



EPWELL ECHO

February / March 2024 | Issue 227



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ANNOUNCEMENT

This is my last edition of the Epwell Echo, thank you to all who have contributed over the last year . I am delighted to hear that there will be a new team of editors including Marie Woodward and Caroline Frost, with Peter Koch de Gooreynd continuing as Treasurer and advertising manager!

I look forward to seeing how the Echo develops under it's new management!

Harriet Brook

Cover Photo: Matthew Platt (taken December 2023)



POLITE MESSAGE TO ALL DOG WALKERS
PLEASE ENSURE YOU CLEAR UP AFTER YOUR DOG
WHEREVER YOU ARE WALKING

We are lucky to live in an area with many lovely walks, but it is noticeable that some people are spoiling this by not clearing up.

Poo bags can be put in any one of the three dog poo bins around the village, in the green bin by the hall, or even taken home and put in your own bin. Along with dropping litter, not clearing up after your dog is a very unsociable thing to do.

YOUR DOG – YOUR RESPONSIBILITY!

SITUATION VACANT!

EPWELL VILLAGE HALL IS LOOKING FOR A TREASURER

After many years, Vic Tofts has decided to step down from this role, so we need a kind person to take his place. Vic did great work with improvements to the hall when he was chair of the committee. Due to other commitments, he stepped down from that role, but carried on as Treasurer, looking for all the best deals for the hall in terms of insurance, electricity supplier and general costings.

The rate of pay for this job is excellent – you would be part of a great team, working together to ensure the future of the hall for the village. Team EVH meets once a month, but there is no problem if a meeting has to be missed.

The lucky person will receive excellent training from Vic and full support from Team EVH.

Joking apart, it is essential that we have a treasurer. EVH is a registered charity and therefore has to be accountable for all monies spent. If you are able to help, please contact Nadira or Vic for more details.

nadirathain@outlook.com. vic.tofts@btopenworld.com

EPWELL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING – Friday 26th January 2024

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the January meeting of Epwell Parish Council took place after The Echo had gone to the printers. Full details can be found on the notice board and village website, once they have been published.

Items to be discussed included:

- Discussion of 2014 Community Plan.
- Receive update of grip management.
- Receive updates on any planning applications received before the meeting.
- To note on dates for meetings in 2024.

Epwell Village Assistance - EVA

Set up to help out where needed. If you need help, please contact any member of the parish council (see below).

If you would like to offer help, please contact:

Gavin Lloyd Thomas | gavinlloydthomas.glt@googlemail.com | 01295 788771

Please also contact Gavin if you can help with grass cutting (common areas)

Epwell Parish Councillors:

Gavin Lloyd Thomas (Chair)	cllr.gavinlloydthomas@epwell.com (T. 788771 M. 07711 576553)
Nicola Rudge	cllr.nicolarudge@epwell.com (T. 780508)
Norman White	cllr.normanwhite@epwell.com (T. 788155 M. 07743 841471)
Matthew Platt	matthew@workshopheaven.com (T. 780942)
Peter Gibson	cllr.petergibson@epwell.com (M. 07811 164583)
Christine Coles (Clerk)	epwellparishclerk@epwell.com

The Epwell Trust

The Epwell Trust administers 11.4 acres of land which is rented out under two agricultural tenancies. This rental provides monies to be used should help be necessary for Epwell and its residents.

This is a reminder that the Epwell Trust exists to help the village and its residents. This is particularly relevant given the challenging times we are experiencing and as we go into the winter months with rising fuel and energy costs. If anyone knows of anybody in the village who may need support in some form, please contact one of the Trustees in the strictest confidence.

The Trust Committee members are:

Stephen Rutledge (Chairman)

Suzanne Kaye (Clerk)

Conway Freeman, Norman White, Nigel Prickett, Christine Woolsey, Liz Baker, Matthew Platt and Brian Tustain

The Village Website <https://epwell.com/>

The village website has been completely revised, with a home page for news plus a feed from the Village Facebook page, later sections on village organisations and activities, a diary of local events, a section on parish council matters, useful information on services and businesses, an on line version of the Epwell Echo and a history of the village.

