



Evington Echo

EvingtonEcho.uk

Issue 322

October and November 2026

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Keeping you up to date with Evington's news

The newspaper of Friends of Evington Charity No. 1205219

Celebrating Evington - The Heart of our Community Shines



More pictures and information on pages 8 and 9

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Editorial

FRIENDS OF EVINGTON: ENHANCING OUR COMMUNITY

The Friends of Evington is a local charity dedicated to improving both our community and our environment. As well as supporting grassroots projects, fostering civic pride, and running our 'Enjoyably Evington' initiative—which offers umbrella insurance to eligible local groups—we proudly publish the Evington Echo. To stay informed or get involved, please visit evingtonecho.uk.

IMPORTANT CHANGES TO OUR BOARD

Following our recent recruitment drive, we are delighted to welcome two new trustees to the board, who will step into the roles of Secretary and Treasurer. Work continues on defining our core governance roles.

We extend our gratitude to Baljit Singh for his dedicated three years as Chairman and wish him the very best in his new ventures. Special thanks also go to Dr Rob Watson for organizing our strategy discussions and taking on the role of Acting Chair.

On a personal note, I will be resigning from the Board of Trustees at the end of October. We are currently exploring ways to manage and adapt the work I have previously done for the Evington Echo. While new ideas, technology, and volunteers will naturally bring changes, we remain entirely committed to making the magazine and our wider community work more sustainable and robust. I will be fully assisting with handover activities to ensure a smooth transition.

FETE & SHOW

This issue's front cover and inside spread looks back at the fantastic Evington Fete and Show. There were thrilling arena performances. The marquee displays celebrated local creativity and children's talent and there were vibrant, traditional stalls on the Village Green. A massive thank you to Chris Hossack for leading this brilliant annual event for the last eight years; it is now beautifully established and set to thrive for decades to come.

OUR UPCOMING AUTUMN EVENTS

As autumn arrives, we are pulling out all the stops to bring residents together with a wonderful lineup of inclusive, secular events:

Navratri Celebrations Monday 12th October: Our neighbourhood is coming alive with vibrant cultural rhythms and colour led by local instructor Jyoti Patel.

Diwali Celebration Day (Monday 9th November): Join us for a secular festival of light featuring a high-energy Bollywood Zumba session with local instructor Jyoti Patel, followed by complimentary vegetarian Indian street food, chai, and socializing.

Remembrance Day Service (Wednesday 11th November, 11:00 am): All residents are invited to gather at the Main Street War Memorial for an inclusive service led by Councillor Zuffar Haq. This year is especially significant as we officially unveil our brand-new 'Lest We Forget' bench, kindly funded by the Evington Ward and installed by Leicester City Council's Parks Services.

Please see page 13 for full event posters and details. For any enquiries regarding these events, you can reach us on 07910431044.

Helen Pettman

2026	Deadline - Fri.	Published - Thur
Dec./Jan. '27	13th Nov.	3rd Dec.
Feb./Mar. '27	15th Jan. '27	5th Feb. '27



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Your Echo Needs You - Help Keep Evington's Stories in Circulation



The Evington Echo urgently needs more volunteers. As longstanding contributors hand over responsibilities, we need people to share the work of producing and delivering each edition.

Every edition depends on a team. Stories need gathering, pages need designing, details need checking and newspapers need delivering. There are opportunities to contribute at every stage:

Editors: help shape the content, coordinate contributors and bring each edition together.

Community Reporters: suggest stories, interview local people, report on events and explore issues affecting residents.

Photographers: capture local life and provide clear captions explaining who, what, where and when.

Graphic Designers: create attractive, readable pages and help prepare artwork for print.

Proofreaders: check spelling, names, dates, contact details and anything that might confuse readers.

Distributors: deliver a manageable round, help with bulk copies or cover when another volunteer is unavailable.

Supporting Volunteers: assist with advertising, administration, the website, fundraising, enquiries and organising the team's work.

You do not need to make a large commitment. A short article, an occasional photograph, a regular delivery round or a few hours helping behind the scenes can make a difference. Some roles benefit from existing experience; new reporters can start with curiosity and a willingness to learn, with support and informal training available.

Volunteering offers something in return. You can meet neighbours, discover more about Evington, develop useful skills and grow in confidence. You may enjoy using experience you already have or trying something unfamiliar. There is real satisfaction in seeing your efforts help a local group reach readers, record a community achievement or keep someone informed.

If you have been considering getting involved, please contact us now. Tell us what interests you, how much time you can offer and what support you might need.

Use the Echo contact details printed in this issue, or join the Evington Echo Reporters group using the QR code to our WhatsApp group. Starting on 26th October at 6.00pm there will be regular Zoom meeting. about reporting.

