

Eastington Community News

July / August 2008

Nº. 110

Welcome to the Summer edition of Community News. Yes it IS summer, but now it seems we can get every season in a single day. While it has been sunny and dry here, just a few miles away they have experienced torrential rain, hail and flooding. Sometimes it has been the reverse, but whatever the case, I would not wish to be a weather forecaster this summer. It's not as bad as last year although the terrible Gloucestershire floods of 20th July 2007 will remain in many peoples memory for a long time to come.

What great news! - that construction has started on our new Community Centre at Owen Harris Memorial Ground. Maybe you would like to take time to go to the grounds to see the building. It's rolling thanks to the dedication and tenacity of its supporters.

I am delighted to report that volunteers came forward for Eastington Parish Council's 3 Casual Vacancies. This will be a great help in tackling the many challenges facing our Village. I would like to thank Katrina Naphthine, (Responsible Financial Officer for EPC,) for preparing 'Parish Council Matters' in this issue and especially for compiling a list of 'useful contacts' and numbers for you. We hope you will find these helpful.

Any day soon we should hear the Planning Inspectors decision on the Planning Appeal by Stroud Rugby Club to build a Sports Complex in the Village. The hearing lasted for 4 days, since the volume of material presented by the prospective developer was so great. At one stage of the hearing it looked like no time would remain for local representation. However, Parishioners and the Parish Council made a very effective and professional representation in the very short time remaining to them.

Several of us took part in surveying ponds with Stroud Valleys Project (SVP) group recently. Do please keep your eyes open for posters advertising a range of other local activities. SVP is just surviving on minimal funding currently, and you can find out more by visiting the following website: www.stroudvalleysproject.org/appeal.html or calling 01453 753358.

Volunteers are still needed to help with the Parish Plan, so please contact Katrina Naphthine and join with others in this project. It is important to have a wide range of Village interests represented, so please consider getting involved.

Restoration of the Stroudwater Navigation and Severn and Thames (S&T) Canals has been very much in the news this year. We are blessed by having this important waterway running through our Parish. Together with the Mills, these form a very important amenity within the Industrial Heritage Conservation Area (IHCA). Restoration of the canals is supported by the Cotswold Canals Trust. We are most fortunate in having the newly appointed Chief Executive of Cotswold Canals Trust, Ken Burgin, living in our Parish, and he has prepared an update for us this time. You may also be interested to know that a DVD has just been released of 'living' memories' of the canals during the last century. It makes fascinating viewing.

In this edition we have contributions from both Anglican and Methodist Churches. My thanks to the Rev. Amys for sharing some interesting anecdotes with ECN. May I say that the tale about getting a new kitchen is the most unusual that I have heard to date! Many of us may feel reassured by his comforting words about clutter. Given the approaching school holidays, there are several timely activities arranged for young people by the Methodists. We have a letter from our District Councillor, Ken Stephens, and news from Brownies and Eastington Toddlers (& Babies too!) Don't forget Toddlers have moved to the Methodist Hall. And let's not forget to make a note for this year's event of Eastington Horse Show on 2nd August.

Reminder - it's 30 MPH for a reason! **84%** of people disapprove of speeding yet **70%** do it.
There is **80%** chance a child will **die** at 40 MPH - at 30MPH there is **80%** chance they will **live**.

Andrew Niblett (Editor) 824841 (andrewf.niblett@waitrose.com)

Tom Low (Distributor) 823425 (tom@millend.demon.co.uk)

Next Deadline:- All articles by **Friday 5th September 2008** please!

Next Delivery:- by **Monday 22th September 2008** please!

No article of part thereof may be reproduced or published without prior permission of the Editor and author.
The views expressed in ECN are not necessarily those of the editor.

PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS

Report from the Chair:

I am delighted to say that we had a fantastic response to our call for volunteers to join the Parish Council. In fact we filled all 3 Casual Vacancies, and are now back to full strength of 9 councillors. A very warm welcome is proposed to our 3 new councillors: Rob Gothard, Chris Hill and Nigel Souster. Together we hope to make significant progress on the many challenges facing our Parish. Two important issues are the provision of allotments and solution to the many problems involving Roads and Transport. (Speeding etc.)

