

Eastington Community News

July / August 2010

Nº. 122

Welcome to the summer edition of Eastington Community News. I am very grateful to Val Taylor who volunteered to assist with laying out and formatting these pages. (ECN Job 2). Your help is still needed for ECN to continue. Please don't leave it to someone else: Job 1 is 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;

It is almost a year since the opening of our fabulous new Community Centre at Snaky Lane. It is the envy of communities around us, and demand for its use is steadily growing. To mark the occasion a **FIRST BIRTHDAY PARTY** will be held on **Sunday 19th September**, in the form of a FUN DAY for the ENTIRE VILLAGE at the Owen Harris memorial Ground.

There will be lots to do for the entire family: the companion dog show that was so popular at the opening day, will be a star attraction, with some interesting opportunities for both you and your treasured pets; a wide range of refreshments will be available to suit all tastes and preferences; there will be a chance to catch up with the latest that's happening in Eastington, and a chance for you to make your own suggestions about the future of this Village.

Everyone in the Parish is invited, and Village Groups are also invited to show off their wares and to entertain us. The theme is FUN, FUN, and more FUN! By now most of you will have been contacted – if you have been missed and would like details, then please contact either Muriel Bullock (murielbullock@btinternet.com) 826172 or Katrina Knapthine (knapthine@btinternet.com) 823766.

If you enjoy working with people and making things happen then why not become a Parish Councillor? (see page 2 or details)

I had some updates from last time when publishing the Village Organisation table of contacts. As people move from one group to another, we rely on you to take a few moments to update us please. To use the list, go to page 14.

We have some comprehensive articles this month from the Parish Council (page 2), the District Council (page 5) and your County Councillor on page 6. All refer to the continuing confusion on Housing allocation, a subject to which we shall return as the mists clear. Close at hand, two of the councillors refer to the threat to de-license the Victoria Inn – perhaps you have a view? The Parish Council would welcome your thoughts and on page 5 Ken Stephens explains how to make your views reach Stroud DC.

The Playgroup remain a vibrant part of village life, and they have a Fete very soon, July 17th. Please support them and have a good afternoon out (page 11). For slightly older persons, why not pop into the Bluebell Club for the over-60's? They celebrate 40 years of meeting this year; details page 10.

Between Playgroup and Bluebells (age-wise) we have updates for the School, the Methodist Church, Brownies (page 15) and Slimming World (page 10). Mr Strang gives an impressive list of achievements for the school and for individual pupils (page 3) whilst activities at the Methodist Hall are strongly geared to providing activities for young folks across the summer. These events are on page 9 for teenagers in particular.

The sad closure of the British Legion branch is commemorated by a retrospective – well worth a browse on page 12.

Outdoor activities are well catered for with the Allotments, the Community Pond and an appeal for Hedgehog Wardens (pages 7 and 8). Plenty going on in the fresh air and then the Autumn Vegetable and Flower Show to show off the fruits of your labours – that's Allotmenters and all other Village gardeners. Put the 4th September in your diaries and pencil in which classes you fancy from page 17.

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

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

View the "Community News" at : www.stroud.gov.uk/eastington

Next Deadline:- All articles by **Friday 3rd September 2010** please!

Next Delivery:- by Friday 17th September 2010 please!

Parish Council Planning Matters

Here are some issues that I have been involved with over the last 6 months. It is an interesting time for Eastington Parish Council (EPC) and I would encourage you all to be a part of the village goings-on. There is always something that might affect you.

The major event recently has been the Core Strategy – a title that turns everyone off immediately. It is Stroud District Council's (SDC) plan for where houses go over the next 15 years. The plan also has ideas to develop the district. It is a consultation process but don't be surprised to see various pressure groups get involved. Developers like to build in large numbers on greenfield sites. Small villages fear any housing and organise petitions to recommend somewhere, anywhere else. Councils own land that they would like to see developed so that they can get the income. Industry and retailers offer incentives to be able to build in the best locations.