Rob Watson





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Letters

The Editor, Evington Echo

Dear Editor,

Just a quick note to express my heartfelt gratitude to the lovely Helen Pettman who I have heard is retiring from the Echo.

Helen has given many years of her time and energy to the Evington Echo and has also been a support to me personally during this time. A very big THANK YOU for your years of presidency and service, with projects too numerous to mention – and of course not forgetting Harry who has supported you throughout.

Congratulations on behalf of the residents of Evington Village and best of luck for the next chapter.

P M Lacy, Cordery Road.

NEW GIRL GUIDE AND BROWNIE UNIFORMS



I was delighted to visit the Evington Village Fete and Show and be one of the first people to see the new Girl Guide uniforms on public display. It's very different to the clothes I used to wear over 60 years ago! There are interesting mix and match options. I will definitely be buying a colourful hat for the winter.
Helen Pettman.

WHERE'S AN ICE CREAM VAN WHEN YOU WANT ONE?

I didn't think the icecream van was coming down Mickleton Drive often enough either, especially at weekends. I lost count of the number of sweltering days when there was never an ice cream van on hand. It was quality ice cream when they did come, but it needed to be regular and at a said time.
Steve Billingham

PARKED CARS NEAR SCHOOLS PROBLEM

The 22 bus is having a job getting past the parked cars near St Pauls and Linden schools on Spencefield Lane and Headland Road when the schools finish around 3.00pm. The cars are parked excessively on both sides of the road particularly on Spencefield Lane.
Steve Billingham

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EVINGTON AND NORTH EVINGTON POLICE REPORT



To report a non-emergency incident, visit

leics.police.uk/reportcrime

or call 101.

In an emergency, always dial 999.

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.

AUTUMN FOCUS: WORKING WITH OUR EVINGTON & NORTH EVINGTON LOCAL POLICING TEAM

As we move past the busy summer season, the Dedicated Neighbourhood Team (DNT) - led by our local Sergeant, Chris Hall - is adjusting its focus to tackle new seasonal priorities across Evington and North Evington.

For readers new to the area, it is worth remembering how local policing is structured. While central response units handle urgent 999 calls, our dedicated beat officers focus entirely on long-term safety, crime prevention, and neighbourhood issues.

What Are the Team Focusing on Now?

Following feedback gathered from residents over the summer, the local team is prioritising three core areas for the coming months:

Preventing Retail Theft: Officers continue to work closely with business owners on major shopping corridors to identify and arrest repeat shoplifters.

Targeting Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB): High-visibility patrols are remaining active around key community hubs, schools, and parks to prevent seasonal nuisance behaviour.

Hospital Environment Safety: Partnership work continues alongside security teams at Leicester General Hospital to protect patients, staff, and visitors from

opportunistic crime.

Upcoming Beat Surgeries

Evington Ward

October

PCSO 6048 Falcon Cash & Carry, Rowlatts Hill Road. 7th October, 11:00am - 12:00noon.

PCSO 6143 Tesco, Downing Drive, 22nd October 4:00pm - 5:00pm.

November

PCSO 6153 - Eden Café, 4th November, 10:00am - 11:00am.

PCSO 6048 - Tesco, Ethel Road, 24th November, 5:00pm - 6:00pm.

December

PCSO 6153 - Falcon Cash & Carry, Rowlatts Hill Road 3rd December, 6:00pm - 7:00pm.

PCSO 6143 - Evington Library, 23rd December 11:00am - 12:00noon.

North Evington Ward

October

10th Spinney Hill Police Station 7:00pm - 8:00pm - George.

22nd Nat. West. Bank East Park Road 11:30am - 12:30pm - John.

November

11th Spinney Hill PS 7:00pm - 8:00pm John.

30th Nat West, East Park Road 11:00am - 12:00pm George.

December

11th Spinney Hill Police Station 7:00pm - 8:00pm George.

23rd Nat West, East Park Road 12:00noon - 1:00pm - John.

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MEET PCSO 6048 MOHAMMAD MEERUN



PCSO Mohammad Meerun has been serving the Evington and North Evington communities for almost four years and is a familiar face across the local beats. You'll often find him at beat surgeries, community events, or out on foot patrol, speaking with residents and helping to tackle the issues that matter most to local people.

Mohammad studied Mathematics at university and uses his analytical skills to help identify crime patterns and trends across the area. This helps the neighbourhood team understand where issues are emerging and ensures police resources are directed to the locations where they can have the greatest impact. This is why information from the community is so important—every report helps build a clearer picture of local concerns, enabling the team to accurately assess problems and target patrols and policing activity where they are needed.

most.

He also works closely with local businesses, including Tesco stores, to reduce retail theft and improve community safety. Many residents will know Mohammad as the author of the regular Evington and North Evington Neighbourhood Link newsletter, where he shares updates on local policing activity, crime prevention advice, and upcoming community events.

