



Evington Echo

EvingtonEcho.uk

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Keeping you up to date with Evington's news

The newspaper of Friends of Evington Charity No. 1205219

THE FRUSTRATION OF LITTER



*In the very first edition of the Evington Echo (June 1981),
Jennie Morrey captured the problem of litter perfectly with this poem.*



*Community volunteers continue working hard to keep Evington clean
but the message first published in 1981 remains just as relevant today.*

Somewhere there lurks a litter lout.
That leaves a trail when it's about.
Day and night it creeps around
Evington without a sound,
And instead of using litter-bins,
Throws chip-trays, bottles and soft drink tins,
Into hedges, shrubs and trees;
Each place it thinks that no-one sees;
Spits bubble-gum where'er it moves
For us to walk home on your shoes.

When cartons, crisp-bags, wrappers and foil,
Our pavements, drives and gardens spoil,
We daily sweep, have paper-chases,
Clear rubbish from dark hiding places,
And wish that those who pass this way
For shopping, swimming, school or play,
While walking through this pleasant village
Would kindly not deface our image.
Please let us live quite litter-free,
With everyone in harmony.



Continues on page 6 with how you can help and comparisons with France and Japan.

Designed by Jason Chauhan

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The Echo Team

Helen Pettman - Editor 2204525

Mobile 07910431044

Nilesh Chauhan - Treasurer

Jason Chauhan - Graphics

Reporters/Contributors - See names with articles

Chris Hossack - Distribution lead 2415153

Harry Pettman - Distribution 2204525

Ben Sherriff - Distribution 2739709

Julia Hughes and Addy Tyler - Proof readers

Website: evingtonecho.co.uk

Email: evingtonecho@gmail.com

Facebook: [evington echo](https://www.facebook.com/evingtonecho)

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Feb./Mar. '27	15th Jan. '27	5th Feb. '27

Editorial

This edition of the Evington Echo asks you to read - and act on - articles that could shape our community for years to come. While national and international stories can leave us feeling powerless, local decisions affect our daily lives: our countryside, our services, our safety, and the spaces where we meet and speak up.

Please start with 'A Community that stands together can change its future - Stop the destruction of our countryside.' Then join the volunteers and supporters discussions and meet-ups. Read 'Evington Library and beyond - staffing cuts' and consider what you can do. We also cover Church Road safety, how police are seeking your priorities, and on page 15 a full list of local groups and events.

Helen Pettman

EVINGTON GARDEN CLUB

Evington Garden Club was founded over forty years ago, when a group of local gardeners began meeting to share their interest through guest talks and visits to gardens across the country.

The club meets ten times a year - every month except June and July-on the third Tuesday of the month.

A range of guest speakers is invited to cover different gardening topics. Recent and upcoming talks include Pete the Beeman (March 2026), and a talk on Calke Abbey, scheduled for August.

The club also organises trips. A recent visit to Kelmars House, Northamptonshire, was particularly enjoyed by members, who loved exploring its extensive gardens.

Visitors are always welcome, and members say it's a pleasure to catch up with local friends and enjoy an interesting gardening talk each month. For August and September talks see page 15.

Ariana Ali



This double rainbow photo (at 8.02am on Wednesday 3rd June, 2026) was taken by Tonia, who runs the Little Palace Chinese Restaurant in Main Street, Evington Village.

Evington Village Fete and Show

Saturday 8th August

Open 12noon - 5.00pm

Held on the Village Green
Church Road Evington Leicester LE5 6FA

This year the fete, taking place on the Village Green, will be opened by Leicester's Lord Mayor, Kulwinder Singh Johal at 12.15pm on Saturday 8th August. New this year is the Titanic Jazz Band, along with favourites Bakanalia Border Morris Dancers, Lutterworth Town Band, Silver Swans ballet dancers, Kinder falconry, face painting, the beekeeper; Insecta Collective will be doing print making this year, along with the many stalls both on the Green and in the marquee, together with the fete bookshop, tombola and raffle.

The show will be open as soon as the judging is completed with so many different classes this year. Refreshments will be available in both the Village Hall and the St Denys Parish Centre. In the church both the Crown Hills Art Society and the Calligraphy Group will have displays. The Baptist Chapel will be open to visitors as usual. Something for all the family, so I look forward to seeing you there and bring your friends too.

Chris Hossack. Chair of Fete & Show committee.

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EVINGTON ECHO DISTRIBUTION

Many thanks to volunteers who helped fill some walking rounds in the last issue. We still have four rounds to fill and wondered if you could help. A round of 100 houses takes approximately 90 minutes and it's only every 2 months. It's walking with a purpose.

If you can help with any of the rounds advertised below, please contact Chris Hossack on 2415153.

1. Oakhampton Avenue and part of Tavistock Road (65 copies)
2. Goodwood Crescent, Gamel Road, Gamel Walk and Goodwood maisonettes (106 copies)
3. Uppingham Close and part of Uppingham Road (39 copies)
4. A round of 129 copies for Haywood Close, Ellwood Close, Woodborough Road, Bracken Close and Hazelnut Close.



Many thanks to Evington ward councillors for agreeing the funding for this new bench on Evington's war memorial site. The old bench was made of wood and has decayed. Installation should be some time in August. Park Services have agreed to install it. This was a Friends of Evington application.

