

Eastington Community News

March /April 2010

Nº. 120

It can have escaped few people's attention that this Parish is once more the target for massive development. There remain just a few days left now for you to respond to the proposals, and you can do that by phone, on-line or in person – no later than 22nd March. The SDC "Core Strategy" article has been reprinted in ECN again this time, to give those of you who are interested a last chance to take part in this consultation.

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

You can get paper consultation response forms and a 'mini guide' to the seven strategies, by calling the District Council's planning strategy team on 01453 754143 or email core@stroud.gov.uk.

If you have already taken a look at the 7 strategies, you might be struggling to identify a single clear option that suits you. At the top of the list is 2000 houses to be located in Cam, Eastington or Eastington. At the other end of the list, is entirely dispersing 2000 houses among the villages. (some planners have already remarked that the latter is unrealistic – in which case one might ask why it was included in that form.)

For each of the 7 options, you may wish to comment about what you *do not* like and what you *do* like, or you may favour compiling your own alternative option by '*picking and mixing*', or creating your own.

If we grow by another say 50 houses, how would it affect those things we already have? Some things may benefit but some things may become overloaded. For example, what about the sewer capacity? What would happen to the newly rebuilt Village School?

If 2000 more new homes came to any part of Eastington, it and Stonehouse would merge together to be bigger than the principle town of Stroud. And *this* plan is only the next step, so what would be built in the plan after that? What will be the attraction and role of Stroud in 30 years time? Where is the planning vision of first-rate amenities to make Stroud a town we would love to be in? What will be the environmental impact and sustainability green goals for building here by the M5 Junction 13? If the main town grows at Junction 13 instead of Stroud, how many more car journeys will there be to reach Bristol (only 20 minutes away,) or Gloucester, than to reach our local Town of Stroud?

This entire Parish, currently of 680 houses has provided itself with such facilities as the new Community Centre and OHMG Sports Field, and Allotments, and has sustained a wide range of clubs and activities in '4 meeting spaces' (Village Hall, Methodist Hall, Charley Bullock Room,) without the assistance from large scale development. The Parish has one of the Nation's top performing Primary Schools, and has 2 pubs and shops and businesses – all at a time when many other communities are loosing such facilities because of insufficient growth.

What encouraged you to live in Eastington? Our Parish Plan meeting began the process of uncovering what you like about living here, and what you would like to see improved. Would a new town (like Bradley Stoke,) be a better place to live? How much is a sense of 'community' valued by you? Is yours a more imaginative and innovative plan than those in the "Core Strategy"?

I would like to thank the advertisers for supporting Eastington Community News. The money raised from this is our only income, and allows the volunteers to get this publication delivered free to each home in the Parish. I would particularly like to thank Michael Ashworth for negotiating and compiling yet another year of advertising to keep us running. Michael has been doing this job for 10 years now, and is stepping down. Please contact me if you would be prepared to do this essential job in preparing the 'blue' advertising pages for next year – it occurs once a year and can be spread over a couple of months to fit your available time.

If you would like to see improvements in this publication, you are most welcome to prepare an article or to volunteer to help us. It would be of great help to have a volunteer to assist with laying out and formatting these pages from the many and assorted electronic files sent for each issue.

Andrew Niblett (Editor) 824841 (niblett.parish@talktalk.net)

New address! Tom Low (Distributor) 823425 (tom@hazelcottage.eu)

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

Next Delivery:- by Monday 22nd May 2010 please!

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Eastington Slimming World Group

We have had a busy February at group, after we survived the onslaught of snow and ice for three consecutive weeks back in January, which put a few members resolutions on hold for a few weeks, before they could arrive and find out how Slimming World can help them to lose their excess weight and lead healthier lifestyles. We have welcomed many new members to our group from Eastington as well as the surrounding areas.

Slimming World is on a country wide campaign to help the fight back against obesity. Obesity in Britain has tripled in only the last decade with around 30 million adults in Britain (62%) now overweight or obese as well as 1 million children under the age of 16. Slimming World has launched a 12 week community challenge. The winning group has the chance to win £1000 to donate to a charity or project local to that group. The launch of the challenge in Eastington was held 2 weeks ago with a fabulous food tasting evening. Everyone brought a food taster to share with the group and we all set ourselves a weight loss goal, unique to ourselves and sealed it in an envelope which we will receive back at the end of the 12 week challenge. There was also the chance to nominate local groups and projects should we win the prize. So far the group has lost 118lbs (8 stones and 6lbs) in just the first 2 weeks. So a massive well done and thank you for the lovely food tasters. Slimming World helps its members to lose 17,857 stones every week that's 1 stone 10lbs lost every minute of every day. It's not too late to join, so if you would like to lose weight this spring come and join in with the challenge. Your weight will be kept confidential and you will have support and help every step of the way.