As EPC we have tried to be constructive in our response to the strategy. Eastington has developed steadily over a long period and we believe it has maintained its rural feel but still encourages growth and employment. At ~65% jobs to population we have a significantly higher proportion of people employed in the village than most. These are made up of local businesses supporting the local economy. We should all support our local businesses as this in turn supports the local economy too.

So EPC's response was based on:

- What our parishioners tell us
- Keep Eastington Rural
- Continued evolution of Eastington
- What we think is good for Stroud District as a whole
- Planning guidance at local, regional and national level

In other responses we were pleased to see a lot of small villages wanting affordable housing. Many of these locations realise how stagnant they have become – pretty villages without shops or schools, no transport and full of pensioners.

We were disappointed that SDC rounded up housing numbers from 1400 to 2000 and that planners clearly favoured large greenfield developments (not officially, but their language at the consultations was revealing). We were also disappointed that the canal, the focus of considerable spend from our local taxes, did not feature as a holistic part of the plan. Lastly we saw very little to support Stroud town as our local shopping and cultural centre.

The subject of Strategic Housing and Employment will be revised by the Coalition Government and so we must await further stages of consultation

On more local planning issues, a number of things have cropped up in Eastington recently. SDC haven't been particularly prompt or comprehensive in notifying neighbours when planning permissions are sought nearby. If you apply for permission perhaps you could have a quick chat with neighbours. Equally if you see an application of interest, do chat with those applying. Initial discussions like these go a long way to reassuring people. If you wish to comment you can do so on line or by post. EPC is also interested to hear parishioners' comments and tries to reflect these in its overall response.

We also have possible change of use applications coming through. Where these affect village facilities EPC needs to know how much the facility is valued or whether the change is seen as an advantage. Recently we have had applications that regularise use of buildings as additional dwellings and the possible loss of a pub to housing.

Without village input EPC has to rely on the 8 or 10 councillors' views. Our village celebration in September will give you many more chances to be involved in Eastington. I hope many of you will take that opportunity to help us make Eastington what you want.

Chris Hill

**Vacancy for a
Parish Councillor**
Eastington Parish Council
Please contact the Clerk
Mary Gribble
01453 825279
mgribble@btinternet.com



EASTINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

JUNE 2010

Dear All

The happy industry at school continues with a whole range of activities underway in support of the children's learning.

We have much to celebrate including finishing in top spot during the Mock Trial Competition held at Stroud Magistrates Court earlier this year. Some of our older children presented a case for the prosecution against Brimscombe Primary who acted as the defence council for the 'accused' under real court conditions. Serving magistrates then judged the children as to their powers of persuasion, confidence and clarity of speech. With 42 schools involved, Eastington came away winners! I have to say, I was more nervous than the children! This superb experience proved an excellent way for children to learn about the judicial system and their responsibilities as young citizens.

'Responsibility' has been the watchword during the spring and summer terms. We are very excited about our involvement with the Rights Respecting Schools Award. Working closely with Glos. Police, representatives from UNICEF and a number of schools outside our locality, the children are looking in more detail at the 42 Articles of Human Rights and how these impact on our daily lives. This involves, not only the children's interpretation of the Articles but an understanding that with 'Rights' comes a 'Responsibility'. This begins to address how we as a school community support our young people to accept responsibility for their actions and work together to ensure a better world for all.

It was lovely to see so many of you during our May celebrations. Amelia Dive was crowned the 101 May Queen and looked a real picture during this special event in the school calendar. Whilst many villages and schools still celebrate the May Queen, Eastington is one of only 2 schools in Gloucestershire to hold a crowning ceremony. Long 'may' it continue!

We continue to extend the children's learning through activities beyond the classroom including educational visits, residential trips and exploring our immediate environment. More recently we have engaged in pond dipping and 'good old fashioned' nature walks in and around Eastington with Mr Dougan (member of staff). We are also hoping to work closely with the Parish Council and a local environmental group to support the development of the new pond area near the Community Centre.

