

# Eastington Community News

September / October 2008

Nº. 111

It seems no time at all since the last edition; we seemed to be for waiting each day for summer to start tomorrow or next week. In a normal year I would have welcomed you to our 'Late Summer edition,' but it seems that summer won't be coming now. Even my Bramley apple tree is confused, and has bravely come into blossom again. A good omen perhaps?

I hope many of you will have taken the chance to see just how well the construction on our new Community Centre at Owen Harris Memorial Ground is progressing. We are very fortunate in having such a wonderful ground and new facilities. It takes a lot of effort to make things happen, but sadly just a few moments to undo. It is with regret that we learn that the efforts of a few Village youths were spent in destroying Playground equipment.

It's nice to see all the building activity at the Village Hall. On top of the external improvements made over the last year or so, Village Hall chairman, David Storey, will be giving you all an update in November on progress, plans and what you can use the hall for in future... Thank you in anticipation, David.

We are fortunate to have some more new advertisers this time. Middle Hall Farm Shop, C.P. Ransom (Monumental Mason,) New Artlines (Brochures, Advertising, Business Stationery etc.) and APVS Vehicle Rental. We wish these businesses success, and invite you to take a look at their adverts. It is important to remember that we keep this newsletter coming free to each home in the Parish, because of advertising revenue.

The relevance of news within these pages depends on you. How about telling the rest of the Village about your organisation or interest? It is not unusual these days to change e-mail addresses or phone numbers, and changes occur within village organisations. It is important to let us know your current contact details, so please take a few minutes to give Katrina Naphthine the details ([knapthine@btinternet.com](mailto:knapthine@btinternet.com)). You can then receive a timely reminder before each edition and ensure the details have are correct.

The long awaited Planning Appeal Decision for Stroud Rugby Football Club and Squash Club was finally given last month. After decades of dilapidation and delay, it seems there is a workable solution for saving Millend Mill. Although there has been a setback to the Allotments Group, significant progress and enthusiasm has been shown. More about these topics under "Parish Council Matters".

We have some news inside about the ponds surveying with Severn Vale Biodiversity Project group. Eastington Toddlers (& Babies too!) remind us about their twice-weekly sessions in the Methodist Hall. Brownies meet on Monday @ 19:00 in the Village Hall. Did you know that you could be eligible to join the local Royal British Legion? Details inside. It's nice to have a report from Eastington Horse Show Committee about their annual show; despite the weather it seems all had an enjoyable and successful time.

We have contributions from both Anglican and Methodist Churches again this time. Rev. Richard Amys has shared interesting anecdotes with us again. We welcome the new Methodist minister; Rev. Noel Sharp introduces himself and gives us an update of activities at the Methodist Church

Andrew Niblett (Editor) 824841 ([andrewf.niblett@waitrose.com](mailto:andrewf.niblett@waitrose.com))

Tom Low (Distributor) 823425 ([tom@millend.demon.co.uk](mailto:tom@millend.demon.co.uk))

**Next Deadline:-**

All articles by **Friday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2008** please!

**Next Delivery:-**

by **Monday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2008** please!

# PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS (1)

**Report from the Chair:** There have been many issues since the last edition of ECN

The long awaited Planning Appeal Decision for Stroud Rugby Football Club and Squash Club was on 12<sup>th</sup> August. The Inspector dismissed the Appeal and refused planning permission for relocation and provision of new sporting facilities by the two clubs. It was refreshing to see the breadth of support from so many parishioners and the depth of their professional presentations.

As previously promised, the Parish Council has now been able to secure the loan for £40,000 towards the new Community Building at the Owen Harris Memorial Ground. This, together with a similar amount of 'Section 106' money (from the new Cress Nicholson build,) has given timely cash injection to the project. We are delighted to see good progress of the new building.

Millend Mill has finally been granted planning permission for conversion into residential dwellings. We are delighted that a mutually acceptable solution has been found to secure the heritage of the existing historic building and to make it safe. (See KER update). The Appeal against SDC planning refusal to build 4, high density houses on the site of the existing bungalow at 9, Bath Rd., will be determined by written submissions. (Deadline for writing is 30<sup>th</sup> September 2008.)

Good progress has been made with provision of Allotments (thanks to Rob Gothard report below). Although we were progressing well towards purchasing land for this project, unfortunately the land deal fell through. We must now renew our efforts to identify and secure a new piece of land for Allotments. (Provision of Allotment land is a mandatory responsibility of Parish Councils.)

EPC have renewed their commitment to develop their relationship with the Police. An informative and helpful meeting was held with PS Steve Irvin, and together with some other parishioners, we plan to make regular presence and representation at meetings. You are invited to take part.

My thanks to Bill Edwards for his tenacious work as Chair of our Roads and Transport Committee. We hope to appoint a new chair shortly. Bill will have more time now to focus on Footpaths matters.

*Andrew Niblett (Parish Council Chair)*

**Eastington Parish Website - [www.stroud.gov.uk/eastington](http://www.stroud.gov.uk/eastington)**

The Eastington Parish Council in conjunction with Stroud District Council has recently set up a website for the benefit of the parish.

The structure of the website is listed below, however as the website is in its infancy, much of the detail and content is still to be populated.

- Parish History
- Parish Council
  - Meet your Councillors
  - Minutes and Agenda
  - Accounts
  - Parish Plan
  - Recent Planning Applications
  - Road Safety Working Group
- Eastington Community News
- Parish Events
  - Add your Event (form)
- Clubs Societies and Facilities
  - Allotments Society
- Local Business Directory
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- Useful Contact Information
- Local Walks
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Please browse the website to see what information is there so far, and please either email us with additional information or use the forms provided to add information that others may find useful and / or interesting.

*Rob Gothard (Webmaster)*

## PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS (2)

### Allotments

Since the last edition of the Eastington Community News, there has been quite a bit of progress on establishing allotments within the parish. Many of the 20+ people interested in having an allotment met up to start the process of forming an allotments society with the following purpose/aims:

- The Parish Council is responsible for the provision of cultivatable land to be used for allotments; however the gardeners themselves are responsible for turning the land into allotments, the management and maintenance of the allotments and the provision of any facilities they require.
- A society, committee or association is the most effective way to manage the allotments, provide communal facilities, creating a set of rules within which gardeners should participate, setting and collecting of rents, gaining discounts through the bulk purchase of supplies (e.g. seed and manure).

Following our initial meeting, we were hopeful that land adjacent to OHMG would be sold to the Parish Council. Unfortunately, the offer to sell has been withdrawn and the process of identifying and acquiring a suitable piece of land must begin all over again. If you have any ideas for other potential allotment sites in the Village, or you are interested in joining the allotment society please contact me.

tel: 827096 (weekdays after 7pm), email: [rob.gothard@virgin.net](mailto:rob.gothard@virgin.net)

*Rob Gothard (Allotments Committee)*

### News from KER - Millend Mill – by Tom Low (KER) Tel: 01453 823425

"Good news from Millend - the Mill has had new planning permission for 14 apartments and Hallwave of Bristol, the builders, are ready to make a start. This re-build will retain a big chunk of heritage for our village as well as removing some dangerous masonry from the childrens' walking route to school.

This is a welcome contrast to the previous 2 owners, who were essentially speculators. There remain legal details to settle with Stroud DC, such as paying for footpaths and contributing to education and recreation funds.

Despite the current climate of housing depression, Hallwave are keen to get underway. Their plans are likely to be for 18-24 months work, including demolition, site stabilisation and flood defences. Building the apartments is the easy bit!

Villagers will be meeting with Hallwave to discuss safety elements, affecting both Millenders and families walking to school.

More news on those details in the November edition of NEWS, along with images of what the historic Cotswold stone Millend Mill will look like"

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## EASTINGTON SLIMMING WORLD GROUP

Summer has now faded away into autumn, although thinking about it did summer ever really arrive this year? I hope you all enjoyed reading and trying out the recipes I included in the last newsletter. At Eastington group our thoughts are now beginning to turn towards supporting our weight loss campaigns through the colder months ahead and over the next couple of weeks we will be sharing some new recipes ideas, as well as revisiting some old favourite that can fill us up, satisfy our appetites, comfort us on the colder wetter days, but most importantly still help us to lose weight and hit the targets we set ourselves for the Christmas. We will also be enjoying a food tasting evening to share ideas together and announcing our Women of the Year for our group, voted for by the members.