Approachable, knowledgeable and passionate about neighbourhood policing, Mohammad is always happy to stop for a chat when out on patrol.

Chris Hall
Police Sergeant 2239

ECLIPSE OF THE SUN



Wednesday 12 August 2026 saw the big solar eclipse which was described in the UK as a **v e r y** substantial partial eclipse.

In Cornwall, around 96 per cent of the Sun was covered.

It started about 6.18pm peaking at about 7.16pm and ended about 8.10pm. At maximum, only a tiny sliver of the Sun remained visible. Even with 96 per cent covered, people were advised not to look directly at the Sun without proper eclipse glasses/solar protection. as ordinary sunglasses are not safe. Interestingly, the eclipse was total in parts of Spain, Iceland and Greenland - so the UK was just outside the path of totality. John McFadyen

EVINGTON BOWLS CLUB CHARITY GALA - 23.08.26

Every year, the President of Evington Bowls Club selects a charity to support. This year, Nigel Dunford chose the RNIB (Royal National Institute of Blind People), stating, "We are fortunate to play bowls; it is extremely challenging for a blind person."

To date, the club members and their supporters have raised £988 and expect more by the end of the season.

Following the games, everyone enjoyed a bring-to-share tea in the relaxed atmosphere of the Bowls Club pavilion. The President, Nigel Dunford, presented two prizes to Dave Shepherd and Theresa Kotak.



Dave Shepherd received the Jordon trophy for the club member with the most points.



Theresa Kotak (new member) received the Sercomm trophy for the woman with the most points.

The 2027 season is set to begin in April. Nigel noted, "We are always looking for new members, both men and women. Coaching sessions will be available on Monday evenings, Tuesday mornings, Wednesday afternoons, and occasionally on Sundays as well."

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DISCOVERING PIGGY'S HOLLOW - AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WALK



On July 21, 2026, over 30 eager participants gathered to explore Piggy's Hollow, guided by archaeologist Peter Liddle and local historian Chris Hossack. This medieval moated site, described as "the biggest surviving in Leicestershire," offers a fascinating glimpse into the past.

During the walk, Peter candidly shared both known facts and areas of speculation. The dearth of medieval records means that much of the site's history is conjectural, including details on its ownership. The earliest map, from archives at Chatsworth House, dates back to 1627. This puzzled Peter because it showed the village church and manor house located in the parish's eastern corner—a departure from the typical central positioning. He speculated that early parish boundaries, potentially dating back to Roman times, may have influenced this layout.

Peter highlighted snippets from history, like the Domesday Book's mention of Evington, which was once under Norman

Lord Hugh de Grandmesnil's control. Then we know the de Grey family built the manor house here and adjacent to St. Denys Church in the 13th century, maintaining it for 200 years.

The tour commenced at St. Denys Church, winding through the churchyard to an illustrative board depicting the historic site.

Imagining a deeper moat, Peter noted that the manor house could have served as a status symbol or practical defence, while the moat possibly aided with water supply.

As the group moved counterclockwise past brambles obscuring ancient fish ponds, Peter described a former drawbridge and platform area. Chris commented about the current wildlife inhabitants, including badgers, deer, and buzzards. Piggy's Hollow, once labelled Hall Yard in 1627, also bears tales of ownership changes, including a game of cards reputedly costing the Duke of Devonshire his lands. Notably, William Stanley, linked to the Battle of Bosworth, owned the site. The name Piggy's Hollow, coined in Victorian times, pays homage to a local farmer, 'Piggy Wilson', who herded pigs there and used manure to keep children at bay. This journey through history offered rich insights into Evington's evolving landscape.

EVINGTON LIBRARY. 200 EVINGTON LANE, LE5 6DH

E-mail: evington.lib@leicester.gov.uk

New reduced opening hours for Evington library were published in the last edition of the Evington Echo and are available from the library. From 5th October, there will be 25 staffed hours a week with no staffed hours on Fridays. Alongside reduced hours the self service access has been expanded and is on weekdays from 8.00am to 8.00pm

FUTURE EVENTS:

Tuesday 20th October. Children's Craft Session - Maskmaking. 1.00pm — 3.00pm. Booking essential. Tel: 4540320.

Tuesday 27th October. Green Libraries Week. Adult session - Upcycling tote bags. 1.00pm - 2.30pm Booking essential. Tel: 4540320.

Every Saturday 1.00pm - 4.00pm. Puzzle library for 8 years and under.

Every Wednesday 2.00pm - 5.00pm. Tea/Coffee and board games (Adults)

Every Monday. Toddler Time 10.00am - 12.00noon.