FRIENDS OF THE EARTH (LEICESTER)

If you enjoy seeing bees and other pollinators in our parks and gardens, you may want to pop along to the **Bee Picnic in Knighton Park on Saturday 15 August, 12 noon–2.00pm** (see advert below). Leicester Friends of the Earth has many members from Evington and says the event is a friendly way to meet local people while highlighting why pollinators matter.

Friends of the Earth is a national organisation, but the Leicester group is particularly active locally. Some supporters join the national organisation and then affiliate to the local group; others join the local group directly. The group is currently working on two main areas: Planet over Profit and a Pesticides Campaign.

The Planet over Profit campaign focuses on the idea that everyday purchases should not come at the expense of people or the environment.

Support from local MPs is seen as key. Shockat Adam, MP for Leicester South, said: **"Our shopping baskets should never carry the weight of human exploitation or environmental harm."** He added that he will be championing the local group's campaign in Parliament, pushing for action that puts the planet over profit, and backing calls for a new Business, Human Rights and Environment Act.

Hannah Wakley (Leicester Friends of the Earth, and an Evington resident) said: **"Most people do not want to buy something that is causing harm to any country, but consumers cannot trace what damage has been done in a supply chain."** She and her team have written to local MPs explaining why they believe clearer rules would help responsible businesses and give consumers greater confidence about what they are buying.

The group's pesticides campaign is also stepping up locally. Leicester Friends of the Earth will be asking councillors to sign a pledge not to use pesticides in their own gardens, and to encourage Leicester City Council to reduce pesticide use in public spaces. The group says a precautionary approach is particularly important where there are ongoing concerns about the health and environmental impacts of some commonly used chemicals. Members are also updating their display boards for use at events and in the community. For more information speak to group members at the Bee Picnic.

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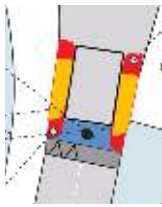
BEE PICNIC

Knighton Park
(meet near the children's play area)
Palmerston Way, Leicester, LE2 3RQ

Bring your picnic and join Leicester Friends of the Earth to celebrate the bees!

Dress in yellow and black/brown if you can - well, be creating a dancing bees video for our campaigning. There will also be a children's craft activity.

CHURCH ROAD CHICANE PLANS ON HOLD



Plans for a priority chicane on Church Road in Evington have been put on hold after it was found the scheme would require relocating a telegraph pole, adding significant cost. The delay has led

local residents to ask Leicester City Council to explore alternative measures - most notably a zebra crossing - and to review safety at nearby junctions where people say visibility and driver behaviour are creating risks.

A key concern is the mini roundabout linking Shady Lane, Church Road and Stoughton Lane near St Denys Church. One resident of Stoughton Lane, living in the area for 17 years, says the junction has become increasingly difficult to use at busy times and describes near-misses. They report that some vehicles approaching from Shady Lane do not always slow enough to check for traffic coming from Stoughton Lane.

Residents also say drivers exiting Stoughton Lane can struggle with limited sight lines, because traffic on Church Road can be hard to see around the bend. They are requesting changes that improve visibility and make decisions at the roundabout safer.

The existing speed hump on Church Road has also been questioned. Local feedback suggests some drivers brake for the hump and then accelerate toward the mini roundabout, potentially increasing risk on the approach. Residents are asking the council to reassess whether the hump is in the right place and whether it is achieving the intended effect.

Practical layout and maintenance issues have been raised too. Turning left from Stoughton Lane is described as tight, with suggestions for kerb or verge adjustments to improve turning space and reduce conflict with oncoming traffic. Further along Church Road toward Rectory Gardens, residents say overgrown hedges and narrow road sections reduce visibility and make it harder for vehicles to pass safely.

With the chicane delayed, some residents propose a zebra crossing on Church Road as a deliverable alternative that would not require moving the telegraph pole. Supporters argue it would provide a clear crossing point on a busy walking route used by families, older residents and shoppers accessing Evington Village, while also encouraging lower speeds. Residents also want longer-term planning to keep pace with increased traffic pressures and nearby development.

Helen Pettman



Lewis Williamson (the son of Lee Williamson, who advertised his carpentry business in the Evington Echo for nearly 30 years), has now rebranded his dad's business. He is taking on all aspects of carpentry and joinery work now.

Contact him on 07728800577.
Lewis.williamson2@outlook.com

A SHOP UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT IN EVINGTON VILLAGE

The shop next to the dry cleaners on Main Street, Evington, is under new management.

Ahmed Azizi and Namatual Niazi have bought the business and opened on 16 June 2026. They plan to develop Evington Store into a small supermarket specialising in fresh fruit and vegetables, with plans to introduce a meat counter in the near future, alongside other everyday essentials.

The new owners say their focus will be on providing good-quality produce for the local community. Ahmed visits the market daily to source fresh fruit and vegetables, and hopes the planned meat offering will help fill a gap.

Ahmed, who previously worked as a farmer in Afghanistan, came to the UK two years ago, seeking safety and a chance to rebuild his life. He said that when he arrived, his aim was to work hard and contribute positively.



Pictured here Ahmed stands with some of the fresh fruit now available in the shop. "I want to concentrate on healthy food," he said. "I am really happy to be here in Evington."

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POLICE REPORT

Neighbourhood Watch

To join Neighbourhood Link alerts in Evington or North Evington, do the following:

Go Online to:

www.neighbourhoodlink.co.uk

Enter your Postcode, select your address, choose your preferences.