So looking forward, how many of you have been reading these articles over the past few months and thinking about coming to join the group? Then reading the following one after still not quite making it to the hall. Make this month the time you put your thoughts and dreams into reality and pick up the phone or turn up on the night to turn your thoughts in to actions and find out more about the fantastic weight loss plans Slimming World offer. We offer a warm, welcoming and friendly group, but most importantly for all of us losing weight we offer complete confidentiality and lots of encouraging support to help us reach our target weights. So come along to the village hall in Eastington at 7pm on Wednesdays. At present our membership is half price and remember men, women and 11-16 year olds are welcome at the group and we cater for every palate and appetite. I hope to meet you soon.

Lorna 01453 821751

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## 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.

We have resumed again with the start of 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



# ANNUAL QUIZ

## Eastington R.B.L

v

St Michael & All Angels P.C.C.

Friday 17th.October 2008

In the Village Hall

Yes it is that time of year when the village reverberates to the clash of these two intellectual juggernauts!! The battle starts at 7.30 p.m. with the doors opening at 7. The origins of this contest are almost but not quite lost in the mists of time. Thus far the balance has been very much in favour of the R.B.L. so we are all on the lookout for that rare event a P.C.C. victory. There is always an air of expectancy when questions with a religious flavour arise in case the P.C.C. team makes a hash of them and in particular to see if the Rector gets one wrong!

**Admission is only £3.00 and includes cheese and biscuits. Concession rate is £2.50 per head for O.A.Ps and families of 3 or more.**

Rod Brown will be presiding as Quizmaster as he has every year since the Quiz began some 30 years ago, ably assisted by his wife Jan as score keeper.

He always includes a fair dollop of questions with audience participation. Small prizes are awarded to the table with the highest score.

Wine and soft drinks will be available at £2.00 and 50p. per glass respectively.

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# Eastington Methodist Church

## From Revd. Noel Sharp

I am delighted to be the new Methodist minister at Eastington. I will seek to nurture the life of the local church, and of course support all the existing good work especially with young people. I am the minister also at churches in Hucclecote and Quedgeley. My background before being a minister was in social work, working with the elderly and with adults with special needs in Wolverhampton.

This is my third appointment having served in Redditch, Worcestershire and the Black Country previously. I have been very involved in the fairtrade movement, shown films and led film discussions, led services in residential homes, started a 20 minute midweek service, and been a chaplain to local shops. I am eager again to get to know and work with people from other local churches and community, and play a part in life of the Village.

My wife works at Gloucestershire College and we have three children at secondary school. I play tennis, walk, go to the occasional gig. We have a canoe which we paddle on canals and calm rivers. I suffer from two mild afflictions! One is I support Leicester City, who gave the world Peter Shilton and Gary Lineker. The other is my fairly serious Bob Dylan addiction. Well, it takes all sorts.

I know that for me Jesus Christ has opened the door to the truth and love of God and I want to share that with others. I also know I have more to see and learn and discover. I hope to travel with believers, sceptics and explorers in doing so.

\*\*\*\*\*

## What next?

Now the summer (!) has passed, our regular activities have resumed so please see the church web pages or notice boards for details. There are regular activities held at, or organised by, the church for young and the less young - please feel free to ask about any of them.

We have our Harvest service at 11 am on Sunday October 12th and this will be followed by a buffet lunch.

Over the summer holidays, we have been running a course called "CY" (see why) for the young people on selected Monday evenings. This particular course is coming to an end but will be followed by a new series exploring aspects of Christian living starting on Monday 29th September at 7pm at The Pike Lock House.

Please remember that the Church is here to serve, if you want us to pray for you or any situation that is concerning you, please let us know. Prayer requests can be dropped into the letter box by the porch.

Rev Noel Sharp - Minister:	01452 616118
Ken & Beck Burgin:	01453 827414
Daniel Owusu - Youth Evangelist:	079 6088 1986

[www.EastingtonMethodists.org.uk](http://www.EastingtonMethodists.org.uk)

# **Eastington Toddlers (and babies too)**

would like to advise that we have

## **Relocated to Eastington Methodist Hall**

The programme of Painting, sticking, singing, dance and making friends continues, we also have outside playspace soon! So if you have or look after a baby or toddler pop in - you might like it.