A POWER CUT

On Thursday morning, 20th August, parts of Evington experienced a power cut. 1169 homes were cut off from power from around quarter to eleven till half past twelve, providing disruption to many residents due to a fault. Streets affected included Davenport Road, Wicklow Drive, Withcote Avenue, Westmeath Avenue and parts of Cordery Road. Additionally, Thursday saw some difficulty with broadband networks through the neighbourhood, while residents affected were urged to report for compensation. Ariana Ali

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EVINGTON VILLAGE

PRESENTATION LIST FOR SHOW PRIZE WINNERS 2026

All prize winners receive a certificate and a prize

Section A: Children and Young People:

Children aged 4-8 years

A water blaster, a certificate, a medal and the 'Younger Children's Cup' - **Jarvis Brown.**

Children aged 9-12 years

A jigsaw puzzle, a certificate and the Young People's Cup - **Salena Bonomaully.**

Section Winners:

Section B: Floral Art. The Barbara Raven Trophy - **Chloe Brown.**

Section C. Cut Flowers.

The Anna Broskiewicz Memorial Cup - **Julia Thistlethwaite.**

Section D. Pot Plants. The Gillian Farrow Memorial Cup - **Teresa Angrave.**

Section E. Fruit. The Fruit Grower's Cup - **Keith Moore.**

Section F: Vegetables. The Co-op Horticultural Cup - **Julia Thistlethwaite and Andy Baker.**

Section G. Bakery. Councillor O'Brien's Cup - **Freda Neill.**

Section H. Preserves/Wine. Councillor Johnson's Cup - **Isobel Berndt.**

Section J. Art. Councillor Bajaj's Cup - **Neil McLaren.**

Section K. Photography. The Morton Photography Cup - **Kate Evans.**

Section L. Handicrafts The Wallet's Handicrafts Cup = **Sonja Barton.**

Section M. Scarecrow:

1st: Louisa Lannucci .

2nd: Johanna Foster.

3rd: Casie Kamba.

Best in Section prizes:

Section C: **Teresa Angrave.**

Section D: **Liz Siddons.**

Section E: **Ann Murphy.**

Section F: **Julia Thistlethwaite.**

Section G: **Nancy Whitehead.**

Section H: **K. A. M. Burns.**

Section J: **Hilary Beaton.**

Section K: **Kate Evans.**

Section L: **Jess Burdett.**

Section M: **Louisa Lannucci.**

Best in Show: Jess Burdett

Most points in all Sections - The Sheila White Memorial Trophy
Liz Siddons

This year's sponsors were:

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EVINGTON VILLAGE FETE AND SHOW AGM

The AGM will take place on Wednesday 18th November in the St. Denys Parish Centre, Church Road at 7.30pm. Chris Hossack is standing down after 8 years as chair, and we welcome Mohammed Panchbhaya and Fazila Bhana as joint chairs.

We always need more volunteers either to join the committee or to help on the day, so do come along to the meeting to hear of our future plans, and how you could be involved.

Chris Hossack.



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FETE AND SHOW

CELEBRATING COMMUNITY AT THE VILLAGE FETE

The Evington Village Fete on 8th August was a vibrant celebration of community spirit. The event brought residents together for a day filled with friendship and entertainment, underscoring the importance of such gatherings. Lord Mayor Kulwinder Singh Johal attended, emphasizing the fete's role in fostering 'neighbourly love' and preserving local traditions.

Traditional competitions, ranging from 'The wonkiest vegetable' to 'A spray of sugar craft flowers,' were highlights. Diane Bell, the show organiser, shared insights into the meticulous planning involved, highlighting the fete's role in uniting the community.

Volunteer Rohit Lakhani from Loros hospice care discussed how the fete raises awareness and funding for such essential services. Chairman Chris Hossack detailed the extensive preparations required to ensure the event's success, noting the rarity and importance of such gatherings in modern times.

Chris emphasized the horticultural competitions as a way to encourage local gardening and cherished the community spirit fostered at the fete. He expressed hope that visitors would cherish memories of meeting friends and enjoying performances like the Morris dancers and jazz bands.

Val Ridsdale, who has run her stall since 2002, reflected on the joy of seeing familiar faces returning each year.

The Evington Village Fete was a testament to the power of community, with engaging contests and vibrant performances. The event remains a cherished tradition, promising continued enjoyment in years to come.

Zara Jassat
Editorial note: Full text at evingtonecho.co.uk
Photographs by John McFadyen



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For further information contact: 0116 2412087

WILLIAM (BILL) TAYLOR
25TH JANUARY 1935 – 11TH JUNE
2026



Bill Taylor was born in Worksop, Nottinghamshire, in 1935. He attended Retford Grammar School, commuting daily by train. It was during his school years, working part-time at a bike shop, that Bill developed a passion for cycling and sports—a passion that he maintained throughout his life.

After grammar school, Bill embarked on a career in pharmacy, initially working at Boots while studying part-time. He completed his pharmacy studies at Sunderland University. In 1959, his career paused as he fulfilled national service duties, primarily delivering post across various bases on his motorbike.