Do have a look and if you wish send comments and suggestions by email to editor@epwell.com

ST. ANNE'S CHURCH NOTES

Epwell and Wykeham Benefice services

February

Sunday 4th	11.00am	Benefice service at Broughton
Sunday 11th	10.30am	All Age Family service
Wednesday 14th	10.00am	Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes (John Tattersall)
Sunday 18th	9.45am	Holy Communion
Sunday 25th	9.45am	Holy Communion

March

Sunday 3rd	11.00am	Benefice service at Shutford
Sunday 10th	9.45am	Mothering Sunday
Sunday 17th	9.45am	Holy Communion
Sunday 24th	10.45am	Procession of Palms followed by Benefice service at Epwell
Friday 29th	2.00pm	Good Friday Meditation Tadmarton
	7.00pm	Devotional service at Broughton
Sunday 31st	9.45am	Easter Day Holy Communion

April

Sunday 7th	10.30am	Benefice service at Sibford
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In addition to Sunday services, Morning prayers take place on Mondays 9-10.30am in the beautiful side chapel. Please check in the weekly pew sheet in the church, or on the notice board at the church gate, for up to date news on all services.

Holy Week

Holy Week begins with the Benefice Palm Sunday service on 24th March. There will be the traditional procession around the village, singing and carrying Palm crosses, before the service in the church. Please gather in the square at 10.30am or the church will be open. If anyone feels unable to join the procession.

Mothering Sunday

This year the mothers day service will be held on Sunday 10th March at 9.45am, everyone is most welcome and there will be refreshments following the service.

Lent Lunch

Please put a note in your diaries to come along and join us in the Village Hall for a bowl of homemade soup and bread on Monday 4th March as part of this years Lent lunches around the Benefice.

Epwell Village Hall

As we start 2024, the Epwell Village Hall Team would like to thank everyone who supported us throughout 2023. Whether it was helping with the setting up of events, donating items, or coming along to an event that we organised, it was very much appreciated. Whilst we are always looking for grants to help out, the main bulk of the hall's income comes from those events. Last year EVH organised quiz nights, coffee mornings, bacon butty breakfasts, a barbecue in the field and ran rugby world cup viewings. We provided the teas for the NGS garden opening and rounded off the year with mulled wine and hot dogs in December. We had 7 bookings for outside events, regular monthly coffee mornings were held, as well as yoga, for a large part of the year. In addition, the hall was used by various village organisations for meetings throughout 2023. The events involve quite a lot of work on our part, but it is all essential. The monies raised have to pay for all bills – electricity, water, insurance etc., plus the licences that a hall has to have for events. And then there is the maintenance and upkeep of the hall, which is an old building. Currently, we do not get any other funding. So please keep supporting your village hall in 2024!

Upcoming Events

On **15th January** the building completed 60 years as Epwell's Village Hall. We will be marking the event later on in the year, probably with cake and also an archive exhibition. Hopefully the weather will be kinder to us – it was very cold on 15th January!

The **Six Nations** matches start in **February**, so we will be opening the hall for those. More info to follow. If there is anything that you would like to watch on a big screen, please contact anyone on EVH Team.

Saturday 2nd March – Spring Quiz Night—Your quizmasters will be Donna Boyles and Adrienne Platt – not sure if that should be quiz mistresses? Either way, it will be a fun evening. More details to follow, but you know how it works.

Please consider using the village hall for parties or other events you may be thinking of organising. The television has surround sound and can be used for power point presentations, films etc. If anyone would like to run a film club please get in touch. There is also a barbecue which can be hired. The hall has a capacity of 80 people standing and 60 seated.

Look out for more information coming through your door very soon.

We look forward to seeing you at events.

Sibford Gower Primary School Report— January 2024

Happy New Year!!!

No sign of snow and so therefore no snow days yet, much to the disappointment of the children!

This term sees new study topics throughout the school - Natural Disasters, the Victorians, Seasons & World Changers. I hear that there will be a volcano day happening in the school soon for all the children in Willow class - hopefully much fun will be had that day.

You may recall from my last report that we had some Epwell children who made it through to another round of the school cross country competition and I am delighted to let you know that Henry Boyles and Holly Rutledge made it through to the County Finals which will take place in March - good luck to you both.

Andrea Rutledge



A note to thank you all for your kind donations to the Royal British Legion this year. The total was £599.28.

Unfortunately I was away on holiday from the 1st November so I did not manage to see you all.

Many thanks

Alan Burkinshaw

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of William Mizen, known to most . Originally from Bristol but lived in the village for over 30 years on Thatcher's Close. passed away peacefully at home on the 22nd November at the age of 75.

Rachel Mizen

Monthly Coffee Mornings in the Village Hall 10:30-12.00

On the Second Wednesday of each month Coffee and Cakes are served in the Village Hall. It is a chance to catch up with others from the village and browse the library which has a good selection of books and jigsaw puzzles.

Cakes are kindly contributed and a collection is made each month with donations going to a charity, or our own Village Hall or St Anne's Church. November and December raised £79 which was sent to Katherine House our local Hospice which also supports those in the community with various treatments and other care.

Allison Pollard

Epwell Walking Group— last Monday each month from the Village Hall at 10.30-12.30.

Local walks around Epwell according to conditions. Dogs often come too! We aim to be flexible in length to accommodate commitments of those who join us. Do come along.

Allison Pollard and Christian Lejeune.

EPWELLCOFFEE MORNING & WALKS DIARY DATES FOR 2024

	EPWELL VH COFFEE MORNING 2ND WEDNESDAY EACH MONTH 10.00-12.00	EPWELL WALKING GROUP LAST MONDAY EACH MONTH FROM VH AT 10.30-12.30F USUALLY WITH ALLISON & CHRISTIAN
JANUARY	WED 10 JANUARY	MON 29 JANUARY
FEBRUARY	WED 14 FEBRUARY	MON 26 FEBRUARY
MARCH	WED 13 MARCH	MON 25 MARCH
APRIL	WED 10 APRIL	MON 29 APRIL
MAY	WED 8 MAY	MON 27 MAY NO WALK SPRING BH
JUNE	WED 12 JUNE	MON 24 JUNE
JULY	WED 10 JULY	MON 29 JULY
AUGUST	WED 14 AUGUST	MON 26 AUGUST NO WALK LATE SUMMER BH
SEPTEMBER	WED 11 SEPTEMBER	MON 30 SEPTEMBER
OCTOBER	WED 9 OCTOBER	MON 28 OCTOBER
NOVEMBER	WED 13 NOVEMBER	MON 25 NOVEMBER
DECEMBER	WED 11 DECEMBER	MON 30 DECEMBER ?

Any enquiries about either the Epwell Walking Group or Coffee Mornings, please contact Allison Pollard on 788529 or by email allison_pollard@btinternet.com



Epwell Village Hall Hire Charges 2021

Category	Per Hour		1/2 day or Evening		Full Day	
	NR	ER	NR	ER	NR	ER
ER - Epwell Residents. NR - Non Residents						
Main Hall - Use of other Facilities						
Private Individual	£8.00	£6.00	£25.00	£20.00	£50.00	£40.00
Celebrations, Parties, Weddings or Funerals	£10.00	£8.00	£30.00	£25.00	£60.00	£50.00
Business Hire	£12.00	£10.00	£40.00	£30.00	£80.00	£60.00
Main Hall - No other Facilities						
Standard - Regular Users	£7.00	£5.00	£22.50	£17.50	£45.00	£35.00
Private Individual	£7.50	£6.00	£25.00	£20.00	£50.00	£40.00
Meeting Rooms - Use of other Facilities	£6.00	£5.00	£22.50	£20.00	£45.00	£40.00
Meeting Rooms - No other Facilities	£5.00	£4.00	£20.00	£16.00	£40.00	£30.00

Long term regular hiring terms can be agreed

Access to Hall for Preparation and just use of Toilets can be agreed

Special terms can be agreed for Charitable Event use of the Hall

Any damage to Hall, Fixtures, Fittings or Equipment must be paid for

Visiting Shows, Exhibitions etc

Amateur	£10.00		£40.00		£64.00	
Professional	£20.00		£75.00		£120.00	

Loan of Hall Equipment - Strictly Epwell Residents Only. No charge - but a donation to Hall funds is requested

Polly and the Needy in Banbury

Thank you so very much for the generous donations that anonymous people kindly leave in the Blue Box in the Village Hall. These are all taken regularly to Polly to support her caring for the people in Banbury. Having The Calling to serve people in these circumstances for more than 30 years Polly knows each person's needs and when to talk and how to listen. Many do get through their difficulties with other agencies support over time. Even getting a door key there is often an empty room: so life is not that simple!

Polly is there each day in their lives with something to eat from her trolley and a myriad of bits and pieces that will help them get through their next 24 hours. Food such as sandwich fillers, cereals for breakfast and snacks are all appreciated as are toiletries and clothing. Everything is used and appreciated.

Allison Pollard

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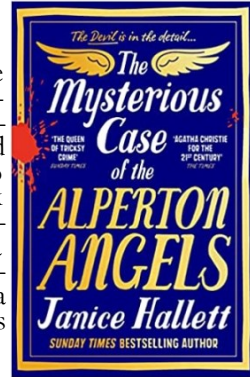


“Sunrise over Epwellsire” - Matthew Platt (December 2023)

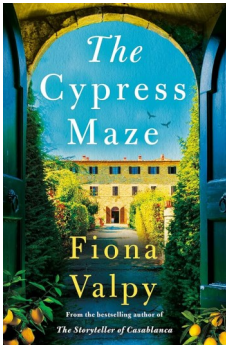


The Alperton Angels by Janice Hallett

Everyone knows the story of the Alperton Angels: a cult-like group who were convinced they had a divine mission to kill – until the victim's mother, came to her senses and called the police. The Angels committed suicide rather than go to prison, and Holly – and the child – disappeared into the care system. Two decades later, true-crime author Amanda Bailey is writing a book on the Angels. Using her trademark style Hallett gradually reveals the story using texts, e-mails reports and other ephemera from the time. Be prepared for a wild ride that takes in conspiracies, police corruption, systematic failures in social care, and a personal vendetta with dangerous and unexpected consequences ending with a deeply satisfying – if unsettling – conclusion.



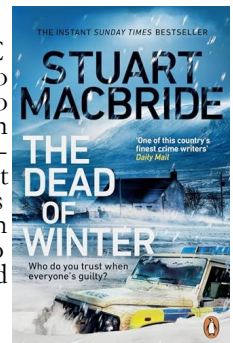
The Cypress Maze by Fiona Valpy



Stranded in war-ravaged Tuscany in 1943, after a year teaching English Beatrice is imprisoned as an enemy alien. Miraculously she is released and even more miraculously she finds shelter at the Villa delle Colombe, with its custodian Francesca. Children are also granted sanctuary at the villa, as are other adults. The war closes in, and the residents are forced to witness—and do—unthinkable things. In 2015 Tess arrives seeking her own sanctuary and in the peace of the villa begins to heal. But the arrival of the estate's absent owner, Marco, shatters that peace and Beatrice is forced to reveal long hidden secrets which are buried deep in the heart of the overgrown and tangled cypress maze. Can Marco be convinced to shelve his destructive plans?

The Dead of Winter by Stuart Mc Bride

The snow is falling as DCI Victoria Montgomery-Porter and DC Edward Reekie pick up a hardened, but mortally ill, criminal to transport him to a village deep in the Cairngorms where those who committed the most evil and heinous crimes can live together in something that resembles peace. They hope to get some information but all they get is stuck in the village where nothing is as it seems and no-one is to be trusted. The murders start almost as soon as they arrive but investigations require trudging through snowdrifts up to their knees. Who can you trust when no-one is to be trusted and will they escape with their lives? A dark and cold thriller.



Clare Lee

Recipe

Lamb Boleyn

Another widely underappreciated cut is neck of lamb, not the best end or neck fillet, we are looking for 'La Gregory Entier' as the French would have it. With the right love and care this much maligned piece can make a dish fit for a king.

Roughly chop 2 sticks of celery, 1 carrot, 1 onion and 3 nice chubby cloves of garlic to form a luxurious bed and place the joint on top. Score the fat and anoint the meat with a generous glass of Martini and half a bottle of Twelve Days. Sprinkle everything generously with salt, pink pepper, rubbed thyme, rosemary, bay leaves and dried lavender flowers before covering with foil (preferably foil that was recently used to cook bacon) and pop the whole thing in the oven at 240 for 20 minutes before turning down to a laid back 140 for at least two hours.

As it gently cooks the bones will fill the meat with flavour, and the rendered fat enhanced by the sweetness of the veggies and combined with the fragrance of the herbs, will form the basis of a sublimely rich and complex gravy.

Potatoes to accompany are a festival of choice: early new javelins or Jersey royals with peas, mint and butter, or maybe chives and sea salt; or old King Edwards, wiljas or marfonas roasted in some of that fabulous lamb fat; or perhaps mashed with the roasted garlic from the pan and then finished with butter or a slug of good olive oil and fresh rosemary, all will do very well indeed.

Set the meat aside to rest, pour off the dripping for roasties or Yorkshires and sprinkle the remaining veg with a teaspoonful of rice flour and stir. Add a pint of boiling water, keep stirring for a few minutes, then pass the resulting soup through a sieve, and bring back to the boil for the perfect sauce.

Matthew Platt





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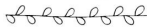
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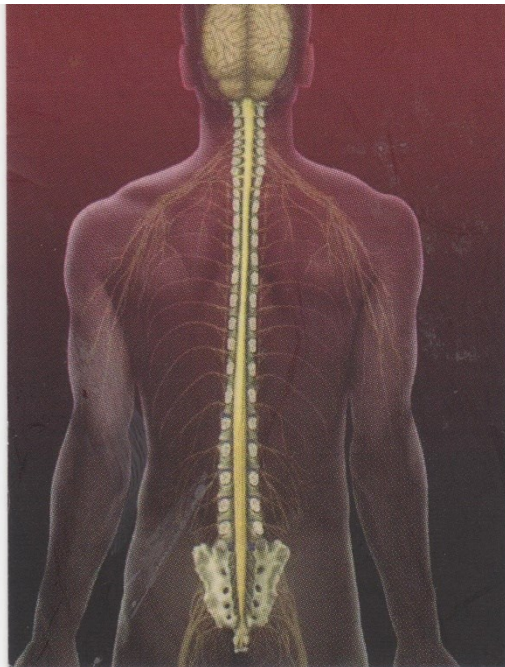
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Monday – Saturday
8am – 8pm

Sunday
9am - 4pm



Sheila Hoy

CranioSacral Therapist

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Epwell Exchange: The Village WhatsApp Group

Don't forget to add yourself to the village WhatsApp group (87 villagers and counting are already there!)

Download WhatsApp and scan this QR code!

Alternative joining instructions: Once WhatsApp has been downloaded, send a message to Gavin Lloyd-Thomas (07711 576554) or Toby Brook (07939 459837) with your name, requesting to join.



BINS

FEBRUARY (TUESDAYS): 13th/27th Green | 6th/20th Brown/Blue

MARCH (TUESDAYS): 12th/26th Green | 5th/19th Brown/Blue

For further information check village website, www.epwell.com and village hall notice board

Tysoe Post Office Opening Times

09.00—14.00 Monday to Friday

09.00—12.30 Saturday

Royal Mail Collections from The Square

POST COLLECTION TIMES HAVE CHANGED.

We no longer have an afternoon collection.

The collection times on the post box are now

9am Monday to Friday

7am on Saturday

There is a collection at 4pm or later from the post box in Tysoe and the latest local collection is 6.30pm from the delivery office at Merton Street, Banbury.

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DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE 12TH APRIL

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