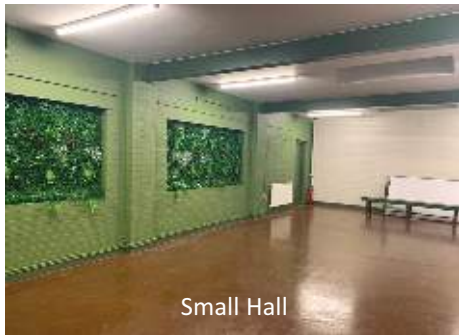
EVINGTON YOUTH CLUB REFURBISHMENT

Community Reporter: Helen Pettman

Following on from the 'Volunteer It Yourself' (VIY) advertisement, which was published in the Evington Echo magazine for August/September, here are some pictures showing the Youth Club now after 2 weeks of refurbishment.



Frontage with new sign



Small Hall

VIY (a Community Interest Organisation) combines volunteering and DIY by challenging young people, aged 16 to 24, to learn a trade and build skills on the job, by helping to fix local youth centres and other community facilities.

Between 4th and 11th August there were two weeks of refurbishment work at

Evington Youth Club and 29 young people were awarded an accreditation during their work experience there. And what a difference this has made!



Sports Hall



Pool Room

The Club's trustees were delighted about this achievement, and all these improvements have been welcomed by the young members, their parents and all the users of the club.

This event was funded by UK Government and supported by City and Guilds, Dulux, Leicester City Council and Leicestershire Police. For regular activities at Evington Youth Club, which offers a safe and fun space for young people to meet and enjoy themselves, go to

www.evingtonyouthclub.com

EVINGTON VILLAGE FETE AND SHOW 2025

Go to the Evington Echo website to see so much of what happened this year. Lots of pictures!



The Best in Show exhibits



The Book Stall at the Fete and Show

We were delighted to welcome the Lord Mayor of Leicester to open the event and to have her with us throughout the afternoon talking with stall holders, visitors, entertainers and giving out the prizes.

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The Bakanalia Morris Dancers

Show entries were up again this year, and it was great to have some scarecrows outside the marquee.

Huge thanks to everyone who made it all happen, to our sponsors for their willingness to back the raffle and tombola, to all our volunteers, be they stewards, ticket sellers, tombola, bookstall, games or serving food.

Our performers put on a great display: Lutterworth Town Band, The Bakanalia Morris Dancers, String Beats and Dave Letts all gave a real excitement to the day. The range of stalls provided plenty of choice and all seemed well pleased with the customer response.

Big thanks to our committee who work so hard in the weeks leading up to the day. And most of all thank you for coming, and if you didn't, then come next year.

Chris Hossack. Chair of Fete Committee

PRESENTATION LIST FOR SHOW PRIZES Section Winners

All section winners receive a certificate and a prize for the most points gained in that section. Sponsors and prizes are organised by the Fete and Show committee. This year the sponsors were:

Bennett's Hardware (Evington) Ltd. The Barber Shop, Evington, The Cedars, Evington, Coles and Sons (nurseries), The Dove, Evington, Evington's of Evington Road, Evington Village Store, Ginns and Gutteridge, Leicester Aero Club, Little Palace take-away, Max Super Saver, Nazar BBQ House, Profile Health and Beauty, Purple Bow cakes, Stretton Karting, The Village Fish Bar, Evington.

Section A: Children aged 8 and under

Winner: Jarvis Brown

Section B: Floral Art

Winner: Margaret Fleming

Section C: Cut Flowers Joint Winners:

Jane E Everson and Julia Thistlethwaite

Section D: Pot Plants (The Gillian Farrow Memorial Cup) Winner: Teresa Angrave

Section E: Fruit – Winner: Margaret Fleming

Section F: Vegetables (The Co-op Horticultural Cup) Winner: Andy Baker

Section G: Bakery (Cllr. O'Brien's Cup) Winner: Nancy Whitehead

Section H: Preserves/Wine (Cllr. Johnson's Cup) Winner: Isabel Berndt

Section J: Art (Cllr. Bajaj's Cup)

Winner: Neil McLaren

Section K: Photography (The Morton Photography Cup) Winner: Kate Evans

Section L: Handicrafts (The Wallets' Handicrafts Cup)

Winner: Margaret Russell

The Barbara Raven Floral Cup for Floral Art and Cut Flowers

Winner: Margaret Fleming

Best in Show:

Winner: Adrienne Chattoe-Brown:

