

Eastington Community News

July / August 2009

Nº. 116

Welcome to a bumper edition of Eastington Community News. We have an even wider variety of topics in this issue.

While travelling through Istrian villages this summer, it occurred to me that there may be something to learn about organising our daily routines. Many of the small communities we visited were built on hilltops. Surrounded by ancient town walls, most houses were separated only by very narrow streets, and it took some care to coax a car through town gates designed for carts of a bygone age. Like many tourists, we took time to admire picturesque landscapes, and to ponder lifestyles so very different from our own. Alternatively, we could look at similarities with routines. Getting off to work; getting the kids from school or organising their school holidays; putting out the rubbish; and the list could go on. It can be fascinating to watch others going about their normal lives.

On the morning that the dustbin lorry arrived in the ancient town of Grašiče, a mystery was solved for me. It was at once obvious, that this modern vehicle had been selected to fit through old town gates and narrow cobbled streets. The large green waste bins were emptied with ease, and within moments the streets were again clean and quite. It seemed too, that the elderly and infirm had the help of agile youngsters to take their waste bags across the ally to the smart green bins. Maybe we could learn from this. If big dustbin lorries won't fit the narrow lanes around Stroud, maybe smaller ones would do the job. And if we do change from bags to green bins, do we really need one each? After all, reducing the amount of rubbish we put out would reduce the need for a new County incinerator.

It's now official that the **Grand Opening** of Eastington's brand new **Community Centre** is **5th September**. This promises to be a most memorable day out, and all Parishioners are invited. So mark the date in your diary. The facilities that we have are first rate; the Sports Grounds are well prepared and maintained and the Community Centre itself is spacious and well fitted out to cater for many different activities. All this has been achieved without selling out to large-scale development. It is remarkable that it has been driven by a few dedicated and determined people who have really made this dream come true for all of us.

It's good to have another article from 'A Birder in the Parish'. Belated congratulations go to William Morris House; the specialist Further Education College recently celebrated 30 years here in Eastington. It is interesting to learn more about their award-winning work with vulnerable young people. We are delighted to have some sporting news this time from Alkerton Rangers. If it's exercise you are after, you might like to join them; or watch from the side if that seems less strenuous. The 27th Annual **Eastington Autumn Flower Show will be held on 5th September** and you can find details within. Don't forget that the **Eastington Horse Show will be on 1st August** at Claypits this year; entry details are inside. There are contributions too from Playgroup, Baby & Toddlers and Brownies, plus the regular article from the Methodist Church too.

Demolition works at Millend Mill are mostly complete now, and the assessment of the internal designing phase has begun. Steve Mills gives us a progress report with some interesting archaeological findings during the demolition of unwanted outbuildings. When completed, the Mill complex will accommodate 14 apartments or units.

We are fortunate to be kept well informed about 'District' matters by our District Councillor, Ken Stephens. The latest of his regular letters is inside. Since our last issue we have a new County Councillor, Tony Blackburn. He has wasted no time in demonstrating his intent to help this Parish improve road safety, and to get a better level of help from Gloucestershire County Council. Tony plans to be in regular attendance at our Parish Council Meetings. These meetings are held on 2nd Tuesday of each month at 19:00 in the Methodist Hall. All Parishioners are welcome to attend so you can meet your Parish, District and County Councillors. Thanks also to Colin Frith for a summary of some Parish Council activities inside this issue.

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Next Deadline:- All articles by **Friday 4th September 2009** please!
Next Delivery:- by **Monday 21st September 2009** please!

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ALKERTON RANGERS F.C

It was a disappointing season last year for Alkerton Rangers, as both teams were relegated from their respective divisions. The second team had a real good cup run to the semi-final of the Charity Cup where an old player came back to haunt us and eventually helped his team knock us out 4-1. We are already looking forward to putting last season behind us and with the new changing facilities in the new building that the village now have, we are expecting exciting times ahead for the football team; with some new faces young or old we hope to put things right on the pitch this coming season. We will be starting training again on either Wednesday 5 or Thursday 6 August at the Owen Harris Memorial ground at 6:30pm. If you are interested in playing for your local team, then please bring your boots along and show us your skills and help make us into a better team.

If you are interested then meet us at the pitch or alternatively contact Chris Griffiths on 07887572976 / 01452 548726 or Kevin Hill on 07814459160.

We hope to see you there. Chris Griffiths Alkerton Rangers Secretary.

EASTINGTON SLIMMING WORLD GROUP

So summer has arrived, at least for this week and in group we have been finding ways to enjoy the BBQ season and summer eating whilst still successfully losing weight. Last week we enjoyed a lovely food tasting evening. We all brought in a dish of food to share with everyone and had an indoor picnic! We enjoyed many different dishes including coucous and potato salads, quiches, mini kiev's, sausages and dips to name just a few. The evening was finished off with pudding including the wonderful Slimoffi Pie beautifully made by Lou. Many thanks to all my members for bringing in their dishes and making the evening a success.

Slimming world will be celebrating its 40th anniversary in September this year and now has the choice of 5 different eating plans for adults as well as the 'Free to go Plan' for our 11-16 year olds. January saw the launch of 'Xtra Easy' our 5th plan, a brand new eating plan, so now is the time to join whether you are new to Slimming World or have been a member in the past come to group and find out about the versatility of this new choice.

Eastington Group is warm and welcoming so come along to the village hall on Wednesdays at 7pm. If you are unsure what we can offer come along and find out more. There is no obligation to join, you can find out about our unique weight loss eating plans and how the group runs and then if you decide to join you can do so there and then. Woman, Men and 11-16 year can join so I hope to welcome you soon.

For any more details call Lorna 01453821751 or just turn up.