It has been 10 years since the first recipient of the Alex Fryer Music Award proudly accepted this in memory of Alex, a former pupil of the school, who sadly died at a very young age. The Award is given to someone who demonstrates, not only a talent for music but for whom music plays an important part in their life, just as it did for Alex. The 2010 Award was presented to Charlotte Cousins in Year 4. Well done! We were delighted that Katherine Darlow (the first recipient) joined our special assembly and inspired us once more. Our thanks to Ken and Judy Fryer who continue to support the development of all our young musicians. Wonderful!

In 2009, Eastington Primary was recognised as the highest performing school in Gloucestershire and 14th in the country using the SAT's (national assessments) as a measure of performance when the children reach Year 6 (11years old). We eagerly await the results for 2010.....but as with most tests it is only one indicator of their success and we remain extremely proud of all they achieve in a whole range of activities.

Eastington has always championed the development of the 'whole child' and as teachers we are in a very privileged position to watch children learn and grow into the decision makers of the future. Clearly, we recognise the importance of the home/school link and continue to work with parents and the extended family to support our young learners.

At a time when cuts to the education budget appear to be inevitable, we greatly value the contribution made by the Parents Association. Members of the committee work tirelessly to provide much needed resources, including computers and software programmes. They do also play their part in linking the school with the community and it is always a real delight to see friends, former pupils and residents of Eastington at our whole school events such as the Christmas Bazaar and the Summer Duck Races.

Finally, as we move towards the end of another busy and successful academic year, I am reminded of the importance of those special moments. The children were invited to sing and play some of their instruments to the members of the Bluebell Club. As always, it was lovely to see young learners share their time and talents with our senior citizens. It was even more pleasing to overhear a comment from one of the Bluebell members who said,

'Oh how refreshing and rewarding it is to see and hear young children enjoying themselves with such confidence.....they have certainly made my day'.

As a Headteacher, they always make my day!

On behalf of the staff and children thank you for your continued support for Eastington Primary School.

Malcolm Strang
Headteacher



'Aiming hightogether'

EASTINGTON HORSE SHOW

Saturday 7th August 2010

At Claypits Farm, Eastington.

By kind permission of the Spencer Family

Dressage, Show jumping, Showing,
Gymkhana & Fancy Dress with various stands.

Classes for all ages.

***Proceeds donated to village
organisations.***

***PLEASE COME AND SUPPORT OUR
VILLAGE***

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S NEWSLETTER

District Council Annual General Meeting

This years AGM was again a bit of a muddled affair. It seems to be the norm now that published agenda items that have been around for some time and finally get on the agenda are removed after printing for more work. Items that should have been sorted out ages ago are still up in the air leading to more uncertainty in some key areas. After this there was a major public falling out amongst some members of the controlling conservative administration. Some of them are refusing to sign the form formally joining the conservative group on the council. This is usually just an administrative process to enable the political balance of the council to be determined. For some reason I am still not sure of the Solicitor to the council says that this refusal will not alter that balance. For the next council civic year I will still be a member of the Development Control Committee and Planning Strategy Appraisal Group.

Housing Allocation Consultation.

With the new government scrapping the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) process, the work on where new houses will be allocated and how many has slowed somewhat. Work on what will be needed in whatever process replaces the RSS is going ahead as is the collation of data from the last round of consultation. At the moment it is not known if the housing allocation numbers will go down, up or stay the same. One thing to consider with the demise of the RSS is the allocation of some 1500 houses at one particular site in the district, (Brookthorp) by the RSS itself. If these numbers are not removed from the Districts allocation, and the overall allocation remains the same, they will have to go somewhere else unless the District Council decides to consider this site itself. I am hoping that the first meeting in this civic year of the PSAG will shed more light on the position.

District Council's Housing Stock both general and sheltered.

The review of the way the Council manages the sheltered housing units is to continue. This review has caused much concern and discussion amongst the organizations representing the residents of the sheltered schemes. So much so that many residents have I understand engaged legal representatives to advise them during the process. The District Council has also consulted both solicitors and specialist legal counsel on the way it has carried out the review so far and how it should proceed. I remain in close contact with resident's and their representatives on this review.