Before I finish I would like to say well done to Jane who last week became Eastington's Groups Greatest Loser of weight 2010 being the current attending member who has lost the greatest amount of weight to date.

We meet in the village hall at 7pm every Wednesday. If you would like more details please call Lorna 01453821751 or just come along any Wednesday. Lorna 01453821751

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EASTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS

There continues to be a very high work-load and many important issues at this time. Stroud District Council's "Core Strategy", is taking a very high priority and much effort is being given to preparation of our response by 22nd March. If you have concerns about the future of this Parish it is important that you also make your response by that date. (Details regarding how, are included in this Newsletter.)

The Parish Council is looking to fill the post of Financial Officer by the end of this financial year so please consider applying for the new part time vacancy. You may like to contact EPC Clerk, Mary Gribble, to discuss details.

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

Footpaths

My thanks to Cllr. Bill Edwards for presenting recent work on footpaths in our Parish at both of the "Parish Plan" events held at the new Eastington Community Centre last week. This was a great way for interested parishioners to see the extent of work done, and the opportunities to enjoy the may open spaces in this Parish.

Roads and Transport

Parking

Parking on pavements and in bus stops continues to be a problem along 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 find parking spaces and the disabled and those less steady on their feet are significantly inconvenienced by the above obstructions. Serious parking congestion in Churchend also continues to present high risk to road users.

Litter

May I thank Sandra Hadley, and friends with their grand children, for picking up litter from Alkerton Green to the Cross and in Millend lane. It's nice to see pride being taken in our Village.

Cllr Andrew Niblett (EPC Chairman) 824841

Birder in the Parish

Sunday 24/01. Stunning January morning developing, and drag myself away from marking and head out up river. The mist burns off, the sky clears to clear blue, sun already warming my face as I head for the corner sluice over grass crisp with frost, to look for Chiff Chaffs on the up-river margins.

Still plenty of field pools, the river brown and steamy, wisping up into the paynes grey of the willows, glisteningly atmospheric. Two Missel Thrushes rattle overhead towards Millend Lane, one tempted into song, joining in with the Robins and Song Thrushes already into their dawn chorus. A Chiff Chaff whines directly in front of me, and then another two are gnat catching riverside, ironically able to stay alive through a harsh winter on insects surviving by a river warmed by its journey through the sewage works. A barking dog immediately puts the Chiffs down.

Above the outfall, not one single Chiff Chaff is noted, but a big flock of Fieldfares and Redwings suddenly whistle down to the tall willows where the river bends left, as if pulled by a magnet; sunlight so strong now, that birds are silhouettes and difficult to i.d. - except for a very obvious, cracking male Bullfinch, perched and calling on top of an alder.

Beyond the meanders, came across two strange looking, thin yellow poles stuck (what appeared to be!) randomly in the field, exactly where the Frome south arm breaks its banks in times of flood. A deep pool, where the river veers hard right, has silted up over the years, the old workings taken out of the river to strengthen the flow to the Millend mill race having long been flattened, so there is now no barrier against the flow, which then spills out over the east meadows, tracking the shallow field drains towards Millend Lane.

A woman, whom I hadn't even noticed in the dark corner of the meadow where sits the pill-box, with five dogs in tow, striding towards me gesticulating, shouting, warning, with a stream of expletives, demanding her sticks. My initial apologies for not knowing what they were or who they belonged to,

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Birder continued /..

seemed quite feeble against this tirade of foul-mouthed verbals. But I think I gave as good as I got. Her dogs, which were amazingly obedient and attentive to her every word, ignored me totally. In after-thought, it did seem a pity she couldn't seem to communicate as well with this fellow human, as she obviously does with them.

I left her to her little world, and went back to mine, searching the dips and field drains, still water filled, for Snipe or Meadow Pipits. Of course, there would be none, all wildlife seeing the domestic dog as a top predator, and flushing to cover. But a day for careful observing, and absorbing this lovely January morning, the sun warm to the skin, but also the threat of cloud from the west, moving high but slowly - so still hope for the chance of arm-chair birding and a sun-bathe in the back garden, with a decent coffee, and 'bins' at hand.

