

Eastington Community News

January /February 2010

Nº. 119

Happy New Year and welcome to the first edition for 2010. I will not be tempting fate this year by commenting about 'real winters' being followed by 'real summers'. Let's just live in hope! There has been so much media hype about the snow and cold weather that you may well be fed-up of hearing more about it. For many people the novelty began to run out after the first week, and the extreme behaviour of panic buying added an additional level of stress to a difficult situation. Stroud supermarkets were under siege, with queuing cars tailing back from full car parks outside, while inside, shelves were almost stripped bare as the panic buying took hold. Gridlock, from Stroud to the A38, resulted in the journey-time from Stonehouse to Stroud of more than 2 hours. Even the M5 was blocked by 2 miles of traffic queuing to get off for Stroud. So, while this winter may almost be compared with those of 1982, 1963, 1947 and 1927, we might be glad that such events are rarities in here in Britain, especially since dramatic news stories have become the flavour of this age. On the other hand, I am sure there will be many who will have revelled in experiencing real dry snow and a 'proper winter;' maybe for the first time in their lives.

There is always a lot happening in Eastington. Although ECN encourages everyone to prepare articles from time to time, it is surprising how many good events and activities go undetected, and the Parish Council strongly believe that local activities deserve promoting. In order to give wider publicity, a special meeting and exhibition will be organised, at which many worthy local events and activities will be displayed and explained.

The Parish Council (EPC) have organised the meeting for Tuesday 2nd March @ 7p.m. in the new Eastington Community Centre - Please make a note in your diary. Letters will be sent to invite as many organisations and activity leaders that it knows; to come along with material to illustrate their interest. And if *your* activity has not received an invite by the end of January, please feel free to contact EPC Clerk, Mary Gribble 01453 825279 (mgribble@btinternet.com). All parishioners are invited to come along to the meeting to hear about what's on offer. Additionally, an exhibition will be held on Saturday 6th March @ 10:00 a.m. – noon.

You may wish to learn more about proposals to build up to 2000 more houses in Eastington. This is part of Stroud District Council (SDC) new "Core Strategy." It is a major planning policy document, which will eventually replace the district-wide Local Plan. SDC will be holding a Public Meeting in February or March, at which their representatives will be present for discussions. SDC are also holding 'drop-in' sessions and exhibitions around the District during February and early March, but exact dates and venues are yet to be confirmed. Eastington is in the Stonehouse Cluster, so you need to watch out for the meetings when advertised. See inside for the article on "Core Strategy" process by SDC. You will be able to talk to officers working on the Core Strategy, and to find out more about the various strategies. All but one of these promote significant building at Eastington, while limiting development in the towns. Copies of all the documents will be available to view and you will be able to pick up consultation response forms too.

In the last issue of ECN your attention was drawn to the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment which SDC are undertaking to support their new "Core Strategy". The Parish Council (EPC) and Keep Eastington Rural (KER) have already begun to review the proposals. Further discussions will take place within EPC Meetings and you may wish to look out for additional Public Meetings that will be organised as soon as more details are released.

Congratulations to the Methodist Youth Club on being awarded £500 from the Cotswold & Stroud Division Police Fund, for their work in reducing Crime & Anti Social Behaviour in the village.

Your "Safer Communities Team" at Stonehouse Police Station would like you to have your say about the problems that really matter most to you. To assist their efforts to concentrate on these important issues, please complete and return the form inside, directly to Stonehouse Police Station before Sunday 24th January 2010

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Next Deadline:- All articles by **Friday 5th March 2010** please!

Next Delivery:- by **Monday 22nd March 2010** please!

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Eastington Slimming World Group

January has arrived again. The Christmas decorations have been packed away and the New Year celebrations are over. So its now that our thoughts turn towards this year and our hopes and dreams for a brand new year and what our achievements could be. So if this year your resolution is to lose your extra few pounds gained over the Christmas period (or the past few months or years) and to make that resolution last a lifetime - there's help at hand right in the heart of your own village. Slimming World has helped their members for over forty years to lose weight and keep it off. If you love food, love time with your friends and family but would also love to be slimmer, fitter and healthier, then we can help you.

We meet in the village hall every Wednesday at 7pm the group runs 52 weeks of the year and inside there awaits a warm and friendly welcome. We also promise complete confidentiality(no-one will disclose your weight) as well as no humiliation, we all attend for the same reasons to lose and maintain our loss once we reach our target weight. So everyone helps to support each other with tips, recipe ideas and most importantly you will be given your members pack which contains Slimming World's unique eating plans. As your consultant I will go through the plan with you and with the 3 easy steps you to can discover how to eat well and still lose your extra weight.

So whatever you'd love to achieve by losing weight - a new slimmer figure, a healthier more active life, to feel fitter and have more confidence - come along on Wednesday you can join any week of the year and I'll give you the support and guidance to achieve your goals.

So if your resolution is to lose weight, wait no longer, come and find out for yourself how you can lose weight the healthy and happy way

Together we can do it!