The Council is also considering the option available to it to take full control of the housing stock it administers. In other words purchasing all rights to it so that it can maintain all income from it to use within the District. A consultation process on this is under way.

Threat to Public House

I have been approached by several people in the Parish who are concerned about the planning application for a change of use of the Victoria Inn to a private dwelling. Any resident can make an objection, observation or show support for any planning application either in the Parish or anywhere else in the District if they so wish. Believing that your village or parish will be losing a Community Facility etc is covered in our local plan documentation which is used to judge planning applications. The relevant section to quote if using this clause is SH15. Although there is a specified formal consultation period for planning applications all comments made to officers before a determination have to be considered.

Ken Stephens July 2010

News from your County Councillor

It is a year since I was elected to Gloucestershire County Council as Member for North Stroud, which includes Eastington and Standish and nearly six months since my New Year article in Eastington Community News.

On local matters I am pleased to say that I have been able to back the Parish Council's hard work and research in having the traffic calming measures at the roundabout and along Alkerton Terrace, Alkerton Road and Bath Road. Not everyone likes what has been done and it is to be hoped that access to the Post Office /Co-op will not be impeded, but, with the another County policy I have seen through the heavy lorry ban, it should make life better in Eastington!

My attempt to get speed limits of 30 mph at Claypits and along Springhill have been refused by Highways but the whole matter of speed limit reductions is up for consideration in the Environment Scrutiny Committee in July and I intend to pursue these (an extension of the 30 mph along Bath Road is promised).

It has been a hard winter on the roads and many residents have complained about potholes. Highways have had a blitz "Operation Road Rescue" and claim to have repaired over 30,000 potholes during January/April. This would be praiseworthy if they did not have the daft policy of repairing "category 1" (300 sq. mm and 40 mm deep) potholes in priority and leaving lesser potholes even within a few yards of the repair gang! I am pressing for this practice to change.

Since my last article the Parish has revised its parish plan, an excellent document (Congratulations to Andrew Niblett and his team) and I have put in to Stroud DC my parallel submissions on Waste (recycle, no depot at Nastend) and Housing (limited residential development only). The new Con./Lib/Dem. Government are going to abolish the South West Regional Authority quango and the iniquitous "Regional Spatial Study" imposing 4000 houses on Stroud and I hope that with decisions taken at local level we will have more of a voice as to waste and housing.

On broader County issues, the Conservatives have held the County rate at 2.3% increase only as promised and the money for the 63 police officers and £1.5 m for flood alleviation is secure as promised. We have also recently taken urgent action to stop the Gloucestershire Health authority closing 200 beds in Gloucester and Cheltenham and forced them to explain their figures and allow public scrutiny. As to Javelin Park (the waste facility) the latest is that the 4 preferred bidders are working with the Council "on detailed solutions" "in competitive dialogue" The Council's words not mine! Process i.e. biological or incineration –SECRET! – bid figures –SECRET!. To be whittled down to 2 in Nov/Dec 2010 -final selection Spring 2011. I and other Councillors have tried, again and again, to get full information without success. The longer this lack of transparency continues the more the anti –incinerator movement will build up.

I promised last time to report on the County's Cabinet plus Scrutiny method of working which I don't like. New features which may make it more open –a new Council leader Mark Hawthorne who invites councillors to contribute to pre-decision debates and a new right for the public i.e. YOU to put questions direct at Cabinet meetings (written or oral). You have to give 4 working days notice to the Chief Executive. Next cabinet meetings are 13th July, 14th September 20th October. How about it?

Tony Blackburn

WANTED ! Hedgehog Wardens and Hedgehog-friendly carpenter

In 2008 Annie Parfitt set up a Hedgehog hospital near Brimscombe in response to news that hedgehogs are dying out at a rate of about a fifth of the population every four years. Indeed hedgehogs are now so threatened that they are on the British wildlife endangered list.