On the 7th, first of the New Year's spiders on the move in the house. I'm getting to know one in particular which has been sitting in the bedroom window next to my desk, and hasn't moved a millimetre for the past week. I don't mind her sharing my space and as I check her out, and open the window to hear the Tawny Owl, she reacts to the sudden flush of cold air by cringing up ever so slightly.

At the back end of Autumn, was often woken at first light by three Tawnys, hooting and wicking from both sides of the cottage, before they settled down to roost for the day. Now, just the one male remains. Ornithology has only very recently affirmed that the female Tawny 'kewicks' (the well phrased 'tu'whit'), and the male responds with 'whoo, whoo, tu-whoo'; but, as always in the world of birds, things ain't that simple, and if you are fortunate enough to have one really close when it calls, that single bird can do both - most probably a female, but not as full and deep as the male. Keep a look out for them now, they are early breeders, having eggs in the nest by early March, and naturally keeping a very low profile, though they will continue to call through to May. They fall silent in the moult from June to end of August, but listen out for the rasping squeak of young birds at this time, calling for food throughout the night. My bird's gone quiet, so obviously off hunting.

Good to have at least one owl species in the Parish, but then, not that good, when six species have been recorded fairly regularly in the County - Eagle, Long-eared, Short-eared, Tawny, Barn and Little, and only four of these breeding. Last year, an Eagle Owl was seen regularly visiting the Barn Owl centre in Gloucester, daytime roosting under the river bridge at Over.

On the 16th, awoke to dawn chorus of Robins and Song Thrush, two Blackcaps squawking and squabbling over the mealworm suet, and the resident gang of Jackdaws raiding the feeders. Chiff Chaff singing.

As the day warmed up, Blackcap in quiet sub-song, Great Tit calling, warm sun, snowdrops out, celandines up, ladybirds on the move. Can't wait for Spring now. Found time to nip down to the Zeiss hide at WWT for the Green-winged Teal.

Male Tawny Owl calling tonight, and with the slightest sliver of a new moon hanging low down in the south west. My spider hasn't moved an inch for over two weeks.

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

**Application letter with CV
by Friday 2nd April**

TEAS (The Eastington Allotment Society)

January and February for allotmenters would normally mean spending a good deal of time in a warm room, with a nice cup of tea, planning for the coming season, with maybe the odd foray out to pick the last sprouts or to tidy the shed.

Not so for the resolute Eastington allotmenters. Despite the rain, wind, sleet snow and hard frost, many have been out in the bracing winter air battling against these elements. The conditions, though, have not stopped them making good progress in getting their new plots ready in time for the growing season.

Soft fruit bushes have been going in. Although they are generally a long way off bursting into activity, one rhubarb shoot was noted just a couple of weeks ago but that now seems to have decided that it may have been a bit premature.

The waiting list for plots is now up and running, so now is a particularly good time for anyone starting to get excited at the approaching Spring to get their names down for a plot. If you are interested then please contact:

Angela Kitson at sec.teasallotments09@googlemail.com or telephone on 01453 826914

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INTRODUCTION TO HOMEOPATHY FOR THE FAMILY.
Four evening classes beginning late February near Eastington.

For details telephone 01453 791424

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!

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

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**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.

What are you doing on Monday evenings?
Would you like to be a bit more active,
make friends and energy?

Why not come along to keep fit and try a
bit of salsa?

It's effective but low impact, so you can
get fit but not harm your joints.

Monday evenings, Saul Village Hall, 8.45-
9.45pm

£5 per session, pay as you go

Ring Lucie on 01452 741835 for details



www.holistichealingnaturally.co.uk

Eastington Toddlers will be continuing on a
Monday between 10 and 11.30, but that the
Wednesday group has finished. It is £1.50 and
50p for an additional child.

You don't have to be ill but.....

Therapeutic massage

may help you.....

- With your fitness regime.....or to recover from sports injuries
- If you sit at a computer for hours.....and have neck and shoulder pain which can turn into headache.
- If you have lower back pain or general stiffness and lack of mobility.
-or are struggling with menopausal symptoms that drag you down.
- At stressful times especially if you have sleep problems or perhaps
- Anxiety – and that may bring on digestive problems

....and if you are wondering about.....

Craniosacral therapy

It is a very light-touch development of Osteopathy that can be appropriate at many times, especially.....

- For unsettled babies and sore mums after a difficult birth
- If the problem is with colic, sleep problems, teething, or restless toddlers.
- To help adjustment to major dental work.
- After injury or surgery especially if leading to Long-term or Chronic Pain.