Joining Neighbourhood Link is an excellent idea because it provides free, targeted email alerts directly from your local Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland policing teams. It keeps you informed and also allows you to help shape local policing by answering feedback surveys.

Police Priorities for Evington and North Evington are:

Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) and Vaping: Officers conduct regular patrols around ASB hotspots and partner with licensing agencies to ensure local shops are not selling vapes to minors or breaching alcohol conditions.

Road Safety Operations: The team launched and continues to enforce Operation Syphon, an initiative addressing dangerous, inconsiderate parking and junction blocking around local schools during pick-up and drop-off times.

Community Engagement: To bridge the gap between law enforcement and residents, the beat team is actively distributing surveys, utilizing social media, and holding community drop-in sessions.

This is done through targeted patrols, beat surgeries and community patch walks and Neighbourhood links.

On the Evington and North Evington team are:



Charles Edwards,
Inspector



Chris Hall,
Police Sergeant



Mohammed Makda,
Police Constable



Jay Darbar,
Police Constable



Martyn Goodey,
PCSO



Jigneshkumar
Arichandra,
PCSO



Mo Meerun
PCSO

Upcoming Police Beat Surgeries for North Evington and Evington

2:00pm - 3:00pm, Thu 06 August 2026
Tesco Downing Drive Leicester

5:00pm - 6:00pm, Sat 29 August 2026
Tesco Ethel Road Leicester

11:00am - 12:00pm, Wed 02 September
2026 Evington Library Evington Lane

10:00am - 11:00am, Sat 26 September
2026 Eden Cafe Main Street Evington

Police surgeries allow residents to discuss safety concerns, get crime prevention advice, and meet local officers in an informal setting.

IT'S YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD JUDGING

On 21 July, we were delighted to welcome Liz Alun-Jones, an It's Your Neighbourhood (IYN) judge from East Midlands in Bloom - the volunteer-run regional organisation affiliated to the Royal Horticultural Society - to Evington. Her visit focused on the many IYN projects and entries across our area.

Liz began the day at the IYN project at Wycliffe United Reformed Church. In the afternoon, she took a walk along Main Street, from the Library to the Marydene Road junction, enjoying the colourful containers and well-tended gardens that local residents work hard to maintain.

While Evington Village has seen some recent changes - and many of us have felt the loss of valued services and shops, including the doctors' surgery, pharmacy and post office, and more recently the cake shop and Profile Health and Beauty - there is still a great deal to celebrate.

Evington remains a welcoming conservation area with a rich history as a former Anglo-Saxon village, and it is surrounded by much-loved green spaces including Evington Park, the Arboretum and Evington Village Green.

Some other IYN groups in and around Evington will be judged in August. The important aspect of this judging is to get an independent report about what we are doing well and what can be improved.



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LITTER ISN'T ONLY AN EVINGTON PROBLEM

It's an issue across Britain—particularly where there are busy walking routes, takeaways, bus stops, parking areas and 'edge spaces' such as verges and hedgerows.

Evington is relatively lucky compared with some other parts of the city, because we have several active volunteer groups who both clean and green: the South Leicestershire Litter Wombles, Rango's Wombling Walkies, and the litter pickers associated with local IYN (It's Your Neighbourhood) groups as well as many committed individual litter-pickers, and other volunteers. Their message is simple and practical: 'Action counts.' The difference these volunteers make is widely recognised - one Leicester City Council employee said they genuinely don't know what they would do without this help.

The City Council also provides support to people who register as litter pickers

and become a Litter Champion for their area. If you would like to do this, you can apply via the Leicester City Council Volunteering Portal, or email lev@leicester.gov.uk. If you live in Leicestershire, there is a similar scheme.

SO HOW DO OTHER COUNTRIES MANAGE LITTER?

Different countries tackle litter with different mixes of enforcement, public expectation, and practical systems.

France: tougher rules, bigger systems

France has strengthened its approach through both penalties and system-wide waste policy. Official guidance explains that leaving waste in the wrong place or not respecting collection rules can result in a fixed fine of €68 (reduced if paid quickly, increased later), and potentially higher penalties if escalated. (service-public.gouv.fr)

Alongside enforcement, France's wider strategy has been shaped by the Anti-Waste and Circular Economy Law (AGEC), adopted in February 2020, which expands "polluter pays" thinking and extends producer responsibility - the idea that companies should help fund and organise what happens to products and packaging once consumers are finished with them. (iea.org) In plain terms, the public message is: litter and waste are not just an individual problem; they are also a design, packaging and system problem.

What this suggests for us: enforcement matters, but so does reducing the amount of "instant litter" created by packaging in the first place.

Japan: social norms, local rules, and shared responsibility

Japan is often cited for how clean many public spaces feel, but that cleanliness isn't simply down to lots of street bins. In many places, public bins are limited, and people are expected to take rubbish home, plan ahead, and sort waste carefully. (weforum.org)

Japan also uses a combination of local ordinances and clear public rules. For example, Tokyo's Chiyoda Ward has long prohibited street smoking and cigarette-

butt littering, and historically backed this with enforcement (including fines) in designated areas. (japantimes.co.jp) At a national level, Japan's legal framework includes provisions aimed at preventing public places from being soiled and puts responsibility on both individuals and site managers to keep areas clean. (env.go.jp)

What this suggests for us: the cleanest places are usually those where the shared expectation is clear - everyone is responsible, and 'someone else will deal with it' is not the default attitude.