Annie and her team of volunteers have been raising money since then and established a number of sheds to treat injured, sick, underweight and orphaned hedgehogs and hoglets. They have been able to save many hedgehogs before releasing them into the wild again.

Now they want to raise more awareness locally and find out more about the local hedgehog populations. Annie is seeking a volunteer in each village to become a 'Hedgehog Warden' - please contact Annie if you are interested on 01453 886424.

The Hedgehog Hospital would also love help from a volunteer carpenter with a few hours spare, as they have got so much more they want to do with their hospital. For more information see the website www.helpahedgehog.org/

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Cllr. Philip Booth,

District councillor for the Randwick, Whiteshill and Ruscombe ward

2 The Laurels, Bread Street, Ruscombe, Stroud, Glos. GL6 6EL

Tel: 01453 755451 E-mail: philip.booth2@virgin.net

The Eastington Allotments Society

Remarkable and "outstanding achievement" were just some of the comments made by the visiting judges from the Vibrant Village of Year Competition. In fact one judge seemed convinced that the allotments had been around for at least two years. TEAS and the Pond project were jointly entered in the Best Community Project or Initiative category so fingers crossed for mid July when the awards are to be presented.

Is the dry spell about break? At the time of writing it seems that there might be the chance of a few showers in the next day or two. It will come as a welcome relief to allotmenters from the back breaking work of carrying containers of water to quench the thirst of their developing plants.

It seems to have been numerous summers now since so many people have looked to the skies, hoping for a good drenching. (Addendum....Well rain, of sorts, came....and went.....and hardly wet the ground....Oh well maybe next week.....apologies' to those going on holiday)

A few weeks ago containers of young plant shoots (cabbage, cauliflower and broccoli) began appearing by the entrance to the allotment field, accompanied by notice inviting people to help themselves. Rumours abounded as to who this mystery donor might be (although I'm sure a few people knew very well who it was). Anyway I believe the offer was taken up with gusto by several members, including yours truly, so many thanks to the MVP (Mystery Vegetable Provider).

If you are interested in being part of this vibrant and productive community venture, then please call Angela Kitson on 01453 826914 and get your name on the waiting list whilst it is still relatively short.

Stephen Gribble

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Eastington Community Centre

NOW available for parties, regular bookings, sports events, clubs, wedding receptions

Very reasonable hourly rates

Telephone Vanessa on 828557 to discuss your requirements and dates

Thinking of starting up a new club?

This fantastic new building is available to anyone wishing start a club or society

Need a venue for a party?

Clean, modern and spacious facility located well away from the road with car parking and lots of outside space

Facilities:

- ◆ Fully fitted kitchen with two ovens, hob, fridge and dishwasher
- ◆ Large main hall with bar
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- ◆ Tables and chairs to seat 200 people
- ◆ Eight-acre playing field with football and cricket pitches
- ◆ Two changing rooms plus a referee's changing room
- ◆ Veranda area
- ◆ Fenced play area

Contact Vanessa on 828557 for a friendly chat and more information.

Take a look at our website at www.ohmg.org.uk



Eastington Methodist Church

As we approach summer, we go into a slightly different mode with some meetings closing down over the holidays but with the addition of some special events. By the time you read this, we will have had a youth sleepover and a beach trip to Wales.

The programme for the rest of the summer currently looks like this:

Mon 26 th July	Youth Day
Wed/Thur 28/29 th July	Kidzone sleepover
Mon 2 nd Aug	Youth Day
11 th -15 th Aug	Soul Survivor (young people)
Thur 19 th Aug	Youth Day
Fri/Sun 24-26 th Sept	Ignite Weekend (11-15 year olds)

The Friday Youth Club is open to those of secondary school age but those leaving Primary School can start coming from 23rd of July at 7pm. Subject to sufficient adult leaders being available, we expect the Youth Club to run throughout the summer with the exception of Friday 13th August when too many of us will be away at Soul Survivor.

Kidzone will stop after the sleepover on Wednesday 28th July until the schools resume in September.