The Rotary Club of Stonehouse

The Rotary Club now meets each Wednesday evening (7.30 p.m. for 8 p.m) at The George Inn, Frocester. The club draws members, who mainly live or work in Stonehouse and the surrounding villages, from commerce and industry as well as a variety of professions.

New members and visitors are always given a warm welcome and the club prides itself on a varied programme of speakers, business and social events. As well as being involved in local community projects Rotary Clubs around the world also link together to provide humanitarian aid, all with the common aim of giving 'Service Above Self'.

To find out more about Rotary please contact Derek Hurn on either 01453 822896(B) or 01452 740859(H).

What's on at Eastington Community Centre?

Official Opening Day

Saturday 5th September
More details to follow.

Eastington Playgroup

Restarts Friday 4th September
Weekdays
Tel. Shelley on 07977 342742

Pilates

Weds. 6.30-7.30pm
Tel. Karen Richards 01453 545127
Email: antkaz0804@btinternet.com

Jolly Joggers (Eastington Amateur Running Club)

Tuesdays 9.30-10.30am
Sundays 5.30-6.30pm
Tel. Laura 07855 289159

Eastington Cricket Club Matches

July 25th, 27th, 30th
August 1st, 15th, 29th
September 6th
Weekend matches start at 2pm
Evening matches start at 6pm
Tel. Steve 01453 791209

Alkerton Rangers Football Matches

September 12th, 19th
October 3rd, 31st
Matches start at 2.30pm
Tel. Martin 01453 828712

Eastington Community Centre

Available for parties, regular bookings, sports events, new clubs.

Telephone Vanessa on 828557 to discuss your requirements and dates.

Grand Opening Fete

Saturday 5th September 2009
Car-boot, events, and the Official Opening.
(Further details to follow)

Your chance.....

...to set up a user group or sports group for benefit of the children and adults of the village. Support, help and a beautiful new building are available to anyone wishing start a club or society within *our village!*

Contact any committee member for a friendly chat.

Developments During the Demolitions at Millend Mill - Pt 2

Since my first note in the previous newsletter, and as anyone passing the mill will have noticed, developments at Millend have continued to move at a pace. Demolition of the various buildings joined to the main mill has gone ahead, and much of the site has now been cleared. As before, various interesting things have come to light. Equally, there are even more puzzles. Briefly:

The single storey building along Cress Green lane has been demolished, and more recently, the concrete slab on which it stood, broken up and removed. Along with an archaeologist from Cotswold Archaeology, I waited with interest to see what might be beneath it. Several things appeared. The first was two linked deep brick chambers that appear to have once formed some form of drainage system, perhaps from cottages that once stood on the hillside. And closer to the mill, the footings of a stone-built wall appeared in what would have been the middle of the (now demolished) building. This was made up of several courses of rectangular limestone blocks surmounted with a course of re-used pieces – some were clearly stone window mouldings, probably from some long gone part of the mill. There was no indication of the wall's function, so along with the drainage chambers, it was photographed, recorded and removed. The whole area has now been covered with crushed rubble as hard core for the two new houses to be built there.

On the opposite side of the river, all of the newer buildings tacked on to the mill were also demolished, not without some difficulty. The section where the large steel roller door was located proved to be particularly tough! Nevertheless, this, as well as the adjoining parts disappeared over the course of a few days. Even this unremarkable looking building proved to be more interesting than it might have been. The upper floor had once been lit by rows of windows (long bricked up), so clearly, this building was more than a simple loading bay when it was originally built. Local information suggested that it may have been added during the 1950s. However, a steel fire door that originally linked it with the adjoining earlier two-storey brick building had a different story to tell. Under many layers of paint was a maker's plate. This was removed and carefully cleaned, revealing that the door had come from a Manchester supplier and was dated 'August 1945'. So, clearly, this 'modern' building was older than thought and dated back to at least the 1940s if not earlier. Unfortunately, there were no indications as to what it was originally built for.

Once these 'newer' buildings had gone, the earlier two-storey building alongside the river was fully revealed. This disappeared at a remarkable rate and I was hard pushed to keep up with the demolition crew! Even though it had been bodged up and altered many times over the years, it still managed to reveal things of interest. Both floors of the building had originally been lit using numerous large iron-framed round-headed windows. When this was built (1820s-30s), local cloth mill owners were busy gathering in hand loom weavers from their cottages, and much to the latter's disgust, grouping them together in specialised loom shops. This meant that the owners could now regulate their hours of work and monitor the quality of the cloth they produced. Looms took up a lot of space and needed a lot of natural daylight, hence the large windows. Perceived wisdom suggested that this building had never housed powered machinery. However, there were various indications that this was not the case, and that some form of activity requiring power from either the water wheels or the steam engine had taken place (although we can't be sure at what period). Some of the roof trusses removed during demolition had once carried bearing housings for line shafting, and several beams also showed where the oil used to lubricate them had seeped into the wood. At a guess, I would suggest that this may have been connected with the mill's later time as a corn mill, rather than earlier cloth manufacture.

Continued/

Developments During the Demolitions at Millend Mill - Pt 2 continued

The breaking up of the substantial concrete base of this group of buildings brought to light the lower parts of an earlier stone-built building underneath it. It was surprising that any of this had survived - early maps (of 1839 and 1873) showed a detached building around this point. Again, its function is not known but this one was almost certainly associated with the mill's earlier cloth making phase.

Yet another discovery was made when work began on the existing stairway, built into the front corner of the mill nearest the road. Most of the steps and landings are of stone and brick, the entire structure probably being inserted into the mill around the mid 19th century. When the lower (wooden) steps were removed, it allowed access to the space beneath the first floor landing in goodness knows how many years. This revealed that the landing (which is made from one huge slab of stone) was supported on two massive cast iron beams. Closer inspection revealed that the ends were circular and that they were in fact, the main axles from old water wheels. It's quite likely that these are remnants of two of Millend's earlier water wheels. This was a brilliant find, one that took you straight back to its earliest period as a major cloth mill.