Lorna 01453821751

EASTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS

I am proud of the numerous achievements made by councillors in 2009. New land was purchased, and Parish Allotments have been provided and drained. A wildlife pond has been restored on the site and we anticipate community participation for both recreational and educational enjoyment. We await further public interest in the remaining acre. The remnant land from Charlie Bullock's Will, was passed in trust to EPC. This was successfully converted to a cash Trust Fund specifically for the benefit of this Parish, and will give very significant support to Parish ideas and activities for many years to come. You may apply to EPC Clerk, Mary Gribble for details of how to apply for funding to support your new ideas.

We welcome Sandra Hadley, who has been co-opted to fill the Casual Vacancy with the Parish Council. I am sorry to say that Katrina Knapthine, our RFO, will be leaving us at the end of this financial year. Katrina has helped improve EPC finances to a significantly high level during her time with us. We wish Katrina well with her other activities, and ask you please to consider applying for the new part time vacancy.

Cllr Andrew Niblett (EPC Chairman) 824841

Footpaths

It's been a while since I wrote about footpaths within the Parish, but the last four months have been active ones. During the long dry spell, (yes, we had one) Wicksters Brook was reduced to a mere trickle; the water-flow was about 3/4 gallon per minute. You would have seen this if you had been using the footpath that takes you to Middle Street or Frocester. (EEA 72) Also, during Oct / Nov along this path, you could have seen a large flock of Curlew in the fields.

During Oct / Nov the County Footpaths team were very busy on our behalf putting in kissing gates in Middlehall and Cress Green. In Nov / Dec they were putting in kissing gates, stiles and a bridge in Nupend, and clearing the bridlepath. Another kissing gate was put in by the school, near to the old mill. This is at the West end of EEA43, the path that follows the river towards Bonds Mill. This path will soon be "stile free" all the way to Bridgend.

During the recent cold spell, there have been quite large flocks of Lapwing (Green Plover) in some of the local fields. A very welcome sight!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our local farmers and land owners, including neighbouring parishes, for their help and co-operation in getting more kissing gates and stiles installed, and for making sure that footpaths are kept clear through fields in which they have planted crops. This help is greatly appreciated. Another big thank you goes to Jaci Harris who is the County Footpaths Officer for our Parish, and who works with the local farmers and land owners on our behalf.

So, it only remains for me to encourage as many people as possible, to take advantage of our footpaths, to 'get out and walk' and enjoy the countryside, and finally to wish you all a prosperous New Year.

Cllr Bill Edwards (824452)

ROADS AND TRANSPORT

Traffic Speed Observations

In the last Community News we reported our discreet observations. In summary we were looking at a range of 50 to 98% of traffic exceeding the 30 speed limit. The average speed across the whole village was 35. Two locations provided some concern, Orchard Leigh and OHMG both consistently registering >90% exceeding the speed limit with an average speed of 39 mph.

We began our Hi Vis campaign on 25th November. I would like to thank all the volunteers for their help. As well as EPC members other villagers have volunteered - as always we could do with more.

Twenty reminder signs have been erected around the village but I would note that at A4 these are a little small.

The High Visibility campaign has had dramatic results; average speed across the village is now 30 mph, a reduction of 5mph. The percentage of those exceeding the limit is down from 90% plus to just over 60%.

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Responsible Finance Officer (RFO) Eastington Parish Council

Approx. 12 hours per month (flexible)

- £8.34 - £11.93 per hour currently
- Pay rates as National Agreement for Local Government Services:
- Mileage and expenses are reimbursed
- Training for induction period
- Further training opportunities are available

Duties to include

- : Provision of monthly accounts for PC meeting
- : Preparation of cheques for signing.
- : Monthly payroll
- : Monitoring spend against budgets set
- : Assisting setting the annual precept (budget).
- : Annual VAT return
- : Preparation of annual accounts
- : Liaising with internal and external audit.
- : Other adhoc duties subject to applicant's available time

For details contact Clerk to (EPC) Mary Gribble
01453 825279 mgribble@btinternet.com

EASTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS continued/...

Looking at specific locations we still have some work to do at Orchard Leigh (down from >90% to >60%) and will need to monitor OHMG. The police will be measuring speeds too so please keep below the speed limit.

In summary this campaign has been a success. However it needs to be maintained if we are to improve safety in the village for our children, elderly and otherwise vulnerable. Please volunteer to carry out speed checks – if we had a team of 20, each person would have 1 session per month – not too much to ask for a significant road safety improvement.

Parking

Eastington has seen a sudden increase in longer term parking on Alkerton Road. This is likely to pose problems in a number of areas. From our local businesses perspective they will lose trade if cars are unable to park outside the shops. A number of houses now have very restricted vision when exiting their properties and some vehicles are parking on the pavement making it difficult for pedestrians (especially those with children in buggies) to get past. Indeed sometimes people have to walk into the road to get around. Lastly we are also seeing parking in bus stops. Where these have been specifically modified to provide access for the less able it is discouraging such people from using the bus. The Parish Council has received a complaint relating to poor access to buses.