Readers of Eastington Community News, or those who have attended the public meetings about Stroud Rugby Club's bid to move here, will be aware of the terrific pressure brought to bear by the prospective developer. At the recent 4-day Inquiry, the developer invested great efforts to persuade the inspector that this was the best option for a sports facility in Stroud – albeit 5 miles distant from Stroud town. Following much consultation with parishioners, it was clear to Parish Council that the vast majority of Eastington residents were firmly opposed to this scheme, and with sound reasons. The Parish Council, and several residents, spoke at the Inquiry to oppose Hunter Page Planning proposal to relocate SRFC to Eastington Park Farm. Although squeezed to the very last hour or so of the hearing, a very strong and professional representation was made by both residents and Parish Council. I would especially like to thank Mary Gribble and Cllr. Colin Frith for the many extra hours spent at the Inquiry and in supporting work; and not forgetting Cllrs. Ken Stephens and Jill Simmons too. The decision is now in the hands of the Planning Inspector, and we expect to hear the result within a few weeks.

Having strengthened our commitment to the new Community Centre at OHMG, by allocating £40,000, we congratulate OHMGC on starting to build this fantastic facility. Well done to all of those who have helped this process.

Andrew Niblett (Parish Council Chair)

Footpaths

Some good news ... especially for walkers who like longer circular walks.

Some footpaths that have been obstructed for many years are to be opened up this month using new stiles and bridges. This will enable walkers to walk to Church Farm (locally produced meat etc) and St. Peters Church on the Coaley Road. You can then choose to continue walking to Coaley or to Frocester. If you choose Frocester, you will arrive at The George within about an hour of starting. This is an ideal place for a coffee break. You could then return via Five Acre Grove and Middle Street (taking care across the railway cutting); this part of the walk would take about 3/4 of an hour.

Jaci Harris (our County Footpaths Officer) has been working very hard on our behalf and she is hoping to have the vegetation cleared from the bridleways in the Nastend and Nupend areas, and also to improve the footpaths in those areas. If you are interested in having a map of the footpaths in our area (or would prefer to be on an organized walk), then please contact me on 01453 824452. Why not do it now, whilst the better weather is still here?? Please remember that walking is one of the best forms of exercise you can get and it's FREE!! Whatever the time of day and whatever the weather, YOU decide how far you want to walk.

WE'VE GOT THE PATHS..... SO LET'S USE THEM!!!

Bill Edwards (Footpaths Committee Chair)

Allotments

As one of the three new member elected onto the Eastington Parish Council last month, I have taken up the challenge of trying to push forward the creation of allotments within the community and to establish a society to run them.

Since the idea of having allotments was muted just over a year ago, 20+ people have contacted the Parish Council to express an interest in having an allotment and a number of sites where it may be possible to create allotments have been identified.

Taking this forward then, by the end of July I intend to make contact with everyone on the allotment list to reconfirm their interest, their contact details and to find out if they have any particular needs or would like to assist in setting up the allotment society. I also intend to visit each of the proposed sites to assess their suitability for being used as allotments, presenting the findings back to the Parish Council. During August I would hope that a suitable site could be selected and that plan be put in place to establish the allotments.

If anyone would like more information on the subject or would like to express an interest in joining the list of people wanting allotment, please contact me on either rob.gothard@virgin.net or 01453 827096 (weekdays after 7pm)

Rob Gothard (Allotments Committee)

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS NEWSLETTER

EBLEY MILL

For the next civic year I will again be a member of the Councils Development Control Committee.

You may have seen comments in the press about the revised scheme of allowances payable to Councillors at Stroud District. I voted against the acceptance of these. There are certain things I think that you must accept as part of the task you take on when you become a Councillor. I will not be claiming the mileage now available for attending a Parish Council Meeting as the District Council representative. One of my ongoing pet gripes is the amount paid to the Chairman of the Development Control Committee. During the last civic year the allowance for being Chair was over £4500. To my mind this is a ridiculous amount of money just to Chair twelve meetings. General members get nothing extra for attending the meetings. To hide behind the comment that the allowances are proposed by an independent body and it would be disingenuous to challenge the recommendations as was put forward in the debate is utter rubbish in my opinion.

PLANNING APPEAL

As I stated I would in my recent election material I supported the Parish Council at the recent appeal for the Construction of a Leisure/Sports facility at Churchend. This is more commonly referred to as the relocation of Stroud Rugby Club. (There is an interesting question as to what would happen if this appeal was granted and the Fromhall Park one dismissed. Would it still happen?) I did not attend every minute but the vast majority of all three days. I have attended several appeals and call-ins during my time as a District Councillor. It is fair to say that I thought this one was a bit different. At the Development Control Committee meeting when this was first discussed and unanimously refused by councillors I made the statement that I thought the application had shown contempt both for the planning process at Stroud District and the Parish of Eastington. This in my opinion continued into the appeal. I would describe it as being a less than civilised affair. The appeal was attended by many, many residents of Eastington Parish on all days. They are to be congratulated both for the restraint they showed at, in my opinion, some quite outrageous comments made in support of the application and the quality and manner of the personal representations made to the inspector.