BRINGING IT BACK TO ETHEL ROAD

Volunteer litter picking is not 'just' about removing rubbish. It is about pride, prevention, and making it harder for litter to become normal. France shows the value of clearer penalties and producer responsibility; Japan shows what happens when social norms strongly favour taking responsibility for your own waste.

But here in Evington, the lesson is still the same as it was in 1981. If we want a pleasant village, we have to protect it—through sensible systems, visible consequences for littering, and the kind of practical community action that already happens every where.



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THE WOMAN'S KHIDMAH UNITY DAY AND GAMES

SATURDAY 11 JULY, CROWN HILLS
COMMUNITY COLLEGE FIELD AREA

Crown Hills Community College's field area was a hive of activity and welcomed a huge crowd - more than 10,000 people over the course of the day. With 85 shopping stalls and a packed programme of activities, there was something for every age group, from sport and pottery painting to arts and crafts, bouncy castles and a wide range of community information stands and shopping stalls.

Now firmly established as a highlight of Leicester's summer calendar, the event has been running since 1999. It is designed as an inclusive day out for women and families: fun, welcoming and affordable. That spirit came through clearly throughout the day. Young children attending with mothers or guardians had four different free bouncy castles to choose from, alongside creative activities that kept little hands busy.

A large covered area drew a steady stream of families interested in Leicester libraries' summer programme, Read to the Beat, running until 13 September. The schedule includes free and low-cost events across the city's libraries, mixing music, dance and storytelling. It proved a valuable chance for parents and children to find out what's on offer and learn more about joining the library.

Among the many stands, one particularly inspiring stall was run by a 25-year-old woman who has never walked. She spoke passionately about the ways disabled people can find potential, purpose and joy - challenging the assumptions that too often accompany the label 'disability'. Visitors strolling through the aisles could

EVINGTON LIBRARY CUTS TO STAFF

Staff at Evington Library are informing residents that there are to be cuts to staffed opening times starting this Autumn. Here is the information.

August 2026 Opening hours:

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sum
10.00am-6.30pm	10.00am-6.30pm	10.00am-6.30pm	10.00am-6.30pm	10.00am-6.30pm	10.00am-4.00pm	Closed

From sometime in September - Autumn Opening hours

Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sum
10.00am-2.00pm	10.00am-6.00pm	2.00pm-5.00pm	10.00am-5.00pm	Closed	1.00pm - 4.00pm	Closed

To read more about the new Autumn opening hours go to a fuller article on the Evington Echo website at evingtonecho.uk.



browse colourful clothing, crafts and homeware, and sample new food and drink while chatting with stallholders - some of whom had travelled from as far as Birmingham and Manchester. As one event leader put it: "This all promotes Leicester as a good place to come to."

The morning featured the ever-popular 'Olympic' games, with local schools invited to enter relay teams across four age groups. Traditional favourites such as the egg-and-spoon race brought plenty of laughter, followed by presentations and prizes.

Behind the scenes, volunteers played a vital role as hostesses-supporting welfare, helping visitors navigate the site and ensuring no one felt lost or overwhelmed.



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STOP THE DESTRUCTION OF OUR COUNTRYSIDE

A COMMUNITY THAT STANDS TOGETHER CAN CHANGE ITS FUTURE!



That was the main theme of Dr. Henri Winand's presentation at Evington Village Hall on Saturday 11th July 2026. An audience of 35 listened as Dr. Winand outlined the plans for 4,000 new homes south of Gartree Road.

He went into some detail pointing out that despite the glossy brochure produced, the plans have major flaws.

The Brochure

Firstly the brochure has a credible spatial strategy to improve the road network, to achieve specific goals such as sustainable development, efficient resource use, improved quality of life, land use management, and coordinated infrastructure projects. But ...

The Plan Fails

The plan fails because there is no credible spatial strategy. It does not address public transport routes, and housing developments to maximize accessibility, reduce congestion, and enhance environmental quality. Specifically, the plan has little or no reference to improving the wider road networks other than some very minor tinkering at the edges such as improving a roundabout here and there or putting traffic lights and traffic calming measures in place.

The Ring Road

Developments to the Southeast of Leicester City were largely dependent upon the advancement of an Eastern bypass linking the A47 and the A6. This is now proving too costly and is currently not in any long term local or national budgets. Thus, road congestion will be increasing causing longer traffic queues, frustration and time wasted in traffic jams.

Demand for house sales

Dr. Winand pointed out that although the developers were promising new jobs through the building of three new schools, a new bus service and GP services, these are not due for delivery until demand through house sales reaches a critical capacity. He warned that these developments can also be downgraded

should the financial circumstances of the developers change.

Major impact

He went on to point out that there are no major employers in the vicinity which means minimal local employment and people having to commute to work. He referenced the wider building development plans likely to be put forward that mirror the Penbury New Town plans that were previously dismissed. These would have a major impact on our area and might lead to further development along the M1 corridor.

Development proposals in the wrong place

He argued that the developments along the eastern edge of Leicester were in entirely the wrong place and that locations such as Loughborough, Coalville, Hinckley, Lutterworth, Market Harborough and Melton Mowbray were more suited to development given their already established industry and communication networks.