It would be nice to think that, having read this, residents and other's who park long term on the road will adjust their parking habits to allow for other users. The Parish Council would be interested to hear from any people affected and so develop solutions with them.

In the longer term if you park your car in a way which compromises facilities for others, the Parish Council will leave a note on the vehicle asking you to make contact so suitable alternatives can be explored. The police are already advising against parking in the bus stops and have powers to issue fixed penalties.

Once again I would encourage anyone with views on the parking issues to contact the Parish Council so these can be taken into account for any eventual solution.

Please send any offers of help with traffic observations or views about parking to the Eastington Parish Council Clerk.

Cllr Chris Hill

Eastington Parish Council meetings are held on 2nd Tuesday of each month at 19:00 in the Methodist Hall. All Parishioners are welcome to attend

EPC Finance.

Parish Council expenditure has been well controlled during this year and after much debate and scrutiny of the accounts it was agreed that the Precept for 2010-11 would be kept at last years figure of £31,610 which will enable us to meet all loan repayment, mandatory expenses and liabilities, whilst maintaining the present standard of services and keeping existing reserves for outstanding projects intact.

Precept Summary:

• Salaries & Associated costs	£9000
• Ground Maintenance	£8000
• Loan Repayments	£6770
• Projects	£3800
• Insurance/Audit etc	£3000
• Grants & Donations	£2000
• Professional Fund	£2000
• Less Reserves	£3000

A major part of our annual expenditure is grass cutting and maintenance. This comprises of OHMG Playing Field, the Burial Ground, Churchyard, and Village Greens / grass. We have a mandatory duty to maintain the Burial Ground and Churchyard and we believe that these are economically and effectively maintained currently. Apart from ensuring 'due diligence' and a proper specification of necessary work, it would appear difficult to reduce costs further. (without recourse to voluntary labour.) However, we would welcome your suggestions, comments and feedback for possible improvements.

The proposed large scale domestic residual waste incinerator at Javelin Park continues to cause a cloud to hang over us and we will be continuing in our opposition of this, although it appears increasingly likely that some form of waste incineration will be passed for this site.

We still have the provision of Bus Shelters, Noise Abatement and the Parish Plan as outstanding projects and would welcome support for these.

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

Homeopathy

Coughs, colds, sore throats, ear-ache, tummy ache: next time your kids have the usual problems would you like to be able to treat them yourself simply and safely with homeopathic medicine? Join us for four evening classes beginning late February and learn the big picture of health through homeopathy.

Since qualifying in 1989 at the College of Homeopathy, London, I have taught scores of people to help their families at the first sign of acute illness, as well as treating people with more complex chronic problems through individual consultation. I have recently moved to Eastington parish from Rodborough, and am keen to share my knowledge. To find out more about either individual treatment or the evening classes (Thursday evenings, cost £48) telephone 791424.

Hazel Rank-Broadley Registered Homeopath

TEAS (The Eastington Allotment Society)

After nearly a 2 year wait, in late October members of the Eastington Allotments society were finally able to start 'digging in'. Unfortunately this coincided with the wettest November on record, so progress in most cases has been slow (with some industrious exceptions!). At least the rain has provided a good demonstration as to the effectiveness of the newly installed drainage, as confirmed by how quickly the recently refurbished pond filled up.

Despite the rain and the subsequent hard frosts, some productive growth has been evidenced just recently, notably a potential broad bean crop that should keep most of most of Eastington supplied for the rest of the year, and the emergence of the first shed.

The allotment site itself currently comprises 25 plots, of varying sizes, all of which have been taken up. The good news for anyone who's New Year's Resolution is to take up a healthy and productive activity this year is that the waiting list currently stands at zero. So, now is the time to get your name down. If you are interested please visit the Allotments page on the Eastington Parish Council web site to find more information, or phone Angela Kitson on 01453 826914 to get your name on the waiting list.

Eastington Brownies

The Brownies meet on Monday evenings in Eastington Village Hall from 6.45pm to 8pm, during term time.

We have another busy term ahead, including learning some circus skills and gaining points towards our centenary badges.

Brownies are girls aged 7 to 10 years and if you would like more information, please contact us.

Sarah Mannings 01453 826850

Kate Taylor 01453 821184

Eastington's Amateur Running Club The Jolly Joggers!!

Meeting Tuesday's 9.15am for 9.30am start (term time) and Sundays 5.30pm for 5.45pm start (all year).

We meet at the New Community Centre, The Owen Harris Memorial Ground.

Aiming at beginners but all abilities welcome!

Contact Laura on 07855 289 159 for more details!

**Core Strategy Consultation:
Alternative Strategies for shaping the future of Stroud District.**

Between Monday 8th February and Monday 22nd March, we all have a chance to comment on the future growth and development of Stroud District. As part of a new planning framework, which will eventually replace the district's Local Plan, the District Council is producing a document called the Core Strategy. This will be a plan that sets out how much new development should take place across the district over the next 20 years and, in very general terms, what should go where.