The Youth Days were a lot of fun last year and resulted in our video production of Jonah and the Whale (available on the Church web site). This year we are thinking of doing the Prodigal Son and need young people to play sundry characters including some pigs!

Soul Survivor is a massive youth event held in Somerset involving thousands of young people sleeping in tents. A group of us went last year and the young people had an awesome time. Due to clashes with family holidays, we have a small number of pre-booked places still available this year.

The Ignite weekend based in the Forest of Dean with a variety of outdoor activities and games on offer interspersed with youth orientated sessions exploring the Christian faith.

There is, of course, plenty for adults to get involved with at the Church. We still plan to run an Alpha Course on Tuesdays starting on 26th September - please look at the web page or contact us nearer the time for details. Why come? - so that the following can become yours:

For you have been born again, but not to a life that will quickly end. Your new life will last forever because it comes from the eternal, living word of God. As the Scriptures say, "People are like grass; their beauty is like a flower in the field. The grass withers and the flower fades. But the word of the Lord remains forever." And that word is the Good News that was preached to you. 1 Peter 1 vs 23 - 25

Ken & Beck Burgin 01453 827414

www.EastingtonMethodists.org.uk

Summer is now upon us, with hopefully plenty of hot days and long evenings ahead. The BBQ has been dusted off and out come the shorts, T-shirts and strappy tops. Now is the time that we realise that everything feels that little bit tighter than we remember, that those few pounds that we put on over the winter season have made all the difference

This is where Slimming World can really help and offer you the support that you need. If you still want to enjoy those social BBQ's - you can, if you still want to indulge in that glass of wine of an evening - you can, or even that ice-cream on a hot afternoon - you can.

Slimming World's unique eating plan means that you can eat plenty of wonderful satisfying meals that will fit in with the family and fill you up beautifully - yet you will still lose weight successfully.

Slimming world offers a wide variety of food choices, from the basics to the more adventurous, it can fit any palate and with unlimited free foods you will never be hungry. You will also have the support of the whole group as well as your own consultant. It's a friendly, bubbly, supportive group, so if your interested come along and see for yourself.

We meet on Wednesdays at 7pm in the Village Hall in Eastington. For more details contact Lorna 01453 821751. We look forward to meeting you.

BLUEBELL CLUB

It may be a pleasant surprise to many residents that the Bluebell Club has been running for 40 years.

We meet twice a month (1st and 3rd Tuesday's at 2.15 pm) and anyone over the age of 60 is welcome to join, ladies and gents alike.

Meeting in the Village Hall, we are lucky to benefit from the recent refurbishment in terms of a comfortable atmosphere and good catering facilities.

Our usual afternoon comprises a Talk or an Entertainment, followed by tea and biscuits, Bring and Buy stall, raffle and bingo. There are outings too, either as bus trips or birthday teas and not forgetting our Christmas Lunch.

The next meetings are Tuesday 20th July, featuring a talk by the Stonehouse Bakery and August 3rd with a practical demonstration of flower arranging.

New faces would be very welcome to join us.

Anne Shill

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



June-July 2010

This term we are learning about different countries around the world which we are linking to the World Cup. In particular we are looking at France, India, Africa, Switzerland and Greece – not just because the food tasting will be great of course!!!! We have set up a travel agents with holiday brochures, making postcards, other related items such as books, clothes and we have been building famous towers.

We continue to visit our garden and Percy's hut and look at our sun flowers that we have planted to see how big they have grown.

Whilst the sun has been shining we have been enjoying the outside space playing ball games, racing games, using the play park and our bikes, scooters and physical equipment. We are collecting the Tesco and Sainsbury's vouchers -if anyone has any spare vouchers please pop them into an envelope and drop them off at No 12, Middlecroft, Eastington – all vouchers will be very gratefully received. Thank you!!!

We had a very successful and enjoyable Pimms and Pudding evening and we raised a massive £490 – thank you to everyone that organised and supported this and for Pampered Chef for some great puddings and ideas which were rather yummy – it was a great evening and we all went home feeling very satisfied!!!!