This brings me on to what has proved to be perhaps the most interesting thing to appear since the mill's conversion got under way. Everyone will remember the large curved red brick maltings kiln at the bottom of the hill that stuck out from the front of the mill - this was demolished a few months ago. Once gone, all that remained was a floor comprising relatively modern concrete and a few flagstones. Once again, the archaeologist from Cotswold Archaeology and myself watched as the excavator began to scrape this away. I had hoped that we might find a few traces of a small, two-storey building that stood there before the kiln was built (c1895). However, what appeared was both unexpected and as it turns out, very unusual. As the excavator removed the surface, a pattern of red bricks began to gradually emerge. Eventually, the remains of a structure were revealed that had clearly been part of the maltings kiln. This is now fully visible and consists of a symmetrical layout of four triangular brick structures surrounded by various brick channels. In short, it is the remains of the furnace once used to heat the two upper floors of the kiln where barley was heated as part of the process of becoming malt for beer making. I have so far excavated parts of this and pulled out masses of broken kiln tiles (the upper floor were made of these - lots were later used to block the mill's windows!), and lumps of anthracite (hard coal) burned in the furnace. I've even unearthed loads of barley grains, still surviving after all these years.

This discovery created a lot of interest and I subsequently arranged for a maltings expert to visit the site in order to discover exactly how the furnace operated. It now appears that this particular layout is something of a rarity, if not unique, and the expert has gone off to research it further. It's hoped that the furnace base can be retained in some form as it helps to tell an important part of the mill's story. As this part of the site is to be landscaped, it could possibly form a garden feature - I hope this proves possible. Some of the broken kiln tiles excavated from the furnace were badly burned (they shouldn't have been!) and the suspicion is that the massive fire that gutted the mill during the 1920s was the result of barley being kilned on the upper floors catching fire. This spread into the main mill, destroying the interior and roof. Until recently, there were still charred beams that had been re-used inside the mill following its rebuild. If you're passing the mill, take a peek through the wire fence at the front - it's worth a look.

The on-site demolition has been essentially completed and there is now likely to be a lull in activity at Millend. The developer's architect and engineers will be coming on site to begin preparing detailed plans for the mill's new internal layout as well as assessing what's needed to repair the stonework damaged (and often replaced with brick) after the 1920s fire. Watch this space.

Stephen Mills

William Morris House Celebrates Its First 30 Years!

There was a garden party atmosphere at William Morris House in Eastington on Saturday 27th September, 2008 as current students, staff, volunteers and friends gathered with former students, staff and volunteers to mark its 30th birthday. Memories were shared, slides looked at and a wonderful “30” birthday cake decorated with hand painted rice paper with a William Morris design. Even better, the sun shone on proceedings all day!

William Morris House is an award-winning specialist Further Education College for up to 36 young people with a variety of learning disabilities. Most of its students are residential during term time. It is part of the Camphill Communities movement which works with vulnerable people worldwide. Many of the people who work there are volunteers coming from various parts of the world, such as Korea, Canada, Portugal, Brazil, Germany, America, Japan, Norway, Israel and, of course, Britain.

The story of William Morris House began way back in the autumn of 1977 when a family, with experience in the care profession gained through the Camphill Movement, came across “The Willows”, the old Eastington Workhouse when they were out cycling. It was then boarded up and looking forlorn. They had been working in South Africa for 12 years and on their return had been looking for suitable buildings for a project which would provide a home and employment for up to six people with special needs. They made enquiries about the building, which was County Council property, but it wasn't until June the following year that they got permission even to enter the old building. With the help of Sir John and Lady Langman and other friends, the lease was finally secured and work could begin on making “The Willows” fit for purpose. The first job that needed to be done was to repair a leak in the roof which appeared on moving-in day! William Morris House started life with two people with special needs and £400 in the bank! The number of trainees grew that year until by November there were 14 trainees and 2 co-workers (volunteers who lived and worked at William Morris House). The first Board Member Meeting was held on 11th October and the rebuilding of the main house in 7 phases began in December 1978.

It was decided to name the new venture after the craftsman and designer William Morris. Morris is represented in the area (the stained glass windows in Selsley Church and at Kelmscott Manor in Lechlade – a Morris family holiday home). It was also felt that there should be the opportunity for people to learn and practise crafts at William Morris House. Current day students have the opportunity to learn paper making, felt making, pottery, weaving and woodwork as well as being able to work in the grounds of William Morris House and work in the Food Processing Centre making jams and juices from locally grown produce.

Since 1978 many improvements to the existing building have been made as well as the erection of new buildings. Today you'll find on site:-

- Kelmscott House, Bridge House, Merton House and Hiram House (all large family-size houses which are home to students and co-workers)
- A hall used for lessons, celebrations and festivities
- An office
- A brand new Woodwork Workshop built with the help of students and co-workers, which has a turf roof
- A Seasonal Crafts workshop
- A Weavery
- A Fibre Arts workshop (paper and felt making)
- The Food Processing Centre
- Various class rooms

Offsite, but still part of William Morris House, you'll find:-

- Just up the road from the main site, Willow House, another house for students and co-workers
- In Stroud, the Lansdowne Pottery which is a commercial pottery offering training and work experience to students of William Morris House and other similar organisations in the area.

Eastington is the ideal location for a college such as William Morris House, and we hope to remain and thrive here for many a year to come!



Owen Harris Memorial Ground Charity

Eastington Community Centre News.

www.ohmg.org.uk

On 19th June 2009, the keys to Eastington's new Community Centre were formally handed over to Owen Harris Memorial Ground Charity. This fantastic news now means that, after one year and one day, this great-looking, eco-friendly building which has a large meeting hall, upstairs rooms, two-team sports changing rooms, Match Official's changing room, bar and disabled facilities, will soon be available to everyone in the village.

Whilst there is still hoarding surrounding the building and a lot of ground works outside to do to 'make good' the site, we're now in a position where we can work towards our target of the Grand Opening of the new centre on 5th September this year. This will be a fantastic day and earmark a point at which the charity officially opens the doors of Eastington Community Centre for everyone to use. September 5th will be a great day of celebration (it's not every day a village gets a new community centre) and you are all invited to the opening event. More details will follow in August, but please mark this day in your diary as a family day-out that is local, and free!!!!

In the meantime, we have had several nominations for the oldest and youngest 'representative' of the village to officially open the building. We are still looking for further contributions and if you feel someone within the village should be part of the opening ceremony, then please do fill in the form printed elsewhere in this issue and send to Jayne Elder at 'Ashleaze', Alkerton (just around the corner from the hairdressers). We are especially looking for more youngsters to aid the opening. Is your child starting playgroup at the centre in September and would you like them to be part of that event? This is a historic event and will become part of the history of Eastington, so please take the time to consider and get your nomination to Jayne.

Going forward, the new centre will be available for hire from September to any group that would like to set up on a regular basis. We would particularly like to hear from anyone who would consider setting up youngsters or youth sports groups such as football, rugby, tennis or cricket. Equally, as there are already groups within the village that cater for girls only (Rainbows and Brownies), we would love to hear from anyone who would like to set up something for the boys such as Cubs or Scouts group, or anything else that can further engage the youngsters. Funding options are available to help with any group that wishes to make a start. As the charity continues to improve the site, with ideas such as skateboard ramps, improved/relocated children's swings and football knockabout areas (all of which give the kids with nothing to do, something to do) we really would love to hear from anyone who can help us to create some organised clubs and activities to benefit the youngsters of all ages.

Doing something like this can be really rewarding and rather than complaining about the kids hanging around on street corners, let's give them somewhere to go and something to do without having to drive them miles! The members of the committee and charity can give help, advice and support. All we need is any members of Eastington who want to do something for the benefit of the village to contact us with suggestions and make a start.

From here on, we will be publishing a list of 'What's On at Eastington Community Centre'. This will help publicise the site and encourage participation. Up to now you may have been unaware of forthcoming cricket, football and indoor events going on. Now, we will publish ongoing and upcoming activities at the centre, so please keep an eye-out for anything you fancy participating in.

Just a reminder that we are always collecting ink cartridges (unfortunately we can no longer accept toner cartridges) – there is a collection box in the post office, or you can hand them to any committee member.

Contact Details for the Owen Harris Committee:

Mark Cousins (Chair)	828557	Gill Glover (Funding Manager)	828782
Jayne Elder (Secretary)	828027	Andrew Cozens (Treasurer)	824793
Vanessa Cousins (Bookings Clerk)	828557		

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S JULY NEWSLETTER

DISTRICT COUNCIL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This meeting kept to the level it has been in recent years in being another total shambles. At one stage an amendment was proposed basically to work out where we were and what we were going to decide in a vote. The nonsense started early in the meeting when we were discussing a raft of changes to the Councils Constitution. In these were the much commented on changes to the planning scheme of delegation. Residents may recall my adverse comments and opinion on these in the last newsletter. On presenting the item the cabinet member actually proposed something very different to that on the agenda. We were expected to take these changes as spoken without any written copies of the differences to study. Needless to say this was not very well received. It became apparent during questions that many councillors were unhappy with how this very important item was being dealt with. The leader of the council then decided to withdraw the item from the agenda. I was going to propose an amendment that the item be deferred to policy panels for further discussion and hopefully a consensus of agreement on any changes. My idea was that this could be dealt with in a maximum of six weeks. What has happened is that it has been sent to a scrutiny committee. A programme has been set out that will bring a report back to council in October or November. Comment has been made by a cabinet member on how much planning delivery performance grant may be lost by the delay in changing the planning process. I did point out that what is happening stems from decisions made by the administration and nobody else. As I said, I thought the whole thing could have been done much quicker. If it had been done properly in the first place this state of affairs would not have arisen. Also in this big agenda item were proposals to reduce the numbers of certain committees, including development control. This again was not well received and an amendment that I proposed to keep the numbers the same as previous years, and therefore maintain the breadth of representation and accountability available on these committees, was carried. More than a few administration councillors voting for the amendment and against their group's position. This led to an adjournment being called by the leader of the council. It was supposed to be for ten minutes but actually lasted much longer. Some members thought they could hear the noise of a hairdryer coming from the room the administration were having their meeting in. The meeting also discussed member's allowances. I as usual voted against these. I think that such things as special responsibility allowances are far too high. Nine years or so ago I think that the member's budget would have been at least 40% less in real terms. I do not claim all of my allowances, some of them are for doing things that to my mind are part of the job you ask the public to allow you to do.

HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT OVERSPEND.

I hear that the council is spending some £50,000 on consultants to investigate this. You do wonder what we employ quite highly paid staff and cabinet members for.

The administration has decided not to apply for government money to build social housing. They repeatedly criticize the government for not giving them the tools to deal with social housing problems but have declined because they cannot put forward a proposal by October. They say it is not enough time. You do wonder how those councils who will be in the July application group manage to do it. As I said before you do wonder what we pay some people to do.

I would like to thank all of the people who nominated and supported me in my unsuccessful attempt at becoming a County Councillor, and for all of the kind words I have received since.

Ken Stephens July 2009

Adverts in *Eastington Community News*

The adverts on the 'blue' pages are printed once each year for those wishing to commit to advertising for an entire year. If changes occur during that year, we regret that we are unable to make alterations to these pages. We ask for your understanding where such situations arise. – Ed



EASTINGTON PLAYGROUP

Tel 07977 342742

Charity number 1084981

Well another summer has nearly passed us by and with that another academic year. We have been very busy fundraising for new storage for the new building for September and have had a fun sponsored sports day.

We will be sad to say goodbye to our older children who have been getting ready for school in September, going down to Pre-school sessions held at Eastington Primary School.

We will also be saying goodbye to the old building which we have been using for many years now, and we are very excited and busy getting ready for the big move to the new community building and we plan to start our sessions there in September. The good news is that there are now places available for children aged from 2 years 6 months with effect from September so if you are interested please give us a ring for more details. We will be running sessions on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9am until 3pm and Wednesday and Friday mornings only.

This term we have been learning about mini beasts and we have been searching the playfield for insects to look at using magnifying glasses for the tiny insects - we have found ladybirds, spiders, worms, caterpillars, black fly and many others. We have painted and drawn pictures of them, made models to make a fantastic wall display of 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' story. We have collected some snails that have slithered over black paper to make pretty trails, measured worms against rulers and we have also hatched out butterflies from caterpillars which was very interesting. On the last day of term we have had a visitor from the Slimbridge Wildlife Trust to talk to us about mini beasts, some of which she brought in to see us and then we had a leaver's party for the older children.

Eastington Playgroup will reopen on Friday 4th September for the autumn term.

We take nursery vouchers for 15 hours per week. (Subject to minimum age criteria)

If you would like to know more about our community Playgroup then please feel free to speak to Shelley or a member of staff on 07977 342742. We look forward to meeting some new faces in the future!

Lingos Language Tuition



French For Your Holidays

8 x 1 hour sessions

or

4 x 2 hour sessions

Daytime only

**Why not gather a group
of friends – more fun
and less expensive!**

Beginners welcome

Danish and Spanish also available

07799 657975

lingos@fsmail.net

Eastington

A Birder in the Parish

We approach a very interesting time of the year when migration is already under way and one By end of June the first flush of breeding is over and the chorus of bird song is beginning to slow down ready for the post breeding moult. The weather has been good and I suspect numbers of fledged young will be high this year. Look out for family parties now on the move through hedgerows and trees in their search for food; Longtailed Tits are particularly noticeable as they noisily leave one bush for another in a steady stream, sometimes up to twenty birds or more where different families have flocked together, and juveniles of Chiff Chaff, Blue Tits and Great Tits often join them on their walkabout.

Some birds will tend to double brood if the going is good through the season and if there is plenty of food available. Swallows and House Martins will do this and will be feeding their second families right into October at migration moment, when these hirundines will form big mixed flocks feeding up before their movement back south.

One of my favourite birds is the Nightjar and there are a number of (mostly secret locations) where they breed in Gloucestershire, but there is one site which is made public at Boy's Grave in the Forest of Dean. These warm, sultry evenings are perfect for them - but some advice, make certain you take good midge protection - they like these evenings too!

Nightjars start to churr at late dusk, and it is advisable to be in place before then, as one of the resident males begins to 'sing' from a conifer branch quite close to the viewing spot, and you might see him perched before he then flies into the dim light to perform his wing clapping nuptial display flight with a female, the prominent white patches on wings and tail quite easily picked out in the disappearing light. It is truly a magical experience, and you will be joined by Woodcock 'roding' overhead, and, when I was there last, the famous white Fallow Deer also put in an appearance - but do keep an ear out for the wild boar, who are now roaming freely and, as I was told by a local landlady, beginning to disapprove of human attention and charging aggressively!

My birding mate John and I were at Woorgreens early one Saturday morning back at the start of May, looking for breeding Willow Tits. Birders are naturally quiet individuals - they have to be, or they wouldn't see anything, and fortunately never own a dog as they are the bane of birders, flushing everything within yards - and we therefore skirted the back of Woorgreens pool where a good gorse brake barriers the conifers from the pool edges. We heard the boar long before we saw them, and they had not picked up our scent - boar have poor eye-sight but top senses of hearing and smell - so we watched as these very large beasts and their youngsters moved contentedly through gorse cover, every now and then stopping when they picked up the slightest hint of our presence, which of course, they eventually did, and disappeared into the forest edge with hardly a sound.

But that wasn't going to be our last encounter that morning. We left them to it and moved through alders to the main track towards Crabtree Hill, a known site for Tree Pipits and Turtle Doves. Tree Pipits were nest building, but no Turtle Doves (unusually quite rare in the County this year) so we picked our way back through spruces to the pool. As we again approached the gorse cover, we heard boar, and as we stood there craning for a view, a big sow came out straight towards us, not twenty yards away. She immediately alarmed, but couldn't quite decide to go back or proceed towards us - we hadn't moved at all so she wasn't sure who or what we were! Her piglets were somewhere behind her; she snorted and pranced, trying to make her mind up what to do as she glared at us and we could only stand and wait - methinks if we had made a run for it, she would have certainly followed close behind! But she did the right thing, and scuffled back into cover.

With one or two exceptions, birds of prey are now very much a success story in Britain, particularly Red Kites which have recovered dramatically since the 1970's when I helped to warden the last six surviving British birds in mid-Wales. They are now an annual sighting in Gloucestershire, with as many as nine seen in one group over the Forest of Dean in April. Pop over the County boundary into Oxfordshire, and they are virtually the commonest raptor after a very successful re-introduction programme. From thirteen raptor species now recorded in Gloucestershire, our most frequently seen bird of prey in the Parish is now probably the Buzzard, with the Kestrel and Sparrowhawk close behind. So it was rewarding to see a Peregrine Falcon in the east meadows in early June - a big, powerful female using the top of one of the pylons to spend nearly an hour to feed on a racing pigeon (the unfortunate victim's

A Birder in the Parish / continued

ring showing well on its dangling leg!) - in the telescope, an impressive sight. She dispatched the bird clinically, under the watchful eye of the resident male Carrion Crow, in whose territory she had decided to feed, and a male Kestrel who cautiously stooped at her as she fed, his three fledged young safely out of sight in the evergreen oak.

But I've known this male crow for many years, and I knew an hour was just a bit too long - he settled the situation by getting closer and closer to her feeding perch, and, with a big tug on her tails feathers, she decided to gracefully depart!

Birder

Nupend and Westend New Notice Board:

The villagers of Nupend and Westend have recently installed their new notice board at Westend Cross. The project has been a well-supported village effort, and much of the materials used were provided by local people and the Parish Council.

The board will display Neighbourhood Watch advice, village news and items of interest. It will also have a section for 'Buy, Sell & Wanted' items which will be for village use only. It is hoped it will provide a useful service for all, and at the same time keep everyone informed of local events and village news.

On behalf of the villagers, I thank the following persons for their contribution to the construction and installation of the notice board: Richard Watson; Arthur Spencer & Co; Oak Frame Company; Eastington Parish Council; Gloucestershire Highways; Ian Marshall; Ben Smith; Bill Edwards; Peter Eddis-Bates; Glyn Griffiths; Mary Gribble; Roma Walker and my apology to anyone I may have missed out.

Eddy Willey, Half Acres, Nupend.

✂-----

NOMINATION FOR GRAND OPENING OF EASTINGTON COMMUNITY CENTRE

(SEE EASTINGTON COMMUNITY CENTRE ARTICLE)

Name of nominated person: _____

Age: _____ Contact phone number: _____

Why you think this person should open the new building:

Name and contact details of proposer:

Return to Jayne Elder, 'Ashleaze', Alkerton (just around the corner from the hairdressers); Tel: 828027

✂-----

EASTINGTON BROWNIES

The Brownies have been very active this term with a varied programme, including a lesson in cheerleading, a party with a desert island theme and a campfire evening, which involved building an edible campfire ñ to make sure we were safe.

We have continued working towards the gardening badge, with Kate coming to several meetings to help us. The products of our labours are becoming apparent with lots of flowers and vegetables growing. Most of the Brownies have now got the badge and we are very grateful to Kate for her time.

The older Brownies are going to camp soon so here's hoping the nice weather will continue.

Brownies are girls aged 7 to 10 years and we meet in Eastington Village hall on Monday evenings during term time, 6.45 to 8pm.

There is currently a waiting list to join so if your daughter or friend is interested please contact

Kate Taylor 01453 821184 or Sarah Mannings 01453 826850

Bohemian Beads Children's Party



If you are looking for an unusual, entertaining party, a children's jewellery making party is a great choice. Perfect for children aged 5+, the activity is fun, very rewarding and will keep the children absorbed and surprisingly quiet!

If you are interested in holding a party or would like more details on the options and price scales please email info@bohemianbeads.co.uk or call 0845 391 8941.



NEW EASTINGTON BABY **& TODDLER GROUP**

Now Under New Management.....

Monday & Wednesday Mornings
10:00 till 11:30am.
Eastington Methodist Church.
opposite butchers.



We welcome parents, grandparents, child minders, aunties, uncles and anyone else who wants their little ones to have fun in a creative learning environment.

Co-ordinator: Clare – 07748 015034 – please phone for details.

Come and Enjoy - First Session
Free !



Eastington Methodist Church

Dear Friends,

I once heard someone utter the heretical words, "It's only football". We know Bill Shankley's famous saying, "Some people believe football is a matter of life and death. I can assure you it is much more important than that." He was joking, but also making a point about the passion he felt for the game.

At the last European Championships within half a mile of my house I counted 33 St George flags along the way. Something gripped large swathes of the population. It seems we care more about who wins Wimbledon or the World Cup or Britain's Got Talent than who wins elections or who lives and dies.

Is it that we need something to lend passion and drama to sometimes mundane lives? Is it that we seem to have a deep animal need for the struggle for victory or defeat? Is it that we seem to have pent up energies of frustration or anger that seek some means of release?

Do we need the reflected glory of England's or Andy Murray's achievements because we know of no other glory? Do we need the ego boost of our team winning because our own sense of worth is so brittle? Do we need the drama and passion of football because we know of no other drama and passion?

Beyond the passing sporting highs and lows, I believe we need to know where true glory comes from. I believe they are found in the one who created us and loves us and seeks us and laid down his life for us. So follow the team, if that's your thing, (I have mine too) but I am sure that, in the end, true glory and the deepest passion and drama and the profoundest sense of worth come from the love of God in Jesus Christ.

Noel Sharp
Minister of Eastington Methodist Church

The school summer holidays are nearly upon us and these affect our children's and young people's programmes. Kidzone stops over the holiday period but we do have a special sleepover on Tuesday 21st/Wednesday 22nd July starting at 5pm.

There are series of events for the Young People (which includes those leaving primary school this summer) and these include the regular Friday evening youth club and activities on Thursday 30th July, 6th and 20th August starting at noon and finishing by 9pm; these will replace the Monday CY sessions. A group is also going to Soul Survivor, a Christian event under canvas, in the middle of August. One or two sleepovers at the church are also expected to take place. There are two weekend residential trips being planned. Ignite is an activity weekend in the Forest of Dean for September 25th-27th and The Bristol District Methodist Youth Weekend is on October 9th-11th at Keynsham.

Please see the web page for details of these and all the other things for adults going on or contact Ken & Rebecca Burgin on 01453 827414

info@EastingtonMethodists.org.uk

www.EastingtonMethodists.org.uk

Parish Council Matters

EPC Finance

Eastington Parish Council's 2008-9 Finance Report and Accounts were presented to the Annual Parish Meeting on 20th May. They show a small surplus from the budget for the year adding to the reserves. These accounts, subsequently signed off at the 9th June Council Meeting, have now gone off to the External Auditors.