Can you help?

Dr. Winand urged the audience to join **Stop the New Town**, inform others of the potential situation and to support the employment of a barrister to represent residents at the Planning Inspectors hearing through donations which can be made on-line or by post. Stop the New Town have a website which can be accessed here <https://stopthenewtown.org/>

Source:

<https://stopthenewtown.org/>

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FRIENDS OF EVINGTON - VOLUNTEERS AND SUPPORTERS

Please join the WhatsApp group or groups that are right for you

Following the request on the front cover of the June/July Evington Echo, we invited volunteers and supporters of Friends of Evington to get in touch and join us for lunch at the Village Hall on Saturday 4th July.



It was lovely to meet so many of you, share what we do, and explain where we most need help - both with the day-to-day administration of the charity and with the community projects we support and run. A huge thank you to everyone who helped set up and prepared such a fabulous lunch.

As a follow on, to help us stay in touch more easily, and not exclude others who couldn't make the lunch meeting, we're setting up a few WhatsApp groups for the various aspects of Friends of Evington's work so that people can get involved and discuss the projects together - these groups will help us share updates, ideas and requests for help as our plans develop in the different areas.

The four WhatsApp groups are as follows:

Please join the WhatsApp group or groups that are right for you

FOE Environmental (Gardening & local environment)

For anyone interested in gardening in the local area and being part of a friendly group to help plan what we do next. Some infrastructure is already in place, and we'd love more people to join in. Scan this code to register on this line. You can also write to friendsofevington1@gmail.com or phone 07910431044.



FOE Supporters and Volunteers

For general Friends of Evington updates and for people who want to be kept in touch and discuss generally, scan this code to register.



Evington Echo Reporters (Magazine, website & reporting meet-ups)

For anyone interested in being a reporter

in Leicester and/or part of the Evington Echo reporting team - writing articles and short reports, taking photos and also join regular meet ups. (See advert on page 14)



Evington Echo Distributors (Delivery team)

For updates about delivering the Evington Echo to residents, and coordinating distribution rounds please use this code.



This article is also on the Evington Echo website, where you can click on a link and join groups that way.

Thank you again for all your support - we're really looking forward to keeping in touch and working together for Evington.

Rob Watson



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SHARA MULLA 29 DECEMBER 1958 – 17 JULY 2024



Shara Mulla's early death was devastating to all who knew her - friends, colleagues, children and grandchildren - but especially to her husband, Mohamed Mulla, who said she was his essential

support and that he does not know how he will cope without her.

Shara came from humble beginnings, yet her achievements were many. She raised four children - three of whom went on to become doctors and the fourth a scientist - and she built a working life spanning 28 years, touching the lives of countless people through her care, kindness and quiet determination.

Shara worked as an administrator at Linden Primary School for 17 years (1997–2024), serving under four headteachers: Mrs Abbott, Mrs Ferdinand, Mr Mohamed and Mr Taylor. During her time at Linden she progressed from Office Secretary, to Office Manager, and finally Business Manager. In every role she was highly organised, consistently positive, and generous with her time and knowledge. Among her many contributions, Shara helped to establish a family room at Linden and set up - and continued to support - the Mums and Toddlers group.

On 20 May a memorial celebration was held for Shara at Linden Primary School, during which her family donated a bench

and the school created a rose garden in her memory. Friends, colleagues and family gathered to mark her life and to honour the lasting impact she had on the school community.



Pictured above: (1) Shara's husband and granddaughter are completing planting the rose garden in memory of Shara and (2) the memorial bench for Shara.

Mohamed was deeply proud of Shara - not only for the family she raised, but for her own professional achievements and the way she cared for others: with love, patience, hard work, competence, and a gift for listening and offering thoughtful advice. Shara was a truly special person, and she will be greatly missed.

Shara leaves her husband Mohamed, her children Feroza, Adam, Ebrahim and Yasmeen, and six grandchildren.

THE EVINGTON FAMILY HERITAGE GROUP

The Evington Family Heritage Group meets every Wednesday at Eden Café Bar. The group began almost a decade ago at St Denys Parish Centre, founded by someone with a strong interest in family history.

The group originally had around 15 members, but as numbers reduced to five, the meetings moved to Eden Café Bar. New members are always welcome.

During sessions, members typically use Find My Past or Ancestry to research their family trees, starting with themselves and working back as far as possible. The discoveries can be fascinating - for example, Barbara learned that her grandmother was born in India.

It's an enjoyable and absorbing hobby. Please bring your own device (laptop or tablet preferred).

Time: 10.00am-12.00 noon
Contact: Barbara on 07713804407.

Ariana Ali

RECIPE FROM FREE VIEW FOOD CHANNEL 43

Hairy Bikers on Tour U.S.A.

Milk Shake 1950s Diner

Tinned peaches and the juice go into a kitchen blender.
Give a whizz around.
Add 4 teaspoons of malt ovaltine
Give a whizz around.
Add 4x white ice-cream scoops.
Give a whizz around.
Serve in a tall glass or glasses.

A MARATHON FOR SURESH



Suresh Mistry, an Evington Village resident, successfully completed the Macmillan's Cancer Support Marathon Mighty Hike. (26.2 miles). He raised in excess of £1,300. Well done Suresh.