For advice or appointments contact ANGELA HAYES in Saul on 01452.740788 or email angelahayes972@hotmail.com



NEW EASTINGTON BABY & TODDLER GROUP

Now Under New Management.....

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

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Corner

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We welcome parents, grandparents, child minders, aunts, 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 !**



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

Eastington PCM 9th Feb 2010

Police have charged two people with burglary following an incident at an Eastington address.

On January 31 officers received a report that someone had forced entry to the empty property and that a number of belongings had been removed.

Officers investigating the burglary have recovered a number of the stolen items and a man and a woman, both aged 41, were arrested yesterday afternoon. They have been charged with dwelling burglary and theft. They have been bailed to appear at Stroud Magistrates Court on March 3.

Neighbourhood Co-ordination Group

At 6pm on Thursday 28th January 2010, the Stonehouse Neighbourhood Co-ordination Group held their meeting at the Town Council Offices. The meeting was chaired by Neighbourhood Warden Ashley Nicholson. During the meeting, PS Kirk Harrison and PC Jo Booker updated the panel on the progress that has been made on the existing priorities, and the group agreed that they could all be closed, although the areas concerned will still be paid regular attention.

The panel then reviewed the results of the recent community engagement process, in which concerns were put forward by local residents. The panel decided that for the next few months, your Safer Community Team's main priority will be to combat anti-social behaviour in Eastington.

The Officer responsible for this SARA plan is PCSO Liz Ward, but if you have a contribution or suggestion to make to assist us, please contact any member of the team here at Stonehouse.

1x incident of a garage brake-in nothing taken.

1x incident of a male selling door to door in Westend on search of area no one seen .
stonehouse-sct@gloucestershire.police.uk

Liz Ward PCSO 9081 (Police Community Support Officer)

Your "Safer Communities Team" at Stonehouse Police Station would like to thank you for having your say about the problems that really matter most to you. There was an excellent response to the questionnaire and this will significantly assist their efforts to concentrate on these important issues.

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The views expressed in ECN are not necessarily those of the editor.



Eastington Methodist Church



The Rudolf Film Awards

At one of the February Kidzone sessions, we opened the meeting up to adults and young people to join us for the Rudolf Film Awards. Over the last couple of years, the children and young people have created a number of videos with Christian themes or based on Bible Stories and we thought a film award evening would be a good excuse for a bit of a do.

Why The Rudolfs? This was because we managed to get some surplus foil covered chocolate reindeers at a discount after Christmas and these were dished out as awards.

The films nominated were: Jesus and the Children, David & Goliath, Ignite 2008 Christmas Sketch, Jonah and the Whale and Balaam's Donkey (which is an animation). The latter two can be accessed via the Church website. Various categories ensured there were plenty of winners.

We are planning to make more videos and this event really was quite fun so once we have a good selection of new ones, we will probably hold another awards ceremony. If you fancy getting involved, please let us know.

Forthcoming Events and Services



Following a successful experiment before Christmas, we have another "Messy Church" session at 11am on Palm Sunday which falls on Sunday 28th March. This is a hands on rather informal type of service where all ages can do things rather than just listen to things.

Easter is the most important time in the Christian year as it is during this period that we remember Jesus Christ's sacrificial death on the cross and His resurrection.

There is a time of reflection at 10:30am on Good Friday with the main Easter service at 11am on Sunday 4th April.

Please do come and join us at any of the above or indeed any of our services - you can be sure of a warm welcome.

A group of us, including some of the Young People, will be going to the Spring Harvest Christian event based at Butlins at Minehead again this year. This takes place in the week following Easter so there will not be a Youth Club on Good Friday (2nd April) nor on the following Friday (9th April).

There has been a bit of a reshuffling of the CY and MoO youth study group times to make way for a music practice (at the church) every other Monday evening. Therefore MoO will continue to meet on the Mondays when there is not a music practice and CY will meet on the Thursday when there is. Any young person who would like to start coming to either group should call us on the number below to obtain details of dates and venue.

Check out our web pages for more details and our monthly in house PewsNews.

Ken & Beck Burgin

01453 827414

info@EastingtonMethodists.org.uk

DISTRICT COUNCILLORS NEWSLETTER

DISTRICT COUNCIL BUDGET

I was unable to attend the budget setting meeting. If I had been present I would have voted against it. To have an increase of 1.9% sounds very laudable in the present economic climate. The trouble is there were also many hundreds of thousands of pounds of budget cuts included as well. My opinion is that if budget cuts are proposed then they should be clearly defined when passing the budget. In this one I do not think this was the case and where these cuts will take place will only be known when the money is withdrawn. I think it is not being very honest to do things this way.