Your Parish Council continue to support the build of the new Community Centre on the OHMG, transferring the £49k from the Spring Hill Development S106 monies and enabling a further £40k contribution to the project.

During the year we were informed that the piece of land behind Fox House on the Bath Road, bequeathed to the Parish under the Charlie Bullock Trust, was finally being conveyed to us. We have been searching for allotment land for the Parish for many years and having taken advice on that piece of land we decided that we would attempt obtain another parcel of land, adjacent to the OHMGC ground, when it came on the market. After further professional advice on the value and suitability of this land, we were able to obtain another Secretary of State Approved PWLB Loan for £35,000, and were able to exchange contracts and make completion in March.

We open 2009-10 with Reserves of £22,400 and we have also been able to reduce the effect of the Parish Precept for the 2009-10 year by 0.1%.

Javelin Park – Incinerator

We have had no feedback from parishioners either for or against the incinerator, so must assume that you are aware of the potential health and other hazards, but are not concerned.

The writer is active in opposing the incinerator and informing the council of developments and updating as knowledge increases. The current design model is a 10 story high building, which will be visible from the escarpment, standing out in the Severn vale. The prevailing winds are westerly, yet I understand that the winner of the balloon distance challenge released from the site, is from Monmouth, which is due west of the site, which confirms that the airborne toxic waste will have a far greater countryside impact than was originally thought.

Noise Pollution

Now that summer is at last here and we are spending more time outside or have the house windows open the noise, principally from the motorway, is more apparent and intrusive.

Am I the only one affected by it, or are you also? I can, at least, remove my hearing aids to get some relief. We know that our MP, District and Parish Councillors would support any campaign to reduce noise, Will any of you equally concerned please contact me?

Colin Frith (EPC Finance Chair) 01453 792929 colby.ivycottage@virgin.net

Footpaths

More good news for this summer !! There will be 6 new kissing gates installed between Middlehall and Churchend. There will also be 2 kissing gates and 3 new stiles installed in Nupend. Obviously, kissing gates are easier to use for the "more elderly " amongst us, but, they are four times more expensive than stiles!!

I would like to thank all those landowners who have "made the path visible " through their crop fields. This a big help to walkers, and it also stops walkers from making their own paths through crops!!! Don't forget, if you have any concerns or comments about Footpaths, please let me know.

Bill Edwards, EPC Footpaths. (01453 824452)

Allotments

The process of handing over allotments and deciding the appropriate land preparation is continuing. It would of course be great to get on with the planting, however, some carefully considered decisions first need to be made. If you have an interest in acquiring an allotment plot please contact Cllr. Rob Gothard (01453 827096).

Parish Plan

A grant from GRCC has been made and now representatives from organisations and individuals are required to form the committee to document the voice of Eastington's Plan. Although we have had good reason to delay starting this, we must now proceed urgently.



Helping Hands needed

Are you interested in the welfare of local older people?

Care & Repair (Stroud) Ltd. are looking for people who are willing to carry out simple household tasks for a few hours a week. This is paid work in the local community and would suit people looking for part time hours. Reliability, flexibility and empathy with the needs of older people are essential.

Please contact Jane Creed for further details.

Telephone Stroud (01453) 753471

Fax: 0870 7058593



E-mail us at

helpinghands@careandrepairstroud.co.uk



or write to us at

**Care & Repair (Stroud) Ltd.,
Unit 9, New Mills Industrial Estate,
Libby's Drive, Slad Road, Stroud, GL5 1RN**

HELP FOR OLDER AND DISABLED HOUSEHOLDERS WITH IMPROVEMENT AND REPAIR
Care & Repair (Stroud) Ltd is an Industrial and Provident Society with Charitable Status
Registration No. 26017R

**`The 27th Eastington Autumn Flower Show
To be Held in the Village Hall
On Saturday 5th September 2009
2pm - 3.30pm
Admission 20p**

RULES

- (1) The hall will be open to exhibitors from 8am on the morning of the show. All exhibits must be staged by 10am at which time all exhibitors must leave the hall. Presentation of trophies at 3.30pm - no exhibit to be removed before 3.30pm.
- (2) Exhibitors cards corresponding to the entries will be handed to exhibitors by the show secretary and exhibitors will be responsible for the proper placing of their cards with their exhibits. An exhibitor may only enter one exhibit per class. Each exhibitor using separate entry forms.
- (3) Exhibitors must provide their own bowls, vases etc for display of their exhibit. All exhibits entered must be staged.
- (4) The judges may modify or withhold any award if the exhibits do not merit the prizes offered.
- (5) Any unfair means to obtain a prize will forfeit all claims to prizes.
- (6) The judges decision is final.
- (7) The committee cannot accept any responsibility for loss or damage to any exhibit or accessories to an exhibit. It reserves the right to move any exhibit to assist display.

SHOW SPONSORS

Section D sponsored by: Stonehouse Accessories
Classes 27-36 sponsored by: KB Coaches, Eastington Tel:01453 8225774
Section F sponsored by: Stonehouse Accessories
Section G sponsored by: Mrs Q Jones
Classes 1-6 sponsored by: R U Electrical Services, Eastington. Tel: 01453 823285
Classes 7-11 & 42 sponsored by: Mr W Fletcher
Class 12 sponsored by: Marshall's seeds
Classes 13-17 sponsored by: Mrs R Barnfield
Classes 18-23, 60 & 61 sponsored by: Alkerton Draughting Services Tel: 01453 822862
Classes 37-41 sponsored by: Mr & Mrs J Underwood

THE COMMITTEE WISHES TO THANK ALL THE SPONSORS FOR THEIR CONTINUED
SUPPORT

Please come along – lets make our 27th show a day to remember.

By just entering one item, you will make the difference.

Section A

CLASS

- (1) Potatoes - Kidney, Oval or Round, White - 4
- (2) Potatoes - Kidney, Oval or Round, Red - 4
- (3) Carrots - Long - 4
- (4) Carrots - Short - 4
- (5) Beet - Round - 3
- (6) Onions - Spring Sown Flat - 4
- (7) Onions - Spring Sown Globe - 4
- (8) Peppers - 2
- (9) Shallots - Large - 8
- (10) Shallots - Pickling under 1" - 8
- (11a) Onions - Large Dressed - 4
- (11b) Onions - Red - 4
- (12) Runner Beans - 6
- (13) Table Marrows - Any Size - pair
- (14) Plate of 6 mixed tomatoes
- (15) Cabbages - 2
- (16) Tomatoes - Outdoor Grown - Red - 6
- (17) Tomatoes - Outdoor Grown - Green - 6
- (18) Tomatoes - Greenhouse - Red - 6
- (19) Cherry Tomatoes - Greenhouse - Red - 6
- (20) Cucumber - Ridge - 2
- (21) Cucumber - Telegraph - 2
- (22) Courgette, under 6" - 2

Section B

- (23) Pears - 4
- (24) Cooking Apples - 4
- (25) Dessert Apples - 4
- (26) Plums - 4

Section C

- (27) Asters, Blooms in vase - 6
- (28) Chrysanthemums, Any variety, Blooms - 4
- (29) Chrysanthemums, Any variety, Spray - 1
- (30) Dahlias, Pom Pom, Blooms - 4
- (31) Dahlias, Decorative, Blooms - 4
- (32) Dahlias, Cacti, Blooms - 4
- (33) Gladioli - Spikes - 3
- (34) Gladioli - Spike - 1
- (35) Roses, Blooms - 4
- (36) Rose, Bloom - 1
- (37) Vase of cut mixed flowers, Quality of flowers only will be judged
- (38) Spray of Floribunda or Polyanthus Roses
- (39) Ladies Wedding Spray
- (40) Pot plant for flower
- (41) Pot Cacti
- (42) Pot Succulent

Section D

- (43) Home made Chutney - Pot
- (44) Home made Lemon Curd
- (45) Home made Jam - Pot of soft fruit
- (46) Home made Jam - Pot Stone fruit
- (47) One small pot - Any Jelly
- (48) Scones - Any variety - 4
- (49) Small Tarts, Jam, open - 4
- (50) Home made loaf, White using 1lb of Flour - 1

- (51) Home made loaf, Brown using 1lb of flour - 1
 (52) Victoria Sponge, 7" round - 3 eggs with their weight in fat, flour & castor sugar
 (53) Fruit Cake, 7" round, deep tin, 6oz margarine, 5oz sugar, 3 eggs, 9ozs self raising flour, 10oz mixed fruit (incl. Cherries), 1 teaspoon salt, ½ teaspoon almond essence, 1 level teaspoon mixed spice, little milk.

Section E

- (54) Rainbow picture made from any craft material
 (55) Animal made out of fruit or vegetables
 (56) Necklace made to your own design
 (57) Decorate a flower pot (own design and choice of materials)
 (58) Fairy Cakes - decorated to your choice - 4

Section F - Fun Section

- (59) Longest Runner Bean
 (60) Any other comical vegetable

ENTRY FORM FOR EXHIBITOR

Entry forms to be sent, together with entry fees, 20p each class (except 54 - 58, which are free) to the show secretary, or handed to any committee member.
 Additional entry forms available from the show secretary.

CLOSING DATE FOR ENTERIES 10am, 5th September 2009

CLASS NUMBER	CLASS NUMBER	CLASS NUMBER
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I HEREBY CERTIFY that all the articles referred to have been produced by me in my own garden or allotment, or made by me.

Exhibitors Name:-----

Address:-----

Total remittance:-----

THE COMMITTEE THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Hints to exhibitors:

Read the schedule carefully and be sure that you enter the correct number of specimens in each class. Prize money to be collected on the day of the show.

TROPHIES

Stroud Building Society Perpetual Challenge Cup to the exhibitor obtaining the most points in the show.

Presidents Perpetual Challenge Cup to the exhibitor obtaining the most points in Section C. Trophy to runner up for presidents cup.

Presidents Rose Bowl to the lady exhibitor obtaining the most points in the show. Trophy to the runner up for the Rose Bowl.

Dr R R Wethered Shield for the best exhibit in class 35.

The Bill Fletcher Shield for the most points in Section C.

Perpetual Trophy for the most points in Section D.

Perpetual Trophy for the most points in Class 55.

The Neal Perpetual Trophy for the best exhibit in childrens Class 56.

Joan Parkes Trophy for the best exhibit in Section F.

The Parish Council Trophy for best exhibit in Class 57.

The Moss Trophy for the best exhibit in Class 58.

Mr & Mrs J Underwood Trophy for the most points in Classes 8-14, 16-12.

J Bridges Perpetual Trophy for most points in Classes 6,7,9-11.

IN THE EVENT OF A TIE, TROPHIES WILL BE AWARDED TO THE PERSON OBTAINING THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF FIRSTS.

PRESIDENT: Lt. Cdr. W. R. Harris

CHAIRPERSON: Mr C Haines

HON TREASURER: Mr H Elliott

HON SECRETARY: Mr W Fletcher
11 Budding Road, Eastington, GL10 3BN.
Tel: 01453 828507

SHOW SECRETARY: Mrs S Underdown
3 Middlecroft, Eastington, GL10 3SG.
Tel: 01453 823285

COMMITTEE: Mrs Q Jones
Mrs G Neal

AWARDS: 1st - 25p 2nd - 20p 3rd - 15p

POINTS: 3 2 1

OPEN TO ALL RESIDENTS AND MEMBERS OF ORGANISATIONS IN THE PARISH OF EASTINGTON