COMMUNITY BUILDING

I attended the ceremonial 'cutting of the first sod' for the new building at the Owen Harris Memorial Ground. It was very exciting to see the start of the fulfilment of what has been a very, very long and winding road. There have been literally generations of Parish residents involved in this dream of having a sports field in the Parish with a supporting building on it. Some who became involved in the project so that their own children could use the amenities now have almost grown up grandchildren. My thanks to all those who have contributed to this project over the years.

I continue to work with residents on a variety of issues and concerns.

Ken Stephens July 2008

Lingos
Language Tuition
French
Holiday Courses



GCSE revision
&
Oral Practice

Beginners welcome
One to one or small groups
Danish and Spanish also available

07799 657975
lingos@fsmail.net
Eastington

Terrascares Limited
Landscape Contractors
Giles Granger HND

3, Middle Spillmans,
Stroud, Glos GL5 3RU

t 01453 759302

m 07866 515715

e: gwg@terrascaresltd.co.uk

w: www.terrascaresltd.co.uk

EASTINGTON SLIMMING WORLD GROUP

Summer has finally arrived, well sort of! The Slimming World Group at Eastington is still doing well with current attendance at about 60 members each week including men, women and young adults 11-16 year olds. So I thought this month I would give you a little taster of a couple of the fantastic recipes you can enjoy while following the Slimming World healthy eating plans.

Slimming World Chips - You can eat these freely on the Green eating plan!

1lb of potatoes

frylight spray

1. Peel the potatoes and cut into chunky chips
2. Par boil them for 5 minutes, Drain well and leave for a few minutes for the steam to evaporate.
3. Turn on the oven to a high setting Gas mark 7-8
4. Spray a baking tray with fry light and tip the chips onto it, Spray with fry light.
5. Pop into the oven on the top shelf and cook until golden brown, turning once.

Serve with mushy peas and fried egg, cooked with the fry light spray or baked beans.

Most importantly enjoy

Herby Chicken - This recipe can be enjoyed freely on the original plan

skinless chicken fillets

lean smoked bacon

tub of quark (very low fat soft cheese)

fresh herbs of your choice and /or a crushed garlic clove

1. Slice open the chicken fillets to make a pocket
2. Mix in a bowl the quark, herbs and garlic.
3. Spoon into the chicken.
4. Trim any visible fat from the bacon and wrap a rasher around each chicken fillet
5. Place into a moderate oven and cook through they take about 45 minutes depending on the size of the fillets.

Serve with a large fresh salad or seasonal vegetables.

What are you waiting for! Come along and find out how to lose weight while enjoying recipes like these. The group is friendly and welcoming, remember we are all there for the same reasons- to lose weight. We operate with complete confidentiality and no humiliation. At present your first group meeting is free (membership of £10.00 applies to cover membership to Slimming World and all the plan books you will need) We meet on Wednesday evenings at 7pm in Eastington Village Hall. I look forward to meeting you. Have a wonderful summer.

Lorna 01453 821751



Highly qualified & experienced beauty therapist.

- Waxing *PhD*
- Safewax
- Electrolysis
- Tinting
- Massage
- Manicures
- Pedicures *O.P.I nailcare*
- Facials *proto-col skin care*
- St. Tropez

Visit me or I can visit you.
Call Fay on: 07504 143 879
villagebeauty@hotmail.com

Nutritional Therapy

*can help ease many health problems,
improve general health and
support safe weight loss.*

*Telephone me, Michelina Keay,
B.Sc., NHF Dip.,
on*

01453 825549 for more details.

OWEN HARRIS MEMORIAL GROUND

Owen Harris Memorial Ground Charity



www.ohmg.org.uk

Eastington Community Centre News.

Great News...Eastington's new Community Centre is under construction

After six years of planning we are now in the position to announce that the new community centre for Eastington is **finally being built**. This is a momentous time for us as it marks the start of what will be a superb facility for everyone within the village and surrounding areas.

As this is being written, the foundations have been laid and the steel is in place so if you wander down to the grounds, you will already see the building taking shape.

The new centre is being funded by grants and donations both nationally and locally. We have had much help from local businesses (both large and small), the district council, the parish council, national and local grant bodies and, just as importantly, private donations from the residents of Eastington. It is the generosity of organisations and individuals that have made this possible and **we thank everyone who has helped, in whatever way**, to get to this position.