The early '60s marked Bill's marriage to Alice Parkin. They settled in Lincoln, welcoming their daughter, Sally, before moving to Evington, where their son, Simon, was born. Bill became a well-respected pharmacist in Leicester, working first at Cecil Jacobs and then at Sampson's Chemist in Oadby for 24 years. His dedication made him a beloved figure in the community, with his professionalism and kindness leaving a lasting impact.

Outside of work, Bill enjoyed various hobbies, including cycling, motorsports, and photography. He was a fervent Leicester Tigers supporter and took pride in his allotment, growing his own fruits and vegetables.

Tragically, Bill lost his beloved wife Alice in

the early '90s, but he remained a devoted father and grandfather. The late '90s brought changes as Sampson's Chemist closed and Bill began working at Asda, Oadby, where he met Diane. They married in 2001 and enjoyed a happy life together in Evington.

Bill later worked at Mistry's in Market Harborough and ended his career at Sainsbury's in Oadby. Remarkably, he never took a sick day. In retirement, Bill devoted time to his grandchildren, gardening, and volunteering for the Evington Echo. Despite declining health, he cherished family celebrations, including his 90th birthday and 25th wedding anniversary with Diane.

Bill will be remembered as a devoted family man, always ready to lend a helping hand.

Diane Taylor

BHANGRA CLASSES:

Bhangra Classes in Leicester, run by Preet, began in 2015 as fitness classes, then mixed with a bit of dance.

The classes were intended to get women out, and improve their general health and wellbeing.

The classes take place three times a week—Monday evenings at Judgemeanow, Wednesday evenings in Oadby, and Saturday mornings in Hamilton.

Preet mentions that her favourite thing about the classes is seeing a smile on people's faces.

Members are said to enjoy the classes as they help them feel good and build confidence, and increase stamina.

Ariana Ali

DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARDS

In July, students from various schools participated in the Duke of Edinburgh Gold expedition.

This expedition is part of a three-stage scheme—bronze, silver, and gold—each increasing in intensity, with gold being the most challenging.

To achieve the Duke of Edinburgh award, participants must complete four sections: volunteering, physical activity, learning a new skill, and the expedition. Those pursuing the gold level must also complete an additional residential component.

The gold expedition involved four days of hiking in the Dark Peaks, moving from campsite to campsite. Students carried all their belongings in rucksacks, including four days' worth of food, toiletries, and water, along with sleeping bags.



Due to the extreme heat, students were relieved of carrying the provided tents and Trangias (cooking equipment), although participants usually carry these as well.

Despite the challenges, the experience was both fulfilling and worthwhile.

Ariana Ali



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DRY WEATHER



Rick Carr, an Evington village resident, took these photographs during the heat wave and writes, "My wife and I went for a walk this afternoon on Shady Lane Arboretum and made a wonderful discovery. I believe the attached images are evidence of what was part of the old WW2 POW camp, some of its foundations now revealed for possibly the first time due to the prolonged and extreme dry weather."

PERSPECTIVES ON LEICESTER CITY'S EXPANSION

INTRODUCTION

In July 2026, the government announced that Leicester's boundaries would expand, leading to the formation of two new unitary councils from April 2028. While this decision aims to modernize local governance and support regional growth, it has sparked diverse opinions.

BACKGROUND

The new structure includes:

A unitary council for Leicester, Oadby & Wigston, and parts of Blaby, Charnwood, and Harborough.

A second unitary council covering the rest of Leicestershire and Rutland

ARGUMENTS FOR EXPANSION:

Leicester City Council's view is that the city's boundaries have been largely unchanged for a century and do not reflect the current urban spread. They say expansion is essential for growth and efficient service delivery.

Economic growth and devolution support from local Labour MPs, including Liz Kendall, Dr. Jeevun Sandher, and Amanda Hack, hinges on the potential for economic development, streamlined decision-making, and securing regional funding. They say residents in newly included areas will benefit from a consistent approach to services like planning and transportation, reducing the current fragmentation.

ARGUMENTS AGAINST EXPANSION

Campaigners 'Stop The New Town' have concerns about identity, governance consultation, infrastructure and environmental impact.

Merging distinct communities involuntarily into a single urban council loses an area's or village's identity. They say that 87 per cent of respondents in a government consultation opposed the boundary changes, claiming the decision disregards public opinion. Concerns over insufficient road infrastructure, loss of green spaces, and increased congestion and urbanization threaten both community and environmental quality of life. They say houses would be better built where the infrastructure is in place.

CONCLUSION

The boundary changes, set to take effect in 2028, aim to enhance regional development but face significant opposition.

As the transition approaches, it remains a topic of heated discussion.