CORE STRATEGY CONSULTATION

I mentioned this in my last newsletter. The consultation period has now started. I consider this to be a very important period for the Parish if it wants to promote itself as staying a rural parish. The Parish Council has decided to engage a planning professional to respond on behalf on the Parish. As someone who hears things said by other district councillors up to and including cabinet level I consider this to be a very sensible and prudent decision. We need to have the best advice and help available to combat the inevitable pressure that our parish will come under during this and the next phase of the process.

WASTE INCINERATOR PROPOSALS

The proposed incinerator at Javelin Park of even in our parish was the main topic at a meeting I attended recently. This was a presentation by a world renowned specialist on the subject. It obtained much press coverage. Anyone attending this presentation would I suggest have found it very difficult to leave the meeting without major concerns on the impact any such incinerator would have on both the local and greater countryside and population. I am more than ever totally opposed to such a facility being build either within or next to our parish or in fact in anybody's backyard. There is a viable and proven alternative.

SHELTERED HOUSING PROVISION REVIEW

The District Council is holding a major review on its sheltered housing provision. I know that many many residents in sheltered housing are very concerned at both the proposals being put forward and the process as a whole. I attended a Housing Forum meeting on this subject recently. When I read the paper up for discussion my first reaction was 'where's the rest of it'. It seemed a very thin paper for such an important subject. At this meeting I was 'advised' that if I expressed an opinion at this stage I may well be considered to have compromised my position and unable to vote at a later date. I am used to this in planning applications but on a matter like this no. Seemed rather odd to me but given the attitude taken to housing provision within the council lately perhaps not. I intend to keep working with the affected tenants so that their opinions and aims are promoted fully.



LOST PLANNING APPEAL ON 'FOX'S FIELD'

You may have read about this. The potential major impact it may have on the District Councils ability to enforce the provisions in the current local plan has yet to be fully identified. The fact that the District Council lost this appeal, will not, I think come as a surprise to parishioners who attended the appeal on the Rugby Club application at Churchend. I asked several times after this appeal for a meeting in public to review the District Councils performance at that appeal. This was to see if lessons could be learned and appropriate action taken to enhance performance if thought necessary. No such meeting was ever held.

Ken Stephens March 2010.



EASTINGTON PLAYGROUP

Tel 07977 342742

Charity number 1084981

We have started another busy term and although some days are full we have been asked by parents to open on both Wednesday and Fridays afternoons making full day care available for five days a week. This means that we are offering very reasonably priced but excellent quality childcare for £18 for a full day 9am until 3pm. If anyone would like to know more about us and our facilities then we would love to show you around. Our contact details are below.

What have we been doing recently?

We have been looking at occupations - the children loved learning about being a firefighter, we have made hoses, costumes, houses on fire, built fire engines and have learnt about how to keep safe if there is an emergency - 'stop', 'drop' and 'roll'!!!

We have also been busy being chefs, in role play and also in the kitchen making cakes, pizzas, scones, bread to name just a few delicious items. We also enjoyed making a friendship cake which we make over the period of a week, feeding it, talking to it, cooking it and finally sharing it with all of our friends!

More recently we have celebrated World Book Day and children have brought in some of their favourite books to Playgroup. It has been lovely to encourage and share the love of books from such an early age. Following on from this theme we will be looking at the story 'We're going on a bear hunt' and we will be acting out the story which is always great fun.

With effect from Easter we plan to start our Pre-School sessions at Eastington School on a Wednesday afternoon where the children will be supported in settling into a new environment, meeting the teachers and other children that will take them on their next step of life.

If you would like your child to enjoy a stimulating, fun and safe environment to learn and play in then we would love to hear from you -we take children from 2 years 6 months to 4 years 11 months and we accept government nursery vouchers and other types of employer supported childcare vouchers. You don't have live in Eastington to access our facilities!

We look forward to meeting you!

Our playgroup offers care and education for all children in a well established community based group.

We offer your children a safe and stimulating environment in which they can grow and blossom into self confident, self reliant and positive little people.

Our ultimate goal is to enable the children to have fun, explore and have the freedom to express their individuality, while forming the basis of their education.

We accept children from the age of 2yrs 6months and operate 5 days a week offering full and half day sessions.