The winners for each section as the Judges' choices were:

Section B: Julia Thistlethwaite

Section C: Samantha Woods

Section D: Jie Liu

Section E: Margaret Fleming

Section F: Liz Siddons

Section G: Nancy Whitehead

Section H: Isabel Berndt

Section J: Dorothy M. Basey

Section K: Kevin O'Shea

The Sheila White Memorial Trophy (most points across all adult sections)

Winner: Margaret Fleming

EVINGTON BOWLS CLUB

Evington Bowls Club raised over £600 for their chosen charity – the British Heart Foundation. On 31st August, the club met for their charity gala where they played bowls and enjoyed a food-to-share tea, raising a little more money through a raffle. The President, David Shepherd, thanked all for their help and commitment in supporting this worthwhile cause.

The next season for Evington Bowls Club starts in April 2026. If you would like to join the club please contact Min on 07815073223. The first three sessions are free and even before that you can come along for free lessons on Mondays to see if Bowls is a game you would like to take up. The club has three qualified coaches



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STORIES FROM WALLS



This picture was taken at September's Evington History and Heritage group and features Trevor Alan and his PowerPoint presentation. Alan is a volunteer with 'Choose How You Move' and an excellent local historian. His talk was about some stories behind blue plaques and other plaques in the Greyfriars area of Leicester.

All members and visitors thoroughly enjoyed this diverse and fascinating talk. Jetta Frazer (1913 – 1995) was the first woman to practise at Leicester bar, which was a remarkable achievement for a Russian/Jewish immigrant in the early 20th Century. Her catch phrase was "A man's reach should exceed his grasp or what's a heaven for?" Alderman Newton (1683 - 1762) and William Wyggeston (1467 – 1536) have statues on the Clock Tower; their stories as benefactors from different centuries were explained in detail.

Trevor Alan was a teacher at Leicester Grammar School for many years. Little did he know then that just a few yards away lay the body of Richard III. His research to disentangle fact from fiction regarding this Plantagenet king was fascinating.

The Whipping Toms' plaque and their orgy

of random violence and mayhem was a very popular annual event in Leicester until barred by Prime Minister Robert Peel, who founded the Police force.

A plaque celebrates the remarkable victory when Leicester City Football team won the Premier League in 2016 at odds of 1 to 5,000.

The next History and Heritage talks at the Parish Centre are on Wednesday 8th October and Wednesday 12th November from 2.30pm to 4.00pm. It's just £3 for visitors and refreshments are included. (See page 15 for more detail.) You will be made most welcome.
Helen Pettman

VJ DAY IN EVINGTON

Remembered on 15th August 2025.

At the War Memorial in Main Street, residents gathered to remember the end of hostilities in the Far East, when Japan surrendered after atomic bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

The organiser and speaker, Cllr. Zuffar Haq, supported by Evington residents, estimated that 25 million people died in the Far East in the Second World War.



At the VJ Day at Evington War Memorial

HAROLD LAWRENCE JOHN MARTIN



Harold Lawrence John Martin from the Royal Artillery was a Lieutenant and Gunner in the A.A. Regiment. He was also a first cousin of local resident, Richard Coombes, who attended the VJ

remembrance event at Evington War Memorial.

Harold's life is commemorated in the Roll of Honour. He became a prisoner of war and was held captive in a prisoner of war (POW) camp in Usapa Belsar in Indonesia. He died at the age of 20, executed by beheading on the orders of Lt. Col. Yutani at Airnona, in the Timor region of Indonesia, around 12th June 1943.

Lt. Col. Yutani was later tried in Darwin, Australia, a Northern territory that faces the Timor Sea. He was found guilty of the murders of Cpt. Armstrong and Gunner Harold Lawrence John Martin. Yutani was sentenced to death by shooting on 29th April 1946. He lost his appeal that he was just following orders.

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HELPING HANDS COMMUNITY TRUST

Helping Hands (Charity no. 1095415) is a local charity for anyone whose life is in crisis.

They provide free, independent, confidential advice from expert staff on Welfare benefits, Debts, Housing, Employment, Family Law, Mental Health support and more.

Advice can be over the phone and/or face to face. The three drop-in centres for advice are at Oadby Trinity Methodist Church, Wigston and South Wigston and their own Centre at 50e Blaby Road, South Wigston, Leicestershire LE18 4SD.

Their chief executive said that they are very happy to support residents living in Evington.

Please note Helping Hands do not go house to house selling goods.