Summer Fete

Our Summer Fete is on Saturday 17th July 2.30 – 4.30 pm and we welcome everyone from the village to come – it should be a great event with ponies and tractor rides, a live band and bar, also we have lots of stalls for children as well as grown ups – any donations for our plant sale would be appreciated - please drop off at 12 Middlecroft - do come along it should be a fun day!

Playgroup is...

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 ½ years to 4 years 11 months old.

Our playgroup offers care and education for all children in a well established community based group. If you would like to have a look around our facilities and have an informal chat please call one of the staff on 07977 342 742.

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 and we accept government nursery vouchers and other types of employer supported childcare vouchers.

If you would like more details please contact Claire Thomas, Administration Officer- Tel 0845 391 8941 email claire@eastingtonplaygroup.co.uk or take a look at our new website www.eastingtonplaygroup.co.uk

Please feel free to pull out this news letter and put on your notice board at work to promote our Playgroup.

**EASTINGTON & DISTRICT BRANCH
THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION**

SOME REFLECTIONS ON THE CLOSURE OF THE BRANCH

It was "Ladies First" in Eastington. They formed their Branch in 1925. It was they who "persuaded" their husbands to form their own Branch in 1927.

In its prime the Branch could boast of up to 50 members but in recent years numbers have dwindled until at the A.G.M in 2009 it was not found possible to find members to fill the posts essential for the Branch to continue.

In its heyday after the Second World War, when Steve Halling was Chairman and Bob Barnfield Branch Secretary, the Branch was the most successful small Branch in the County. Indeed, to this day, the cup awarded annually to the most efficient Small Branch in Gloucestershire has the name of Eastington Branch on it more times than any other. The Branch ran the Village Hall for the benefit of the community for some 40 years when the original Trustees felt unable to continue, only giving up when the Village Hall charity was reconstituted in 1992. It also initiated many village activities such as the Fruit Flower and Vegetable Show, the children's Marching Band, barbecues and Garden sports.

During its lifetime the Branch Benevolent Committee (now generally known as the Welfare Committee) has dealt with cases of need among the ex-service community and their dependants from various villages in the Severn Vale as well as those in Eastington and Frocester. These cases have covered a variety of needs including convalescence, respite care, home help, mobility assistance and help with disablement grants, pensions and various financial problems. Legion Case Workers will continue to meet these needs so long as The Royal British Legion exists and does not stop when a local Branch is wound up. Robin Harris (01453 823433) continues as the local Case Worker for the Royal British Legion(RBL) which now works in conjunction with the Soldiers, Sailors and Air Force Families Association (SSAFA) to provide a comprehensive welfare service to both the serving and ex-service communities and their dependants regardless of whether they are members of the RBL or not.

Likewise the Poppy Appeal will continue locally under the administration of John Darwent our community Poppy Appeal Organiser. Anyone who would like to help him in this work should give him a ring on 01453 822040.

The Branch Standard was laid up in our village church of St Michael and All Angels at a moving and memorable service on the 11th.April this year attended by the County President, the Acting County Chairman and the standards of some 10 local Branches and Women's Sections. It now hangs at peace in the church alongside the Women's Section Standard, which was laid up a few years ago.

Harry Elliott and Robin Harris
Formerly Branch Chairman & President.
22 June 2010

Update on Eastington Allotment Pond

On 17th June over 20 people came along to gather ideas for the area around the allotment pond for some pond dipping. We found: water fleas, greater and lesser water boatmen, mayfly larvae, diving beetle, pond skaters...and newt tadpoles! Although probably not the Great Crested Newts. All in all not a bad result for a recently established pond.

Nadine from Stroud Valleys Project explained that it was important that the far side should not be entered to keep the wildlife undisturbed. For this reason and because the deeper side of the pond is on the far side, it has been fenced off.

The water level in the pond is expected to go down over the summer, but this is a natural phenomenon in ponds and does not affect the pond creatures.