The District Council is publishing a range of possible routes that it could take in order to accommodate around 2,000 additional homes by 2026, as well as encouraging the generation of about two new jobs for every new household built. The challenge facing the Council is to ensure that future growth is managed in a sustainable way, making provision for homes, jobs and community facilities, whilst at the same time protecting and improving our environment. Should there be an urban focus for development (e.g. around the Gloucester fringe, Stroud, Stonehouse, Cam and Dursley)? Would it be best to have just one or two big developments or would it be more sustainable to disperse new development around smaller settlements and rural areas? Or should there be a mixture of these various approaches?

Each of the seven “alternative strategies” offers a way for the Council to meet its targets, but every one of them has pros and cons. The Council is inviting anyone that lives, works or invests in Stroud District to take part in this consultation and to make their views known, so that it can refine the various options and come up with the best possible solution for the District. The Core Strategy will not be finally adopted until next year and there are several more stages of consultation before then – but this is possibly the most important stage, because it will shape the overall direction for growth and development.

If you have internet access, you can read the consultation documents and answer questions online from 8th February by visiting www.stroud.gov.uk/core

If not, documents will be available to view throughout the consultation period at all town and parish council offices that open to the public as well as public libraries across the district. They will also be available to view at the tourist information centre at the Stroud Subscription Rooms and the customer service centre at the District Council offices, Ebley Mill (there are computers for public internet access there as well).

You can get consultation response forms and a ‘mini guide’ to the seven strategies from any of these locations or call the Council's planning strategy team on 01453 754143 or email core@stroud.gov.uk. There will also be a series of public exhibitions across the district, where you can chat to officers involved, as well as events targeted specifically at the business community and young people. If you are interested in participating in either of these or to find out about dates and venues for the public exhibitions, see the council's website, the mini guide or contact the planning strategy team.

Eastington Park - Part 2

In an earlier newsletter, we looked at two of the prominent families that lived in Eastington Park and how their presence had impacted on the village. Here, in Part 2, we take a peek at the second two.

The Stanton family

The Stantons of Thrupp, near Stroud, were a well-known Gloucestershire family, having lived in the neighbourhood of Stroud for at least two centuries. For much of this time, they were involved in the local woollen cloth trade, with at least three generations being prominent in this important local industry. At different times, family members occupied various mills in the area including Staffords, Newcombe, and Bowbridge Mills. Some were active in the law, others in parliament (between 1831 and 1885, three were Liberal MP for Stroud), and others in the church and the arts.

From 1879 or earlier, The Leaze was owned and occupied by James Thomas Stanton. Born in Stroud in 1831, he doesn't seem to have followed in the family tradition of cloth making. By this time, the local industry was in something of a decline, so instead, he went into the brewing business. In the 1881 census, he was recorded at being 50 years old and the head of the household that comprised family and servants at The Leaze. He was described as a brewer and magistrate. His business activities included part ownership of the Stroud Brewery Ltd, owned and operated post-1885 by the partnership of Watts, Hallowell, Bidell and Stanton, 'brewers and malsters'. In the 1901 census he was still recorded as a Justice of the Peace of The Leaze, now aged 70. He died five years later in October 1906, leaving a wife, Louisa Loveday Stanton, sons Captain Harold James Clifford, Major Charles John, and Major Francis Henry Guy, and two daughters, Louisa Maud and Edith Sybil. Louisa soon followed James, dying in May 1907. Within a few years, the Stantons had gone, to be replaced by several generations of the de Lisle Bush family.

Throughout their time at The Leaze, James Stanton and his family appear to have played an active role in many of the parish organisations and remained involved in most areas of village life. They supported the church and sponsored the annual Church Sunday Schools treat. Each year, children and teachers from the school, plus invited guests, were entertained in the grounds of The Leaze with swings, cricket, football, and various races. In July 1884, the day before the treat, a large elm tree near the house was struck by lightning. A news report of the time noted that the tree "had been remarkably rent and shattered by the electric fluid". It remained an object of awe for some time. The family also entertained guests at various other notable village events. For instance, in 1886, following the re-consecration of the church after extensive restoration and renovation, a large party of the clergy and other invited notables were entertained at The Leaze, just one of many such occasions. It seems likely that it was around this time that the house was enlarged by the addition of a 2-storey wing (plus attics) to the north, and a long service range to the west.

James Stanton was also heavily involved in less spiritual matters, regularly presiding over political meetings during the 1880s and 90s. He was also Chairman of Wheatenhurst Rural District Council, and was Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Wheatenhurst Union workhouse at Chipmans Platt. The family's involvement with the latter also extended to less formal occasions and in January 1891, several members helped to entertain the inmates. Gifts were distributed by and Mr and Miss G Stanton who also contributed to the performances. In recognition of James Stanton's various benefactions, the East window of the church was later dedicated in his honour.

In what may have been a precursor of the dark days that were to unfold across Europe, in November 1899, James' second son was recorded as being on his way to Africa with his regiment, en route to the Boer War that was to continue until 1902. Happily, he returned unharmed, unlike several sons of the family that were to follow him at The Leaze. However, within a few years of his return, both his parents were dead and the family had departed. In 1910, The Leaze stood empty.

The de Lisle Bush family

In 1914, an ominous date for much of Europe, Mr and Mrs George de Lisle Bush, moved in. Like their predecessors, the family had created its wealth through trade and commerce. They had a long background in warehousing in Bristol and in 1874, Alfred George de Lisle Bush was recorded as a warehouseman living in Eastington. The family were prominent Merchant Venturers. The main hub of their business was a warehouse known aptly as the Bush Warehouse in Bristol Docks. / cont.....

This had been bought in 1846 from Acraman, Bush, Castle & Co. George de Lisle Bush and his brother James Arthur Bush, took over the Bristol warehousing business in 1905. James Arthur Bush was a close friend of the legendary cricketer W G Grace, and attended the latter's funeral in 1915. George appears to have retired at some point, with James continuing to run the business up to his death around 1926, after which, it passed to his son Reginald Arthur Bush. The company finally ceased trading during the 1960s, with the building later becoming the Arnolfini Centre for Contemporary Arts.

But returning to the fateful year of 1914 and the outbreak of the First World War, a war that was to rob the de Lisle Bush family of two of their sons. The first was Captain John Stewart de Lisle Bush. Aged only 21, he was George's youngest son. He was a member of the Somerset Light Infantry and fought in the battles of Marne, Aisne and Ypres, where in 1914, he was severely wounded. Recovering from his injuries, in 1916, he transferred to the fledgling Royal Flying Corp as an observer and pilot. In August 1917, he was killed when the Sopwith biplane he was flying was shot down. He was buried in the Honnechy British Cemetery in France. The second loss was to come in January 1917, when Hugh Godfrey de Lisle Bush, John's older brother, died in Torquay of wounds received when fighting at Loos in October 1915. Educated at Eton, Hugh had been commissioned as a 2nd lieutenant in 1909 in the 3rd battalion of the Royal Gloucestershire Hussars and had gone to France in 1914. In January 1915, he was awarded the Military Cross for gallantry in action at Givenchy. He was buried in Eastington churchyard. In August 1920, Brigadier General J E Bush CB unveiled the new Eastington War Memorial Cross. The Rt Reverend Bishop Foddam led the accompanying prayers. Fittingly, the ceremony closed with *The Last Post*.

In the years between the two world wars, the family continued to support the village. In 1927, George de Lisle Bush and his wife laid the foundation stones for a new village hall, a cause they had supported financially. This was followed by the grand opening on 26 March 1928 by the Countess Ducie. George was the Chairman of the village hall organising committee, supported by his wife and son, Claude d'Arcy Stratton de Lisle Bush. Their benevolence and generosity extended to the village school, a cause that they remained interested in for many years. As Les Pugh recalled in his book (*Les Pugh's Memories*, 2008) each year, they provided gifts for prize giving and a donation on May Day. At Christmas, the school received a large Christmas tree, grown on the Leaze estate. It apparently came with miniature candles in clip-on holders that were lit in the early afternoon on Christmas Eve when the school broke up for two weeks holiday. There was also a present for every pupil. The de Lisle Bushes presented a book to pupils who were top of the class in reading, writing and arithmetic. Even now, after so many years, the de Lisle Bushes are remembered with a degree of fondness from those who attended the school in the 1930s.

The major event to take place in the village was the Eastington and Frocester Show, held annually from the 1920s onwards. All the great and the good of local society were involved in some way with the show's organisation, presided over by the-now Major Claude de Lisle Bush. Vice presidents at different times also included both his parents. In 1946, the president was Claude's wife. The family regularly presented silver cups for several horse and horticultural categories. Claude even presented a number of prizes (for children) for the largest number of queen wasps collected! These were to be packed in boxes with glass shade and delivered to the Flower Show Tent on the day of the show. Overall, the show was a major event in the village's calendar and was regularly covered in some detail in the local press. It extended beyond horses and flowers and included a range of entertainments, music and athletic events. In 1939, perhaps an omen of what was to shortly unfold across Europe, as part of the show, the RAF landed and displayed a Hawker Hurricane fighter.

From 1936 until 1941, Claude de Lisle Bush was recorded as the house's occupier - his father and mother had presumably retired elsewhere. Throughout the 1930s, Claude was well known in the district for the pack of Basset Hounds that he kept at The Leaze. These were used for hare coursing and looked after by his Master of Hounds, Jack Scarrat. At times, he was assisted by local men Tom Smith and Wilf Hancock. 'Eastington Park Basset Hounds' also sponsored an annual dog show (presumably limited to Basset Hounds) that included a special show for puppies. Entries came from far and wide.

Educated at Clifton College and commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in 1912, Claude had seen action in the First World War. He was wounded at Ypres in 1914 but survived his injuries. Following the war, he was attached to the Kings African Rifles and served for some time in Mombasa, Kenya. Sadly, Claude's time at The Leaze was to be cut short as he was once again sent to war. In January 1941, he was killed while fighting with the Gloucestershire Regiment. He was buried in Eastington churchyard. Cont /.....