Helen Pettman

OBITUARY FOR WILLIAM MERTON MANN, JP (BILL MANN)



William Merton Mann, widely known as Bill, passed away peacefully on 5th August 2026 at the age of 88. Born in Norfolk on 9th April

1938, Bill spent the latter part of his life in Evington, Leicester, where he was a cherished member of the community.

Bill dedicated 30 years to teaching, inspiring countless students at the City of Leicester Boys' Grammar School and the City of Leicester School. Renowned for his engaging Physics lessons, Bill sparked curiosity in subjects as diverse as astronomy and aviation, leaving a lasting impression on many. His delightful Norfolk accent and sense of humour endeared him to all who knew him.

Beyond teaching, Bill was a dedicated magistrate for 22 years. He had a passion for sports, setting up a Fencing Club and serving as Secretary of the East Midlands Fencing Association. He generously gave his time to transport team members to events, reflecting his commitment to nurturing young talent. Bill's love for bell ringing was another testament to his vibrant life.

Cherished as a wonderful teacher and colleague, Bill gave far more than many realised, even beyond his retirement. His contributions to education and community service were celebrated at his funeral, held at St. Deny's Church on 8th September 2026.

Bill's legacy lives on through the lives he touched, embodying a spirit of kindness, dedication, and community service that will be deeply missed by all who had the privilege to know him.

The Olive Branch cafe is offering teas, light breakfasts, light refreshments and lunches. Come and enjoy some time out in our relaxing atmosphere. (Group bookings welcome)

409 Uppingham Road, Leicester, LE5 6RA
(Entrance St Joseph's church car park)

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ALAN LEONARD JOHNSON 23 JANUARY 1937 – 17 JUNE 2026



Alan Johnson was born in Coalville and cherished as an only child. Despite early hardships, losing his father at five and his mother at nineteen, he grew up surrounded by love from his grandmother, shaping him into the caring man he became.

After moving to Countesthorpe, Alan attended local schools and began an engineering apprenticeship at Bentleys, leading to a career as a hosiery mechanic. In 1959, Alan married Shirley and settled in Coalville. They had two children, Kathryn and Michael. Alan's passion for nurturing young minds led him to become a Scout leader, a role he cherished.

Although he and Shirley later separated, a new chapter began when he met Janet at Leicester's Palais de Dance. They married in 1978, blending their families, with Jane, Peter, Sally and Kathy, into a lively, loving household in Evington, where they lived happily together for the next 50 years.

Alan embraced fatherhood wholeheartedly, creating joyful memories through fishing, kite flying, and camping. He had a great sense of fun: his children say he was just a big kid himself!

Family holidays were a treasured tradition, making memories at the seaside and destinations like Tunisia and Australia. The Norfolk Broads were special to him: he enjoyed boating holidays with Janet and friends, with good company, wonderful scenery and many hours of peaceful fishing.

Alan and Janet continued dancing well into later life; he was also a passionate DIY enthusiast and gardener. Alan enriched the lives of others with his happy nature, generosity, and humour. His family was central to his life, and his many grandchildren brought him immense joy and pride. Alan was one of those people who made life brighter simply by being himself. He found joy in simple pleasures, satisfaction in a job well done, and in the

company of family and friends.

Despite the challenges of dementia in later years, Alan remained surrounded by love. He and Janet moved to Oadby Manor Care Home, where his warm nature endeared him to all. Alan passed peacefully, leaving behind a legacy of kindness, humour, and love.

He will always be remembered fondly by those who knew him.

SATURDAY HERITAGE FAIR – LIVING HERITAGE LEICESTER ADULT EDUCATION CENTRE SATURDAY 21ST NOVEMBER ORGANISED BY DOCUMENTARY MEDIA CENTRE



This fair offers a chance to explore the many different ways people collect, preserve and share the stories of their communities. It's free.

The day focuses on living heritage: family stories, photographs, documents, oral histories, personal collections and the work of independent groups whose activities often sit outside formal museum collections.

The fair will bring together community archives, family-history groups, local societies, oral-history projects, documentary and media organisations, and people developing collections of their own. Previous fairs have explored subjects including military and local history, language and cultural heritage, family research, scrapbooking and practical approaches to creating small personal collections.

Visitors do not need to be heritage specialists. It's an informal meeting place where people can wander between stalls, look at displays and, above all, start conversations. Visitors are encouraged to bring along a photograph, document or

object that has a story attached to it.

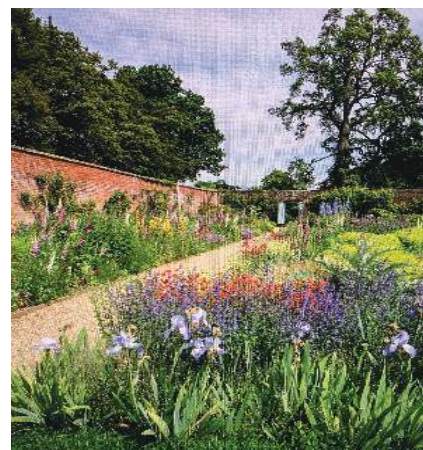
Alongside the stalls, the day includes a programme of short talks, workshops and documentary screenings. A language café and a chance to chat with Soar Sound volunteers, provides an opportunity to talk in English or other languages, and share the stories connected with personal objects and memories. The Old Library Café is open for refreshments.

The Saturday Heritage Fairs normally run from 10am until 3pm, with free admission and no booking required for most activities.

The detailed programme of stallholders, talks and workshops for 21st November will be confirmed nearer the date by the Documentary Media Centre at doc-media-centre.org. What remains consistent is the character of the event: a sociable day built around conversation, shared memory and the idea that heritage belongs to everyone.

EVINGTON GARDEN CLUB – SUMMER NEWS

In June members of the club enjoyed a lovely day out at Kelmars Hall on the borders of Leicestershire and Northamptonshire. The gardens and grounds are extensive, with wonderful herbaceous borders, enclosed areas, a walled kitchen garden and rose garden. There are woodland walks down to and alongside the lake. There is even a fairy garden in the woods, A super afternoon tea rounded off the visit.



After the summer break, we returned in August to a lively and wide-ranging talk by Stan Rowland on Calke Abbey gardens. His talk revealed just how much there is to discover at Calke and encouraged members to return.

For the autumn programme please see the listings on page 15.

The club are still searching for a treasurer. The accounts are quite simple, so if you or anyone you know is interested please make contact.

Ariana Ali

Please support our local shops

Navratri Evening of Dancing
Date: Monday 12th October
Time: 6.30pm - 9.30pm

Dance the night away with Jyoti Patel, a vibrant fitness instructor, who will lead traditional and modern dance styles suitable for all ages and backgrounds

All are welcome
 Bring your family and friends. Children are welcome with adult supervision

Refreshments provided
 Free entry. Contributions towards costs are appreciated

 **Tel: 07910431044**



Celebrate Diwali Together

An inclusive Community Celebration
 Join neighbours for a festive evening celebrating the cultural spirit of Diwali

Date: Monday 9th November
Time: 6.30pm - 9.30pm
Where: Evington Village Hall LE5 6FA

6.30pm - 7.30pm Bollywood Zumba
 A high energy fun dance session led by fitness instructor Jyoti Patel

7.30pm - 9.00pm Snacks and socialising

Cost - Donations to help cover cost
 Food - vegetarian
 Dress code: Wear your brightest colours



Remembrance Gathering
 Organised by Friends of Evington led by Councillor Zuffar Haq



Venue: Evington War Memorial LE5 6GB
Date: Wednesday 11th November at 11.00am

Act of Remembrance and Bench dedication

The new seating replaces the original bench that Leicester City Council and Friends of Evington proudly funded for the 2014 reinstatement project.

11.30am (approx) Walk to The Cedars

Complementary warm refreshments and an opportunity to socialise



 *You're invited!*

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Jacques Everett is a well-loved barber in Evington Village, where he's been for 17 years. Initially hesitant to pursue barbering, Jacques was drawn in by family influences and eventually opened his shop in Evington.

Jacques values the community connection his business provides, enjoying the conversations and the local spirit. Though managing the administrative side of two barbershops can be challenging, he's looking for staff to focus more on cutting hair.

Jacques's journey reflects a deep-rooted connection to Evington, illustrating his integral role in the local business landscape. Despite his initial reluctance, barbering became his true calling, and he's found where he belongs.

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This small ads. section is about helping residents sell items they don't want and give a small payment to our local charity, which supports the Evington Echo and Enjoyably Evington. Please make contact, if you wish to discuss selling items or donating bric a brac items.

LITTER PICKING IN EVINGTON

Many Evington residents are taking action against litter by using their own litter sticks to clean up the area. Some have taken on the role of 'Litter Champions' through Leicester City Council or Leicestershire County Council. This title allows them to receive purple bags, which, when left filled by litter bins, help the council track and manage the effort effectively. Using ordinary bags might be mistaken for fly-tipping.

Most volunteers undertake this task

because they cannot tolerate the sight of litter. Interestingly, litter picking can become addictive! Leicestershire, including Leicester, is noted for having the best record in England for the amount of litter collected.

Litter picking reveals a lot about the habits of those who dispose of rubbish carelessly.

ENJOYABLY EVINGTON

Under the Friends of Evington's 'Enjoyably Evington' project there are three affiliated groups that concentrate on Health and Fitness through exercises.

These are: Evington Park House Yoga at Mayflower Church community rooms. This group is led by experienced Yoga instructor, Manjula Odedra. Gentle exercises is led by volunteer, Lesley Shelton at St. Denys Parish Centre and Zumba style fitness is led by Jyoti Patel at Evington Village Hall. A new group is due to start at Evington Youth Club. More details on page 15.

Enjoyably Evington also supports social groups and environmental groups that work to improve Evington. The criteria for groups to affiliate are: 1. They aren't formally constituted (2) They are set up to benefit local residents and (3) The leaders want to join and accept Friends of Evington's policies, including safeguarding.

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 Surti



Cllr. Yasmin Bora



Cllr. Aasiya Bora



Cllr. Jenny Joannou



Cllr. Zuffar Haq



Cllr. Deepak Bajaj



Cllr. Ravi Mahesh



Cllr. Dilip Joshi



Cllr. Sanjay Modhwadia

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

Evington House YOGA

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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.odedra.yoga@gmail.com

MINISTRY OF NORDIC WALKING

This walking group is pleased to be promoting a new Nordic Walking group called 'Men Only Prostrate Cancer Support group'.

The aim of this group is to give a time and place for a free walk for anyone who would benefit.

Please share as a free walk to anyone you think would appreciate this opportunity.

The course will be led by qualified instructors and suitable for beginners and all fitness types. Nordic walking poles and guidance will be provided..

To get more information and book a place email ministryofnordicwalks@gmail.com

For St. Denys Church's Autumn programme Contact Qyan Arnachellum (Administrator)
office@stdenys.org.uk
Tel: 07803828454.

**Sunday 8th November 11.00am.
Gathering at Evington War Memorial for Remembrance.**

MEETINGS AT EVINGTON VILLAGE HALL, 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.

20th October - A Seasonal Talk by Angela Holland

17th November - Pumpkin Extravaganza Talk by Russell Atwood.

For more information contact 2705950. See article on page 12.

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 session. Tutor: Jyoti Patel. Fitness instructor.

12th October - Navratri event for all and 9th November - Diwali event for all. See posters on page 13.

Friends of Evington supported events. Visitors are welcome to come with a view to joining.

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 7.30pm - 8.30pm Contact Inzar 0783726772. Your first lesson is free. See advert on page 3.

Pilates

Wednesday morning Pilates at Evington Village Hall. 9.00am - 1.00pm taught by Charlotte Jane Fitness. Suitable for both beginners and experienced participants.

Evington Leisure Centre 131 Downing Drive LE5 6QL Tel: 454 1035

Mobile Roller Disco Fridays 7.15pm - 9.00pm
No strings Badminton (Turn up and Play)
Fridays 7.00pm - 8.00pm

Evington Library Information on page 7

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.

Next meeting on Wednesday 14th October. Speakers are always interesting. All welcome.

Join in and Walk

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.

Guided Walks

Live Well, Walk More is a project within LCC's 'Choose How You Move' programme. There are short walks (up to 90 minutes). Here are a selected few:

1. Thursday 24th October. 11.00am from Town Hall Square (off Horsfair Street) Theme: Health and Healthcare.
2. Monday 11th November. 2.00pm War and Peace in Modern Times. Town Hall Square. Repeated 30th November at 11.00pm.
3. Autumn Tree Tour in Shady Lane Arboretum. Saturday 11th October at 11.00am. 'Colours of Autumn'. Meet at Gate C of Shady Lane Arboretum which is just past St. Denys Church. Not fully wheelchair accessible.

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.

Football Practice.: Fridays 7.30pm - 8.30pm £3 contribution per child.

Basketball Chess, Pool and Table Tennis Saturdays 10.30am - 12.30pm - £3 contribution per child .Contact: info@evingtonyouthclub.com

Campaigners fight Harborough Local Plan 'New Town

Harborough District Council has included the strategic development site near Great Glen and Stretton Hall as a major component of its Local Plan (2020-2041) saying it aims to create well-designed communities. The 'Stop the New Town' campaign strongly opposes the plan on the grounds of infrastructure deficits and prematurity. www.stopthenewtown.org

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

The Annual Exhibition will take place on 24th and 25th October from 10.30am to 4.00pm at Knighton Victoria Bowls Club, Church Lane, Knighton LE2 3WG. Free parking.

Regular meetings are every second Thursday from 7.00pm to 9.00pm at Quakers Meeting House, 16 Queen's Road, Leicester. Demonstrations, talks, workshops and appraisals. Also exhibit opportunities. Tel: 07502 576764. crownhillsartsociety@gmail.com

Friends of Evington Charity no. 1205219

12th October Navratri Dancing. See page 13.

9th November Diwali celebrations See page 13.

11th November Remembrance gathering See page 13.

Heritage Fair See page 12.

Weekly meetings and chat. See the bar code advert on page 13.

Goodwood Evangelical Church, Gamel Road LE5 6TB

1st Sunday of the month - Messy Church 10.00am
The Ark Toddler Group - Wednesdays. 9.30am - 11.30am
Coffee morning Thursdays 10.30am - 12noon

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