Evington House Yoga
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THE NORDIC WALKING GROUP

The Nordic Walking Group was founded ten years ago after its leader, Penny Fielden, successfully applied for a grant to buy poles and train as a Nordic Walking Instructor.

Penny first introduced Nordic walking through sessions in South Wigston and by leading voluntary walks around Evington Park. As more walkers tried it and enjoyed it, an official group was established in South Wigston. With growing interest, members soon asked for Nordic walking sessions to be offered in Evington too - - and the group expanded.

Nordic walking uses two poles to support a specific technique. Unlike trekking, where poles are planted in front, Nordic walking involves driving the arms from behind. This encourages a quicker pace, a longer stride and a full-body workout - often described as engaging up to 90% of the body. The activity originated in Finland, where cross-country skiers used poles for off-season training. It later developed into a structured practice, supported by purpose-designed poles with rubber tips.

Today, the community group is supported by several trained leaders and offers five bookable routes each week across Leicestershire. Walks take place in a range of areas including Oadby and Wigston, Blaby, Harborough, Leicester city, and Hinckley and Bosworth.

Penny describes the group as "a very sociable way to exercise", combining gentle fitness with fresh air and time in nature. Walkers must be aged 18 or over. Because most sessions run on weekdays between around 9am and 5pm, the group tends to attract an older membership - though new walkers are always welcome.

The group has also supported charitable fundraising, including a Covid-era challenge that raised money for the British Legion, with teams logging miles to 'walk' the length of the Normandy beaches. During lockdowns, members stayed connected through Zoom social meet-ups.

To find out more, contact Penny Fielden at ministryofnordicwalks@gmail.com.
Ariana Ali

CHINESE FOOD REVIEW

Shrimp Omelette

There is a generous amount of shrimps in the omelette. Served with chips and peas for £7.50 from the Little Palace takeaway on Main Street.

Roast Pork Omelette

Served with chips and peas for £5.90. A great value for money dish and only available in the Happy Kitchen on Downing Drive but the peas are within the

omelette.

Although pricier, the Little Palace dish has a more generous helping of chips and peas with the omelette. Both gaffs are quality. Little Palace just do bamboo shoots so if you want bamboo shoots and water chestnuts you'll have to go to the Happy Kitchen.

What happened to the water chestnuts and are there any plans to bring them back? They were phased out during covid by the previous owners.' 'Some people had an allergy apparently to the water chestnuts.' 'No plans to bring them back at the moment,' said Tonia from the Little Palace.

The Dove pub on Downing Drive do a nice scampi and lemon crisp/snack for £1.75 by the way.

Steve Billingham



This picture shows members of the local Women's Institute who meet monthly at Evington Village Hall on the 2nd Tuesday in the month. Throughout the year there are many varied activities, educational, social, campaigning and interactive demonstrations.



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

EVINGTON CHAPEL

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MATTHEW JOHN BIGGS
(2 JUNE 1960 – 21 MAY 2026)
Evington local lad who shared
gardening with the nation.



Matthew John Biggs, who has died aged 65, will be remembered by many across the country as one of Britain's most trusted gardening voices, through his long association with BBC Radio 4's Gardeners' Question Time and a lifetime of writing, teaching and speaking about plants.

For those of us in Evington, however, Matthew was not only a familiar name from radio and television - he was a neighbour, and a local lad.

Matthew was born in Leicester and grew up in Evington with his two brothers. The family home was on Main Street, Evington. He was born with mild cerebral palsy, which caused a limp on his left side. He attended the City of Leicester Boys' Grammar School and then worked in the Parks Department of Leicester City Council.

As his career developed - first as a gardener and then as a broadcaster - Matthew never lost the gift for putting people at ease. He returned to speak

locally, giving gardening talks in Evington with the same calm authority and warmth. One moment that still makes me smile captures Matthew perfectly: he once said how difficult it felt to give a lecture with his former maths teacher in the audience - Harry Pettman. This was Matthew: accomplished, but never self-important; always respectful of the people and places that had shaped him.

Nationally, Matthew became a mainstay of Gardeners' Question Time, joining in the late 1980s and serving as a panellist for 35 years. He offered advice with an obvious pleasure in plants. "His expertise was always of the highest standard," said Roy Lancaster. "He had an interest in anything from mosses to wildflowers to roses and turnips." He wrote extensively, gave countless talks to garden societies, and helped many people feel that gardening was something they could do - without fuss, without jargon, and with pleasure in the small successes as well as the grand designs.

Along with people like King Charles III, Beth Chatto and David Austin, he received the Victoria Medal of Honour in May 2026 for his achievements in horticulture.

The family moved to Hertfordshire in 1999. While having treatment at Mount Vernon Cancer Centre, Matthew began designing a wellbeing and health garden for the centre, describing it as the best legacy he could leave. If, in memory of Matthew, you would like to donate to this sanctuary garden project, you can do so via [JustGiving: https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/mountvernoncancerproject](https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/mountvernoncancerproject)

Matthew leaves his wife, Gill; his children, Chloe, Jessica and Henry; his wider family; and many, many friends.

Helen Pettman

HAJJ KIDS CORNER

In the lead up to Eid Al Adha, the local mosque, Masjid Muadh Ibn Jabal, ran another of its Kids Corners, once again aimed at girls from the age of six to fourteen years old.