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## Severn Vale Biodiversity Project Update: The search for Newts continues

The Severn Vale Biodiversity Project carried out pond surveys in 9 ponds in Eastington over the summer, as part of the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust's "No News is bad news" project. We found the protected Great Crested Newt in 2 of the ponds surveyed.

Great Crested Newts are the biggest of the 3 existing newt species in this country and need medium sized ponds to survive. They live in pond only for part of the year when they mate and lay their eggs. During the winter newts live on the land under stones or in crevices. As many ponds have disappeared in the last 50 years, populations may have become isolated from each other. Although newts are known to walk up to 1km to find another pond, any further decline in ponds makes these fragmented newt populations very vulnerable. The aim of the survey was to find out where existing populations of Great Crested Newts are in Eastington and the next step is to improve their existing habitats. Even though still fairly common in this country, Great Crested Newts are protected in the whole of Europe, because they are very rare indeed on the continent. (Maybe the rain has got its good sides after all!)

If you would like to find out more about the ecology of these miniature dragon-like creatures, or if you want to survey your pond next year, please contact Stroud Valleys Project on 01453 753358.

For our events, please visit the Stroud Valleys Project webpage at [www.stroudvalleysproject.org](http://www.stroudvalleysproject.org)

*(Do please keep your eyes open for posters advertising a range of other local activities. Stroud Valleys Project SVP is just surviving on minimal funding currently, and you can find out more by contacting them. - Ed)*



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## ***Eastington Community Centre News.***

[www.ohmg.org.uk](http://www.ohmg.org.uk)

Work on the new community centre is going well. Anyone travelling north on the M5 can clearly see it, particularly as the roof timbers are now on.

There was a long period during the summer when it seemed that work had come to a standstill. Unfortunately, design issues with the roof and the incredibly wet summer delayed the project. The rain was very frustrating during the holiday season, as the builders could not complete the walls within schedule. Equally, we needed to get the structural integrity of the roof exactly right in order to satisfy our structural engineer. The issues that arose were somewhat frustrating but the structural engineer has now ensured that we have a design that can withstand that 'once in a century' freak gust of wind!

However, work is currently progressing well but the project is now due for completion in May 2009, instead of late March.

Despite the construction delays, we have been very busy during the summer and successfully obtained a grant of £55,000 for the installation of Solar-PV and Solar-Thermal panels. This is courtesy of The Big Lottery and The Low Carbon Buildings Programme and marks a major achievement, given that competition for renewable technologies is very high indeed. The great thing about the installation of these technologies is that it underlines the original intention of the committee to produce a sustainable building that has minimum impact on the environment. These 'green technologies' will allow us to minimise running costs and help to keep hire charges low for everyone in the community.

Furthermore, the whole system will have readouts and data-loggers fitted, which will make information about the energy generated by the solar panels available to all and will be visible within the entrance-hall. This provides a perfect environment for local schoolchildren to visit to learn about environmentally friendly technologies and monitor the heat/power generated. The youngsters of the area will get a head-start in learning about how buildings and new technologies can be kind to the environment; this will give them a good foundation in what will become more a way of life as the years progress.

### ***A Word of Warning***

We recently experienced a blatant attack of vandalism on the safety fencing within the car park of the grounds. The culprits were identified via the CCTV cameras on the site and we have spoken with those involved. The police are being informed of all acts of vandalism, and provided with CCTV footage, so they will take appropriate action as they see fit. Please inform your children that the building site is a hazardous place and **should not be entered under any circumstances**. Presence on the site, and any damage caused, is likely to result in injury to themselves or others and is therefore incredibly dangerous.

### ***Other News***

Ladies - a date for your diary: 28<sup>th</sup> February 2009, 7.30pm at Whitminster Village Hall will be the third 'Ladies' Night', this time featuring the UK's number one artists! The event will be a sell-out so get your tickets soon (£10 per ticket) – please contact Vanessa for details.

We are still collecting ink cartridges and your donations so far have raised over £400! Thank you and please keep them coming (collection box in the Post Office).

### ***Contact Details for the Owen Harris Committee:***

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

Don't forget you can get an update of how the build progresses from the website: <a href="http://www.ohmg.org.uk">www.ohmg.org.uk</a>
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