If you would like more details please contact Claire Thomas, Administration Officer

Tel: 0845 391 8941

OWEN HARRIS MEMORIAL GROUND

Owen Harris Memorial Ground Charity Eastington Community Centre News



Sponsor a chair for 'Posteriority'

www.ohmg.org.uk

We have now received the chairs and they are labelled for all those who generously sponsored a chair. In all, 110 chairs and 10 tables were sponsored so a very big, thank you for all your kind donations - a fabulous effort from everyone in the Community.

Just a word of warning, if you are attending an event at the Centre, you might not be able to sit on your own chair... imagine the chaos!! ☺

Landscaping!

The departure of the building contractors, and the inclement weather conditions that we have suffered over the winter, have left the areas surrounding the building in a terrible state. The car park in particular, seems to have turned into a mud bath. This is making the site almost inaccessible for those who are less mobile, in wheel chairs or those with pushchairs. We also need to install lighting for those wishing to use the centre on winter evenings.

We are therefore fundraising again in order to provide drainage to the car park, resurfacing and the lighting. Read on to see how easy it is to support us now – we value your help and really hope you will continue to support us.

Support us while you shop

This project is now registered with '**Easyfundraising**'. If you already shop online with retailers such as Amazon, Next, Argos, John Lewis, Comet, iTunes, ebay or HMV then all you need to do is register for free and select us as your cause. A percentage of whatever you spend comes directly to us at **no extra cost to you**. So, for example, if you spend £100 at M&S online, we will receive £5 cash back from your purchase; £100 spent with Amazon raises £2.50 and £100 spent with WHSmith raises £2.00. Please note these are just example figures – you don't have to spend such large amounts for us to receive any money – any amount you spend will mean we get a donation.

You shop directly with the retailer but access the retailer via www.easyfundraising.org.uk (the direct link to our cause is <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/good-causes/eastingtoncb/>). (Please ensure you select us (Eastington Community Building at the Owen Harris Memorial Ground) and NOT Eastington Sports and Social Club by mistake!)

Easyfundraising has over 2,000 retailers on their site and some donations can be as much as 15% of your purchase. If you want to find out any more information about this then contact one of the Committee Members.

New Bar

We now have a fully functional and licensed bar in the centre. It has been constructed from timber reclaimed from the previous building on the site. Unbelievably, the old building had some very substantial and strong underfloor beams, which have now been put to good use. The bar was constructed and installed by Tom Low and Mike Hadley who (once again) have donated an extraordinary amount of time towards the cause of fully completing the centre. We would like to thank them very much for the time, effort and skill they have put into creating a superb facility for the building.

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		

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FRAMPTON-ON-SEVERN

VALENTINE BALL NEWS!

Just when you were putting away your party shoes, the welcome news arrives that 2010 will once again see Frampton playing host to a fabulous black tie fund-raising ball!

Put Saturday 23rd October 2010 in your calendars now!

After organising 13 successful Valentine balls and raising huge amounts of money for local good causes, the Valentine Ball Committee, headed up by Caroline Williams, decided to step down in 2009. A mostly new band of merry (wo)men duly joined forces, and The Frampton Fundraisers team was born!

At one point the ball looked unviable due to increased suppliers' quotes threatening to all but wipe out the profits destined for charity. But the event has proved so popular, worthwhile and downright fun over the years that we were really keen to find a way to still have a party and raise £1000s for charity in the process - and find it we have!

The 2010 Frampton-on-Severn Ball will take place in the marquee at The Whitminster Inn on Saturday 23rd October. As well as a delicious sit-down meal there will be a great live band, disco and sparkling charity auction. As before, all proceeds will go to local good causes.

Tables of 10 will be available to book from the beginning of May, on receipt of a deposit, and on a first come, first served basis.

Watch this space for further details!

In the meantime, if you have a question speak to anyone on the team or call Sarah on 01452 741 233 or Joby on 01452 741 031.

The Frampton Fundraisers (otherwise known as Joby Everest, Dawn Cooper, Carlene Malpass, Deb Watts, Shelley Williamson and Sarah McCurich)



Eastington Community Centre

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

Telephone Vanessa on 828557 to discuss your requirements and 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!*

Contact Vanessa on 828557 for a friendly chat



Yoga Classes

Leonard Stanley Village Hall

Wednesdays and Thursdays

8.00 – 9.30 p.m

£5 per session, first session free.

For further details, and booking, contact:

Carol Maguire on 01453 791484

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