The groups convened on Saturday 24th and Sunday 25th of May. On the Saturday, children were taught about Hajj, the holy pilgrimage made by Muslims at least once in a lifetime and the originating story behind Eid Al Adha. The children were taught lessons from the story of the Prophets Ibrahim and Ismail and also were given a crafting activity that would assist them in the following session.

The session on Sunday 25th was a practical demonstration of the pilgrimage. In which the mosque had been set up by teachers and volunteers as the key sites of the pilgrimage.

The children were split into groups of ten and they were led by volunteers around the makeshift pilgrimage, and were able to partake in the physical activities of hajj, using props.

Ariana Ali

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NEW WALK'S NEW ACQUISITION – REMEMBERING ARCHITECT-ARTIST DOUGLAS SMITH



Douglas Smith (1930–2024) was one of Leicester's best-known architect-artists: someone who didn't just design buildings, but helped shape how the city looks and feels. Living in Evington, he even designed and built his own distinctive home off Spencefield Lane - creating, quite literally, the place he wanted to live.

Professionally, Douglas founded the Douglas Smith Stimson Partnership, a multidisciplinary practice bringing together architecture, landscape architecture and interior design, which worked from 1963 to 2000.

Over those decades the practice left a lasting mark locally, including work connected with the University of Leicester's arboretum, De Montfort University's Innovation Centre, and the Oliver Court residential development in Stonegate - an area where sensitive design matters.

Oliver Court in particular is often pointed to as a good example of Douglas's trademark approach: combining well-planned homes with mature planting and landscape, reflecting his belief that architecture should respect and sit comfortably within its setting.

Douglas's route into the profession was strongly rooted in the region. He trained at Cheltenham College of Art, then completed his architecture studies and postgraduate landscape architecture training at what is now part of De Montfort University.

Alongside practice, he was also a prolific author, publishing eight books that blended design, architecture and travel - always informed by his habit of carrying hand-made sketchbooks and recording what he saw in watercolour.

Many Evington residents will recognise that same energy in the way he shared his work with the Evington Echo when he brought out a new book he believed would interest local readers. These book reviews were: Tuscany, a book about his travels and art, and Leicester, a book of his paintings and sketches capturing the local area. This was in keeping with his community spirit. He also directed profits from regional book releases to 'Hope Against Cancer' (formerly the Hope Foundation for Cancer Research).

Douglas was equally influential in the city's cultural life. As President of the Leicester Society of Artists for an extraordinary 27 years, he championed local art and artists while building his own reputation as a painter whose watercolours entered collections internationally. His drawings and paintings were also recognised at national level: in 2017, a substantial group of his original works was accepted into the RIBA Drawings Collection at the V&A in London.

Fittingly, his connection to Leicester continues.

His estate has recently donated a sketch and an intriguing artefact, pictured here, to Leicester's New Walk Museum, where it has been highlighted among the museum's recent acquisitions - another reminder that Douglas Smith's legacy belongs not only to Evington, but to the wider story of Leicester's architecture and art.

Helen Pettman.

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Evington Youth Club

The Common, Evington, LE5 6EA Tel: 0735 234 4183

<https://www.evingtonyouthclub.com>

Facilities for all, offering a safe and fun space for young people to meet and enjoy themselves. Offers football practice, basketball, chess club, pool and table tennis.

When not in use for youth activities, the club's premises are available for hire. All proceeds from venue hires go directly to supporting the club and its mission.

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

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.

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

Hamilton Air Cadets

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

Neptune Swimming Club

Tel: 299 5575.

Woodcraft groups in Leicester

cath.brownhome@ntlworld.com

Talk About Media

Friends of Evington Charity no. 1205219 invite you to a weekly Community Cafe drop-in group. Bishop Street Chapel Cafe 10.30am - 12noon.

Friends of Evington also invite you to a weekly drop-in group The Cedars, Main Street, Evington. Wednesdays 6.30pm - 8.00pm

CONTACTING YOUR MP



Shockat Adam (Leicester South)
Constituency Office:
8 De Montfort Street,
Leicester, LE1 7GA
Phone: 507 8089

Email: shockat.adam.mp@parliament.uk
Website: shockatadam.org



Shivani Raja (Leicester East)
Constituency Office:
7 Loughborough Road,
Leicester, LE4 5LJ
Phone: 0116 366 8535
Email:

shivani.raja.mp@parliament.uk
Website: shivaniraja.uk

Both MPs also accept mail sent to them at the House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA, though their local constituency offices are best for direct casework and scheduling.

COUNCILLORS' INFORMATION

The Evington Echo is circulated in Evington Ward, but also parts of Stoneygate Ward and North Evington Ward.

Here are details of how you can contact a councillor in your ward.

Evington:

Cllr. Deepak Bajaj 0797 609 6183
Cllr. Jenny Joannou - 0774 276 6461
Cllr. Zuffar Haq - 0774 276 6454

North Evington Ward:

Cllr. Dilip Joshi 0774 276 6456
Cllr. Ravi Mahesh 0774 276 6437
Cllr. Sanjay Modhwadia 0778 492 0818

Stoneygate Ward

Cllr. Raffiq Moosa Mohammed 0774 276 6430
Cllr. Yasmin Surti 0774 276 6430
Cllr. Aasiya Bora 07551 673938

Local councillors are elected officials who represent the interests of residents, making key decisions on local services like housing and transport, and a clean, pleasant, workable environment. They act as a bridge between the community and the council.