Eastington Park - Part 2 continued (3)

Some years later, in September 1955, his widow, Dorothy (now Mrs D J Dunn) presented the church with a new lych gate, in memory of her late husband. The gate had been built entirely by local craftsmen using local materials.

Happily, one of the de Lisle bush family had returned safely from the Second World War. Lt Commander Christopher Godfrey de Lisle Bush had served in the Royal Navy. Educated at the RNC Dartmouth, during this period, he commanded the destroyers HMS Leamington, Newmarket, Hambleton and Farndale. He at least, escaped unscathed.

From 1941, the occupiers of The Leaze were recorded as being Alfred and Florence de Lisle Bush. However, its days as a private residence were numbered and shortly after the end of the Second World War, around 1946, the house was acquired by Gloucestershire County Council for use as an old people's care home. It continued with this function until recently, although latterly, in the private sector. In this guise, the house could accommodate 55 residents in 29 single and 22 shared rooms. So, history has now come full circle, with Eastington Park finding a new lease of life and becoming once again, one of the 'principal residences' in the parish.

Stephen Mills

Crest House

Cress Green

News from your County Councillor

As Gloucestershire County Councillor for North Stroud, which includes Eastington and Standish parishes, I would like to wish all readers of "Eastington Community News" a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

I am afraid that the prosperity will be somewhat affected by the national economic position which is dire. At least the County Conservative group has recently voted to set a low County rate rise of just 2.3% - lower than the current rate of inflation and an important point for me and for many of us - it's lower than the proposed 2.5% increase in the Old Aged Pension which is scheduled for April 2010.

The County figure does not include Stroud, the Police or your Parish Council, so you will have to take these into account for your final figure payable from 31st March 2010

Locally, I have been supporting your Parish Council in getting the traffic calming road markings, features and signs along Springhill, Alkerton Terrace, Alkerton Road and Bath Road, and implementing the heavy lorry ban in the village centre. The marking signing etc. needs Council approval. This is going slowly, but I hope surely it won't take many more months (The time these things take is a surprise to me as a new councillor, but I am pressing for quicker action!)

We must then deal with the incipient parking problems by the roundabout (and also by the School which is a separate problem). I have also been successful in getting Gloucestershire Highways to look into a 30 mph limit for Claypits and further along Bath Road, and will pursue this and request for a crossing by Orchard Leigh.

On strategic matters I have put in a submission on the Core Waste Strategy, in particular against Nastend Farm becoming a waste facility. The County planners call Nastend "Stroudwater Industrial Estate" and plan a new commercial road from Stonehouse. This is wrong! Nastend is part of Eastington and should retain its rural character. Here, and on Stroud Housing Land Assessment (to which the Parish Council have responded,) I back what they say, i.e. recycling of waste and only limited residential development where appropriate.

I promised in an earlier article to report what I thought of the "Cabinet" followed by scrutiny system of local government, as opposed to the "old" Committee decision system which I experienced in 1980's Camden. My present view is "Don't like"; It seems almost impossible to get a proper check on certain decisions in which I am interested, such as overspends and the detail of the Javelin Park waste facility bids. But 2010 is New Year and I am thinking positively about it. I invite you all to do so too.

Best wishes to you all !!

Tony Blackburn

Now you can come and learn from an expert about:

- How waste incineration (waste technology with the highest CO2 emissions, toxic fly ash etc.) in Gloucestershire affects your health, wealth and environment
- The environmentally friendly, cost effective, non-toxic alternatives to ask G.C.C. to use

Join us for a Free Public Presentation on waste incineration
on Thursday 4th February 2010
at King's Stanley Village Hall, Broad St., Nr. Stroud, GL10 3HZ
from 7:30pm to 9:30pm to hear
Dr. Paul Connett,
Professor of Chemistry,
St. Lawrence University, New York

Dr. Connett has researched waste management issues for over 14 years (specialising in the dangers posed by incineration and in the safer and more sustainable alternatives). He has successfully opposed the building of waste incinerators in the USA.

Digital Switchover Update

Did you know that for some people reading the Eastington Community News you may be switching to digital television as soon as **Wednesday 24 March 2010?**

Those readers receiving their signal from the Mendip transmitter or one of its smaller relay transmitters and watching BBC Points West from Bristol will be affected at this time.

However, for other readers of The Eastington Community News, you won't switch from analogue to digital television until **2011** – that's if you receive your signal from the Ridge Hill West transmitter.

You can check exactly when you switch by visiting www.digitaluk.co.uk/postcodechecker and entering your postcode and house number.

Every household will need to make sure that all their televisions will be able to receive a digital signal either through an aerial (Freeview), satellite dish, cable or broadband.

The digital signal will provide a boost to many aerials which are currently not able to receive Freeview. Freesat delivers digital TV channels through a satellite dish without having to pay a subscription, for those not able to receive digital TV through an aerial.

There is plenty of help and information about the digital switchover at www.digitaluk.co.uk or you can call the Digital UK advice line on

08456 50 50 50.

Older and disabled people can receive special support. You are eligible for the Switchover Help Scheme if you: are 75 or over; receive certain disability benefits; live permanently in a care home; or are blind or partially sighted. If you do qualify, the Help Scheme will write to you. More help is available at www.helpscheme.co.uk or by calling **0800 408 7654**.

Police Safer Communities Team

PCSO Debbie Flays has been instrumental in getting Eastington Youth Club a cheque for £500 from the Cotswold & Stroud Division Police Fund. The Cheque was presented to Rebecca Burgin on Friday 6th November 2009 at the Youth Club to acknowledge their work in reducing Crime & Anti Social Behaviour in the village, with the work that they do for the young people of the village.

This is being used to take the young people on residential trips which encourage responsibility honesty self discipline & respect for them selves and others.

Your Safer Communities Team at Stonehouse Police Station would like your help. Every three months we hold a meeting of the Neighbourhood Co-ordination Group at which we discuss current and future priorities for us and our partner agencies. Our partners include the District and County Council, Fire and Rescue, and the NHS, and the priorities can be addressed jointly by a multi-agency approach. Prior to the meeting we ask members of the community to raise any concerns they may have about the area in which they live, and any matters raised may be considered as priorities.

You can have your say and assist us in our efforts to concentrate on the problems that matter most to the community, by completing the form below and returning it to Stonehouse Police Station before Sunday 24th January 2010.

Alternatively, you can fill in an online form on the Stonehouse Safer Community Team section of the Gloucestershire Constabulary website at www.gloucestershire.police.uk

If you have any questions, please contact a member of the Stonehouse Safer Communities Team by ringing 0845 090 1234 or send us an e-mail at stonehouse-sct@gloucestershire.police.uk

Liz Ward PCSO 9081 (Police Community Support Officer)

GLOUCESTERSHIRE CONSTABULARY
Serving for a Safer Gloucestershire

Stonehouse Police Station
High Street
Stonehouse
Gloucestershire
GL10 2NJ

**STONEHOUSE SAFER COMMUNITY TEAM
COMMUNITY PRIORITY PROFORMA**

Date:

Name:

Address : (optional)	HOUSE
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.....	1001
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..... Say:

Age group

11-20	
21-40	
41-60	
Over 60	

Occupation (if applicable)

Please highlight to us any concerns or issues within your area you would like to be addressed from a multi-agency approach:

[illegible]

Eastington Methodist Church

Youth Work

I was reminded recently that it is a while since we gave an update on what the church is providing for the local young people in the village and beyond.

Eastington has one of the largest church based youth groups in the county with up to 30 attending at the regular Friday evening youth club drawn from a much larger registration list (not all young people come every time). Facilities provided on Friday evenings include a tuck shop, various games (air hockey, pool, table tennis and console games etc.), a craft type activity and opportunities for karaoke, dance, making music or just to sit and chill out.



The Friday session is split into two age groups with the younger ones attending from 7pm to 8:45pm and the older ones from 8:15pm to 10pm. Both sessions have a God Byte planned to last about 10 minutes (this is a church after all and our hope is that the young people will pick up the sorts of values that will keep them out of trouble and hold them in good stead for the rest of their lives). This youth club is open to all young people but we do insist on maintaining a reasonable level of discipline and we expect those attending to stay for the whole of their session so that we know that they are not wandering off elsewhere. There is a 50p entry fee which also covers a free drink.

There are also regular Monday evening sessions for those who want to explore the Christian faith in more detail. These are currently held at The Pike Lock House with two groups on alternate Mondays; the choice of group being based on how much each person knows. There is food and the subject matter is explored together with a high level of participation and discussion.

There is also a session for young people on Sunday mornings at 11am running in parallel with the main church service. Many of those who come are also in the music group which leads the initial part of the service when everyone is together prior to breaking into groups.

A substantial group of the young people often come to the Sunday Night Praise meetings on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month and join with other church youth groups for a meeting called The Venue on the 2nd Sunday evenings. This moves from church to church and our turn is in June.

We organise a number of outings and events from time to time and some of these made the local press last year including a litter picking session in the summer and a trip to Gloucester to buy food for homeless people in November. Residential trips included Spring Harvest at Minehead, Soul Survivor in Somerset and the Bristol District Youth Weekend in Keynsham with the cost of these being subsidised with the help of a £500 grant obtained via the local police. We also held a number of themed sleepovers where the young people prepared for, and then took, the Sunday morning service.

This level of activity relies on a dedicated and substantial band of volunteers who give their time week in and week out. Their reward is seeing God working in the lives of many of our young people and their hope is that more will come to a point where the same happens.