For more information:
Tel 0116 278 2001 (Mon. - Fri. 10.00am - 3.00pm)
www.helpinghandsadvice.co.uk

WHAT A KIND THOUGHT



This is a picture of a cheesecake made for trustees of Friends of Evington by an elderly gentleman, who enjoys reading the Evington Echo

Will they have time to eat it?

MEET YOUR DEDICATED NEIGHBOURHOOD SERGEANT CHRIS HALL (2239)



Hello, I'm Police Sergeant Chris Hall, your Dedicated Neighbourhood Sergeant for both the Evington and North Evington wards—formerly known as Coleman. I've proudly served with Leicestershire

Police since 2005, and I bring a wealth of experience from across the force.

Before taking up this role in March 2024, I spent nine years in specialist operations, following earlier work as a neighbourhood officer in Loughborough and as part of the Priority Team, where I focused on proactive policing and drugs enforcement. Since joining the Evington beat team, I've been truly welcomed by the community, and I'm committed to building strong, visible, and responsive local policing.

One of the key concerns I've identified since taking up post is road safety. In response, I launched Operation Syphon, a targeted initiative to tackle dangerous driving and improve safety across our wards. Today marks the start of our second enforcement phase, and we're determined to make a lasting impact.

I'm passionate about keeping our community informed. If you haven't already, please follow our Facebook page and sign up to Neighbourhood Link, where we share monthly newsletters and updates about our work and local

priorities. (See article on page 7.)

I look forward to meeting many of you at our beat surgeries and ward meetings. Starting with this edition of the Evington Echo, I'll be introducing a different member of our team in each issue - so watch this space! Stay safe.

Sergeant Chris Hall (2239)
Dedicated Neighbourhood Sergeant – Evington & Coleman Ward, Spinney Hill Police Station, Disability Support Network, Executive Committee Member & Neurodiversity Co-ordinator
christopher.hall@leics.police.uk

HOSPITAL CLOSE DEVELOPMENTS

Leicester City Council's plans for Hospital Close are available to view at evingtonecho.co.uk

174 much needed housing units have been empty since 2019, when the University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust said they could no longer afford to keep these homes for nurses maintained. These homes were sold to Leicester City Council in March 2021 for £10.5 million.

The LCC article explains that a few people have now moved into fully redeveloped Council houses refurbished to high environmental standards. Unfortunately Phase 1 will only create 35 Council houses and there are no projections for the cost of Phase 2. There is no guarantee all will be completed in 2027.

Plans are slow to develop. It has been a ghost town for a minimum of 8 years.

Editor's comment: To find the article on the Evington Echo website use the search button – click on a magnifying lens at the top on the right-hand side and type in 'Hospital Close'. A search for 'Leicester General Hospital' gives other recent historical opinions and information.



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EVINGTON CHAPEL
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Welcome to our meetings

Sunday : 11am and 6pm
Wednesday : 7.30pm
Other meetings as announced

www.evingtonchapel.org.uk

For further information contact: 0116 2412087

*"We preach not ourselves,
but Christ Jesus the Lord"*

BUS SERVICES TO AND FROM EVINGTON

Community reporter – Helen Pettman

Residents gathered in Evington Village on 9th September, to support a gathering organised by Cllr. Zuffar Haq to talk about the local bus service to and from Evington.

Barbara said that four buses turned up behind each other when she was catching a bus for her hospital appointment recently. Lesley pointed out that there is no bus shelter on Spencefield Lane, at the top of Welland Vale Road. She also said that the dot metric sign flicks back too often giving a longer time to wait for her bus. Bhanu says her regular early morning bus for 6.42am is always late, turning up at 7.05, so she misses her connection and has to walk to St. Margaret's bus station and then arrives at her school for 7.50am, which doesn't give her enough time to set up.

Sheri has a similar problem to Bhanu with travelling back from work with buses being late and poor connections, and the buses are only hourly back to Evington after 8.00pm. With poor travel options, bus journeys are very long (e.g. to Elizabeth's Medical Centre). Guy said a bus driver wouldn't give change for a £10 note and then spoke bullishly and defensively, and ordered him to get off the bus.

Another complainant said her flexi-ticket had increased from £18 a week to £24.50 a week recently. Mira complained of the difficulties getting back to Evington late at night. She said the 15 bus services is good, so why can't the 22 service be the same?

Yvonne discussed a change with the circular/orbital bus incorporating Evington Village into its route for easier access to the General Hospital and other areas. Perhaps the Circle line/orbital buses and the Hospital Hopper could alternate with every second bus diverting via Evington Village.

Cllr. Zuffar commented that he receives the most complaints from his constituents about buses. He said that he will be focusing on the lack of competition for buses to and from Evington and campaigning for electric buses.



CLLR. ZUFFAR HAQ'S REPORT



The full report written by Cllr Zuffar Haq for October/Nov. 25 is available online at evingtonecho.uk

Cllr. Zuffar Haq is a Liberal Democrat councillor supported by his team, Nitesh Dave and Farida Patel.

He attends Council meeting, and meets constituents at Community ward meetings and monthly surgeries. He can also be seen face to face on Saturday mornings from 11.00am to 12 noon at the Eden café.

He carries out case work and follows up issue with Council departments including the highways department (resurfacing Wicklow Drive and speed humps and resurfacing Coleman Road).

His ongoing projects are as follows; Electric buses in Evington (see Buses article on this page.) Cutting shoots on trees along Spencefield Lane, Messy areas in Evington cleaned, More school places for children with Special Education Needs and Disabilities, a Bike stand on Main Street, Speeding traffic on Church Road and more GP appointments.

He attended Evington Village Fete and thanked the organisers.

He actively supports local schools and tells them about funding opportunities and makes requests for more school governors. He organised VJ day (See article on page 10).

He collects donations of fruit for food banks.

Cllr. Zuffar Haq can be contacted on 07817107022.

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EVINGTON ROAD AREA RESIDENTS PARKING SCHEME

Cllrs. Mohammed, Surti and Sood joined Leicester City Council in 2023 and have been working hard on developing plans to alleviate the complex problems along the lines of "the greatest food for the greatest number".

This has involved much consultation with residents, stakeholders and council departments about Evington Road and the surrounding residential area.

The first and second phases, which have now been concluded, looked at implementing a residents' parking scheme.

Residents in the Evington Road scheme area have now been informed that the scheme will be introduced, and the final stage of the residents' parking scheme will now involve signing, issuing permits, marking parking bays, loading bays and other road markings.

Councillors confirmed that once the work is complete, the council will be considering further measures to improve traffic flow through Evington Road.

It is expected that Evington Road will be closed over two or three consecutive weekends, depending on the weather, from 25th to 26th October, 1st and 2nd November and 8th to 9th November.

Comprehensive traffic management plans and communication plans are being developed to minimise the impact of the works.

Helen Pettman

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NEW DEFIBRILLATOR ON EVINGTON ROAD



On 22nd August, Evington Road Neighbourhood Association and residents met with East Midlands Police, local mayor, local MP, and local councillors for the unveiling of a new defibrillator, which is located outside Pearl Chemist.

Like the year-old defibrillator outside The Cedars on Main Street in Evington Village, this is a great piece of kit for the community to use in case of emergencies.

Friends of Evington took ownership of the

Main Street defibrillator, supported by The Cedars, and Evington Road Neighbourhood Centre took ownership of this defibrillator on Evington Road.

Cllr. Yasmin Surti said, "Community groups taking ownership is fantastic".

This defibrillator on Evington Road was supported by ward funding. To find your nearest defibrillator go to Defibfinder.uk

Photo credit: PCSO Steve Trantom (Leicestershire Police)



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EAST MIDLANDS WRITERS' GROUP

Anyone interested in joining an evening writers' group in Evington Village, please text me your details. John McFadyen. Mobile 07909991974.

WANTED SOFT TOYS

For supporting Saffron Litter Wombles fundraiser. Saffron Litter Wombles help Evington. Tel: Helen Pettman on 07910431044/2204525.

WHAT ARE THE NAMES OF YOUR MP AND COUNCILLORS?

To find your MP, search on the internet 'Find Your MP' and then, enter your postcode. Search 'Find Your Councillor too and follow the links. When you get to Leicester City Council website, you will need to know the name of your ward. Most readers of this magazine will be either in Evington, Stoneygate or North Evington wards.

Ask for help at your local library to find this information if you aren't online.

GOODWOOD EVANGELICAL CHURCH GAMLE ROAD LE5 6TB

Messy Church - first Sunday of the month 4.00pm to 5.30pm. Craft, music, food and friendship within a Christian church.

The Ark for parents, carers and pre-schoolers Wednesdays 9.30am - 11.30am .

For all other meetings contact Stephen Taylor on 079 0294 6004.
www.goodwoodevangelicalchurch.org.uk

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. See advert below.

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

115th Leicester Scout Group

We meet every week on Saturday mornings. We are based at Coleman Neighbourhood Centre LE5 4ES for Beavers 6-8, Cubs 8-10.5, Scouts 10.5 - 14, Explorers 14 - 18.

E-mail: 115thleicesterscouts@gmail.com

www.scouts.org.uk

Instagram: @115leicesterscouts

Evington Youth Club (EYC)

The Common, Evington, LE5 6EA

On Friday evenings from 7.30pm to 8.30pm there are special football sessions open to all young people aged 8 to 14.

On Saturday mornings there are special basketball sessions from 10.30am to 12.30pm that are open to all young people. Also you can join in with chess, pool and table tennis.

See article on page 8 about the Youth Club refurbishments.

Hamilton Air Cadets

Mon. & Thurs. 7.00pm -
9.30pm Tel: 2416559.

Roundhill Tennis Club

Mon. evenings and Sat.
mornings
Tel: 07521 694 241.

Neptune Swimming Club

Tel: 299 5575.

Woodcraft groups in Leicester

cath.brownhome@ntlworld.com

Woodcraft groups are celebrating their
100 years founding anniversary.

Evington House YOGA
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at Mayflower Methodist Church,
Ethel Road, Leicester LE5 5PE

MONDAY - 6.00 - 7.00pm With Manjula (Ladies only)
WEDNESDAY - 6.00 - 7.00pm With Manjula (Ladies only)

Manjula on 07448 732696, email: manjula.cedrayoga@gmail.com

BEAVERS

Using your imagination starts on a Wednesday night.

We're Scouts and everyone's welcome here. Every week, 19th Leicester (Evington) Scout Group is part of giving almost half a million young people the skills they need to thrive.

We have spaces for young people aged 6 - 8 years to join our Beaver Colony, running every Wednesday night during term time.

Come and join the fun!
Visit: www.evingtonscouts.org.uk
T: 0116 2209017
Search 'Evington Scouts' on Facebook.

scouts.org.uk/join
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Scouts
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Contact Nicola via email
nicfb123@hotmail.co.uk
Free taster class available

MEETINGS AT EVINGTON VILLAGE HALL LE5 6FA

Attitude 4 Dance

Dance classes for children aged 3 upwards and an adult, ladies only, tap class. All based at Evington Village Hall. For more information contact Nicola on nicfb123@hotmail.co.uk

Evington Garden Club

Meetings are on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at Evington Village Hall from 2.30pm. As usual, visitors are welcome. Further information tel: Merrick on 2705950.

21st Oct. A seasonal talk by Mark Goddard.
18th Nov. Great British Gardens - a talk by Jeff Bates.
16th Dec. Christmas meeting and a talk by Caroline Roberts. See article on page 5.

Silver Swans Ballet Classes

Sessions are held on Thursday morning from 9.15am through to 12.45pm. For more information about joining a class, please contact Vanessa 07765 407323. nelliebeeswans@gmail.com www.nelliebeeballet.co.uk

Fun , Fitness and Zumba Dance Exercises

Move to music with Jyoti Patel. Every Monday 6.30pm to 7.30pm. £3.00 a session. A Friends of Evington supported event.

Women's Institute

Humberstone Heights and Belgrave WI. Meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of the month from 2.00pm to 4.00pm at Evington Village Hall. Also see special events advertised on page 7.

You are welcome to come along! For more information about joining contact Barbara Garlick on 07713804407.

EXTRA SPECIAL EVENTS IN EVINGTON

Remembrance Day

Tuesday 11th November at 11.00pm. Evington War Memorial. Lest We Forget.

Diwali Day

Sunday 23rd November
Evington Village Hall. LE5 6DN.
5.00pm - 7.00pm
Booking essential. See advert on page 6.

Diwali Special Laughter Show

Stand up comedy with Dr. Avani Vyas Rajkot and Jitendra Kumar.
Friday 10th October 7.00pm to 10.00pm.
Avanti Fields School, Spencefield Lane, Leicester LE5 OBX.
Tickets £10 and £15 from Heten Tejura on 07500061977.

Enchanted Diwali Tree

Children take centre stage in this heart-warming play.
Sunday 19th October 2.30pm for 3.00pm start.
Allocated seats £5 each.
The Peepul Centre Orchardson Ave. LE4 6DP.
Tel 261 6000.

Visit the Evington Echo website at evingtonecho.uk

MEETINGS AT ST. DENYS PARISH CENTRE LE5 6FA

Monday Meet on the 1st and 3rd Mondays in the month 2.00pm to 4.00pm. Tea and chat.

Lily House Bereavement Support.

Tuesday evenings from 7.30pm to 9.30pm. For more information contact 2739714. Please leave your name and phone number and your call will be returned.

Lunch Club on Wednesdays at the Parish Centre. Please Tel: 07910431044 for more information.

Gentle Exercise Group meet weekly on Thursdays from 10.30am to 11.30am. Tel: 07910431044.

EVINGTON LOCAL HISTORY AND HERITAGE GROUP

Venue: St. Denys Parish Centre

Meetings are on the 2nd Wednesday in the month from 2.30pm to 4.00pm. £3.00 a session for visitors, includes coffee and tea. £20 a year for members.

Wednesday 8th October at 2.30pm. Neil Strange : The Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Wednesday 12th November at 2.30pm. Chris Huscroft : Wigston Framework Knitters Museum and Garden.

Wednesday 10th December at 2.30pm
Members afternoon : Your contributions please on some aspect of local history.

GENTLE EXERCISE GROUP

Venue: St. Denys Parish Centre.
Meet weekly on Thursdays from 10.30am to 11.30am. Tel: 07910431044.

Evington House Yoga

at Mayflower Methodist Church, Ethel Road, LE5 5ND

Mondays 6.00 - 7.00pm with Manjula (Ladies).
Wednesday 6.00 - 7.00pm (Ladies). See advert opposite.
Tel: Manjula on 07448 732696.

Bhangra Classes

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

Nordic Walking

Walking using these long poles is a great way to improve your mental and physical wellbeing.

ministryofnordicwalks@gmail.com or phone Penny on 0750 2 57 6764.

Crown Hills Art Society

45 Annual Exhibition 2025
25th Oct. and 26th Oct. 10.30am - 4.00pm
at Crown Hills Community College LE5 5FT.
Use Gwendolen Road entrance. Free parking.

Scraptoft Players

At The White House Thurnby. Amateur dramatics group looking for more adult members. Rehearsals Thursday evening and some Sunday afternoons. Not for profit and donating to charity.
Contact Jude on 07946 414982.

MEETINGS AT EDEN CAFE LE5 6DN

EDEN'S KNIT AND NATTER GROUP

Tuesdays 12.00 noon at the Eden Café Bar, Main Street. Tel: Barbara on 077 138 04407.

EVINGTON FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

Meetings are at the Eden Café Bar, 11 Main Street, every Wednesday 10.00am to 12.00 noon. Tel: Barbara on 077 138 04407.

THE CEDARS LE5 6DN

Rummikub Club

Monday morning 11.00am. Rummikub is a board game. £1.50 includes a tea or coffee and a biscuit.

Evington Social Club

Every Wednesday from 11.00am to 1.00pm at The Cedars, Main Street, Evington. £1.50 with tea, coffee, biscuits provided. Tel: Renuka on 07514 202579.

Evington Scrabble Group

Every Thursday from 11.00am to 1.00pm at The Cedars, Main Street, Evington. £1.50 with tea, coffee, biscuits provided. Tel: Lesly on 2419096.

St Denys Church LE5 6FA

Every Thursday at 10.00am Holy Communion with homily (Book of Common Prayer) or Morning Prayer followed by refreshments

Sunday 5th Oct. 4.00pm Holy Communion St. Denys Day with Bishop Martyn

Sunday 12th Oct. Harvest Festival and licensing of Lay Ministers, with Bishop Christopher Boyle followed by bring and share lunch

Sunday 9th Nov. 10.45am. Remembrance Day service at Evington War Memorial followed by parade to church for special service and refreshments in the parish centre.

Sunday 16th Nov. Evensong

Christmas Wreath Making Workshops



Venue: St Denys Parish Centre, Evington LE5 6FA

Dates: Saturday 22nd November 10.30 to 12.30pm

Tuesday 25th November 1.30 to 3.30pm

Wednesday 26th November 2.15 to 4.15pm

Wednesday 26th November 6.00 to 8.00pm

Cost: £17 — All materials provided except gloves

If you wish to bring extra materials, e.g. Christmas baubles, berries, fairy lights, please do so.

This workshop is run by Peter Felstead of Leicester City Council. The workshop used to be held in Evington House.

Contact: Peter Felstead 07305 887989
petefel@hotmail.co.uk

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