Cllr. Raffiq Mohammed



Cllr. Yasmin Surti



Cllr. Aasiya Bora



Cllr. Jenny Joannou



Cllr. Zuffar Haq



Cllr. Deepak Bajaj



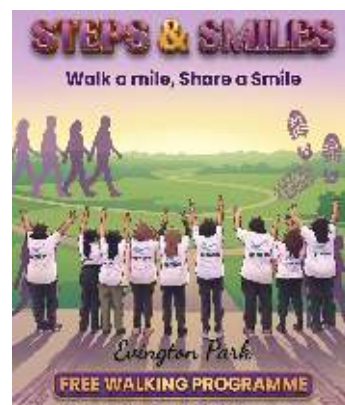
Cllr. Ravi Mahesh



Cllr. Dilip Joshi



Cllr. Sanjay Modhwadia



Women only. 6 week block programme. Every Tuesday. 7.00pm to 8.00pm. Meet outside Evington Park House, Evington Park LE56DG

Booking essential. Contact Aman on 07792 360402. (Organised through Apanapan.)

St. Denys Church

Holy communion with hymns on 1st, 2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays starting at 10am. All welcome

Worship for All 3rd Sunday 10am

Book of Common Prayer
Holy Communion (Said)
Every Thursday at 10am

MEETINGS AT EVINGTON VILLAGE CHURCH ROAD 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

We meet every month on the 3rd Tuesday at Evington Village Hall, starting at 2.30pm.

18th Aug. Calke Abbey Gardens. A talk by Stan Rowland

15th Sept. Colour in Garden Design. A Talk by Jeff Bates.

WANTED: The garden club is looking for a new treasurer. Please contact Merrick on 2705950.

See article on page 2.

Silver Swans Ballet Classes

Sessions are held on Thursday morning from 9.15am through to 12.45pm.

Vanessa 07765 407323.

nelliebeeswans@gmail.com

www.nelliebeeballet.co.uk

Fun , Fitness and Zumba Dance Exercises

Every Monday 6.30pm to 7.30pm. £4.00 each a session.

A Friends of Evington supported event.

Women Visitors welcome to come and watch and see if this type of exercise is for you.

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. You are welcome to come along. For more information about joining contact Barbara on 077 138 04407.

Leicester Recorder Players

Meet at Evington Village Hall on Saturday afternoons 2.30pm - 5.00pm (Twice monthly). Email leicester@srp.org.uk

Wing Chun Kung Fu

Beginners classes at Evington Village Hall. Thursdays 8.00pm - 9.00pm Contact Inzar 0783726772. Your first lesson is free. See advert on page 3.

Evington Village Fete and Show

Saturday 8th August 2026. See page 2.

8th Aug. Evington Village Fete and Show. All afternoon in St. Denys Church: Listen to the Titanic Jazz Band.

Knighton Park Duck Race

Sponsored by Rotary Clubs, Leicestershire. Supporting local and international charities including 'End Polio Now'. 1,000 ducks launched into Saffron brook between 2.00pm and 3.00pm. Tickets are on sale during the day from 10.00am.

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.

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.

August - no meeting

Next meeting on Wednesday 9th September. It's always interesting. All welcome.

Join in and Walk

Apnapan's Steps and Smiles

Apnapan has a mission to bring people together to connect, grow, inspire and build a strong sense of family and community Tel: 07438 633812.

Locally Steps & Smiles meet in Evington Park on Tuesday evenings from 7.00pm (Women only) for walk and talk. Tel. Anan on 07792 360402. See advert on pge 14.

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.

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 on page 10.

Tel: Manjula on 07448 732696.

Friends of Evington supported.

Evington Leisure Centre

Mobile Roller Disco

Fridays 7.15pm - 9.00pm

Leicester Caribbean Carnival

A celebration of African Caribbean culture. The Parade starts at De Montfort Hall on 1st August at 12noon and then loops through the streets and returns to Victoria Park for music, food and dancing. Festivities are from 12noon to 8.00pm.

PDC Players Championship - Darts

25th - 26th August. World class darts in Leicester city.

Leicester Fake Carnival

29th August. Tickets purchased from Fake Festivals. Victorial Park with tribute rock bands.

MEETINGS AT EDEN CAFE LE5 6DN

EDEN'S KNIT AND NATTER GROUP

Tuesdays 12.00 noon at the Eden Café Bar, Main Street. Tel: Linda on 077 587 322.

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.

All these groups at the Cedars are Friends of Evington supported. The bric a brac stall at the Cedars helps Friends of Evington's projects.

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.

Crown Hills Art Society

For details of their regular meetings, etc. www.crownhillsartsociety.co.uk crownhillsartsociety@gmail.com

BHANGRA CLASSES

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

EVINGTON LIBRARY For August '26 only

Wednesday mornings - warm welcome coffee morning drop ins. 10.00am - 12.00noon.

Tuesday mornings 10.00am - 12noon. Toddler time.

Saturday mornings 11.00am - 12.30pm Puzzle Library Play for 8 years and under. Children can enjoy playing with a range of different puzzles.

Summer Reading Challenge. Theme: Read to the Beat. Ages 0 -15. Read 6 books. Collect rewards and join in.

Monday 10th August - Make your own bead candy bracelet. Booking essential ages 7 and up.

September activities are not confirmed. See article on page 7.

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