Fundraising however goes on as we **still require some funds** to allow us to create a fully functional building in the first phase of construction. Therefore we are appealing for help and if anyone would like to donate anything towards the build, it will be gratefully received. As you can see by the works underway within the grounds, your donations **will** be going towards the centre which will have a positive effect for everyone within the village. If you would like to donate, then please do so by either contacting a committee member listed below, or take your donation to Guy at the Cabbage Patch Corner and he will pass it on to one of us. If you wish to leave your details with the donation, we will contact you to confirm it has been received.

Please take time to go to the grounds to see the construction. It's a fascinating thing to see it taking shape. Works are due to finish next spring so we look forward to an opening ceremony later next year.

Contact Details for the Owen Harris Committee are:

Mark Cousins (Chair)	828557
Gill Glover (Funding Manager)	828782
Jayne Elder (Secretary)	828027
Vanessa Cousins (Bookings Clerk)	828557

EASTINGTON BROWNIES

The Brownies continue to thrive, still having maximum numbers. The summer term has seen the girls looking at how to keep themselves healthy, with lots of fun and games along the way.

The trip to Longleat was a great success, on one of the hottest days, and some of the girls are off to Brownie camp this weekend, so here's hoping for some more nice weather.

We finished for the summer on 7 July and will resume again with the school term in September.

If you would like more information about the Pack, please contact Kate Taylor or Sarah Mannings. We have welcomed two new girls who will be enrolled shortly and so currently have twenty-four Brownies.

(Brownies are girls aged between 7 and 10 years old and we meet on Mondays during term time, 7pm to 8pm in Eastington Village Hall.)

Kate Taylor 01453 821184

Sarah Mannings 01453 826850

USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS

Gloucestershire County Council Switchboard		01452 425000	www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/index.cfm <i>for links to contacts and various departments</i>
GCC Street Lighting		0800 5421890	Email : lightsout@gloucestershire.gov.uk <i>For reporting street lighting problems</i>
Bus timetables			www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/bustimetables
Stroud District Council Switchboard	Mon-Thurs 8.45am-5pm Fri 8.45am- 4.30pm	01453 766321 Out of Hours 01452 532467	www.stroud.gov.uk <i>Please follow this link if you require info on SDC services not covered below.</i>
SDC Energy Efficiency Advice	As above	01453 754464	Email : energy@stroud.gov.uk
Flood Prevention/Food Safety/Pest Control/Pollution	As above	01453 754480	Email: environmental.health@stroud.gov.uk
Recycling/Refuse Collection	As above	01453 754424	Email: recycling@stroud.gov.uk
Planning	As above	01453 754442	www.stroud.gov.uk/planning
David Drew (MP for Stroud)	M-F 9am-5pm	01453 764355	Email : drewd@parliament.uk
Andrew Niblett Chairman for Eastington Parish Council		01453 824841	Email : andrewf.niblett@waitrose.com
Mary Gribble Clerk to Eastington Parish Council	M/T/T/F 5- 6.30pm	01453 825279	Email : mgribble@btinternet.com <i>Please leave a message on the answer phone outside of these times</i>
Katrina Napthine Finance Officer for Eastington Parish Council	M-F Up to 8pm	01453 823766	Email : knapthine@btinternet.com <i>Please leave a message on the answer phone</i>
Social Services Helpline		01453 760500	
Police (Non Emergency)		0845 090 1234	
Crimestoppers		0800 555111	
Environment Agency		08708 506506	www.environment-agency.gov.uk
Floodline		08459 881188	www.environment-agency.gov.uk/floodline
Highways Agency	M-F 8am-8pm S/Su/Bhol 9am- 5pm	08457 504030	www.highways.gov.uk <i>For reporting pothole problems etc.</i>
Fire (Non Emergency)		01452 753333	
Severn Trent Water (Leakline)	24/7	0800 7834444	www.stwater.co.uk

USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS / cont...

Gas Emergency Line	24/7	0800 111999	
Electricity Emergency Line	24/7	08457 331331	
Stroud & District Citizens Advice Bureau	M/T/T/F 10am-4pm	01453 762084	www.StroudDistrictCAB.org.uk
Guide and PALS		08000 151548	<i>Health, Social Care and Disability information service in Glos</i>
NHS Direct	24/7	0845 4647	www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk
GP Out of Hours Service		08454 220220	www.gloshealthservices.org.uk
Stroud A&E	24/7	01453 562200	
Gloucester A&E	24/7	01452 394518 /394324	
Domestic Violence Helpline	24/7	0870 5995443	
Childline	24/7	0800 1111	
Drinkline	24/7	0800 9178282	
National Drugs Helpline	24/7	0800 776600	www.talktofrank.com
Eastington Primary School		01453 822922	www.eastingtonprimary.co.uk
Eastington Playgroup		07977 342742	www.ohmg.org.uk/playgroup.htm
Owen Harris Memorial Ground Charity		01453 828557	www.ohmg.org.uk
Eastington Methodist Church		01453 827414	Email: Ken.Burgin@Eastingtonmethodists.org.uk
St Michael and all Angels Church	Rector: Richard Amys	01453 822437	Email : RichardJRAmys@aol.com
Eastington Slimming World		01453 821751	<i>Every Wednesday 7pm Village Hall</i>
Keep Eastington Rural Group			www.keep-eastington-rural.co.uk
Gloucestershire Rural Community Council		01452 528491	www.grcc.org.uk
Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust		01452 383333	www.gloucestershirewildlifetrust.co.uk
Stroud Valleys Project		01453 753358	www.stroudvalleysproject.org/ <i>for info regarding the conservation of the local environment</i>
Stonehouse Royal British Legion		01453 791107	Contact : Mrs RE Sargeant

Cotswold Canal Project Update

2008 has been a bit of a roller coaster so far and it started with a big drop when British Waterways, the lead partner, suddenly announced that it was leaving the project at no notice. This immediately placed the £36m Phase 1A part of the project in severe crisis as BW were both leading the project and providing about £6m of the funding package.

This happened all happened on 4th February; I had just taken up the post of Chief Executive of the Cotswold Canals Trust on February 1st!

Thanks to Stroud District Council, who regard the project as very important not least because of the regeneration it can bring to the area, it has been possible to persuade the Heritage Lottery Fund not to withdraw their £12m contribution to the project. Keeping the rest of the funders on board hinged on what HLF decided to do. SDC will become the new Lead Partner working closely with CCT to deliver the project, probably through a new organisation which will essentially plug the gap left by BW.

In the short term, the canal remains within the control of BW and they remain responsible for its maintenance. After a great deal of public concern, pressure from the Trust and a news feature on TV drawing attention to the state of the canal, BW did eventually remove the accumulated duck weed in Blunder and Newtown Locks - but we are still waiting for the fences to go. In the coming months, it is highly likely that control of the canal will move to the management of the newly revived project.

BW finished Oil Mills Bridge near Ebley in early May thus concluding their involvement in the restoration work itself. In the meantime, CCT working with the Waterways Recover Group have started a new project at Gough's Orchard Lock near Brimscombe. This was kicked off when Smiths removed about 150 m³ of 1960s tipped infill out of the head of the lock at the beginning of July to be followed by a week long volunteer camp and a programme of weekend working parties.

In order to safeguard the project, both SDC and CCT have needed to increase their funding commitment to the Phase 1A project. In the case of CCT, this stands at £800,000 - a not inconsiderable sum for a small charity.

The need to focus on sorting out Phase 1A at the moment does not mean that the Trust has forgotten Phase 1B which includes the Eastington length. Volunteers working on Mondays and Wednesdays continue to do as much upkeep as BW will allow and the Trust has identified a number of potential funding sources which could allow progress on more substantial projects within Phase 1B in the not too distant future.

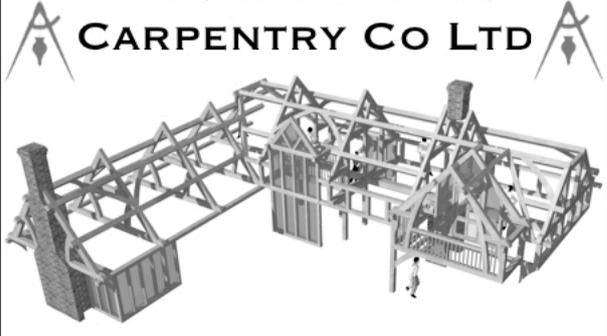
The project is still very much alive and the recent challenges have, if anything, reinvigorated the Trust's members and supporters to succeed where BW have failed.

These are interesting times and the Trust is always keen for more people and organisations to become involved.

Ken Burgin 01453 827414

www.cotswoldcanals.com

**THE OAK FRAME
CARPENTRY CO LTD**



Specialist Design and Construction of Traditional
and Contemporary Timber Frames

Full 3D CAD design service, Drawings provision and
Visualisations

Repairs and Restorations to Ancient Timber Buildings

E-mail: info@oakframecarpentry.co.uk Tel: 01453 828788

www.oakframecarpentry.co