Ken & Beck Burgin

01453 827414

info@EastingtonMethodists.org.uk

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS NEWSLETTER

The last full council meeting in November was quite an eventful one. A new leader of the Council was elected. Given that the Conservative administration has a considerable majority the election was not as simple as it should have been. A candidate was put forward by the opposing groups and a very lively debate ensued. The recurring theme of speeches supporting this candidate was that the present administration is seen by a lot of councillors as very secretive and non-engaging. All the non administration councillors voted together, a very rare thing, and given that more than a few administration councillors had not arrived at this point the actual vote was quite close. Very embarrassing for the new leader. The new leader was previously the cabinet member for housing and as such at the head of the shambles over the overspend in that department. Later on in this meeting there was a report presented on new ways of administering member's allowances. Readers will be aware that this has been a cause of great concern to me and my group over many months. The proposals were less than we had hoped for but better than nothing. I asked a few questions of detail and the responses were a bit different, (less emphatic), to that I had been given by an officer not present at the meeting earlier in the week. This also was to me predictable. Things then got more than interesting when a member of the administration group, who has also been very concerned on this subject, spoke. He was very critical of the system that had been operating and especially of a particular councillor who he actually named, more than once. He then proposed that the matter be passed to an all party group of councillors for thorough investigation. These councillors to have served at least two terms of office. This proposal received much support and in the vote was only very narrowly defeated. I think it is true to say that all of the late arriving administration councillors supported this motion. Voting against their own group. What is going to happen is that the audit committee will look at all claims for the year 2008/2009. This is nowhere near good enough in my opinion. Only a full independent investigation of the sort defeated will end this subject to the satisfaction of all. I believe that certain people have specific information that has caused them to be worried about this issue but are unable to publish it because it will compromise the position of the people who supplied it. The proposed work by the audit committee will not allow that information to be checked to see if it is authentic or not.

One of the regular comments I have made to me, on the way the Council works, is that things take so long to happen. The following shows that councillors have this problem as well. I asked a question, to the cabinet member for finance, at the council meeting held on the 16th of July, he did not answer the question and said he would reply later. The response arrived on the 12th of November, in the afternoon just before the next council meeting. It is described as a response and not answer. This is accurate because the reply had little if anything to do with the actual question I had asked. It was not a very detailed question. The actual response even after all the time taken was not factually correct and had to be amended.

CORE STRATEGY, ALTERNATIVE STRATEGIES CONSULTATION.

I mentioned this in my last newsletter. This will be looking at how the next round of housing allocation will be dealt with. A raft of alternatives will be put forward for comment. I am uncomfortable with parts of this process and so felt unable to support the proposals being put forward. I am still unhappy that the phrase 'West of Stonehouse' is still being used when it is obviously Eastington Parish that is involved. Especially when both Eastington and West of Stonehouse are used in a document. It can be very confusing and misleading in my opinion. I have been working for many years with interested groups on this subject. These groups have always taken the view that our parish should be mindful of all variations of a theme from just a few houses to the majority of any allocation. I have always considered this to be a sensible attitude. I believe that this consultation will start at the end of January and last for about eight weeks although I cannot confirm this at present.

Ken Stephens January 2010



EASTINGTON PLAYGROUP

Tel 07977 342742

Charity number 1084981

We return to Playgroup after our Christmas break refreshed and ready to start the New Year.

We look back at our successful Christmas Nativity Play 'The First Christmas' which was enjoyed by both the parents and children, many of whom were entertained by both the scripted and non-scripted version that was spontaneous to say the least!!

We were very busy making Christmas decorations and writing letters to Santa who visited us after the Nativity Play in the grotto, learning new songs for the Play and dressing up in our outfits with much excitement.

Looking forward -this term we are looking at 'different people' - how we are different, what jobs people have and where we live - we will be helping the children expand upon the topic during the coming weeks ahead.

We continue to enjoy the new building and the many aspects it has in supporting our very busy play - it is lovely to engage our key children into groups to work together for small periods of time - we love to have group cooking in the kitchen, play outside on the covered decking area or just enjoy being creative together.

Last term we had a visit from Gloucestershire County Council's Foundation Stage Consultant and we were given a glowing report. The inspector recommended other settings visit us as an example of good practice.

We have some spaces available at Playgroup so if you have a child aged between 2 years 6 months and 4 years 11 months then we would love to hear from you. We offer a safe and friendly community based play environment whereby all children learn through play to meet the standards of the Foundation Stage.

For details on spaces, prices and hours then please call one of the staff on 0845 3918941.

There is funding available for children aged 3 years - a full day may only cost you £3 for the lunch club.

We look forward to meeting you!

Eastington Community Centre

www.ohmg.org.uk

Now available for weddings, parties, regular bookings, sports events, clubs.

A warm, clean and welcoming building with large hall, meeting rooms, sports facilities and superb views across the hills.

Telephone Vanessa on 828557 to discuss your ideas and possible dates.

This is now 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 for the people of Eastington!*

Contact Vanessa on 828557 for a friendly chat.

Alkerton Rangers Football Fixtures

January 16th, 23rd, 30th
February 6th, 20th, 27th
March 13th, 27th

Matches start at 2.00pm.

Ink Cartridges

Got any old ink cartridges cluttering up your desk? We can recycle them and turn them into cash for the community centre. A recycling box is available in the post office and in the front entrance to the centre itself. Sorry, but we cannot accept laser toner-cartridges as unfortunately, they have no recycling value.

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		