There was no one definite idea as to what people would like to see in the grassy area around the pond, so ideas are still being collected. Please get in touch with Nadine by e-mail at: Nadine@stroudvalleysproject.org.

Upcoming Stroud Valleys Project events are a fantastic **glowworm talk and walk** on the 9th July in Stroud and a **fossil hunt** to Hock Cliff in Arlingham on the 11th July. For more details, please visit our website at: www.stroudvalleysproject.org and click on events, or call the office at: 01453 753358.

Stroud Valleys Project's Frampton Aggregates and Biodiversity Project is funded by:





1ST BIRTHDAY PARTY FETE
FOR EASTINGTON COMMUNITY CENTRE
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19TH 2010 2PM ONWARDS

OWEN HARRIS MEMORIAL GROUND

LOTS OF FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY

LOOK OUT FOR MORE DETAILS



Eastington Brownies

The Brownies have had an action packed summer term and all of them have gained lots of Interest Badges. These have included the Agility Badge, which involved a couple of very active evenings with aerobics and skipping, and the Cook's Badge, which of course involved cooking and home safety knowledge.

We had an evening out at Cattle Country with the Stonehouse District Brownies and Guides and a ride on a farm trailer at a local farm. There have been lots of party nights too, including a pirate party and a pyjama party.

Brownies (and Guiders!) have all gained the Adventure One Hundred badge, to celebrate 100 years of Guiding.

It is the time of year when some older girls will be leaving us and we look forward to welcoming new faces. Brownies are girls aged between 7 and 10 years. We meet on Mondays during term time from 6.45 to 8.00 pm in the Village Hall. There is currently a waiting list to join – please contact

Sarah Mannings (826850) or Kate Taylor (821184)

The 28th Eastington Autumn Flower Show

To be Held in the Village Hall
On Saturday 4th September 2010
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.

CLOSING DATE FOR ENTERIES 10am, 4th September 2009

SHOW SPONSORS

Classes 23-26 sponsored by: Stonehouse Accessories
Classes 27-36 sponsored by: KB Coaches, Eastington Tel:01453 8225774
Classes 43-53 sponsored by: Stonehouse Accessories
Section E & Classes 59-60 sponsored by: Mrs Q Jones
Classes 1-6 sponsored by: R U Electrical Services, Eastington. Tel: 01453 823285
Classes 7-11B sponsored by: Mr W Fletcher
Class 12 sponsored by: Borders, Lawns and Trees Garden Maintenance.
Classes 13-17 sponsored by: Mrs R Barnfield
Classes 18-22 sponsored by: Alkerton Draughting Services Tel: 01453 822862
Classes 37-42A sponsored by: Mr & Mrs J Underwood

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 president's cup. President's 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 children's 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 37-42A
J Bridges Perpetual Trophy for most points in Classes 6,7,9-11B
The Chris Haines Memorial for best Orchid in Show, Class 42A
Best Runner Bean in show sponsor - Borders Lawns & Trees Garden Maintenance, Class 12.

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

Please come along – let's make our 28th show a day to remember.

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

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.

<p>Section A CLASS</p> <p>(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</p> <p>Section B (23) Pears - 4 (24) Cooking Apples - 4 (25) Dessert Apples - 4 (26) Plums - 4</p>	<p>Section A cont.</p> <p>(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</p>
<p>Section C</p> <p>(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 (42A) Pot Orchid</p>	<p>Section D</p> <p>(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.</p>
<p>Section E</p> <p>(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 pebble (own design and choice of materials) (58) Fairy Cakes - decorated to your choice – 4</p>	<p>Section F - Fun Section</p> <p>(59) Longest Runner Bean (60) Any other comical vegetable</p>

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

New T.E.A.S. members particularly welcome

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.

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.

Closing date for entries 10am, 4th September 2010

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:-----

PRESIDENT:	Lt. Cdr. W. R. Harris
CHAIRPERSON:	Position Vacant
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:	1 st - 25p 2 nd - 20p 3 rd - 15p
POINTS:	3 2 1

THE COMMITTEE THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT